

Veteran still fighting — over Agent Orange exposure

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the eighth in a series on experiences of Vietnam veterans to be presented each Sunday in The Monitor. The series is in conjunction with efforts by Texas Vietnam Veterans of the Rio Grande Valley to obtain citizen donations for construction of a Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Pharr. Check or money donations may be sent in care of the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial to 230 W. Cherokee in Pharr.

By SCOTT LIND

Spending an afternoon with the Romeros is a pleasant, refreshing experience.

Their children come home from school, from band practice, from sports, inevitably bringing their friends... friends of parents Richard and Aida Romero drop by, saying hello...the sheer energy of their discussions on life and politics makes you want to stay as long as possible at their Harlingen home.

"It seems all the kids from the neighborhood come here — head cheerleaders, football players, student council members," said Mrs. Romero. "That one" she says of the two teenagers coming through the front door, "isn't my son. The other one is."

Aida and Richard Romero were talking late that afternoon about the Vietnam experience, how it drove them apart at a critical period in their long relationship, and how it brought them back together.

"We don't ordinarily share the problems we have with other people," Aida Romero said. "We're speaking about these problems for one reason: to let other families of Vietnam veterans understand that we all do share some common problems."

Mrs. Romero said so far the family has been lucky, referring to the good life they have made for the family in spite of problems encountered.

"Maybe one of these days, veterans will be fully acknowledged by their government. We're speaking out because we hope they'll do what is morally right — to give proper medical attention to our husbands who served in Vietnam."

"I love my country deeply," Romero said. "I certainly don't want any handouts. We both work to make a living for our family."

"All I'm asking is that my body be put back to the good health it was in before I went to Vietnam. And I'm hoping each Vietnam veteran suffering from Agent Orange exposure gets the same right."

There's a paradoxical difference between the happiness and contentment of the couple's home life and discussion of the grave problems they've had to face. They attribute the problem to the Agent Orange exposure.

One subject they're united on is the hope that the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial is built. Mrs. Romero said, "I want my children to be re-



Lingering health problems worry Richard and Aida Romero.

mindful of the sacrifice my husband made for his country."

Meanwhile, Romero is concerned over the possibility that the next tumor might be malignant, that his kidneys or liver may shut down. Aida is concerned that should her husband die at an early age, she might not be able to adequately provide for their six children at a job paying the minimum wage.

Romero said the media image of Vietnam veterans as crazies, drug dealers and Charles Manson types — on TV reruns such as *Hawaii Five-O*

— continues to hurt their chances. He said some companies make it a practice not to hire anyone who served in Vietnam.

"Why don't they ever show something positive about Vietnam veterans, people who perform services to the community?" Mrs. Romero asked. "Like my husband, for example. He coached the Little League for seven years. We've worked hard to keep our family together and make life pleasant for our six children."

Romero joined the armed

forces in 1962. Originally trained as a signalman, he eventually grew bored at the lack of activity inside an office.

He then joined the infantry division of Charlie Company. Later, with 60 days left in the Army, he would be sent as part of an advance unit to Vietnam to prepare the ground for entry of other troops.

Their responsibilities as an advance team was to clear and secure areas just sprayed with Agent Orange and other herbicides. The strong, persistent odor, the dying vegetation, all reminded him of Valley cotton fields sprayed with herbicide before harvesting.

"On the first day I was in Vietnam, I breathed in that burning smoke" of Agent Orange-sprayed vegetation being incinerated. "Later on, we went out on patrol to secure five- and ten-mile areas. We could see the planes overhead, spraying that stuff all over, that mist coming from out the wings. Our clothes got soaking wet from that herbicide. We could smell the odor everywhere."

Romero said when they got back from patrol, advance unit members could hardly wait to wash themselves in a lake nearby camp, to try to rid themselves of that burning, scratching sensation on their skins. "I would scratch, but it just got worse. We would swim around for hours," and yet there remained that strong odor of herbicide in their clothes.

Any time another unit from the U.S. was to arrive, the advance unit followed the same ritual as the planes sprayed Agent Orange in areas to be burned, cleared and secured.

"The first couple months we came into heavy contact with Agent Orange and other chemicals," Romero said. He said his group was supplied with two maps: one, showing the towns, hamlets and cities of Vietnam; and the other, showing which areas were being sprayed with Agent Orange. From those maps, "There was no denying that I was in an area of high concentration" of the dioxin-laden herbicide.

"Dioxin can't be broken down in the environment," Romero said. "It doesn't evaporate. We could see that defoliant in just-sprayed areas dripping off of leaves. We would feel weak and nauseated. We'd get these dizzying headaches and feel cramping in our stomachs."

Romero said members of the group thought those symptoms came from Vietnam's intense heat. But, coming from the Valley, he doubted that the muscle spasms they experienced had anything to do with the heat — particularly not for a group such as Charlie Company whose members did calisthenics before breakfast and could easily run 10 to 15 miles.

Returning to the U.S. in 1965, Romero said some troubling symptoms would not go away

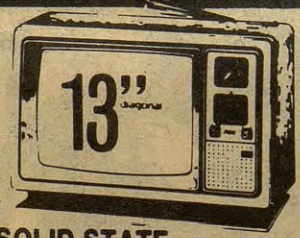
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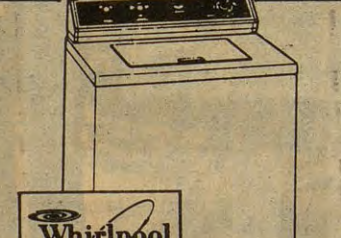
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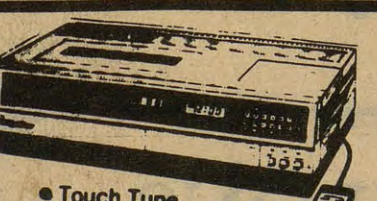
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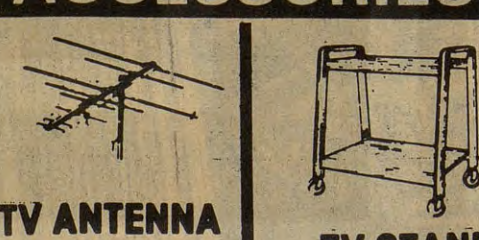


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Write P.O. Box 760, McAllen, Texas 78501
Phone 686-4343, Editorial Department

The Palm Valley Kidney Club will sponsor a Halloween Carnival Monday from 6 to 9 p.m. at Palmer Pavilion, just east of McColl on Hackberry in McAllen.

Dr. Arturo A. Ortiz of McAllen recently attended the annual scientific assembly of the American Academy of Family Physicians held in Miami Beach, Fla. The Academy is the national association representing the country's family doctors, and its 55,000 members must complete 150 hours of mandatory continuing study every three years.

The Professional Bondsmen of Texas Association held its annual convention recently at the Hilton Inn on South Padre Island. Edinburg bondsman, Tillman G. Welch, was elected to serve on the state board of trustees and board of directors for the upcoming year. He is the owner of A-Fast Bail Bonds in Edinburg. This is the first time in the history of the Association a Valley bondsman has been elected to the board.

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City of Palms

By VIRGINIA ARMSTRONG
Comments about the controversial "instructional delivery system" McAllen public school teachers have been ordered to implement in their classrooms continue to circulate in the coffee shops. Because of the discontent voiced by many of the faculty, parents have become more involved than usual in discussions. The uproar conceivably could continue right into the April school board election.

Changes in school policy often come with employment of a new school superintendent. It will be interesting to see what changes will be made in future clearance of guest speakers for classroom or assemblies. They are often used as outside "resource persons."

The question arises from the abrupt cancellation in late September of an invitation to then city manager Don Sisson to address a gifted and talented civics class. He was notified that the superintendent considered this engagement too "political." He was notified immediately after he told the city commissioners of his scheduled appearance at the high school. Notably he acknowledged he would be mentioning his views on the political climate at city hall.

Sisson is an outspoken guy and before he left the city he wrote Supt. Dr. Pablo Perez a letter expressing his "concern" over the situation, a "concern" that well may be shared by some McAllenites.

Wrote Sisson:
"First of all, let me state that I am not and never have pretended to be a politician or engage in politics. As you and I have only met on one occasion, which I felt was mutually satisfactory, I am surprised that a person of your stature would prejudice another person so harshly."

"Secondly, even though it was not my intent, I find your concern about the students being exposed to or used in the political spectrum to be ridiculous ... Since they are gifted and talented young people, any comments from me could hardly be too political or traumatic considering they have attended and continue to attend commission meetings. My impression of them has always been that their awareness of the world in which they live and their intelligence places them in a superior position to many adults."

"Thirdly ... my age places me in a position to know and understand the true meaning and result of censorship. Only through censorship and thought control have the despots such as Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Castro and others been able to maintain control of people. After a 19-year relationship with the City of McAllen and its schools, I detest the thought that censorship will be practiced here."

"I sometimes question whether the problem with education in this country is with either those to be educated or

the educators, but rather with the administrators and the politicians."

Public officials have appeared in classrooms and assemblies on many occasions. A written school policy pertains to elected office holders, and Sisson was appointed a city staffer. But the policy mentions resource persons who "may contribute to the citizenship knowledge of students" and "inform students about the particular governmental function and operation of the office holder."

Office holders, and even candidates, who have spoken in the past have come from the local to national level, and from both conservative and liberal camps. One can be sure their political philosophies were conveyed.

Reportedly the students in the class who didn't hear Sisson have been encouraged to list persons they would like to see. Their preferences will be cleared at the administration building, or not.

Time was when teachers, probably with acquiescence of principals, had some latitude in inviting guest speakers in for educational purposes. One invited often because he had a reputation for relating to students, right down to the primary grade level, and providing information in which they took great interest, has been Mayor Othal Brand.

Question: Is Brand on the black list? He is political.

"Leave the graffiti." This was the current solution offered by Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Chris Voss at the October meeting of the board to the impossible task of keeping the city's public parks spruced up in top condition.

Voss' interest in the parks takes him to them as often as the staff monitors them. He summed up his rating of the various parks as he last saw them.

Excellent: Westside Baseball Complex (new and serving needs of amateur sports-minded), and Bill Schupp Park (little vandalized and well-used).

Good: Robin Park (new), Hackberry (truly a neighborhood area), Archer (oldest, and traditional), Escandon (monitored by staff member Dempsey Harris, who lives near by).

Average: South Main Park at Main and Expressway and Frontage Park (a small area also on the expressway four blocks westward, Southside (an old sanitary landfill, with "potential" and slated for an irrigation system).

Below average: Palm City (near Jordan and 23rd) and Airport Park.

Worst: Balboa Park (with play equipment and tables severely vandalized) and Suarez (near Erie and 26th, where Voss found "serious obscenities carved on the tables").

As Voss summarized it, there are some above average parks in every sector of the city. This

was in obvious answer to activists who often come with complaints that the south and west sides are neglected. There were none at hand at this session, however.

Voss also revived discussion of the board members' hopes of organizing *Friends of the Parks* as aides in monitoring the play areas. He's knocked on many doors and he's discouraged.

"If people in the neighborhood, don't care, how can we?" he asked. He said the parents always blame the damage on someone else's children and see the task of repairing it as the city staff's.

Thus, his comment "Leave the graffiti." He added the next complaints about vulgarities should come from the parents, and refinishing the furniture seems only an invitation to carve some more.

"We will continue to remove the most obscene," Parks Director Larry Pressler hastened to say.

On the positive side Pressler said, with budget approval, 14 automated sprinkler projects are on the drawing board and will be put out to bid soon. This will free up some personnel for more land mowing and hand

trimming.

He was also enthusiastic about next year's softball season.

He and staff landed the Men's Softball Class C tournament, staged by the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation, largest in the state. It will bring 72 to 80 teams into the city for two or three days and they will spend in the city, he estimated on the basis of statistics, about \$200,000.

Before that, a Spring Fiesta softball tournament endorsed by the Amateur Softball Association will be staged, drawing players nationwide.

Last year the board initiated an annual custom of honoring patrons who have made significant contributions to the parks system with donations of cash or equipment or their time.

As a new touch beginning this December, when friends are next recognized, and at the suggestion of Voss, the award will be formally titled the Ann Lamantia award. This is in recognition of the service given by the late Mrs. Lamantia to the city and the parks program. She was chairman of the advisory board for a number of years, constantly advancing innovative ideas to improve the system.

THE MONITOR
MCALLEN, TEXAS

Sunday, October 30, 1983 9A

100-year-old murder suspect back in cabin

GRANTS, N.M. (UPI) — A 100-year-old rancher charged with shooting two men dead was out on bond Saturday and back in his cabin, which officials had stripped of an arsenal one deputy compared with that of a frontier fort.

After two days in jail, Gus Raney, a former lawman who said he became a cattle rustler at age 13, posted 10 percent of \$100,000 bond and returned to his log-cabin home late Friday.

Raney was already on probation — granted a decade ago because of his advanced years — when he was charged with killing a friend and his son.

The bodies of Emery Smith, 60, and his son, Erik, 21, of Aptos, Calif., were found Wednesday by Sheriff R.W. Driggers, who said they had been shot and there was evidence they may also have been hanged.

A sheriff's spokesman said an autopsy was completed on the bodies Friday, but refused to release the results.

Deputies stripped Raney's cabin — which he shared with his wife, Sugarfoot — of an arsenal of small arms. Deputy Bruce Robinson said the place looked like "Fort Wingate."

"Look, more ammo!" he said, shortly after removing a 12-gauge shotgun, a .30-caliber carbine, a .30-06 rifle and a small collection of pistols. Raney was carrying four firearms when arrested Wednesday.

Raney, a local legend described by some as "Pecos Bill, Paul Bunyan and Wyatt Earp all rolled into one," was arraigned on two counts of first-degree murder Thursday.

Authorities, who disclosed no motive, said Emery Smith had visited Raney almost annually for the past 18 years.

In June 1973, Raney was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting death of a man who allegedly rustled a beef carcass. Raney claimed self-defense.

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Labor panel sets hearing here

AUSTIN — Health insurance for the unemployed and work-sharing programs will be discussed at the Committee on

Labor and Employment Relations meeting in McAllen Nov. 4.

Pennsylvania's unemployed health insurance program will be studied at the meeting, said Lamarque Rep. Lloyd Criss, committee chairman.

"An illness or accident on top of unemployment can wipe out a family's savings," said Criss, who said he favors Pennsylvania's program.

Under that program, unemployed persons can save as much as 42 percent on their policies because doctors charge the insurance company less and administrative costs are contributed by the company. Hospitals do not collect the policy's deductible.

"Best of all, no tax money is used," said Criss in a release.

Testimony will be taken on the work-share program, which the chairman said can reduce lay-offs.

"Assume an employer must reduce production by 20 percent because of the recession. Usually, he fires 20 percent of his employees," said Criss. "With work-sharing, he would give all employees a day off, without pay. They would be allowed to collect one-fifth of the regular weekly unemployment compensation benefits.

"The employer saves 20 percent of his salary expense. The necessary cut-back in production is achieved," he said. "But, no one is out of a job, and no one loses an entire paycheck."

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SUPPORTING UNITED WAY — Top fund raisers of various Edinburg ISD divisions were recently honored. The district sponsored a competition among the elementary schools, secondary schools and support services. Pictured are, from left, Ruben Carrera of the administrative staff, Roel Pena of Edinburg Junior High, Edna Longoria of Lamar Elementary, Superintendent Jose Peralaz, Edinburg drive chairman Carol Lee Looney, Hidalgo County drive chairman Dr. Miguel Nevarez, and Edinburg ISD drive chairman Amado Robledo. (Monitor Photo)

Winner of race for Kentucky governorship will make history

By GLENN OSBORNE

FRANKFORT, Ky. (UPI) — "Let's make history Kentucky," says a television advertisement for Kentucky Lt. Gov. Martha Layne Collins, the state's Democratic gubernatorial nominee.

But whether the winner of the Nov. 8 election is Mrs. Collins or Republican Jim Bunning, a state senator from Fort Thomas, Ky., history of sorts will be made in the Bluegrass state on Election Day.

Mrs. Collins, 46, of Versailles, Ky., is seeking to become the first woman elected governor of the state. She would also become the highest elected woman official of her party in the country.

Currently, there are no female governors and no Democratic women serve in the Senate.

Bunning, 52, a former major league pitching star with Detroit and Philadelphia, would become the first former professional athlete to be selected for the state's highest office.

Of greater importance, however, Bunning would become the first Republican to win the governor's office since Louis B. Nunn was elected in 1967. And no northern Kentucky candidate has been elected governor in this century.

In Kentucky, registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by more than 2-1.

Mrs. Collins, who is favored to win the race by a comfortable margin, has another edge: She has raised nearly \$2 million for her campaign, about twice as much as Bunning, and has been politically active since

1971.

She has also been endorsed by the Courier-Journal in Louisville, the state's largest daily newspaper. Bunning was the choice of the Lexington Herald-Leader, the second-most influential paper in Kentucky.

Both newspapers, however, were tepid in their support and that attitude seems to reflect that of the voters, who are showing surprisingly little interest in the race.

Feminists have not been vocal in their support of Mrs. Collins because she opposes abortion and does not strongly back the Equal Rights Amendment.

"I try to lead by example," she says. "I work differently than some of those people. But when the first woman becomes governor of Kentucky, what does that do for women?"

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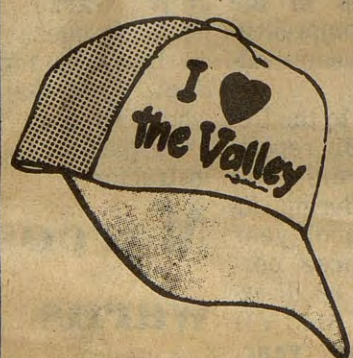
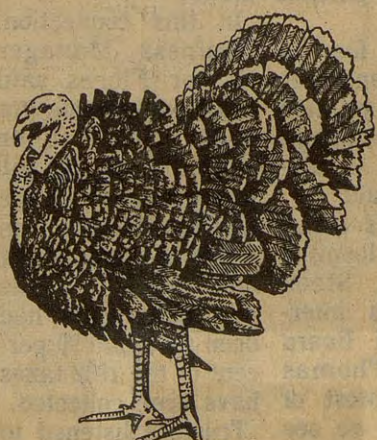
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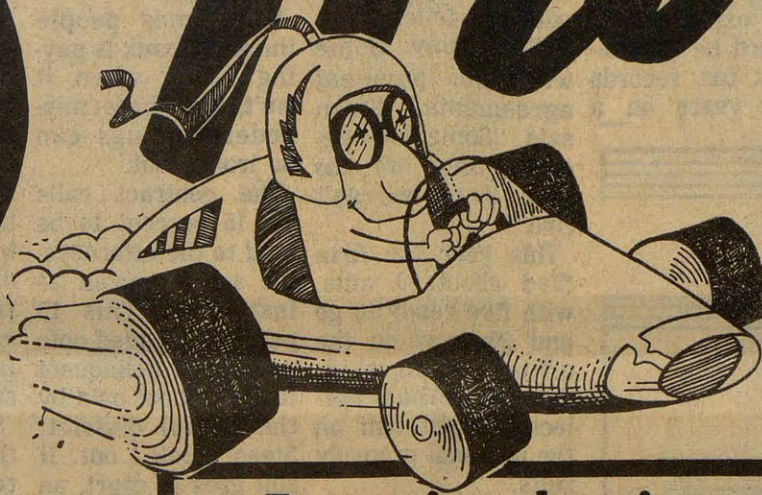
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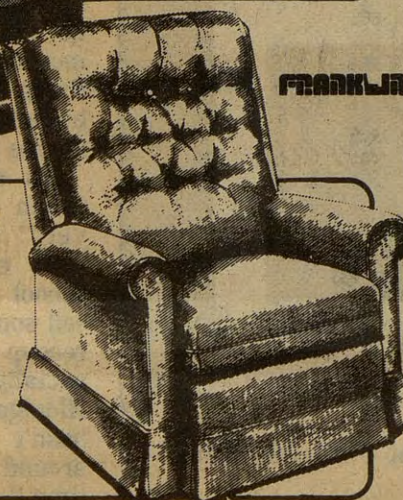
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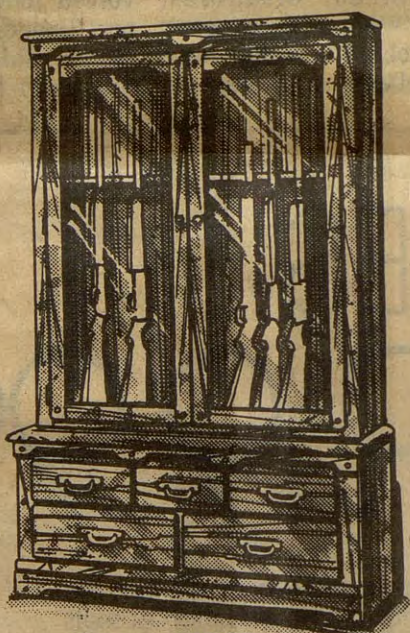


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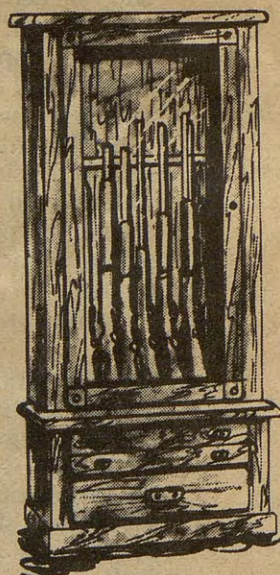
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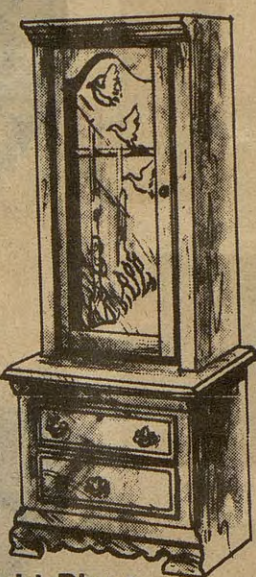
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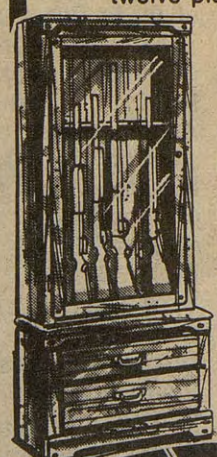
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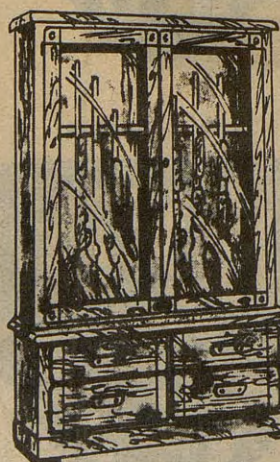
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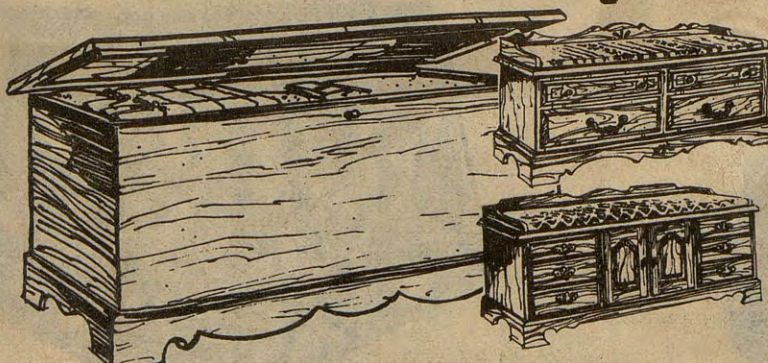


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Hidalgo trustees ratify joint sewage project with Pharr

By BARBARA KING
HIDALGO — Main order of business for Hidalgo school trustees at their monthly October meeting had already been announced the day before at a joint meeting with Pharr city commissioners. "Last night we agreed to share expenses with the Pharr city commis-

sion on a sewer line reaching all the way from La Quinta Subdivision to the new elementary school in Hidalgo Park on a 30 percent basis," said Thomas Perez Jr., president of the board. "Tonight we make it legal. I think it was a good decision to make." So did Supt. Alejo Salinas. Septic tanks

originally were planned to take care of the needs of the new elementary school, which Salinas referred to as a temporary solution. "This is a permanent solution to the problem," Salinas said. In two other matters, the board delayed final action. Trustees put off a final decision on whether or not to renew its contract with delinquent tax attorneys, the Gates-Steen firm in Austin. On hand to present a report and ask for another year's renewal was Henry Steen from the Austin firm.

Steen explained to the board he had delinquent tax records for all years on a computer and that his firm mailed out current year delinquent tax notices year round, alternating with reminder letters. They still are collecting from 1962. When they need to get more serious, they notify people with suit letters.

"Some pay. Some work out payment agreements," Steen said. "Some don't because they are too poor. Some we can't find."

This year the firm filed about 60 suits, with five ready to go and 20 more in the offing, Steen said. The firm has collected about half on the personal property suits.

"The problem is the financial crisis that has left merchants in such bad shape," Steen said, adding that some leave without notifying anyone of a forwarding address.

In addition, there are the usual problems: people on the rolls who shouldn't be; a building removed without notifying proper taxing bodies; and a few double assessments.

"No one has been taken to judgment yet," Steen said, "but eventually the school may have to sell some property to recoup its money, especially some lots in Hidalgo Park. There hasn't been a sale around here in a long time."

"It's happened in other cities and will happen in Hidalgo soon." "We hate to

see that happen," said Danny Reyna, who also works for Gates-Steen but lives in the Valley. "That's why we work closely with The Border Bank. There are 30 or 40 taxpayers who have property mortgaged."

Sometimes people think the bank is paying taxes when it isn't, but these misunderstandings can be ironed out.

The contract calls for 15 percent to be paid to the attorneys, the same amount as last year. This 15 percent is added onto taxpayers' delinquent taxes and not paid by the school district, Steen pointed out. If suit goes to court, an additional 15 percent is added.

Advertising fees in newspapers and fees for serving citation are paid by lawyers out of their 15 percent, Steen said.

The Sheriff's office has trouble locating people, too, Steen said. "That's interesting," said Board President Thomas Perez Jr. "Most of these people we see around town all the time."

Therein lies the reason why Perez wishes to reconsider signing another year's contract with the firm. "With you in Austin and us here, it's harder for you to find these people," Perez said. "Maybe a local firm could be better."

Steen disagrees. "We can do a better job. We don't have clients down here —

people who might sit on a jury. We don't have the tendency to do our friends favors," he explained.

School attorney Travis Hiester said firms that specialize in delinquent taxes do more personal contact work than general attorneys do. Supt. Salinas said it was in order for the board to have more time to study signing the contract. "There should be two visits before the board to bring them up to date. They have a right not to have to consider items at the last minute," he said.

Steen agreed and the contract was extended for one month. In this connection, Business Manager Hector Flores said most statements for 1983 had been mailed, but he still was working with the Appraisal District on a few of them. About nine percent of the new statements had been paid and 90 percent of the 1982 taxes have been collected.

Trustees listened to comments from school administrators on a report from Child Advocacy Research Associates, Inc. concerning an evaluation report on the school district's Title VII Program. The CARA agency has made reports for three years on the program. Generally, administrators involved found the report unacceptable.

Supt. Salinas said the report was devoid of references concerning concluding remarks relative to the 1981-82 school year and that the summary is lacking in depth and substance. In addition, recommendations of this year's report were identical — word for word — with last year's report. The district's impact on correcting the problems that existed in the area of bilingual education went unanswered and substantiating information indicating positive results due to implementation of the Title VII effort was absent, also, Salinas said. Oscar Valadez, federal program director, said the report was vague, poorly prepared and amateurish. The summary, conclusions and recommendations were an embarrassment, he said. The new Title VII director, Alicia Longoria, furnished recommendation reports from the last two years to the administrators that revealed the failures in the light of a comprehensive three-year evaluation. According to the December 1981 report, the program had problems during its 1980-81 school year because three persons acted as director for Title VII during the year, making it difficult for the teaching staff to adjust to each director's style of leadership.

The board decided to send the report back to CARA to be rewritten at a professional level acceptable to the district before it would be submitted to Washington.

In personnel action, trustees:

— Accepted the resignation of James Saunders, due to illness in his immediate family.

— Accepted the resignation of Angelita Perez, a fourth grade teacher at Kelly Elementary, due to personal reasons.

— Approved employment of Juan I. Hinojosa as fourth-grade teacher at Hidalgo Elementary; Mrs. Yolanda G. Guerra as a kindergarten teacher at Hidalgo Elementary, and Ms. Emma Guadalupe Figueroa Martinez as a seventh-grade math teacher at Ida Diaz Junior High School.

— Approved employment of the following substitute teachers: Maria Elena Munoz, Javier Soliz, Ana Zepeda, Isabel Martinez, Judy Garza and Ninfa Vasquez.

— Employed former Supt. Fred Garcia, who retired in 1981, as a part-time band instructor.

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Marcos

warns

hoarders

MANILA, Philippines (UPI) — President Ferdinand Marcos tried to stem a worsening economic crisis Saturday by warning of stiff penalties for Filipinos hoarding gas and basic food items in fear of continued price hikes.

An opposition leader predicted the crisis would be the "knock-out punch" to Marcos' 18-year-old regime as a grim financial report said the country's balance of payments deficit had reached a record \$2.05 billion.

In the capital motorists lined up at gas stations in scenes reminiscent of the 1973 oil crisis as they anticipated an increase in petroleum prices following last month's 27 percent devaluation of the peso.

Consumers fearing similar price hikes in cooking gas and basic food commodities also emptied grocery store shelves of sugar, rice and corn grits.

Marcos warned food hoarders will be "punished to the hilt" in a government release though he did not detail the penalties. In the past similar decrees have threatened jail terms of up to five years.

The younger brother of slain opposition leader Benigno Aquino, whose assassination Aug. 21 unleashed a rising tide of opposition to Marcos, said in the coming weeks the economic crisis would put more pressure on the president than the almost daily public demonstrations calling for his resignation.

The Central Bank reported the Philippines 1983 balance of payments deficit has hit a record \$2.05 billion, the second dismal economic report in two days.



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x7	8:00a	10:00a	984	2	D9	x7	7:00a	9:20a	961	2	D9
7 only	8:00a	11:35a	984/990	C	D9/F7	Daily	11:00a	12:55p	960	1	D9
Daily	10:00a	12:55p	986/968	C	D9	Daily	1:10p	4:15p	965/987	C	D9
Daily	1:10p	3:10p	982	1	D9	Daily	3:30p	5:55p	981	2	D9
Daily	4:45p	7:25p	988/999	C	D9/F7	Daily	5:30p	8:45p	986/971	C	F7/D9
Daily	7:30p	10:35p	980	3	D9	Daily	8:05p	10:55p	967	2	D9
TO Corpus Christi						FROM Corpus Christi					
x7	6:45a	7:10a	962	0	D9	x7	8:55a	9:20a	961	0	D9
Daily	7:30p	7:55p	980	0	D9	Daily	5:25p	5:55p	981	0	D9
TO Houston						FROM Houston					
x7	6:45a	8:05a	962	1	D9	x7	8:00a	9:20a	961	1	D9
Daily	8:00a	9:00a	984	0	D9	Daily	11:55a	12:55p	960	0	D9
Daily	10:00a	11:00a	986	0	D9	Daily	2:10p	3:55p	965	1	D9
Daily	1:10p	2:10p	982	0	D9	Daily	3:15p	4:15p	987	0	D9
Daily	4:10p	5:55p	966	1	D9	Daily	4:30p	5:55p	981	1	D9
Daily	4:45p	5:45p	988	0	D9	Daily	6:15p	7:15p	985	0	D9
Daily	6:15p	7:15p	970	0	D9	Daily	7:45p	8:45p	961	0	D9
Daily	7:30p	8:55p	980	1	D9	Daily	9:30p	10:55p	967	1	D9
TO San Antonio						FROM San Antonio					
x7	6:45a	9:10a	962	2	D9	Daily	7:30a	12:55p	992/960	C	F7/D9
7 only	8:00a	10:10a	984/972	C	D9	Daily	1:15p	4:15p	989/987	C	D9
Daily	10:00a	12:05p	986	1	D9	Daily	3:10p	5:55p	965	0	D9
Daily	4:10p	4:55p	966	0	D9	Daily	5:10p	7:15p	966/985	C	D9
Daily	4:45p	7:15p	988/969	C	D9	Daily	7:30p	10:35p	967	3	D9
Daily	7:30p	10:00p	980	2	D9						

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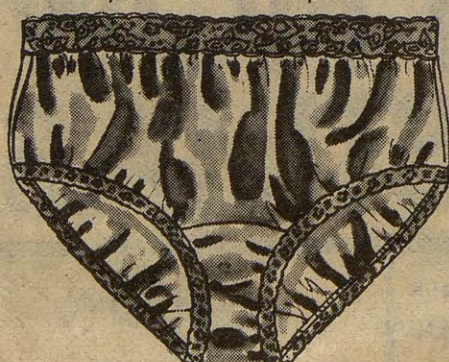
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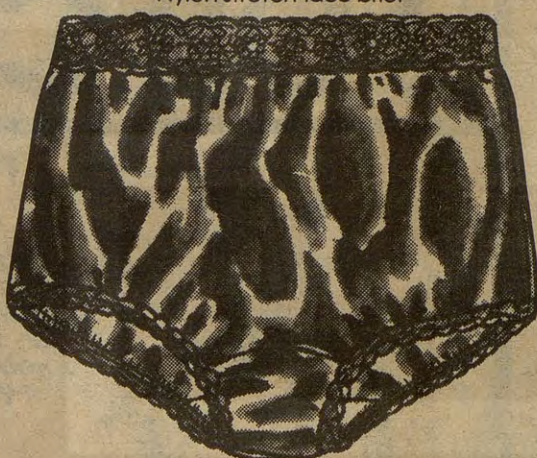
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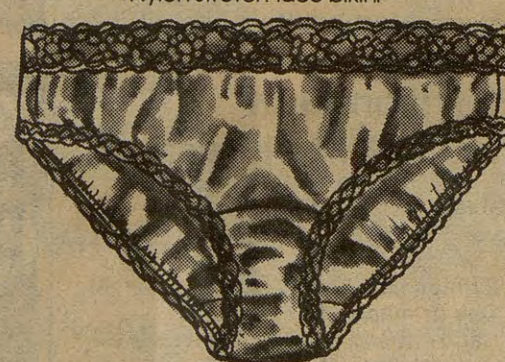
Nylon stretch-lace hipster



Nylon stretch-lace brief



Nylon stretch-lace bikini



Nylon hipster with regular lace



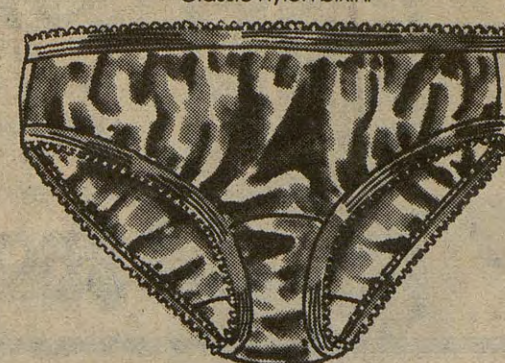
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Veteran

Continued from Page One

— the chloracne, the boils which appeared in sensitive areas of the body, and the insomnia which kept him awake 30 hours at a time. "I was jittery, nervous, depressed for no reason. I was just mad all the time."

A doctor told Romero he was suffering from delayed stress reaction. He got better after six months but two months later as summer approached, things got worse. The creeping skin rashes, the headaches and dizzy spells came back. Even now the cycle persists, and as April rolls around, Aida counsels their children to show concern for their father.

The strain on their marriage, caused, they said, by the strange symptoms attacking him, resulted in a divorce fairly soon after Romero returned from Vietnam.

Romero then went to a Mexican doctor. "He just gave me a bunch of tranquilizers. But what he said was very interesting. He told me, 'Son, you left Vietnam, but Vietnam hasn't left you.'"

Nine months after the divorce, Richard and Aida Romero remarried. Since then they have waged a constant battle to get the Veterans Administration to grant him a disability, to recognize that the kidney and liver problems, the tumors and infected colon, stem from exposure to the dioxin component of Agent Orange.

"So far I have zero disability," Romero said.

They noted that the U.S. government bought up a town in Missouri when dangerous levels of dioxins were found in the soil. But the same recognition of severe health problems has yet granted to Vietnam veterans.

"The more you learn about dioxin, the more concerned you become," Mrs. Romero said. "The possibility of deformities, miscarriages and premature births carries into the next generation."

The Romeros had one child before Richard went to Vietnam. After return, it took the couple two and one-half years to bear another child, a daughter born prematurely. That child still suffers from headaches and dizzy spells, Mrs. Romero said.

Their next child, a boy, also had headaches all the time and developed symptoms similar to asthma at the age of 3. Then he started suffering pains in his joints. Doctors first suspected arthritis, but subsequent examination could find no cause for the ailments. The symptoms persist, Romero said.

Romero said he did not connect his persistent medical problems with Agent Orange until after he read of inexplicable health problems for Vietnamese caught in areas sprayed with the herbicide. Those symptoms matched his own.

In addition to three tumors, he has suffered a hernia on the esophagus — cause unknown — periodic discharges of blood — cause unknown — and an ulcerated colon — cause unknown. He's been told he has strong chances of getting cancer of the colon. "This certainly adds to my anxiety."

Romero has gone to the McAllen VA outclinic to get a biopsy on his fatty tissue to determine whether dioxin deposits are there. He said each time he has been told the clinic was not performing the service.

On one occasion, "They recommended that I see a psychiatrist" and gave a prescription for tranquilizers, he said.

"The hardest war I fought was with VA hospitals and clinics, Romero said.

Mrs. Romero said, "My husband has had the run-around. They sent him to every VA hospital in Texas at his expense."

She said the irony in this is that "my husband was never supposed to go to Vietnam. He was a short-timer and had only 60 days left to serve."

Romero said on two occasions he was told to go to Audie Murphy hospital for Agent Orange testing. The cursory examinations lasted between 15 and 30 minutes, and cost them \$50 in gas each time.

Because he had gotten a vasectomy VA doctors could not check for sperm count. Nevertheless, a VA doctor later told him he definitely did not have any indications of Agent Orange exposure, in part because his sperm count was high.

Later, all medical records — including those of specialists Romero had to go to — were "lost," VA officials told him, somewhere in transit between the VA hospital in Houston and the McAllen clinic.

One VA doctor told him to lift up his shirt, looked at his chest briefly, then told him he did not suffer from Agent Orange exposure. "How can anyone determine with a glance at the chest that someone doesn't suffer from exposure?" Romero asked.

Mrs. Romero said she would support their two sons fighting in a war clearly to defend the U.S. But she said she questions whether she would want any of her sons to fight in a war in Grenada, Nicaragua or El Salvador.

"It seems to me that a bunch of innocent kids might be killed for no reason. I don't think I'd allow my son to go through

the same hassle my husband went through."

Mrs. Romero said she empathizes with mothers of Marines killed in Lebanon. "I can picture myself in that mother's place." She said a cousin of hers was killed in Vietnam one week before Mother's Day.

Romero said when he was fighting in Vietnam, he was told by commanding officers not to talk to the press, particularly the foreign press which asked U.S. troops whether they agreed with being in Vietnam.

He said on one ambush patrol he was keeping guard between two railroad tracks. The enemy was close by. Then suddenly out of the jungle came an Australian reporter followed by a cameraman.

"The first thing our commanding officers told us was to respond, 'I don't know,' if asked what we were doing in Vietnam, and 'I have a job to do,' if asked whether we agreed with our being here. I wasn't suppose to discuss this with anyone."

So when the Australian TV reporter asked him whether he believed American troops should be in Vietnam, Romero responded: "No, sir. I don't think I should be here. But I'm here and I have a job to do."

After returning from Vietnam and arriving in Oakland, Cal., Romero and a buddy of his decided to hit the San Francisco bars and drink good beer. They mistakenly announced to people they had just returned from Vietnam.

"Some older men, veterans of World War II, bought us beer," Romero remembered. "But the hippies started calling us baby killers and rapers of women."

"It was weird, having just come from a war you didn't want to be part of, to return to a country where people were trying to stone you."

Romero said some people misunderstand why some Vietnam veterans such as himself have mixed feelings about their involvement in the war.

"We're not complaining that we went to Vietnam. In fact we're proud of our service there. But no one told us that poison would be poured on us, that our health would decline — that we might die early because of that poison."

Palestinian factions battle

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Guerrillas loyal to Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat said Saturday they fought back a major assault by Syrian-backed opponents in the outskirts of the northern port of Tripoli.

The loyalists, in a statement reported by the PLO's Palestine News Agency Wafa, claimed the attackers suffered heavy losses before retreating to nearby regions controlled by the Syrian army.

"Many civilians were wounded and several houses were destroyed," Wafa added. The Lebanese government radio station said the worst clashes took place Friday night when two Palestinian refugee camps, both loyal to Arafat and recently reinforced by loyalist guerrillas from North Lebanon, were shelled.

The next day government radio reported intermittent clashes and said the sound of exploding shells could be heard in Tripoli and other coastal regions. The two camps of Nahr al Bared and Baddawi have remained loyal against Arafat opposition attempts to infiltrate

the waterfront regions that house 45,000 Palestinian refugees.

The 5-month-old crisis between rival Palestinian factions from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, the re-

fat's policy on Israel bellion moved to the had grown too mod-Tripoli region.

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banned from the Bekaa Valley by the Syrians, returned to Tripoli earlier this month to take command of his troops.

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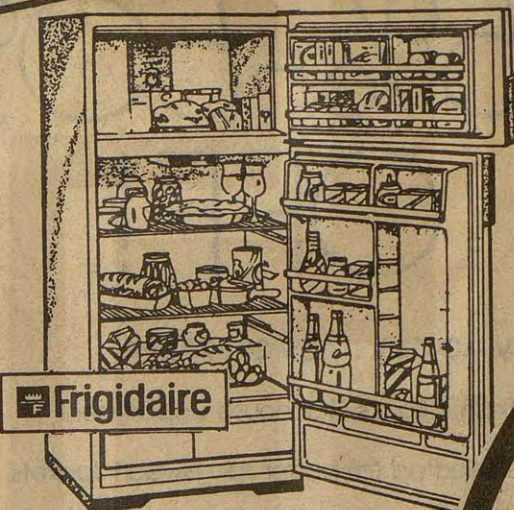
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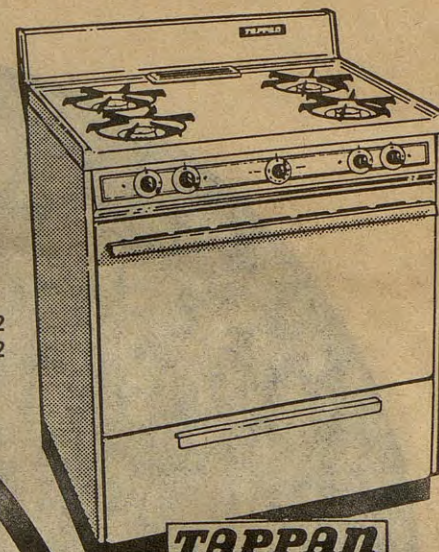
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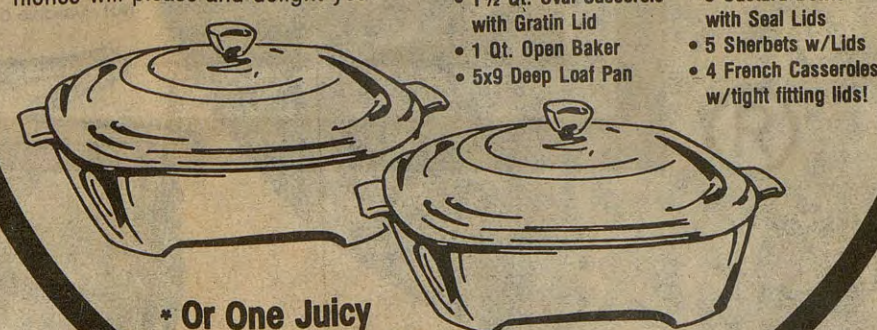


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Conference

Continued from Page One

Barahona said the charge by the Reagan administration of "communism" in Nicaragua amounts to a excuse for intervention.

Barahona said if the U.S. directly intervenes, a naval and air blockade around Nicaragua will make it virtually impossible for Nicaraguans to receive outside aid.

"Nicaraguans realize that in time of direct intervention ... we'll have to depend on our own resources, on our own people, to defend ourselves," he said. "Also as part of that defense, we are confident there will be substantial political support" by countries across the world opposing any invasion.

Barahona said Reagan administration plans have evolved slowly, from economic sabotage by cutoff of the sugar trade and international bank loans, to support for the *contras*, composed primarily of former members of the Somoza national guard, now raiding Nicaraguan towns.

Oregon said the Grenada invasion is for the Reagan administration to "demonstrate that its policies are having success. And within that concept is the concept of direct military intervention in the Central America.

"The only factor lacking now (for the Reagan administration) is having the political space" to commit U.S. troops to fighting, he said.

Blase Bonpane, director of the Office of the Americas in Washington, D.C., said Father Miguel Hidalgo who issued his famous "Grito de Dolores" before Mexico gained independence from Spain, was tried by the Spanish and accused of being "a Lutheran, a Jew and an atheist" in their attempts to discredit him.

Now, those wanting independence from U.S. domination are being called "communists" by the Reagan administration, Bonpane said.

"You're a communist, so we're going to level your cities; you're a communist, so we're going to cremate your children" — is the explicit threat leveled by the Reagan administration against Salvadoran rebels and Sandinista Nicaraguans, he said.

"These (supposed) 'communists' include Archbishop Romero, who was murdered while saying mass in a San Salvador cathedral, and the Maryknoll sisters" who were raped and killed by Salvadoran soldiers under orders from their commanding officers, Bonpane said.

"If Jesus Christ were in El Salvador today, if he opened his mouth, he would be called a communist" and killed, he said.

Salvadoran exile Ivan Escobar ques-

tioned how the Reagan administration can accept El Salvador's human rights situation. He said assassinations by government security troops increased from 5 per month in the late 1970s, to more than 4,000 killed in the first six months of 1983.

Escobar said those who oppose to the U.S.-supported government of El Salvador "abhor violence and war. We have a right to live, to contribute in peace to society and participate in it at all levels.

"We don't need now to protect ourselves from communism. We need to protect ourselves from the U.S."

Arnoldo Ramos said Salvadoran rebels have been forced to resort to arms to "defeat the organized forces of violence and establish an internal system for justice and security." Ramos is U.S. representative of the Democratic Revolutionary Front, which opposes the current Salvadoran government.

He estimated 20 percent of Salvadoran territory is in the hands of the Salvadoran guerrillas.

In light of the developments in Grenada, Ramos said, "We're not obsessed by the fear of invasion; but we know this invasion is on the way."

Every time groups have sought social change in El Salvador, their efforts have "provoked violence" from government authorities, he said.

"The practice of democracy in El Salvador has been written in blood," Salvadorans' only alternatives are to "resist death" from the government, or, "submit to the government and risk death from hunger, poverty, or speaking one's political opinions," Ramos said.

"We live in a world offering very little hope for political solutions, and the case in Central America is a dramatic and tragic verification of this statement."

Ramos said only 50 U.S. advisors are necessary to develop a coordinated, generalized situation of war across the face of Central America, and that U.S. radar covers the entire isthmus. "This war is going to be coordinated from Panama."

Ramos said, "If you militarize one of the poorest regions on the planet, you're only exacerbating bad social conditions. Our economy has regressed 30 years, and there seems no room for conciliation."

Central American conflict "is being generalized so the Central Americans will do the killing. So far the U.S. has only provided the strategic direction. Most people don't know that the U.S. took control of the Salvadoran military," following a "scorched earth" policy, he said.

Pharr Planned
Parenthood
clinic moves

PHARR — Planned Parenthood Association of Hidalgo County's clinic in Pharr will be operating in a new office Monday.

The new clinic site will be at 108 N. Cage in Pharr.

The new clinic is larger than the old one and, because it was designed as a doctor's office, it has better patient flow.

Clinic manager Yvonne Bazan said that patients should find the new clinic more comfortable.

The clinic will continue to be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5, except for Thursdays when the hours are 1-5. The clinic also accepts night appointments. Anyone desiring contraceptive care, pregnancy testing or counseling may contact the clinic at 787-9431.

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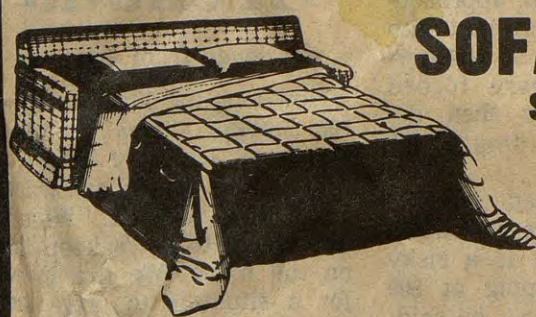
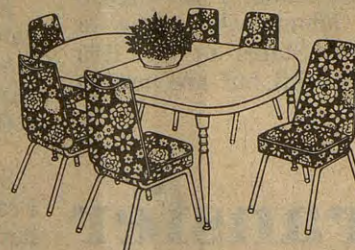
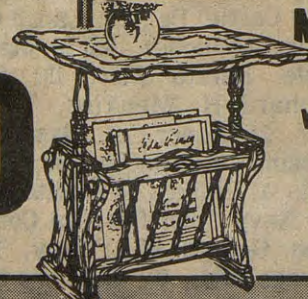
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Two Marines wounded in new Moslem attack

By BARRY JAMES
UPI Senior Editor

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Moslem militia fighters in south Beirut renewed their assault on U.S. Marine positions Saturday, firing machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in an attack that wounded two American soldiers.

Fighting also flared above the Marine base in the Shouf mountains, where key Lebanese army positions in the town of Souk el-Gharb came under artillery and mortar fire from Syrian-held territory, state-run Beirut radio said.

Justice Minister Roger Shai-kahni said Saturday "a number" of suspects had been arrested in connection with the twin bomb attacks last Sunday

at U.S. and French military installations in Beirut.

The Pentagon raised to 229 the number of American dead in the attack. Marine spokesmen in Beirut had put the death toll at 230. Another 81 U.S. soldiers were wounded. Fifty-eight French soldiers died in a separate blast.

President Amin Gemayel arrived in Switzerland, expressing hope that national reconciliation talks starting Monday in Geneva would open a new era in the history of the war-torn nation.

"I hope this will be beneficial for the world and particularly for peace in Lebanon and lead to the turning of a new page," he told reporters.

The talks will include repre-

sentatives of Christian and Moslem factions who have been fighting in Lebanon for eight years.

Raising tension before the talks, Syria announced it has test-fired long-range missiles — probably Soviet-supplied SS-21s — capable of reaching targets in Israel and U.S. 6th Fleet vessels off the Lebanese coast.

A group of 11 U.S. Congressmen toured the Marines' Battalion Landing Team headquarters that was attacked last Sunday. Rep. Roy Dyson, D-Md., said the Marines are "in a clearly indefensible position. We are sitting ducks here."

Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., the leader of the group, said he understood

some of the Marines would be moved to U.S. 6th fleet ships offshore and that those manning the base at Beirut Airport would be better defended.

In a statement to the official National News Agency, Shai-kahni said "a number of people were arrested ... in connection with the bombing of the American Marine and French paratrooper buildings."

A Western diplomat said those arrested were likely to be low level. "The masterminds are well out of it," he said.

Earlier, security sources had reported one arrest — of a Lebanese devotee of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The sources also had said authorities had identified 11

people they wanted to question in connection with the bombings, but they were all said to be holed up in a Moslem Shiite neighborhood, Hay al Sullom, which the Lebanese army does not dare to enter.

The slum neighborhood, strongly defended by Shiite Amal militiamen, is situated between the U.S. Marine headquarters and the Marine outpost at Lebanon University that was fired upon Saturday.

The Moslems attacked the Marines with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

U.S. forces returned fire with M-60 machine guns, halting the assault after a 15-minute fire-fight, a spokesman, Maj. Larry Palmer, said. He said the two injured Marines were not seri-

ously hurt.

Apart from the attack on the U.S. Marines, about 25 82mm mortar rounds, fired from Syrian-controlled territory, crashed onto the Christian town of al-Jamhour southeast of Beirut.

In the Syrian-held port of Tripoli in northern Lebanon, fierce fighting continued between Palestinians loyal to Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat and pro-Syrian opponents.

The PLO news agency Wafa said the Arafat loyalists beat back an attack amid heavy shelling on the outskirts of Tripoli. "Many citizens were wounded and several houses were destroyed," it said.

No action taken on debt limit bill

By ELMER W. LAMMI

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Senate, tempers flaring over additions to a routine debt limit bill, passed an amendment Saturday to limit President Reagan's military authority and defeated one concerning his fiscal authority.

Republican leader Howard Baker, frustrated at the unrelated amendments, warned failure to pass the bill raising the ceiling on the national debt could lead to a constitutional crisis surpassing Watergate.

"Who's going to decide as to who is going to get paid?" if the bill is not enacted by a midnight Monday deadline, said Baker. "The president would have to make the decision as to what checks to send out so that the others wouldn't bounce."

The Senate held an unusual weekend session to debate the bill that would raise the Treasury's borrowing authority, now \$1.389 trillion, to \$1.45 trillion — enough to carry the government through January.

If the bill is not passed by the deadline, the Treasury will be unable to sell bonds and notes needed to pay federal debts on time. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan has said a delay in next week's auctions could cost \$250 million in higher interest costs.

The Senate voted 53-18 for an amendment by Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., calling for an end to the administration's restrictions on U.S. military operations in Grenada. But it added language saying that nothing in the resolution would "require any action which jeopardizes the safety or security of U.S. or allied forces or citizens in Grenada."

The Senate adjourned at 4:15 p.m. EDT without completing action on the debt bill. Debate was scheduled to resume Monday, with a motion by Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, to reconsider the press amendment the first order of business.

Baker said Watergate "would be nothing" compared to the constitutional confrontation that would result from failure to raise the debt ceiling.

It appeared certain that a final vote would not occur until Monday because of amendments seeking to limit President Reagan's military authority in the wake of the Grenada invasion and Mideast crisis.

Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., won approval by voice vote of an amendment barring U.S. arming of what he said was a "secret special military force" in Jordan unless funds for the purpose are openly appropriated by Congress.

Moynihan said the force, being trained and equipped by the United States to respond to crises in the Persian Gulf, would be "potentially dangerous" to Israel.

Baker voiced his frustrations just after the Senate, by a vote of 53-23, killed a move by Sen. Alan Dixon, D-Ill., to put the Senate on record in favor of giving the president the power to veto funds for individual programs and projects in larger appropriations bills.

The "sense of the Senate" resolution carried no legal force but was offered by Dixon as a step toward reducing government spending. It was attacked even by fellow Democrats as a step toward loss of Congressional authority.

Action on the bill bogged down Friday, and it was more of the same on Saturday, as senators ignored pleas by Baker and Sen. Russell Long, D-La., the ranking Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, that they not push unrelated measures.

Amendments added to the bill Friday included one demanding that President Reagan pull American troops out of Grenada within 60 days unless Congress approves a longer stay under provisions of the War Powers Resolution.

Another urges Reagan not to return 600 Cubans captured in Grenada to their homeland unless Cuban leader Fidel Castro accepts Cubans who came to the United States in the 1980 refugee boatlift but are now in U.S. jails.

Public TV transfer bid eyed by FCC

By BRAD FARB

BROWNSVILLE — The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is reviewing a license transfer which eventually could return local public broadcast television to the Valley.

RGV Educational Broadcasting Inc., a non-profit corporation set up by the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville, has applied for the license used by KZLN-TV, the Valley PBS station off the air since mid-July.

Members of the South Texas Institute For Public Broadcasting, which holds the license, unanimously agreed to the transfer in September.

David Garza, attorney for RGV, says the application was submitted Oct. 19. The time was required to prepare the proposal, which includes a

community leader survey assessing local needs and problems.

Instead of assuming KZLN's operation based in San Benito, RGV has proposed to work out of a new facility in the Harlingen area, plus plans to use a mixture of PBS and local programming, Garza says.

After 10 working days for agency publication, about 30 days is given for public comment, and Garza says the FCC then takes five more days to recommend action or gather more information.

Garza, who says a decision could be expected in early December, adds that no opposition is expected.

Heritage Cablevision has offered KEDT-TV, Corpus Christi, since late July to most of its cabled areas.

Obituaries



APOLONIA VILLARREAL MUNOZ

MISSION — Funeral services for Apolonia Villarreal Munoz, 89, who died Friday evening at her residence here, will be conducted at 2 p.m. Monday at Virgil Wilson and Sons Chapel, Mission. Dr. Josue Gonzalez will officiate.

A prayer service will be conducted at 8 tonight at the funeral home. Burial will be Monday at San Jose Cemetery. Born in Texas, she had lived in Mission for 65 years and was a homemaker.

Survivors are two sons, Juan Munoz of Mission and Jubentino Munoz of Wheaton, Ill.; six daughters, Lillia M. Gamboa of Clear Lake, Calif., Apolonia M. Abarea of Corpus Christi, Ophelia M. Rodriguez of Mission, Mary E. Munoz of Mission, Oralia M. Lowetz of Whitt, Texas and Irma M. Leo of Mission; two brothers, Refugio Villarreal of Rio Grande City and Vicente Villarreal of Pharr; two sisters, Juanita Pena of Pharr and Rafael Guerra of Rio Grande City; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Eddie Rodriguez, Lloyd Lowetz, Alejandro Leo, David Abaria, Jimmy Leo, Anthony Munoz, and Adolfo Munoz.

PASCUAL GONZALEZ EDINBURG — Pascual Gonzalez, of 404 E. Fay, Edinburg, died Friday morning at Edinburg General Hospital. He was 93 years of age.

Survivors includes the wife, Frances R. Gonzalez of Edinburg; five daughters, Margie Blackstone of Ft. Worth, Mary Olga Ruan of Chula Vista, Calif., Lucy Morales and Juana Alonzo, both of Edinburg, and Elena Martinez of Lorraine, Texas; six sons, Elias Alonzo of Dallas, Jimmy Gonzalez of Seagoville, Texas, Steve Gonzalez of Houston, Raul Gonzalez and Ricardo Gonzalez, both of Edinburg, and Augustin Gonzalez of LaGrange, Wash.; 35 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 19 great great-grandchildren.

Rosary service will be Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at Skinner Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral mass is scheduled Monday at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Burial will be in Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Gonzalez moved to Edinburg in 1938 from Mexico. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. He worked as a planter of fruit trees, and also for several packing sheds. Pallbearers will be his sons.



DOLORES ROSALES

MISSION — Dolores Rosales, 37, died Wednesday at a Kenner, La. hospital after a short illness.

Rosary will be recited at 7:30 tonight at Virgil Wilson Chapel, Mission. Funeral mass will be said at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Paul Catholic Church of Mission with the Rev. Robert Sweeney officiating. Burial will be at Valley Memorial Gardens.

Mrs. Rosales had lived in Kenner, La. for 10 years after moving from San Angelo, Texas. She was a housewife.

Survivors are her husband, Ramiro Rosales of Kenner, La.; daughter, Patricia Ann Rosales of Kenner; two brothers, Joe Herrera and Adolph Herrera, Jr.; and two sisters, Mollie Masai and Mary Jane Villarreal.

MABEL J. HARDING Mabel J. Harding, 89, died at McAllen Methodist Hospital Friday following a short illness.

A native of Cottage Grove, Wis., she moved to McAllen from Kenosha County, Wis., two years ago.

Mrs. Harding is survived by a son, Glenn R. Harding of McAllen, and four sisters.

There will be no local services. The body will be sent to the Thomas Hansen and Sons Funeral Home in Kenosha, Wis., for services and burial. Kreidler Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements.

Protests

Continued from Page one

"When we say Europe, we mean the whole continent from the Atlantic to the Urals," said the Dutch anti-nuclear movement coordinator, Gijs von der Fuhr.

He said there was a strong popular rejection in Holland of NATO's plan to start deploying 572 cruise and Pershing-2 missiles by the end of the year if the Americans and Soviets fail to reach an agreement at the Geneva arms talks.

Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers said on television the protest was a "positive stimulus to turning the tide of the arms race." However, he stressed Western arms policy should be worked out within NATO.

Police at Heilbronn, West Germany said 450 banner-carrying demonstrators sat and lay down in shifts to block entrances to the Waldheim artillery base just outside the town. They marched to the base in two columns.

Rangers describe Grenada invasion

By JOE PARHAM

HUNTER ARMY AIR FIELD, Ga. (UPI) — Army Rangers who spearheaded the invasion of Grenada said Saturday they had to parachute onto an airfield from 500 feet to dodge heavy fire from a tenacious Cuban force armed with the latest Soviet weapons.

The Rangers said they jumped without reserve parachutes from C-130 aircraft early Tuesday onto the airstrip at Port Salines. The Rangers said they also helped evacuate some 200 American students from the island's medical school and overran a Soviet-type training school.

The last of the 1,100 Army Rangers who took part in the invasion returned to Hunter Army Air Field near Savannah Saturday to the cheers and tears of loved ones.

The elite fighting force helped spearhead the takeover of the Caribbean island but was relieved by the 82nd Airborne Division, which is continuing to mop up pockets of resistance by Cuban and Grenada forces.

Some of the rangers off the last plane wore uniforms still soiled from combat. They carried rifles, rocket launchers, canteens and helmets strapped to backpacks as they marched away with a platoon leader barking cadence.

The Rangers said they captured 22 Cubans at the airfield and recovered a huge cache of the latest Soviet weapons in the assaults, including boxes of automatic weapons never uncrated.

The description of the Grenada fighting came in an interview with five Rangers.

Lt. Col Ralph Hagler, stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., commanded the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Infantry during the invasion and led the drop onto the airstrip.

"It (the airfield drop) was a highly difficult situation," Hagler said. "We were faced with anti-aircraft fire and small arms fire."

He said the force had planned to jump at 650 or 700 feet, but the first two C-130s approaching the air field were met with a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire and were forced back. Commanders then decided to make the drop at 500 feet, he said.

"If we had jumped at 650 or 700 they would have shot down all our aircraft. It is a risky business, but jumping at 500 feet saved the force," he said.

He said it was the lowest jump any American force had made since World War II and that during peacetime, Rangers are not allowed to jump at less than 1,200 feet.

Soldiers

Continued from Page One

Colman, Georgia, 34.

Sgt. James E. McDonough, New Castle, Pa., 21; Lance Cpl Louis, Melendez, Santa Maria Calle, Puerto Rico, 19; Sgt. Richard H. Jenkins, Tully, N.Y., 21; Lance Cpl. Ulysses G. Jenkins, Baltimore, 24; Sgt. John A. Phillips, Wilmette, Ill., 23; Navy Chief Hospital Corpsman George W. Piercy, Mt. Savage, Md., 40; Gunner Sgt. Charles R. Ray, Sunbury, Pa., 33; 1st Lt. Charles J. Schnorf, Delaplane, Va., 24.

"We jumped 221 Rangers and only had one man injured — he broke his leg," Hagler said. "There was a lot of weapons and a lot of ammo, too. We found a lot of weapons. All this stuff was brand new."

Jump Master Sgt. Glenn Webb, 25, of Webb City, Mo., said the Rangers were on the ground in five minutes, but the low jump was "something I never want to do again."

Sgt. Dana Foley, 26, of Newton, Mass., who received a small scratch on his nose from scrapnel, said "we took a lot of fire from the Cubans. We captured some Cubans when we first arrived. They were armed with the latest Soviet weapons."

Sgt. John Krancich, 26, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said the landing "was real scary. It was a go or no go situation. I have never jumped at 500 feet and I hope I never do again. Coming down, there was sporadic gunfire. It was sort of organized madness."

He said the Rangers had jumped from the planes "like madmen."

Hagler said once the men landed, they consolidated forces, and that three Soviet-made armored cars tried to set up a defensive perimeter but were quickly knocked out with 90-mm weapons.

"They (the Cubans) had the latest in air defense weapons. All of their weapons were automatic. We found no single bolt rifles like we did in the early years of Vietnam," said Hagler, who served three tours of duty in the southeast Asia war.

He said the Cubans "were determined" to hold the airfield.

"They dug in when we jumped. They were very, very tenacious," he said.

He said it took most of Tuesday for the 500 to 520 Rangers to secure the airfield, and C-141 aircraft then began flying in heavy equipment and motorized vehicles.

Grenada

Continued from Page one

How long the 5,000 Army and 900 Marine troops remain in Grenada "is really a function of how long the Cubans want to fight," Metcalf said. "What we are trying to do is keep them on the move. We are looking for a situation to drive them into the woods. They'll get hungry and come out."

Cuba denied there were 500 of its soldiers still uncaptured in Grenada.

Units of the American soldiers on the island captured the Caligny barracks stronghold late Thursday after overcoming "heavy resistance," the Pentagon said in a delayed report.

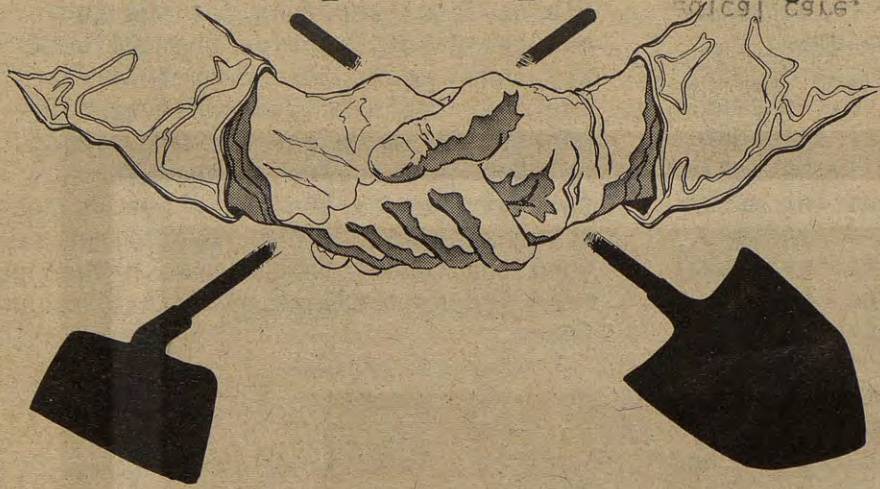
The stage for Grenada's invasion was set Oct. 12, when headline members of his New Jewel Movement placed Bishop under house arrest.

The claim that up to 500 more Cubans were in the mountains was made Friday by Metcalf, the U.S. vice admiral.

"Grenadian opposition has collapsed. They cut and ran," Metcalf said. "The Cubans are the ones that stood their ground and made it difficult."

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EL PUENTE is the official publication of the Arizona Farmworkers Union (AFW). It is published to inform both the workers and supporters of the activities of the union. Any comments or contributions to the newsletter should be addressed to EL PUENTE, P.O. Box 819, El Mirage, Arizona, 85335.

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EL MIRAGE, AZ

Economic Development Dream Coming True

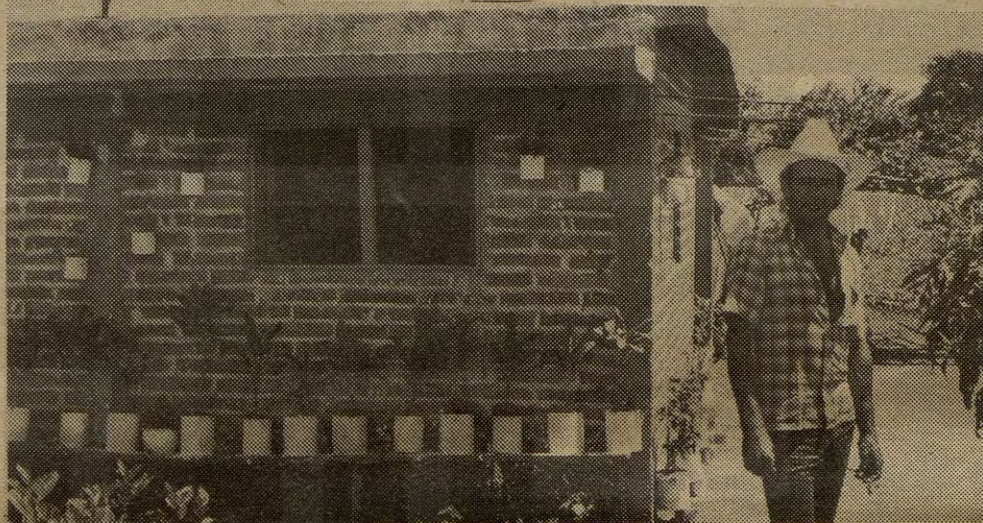
This summer the AFW's dream of economic development began to become a reality. AFW organizers visiting the villages and ranches of Guanajuato, Queretaro, and Sinaloa in August came back enthused and impressed by the activities and plans of the worker's committees implementing economic development projects in those areas.

The Economic Development Fund is a unique feature of the contracts won by the workers at the Smith, Martori, and Macchiarolli ranches in Maricopa County. The growers must give 10 cents per hour for each worker into an account which is controlled by a board made up of workers. This is a real alternative to the capital intensive strategies for development proposed by the US and Mexican governments and the multinational corporations, which usually mean only exploitation and complete lack of control for the workers.

Last year the workers decided to leave the money in the bank to gain interest, and this year they decided to distribute \$15,000 to each of the three states organized.

In Sinaloa, workers built 25 brick houses to replace the worn out homes that members used to live in. In Queretaro, they are planning to start two cooperative stores, in Quirambal and Ahuacatlan. The Economic Development Fund (EDF) is also helping to support a high school in Ahuacatlan, allowing 45 children to go beyond grade school for the first time (next year 150 students will be enrolled). And in Guanajuato the workers decided to put in drilling wells for irrigation and to explore the possibility of producing citrus trees.

The President of the EDF, Jose Ojeda, met with the committees in Mexico to discuss the progress of the work. Jose observed that worker controlled development is a necessity not only in Mexico but also for workers here in the US. Communities are often stifled by giant corporations or by government telling them how they should grow. Through organizing and winning contracts, workers can take back some control over their lives and have a say in what their kid's futures will look like.



An AFW member stands in front of his new house in Sinaloa, one of twenty five such homes built with funds from the Economic Development Fund.

"The potential is unlimited", says Jose. "They could have garages to work on their cars, day care centers for their kids - all kinds of things that could give work to people and provide services to the whole community. What's needed is that the workers decide for themselves that this is what they want and go out and get it."

Jim Gilroy has been hired as technical director of the EDF, and has spent most of the past four months in Mexico. Jim, an agricultural expert, works directly with the projects, and is also seeking the cooperation of other organizations in providing technical and financial resources.

Women Key to Development

AFW organizer Adela Serrano accompanied the group to Mexico to meet with the women of the villages and ranches, to see in what ways the EDF could respond to their particular needs and problems. Adela observed that the women are the ones who suffer the most from the conditions of poverty, and are left behind to care for the entire family when the men migrate north to the "other side".

One of the major areas of need is for medical care. The AFW and the EDF are now organizing a team of doctors who will be visiting these areas of Mexico later this year.

Pregnant women are often without medical services and have to walk an hour or more to get a ride to the hospital to have their babies. Pre-

natal care is non-existent, and hemorrhaging is common. For this reason the women have asked to be trained as midwives to help one another in child bearing. Right now a group of midwives is planning to visit Mexico to train other women to be midwives.

Besides the health problems, women also expressed their needs to develop themselves outside their traditional roles in the household, their need to contribute more visibly to the community at large. In La Caja, Guanajuato, a group of women decided to open a used clothing store run by two women, which sells clothing at low prices. The need for the store became apparent when the first shipment of clothes sold out the same day that it arrived.

And in several villages, women decided that they would like to form sewing cooperatives, both to earn money for themselves and to provide for the communities' need. The AFW is now seeking manual sewing machines to help these cooperatives to get off the ground.

All these projects are under way only because of the efforts of the workers themselves who organized to win the contracts that now feed the EDF. As Jim Gilroy stated, "The future of the Economic Development Fund depends on the initiative and the organization of the farmworkers themselves. The resources and technical assistance can be found - but the success of the project is in the hands of the farmworkers - the ones who started it".

Only Organizing Can Combat Reagan's Budget Shifts

Farmworkers have known for a long time that the patrones will never protect their interests. But until recently, many suffered from the illusion that the government would protect them. Now with the Reagan budget, workers are coming to realize that they alone, united and organized, have the strength and commitment to struggle for their own interests.

Since the 1960's, government programs like food stamps allowed the patrones to continue paying miserable wages, and the people could live off the government subsidy. Existing on the edge of hunger, dependent on both Uncle Sam and the patron, workers were often afraid to "rock the boat". Now they are seeing the government torpedoing the shaky boat that had been keeping them afloat.

Food stamps have been cut by \$6 million for the next three years. Many schoolchildren have been deprived of school lunches. The number of federally subsidized housing units to be built next year is 13% less than planned. Labor safety regulations have been eased and controls on dangerous chemicals like pesticides are being relaxed, exposing workers to new hazards. At the same time, disability, compensation and other protective programs are being slashed. One out of every five families will lose all or part of their

benefits. Hardest hit will be those families with working members who are trying to get off welfare or simply make ends meet.

The money that once went into these programs has now been siphoned off into military expenditures. These expenditures, like the MX missile, the neutron bomb and the sending of U.S. soldiers to El Salvador, don't increase our security but only make enemies for us around the world. They also raise the rate of inflation and reduce the capital available for productive investment. Reagan and Congress (and defense contractors) want to spend a total of \$1.6 billion on the military over the next three years. (An onion worker picking at a rate of 10 dozen bunches

per hour would have to work night and day for more than 48 million years to earn that amount.)

At the same time that these attacks against workers are taking place, legal services for the poor are being cut, leaving them without any legal means to defend themselves. The only recourse available to farmworkers is to unionize. Organizing, relying on ourselves rather than on the patrones or their lackeys in the government is the only way to get beyond the trap into which we have been led by the lies of so many years.

Women United at Texas Conference

The second annual conference of working women was held during the first weekend of November in Harlingen Texas. The purpose of the conference was to unite women workers in their struggle for equality and collective bargaining with its primary goal being to develop leadership qualities among working women. Workshops, films, speeches and sharing of ideas worked towards this goal.

The most common concern expressed by the participants was the need to educate and organize farmworker women and men to participate in and air their views at activities such as the conference. All were in agreement that in order to develop strong leadership among women, farmworker women need to be involved in the planning and decision-making for future conferences.

A delegation of six women representing the AFW and the Centro Adelante Campesino participated in the conference. The Arizona delegation had much to contribute. Adela Serrano, an AFW organizer, gave an excellent speech on the problems encountered when organizing farmworker women. A slide show was presented by Enriqueta Vasquez on the history and contributions of women in labor struggles. A recently published newsletter was distributed. In addition, the Arizona delegation gave a musical presentation of several women's songs that brought out a sense of unity and optimism among the women who participated. Several groups commented on the inspiring and unifying effect of the Arizona delegation on the conference.



Organizing a union campaign in the onion fields last spring, AFW organizer Adela Serrano was interrupted with threats from the police.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Many times members ask what happens with their dues money. This is the income and expenses for a typical month for the union office. It does not include other projects such as the Economic Development Fund or the Centro Adelante.

EXPENSES		INCOME	
Rent	\$400	Contributions	\$150
Telephone	\$700	Dues	\$100
Lawyer	\$600	(New members)	
Salaries	\$1750	Dues	
(4 staff persons)		(Martori)	\$1200
Car Payments	\$200	(Smith)	\$400
and Insurance		(Macchiarolli)	\$300
Office Supplies	\$150	Medical Fund	
Gas	\$400	(Martori)	\$1050
Car Repairs	\$300	Education Fund	
Utilities	\$75	(Smith &	
Miscellaneous	\$400	Macchiarolli)	\$900
	\$4975		\$4100

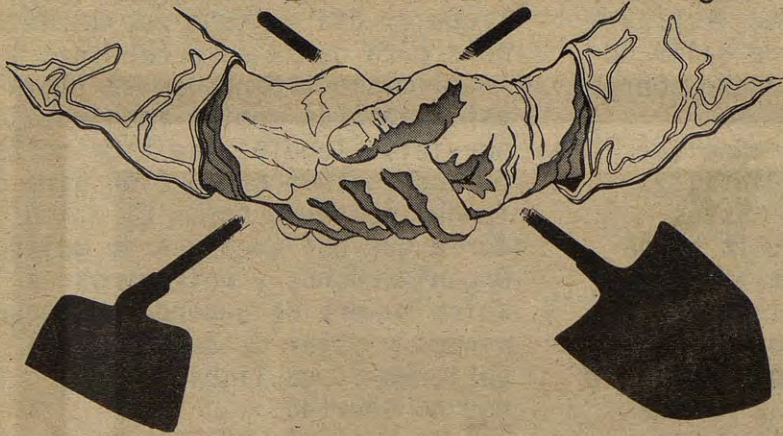
As you can see, the expenses are already greater than the income. And when there is a strike or emergency, the costs go even higher. Add to this the fact that in the summer months we have practically no income at all, (because no one is picking), and you'll see why we always say:

SUPPORT YOUR UNION!

Every member of the union is obligated to pay \$20 in annual dues. If you have not paid this year's dues, please do so now.

AFW

arizona farmworkers union
la tierra es para el que la trabaja



EL PUENTE

EL PUENTE es el boletín oficial del Sindicato de Trabajadores Agrícolas de Arizona (AFW). El boletín es para informar a los miembros y a los simpatizantes de la unión sobre las actividades del sindicato. Cualquier comentario o contribución que quisieran dar, se debe de dirigir a : FL PUENTE, P.O. Box 819, El Mirage, AZ. 85335.

NOVIEMBRE 1981 EL MIRAGE, AZ

El Desarrollo Económico Se Realiza en Mexico

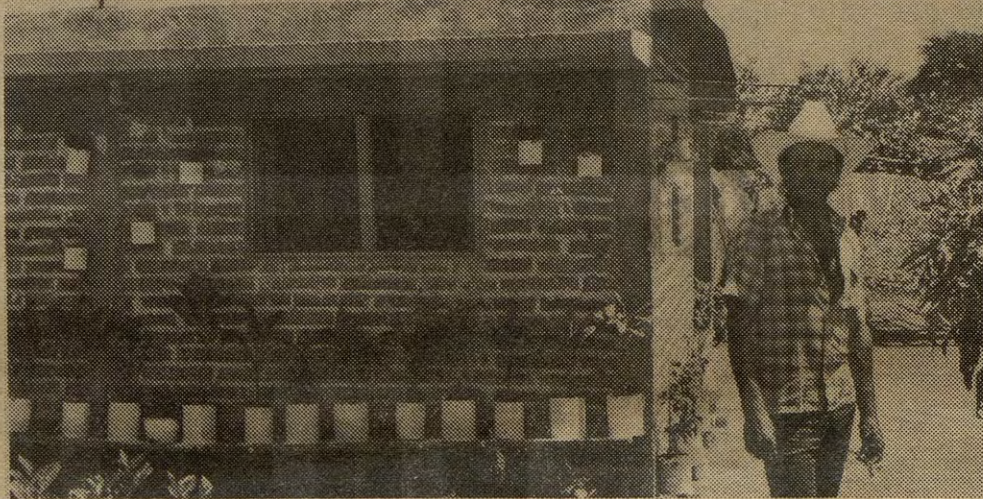
Este verano el sueño del AFW de desarrollo económico llegó a ser una realidad. Organizadores del AFW que visitaron los pueblos y ejidos de Guanajuato, Querétaro y Sinaloa en agosto regresaron muy entusiasmados por las actividades y planes de los comités de trabajadores.

El Fondo de Desarrollo Económico (FDE) es uno de los puntos del contrato ganado por obreros del AFW en los ranchos de Smith, Macchiarolli y Martori en el Condado Maricopa. Los rancheros deben pagar 10 centavos la hora por cada obrero en un fondo especialmente para el desarrollo de la comunidad de los obreros. Esta es una alternativa verdadera a las estrategias de "desarrollo" propuesto por los gobiernos estados unidenses y mexicanos y las corporaciones multinacionales que no son nada más que otra forma de explotación. El año pasado, los obreros decidieron dejar el dinero en el banco para cobrar intereses. Este año, repartieron \$15,000 a cada uno de los tres estados organizados.

En Sinaloa, obreros construyeron 25 casas de ladrillo para remplazar casas rendidas. En Querétaro, planean construir dos tiendas cooperativas, una en Quirambal y otra en Ahuacatlan. El FDE también apoya una escuela en Ahuacatlan que permite que 45 niños sigan estudiando en la escuela secundaria, por primera vez. El año que viene habrá 150 estudiantes. Y en Guanajuato, los obreros decidieron perforar para tener suficiente agua y investigar la posibilidad de producir arboles cítricos.

El presidente del FDE, José Ojeda se reunió con los comités en México para hablar del progreso de los proyectos. José notó que el desarrollo con control obrero es una necesidad, no solamente en México sino también en los EEUU. Comunidades muchas veces sufren por las mandados de las empresas grandes y el gobierno. Por medio de organizarse y ganar contratos, los obreros pueden conseguir algún control de sus vidas y conseguir una voz en el futuro de sus hijos.

"No tiene límite," dice Ojeda. "Ellos los cebolleros podrían tener su propia garaje donde componer sus



Un miembro de la union frente a su casa nueva en Sinaloa, una de las veinte casas que fueron construidas como parte del Desarrollo Económico.

carros, tener sus propias tiendas, guardería de niños--en fin, toda clase de cosas que pudiera dar trabajo a la misma gente y dar servicios a toda la comunidad. Lo que se necesita es que la gente se decida que esto es lo que quieren y después ponerse hacerlo."

Jim Gilroy es el director técnico del FDE y ha pasado los últimos cuatro meses en México haciendo contactos para el desarrollo de estos proyectos.

La Mujer en el Desarrollo

Adela Serrano, organizadora del AFW acompañó el grupo a México para llegar a conocer las mujeres de los pueblos y ejidos para ver como el FDE puede responder mejor a sus necesidades y problemas. Adela notó que las mujeres son las que sufren más de las condiciones de la pobreza. Además, las dejan en casa para cuidar toda la familia cuando los hombres van al "otro lado".

Una de las necesidades es atención médica. La AFW y el FDE están organizando una visita de médicos quienes irán a México este año. Dos de los médicos serán especialistas en cuidado de niños. Esto es muy importante porque muchos niños se mueren cada año de enfermedades sencillas por falta de médicos.

Algunos médicos de Tucson, Arizona están muy interesados en este proyecto y puede que eventualmente visiten regularmente a las comunidades en México.

Mujeres embarazadas muchas veces no tienen servicios médicos y a veces, tienen que caminar una hora an-

tes de conseguir alguien que las lleve al hospital para dar parto. Atención médica antes de dar parto casi no existe y la hemorragia es común. Por eso, las mujeres quieren entrenamiento para ser parteras. Ahora misma parteras de Arizona planean ir a México a entrenar las mujeres y quieren traer un grupo a Texas para completar su entrenamiento. Esto no solamente hará más fácil el embarazo y parto sino dará trabajo a los que completar el entrenamiento.

A parte de los problemas de salud, las mujeres expresaron su deseo de desarrollarse a parte de su papel tradicional en el hogar, su necesidad de contribuir a toda la comunidad. En la Caja, Guanajuato, un grupo decidió abrir una tienda de ropa de segunda mano, dirigida por dos mujeres para vender ropa de precio bajo. Pues el primer cargamento se vendió el primer día.

Y en varios pueblos, las mujeres decidieron formar cooperativas de coser para ganar dinero, y a la vez ayudar a la comunidad. La AFW busca máquinas de coser manuales para ayudarles a comenzar.

Todos proyectos son en proceso solamente a causa de los esfuerzos de los trabajadores si mismos que organizaron para ganar contratos que ahora alimentan el FDE. Como dijo a Jim Gilroy, "El futuro del fondo de desarrollo económico depende en la iniciativa y organización de los campesinos mismos. Los recursos y asistencia técnica pueden ser encontrado---pero el éxito del proyecto es en los manos de los campesinos---ellos que lo empezaron."

Organizate para Combatir los Recortes de Reagan

Trabajadores campesinos han reconocido por mucho tiempo que los patrones nunca irán a proteger sus intereses. Recientemente, mucho han sufrido de la ilusión de que el gobierno los protegería. Pero ahora, con el presupuesto de Reagan, trabajadores han comprendido que ellos, solamente unidos y organizados tienen la fuerza y la obligación para luchar por sus propios intereses.

Desde los 60's, programas del gobierno, como estampillas de comida han permitido que los patrones continúan pagando los sueldos miserables y la gente pudieran vivir de la asistencia del gobierno. Existen en la orilla de hambre, dependiendo del gobierno y de los patrones, siempre temiendo a "tropellar el barco", mientras que es el gobierno que atropella el barco tembloroso apenas pueden sostenerse flotando.

Estampillas de comida han sido recortados por \$6 billones sobre los siguientes 3 años. Muchos niños han sido cortados de los programas de comida en las escuelas. La cantidad de viviendas subsidiadas por el gobierno serán 13% menos que lo que se había planeado. Se están aflojando las reglas de seguridad y el control sobre los productos químicos y pesticidas de tal manera que el trabajador tendrá que enfrentar condiciones

más peligrosas en el trabajo. Al mismo tiempo, desabilitación, compensación y otros programas protectivos han sido recortados. Una de cada 5 familias que reciben welfare perderá todo o parte de sus beneficios. Los que sufrirán el más son los trabajadores que están tratando de salir de welfare o simplemente de poder sobre vivir.

El dinero que en un tiempo fue de estos programas se está utilizando para gastos militares. Estos gastos como el MX missile, la bomba neutrón y los soldados que han mandado a El Salvador, no aumentan nuestra seguridad, solamente hacen enemigos alrededor del mundo. También aumenta la inflación y reduce

el capital disponible para inversión productiva. Reagan y el Congreso (y los contratistas de defensa) quieren gastar un total de \$1.6 billones en militar en los siguientes 3 años. (Un trabajador cebollero tendrá que trabajar día y noche por 48 millones años para ganar esta cantidad.)

Al mismo tiempo que se llevan estos ataques contra los trabajadores servicios legales han sido cortados, dejándolos sin protección para defender sus derechos. El único recurso que nos queda es de unirnos. Organizándonos y uniendonos es la única manera de depender de nosotros mismos y dejar de depender del gobierno y sus limosnas de que nada nos ha servido.

Las Mujeres Reunieron en Texas

La segunda conferencia de las mujeres trabajadoras fue en Harlingen, Texas en la primera semana del mes de noviembre. El motivo de la conferencia fue para unir a la mujer trabajadora en la lucha por la igualdad y organización colectiva. El objetivo principal de la conferencia fue de desarrollar las cualidades de líderes entre las mujeres trabajadoras. Usaron talleres, discursos, películas y intercambios de ideas.

El interés más expresado por los participantes durante la conferencia fue la necesidad de educar y organizar a la mujer tanto como el hombre. Deben estar presentes y expresar sí mismos en actividades tal como la conferencia. Todas las participantes estuvieron de acuerdo que para que desarrollarse la dirección entre la mujer campesina, se necesita la mujer campesina sea envuelta en los planes y sea la que hace las decisiones de las conferencias en el futuro.

Una delegación de 6 mujeres de AFW y el Centro Adelante Campesino participaron en la conferencia. La delegación de Arizona contribuyó mucho. Adela Serrano, una organizadora de AFW, dió un discurso muy excelente sobre los problemas que se enfrentan en los esfuerzos para organizar a la mujer campesina. Una película fue presentado por Enriqueta Vasquez sobre la historia y contribuciones de la mujer en la lucha laboral. También un boletín que es de la mujer fue distribuido. Las canciones de mujeres fueron dirigido por la delegación de Arizona. Eso trajo una sencibilidad de unidad y optimismo a las mujeres que participaron.



Adela Serrano, organizadora de AFW, fue interrumpida y amenazada por la policía mientras organizaba una campaña de la unión en los files de la cebolla.

REPORTE ECONÓMICO

Muchas veces, los miembros quieren saber lo que ocurre con su cuota. Este es un reporte del costo y el ingreso de un mes típico para la oficina de la unión. No incluye otros proyectos como el Fondo de Desarrollo Económico o el Centro Adelante Campesino.

LOS COSTOS		EL INGRESO	
Renta	\$400	Contribuciones	\$150
Teléfono	\$700	Cuota	\$100
Abogado	\$600	(Nuevos Miembros)	
Salarios	\$1750	Cuota	
(4 personas)		(Martori)	\$1200
Pagos y Aseguranza	\$200	(Smith)	\$400
de Automóviles		(Macchiarolli)	\$300
Gasolina	\$400	Fondo Médico	
Reparos de Automóviles	\$300	(Martori)	\$1050
Utilidades	\$75	Fondo Educativo	
Miscelaneos	\$400	(Smith &	
Provisiones	\$150	Macchiarolli)	\$900
	\$4975		\$4100

Como puede ver, el costo es más grande que el ingreso. Y cuando hay una huelga o una emergencia, el costo sube. Además, en el verano, el ingreso es insignificante porque no hay nadie piscando. Es por eso siempre les decimos que:

SUPOORTA SU UNIÓN!

Es la obligación de cada miembro del sindicato para pagar una cuota de \$20 anuales. Si no ha pagado su cuota por este año por favor, lo paga ahora.

The nursing shortage

see pg. 4



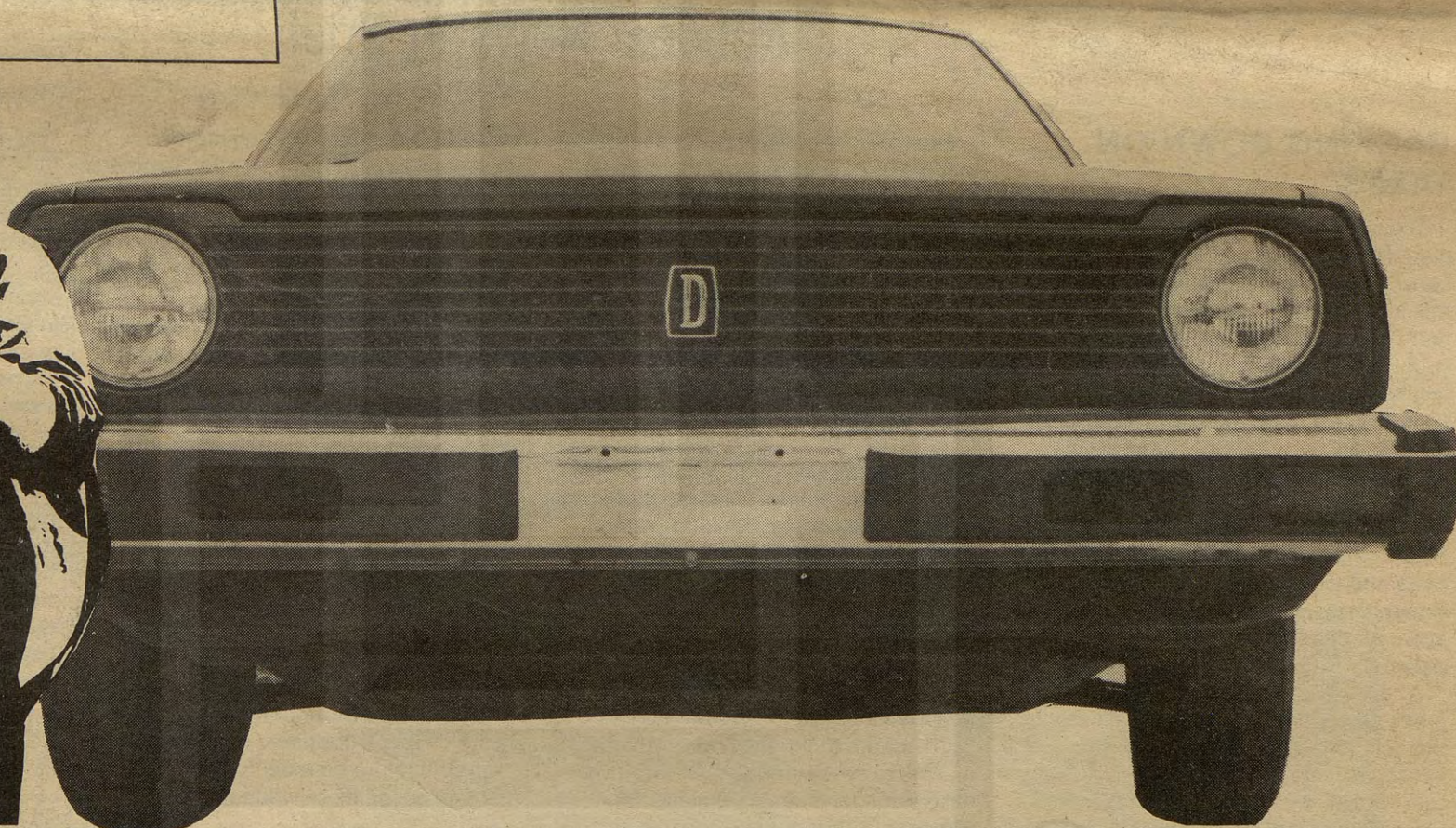
VOLUME 4 NUMBER 10

NEWSPAPER OF THE U.S. LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE (M-L)

JUNE 5-18, 1981

DO WE HAVE A STAKE IN THE WAR ON IMPORTS?

**FIGHT
BIG THREE
NOT JAPAN**



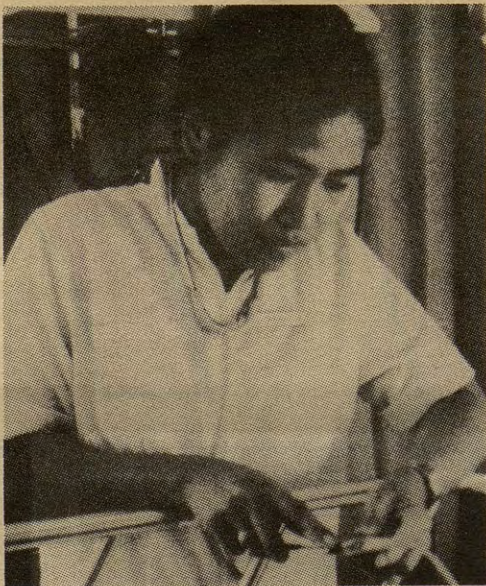
Striking miners have coal companies in retreat

A militant strike has forced coal companies
to back down on the key issue of nonunion coal
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Mideast crisis

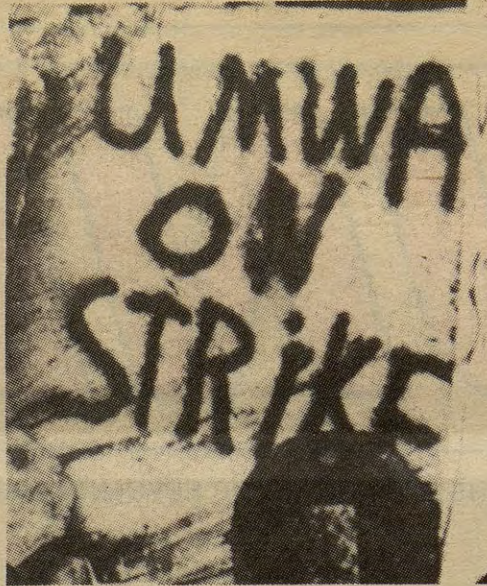
Blood-soaked Lebanon is again the stage of
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National News in Brief

BACKING DOWN ON TAXES

The controversial Kemp-Roth tax-cut plan, which calls for a 10% cut in personal income taxes for three years, was the centerpiece of Reagan's campaign platform and a favorite of conservative supply-side economists. But from the beginning, many in the bourgeoisie opposed such a large reduction in taxes as inflationary.

Now as Congress begins to take up the issue, Reagan is beginning to back down, calling for compromise tax proposals. Plans coming from some Democrats and the House Ways and Means Committee oppose the multi-year tax-cut and call for a lower ceiling on budget deficits.

At the same time, Reagan and Congress agree that tax cuts should benefit the rich. Whatever personal tax cuts are passed will mainly benefit those making over \$30,000 a year. For most taxpayers, any personal income tax savings in 1981 will be wiped out by increases in social security taxes.

Liberals and conservatives alike agree, too, that business will get the biggest breaks of all — about \$10 billion in 1981 rising to \$30 billion in 1984. Fat write-offs for depreciation of buildings, equipment and vehicles, and investment tax breaks will boost corporate profits.

ATLANTA

On May 25, several thousand people rallied in Washington, D.C., to protest the murder of Black children and young adults in Atlanta. This latest rally was sponsored by the Committee to Stop Children's Murders which is organized by mothers of the missing and murdered children. One of the most militant and popular speakers was Ella Collins, Malcolm X's sister.

The death toll in the racist Atlanta massacre now stands at 28, with two others still missing. The latest victim, 27-year old Nathaniel Cater, was the oldest and largest of the murdered youths. Like 17 others, Cater had been choked to death. Many people in the Black community believe the killer(s) could be police or military-trained, who are getting bolder and are now striking Black men.

STATE ABANDONS PONTIAC FRAME-UP

In a crowded courtroom in Chicago on June 1, a well-dressed prosecutor with a Kennedy haircut mumbled a few words into a dead microphone, making official

the state's decision to drop murder charges against the six Pontiac Brothers still facing trial. The audience could barely hear what was being said behind the bullet-proof partition, but as the judge rose to leave the room, Mrs. Gray, mother of one of the ten Pontiac Brothers acquitted on May 9, stood and cried "Victory!", and then there were cheers, applause, hugs and handshakes among the spectators, which included three Pontiac Brothers freed from the May 9 verdict.

Prosecutors explained the case was dropped because of the cost of prosecution and the verdict of the first trial. The jury took less than five hours to reach a not-guilty verdict on 57 counts in that case.

This marked the end of the largest civilian death penalty case in history, an attempt by the state of Illinois to legally lynch 16 Black prisoners in retaliation for the Pontiac Prison rebellion of July 22, 1978, in which three white guards were killed.

Pontiac Brothers Ozzie Williams and Anthony Gilberry were released immediately after the June 1 hearing. Ten of the Pontiac Brothers are still inmates in Pontiac Prison, serving sentences on previous convictions.

VIETNAMESE WIN ANTI-KLAN SUIT

Vietnamese fishermen from Galveston Bay and neighboring Seabrook in Texas have bravely fought and won a victory against the Ku Klux Klan. For the past

year, the Klan has harassed and threatened Vietnamese shrimp fishermen in the Gulf Coast areas. The Klan tried to fan up conflicts between the Vietnamese and local American fishermen, blaming the Vietnamese for "depleting" the shrimp in the bay. Actually, large commercial trawlers farther off the coast are responsible for the shrimp shortages.

The Klan has patrolled the bay waters, wearing their white robes and bearing weapons, and have threatened to kill Vietnamese.

The Vietnamese went to court asking for federal protection during the shrimp season and that Camp Puller, the Klan's paramilitary training camp outside Houston be closed down. Judge Gabrielle McDonald ordered the Klan to bear no arms, burn no crosses and stop the armed boat patrols.

The all-white Seabrook City Council also condemned the Klan's activities.

JOANN LITTLE SHOT

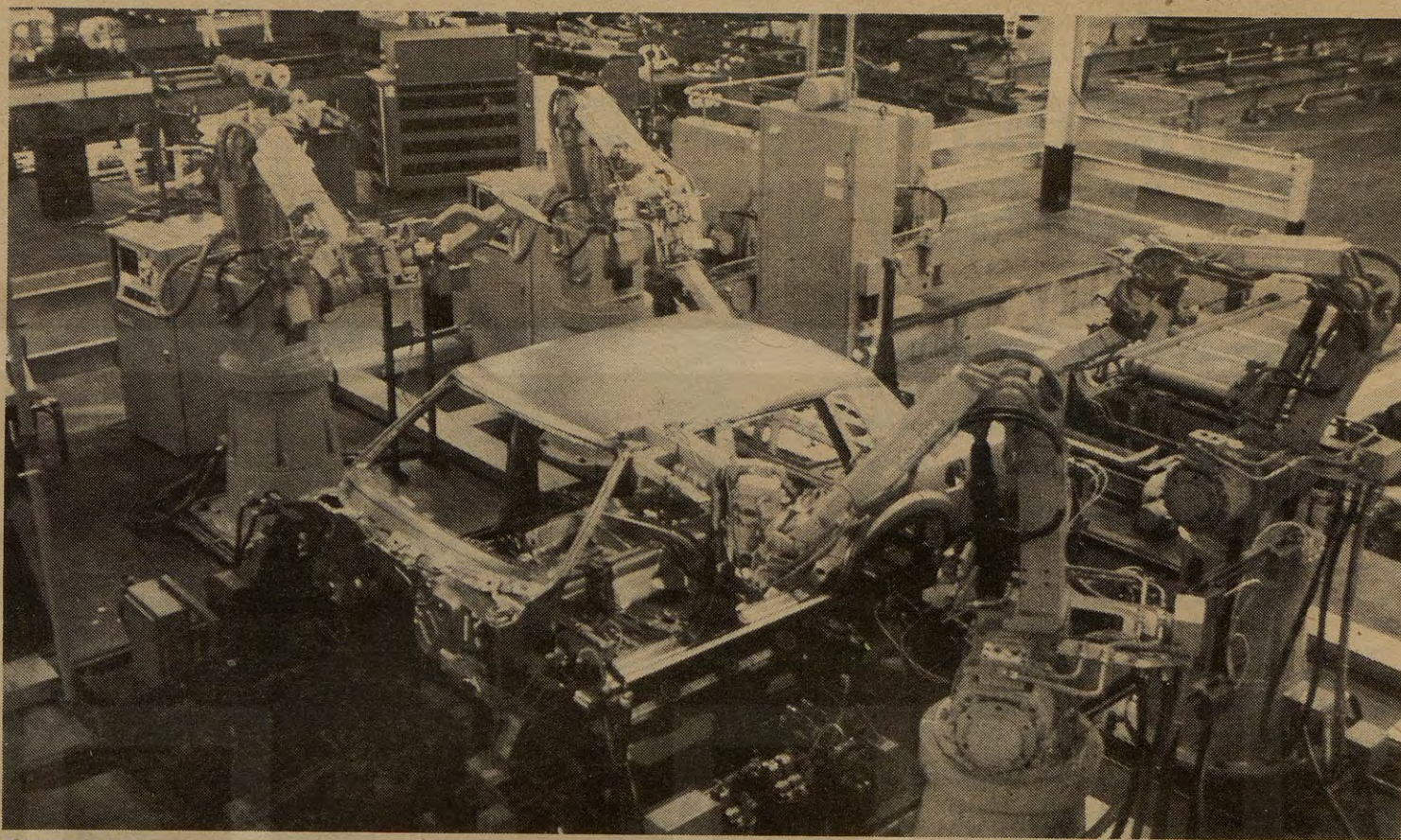
Joann Little was critically shot by an unknown assailant while walking on a Brooklyn, New York, street in the last week of May. Little had won support from many Black people and women in the mid-1970's during her trial for the self-defense killing of a jailer who had sexually assaulted her when she was imprisoned in North Carolina. She was finally acquitted of those murder charges.

According to Little's family and the Rev. Robert Kinlock of the National Council of Churches, who visited Little in the hospital following the shooting, Little had received death threats two weeks earlier.

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Robot welders, not imports, threaten auto workers' jobs, but the UAW leadership is doing nothing about them.

AN ANTI-WORKER CAMPAIGN WRAPPED IN RACISM

The crusade against Japanese imports

It could have been a high school football rally, with cheerleaders screaming above the blare of a rock band. But the scene was the parking lot of a General Motors assembly plant in Southgate, California. Management had shut down production an hour and a half early so workers could attend the rally. The theme: "Smash Datsun, drive the 'Japs' back across the ocean."

Halfway across the continent in Detroit, imported cars are banned from another parking lot. This one belongs to the International headquarters of the United Auto Workers (UAW) whose president, Doug Fraser, is spending \$200,000 from a dwindling union treasury on radio ads denouncing Japanese cars.

Over the past 18 months, U.S. auto companies have teamed up with the top leadership of the UAW in a racist campaign against Japanese imports. Japanese workers are being blamed for the massive layoffs which have brought untold hardship to thousands of auto workers. Union and industry spokesmen are clamoring for restrictions on Japanese imports, touching off a tangled policy debate in Washington and prompting Japan to "voluntarily" limit its car sales in the U.S. to 1.68 million next year.

The anti-imports crusade has created much confusion among rank and file auto workers. Even those who view the flag-

waving rhetoric of Doug Fraser and the auto barons with skepticism are in many cases open to the idea of import restrictions. Maybe it really is a lot of bunk, the reasoning goes, but with 160,000 auto workers on layoff and everybody's job on the line, what have we got to lose?

Sugar coated poison

Unfortunately there is a great deal to lose. The strategy of trying to save jobs by demanding import restrictions is not just futile; it is dangerous. If pursued, it will

Import restrictions won't save jobs. But they will raise prices and increase pressure to cut workers' wages



More than a Datsun was smashed up at this UAW anti-imports rally. The fight for job security also received a body blow.

actually set back the fight for job security, and its bad effects will plague the workers movement for years to come.

Some things to consider before jumping on the anti-imports bandwagon:

- The Reagan administration has indicated that any action on its part to restrict Japanese imports must be accompanied by a "willingness to sacrifice" on the part of auto workers to help the stricken industry "get back on its feet." Translation: the price of import restrictions is giving Ford and GM the wage cuts they are demanding. Rank and file sentiment in the UAW has already killed an attempt to reopen the current national agreement and "renegotiate" the wage package in the companies' favor. But if the import restrictions go through, there will be tremendous pressure for a take-away contract in 1982.

- There is little real evidence that import restrictions actually make for more jobs. But there is plenty of evidence that they raise prices. Capitalist "experts" admit that Japan's recent agreement to curb its U.S. car sales will not affect auto industry employment. Neither did an earlier federal decision to boost the tax on imported trucks. But in both cases, domestic auto makers got a chance to boost their prices without worrying about being undersold. Ford and GM barely waited for the ink to dry on the Japanese agreement before pushing through a 3.5% price hike, and additional increases of \$200 to \$400 are still to come.

- Whatever extra profits auto makers get from protection against foreign competition will probably be used, not to rehire laid-off workers, but to invest further in new, highly automated plants and robot welders. The latter are expected to eliminate the jobs of half a million auto workers by the end of the decade — with or without import restrictions.

- The same UAW officials who blast the Japanese for "stealing our jobs" are all for company automation, claiming it will speed the industry's recovery by "raising productivity." Equating job security with import restrictions, they are making no effort to insure that automation will not be achieved at the expense of workers' jobs. Instead, they have handed the companies a blank check for more speed-ups, more layoffs and more profits squeezed out of fewer workers.

It's an old story for auto workers: out of fear for their jobs, they are supposed to submit willingly to greater exploitation. This time, though, the package is wrapped in patriotic nonsense and some very ugly racist propaganda. It's as if Fraser and the auto barons concluded that if auto work-

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NATIONAL

The nursing shortage: Misery for profit

While there has developed an upper crust of highly trained specialty nurses, most nurses, especially the lower level RN's and LPN's, are exploited as workers.

By A NURSE CORRESPONDENT

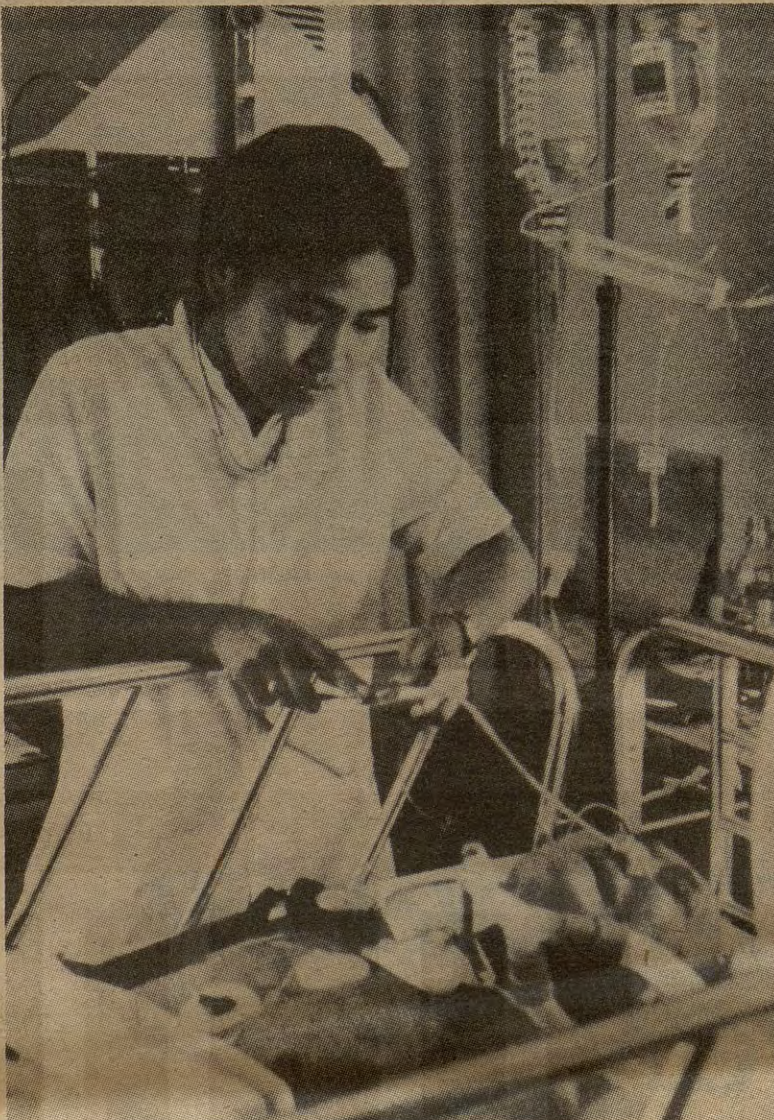
"It's a wonder nobody died." This line from the best seller *Nurse* aptly puts how many nurses feel at the end of their shift. With over 100,000 vacancies for nurses in the U.S., many hospitals are functioning at dangerously short-staffed levels. Some, especially in the South and Southwest, have closed units and cut services. Others simply "make do" — leaving overworked, tense and rushed nurses, and patients suffering from lack of care.

And yet this "shortage" is taking place with a record number of trained nurses available, more than 1,400,000. Thirty percent of these registered nurses, almost 50% in California, are not working at the present time. The reasons for their defection from their occupation say a lot about the way the health care industry operates and the condition of women workers in the U.S.

Nursing — a "woman's job"

Historically, nursing, along with teaching, was one of the few professions open to women; and today 97% of the registered nurses in this country are women. Nurses earn wages far lower than men with comparable levels of training and experience. The national average for an RN's wages is \$12,500 a year, far less than a beginning engineer's \$20,000 and a far cry from the physician's \$68,000. Practical nurses, the LPN/LVN's, earn even less. Nurses earn less than most skilled

Nurses perform vital duties, but their work is belittled by the medical establishment.



workers and even some unionized unskilled workers.

Yet nursing is definitely a skilled job: nurses must deal with drugs and carry out procedures that require some medical knowledge and training. And, as medical knowledge and technology become more complex, nurses are held increasingly re-

sponsible for their actions, legally and morally.

At the same time, their authority to make decisions and the respect shown them falls far short of the responsibility they carry. Doctor-nurse relations still often reflect the ancient idea of the nurse as the "handmaiden" to the doctor.

While nursing is a vital part of health care, it is generally belittled by the medical establishment. Cornell and Stanford recently closed their nursing schools, and the president of Michigan State University recently proposed closing MSU's nursing program, calling it a "high cost program . . . not essential for the Colleges of Medicine to achieve their primary objective."

Adding to the low pay and lack of respect are other bad conditions. Frequent shift rotations and long hours create many difficulties, especially for women with children. Most hospitals are understaffed and lack adequate equipment, particularly the public hospitals, which have gone through a decade of heavy budget-cutting.

One of the biggest frustrations among nurses remains the inability to provide good care. One nurse told *UNITY*, "This isn't just like any job. You're working with other people's lives. In school we were taught to fulfill all our patient's needs, but when you get out, you barely have enough time to keep them alive. What the patient needs is not the priority for hospital administrators."

It is no wonder that there is a nursing "shortage." Nursing as a "profession" has been degraded by the health care industry in the U.S. While there has developed an upper crust of highly trained specialty nurses and nurse-practitioners, the majority of nurses, especially the lower level RN's and the LPN's, are exploited as workers.

Getting organized

As conditions for nurses have steadily deteriorated over the past 10-15 years, nurses have gotten more organized to fight for better pay and working conditions. One of the few organizations that RN's have had available for collective bargaining has been the various state Nurses Associations, affiliates of the American Nurses Association (ANA), which represents 110,000 of the 141,000 organized registered nurses in the U.S. The Nurses Associations have led some militant strikes in San Francisco and other cities and have made patient care demands a part of contract language, a significant breakthrough.

However, the main thrust of the ANA's method of organizing is elitist. Although

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Student News in Brief

MOONIES DISRUPT EL SALVADOR RALLY

A band of 20 Moonies disrupted a May 8 rally held by the Circle Organizing Committee for El Salvador (COCES) at the University of Illinois Circle Campus in Chicago. The Moonies are a religious sect that follows the Rev. Moon, the south Korean millionaire with ties to the Seoul dictatorship and the Korean CIA.

The Moonies created a disturbance, waving American flags and signs that read "Support Reagan," and chanting "commies off campus." They attacked the students again as COCES led a march through campus, kicking and screaming at people.

Campus police did nothing to restrain the Moonies, but instead harassed the demonstrators. When one of the Moonies tried to knock down a student, police arrested the student.

Recognizing that the Moonies' fascist tactics threaten not only the El Salvador movement but all progressive students and faculty, the students organized to defend their right to free speech. The issue was raised in the school newspaper and COCES sent letters to 23 student groups asking for support. On May 28, charges against the arrested student were dropped, and on June 3,

COCES sponsored an arm-band day to show further support for El Salvador and free speech.

ETHNIC STUDIES AT USC

On May 20, the Minority Student Caucus of the University of Southern California (USC) held a rally protesting the administration's attacks on ethnic studies. USC's recent fundraising campaign has already raised \$300 million, but not a single penny has been designated for minority student programs, services or ethnic studies. The university has also terminated the director of Black Studies, failed to appoint a Chicano director and is stalling on tenure for the Asian American director.

In response, the Asian/Pacific Student Outreach, Black Student Union, MEChA, and Ethnic Studies faculty formed the Minority Student Caucus to fight for the survival of ethnic studies. They are demanding the establishment of an Ethnic Studies Department, with tenure granting rights, a decent budget and permanent director, and General Education credit for Ethnic Studies

classes. Mike Matsuda, director of the Asian/Pacific Student Outreach, vowed that USC students will fight on into next year, if necessary, until they win their demands.

SIT-IN AT UC SAN DIEGO

Students from the Black Student Union, together with students from MEChA, the Asian American Student Alliance and the United American Indian Students took over the chancellor's office of the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) on June 1. Authorities arrested 35 students.

The sit-in culminated a year of demonstrations against the university's denial of tenure to Dr. Emory Tolbert, a Black professor of history. Students have linked this issue to attacks on Black people and the general situation of racism on campus. There are no Black, Asian American or Native American studies, and UCSD has the worst retention rate in the entire University of California system, which effects minority students the worst.

Students want more minority faculty in the history department, the establishment of ethnic studies programs, student

input into the tenure decision process and a Third World Center.

HAIG BOOED

Five hundred university and community activists gathered to protest the presence of Secretary of State Alexander Haig at Fairfield University in Connecticut, May 24. Haig was invited to speak at commencement ceremonies by the university president and also received an honorary degree from the Jesuit school. Chants of "money for jobs, not for war" and "U.S. out of El Salvador" rang out as graduates and guests gathered.

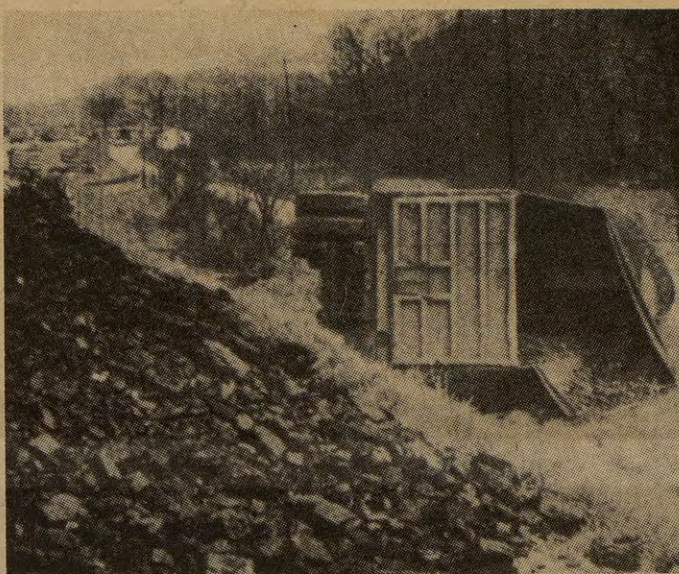
In an action similar to one at Syracuse University several weeks ago, several dozen faculty and students walked out of the ceremony once Haig was introduced. At a rally in a nearby field, Professor Kenin Cartia condemned "the hypocrisy of an institution that claims to uphold human values, but sees fit to honor a man like Haig."

Michael Donovan, brother of Jean Donovan, one of the four missionaries slain in El Salvador last year, criticized Haig and the American government for supporting the forces of death and oppression in El Salvador.

LABOR



Picketing has slowed the flow of nonunion coal despite a barrage of court injunctions.



Strikers ambushed this truckload of scab coal on an isolated roadside in eastern Kentucky.

There have been repeated confrontations between the miners and 300 state troopers called into the coal fields of southwest Virginia by Governor John Dalton.



Striking coal miners have coal companies in retreat

Nine weeks of determined struggle by 160,000 striking coal miners have forced major concessions from the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. A tentative settlement, overwhelmingly approved by the United Mine Workers bargaining council last week, will go before the rank and file for a ratification vote by June 7.

As *UNITY* went to press, full terms of the proposed agreement were not yet available. It was known, however, that the industry abandoned most of the take-aways included in the last contract proposal, which miners soundly rejected at the end of March. The operators dropped their demand for a 45-day probation period for newly hired miners and gave in to union demands to abolish the hated Arbitration Review Board. They also backed off on their demands to operate the mines seven days a week.

The crucial issue of the strike, however, is job security and the subcontracting of work to nonunion operations. Here the contract proposal is harder to assess. In a major victory for the miners, the BCOA agreed to continue making royalty payments on nonunion coal processed by UMWA members. The operators also "partially retreated" on the question of allowing their subcontractors to hire non-UMWA construction and maintenance workers.

However, the UMWA leadership still refused to push for continuation of a clause in the old contract automatically extending the terms of the contract to new mines opened by BCOA members. UMWA President Sam Church claims this clause was illegal under a recent district court decision. But the UMWA has made no real effort to fight the decision in the courts, or to seek contract language that would get around it.

Whether Church's compromise on these key questions will be acceptable to rank and file miners remains to be seen. But the miners have already shown that they have the strength to hold out longer if they feel it is necessary to defend their jobs.

When the strike began, the rank and file made clear its readiness to make any sacrifice and bear any hardship to restrain the companies from farming their jobs out to nonunion subcontractors. This resolve has been severely tested in the past nine weeks. Striking miners have faced off against state police, exchanged gunfire with company thugs and fought their way through a tangle of court injunctions restricting their right to picket or prohibiting it altogether. And all of them have faced the daily problem of feeding their families and paying bills without the benefit of an international union strike fund.

The miners have passed the test with flying colors. They have relied on their own ingenuity as well as outside support to deal with the economic hardships. And neither injunctions, state troopers nor hired guns have prevented them from checking the flow of nonunion coal, which has slowed to a trickle in some parts of the Appalachian coal fields.

Operators are hurting

The hard line taken by the coal companies in the initial contract talks has blown up in their faces. Though they supposedly entered the strike from a position of strength, there is no question that they are hurting now. Smaller, independent companies in the Bituminous Coal Operators Association have talked of breaking ranks, charging the BCOA's get-tough approach with the union represents an attempt by the big oil companies, who increasingly dominate it, to drive them out of business. As summer draws near, the utilities, who are among the industry's biggest customers, are growing nervous at the prospect of a fuel

shortage just when the hot weather increases the demand for electrical power. The shortage of coal has already forced U.S. Steel to lay off large numbers of workers at its huge coke plant in Pittsburgh and put the rest on a four-day week.

The strike has not "destroyed" the foreign market for U.S. coal, as scare-mongering industry propagandists claimed it would. But the longer it lasts, the tougher it will be for the coal barons when they try to hammer out favorable deals with their overseas customers.

Local initiative, mutual aid

The miner's courage and resourcefulness have enabled them to deal with their own burdens. The international's failure to maintain a strike fund to help tide them through has been a growing source of contention in the union. To make up for it, the strikers have set up relief funds at the district level. Districts 17 and 29 in West Virginia operate emergency relief funds to help strikers with house payments, doctor bills and other major expenses. These funds were initiated by rank and file miners who remember all too well how they had to last through their record 111-day strike three years ago on the strength of their own resources.

District 29 also operates an "Offense/Defense Fund" to pay the expenses

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Women coal miners meet

Over 100 women from ten eastern and western states attended the third National Conference of Women Miners held at a summer camp in Carbondale, Illinois, over Memorial Day weekend. Women miners, miners' wives and widows and their children came together to discuss the special issues that women face in the mines and the broad issues that all miners and their families face, especially during the current soft coal strike. All the UMWA women are active in various actions in the strike: picketing, fund raising, rallies and forming support teams and women's auxiliaries. Several resolutions were passed to push the union to take up paternity-maternity leave, child care centers, summer camps, union scholarships and the particular concerns of women miners, such as pregnancy, health and safety, and affirmative action.



SACRIFICE

*Through the din
and sparks*

*they say
we should
slice
our pay*

*in the spirit
of sacrifice.*

*(Sacrifice what
for who?!)*

*Through the hiss
and clang
they talk
about Japanese
autoworkers
taking our jobs
away*

*and then ask again
for a slice
of pay.*

*Are you asking
for a slice
of rent money
or food
money?*

*Because
it is not
a question of
spare change.*

*We are
no small family
tight knit
and struggling
to help
through hard times.*

*Over the roar
of the line
they plead
poverty
and appeal to our
humanity
for just a small
slice
in the spirit of
sacrifice.*

In the spirit of WHAT?

*We have sliced
fingers
on raw metal
had bones crushed
by the line
lives sliced by
forced overtime.*

*No
you cannot
slice
our pay.*

*And we
will not be
hoodwinked
into hating
brothers
building cars
in another
land.*

*You claim
we are
at war
with the competition.*

*But even through the smoke
of weld guns
we smell
the real thieves
and know
our war is here.*

*No
we will not
slice
our pay.*

S.H.
Fremont, CA 5/81

Imports . . .

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ers can't be persuaded to like what is happening to them, they can at least be provided with a "safe" target for their anger.

What's good for General Motors . . .

U.S. auto makers, like other U.S. capitalists, are scrambling for a favorable position on the world market. They didn't always have to scramble; for years the U.S. was powerful enough to all but dictate the terms of international commerce. In the name of "free trade," they could dump their products on other countries almost at will.

Today times have changed. No longer dominant, U.S. capitalists are forced to compete with second world countries, on the home market as well as abroad. They are getting a taste of their own medicine, and they don't like it — particularly the auto companies, who have taken a bigger spill than most others. No longer able to overwhelm the competition, they want the U.S. government to protect them from it with import barriers.

This fight over foreign markets is a basic part of imperialism. It is a fight best left to the capitalists; it should not be carried out with workers' support. GM and Ford hardly warrant our sympathy; for all their troubles with foreign competition, they are still two of the richest corporations in the world. What's more, their own greed for profits gave rise to their current headaches. By choosing to stick to more profitable gas guzzlers, they all but handed the growing market for smaller, fuel-efficient cars over to their foreign competition.

Rather than paying for their own mistake, the auto companies want the workers to pay for them. Their vicious attack on their Japanese rivals is not just an attempt to secure government protection against some stiff competition. It is intended to shield themselves from the anger of their workers as they tighten the screws on us here at home.

A racist myth in the making

The thrust of the auto companies' propaganda offensive can be seen in a special "orientation" for workers at GM's Fremont, California, plant (called back after a long layoff.) The workers got a lecture on the "loyalty" and "productivity" of Japanese auto workers, with their low absenteeism and their selfless devotion to quality and company profits. The GM workers were urged to emulate the Japanese, so GM cars could become competitive enough to "repel the Japanese invasion." There was an unspoken message too: Japanese workers are, in effect, scabs whose eagerness to "put out" for the boss has left U.S. auto companies with no choice but to demand more from their own workers.

Japanese plants are more productive than American ones, because they are newer and more highly automated. But

the conditions faced by the people who work in them are all too familiar. Like their U.S. counterparts, Japanese auto workers have comparatively good wages and benefits. They also endure the speed-ups, high accident rates and brutal discipline which are the hallmark of every U.S. auto factory. Turnover is high and the pressures so great that in the company town where Toyota workers live, more people die by suicide than in traffic accidents.

As much as 30 to 40% of the Japanese auto work force is seasonal, made up largely of peasants who migrate to the city after the fall rice harvest and return to their villages in the spring. They are denied full rights and benefits. In recent years they have waged a determined struggle to establish a seasonal workers' union, the first of its kind in Japan.

In short, the docile Japanese auto worker is as big a myth as the "overpaid" American auto worker. It recalls the years of capitalist slanders about oppressed nationality workers who "work for peanuts" and are "stealing white workers' jobs." It's no accident that this new myth is being pushed at a time when oppressed nationality workers throughout the U.S. are under increasing attack, and a struggle is raging over the issue of redress and reparations for Japanese Americans who were herded into concentration camps during World War II.

A multinational struggle

The same U.S. auto companies that are appealing for workers' support in their "Buy American" crusade are working to make the American-made car a thing of the past. Ford's new "world car," the front-wheel drive Escort, is assembled not only in the U.S., but in Britain and Germany with some components made in Japan (transaxles), Italy (cylinder heads), Brazil (rear brakes), Mexico (door lift assemblies), Taiwan (wiring) and Britain



Contrary to chauvinist propaganda, Japanese auto workers face conditions that are all too familiar to UAW members.

(valves). GM's "J"-car version of the world car will be built in West Germany, Australia, Brazil, South Africa, England, Canada and Japan. By 1990, according to a University of Michigan survey, even those cars assembled in the United States will have a full 15% of their parts made abroad.

Like the robot welders, the world car represents a full-scale assault on auto workers' jobs and their union. Producing worldwide, the auto companies could escape the effects of a strike by simply shifting to one of their overseas plants. All the import restrictions in the world won't stop it from happening.

The only real defense is for auto workers in the U.S., Japan and wherever else cars are made to unite against the common enemy. By working with the companies to whip up racist fever against Japanese workers, the UAW leadership is undermining the chances of building badly needed solidarity between them. U.S. auto workers will be forced to live with the consequences of this betrayal for years to come, if it is not stopped now.

The UAW leadership must be forced to abandon its anti-imports crusade and take up in earnest those demands that truly protect workers' jobs. As greater automation is introduced, the UAW should place top priority on the fight for a short workweek, an end to forced overtime and early retirement with full benefits. It should mobilize the full strength of a united membership to insure that any extra profits the companies make by reducing their work force will pay for retraining benefits for those workers whose jobs are lost. Meanwhile, it should demand that no new plants be opened, at home or abroad, until all laid-off workers at the existing ones are called back to work.

When the auto barons rail away against Japan, they are really doing nothing more than putting out a modern version of the strategy expressed by the 19th century "robber baron" Jay Gould: "I can always hire one-half of the working class to kill the other half." Union leaders who make themselves active instruments of this strategy are not to be trusted with our futures.

**It's no accident that
this racist campaign
is being waged
at a time when
oppressed national-
ities in the
U.S. are under
growing attack.**

Nurses . . .

continued from pg. 4

nurses are objectively in the same boat with other hospital workers, the ANA promotes the backward view that nurses are "professionals" who do not need the support of other workers and should not support other workers' struggles.

Even among nurses, the ANA promotes divisions. The ANA refuses to represent LPN's and is even splitting the RN's. The ANA is currently spearheading a campaign called the "1985 Resolution" that would force most working class and minority nurses out of nursing. If imple-

mented, a Bachelor of Science (BSN) degree, a four-year college degree, would be the minimum educational requirement for a "professional nurse."

There would then be a second level nurse, a "technical nurse," trained at the community college level, which would replace the current category of LPN.

At present 75% of the country's RN's do not have BSN degrees. The majority of working class and minority nurses are trained in hospital diploma schools, community colleges and LPN programs. The effect of the ANA's plan would be to turn nursing into an elite, predominantly white strata. Working class and minority women would be excluded from becoming nurses; for those remaining, they would be downgraded into the low level

of "technical nurse" and frozen there forever.

This plan, along with federal funding to nursing education already severely cut back since the Carter administration, will also seriously worsen the nursing shortage.

In recent years, there has been some movement away from the ANA-style "professional" organization and towards more unified hospital workers unions. Local 1199, the drug and hospital workers union, organizes nurses along with other hospital workers. This unionization, and the greater strength that nurses and all hospital workers derive from it, is the main hope for resolving the "nursing shortage" in a way that benefits both nurses and patients.

No hay suficientes enfermeras

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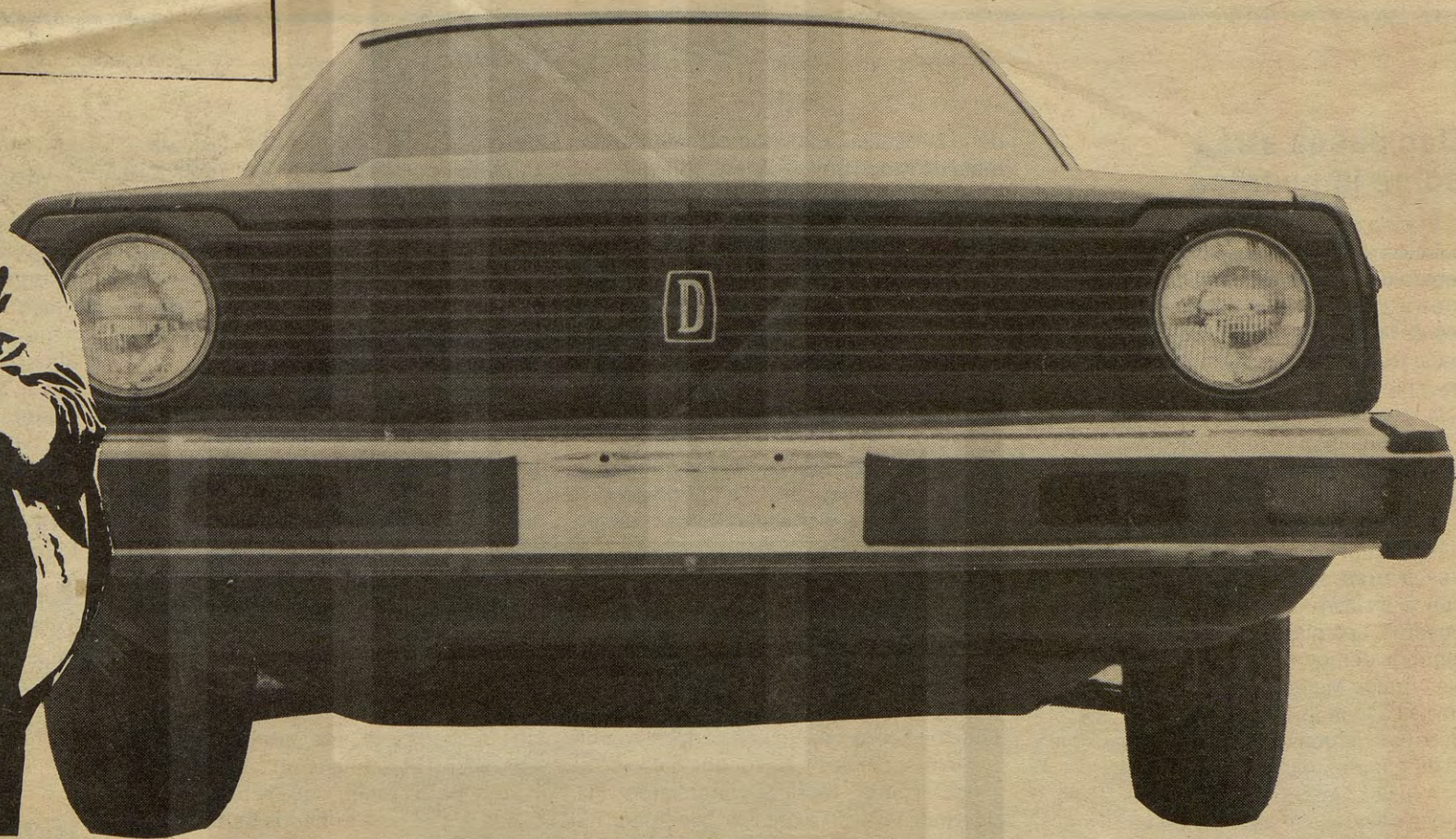
PERIÓDICO DE LA LIGA DE LUCHA REVOLUCIONARIA (M-L) DE E.U.

JUNIO 5-18, 1981

GUERRA CONTRA IMPORTACIONES —

¿QUÉ NOS TRAERÁ?

**FIGHT
BIG THREE
NOT JAPAN**



Mineros forzan concesiones de compañías del carbón

Una huelga militante obligó a las compañías del carbón a rendirse sobre la cuestión del carbón no-sindicalizado.

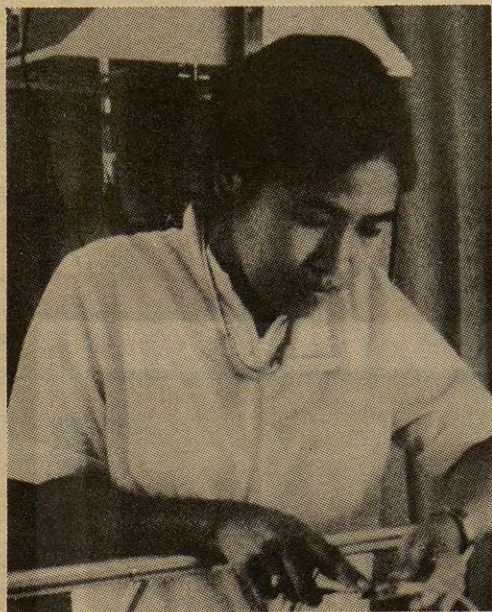
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Crisis en el Medio Oriente

El Líbano es nuevamente el escenario de la agresión israelí y la contención de las superpotencias

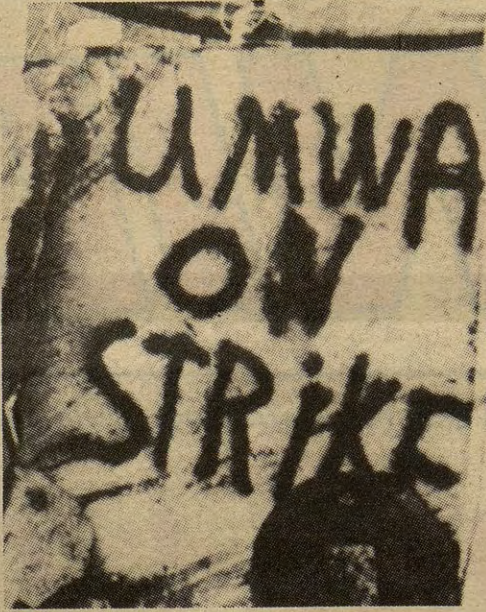
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Dan pasos atrás sobre impuestos

El plan controversial Kemp-Roth de reducción de impuestos, que precisa una rebaja de 10% en los impuestos sobre ingresos personales por 3 años, fue el núcleo de la plataforma con que hizo campaña Reagan y un aspecto favorito de los economistas conservadores adherentes a la teoría de enfocar en la producción. Pero desde el principio, muchos capitalistas se opusieron a una rebaja tan grande por considerarla inflacionaria.

Ahora al empezar el Congreso a abordar el asunto, Reagan empieza a dar pasos atrás, solicitando una compensación en las proposiciones sobre impuestos. Los planes originados por algunos demócratas y en el Comité de la Cámara de Medios y Arbitrios son contrarios a la múltiple reducción de impuestos y urgen un nivel tope menor para el déficit presupuestario.

A la vez, Reagan y el Congreso coinciden en que la reducción impositiva

debe beneficiar a los ricos. Cualquier fórmula de reducción de impuestos personales que sea aprobada favorecerá principalmente a esas personas que ingresan más de \$30,000 anuales, pues se disminuirán los impuestos sobre bienes raíces y regalos, se elevarán los créditos impositivos por inversiones y se reducirá el pago impositivo máximo del 70% al 50%. Para la mayoría de contribuyentes, cualesquier ahorros por concepto de impuestos sobre ingresos personales en 1981 serán cancelados por los aumentos en los impuestos para el seguro social.

Los liberales y conservadores también consienten con el hecho que los negocios recibirán la mayor tajada — como \$10 billones en 1981, subiendo hasta \$30 billones en 1984. Elevadas cancelaciones de impuestos por concepto de la depreciación de edificios, equipo y vehículos y la exención de impuestos sobre inversiones supuestamente harán disponibles más fondos para modernizar las fábricas y ampliar las industrias. Pero no existe ninguna garantía que las corporaciones dedicarían estos ahorros impositivos al mejoramiento de las plantas existentes. De hecho, tales rebajas podrían nutrir la tendencia corporativa a abandonar las plantas viejas en el Noreste y Medioeste para mudarse al Sur.

Vietnamitas ganan litigio anti Klan

Pescadores vietnamitas de Galveston luchan la cercana Seabrook en Texas ganado. Durante el Ku Klux Klan y han ha hostigado y amenazado a pescadores vietnamitas de camarones en las áreas

de la costa del Golfo. El Klan trató de fomentar conflictos entre los vietnamitas y los pescadores norteamericanos locales, acusando a los vietnamitas de "agotar" la pesca de camarones en la bahía. En realidad, los barcos rastreadores comerciales a más distancia mar adentro son los responsables por la escasez de camarón.

El Klan ha patrullado las aguas de la bahía, vistiendo sus togas blancas y con armas a la mano han amenazado matar a los vietnamitas.

Los vietnamitas decidieron luchar contra el Klan y acudieron a la corte solicitando protección federal durante la temporada del camarón, y que cerraran el Camp Puller, el campo de entrenamiento paramilitar del Klan ubicado en las afueras de Houston.

Otorgando a los vietnamitas muchas de las estipulaciones en la orden judicial que buscaban, la juez Gabrielle McDonald ordenó al Klan que no cargara armas, no quemara cruces y que retirara los botes patrulleros armados bajo pena de cárcel y una multa. Durante el juicio, el Klan intentó realizar un evento para recaudar fondos pero fue un fracaso; además trató de arreglar con los vietnamitas fuera de la corte y tampoco lograron hacerlo. El procurador general de Texas ahora se ve obligado a abordar la cuestión de cerrar el Camp Puller.

Atlanta

El 25 de mayo, millares de personas se congregaron en Washington D.C., para protestar el asesinato de niños y jóvenes negros en Atlanta. El acto fue auspiciado por el Comité para Parar el Asesinato de Niños, que ha sido organizado por las madres de los niños desaparecidos y

asesinados.

Una de las oradoras más militantes y bien acogidas fue Ella Collins, hermana de Malcolm X, quien declaró que los asesinatos eran la maniobra de "científicos blancos" que estaban "experimentando para descubrir qué hizo al negro tan superior que pudo aguantar los abusos por 400 años".

Las bajas en la racista matanza en Atlanta han llegado a 28, y a 2 más no los han podido encontrar. La más reciente víctima, Nathaniel Cater de 27 años de edad, era mayor en edad y estatura que los demás jóvenes asesinados. Igual que 17 de las víctimas, Cater murió estrangulado. Mucha gente en la comunidad negra cree que el asesino(s) podría ser la policía o alguien con entrenamiento militar, que ahora se está atreviendo más al atacar a hombres negros.

Balacean a Joanne Little

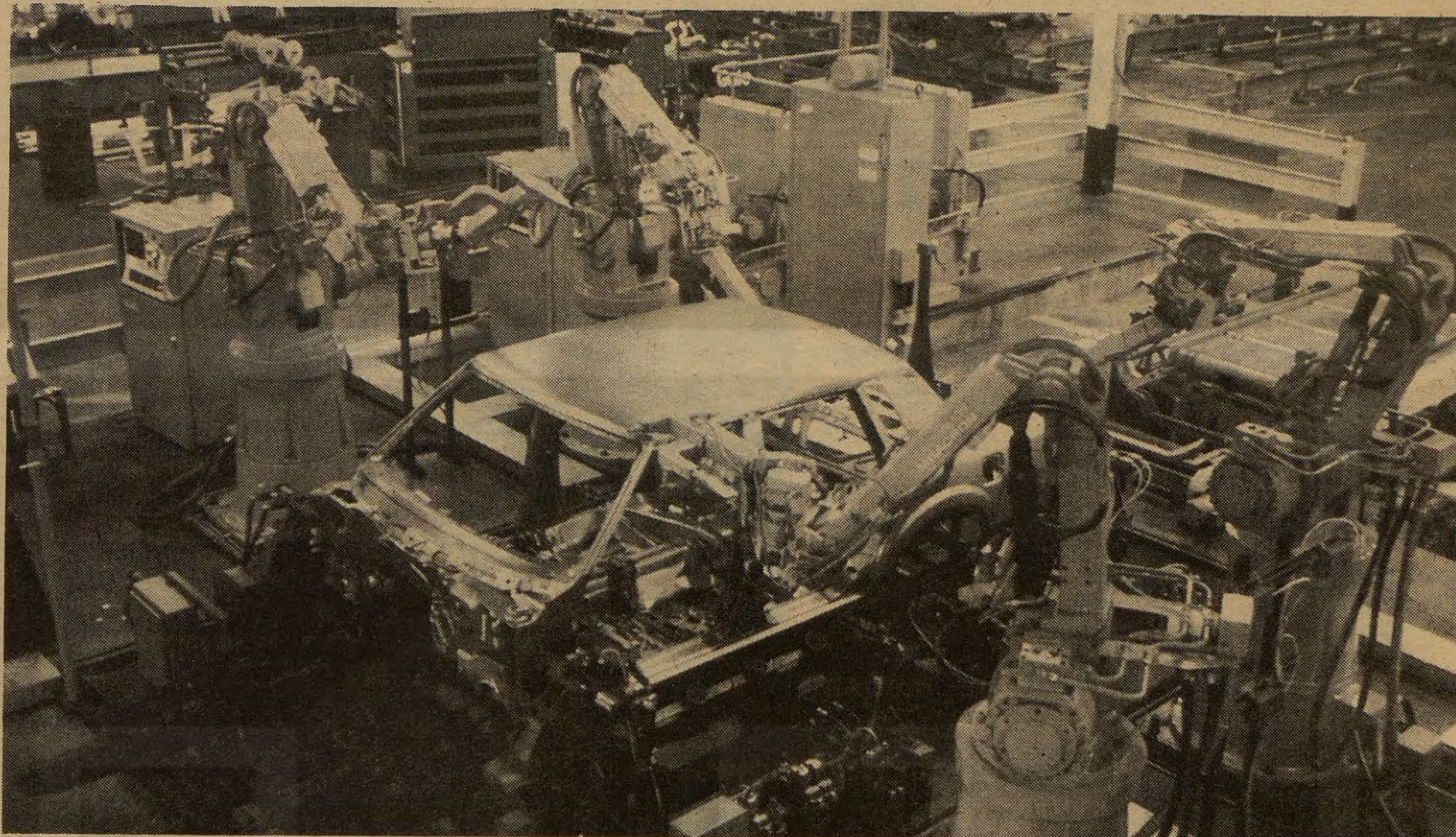
Joanne Little quedó en condición crítica después de ser balaceada por un desconocido mientras caminaba por una calle en Brooklyn, Nueva York, la última semana de mayo. Little había ganado apoyo de muchos negros y mujeres en general a mediados de los 70 durante su juicio por matar en defensa propia a un carcelero que la había asaltado sexualmente cuando estaba en carcelada en Carolina del Norte. Fue exonerada de los cargos de asesinato.

Según la familia de Little y el reverendo Robert Kinlock del Consejo de Iglesias, quien la visitó en el hospital tras el incidente, Little había recibido amenazas de muerte 2 semanas antes.

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Redactora: Mae Ngai
Redactora de LA UNIDAD: Lucy Aguirre
Redactor internacional: Richard Fleming
Redactor laboral: Peter Shapiro
Directora de producción: Lucy Clarke

ENFOQUE



Son los robots soldadores y no las importaciones lo que amenaza los empleos de obreros automotrices, pero el liderato de la UAW ni se preocupa por ello.

CRUZADA ANTI OBRERA CON FACHADA DE RACISMO

Campaña contra las importaciones japonesas

Podría haber sido una pelea de gallos con todo y porristas. Pero era el estacionamiento de la planta automotriz de General Motors en South Gate, California. La gerencia había parado la producción hora y media antes para que los obreros asistieran a la concentración cuyo tema era: "Aplastemos a Datsun, expulsemos a los japoneses hasta el otro lado del mar".

En Detroit, los autos importados se prohíben en otro estacionamiento. Este pertenece a la sede del sindicato Obreros Automotrices Unidos (UAW), cuyo presidente, Doug Fraser, gasta \$200,000 del disminuyente cofre sindical en anuncios de radio denunciando los autos japoneses.

En los últimos 18 meses, empresas automotrices norteamericanas se han aliado con los líderes máximos de la UAW en campaña racista contra las importaciones japonesas. Culpan a los obreros japoneses por los masivos despidos que han causado grandes penas a miles de obreros del auto. Voceros sindicales y patronales claman por restricciones a las importaciones japonesas, así desatando un acalorado debate de política en Washington y llevando al Japón a reducir "voluntariamente" sus ventas de autos en Estados Unidos a 1.68 millones el año entrante.

La cruzada contra las importaciones ha producido gran confusión en el seno de los obreros. Aun aquellos que dudan de la retórica patriótica de Doug Fraser y de los

reyes de auto, en muchos casos se hayan susceptibles a la restricción de importaciones. Razonan que tal vez sean puras mentiras pero en vista de los 160,000 obreros del auto desempleados y con todos los empleos amenazados, ¿no tenemos qué perder!

Veneno azucarado

Desafortunadamente sí hay mucho que perder. La estrategia de intentar salvar los empleos mediante la restricción de importaciones no es solamente inútil, es peli-

Las restricciones de importaciones no salvarán empleos. Pero sí elevarán los precios y también la presión para rebajar los sueldos.



En esta asamblea de la UAW contra las importaciones, no solamente golpearon al Datsun. La lucha por la seguridad de trabajo también sufrió un revés.

grosa. Si ésta se sigue producirá un revés para la lucha por la seguridad de empleo, y su impacto negativo será sentido en el movimiento obrero en años futuros.

Tomemos en cuenta lo siguiente antes de izar la bandera contra las importaciones:

- El gobierno de Reagan ha indicado que cualquier paso que tome para limitar la importación de autos japoneses tiene que ser acompañado por la "voluntad a sacrificarse" por parte de los obreros del auto para ayudar a la tambaleante industria a "ponerse de pie". O sea: el precio de las restricciones de importaciones es que los obreros concedan a Ford y General Motors las reducciones de sueldos que demandan. La opinión de los obreros en la UAW ya eliminó un intento para reabrir el actual convenio nacional y "renegociarlo" a favor de las empresas. Pero si las restricciones de impuestos son aprobadas, la presión será tremenda para que el convenio de 1982 sea inferior.

- Poca evidencia existe que las restricciones de importaciones realmente producen más empleos. Pero sí existe suficiente evidencia que los precios suben. Los "expertos" capitalistas admiten que la reciente decisión del Japón para reducir sus ventas de autos en E.U. no afectará los empleos en la industria automotriz, tampoco la decisión del gobierno de aumentar los impuestos sobre camiones importados. Pero en ambos casos, los fabricantes domésticos de autos pudieron elevar los precios sin preocuparse de la competencia. Ford y GM ni se esperaron a que se secara la tinta en el acuerdo con Japón antes de que logran la aprobación de un aumento de 3.5%. Todavía se esperan alzas de \$200 a \$400.

- Todo incremento de utilidades que los capitalistas logren mediante la protección contra sus competidores extranjeros probablemente no será utilizado para reinstituir a los obreros despedidos, sino para construir fábricas altamente mecanizadas y para adquirir más robots soldadores. Esperan que éstos últimos eliminarán los empleos de medio millón de obreros del auto para fines de esta década — sin o con restricciones a las importaciones.

- Los mismos oficiales de la UAW que acusan a los japoneses de "robarse nuestros trabajos" favorecen la mecanización, alegando que acelerará la recuperación de la industria "aumentando la productividad". Apoyan la limitación de importaciones porque según ellos salvará empleos, pero no hacen ningún esfuerzo para asegurarse que la mecanización no se hará a costas de los empleos de los trabajadores. Han dado a las empresas rienda suelta para más aceleres, despidos y para exprimir más ganancias del sudor de

pase

EL PAÍS

La escasez de enfermeras: miseria por dinero

Aunque se ha desarrollado una capa de enfermeras especializadas, la mayoría de las enfermeras, especialmente las enfermeras certificadas y no certificadas son explotadas igual que los obreros.

POR UNA
ENFERMERA CORRESPONSAL

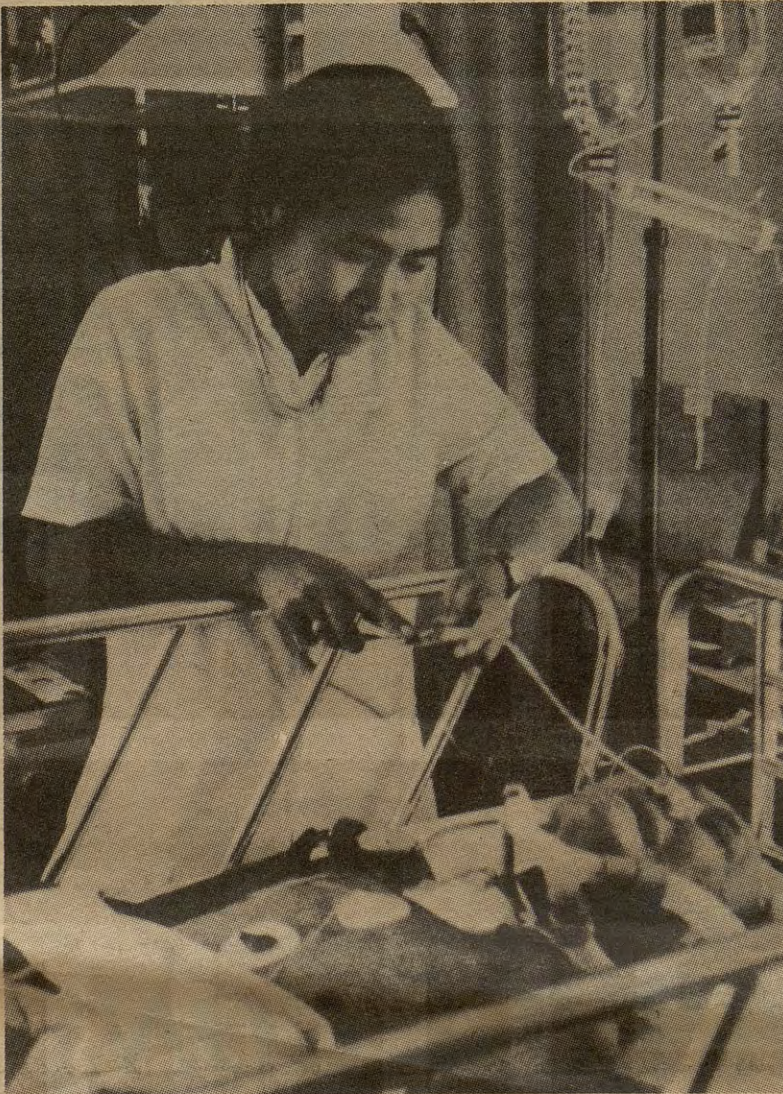
“¡Es un milagro que nadie ha muerto!” Esta expresión del exitoso libro *Nurse (Enfermera)*, expresa exactamente lo que muchas enfermeras sienten al terminar su turno. Hay más de 100,000 vacantes para enfermeras en los Estados Unidos. Por esto muchos hospitales funcionan con un número de personal peligrosamente insuficiente. En el Sur y Suroeste, algunos hospitales han cerrado unidades y recortado servicios. Otros hospitales simplemente “improvisan” — dejando a las enfermeras sobreatreadas, tensas y apresuradas, y a los pacientes sin la atención que necesitan.

Sin embargo, hoy tenemos un número record de enfermeras, más de 1,400,000. El 30% de las certificadas, en California casi 50%, no tienen empleo. Los motivos por los que han abandonado su carrera dicen mucho del funcionamiento de los servicios de salud y de las condiciones de las trabajadoras en los E.U.

“Un trabajo de mujer”

Históricamente, la enfermería igual que la pedagogía, ha sido una de las pocas profesiones abiertas a la mujer. Hoy, el 97% de las enfermeras certificadas (RN) en el país son mujeres quienes reciben un sueldo muy inferior al de hombres con niveles similares de entrenamiento y experiencia. El pro-

Las enfermeras desempeñan tareas vitales pero la institución médica menosprecia su labor.



medio nacional de sueldos de una RN es \$12,500 al año, mucho menos que los \$20,000 que recibe un ingeniero principiante y los \$68,000 de un doctor. Enfermeras no certificadas como las LPN y LVN, ingresan aún menos. Las enfermeras ingresan menos que la mayoría de los obreros especializados y de algunos obre-

ros sindicalizados sin especialización.

La enfermería es definitivamente un empleo especializado. Las enfermeras administran drogas y llevan a cabo tareas que requieren algunos conocimientos y entrenamiento médicos. Al tornarse la medicina y la tecnología más complejas, las enfermeras cargan más y más con la

responsabilidad legal y moral por sus acciones.

A la vez, la autoridad que tienen para hacer decisiones y el respeto que se les muestra son muy inadecuados comparado a la responsabilidad que ejercen. La relación entre doctores y enfermeras todavía refleja a menudo la antigua idea de que la enfermera es la “sirvienta” del doctor. Su trabajo es vital en el cuidado de la salud pero generalmente es menospreciado por la institución médica. Las universidades de Cornell y Stanford cerraron hace poco sus escuelas de enfermería y el presidente de la Michigan State University recientemente propuso cerrar el programa de enfermeras calificándolo como un “programa de alto costo... no esencial para que los Colegios de Medicina logren su objetivo primordial”.

Además del bajo pago y la falta de respeto, las frecuentes rotaciones de turnos y largas horas producen muchas dificultades especialmente para las mujeres con niños. La mayoría de los hospitales carecen personal y equipo adecuado, en particular los hospitales públicos que han sufrido durante una década de fuertes rebajas presupuestarias.

Una de las mayores frustraciones de las enfermeras es no poder proporcionar buena atención médica. Una enfermera dijo a *LA UNIDAD*, “Este no es un trabajo cualquiera. Estás manejando las vidas de otras personas. En la escuela nos enseñaron a satisfacer todas las necesidades del paciente, pero en la vida real, muy apenas tienes tiempo para mantenerlos vivos. Las necesidades del paciente no son la prioridad de los administradores del hospital”.

Como “profesión”, la enfermería ha sido degradada. Se ha desarrollado una capa de enfermeras altamente especializadas y entrenadas, pero la mayoría de enfermeras, especialmente las RNs de baja clasificación y las LPNs son explotadas como cualquier otro obrero.

Organizándose

A medida que las condiciones para las enfermeras se han deteriorado durante los últimos 10 a 15 años, también su organización para pelear por mejores sueldos y condiciones de trabajo ha mejorado. Una

pase a la pág. 6

Estudiantes en Marcha

Fanáticos desbaratan mítin pro El Salvador

Los estudiantes en el Circle Campus de la Universidad de Illinois en Chicago han iniciado una campaña en defensa de la libertad de palabra después que una asamblea protestando la intrusión de E.U. en El Salvador fue desbaratada por una pandilla de moonies en complicidad con la policía del plantel. Los moonies son una secta religiosa del reverendo Moon, el millonario surcoreano con vínculos a la dictadura y a la CIA de ese país.

El 8 de mayo, el Comité Organizador de Circle para El Salvador (COCES) tuvo una asamblea de 75 estudiantes para protestar la presencia de E.U. en El Salvador. A 10 minutos de iniciado el programa, 20 moonies empezaron a interrumpirlo. Portando banderas de E.U. y letreros diciendo “Dios bendiga a América” y “Apoyar a Ronald Reagan”, empezaron con porras como “comunistas fuera del plantel” y crearon tamaño alboroto que no se podía escuchar a los oradores. Algunos de los participantes en la asamblea empezaron a contrariar a los moonies con la porra “E.U. fuera de El Salvador”.

Aunque la policía del plantel estuvo presente no hizo nada para apaciguar a los moonies. Aun, si hostigaron a los estudiantes que se pararon frente a los moonies con sus propios letreros.

Luego al empezar COCES una marcha alrededor del plantel, los moonies siguie-

ron abusando a los estudiantes, agitando los letreros frente a sus caras, tirando patadas, gritando e instigándolos a una pelea. Una vez más, los policías no hicieron nada para refrenar a los moonies; tomaron acción solamente después que hubieron varias peleas y hasta en estos casos fue para proteger a los moonies. Cuando uno de los moonies trató de tumbar a un estudiante, la policía arrestó al estudiante. La policía luego convenció a una moonie que entablara cargos de asalto contra él.

Reconociendo que las tácticas fascistas de los moonies amenazan no sólo al movimiento pro El Salvador sino a cualquier organización progresista, los estudiantes y el profesorado empezaron a organizar para defender la libertad de palabra. El comité logró poner en el periódico de la escuela un artículo de primera plana sobre los ataques, además de un editorial y una carta escrita por COCES.

También enviaron cartas a 23 organizaciones estudiantiles pidiéndoles que escriban cartas a la administración de la escuela protestando el desbarate de una asamblea pacífica causado por los moonies y la violación de su libertad de palabra. El 28 de mayo, se retiraron los cargos contra el estudiante que fue arrestado. El 3 de junio, el comité auspició una campaña de brazaes en el plantel mostrando continuo apoyo a la libertad de palabra y a la demanda por que E.U. salga de El Salvador.

Abuclean a Haig en Connecticut

Como 500 activistas universitarios y de la comunidad protestaron la presencia del secretario de Estado Alexander Haig en la Fairfield University en Fairfield, Connecticut, el 24 de mayo. Haig, quien fue invitado por el presidente de la universidad jesuita a hablar en las ceremonias de graduación, también recibió un título honorario. Las consignas “¡dinero para empleos, no para guerra!” y “¡E.U. fuera de El Salvador!” se oían al reunirse los graduados e invitados.

Así como sucedió en la Syracuse University hace unas semanas, varias docenas de profesores y estudiantes dejaron la ceremonia después que Haig fue introducido. Otros permanecieron, interrumpiendo a Haig durante su discurso. Los que se fueron, se incorporaron a una concentración en un campo cercano. El profesor Kenin Cartia reflejó los sentimientos de muchos en la universidad, cuando denunció “la hipocresía de una institución que dice sostener los valores humanos, pero que luego honra a un hombre como Haig”.

Michael Donovan, hermano de Jean Donovan, una de las misioneras ultimadas en El Salvador el año pasado, denunció a Haig y al gobierno yanqui por apoyar las fuerzas de muerte y opresión en El Salvador. También inculpó a Haig por justificar la muerte de su hermana a

manos de la junta y por acusar a las fuerzas democráticas de ser “mercenarios armados soviéticos”.

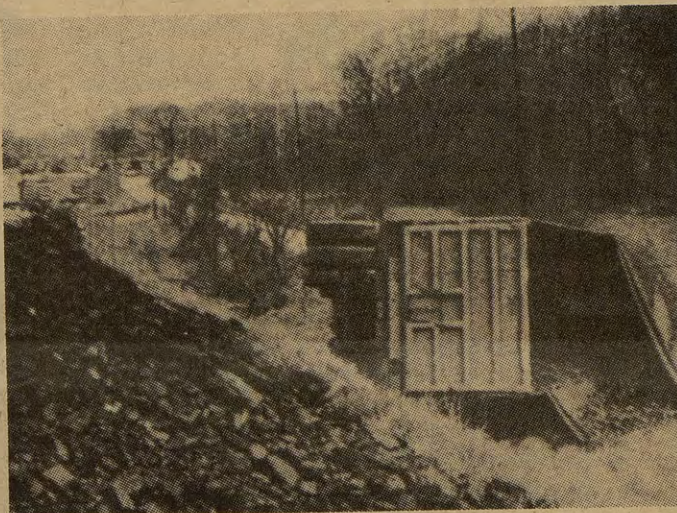
Las manifestaciones en Fairfield, Syracuse y Notre Dame muestran la creciente oposición a los ataques del gobierno reaganista contra los pobres, lo mismo que a su postura más y más bélica en el plano internacional. Dondequiera que Reagan, Haig y otros sean honrados por sus “logros cívicos”, hay que asegurar que choquen con la oposición de quienes rehusan aceptar la dirección del gobierno de Reagan.



MOVIMIENTO OBRERO



Las líneas de piquete retardaron la producción y transporte del carbón no sindicalizado a pesar de una tormenta de órdenes judiciales.



En un camino aislado del este de Kentucky, huelguistas emboscaron esta carga de carbón minado por rompehuelgas.

Han habido repetidas confrontaciones entre los mineros y los 300 efectivos del estado llamados a los campos del carbón en el suroeste de Virginia por el gobernador John Dalton.



Mineros huelguistas forzan concesiones de compañías

La tenaz huelga que libraron por 9 semanas los 160,000 mineros del carbón ha obligado a la Asociación de Propietarios de Carbón Bituminoso (BCOA) a hacer ciertas concesiones principales. El acuerdo tentativo aprobado abrumadoramente por el consejo negociador de los Mineros Unidos de América (UMWA) la semana pasada será presentado a las filas para un voto de ratificación el 7 de junio.

Al entrar *LA UNIDAD* en prensa no se han publicado los detalles completos del propuesto convenio. Sin embargo, se sabe que la industria retiró la mayoría de las "eliminaciones" incluidas en su última propuesta contratual que los mineros rechazaron de plano a fines de marzo. Los propietarios abandonaron su demanda por un período de prueba de 45 días para mineros nuevos y cedieron a la demanda del sindicato por que se aboliera el despreciado Consejo de Revisión del Arbitraje. También desistieron de su demanda de operar las minas 7 días por semana.

Pero el asunto crucial de la huelga es la seguridad de trabajo y la subcontratación de trabajo a empresas no sindicalizadas. Sobre este tema es más difícil evaluar la propuesta contratual. Fue una gran victoria para los mineros que la BCOA acordó seguir haciendo pagos por concepto de derechos por ese carbón extraído de minas no sindicalizadas que es elaborado por miembros del UMWA. Los propietarios también "retrocedieron parcialmente" en el asunto de permitir a sus subcontratistas emplear a obreros de construcción y mantenimiento que no son miembros del UMWA.

No obstante, el liderato del UMWA rehusó abogar por la continuación de una cláusula en el contrato anterior que hacía los términos del convenio aplicables automáticamente a las minas nuevas abiertas

por miembros de la BCOA. Sam Church, presidente del UMWA, alega que esta cláusula era ilegal según un reciente fallo de una corte distrital. Pero el UMWA realmente no se ha esforzado por disputar dicha decisión en las cortes o por introducir una formulación en el convenio con la cual sacarle la vuelta.

Queda por verse si la membresía aceptará la concesión de Church sobre estos asuntos claves. Los mineros ya han mostrado que tienen la fuerza para aguantar un paro más largo si creen que es necesario para defender sus empleos.

Cuando empezó la huelga, las filas hicieron claro su disposición a hacer cualquier sacrificio y aguantar cualquier pena para impedir que las compañías repartan sus empleos a subcontratistas no sindicalizados. Esta determinación ha visto una severa prueba en las 9 semanas que han pasado.

Los mineros huelguistas han enfrentado a la policía del estado, han cruzado balas con hampones de la empresa y han lidiado con órdenes judiciales restringiendo su derecho a piquetear o revocándolo por completo. Y todos han encarado el problema diario de alimentar a sus familias y pagar las cuentas sin el beneficio de un fondo de huelga de la Internacional.

Y los mineros han salido adelante bien. Han usado su propio ingenio y recurrido a apoyo de otras áreas para pasarla. Ni órdenes judiciales, tropas estatales o asenos de paga los han detenido de vigilar el flujo de carbón esquiro, el cual ha disminuido mucho saliendo paulatinamente en algunas partes de los campos carboneros de los Apalaches.

Los propietarios andan manqueando

La línea dura que tomaron las compañías carboneras a principios de las negociaciones contractuales les ha salido por la culata. Aunque entraron a la huelga supuestamente en una posición fuerte, no cabe duda que ahora están adoloridas. Compañías pequeñas independientes en la BCOA han estado hablando

de apartarse de esta agrupación y dicen que la línea dura de la BCOA respecto a la unión es un intento de las grandes compañías petroleras, que más y más dominan a la BCOA, por eliminarlas. Al acercarse el verano, las empresas de servicios públicos, que son entre los clientes más grandes de dicha industria, se están poniendo nerviosas ante la posibilidad de una escasez de combustible, justo cuando la temporada del calor aumente la demanda por electricidad. La escasez de carbón ya ha forzado a U.S. Steel a despedir a grandes números de obreros en su enorme planta de coque en Pittsburgh y a poner al resto en una semana de 4 días.

La huelga no ha "destrozado" al mercado extranjero para el carbón de E.U.

como alegaron los alarmistas de la industria. Pero si lo hará más difícil para los dueños cuando traten de negociar acuerdos favorables con sus clientes en ultramar.

Iniciativa local, socorro mutuo

El valor y el ingenio de los mineros han hecho posible que traten con sus propias necesidades. El hecho que la Internacional no ha mantenido un fondo de huelga ha dado lugar a una creciente contención dentro del sindicato. Para compensar por esto, los huelguistas han establecido fondos de auxilio a nivel de distrito. Los distritos 17 y 39 en Virginia Occidental op-

pase a la pág. 10

Encuentro de mineras del carbón

Más de 100 mujeres procedentes de 10 estados orientales y occidentales asistieron al 3º Encuentro Nacional de Mineras efectuado en un campamento de verano en Carbondale, Illinois, durante el fin de semana de Memorial Day. Mineras, esposas de mineros, viudas y sus hijos se reunieron para discutir las condiciones que las mujeres encaran en las minas y las cuestiones generales ante todo minero y sus familias, especialmente durante la actual huelga en el carbón bituminoso. Todas las mujeres del sindicato UMW están participando en varias facetas de la huelga como el piqueteo, la recaudación de fondos, manifestaciones y la organización de comités de apoyo. Varias resoluciones fueron aprobadas para hacer que el sindicato aborde las cuestiones de la licencia por maternidad y paternidad, guarderías infantiles, campos de verano, becas sindicales, y los problemas especiales de las mineras, como el embarazo, la salud y la seguridad y la acción afirmativa.



SACRIFICIO

*En medio de chispas
y estridor*

*dicen
que debemos
rebanar
nuestros sueldos
en el espíritu
del sacrificio*

*(¿Sacrificar qué
para quién?)*

*Entre silbido
y retumbo
dicen
que los obreros automotrices
japoneses
toman
nuestros empleos*

*luego piden de nuevo
una tajada
del salario.*

*¿Están pidiendo
una rebanada
del dinero para la renta
o del dinero para la comida?*

*Porque
no es
cosa de
moneda sobrante.*

*No somos
familia pequeña
estrecha
estamos luchando
para ayudar
en tiempos duros.*

*Desde el otro lado
de la línea de ensamble
confesan
pobreza
y apelan a nuestra
humanidad*

*por solamente una pequeña
tajada
en espíritu de
sacrificio.*

¿En espíritu de QUÉ?

*Nos han tajado
los dedos
el metal en bruto
mutilado los huesos
la línea de ensamble
vidas tajadas por
el tiempo extra forzado.*

*¡NO,
no pueden
tajar
nuestro sueldo!*

*Y no
nos
engañarán
a que odiemos
a hermanos
que construyen autos
en otro
país.*

*Alegan
que estamos
en guerra
con la competencia.*

*Pero aun entre humo
de pistolas de soldar
olemos
a los verdaderos ladrones
y sabemos
que nuestra guerra es aquí.*

*¡NO!
¡NO
tajaremos
nuestro sueldo!*

S.H.
Fremont 5/81

Cruzada antiobrera . . .

viene de la pág. 3
obreros.

Se supone que los obreros del auto deben someterse a la acrecentada explotación por miedo a perder sus empleos. Esta vez el paquete está envuelto en patriotismo y propaganda racista. Parece que Fraser y los capitalistas han concluido que si los obreros no pueden ser persuadidos a que les guste lo que les está ocurriendo, entonces por lo menos hay que darles un blanco inocuo para que descarguen su ardor.

Lo que es bueno para General Motors . . .

Los fabricantes de autos, igual que otros capitalistas yanquis, están peleando por una posición favorable en el mercado mundial. No siempre estuvieron en esta situación. Por muchos años Estados Unidos fue lo suficientemente fuerte para casi dictar los términos del comercio internacional. En nombre del "libre comercio", descargaban sus productos en otros países casi a su gusto.

Hoy los tiempos han cambiado. Ya no en la cima, los capitalistas yanquis son obligados a competir con países del segundo mundo en casa y en el exterior. Están probando su propia medicina y no les gusta, principalmente las automotrices quienes han sufrido el peor porrazo. No siéndoles posible sofocar a los competidores, quieren que el gobierno las proteja mediante el proteccionismo. Es mejor dejarle esta pelea a los capitalistas; es mejor que se haga sin el apoyo de los obreros. General Motors y Ford no se merecen nuestra simpatía; a pesar de sus dificultades con los competidores extranjeros, aun siguen siendo 2 de las corporaciones más ricas del mundo. Es más, su avaricia es la causa de sus problemas. Cuando decidieron producir autos grandes, también entregaron el creciente mercado de autos pequeños a la competencia extranjera.

En lugar de pagar por sus errores, las automotrices quieren que los obreros lo hagan. Su vicioso ataque contra sus rivales japoneses no es solamente un intento para lograr la protección del gobierno contra la dura competencia. Sino que también buscan protegerse de sus obreros aquí a quienes necesita exprimir más.

Génesis de un mito racista

La médula de la ofensiva de propaganda de las empresas automotrices se vio durante una "orientación" de los obreros de la planta de GM en Fremont, California, reinstalados después de un largo despido. Oyeron un sermón sobre la "lealtad" y "productividad" de los obreros del auto japoneses, su bajo ausentismo y desinteresada devoción a la calidad y a las



Contrario a la propaganda chovinista, los obreros automotrices japoneses enfrentan condiciones muy bien conocidas por los miembros de la UAW.

ganancias de la compañía. Se les exhortó a que imitaran a los japoneses, para que los autos de GM pudieran "rechazar la invasión japonesa". Pero el mensaje implícito fue que los obreros japoneses son esquirols cuyas ansias de "producir" para el patrón no le ha dejado otra alternativa a las empresas estadounidenses sino demandar más de sus propios obreros.

Las fábricas japonesas son más productivas que las norteamericanas porque son más nuevas y más mecanizadas. Pero las condiciones de la gente que trabaja en ellas ya las conocemos bien. Igual que sus similares en Estados Unidos, los obreros del auto japoneses tienen buenos sueldos y beneficios. Pero también son víctimas de los aceleres, los accidentes y la brutal disciplina que caracteriza a toda fábrica automotriz en E.U. El cambio de personal es tan alto y la presión tan fuerte que en la ciudad donde viven los obreros de la Toyota, más personas mueren de suicidio que de accidentes automovilísticos.

De 30 a 40% de la fuerza laboral japonesa en la industria automotriz es de temporada, compuesta principalmente de campesinos que migran a la ciudad después de la cosecha de arroz en el otoño y regresan a sus aldeas en la primavera. A éstos se les niegan derechos y beneficios completos. En años recientes han sostenido una lucha tenaz para organizar un sindicato de obreros de temporada, la primera de este tipo en el Japón.

En pocas palabras, el dócil obrero japonés es tanto un mito como el "bien pagado" obrero norteamericano. Esto nos recuerda los años de mentiras capitalistas acerca de los obreros minoritarios que "trabajan por migajas" y que "roban los

empleos de los trabajadores blancos". No es ningún accidente que este nuevo mito se está gestando cuando obreros de nacionalidades oprimidas se encuentran ante ataques cada vez más agudos y cuando se acelera la lucha por la indemnización de los japoneses americanos encarcelados en campos de concentración yanquis durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Lucha multinacional

Las mismas empresas norteamericanas del auto que piden la ayuda de los obreros en su campaña "Compre lo americano", buscan hacer al auto hecho en E.U. cosa del pasado. El nuevo "auto mundial" de Ford, el Escort de tracción delantera, se monta no sólo en E.U. sino también en Gran Bretaña y Alemania; algunas de sus partes son hechas en Japón, Italia, Brasil, México, Taiwan e Inglaterra. El auto "J", la versión de General Motors del auto mundial será hecho en Alemania Occidental, Australia, Brasil, Sudáfrica, Inglaterra, Canadá y Japón. Según una encuesta de la University of Michigan 15% de las partes de los autos armados en los Estados Unidos serán de fabricación extranjera.

Igual que los robots soldadores, el auto mundial es un ataque total contra los empleos y el sindicato de los obreros. Al producir autos por todo el mundo, las empresas podrían lidiar con las huelgas simplemente trasladándose a una de sus fábricas en el exterior. Todos los límites a las importaciones no pueden detener esto.

La única verdadera defensa es que los obreros del auto en E.U., Japón, o dondequiera que los autos se fabriquen, se unan contra el enemigo común. Al colaborar con las empresas para fomentar la fiebre racista contra los obreros japoneses, los líderes de la UAW están socavando la oportunidad de forjar la muy necesaria solidaridad con ellos. Los obreros automotrices en E.U. serán obligados a vivir con las consecuencias de esta traición por muchos años, a menos que sea detenida ya.

El liderazgo de la UAW tiene que ser obligado a abandonar su cruzada contra las importaciones y a sostener honestamente aquellas demandas que verdaderamente protejan los empleos de los obreros. Al avanzar la mecanización, la UAW debe hacer que la semana corta, el fin al tiempo extra obligatorio y la jubilación temprana con beneficios completos sean la prioridad de la lucha. Debe movilizar el poder total de las filas unidas para asegurar que toda ganancia extra que las empresas logren mediante la reducción de la fuerza laboral, será utilizada para pagar por el reentrenamiento de los obreros que pierdan sus empleos. Entretanto, deben demandar que no se abran nuevas fábricas, en casa o en el exterior, hasta que todos los obreros despedidos retornen al trabajo.

"enfermera técnica".

Este plan y las severas rebajas, iniciadas bajo el gobierno de Carter, en el financiamiento federal para la capacitación para este oficio también agravarán mucho la escasez de enfermeras.

En años recientes, se ha notado cierto alejamiento del tipo de organización "profesional" como la ANA y más preferencia por uniones unificadas de empleados de hospital.

La unión 1199 de trabajadores de drogas y hospitales organiza a las enfermeras junto con los demás trabajadores hospitalarios. Otras uniones como los Obreros Automotrices Unidos y los Teamsters han sindicalizado a algunas enfermeras; aunque lo han hecho según la clase de oficio, es más probable que dichos sí cooperen con otras uniones de trabajadores de hospital. Esta sindicalización y la mayor fuerza que da a las enfermeras y demás trabajadores de hospital es la principal esperanza para resolver la "escasez de enfermeras" de un manera que beneficie a la enfermera y al paciente.

Enfermeras . . .

viene de la pág. 4

de las pocas organizaciones con las que las RNs han contado en las negociaciones laborales colectivas ha sido la Asociación de Enfermeras Americanas (ANA) que representa a 110,000 de las 141,000 enfermeras graduadas sindicalizadas en los E.U. Las entidades estatales de la ANA han encabezado huelgas militantes en San Francisco y en otras ciudades y han incluido en sus contratos demandas relacionadas al cuidado ofrecido a los pacientes, lo cual es significativo.

No obstante, el enfoque de la labor organizativa de la ANA es elitista. Aunque las enfermeras están objetivamente en la misma situación que los demás trabajadores hospitalarios, la ANA fomenta la posición retrógrada que las enfermeras son "profesionales" que no necesitan el apoyo de otros trabajadores y que no deben apoyar sus luchas.

La ANA promueve divisiones aun entre las enfermeras, rehusando representar a las LPNs y hasta busca apartar a las RNs. La ANA está encabezando actualmente una campaña llamada la "Resolución 1985" para dar "mayor categoría" a dicho oficio. Si es implementada, el bachillerato en ciencias (BSN) sería el mínimo requisito educacional para una "enfermera profesional".

Entonces habría un segundo nivel de enfermeras, una "enfermera técnica" entrenada en colegios municipales y que reemplazaría la actual categoría del LPN.

Actualmente, 75% de las RNs en el país no poseen dicho bachillerato. La mayoría de las enfermeras minoritarias y de origen obrero fueron entrenadas en escuelas que son dependencias de hospitales, en colegios comunitarios y programas de capacitación para LPNs. El impacto del plan de la ANA sería convertir a la enfermería en un oficio élite principalmente para blancos. Las mujeres minoritarias y de origen obrero serían excluidas; las que permanezcan serían dadas de baja al nivel de

May Day Call For Solidarity



MAY DAY MANIFESTO

The farm worker is that section of the working class that do not have any rights to organize themselves. With the exception of California and Hawaii they don't have the right to decide whether to be represented by a union or not. Without this right, won by industrial workers in 1935, the wage earners of the fields live in the worst intolerable and dramatic conditions.

About 6 million workers make their living from agricultural work in the United States of North America. The majority of these workers live in the margins of society in poverty, degradation and neglected by the government apparatus.

It is obvious that farm workers need a National Agricultural Labor Relations Act. Even though this act would not end the problems of the farm workers, it would give farm workers the right to have collective bargaining negotiations. They could have elections as to whether they want to belong or be represented a union. This is the first step towards organization and to struggle for a higher standard of living. But we must not forget that it is also necessary to abolish anti-labor laws like section 14b of the Taft Hartley act. This section allows the states in adopting the infamous right to work laws which are a stumbling block against any organizational effort by the workers. The right to work for less laws weakens and eventually destroys workers organizations.

..May 1st is a day of celebration for workers all over the world. In this day millions of workers celebrate the many heroic struggles and the victories that workers have won in the struggle to raise their standard of living. May First is a heroic day honoring workers in struggle against oppression and exploitation.

That all workers from all trades, all progressive individuals, all the people of the United States of America remember Farm workers and their heroic struggles on May Day.

That all workers unite and make part of their struggle the fight for a National Agricultural Labor Relations Act and for the fight of the anti labor laws like 14b of Taft Hartley.

LONG LIVE MAY DAY!

LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF ALL WORKERS!

LONG LIVE THE FARM WORKERS!

TEXAS FARMWORKERS UNION

(Independent)

JOIN THIS CELEBRATION

TEXAS FARMWORKERS UNION

P.O. Box 876 San Juan Texas 78589

Tel. 787-5984 or 843-8381

Primero De Mayo,

MANIFIESTO DEL PRIMERO DE MAYO

Los trabajadores agrícolas son aquella sección de la clase trabajadora que en la actualidad carecen del derecho básico a organizarse, carecen del derecho —con excepción de California y Hawaii— a decidir si quieren ser representados o no por una unión. Sin este derecho, ganado por los trabajadores industriales en 1935, el asalariado del campo vive hoy en día en condiciones dramáticas é intolerables.

Cerca de 6 millones de trabajadores se dedican a actividades agrícolas en los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica. La mayoría vive abajo del nivel de pobreza, marginados por la sociedad y olvidados por el aparato gubernamental.

Es obvio que estos trabajadores necesitan una Ley Nacional de Relaciones de Trabajo Agrícola. Esta ley no acabaría con los problemas que le afectan, pero daría a los trabajadores agrícolas el derecho a negociaciones colectivas. Podrían tener elecciones en los campos y decidir si quieren o no pertenecer a una unión. Este sería el primer paso para organizar e y luchar por un mejor nivel de vida. Pero no hay que olvidar que también es necesaria la abolición de legislaciones anti-laborales como la Sección 14(b) de la Ley Taft-Hartley. Esta sección permite que los estados adopten las infames leyes del derecho a trabajar, las cuales son un estorbo para cualquier esfuerzo organizativo. Estas leyes del derecho a trabajar por menos debilitan y finalmente destruyen las organizaciones de los trabajadores.

El primero de Mayo es un día de fiesta para los trabajadores del mundo. Ese día se celebran las heroicas luchas que emprendieron los obreros en busca de un mejoramiento a su nivel de vida. El Primero de Mayo es el día en que se honra a los trabajadores en lucha en contra de la explotación y la opresión.

Que todos los trabajadores de todos los oficios, todos los individuos progresistas, todo el pueblo de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica recuerden a los trabajadores agrícolas este Primero de Mayo.

Que se unan a su lucha por una Ley de Relaciones de Trabajo Agrícola y por la abolición de las anti-laborales leyes del derecho a trabajar por menos.

!VIVA EL PRIMERO DE MAYO!

!VIVA LA UNIDAD DE TODOS LOS TRABAJADORES!

!VIVAN LOS TRABAJADORES AGRICOLAS!

UNION DE CAMPESINOS DE TEXAS (Independiente)

Unase a esta celebración de la:

UNION DE CAMPESINOS DE TEXAS (Independiente)

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(512) 787-5984, 843-8381

Dia De Solidaridad.

"I heard a scream
then nothing..."

PELTIER'S life
in danger

Guerra on
death row



Pedro Jimenez' political card

Hoover released,
property stolen!

MARION
PRISONERS
TREATED LIKE
ANIMALS

spring '84

EQUAL RIGHTS

50¢

ADVOCATE

vol. 3 no. 2

Special Issue
on prisons



Cairo, Illinois

Battle in city council — a legacy of struggle

CAIRO, ILL.--In Cairo, Ill., the way to get a contract with the City is to do the usual things—obtain bonding, submit a bid, get approval from City officials. Also, you might rent equipment from Al's Cairo Boat Store, which is owned by Allen E. Moss, Sr. who also is the Mayor of Cairo.

Little attention was brought to this thriving business until the municipal election of April 1983, when 3 new Black members were elected to the City Council. A 7 year legal struggle to allow Black representation on the council won the right to a 5 ward system instead of at large voting in 1980. The Black council members are Bo Purchase, Ernest Morgan and Charles Koen.

"We all know Allen Moss' activities with the White Hats in the 1960s and 1970s," says Koen, "and the violence they condoned against Blacks and even whites to try to maintain segregation." He declines to discuss Moss' rumored affiliation with alleged racist groups because of a \$100,000 libel suit.

Charles Koen became active in the civil rights struggle at the age of 16, and in 1969 helped organize resistance to vigilante groups in Cairo. A boycott of Cairo business was begun April 7 lasting 2 years, the longest-running boycott of its kind in U.S. history."

"We know Allen Moss rents equipment to city contractors, and the way he does it is a blatant violation of Illinois Statute 24-3-14-4." Attempts have been made to persuade the Alexander County States Attorney and the Illinois Attorney General to prosecute but neither has acted thus far.

Pointing out the Mayor's conflict of interest and announcing they would not be involved in it, the 3 Black councilmen have refused to approve City bills, including the salaries of City employ-



Reverend Charles leads a march through Cairo beginning in Pyramid Courts, a Black housing project, in 1969 during the height of the economic boycott.

ees. Also their action was to force the Mayor to cast the deciding vote to break the deadlock of the 3 Black members voting against and 3 white members voting for.

The latest action the Mayor has taken is to violate the decree. In 1983, when one of the white council members died, the Mayor and 2 white council members took it upon themselves to fill the vacancy and voted to appoint Earl Franklin, a white male. The decree states that vacancies must be filled only by special election.

"We should keep in mind that the corruption extends far beyond Al's Cairo Boat Store," Koen says. "Fraud is also being committed by City officials I will not name at this time, except to say that we have concrete evidence of this."

Immigrants denied their earned unemployment checks

By Gloria Sandoval

CENTRAL VALLEY, CA.--On January 31, 1984, ERC chapters in Merced and Modesto, California staged protests in front of the State Employment Development Department (unemployment) offices. 30 to 50 picketers at each office demonstrated their opposition to a new policy requiring non-citizens to show proof that they have a right to work in the U.S. before they can receive their unemployment checks. Up to now, unemployment benefits have been based on earnings and not on documents.

The community also protested the use of unemployment offices as immigration stations. The U.S. Border Patrol has been picking up individuals directly from unemployment offices, especially in the Central Valley. These policies are disastrous on agricultural workers who need unemployment benefits to make it through the year when jobs are scarce.

This is another attack on the poor. People who have worked are being denied their rightful benefits. Even more outrageous is that people without documents who claimed benefits in the past are now being billed for those

benefits. They must also pay a 30% penalty! How do they expect these people to repay a bill when they are entitled to the money in the first place and then can't even collect that money to live on??

A temporary victory was won when the State EDD had to rescind the policy on Feb. 21 due to our protests and legal work of attorneys of California Rural Legal Assistance and the U.F.W. and others. Unfortunately, the reason the State EDD stopped enforcing this policy was not because it was unfair but because it had not implemented the policy legally—that is, it had not held required public hearings before changing the policy. They are currently preparing those hearings so that they can bring the policy back!

We must be ready to defend our rights to live and have some security for our children and families. Unemployment benefits have always been based on who has worked and has a fund to draw from. We must all protect this right because if we allow this attack on a section of the poor, someone else will surely be next!

Another "suicide" in Battle Creek jail

January 29, 1984

By Joyce Clark

BATTLE CREEK--The City of Battle Creek has been under scrutiny and seige by the Coalition to End Police Brutality (and Racism) since 1979 against acts of police brutality, harassment and injustice. Since 1979, Larry Guy was brutally beaten by the Battle Creek police and spent 2 and 1/2 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. 13 other cases of police brutality followed within a 3 month span. Robert Guy, president of the Coalition was assassinated in 1981; Allen Barnes was found hanging in 1982 in the city jail; David R. Bach was found hung in the City jail in October, 1983; and now, today, Robert (Bobby) Cain, was found hanging in a jail cell in the city of Battle Creek. Visualize, if you can, a 6 ft. 200 some pound man, allegedly hanging himself with a BELT.

Just like Larry Guy allegedly hung placed a 38 special in his waistband AFTER he was beaten unconscious and Robert Guy died with TWO holes in his chest, one the size of a bullet but the police say "He blew himself up." Mr. Guy was allowed to lay in the same jail bleeding from the nose, mouth, ears, and head for 4 and 1/2 hours.

My fellow comrades, there have been and still exist too many loopholes and unanswered questions surrounding the Battle Creek Police Department.

Ronald Hattis is still on the force being promoted in fact. David Wiggins, who had left the department supposedly to work for a security firm in Ohio has returned as a city policeman and Jeffrey Shouldice is employed by the Pennfield Police Department which is adjacent to Battle Creek Township.

It is no coincidence that when all these killings took place, the Chief of Police on every occasion was out of town.

No, there is definitely something wrong here in the City of Battle Creek and we will be picketing for these injustices on Saturday, February 3.

JUSTICE SHALL PREVAIL.

12th drowning victim at hand of Immigration

"I heard a splash, I heard someone scream, then I heard nothing..."

The twelfth drowning of a worker fleeing from the Immigration Border Patrol has occurred near Stockton, CA. Pedro Jimenez, 35, was from Guatemala. 5 men, all fellow workers of Jimenez, were at the Mokelumne River at the time. They heard screaming when Jimenez was being pulled under water by the rapid current. They all believe Jimenez could have been saved and they are angry.

These five men risked being picked up for deportation to appear at a press conference. One of the workers, Israel Palacios said he was the first to hit the river and hide on the bank of the opposite shore. He could not see much of the river because of the brush, but he heard two others dive into the water and the angry shouting by the patrolmen for the men to come back. He could see the opposite bank and could see patrolmen walking back and forth there, but he could not see Jimenez.

"First I heard a splash, then a scream, then nothing," said Palacios.

These workers and others know they take a gamble every day they go to the work. They are gambling that the field they're working in won't be raided. It's all a matter of luck, say the workers. Some have been here several years without being caught.



Pedro Jimenez's co-workers, some who wish to conceal their identity, say they will keep on fighting to stop Border Patrol injustices. They heard Pedro's screams, but were held back by immigration officials. Many of them have also been victims of INS brutalities.

Record photos by RICH TURNER

Others may get caught within 48 hours of setting foot on U.S. soil. They never know when "la migra" (immigration) will strike.

They say things are better in the U.S. "With one day of work you might be able to eat for a week. But in Mexico if you work a week, you might only get food for two days."

"You get to work one morning and the next thing you know, we're blocked

off. Hoping to escape, you run but they pounce on you like a dog."

Nevertheless, they keep working and running and coming back. "Even if there's fear, a person has to work. We don't have money. We have to survive."

Much of the information for this article was taken from interviews in The Stockton Record.

Benjamin Hoover released from prison



Benjamin C. Hoover, Sr. 36, and his wife, Gloria, 35,

photo by Erick Clark

By Cynthia Val-Jones

Excerpted from an interview in the Chicago Defender, March 12, 1984. Here they describe how they found their home upon returning to Mississippi just before Benjamin Hoover was imprisoned for breaking his probation.

The Hoovers returned to Pickens to find their home a shambles. "What they didn't steal, they tore up," Gloria recounted. "They had poured paint all over the furniture and chopped it up." A fully-equipped wrecker, a bulldozer, two cars, an outboard boat and motor, their feeder pigs and livestock were gone. Despite knowledge of the thieves' identity, having pictures of his bulldozer in front of the man's house, the area law enforcement officials turned a deaf ear. They asked the Mississippi State's Attorney, the Holmes County Sheriff and the Justice Court for help getting their possessions, but to no

avail -- all refused. Howard Huggins, of the Mississippi Highway Patrol, even told them he couldn't arrest a white man on a Sunday.

He was remanded to Parchman State Penitentiary to serve out his sentence. Soon after his arrival he got a job working in the law library, where he began the paper struggle to win his freedom.

While working in the law library, Hoover taught himself the law. He subpoenaed a lot of classified documents, literally flooding the courts with petitions. His reputation as a jail-house lawyer grew. "I had to do these things just for survival," he said. "They have a tendency to knock people off, so I kept them pretty much in court. It kept things pretty much together, otherwise they take you on a back road, kill you and say 'he had a heart attack.' It kept me alive."

It while serving his sentence that he realized nothing short of an act of Congress could stop the many civil rights violations that occurred regularly at Parchman. "The Mississippi Justice Department has failed to act on

any violations of things that have happened in Mississippi," he charged. "There are people who have been beaten or killed and they consistently find no civil rights violations. 'We are closing our files; we intend to take not further action.' That's what they say to everybody."

Another 24-year old inmate was ordered to do some painting outside the jail. It was a violation of the law. He wrote a complaint and they found him dead -- a 'heart attack' -- they said. A 24-year-old having a heart attack? This is what is happening. We have nobody to protect us."

So Hoover filed a class action petition with Congress on behalf of himself and similarly affected poor Blacks demanding an investigation into the Mississippi judicial system from the state courts, the Mississippi Supreme Court and the federal courts. The petition is pending.

The family's ordeal ended Dec. 15, 1983 when Hoover was released. With good time, he'd served a little less than three years.

Land and property stolen

Editorials

Why a special issue on prisons

So many of our campaigns revolve around individuals or groups of people who have been terrorized in one way or another and who land in prison at some point. Sometimes they are jailed because they are leaders as Leonard Peltier, sometimes for standing up for their rights as Benjamin Hoover, sometimes they are scapegoats as are Guerra and Luna, and sometimes they are imprisoned just for existing like Arvie Carroll.

Miami, a rerun

Once again a violent explosion has rocked Miami, killing one, hundreds arrested, a familiar story, a rerun. The masses have nowhere to express their frustration with the American justice system. A police killing an innocent black man in a video arcade. An all white jury finds the policeman, a "Cuban exile" innocent of manslaughter. This scenario has been repeated hundreds of times since the defeat of Reconstruction.

When a black is killed by a lynchmob or a policeman, the results are always the same--no one is punished. The courts, the media, the establishment, refuse to move decisively. Once again Miami was the scene of a serious confrontation, innocent people hurt, property destroyed.

If the authorities in Miami cannot guarantee justice in the Alvarez case, then the federal authorities should file charges against Alvarez for violating the civil rights of Neville Johnson. We await the response of the federal government. We wait to see once again if the doors of justice will be closed and once again the only avenue open is in the streets.

Carbondale NAACP calls for outside investigation

Accusations of police abuse and harassment against Blacks in Carbondale, Illinois have led to Albert Ross, president of the Carbondale Chapter of the NAACP to call for an outside agency to investigate the allegations. At one community meeting over 200 Black residents came to protest their harassment by police.

Because of the pressure by the NAACP and the community, the Board of Police of Carbondale agreed to take the allegations to an outside agency.

The Equal Rights Congress supports both the activity by the NAACP and the move by the Board of Police and hopes that the Board chooses an outside agency which is capable of fairly reviewing the information and finding out the truth.

After the investigation, the heat must come back to the Board of Police to ensure that any police officers who violated the civil rights of any Carbondale resident be quickly and promptly removed and brought to trial for any criminal violations.

Advocate

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By Maria Teixeira, a member of the National Board of the Equal Rights Congress, and organizer in the San Joaquin Valley, California.

As the New Year opened, the Immigration Department resumed its violent inhumane practice of rounding up undocumented workers. And on January 23rd, the 12th undocumented worker drowned at the hands of the Border Patrol agents. His name was Pedro Jimenez, his crime--wanting to earn a decent living.

These 12 men drowned during immigration raids after running into canals or rivers while Immigration agents chased them. For 2 years, since the drowning of Margarito Lupercio, the Equal Rights Congress has been calling for an end to INS raids. We have also raised the demand that the Border Patrol agents at least carry life saving equipment. Time after time, they refused this simple demand and as a result another life has been lost. Since this last drowning the Catholic Church, IULAC, the UFW and others have raised the need to carry life saving equipment and some Congressman are beginning to get involved in this demand.

But now we are seeing another trend develop. Some of the groups, newspapers and politicians are making the whole issue the life saving equipment and in fact justifying the procedures

Equal Rights PERSPECTIVE

12th person dies at hands of immigration dept.

of the Immigration Department. The Equal Rights Congress believes the whole practice of the INS has to be investigated. The drownings in the Central Valley are not the only violent acts by the Border Patrol. In El Centro, 2 undocumented workers were run down with INS jeeps, one man was actually killed. In Coachella, 11 undocumented workers died after being chased at high speeds by Border Patrol agents, and in Santa Ana a 14 year old was deported even though he is a resident citizen.

For this reason, we are calling for Congressional hearings before passage of any immigration bill. This department needs to be cleaned up and straightened out about their ideas on undocumented workers. These are not people to be hunted down, these are people who have made agri-business rich.

The Equal Rights Congress also opposes both the Simpson-Mazolli bill and the Roybal immigration bill. Picking between these two bills is like being asked to choose between a rotten apple and a rotten orange. WE DEMAND A HEALTHY PIECE OF FRUIT. These bills will only increase money and border patrol agents but do not deal with the need for jobs by both Mexican workers and the workers in the United States. Politicians and organizations have got to stop looking for easy solutions to complex problems.

Equal Rights FORUM

Without Magnolias

Reprint from JACKSON ADVOCATE
October 27-November 2, 1983

The most dangerous aspect of the selective prosecution of Black citizens, their brutalization by their employers and/or authorities, their incarceration in disproportionate numbers in Parchman Penitentiary and in county jails, is the deafening silence from Black leaders.

One is alerted to the profound nature of the wall of silence imposed by Mississippi's Cotton Curtain by the disbelief expressed by outside reporters when the escalating atrocities against Black citizens is discussed.

Last week, a reporter for a television network called the Advocate after she read about the Benjamin Hoover case, wherein a Black Holmes County man was robbed of his property and tricked into the penitentiary. He accuses the politically powerful Barrett family of Lexington, Holmes County, Mississippi, of engineering the scheme which resulted in his jailing.

When she was told of other cases of unresolved murders and attacks on Black Mississippi citizens, her response was "I can't sell this story to my boss--we never heard of these things--What About the Black Leaders

in Mississippi Who Claim They Know Nothing About Them? If They Were True, Surely They Would Know!"

There's the rub--they DO know! They claim to know nothing about these atrocities because they cannot let the world know they will not act with courage and responsibility to curb the violence. In other cases they are the allies of the whites who manipulate the judicial system and the police; these white political bosses are in turn friends and allies of the other whites who are behind the beatings, murders, and judicial assassinations such as the murder of Pertis Williams and the political imprisonment of Benjamin Hoover.

The questions the television reporter asked are valid questions: In all these racial attacks, where is the NAACP, SCLC, the local and national Black leadership; Jesse Jackson, Ben Hooks, Joseph Lowrey, etc.?

It is a sad state of affairs when a man can be deprived of his property without due process and then be placed in jail to protect the perpetrators of the scheme from appellate judicial proceedings as was Benjamin Hoover.

Nevertheless, this is Mississippi without magnolias--with the whole malignant structure of the state's racism exposed to public scrutiny.

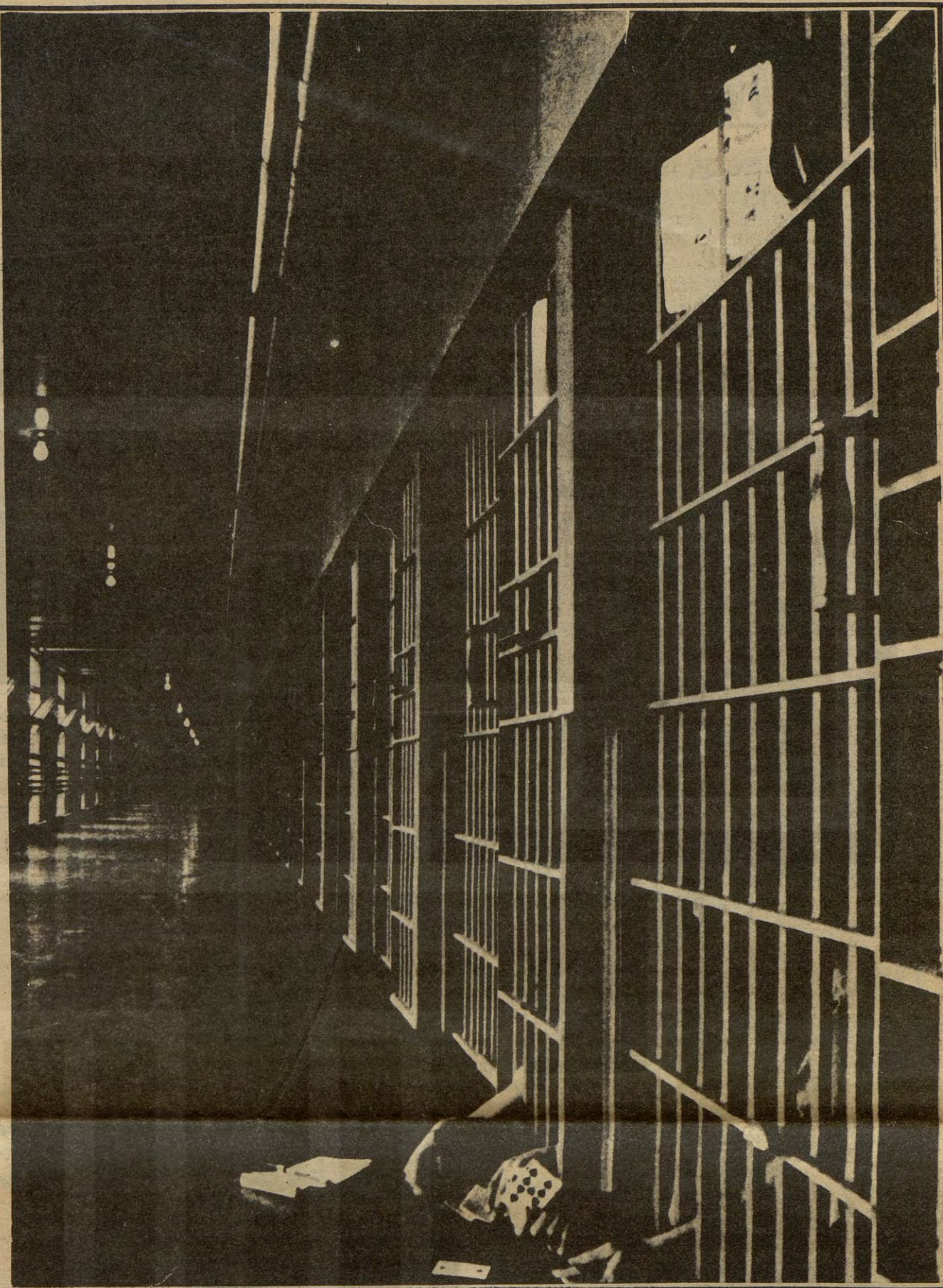
The Cell

By Arvie Carroll

It's a small square
Constructed of cement and steel;
A man-made hell designed to fuel
Your rage, and yet dampen what
You feel.

A small hell is a cell
In a place where everyone is
separated
By walls fifteen inches thick.
My cell...your cell...their cell.
What does it matter?
They are all the same!
And what lingers in them is a
mildewed
Smell.
A small cell is a cell.

A square that's less than bare
With walls at which you can stare.
Dust and dirt collects in the hair,
nose,
And eyes;
Where noise from outside is
amplified.
A cell...small hell is a cell
With air so foul that it makes
me sick.
Over and again I have died.



Lockdown at Marion

Prisoners treated worse than animals



...a group of officers,
wearing jackets, face
masks, carrying 3-foot
long clubs with steel
beads on the ends...

January, 1984

Excerpted from a report by the Marion
Prisoners Rights Project.

MARION, ILLINOIS

In early November, 1983, administrators at Marion federal prison and high officials of the Bureau of Prisons in Kansas city and Washington orchestrated a violent physical attack against the prisoners at Marion to retaliate for the death of two guards in the isolated Control Unit at the end of October.

Roughly between November 4 to 7, every prisoner was taken from his cell by a group of officers, wearing jump-suits without name tags, flak jackets, helmets, face masks, heavy gloves and heavy boots, and carrying three-foot-long clubs fitted with steel beads on the ends. Many outside guards were

from Leavenworth and some were also recognized from Terre Haute, Indiana; Oxford, Wisconsin; Talladega, Florida; El Reno, Oklahoma; and Milan, Michigan. These guards systematically beat and brutalized the entire population of the prison, one by one, in what was termed a "security shakedown" of all units.

The attack squads were vocal, purposefully brutal, and extraordinarily intimidating. Every one of some 300 to 400 prisoners was shoved or dragged from his cell, naked or in underwear, and handcuffed behind his back. They were hit, pushed, manhandled and constantly threatened and cursed. The guards would yank the handcuffs, beat arms, legs, backs, stomachs, ribs and backsides with these long clubs. They pushed the men handcuffed into steel framed doorways and grills, and slammed

Cont. to page 8

ATTICA READY TO EXPLODE AGAIN!

The material for this article was taken from the Solidarity Network for Human Rights bulletin, December, 1983 issue.

ATTICA, N.Y.--Not in many years of cruel physical abuse by guards at Attica has this situation been so critical. Severe beatings and gassings are an almost daily occurrence and these are getting worse.

One entire section of inmates, in the dreaded ATTICA BOX were recently viciously beaten while handcuffed, one by one, because they dared to win a legal court decision against violations of the law by the entire New York State Correctional system. The conditions in solitary confinement are rat and roach infested filth and terror, with 130° heat sealed in by poreless, fire hazardous plexiglass, in a literal iron-structured BOX with iron walls around each cell and no ventilation.

A letter from Anthony McBayne, describes reprisals against him by guards, for taking part in this legal action.

"I am writing to report an incident that happened on August 16, 1983 at Attica Correctional Facility, 3rd Floor North Tier.

On returning from the yard and the North Side 34rd Floor, I was handcuffed behind my back and assaulted by 8 corrections officers. Then I was dragged to the feed up room and again I was assaulted, stomped, kicked, punched by these same officers. Officer Wisoerer called me a "Nigger lover" and stated that 'I could be like my nigger



This is the way the courtyard of Attica looked after the 5-day riot, September, 1971 which took the lives of 32 inmates and 11 guards. (UPI Photo) (Photo on front cover is of prisoners showing their solidarity behind a list of demands for improved prison conditions. St. Louis Post-Dispatch photo).

friend Richardson' and he started stomping on my hands and arms. Wisoerer also stated that 'I was worse than a nigger and this is how all niggers are treated and that I was a disgrace to the white race.' I was then picked up off the floor and put facing a corner and Officer Wisoerer punched me in my head making me head hit the wall. I was apparently knocked unconscious because I awoke in a shower with these

officers holding me down while Officer Wisoerer cut my clothing from my body with a sharp instrument. I was then dragged down the west tier and put in my cell, at which time I was stripped of my personal belongings and state property."

TAKE ACTION TODAY. Write to Governor Mario Cuomo, State Capital Building, Albany, N.Y. to protest this inhuman treatment.

By Arvie Carroll
LOS ANGELES, CA.

For one year, two months and a week, I have been slowly wasting away at the Los Angeles Central County Jail (LACCCJ) telling myself that what is happening only occurs in fascist societies. For it is in such societies where the police act with impunity, suggesting testimony and psychologically intimidating people to stand false witness against another with state approbation. However, this is America, and my ordeal began in mid-summer 1982.

During the pre-dawn hours of August 28, 1982, I returned home from a broken date and found my father lying dead in his bedroom. Following my initial fear and shock, the first thought to come to my mind was to go and get some help. I rushed from the house, got into the car and drove to my mother's residence. There, through a flood of tears and grief, I told everyone there of the state I found my father in. As soon as we returned to my father's residence, the police were notified. I, along with several members of my family, including my mother, was taken to Wilshire police station and was questioned, given a paraffin (gunpowder burn) test and then released. Three days later I was arrested and charged with the murder of my father.

I was booked at Wilshire police station. During my second day there I was asked by the investigating/arresting detective if I would consent to appear in a line-up. Without any hesitation, I gave my consent. Having given my consent, I was transported to LACCCJ where the line-up was conducted. Immediately following the line-up, I was grudgingly taken to the jail's attorney/prisoner visiting room. There a female public defender gave me the

results of the line-up; I was not identified as the man an eyewitness saw in the area shortly before my father's death.

Enroute back to Wilshire police station, I was again told that I was not identified by any of the witnesses and that I would be released from custody that day. I was not, however, released from custody. In fact, I was awakened the following morning, about 5 o'clock a.m., and whisked away from the Wilshire police station to the Criminal Courts Building (CCB) and arraigned on not one but two murder charges! Only later did I learn from another female public defender a woman was shot with the same gun; and that the police believe that the gun, which has never been found, belonged to my father. I was shocked beyond words.

For the empty, stormy weeks that followed, I sat in a small isolation cell in the maximum security section of LACCCJ, wondering what was going on. Not even my newly appointed P.D., Mike Addelson, could fathom the reasons why I was in custody and being charged with the murders. He told me that not only was I not identified by any of the witnesses, but also that the gunpowder burn test had returned negative. After having been given that information, I knew what time it was. I knew that I was the newly recruited victim of police and judicial expediency.

And that belief settled deeper, when on December 22, 1982, prosecution witness Jewel Sanders made a statement in open court, and under oath, that I was not, definitely, the man whom she saw fleeing the area after the woman, Flamingo Dominguez, her friend, was shot and killed on August 23, 1982. Yet the court took no action other than record the statement.

In March 1983, a preliminary hearing was held. It was a complete farce. It was so crude that only a deaf and blind mute could fail to hear the lies and see justice swept under a dirty, tattered rug. The court let the prosecution's so-called "star-witness" change her testimony. Yet, after prosecution witness Jewel Sanders gave testimony describing how the investigating arresting detective suggested things to her and employed psychological intimidation to get her to sign a statement, she knew not the content of, the court denounced her as a liar. No one claimed any wrong-doing by me. Nor was there ever any direct, concrete evidence produced by the prosecution linking me to the crimes. Even in spite of the judge's statement that "There is not one shred of direct evidence as to either count in this case" I was ordered transferred to Superior Court to stand trial.

Today, January 12, 1984, I am still waiting.

Blamed for father's death Son is jailed for 18 months

Guerra speaks from death row cell

By Nacho Gonzalez

HUNTSVILLE, TEX.-Huntsville Penitentiary is situated outside the small town of Huntsville, Texas, almost half-way between Dallas and Houston on Highway 35. It is located in rough wooded grazing country surrounded by small lakes.

The prison is made up of several compounds called units. Death row, the Ellis Unit, is located in the northern most compound. As we approach the Ellis Unit, the gun towers on all four corners of the compound are immediately noticeable. Upon entering the area we have to go through a checkpoint where a guard asks to see identification and asks who we are visiting. Once cleared, we are able to drive to the parking lot inside the compound.

The compound is ringed by an 18-foot fence topped with barbed wire. The only entrance into the Unit is via an electronically controlled gate. Aldape is the youngest inmate on death row which has several hundred inmates.

Inside the visitation room, I watch as Guerra approaches the screened and enclosed visitors' quarters. His face twitches nervously. He is very happy to see me.

I tell Ricardo about the work of the Equal Rights Congress and the National Alliance for the Defense of Aldape Guerra. That the legal committee has been organized and that a letter writing campaign is going to be organized on his behalf to the court of criminal appeals.

Ricardo tells me about his first days in prison and how he didn't know what was going on. I ask him how things are going. He says O.K. but that his cell is very small and that he only gets to exercise an hour a day. The food is terrible. Everything is instant. The only decent food was on Thanksgiving. He also tells me about the violence in the prison which is dominated by the gangs.

He talks about how he hopes that this terrible nightmare would end. Ricardo emotionally tells me goodbye. His hands are on the screen wishing that he could shake my hand. He turns and waves goodbye and with the clanging of jail doors, returns to his cold lonely cell. I leave the prison feeling the contrast between the dark prison and the fresh air and sunshine outside the prison compound.

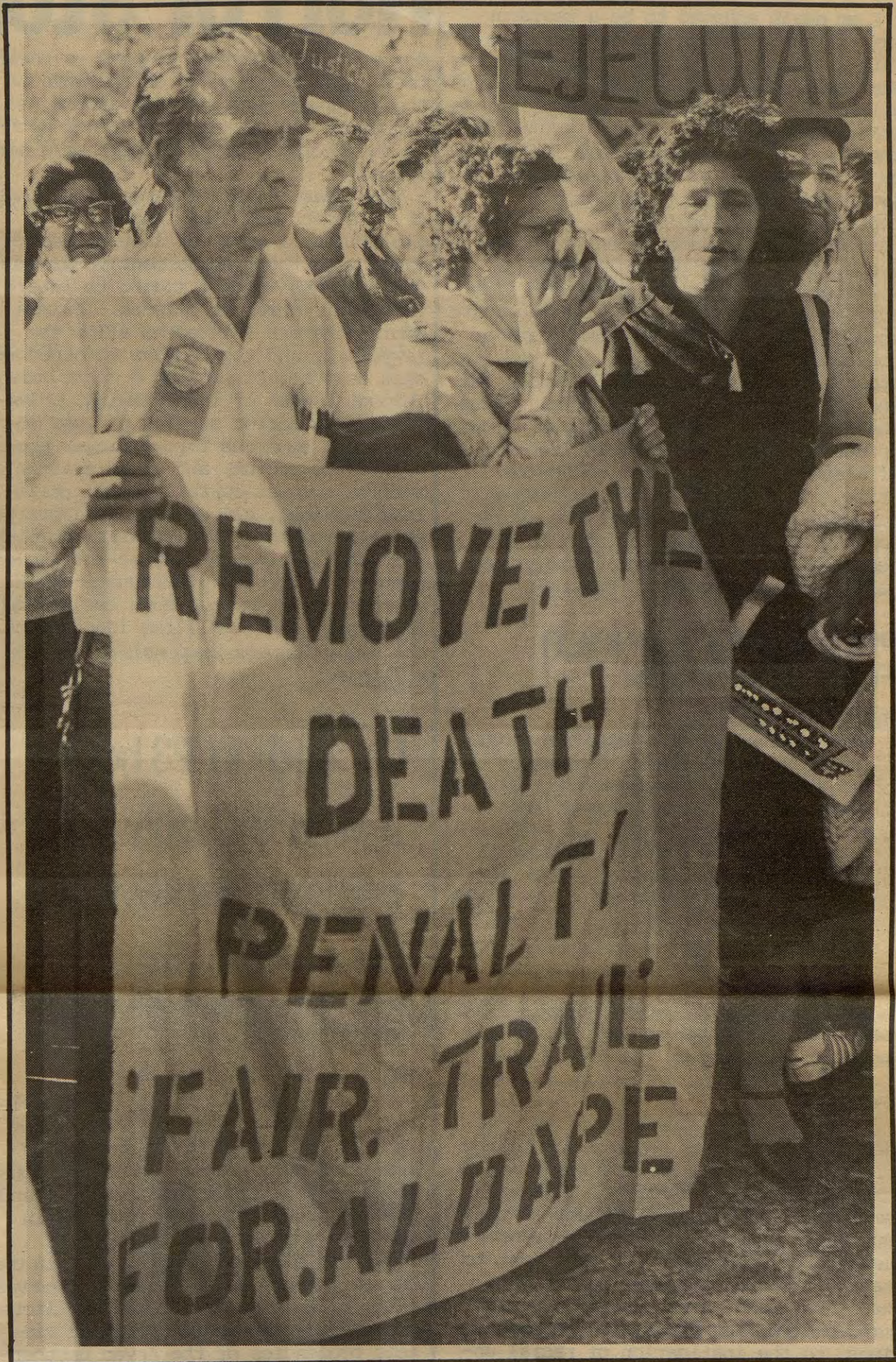
As I drive back to Houston, I hear on the car radio that 11 undocumented workers have been held as slaves in Tyler, Texas. I collect my thoughts to be able to explain to the Alianza members the urgency of launching a massive movement for the civil rights of the undocumented.

LUNA FRAMED

The trial of Enrique Torres Luna which was to commence on February 27 was postponed again. Torres Luna was arrested in the middle of Aldape Guerra's trial in front of the jurors. This arrest made it look as if Aldape Guerra was a part of a criminal environment at the time of the police killing.

The county prosecutor is doing

Continued to page 8



The parents of Ricardo Aldape Guerra at a demonstration in Texas. His father holds a banner calling for ending the death penalty as his tearful mother looks on.

Peltier's life in danger

MARION, ILL.--Leonard Peltier remains in prison in Marion, Ill. where his life is in danger. He began a fast in November when a guard was caught carrying arsenic into the prison and he found a foreign substance in his food. The guards can seize upon the present climate, attempt to assassinate him and explain away his death as another senseless killing.

Leonard must be transferred from Marion to the maximum security prison in Bismarck, N.D. for his safety. Write to: Norman Carlson, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 Forst St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20534, to Rep. Byron Dorgan (ND), 427 CHOB, Washington, D.C. 20510, to Sen. Mark Andrews (ND), 417

RSOB, Washington, D.C. 20510, to Rep. Paul Simon, 343 CHOB, Washington, D.C. 20515, and to Rep. Peter Rodino, Chair House Judiciary Committee, 2462 RHOB, Washington, D.C. 20515

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals will be making a decision soon on whether to grant Leonard Peltier an evidentiary hearing. Time is getting shorter to let them know that justice can only be served by granting his request. SO TODAY BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE, PICK UP YOUR PEN AND WRITE TO THESE 3 JUDGES:

Judge Ross, Judge Heaney, and Judge Gibson
8th Circuit Court of Appeals
1114 Market Street, Rm. 511
St. Louis, MO. 63101

End death penalty

By Michael Williams, Pres. of Prisoners Family Organization, Baton Rouge.

I am again ashamed to be a resident and citizen of the state of Louisiana. This state has now entered the murdering business. The execution of Robert Wayne Williams is an indication that Louisiana still lags in the area of human rights. To condemn killing in one breath and justify it in another is very confusing. It is indeed true that those without the capital get the Punishment. Ninety-Nine percent of all prisoners on Death Row are represented by public defenders. Governor Dave Theen was presented with the opportunity to do the first positive thing he has done in his four years as Governor. Again he failed. He had the opportunity to spare a life thereby taking the initiative to show other states that it is cruel and unusual punishment to subject the human body to 2000 volts of electricity. I am not condoning crime, it harms our entire existence, but we have to stop the vicious cycle somewhere. Hopefully included in all people of conscious resolutions is to help eliminate the Death Penalty.

PRISONERS HUNGER FOR HEARINGS

By Laurie Vesich

Three months under a lockdown condition is excessive abuse of power by officials at U.S. Penitentiary, Marion, Illinois, after the killing of two guards in October, 1983. That was the statement made in a three day fast by all the inmates at Marion, except for those physically unable to participate or those seeking favors such as transfers, parole or lesser sentences. From January 23 through 25, most inmates went hungry to let the public and Congress know that they want Congressional hearings on the absurd and inhumane policies dictated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and enforced at Marion Penitentiary.

Norman Carlson, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, has had his say before Congress and he called for reinstatement of the death penalty. Inmates, employees and former employees of the Bureau of Prisons also want to address members of Congress. But they want to testify to the treatment in the Control unit which uses experiments with mind-controlling drugs, to the beatings, to the instigation of racial unrest, and to the violence against prisoners which reached its peak last fall. The only death penalty urged by the participants of the January fast is a death to the excessive, abusive policies handed down by the Bureau of Prisons and held intact by the administration at U.S. Penitentiary, Marion.

Contact Chief Warden Dean Leech, Marion Federal Penitentiary, Box 1000, Marion, Ill. 62959, (618)964-1411 to explain your grave concern that the lockdown end and that the health and safety of the inmates, particularly of Leonard Peltier be ensured.

LUNA Continued from page 7

everything possible to condemn Luna. If Luna is found innocent, the prosecutors fear that Guerra's case will be weakened. Torres Luna's employer has records that show that Luna was working at the time of the robbery.

The Alianza Nacional calls on everyone concerned with the plight of the immigrant, especially the undocumented to work on behalf of the Guerra and Luna cases. For more information, call or write the Equal Rights Congress at (312) 663-0854.

Marion cont. from p. 5

Horror stories told

doors in their faces, stepped on their toes. The steel beads on the ends of the clubs are designed for jabbing so that bones and organs were struck within and bruises on the outside were minimized.

Upon learning of widespread beatings of prisoners and other human rights violations, a group of lawyers associated with the then dormant Marion Prisoners Rights Project sought to interview their prisoner clients. Prison administrators refused to allow the lawyers in and the lawyers obtained access only after securing a court order. Through a week of interviewing, 12 lawyers heard horror stories of over 35 beatings, numerous forced finger probes of the rectum, and other drastic actions such as curtailing all religious services, all use of the library, and all "contact" visits with families, all done in revenge against the whole population for the unfortunate death of the guards, even though the authorities knew immediately the identity of the two prisoners responsible for the killings.

guards at Marion and elsewhere, as a means of keeping prisoners preoccupied with hostility to each--which is apparently thought to make them easier to supervise.

The Bureau of Prisons has now turned Marion into one big Control Unit, where prisoners remain locked up 23 and 1/2 hours a day, with no jobs, no recreation, no educational programs, and nothing at all to do, and where beatings, rectal probes, and threats are daily occurrences.

Marion officials deny the charges of course. But the lawyers who saw the scarred bodies and heard the tales not horror do not accept these denials.

The violence of the attack and the ominous savagery of the repeated threats have left the prisoners shaken and frightened. Many shuddered and trembled as they told the lawyers what took place and some cried.

Whatever the future holds, it is clear that at present the entire population is being brutally punished for the killing of two guards by two prisoners and that the administration intends to make them continue to pay for its own bungling and viciousness. It is equally clear that the program of intimidation and reprisal, and particularly the mass assault in early November, was coordinated at a higher level in the Bureau of Prisons, where it was possible to decide and arrange to take all those officers from other prisons to help with the "shakedown" and the beatings.

Tension pervades throughout the prison which is all provoked by a brutish regime which brooks no restraint on its vindictive power. The excesses of this arrogant administration and Nazi-like punishments inflicted on hundreds of men in retribution for 2 can be ended only by forceful concerted action from outside the Bureau of Prisons.

Please call or write Rep. Robert Kastenmeier, Chairman of the Subcommittee on prisons of the House Judiciary Committee at 2137 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, (202) 225-3926.

Please call or write him and urge him to convene public hearings immediately, TO END THE CRISIS AT MARION NOW!!!

Locked up 23 hours
a day, fed only cold
bologna sandwiches,
no heat in freezing
weather...

The two accused, Thomas Silverstein and Jay Fountain, are said by prison authorities to belong to a white supremacist gang network in the prisons, known as the "Aryan Brotherhood," and to have previously been involved in racially motivated killings of at least two black prisoners, also in the Marion Control Unit. Whatever the validity of those charges, the conflicts provoked by the racist line and violent tendencies of the Aryan Brotherhood are frequently manipulated by



JAZZ DJ AND TALK SHOW HOST KILLED BY STATION

OAKLAND, CA.

Tony King, talk show host for KRE Live, had his program cancelled abruptly at the end of September, 1983. His format provided a means of networking in the Bay Area that was lost during these crucial months of change.

The Equal Rights Congress appeared on his program twice. December, 1982 Nacho Gonzalez and Ethel Long spoke. In January, 1983, Sam Calahan of the Tchula 7 and Ethel Long appeared on the show. Both times, the show provided opportunities for a good discussion of equal rights issues and the case of the Tchula 7. Listeners were able to call in after a 1/2 hour interview by Tony to ask good questions and make statements.

The owners of the station, Inner City Broadcasting, claim that the jazz, salsa, reggae, blues music format and talk show were losing money. Faithful listeners suspect the new Top 40s format is being used to drive the vocal supporters away in preparation for the sale of the station.

The talk show is needed to be a voice of the community. Readers of the Advocate are encouraged to write Inner City Broadcasting to protest the loss of KRE Live, and that Tony's music show was moved to afternoon.

Equal Rights Clearinghouse

The Equal Rights Clearinghouse is a non-profit corporation based in Chicago, Illinois. It provides technical assistance on a national level to the growing numbers of Black, Hispanic, and Indian organizations organizing for equality and justice.

Activities and services:

- * Leadership development
- * Organizing training
- * Planning campaigns
- * Fundraising and resource development
- * Management

For more information, contact the Equal Rights Clearinghouse, 220 S. State Street, Suite 1920, Chicago, Ill. 60604. (312) 663-0854.

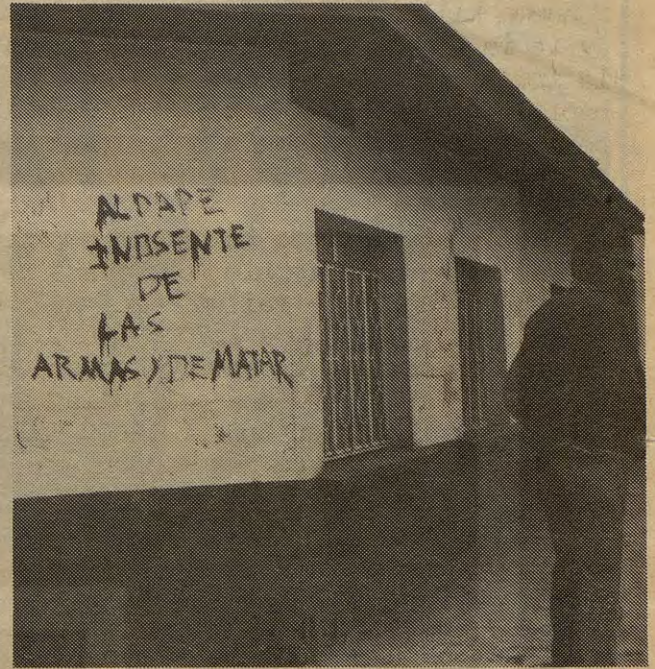
Who we are

The Equal Rights Congress is a multi-issue national umbrella of minority organizations. It is dedicated to building an ever expanding alliance of Black, Chicago, Native American, Puerto Rican, Asian and other minority organizations in our common quest for equality and justice. The Equal Rights Congress is grassroots, independent and utilizes direct-action organizing methods.

Membership Drive

The Executive Board of the Equal Rights Congress met the weekend of March 3 and 4. The Board decided to launch a two month membership drive on May 1 through June 30. The dues structure was changed from \$10 per individual to \$5 and a special rate for prisoners will be \$2.50. Instructions will be coming out of the National Office in the next several weeks.

MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS TAKE TO THE STREETS



TOP LEFT, a member of the Paint Shop jazz group, Hal, relaxes. In Chicago all manner of musician has taken to playing in the streets and the subways to make ends meet. TOP RIGHT, in Monterey, Mexico, in Aldape Guerra's old neighborhood, slogans and designs cover the walls expressing the sentiment that Guerra is innocent.



UP ON MADISON, DOWN ON 75TH, Part I by J.F. Rice, is a short history of the Illinois Black Panther Party. Published by The Committee, Box 1082, Evanston, Ill. 60204, it can be purchased for \$2.79 from publisher.

Crime in Bluesville

By Reggie Young - Chicago

On the Westside
no one complains about the heat
there isn't any
but folks do be trying to grab
a little warmth.

People naturally
don't want to freeze, but
sometimes that's a little more
than they can afford

Sometimes
we light the oven
those of us with gas
or turn on an old electric heater
after running an extension cord
next door
we even burn old wooden chairs
in the tub, or
bring a garbage can in an
let it be our fireplace

We know not to relax in-
to comfort in
the winter of the night
we might get drowsy and
go to sleep

Too often
we are the burning story in
the morning news.

The Bid for Power

"The Bid for Power" is the story of the power struggle that took under Eddie Carthan's administration. This pamphlet chronicles the important events and persons involved in the fight for economic and political control of the Mississippi delta.

Produced by the Equal Rights Congress, this pamphlet contains an overview

of Mississippi politics and a conclusion that compares Carthan's administration with the unfolding political battle in Chicago.

"The Bid for Power" will be available from the national office of the Congress in the very near future. For more information, please contact the national office of the ERC.



Demonstración en contra del Departamento de Desempleo.

Aldape Guerra Habla de su celda fría

Por Nacho Gonzalez

HUNTSVILLE, TX.--La penitenciaría de Huntsville está situada afuera del pequeño pueblo de Huntsville, TX. El cual se encuentra casi a medio camino entre Dalla y Houston por la Carretera 45. Esta rodeada por bosques y pantanos. La prisión se compone de varios complejos de edificios llamados unidades.

La Unidad Ellis donde están los prisioneros condenados a la pena de muerte está localizada en el complejo más al norte. Al acercarnos a la unidad Ellis inmediatamente notamos los torres con guardias armados en cada una de las cuatro esquinas del complejo. Al entrar al área tuvimos que pasar por un punto de inspección donde un guardia pidió ver nuestra identificación y interrogó a quien venía a visitar. Al pasar está inspección pudimos seguir hasta el estacionamiento dentro del complejo.

El complejo está rodeado por un cerco de 18 pies de altura con una corona de alambre de púas. Se entra a la Unidad Ellis vía un portón controlado electrónicamente, el timbre eléctrico señala al visitante que puede abrir la puerta. Aquí entre los que esperan su muerte está encarcelado Ricardo Aldape Guerra. Aldape Guerra es el preso más joven en este grupo que incluye a varios centenares de prisioneros. Aldape Guerra principalmente se ha mantenido apartado, los demás presos le preguntan frecuentemente que está haciendo allí. Ya que es obvio que él no es un criminal.

Dentro del salón de visitas estamos atentos al ver que se acerca a la partición alambrada que nos separa.

La cara se le cantorze nerviosamente. Está muy contento en verme.

Le doy un reporte de Ricardo sobre el trabajo del Congreso de Igualdad y la Alianza Nacional Pro Defensa Aldape Guerra. Que hay un comité legal que está trabajando con su abogado.

Ricardo me explica sobre sus primeros días en la cárcel y que difícil fue para ajustarse. Le pregunto cómo se siente. Me contesta que está bien pero su celda está muy pequeña y no puede salir una hora al día para ser ejercicio. La comida está terrible. Todo está echado de polvo. La única comida decente fue el día de las gracias. También me explica sobre la violencia en la prisión que está dominada por las pandillas.

Me dice cómo él tiene esperanzas de que esta pesadilla se termine. Ricardo emocionalmente se despide. Sus manos están en la pantalla queriendo darme un abrazo. Se voltea, me dice adiós y con el sonido de las puertas de la cárcel, se regresa a su celda fría. Yo salgo de la prisión, sintiendo el aire fresco y el sol afuera del complejo.

Mientras que estoy regresando a Houston oigo en el radio que han capturado a un patrón que tenía a 11 indocumentados como esclavos en un rancho en Tyler, TX. Mientras pienso cómo les puedo convencer a los miembros de la Alianza la urgencia de organizar un movimiento masivo en la defensa del indocumentado.

Beneficios Negados

Por Gloria Sandoval
MERCED, CA.

Una de las conocidas características del Congreso de Igualdad es que toma acción. Peticiones y protestas públicas se convirtieron en esa acción. El día 31 de enero, 1984 los capítulos del Congreso de Merced y Modesto, California manifestaron una protesta en frente de las oficinas Estatales del Departamento de Desarrollo de Empleos. Aproximadamente 30 y 50 portadores de cartelones, respectivamente, manifestaron su oposición a una directiva (iniciada a medidas de diciembre, 1983) de pedir a todo no-ciudadano sus documentos para comprobar que ellos tenían el derecho de trabajar en los Estados Unidos antes de poder ser elegibles para beneficios de desempleo.

No sólo les estaban negando beneficios, pero también les estaban investigando los archivos a individuos y reclamando que habían recibido "sobrepagos" si habían colectado beneficios de desempleo en el pasado. Estos sobrepagos incluyen una multa de 30%!

Los efectos de esta póliza han sido destrozados para estos individuos que siempre han trabajado y después han necesitado de pedir la ayuda de beneficios de desempleo para poder hacerla por el año. La comunidad también protestó contra la conversión de una oficina estatal de servicios de empleos a una estación de inmigración. Se oyeron reportes de varios pueblos en el Valle Central de que la Patrulla Fronteriza (la migra) había arrestado a individuos directamente de estas oficinas.

Se ganó una victoria temporal cuando la oficina Estatal de EDD (la oficina de empleos) anuló esta póliza el día 21 de febrero. La razón por esto no fue porque se descubrió lo injusto, sino porque no fue implementada legalmente--es decir, no se habían hecho audiencias públicas. El estado está preparando estas audiencias públicas para otra vez poner la póliza!

Debemos estar listos para defender nuestros derechos. Elegibilidad para beneficios de desempleo siempre se ha basado en quien ha acumulado suficientes fondos para colectar. Todos debemos proteger este derecho porque si se les niega a unos, entonces seguramente alguien más va a seguir!

Actúe ahora mismo, defienda nuestros derechos a los beneficios de desempleo, basado en nuestras ganancias y no en documentos. Para más información, escriba: Congreso de Igualdad, P.O. Box 617, Merced, CA. 95341 o al Congreso de Igualdad, c/o (a cargo de) CASA, 415 G. Street, Modesto, CA. 95351.

Perspectiva continua

Roybal aumentarán los fondos y el número de agentes de la patrulla fronteriza pero no tratan con la cuestión de la necesidad por empleos, que ambos obreros estadounidenses, y mexicanos necesitan.

Los políticos y las organizaciones deben parar de buscar soluciones simples para problemas que son complejos.

PERSPECTIVA



EL DOZAVO VICTIMO DE LA MIGRA

Editorial hecho por Maria Teixeira miembro de la mesa directiva nacional y organizadora en el valle San Joaquin de California.

Al empezar el Año Nuevo, el departamento de inmigración continúa con sus practicas inhumanas de redadas, cazando a trabajadores indocumentados. El 23 de enero el dozavo indocumentado se ahogó huyendo de la migra. Su nombre, Pedro Jimenez; su crimen, el aspirar por una vida mejor.

Doce hombres se han ahogado en ríos y canales al tratar de huir de la migra durante redadas de "illegales." Por dos años, desde el ahogamiento de Margarito Lupercio, el Congreso de Igualdad ha demandado un alto a estas prácticas inhumanas.

También hemos demandado que los agentes de inmigración mantengan y utilicen equipo de salva vidas. Pero, esta simple demanda es negada por el Departamento de Inmigración.

Y por ésta razón, otra persona se ha ahogada. Desde este ahogamiento, la Iglesia Catolica, IULAC, y el TFW han alzado la necesidad de que los agentes de la inmigración porten equipo de salva vidas por la migra; e incluso algunos Congresistas se han empezado a envolver en esta demanda.

Pero hoy en día se ve desarrollándose otra tendencia. Algunas grupos, periódicas, y políticos están reduciendo todo el asunto a la necesidad de portar equipo de salvavidas y de hecho justifican las prácticas de la migra.

El Congreso de Igualdad ha demandado la investigación de todas las prácticas de la migra. Los ahogamientos de estos doce hermanos no han sido los únicos actos violentos que sufren obreros indocumentados, a manos de la migra.

En El Centro, dos obreros indocumentados fueron atropellados por "jeeps" de la migra, uno de ellos murió. En Coachella once indocumentados murieron cuando su caro caminaba en altas velocidades, huyendo de la migra. En Santa Ana un joven de 14 años fue deportado, aunque era residente legal.

Por estas razones el Congreso de Igualdad está haciendo un llamado por Audiencias Congressionales sobre las prácticas del departamento de Inmigración, antes de que se apruebe cualquier proyecto de ley sobre la inmigración. Este departamento debe ser investigado, limpiado, y su actitud, e ideas acerca del indocumentado deben ser corregidos. Ellos no son animales para ser cazador; son los seres humanos que han enriquecido a las agricorporaciones.

El Congreso de Igualdad también se opone al proyecto de ley Simpson-Mazolli y al proyecto de Inmigración de Roybal. El escozer entre estos dos proyectos es como escozer entre una Manzana podrida. Y una naranja podrida. Demandamos una fruta sana y Madura.

Ambos proyectos, Simpson-Mazolli, y Cont. a pag. 10



Compañeros de trabajo de Pedro Jimenez jûran que continuarán luchando en contra las injusticia de la migra.

"Oíy el chapoteo, luego un grito, y luego silencio"

VALLE DE SAN JOAQUIN, CA.--Pedro Jiménez, un guatemalteco de 35 años de edad, se lanzó a las aguas del Río Mokelumne en Stockton, California el 23 de enero mientras agentes de la Migra lo perseguían. El es la dozavo víctima en el valle central que se ha ahogado durante una redada de inmigración. Tres semanas después del incidente los jefes todavía no habían encontrado su cuerpo.

Un obrero que trabajaba en el mismo rancho donde Pedro murió comentó enfadadamente: "Queremos saber que diablos les están dilantando (a las autoridades). No han mandado buceadores ni tampoco han usado dinamita en el río para hacer que el cadáver emerja a la superficie. Estamos sospechosos, muy sospechosos. Algunos que estaban presentes cuando Pedro se ahogó oían sus gritos y creían que eran los gritos de alguien siendo golpeado. Estos obreros creen que por eso (los oficiales) no se han esforzado para encontrar el cadáver. Una autopsia inmediata revelaría la verdad".

Pedro Jiménez vino de Guatemala para buscar refugio y una vida mejor; en

cambio encontró una muerte violenta.

El padre Fernando Villalobos, sacerdote para el Archidiócesis de Stockton, dijo, "Los criminales no son los obreros agrícolas sino los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza. El único delito cometido por Jiménez fue que trabajaba". El obispo Roger Mahoney, quien apoya la necesidad de portar equipo de rescate, mandó un telegrama exigiendo audiencias federales en Stockton.

Maria Teixeira, organizadora para el Congreso de Igualdad en el Valle Central, dijo que se han mandado telegramas a los congresistas Tony Coelho y Richard Lehman respecto a los ahogamientos: "Hemos llamado por audiencias congresionales por más de un año y esperamos que este último incidente les motive a la acción. El Congreso de Igualdad opina que estas audiencias se deban realizar antes de cualquier debate sobre un proyecto de ley sobre la inmigración. No puede haber corrección en términos legales hasta que haya rectificación en las prácticas del SIN."



velorio

El obispo Roger Mahoney encabeza una procesion de 600 personas en memoria de los once campesinos que se han ahogado huyendo de la migra.

EL DEFENSOR

Vol.3 Nu.2 Primavera 1984

50¢

Un joven inocente amigo de Aldape incriminado

El juicio de Enrique Torres Luna que iba empezar el 27 de febrero fue aplazado. Torres Luna fue arrestado en medio del juicio de Aldape Guerra en frente del jurado. Este arresto hizo parecer que Aldape Guerra era parte de un red de criminales cuando el policia fue asesinado.

El acusador del condado esta haciendo todo posible para condenar ha Luna. Si hayan a Luna inocente el acusador tiene miedo que el caso de Guerra va ir al lado de Guerra. El patron de Torres Luna tiene documentos que ensenan que Luna estaba trabajando cuando el robo ocurrio.

La Alianza Nacional llama a todos interesados en la justicia para el inmigrante especialmente el indocumentado que trabaje por el caso de Guerra y Luna. Por mas informacion llame al Congreso de Eequaldad a (312) 663-0854.

Guerra habla de su celda



Velorio
el dozavo
ahogamiento
victimo



Marcial
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Alianza Nacional protestando



ALIANZA NACIONAL PRO DERECHOS ALDAPE GUERRA PROTESTANDO LA PENA DE MUERTE EN EL VALLE DE TEXAS.



LARRY Guy tried to reveal
AND UNVEIL the RACISM
AND ASTROCITYS of the
Battle Creek Police Force
AND they CRUSIFIED
HIM FOR it

Juneteenth '84
Special on East Texas
Battle Creek
Kick in Doors

**Peltier Granted
New Hearing**

Terror in the Fields

Photo/Eduardo Vera

EQUAL RIGHTS

ADVOCATE

50¢

vol. 3 no. 2

Dancing in the Streets



All breakdancing photos by Kerry Coppin

13th Drowning in Central Valley

Terror in the Fields

By Maria Teixeira and Gloria Sandoval
SACRAMENTO, CA.—On Thursday, June 5, the Equal Rights Congress organized a press conference made up of various organizations. Among them was Maria Teixeira, National Secretary of the

Equal Rights Congress; Ray Zapata, the G.I. Forum; Marta Bustamante, Instituto Educacional; Anna Maria Gonzalez, the Agrarian Action Project; attorney Cathleen Williams, the Migrant Farmworker Rights Project and attorney, Mark Merin.

This press conference was organized after the drowning of Felipe Fuentes, a 16 year old youth working in the apricot fields. When the INS raided the fields, he ran to the river that was being used as a barricade by the INS. He drowned in this river without being helped by his pursuers. The following were the demands made by the participants at the press conference.

1. Public Hearings - to convene public hearings on the increased brutality on the part of the INS.
2. Termination of Carl Reidenger as District Director of the INS. He is responsible for 13 drownings in 10 years. 6 have been in the last 2 years.
3. Ending the deportation of minors, and the use of county agency offices as detention centers.

The press conference also announced the filing of a lawsuit by the Equal Rights Congress and attorney Mark Merin that would prohibit the use of rivers, canals, lakes and large bodies of water as barriers that are dangerous in conducting immigration raids.

The following Monday, June 11 in Merced, CA. approximately 30 members and supporters of the Equal Rights Congress marched on the offices of Congressman Tony Coelho. Members of the United Farmworkers Union also joined the protest against the 13th drowning. The group marched down the streets of Merced to the County offices to protest the deportation of minors.

MODESTO ERC HOSTS VICTORY BANQUET

On May 10, 1984 the Modesto Equal Rights Congress held a victory banquet celebrating the acceptance by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the policy of carrying life saving equipment. The banquet was attended by 120 community participants and by the President of the Equal Rights Congress, Nacho Gonzalez.



Photo/Advocate

Gravesite of a drowning victim, participants at Modesto ERC victory banquet, picket line in Merced protesting 13th drowning and press conference in Sacramento. From left; Bishop Gallegos, Attorney Cathleen Williams, Marcos Sanchez, Maria Teixeira, Anna Maria Sanchez, Marta Bustamante and Amando Botello.

I was a Slave in Mississippi

By Gloria Hoover

Mr. Allen Johnson, a former plantation worker of Shaw, Mississippi, has fought a one man battle since his release from Parchman Penitentiary 15 years ago. Mr. Johnson is now 72 years old. He was only 22 when this ordeal began. He was imprisoned at Parchman because he wanted to leave Shaw, MS. and join several of his friends in St. Louis, Missouri.

The owner of the plantation where Allen Johnson lived with his mother stated he was tired of niggers leaving Mississippi to live up North. The owner and Sheriff went to Mr. Johnson's home to arrest him. No charges were brought against Mr. Johnson other than that of wanting to escape the plantation and the grind and drudgery of the Mississippi South. Mr. Johnson was sentenced in his jail cell with no one present but the plantation owner and the Sheriff and was sent to Parchman Penitentiary.

2 / Equal Rights Advocate.

While at Parchman, Mr. Johnson suffered the travail and torture of Penitentiary life in Mississippi. He labored in the fields long days and many times long into the night. He was beaten by prison guards numerous times and tells of dragging through the cotton fields with blood dripping from his torn and battered body. As a result of these beatings, today Mr. Johnson has to wear diapers.

Mr. Johnson was paroled from Parchman Penitentiary in 1969. He traveled to South Haven, Michigan where he has spent the past 15 years of his life. Mr. Johnson has no Social Security because he has never gotten a chance to work. The better part of his life was spent at Parchman.

Since his release, Mr. Johnson has fought a one man battle against his illegal incarceration. He has sought and received documents that give two different accounts of his indictments. An indictment is a true bill and one

would question the ambiguity of these indictments against Mr. Johnson. Several organizations and firms have offered Mr. Johnson hope. Yet no tangible help has materialized.

Mr. Johnson seeks to travel throughout the country and tell his story to the American people. He also is requesting legal assistance in bringing a lawsuit against the perpetrators who robbed him of the best years of his life.

If Benjamin Hoover's petition before Congress is granted to testify, Mr. Johnson will be one of his key witnesses.

Write letters to Don Edwards, House Judiciary Comm., 407 House Office Bldg. Annex Room A, Washington, D.C. 20515 on Mr. Johnson's behalf referring to Benjamin Hoover's Petition. If you can arrange a tour for Mr. Johnson in your town, contact the St. Louis Equal Rights Congress, Box 23740, St. Louis, MO. 63121 or call (314) 522-6468.

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POLICE TEAR UP HOUSE POKE GUNS IN BABIES' FACES

BATTLE CREEK, MI.—"They broke the door down and yelled at us that if we made another move, they'd blow our heads off. They said to drop what I had in my hands and I said 'I've got two babies in my hands.' I said, 'Do you want me to drop two babies?' They said to either drop what I had in my hands or they would blow my brains out," said Crystal Hall.

The campaign to discredit members of the Coalition to End Police Brutality intensifies. 3:00 A.M. April 11, 1984 was a dark day for women and children including babies who were awakened by doors being kicked in at 546 W. Van Buren Street by the Michigan State SWAT team, Battle Creek Police and the Lansing Crime Lab. They were held at gunpoint for some 4 hours by the Battle Creek police. The police put all of the occupants of the house, mostly children, into a room, closed the door and planted weapons, guns, ammo and explosives on the premises. This the home of a member of the Coalition.

"All the Battle Creek police had to do was knock on the door and say 'We have a warrant to search your house.' But no, the police force had to kick the door in to gain the sensationalism that was created," says Joyce Clark, secretary of the Coalition.

It is a sad day indeed when children and babies are marched out of a house on a cold rainy morning, at gun point, in nothing but underclothing, no shoes and no coats, some in just diapers and shirts. Where is the Justice when you see police carting boxes into your house you don't know what's in them until you read the newspaper?"

Larry Guy, President of the Coalition to End Police Brutality, was the only person arrested, and this for parole violation for being present where guns were kept. "They are trying to discredit Larry because his court suit against the City starts next week," said Joyce Clark.

In June, 1982 Larry Guy filed a \$1.5 million civil suit in federal court against the City of Battle Creek and 5 of its police officers. It is very strange indeed that this rampant outrage did not come about until 5 days BEFORE Larry Guy was to go to court for a summary hearing in his suit. One of the officers named in the suit participated in the gangland-style raid on West Van Buren Street. 2 other officers in the suit were cited for trying to bomb Mr. Guy's home in 1979 just a few days after these same officers tried to kill him by beating him and holding a 357 Magnum at his head.



Photo/Eduardo Vera

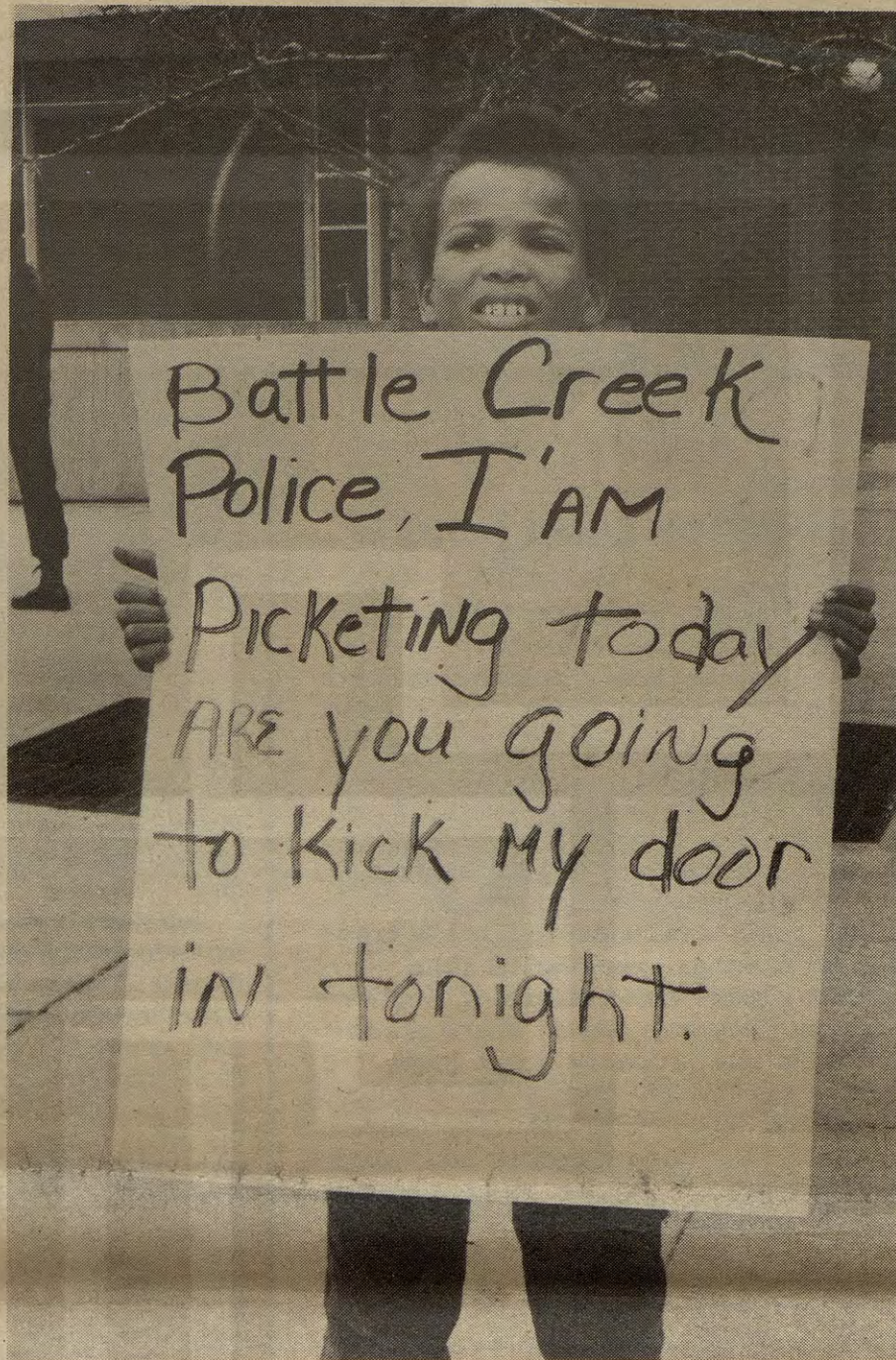
The summary jury did on April 17, 1984, in fact, rule that the City of Battle Creek was negligent in the beating of Larry Guy. There will either be an out-of-court monetary settlement or the case will go to a full trial.

Since the raid on the night of April 11, many things have transpired. Larry was transferred to Jackson, Michigan where he was held in maximum security. Mr. Guy began a hunger strike to last until all charges were dropped. Police have kept up a constant surveillance of homes of members of the Coalition, following them even as they go to the store.

On May 16, over 20 men, women and children were served with subpoenas to appear before a Grand Jury. 6 more subpoenas have been served calling for fingerprinting to be taken. Attorneys for the Coalition are attempting to quash all of the subpoenas. Mr. Guy has been found not guilty of violating his parole and has been released.

On the morning of June 7 at 3:30 A.M. his home was raided by the SWAT Team and Battle Creek Police. Shots were fired by police and the doors were busted in. Only later was a search warrant presented.

Everyone was moved downstairs. A State Trooper stepped on a child's arm which resulted in a sprain and bruises. All the occupants, mostly children were told to leave the house and had to go next door as police again planted guns on the premises. The house was left ransacked as was the house on Van Buren. Now, we ask you, why are these homes invaded during the night, why are doors pushed in, why are no search warrants given to gain entrance as the law provides?



Photo/Eduardo Vera

Peltier Granted New Hearing

By Leonard Peltier Defense Committee

On Wednesday, April 4, the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered that an evidentiary hearing be held in the U.S. District Court in Fargo, N.D. before Judge Paul Benson.

Their decision was based on an FBI teletype dated October 2, 1975 which casts serious doubt on expert ballistics testimony presented by the FBI during Leonard's trial. The testimony stated that tests linked a spent .223 caliber casing found in the trunk of one of the dead agents' cars to an AR-15 rifle which was alleged to be Leonard's. The prosecution called this "the most important piece of evidence" used to convict Peltier.

The teletype states that the AR-15 had a "different" firing pin from the rifle used to kill the 2 agents. The firing pin test is considered more definitive than the "extractor mark" test used to link the .223 cartridge to the AR-15.

If Judge Benson allows this hearing to be held in a fair and impartial manner, further evidence will be brought out that will prove our allegations and Leonard will have to be granted a new trial.

The date of the hearing is not set yet. Once it is, we urge as many people to go to Fargo to show support for Leonard as possible.



Mississippi Emergency Land Fund

JACKSON, MS.—As many as 148,000 blacks living outside the South may own interest in more than 2 million acres of land in Mississippi, says Joseph Adams director of the Emergency Land Fund office in Jackson.

Adams and officials of the national office of the Emergency Land Fund in Atlanta have been trying to contact some of the missing landowners.

Last fall, Land Fund officials traveled to Chicago, seeking to make 100,000 blacks there aware of Southern property they may own or share an interest in but probably don't know about. Of the 250 people who attended a meeting, 40% had land in the State.

Since 1971, the nonprofit Land Fund organization has helped black farmers in the Southeast keep property threatened by creditors, tax collectors, and unscrupulous land dealers.

The Land Fund is attempting to help people with possible land interest in Mississippi check with relatives about the property and put them in touch with others who can offer assistance.

Most of the land in question is vacant, and some plots may be worthless. But much of it probably could yield a profit for the owners, especially in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas where mineral and oil drilling rights could be leased.

Reprinted from the Jackson Clarion-Ledger/Daily News, 1/7/84 and the Mississippi Minority News Digest, 1/84.



Steve Robideau speaking at rally for Leonard Peltier, St. Louis, Mo. 6/83.

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Equal Rights Perspective

Juneteenth '84 Year of the Ballot

By Ted Quant

The headlines of the Louisiana newspapers read, "Blacks vote and Jackson won; Jackson wins Louisiana Primary with ease." This victory symbolized that on this Juneteenth, 1984, the main battleground for economic survival and political power is once again the ballot.

June 19th is an important date in the history of this struggle. It was on June 19, 1862 that Congress passed the first law prohibiting slavery in the territories. One hundred years later on June 19th 1965, the voting rights act was passed in the second major battle of the ballot.

The first battle of the ballot was during reconstruction, when poor whites and Blacks gained the right to vote and to be elected to public office. Over 5,000 Blacks were elected to public office and passed some of the most progressive laws in the country.

It was a short lived period, ended by the terror of the lynch rope and the burning stake. 2,000 Blacks were murdered in Louisiana before the election of 1868. 42 were murdered in Caddo Parish, 162 were murdered in Bossier Parish and 297 were murdered in New Orleans in 1876 in one month. This year Caddo and Orleans parishes voted overwhelmingly for Jesse Jackson for president.

There are a number of factors which have spurred an increase in Black registration and voting in the past few years. The economic crisis, the extension of the voting rights act, and Harold Washington's victory in Chicago. Jesse Jackson's candidacy symbolizes the growing resistance of those facing the worst of this crisis. Jackson's campaign has rallied thousands of new voters throughout the South where Blacks are over 20 percent of the population in over 60 congressional districts. Six of eight districts in Louisiana are over 20 percent Black. A strong increase in Black voter registration and turnout can be tremendously significant in changing the political face of the South.

For example, President Reagan, whose policies have been especially murderous for minorities and poor people, won the presidency with only 28 percent of the popular vote. In every Southern state his margin of victory was smaller than the number of unregistered blacks in those states. In La. he won by 84,408 votes and there were 256,000 unregistered blacks at that time.

Thousands of lesser offices, from school boards to judgeships are also at stake. For example, there are 2 judgeships up for election in New Orleans, which is majority black, yet has no black criminal

judges.

The fall of the Leander Perex empire in Plaquemines parish, La, is another example of this movement in the rural areas. Here a powerful movement swept the Perez family from office and has elected blacks and women to the Parish Board. Plaquemines also went for Jackson in the Primary, two to one over Hart and three to one over Mondale.

Black registration is overwhelmingly Democratic Party registration, but the Democratic Party leaders want a black vote controlled within margins established by them for the black voters. The Jackson candidacy upsets this relationship.

For example, in La., the threat of a Jackson victory united the Governor and the AFL-CIO in an all out effort to cancel the primary. The legislature cancelled the primary in December under former Governor Treen. But when the Justice Department ruled the cancellation to be discriminatory, the new democratic governor, Edwards, who won his election with 98 percent of the black vote, fought the primary all the way to the supreme court.

When finally compelled to hold the primary, Edwards called the primary "meaningless and foolish" and finally he boycotted the election.

The on again, off again nature of the primary, the date changes of the primary, and the governor's boycott contributed to a light turnout of less than 20 percent. But this was still far more participation than the 1 percent participation in the democratic caucus where the governor and the AFL-CIO had hoped to control the vote for Mondale.

The masses of new voters are rising from the pain of the economic crisis and are looking for answers. The Democratic Party as expressed by Mondale and Hart cannot answer these needs. Thus in spite of their efforts to control the vote for Mondale and traditional democratic leadership, the voters who voted them 2 and 3 to one for Jackson in the Louisiana primary.

Voting however, is not enough. Elected officials must be held accountable. Through organizations like the Louisiana Survival Coalition and the Equal Rights Congress new voters are learning how to wage this fight, not as pawns of the political pimps but as fighters for their own interest.

On this Juneteenth, the ballot emerges as the central means to our ends. But our goals remain—by any means necessary—UNITY, ACTION, JUSTICE.



We are denied Religious Freedom

By Leonard Peltier April 10, 1984

MARION, ILL.—Today my brothers Standing Deer-Robert Wilson, Rechaza, Lore de Chingatu-Al Garza, and I begin our journey on ope Wakan kin returning to the bosom of the Creator. Today, we take the Sacred Road and begin our fast for life.

The terms of confinement here at Marion are so hideous that if the conditions were made public, this prison could very well be condemned as an insult to human life. The rule is that the news media is no longer allowed inside this prison.

The United States refuses to allow me to practice my religion in any form. They do this to me knowing full well that they violate their own laws and constitution. I have been granted an evidentiary hearing, and the next few months are the most important challenge I have ever faced because I am fighting

for my freedom.

I can only win if I have the power of the Great Spirit fully in my life. You will not allow me to purify at the Inipi; you will not allow me to pray with the sacred Pipe; you deny me the drum, feathers, rattles, gourds, medicine bag, sage, sweetgrass and everything else that is sacred to me. You will not permit me to pray with my Indian brothers and you will not even allow me to visit with my outside spiritual advisors except through a plexiglass window and talking over a telephone.

This prison is one of the most modern in the world. Yet it cannot, because of mode of confinement for prisoners, meet the minimum requirements of the American Corrections Association in order to get A.C.A. accreditation.

The administration has no regard for the most basic sanitary concerns.

Continued to page 8

EQUAL RIGHTS FORUM

By Nacho
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City Rejects True History of Los Angeles



Reprinted from Chismearte, No. 9
a publication of the Los Angeles Latino
Writers Association.

Prior to the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, a 80 X 16 foot mural by Mexican Master Muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros entitled America Tropical, was white-washed because of its depiction of a Native American crucified on a cross on which the United States eagle was menacingly perched.

Now, some fifty years later and at the eve of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, an 80 X 16 foot mural commissioned by the city's Community Redevelopment Agency and entitled The History of Los Angeles: A Mexican Perspective has yet to be completed and intalled because of the city's refusal to finish the project due to certain historical depictions that were felt to be unfavorable to the city--despite its historical accuracy.

What has been censored here is not only the work of Barbara Carrasco, the Chicana artist who has completed about 95% of the project with the help of a number of inner-city youth and the consultation of prominent historians. What is being censored is the history of a people--a history that belongs to all of us.

Some of the scenes considered offensive, according to CRA memos to Carrasco, included the white-washing of Siqueiros' mural, the destruction of the Chavez Ravine barrio to build Dodger Stadium, the last black slave in Los Angeles, the lynching of Chinese in the late 1800's, and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The 2 year struggle to get the City to make good its promise to display the mural ended in early 1983 when CRA washed its hands of responsibility and gave it back to Carrasco after she refused to remove the images and to give up copyright and display rights.

Carrasco is now trying to get funding and support to finish the project, probably the largest portable mural in Los Angeles, and a prominent place to display it before the 1984 Olympic Games are underway.

In our struggle as a people to make our own history and for our artists and writers to express our own creativity, we must take back what has been denied and obscured in history books and classrooms. Carrasco's mural is a natural link between our history and our art.

Trudell and Tribal Voices on Tour



Photo/David McElroy

CHICAGO, ILL.-On May 16, 1984, John Trudell, who is a Native American Indian poet, and Tribal Voices (Quiltman and Madeleine) performed at Crosscurrents in Chicago along with Dennis Brutus, Jesus Negrete and Reggie Young. Barbara O'Hara opened the evening playing bagpipes.

John Trudell and Tribal Voices are on tour to raise money for the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee.

Living in Realty, Songs Called Poems, is a collection of John Trudell's poetry, published by the Society of the People Struggling to be Free. It can be ordered from North American Water Office, 1519-A East Franklin Ave Minneapolis, MN. 55404.

Races

You are a Brother
And a Sister
In the colors of Life

Some people believe
They are races
Human races
Whatever that may be

Races are for running
The competitive edge
Distrust and confusion
Leaving alterations
In innocent faces

We are natural Life
A part of
Mother Earth's design
A blending of colors
To make the difference
In the teaching
of meanings

We are colors
In the family
of Life



Drawing by David McElroy

EAST TEXAS IN FOCUS

Leadbelly



King of the Twelve String Guitar

By Cathy Gardner

American folklorist Leadbelly made himself known throughout the South and East Texas in the 1930's. Leadbelly's real name was Huddie Ledbetter and he was born on a farm near Shreveport on the Texas-Louisiana border in the late 1880's. After getting a girl "in trouble" as a teen, he left Louisiana and went to East Texas.

Leadbelly briefly experienced life on a prison chain gang after assaulting a woman who spurned his affections. Another prison sentence shortly after that one landed Leadbelly back on the penitentiary chain gang, serving 6 years of a 30 year sentence in Texas for murder. Leadbelly decided to make the best of a bad situation by entertaining his fellow inmates with his singing of blues, dance songs, spirituals, ballads and songs about women, prison life and gambling men and work.

The governor of Texas heard Leadbelly sing one day and promised to pardon him which he eventually did. He left the prison on January 15, 1925.

While imprisoned again in Louisiana in 1932, Leadbelly met Dr. John Lomax, a folk song collector, gathering songs for the Library of Congress archive in Washington, D.C. That and Lomax began led to the recording of many of his songs, prison.

Leadbelly was a product of his age. Blacks in the Black Belt of the South were sharecroppers and were extremely oppressed and poverty stricken. They had no hope or vision for a better world and it was very common to end up on the chain gangs for hardly any crime at all. Leadbelly was typical except that he had tremendous talent and became a legend in his time. Living in East Texas and Western Louisiana he sang and became the "King of the Twelve String Guitar." Among some of his most famous songs were: "Pick a Bale of Cotton," "Good Night, Irene," "Midnight Special," "Rock Island Line," "Easy Rider," and many others.

"East Texas has as many white supremacists, Klan sympathizers, barber shop lynchers, preacher cross burners and vicious policemen as Houston, Beaumont and Dallas. East Dallas is still one of the most terrible places in America. Every cliché ever uttered about this part of the country is true."

Robert Al-Walee

From "Law and Order in Newton County"



East Texas

Murder Newton County Style

By Robert Al-Walee

NEWTON COUNTY, TX.-In November, 1977, Ray Anthony Peacock was killed, reportedly for having a relationship with a white woman. There are conflicting stories on the hows of his death. But no conflict on why he was killed. The community reports he was murdered by a Burkeville, Texas sheriff and conspirators.

Anthony was president of his high school class, ex-athlete, handsome and well liked by his community. at the time of his death. He was a student at Lamar Technical College. I was present on that dark road leading from Burkeville to Newton, Texas. I remember seeing several white men standing at the side of the road. I would visibly see a pistol hanging from the side of one man. My wife, Lill, was with me. We were unaware that Anthony had lost his life. The next morning, I was told the painful truth, he was murdered. My 84 year old aunt brought the tragic news to me. It is said Anthony was killed because the local sheriff who was insanely racist and jealous and the co-conspirators harbored the same attitude. It is said Anthony was secretly meeting with this white girl. So much is said, by so many. But what is factual is the fact that Anthony was murdered, and those men thought to be his murderers are free today.

By Paul Garner

JASPER, TX.-On Saturday, April 21, Liberty Community Center came to life as people from all over East Texas poured in to participate in the first fundraising event of the Anthony Peacock Scholarship Fund.

Anthony's family has led a tireless struggle to find out the truth surrounding their son's death. The April 21 events, particularly the speeches of Paul Garner, field secretary of the Equal Rights Congress of East Texas, Pat Prowell of Lufkin and Cecil Peacock gave testimony to the fact that the "business as usual" attitude is no longer acceptable when it comes to the matter of equal justice in Newton and Jasper Counties.

Juneteenth: The Day Texas Freed its Slaves

By Lew Powell from the Charlotte Observer, 6/18/82

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—When Warren Arthur was growing up, he and other black Texans celebrated Emancipation Day June 19, instead of January 1.

"It holds a special significance for me," says Arthur. "It's a holiday that gave me a sense of oneness with the black people who came before me."

Although Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation January 1, 1863, Texas remained under Confederate control until Union troops landed in Galveston and belatedly freed the state's slaves June 19, 1865.

That's textbook history: a hardy legend attributes the delay to slaveholders who didn't pass along the word until they had gotten their crops out.

Regardless, Texas freedmen and freedwomen soon began celebrating June 18 as "Juneteenth."

Warren Arthur, who left the state in 1978, remembers his

hometown of Palestine in agricultural east Texas as "essentially the heart of the Juneteenth experience."

Blacks reserved the day for speeches, barbecue, beer, rodeos, baseball and the red strawberry pop that became known as "June 19th soda."

By the 1960s, though, Juneteenth had begun to seem outdated or inappropriate. The tradition suffered from blacks' migration to the cities. Many blacks thought the slave era better forgotten. Schoolchildren, taught that Jan. 1 was the real Emancipation Day, came home thinking their elders ignorant. And the old hands who could tell the liberation story first-person died.

But the pendulum has swung back, and interest in black history—including slavery—has revived Juneteenth. "The 4th of July was practically no holiday at all to them," says Arthur. Texas made Juneteenth an official state holiday in 1979, and unofficial celebrations have begun to appear elsewhere in the South, including Charlotte, N.C.

Interview: Arthur Weaver

East Texas Civil Rights Veteran



The following is from an interview of Arthur Weaver, President of the Nacogdoches, Texas NAACP.

I'm going to give you a brief history of the past, of the 20s and 30s and 40s, how Black people, in those days, when they were going to school, they went to school in old church houses built for Black people. In that time, out in the rural, they had school buses passing the Black people, Blacks could not ride them in city or the rural. The KKK was in action. In my lifetime, I got to see the Terpine Gang, the Tar and Feather Gang. In those days, the Black peoples were stripped; all the culture, all the history, and all the freedom was stripped and left like an empty shell. We weren't even allowed to talk about Black history, in all those corrupted days.

The question, "how much did we gain since the civil rights movement?" We've talked about the past, the civil rights movement and civil rights act. We start moving up forward; sit in the free bus in the front of the bus, in the free bus, going to White school, mixed schools, get jobs, in the store, going behind the counter where our money go, which in the past, we could not go behind the counter where our money goes; all we could do was to spend our money.

When this Republican president came back in, start the same thing in 1985 as in 1885, started pushing us back. After this movement and all this good freedom is going back to the 1920s and 30s. We are right back where we started from. President trying to give the power back to the states; if he gives it back to the states, we will be right

back where we were.

I have had KKK crosses burned in my front yard, which I never saw them when they put it in. I've had KKK letters, mail... "wanted dead or alive," with my picture hanging on a tree, "Nigger A. Weaver." When they march, they are allowed to march and use white hoods, to carry weapons. I think we have the right to wear black hoods and defend ourselves. I think everybody, every race should try to establish good brother love, and be nice to those tha's nice to them and respect those that respect them. I think we should defend ourselves if they make war on us. Also, if it comes a time if the KKK march here in Nacogdoches, we are going to add a B to KKK, BKKK. We are going to call it Black KKK.

When I lived in the State of Washington, we was voting was almost corrupted, almost as corrupt as the Blacks thing was was allowed to vote. Wasn't North and the South running too much in politics, different from the South. and the West Coast, go in the political field when you are Because when you go in the political field when you are Black, understand that when Black people go to California, state of Washington, come back with all these lies about we having good freedom and all this kind of stuff, the same thing now, only worse, in a way. Only thing we have is a little better job, more pay.

Juneteenth has a lot of meaning, because it use to be that Black people got slaved on the farms, and working hard for that one day, the 19th of June, and saving the nickles and

Continued on page 8.

The United Breakdancers Association



An international breakdancing competition was held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada the latter part of May. The winner of the competition was Tiday Wave, a crew from Chicago. CONGRATULATIONS TIDAL WAVE.

The Equal Rights Clearinghouse is a non-profit corporation based in Chicago, Illinois. It provides technical assistance on a national level to the growing numbers of Black, Hispanic, and Indian organizations organizing for equality and justice.

Activities and Services

- 1. Leadership development
- 2. Organizing training
- 3. Planning campaigns
- 4. Fundraising and resource development
- 5. Management

For more information contact Equal Rights Clearinghouse, 2200 S. State, Suite 1920, Chicago, ILL. 60604

The Equal Rights Advocate is published by the Equal Rights Congress. The Equal Rights Congress is a multi-issue national umbrella of minority organizations. It is dedicated to building an ever expanding alliance of Black, Chicano, Native American, Puerto-Rican, Asian and other minority organizations in our common quest for equality and justice. The Equal Rights Congress is grassroots, independent and utilizes direct-action organizing methods.

The Equal Rights Advocate focuses on national issues that impact upon the minority movements and campaigns of Congress affiliated organizations. Our intent is to link these various struggles into an integral whole.

Material for publication and/or inquiries about the "Advocate" or "Congress" should be sent to P.O. Box 2488, Loop Station, Chicago, ILL. 60690. (312) 663-0854.

STAFF: Mary Nelson, Nacho Gonzalez, Cathy Gardner, and Ida Fastwolf.

Contributors: Donald "Pops" Timms, Maria Teixeira, Gloria Sandoval, Paul Garner, Ted Quant, Barbara Carrasco, John Trudell, Robert Al-Walee, Kerry Coppins, Eduardo Vera, and David McElroy.

Our apologies for forgetting to give credit for photos used in the last issue of the ADVOCATE. Cynthia McQuinn, photo of a street musician. Paul Sequeira and his photo of the front cover of "Up on Madison, Down on 79th"

Join the Equal Rights Congress

Membership Form

Name _____

Organization _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Organizations with budgets up to \$10,000: \$25 membership fee
Organizations with budgets over \$10,000 : \$75 membership fee
\$10: individual membership. Make all checks payable to the
Equal Rights Congress,

Box 2488,
Chicago ILL 60690

ATTENTION!!!

To all Breakers, Poppers and Lockers. The United Street and Breakdancers Association is an organization of crews and breakdancers. The Association is dedicated to promoting the interests of breakdancing and street dancers. It promotes street dancing as an alternative to street gang activity and street violence. It will instill a sense of pride and discipline which can be carried on into other activities in life. The Association is in a very beginning stage and has begun to hold regular meetings in Chicago.

It hopes to expand to Los Angeles and New York and eventually throughout the country. It plans to implement 3 components:

1. Community support which deals with borderline teenagers. It will also have a referral service (drugs, etc.)
2. Professional-to take the most talented individuals and develop their talents to their fullest potential.
3. Dimensions - To develop the art form to break all known dimensions. For more information, call Donald "Pops" Timms c/o the Equal Rights Congress, (312) 663-0854 or else write the Association c/o the ERC, P.O. Box 2488, Loop Station, Chicago, IL. 60690

PELTIER LETTER - Continued from page 4.

Water and lights have been turned off on three separate occasions forcing us to live with our own wastes. Prisoners are sleeping on floors because beds are in bad need of repair. There is this constant cold level temperature in the cell unit.

The 3 of us, Standing Deer, Rechaza and myself have been beaten without provocation. Standing Deer has informed me he was beaten on 3 occasions in early November of 1983. Standing Deer is 62 years old and suffers from a painful degenerative disc disease.

No person has the right to suppress and deny another human being's right to practice their religion no matter what their alleged crime may have been. The keepers of Greeds Ironhouse do not believe this as we do. A few days into our fast for life they will try to force-feed us.

The Bureau of Prisons refuses to recognize our God given right to perform this sacred fast. Consequently, we have filed a lawsuit in federal court to keep the warden from interfering with our religious fast.

INTERVIEW: WEAVER/Continued from page 7.

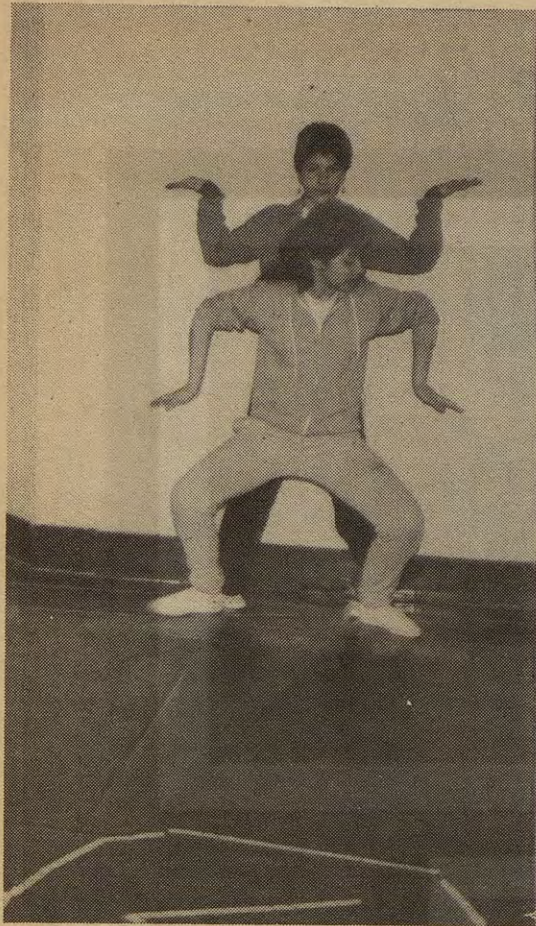
dimes. A few years after; right after freedom, the Black people got up-tight on the 19th of June; thought it was dirty because the White man would always give them red ice cream, red soda water and red watermelons. But after the NAACP and the leaders started thinking to go back to the 19th of June. There is a whole lot in this 19th of June. That's why I think the people should support it, and wherever they are working on the 19th of June, get off your job and celebrate the 19th of June.

As far as the Equal Rights Congress I see a whole lot, a role that it can play in this community. After I saw you march here the other year, with the Spanish people with you. (Texas Farmworker's March in 1981). Although, I'm sorry I didn't get to march with you. I think I told you about some man called me on the telephone and said that if I get in that march, he'd "shoot my damn brains out," and I didn't want you all to get hurt. My wife and I road up and down the road.

A group should start meeting with the city police department, protesting against police brutality. The organization could be a big help in child abuse in school. Whipping poor Blacks and Whites with boards and sticks and expelling the poor Whites and Blacks. The White upper class can come in late and the poor Black, if they come in late, expell them for a few days.

In closing, I'd like to say to the Equal Rights Congress and all civil rights leaders, all human rights leaders, hold your head high. When taking a stand, three things: to be talked about, picked on, and shot at. But don't ever give up. If you get shot in the leg, wrap it, hop on the other one. No matter how bad it gets, don't quit, because that won't solve the problem. I've made a pledge to dedicate my life to the movement; for the rights of citizens for as long as I live.

DANCING IN THE STREETS



By Nacho Gonzalez
Based on an Interview of Donald "Pops" Timms

South Bronx, U.S.A.-asphalt jungle of burned out tenements. Home to many of America's youth who are superfluous to society's needs. Forgotten minds, isolated to despair. Relegated to gang-banging and jaywalking amidst garbage strewn streets. Where can they release their frustrations? Their anger, their aggressions, their pent up energy? It's bound to explode and it is - hiphopping, bombing, rapping, scratching and yes - breakdancing.

There are many forms of street dancing which have been evolving over the last 15 years. Breaking and breakdancing are just 2 forms of them, but have become the popular terms to describe all the other forms.

Breakdancing is comprised of two distinctly different dancing styles, breaking and electric boogie, each of which developed in different parts of the country--breaking in the South Bronx and electric boogie in Watts and South Central L.A.

Early breaking was influenced by the floor dancing of James Brown in the late 60's. This early breaking evolved into what came to be called floor rock. It arose out of a very intense and gang related type of atmosphere in the South Bronx. There is a move in breaking that is known as a suicide, which is a no-hands flip on the concrete. Gangs, instead of fighting, would perform flips until one of them would quit. Many times a bone would be broken and as a result it became known as breaking.

Modern breaking with its spins came later in the 70's, when young gang kids began "battling" (competing) to see who was the baddest. The Zulu Nation in the South Bronx developed a team of dancers (crew) known as the Zulu Kings, and they became one of the forerunners during this period. In 1980, the crew "Rock Steady" popularized modern breaking, the kind we see now with head spins, windmills and acrobatics.

In Los Angeles, a different dance form was being developed. It was called the electric boogie. It was influenced by the Robot which later gave way to the mannequin. Out of this dance form evolved popping, locking and ticking. These dances had mime influences and slowly evolved into the float and the wave. All of these dances merged to form the electric boogie. Electric boogie and breaking eventually merged to become modern breakdancing.

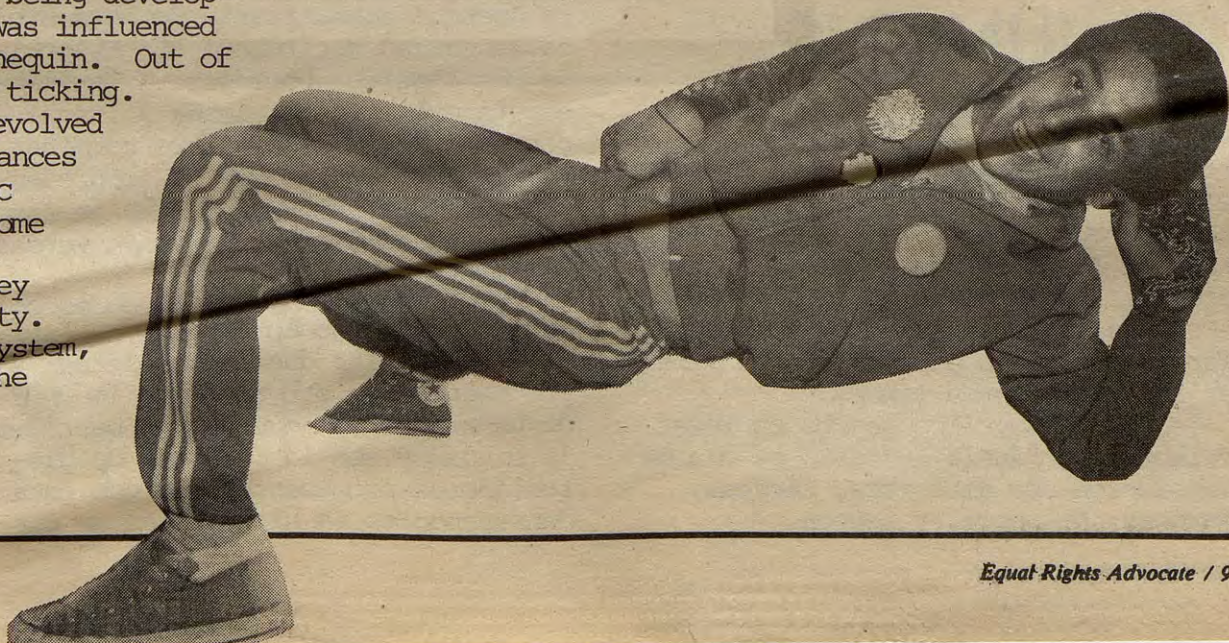
These are all forms of street dancing. They express something very important about society. That today's youth have no security in the system, they are not needed, and are pushed out of the schools with no hope of ever being employ-

ed. Yet they want to make a contribution to society, they exist and want to be seen and heard. Because their environments are violent, they developed a dance form where they could act out their aggressions. Breaking and up rock are ways to act out hostility without actually harming another human being. Up rock is a kung fu type of martial arts form of dancing where the dancers pantomime that you are fighting your opponent without touching each other. Sometimes you "yoke" your man which is to laugh at him or to make a sound to intimidate him. It fits with breaking because it is an alternative to physical confrontation.

Hiphopping is all of the diverse forms of cultural expression, scratching, breaking, rapping, bombing. Hiphopping has very strong roots in the Black and Latino communities. These are all forms of folk art which is something that evolves out of the people at a particular time. It is a form of self-expression and thus makes a statement about a particular place, time and environment where friction and pressure are so strong that an energy is created that has to find an outlet. Street dancing, rapping, bombing are all art forms that will one day be recognized as belonging in the upper realm of the art world.

It is a fitting tribute that out of the rubble of the South Bronx and to a lesser extent Watts, that the youth who society does not need, those who have been discarded, abandoned and forgotten by the system are raising their voice. Bombing, rapping, breakdancing.

"Hey, we're still here. You can build your skyscrapers as high as you can, you can push us back, but we are here, we're going to make a sound because we're alive, breathing and kicking. If you try to separate us, we'll follow you and bomb your walls and subways, rap on the airwaves, and dance in the streets."



Cartas

Compañeros,

Se dice que no existe la discriminación en este país, pero sí existe, y a que se cometen grandes arbitrariedades en contra de personas especialmente si tienen facciones de Latinos. Estas arbitrariedades son cometidas por el Departamento de Emigración que solo por tener las personas cara de Latino son detenidos para investigación, sin darles oportunidad de defenderse.

Estas camionetas del D. de E. llegan a distintos lugares no solamente de trabajo sino también en centros comerciales, así como supermercados en donde las personas acuden a comprar productos para resolver sus necesidades. Pero creo que lo más terrible pasó hace dos semanas en el centro de Los Angeles. Hubicados en las calles 12 y Santee. En dicho centro acuden personas de bajos recursos a solicitar la ayuda que les proporciona dicho centro, que consiste en comida y jabón, otros productos esto se puede lograr por medio de donaciones que brindan otras personas que cuentan con mejores medios económicos. Después de durar 2 o 3 horas esperando, para poder lograr ayuda cuando, al fin la tienen salen a la calle y se encuentran con La Migra que sin importales nada empiezan a detener toda clase de personas, se me parte el alma solo de recordar las suplicas de algunas madres muy afligidas que les rogaban al emigrante que las dejaran ir porque habían dejado a sus hijos pequeños encargados con los vecinos, pero ellos permanecían indiferentes. Yo me pregunto: ¿Que esas personas no tienen corazón, o caso no tienen hijos? Que mal les hacen esas personas que van a tratar de encontrar alimentos para su familia y se encuentran con la deportación y el dolor de dejar a sus hijos.

Porque en lugar de hacer estas redadas en contra, de personas inocentes, no se dedican a resolver otros problemas más apremiantes, como crimen, educación y dejan a las personas en paz que tratan de buscar un medio mejor para vivir ellos y sus familias.

Que hermoso sería y que felices serían muchos si algún día hubieran fronteras abiertas para que todos pudieran entrar y salir sin ser detenidos por nadie. Es un hermoso sueño que ojalá algún día se haga realidad.

Este es mi sentir y me atrevo a escribirlo para que los lectores se den cuenta de la situación que prevalece aquí en Los Angeles y que creo es igual en otros lugares.

Atentamente,
Una lectora

JUNIO 19

Después de la terminación de la Guerra entre los Estados Unidos y México, en 1864 el presidente, Abraham Lincoln, proclamó la Emancipación. Pero el estado de Texas estaba abajo la dirección de tropas de la confederación. En el 19 de junio, tropas de la Unión llegaron a la Bahía de Galveston a liberar los esclavos en Texas.

Desde entonces los Negros en Texas celebran el "Junio 19" como su día de liberación con discursos, fiestas, marchas, barbacoa, y rodeos.

Cambian Aldape Guerra a Celda Nueva



Jovenes en Baytown, Texas con camisetas de Aldape Guerra.

Tenemos buenas noticias. Han cambiado a Ricardo a una celda nueva. La celda esta situada en otra parte de la prisión. Ricardo también esta asistiendo a la escuela.

En la otra celda Ricardo solo salía, una hora diaria. Ahora puede salir todo el día. Mas antes la comida era de polvo. Su situación estaba muy triste y difícil. En su celda nueva puede comer con los otros prisioneros. También puede ir al gimnasio, y la biblioteca, y al patio. Pero más importante puede salir a tomar y sentir el sol.

Ricardo ahora está muy entusiasmado. Quiere darle las gracias a todos por haberlo apoyado.

El estado legal de Ricardo está todavía en el proceso de apelación. Su

abogado ha obtenido un extensión. También esta de la opinión que Ricardo tiene buenas posibilidades de ganar la apelación y obtener un juicio nuevo y quizás esta vez no sera por la muerte del policía. Si obtiene un juicio nuevo tenemos que recaudar fondos para un abogado nuevo. Hay muchos abogados buenos que están interesados en su caso pero depende de los fondos que obtengamos.

La Alianza Nacional se reunió el 25 de marzo. Se decidió enviar a un miembro de la Alianza a California en una gira. También decidieron que ayudara mucho que un miembro del Congreso de Igualdad de Modesto visitara a Texas para informarle a la gente sobre la situación en California.

Historia de Los Angeles Perspectiva Mexicana

Antes de las Olimpiadas de 1932 en Los Angeles, el muralista Mexicano, David Alfaro Siqueiros habia compuesto un mural 80x16 pies titulado America Tropical. El mural fue enjalbegado porque enseñaba a un Indio crucificado con una águila amenazadora norteamericana sentada arriba del crucifijo.

Hoy, unos cincuenta años después, antes de las Olimpiadas en Los Angeles, un mural 80x16 comisionado por la Agencia Comunitaria de Desarrollo de la ciudad y titulada "La Historia de Los Angeles: Perspectiva Mexicana" espera que este terminada y instalada porque la ciudad no quiere terminar el proyecto porque ciertas representaciones historicas no están en favor de la ciudad a despecho de su verdad historica.

Lo que ha sido censurado no es solamente el trabajo de Barbara Carrasco, artista Chicana que ha completado 95 por ciento del proyecto con la ayuda de un numero de jovenes del barrio de la ciudad y con la consulta de historiadores promenantes. Lo que están censurando es la historia de un pueblo-

una historia que pertenece al pueblo.

Unos de los paisajes que consideran offensivos, según le dijo la ciudad a Barbara Carrasco, incluye la enjalbegada del mural de Siqueiros, la destrucción del barrio de Chavez Ravine para construir Dodger Stadium, el último esclavo negro en Los Angeles, el linchamiento de un Chino, y el internamiento de los Japoneses en la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

La lucha de dos años al fin terminó en 1983 cuando la ciudad le devolvió el mural ha Carrasco después de que rehusó a quitar los paisajes.

En nuestra lucha como un pueblo tenemos que componer nuestra historia y por nuestros artistas y escritores tenemos que expresar nuestra creatividad para recobrar lo que nos han quitado en los libros y las escuelas. El mural de Carrasco es un vínculo natural entre nuestra historia y nuestro arte.

Reproducido de Chismearte, No. 9 una publicación de la Asociación Latina de Los Angeles.

Perspectiva de Igualdad



A continuación publicamos excerptos de un discurso que fue presentado ante una audiencia de 120 personas en Modesto, California por el presidente del Congreso de Igualdad, Nacho González. El evento fue una cena que se realizó el día 10 de marzo del presente año.

FRONTERAS ABIERTAS

Compañeros, explíquenme, ¿qué va a suceder en las comunidades mexicanas, en los barrios, si pasan una ley como la de Roybal? ¿Qué va a pasar a todos los indocumentados que no tienen prueba de residencia en los Estados Unidos? ¿Qué va a pasar a los miles de indocumentados que se van a registrar por la amnistía pero no van a pasar a la prueba? ¿Qué va a pasar a los miles de indocumentados que están recién llegados a este país y no pueden cumplir con la amnistía? ¿Qué va a pasar a los miles de indocumentados que diariamente cruzan la frontera desde Brownsville hasta San Ysidro?

Compañeros y compañeras, los van a multar. Los van a deportar. Los van a encarcelar. Van a perder sus casas, sus negocios, y todo que han acumulado en sus esfuerzos por sobrevivir. Van a tener tremendas redadas en los barrios, en las fábricas en los mercados, en los campos. Vamos a ver un terror tremendo. Esto va a afectar a toda la comunidad mexicana y latina. Los indocumentados, los ciudadanos. Los derechos civiles del pueblo mexicano van a ser violados diariamente.

Nuestra comunidad no necesita leyes que no sirven el interés de nuestro pueblo. No necesitamos leyes que nos van a oprimir. No necesitamos leyes que no más van a beneficiar una minoría de los indocumentados al costo de la mayoría. Compañeros y compañeras, *necesitamos fronteras abiertas.*

Si las corporaciones multinacionales pueden cruzar las fronteras de los países, no hay ninguna razón porque un obrero de México no puede cruzar la frontera en busca de trabajo. Si las corporaciones multinacionales pueden cruzar la frontera de México, y todo lo que tienen que hacer es pagar sus impuestos, pagar una cuota y cumplir con las leyes, entonces debemos de tener el mismo privilegio para el trabajador mexicano. Dame una razón por qué el trabajador mexicano no puede cruzar la frontera, pagar su cuota, pagar sus impuestos, cumplir con las leyes y quedarse en este país.

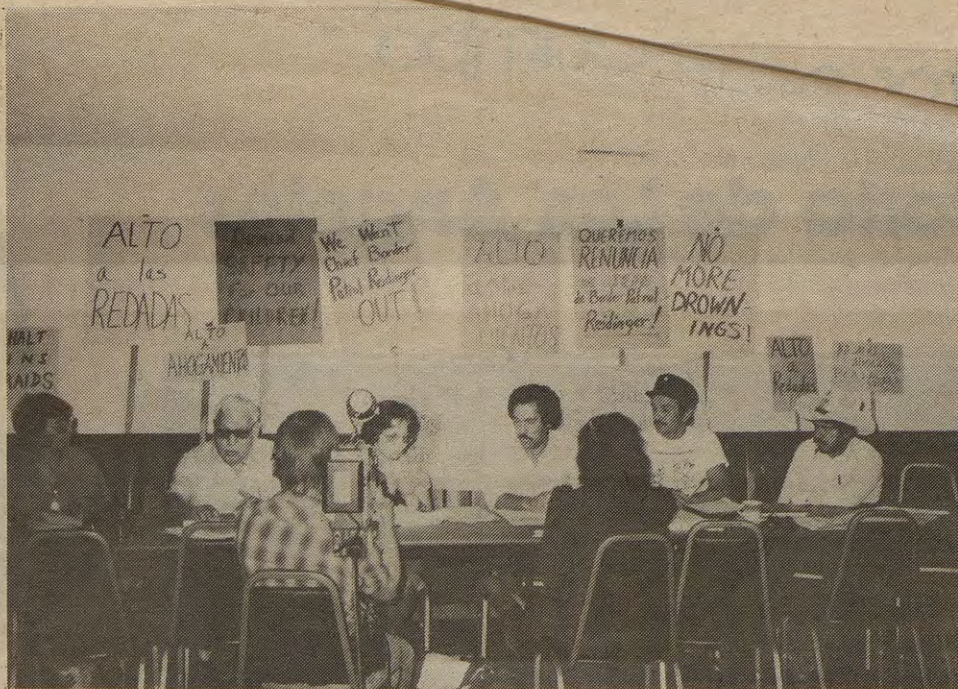
No hay ninguna razón por la cual el obrero mexicano no puede tener este privilegio. Si trabaja para GM en Monterrey o Levi-Strauss en Mexicali, ¿por qué no puede trabajar para Levi-Strauss en San Francisco o GM en Los Angeles? Son las mismas corporaciones. Los sueldos vienen de las mismas ganancias. Si el gobierno norteamericano no quiere que los mexicanos crucen el Río Bravo, si no quieren que crucen el desierto de Arizona, entonces ¿por qué no pagan los mismos sueldos en Monterrey que pagan en Houston? La gente no deja las tierras de sus antepasados por deseo de hacerlo. Las deja por necesidad.

Pero la situación no está completamente negativa. La decisión del Departamento de Inmigración donde la Migra va a tener que cargar equipo de rescate es un resultado muy positivo. Es una victoria para el indocumentado, para el movimiento por la igualdad y la justicia, y prueba de que un movimiento puede montar una ofensiva para cumplir con sus objetivos. Todas las organizaciones que participaron en esta campaña, el CRLA, el UFW, Bishop Mahoney, CASA de Modesto, el Congreso de Igualdad. Todos los participantes de este justo movimiento deben de estar llenos de orgullo. Pero al mismo tiempo debemos de estar listos para lanzar nuevas demandas por el mejoramiento y por los derechos civiles de los inmigrantes.

El Congreso de Igualdad está comprometido a esta tarea pero necesitamos la ayuda y el apoyo de todos ustedes. El Congreso es de ustedes. Ingrénsese al Congreso. Sin ustedes el Congreso no es nada. Unidos podemos formar los vínculos necesarios para poder completar la cadena de libertad que va a derrotar las paredes de discriminación y pobreza. Gracias por su atención.

13 Ahogamiento

Terror en el Campo



Conferencia de Prensa en Merced protestando el 13 ahogamiento. Elias Romo y Gloria Sandoval del Congreso de Merced y Enrique Flores Mendes del Congreso de Salinas.

Sacramento, CA.: El martes, 5 de Junio encabezados por el Congreso de Igualdad se reunieron en conferencia de prensa representantes de varias organizaciones incluyendo Maria Teixeira, miembro de la mesa nacional del Congreso de Igualdad; Ray Zapata (G.I. Forum), el Obispo Alphonso Gallegos (Diocesis Catolica de Sacramento), Marta Bustamante (Instituto Educativo), Anna Maria Gonzalez (Proyecto de Acción Agraria de California), Abogada Cathleen Williams (Proyecto de Derechos Campesinos Migratorios), y el Abogado Mark Merin.

Esta reunion con la prensa se efectuó precisamente despues de la muerte de Felipe Fuentes, joven de 16 años quien al andar trabajando en el corte del chavacan corrió al ser perseguido por la migra metiendose a un rio en el cual murió ahogado sin ser ayudado por sus perseguidores quienes otra vez usaron el rio como barrera en su táctica para atrapar trabajadores que andan en busca de sobrevivir.

Siendo este el numero 13 de los que nos hemos dado cuenta que se han muerto ahogados en esta area, demandamos energicamente en esta conferencia de prensa lo siguiente:

1. Audiencias Congresionales. Para exponer las violaciones contra los indocumentados por parte de la Migra.
2. La resignacion de Carl Reidinger.

Quien como jefe de los patrulleros de Inmigracion consideramos culpable de los accidentes y muertes. Todo los ahogamientos han pasado en el area que el supervisa.

3. El Congreso de Igualdad ha archivado una demanda con la ayuda del abogado Mark Merin de Sacramento que pone un alto a la táctica de los patrulleros del servicio de Inmigracion de usar barreras peligrosas como rios, canales, lagos, y cuerpos de agua.

El Lunes, 11 de junio en Merced, California aproximadamente 30 miembros y apoyadores del Congreso de Igualdad de Merced marcharon en frente de las oficinas del Congresista Coelho. Miembros de la Unión de Campesinos se unieron a la protesta para demostrar su oposición al #13 ahogamiento de un trabajador del campo. El grupo procedió su marcha por las calles de Merced hacia oficinas del Condado para protestar deportaciones de menores de edad.

El Jefe del Depto. de Probación se nego a dar informacion por escrito de los procedimientos que siguen cuando detienen a un menor de edad sin documentos. El grupo va seguir luchando por sus derechos y por la justicia especialmente sobre asuntos de inmigración. Se invita a toda persona a unirse al Congreso de Igualdad para tener más fuerza.



Photo/Advocate



Photo/Advocate

Línea de protesta organizada por el Congreso de Merced.

Aldape Guerra en Celda Nueva

Terror en el Campo

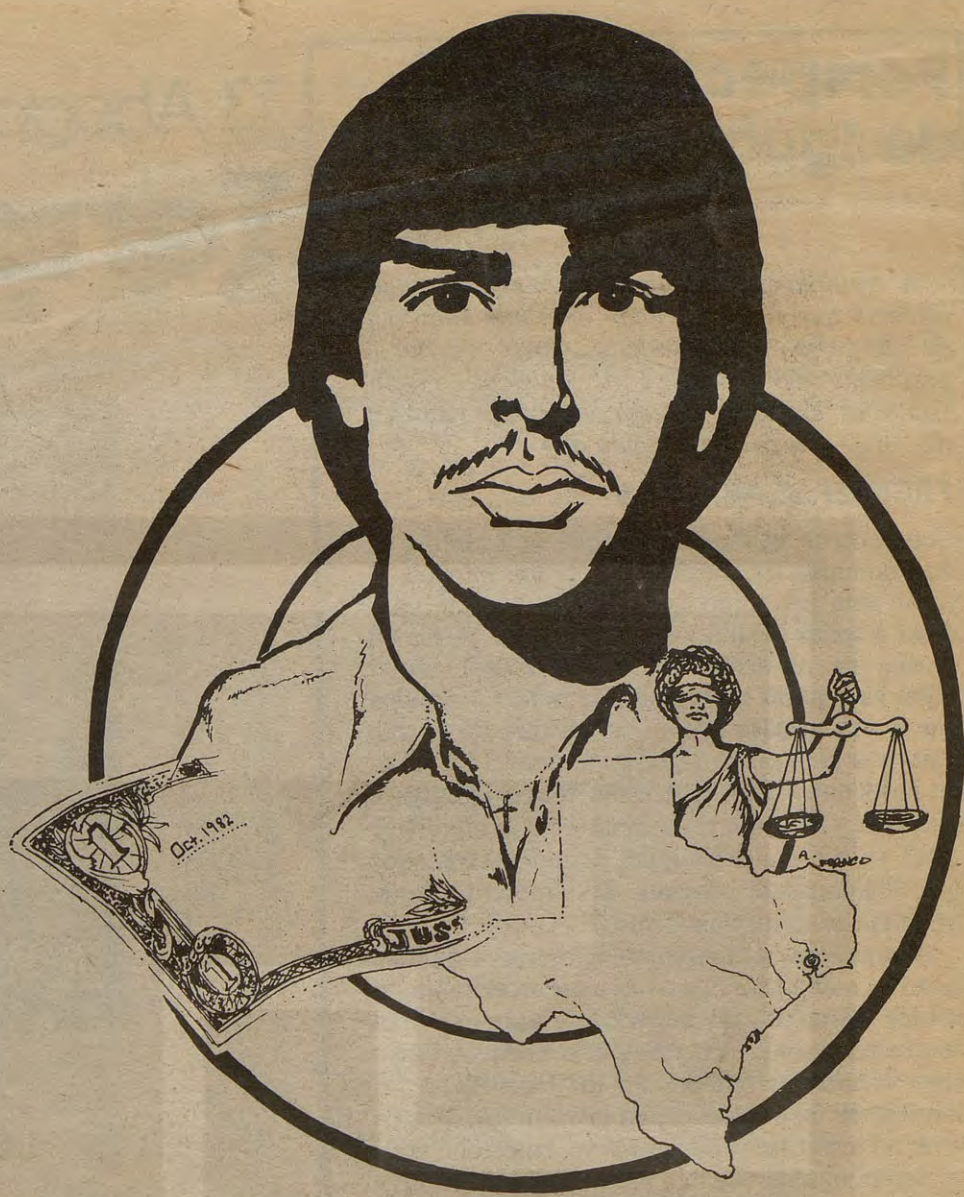
Historia de Los Angeles

EL DEFENSOR

VOL. 3 NU. 3

Verano '84

50¢



13 Ahogamiento Terror en el Campo



Photo/Advocate

Sepultura de unos de los ahogados, participantes en la cena de victoria en Modesto, lineo de protesta en Merced contra el 13 ahogamiento y conferencia de prensa en Sacramento. Desde la izquierda; Bishop Gallegos, abogada Cathleen Williams, Marcos Sanchez, Maria Teixeira, Anna Maria Sanchez, Marta Bustamante y Armando Botello.



E. Berlinguer

Los pueblos de Guatemala y El Salvador crucificados por regímenes depredadores de crueldad ilimitada, deben poder escoger libremente su propio destino

Declaración PCI-PCM

oposición

Órgano del Comité Central del Partido Comunista Mexicano

¡Sí a la unidad!

16 de octubre, 10 horas.

Doscientos setenta y ocho delegados, de 34 comités estatales y regionales inician los trabajos del XX Congreso.

17 de octubre, 18 horas.

Se aprueba por unanimidad la fusión del PCM con otras cinco organizaciones de izquierda para formar el nuevo partido unificado.

¡La izquierda unida jamás será vencida!



**Othón y Heberto,
precandidatos**

*Compañero de Oposición
agredido por la policía*



"Aborto libre y gratuito" fue el lema de la marcha realizada el pasado 15 de octubre del Monumento a la Revolución a la nueva sede de la Cámara de Diputados.

Domingo 25 de Octubre de 1981

Nº 405

Precio 10 pesos

Interés nacional por la visita de Berlinguer

Del 14 al 19 de octubre estuvo en México invitado por el Partido Comunista Mexicano, el camarada Enrico Berlinguer, secretario general del Partido Comunista Italiano, la organización revolucionaria más influyente en un país del mundo capitalista.

El camarada Berlinguer desarrolló numerosas actividades, entre ellas la de estar presente en el XX Congreso Nacional del PCM, en cuyo acto de clausura pronunció un importante discurso (ver p. 13). Sostuvo varias entrevistas con la dirección de nuestro partido, las cuales sirvieron para intercambiar puntos de vista

sobre temas tan importantes como la situación en China, Polonia, Francia y en nuestros respectivos países.

En ediciones posteriores, *Oposición* reflejará lo sustancial de esas conversaciones.

Berlinguer se entrevistó con el presidente José López Portillo y visitó algunos lugares de interés histórico tales como Teotihuacán y el Museo Nacional de Antropología. De interés especial resultó el encuentro que sostuvo con más de dos centenares de intelectuales mexicanos, a quienes respondió preguntas sobre la relación entre el PCI y las fuerzas de la cultura en su país, sobre

la situación en Polonia, sobre el eurocomunismo y en relación a otros asuntos más. (De este intercambio también publicaremos en el próximo número una reseña). Finalmente el Sr. Gral. del PCI y la delegación que lo acompañaba suscribieron la declaración conjunta con el PCM que aquí publicamos.

La visita del máximo dirigente de los comunistas italianos ha tenido un reflejo de extraordinaria importancia en el país. La prensa y distintos sectores políticos han dado un alto valor a la estancia de Berlinguer en México, de donde prosiguió su viaje a Nicaragua.

Comunicado conjunto PCI-PCM

Invitado por el Comité Central del Partido Comunista Mexicano, el camarada Enrico Berlinguer, Secretario General del Partido Comunista Italiano realizó una visita a México del 15 al 19 de octubre de 1981. Durante su estancia en el país, el camarada Berlinguer llevó a cabo conversaciones con los dirigentes del PCM y fue enterado de las condiciones en las que luchan los comunistas mexicanos por la renovación democrática y por el socialismo. El Secretario General del PCI tuvo un cordial coloquio con el Presidente de la República, Lic. José López Portillo; se entrevistó con los principales dirigentes de seis partidos de la izquierda, con sindicalistas, diputados y con intelectuales mexicanos. El camarada Berlinguer intervino en el acto de clausura del XX Congreso del PCM.

En las pláticas, abiertas y amistosas, entre los dirigentes de ambos partidos participaron: por el PCI, junto con el camarada Berlinguer, Antonio Rubbi, miembro del Comité Central y responsable de la Sección Internacional; Renato Sandri de la Sección Internacional y Giorgio Oldrini, corresponsal de *l'Unità* en América Latina. Por el PCM, el Secretario General del Comité Central Arnoldo Martínez Verdugo, Marcos Leonel Posadas, Eduardo Montes e Iván García, miembros de la Comisión Política del CC del PCM.

Los representantes de ambos partidos intercambiaron informaciones sobre la situación de sus respectivos países y sobre la política de sus partidos.

PELIGROS DEL ARMAMENTISMO

Expresaron su profunda preocupación por el progresivo deterioro de la situación internacional, por los peligros que amenazan a la humanidad con la carrera armamentista y la ampliación a varias regiones del mundo, de conflictos y tensiones militares y políticas. Se pronunciaron con firmeza contra la producción de la bomba de neutrones iniciada por Estados Unidos.

Los dos partidos están de acuerdo en la necesidad de desarrollar en cada país un gran movimiento unitario contra los peligros de la catástrofe nuclear, en favor del reinicio de las negociaciones por la distensión y la cooperación entre los Estados y los pueblos. Desean que las negociaciones entre Estados Unidos y la Unión Soviética conduzcan a una efectiva limitación y reducción de todos los tipos de armas nucle-



ares de mediano alcance en Europa y se creen las premisas favorables para reemprender negociaciones sobre medidas más generales de desarme equilibrado y controlado de las armas estratégicas nucleares y de las fuerzas convencionales, de tal manera que se garantice la seguridad recíproca.

Para garantizar la paz y la justicia en el mundo es necesario frenar la carrera armamentista y canalizar los enormes recursos financieros despilfarrados en esta absurda contienda a las áreas del planeta que sufren condiciones sub-humanas de atraso, miseria y hambre. En efecto, es necesario iniciar la lucha contra la abismal desigualdad que existe entre los países industrializados y la gran mayoría de los países condenados al subdesarrollo por el imperialismo y el colonialismo; también es necesario actuar para construir un nuevo orden económico mundial y relaciones internacionales basados en el intercambio equitativo y en la igualdad de los Estados. En este sentido, pueden ser útiles iniciativas como la Reunión Internacional sobre la Cooperación Económica que se desarrollará en los próximos días en Cancún, México. Empero, lo esencial, es que el Diálogo Norte-Sur y el inicio efectivo de las negociaciones globales, rápidas y fructíferas se realicen en su sede natural que debe seguir siendo la ONU. Si los protagonistas directos de estas negociaciones son los Estados, un papel muy importante compete a los pueblos y en particular a las clases trabajadoras y a las fuerzas de-

mocráticas y progresistas de los países capitalistas industrializados, las que cuanto más capaces sean para conducir en su sociedad el proceso de renovación democrática y de transformación profunda de la vida económica, social y política, podrán afrontar mejor esta imperiosa tarea que plantea la época contemporánea.

CENTROAMERICA SE ESTREMECE

Centroamérica se estremece ante inquietantes tensiones y peligros. El desarrollo de los procesos revolucionarios y de consolidación de la independencia de los pueblos, que condujo a la caída de algunos viejos y desacreditados regímenes dictatoriales y represivos, es combatido por la política del imperialismo de los Estados Unidos, con su recurso de bloques económico y comercial, e incluso con la intervención directa, como es el caso de El Salvador y con la amenaza general de actos de fuerza.

El Partido Comunista Mexicano y el Partido Comunista Italiano expresan su solidaridad al F.D.R.-F.M.L.N. y a todas las fuerzas patrióticas de El Salvador contra la política despótica y de genocidio de la Junta, por la libertad y la independencia del país. Manifiestan su estimación por el comunicado franco-mexicano que reconoce al F.D.R.-F.M.L.N. y solicita el inicio de negociaciones para una solución política del conflicto, que ha sido propuesta ante la Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas también por parte del gobierno de Ni-

caragua. Expresan su solidaridad con el pueblo guatemalteco, y con el pueblo de Belice en la defensa y la consolidación plena de la independencia nacional recién adquirida.

Los dos partidos consideran que es necesario favorecer cualquier iniciativa tendiente a superar el absurdo bloqueo económico de Estados Unidos hacia Cuba y Nicaragua, cuya población está en estos momentos trabajando por consolidar y desarrollar las conquistas de sus revoluciones.

SOLIDARIDAD CON LA LUCHA DE AMÉRICA LATINA

Los comunistas mexicanos e italianos manifiestan su solidaridad con todas las fuerzas democráticas y revolucionarias que en América Latina y en el Caribe luchan contra los regímenes dictatoriales, por los derechos humanos y la libertad, así como por la independencia nacional y el desarrollo democrático de sus respectivos países. Subrayan la importancia que tiene la convergencia y la colaboración unitaria de fuerzas políticas y sociales, y de corrientes de pensamiento y religiosas diversas en esta lucha.

Los dos partidos han realizado un amplio intercambio de opiniones sobre la lucha que la clase obrera y las masas trabajadoras y populares llevan a cabo en los países capitalistas por la renovación democrática y para la transformación de la sociedad hacia el socialismo. Consideran que debido a que las condiciones en México y en Italia son diferentes, el camino hacia el socialismo en cada país, debe seguir una vía original y específica, cuya práctica sustancial debe ser la de asumir la democracia como elemento estratégico fundamental. Consideran, además, que la acción para la transformación de la sociedad puede constituir el terreno para una fecunda colaboración entre todas las fuerzas de izquierda y progresistas, y con la participación activa de las grandes masas católicas.

El PCM y el PCI reafirman su voluntad de desarrollar relaciones entre los dos partidos sobre la base de la más amplia autonomía y de la no intervención, de la solidaridad internacional y de la cooperación. Declaran su compromiso para favorecer el desarrollo profundo en todos los campos de las relaciones entre México e Italia, para favorecer los intereses de ambos países y ambos pueblos.

Oposición

Órgano del comité central del partido comunista mexicano
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Director: Iván García Solís
Subdirector: Gilberto Enríquez

Jefe de Información: Fernando Pineda
Coordinadores de Sección: Vida Política: Eduardo del Castillo / Agrarias y Populares: David Padilla / Sindicales: Héctor Delgado / Económicas: Héctor Tamayo / Foros Pantallas y Medios: Froylán López Narváez / Reportajes: María Castelazo / Internacionales: Tonatihu Vela / Juveniles: Christopher Domínguez / Mujeres: Susana Rodríguez / Vida de Partido: Luciano López Z. / Política

Urbana: Jorge Legorreta / Culturales: Gonzalo Martré / Deportivas: Carlos Debernal / Cartonistas: Marco, Helio Flores, Naranjo, Magú / Fotografías: Héctor García, Hermanos Mayo, Marco A. Cruz, Rodrigo Flores, Edición R.M. Puig.

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XX Congreso del PCM

Crónica de la unidad anunciada

Eduardo del Castillo

Jueves 15 de octubre, 12 horas. Se encontraban en el Auditorio Nacional 278 de 302 presuntos delegados del Partido Comunista Mexicano en representación de 34 lugares del país para iniciar el XX Congreso del Partido Comunista. Se analizó la convocatoria y la orden del día, la cual experimentó algunas modificaciones. Después se pasó a reglamentar la forma en que habría de llevarse a cabo el congreso. Cuatro grandes mantas enmarcaban el presidium donde se encontraban los miembros del Comité Central, las cuales decían: "62 años de lucha, nuestra herencia", "Unificar para continuar, 1919-1981", "Por la unidad", "XX Congreso del Partido Comunista Mexicano".

17 horas. Está por iniciarse el congreso con la asistencia de miembros del partido, invitados especiales, representantes de países socialistas, miembros de otros partidos y periodistas. Ivan García Solís, miembro de la comisión política del Comité Central del PCM toma la palabra: "Presiden este congreso el Comité Central del Partido Comunista Mexicano y representantes de organizaciones hermanas: por el Partido Mexicano de los Trabajadores el compañero Heberto Castillo; por el Partido del Pueblo Mexicano el compañero Alejandro Gascón Mercado; por el Partido Socialista Revolucionario el compañero Roberto Jaramillo Flores; por el Movimiento de Acción y Unidad Socialista el compañero Miguel Ángel Velasco y por el Movimiento de Acción Popular el compañero Pablo Pascual Moncayo".

Los presentes corearon: "¡Unidad, unidad, unidad!", "La izquierda unida, jamás será vencida", "A construir, a construir, la izquierda unida, en todo el país". Momentos después, Arnoldo Martínez Verdugo, secretario general del PCM subió a la tribuna para leer el informe relativo, básicamente, a la fusión propuesta y el marco en que se plantea (ver informe completo en este mismo número).

Después del informe, surge un nuevo reclamo de unidad entre todos los presentes; se agitan las banderas, se reconoce la ejemplar militancia de Campa. Los flashazos se repiten aquí y allá. Es el XX Congreso Nacional del Partido Comunista Mexicano, el último de este partido. Hay un principio de nostalgia que se transforma en entusiasmo al pensar en la unidad, en un nuevo y más fuerte partido que alcance metas superiores.

Son anunciados algunos personajes presentes: Gastón García Cantú, Luis Rivera Terrazas, José Álvarez Icaza, Adolfo Gilly, Carlos Pereyra, Adolfo Mejía, América Abaroa. Allí también están los embajadores y representantes de la República Democrática Alemana, Bulgaria, Checoslovaquia, Hungría, Vietnam, Hungría, Yugoslavia, Polonia, Organización para la Liberación de Palestina, Rumania, Unión Soviética. Hay representantes partidarios: comunistas de El Salvador, Paraguay, Bolivia, España, Chile, Brasil, Argentina, Guatemala, y los trotskistas de Uruguay y Bolivia. La Unión Nacional de Mujeres Mexicanas, el Partido Socialista de Chile también pasan lista de presencia. Se leen los saludos del Partido Popular Socialista, la Unidad de Izquierda Comunista, Partido Comunista de Uruguay.

Se hallan en la sala representantes de organizaciones de izquierda, las cuáles son saludadas con aplausos solidarios pero a la vez diferenciados: Partido Popular Socialista, Partido Socialista de

los Trabajadores, Partido Socialdemócrata, Partido Obrero Socialista y Liga Obrera Marxista, Corriente Socialista, Unidad de Izquierda Comunista, Punto Crítico, Organización Comunista Proletaria, Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores y Coalición Obrero Campesino Estudiantil del Istmo.

LUZ VERDE A LA FUSION

16 de octubre, 10 horas. Ahí están los 278 delegados del PCM, listos para el trabajo, la discusión, el debate. Su promedio de edad es de 34 años y 10 de militancia en el partido. En 8.3 por ciento está formado por mujeres. Ocupaciones: obreros, campesinos, maestros, universitarios, estudiantes, investigadores, trabajadores de servicios.

Se inicia la discusión del primer punto del orden del día relativo a la fusión. Un miembro de cada uno de los comités estatales y regionales informan y analizan lo sucedido en sus respectivas instancias partidarias.

En todos los casos se menciona que se ha aprobado la unidad orgánica propuesta por la dirección del PCM. Algunos cuestionan la falta de información, el método de la fusión y el estancamiento de la unidad de acción con militantes del PMT.

Una minoría plantea la existencia de corrientes organizadas en tanto que otros se van al extremo de pedir su decapitación.

El 17 por la mañana se siguió discutiendo este punto y en la tarde Arnoldo Martínez Verdugo hizo el resumen de la discusión y Enrique Semo presentó a nombre de la comisión de resoluciones un proyecto que fue aprobado en lo general por 229 votos a favor y 16 abstenciones. A dicho texto se hicieron diversos agregados.

La tarde de los sábados tiene sus momentos especiales y ésta no fue la excepción: Jorge Mújica, al comentar la imposibilidad de conocer el número de militantes de otros partidos, dijo: "no tenemos un medidor para medirlos". En esos momentos se oyó en el presidium: "cuidado con el café". Semo lamentó: "los documentos se mojaron". En tanto, Pablo Gómez y Roger Bartra se alejaban. Un escrutador despistado dijo a los delegados: "quienes estén a favor de lo incierto, favor de levantar su voto".

OTHON Y HEBERTO, CANDIDATOS

Se pasó al segundo punto del orden del día, el electoral, en el que Gilberto Rincón Gallardo planteó la utilización de la campaña electoral con fines revolucionarios, en contra de la burocracia en el poder y buscando al acercamiento con las masas; propuso también ir con toda la izquierda en un solo frente y, por ello, buscar amplias alianzas en programa y candidatos. Este punto se aprobó en lo general.

En cuanto al candidato, el congreso registró las dos más altas votaciones: Othon Salazar, 132 votos; Heberto Castillo, 89.

Domingo 18, 11 horas. En el acto de clausura del XX Congreso intervinieron Enrico Berlinguer, secretario general del Partido Comunista Italiano (ver su discurso en este mismo número), Arnoldo Martínez Verdugo, Pablo Gómez y Valentín Campa (cuyos discursos publicará *Oposición* en su próxima edición).

Por último, a las 5 de la tarde se presentó un montaje teatral sobre los 62 años del PCM.



UNANIMIDAD: LA BASE APRUEBA LA FUSION

Del 15 de agosto, fecha en que las direcciones nacionales de 5 partidos revolucionarios de izquierda propusieron a sus militantes de base la unidad orgánica en un solo partido, al 17 de octubre, se ha manifestado un respaldo unánime a dicha proposición. El MAP se sumó como sexta fuerza a dicho proceso.

El 17 de octubre terminó la primera fase del XX Congreso del PCM (que culminará el 4 de noviembre próximo). El Himno Nacional y la Internacional fueron cantadas por los comunistas al principio del Congreso, marcando a la vez, tanto el carácter nacional del partido, como su vocación internacionalista.

la mera política

En el PRI no todo es miel sobre hojuelas

Gilberto Rincón Gallardo

No hay crisis política. Por ahí debemos empezar, ya que con evidencia el PRI ha podido resolver todas las cuestiones de la sucesión sin rupturas internas.

Desde luego, no todo es miel sobre hojuelas. Tiene sus vaivenes, y no tan leves, pero es necesario dejar claro, en primer término, que la herencia presidencial logró, una vez más, reunir alrededor del heredero a toda una burocracia política y a la burguesía financiera.

Dicho esto, hay que referirse a las dificultades, cuya ausencia sería imposible si consideramos que la sucesión, el hecho más importante de poder, exhibe los extremos de la antidemocracia priista.

Destapado el tapado comenzaron los rumores de cajón: que Olivares Santana se va al PRI. A la semana siguiente: no, es Fariás quien se va al PRI. Los trabajadores de este país manipulado y vejado por la prepotencia de sus gobernantes, ya ni siquiera aspiran a ser informados de los movimientos en el gobierno. Cómo podrían aspirar, si finalmente, después del insultante juego de los chismes cortesanos, se deja correr el último como definitivo: se queda García Paniagua y todo sigue igual.

Allá van a la asamblea miles y miles de trabajadores pertenecientes a los llamados tres sectores. Más que endilgarles el pestilente y falso nombre de acarreados, conven-gamos de que se trata de un apoyo priista real, pues aunque no pensemos que se trata de militantes, ni siquiera de apoyo a un programa — recordemos como De la Madrid se dio el lujo de decir que en el curso de la campaña esbozará su programa — si se trata de una visión a través de la cual los priistas que están en el juego de la sucesión son vistos, no sólo por la cargada de apoyadores profesionales sin dignidad ni juicio propio, sino por los trabajadores que asisten a sus actos, y aun por los millones que votan por ellos, como la única opción de poder.

En las actuales circunstancias, de despolitización, apoyar a otros partidos aparece como inútil pérdida de tiempo. Por eso el PRI es un gigantesco agente despolitizador. Le funciona bien la fórmula de la prepotencia para convertir en tradición, en modo de ser, la idea de que los mecanismos de poder pueden ser tan unipersonales y antidemocráticos como son, pero son los únicos que funcionan.

Así, llegaron a la asamblea priista que confirmó rumores: García Paniagua se queda. Todos votaron. Sabían que ese voto era el escenario de la decisión no ya tomada por un hombre, sino por dos. Sin embargo, como es costumbre y a sabiendas, avalaron la decisión.

Dos días después, nadie sabe que pasó, pero los de la real decisión se zurraron en el voto de la asamblea priista y descabezaron a García Paniagua.

Francamente, a nosotros no nos importan sus motivos en este caso que más bien parecen caprichos, berrinches y veleidades típicas de los poderosos sultanes. Lo que es necesario señalar es la prepotencia que los ha llevado al menosprecio absoluto de formalidades, lo cual refleja cierto grado de descomposición de sus métodos, no de quiebra, porque a pesar de los pesares, les funcionan, aunque parezca increíble.

Mientras tanto, Pablo Emilio Madero medita, contempla, titubea sobre el tono que debe imprimir a su campaña, pues los métodos priistas no le gustan, dice, pero la política, y sobre todo la política económica, le gusta muchísimo. Así que...

Las expectativas están claramente a la izquierda y no en aquella que arrastra los viejos apoyos críticos aunque tengan candidato propio, sino en la que surge, la que puede verse como fuerza en ascenso que irrumpe como expresión de la política y el programa de un movimiento de masas que ha venido acumulando experiencias y cuadros. Ahí asoman las expectativas.

La izquierda ha entrado en condiciones de poner en juego grandes éxitos unitarios.

Dejará, es de esperarse, el espíritu contestatario propio de los sectores marginados y defensistas. Es necesario afrontar las tareas electorales como opción global y concreta a todos los problemas que tienen vida real en cada trabajador.

La izquierda unida tiene que hacer acto de presencia como alternativa política, no de poder ahora, pero sí como posibilidad. Ese es el reto número uno.

Nueva etapa en la lucha por el partido de la clase obrera



Informe del C.C. al XX Congreso

Hace 7 meses, al terminar los trabajos del XIX Congreso Nacional del partido, salimos bajo la impresión de que los tensos debates que lo caracterizaron representaban un paso de gran importancia en la elaboración de una línea política y programática en la que se sintetizaban los resultados de muchos años de esfuerzo por colocar al partido de los comunistas entre las principales fuerzas políticas de nuestro país.

Nos propusimos entonces, como orientaciones centrales, incrementar la influencia del partido entre los obreros y contribuir al logro de una gran alianza de la izquierda con vistas a la campaña electoral de 1982 y al impulso del movimiento de las masas. En el cumplimiento de estas orientaciones que expresaban el punto de vista colectivo de nuestro partido, los órganos dirigentes emprendieron numerosas conversaciones bilaterales con la mayoría de las organizaciones de la izquierda, a excepción de aquellas que se negaron a hablar con nosotros.

En el curso de este debate que por nuestra parte ponía el acento en la búsqueda de un gran frente electoral de toda la izquierda, en base a un programa común y un candidato único a la Presidencia de la República, a finales de julio surgió la iniciativa del dirigente del Partido Mexicano de los Trabajadores, compañero Heberto Castillo, de discutir la posibilidad de fusionar en un solo partido a cinco organizaciones: el PMT, el PCM, el PPM, el MAUS, y el PSR. De inmediato, la comisión política del Comité Central adoptó una actitud positiva ante esta propuesta y convocó rápidamente un pleno del Comité Central para examinarla. Lo mismo hicieron los otros partidos integrantes de la Coalición de Izquierda.

Procedimos así porque disponíamos de una línea precisa elaborada por el XVIII Congreso Nacional del partido, que había resuelto trabajar no sólo por una alianza de la izquierda, sino por la fusión orgánica de los partidarios del socialismo.

Las numerosas discusiones entre comisionados de las cinco organizaciones demostraron que las condiciones habían madurado para dar un paso que sin exageración podemos considerar de histórico: realizar la fusión de cinco organizaciones políticas de la izquierda socialista de nuestro país. El comunicado hecho público el 15 de agosto, coincidiendo con la II Asamblea Nacional del PMT, mostró ya el alto grado de coincidencia política y teórica que se habían alcanzado y que permitía al Comité Central presentar una propuesta coherente a todos los miembros y organismos de nuestro partido, para que éste la debatiera en todos sus aspectos y presentara sus conclusiones al XX Congreso Nacional que hoy iniciamos.

Reacciones Ante el Anuncio de la Fusión*

La noticia de la unificación de una parte importante de la izquierda marxista fue recibida con entusiasmo por todos los que aspiran a una transformación democrática y socialista de México, con expectación por los medios políticos y publicitarios y con escepticismo y rechazo por algunos grupos de inspiración dogmática, que ven la división como una consecuencia natural de la "pureza" ideológica y como el medio habitual de existencia de la izquierda revolucionaria y socialista.

Las condiciones habían madurado para dar un paso histórico: la fusión de cinco organizaciones de la izquierda socialista de nuestro país.

Esas reacciones no pueden sorprendernos si tomamos en cuenta que la fusión puede permitir un cambio en la relación de fuerzas políticas de nuestro país, ya que vuelve real la posibilidad de que esta corriente se convierta en la principal alternativa al dominio del PRI; si tomamos en cuenta que esta fusión asesta un golpe definitivo al espíritu de secta y al divisionismo que durante tantos años debilitaron a la izquierda e hicieron que una parte importante de la clase obrera y de las masas trabajadoras adoptaran frente a ella una actitud escéptica.

El mismo anuncio que se hizo el 15 de agosto fue acogido con entusiasmo no sólo por los militantes revolucionarios y organizaciones de la izquierda, sino también por muchas personas que

aspiran a la existencia de una izquierda socialista fuerte y que hasta hoy se han mantenido al margen de las organizaciones existentes.

El 8 de septiembre, el Movimiento de Acción Popular anunció públicamente su decisión de adherirse a la iniciativa de los cinco partidos y el 29 de septiembre éstos tomaron el acuerdo de aceptar su integración al esfuerzo común. Como es sabido, el MAP reúne a un colectivo de dirigentes y activistas sindicales y agrarios, periodistas e intelectuales, que emprendió un proceso de organización política desde diciembre de 1979 y se constituyó formalmente en enero del año actual. La incorporación del MAP muestra claramente que la tendencia a la unidad es un proceso maduro que abarca a las fuerzas principales de la izquierda socialista de nuestro país.

La Unificación, Tendencia Real

En el interior del Partido Comunista, la iniciativa lanzada el 15 de agosto se recibió con gran entusiasmo por la gran mayoría de sus miembros y organizaciones. El debate entre nosotros se ha

Todavía hay quienes ven en la división de la izquierda una consecuencia natural de la "pureza" ideológica.

centrado en el carácter de la fusión, los plazos y los métodos, cuestiones de indudable importancia que deben ser abordadas en relación con el momento político en que la fusión ha sido planteada y tomando en cuenta que en este proceso intervienen experiencias diferentes, que sólo una actuación unida y prolongada se encargará de superar poco a poco.

Pero lo que hemos discutido son propuestas, son sólo iniciativas, que una dirección no sólo tiene derecho sino obligación de formular. Es aquí, en este congreso, donde los delegados elegidos en conferencias y Congresos locales por los miembros del partido van a tomar las decisiones que expresarán la voluntad de los comunistas.

Cualesquiera que sean las vicisitudes por las que esta iniciativa atraviese en el futuro inmediato, es incuestionable que expresa una tendencia real, orgánica, del movimiento político de la clase obrera de nuestro país, reveladora de la profundidad de los cambios que han tenido lugar en la trayectoria política de la izquierda revolucionaria y socialista de México.

Prácticas de Unidad

La propuesta de unificación tiene como antecedente una larga práctica de unidad de acción entre todas las organizaciones

tió poco después constituir la Coalición de Izquierda formada por el PCM, el PPM, el PSR y el MAUS, que no sólo realizaron juntos la campaña electoral de 1979, sino que firmaron un compromiso de trabajar por la unidad orgánica de las cuatro organizaciones. A partir de septiembre de 1979, se formó el Grupo Parlamentario Comunista (Coalición de Izquierda) con los 18 diputados elegidos en julio. El trabajo del GPC ha sido, en realidad, un proceso de identificación de las posiciones políticas de sus integrantes, lo cual lo convirtió en el grupo de diputados más cohesionado de la actual legislatura del Congreso de la Unión.

El PCM y el Partido Mexicano de los Trabajadores han mantenido un contacto constante y aunque, en ocasiones, adoptaron medidas tácticas diferentes, como sucedió ante la campaña electoral de 1979 y en algunas universidades y sindicatos, en otros aspectos de la actividad la coincidencia permitió la acción conjunta contra la represión oficial, en la crítica de la política gubernamental, la solidaridad con Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador y en la lucha por la paz mundial.

Con los compañeros del Movimiento de Acción Popular nuestro partido realiza desde hace mucho tiempo una alianza en los sindicatos universitarios y en la actividad cultural y política. Sus dirigentes principales apoyaron públicamente la campaña electoral de la Coalición de Izquierda y llamaron a votar por sus candidatos en 1979.

Las Causas del Proyecto Unitario

Es claro que este acercamiento político de los comunistas y otras fuerzas de la izquierda socialista no hubiera tenido lugar sin los cambios que se operaron en la línea del PCM y sin la formulación precisa de la política de unidad orgánica de los marxistas revolucionarios que aprobó el XVIII Congreso Nacional del PCM.

En la situación de México, no se requería sólo de una política precisa de amplias alianzas de la izquierda y de la democracia, sino de una política clara de unidad orgánica de los que luchan por construir un partido obrero revolucionario basado en la teoría del socialismo científico. Esta conclusión fue un mérito indudable del XVIII Congreso Nacional del PCM.

La lucha por la unidad de los partidos del socialismo es una política de principios, y sólo dogmáticos y palabristas alejados del movimiento político real ponen en duda la justeza de esta política.

Sin embargo, la formulación de una política de alianzas y de una política de unidad orgánica y el cambio de actitud del PCM y de otras organizaciones de la izquierda no eran sólo el resultado de una comprensión más clara de los deberes que implica la lucha por hacer avanzar la causa del proletariado revolucionario en las condiciones de México. Al afianzamiento de esta política contribuyen dos hechos de la mayor importancia. El primero es la crisis de la ideología y la práctica reformistas, que

provocó la ruptura de núcleos importantes de revolucionarios y el alejamiento de las masas de los partidos que optaron por la alianza con la burguesía y el apoyo a los gobiernos del PRI. El segundo hecho es la tendencia creciente de las masas obreras hacia la unidad, que se intensifica a medida que asciende la lucha por la democracia y la independencia de las organizaciones sindicales, como condiciones para combatir en defensa de los intereses de los obreros y de otros sectores de la población asalariada.

Las Masas Contra la División y las Sectas

La política sectaria, que se finca en subrayar las diferencias y se muestra incapaz de comprender que en un partido obrero puede mantenerse la unidad en los aspectos fundamentales junto a una diversidad de opiniones y de matices, carece de toda perspectiva, aunque todavía la enarbolan como signo de fidelidad a unos principios abstractos grupos que se hallan cada vez más aislados de la clase y de las masas en cuyo nombre hablan.

Frente a la división, la intransigencia sectaria, el doctrinismo y la incapacidad para identificar a los verdaderos enemigos ideológicos y políticos y para encontrar lo que existe de común entre las distintas organizaciones de la izquierda socialista, que predominaron en nuestro medio en los últimos 40 años, la iniciativa unitaria de las seis organizaciones adquiere carácter ejemplar e histórico. Representa un viraje en relación con la tendencia que se inició en el año de 1940, cuando la izquierda en general y su corriente marxista en particular entraron a un largo y doloroso descenso, un proceso de agudo debilitamiento, confusión, luchas intestinas y escisiones, que la marginaron de la vida política y la redujeron a multitud de centros aislados en los que la disputa caía a veces en los detalles más irrelevantes.

Es claro que la tendencia a la unidad no surgió de la nada, sino después de un prolongado esfuerzo de estudio y de trabajo persistente, de la lucha consciente contra el sectarismo político y organizativo, de adopción de responsabilidades por el conjunto del movimiento democrático y revolucionario, en el que el estímulo principal ha sido el ascenso de las luchas de los obreros y los campesinos, los intelectuales y las grandes masas populares, cuyos hitos principales fueron el movimiento ferrocarrilero de 1958-1959, las grandes jornadas de los maestros de primaria del Distrito Federal, el movimiento estudiantil y popular de 1968 y el actual movimiento reivindicativo y por la democratización de los sindicatos.

Contribuciones a la Alianza de la Izquierda

En la formación y desarrollo de una conciencia unitaria entre los militantes de la izquierda socialista correspondió un papel destacado al esfuerzo de renovación interior del Partido Comunista Mexicano, que algunos todavía cuestionan, pero que les permitió colocarse entre las fuerzas más activas e influyentes del país.

Por otro lado, en el mismo Partido Comunista y en el conjunto de la izquierda, influyeron también de manera destacada los esfuerzos unitarios que desplegaron desde el mismo momento de su ruptura con el oportunismo, los militantes y dirigentes del Partido Socialista Revolucionario y del Partido del Pueblo Mexicano, la disposición de los compañeros del Movimiento de Acción y Unidad Socialista a propiciar la unidad de los marxistas, la lucha de los dirigentes y militantes del Partido Mexicano de los Trabajadores por integrar una fuerza revolucionaria independiente y dispuesta a la alianza responsable y concreta, el espíritu abierto y de colaboración en el movimiento de masas de los compañeros que hoy integran el Movimiento de Acción Popular y otras organizaciones, como la Corriente Socialista, que luchan conscientemente por la alianza de la izquierda.

Particularidades de la Nueva Etapa

El criterio rector del que partimos desde que se empezó a abordar entre nosotros el problema de la unidad orgánica de los marxistas es el de que la lucha por construir un partido obrero revolucionario de masas, en nuestro país atraviesa necesariamente por la fusión de distintas organizaciones que basan su acción en la teoría del socialismo científico.

Ya en el informe del Comité Central al XVIII Congreso Nacional del PCM, en mayo de 1977, planteábamos que "por una serie de particularidades del desarrollo del movimiento obrero mexicano y del marxismo, especialmente por la crisis en la que el partido se debatió durante largos veinte años —de 1940 a 1960—, surgieron en nuestro país otros partidos y organizaciones empeñados en aplicar el socialismo científico a las condiciones de México. . . La agudeza de la lucha de clases de los últimos años. . . hizo que algunos de ellos o fracciones de ellos afianzaran sus tendencias reformistas y oportunistas. . . Pero también hizo que otros radicalizaran sus posiciones, rompieran con el oportunismo y definieran con más claridad su posición de clase y su adhesión a la lucha por construir un partido revolucionario de la clase obrera, libre de oportunismo y dogmatismo

El trabajo del Grupo Parlamentario Comunista ha sido, en realidad, un proceso de identificación de posiciones políticas

y basado en firmes principios. . . Es notorio también que algunos agrupamientos integrados inicialmente por representantes de la *democracia revolucionaria* pasan a las posiciones del socialismo científico y tienden a la integración en un partido obrero marxista-leninista. . . De tal modo que nuestro objetivo de transformar el PCM en un partido de masas tiene que contar con este nuevo factor. Surgió la posibilidad —seguíamos diciendo— de crear en nuestro país un gran partido revolucionario de la clase obrera, no sólo por los esfuerzos directos del PCM, sino por la contribución que a esta tarea prestan otros partidos y organizaciones socialistas. Esta es la idea que se elaboró en los plenos del Comité Central de abril y mayo de 1977. La introducción de este elemento en el conjunto de nuestras elaboraciones exige de todos nosotros una visión clara de las condiciones en que puede extenderse la influencia del socialismo entre la clase obrera de nuestro país, gran firmeza en los principios y flexibilidad para hacer posible esta aspiración (AMV: *Crisis política y Alternativa Comunista*. México, 1979. Pp. 128-129).

Esta particularidad del desarrollo del socialismo marxista en México como corriente política se traduce en la dificultad para integrar un centro unificador, con la autoridad y la capacidad necesaria para superar la dispersión que caracteriza al movimiento obrero espontáneo, y que es la función principal del partido político de la clase obrera.

Lombardo, Escisiones y Otros Avatares

El fenómeno de la dispersión comenzó a configurarse con toda precisión a principios del año 1935, cuando la Internacional Comunista reconoció en Vicente Lombardo Toledano al portador de una corriente marxista paralela al Partido Comunista Mexicano y comenzó a considerarlo algo así como un "comunista sin carnet". Y aunque se trataba en realidad de un "marxista legal", en el sentido de que propugnaba como tarea política de los obreros el apoyo al desarrollo del capitalismo nacional y de 1935 a 1947 se mantenía en los marcos del partido oficial, aquella caracterización inhibió la crítica de sus posiciones teóricas y políticas y lo mantuvo en la posición de una especie de árbitro que reunía bajo su manto a todos los que entraban en conflicto con el Partido Comunista, así se tratara de connotados renegados o de exponentes de las variedades más notorias de liberalismo y el nacionalismo burgueses.

A este fenómeno se agregó, a partir del Congreso Extraordinario del PCM de 1940, la división de los comunistas. Las arbitrariedades e injustificadas expulsiones de la mayoría de los cuadros dirigentes del PCM en aquel congreso y las sucesivas escisiones de 1943 y 1947-1948, que dieron origen a la formación del Partido Obrero-Campesino Mexicano en 1950, materializaron la escisión de los comunistas en dos partidos.

La lucha interna que se desarrolló en el PCM de 1957 a 1960 tenía como uno de sus principales temas a debate, el de la unidad de los comunistas, cuestión que se resolvió en víspera del XIII Congreso Nacional del PCM con el acuerdo que permitió la incorporación de una parte de los militantes del POCM al seno del PCM, y la decisión de otra parte de integrarse al PPS.

Otros Hitos del Socialismo

A partir de la Revolución cubana y del ascenso del movimiento



revolucionario en América Latina durante la primera mitad de los años sesenta, aparecieron nuevas tendencias y agrupamientos que se acercaban al socialismo desde posiciones distintas a las que habían sostenido las primeras organizaciones de los comunistas mexicanos.

Otro impulso a la incorporación de nuevos luchadores al marxismo surgió de los agrupamientos guerrilleros de la década de los sesenta y del movimiento estudiantil y popular de 1968, que lanzaron a la lucha política a nuevas generaciones de revolucionarios en la búsqueda de alternativas capaces de hacer avanzar la transformación radical de la sociedad mexicana.

La dificultad por integrar a los revolucionarios marxistas en una organización política capaz de contribuir a la lucha de los obreros y de las masas trabajadoras contra el capitalismo y todo lo que constituye un sostén del régimen existente, es una de las causas de las prolongadas disputas, conflictos, escisiones en los que este sector de la izquierda volvió a partir de 1940.

alrededor de una causa común bien determinada. Por ello hemos repetido que el PCM no es para nosotros un fin en sí mismo, sino un instrumento para la acción de todos los explotados y oprimidos.

Por eso es que, al decidirse por esta fusión, el Partido Comunista Mexicano no marcha hacia su desaparición, como algunos han anunciado, sino que continúa la lucha por la misma causa a la que se entregaron durante más de sesenta años distintas generaciones de comunistas: la causa de la construcción de un gran partido revolucionario de la clase obrera mexicana.

Sólo que ahora esta tarea histórica entra a una nueva fase cualitativamente distinta de la anterior, ya que al unirse los esfuerzos, los vínculos con las masas, los cuadros dirigentes y el caudal de experiencias, el partido de los socialistas revolucionarios adquiere una fuerza inmediata y una potencialidad que no ha tenido en ninguno de los momentos anteriores el partido obrero en México.

Lo que decimos del Partido Comunista lo decimos también de los demás partidos y organizaciones que se integran. Ninguno desaparecerá en aras de otro, pues todos continuarán la lucha por los objetivos que se trazaron, en mejores condiciones, en unidad con revolucionarios que hacen también su aporte a la causa común de la emancipación de los trabajadores.

Pero el partido unificado no será la simple prolongación de los partidos y organizaciones que lo constituyen, sino un desarrollo de éstos. Al mismo tiempo que recogen lo mejor de la tradición de la lucha obrera y popular de nuestro país y de sus organizaciones políticas, así como la experiencia de la lucha por el socialismo en el mundo y, particularmente, en América Latina, el partido unificado tendrá que realizar un esfuerzo creativo para instaurar nuevos métodos de trabajo político y organizativo, formas eficaces de vinculación con la clase obrera y las masas trabajadoras, estilos renovados para ejercer influencia en la actividad política, social y cultural del país y, en primer lugar, para consolidar los vínculos internos entre militantes acostumbrados a métodos y prácticas distintas, que durante un tiempo reflejarán en su labor las particularidades de su formación teórica y política.

Rasgos del Partido Obrero

En la declaración del 15 de agosto se afirma que la base fundamental "del surgimiento de un nuevo partido revolucionario se encuentra en la coincidencia de principios y de objetivos que durante varios años han manifestado" las organizaciones que se fusionan.

"Sin negar la importancia del movimiento espontáneo de los trabajadores —dice la declaración en otra parte—, estamos persuadidos de que la organización sistemática y coherente de carácter político y la militancia partidista son elementos insustituibles para alcanzar la plena emancipación social y nacional, para el presente y el futuro de las luchas democráticas y revolucionarias de los obreros y de todo el pueblo".

La cuestión de la naturaleza y el tipo de partido que surgirá de la unidad ha sido el tema que mayor discusión mereció entre los dirigentes de las organizaciones, antes y después de la declaración.

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Un Solo Caudal Revolucionario

La propuesta de unir en un solo partido a seis organizaciones de distinta trayectoria y experiencia, pero con similares objetivos y concepciones teóricas, es el intento más importante que se ha realizado hasta hoy para unificar los esfuerzos, coordinar las acciones, formular una política común, de quienes trabajan prácticamente por construir un partido revolucionario de la clase obrera, capaz de dar coherencia y perspectiva revolucionaria a la lucha que por sí mismos desarrollan los obreros y otras clases y capas sociales que tienen capacidad para contribuir a la transformación radical del actual orden de cosas.

El Comité Central considera válida y aceptable la propuesta de fusionar nuestras organizaciones en un solo partido porque su contenido corresponde a la tarea y los objetivos por los que se ha organizado el Partido Comunista: crear un gran partido obrero revolucionario, que haga su contribución al desarrollo de la conciencia de clase de los obreros, a su lucha contra la burguesía, a la revolución socialista y a la construcción de una sociedad sin explotados ni explotadores; unir en un solo caudal revolucionario la lucha de los campesinos por la tierra, el crédito y la ayuda técnica del estado, el movimiento antimperialista y la aspiración de grandes masas a la democracia política y social.

Nuevo Partido, Nuevos Métodos

Los comunistas no nos organizamos en partido en aras de un fin particular distinto al de los obreros y oprimidos por el capital; no nos hemos unido en torno de unas u otras personas, sino





ración del 15 de agosto. Este es un problema que reviste la mayor importancia no sólo para los comunistas, sino para todos los partidos y organizaciones que discuten su unidad y también para el movimiento revolucionario y democrático general.

En los proyectos de documentos fundamentales que, una vez aprobados, serán la base de la actividad del partido, se definen sus principales rasgos característicos; este será un partido obrero y popular; un partido para la revolución que aborda la lucha por reformas como un componente necesario de su lucha revolucionaria; un partido que tiene al socialismo científico como su base teórica; democrático, desde el punto de vista de su funcionamiento; organizado para la acción, internacionalista, independiente de la burguesía y de cualquier centro de dirección internacional; partido de masas y no secta doctrinaria.

A partir de la tesis marxista acerca de que la emancipación de los obreros tiene que ser obra de los obreros mismos, en el proyecto de *Declaración de Principios* se concluye que la misión del partido consiste en contribuir a la lucha de clase de los obreros y demás trabajadores asalariados, participando en su organización y señalando las tareas y los objetivos de la lucha.

"El objetivo que guía la lucha del partido —se dice— es la transformación revolucionaria del capitalismo en socialismo, la abolición de la explotación basada en el trabajo asalariado, y de toda forma de opresión. Se esfuerza por establecer una relación de continuidad entre los aportes de las revoluciones mexicanas del pasado y la teoría que expresa las condiciones de la emancipación de los obreros de toda explotación: el socialismo científico, cuyas bases fueron descubiertas por C. Marx y F. Engels y desarrolladas por V.I. Lenin y otros dirigentes y teóricos del movimiento obrero internacional. Esta es una teoría crítica y revolucionaria y no una concepción acabada e inmutable; es una guía para la acción, que se enriquece constantemente con los cambios que transcurren en la vida de la sociedad y con la experiencia de la lucha de clases".

En este sentido, la unificación en la que trabajamos es un paso de singular importancia en la superación de las sectas doctrinarias y de todo espíritu sectario, que han estado presentes durante largos años en el movimiento socialista de nuestro país, como una de las expresiones de su atraso teórico y político. Las pretensiones de ortodoxia dogmática y de supremacía doctrinaria, que Marx y Engels consideraban uno de los vicios iniciales del movimiento socialista, tienden a pasar a un lugar secundario cuando avanzan la comunidad de acción y de política, aunque se mantenga la diversidad de puntos de vista.

Deslinde con la Revolución Mexicana

En el proyecto de *Declaración de Principios* se parte de la conclusión de que en México ha terminado el ciclo de las revo-

luciones burguesas, que el capitalismo domina plenamente en la ciudad y en el campo y que la fase de su desarrollo es la del dominio de los monopolios y del capital financiero. En consecuencia, ante el país se plantea una nueva revolución, de carácter socialista, que debe destruir la máquina estatal del estado burgués, para dar paso a un poder obrero democrático, como forma de una nueva dominación de clase.

Esta definición de las tareas revolucionarias es un deslinde con la vieja ideología de la Revolución Mexicana y plantea un enfoque nuevo de las tareas antimperialistas y democráticas que siguen teniendo un peso importante en el programa revolucionario actual, pero que se engarzan directamente con el objetivo socialista.

De estas conclusiones debe derivarse la conducta política, la táctica del nuevo partido frente al estado mexicano, los gobiernos priistas y las distintas capas de la burguesía y la pequeña burguesía. El reconocimiento de la necesidad de la revolución socialista, y de la lucha por acercarla, significa también poner en el centro de la concepción del partido y de su práctica la cuestión de la hegemonía de la clase obrera, que es fundamentalmente una cuestión política práctica, así como la lucha por la independencia de clase de los sindicatos y la democratización de su vida interna.

El Poder Obrero Democrático

En el estado actual de su redacción, los proyectos de documentos del nuevo partido atribuyen una importancia fundamental a la lucha por la democracia en todos los órdenes, como un ele-

Los procedimientos para designar al sucesor del presidente López Portillo quedan ahí como la expresión más acabada del despotismo presidencial.

mento fundamental de la batalla por el socialismo y como una cualidad indispensable del nuevo régimen económico-social. El proyecto de *Programa de Acción* expone de manera detallada las reivindicaciones democráticas fundamentales dirigidas a una profunda transformación del régimen político actual, cuyo motor debe ser la movilización directa de las masas.

Aunque todavía no se redacta el documento sobre táctica que debe constituir la base del informe político a la Asamblea Nacional de Unificación, tanto en la declaración del 15 de agosto como en la *Declaración de Principios* se establecen lineamientos

fundamentales para una táctica actual, como la independencia del nuevo partido respecto del gobierno y el partido oficial y la actitud de oposición a su política, la necesidad de la lucha por la más amplia unidad de las fuerzas de la izquierda, la determinación de otorgar la mayor importancia al impulso del movimiento de las masas y la formación de una fuerza política de alternativa al gobierno y al sistema.

"La organización política revolucionaria de la clase obrera, el movimiento autónomo de las masas y la alianza de las fuerzas democráticas y de izquierda —se dice en el proyecto de declaración programática— constituyen en su conjunto las bases que permitirán la formación y el desarrollo de la fuerza política de alternativa, capaz de derrocar a la burguesía e instaurar, por medio de la revolución socialista, el poder obrero-democrático".

En los proyectos se estipulan también los rasgos definitorios del nuevo partido y algunas de sus particularidades fundamentales. Se parte del reconocimiento de que el nuevo partido es la fusión de diversas corrientes del movimiento revolucionario obrero y popular de México, pero no se considera una simple continuidad de los partidos que le dieron origen, sino una superación hacia un partido de nuevo tipo, cuya vida interior se regirá por la más amplia democracia, la plena libertad de opinión y de crítica y la iniciativa de sus militantes y organizaciones, enmarcadas en una firme unidad de acción.

Aspectos Organizativos del Partido Unificado

Si tomamos en cuenta la diversidad de experiencias organizativas que se reunirán en el partido unificado sobre una base común que lo define como partido obrero revolucionario, marxista, democrático y de masas, necesitamos todos hacer un esfuerzo para precisar aquellos rasgos nuevos en los que tiene que expresarse un desarrollo de la experiencia anterior, que corresponda a las exigencias actuales de la lucha revolucionaria y especialmente a la necesidad de fundir al partido con el movimiento de masas.

En este sentido, debemos tomar en cuenta tanto los esfuerzos que viene realizando el Partido Comunista durante los últimos años para establecer una acertada relación entre el carácter organizado del partido y la amplitud de sus filas, como los aportes que los otros partidos han hecho en materia de organización. Debemos recoger la preocupación por dar una atención muy destacada a los problemas de la construcción organizativa del partido, por hacer más sencilla la organización de base y más simplificada la estructura de los órganos dirigentes.

El desarrollo de una fuerza política de opción y alternativa, dotada de la confianza de las grandes masas, es una tarea sumamente compleja. Es necesario que el partido realice una práctica política que lo haga partícipe de las acciones espontáneas de los trabajadores, lo cual requiere una estructura organizativa y unos métodos que respondan a esta necesidad.

Las organizaciones del partido deben poseer características que faciliten la incorporación continua de nuevos miembros a la lucha organizada y ser capaces de asimilar el estado de ánimo y las formas de lucha de los trabajadores. Deben organizar su actividad a partir de las cualidades y la capacidad de sus miembros y saber conjugar el esfuerzo de todos y la diversidad de posiciones, cuya síntesis los convertirá en fuerza organizada para la acción política.

Principios de Dirección

La estructura de los órganos dirigentes nacionales y locales es otra cuestión que requiere un estudio detenido que ponga en juego la experiencia positiva y negativa que cada partido ha acumulado.

No pretendemos trasladar al partido unificado las formas tradicionales establecidas por el PCM para estructurar sus órganos dirigentes, ni tampoco las que otros partidos practican.

Creemos que sobre las bases de unas normas generales —dirección única, colectiva, electa por los miembros del partido en los congresos respectivos, revocabilidad de los dirigentes, obligación de rendir cuentas, etc.— se pueden poner en práctica inicialmente formas que integren las distintas experiencias, hasta que el mismo partido unificado elija las formas que mejor se adapten a la nueva situación.

Sobre la base de que todos estamos de acuerdo en que el miembro del partido no es un simple adherente, sino que forma parte de una organización, ayuda materialmente al partido y participa en la elaboración de su política, que el partido se rige por el principio del centralismo democrático y establece las formas democráticas de relación entre los miembros, las organizaciones de base e intermedias y los órganos dirigentes nacionales; la estructura de éstos puede hacerse más sencilla de la que actualmente mantiene el PCM.

La adopción del centralismo-democrático como principio rector de la vida interna del nuevo partido, si bien no resuelve de antemano los problemas que pueden surgir en una organización integrada, sienta las bases que permiten la unidad de acción de todos los militantes, ya que asegura la adopción de acuerdos y resoluciones por la mayoría y en forma democrática.

El centralismo democrático establece la subordinación de la minoría a la mayoría, la elegibilidad y revocabilidad de todos los dirigentes, el congreso nacional como la máxima autoridad del partido, la subordinación de los organismos inferiores a los superiores, la libertad de crítica y los derechos de la minoría claramente definidos, la libertad de opinión y discusión en todos los niveles y asuntos del partido; todo esto garantiza la capacidad de acción del partido y una vida democrática plena.



Las Corrientes de Opinión Internas

En los proyectos de documentos, las organizaciones que se fusionan reconocen expresamente los derechos de la minoría, como parte del funcionamiento democrático del partido. En este sentido, consideramos que debe tomarse en cuenta la experiencia del PCM y las elaboraciones de su último congreso, que en torno a la cuestión de la minoría y las corrientes, formuló en sus resoluciones estas conclusiones derivadas de una experiencia de muchos años:

"Quiénes han sostenido posiciones minoritarias en una u otra discusión deben tener el derecho de mantener sus puntos de vista, de divulgarlos y de exigir que se voten nuevamente. Eso no significa, sin embargo, que tales miembros del partido tengan el derecho de constituir agrupamientos permanentes con disciplina propia, pues la existencia de divergencias no deja de lado las normas que establecen la subordinación de la minoría a la mayoría y aseguran la unidad de acción de todos los militantes comunistas.

"Las corrientes de opinión surgen naturalmente en el PCM y expresan enfoques teóricos generales; son necesarias para el desarrollo del partido, pero su existencia no puede estar sujeta a normas, pues ello significaría reglamentar la teoría y las convergencias teóricas. Esas corrientes no constituyen agrupamientos ni minorías" (...), han sido y son expresiones de posiciones teóricas que existen en el marxismo y en el movimiento comunista y obrero internacional.

Ubicación de las Divergencias

Repetidamente hemos declarado que no nos proponemos integrar una federación ni un partido de bloques, sino un partido unido por su ideología, su política y sus métodos de organización, lo cual supone un esfuerzo persistente y quizás prolongado para identificar nuestras posiciones fundamentales, aunque se mantenga diversidad en los detalles.

Esto es posible porque no nos integramos con militantes formados en ideologías contrapuestas. Lo que sucede es que al marchar separadamente, cada organización ha acentuado uno u



sobre distintos problemas abiertos y en debate.

La discusión de estas cuestiones en el nuevo partido será una de las fuentes de su unidad ideológica y política y, precisamente, por ello es indispensable la prohibición de las tendencias organizadas y la garantía de la libertad de opinión y debate.

El Internacionalismo

Una de las características fundamentales del nuevo partido será su consecuente posición internacionalista, refrendada por una práctica larga de solidaridad activa con todos los pueblos que luchan por su independencia y por transformaciones sociales avanzadas. Comprendemos que la causa del socialismo es

conformar la teoría de la revolución en la actualidad y, por lo tanto, debemos abordar ese estudio con espíritu independiente y crítico.

Los Primeros Pasos de la Fusión Orgánica

La magnitud de la tarea unitaria que nos hemos planteado trae consigo también grandes dificultades y problemas que no debemos soslayar. Unas se refieren a la solución de las cuestiones más inmediatas a las que debemos hacer frente después de que el presente congreso y las asambleas nacionales de las otras cinco organizaciones definan su posición ante la propuesta que se publicó el 15 de agosto pasado. Son las cuestiones relativas al momento inicial de la unificación, a los plazos entre ésta y el primer congreso del nuevo partido, que incluyen lo relativo al nombre de la organización a los documentos que constituyen la base de la unidad, al tipo de dirección que se integrará entre la Asamblea Nacional de Unificación y el primer congreso, así como a las formas de participación en la campaña electoral próxima.

Para el comité central resulta claro que el momento en que fue planteada la propuesta de las cinco organizaciones a sus bases, cuando estaba de por medio la participación en la campaña electoral y la decisión de la asamblea nacional del PMT de no dar ningún paso en materia electoral hasta que no se hubiera resuelto la cuestión de la unidad orgánica, obligaba a todas las organizaciones a encontrar fórmulas adecuadas para alcanzar la unificación y al mismo tiempo organizar la participación oportuna en la campaña electoral. Esto precipitaba algunos aspectos de la fusión que todos hubiéramos preferido resolver con mayor tiempo.

Propuestas para la Representación

Cuando abordamos estos problemas en el comité central consideramos que debíamos hacerles frente con el ánimo de encontrarles una solución que tomara en cuenta las necesidades de todos los partidos, aunque tuviéramos que resolver a marchas

La Revolución cubana propició nuevas tendencias y agrupamientos que se acercaban al socialismo; igual impulso representaron los movimientos guerrilleros de los años sesenta y el movimiento estudiantil y popular de 1968

otro aspecto de la lucha, una u otra práctica de acción, uno u otro matiz de la teoría y el programa, uno u otro enfoque de la realidad. Seguramente existen diferencias teóricas y de táctica, pero no son de aquellas que nos impidan integrarnos en una sola organización, como no le han impedido al Partido Comunista avanzar y desarrollarse en las divergencias que se manifiestan en el debate entre nosotros.

Creo más bien que la experiencia de trabajo y la elaboración programática que han hecho algunas de las organizaciones que discuten su integración, llevarán al partido a cubrir algunos flancos en que ha existido debilidad o que en parte se abandonaron por la agudeza de la polémica contra los vicios oportunistas de sectores bien caracterizados de la izquierda.

Rescate de la Tradición para el Socialismo

Si el nuevo partido integra plenamente a sus concepciones y a su práctica política el valor de la lucha nacional, la importancia de las reivindicaciones democráticas generales, la tradición antimperialista de nuestro pueblo, la defensa de los intereses de las masas campesinas y de las capas llamadas marginales, si asume en toda su dimensión las mejores tradiciones populares y toma en sus manos la herencia popular y democrática de las revoluciones mexicanas del pasado, en particular la de 1910-1917, de la lucha por la nacionalización del petróleo y la reforma agraria campesina, no para quedarse en los años treinta, sino para actualizarlas y renovarlas y todo esto se coloca en la perspectiva del socialismo y en un proyecto que coloca al trabajo entre la clase obrera como la tarea fundamental del presente y del futuro, el nuevo partido se enriquecerá y podrá desempeñar su papel revolucionario en mejores condiciones que ninguna otra organización del pasado y el presente.

Es claro que esto requiere desplegar la lucha teórica contra todas las variedades de la ideología burguesa y pequeño-burguesa, para que se afiancen entre las masas las concepciones marxistas

una tarea de los obreros de todos los países, a la que los revolucionarios de cada nación hacen su aporte realizando el máximo de los esfuerzos por organizar su propia revolución nacional.

Las seis organizaciones han mostrado en su práctica política que reconocen el significado internacional de la revolución socialista de octubre en Rusia y el papel que desempeñan en la actualidad tanto la Unión Soviética como los estados que construyen el socialismo en Europa, Asia, África y América Latina.

Desde el triunfo de la Revolución cubana consideraron que uno de los deberes fundamentales de los pueblos latinoamericanos consiste en defender a la Cuba socialista de los embates de la reacción y el imperialismo. Junto a otras organizaciones, las que constituirán el nuevo partido se movilizaron en solidaridad con Vietnam y con la Nicaragua combatiente, lo mismo que hoy lo hacen por la victoria de la revolución salvadoreña y por la libertad de todos los pueblos centroamericanos.

El partido unificado no será la simple prolongación de los partidos y organizaciones que lo constituyen, sino un desarrollo de éstos

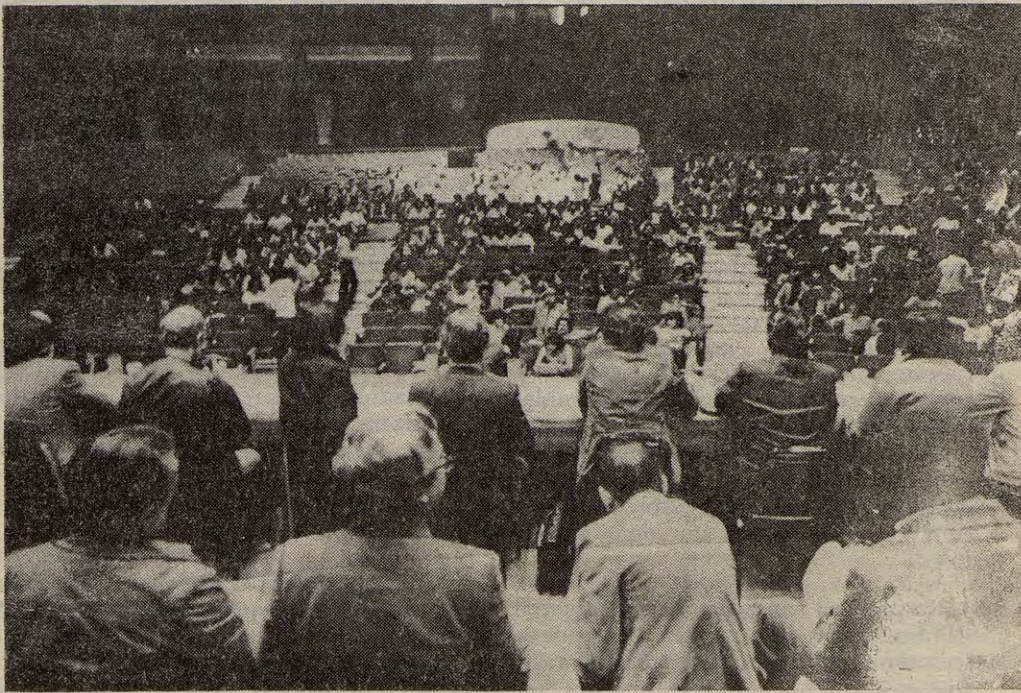
En sus relaciones internacionales, el nuevo partido mantendrá una posición de absoluta independencia; surge como un partido que no reconoce centros mundiales de dirección política ni metrópolis ideológicas. Sus relaciones con los partidos comunistas, socialistas, antimperialistas y democráticos de otros países deberán guiarse por el respeto mutuo, la solidaridad, la igualdad y, cuando sea necesario, la crítica mutua y fraternal.

El estudio de la experiencia de otras revoluciones, el examen objetivo de la construcción de la nueva sociedad en diversas regiones del mundo, son elementos importantes que contribuyen a

forzadas cuestiones que requieren normalmente de un tiempo mayor para su debida preparación. A esto obedecen las propuestas que formularon las direcciones de los cinco partidos en el documento sobre medidas y procedimientos para la unificación que se firmó el 29 de septiembre pasado.

Este documento propone realizar la Asamblea Nacional de Unificación los días 5 y 6 de noviembre y, a continuación, el 7 del mismo mes, la Asamblea Electoral Nacional con los mismos delegados.

→ 10



Progresivamente se allana el camino de la unidad orgánica de los agrupamientos de izquierda de mayor peso político y significación en el país, al aprobar sus militantes, de manera unánime y entusiasta, la propuesta de fusión que el 15 de agosto de este año hicieron las direcciones de los 5 partidos: PCM, PMT, PPM, PSR y MAUS, a los que más tarde se unió el MAP.

Este fin de semana tuvieron lugar varios congresos y asambleas nacionales; en ellas los delegados y dirigentes aprobaron el proceso que ahora se profundiza. Falta

solamente efectuar la Asamblea de Unificación, proyectada para la primera semana de noviembre y de ahí, en unos cuantos meses más, se marchará hacia el primer congreso del partido unificado, el cual, aunque no tiene nombre todavía, ya provoca malestar a las fuerzas de la derecha y resquemores en el gobierno.

Oposición presenta a continuación una breve reseña de los principales acuerdos de esas organizaciones en sus recientes congresos o a través de los pronunciamientos de sus dirigentes.

PPM

Adiós al pequeño tractor



Reunidos en el Cine Versailles del DF, los delegados del Partido del Pueblo Mexicano dieron principio, el pasado viernes 16, a su primer congreso que sería el último en la corta existencia de la organización que, según palabras de su secretario general, Alejandro Gascón Mercado, "desaparece para resurgir en un gran partido revolucionario".

Planteado desde el primer día el asunto de la fusión, fue el tema que condicionó todas las intervenciones de los oradores que, a lo largo de los tres días de sesiones, se sucedieron en la tribuna y, como era de esperarse, ni uno solo de ellos, habló en contra de la unidad.

Durante las intervenciones, varios congresistas se refirieron a la aportación del PCM en este proceso unitario, organización de la cual opinaron "había sido el eje de la unidad", sin dejar de reconocer también el mérito de las otras agrupaciones que se fusionan.

Al discutir los proyectos de documentos centrales (Declaración de Principios, Programa de Acción y Estatutos, que las direcciones de los partidos presentan para la discusión), se mencionaron algunas debilidades de los proyectos, sobre todo, se dijo, en lo referente al centralismo democrático que no está precisado con fuerza en la Declaración de Principios y requiere de ciertas puntualizaciones.

En cuanto al término poder obrero democrático, el congreso se orientó por retomar el de dictadura de proletariado y proponerlo para la discusión de la asamblea unificada que se realizará en noviembre. Se dijo también que en cuanto al nombre de la teoría que guiará los pasos del nuevo partido, éste debe ser el de marxismoleninismo, porque ese término a nadie que esté enterado de lo que representa asusta en absoluto. "Sin embargo, se afirmó, ninguno de estos planteamientos debe ser obstáculo para la fusión. Son sólo propuestas que de ninguna manera elevamos a la condición de principios en los que no podemos retroceder".

En lo general, todos los documentos fueron aprobados, dejando las precisiones para la discusión en la próxima Asamblea de todos los partidos.

En cuanto al nombre del nuevo partido, emblema, símbolos, colores y lema, no hay propuesta del PPM. Se autoriza a la dirección para que discuta libremente sin ataduras.

Respecto al candidato de la izquierda, el PPM se orienta por la precandidatura de los secretarios generales de los partidos que se fusionan, sin que haya compromisos con na-

die de ellos en lo particular "ni siquiera con nuestro dirigente".

La clausura de este primer congreso del PPM fue un momento sumamente emotivo, aunque como dijo Gascón Mercado, "nadie aquí va a llorarle a un pequeño tractor si estamos construyendo una poderosa maquinaria que abrirá paso a la resolución socialista".

MAUS

La crisis de la izquierda, superada

El acto inaugural de la IV Asamblea Nacional Ordinaria del Movimiento de Acción y Unidad Socialista tuvo la particularidad de recordar la militancia histórica que han tenido compañeros como Miguel Ángel Velasco, secretario general del movimiento, Alberto Lumberras y Carlos Sánchez Cárdenas, miembros, hasta ese momento, de la dirección nacional.

En un discurso de más de una hora, Velasco se refirió al Partido Comunista Mexicano: "después de vencer su crisis crónica, ha sido un factor decisivo para el éxito del proyecto unitario en que estamos empeñados". "La propia vida ha mostrado que la formación de un fuerte partido que se proponga luchas por el socialismo en nuestro país tiene que ser el resultado de la unidad de las más importantes organizaciones de izquierda."

Velasco, en otros párrafos, al referirse a algunas cuestiones pendientes de acuerdo con el PMT, comentó que los órganos de dirección de éste se parecen a los de una central obrera o un sindicato nacional, ya que han planteado que el congreso elija al

MAP

Ni un solo voto en contra

De hecho, todos los delegados a este primer congreso del Movimiento de Acción Popular (MAP), efectuado el sábado y domingo pasados, demostraron en sus intervenciones que se reafirma la tendencia a la unidad prevaleciente entre la izquierda revolucionaria de este país.

El compañero Rolando Cordera presentó el informe de la comisión política; el punto referente a la fusión con los otros 5 partidos mereció aprobación por unanimidad. Ni un solo voto en contra se vio y, por eso, no fue necesario tomar la votación. La fusión fue aprobada por aclamación.

Durante los trabajos fueron aprobadas varias propuestas que los compañeros presentarán a la discusión en la Asamblea de Unificación, sin que ello —afirmaron— se convierta en un obstáculo para la marcha de la unidad. Estamos dispuestos a discutir con el mejor de los ánimos unitarios, informaron.

Las propuestas que los compañeros hacen son las siguientes: nombre del nuevo partido: Partido Socialista Unificado y Partido Socialista Unificado Mexicano; emblema: la hoz y el martillo; colores: rojo y amarillo; lema: "por la liberación nacional, la democracia y el socialismo" (divisa actual del MAP).

En cuanto al candidato presidencial de la izquierda unificada, proponen una terna que está integrada por los compañeros Othón Salazar, Alejandro Gascón Mercado y Heberto Castillo.

La mayor parte de la discusión fue dedicada a examinar los proyectos de documen-



CONGRESO NACIONAL

tos básicos que están propuestos, los cuales, en principio, fueron aprobados en lo general para profundizar posteriormente en ellos.

"Más que ofrecer una posición alternativa —se dijo—, el MAP desea clarificar y enriquecer (los proyectos). Por ejemplo, —agregaron—, a nuestro juicio no está clara la relación entre el partido y los sindicatos y organizaciones sociales. Creemos que es necesario puntualizar aún más en el asunto."



comité central y a su comisión política, la cual no es concebida como un órgano de dirección colectiva, sino como un secretariado en el que las funciones de cada secretario están departamentalizadas. Al respecto, en la resolución de la IV Asamblea se propone que los congresos nacionales deben depositar su autoridad para la dirección política del partido en un comité central único, integrado por los camaradas más capaces, experimentados y necesarios, a lo largo del territorio nacional; este comité central debe nombrar una comisión política para la dirección del trabajo diario del partido, y un secretariado, incluido el secretario general."

Después de la asamblea, se comentó entre los asistentes que el documento de treinta cuartillas, leído por el secretario general del MAUS, es importante y rico políticamente; por esto, en la resolución se dijo que ofrece una base para la elaboración de un nuevo documento esencial en la vida del partido: el documento sobre táctica, que define la línea política, cuestión a la cual deben hacer frente las seis organizaciones, sin pérdida de tiempo.

Aunque se mencionaron nombres para candidato a la Presidencia de la República, se aprobó la idea de que, al respecto, el partido unificado debe basarse en el consenso de las seis organizaciones. Este mismo criterio se observó en cuanto al nombre, emblema y lema; además, se dijo que debe asegurarse en la medida de lo posible que el cambio de nombre no sea aprovechado por las autoridades para cerrar al Partido Comunista el camino para su acción legal.

En la clausura de la IV Asamblea Nacional del MAUS, se acordó una norma general para todos sus miembros: la de actuar con lealtad, apartarse de la persistencia de cualquier espíritu de grupo, integrarse al trato pleno de camaradas con sus nuevos compañeros de partido.

En la Asamblea Nacional del MAUS hubo representantes de otras organizaciones: Arnaldo Córdova, del MAP; Orlando Ortiz y Roberto Jaramillo, del PSR; Alejandro Gascón Mercado, el PPM; Jorge Esparza, Lino Medina y Ramón Sosamontes, del PCM.

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