

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Teamster Bureaucracy' is must read for workers today
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 33 SEPTEMBER 3, 2018

SWP: Speak out against bosses, gov't attacks, abuse

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. and sister Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. are stepping up discussions with

SWP SPEAKS WITH, FOR WORKING PEOPLE

workers on doorsteps and in living rooms in cities, towns and rural areas. The heart of these conversations is the need for workers to chart a political course independent of the capitalist rulers, their parties and their state, to gain the confidence and experience needed to overturn the capitalist system and take political power.

The party speaks out against the capitalist rulers' assaults on all the exploited and oppressed — against attacks on workers' jobs, wages and working conditions, police brutality,
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US, Turkish rulers clash over course in Mideast

SWP: 'Stand with working people in Turkey'



Reuters/Umit Bektas

Turkish government has let U.S. forces use Incirlik base in Adana, Turkey, above, for decades. But disputes between U.S. and Turkish governments have heated up in wake of Syrian civil war.

BY TERRY EVANS

Sharpening disputes between the propertied rulers in the U.S. and Turkey over their conflicting economic, political and military interests in Syria and more broadly in the region lie

behind the current trade sanctions being imposed back and forth between the two capitalist powers.

The escalating dispute takes place as the "world order" put together by the U.S. rulers after they emerged as top dog at the end of the second imperialist world war is coming apart. And at the same time the institutions and alliances cobbled together by Washington's rivals — like the EU — are being torn asunder.

As the Syrian civil war winds down,
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Witch hunt by liberals against Trump a danger to workers

BY TERRY EVANS

As President Donald Trump continues to win support for improvements on jobs and production and in foreign policy, the liberal media, Democrats and some Republicans are trying to breathe life into their waning efforts to overturn the 2016 election and drive him from office. They have seized on the conviction of his former campaign manager Paul Manafort, a plea bargain by Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen, and the president's decision to revoke ex-CIA boss John Brennan's security clearance.

The president has boosted his support in the U.S. ruling class as the capitalist economy continues to grow. He lessens military conflicts that Washington has been unable to win, and pushes for concessions from com-

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White nationalist rally shows less support for racism in US today



Reuters/Jim Urquhart

Aug. 12 "Unite the Right" action in Washington, D.C. Fascist groups have little support in working class. Goal of liberal and left hysteria is keeping workers chained to Democratic Party.

The following commentary is by the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Maryland.

BY JAMES HARRIS

After all the hype on the left and in the liberal media, only two dozen

COMMENTARY

marchers showed up for the Aug. 12 "Unite the Right" demonstration in Washington, D.C. It was dwarfed by several thousand counterdemonstra-

tors and self-avowed antifa, or anti-fascists. The small size of the rightist turnout reveals much about the true strength of the so-called white nationalist movement — and the hysteria about the alleged fascist danger signaled by the election of Donald Trump as president.

The march was called by Jason Kessler on the one-year anniversary of a rightist march he helped organize in Charlottesville, Virginia. On the eve of that rally, some 250 white supremacists and neo-Nazis marched
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Join fight to end prison officials' censorship of the 'Militant'!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

A *Militant* subscriber at the Greenville, Illinois, federal prison won a victory there Aug. 15 — he was released. The fight against the prison warden's decision to ban the paper while he was there remains undecided. This is an important issue for all workers behind bars and all defenders of political rights. At issue is whether prison authorities have the right to censor publications they don't agree with.

Warden Tom Werlich banned the paper on the grounds that it "is a newspaper journal associated with the Socialist Workers Party and encourages change by protesting and striking."

Letters are still being sent to Federal Bureau of Prisons Regional Director Sara M. Revell, urging she rule that this censorship must be overturned. One subscriber who wrote Revell is an inmate at the Illinois state Lawrence
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Demand US rulers sign peace pact ending the Korean War!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo plans to return to North Korea for the fourth time by the end of August as Washington and Pyongyang continue to work on advancing the "denuclearization" agreement reached at a June 12 summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in will hold their third face-to-face summit in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, in September. Moon, in close collaboration with the White
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Workers at Indiana construction site walk out against racist firings

Puerto Rico teachers protest 'worst school start in decades'

The Militant September 3, 2018

SWP speaks with, for workers

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the debt slavery forced on working farm families by the capitalist rents and mortgages system, attacks on women's right to choose abortion and much more.

Laura Anderson, a rail worker and SWP candidate for lieutenant governor in Illinois, knocked on doors on Chicago's South Side Aug. 2. She met Alice Goodrun, a retired school teacher. Anderson showed her *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

While looking at the photo sections of the book, they reviewed the history of the Radical Reconstruction period, the civil rights movement and what that meant for the whole working class.

"They don't teach our real history in the schools," Goodrun said. "African history is ignored. This history of the African-American, how the struggles connect with others, is not in our books.

Anderson and Goodrun discussed why real history — the combat by the ruling capitalists and their state with the millions of workers and their allies — is crucial for working people to learn from past experiences.

"The capitalists try to hide our accomplishments in order to deny our capacities for struggle today," Anderson said. "They tell us we're not capable of running society. To do away with that image of ourselves is one of the greatest battles that lies ahead of us."

In the book Malcolm X explains that working people don't need to be awakened to their oppression, she said, but to "broaden our scope" and discover "our own worth."

Goodrun signed up for an introductory subscription to learn more and got the book. It is one of five titles on special offer with a subscription. (See ad below.)

Nay Woodberry, a nursing student, told Anderson that she was nearby

July 14 when cops shot Harith Augustus in her South Side neighborhood. The killing of the 37-year-old African-American barber led to protests.

There is a long history of cop abuse in Chicago's Black communities, Anderson said. "We joined the protests. We demand the arrest and prosecution of the cop who killed Augustus."

Woodberry also got a subscription and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

Death penalty is a class question

In Nebraska, Joe Swanson, a retired rail conductor and SWP member in Lincoln, said that the state's first execution in 21 years has intensified debate around the anti-working-class death penalty.

Carey Dean Moore, convicted of double murder in 1979, was executed Aug. 14 with an untested four-drug cocktail featuring Fentanyl, the opioid drug responsible for thousands of overdose deaths in working-class areas around the country.

Fifteen minutes after the first drug was injected, prison authorities lowered a curtain, so media witnesses couldn't see whether the cocktail drugs tortured him. The curtain was lifted 14 minutes later, six minutes after the coroner had pronounced Moore dead.

Swanson said he has been discussing the issue with workers as he knocks on doors in the area. He wrote a letter to the *Lincoln Journal Star* and made copies to show to workers.

"The death penalty is a class weapon and used exclusively against working people," he writes. "And it is used disproportionately against workers who are Black, Latino and other oppressed nationalities.

"The death penalty is carried out by the police on the streets every day and through the prison system in every single state. It has nothing to do with fighting crime. Its only purpose is to instill a sense of terror in the working class," he says. "It is meant to keep you from fighting."

"As a veteran union member for 60 years, I've seen an increase in capitalist bosses' disregard for safety with government collusion in U.S. workplaces. This has led to 5,190 fatal



Militant/Dan Fein

Campaigning door to door on Chicago's South Side Aug. 2, Laura Anderson, right, SWP candidate for Illinois lieutenant governor, met Alice Goodrun, a retired teacher, who got *Militant* subscription and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

workers' injuries recorded in 2016," Swanson says. "The fight to end the death penalty should be joined by the labor movement in the fight that no worker has to die or be maimed on the job."

Swanson said he's met both defenders and opponents on workers' doorsteps in Lincoln, but it really helps the discussions to explain how the death penalty is used to intimidate workers from fighting back. As of the *Militant*'s closing news date, the *Journal Star* hasn't published the letter.

Amnesty to unify working class

Terry Evans and Tamar Rosenfeld, SWP members in New York, went door to door in a predominantly African-American neighborhood on Manhattan's Upper West Side Aug. 16.

"We got into a discussion about immigration with a retired city worker," Evans reported. "We told her the SWP calls for amnesty for the 11 million immigrants who the government says don't have 'proper documents' to live and work in the U.S. She said, 'I'm against amnesty. I don't want any more of them coming here.'"

"This is a life-and-death question for the labor movement," responded Evans. "Unions need to organize

these workers to counter how bosses divide and pit us against each other. Their goal is to worsen wages and working conditions for *all* of us. The worker told us she is for unions and has been a union member all her life, but hadn't thought of it this way before."

She picked up a copy of the paper and said she'd share and discuss it with her son.

You need to look at every question from the point of view of working people and fight to unify our class to successfully counter attacks by the bosses and their government, Evans said.

To find out more about the Socialist Workers Party and its sister Communist Leagues, and to join in their campaigns, check out the directory on page 8.

Correction

The article "Venezuela: Workers, Farmers Face Effects of Capitalist Crisis" in the Aug. 27 *Militant* mistakenly identified Edwin Fruit, as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Washington state. He is the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate there.

'Militant' printing schedule

This is a two-week issue.
Militant no. 34 will be mailed out September 6.

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Quebec

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Witch hunt is danger to workers

Continued from front page

petitors abroad, imposing tariffs and sanctions, then offering one-on-one negotiations. Workers have no stake in backing Washington in these conflicts.

As a consequence of the capitalist economy's growth, Trump is gaining support among many in the working class. While workers' wages remain stagnant, many find it easier to get jobs today. And the president's efforts to end some of these wars means fewer workers will be killed and maimed as cannon fodder for the U.S. rulers.

The moves by the White House to tamp down conflicts and lessen military tensions in Korea, Afghanistan and the Mideast unintentionally create better conditions for workers there. They open doors to discuss and debate a road forward against the rulers' attacks.

The liberal owners of the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and other media reacted with glee to the conviction of Manafort and the deal Cohen struck with New York prosecutors. "Twin convictions are a stunning rebuke of Trump," *Post* editors opined. The *Times* hailed the Manafort verdict — convictions on just eight of 18 charges — as "Robert Mueller's biggest victory yet." They claimed that it's no less than "one of the most successful special counsel investigations in history."

Special prosecutor and former FBI boss Mueller — supposedly tasked by the Justice Department to investigate whether the president engaged in "collusion" with Moscow in the 2016 election — threw a pile of charges at Manafort for financial fraud, hoping some would stick. None were remotely related to claims of "collusion" with Moscow.

Cohen pled guilty to financial shenanigans, including campaign-finance violations by making payments to Stephanie Clifford and Karen McDougal on Trump's behalf. The pay-offs were in exchange for not revealing details of relationships they claim to have had with Trump some years ago. Again, these charges have nothing to do with "collusion."

After 15 months Mueller has found no collusion. Like *all* such special counsels and grand juries, he doesn't start with an actual crime, but with a target to bring down — in this case, the president. As former head of the U.S. rulers political police, Mueller knows how to dig for dirt on the president's subordinates. His goal is to squeeze them to cough up something he can use against Trump. "You know they're still looking for collusion," Trump told supporters at a rally in Charleston, West Virginia, Aug. 21, the day of the two convictions. "Where is the collusion? Find some collusion!"

If Trump paid for the silence of those he is alleged to have had relationships with, it won't come as a surprise to most workers. Those who voted for him weren't looking for a saint. And they won't judge him based on the liberals' outcry.

They backed Trump because they were attracted to his call to "clean the swamp" of Democratic and Republican politicians in Washington, who for years showed no interest in the widening impact of the U.S.

rulers' wars, joblessness and the broader social crisis affecting workers' lives. They'll pass judgment on Trump based on his actions on these questions, and so far a lot think he's doing OK.

Ex-spy bosses boost witch hunt

The president yanked ex-CIA Director Brennan's access to Washington's vast state secrets Aug. 15. These "secrets" were acquired through Washington's spy operations at home and abroad. Trump cited the fact that Brennan is a big supporter of Mueller's open-ended witch hunt.

Brennan was responsible for leading the expansion of Washington's murderous drone assaults in Pakistan and Yemen; for targeting people, including U.S. citizens, for assassination; and managing CIA torture programs that the spy agency euphemistically refers to as "enhanced interrogation."

A dozen former CIA directors, including Robert Gates, David Petraeus and Leon Panetta — all of whom served under Barack Obama — issued an indignant open letter opposing the president's decision to pull the clearance, accusing him of stifling free speech.

When another 175 former national security operatives, spies and other political appointees joined the defense of Brennan's "free speech" rights, Trump responded. "Everybody wants to keep their Security Clearance, it's worth great prestige and big dollars, even board seats," he tweeted, "and that is why certain people are coming forward to protect Brennan."

Since Trump's July meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brennan has repeatedly claimed that the president is "treasonous." He ap-



AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin

Ex-CIA head Leon Panetta greets Hillary Clinton, 2013. Panetta and group of ex-spy chiefs defend ex-CIA head John Brennan, who lost his security clearance after calling President Donald Trump "treasonous." In drive to bring down Trump, liberals build up the rulers' spy agencies.

pears to revel in making unsubstantiated accusations that Putin "may have something on" Trump. You're supposed to think his clearance gave him access to something you don't know.

Brennan's right to say what he thinks was not encroached one iota when he lost his security clearance. He has generous access to the pages of the *Times* and the *Post* whenever he wants.

Assaults on free speech and freedom of assembly *are* being carried out today. They're being organized by a layer of Trump's liberal opponents, like Maxine Waters, who urges mob attacks on government officials to hound them from public life.

In a series of coordinated editorial columns, the liberal owners of some 350 newspapers around the country claimed the president was attacking press freedom when he tweets about fake news.

But Trump's remarks have nothing to do with imposing constraints on the

press. More and more of these papers have given up any pretense at printing "news," instead running article after article arguing with Trump and calling him a liar.

As they trade conjectures about the effects the court rulings on Manafort and Cohen, and "treason" calls by Brennan, will have, most bourgeois commentators agree there's little chance Trump will be indicted or successfully removed from office.

Their conclusions? All out for the Democrats in 2018! And, if they have to, against Donald Trump in 2020.

The Socialist Workers Party is fielding candidates across the country, speaking out about the capitalist rulers' assaults on working people and the oppressed, and championing labor battles and social protests. The party explains that the road forward is for the working class to break with all the parties of the capitalist rulers and chart a course to take political power into their own hands.

US, Turkish rulers clash over course in Mideast

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Washington has moved to work more closely with the rulers in Israel, Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf monarchies, and Egypt to target the Iranian regime and its Hezbollah ally. Ankara is in a bloc with Moscow and Tehran enforcing their separate interests in Syria. As part of this alliance, the Turkish rulers control a "de-escalation zone" in Idlib and parts of Latakia, Hama and Aleppo, where opponents of the Bashar al-Assad regime have been increasingly centered.

At the same time, Turkey remains a member of U.S.-dominated NATO.

Washington froze the assets of two Turkish government ministers Aug. 1 after Ankara refused to release U.S. evangelical pastor Andrew Brunson. Turkish authorities imprisoned Brunson in 2016, claiming he aided a failed coup against the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and backs Kurds fighting for their national rights. They are attempting to use Brunson as trade bait to get Washington to extradite Fethullah Gulen, a former ally of Erdogan who lives in exile in the U.S. Ankara accuses him of being behind the 2016 coup attempt.

In response to Washington's sanctions, the Turkish government retaliated with their own protectionist measures. The U.S. administration then doubled tariffs on steel and aluminum sold in the U.S. by Turkish bosses. Ankara imposed its own punitive duties on goods

traded by U.S. companies in Turkey.

But it's not an equal exchange between Washington and the Erdogan government. The U.S. rulers sit atop a far larger and more robust capitalist economy than the capitalist class in Turkey. As Washington imposed its sanctions there, the lira, the Turkish currency, nosedived, hitting working people the hardest.

A decadeslong ally of Washington

For decades the Turkish rulers have joined Washington in the bloody imperialist conflicts it waged around the world. They sent over 20,000 Turkish troops to fight in Washington's 1950-53 Korean War and thousands joined the U.S. war in Afghanistan after Sept. 11, 2001. During the 1991 Iraq war, the Turkish government enforced the anti-Iraq blockade, opened its airfields to U.S. bombers, and mobilized troops along its border with Iraq.

The Turkish rulers turned over a hunk of their Incirlik Air Base for the exclusive use of the U.S. Air Force, including the stationing of dozens of B61 nuclear bombs there. Since 2015 the Pentagon has used the base for airstrikes against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

In exchange, the Turkish rulers have sought military aid, loans from and trade with the U.S. capitalists, and Washington's backing for the regime's efforts to crush the struggle of Turkey's oppressed Kurdish population for a homeland.

The roots of today's clashes between Washington and Ankara lie in their di-

vergent interests in the bloody aftermath of Syria's civil war.

As the Assad government lost control of many parts of the country, and in the absence of any working-class leadership, reactionary Islamic State seized control in parts of Syria and Iraq, inflicting greater misery on working people.

Unwilling to deploy U.S. troops on the ground, Washington relied on the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) and the Syrian Democratic Forces, which the YPG led, to do most of the fighting. With the aid of U.S. air power, they ousted Islamic State. As a result, the SDF consolidated control over an autonomous area east of the Euphrates River covering some 25 percent of Syria, including the Kurdish region that lies on the border with Turkey. Washington stations 2,000 troops there today.

Erdogan charges that Washington is protecting the YPG, who he says are allied with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Turkey. The Turkish government has waged a decadeslong war against the Kurds' fight for independence there. The Turkish army invaded the YPG-held province of Afrin, in northwest Syria, earlier this year, driving them out. Erdogan repeated Aug. 18 his often-made threat to drive the YPG away from the border in Kurdish north-eastern Syria.

Amid these conflicts the Turkish rulers have developed closer relations with Moscow. The Turkish government says

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

This column gives a voice to those engaged in labor battles and building solidarity today — from teachers and school workers across the country, to miners, rail and factory and retail workers looking to stand and fight. Send in articles, photos and letters on picket lines and other labor protests to themilitant@mac.com, post them directly on our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Workers at Indiana construction site walk out against racist firings

More than 3 million people got a glimpse of the power workers have when we unite and act together against attacks by the bosses, thanks to welder Antoine Dangerfield. He videotaped a July 31 walkout he joined by about 100 of his Latino construction co-workers who were building a major warehouse hub for UPS in Plainfield, Indiana. He posted it on Facebook, YouTube and other internet sites.

Dangerfield told the press that the stoppage began when a supervisor, widely viewed as racist, got upset when none of the Latino workers who speak English would agree to translate into Spanish for him during a safety meeting. All the workers, including Dangerfield, were hired by Contractors Resource Inc. and Material Handling Systems Inc.

The supervisor “got mad, real red-faced,” Dangerfield said. “Next thing you know, he dismissed the meeting. So he’s walking around just sending them home, trying to fire them. So he sent like five or six of them home.”

What happened next took the company — and Dangerfield, who is Black — by surprise. The Latino workers — millwrights, welders, and conveyor installers — started packing up their bags.

Dangerfield’s commentaries captured the walkout. “They are not bulls---ing!” he narrates, “They sent a couple of them home and they all packed up their s--- and shut this motherf---er down! This is what Black people should be about. They are packing their s--- up!”

“They said, ‘Aw, yeah, we rise together, homie!’” Dangerfield laughs.

“Ain’t no grinding, cutting, welding. This motherf---er dead ass quiet,” Dangerfield says, as he films the now almost empty warehouse.

By the next day, the workers were back on the job, but the supervisor who sparked the walkout was not. Danger-

field was also out of a job. The construction company owners were “real mad” about the video, he said. “They tried to pay me \$250 to take it down.” He refused and they fired him.

Dangerfield says he’s not upset about being fired. “It’s 5 million people who saw that. And it might change their view on things,” he says. “So me losing a job is nothing compared to the big picture.”

A GoFundMe account set up on his behalf raised \$30,000 in two days. “It really goes to show how much we as a people want to and can stand together,” he said.

— Seth Galinsky

Puerto Rico teachers protest ‘worst school start in decades’

Hundreds of teachers, parents and students joined marches called by the Federation of Teachers of Puerto Rico in San Juan and Mayagüez Aug. 15 to protest the disaster being imposed on teachers and students by the colonial overlords in Washington. Hundreds of schools have been shuttered; many schools are still damaged from Hurricane Maria; teachers’ seniority is being violated; and the first privately run charter school funded by the government has been opened. The school year began Aug. 13.

“We believe this is the worst beginning of a school year in decades,” Edwin Morales, vice president of the Teachers Federation, said at an Aug. 12 press conference. He said the Department of Education had left 1,000 teaching positions unfilled, while teachers are unemployed or still waiting to be assigned to schools. Class rooms are overcrowded and some schools are only open half a day, due to insufficient personnel.

Students and parents at the Isidro Sánchez High School in Luquillo, backed by the Teachers Federation, held a one-day strike Aug. 17, carrying signs showing all the classes that had been cancelled because of a lack of teachers.



Eduardo Meléndez

Teachers, students and parents rally in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aug. 15 during protest against closings of public schools, overcrowding in those still open and poor conditions teachers face.

The island’s Department of Education has shut down 254 public schools since last year, claiming this was because of a drop in enrollment of some 41,000 students — 26,674 since Hurricane Maria alone, as many workers left for the U.S., fleeing the social crisis in the wake of the storm — and a \$300 million funding shortfall. The number of teachers has been cut from 31,000 in 2016 to 22,500 today.

The situation is chaotic. Schools in good condition are among those closed, while students have been sent to some that still need repairs. The colony’s education department has spent \$1.6 million to put trailers outside schools damaged by Maria to serve as temporary classrooms.

“They are attacking not just the teachers and the children, but the working class,” said Mercedes Martínez, president of the Teachers Federation, at the start of the Aug. 15 march in San Juan. “It’s an attack by the wealthy class, those who control the finances of the country and are trying to leave us in misery.”

— Seth Galinsky

Teachers in New Zealand strike over pay, conditions

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — A 24-hour strike by almost 30,000 teachers Aug. 15 closed most of this country’s primary and intermediate schools. The

teachers’ union, the New Zealand Educational Institute, is in contract negotiations with the government over pay and working conditions.

Around 10,000 teachers and supporters marched and rallied in central Auckland and thousands more in other cities and towns. It was the first strike by teachers in 24 years.

“We need more funding for special learning needs, to increase wages, to reduce class sizes, and to allow more non-contact time,” Auckland teacher Diana Bebiech told the *Militant* at the rally.

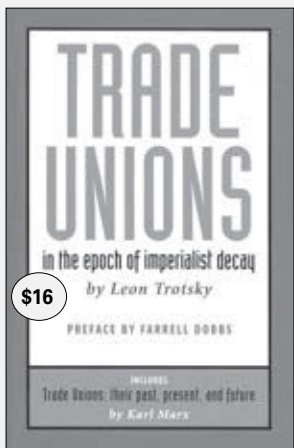
“At present we get only one hour a week free from class to do planning and other work,” she said. “Also, there are not enough teachers, so we often have to care for other classes as well as our own.” The teachers are seeking a 16 percent pay increase over two years and a reduction in class sizes.

Many here marched with their own homemade placards and banners. “Teaching shouldn’t be a debt sentence,” read one. “We work 60 plus and get paid jack,” said another. Many students carried signs supporting the teachers.

A group of young construction workers on a building site stopped work to hold up signs on the sidewalk in solidarity as the teachers marched by, getting a big cheer in response. Many others lined the main street to show support.

— Mike Tucker

Recommended reading



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

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 6, 1993

“Most people look at prisoners as scum of the earth. But we’re almost all working-class people, human beings with an interest in fighting for human rights. We have common interests and the only way we’re going to protect our rights is by our actions and our unity.” This is how Mark Curtis began to explain what a socialist worker does behind bars.

Curtis, a union activist and member of the Socialist Workers Party in Des Moines, Iowa, was framed up by the police in 1988 on false charges of sexual assault and burglary. At the time, he was involved in protesting the arrest of 17 coworkers in an immigration raid at the meat-packing plant where he worked.

“I’ve met meat packers and truck drivers, some who’ve been involved in union fights,” he said. “There are many people who’ve been touched by the civil rights movement.”



September 6, 1968

FORT DIX, N.J. — The Army brass here has launched a new attack on antiwar views and constitutional rights within the armed forces. Socialist Fourth Class Allen Myers is now facing a court-martial at Fort Dix for the “crime” of giving antiwar leaflets to his fellow GIs during his off-duty hours. Myers’ personal books have been confiscated, and he has been restricted to his company area on the base.

The antiwar GI, who has been in the Army 16 months, was an activist in the antiwar movement in Madison, Wis., before being drafted. He is a member of both the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party.

Myers is charged with violation of a local Fort Dix regulation outlawing the distribution of “handbills” which are in “bad taste,” “subversive,” or “detrimental to good discipline.”



September 4, 1943

Armed with new police powers against the unions by President Roosevelt’s sanctions order of August 16, the War Labor Board is applying the administration’s policy of keeping wages frozen despite runaway prices. Among the workers widespread dissatisfaction with WLB policies and the no-strike pledge is reflected in recent strike votes.

The National Labor Relations Board reported that in every one of 13 strike ballots taken under the Smith-Connally Act from 60 to 100% of the workers voted to strike.

Last week the WLB rejected the portal-to-portal pay provision in the agreement negotiated between the United Mine Workers and the Illinois Coal Operators Association. Calling it a “hidden wage increase,” the board snatched out of the miners’ hands this much needed additional pay.

‘Teamster Bureaucracy’ is a must read for workers today

SWP, Teamster militants fought bosses, FBI frame-up

Teamster Bureaucracy by Farrell Dobbs, 440 pages, Pathfinder Press, second edition, 2018.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

The wealth of lessons in the four-volume Teamsters series by Farrell Dobbs is essential for workers who are beginning to see the need to fight and rebuild the labor movement. In *Teamster Rebel-*

IN REVIEW

lion, *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics* and *Teamster Bureaucracy*, working people learn firsthand about the most far-reaching and politically significant labor battles of the 1930s.

Above all, they learn about the communist leadership that made these workers’ struggles so powerful and effective — in the words of one of those leaders, Farrell Dobbs. Dobbs was a central organizer of the Teamster battles for more than half a decade.

This year Pathfinder Press has published a new edition of *Teamster Bureaucracy*, as well as a new translation in Spanish. Now all four volumes, for the first time, are available to workers who read most easily in that language.

The new edition features more than 130 photos and illustrations, most not included in earlier printings. The pictures — as well as headlines, articles and cartoons from both the workers’ press and bosses’ dailies — bring to life the campaigns led by the Minneapolis Teamsters and the rulers’ increasingly repressive response.

The Teamsters leaders worked to organize the unorganized, part of the growing nationwide social movement to organize industrial unions. They reached out to farmers, the unemployed, truckers who owned their own rigs, and other oppressed toilers. They organized politically to mobilize working-class opposition to the imperialist war aims of U.S. capitalism, as the rulers prepared to drag workers into the second world war, which was already spreading across Europe and Asia.

Dobbs, in his 20s, had gotten a job shoveling coal in a Minneapolis truck depot in 1934. Later that year he became a participant and leader of an organizing drive and strikes that broke the back of the open shop in Minneapolis and won union recognition of Local 574 (later 544). When he saw how members of the Communist League (forerunner of the Socialist Workers Party) helped lead this fight, he joined the party.

Dobbs became the central organizer of an 11-state organizing campaign that, by the late 1930s, brought tens of thousands of over-the-road truckers into the union. Through these battles and other political experiences, Dobbs became a central leader of the SWP, serving as the party’s national secretary from 1953 to 1972 and as its candidate for president of the U.S. four times from 1948 to 1960.

The conclusions Dobbs points to in *Teamster Bureaucracy* are invaluable to workers today who’ve been inspired by and are drawing lessons from working-class battles like the West Virginia and

other teachers strikes earlier this year.

When President Franklin Roosevelt won a second term in 1936, he increasingly focused on preparing for the “defense of American interests,” as war clouds loomed over the U.S. rulers’ imperialist rivals worldwide.

‘Trade union campaign against war’

The Minneapolis Teamsters, Dobbs explains, began a campaign in the labor movement to organize opposition to Roosevelt’s war preparations. The first step was to educate the union ranks about the class character of Washington’s wars in the pages of the *Northwest Organizer*, the Minneapolis Teamsters’ weekly paper. *Teamster Bureaucracy* reprints editorials and articles that took up the U.S. capitalist rulers’ arguments as they tried to whip up patriotic sentiment for war. The *Organizer* ran a series by Carlos Hudson on how the bosses used the first imperialist war, which had ended in 1918, to attack the Minnesota labor movement.

Following the December 1937 Japanese bombing of a U.S. gunboat and three Standard Oil tankers, the rulers unleashed a massive wave of anti-Japanese propaganda. “Our” flag had been insulted, and “we” have to respond, the capitalist press howled. The *Northwest Organizer* replied, “What do they mean by ‘we’ and ‘our’?”

Workers and bosses have counterposed class interests, the *Organizer* explained. “If the investments of the Standard Oil Company are in jeopardy, that’s Rockefeller’s headache, not ours.”

As the bosses yelled about how “we” had to prepare for war, they were attacking the unions, seeking more profits off our backs.

In the book’s Afterword, Dobbs describes how workers change in the course of labor and social struggles like those the Teamsters engaged in. They “learn to generalize their needs, as a class,” he explains, “and to address their demands on a political basis to the capitalists, as a class.”

“If they are aided in perceiving the essence of an outlived capitalism — they will learn that the existing problems are not incidental,” Dobbs says. “They will then see why governmental control must



Right, Hennepin County Library

Above, workers fight off assault by police and national guard in May 1934 Teamster strike. In 1941 trial of revolutionary Teamster and Socialist Workers Party leaders, prosecutor asked James P. Cannon if this fight against the deputies “was the kind of violence SWP advocated.” The deputies “were organized to drive workers off the streets. They got a dose of their own medicine,” Cannon said. “I think workers have a right to defend themselves. If that is treason you can make the most of it.” Right, Farrell Dobbs, left, and Cannon in November 1941 during break in the trial.



be taken away from the capitalists by labor.”

And to accomplish that, Dobbs explains, a revolutionary communist party is required.

Teamsters, SWP leaders indicted

The cover of the book’s new edition features the front page of the July 26, 1941, *Militant*. “Why We Have Been Indicted: Socialist Workers Party Is the Anti-War Party” is the headline. Dobbs describes in detail how the Roosevelt government — in cahoots with the pro-war, pro-Democrat national officials of the Teamsters union — launched a campaign to smash the militant Midwest Teamsters movement and imprison its leaders.

The book shows how the U.S. rulers organized to reinforce the FBI as what it is today — their anti-labor, anti-communist agency for spying and disruption.

A front-page article from the *Minneapolis Morning Tribune* is reproduced,

detailing the FBI and U.S. Marshal’s raid on the Socialist Workers Party headquarters there June 27, 1941. It is accompanied by images of newspaper headlines reporting the July 15 federal indictment of 29 leaders of the SWP and Local 544 on “sedition” charges of seeking to overthrow the government.

Dobbs describes the far-reaching public campaign the party and unionists organized, winning broad support from the labor movement, the American Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP and other organizations for the “constitutional right to carry on political work, including opposition to imperialist war.” Mass meetings were held to protest the frame-up trial.

In the chapter titled “If That Is Treason...” Dobbs details the testimony of the first witness for the defense — SWP National Secretary James P. Cannon, who outlines what the SWP stands for.

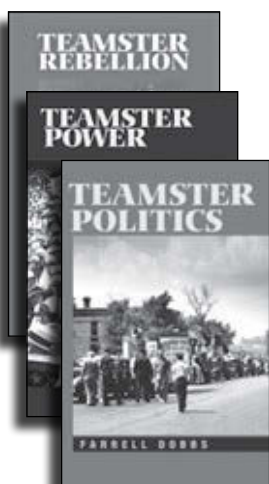
In what the *Minneapolis Tribune* called a “scene like a classroom,” Cannon explained the workings of the capitalist system — how it is based on the exploitation of workers; is wracked by periodic crises, like the deep depression that opened in 1929; how its workings sharpen competition between capitalists at home and abroad, which inevitably leads to imperialist wars.

These conditions, “not socialist propaganda, are the cause of the unending class struggle under capitalism,” Cannon said. They lead workers to build trade unions, where, by demonstrating leadership in labor battles, the SWP gains “respect in the ranks, hoping thereby to get a sympathetic

Continued on page 7

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Working people welcome Eritrea-Ethiopia peace deal

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After two decades of war and conflict, the rulers of Ethiopia and Eritrea signed an agreement to normalize relations July 9. Washington backed the initiative in an effort to bring capitalist stability and promote the U.S. rulers' interests in the Horn of Africa, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

This development is good for working people, creating political space to discuss, debate and organize to advance their class interests.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed traveled to Eritrea the previous day for a summit with President Isaias Afwerki, the first such meeting between leaders of the two countries in 20 years.

In addition to reopening embassies, flights between the two countries are being restored and direct telephone calls permitted. The agreement opens the door for landlocked Ethiopian producers to start using Eritrea's Red Sea ports.

Donald Yamamoto, then U.S. acting assistant secretary of state for African affairs, had met with government leaders in both Eritrea and Ethiopia at the end of April to push for an accord. It was the first visit by a top U.S. official in many years.

Also promoting the accord were the governments of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, each of which has close ties with Eritrea and investments in the area, as well as Qatar, which has relations with Ethiopia. As a convoy of vehicles brought Ahmed from the airport to downtown Asmara, Eritrea's capital, he was met by cheering crowds — an expression of support for ending the yearslong conflict and the devastation it inflicted on working people.

For toilers in Eritrea these openings could mean the end of hated mandatory conscription, which has disrupted the lives of millions, and a halt to suppression of the press and democratic provisions in the constitution that were suspended, including all elections since 1998.

On July 14 Eritrean President Afwerki flew to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, where crowds turned out to hail the agreement. Demonstrators "lined Addis Ababa's streets, waving both



Hundreds of thousands lined procession route from airport to center of Eritrea's capital Asmara when Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed arrived July 8 to sign peace treaty after 20 years of war. Eritrean youth have been subjected to mandatory conscription for "national service."

countries' flags and chanting antiwar slogans," reported the *Washington Post*.

The Ethiopian rulers are requesting the U.N. lift sanctions it helped put in place against Eritrea in 2009 for its alleged support for the opposition Somali Islamist movement. Responding to these developments, Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed visited Eritrea July 30 and signed an agreement to establish diplomatic relations, which had been broken off 15 years ago.

Ahmed, 42, a former army officer, became Ethiopia's new prime minister in March after his predecessor resigned amid widespread protests. Ahmed has freed hundreds of political prisoners, and extended amnesty to those charged with treason and other political crimes. At his request parliament lifted the longstanding state of emergency there.

On Aug. 7 the Ethiopian government signed an agreement to end hostilities with rebels from the Oromia region of the country, who have been fighting for self-determination since the 1970s. Oromo is the country's largest ethnic group, comprising 34 percent of the population. Ahmed is the first Oromo to become prime minister, defusing resentment that for many years the government was controlled by Tigrayans, who make up

just 6 percent of the population.

Washington seeks to counter Beijing's role in Ethiopia — as elsewhere in Africa — where it has major investments and owns most of the country's massive debt. Ahmed has pledged to partly privatize state-owned enterprises, including Ethiopian airlines, in a drive to increase ties with Washington and other imperialist rulers in Europe.

U.S. rulers interests in Africa

The U.S. capitalist rulers have stepped up efforts to advance and protect their investments and markets in Africa. In 2007 they established the U.S. Africa Command, a military command dedicated to operations across the continent. Washington maintains a sizable base in Djibouti, which borders on Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia, and sits directly across the straits from Yemen.

Ethiopia's 105 million people make it the second most populous country in Africa. More than 80 percent live in rural areas. A quarter of the population lives in poverty, subsisting on less than \$2 a day.

Eritrea, a country of 6 million people, was freed from Italian colonial control in 1941, but ruled by the British for the next 10 years. In 1952 it was seized by Ethiopia's rulers and forcibly annexed as a province 10 years later. This

sparked a 30-year struggle for independence. Eritrean rebel forces were victorious in 1991.

In 1998 fighting erupted again over disputed border areas near the small town of Badme. The rulers in both countries massively increased their armies, to some 300,000 each, including the imposition of the mandatory conscription system in Eritrea. When the fighting ended two years later, over 100,000 had been killed and a million driven from their homes.

The peace agreement established the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, composed of Washington, the European Union, the African Union and the U.N. The commission awarded the disputed territory around Badme to Eritrea, but the Ethiopian government refused to accept this decision and continued to occupy the area. In June 2018, Ethiopia's new prime minister announced that his government would now "fully accept and implement" the border agreement.

Former rebel commander Afwerki has been in power since 1991. Parliament has not convened since 2002. Mandatory "national service" conscription has led some 5,000 Eritreans to flee the country every month, many joining the massive wave of refugees from Africa and the Middle East seeking passage to Europe. Nearly 170,000 Eritrean refugees also live in Ethiopia.

"We grow up seeing every adult we know get out from their house, go to national service and never come back," Semhar Gebreselassie, a young Eritrean asylum-seeker who fled the country in 2014, told Al Jazeera. "We don't want that to happen to us."

The signing of the peace accord with Ethiopia is raising hopes among working people in Eritrea that these conditions will be changing soon.

Following the agreement, Ethiopian Prime Minister Ahmed flew to Washington, D.C., July 28, where he spoke to thousands of Ethiopians and others. Some 300,000 Ethiopians live in the area.

Thousands of young cab and Uber drivers, airport, restaurant and convenience store workers and others turned out. "This day is historic for us," Yibel Ashenafi, an electrician from Alexandria, Virginia, told Ned Measel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, who came to talk with workers attending the meeting. "The situation can be better now."

"Big shifts are shaking the capitalist world order," Measel said. "Our job as workers is to understand them, and to use the political space that is open for us to advance our class interests."

Ashenafi subscribed to the *Militant* and got a copy of *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

'Teamster Bureaucracy' is must read for workers today

Continued from page 6

hearing for our class-struggle program and socialist ideas."

Explaining that imperialist war grows directly out of the competition and crises of capitalism, "we speak against it, write against it, try to create mass sentiment against it," Cannon said.

"We urge the workers to make a clean break with the capitalist parties, develop an independent party of their own, and adopt a political program that will genuinely serve the interests of labor and its allies."

Drawing on the basic writings of Marxism, Cannon described how the exploited and oppressed become convinced of the need to overthrow capitalist rule and take state power into their own hands.

In his cross-examination of Cannon, government prosecutor Henry Schweinhaut — brought in directly from the Justice Department in Washington

to ram through the frame-up — read a passage from the *Militant* about how the Teamsters in 1934 "fought the police and deputies to a standstill and chased them off the streets of the city." Was this the kind of violence the SWP advocated? Schweinhaut demanded to know.

"This was what the deputies were organized for, to drive the workers off the streets. They got a dose of their own medicine," Cannon answered. "I think the workers have a right to defend themselves. If that is treason, you can make the most of it."

Workers can learn a lot through the pages of *Teamster Bureaucracy* — about the character of capitalism, how to lead labor struggles, about revolutionary working-class politics, and about the road to making a revolution in the United States and fight for a socialist world.

In writing the four-volume series, says Dobbs in the Afterword, "My pur-

pose was to help find clues to ways and means of transforming labor's potential class power into a dynamically active force in the continuing struggle against the capitalist exploiters."

On the eve of the bloody inter-imperialist slaughter, the U.S. rulers got the conviction they wanted. But they utterly failed to shut the SWP up. As the trial began, the party announced they were running Cannon for mayor of New York City. And when the Minneapolis 18 got out of federal prison in January 1945, the New York party branch announced Farrell Dobbs for mayor.

This is an engaging and invaluable book. I urge you to get it, read it and study it. As new class battles unfold, it's something you'll return to over and over again.

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Fidel Castro: ‘Maurice Bishop was a true revolutionary’

Below is a speech by Fidel Castro given in Havana on Nov. 14, 1983, to more than 1 million people gathered to honor 24 Cuban volunteers who were killed during the U.S. invasion of Grenada. It's included in Maurice Bishop Speaks, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. Bishop was the central leader of the 1979 Grenada Revolution, leading workers and peasants to take political power into their own hands. The Cuban leadership viewed Bishop and the Grenadian Revolution as a powerful reinforcement.

In a Stalinist-inspired coup led by Bernard Coard, the workers and farmers government was overthrown in 1983 and Bishop was murdered. The coup killed the revolution, opening the door to a U.S. military invasion. Copyright © 1983 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Maurice Bishop, left, and Fidel Castro at May Day rally in Cuba, 1980. “Grenada had become a true symbol of independence and progress in the Caribbean,” Fidel Castro said after Bishop was killed in counterrevolutionary coup. “No one could have foreseen the tragedy” to come.

ing with his intelligent and realistic policy, we fully sympathized with it, since it was rigorously adapted to his country's specific conditions and possibilities.

Grenada had become a true symbol of independence and progress in the Caribbean. No one could have foreseen the tragedy that was drawing near. Attention was focused on other parts of the world.

Unfortunately, the Grenadian revolutionaries themselves unleashed the events that opened the door to imperialist aggression. Hyenas emerged from the revolutionary ranks. Today no one can yet say whether those who used the dagger of divisionism and internal confrontation did so *motu proprio* [for their own ends] or were inspired and egged on by imperialism.

It is something that could have been done by the CIA — and, if somebody else was responsible, the CIA could not have done it any better. The fact is that allegedly revolutionary arguments were used, invoking the purest principles of Marxism-Leninism and charging Bishop with practicing a cult of personality and with drawing away from the Leninist norms and methods of leadership.

In our view, nothing could be more absurd than to attribute such tendencies to Bishop. It was impossible to imagine anyone more noble, modest, and unselfish. He could never have been guilty of being authoritarian. If he had any defect, it was his excessive tolerance and trust.

Were those who conspired against him within the Grenadian party, army, and security forces by any chance a group of extremists drunk on political theory? Were they simply a group of ambitious, opportunistic individuals, or were they enemy agents who wanted to destroy the Grenadian revolution? History alone will have the last word, but it would not be the first time that such things occurred in a revolutionary process.

In our view, Coard's group objectively destroyed the revolution and opened the door to imperialist aggression. Whatever their intentions, the brutal assassination of Bishop and his most loyal, closest comrades is a fact that can never be justified in that or any other revolution. As the October 20 statement by the Cuban party and government put it, “no crime must be committed in the name of the revolution and freedom.” ...

It is to our revolution's credit that, in spite of our profound indignation over Bishop's removal from office and arrest, we fully refrained from interfering in Grenada's internal affairs. We refrained even though our construction workers and all our other cooperation personnel in Grenada — who did not hesitate to confront the Yankee soldiers with the weapons Bishop himself had given them for their defense in case of an attack from abroad — could have been a decisive factor in those internal events. Those weapons were never meant to be used in an internal conflict in Grenada and we would never have

allowed them to be so used. We would never have been willing to use them to shed a single drop of Grenadian blood.

On October 12, Bishop was removed from office by the Central Committee, on which the conspirators had attained a majority. On the thirteenth, he was placed under house arrest. On the nineteenth, the people took to the streets and freed Bishop. On the same day, Coard's group ordered the army to fire on the people and Bishop, [Unison] Whiteman, Jacqueline Creft, and other excellent revolutionary leaders were murdered.

As soon as the internal dissensions, which came to light on October 12, became known, the Yankee imperialists decided to invade.

The message sent by the leadership of the Cuban party to Coard's group on October 15 has been made public. In it, we expressed our deep concern over both the internal and external consequences of the split and appealed to common sense, serenity, wisdom, and generosity of revolutionaries. This reference to generosity was an appeal not to use violence against Bishop and his followers.

This group of Coard's that seized power in Grenada expressed serious reservations toward Cuba from the very beginning because of our well-known and unquestionable friendship with Bishop. ...

[D]ue to our basic regard for the Grenadian people, we would not rush to take any steps with regard to technical and economic cooperation that could affect essential services or economic interests vital to the people of Grenada.

We could not accept the idea of leaving the Grenadians without doctors or leaving the airport, which was vital to the nation's economy, unfinished. ...

The thing that placed Cuba in a morally complex, difficult situation was the announcement that Yankee naval forces were en route to Grenada. Under those circumstances, we couldn't possibly leave the country. ...

In Grenada, however, the government was morally indefensible. And, since the party, the government, and the army had divorced themselves from the people, it was also impossible to defend the nation militarily, because a revolutionary war is only feasible and justifiable when united with the people. We could only fight, therefore, if we were directly attacked. There was no alternative.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FIDEL CASTRO

In Grenada, we followed the same principle we apply to all revolutionary nations and movements, full respect for their policies, criteria, and decisions, expressing our views on any matter only when asked to do so. ...

Bishop was not an extremist; rather, he was a true revolutionary — conscientious and honest. Far from disagree-

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Less support for racism in US today

Continued from front page

with torches across the University of Virginia campus in Charlottesville, chanting, “White lives matter”; “Blood and soil,” a slogan used by Adolf Hitler to build the Nazi party in Germany; and “Jews will not replace us.”

The following day some of those ultra-rightist thugs joined Kessler’s “Unite the Right” rally of some 500. Rightist thugs and dozens of antifa combatants — some armed on both sides — engaged in bloody skirmishes. After the cops called off the rally, one of the neo-Nazis turned his car into a weapon and drove into a group of counterprotesters, killing Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others.

Kessler said the goal of the anniversary action was to stand up for the rights of oppressed white people and for free speech. Kessler denied he is a white supremacist and said neo-Nazis were disinvited from the rally. He did, however, invite the participation of people associated with the KKK, Holocaust deniers, self-proclaimed Jew-haters and other open racists.

The small size of the rally reflects the real decline in racism in the U.S. following the victories won by the massive Black rights movement during the 1940s, ’50s, ’60s and ’70s that changed the thinking and attitudes of tens of millions. These working-class struggles made the expression of openly racist ideas repugnant to most working people.

This fact was totally missing in the over-the-top response given to the announcement of the demonstration by the bourgeois media, local governments and the left.

In Virginia, Gov. Ralph Northam and the city of Charlottesville declared a state of emergency for Aug. 12 and said it could possibly be extended for a month, earmarking \$2 million for cop mobilization. In the end no rightist demonstration took place there.

The Washington, D.C., government says it spent \$2.6 million on the massive police response. Both the National Park Service and some in the D.C. government once again floated the idea that demonstrators should have to cover the cost of policing their protests — which would be a severe restriction on the right to demonstrate in the nation’s capital.

On the middle-class left, a number of groups issued semi-hysterical flyers and announcements on the internet claiming the alt-right march threatened the imminent imposition of fascism. They claimed virulent white supremacist attitudes are on the rise in the working class, reflected in Trump’s election to the presidency.

“While the openly Nazi and white supremacist

forces may now be afraid to take to the streets, that doesn’t mean they have been defeated,” the Workers World Party said in their paper, counseling readers not to become complacent because of the small size of the rightist action. “On the contrary, they are not only in their klaverns and death cults, but many wear the uniforms of local police and Border Patrol. ... And the far-right Trump appointees now in charge of so many federal agencies,” they opined, “must be fought as they push the government even further to the right.”

This and similar articles on the website of the Party for Socialism and Liberation and other left groups paint a picture of a rising fascist threat in the U.S. that they associate with Trump. The fact is there is no growing fascist movement in the U.S. today. It isn’t that they were scared off by Workers World or the PSL. Self-proclaimed fascists have zero influence in the working class.

The outlook of these left organizations mimics the “resistance” to Trump spread daily by the editors of the *Washington Post*, *New York Times* and other liberal organs oriented to winning a Democratic majority in Congress in the 2018 elections and impeaching or indicting the president.

The capitalist rulers today have no need to grow a fascist movement. When they do, it will be because millions of workers are in the streets and their rule is threatened. Whipping up hysteria that this is the reality today can only disorient and disarm workers.

When the time comes, small bands of leftists and antifa will be of no help in taking on fascist thuggery that’s backed by the capitalist class. Only the working-class in their millions can organize an effective fight against a real fascist threat, through a disciplined and organized workers defense guard built through the unions. There are examples of this in past struggles by the U.S. working class that our class can learn from. One place to look is in *Teamster Politics* by Farrell Dobbs, where this leader of the Teamsters over-the-road Midwest organizing drive and the Socialist Workers Party explains how the union turned back the fascist Silver Shirts in the 1930s.

The Socialist Workers Party candidates explain that painting a false picture of an impending fascist threat and anti-Trump hysteria is dangerous for working people. The rulers use this to promote restrictions on political rights — like the idea of making you pay for cops to “police” your demonstration.

Every move that closes down political space for workers to discuss and debate a way forward — like preventing speakers from have a meeting on campus because you dislike their views — is an obstacle.

US, Turkish rulers clash over course in Mideast

Continued from page 4

it will deploy a Russian-made S-400 missile defense system next year. In response, Washington withheld the delivery of F-35 jet fighters Turkey had ordered, saying the Russian equipment could enable Moscow to pry out the jet’s “top-secret” systems.

In an op-ed in the Aug. 10 *New York Times*, Erdogan said that if the U.S. government didn’t drop the sanctions and treat Turkey’s demands seriously, he would find “new friends and allies.”

“Turkey has established time and again that it will take care of its own business if the United States refuses to listen,” he said.

But the White House’s course isn’t aimed at breaking with Ankara. As it has done elsewhere, the administration seeks to utilize threats and punishing sanctions to force the Turkish rulers into negotiations where Washington gets what it wants.

The White House rejected Ankara’s offer to release Brunson in exchange for backing off threatened sanctions against the Turkish government’s Halkbank. Earlier this year a U.S. court convicted a Halkbank executive of breaching U.S. sanctions on Iran.

The impact of Washington’s sanctions has fueled the decline in the Turkish lira, stoking inflation. The cost of food is rising at a rate of 20 percent this year.

Rising prices fall hardest on working people there, who also face a widespread government

crackdown on political rights. These intensified following Erdogan’s stepped-up military offensive against the Kurds in 2015 and his consolidation of sweeping executive powers in the wake of the 2016 failed coup attempt.

Ruling by decree, he has shut newspapers that express even a hint of opposition, purged hundreds of thousands from universities and other government jobs, and imprisoned some 80,000 people.

“Workers have no stake in backing the U.S. government — that serves the bosses here against working people — in its wars in the Middle East or its trade conflicts with the Turkish rulers,” Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, said Aug. 20. “The SWP demands the immediate lifting of all duties and sanctions that Washington has imposed. We stand with working people in Turkey who confront the assaults of the Erdogan regime. U.S. troops, planes and bombs out of the Middle East!”

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’ and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Prison censorship

Continued from front page

Correctional Center in Sumner. “It would seem to me that the Bureau would be encouraging its prisoners to utilize those principles which are set forth in the Constitution, allowing all citizens to seek redress for grievances through peaceful endeavors,” George Peter Jr. wrote. “I therefore respectfully request that you reexamine the Bureau’s decision to ban the *Militant*.”

He sent the *Militant* a copy of his letter, along with a note saying that he has continued to get the paper since he was recently transferred to Lawrence.

“As a former U.S. Navy veteran, concerned citizen, and college professor,” writes Dr. Zoe Franklin from Chicago, “it is my view that there is no legitimate reason for the *Militant* newspaper to be banned from the Greenville, Illinois, prison other than to prevent inmates from access to First Amendment rights.”

“We are asking readers and defenders of political rights to continue to write to Regional Director Revell urging her to overturn the ban,” *Militant* editor John Studer said Aug. 20. Address letters to Gateway Tower II, 8th floor, 400 State Ave., Kansas City, KS 66101-2492.

Fight against Florida prison censorship

Meanwhile, prison authorities in Florida continue to ban issues of the *Militant*, either because they have ongoing coverage on the fight against censorship in Florida state prisons, or without giving any reason — which they are required to do under state regulations.

The latest includes banning five issues in a row — July 9 (no. 25) to Aug. 6 (no. 29). Prison authorities at the Florida State Prison and Tomoka Correctional Institution did so without sending notices to the *Militant* informing them about the impoundments.

The *Militant* found out about the censorship from inmate subscribers or the chair of the Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee.

After receiving inquiries and protests, the committee reversed almost all of these bannings, said *Militant* attorney David Goldstein, of the prominent civil liberties law firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman, but one was allowed to stand.

The impoundment of issue 26 was reversed, but that of issue 25 was upheld — even though the reason for censoring both was that they reported on the fight against Florida prison censorship. State officials declined to tell Goldstein what the difference was.

On Aug. 8 issue no. 29 was impounded at the Tomoka Correctional Institution. The reason? “Page 1-3.” No explanation. The articles on these pages are “Socialist Workers Party launches 2018 Campaigns,” “Protesters Demand ‘Release Video!’ in Cop Shooting of Chicago Barber,” “New Openings for Working Class as Imperialist ‘World Order’ Unravels,” “Protests Across South Iraq Hit Gov’t Neglect, Iran Intrusion,” and Woman’s Right to Abortion Is Debated in Northern Ireland.” “Page 1-3,” the warden writes, “depicts, describes or encourages activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption” and “presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system or the safety of any person.”

“Banning the *Militant* is an unconstitutional attack on the rights of the *Militant*, our readers behind bars and freedom of the press,” said Studer. “All working people need the right to read and discuss what is happening in the world and to hear the working-class perspectives of the Socialist Workers Party to help chart a road forward for our class.”

Those who have spoken out against prison censorship of the *Militant* include the American Civil Liberties Union, National Lawyers Guild, Amnesty International, PEN America and prisoner rights groups.

Fight prison censorship

Get out the word. Distribute copies of *Militant* articles on this fight.

Get statements of support for the *Militant*’s appeal from unions, churches and defenders of workers rights and free speech. Send to: themilitant@mac.com

Send a check to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Prisoners Rights Fight.”