

Socialists urge unity in anti-Bakke fight

By Peter Seidman

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance believe that the broadest possible unity is needed to defend affirmative action against the reactionary Supreme Court *Bakke* decision, say Maceo Dixon and Osborne Hart.

Dixon is a member of the SWP National Committee and Hart of the YSA National Committee. They are leaders of the socialists' activity in the Black liberation struggle.

Because of their commitment to united action, the socialists welcome recent statements by the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke

Decision and the Communist Party.

NCOBD National Staff Coordinator Melinda Paras stresses the need for unity in an article in the June 28 issue of the *Guardian*. Paras criticizes certain organizations—in particular, the Maoist I Wor Kuen and August 29 Movement—for attempting to build the anti-*Bakke* movement on a narrow, exclusionary basis.

"Those who are seriously concerned to win the struggle against a force as powerful as the U.S. Supreme Court," Paras says, "... know that we must bring every possible political ally into the movement in order to maximize its political impact."

She says that "NCOBD's organizing work has clearly been directed to the masses of workers and students, especially third world people and women."

But, Paras explains, "NCOBD is convinced that trade union officials, ministers, politicians, social service professionals, lawyers, and the like are an integral part of the united front as well."

Paras says that groups such as IWK and ATM "are terrified" by such forces "because they fear they

would lose leadership in the midst of such a broad front."

Paras also says that unity in the anti-*Bakke* movement must include those whom she calls "revisionists, Trotskyists and dogmatists." She specifically singles out the SWP and the Communist Party, USA, in this regard.

"While we clearly have political disagreements with Paras," says Dixon, "we agree with her that these differences should not be an obstacle to unity against the *Bakke* ruling."

In a statement published in the July 8 issue of the *Daily World*, the Communist Party also calls for united anti-*Bakke* actions. The CP urges the labor movement, community, and religious organizations to join the fight.

It also says, "student action should be organized on every campus to block retreats on affirmative action and instead to demand new advances."

"We Communists will join with all democratic-minded persons, irrespective of political views or affiliations, who are prepared to do battle in this epic struggle," the statement concludes.

Dixon and Hart explained that the

NCOBD organized the April 15 demonstration of 10,000 people in Washington, D.C., against the *Bakke* decision. And the CP and its affiliated Young Workers Liberation League played a major role in organizing some 4,000 young people in a national march for jobs a week earlier—also in Washington.

"The SWP and YSA supported both of those action," says Hart. "These new statements point the way to more such united activities this fall."

"Despite the confusing language used by the Supreme Court to cloak the real meaning of its July 6 *Bakke* decision," he explains, "the racist and sexist character of this ruling will become increasingly clear."

"As this happens, oppressed minorities and women will struggle to defend and extend the gains they have won through affirmative action against new blows from racist forces."

Dixon added, "United action by those already involved in anti-*Bakke* activities will make it easier to involve still more powerful forces from the labor movement, the Black, Chicano, and Puerto Rican communities, and the women's movement."



DIXON

HART