

the previous fall, were resorting to sneak attacks on Black families. Older people were steaming up neighborhood youths to do their dirty work for them.

On June 18, a gang of young racists attacked Black families living in the integrated Sumner and Maverick housing projects in East Boston. But the months of organizing by anti-racist forces coalesced around this issue. The East Boston People Against Racism (EBPAR) and the Center for United Labor Action were immediately able to mobilize friends, Black and white, to defend the homes under attack. As a guard continued to be mounted over the home that had been firebombed, the racist attack subsided.

Meanwhile, the Black community was tired of suffering harassment and violence whenever Black people tried to use the public facilities at Carson Beach. On August 10, 2,500 Black demonstrators went to the beach and fought off an even larger crowd of white racists gathered there.

After this struggle, the police moved into the Black community of Roxbury in great numbers, amounting to a police occupation. Militant demonstrations were held demanding the cops get out of the Black community.

The EBPAR group meanwhile had a confrontation with complacent officials at the HUD office, where they demanded that ROAR be evicted from its rent-free office space in federally subsidized housing.

DEFENDING BLACK HOMES

On August 25, EBPAR again moved to the defense of Black families in the Maverick housing project. After holding off a series of attacks by white gangs, eight members of the defending group were *arrested* (!) while meeting inside an apartment that had been firebombed. This confirmed more than ever the racist role of the supposedly impartial police.

When the schools opened in East Boston this September, EBPAR was there in organized groups of Black and white to welcome the Black families whose children were being bused into formerly all-white schools. The example set by this action had a great impact throughout the city, and there were far fewer incidents of racist violence this year than last.

There is still great confusion, particularly among white radicals, on the busing question. Many have taken to debating the merits of each particular busing plan, or even of condemning busing as a whole, instead of seeing that the issue is really racism, that the resistance to busing has been organized entirely on a racist basis, and that the most elementary defense of the rights of any oppressed people means allowing them access to all the same facilities as the dominant majority.

In Boston, however, because of the tremendous initiative taken last year with the historic December 14 March Against Racism, followed by the patient and