

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Rising interest rates squeeze debt-ridden farmers
— PAGE 2

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 25 JULY 9, 2018

Amnesty for all immigrants in the US! No deportations!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Debate over the U.S. rulers' immigration policies jumped back on the front burner since Attorney General Jeff Sessions' May 7 announcement that from now on there would be "zero tolerance" of "illegal" immigration. Not only could those caught without

AS I SEE IT

papers be deported, they could also first face prosecution and jail even for misdemeanors, such as first time "illegal entry." This led immigration cops to take children to shelters, separating them from their parents who were detained to face charges.

Previous administrations also separated parents who faced criminal charges under immigration law from their children. But prosecutions for misdemeanors — and thus the number of separations — were far fewer.

The Socialist Workers Party demands: Amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S.! No deportations! No raids!
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Cop charged with murder in killing of Antwon Rose

Thousands join daily protests in Pittsburgh area



Marchers in Pittsburgh June 23 demand charges against cop who fatally shot Antwon Rose Jr.

BY MALCOLM JARRETT

PITTSBURGH — On June 19 East Pittsburgh Police Officer Michael Rosfeld stopped a car he suspected of being involved in an earlier drive-by shooting. As he handcuffed the driver of the vehicle, an unlicensed taxi, the two other occupants got out and started running. Rosfeld opened fire without warning, hitting Antwon Rose

Jr., a 17-year-old African-American, three times in the back.

An eyewitness who recorded the incident on her cellphone put the recording online, and in less than a day it had been viewed over 90,000 times. In the video you see Rosfeld act as
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'Puerto Ricans will never give up struggle for independence'

BY SETH GALINSKY

UNITED NATIONS — This year's annual U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization hearing on the status of Puerto Rico was marked by discussion of the deep social crisis there in the wake of both hurricanes Irma and Maria and the anti-working-class

SWP STATEMENT AT UN HEARING

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measures being carried out by the U.S. capitalist rulers and Puerto Rico's colonial government.

Manuel Rivera from the Virginia-based Puerto Ricans United in Action captured the spirit of many of the speakers when he said that "the most devastating of the hurricanes" was not any of the natural storms, but the U.S. government-imposed Financial Oversight and Management Board.

The junta, as it is called in Puerto Rico, is
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'Militant' fights new round of censorship in Florida prisons



Three issues of the *Militant*, above, were recently impounded by Florida prison authorities. State officials reversed censorship of May 14 issue, left. *Militant* is appealing the others.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Florida prison officials are at it again, impounding and censoring the *Militant*, in violation of the constitutionally protected rights of freedom of the press and the right of workers behind bars to read the political news of their choice.

On June 19 Madison Correctional Institution's assistant warden banned the May 28 issue, falsely claiming that the article "Gov't Backs Off Moves to Bar Books to Prisoners" gives "de-

tails on contraband entering a prison."

The article was a report about how protests led the Federal Bureau of Prisons to end a pilot program that severely limited federal prisoners access to books. The unconstitutional scheme limited prisoners to ordering books from just one vendor, who offered an extremely limited selection of titles that were marked up 30 percent over normal retail price.

A similar scheme was suspended in
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2018 Active Workers Conference: Build labor movement, build SWP

BY TERRY EVANS AND JOHN STUDER

OBERLIN, Ohio — "Deeper into the Working Class, Act on the Rulers' Deepening Political Crisis, Build the Labor Movement, Build the Socialist Workers Party" read the large banner hanging over the stage at the 2018 Active Workers Conference. The annual event, sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party, was

held here June 14-16.

"This year our banner features an additional line: 'Build the Labor Movement,'" SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes told the nearly 400 participants in his political report to the opening conference session. "This will be the axis of work of the party's trade union fractions going forward," he said. SWP members will carry out this activity alongside weekly door-to-door campaigning in workers' neighborhoods with the *Militant* and books on working-class politics,
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Liberals' harassment crusade is threat to rights workers need!

One year ago the *Militant* wrote, "The unrelenting, monthslong crusade by liberals in the Democratic Party, the middle-class left and the media to invalidate or reverse the outcome

EDITORIAL

of the 2016 election had spawned an attempt to assassinate Republican members of Congress."

The Socialist Workers Party was a lone voice among those who say they speak for working people. The bloody shooting spree — in which House
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UK hospital workers wage second strike, call further action

Ukraine rail workers fight for job safety

Rising interest rates tighten debt squeeze on US farmers

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Rising interest rates are piling further burdens on working farmers, whose debts are reaching record levels this year. At the same time, sharpening competition and increased production have forced net farm income down by half since 2013 — to an estimated 12-year low.

Small family farms — which account for 90 percent of all U.S. farms — are fighting to survive under conditions of continuing downward pressure on crop and livestock prices, while costs for fertilizer, seed and machinery continue to rise.

The vast majority of family farmers depend on off-farm jobs to keep going. They are held hostage to agricultural monopolies that control the markets and dictate the terms for input prices and what they get paid for their production.

The Federal Reserve June 13 boosted interest rates for the second time this year. The Fed also announced that two more raises can be expected in 2018. Loans are crucial for farmers, who borrow to get what they need to plant, feed livestock and operate during growing season, hoping to cover the loans — and interest — and make some net income when they sell what they've raised.

Interest rates on farm loans reached a five-year high of 5.6 percent in the fourth quarter last year.

"We've been able to survive because of cheap money," Jason Barnes, a cattle and grain farmer in South Dakota, told the press in April. "You raise rates high enough, it will have a huge impact on people's ability to continue farming."

Banks also increase collateral requirements for loans, making it more expensive and risky for farmers to borrow.

"My wife is a third generation farmer, her family has been here for 119 years," Larry Bailey of Brainard, Nebraska, told the *Militant* by phone June 23. "She has a side business, our daughter lives here but works off the farm, and also runs a bee production."

Bailey says they're lucky to still have the farm, but doubts there will be a fourth generation working the land. They've had to scale down to survive and today farm 7 acres, one-tenth of what they used to.

"We've decided to limit to apples, grapes, tomatoes, sweet corn and peppers. We're trying to get a firmer commitment to sell what we grow," he said. "Last year wholesalers told us to plant all this pepper. Then they didn't want to buy it at the price we needed. And if you don't say yes to them, you have no market."

Giant food monopolies — Archer Daniels Midland, Bunge, Cargill and Dreyfus — control 75 percent of global grain trade. They've pushed for farmers to boost production in their drive to expand exports and compete on the world market. This has led to overproduction and plummeting prices. The downward pressure also affects dairy products and cattle. At the same time production costs have soared.

"As I see it, it's a battle to stop corporate America from getting control over food production," Bailey said. "But we're pretty much at their mercy. The



Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution. Photo by J. Wooten

Tractorcade by thousands of farmers from across country arrives in Washington, Feb. 5, 1979. Organized by American Agricultural Movement, farmers occupied National Mall for weeks demanding parity — guaranteed prices for their crops at least equal to costs of production.

Koch brothers own all the fertilizers, Monsanto all the plant material. They dictate the terms."

Loans, debts threaten bankruptcies

There were 6.8 million farms in the U.S. in 1935, compared to some 2 million today. And the median farm size is double what it was in the 1980s. With rising acreage and production, farmers have to take out larger loans to cover added costs. More than 70 percent of farm loans are now over \$100,000. Some are up to \$1 million with interest payments as high as \$60,000 a year.

"I'm not sure where this is going, there is no mechanism for slowing down overproduction," Vern Jantzen, who farms 300 acres of corn and soybeans, said by phone from Plymouth, Nebraska. "It's all supply and demand. And if you have perishables you can't just wait a week or a month, you'd rather dump the price and get at least something for them."

In addition to farming, Jantzen drives a truck and a school bus. Everyone he knows has at least one job off the farm.

"Some around here have been shut off by the banks, some have downsized, others have somehow found a way to sur-

vive," he said. "We don't talk about it. If you don't make it, both you and fellow farmers think it's your failure. You're on your own."

Farm Aid said that the country is "on the cusp of the biggest wave of U.S. farm foreclosures since the 1980s," when thousands of farmers drove their tractors to Washington, protesting outside Congress and the Federal Reserve.

"We haven't seen any bankruptcies or foreclosures around here yet," Jantzen said. "But I'm with a National Farmers Union hotline where farmers can call in and talk. The number of calls has definitely increased. A lot of people are under pressure."

The suicide rate among farmers is now the highest of any profession in the country, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports.

The Fight for a Workers and Farmers Government in the U.S.

by Jack Barnes

In New International no. 4

"There are sharp class divisions among farmers. At one end of the spectrum the farming population shades into the working class, with a growing number holding down factory jobs to make ends meet." — Jack Barnes

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THE MILITANT

Free Ukrainian political prisoners held by Moscow!

The 'Militant' champions struggles by working people and fights for political rights. Oleg Sentsov, Ukrainian filmmaker, is imprisoned in Russia, framed up for opposing seizure of Crimea. He demands that Moscow "Free all Ukrainian political prisoners."



Yevhen Spiriv/Hromadske Rally in Kiev, Ukraine, May 11, 2017, demands release of Ukrainians jailed in Russia.

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The Militant

Vol. 82/No. 25

Closing news date: June 27, 2018

Editor: John Studer

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Terry Evans, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Martín Koppel, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in September, one week in December.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.
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Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Liberals' harassment drive is threat to rights workers need

Continued from front page
Republican Whip Steve Scalise was critically injured by James Hodgkinson, a Bernie Sanders backer — was a product of liberals' frenzy against what they deemed the "wrong" candidate being elected, Donald Trump not Hillary Clinton.

"The shooter's goal was to kill as many Republican congressmen on the ballfield as possible," SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes said at the party's 2017 Active Workers Conference. He described how middle-class layers waging "resistance" against the new president fear workers who voted for Trump, "hoping he marked a change from what they faced under George W. Bush and Barack Obama," as well as workers who held their noses and voted for Clinton or who simply stayed home.

Today like-minded forces are calling on followers to organize mob harassment of Trump officials. "Drive them from public life!" they say. The owner of the Red Hen, a Virginia restaurant, won plaudits from the liberal

media for forcing White House press secretary, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, out of the building. In following days Kirstjen Nielsen, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, was set upon at a Washington restaurant and again outside her home. Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, a Trump supporter, was screamed at and harried at a movie theater. All these targets were women.

Striking a blow against both freedom of speech and association, Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters urges the president's opponents to go after administration officials. "In a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd" and "you tell them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere," she told a California rally. "We can't wait to the next election."

Prior to his attempted killing spree in June 2017, the shooter wrote, "It's time to destroy Trump." It's worth noting that after Scalise criticized Waters' call this week, he was barraged with tweets expressing regrets he'd survived.

Some top Democrats, such as Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer, have spoken out against the harassment drive. They're afraid it will backfire and lose votes for Democrats in 2018 and 2020.

Such concerns are well taken given the ground the Trump administration is winning for the U.S. rulers through steps toward an agreement in Korea, a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the current Mideast trip seeking progress toward an Israel/Palestine accord. Though far from why the White House is taking these steps, their outcome can be good for working people in the U.S. and the world over.

The anti-Trump "resistance," as Barnes said, takes aim at what they consider his "base" among workers. That's why liberals couple harassment of Trump officials with moves to

Auckland protest demands protection of Maori land



Spin Off/Qiane Matata-Sipu

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Over 300 people demonstrated here May 26 protesting moves by Fletcher Building, the country's largest construction company, to begin building 480 houses for sale on historic Maori land at Ihumatao.

"They are trying to steal our land for their economic gain," Pania Newton, a leader of the protest, told demonstrators. "Today we are acting to show them that we are staying on this land."

"Over the past few years we have been to the United Nations and got support and have petitioned the government," Newton said. "But nothing has been done to stop this. History shows that legal processes are designed to oppress us."

The Maori people, the indigenous people, have lived here continuously for hundreds of years. Ihumatao was one of the first human settlements in New Zealand. It was confiscated by the New Zealand government in 1863. Government militias, backed by 12,000 British troops, invaded what is today the southern part of Auckland and much of the neighboring province of Waikato. This was the biggest military offensive against Maori in the 19th century New Zealand land wars.

"The New Zealand land wars began right here in 1863 and we are still fighting," Haare Williams, a government-decorated artist and broadcaster, told protesters.

SOUL — Save Our Unique Landscape — was initiated in 2015 to campaign to preserve the land by residents at Ihumatao. The predominantly Maori village of 80 households borders the confiscated land near Auckland's airport.

— MIKE TUCKER

weaken political rights wrested from the rulers in blood. These include free speech, the right to bear arms, protection from intrusive cop searches and seizure, the right not to be forced to testify against ourselves, and more.

Calls for political harassment are dangerous to the working class, African-Americans, women, immigrants and the oppressed. They can unleash

violent assaults, as they did last year. They threaten our rights and political space for civil debate, *to organize* and *to act*. But that's exactly what the working class needs — more and more — as we seek ways to fight effectively against attacks on our class produced by the deepening economic, political and moral crisis of the capitalist rulers.

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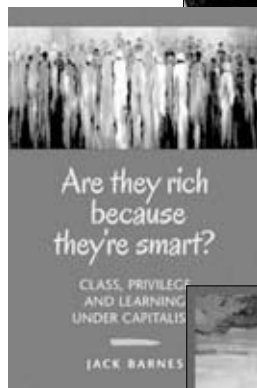
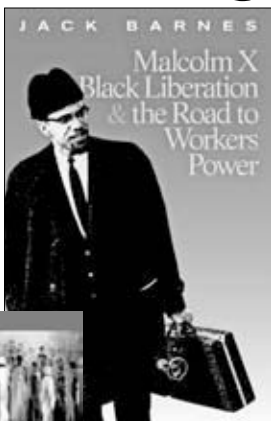
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July 12, Columbus, Ohio

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'Militant' fights new round of censorship in Fla. prisons

Continued from front page

New York state last December after protests there as well. Under the now-defunct New York program, prisoners had access to only a few dozen books, mostly games, coloring books and titles with religious themes.

Prison authorities at Florida State Prison in Raiford impounded the May 14 issue of the paper, claiming all nine English-language pages "showed organized protests around the state and seeks to organize inmates to strike."

That issue featured firsthand reports, including a two-page center spread with a number of photos, on the teachers and school workers strike in Arizona, along with articles on May Day protests demanding amnesty for immigrant workers and denuclearization talks in Korea. There were also articles on the release of rap singer Meek Mill from prison, as well as the release of Herman Bell after nearly 45 years in prison. These are all questions that were also covered by most major bourgeois papers at the time.

In violation of Florida prison regu-

lations, prison authorities never informed the *Militant* about their censorship. The paper learned about the impoundment from a subscriber, who wrote that prison officials there "don't like your newspaper" and they conjure up pretexts to ban it.

When the *Militant's* lawyer, David Goldstein, of the constitutional rights law firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman, wrote to challenge the impoundments on June 25, the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee responded that the seizure of the May 14 issue had been reversed at its May 23 meeting.

At the same time, Committee Chair Dean Peterson told Goldstein there was an additional impoundment. The Tomoka Correctional Institution had just banned the June 18 *Militant*, a special issue featuring an eyewitness report from Puerto Rico. The *Militant* has not yet been informed of the alleged reason.

Goldstein also asked Peterson why another subscriber at Raiford hadn't received a single issue of the paper

in May or June. Peterson's suggestion? Inmates should "make use of the grievance process."

Over the last several years, Florida prison authorities have repeatedly impounded the paper on a wide variety of specious grounds. In the vast majority of these cases, the *Militant* — with the support of groups like the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Lawyers Guild, Amnesty International, PEN America, and prisoner rights, church and other organizations — has won reversal of the impoundments.

"Maybe some Florida officials mistakenly believe that sooner or later the *Militant* will get tired of fighting censorship and give up, but we won't," *Militant* editor John Studer said June 25. "We oppose any and all attempts to close down the space for working people and others to exchange views, and debate and discuss politics, outside or inside prison walls. The *Militant* is crucial in these debates, because our paper fights for the unity of working people and promotes a working-class road forward."

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Rail bosses press for longer freight trains, less workers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In their never-ceasing drive for profits, rail bosses are forcing workers to drive longer and longer freight trains, endangering the safety of rail workers and those living in communities near the tracks. At the same time the bosses are pressing to cut the size of train crews.

“Companies have plenty of reasons to keep adding train cars,” the *Wall Street Journal* effused June 15, speaking on behalf of the rail bosses. “Long trains save on fuel and crews, reducing the cost of rail transportation.”

Train length on BNSF Railway averages some 8,000 feet — about one and a half miles — a company spokeswoman told the *Journal*. But “the railroad is testing cargo trains as long as 16,000 feet on its double track Southern Transcon route between southern California and Chicago,” the paper said.

Similarly, Union Pacific is running 14,000- to 15,000-foot trains every day, and plans to make them longer and longer, Cameron Scott, the company’s chief operating officer, told shareholders last month.

Trains of these lengths have a big and unpleasant impact on cities and towns they pass through. They block long strings of street crossings, often for an extended period of time, stranding commuters, school buses and all manner of traffic. There are no laws limiting train length.

Rail bosses have also been steadily whittling away at train crew sizes over the past several decades, claiming new technologies make it safe to eliminate workers. While 30 years ago union contracts set the crew size at five, today bosses are pushing for — and sometimes getting — the single worker “crew.”

Over the last few years there has been a growing string of major derailments affecting both freight and passenger trains. Worker fatigue and other challenges running longer trains with shorter crews are a big factor.

“When we had crews of five and shorter trains, we could walk the entire length and make sure the car numbers and cargo correctly matched what was on the manifest,” J.P. Wright, a CSX locomotive engineer for 12 years and

freight conductor for 16 years told the *Albany Times Union*. “The only thing that regulated how many cars were in a train were union contracts.”

But the bosses’ push for the one-person crew is meeting resistance. SMART union members employed by BNSF Railway across the western two-thirds of the U.S. voted 5 to 1 in 2014 against an agreement regional union officials had made with the company for a one-person crew on freight trains. Workers won support, mobilizing union members and residents who lived along BNSF’s tracks, and they beat the demand back.

The increased dangers of derailments of trains carrying highly flammable material was highlighted last August when a 178-car CSX train derailed near Hyn-dman, Pennsylvania. Its cargo of molten sulfur and propane ignited, burning for two days. Over 1,000 residents were forced to evacuate the area. Nearly four months later a CSX train with 192 cars derailed, spilling 3,000 gallons of molten sulfur in Lakeland, Florida.

Recently residents near Princeton, Indiana, were forced to evacuate as train cars derailed and exploded June 17. Five days later in northwest Iowa a train derailment leaked oil into the river, resulting in some mandatory evacuations, the *Des Moines Register* reported.



Sioux County Sheriff’s Office

Mandatory evacuations were ordered June 22 after oil train derailment south of Doon, Iowa.

The worst disaster took place in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, where the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic rail bosses used the one-man crew and other cutbacks, leading to the 2013 derailment of a 72-car oil train that exploded and burned, leveling the city’s downtown and killing 72 people. The bosses and the Canadian government — which had OK’d the cutbacks — tried to frame up two union members, engineer Tom Harding and traffic controller Richard Labrie.

But they suffered a stinging defeat when the 12-person jury acquitted the two workers. “This is a victory for workers,” Gilbert Carrette, a member of the Lac-Mégantic Citizens and Groups Coalition for Rail Safety, told the *Mili-*

tant when the verdict was announced. “This tragedy, caused by company negligence and government deregulation of the rail industry, was placed on the shoulders of innocent workers.”

Bills have been introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in recent years, including this January, that would require two-person crews on all freight trains, but they’ve been bottled up in committees to die.

“The BLET [Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen] continues to oppose single-person freight operations as adverse to worker and public safety,” union President Dennis Pierce told the press, demanding passage of the bills.

Cop charged with murder in Antwon Rose killing

Continued from front page judge, jury and executioner. The Allegheny County Medical Examiner ruled the killing a homicide.

The Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office arrested and charged Rosfeld with criminal homicide June 27. He was released after posting \$250,000 bail.

Since the shooting there have been demonstrations every day — drawing up to 1,000 protesters — demanding Rosfeld face charges. Rosfeld was a new-hire, having been sworn in just hours before he killed Rose. He had been let go by the University of Pittsburgh police for discrepancies in arrest reports he filed.

Protesters marched through many areas here, blocking roads and having spirited discussions with those along the route of the actions.

The only time protests were suspended was for the visitation and funeral, at the request of the family.

Interviewed by ABC’s TV show “Good Morning America,” Michelle Kenney, Rose’s mother, said the police “murdered my son in cold blood.” His father, Antwon Rose Sr., praised

the protesters, saying, “Keep fighting. Do it peacefully.”

“Three shots in the back, how do you justify that?” was one of the most popular chants. Protesters sang an expanded version of the labor and civil rights song “Which side are you on?” that takes up police murders.

At one point on June 22, marchers made a large circle and every 17-year-old was asked to step into the middle. “This is what a 17-year-old looks like,” said one protest leader. “How old was Antwon?”

The crowd responded, “17.”

Many others who have experienced brutality at the hands of the Pittsburgh police joined the actions. Leon Ford Jr., who was shot and paralyzed by a detective in 2012, led several protests. “Being a survivor of police brutality, I need to be here,” Aaron Strader, 30, told the *Militant*. Strader suffered permanent damage to his hand, spent four days in jail and lost his job after he was beaten by two cops for refusing to put his dog in his house in 2016. “A victory for Antwon will be a victory for us,” he said.

Rose’s funeral filled the auditorium at Woodland Hills Intermediate School, where he had been an honors senior. His mother put her hands on the shoulders of two of his friends, who read a poem he wrote in 2016 that has been read at protests and printed in the press.

“I see mothers bury their sons/ I want my mom to

never feel that pain/ I am confused and afraid,” he wrote. “I dream of life getting easier/ I try my best to make my dream come true/ I hope that it does.”

Nationwide, cops have shot and killed at least 491 people in 2018 so far, the *Washington Post* said June 21. At least 90 of those — 18 percent — have been Black.

Supporters of the cops tried to sow confusion by asking, “Why was Rose running away?” as if that would somehow mean he was guilty of something. “That should be the last question they ask,” Matt Geyer, who worked with Rose at a pizza shop, told the *Post-Gazette*. “We know why from the poem he wrote.”



AP Photo/Keith Srakocic

Participant in June 26 march in Pittsburgh protesting cop killing seven days earlier of unarmed teen Antwon Rose.

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—MILITANT
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What’s Behind the June 7 Election of ‘Anti-Politician’ Doug Ford in Ontario? The Stakes for Working People and Canada’s Capitalist Rulers. Speaker: Bob Carter, Communist League. Sat., July 7, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 7107 St-Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

UK hospital workers wage second strike, call further action

WIGAN, England — “New starters would be getting less money,” striking hospital worker Sharon Pemberton told a June 9 union rally here. Hospital bosses “want to divide us into two tiers, but we are on strike together, united and determined.”

Members of the UNISON and UNITE trade unions were waging their second 48-hour strike against plans by Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh National Health Service Foundation Trust bosses to transfer all their 900 catering, cleaning, porter and other jobs to a new company set up and owned by them, called WWL Solutions Ltd.

Current workers would keep their wages, but new hires would get less.

Already more than 10,000 workers in 19 different NHS trusts across England have been transferred to similar companies, laying the basis for widening wage differentials among hospital workers. At Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and Calderdale Royal Hospital in Yorkshire workers are balloting for strike action over similar plans by the NHS Trust bosses there.



Militant/Pete Clifford

Hospital workers march in Wigan, England, June 9 during 48-hour strike over jobs transfer, new two-tier pay.

Karma McKeefery, a staff nurse at Wrightington Hospital, came to the rally to support the strikers. “We’ve got the strength, we just need to use it,” she told the *Militant*. “They’re picking us off one by one, we should get together and join up the dots!” Members of the National Education Union; the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union; and the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers joined the march.

Workers also were angry at slurs directed against them in the press by Mike Evans, son of hospital trust Associate Director for Estates and Facilities David Evans. He had branded every striking worker a “lazy jobsworth loser [sic] that will never amount to anything” and a “set of scumbags.”

“I am one of the so-called scumbags,” striker John Myles told the rally.

Hundreds of strikers, family members and supporters marched to the rally. Many bystanders clapped their hands in support as the labor protest passed through Wigan city center.

Dave Fagan, a meat worker at Tulip in Dukinfield, Greater Manchester, and member of the Community union there, joined the picket after work on June 8 along with four of his co-workers. “The strikers have to keep the pressure on and so must we in supporting them,” Fagan said.

A new, five-day strike has been called to start June 28.

—Hugo Wils

Ukraine rail workers fight for job safety

Hundreds of rail workers turned out in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, June 14 when the Free Trade Union of Railway Workers of Ukraine (VPZU) called an open-ended action outside the offices of the state-owned Ukrainian Railway. Rail workers across the country are in a long-term fight for wage increases and improved safety on the job. The action was suspended

London march marks 1 year since Grenfell Tower fire



Militant/Pete Kennedy

LONDON — Thousands of working people joined a silent march through North Kensington June 14 marking one year since a massive fire destroyed the Grenfell Tower block, killing 72 people and leaving hundreds homeless. While the big-business media repeated police reports of 5,000 participants, organizers more accurately estimated 12,000. The Grenfell inferno was a disaster waiting to happen, a result of the callous indifference of government and local authority officials and building managers. The fire started on the fourth floor and spread rapidly after it caught onto cladding installed on the building's exterior that was a known fire hazard. There were no sprinklers in the building.

Similar cladding still covers over 300 housing blocks, both public and private, and hospitals and schools.

The North Kensington procession culminated a day of commemorations of the catastrophe — a product of capitalist social relations — showing the determination of survivors of the fire and other working people to keep fighting. They are demanding housing for the majority of surviving residents who are still in temporary accommodation, for holding accountable those responsible for the Grenfell disaster, and for government action to make other buildings safe.

— ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

June 21 when bosses agreed to meet and consider their demands.

The rail workers had previously mounted a monthlong protest starting May 14 against unsafe conditions, working strictly according to instructions. This led to the shutdown of depots across the country when drivers refused to work unsafe locomotives.

An inspection in the Lviv depot confirmed that every single locomotive needed repair. Most depots returned to a regular schedule after bosses agreed to set up special joint commissions with union members to inspect and repair all locomotives.

Engineers in the Kremenchuk depot resumed their work-to-rule action June

20. They refused management's orders to take locomotives out of the depot after one of them caught fire during a test drive. Workers also protested the bosses' refusal to do anything about unbearable working conditions. Temperatures in the cabin often rise to over 104 degrees in the summer.

The national VPZU supported the drivers and won new members during the fight, as the former state-controlled trade union sided with the company. Actions and strikes over the past year and half by shipyard workers, city transit operators, and miners in the coal, iron ore and uranium industries have wrested some concessions from the bosses and the government, and strengthened the independent trade union movement.

—Emma Johnson

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



July 12, 1993

On June 21 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Clinton administration's policy of stopping in international waters Haitians fleeing military repression and forcibly returning them to Haiti without even permitting an asylum hearing.

“This is a crime,” said Max Pierre, an electronics engineer from Haiti who now lives in Miami. “How can you send people back to a place where whole families are being killed and there is no justice?”

Former U.S. president George Bush put the forced repatriation order into effect in May 1992. Bill Clinton, during his election campaign last year, denounced the interdictions as cruel and illegal. But he kept the policy in place when he became president, arguing in its defense before the Supreme Court in March.

Protests and political meetings within Haiti have also increased despite the constant threat of military repression.



July 12, 1968

BERKELEY, July 4 — Thousands of people are here in a jubilant celebration of the victory for freedom of speech and assembly won yesterday. It is a general assertion of the rights of citizens to meet together without fear of police attack.

On the same section of Telegraph [Avenue], just six days ago, police were using tear gas to break up a lawful, peaceful demonstration in support of the French students and workers.

It took a week of taking to the streets and of pressuring the city council to win the right to have Telegraph blocked off for today's rally. And the city council hedged up until the last minute before giving in.

Yesterday, after 2,000 people gathered in the Civic Auditorium and pledged that they would hold their rally on Telegraph today regardless of what the council said, the city fathers granted their demands and voted to close off the street.

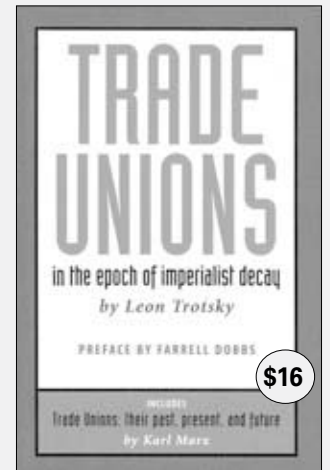


July 10, 1943

DETROIT — 1,800 delegates, representing 700,000 unionists at the sixth annual convention of the Michigan CIO answered the Smith-Connally “slave labor” Act by taking steps to launch an Independent Labor Party and by voting to request the national CIO junk the “no-strike” pledge.

CIO organization director Allan Haywood, John Brophy, head of Industrial Union Councils, and State CIO President August Scholle joined with the Stalinists in an attack against the resolution. But to no avail.

The convention passed the resolution “recommending to all of the affiliated unions and to the CIO that unless assurances that were made to labor are immediately and effectively put into operation, we consider our ‘no-strike’ pledge no longer binding and labor will settle the problems in the future in the only manner left open to it by the use of its economic strength.”



Food for thought—and action—from leaders of three generations of the revolutionary workers movement — Karl Marx, Leon Trotsky and Farrell Dobbs. Invaluable for workers relearning today what a strike is, how it can be fought and won, and are interested in ideas about how the entire system of capitalist exploitation can be ended.

pathfinderpress.com

Ivan Licho's 'Militant' cartoons exposed capitalist rule

BY EDWIN FRUIT

SEATTLE — Ivan Licho, a former member and life-long supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, passed away of complications from Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases in Edmonds, a suburb here, June 2. He was 78.

After four years in the Navy, Licho went to UCLA where in the mid-1960s he joined the growing movement against the U.S. imperialist rulers' war against the people of Vietnam, participating in marches and rallies, including actions led by active-duty GIs and veterans. He met the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party in Los Angeles, joining the YSA.

He joined the SWP in 1969 and accepted a party assignment to move to New York where he served on the staff of the *Militant* and other party publications for some 10 years. He was well-known for the caricatures and political cartoons he drew highlighting the outrages of capitalist exploitation and battles of workers against them that were run in the *Militant*. He also worked on a team translating works by Leon Trotsky, one of the leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution, and other revolutionary leaders from German and Russian for publication. This was the first time much of this material became available in English.

Licho also worked in the party print shop helping produce the books and the *Militant*. He was known for his skills on the party's web press.

He transferred to Tacoma in 1980, and then, when the Tacoma branch of the party closed down, moved to Seattle. He participated in party trade union fractions in machine shops and the shipyard here before leaving active party membership.

He continued to attend Militant Labor Forums as well as other party events and contributed to party funds. Jeanette Dawson, his long-time companion and fellow party supporter, said Licho's family members will be hosting a celebration of his life July 21. For more information, call (206) 434-2021.



A Bicentennial Gift from the Supreme Court



Militant cartoons by Ivan Licho. Left, from July 16, 1976, cartoon illustrated attack on working class by U.S. Supreme Court legalizing death penalty. Above, cartoon from Nov. 30, 1979, issue depicting blood-soaked hands of shah of Iran. Revolution there earlier that year overthrew his dictatorial rule, forcing him to flee. Accompanying article was titled, "Why Iran Wants Him to Stand Trial: Firsthand Account of Torture and Murder."

Books by Thomas Sankara spark interest at Harlem festival

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — More than 30 years after Thomas Sankara, the leader of the popular revolution in Burkina Faso, was assassinated, his example and ideas live on. That was clear from the interest in books of his speeches, other revolutionary working-class literature and discussions at the annual Mafrika Music Festival in Harlem June 17.

Sankara was the leader of Burkina Faso's revolutionary government from 1983 to 1987. Living in one of Africa's poorest and least developed countries, he led workers and peasants there to take control over the former French colony and of their own lives.

On Oct. 15, 1987, Sankara and 12 of his aides and bodyguards were assassinated in a military coup led by Blaise Compaoré that served the interests of those both in France and Burkina Faso whose property and class interests were threatened by the revolutionary mobilizations.

Sponsored by Burkinabe Entertainment, the festival drew a diverse crowd of several hundred. Barbadians, Do-

minicans, Grenadians, Jamaicans and Puerto Ricans mixed with people from Ghana, Ivory Coast and Nigeria as well as Russia and the U.S. to partake in the excellent music and dance performances. Dozens of people originally from Burkina Faso also attended.

Many people made a beeline for the table set up by Socialist Workers Party members and supporters when they saw the piles of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. They bought copies of the book in both French and English to share with family members and friends who were born or raised in the United States.

A number of people had their picture taken holding the books in front of the literature table and three large displays on Sankara and the revolution in Burkina Faso.

It wasn't just West Africans who were interested. A Dominican worker who questioned whether a socialist revolution was possible anymore in the world got the first copy of the book. We said that the ideas and course advocated by Sankara are not just for Africa,

but strengthen the struggle of working people in the United States and around the world as well.

The literature table and display on Sankara became a pole of attraction for those interested in discussing a road forward for working people and also for some sharp debates.

"The problem is that the Jews run the country and the major businesses," one woman said. When this correspondent said that's not true, that scapegoating Jews and promoting Jew-hatred, especially in time of crisis, is how the bosses get workers to take their eyes off the real enemy, the capitalist system, she agreed that she would "have to look into that." She got a copy of the *Militant*.

The *New International* magazine with the article "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop" also drew attention. Bishop was the central leader of the 1979 workers and farmers revolution in Grenada. A man from Barbados who supported the faction of Bernard Coard — who placed Bishop under house arrest in 1983 and then killed him and other revolutionaries when they tried to stop the counterrevolutionary coup — spoke with Shirelynn George, who participated in the revolution. He said that Ronald Reagan destroyed the revolution by sending U.S. troops to occupy the island. George replied that was only possible after Bishop was murdered and a 24-hour curfew imposed on the entire population, bringing down the revolution.

Both Sankara and Bishop were close allies of Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, and there was keen interest in books on Cuba.

Festivalgoers picked up 17 copies of *Sankara Speaks*, two copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, eight other books, including several on the Cuban Revolution, two subscriptions and 16 single copies of the *Militant*. More than a dozen people signed up to learn more about the Socialist Workers Party and its activities.

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Crisis in Puerto Rico caused by colonial control, capitalist rule

The following is the statement by John Studer, editor of the *Militant* newspaper, given on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party at the June 18 U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization hearing.

Distinguished Chairman and committee members,

Dear friends and fellow fighters from Puerto Rico, revolutionary Cuba, and the United States who are here today to speak out against Washington's brutal colonial rule,

I recently returned from Puerto Rico, where I had the pleasure of meeting workers, unionists, fishermen, students and others in Yabucoa, Humacao, and other areas hard hit by Hurricane Maria. They have been protesting because nearly nine months later, tens of thousands still have no electricity. The hurricane's impact was not primarily a natural disaster. It was and is a social catastrophe, created by colonial domination and capitalist rule.

Working people in Puerto Rico face never-ending attacks from the U.S.-appointed fiscal control board and the colonial government, whose priority is to pay the wealthy U.S. bondholders on the \$74 billion debt at the expense of the vast majority. They have slashed jobs and pensions, closed schools, pushed up tuition at the University of Puerto Rico, and eroded workers' hard-won protections. My party demands: Cancel the immoral debt!

I am the editor of the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly published in the interests of working people. I speak here today on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party. Since its founding in 1938, our party has fought for the Puerto Rican people's right to self-determination and independence from U.S. rule. We call on workers and farmers worldwide to extend solidarity to the people of Puerto Rico who are protesting these attacks and searching for a road forward out of colonial oppression and capitalist exploitation.

A successful fight for Puerto Rico's independence from Washington's domination is in the direct interests of working people in the U.S. We face a common enemy — the U.S. ruling capitalist class.

Here in the U.S., the employers are attacking our wages, jobs, health care, pensions and our unions. Working people are killed and maimed as cannon fodder in their imperialist wars. We face our own version of Puerto Rico's debt bondage — mounting debts that are ruining small farmers and squeezing college students, workers and the elderly.

In response to these worsening conditions, something new is developing among working people in the U.S. We saw it in the wave of revolts by teachers that shook West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado and North Carolina. The teachers' successful strike battles show the fighting capacity of the working class: their initiative, creativity, solidarity, and growing distrust of the Democrats and Republicans — the twin parties of the capitalist ruling class.

Through our own experiences, workers and farmers in the U.S. can identify with the resistance in Puerto Rico to the U.S. junta's brutal cutbacks. More become convinced that workers in the

U.S. cannot be free as long as Washington maintains its colonial bondage over Puerto Rico. Fighting together we can win.

In both Puerto Rico and the U.S., working people are looking for a road to defend themselves. There is growing understanding that the social disaster inflicted on us is simply the result of how the capitalist system works. And that workers are the only class capable of leading a way out of this worldwide crisis.

There is a living example for us to emulate. Cuba's socialist revolution shows what workers and farmers in our millions can accomplish when we take state power, wresting it from the capitalist minority. In doing so, we can transform ourselves and begin to run society in the interests of the majority. We can use that state power to extend solidarity



Right, John Studer, Socialist Workers Party, addresses U.N. decolonization committee June 18 in support of fight to end U.S. colonial rule. Left, Myrna Pagán from Vieques Lives Matter.

worldwide to others fighting to be free from imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation.

This is the road forward for working people both in Puerto Rico and the U.S. It's the road to genuine independence

for Puerto Rico — which will never be granted — it must be taken.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the committee for the opportunity to speak here today, and I urge its continued condemnation of U.S. colonial rule over Puerto Rico.

'Puerto Ricans will never give up independence fight'

Continued from front page

Rico, has ordered the colonial regime to deepen and speed up measures that make working people bear the brunt of the capitalist economic crisis and pay for the Puerto Rican government's \$74 billion debt to wealthy bondholders.

Among the anti-worker measures imposed by the junta and the colonial regime, many of the speakers pointed to the reduction of pensions for government employees, high unemployment, price increases for water and electricity, higher tuition at the University of Puerto Rico and the closing of hundreds of public schools. At the same time, thousands on the island still have no electricity almost 10 months after Hurricane Maria.

Oscar López, who spent 36 years in jail for his activities in support of independence for Puerto Rico, was the first speaker. "Puerto Ricans will never give up struggling for an independent and sovereign Puerto Rico," he said. Like a number of other speakers, he called for an independent audit of the debt.

"More than 15,000 families are still without electricity," Ángel Figueroa Jaramillo, president of the UTIER electrical workers union, told the hearing. Figueroa noted that the colonial regime, under pressure from the junta, is planning to sell the public electric utility. "The sale of a utility like the Electric Energy Agency, the social patrimony of the Puerto Rican people, to the private sector would only worsen the situation that our population is facing," he said.



March 20 protest demands electricity in Humacao, Puerto Rico.

The junta, which was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2016, "operates in plain view, without any shame, like a dictatorship," said María de Lourdes Santiago, vice president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party. "To add salt to the wound, the measures imposed by the junta have not meant any material progress or fiscal stability for our country." The measures aim to "resolve the problems of colonialism, with more colonialism," she said.

Nina Dimarie Valedón Santiago, a former city council member in Caguas and now the executive director of the Patriotic Alliance, noted that "in municipalities like Yabucoa, 60 percent of the population does not have electricity." Most of the speakers at the hearing are partisans of independence of Puerto Rico, but Valedón is a member of the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), which backs some form of "Commonwealth" status with Washington.

Today even leading members of the PPD agree that Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony. The U.S. government "lied to the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 27, 1953, when it claimed that Puerto Rico had achieved self-government," Valedón said. She demanded Puerto Rico be included on the U.N. list of colonial territories.

Washington's 'crass negligence'

Speaking for the National Hostosiano Independence Movement, Wilma Reverón Collazo said that "more than the devastation of the hurricanes, it was the crass and criminal negligence of the U.S. government and its administrators in the colony who have the main responsibility" for the thousands of deaths and ongoing social catastrophe.

Jocelyn Velázquez of the Socialist Front noted that much of the so-called aid from Washington for hurricane recovery "ends up directly in the hands of U.S. companies that charge rates

up to 20 times more than the market price for goods and services."

Since the hurricane, there has been "no dialysis, no treatment for cancer patients, no maternity ward" on the island of Vieques, Myrna Pagán Gómez, from Vieques Lives Matter, told the hearing. "Nine months after the tempest only emergency service is offered in a war zone style tent."

"We tested our mettle against the most powerful military machine in history," she said, recalling the victory in the decadeslong fight to get the U.S. Navy to shut down the base and firing range there. "We will struggle on and never give up the struggle for our homeland."

SWP: We face a common enemy

"The hurricane's impact was not primarily a natural disaster," said John Studer, speaking for the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, but "a social catastrophe, created by colonial domination and capitalist rule." Studer, who is editor of the *Militant*, recently returned from a fact-finding trip to Puerto Rico, where he met working people in Humacao, Yabucoa and San Juan.

"My party demands: Cancel the immoral debt!" (Studer's full remarks are printed alongside this article.)

All told, over 40 groups spoke to the commission, urging the U.S. government be forced to end its colonial domination over Puerto Rico.

For the 37th time since 1972, the committee approved a resolution reaffirming "the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence," again calling on the U.N. General Assembly to take up the question as soon as possible. The resolution was co-sponsored by the governments of Cuba, Bolivia, Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Syria and Russia.

"More than 120 years of colonial domination have not been enough to take away from the Puerto Rican people their culture, identity, language and national feelings," Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, Cuba's ambassador to the U.N. said, motivating the resolution. "That by itself proves the inalienable vocation for independence that is sunk deep in this Latin American and Caribbean island."

2018 Active Workers Conference

*Deeper into the Working Class
Act on the Rulers' Deepening Political Crisis
Build the Labor Movement*
BUILD THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Continued from front page

as well as participation in social and political struggles in the interests of working people.

That additional line on the banner wouldn't have rung true last year, Barnes said, prior to the wave of teachers' union battles since early 2018 that inspired workers across the country, won broad support and scored some victories. After decades of attacks on the working class by the employers, driven by the deepening crisis of their capitalist system, teachers and other workers are beginning to fight back. In the weeks before the conference, a number of participants across the U.S. and Canada had gone with co-workers and fellow trade unionists to bring solidarity to other labor actions and social protests. Through participation in such activity, the party is recruiting new members.

Ringing the hall, dozens of colorful displays illustrated the teachers' strike battles, as well as other key political developments and questions in the U.S. and worldwide — from Korea to Europe to the Middle East. The exhibits showed experiences by members of the SWP and sister Communist Leagues in campaigning to advance a revolutionary working-class program and course of action.

The displays also addressed themes discussed in two other conference talks by SWP leaders — “Private Property, Women’s Oppression, and the Working-Class Road to Emancipation” presented by Mary-Alice Waters, and “The Proletarian Revolution and Culture” presented by Dave Prince — as well as classes and informal discussions over meals and elsewhere.

In addition to discussion sessions on the main presentations, there were classes on “Class Struggle, Communism, and the Jewish Question: from Palestine and Israel to Iran”; “Black Liberation and the Labor Movement”; and “The Political Legacy of the Grenada Revolution and Communist Leadership.”

Barnes placed the new openings in the labor movement in the U.S. in the context of important shifts in politics and the class struggle worldwide. He

focused on recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, the ongoing wars and capitalist rivalries in the Middle East, the U.S. rulers’ relations with Moscow, and the accelerated tearing at the seams of the so-called G-7, European “Union,” and other imperialist pacts and crumbling “global” institutions.

This article focuses on these events and their significance for struggles by working people. Next week, in addition to continuing this account of U.S. and world politics, the *Militant* will report on other presentations, discussions and projections for party work at the SWP conference and subsequent National Committee meeting.

U.S. out of Korea!

The prospects opened by the Singapore summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean head of state Kim Jong Un, which concluded two days before the SWP gathering, are good for the working class, Barnes said — not just in the U.S. and Korea, but in Japan, China, and across the Pacific and the world.

The Socialist Workers Party has campaigned for decades to demand that the U.S. rulers get their troops, planes and bombs out of Korea and end their brutal imperialist sanctions against the people and government of North Korea. “Korea is one!” the SWP has explained, helping to educate working people in the U.S. and throughout the world about Washington’s bloody occupation and partition of Korea, with Moscow’s collusion, in 1945. With the victory of the Vietnamese Revolution in 1975 and unification of Germany in the 1990s, Korea remains the last nation on earth whose people were forcibly separated by the division of spoils at the end of the imperialist Second World War.

The SWP has long called for a halt to Washington’s annual joint military maneuvers with South Korea — accurately recognized by President Trump at the June summit both as “war games” and as “provocative,” to howls of protest by Democratic Party liberals and some Republican politicians. The U.S. government indefinitely suspended those war

games with Seoul June 22.

Trump has also raised withdrawing some of the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea — a proposal he first mooted during the 2016 elections — in exchange for the North Korean government taking steps to dismantle its nuclear missile program. The SWP calls, Barnes said, “For a Korean Peninsula, Japan and surrounding skies and waters free of nuclear weapons.”

Barnes drew attention to a chart given to all conference participants showing the nuclear arsenals of Washington (some 6,450 nuclear warheads) down to North Korea (an estimated 10 to 20). According to the chart, the most recent warhead tested by North Korea is 10 to 15 times more powerful than the U.S. bomb that annihilated some 100,000 or more people in Hiroshima in 1945 (including at least 20,000 Koreans, most of them forcibly transported as cheap labor for Korea’s Japanese colonial rulers).

The steps already taken by Washington since the Singapore summit “buy space and time for the working class,” Barnes explained, as will further steps in this direction. They have a welcome impact on working people in Japan, who have living memory of the U.S. rulers’ nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and oppose nuclear weapons in Asia, whether in Korea or on Washington’s submarine fleet plying the Pacific.

War and class conflict in Mideast

The U.S. rulers, Barnes said, are also pressing to hammer out agreements in the Middle East, both with rival bourgeois governments across the region and with the rising capitalist rulers in Moscow, who have their own economic, political, and military interests there, especially in Syria.

The current White House, Barnes said, has ceased acting on the false premise, one that has guided the last several Democratic and Republican administrations alike, that “the U.S. rulers can dominate the world unopposed in the mistaken belief they won the Cold War.” While Washington maintains massive military superiority over other world powers, it can no longer simply impose U.S. capital’s will through bloody wars — wars that have now gone on, from Syria to Afghanistan, for more than 17 years. Instead, the current administration is seeking to advance U.S. imperialist interests by moving to end some longstanding conflicts and pull in its horns to a degree, at least for now.

This is Washington’s course, for example, in seeking a deal with the Israeli and Russian governments to end the now eight-year-long Syrian civil war and restore a semblance of stability to advance their separate but mutual class interests. Increasingly over that long and bloody



conflict, the bourgeois clerical regime in Tehran has deployed its armed forces and associated militias across Syria — including the Lebanon-based organization and militia Hezbollah, which Iran’s rulers created and politically dominate — seeking to defend the tyranny of Bashar al-Assad and entrench the Iranian rulers’ position there. Their goal is to use this position to control a wide arc of territory and political/military influence to expand their counterrevolutionary sway across Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon to the Mediterranean and the borders of Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

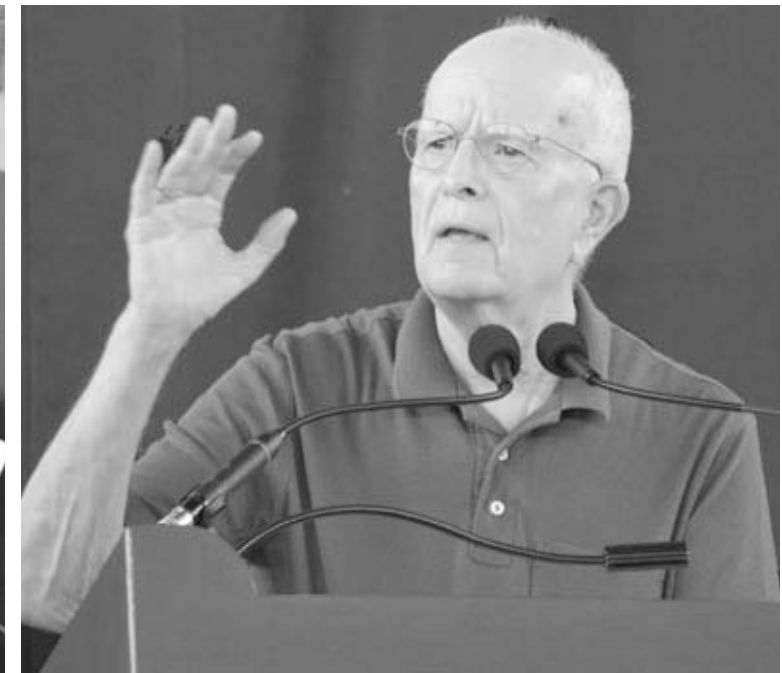
Since 2015, both Moscow and Tehran-backed forces had succeeded in propping up the Assad regime. Together with military efforts by Kurdish-based military forces in northeast Syria, aided by Washington both in the air and on the ground, armed opposition groups in Syria, including Islamic State, have been pushed back. At the same time, those military victories have weakened the glue holding together Moscow’s and Tehran’s temporarily coinciding but conflicting class interests.

In recent months, Russian President Vladimir Putin has met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and agreed that the Israeli rulers can strike at Tehran-backed forces — including not only Hezbollah, but Iranian troops themselves — when they get too close to Israel’s border or start stockpiling and transporting large quantities of missiles and other weapons. Washington, Tel Aviv and their Mideast allies are all pressing — both separately and, to the degree they can, together — to end Tehran’s military presence in Syria.

The Israeli government’s June 18 airstrikes killed and wounded dozens of the Tehran-backed Shiite Kata’ib Hezbollah militia members in Syria, with no response from Moscow. A similar airstrike in May, directly destroying Iranian forces — again with no military response by Moscow — was carried out by the Israeli government while Netanyahu was on a return flight from a visit

to Putin in Russia.

In return for its silence on the Israeli government’s airstrikes, Barnes said, Moscow seeks talks with Washington to guarantee the expansion of the Russian military base at the warm-water Syrian port of Tartus, key to Russia’s navy, and its nearby air force facilities. Days after the SWP conference U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton was dispatched to Moscow to prepare the ground for a summit between Trump and Putin (jointly announced for later this summer by the two governments as this issue was going



Militant photos by Arthur Hughes
Above, Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes presents report “Deeper into the Working Class: Build the Labor Movement” to Active Workers Conference June 14 in Oberlin, Ohio. Left, conference participants study displays illustrating the party’s participation in the class struggle and developments in world politics. Right, those attending conference for first time pick up offers on books on party’s program to build their libraries.



to press).

The Iranian ruling class acts against the toilers of Iran, and its foreign policy is an extension of that counterrevolutionary course at home, Barnes said. But the rulers in Tehran “are neither suicidal, nor irrational. They, too, can be pushed to seek a new deal with Washington, and, if that is successful, with Tel Aviv.”

Washington also sent President Trump’s son-in-law and White House Adviser Jared Kushner to Israel, Saudi

Arabia, and Egypt in late June to discuss the next stages in advancing its Mideast peace plan, Barnes said.

Despite the U.S. rulers’ intentions, these moves — from Korea to Moscow to the Middle East — can have positive results for the working class and toilers, helping to open much-needed political space to organize; to gain class-struggle experience against their respective capitalist ruling classes; to strengthen ties of workers solidarity across imperialist-

stoked national and religious divisions; and to take steps toward the building of new working-class leadership.

Next week, the myth of the so-called G-7 and European “Union”; “trade war”; U.S. liberals, the “Resistance,” and a working-class course in face of assaults on the rights of working people, women, Blacks, and immigrants; and much more from the SWP’s 2018 Active Workers Conference.

Amnesty for all immigrants in the US! No deportations!

Continued from front page

By June 20, more than 2,000 children had been taken from their parents and placed in facilities across the country. Photos and recordings of crying children — including some that were misidentified as being of children who were separated — were used to focus on the issue.

Some liberals and the left used the attention to bolster their “resistance” campaign to oust Trump at all costs. Liberal California Congresswoman Maxine Waters urged people to take action against representatives of the administration, saying that everyone should “absolutely harass them” wherever they go.

Some liberal media bosses ran pictures of children locked in cage-like cells, claiming they were taken this year.

But some of the most appalling pictures they published were actually taken under the Barack Obama administration’s detention of unaccompanied minors in 2014. These pictures highlight the continuity of the U.S. rulers’ immigration policy.

11 million without ‘proper’ papers

On June 20 President Donald Trump — who claimed he opposed the separations, but wanted Congress to vote for an overall immigration policy, including funds for a wall on the Mexican border — ended the policy.

But the single-minded liberal-led crusade targeting Trump as somehow especially evil and focusing only on the children leaves the 11 million immigrants in the U.S. who don’t have “proper” work papers and who live with the daily possibility of deportation out of the debate. They’re not mentioned in the so-called immigration reform bills currently before Congress nor by those who claim to

represent the interests of the immigrants.

Neither the current administration, nor previous ones, has any intention of deporting all but a small minority of immigrants in the U.S. without “proper” papers. Far from wanting to get rid of them, U.S. capitalists depend on undocumented labor they press to work for less to compete more successfully against their rivals.

Under the impact of the uptick in production, trade and hiring in the U.S. and Mexico, and the tightening up of the U.S.-Mexico border, many bosses in the U.S. are facing a shortage of labor. To make up for the decline — at least in part — more than 200,000 H2-A short term “guest worker” visas were awarded in 2017, up from 77,000 in 2011, a 159 percent increase.

The so-called guest workers have fewer rights than U.S.-born workers. If they are fired or quit, they can be deported. Capitalist bosses are pushing the government to grant more of these visas.

But they still need millions of undocumented workers.

The goal of the rulers is to instill fear in these workers and to pit foreign-born and U.S.-born workers against each other. They seek to maintain a source of cheap labor, to use immigrant labor to keep down the wages of U.S.-born workers, and to divide the working class and undermine its ability to organize the unorganized and fight capitalist exploitation.

That’s why demanding amnesty for all 11 million immigrants in the U.S. and for an immediate end to deportations is a life and death question for the working class and our labor unions.

Millions win amnesty in 1986, 1990

The fight for amnesty has been won before. In 1986 then President Ronald Reagan pushed through Congress an

immigration law that made undocumented workers who entered the U.S. before 1982 eligible for amnesty. Nearly 3 million people got amnesty.

But many spouses and children of immigrants who qualified for amnesty were excluded, leading to protests over families being divided.

In 1990 President George H.W. Bush signed a law to cover those in this position and granted amnesty to another 1.5 million.

In 2006 millions of immigrant workers took to the streets to protest the Sensenbrenner bill in Congress that would have made it a felony to be in the U.S. without a visa. They carried placards that said, “We are workers, not criminals,” demanding amnesty. On May 1 more than 1 million went on strike, shutting down hundreds of factories and businesses across the country.

Not only did these actions force defeat of the federal legislation, they won tremendous respect from fellow workers. Following May 1, more and more immigration raids were met with protests. U.S.-born workers often helped co-workers hide or escape. President George W. Bush suspended the raids in mid-2008.

Today there is less prejudice against immigrant workers than ever. Immigrant and native-born workers work and live side by side all across the country.

The changing attitudes among U.S.-born workers can be seen in the

response to a government raid April 5 at Southeastern Provision meat-processing plant in Bean Station, Tennessee, one of a handful of new workplace raids the administration has undertaken.

In 2016 some 77 percent of the surrounding county voted for Trump. After the raid, residents of nearby Morristown, where many of the workers live, raised \$60,000 for those who were detained. A number of U.S.-born residents joined an April 12 march through Morristown where participants carried signs saying, “Families belong together,” “No more deportations” and “Immigrants make America great.”

A sustained, labor-backed battle for amnesty would find a powerful response.



Militant/Rollande Girard
Demonstrators in Chicago, May 1, 2006, march demanding amnesty for all undocumented workers in the U.S.

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 77 2018

US out of Korea! An unknown history

History of Washington’s intervention in Korea

BY STEVE CLARK
The following article was originally published in three parts in the *Militant* in 2013 on September 23, September 30, and October 7.

well, the vast majority of homes, hospitals, schools, factories and other structures were leveled. Only three major buildings were left standing in Pyongyang, and 18 of the 22 largest cities in the North were 50 to 100 percent destroyed.
After Chinese troops joined the DPRK’s fight against Washington’s war of conquest on the peninsula in October 1950, Gen. Douglas MacArthur ordered destruction of every “installation, factory, city and village” in the North up to the Yalu River. Gen. Curtis LeMay, head of the U.S. Strategic Air

Part 1: How Korean workers and farmers began resistance to U.S. domination forced partition of nation

For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel

- For repeal of U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act
- For workers’ solidarity in Israel, Palestine, the world over

Socialist Workers Party statement

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