Cab drivers’ monthly earnings,” the report said. has come a steady decline in average rapid growth in the number of drivers’ incomes fell 53 percent from increasing overtime. pressed in face of mounting debts and had told friends he was getting de Sept. 26. The 58-year-old Uber driver an oncoming subway train and died claimed a seventh suicide victim here. B.

Today more than 100,000 e-hail forcing Beijing into an agreement that aren’t the onset of war, but are aimed at widespread tariffs on Chinese imports been started by his administration. Trump as the cause of all ills are awash liberal press that views President Donald and retaliatory measures by Beijing, the

Workers need unions, break with bosses’ political parties

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

UNITED NATIONS On Nov. 1, for the 27th year in a row, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution presented by the Cuban government calling for “ending the U.S. economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.” The resolution passed by a 189-2 margin, similar to recent years, with the U.S. and Israeli governments voting against, and those from Ukraine and Moldova not voting. Seeking to blunt the effect of the vote, the U.S. government proposed eight amendments, all smearing Havana as a human rights violator. The eight were, by a 114-3 vote in most cases. Only the U.S., Ukrainian, and Israeli delegates voted for the amendments. More than 60 abstained, including the representatives of the United Kingdom, France, Japan and most other imperialist countries. Also among the abstentions were the delegates from Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Columbia and Iraq. Another 10 didn’t vote.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno

Continued on page 3

Do Washington’s trade sanctions on China mean a new ‘Cold War’?

BY TERRY EVANS

Following Washington’s imposition of widespread tariffs on Chinese imports and retaliatory measures by Beijing, the liberal press that views President Donald Trump as the cause of allills are awash with claims that a new “Cold War” has been started by his administration. Washington’s protectionist measures aren’t the onset of war, but are aimed at forcing Beijing into an agreement that registers the greater strength of U.S. capital today. Like all the trade pacts Washington seeks, it’s aimed at advancing the bosses’ interests, not those of the working class.

For years successive Democratic and Republican administrations have tried to contain the rising influence of the Chinese capitalists. The Trump administration’s escalating tariffs are aimed at up

Chinese ship unloads at Oakland port July 2. Leveraging their huge domestic market, strong dollar, U.S. rulers impose tariffs on Chinese imports to wrest concessions from Beijing.

BY JERRY TAYLOR

Workers, farmers seek road forward out of capitalist crisis

BY MAGGIE TROWE

“The problems that the working class faces — and working farmers — are the result of the decay of the capitalist system that we live under, and that only by uniting and building a working-class movement in struggle can we fight to change the conditions that we face and that working people

Continued on page 4

Join SWP taking ‘Militant’, books to working class

Millions of workers see in their own lives and lives of those they love how working people face the debilitating effects of the ongoing economic, political and moral crisis of capitalist rule. The bosses and their government have nothing to offer except more wars, more opioid addiction, police brutality, injuries on the job, speedup, poor or no health care, deportations of friends and co-workers, attacks on women’s right to choose abortion, growing homelessness, deteriorating public transportation, housing, and more.

Most workers either held their noses and picked a “lesser evil” or didn’t vote at all because they’re disgusted with the never-ending disdain of the rulers’ two parties. The rulers and their politicians — especially the liberal, meritocratic cohort — see workers, as Hillary Clinton explained in 2016, as “deplorables” who are “irredeemable.” Former President Barack Obama dismissed working people, deeming the fact they didn’t do as he told them.

Continued on page 8

Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books

Oct. 6 - Dec. 4 (Week 4)

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Inside

Amazon robots intensify the exploitation of labor

Marriott strikers fight bosses over wages, hours, safety

– On the picket line, p. 8–

Canada postal workers strike over pay equality, health care

“We’re working for peanuts,” says striking New Zealand bus driver
Amazon robots intensify the exploitation of labor

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Amazon is the second-largest employer in the U.S. after Walmart and one of only two U.S. companies ever to make the top 10. It operates huge fulfillment warehouses where faceless robots do repetitive work in unsafe conditions amid miles of conveyor belts, computer-set workloads and thousands of robots, all pushing them to work harder.

“Amazon’s one-million-square foot distribution center in Baltimore is a massive fulfillment machine,” Christopher Mims wrote in a gushing Oct. 15 Wall Street Journal article titled “How Robots and Drones Will Change Retail Forever.” The warehouse has “a dazzling combination of chutes, ladders, rollers and 11 miles’ worth of conveyor belts.”

“Humans are rarely required to move around here,” Mims claims. “It’s much faster, and cheaper, to have stuff brought to them.”

“Resembling oversized Roombas topped with Ikea shelving,” Mims writes, 8-foot-tall robots scurry around carrying up to 300 pounds of goods in the form of a bright yellow cubbies. But while they can haul the goods, these robots can’t grasp them like a human hand can do and fill the order. Robots also can’t load or unload trucks. So while the mesmerized Journal scribe writes as though there are only a handful of workers there, in fact there are over 3,000.

As increasing numbers of companies began using these Kiva robots, Amazon in 2012 bought up Kiva for $775 million and took the machines off the market. Amazon bosses then made them the backbone of their distribution centers.

Today Amazon has some 100,000 robots handling about its 140 fulfillment centers worldwide — about 75 of them in the U.S. The heart of Mims’s article is the idea that in a few short years there won’t be any workers, and Amazon’s warehouses will be 100 percent automated. And we’ll still deliver the system — with a fleet of driverless vans, pilotless blimps and drones for final drop-off. “Imagine a drone dropping out of the sky to deliver you an iced coffee on your walk to work,” he says. “In fact, IBM already has a patent for that.”

Bottled in China recently announced plans to open a factory where robots will make robots for use in factories there and for export in Asia.

Frederick Engels, one of the founders of the socialist and modern working-class movement, wrote about this 150 years ago. The capitalists are “periodically seized by fits of giddiness in which they try to accomplish the money-making without the mediation of the production process,” he wrote.

Hiring by the tens of thousands

But the fact is Amazon has been increasing its hiring while putting more robots on the warehouse floors. The company employs 575,000 people, an increase of 235,000 from just one year ago. Facing a labor shortage, Amazon bosses raised the minimum wage for workers in the U.S. to $15 an hour. A few days later they announced they would cut their losses by eliminating bonuses and stock options.

These moves follow strike actions over low pay and speedup by work- ers in Amazon warehouses in Europe this summer. A one-day strike was organized at six facilities in Germany July 17. Workers in Spain went out for three days then, and in Poland workers staged a “work-to-rule.”

Amazon is opening its fulfillment centers worldwide — about a hundred of them in Latin America, Caribbean: Every year send $35 to above address.

Bottled in China recently announced plans to open a factory where robots will make robots for use in factories there and for export in Asia.

Amazon warehouse running in Tracy, California, 2014. Bosses installed robots as they expanded hiring. In face of speedup, boss harassment, unsafe conditions workers need a union.

Amazon bosses then made them the backbone of their distribution centers.

This is repetitive, short breaks, no union.”

One former fulfillment worker sums it up, “Low pay, on your feet all day, unrealistic work demands, work is repetitive, short breaks, no union.”

And that is what they need — a union.
Continued from front page


expressed their gratitude for the solidarity the Caribbean, and Africa, not only delegates, especially from Latin America, has carried out military, political, and economic assaults against Cuba’s working people and their government.

Impact of U.S. economic war

Rodriguez quoted from an April 1960 U.S. State Department memorandum that spelled out the U.S. rulers’ goal: working at “alienating internal support” for the revolution through moves “to bring about hunger, desperation, and overthrow of the government.”

Rodriguez reported that the decades-long U.S. sanctions have caused billions in economic losses affecting the daily lives of Cubans. Frustration at Cuba’s foreign port of vital medical suppliers to hindering Cuba’s foreign banking and credit transactions. Washington has fined U.S. subsidiaries abroad as well as foreign banks and companies for using U.S. dollars trading with Cuba.

One example, cited in a report submitted by the Cuban delegation, is the U.S. embargo’s aging fleet.

Rodriguez noted that Washington continues to restrict the right of U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba. In the last year it has also sharply limited the ability of Cubans to obtain visas to visit family in the U.S.

During the debate numerous delegates, especially from Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa, not only called for Cuba’s full reintegration into the U.N. system, but also expressed their gratitude for the solidarity they have received from Cuban internationalist volunteers.

Several speakers highlighted the role of Cuban health care workers who led the fight to curb the Ebola epidemic in West Africa in 2014–15. South African Ambassador Jerry Matija pointed to “Cuba’s contributions to the liberation of South Africa from apartheid,” when hundreds of thousands of Cuban volunteer combatants went to Angola between 1975 and 1991, helping to defeat U.S.-backed invading troops of the white-supremacist regime.

St. Vincent Ambassador Inga Rhonda King said Cuban universities have graduated hundreds of youth from that West Indian island, while Cuban doctors working in St. Vincent “have brought quality medical care and expertise to the most remote areas of our country” — all free of charge. Cuban workers helped build a modern hospital there “and our first international airport,” she said.

U.S. “amendments” to smear Cuba

The eight amendments introduced by U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley charged the revolutionary government of Cuba with suppression of free speech, arbitrary detentions, violating trade union rights, denying women adequate representation in government bodies and other alleged violations of human rights.

Haley cynically claimed “our reason for the embargo is and has always been to support human rights.” But Cuba’s government doesn’t have the least moral authority to criticize Cuba or anyone else on human rights.

Rodriguez noted that Washington is the only government to have unleashed nuclear weapons on a civilian population, as it did in Japan in 1945. The U.S. government still holds prisoners indefinitely without charge on its naval base in Guantánamo, Cuba. “And in Florida, 21 percent of Blacks are denied the right to vote” because they previously served felony prison sentences.

A large majority in the General Assembly rejected the U.S. amendments. Some 76 delegates — nearly 40 percent — either abstained or didn’t vote on the amendments, taking their distance from Cuba on Washington’s “human rights” charges.

The Canadian ambassador said his vote against the amendments was not against “the substance” of the U.S. proposals, but that the debate on the embargo was “not a suitable platform” for that discussion. The Austrian representative, who abstained, made similar remarks on behalf of the European Union.

Washington’s imperialist rivals are just as hostile to Cuba’s socialist revolution as the U.S., but they resent the way the embargo restricts their own trade with Cuba.

Bipartisan policy against revolution

In 2016 the U.S. government under President Barack Obama abstained on the embargo resolution, registering the U.S. ruling class’s recognition that thanks to the determination of Cuban workers — the embargo had failed to bring down the revolution. The Obama White House shifted tactics, with the same goal. The Trump administration has not reversed the 2015 re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba, but has tightened some sanctions.

Two weeks before the General Assembly voted the U.S. Mission to the U.N. organized an event inside the U.N. Building titled “Jailed for What?” The speakers, including U.S. State Department officials and a Cuban counter-revolutionary living in Spain, accused Havana of holding prisoners for their political beliefs.

Cuba Ambassador Anayansi Rodriguez had formally protested the event. The U.N. organized an event inside the U.N. Building titled “Jailed for What?” The speakers, including U.S. State Department officials and a Cuban counter-revolutionary living in Spain, accused Havana of holding prisoners for their political beliefs.

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Rodriguez said Cuba’s revolutionary government is ready to talk with the U.S. government “on the basis of mutual respect, as equals.” But, he told the General Assembly, “we will never make concessions that harm our sovereignty and national independence.”
Workers seek road forward

Continued from front page

ple have no political voice," Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor in Georgia, said in an interview printed in the Nov. 4 Alabama Herald.

She was on a three-day tour through southern Georgia and the Florida Panhandle, areas hard hit by Hurricane Michael and the social catastrophe there caused by the crisis of the capitalist system.

She was accompanied by campaigners Willie Head from Georgia and Karl Butts from Florida.

“We need to break with both parties” of the capitalist rulers, the Democrats and Republicans, Fruit told the Herald.

“They are both the parties of our bosses.”

“There’s no reason in this society, in this world today, that every human being — a human right — doesn’t have health care from the time they’re born to the time they die,” Fruit told the paper.

“Under our society, education, health care, things that should be basic human rights, are commodities. They’re bought and sold. If you have money to buy, you can. If you don’t have money to buy, too bad for you.”

“Fruit said the narrative promoted by politicians, especially liberals, is that the working class is more racist today and that there is a rising right-wing movement,” the Herald wrote. “She said that the Socialist Workers Party disagrees with that notion.”

Fruit and 18 other SWP candidates in 11 states and the District of Columbia have been visiting workers’ strike picket lines; pressing for higher wages and more workers control on the job to enforce safety; joining protests against deportations and rising the demand for amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S.; supporting women’s right to choose abortion; marching against cop brutality and police murders like the killing of Antwon Rose in Pittsburgh; and talking about working-class politics on their doorsteps in cities, small towns and rural areas.

The SWP says workers need to build unions and fight for their rights against the capitalists’ state, and their parties, on a course to lead all the oppressed and unions and fight for their rights against towns and rural areas.

“Tribunes of the people” and promote discussions and debates taking place among working people, who are looking for a way to fight effectively against the impact of the unfolding capitalist crisis and break from the twin parties of capitalist rule.

With the elections over, the SWP is looking to the next four weeks — the second half of the party’s campaign to take the militant and books by SWP leaders to workers on their doorsteps and in strikes and other actions and win new readers and contacts. To speak as “teachers of the people” and promote the deepening unity of working people in action.

As part of the effort, the SWP is also carrying out a drive to raise $100,000 to fund the ongoing work of the party.

Support ex-prisoners right to vote!

Joined by campaign supporters Suzanne LaMont from Atlanta and Chuck Guerra from Miami, and eggplant farmer Karl Butts from Plant City, Florida, Rachele Fruit campaigned in Florida’s Panhandle. The team also campaigned for Steveershall, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Florida, and for a “yes” vote on Amendment 4, which seeks to restore voting rights to workers convicted of felonies who have served their prison terms.

“My brother just did five years for being in the area where a robbery took place,” said Gary Baker, who works for Farmshare, a large-scale food bank in Quincy that operates at the now-closed farmers’ market there. Lawyers said that “my brother would do 15 years if a jury didn’t acquit him at trial, so he agreed to a plea bargain. Yes, I’ll vote for Amendment 4.”

The amendment, winning 64 percent of the vote.

The previous day, the socialist campaigners attended a memorial service at Trinity Episcopal Church in Apalachicola on the Gulf Coast, held in solidarity with the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, where 11 members were killed in an anti-Semitic assault Oct. 27.

Members of the congregation thanked Fruit and her supporters for coming. Several took statements by SWP candidates on their behalf.

“Both the Democratic and Republican parties support Washington’s participation in wars in the Middle East, which are fought in the interests of the ruling rich,” Lesnick told Malik Stewart, a transit worker who stopped by the protest.

“I was glad to see the signs here saying, ‘U.S. out of the Middle East,’” Stewart told her. “I think the people here and the people there don’t want these wars. We need to support one another.”

To join the Socialist Workers Party in its ongoing campaign, or to make a contribution to the SWP Party-Building Fund, contact the branch nearest you listed on page 8.

Socialist Workers Party candidates across the country talked to workers door to door, joined picket lines of workers fighting for union rights, and participated in other political protests. Clockwise from top, Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, speaks with Ehlain Vargas and his daughter Hortencita in West Dallas; Vivian Sahner, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey, joins Oct. 11 protest in New York against U.S. embargo of Cuba; Dennis Richter, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in California, joins Nov. 5 picket line by workers fighting for Teamster union recognition at ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive

Oct. 6 - Dec. 4 (Week 4)

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Should Be

$100,000
$50,000
$50,000

*raised quota

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Uber, cab drivers need unity

Continued from front page
cars flood New York City streets, compared to 67,500 in 2016. That’s on top of some 13,500 Yellow Cabs, many worked 24/7 by teams of drivers; several thousand Green (“outer-borough”) Cabs; as well as private limousines.

“Due to the huge number of cars available with desperate drivers trying to feed their families, [the employers] squeeze rates to below operating costs [for drivers] and force professionals like me out of business,” wrote 61-year-old Douglas Schifter on his Facebook page last February.

Schifter, who had been driving since the mid-1970s, wrote a column for more than three decades for Black Car News—documenting drivers’ worsening conditions. He detailed how e-hail companies, led by Uber, broke into the New York market as it has worldwide, provoking a war with the taxi fleet and livery bosses. The heightened competition imposed on drivers has been disastrous—for all of them, whoever they work for.

The wealthy owners “count their money and we are driven down into the streets,” Schifter wrote. “I would rather be dead.”

Days later he drove his Black Car to the east gate of New York’s City Hall, where he shot himself in the head.

Since February three Yellow cab drivers, three livery drivers, and now a driver for Uber have committed suicide. All were saddled with debt and unable to make ends meet.

Like the big majority of working people in New York—from construction to home health care and retail employees—drivers face soaring rents, crumbling public transit, declining wages and worsening job conditions. The suicides are stoking outrage.

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City hall imposes a ‘cap’

On Aug. 14, Mayor Bill de Blasio signed legislation to stop issuing licenses for e-hail cars for a year. In the meantime, city planners will study whether a “cap” on e-hail cars should be permanent. Many drivers, including those working for Uber, support the law. But Uber drivers “are going through what we went through when Uber first started,” he said. “We’re all in the same boat now.”

Matteo Salvi, another Yellow Cab driver, said it’s wrong to target fellow drivers. “Don’t blame the player,” he said. “Blame the game.”

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Kurdistan fair book marked by thirst for political discussion

Event in Erbil reflects Kurds’ fight for homeland and crisis of global imperialist order

BY STEVE CLARK

Kurdistan Regional Government

The 15th Erbil International Book Fair showed expanding space to discuss the broad questions of world and regional politics here. This openness is a product of the Kurdish people’s struggle for national rights and its place amid the wars, political conflicts, and forcible displacement of peoples from Syria to Iraq, Iran, and beyond, as well as history’s shifts in the world imperial system.

This was evident in panel presenta-

tions of the book fair as well as non-stop discussions and brisk sales of books on global politics and imperialist policies published by Pathfinder Press. This is the second year that the London-based publishing house has had a booth here.

“Militant Struggle for the sake of Peace Kurds and Kurdistan; “The Right to Demand in Iraq”;

“Water Security and the Danger of Instability in Iraq;” “The Fight to Demand in Iran”;

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The U.S. rulers have alternately dined out with an eyecrowd

“Kurdistan’s own direct experience — of the post-1979 bourgeois clerical rulers, including their drive to extend their counterrevolutionary
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- © "Write to體會民族”

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Continued from front page
"Sometimes I think that when I was 10 or 20 years too early," he told his aides.

They believe workers are bigoted, racist, anti-immigrant, reactionary daddies. They fervently believe workers need to be shunted out of making important decisions, and put their right to the Char.

The Socialists Party sees the future of humanity lies in the hands of the working class. We are the people who make up the majority of the popu-

Canada postal workers strike over working conditions

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Some 50,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers began a series of rotating strikes Oct. 22. One- or two-

ON THE PICKET LINE

Who are we? What is the Middle Way? — Felicity Coggan

New Zealand strikes for better pay

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Bus drivers here and in Hamilton, members of First Union, went on strike on Oct. 23, the latest in a series of work

U.S.-China 'Cold War'?

Continued from front page
ping this pressure, not replicating last century’s clashes between Washington and Moscow. 

When the U.S. rulers emerged as top dog of the second imperialist world war, they viewed Asia as their biggest prize. They looked forward to sending troops into the Pacific to help ally Chiang Kai-shek defeat Mao Zedong and open the country to Washington’s pillage.

But U.S. workers in uniform refused to go, hold-

ings raleys of tens of thousands in the Philippines and elsewhere demanded to be heard. The U.S. peaceless peasant army led by Mao took power and, when Wash-

ington threatened war in Korea, overturned capitalist property relations. The U.S. rulers were forced to a stand in Korea, which then developed outright by the workers and peasants in Vietnam.

After the fall of the Stalinist Mao regime, Chi-

ese Communist Party leaders increasingly turned to capitalist market relations. Factional struggles drove a massive growth of industry and trade — and of the working class — over the last three decades.

Washington remains the dominant power in the Pa-

cific, but that dominance is being challenged.

U.S. rulers seek better deal

In today’s clashes between Washington and Bei-

jing over which power will be better placed to ap-

propriate the wealth created by the toiling masses, Washington still has a significant advantage — the massive size of the U.S. economy, the dollar’s role as world currency and overwhelming superiority of its military might.

The capitalist economy in China began slowing down prior to the impact of the 10 percent tariffs Trump levied on $250 billion worth of Chinese-made goods sold in the U.S. The impact of the tariffs has accelerated the slowdown. Factory orders across China fell to their lowest level in two years in October. Chi-

ese capitalists sell far more in the much bigger U.S. market than U.S. capitalists sell in China and will feel the impact of the tariffs Washington imposes much more sharply than their U.S. counterparts will feel Bei-

jing’s retaliatory steps.

National Economic Council Council Director Lawrence Kudlow reiterated Washington’s demands Nov. 2, say-

ing Beijing has to offer U.S. capitalists more access to markets in China, reduce government subsidies to Chi-

ese companies and stop what he says is its efforts to force U.S. investors in China to hand over technology.

The U.S. government claims its tariffs advance “American interests,” in which they advance the class interests of those who exploit working people at home and abroad. The Socialist Workers Party is “un-

conditionally opposed to the rulers of the United States imposing protectionist barriers of any kind under any pretense of improving the condition of the country’s workers,” the party’s national secretary, in the article “Our Poli-

tics Start with the World” in New International no. 13.

Following a conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping Nov. 2, the chair of the Chinese Communist Party made a deal with Washington “very badly.” They plan to talk at the upcoming Group of 20 summit in Argentina.

Alongside protectionist measures against the Chi-

ese capitalists, Washington is pouring more money into its military, while it uses allies in the Philippines, Japan and Australia to step up countering Beijing’s moves to establish itself as a naval power.

The Japanese government agreed Oct. 30 to con-

struct a new military base for U.S. forces on the island of Okinawa, despite the longstanding vocal opposition of working people there.

The Chinese rulers have almost all of the South China Sea in their property and have constructed a series of artificial islands on reefs there, replete with military bases.

The U.S. rulers maintain a naval force worldwide that can confront any rivals. They deploy 20 aircraft carriers, while Beijing currently has just a single Soviet-era aircraft carrier. Alongside this Washington maintains bases across the Pacific, including 50,000 troops in Japan, 29,000 in South Korea and 14,000 in the Philippines.

Rising competition among rival capitalist rulers is built into the system. Equally inevitable is the fact that capitalist bosses in the U.S. and China will confront growing numbers of workers who are willing to fight to build unions, engage in social and political struggles and take steps toward building their own parties to fight for political power.