Join teachers for May 16 protest in North Carolina!

Teachers at April 26 news conference in Greensboro, North Carolina, announcing May 16 march and rally in Raleigh to demand better wages, work conditions and funds for schools.

**SWP books, “Militant” spark interest among working people**

BY DAN FEIN

When teachers and other school workers went on strike May 7 in Pueblo, Colorado, Walmart worker Helen Meyers and a team of other Socialist Workers Party members and supporters were there to join in solidarity and introduce the party, its paper the Militant and books by party leaders.

They got into a discussion at a noon-time rally with Tina Gurule, a school counselor, about the need to unify the working class and others in struggle to build a strong working-class movement to organize independently of the Democrats and Republicans, the parties of the bosses.

Gurule agreed. If the teachers could deepen their struggle alongside those fighting against police brutality, in defense of immigrants and the rights of women and gay people, “we can make a change,” she said. Gurule got a copy of Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? by SWP National Co-chair Diane Shur.

**Rulers’ disdain, anti-working-class attacks fuel protests in Puerto Rico**

BY SETH GALINSKY

Officials of the government-run electric company in Puerto Rico claim that 98 percent of the U.S. colony now has electricity, eight months after hurricanes Irma and Maria ravaged the island, and just a month before the next hurricane season begins. But almost nobody believes them, especially the tens of thousands still without power.

“We have entire towns in the center of the island still without light,” Mariner Castro told the Militant by phone May 7. Castro helped organize a demonstration April 30 attended by more than 1,500 people.

April 30 protest in Humacao. Second sign from the left says, “Being old is not a crime. Enough with the lies and deceit.” The sign next to it reads, “Lights for everyone, stop ignoring us.”

**US rulers, Tehran fight over sway in Middle East**

BY TERRY EVANS

Determined to protect U.S. imperialist interests in the Middle East, push back Iran’s growing military interventions and prevent Iran’s capitalist rulers from making more concessions, President Donald Trump May 8 withdrew the U.S. government from the 2015 nuclear deal signed by former President Barack Obama. That agreement also signed by the rulers in Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China — cased sanctions on Iran in exchange for curtailing its nuclear program through 2030.

Trump said Washington will impose sanctions and take other steps to press Tehran to make additional concessions. More punishing sanctions will sharpen the crisis facing Iran’s capitalist rulers and fall most harshly on working people.

Washington holds a vast nuclear arsenal. According to a White House statement, the president will “assemble a broad coalition of nations to deny Iran all paths to a nuclear weapon.” Businesses and banks that trade with Iranian companies will have up to 180 days to end these operations.

Government spokespeople in London, Berlin, Paris and Tehran all say they will keep the nuclear agreement by allowing Iran’s oil exports and other trade to continue while Tehran keeps restrictions on nuclear activity. The three European capitalist regimes say they will

**‘Join fight against Iowa attack on women’s right to choose abortion’**

BY LEA SHERMAN

More than 100 supporters of women’s right to choose abortion gathered at the state Capitol in Des Moines for an “Iowa Fights Back rally” May 4. They were protesting Gov. Kim Reynolds signing into law that day a so-called fetal heartbeat bill. The law would ban abortions so early in the pregnancy — at six weeks — that a woman might not even realize she was pregnant.

The fight for reproductive rights is “all of our fight,” Suzanna de Baca, president of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, told the rally, and “it’s on all of us to push against these attacks on our lives, our bodies ... our rights.”

The law requires doctors to give all women an ultrasound before performing an abortion. If any pulsation is detected, then an abortion cannot be performed. Any doctor who does perform the medical procedure could see their license revoked or charges filed by local prosecutors, though no penalties are set by the bill.

“The law is bad. Every woman has the right to make her own decision. Very young women get pregnant anyway,” de Baca said.

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Ukraine workers rally May Day in fight for wages, work safety
School workers in New Zealand rally for equal pay for women

Occupied by the rulers in Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China — cased sanctions on Iran in exchange for curtailing its nuclear program through 2030.
Grenfell Tower fire survivors demand housing, fire safety

BY PAULINE HARTFORD

LONDON — Marking 10 months since the Grenfell Tower fire, where 72 people were killed and hundreds left homeless, thousands of survivors and supporters marched here April 14. Every month survivors mobilize to de- mand government action. This was the biggest demonstration to date.

The Grenfell inferno was a disaster waiting to happen, prepared by the cal- lous indifference of government officials and the building’s owners and manage- ers. It was fed by cladding installed on the building’s exterior that was a known fire hazard. There was no sprinkler sys- tem in the tower and standard fire doors that failed to withstand the flames. A poignat moment at each march is when protesters turn in silence to view the still-standing charred remains of the tower, a monument to the rulers’ con- tempt for working people.

The survivors refuse to let the govern- ment’s announcement of a public inqui- ries into the causes of the fire shift atten- tion away from the need for action now. “We(route) to Parliament to get here. Thousands saw us and were filming us with our signs for Grenfell United. We helped spread the message!” he said. Speaking for the survivors’ organiza- tion Grenfell United, Aad Chauoi an- nounced they hope the next march May 14 will be on Parliament where a debate on the composition of the panel for the public inquiry is scheduled.

“We call ‘health and safety gone mad’ is wrapping a tower in a petro- chemical blanket,” Chauoi said. The government had deregulated building controls to permit use of flammable cladding. Solidarity actions took place in Liverpool, Bristol, Brighton, Thetan, Southampton and Scotland.

Of the 209 Grenfell households that needed rehousing, only 60 have moved into permanent homes. A further 68 have accepted offers, but are still in emergency housing. The Labour Party is cynically trying to evade responsibility for the disaster by making use of a leaked report that the spread of the fire was due to shoddy refurbishment work done by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

“The fact that the fire was in Kensing- ton and Chelsea, one of the richest boroughs in the country, highlights the real face of capitalism,” said Catharina Tirsen, Communist League candidate for Longsight in Manchester, who came to London to March. “But it could have happened anywhere. The last Labour government modelled over similar ac- cidents waiting to happen around the country. In no borough anywhere — Conservative or Labour — has there been a crash program of sprinkler in- stallation or flammable cladding remov- al following the fire.”

Over 300 other blocks have been identified as covered with dangerous cladding, according to the government. That includes 158 social housing blocks, 134 private sector buildings and 14 pub- lic buildings, including hospitals and schools.

Motorcyclists lead April 14 march in London demanding government action to house victims of Grenfell disaster 10 months after fire killed 72. Disaster was result of rulers’ contempt.

The Militant

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Continued from front page
Secretary Jack Barnes, along with a subscription to the Militant.

The strike in Pueblo is just the latest manifestation of the uprising of teachers and other school workers that is shaking up class politics in the U.S. — from Arizona to West Virginia. Kentucky, Colorado, North Carolina and elsewhere. It reflects the fact that the privileged rulers’ relentless attacks on working people, as they try to prop up profit rates on the backs of workers, is getting a response. And that generates greater interest in the SWP, its publications and the fund that generates greater interest in the workers, is getting a response. And Kentucky, Colorado, North Carolina — from Arizona to West Virginia, is a similar manifestation of the uprising of teachers to defend workers everywhere.

The subscription drive, now in its seventh week, is ahead of schedule, partly because of the response of workers to the teachers’ challenges. The Militant Fighting Fund is seeking to raise $112,000 for the ongoing publication of the paper. The party is appealing to “drain the swamp” of political scoundrels, “They’re all politicians in government. “They’re all liars,” Adam Bailey told SWP members.

Continued from page 2

on workers’ doors in New York. Bailey picked up a subscription.

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A Necessary Debate Among Working People

By Mary-Alice Waters

“It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System”

The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class

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To subscribe or purchase books at these prices, contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branches listed on page 8

These books just $5 each with a Militant subscription (trial offer for new readers: 12 weeks $5)

Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?

Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism

by Jack Barnes

The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record

Why Washington Fears Working People

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$7 EACH WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION

Militant subscription available to workers behind bars. Thus far, contacts and visits with over 15 librarians have been made, mainly in the vast system of state prisons in California. Pathfinder books have been featured in their twice yearly Shelfworthy sales promotion, which offers immediate shipment of titles from smaller publishers to retail bookstores. The wholesaler’s Shelfworthy web page includes 25 titles from Pathfinder, often with a picture of the cover and description of the book.

The spring sales effort began March 10 and runs through July 31. Volunteers are setting goals, with special attention to establishing new bookstore and library accounts in cities and towns throughout North America, making it easier for workers to get their hands on books that go to the heart of explaining politics today.
Teachers, school workers walk out in Pueblo contract struggle

BY HELEN MEYERS
PUEBLO, Colo. — “Get up! Get down! Pueblo is a union town,” chanted hundreds of people May 7 as they rallied outside the offices of Pueblo City Schools District 60, the first day of a strike by school workers here. “Education is a right! That’s why we have to fight!”

Teachers and other school personnel, as well as supporters from area unions and others, came to the noon rally from picket lines at schools and bus depots across the city. Reflecting the fact that Pueblo is an industrial city and many teachers come from a union background, a number wore “Union Town” buttons.

Two unions were on strike, the Pueblo Education Association and the Pueblo Paraprofessional Education Association. They have been without a contract since last August, but didn’t vote to strike until a couple weeks ago, clearly inspired by the rising movement of school workers across the country. Over 10,000 teachers and supporters rallied outside the state Capitol in Denver April 27, demanding more funding for schools. The last teacher strike in Colorado was in 1994.

Many workers here say it’s not just about getting a raise, it’s about respect and dignity and the dire conditions in the schools created by cuts made by the state government and local board. To save their jobs the school board voted that next year schools will go to a four-day week.

“I have to supply the paper, pencils, notebooks and much more to the students,” teacher Christine Hanson told Socialist Workers Party members who joined the strikers to bring solidarity. “The one-time 2 percent payment the board offered doesn’t cover these costs.” Other participants say both pensions and health insurance are at risk.

Area unions supported the rally, including the United Steelworkers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Laborers Local 5, National Association of Letter Carriers and SMART rail workers’ union. Pueblo is home to the USW-organized EVRAZ steel mill, the largest manufacturer of rail in North America. The mill, which dates back more than a century, was formerly run by Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, owned by the Rockefeller family. Company bosses there were responsible for the bloody Ludlow massacre of striking coal miners in 1914.

“Some people at different schools this morning to support the picket lines,” said Jerry Bellah, IBEW eighth district vice president. “We’ll raise money, open the union halls for their meetings if they need help, help with a food bank. We’ll support them as long as necessary.”

District officials had said there was no money to meet workers’ demands. But three days before the walkout they suddenly said they’d found money to offer teachers a one-time cash payment, a higher COLA and additional money toward health benefits. But union members said it was unacceptable and attempts by the board to pit teachers and paraprofessionals against each other just made them madder.

The unions set up a food distribution site from noon to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of a former Safeway grocery store. They arranged reduced-cost day care at First Presbyterian Church, so area workers could get to their jobs and know their kids would be cared for and fed. The Pueblo Zoo offered half-price admission, the YMCA had open swim, and all-day activities were offered in the city’s parks.

Raul Gonzalez and Leslie Dork contributed to this article.

Join North Carolina teachers for May 16 protest!

Continued from front page

in the May 8 Raleigh News & Observer — adding up the number of school districts that have announced they’ll be closed for the protest. District officials say they must balance school budgets and mark off to keep the schools open.

They are joining the tens of thousands of school teachers and supporters who have been active building the May 16 rally. “We’ve talked about how we need to talk to everybody — teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, everybody,” Skinner said that as they’ve been building the actions, workers have gotten more confidence and are beginning to broaden the discussion.

“You know, you’re in your classroom, fairly isolated and have little experience of collective strength,” she said. “Then you see this movement rolling across the country and what it has achieved. Discussions are shifting a bit now to what is most important and what it will actually take to win.”

North Carolina is one of the centers for manufacturing in the U.S., with substantial automotive and aerospace industries, as well as food processing, furniture manufacturing and tobacco. Goodyear and Bridgestone Tire companies, Smithfield Foods, Tyson Farms, Volvo, Caterpillar and dozens more have thousands of workers in the state. Of course Walmart is the largest employer.

Workers have been hit hard. Between 2004 and 2006 almost 39,000 workers lost their jobs as bosses searched for higher profits outsourced the jobs, devasting the state’s textile and furniture industries.

Workers are fed up with a lack of funding, a lack of workplace dignity, a lack of resources, the students," Todd Warren, a teacher and president of Guilford County Association of Educators, the main teachers union, told the media May 7.

The union presented its demands and publicized the action at a press conference here April 26, attended by teachers, parents and supporters. They also called for relief for schools that were severely damaged, along with many homes, when a tornado ripped through the eastern part of Greensboro 11 days earlier. They said the damage to the schools could have been prevented if the buildings had been maintained and renovated.

“We celebrated today when Guilford announced it would close,” Susan Skinner, who teaches at Swann Middle School here, told the Militant May 7. She is a member of the union and has been active building the May 16 rally. “We’ve talked about how we need to talk to everybody — teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, everybody.”

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Workers have been hit hard. Between 2004 and 2006 almost 39,000 workers lost their jobs as bosses searched for higher profits outsourced the jobs, devasting the state’s textile and furniture industries.
Ukraine workers rally May Day in fight for wages, work safety

In a rebirth of May Day in Ukraine, iron ore miners, steelworkers and their supporters marched and rallied May 1 in Kryvyi Rih, one of the main industrial centers in the country. The action was organized by the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NPGU), and its affiliates at the Sakhal Bakhia and Kryvyi Rih Iron Ore Combine mines and the giant ArcelorMittal steel works. These unions have grown in the last couple of years through successful fights against boss attacks. Yuri Samoilov, citywide head of the NPGU, led the demonstration.

“It’s very important for us to unite,” Samoilov told the rally. “I do believe in solidarity among workers in Kryvyi Rih, as well as in Ukraine and the whole world.” The action attracted members from a wide variety of unions.

The members of the union at the ArcelorMittal steel plant, which employs more than 20,000 workers, were a prominent contingent. They marched for safe working conditions, pay raises and job protection.

“Every one of us has the right to decent jobs and salaries,” Mykola Moria- kov, chairman of the NPGU at ArcelorMittal, told the rally. “And a right to work in safe conditions.”

Negotiations on a new union contract should have started last year, but Arcel- lorMittal bosses have refused to bargain. The May Day rally was part of a series of actions by the unions to put pressure on the company, the largest steel producer in the world.

In mid-March workers mobilized to promote their demands — raise monthly wages to 1,000 euros ($1,200); put all mill buildings, structures, equipment and work rules under examination to enforce safety and sanitary conditions; stop cutting workers and outsourcing jobs; and for the company to cease attacks against union members.

May 24, 1943

The growing gap between the great mass of the CIO workers and their top officials has been demonstrated in their contrasting attitudes toward the miners’ fight. The workers are for the miners.

The attitude was shown in the two big conferences of the United Auto Workers — the May 1-2 conference in Detroit of 1,000 delegates representing 350,000 Michigan members, and the May 6 conference in New York of 1,000 delegates representing all the eastern locals. Realizing the overwhelming majorities — only a handful of Stalinists in each case were the main opposition from the floor — adopted resolutions for all-out support of the miners’ fight. Moreover, this was voted against the opposition of the entire UAW executive board!

Workers march on May Day in Kryvyi Rih, a major industrial center in Ukraine, in fight for pay raise, safe working conditions and new union contract at ArcelorMittal steel plant there.

Technicians and nurses aides — went on a three-day strike beginning May 7. These members of American Fed- eration of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2399 were joined for the next two days by solidarity actions of 14,000 members of the California Nurses Association who work at the university’s medical centers and stu- dent clinics, and 15,000 members of the University Professional and Technical Employees, who work as pharmacists, social workers, physical therapists, phy- sician assistants and researchers.

Union leaders and state college boss- es failed to reach agreement last year and mediation efforts have since failed. Low wages, health care premiums, pensi- ons and job outsourcing are some of the main issues.

Workers were particularly upset when the union published a study in April based on university’s statistics that had not been public that showed a growing gap between pay for administrators and workers. It also showed that work- ers who were Black, Latino and female were paid less for comparable jobs.

Union members voted by 97 percent to strike. University officials then im- posed their rejected contract on workers.

— Carole Lesnick

School workers in New Zealand rally for equal pay for women

AUCKLAND, New Zealand

More than 200 early childhood teachers, school support workers, teacher aides, school administrators and their families and supporters joined a “Fair’s Fair” ral- ly here May 5 for equal pay for women.

The action, part of protests nationwide, demanded the Labour Party-led govern- ment implement its pre-election promise to close the gap in pay between male and female workers. Despite laws on equal pay dating back to 1972, women are still paid 84 percent less than men, with no real change in that gap for over a decade.

“Join the union. Pay the Sisters the Same as the Misters,” read one particip- ant’s T-shirt.

The action was organized by NZEI Te Riu Roa — the New Zealand Edu- cational Institute — a union that rep- resents some 50,000 teachers, support staff and principals.

“I represent the large army of admin- istrative workers, mostly women, who are often invisible,” the union’s Julie- Anne Roberts told the rally. “It’s time that we were recognized and paid for the skills we bring.” Members of the Primary Teachers’ Association and Maritime Union of New Zealand joined the protest.

Many workers also turned out to pro- test low pay rates. One school support worker said that even those in the top pay grade earn less than 20 New Zea- land dollars an hour ($41).

Others said they had to cope with overcrowded classrooms and heavy workloads. “As a teacher I’m not happy dealing with the problems of a society that’s not working,” Cheryl, an early childhood teacher, told the Militant.

A number of participants had read about the strikes and rallies by school workers in the United States on the in- ternet, and were eager to get the chance to learn more about them. Three people signed up for subscriptions.

— Felicity Coggan

May 22, 1943

The giant demonstration of 1,000,000 workers, students and teach- ers in Paris May 13 has touched off a political crisis in France that may well result in the ousting of the end for the de Gaulle regime.

The sudden turn in the political situa- tion in France has incalculable conse- quences not only for all of Europe, including the East European countries and the Soviet Union. By rallying to the side of the beleaguered students and advancing their own demands, the French work- ers have given new impetus to the stu- dent movement throughout the world. It has been shown in life how it is pos- sible to bring into action the mightiest of all social forces, the working class and despite the restraining influ- ence of an ossified labor bureaucracy.

University of California workers march in Los Angeles May 8, part of statewide strike.

University of California workers strike three days for contract

Some 25,000 nonteaching workers at the statewide University of California system — custodians, groundkeepers, food service workers, truck drivers, lab
BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Havana — “Did the 2016 elec-
toral victory of Donald Trump regist-
er a racism, xenophobia, misogyny and
every other form of reaction among
working people in the United States?”
Is that why tens of millions of workers
voted for him?

That question was posed by Mary-
Alice Waters, a leader of the Socialist
Workers Party, at one of the featured
talks at a three-day conference here.

The gathering was one of several
held in conjunction with the celebration
of the international day of the working
class, May Day, when more than a mil-
ion workers mobilized in Havana and
across the island.

Waters also posed a second question:“Is a socialist revolution in the U.S. real-
ly possible? Or are those like ourselves,
who answer with an unqualified “yes,” a
new variety of apolitical fault, how-
ever well-meaning?”

Her talk, which focused on answer-
ing those questions, initiated a two-
part program on the class struggle in
the United States. The second part was
entitled “From Clinton to Trump: How
working people in the U.S. are respond-
ing to the anti-labor offen-
sures that society on new economic foundations and transform themselves in the pro-
cess.

The conference program included
more than 20 panels. Some discussed
the situation facing working people
internationally, from Argentina to
Venezuela. Others took up the histor-
ical work of Cuba in Havana, from the role of Julio Antonio
Mellor, founding leader of the Cuban
Communist Party in the 1920s, to the
role today of workers strike during World
War II. Another series focused on
Rulers’ disdain, anti-working-class attacks fuel Puerto Rico protests

Continued from front page

U.S.-based capitalist contractors have
killed to repair the disaster. They
reported May 6 that because of govern-
ment red tape and poor coordination
they often got paid for doing nothing.
Laborers told one another that 58,000
in Puerto Rico in 22 days, but its crew
only carried out repairs for two and a half months. (123,721)

U.S.-imposed financial board
In August 2016 President Barack
Obama declared his emergency offices
appointed the Financial Oversight and
Management Board. The board, more
known in Spanish as the “nonstate” sector of
the economy. These both include own-
erless small businesses and public
landlords who rent rooms to tourists in
private homes, a low-wage labor force in
enterprises in construction, transporta-
tion, and many other small businesses.

Chairwoman Silvia Odriozola explained that the CTC is a place of the “nonstate” sector.

Another result of the fact that the
CTC is organizing both owners and
employed workers in small businesses as
they Continued on page 9

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Canon EOS 6D

US class struggle feature at Havana conference
Panel from US capitalist rulers’ offensive, growing resistance by people

members of panel on class struggle in the U.S. at 120th International May Day conference. From left, Willie Head, Omar Masay, Alvon Kennedy, Jacob Patera and Mary-Alice Waters at a press photo opportunity organized by Puertos in Solidarity.

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members of panel on class struggle in the U.S. at 120th International May Day conference. From left, Willie Head, Omar Masay, Alvon Kennedy, Jacob Patera and Mary-Alice Waters at a press photo opportunity organized by Puertos in Solidarity.
Unions lead fight against racism, for working-class unity

Fighting Racism in World War II is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for May. This selection — “CIO Comrades: Fighting Jim Crow” from the Nov. 4, 1944, Militant is by Charles Jackson, the pen name for Dr. Edgar Keemer. Keemer, a Black doctor, was indicted on a draft dodger during World War II because he opposed discrimination in the Navy. With the support of the Socialist Workers Party and others, he fought the charges and the government dropped the case. Keemer was in the SWP from 1943 to 1947, subsequently returning to practice medicine. In his 1944 autobiography, Confessions of a Pro-Life Abortionist, he writes about his support for women’s rights and how his role in the fight to legalize the procedure. Copyright © 1980 by Pathfinder Press.

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UNION LEAD FIGHT AGAINST RACISM, FOR WORKING-CLASS UNITY

BY CHARLES JACKSON

Just because the Negro worker today is a hundred times as trade union conscious as he was fifteen years ago, and just because there is a considerable effort on the part of the progressive labor movement to fight for industrial equality regardless of race, is not enough to warrant a shout of victory. These tendencies have forced the unions and the civil rights movements to print more firmly the pattern of segregation and thereby more forcibly crystallize the still-irreconcilable interracial prejudices. The attacks upon the color line has not been that the granting of an owning class to discard it as an anachronistic weapon but, rather, to draw it the more clearly.

The CIO, which contains more progressive elements than any other labor organization in the country, has recently embarked on a counterattack which, if successful, might stall the increasing militancy, will bode no good for the vile plans of those who want to continue their exploitation by pitting the Negro and the white workers against each other. A significant sign in the counterattack is the CIO Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination. This committee has been setting up new branches all over the country and on more than one occasion has been the instrumental factor that made success instead of defeat in various fights against racial discrimination.

According to Director George Weaver’s most recent report, the number of state, county, and municipal committees has increased from fifty as of March 15, 1944, to eighty-five as of August 15, 1944. Most significant is the fact that the committee has been organized for the first time in Georgia, North Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky, Texas, Kansas, and Alabama. Any movement capable of organizing white workers as a counterattack is the CIO Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination. This committee has been setting up new branches all over the country and on more than one occasion has been the instrumental factor that made success instead of defeat in various fights against racial discrimination.

The importance of upgrading and seniority rights without regard to race was stressed. One of the discussions centered upon the responsibility of the union in the post-war period in relation to the minority question. The importance of maintaining full employment was considered the key to the racial question. It was admitted that without full employment, the scramble of returning soldiers and war workers to compete for too few jobs will pit majority groups against minority groups and vice versa. On this point, of course, we know and we warn again that it will be impossible to maintain full employment until we have socialism.

The Michigan state committee initiated the prosecution of the CIO Hotel in Grand Rapids, involving discrimination on July 11 during the Michigan CIO convention. The delegation from Local 208, UAW-CIO, had arranged to house their delegates at this hotel. The local had received written confirmation from the manager agreeing to house the entire delegation. The white delegates arrived first and were housed. Later, when the Negro members of the delegation arrived, they were all reportedly housed in tiny and cramped accommodations. The following resolution was submitted to the convention and unanimously endorsed: “That the hotel committee should be placed on notice that until these issues are resolved in favor of CIO policy, the Hotel Caley be placed on the unfair list.” Similar actions followed last week by the UAW-CIO against the Webster Hall Hotel in Detroit.

The Philadelphia committee, the Illinois state committee, and the CIO Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination has been working in close collaboration with the FEPC [Fair Employment and Practice Committee] . . .

One outstanding example was in Marion, Ohio, where a group of Mexican workers had been imported. Feeling the job insecurity that is normal under capitalism, with its ever-increasing catastrophic depressions, many of the workers showed resentment against the Mexican workers. Large numbers of strikes preceded by the county antidiscrimination committee the white workers were educated, the Mexican workers were unionized, and a strong struggle between workers was averted.

These are only a few examples of what the CIO is doing. It deserves with the crushing oppressions that are planned by the ruling class, the labor movement will have added burdens to defend the brown workers against race discrimination. In defense of the trade union movement itself, it is of utmost importance that every militant worker, black or white, rally support within his union to fight discrimination and Jim Crowism wherever it rears its ugly head.


BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY CHARLES JACKSON

A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow, 1945 pamphlet by Charles Jackson, pen name for Dr. Edgar Keemer, a regular columnist on Black rights for Militant in 1940s.

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Abortion rights fight
Continued from front page
cidently and now they won't have the option," Ramona Chawis, SWP candidate for Assembly in Marshalltown, Iowa, told the Militant. “Personally, I don’t believe in abortion for myself, but I think every woman has the right to decide.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa and Planned Parenthood announced they will file a lawsuit challenging the law, which they believe will be challenged.

This “would be the most restrictive abortion law in the country,” Iowa ACLU Executive Director Mark Stringer told the press. “It is clear that this legislation is to overturn Roe v. Wade, ultimately ban all abortion up to 20 weeks — an ineffective law that the legislature agreed that the bill was promoted so it could be challenged in hopes it would allow a re-HE

vamped Supreme Court to overturn abortion. If this bill gets passed, it will undermine the resi-
dency program in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Iowa, the only such program in Iowa.

Similar abortion bans in Arkansas and North Dakota are ruled unconstitutional by a federal court. But “heart-\text{-}beal\text{-}law” proposals are being pushed in Missouri, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Attempts to restrict abortion rights have been facilitated by the reasoning in the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling itself. The Supreme Court didn’t base its decision on a woman’s right “to equal protection of the laws” guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution but “medical criteria” instead. Enemies of women’s rights use the fact the court allowed state governments to ban all abortions after “viability,” described in the ruling as the point at which a fetus is “potentially able to live outside the mother’s womb.” Medical advances inevitably make it earlier and earlier in pregnancy.

Havana conference
Continued from page 7
are workers' representatives who said that was accurate and argued in favor of the policy, saying that “many things are new and changing, and the problems are still being worked out.

During a panel discussion on “regional economic integration,” an important debate took place between Pedro Ross, former longtime CTC general secretary, and one of the Argentine participants. Ross took the floor to argue that the fundamental problem facing workers and farmers in Latin America will not be ad-
dressed until capitalism is overturned, as was done in Cuba. He reinforced a point made by two University of Havana students: “The future of the capitalist system is in a long-term economic crisis that means no end to unemployment and poverty for mil-
omens.

Another panel moderator Nerina Visacovsky, a pro-
fessor at the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, began to close the discussion period, saying, “We all need to learn from Che’ Ross interjected, “And Marx, Engels, and Lenin.”

Visacovsky replied, “Yes, it’s true we must study the classics of Marxism, but we also need to see how conditions today have changed so we don’t follow out-
dated recipes.”

Ross responded in turn, “In Cuba we made a so-
cialist revolution. Ours is a proven ‘recipe.’ Capitalism must be overturned.” He added, “And to learn more about this, I urge everyone to listen to what the Ameri-
can revolutionaries did in our country.”

Closing the session of the conference, Cuban History Institute President René González Barrios thanked the US delegation for their contributions and for bringing an array of books on the subjects discussed. Over the course of the three days, confer-
dence delegates purchased some 140 of them.

“The outcome of the discussion on ‘Socialism and Revolution in the US Possible?’ by Mary-Alice Waters, and two books by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes: Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? and The Clin-
tic, The Working-Class, the Revolution.” Participating delegates participated in more than one or more volumes of the four-part series by Farrell Dobbs on the 1930s Teamsters battles, now available in its entirety in Spanish.

Coming soon!

The Militant’s new website

By the end of May the Militant’s upgraded website will be in place, offering easier ac-
cess to the paper’s content and organized around working-class politics – from today back to 1928. Lets readers purchase subscriptions online.

US rulers, Tehran fight over way in Mideast
Continued from front page
“defend the more than $20bn of trade ($23.7 billion) that now exists between the EU and Iran,” the Financial Times reported May 9, “up from $6.6bn in 2013.”

Since the pact was signed in 2015 the Iranian rulers have continued to advance their counterrevolutionary role in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen, building on decades of military incursions across the region. The country’s capitalist rulers’ moves abroad are an exten-
sion of their efforts at home to push back the gains of their own capacities to build unity, reach out for soli-
darity and fight, inspiring workers everywhere. This is a product of the irreversible changes in the way both women and men think about women’s place in soci-
ety. And it’s why the fight for women’s equality is increasing weight in politics today.

But widespread discontent with the impact of their wars drove working-class protests throughout Iran in late December and early January. Since then, strikes by steel, rail and hospital workers and teachers were reported in the Wall Street Journal. Workers were en-
raged when the government’s budget was revealed in December 2017, showing huge funds for wars while workers face cutbacks.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Tehran would try to maintain the agreement with the pact’s other signatories, including Russia and China, but that the country’s capitalists have no intention of relinquishing their “influence in the region.” Moscow says that if Washington re-
sumes sanctions it would expand trade with Iran.

Washington: Biggest military force in Mideast
The U.S. rulers have the largest military force in the Mideast, with 2,000 troops in Syria and mas-
sive reserves, which allow the U.S. military to move forces anywhere in the region to do more. The Saudi Arabian monarchy says it will send troops to be part of a joint Arab force. Saudi Arabia’s Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman said they “may join in. U.S. troops are in land controlled by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, some 25 percent of the country.

The U.S. rulers are negotiating with terrorist groups to broker a deal that Tel Aviv and Palestinian leaders. The new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem is open May 14 in Jeru-
asalem. U.S. officials denied reports by Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman that he had asked the Israeli government to withdraw its forces from four neighborhoods in east Jerusalem so a future Palestin-
ian capital could be located there. But Liberman reiterated that “the U.S. Embassy and Jerusalem will come at a price and it is worth paying it.”

A Dec. 11 statement by the Socialist Workers Par-
ty — “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel — explains that the U.S. government is “put-
ting its all its allies in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Egypt and Jordan, as well as the bourgeois
cissors of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, that Washington is ‘making them an offer they can’t re-
fi. It adds that “the U.S. government is ‘corroborating the stick of an anticipated U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem with the carrot of greater economic and military aid to Sunni-led governments against their feared rival in Shia Iran.”

The starting point, the SWP statement says, has to be “the class interests and solidarity of workers and toilers farmers across the Middle East — be they Pal-
estinians, Jews, Syrians, Iraqis, Persians or otherwise, and whatever their religious or other beliefs as well as working people in the United States and around the world.”

But the capitalist rulers are not waiting to be told what to do but are relying on