

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Working people respond with solidarity after Havana tornado
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 7 FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Democrats' 2020 campaign takes aim at workers' rights

BY TERRY EVANS

The minute the 2018 midterm elections wound down, the 2020 presidential election campaign — as well as contests for state and city offices in 2019 — got going full speed. As one Democratic aspirant after another throws their hat in the ring, they each say they are the best candidate to lead the “resistance” to prevent the “unthinkable” — a second term for President Donald Trump. Their real target is the working class that the capitalist rulers increasingly fear today.

Kamala Harris, a former San Francisco prosecutor, is the progressives' front-runner. Over 20,000 people went to her first rally in Oakland.

Harris has been joined so far by Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Tulsi Gabbard and Kirsten Gillibrand. They all view workers, farmers and small proprietors as ignorant, racist, gun-loving sorts, who need to have their rights restricted to prevent them from

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Protests win heat back at federal jail in Brooklyn

Prisoners held days with no heat, light, hot water



Family members of prisoners and supporters protest outside U.S. prison in Brooklyn Feb. 2.

BY JANET POST

NEW YORK — Hundreds of demonstrators rallied outside the federal Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, chanting, “Move them out!” as prisoners pounded on cell

windows Feb. 1-3. They were protesting the loss of heat and light inside the prison in the midst of a freezing cold snap.

For weeks, the prison's heating system had been malfunctioning. The Legal Aid Society of New York complained to the federal Bureau of Prisons Jan. 22, but there was no response. Then on Jan. 27 a fire destroyed Con Edison's main electrical panel in the men's section. The power outage cut off all heat, lights, hot water and internet connections.

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Political crisis in Venezuela deepens - US hands off!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Violating Venezuelan sovereignty, the U.S. rulers — with bipartisan support and backing from their allies in Europe, Canada and some Latin American countries — are making progress in pressing for the collapse of the government headed by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. This has only been possible because of the course of the Maduro government that has alienated and demoralized large numbers of working people, while enriching a layer of the capitalist class.

After newly elected head of the opposition-led National Assembly Juan Guaidó declared himself president Jan. 23, Washington froze Venezuelan bank accounts in the U.S., including for the state-owned oil company PDVSA. U.S. officials announced they were turning the funds over to Guaidó.

Guaidó is calling on the Venezuelan military to overthrow Maduro, promising them amnesty if they do so.

Demonstrations in support of Guaidó Feb. 2 were substantially larger — and took place in cities, towns and neighborhoods all across the country, including many that had been strongholds of Maduro and his predecessor Hugo Chávez — than one called to support Maduro.

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‘Working people need to organize independent of the bosses’ parties’



Peter Hula, right, in Richfield Springs, talks with SWP candidate Seth Galinsky about catastrophe dairy farmers face after years of milk prices below cost of production.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

RICHFIELD SPRINGS, N.Y. — Peter Hula stepped outside to talk when Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City Public Advocate, and a campaign supporter knocked on his door Feb. 2 at his dairy farm near here. The farm

is over 70 miles west of Albany on Route 20.

“It’s not a level playing field,” Hula said, referring to the advantages that the big capitalist farmers get. From 2006 to 2016 over 1,300 small dairy farmers were forced out of business in New York. It has gotten even worse in the last two years. “The big guys just produce more milk when the price is low and that drives the price lower,” he said.

“Working people in big cities, small towns and farmland face the same capitalist crisis and need to fight together,” Galinsky told him. “That’s why I’m running along with Socialist Workers Party candidates in Troy, New York; Dallas; and around the country. We’re using our campaigns to show that working people can organize ourselves inde-

pendent of the bosses’ parties, to talk about the political questions on all our minds, and learn more about the conditions working people and small proprietors face today.”

Socialist Workers Party campaigners, including this correspondent,

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Washington, Beijing rulers vie over trade, telecommunications markets

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Negotiations in Washington between senior officials of the U.S. and Chinese governments over the tariff duel between the two ruling classes ended inconclusively Jan. 31. Two days before the talks U.S. authorities indicted Chinese tech giant Huawei over corporate espionage and evading Washington's anti-Tehran sanctions.

The competition between the rulers of the world's two largest economic powers is routinely dubbed a “trade war” by news media. But the Huawei indictments show this is the tip of a deeper-seated contest between the declining, but still dominant, world imperialist power and the rising economic clout of Beijing. Washington is using tariffs, sanctions and legal action to protect its economic and technological supremacy against Beijing. And, in the background, a debt-driven global capitalist downturn threatens.

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed in Buenos Aires, Dec. 1, to put new puni-

tive tariffs on hold for three months to try to forge a “deal.” With that deadline now only a month away, a further meeting between the two leaders is in the air for the end of February.

“Without the tariffs, we wouldn’t

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Building workers in New Jersey strike three days for contract

Yellow vests demand halt to cop attacks on protests

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — Over 60,000 workers, small proprietors and farmers marched throughout France Feb. 2 in the 12th weekly Saturday protest of the yellow vest movement. Over 13,000 marched here, triple that of the week before.

The march was to protest violent attacks by police on the yellow vests. The government has authorized cops to use riot control guns, tear gas and water cannons on protesters. Marchers paid homage to over 2,000 protesters wounded by cop attacks. The march was led by people injured in past actions, many wearing eye patches with target signs in solidarity with fellow protesters who’ve been shot in the eyes.

One of the marchers, Jerome Rodrigues, a leader of the yellow vests, was hit in the eye by a hard rubber bullet the week before. Doctors don’t know if they can save his eye.

This reporter was near Rodrigues as we marched to the Bastille. I saw the shooting. We had just passed a “snatch squad,” a special police unit for arresting demonstrators believed to be “ring-leaders.” They recognized Rodrigues. After following him for awhile, they rushed forward and shot him in the eye from 15 meters (50 feet) with a special gun with a telescopic sight.

“They can amputate an arm, a leg, I won’t give up and I’m back in the protests as soon as I have recovered,” Rodrigues told the press a few days later. “We’ll carry this fight through for a better world, a more humane world.”

Wearing an eye-patch, he told the Paris rally his shooting was an act of

“government violence.” He appealed for a calm, nonviolent march. Authorities mobilized 80,000 cops across the country, with 5,000 in Paris. Marchers had a determined, unrepentant spirit.

“I have a Red Cross first-aid diploma. At first I would come to the demonstration alone with a small first-aid kit,” Marie, a student participant in many yellow vest actions in Paris who didn’t give her last name for job reasons, told the *Militant*. She joined an organized group that “set up first-aid stations every 300 or 400 meters along the line of the demonstrations.” They care for the injured until more professional medical help arrives. “Last week I was shot in the back with a rubber bullet,” she said, despite wearing a cap with a red cross.

“This movement is legitimate. I see hardship and poverty everywhere,” she said.

This explosion of “people from nowhere” — like those the rulers call “deplorables” in the U.S. — began last November. They call French President Emmanuel Macron the “president for the rich” and demand steps to end the rulers’ assaults on working people that have made living conditions disastrous



Photos by Serge D'Ignazio

Feb. 2 yellow vest protests in Paris against police attacks on marchers. Inset, cop aiming at demonstrators with weapon police use to target protesters’ eyes, causing serious injury.



in smaller towns and rural areas.

Jobs have been slashed, small businesses crushed by the spread of big-box retailers. Macron’s tax on diesel fuel — crucial to get to work and to live in these areas — was the last straw.

The government and the press smear the demonstrators over violence during their actions. This is mostly caused by the cops and some by ultralefts who wait for opportunities to attack property and the police.

Cops have arrested some 6,000 dem-

onstrators so far, and over 1,000 have already been tried and convicted.

The French Senate is debating a government-sponsored bill to undermine the right to protest. The draft bill allows for a cop perimeter around demonstrations to check identity papers and physically search protesters entering or leaving; a roster of people who have been barred from protesting; criminalizing face coverings at protests; and putting legal responsibility on march organizers to pay for any damages.

Protests win heat back at federal jail in Brooklyn

Continued from front page

Nothing was done to repair this for an entire week — the coldest week in New York this winter, as temperatures hit zero degrees. Prisoners were locked down in cells 23 hours a day from Jan. 31 and visits from family

and friends banned.

The detention center imprisons over 1,600 workers and youth. Protesters included many family members. Some stayed outside overnight in solidarity. When one of the prisoners, Desmond Murchinson, shouted out to his mother, Yvonne Murchinson, she and others tried to get into the prison but were attacked with pepper spray by prison authorities.

Those thrown into the prison are mainly detainees who haven’t been convicted of any crime. Many are clients of the federal defenders office, among thousands of impoverished defendants caught up in the criminal “justice” system.

“Inmates were wrapped head to toe in towels and blankets. Their windows were frosted over,” said Deirdre von Dornum after a tour of the jail Feb. 1.

She heads the federal defenders office in Brooklyn. “Even more disturbingly, perhaps, for the inmates, their cells were pitch-black.”

It took widespread publicity on the protests for New York Mayor Bill de Blasio to say the city would deliver blankets to the prisoners. Federal authorities never distributed them.

Other liberal politicians belatedly feigned outrage over conditions at the jail. Workers in New York City have been trying for years to get these same officials, including de Blasio, to deal with the lack of heat in much of the rent-regulated public housing operated by the New York City Housing Authority. De Blasio is the boss over the notorious Rikers Island prison here, a hellhole imposed on workers and youth who face charges in the city.

THE MILITANT

Iraqi Kurds protest film censorship

Kurdish protesters pushed back against Sulaymaniyah officials’ ban on film about Turkish government repression of Kurdish national struggle. The ‘Militant’ carries articles defending artistic freedom as well as the right of Kurds to self-determination.



Student sign says “Freedom for Cinema Salim” against censorship in Iraqi Kurdistan.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.

‘Workers need to organize’

Continued from front page

went door to door and farmhouse to farmhouse during two days in the Mohawk Valley and Central New York. Despite bitter cold in the low teens, dozens of workers, farmers and others opened their doors to talk with us about the party’s program and what road forward for working people.

This region has been hard hit by the carnage of the capitalist economic crisis. Tens of thousands have left under the impact of factory and farm closings. Knocking on doors on just a few blocks here, we saw at least a half dozen vacant homes.

This part of New York is more than 90 percent Caucasian and some 60 percent of the vote in the 2016 election was for Donald Trump. The liberal news media says that workers who live and labor in areas like this are backwards and increasingly racist. Our experiences show that’s a lie.

Hula’s family, originally from Ukraine, has owned the farm since 1921. He pointed with pride to the roof on the barn behind us. “I put that in myself. I hope we can make it to our 100-year anniversary,” he said, noting that between high prices for feed and other inputs and depressed milk prices, he’s losing money. “I told the guy who comes to get my milk that I’m selling him less, because the less I sell, the less I lose.”

Hula thinks the solution would be to give each farmer a set quota, similar to regulations in Canada, to keep too much milk from reaching the market. This should keep the price up above the cost of production, he said.

“We fight for a government policy to guarantee that the price farmers receive for what they produce covers the cost of production and gives them enough to live on comfortably,” Galinsky said.

“The capitalists say there’s ‘too much’ milk,” he said. “But there’s people all over the U.S. and the world without enough to eat. The problem isn’t that there’s too much milk, it’s that capitalism functions only to maximize profits, not to meet human needs.”

“In Cuba, because of the revolution workers and peasants made there, farmers can’t lose their land because of a bad

year,” Galinsky said. “And the government guarantees cheap credit.”

Hula listened carefully as Galinsky explained the SWP’s opposition to the liberal hysteria and witch hunt against Trump, a campaign really aimed at workers and farmers who they increasingly fear. We pointed to the example of the yellow vest protests in France, which the capitalist rulers worldwide are worried will spread. We discussed the SWP’s opposition to all the capitalist parties, and our opposition to the U.S. rulers’ wars in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

“Don’t you think Trump’s keeping his word on getting out of the wars, at least in Korea?” Hula asked.

Galinsky said that it’s good that the U.S. government and the government of North Korea are talking about denuclearization and scaling back weaponry in the region. The U.S. rulers are making some tactical shifts in how they defend their interests around the world and sometimes that can coincide with what working people both there and here need. But Washington still maintains bases and hundreds of thousands of troops that are a threat to working people worldwide.

Hula got a subscription to the *Militant*, *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes and *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters. “And what about that other one you showed me,” he said. “*Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*” I’ll take that one too.”

Can’t trust Democrats, Republicans

“I agree with you. We need another party that’s not Democrat or Republican. They make all these promises, but never carry them out,” retired waitress and factory worker Susan Miner told Galinsky when he and campaign supporter Sergio Zambrana knocked on her trailer door in Morrisville, west of Richfield Springs down Route 20 the day before.

“The politicians always talk about New York, but they mean New York City. What about the rest of us?” Miner asked. Morrisville is a village of just



Militant/Maggie Trowe

Alex Huinil talks with Delores Cook while going door to door in Cazenovia, New York, Feb. 1. Huinil was campaigning upstate with Seth Galinsky, SWP candidate for NYC Public Advocate.

over 2,000 people. “They talk about the middle class. But where does that leave me? I’ve never made much more than \$25,000 a year. And now I’m on Social Security, but it’s not enough. Maybe we’re lower class, but if we are, it’s because they put us there.”

“They try to get us to think we’re middle class to keep us from seeing ourselves as part of the working class. And to mask the fact we’re the ones who create the wealth, not them,” Galinsky said.

Zambrana added that working people in the U.S. have a long history of struggle, from the building of the industrial unions in the 1930s to the fight against Jim Crow segregation in the 1950s and ’60s. Miner bought a copy of the *Militant* and said she would consider getting a subscription.

In Chittenango, Alex Huinil and I knocked on the door of Pamela Bishop, a nursing assistant and member of SEIU1199, the health care work-

ers union. Her grandfather, a retired autoworker, opened the door and called Bishop over. “She’s the one you should talk to,” he said. Bishop described how she injured her shoulder because the nursing home where she works is understaffed.

She looked over the range of books by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party we showed her.

“It’s horrible how Black people have been treated in this country,” said Bishop, who is Caucasian, when we showed her *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and *the Road to Workers Power* by Barnes. She decided to buy and read it, and to get a subscription to the *Militant*.

The Socialist Workers Party is running candidates all across the country, challenging the capitalist parties, speaking out in the interests of all the exploited and oppressed, and pointing the need for working people to fight to take political power.

\$9,000 pledged so far as readers respond to ‘Militant’ fund appeal

BY TERRY EVANS

“Keep up the good work!” retired postal worker John Sislo wrote from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, when he mailed in a check for \$100 to the *Militant*’s winter \$10,000 financial appeal. Sislo said he got his first copy of the paper shortly after the near meltdown of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant near Harrisburg in 1979, and has been reading it ever since.

Contributions to date from longtime and new readers have put the paper in a position to go over the \$10,000 needed in the coming week. The appeal will run through Feb. 14 and help the paper meet its costs between now and its annual Militant Fighting Fund drive this spring.

Since the appeal began over 50 people have sent in \$5,082 of the \$9,000 pledged. Contributions have come from across the United States, as well as Canada, the U.K. and elsewhere.

Last week’s article highlighted how the *Militant*’s website can be used to make credit card donations. Since then 16 contributions have been made online.

The *Militant* brings timely news on developments in world politics, explain-

ing the deepening crisis in Venezuela and the stakes for working people in opposing Washington’s stepped-up attacks on the country’s sovereignty. This issue features reports that describe the difference a socialist revolution makes as working people in Cuba mobilize to rebuild homes and restore power after the devastation inflicted by the tornado that struck Jan. 27.

The *Militant* speaks in the interests of the working class and features the Socialist Workers Party national slate in the 2019 elections. Each week it reports the discussions SWP candidates and their supporters have with fellow working people on their doorsteps around the country. Party members discuss with workers and farmers the deteriorating conditions of life and work we face today; speak out in defense of the interests of all working people; and point to what is needed — the building of a movement to take power into the hands of the exploited producers.

To help us continue to provide this unrivaled coverage please make a generous contribution. Donate at www.themilitant.com or mail in checks to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Join Cuba May Day Brigade, see the revolution for yourself!

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — “The best way to learn about Cuba is to go and see for yourself,” said Enrique Sacerio-Garí. He was encouraging the 20 people at a public meeting here Feb. 3 to sign up to go on the April 21 – May 5 May Day International Volunteer Work Brigade in Solidarity with Cuba. “At the same time, the best way to understand Cuba is to try and understand what’s going on in the United States.” Sacerio-Garí, a Cuban-born writer and poet, is a professor of Hispanic and Hispanic-American Studies and chair of the Spanish Department at Bryn Mawr College.

Sacerio-Garí talked about his family’s immigration to the U.S. from Cuba before the revolution. As a young boy he believed some of the U.S.-government propaganda condemning the revolution. But in the 1960s he joined the anti-Vietnam War movement and met people who were in solidarity with Cuba. Then he went to see for himself.

He said those who go on the brigade can help defend Cuba’s revolution when they return by sharing what they’ve learned with others.

The discussion, sponsored by the Moonstone Arts Center, was introduced by Sacerio-Garí; John Staggs, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Philadelphia City Council at-Large; and Steve Halpern, a worker and poet.

The brigade is being organized by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP). This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. On Jan. 1, 1959, workers and farmers, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, took power and began to transform the country to meet their needs.

“I live in one of the poorest sections of Philadelphia,” said Fermin Morales, an electrician and member of the Philadelphia-Camden Boricua Committee.

“When I went to Cuba, every neighborhood I visited had a doctor, not just working but also living in the neighborhood, always available. No doctor lives in my neighborhood here.”

Halpern, who went on the May Day brigade in 2017, said that some 300 volunteers come each year “from different countries, cultures and speaking different languages.” Brigade participants join hundreds of thousands of Cubans at the annual International Workers Day march and rally May 1 in Havana’s Plaza of the Revolution.

As brigade participants meet Cuban workers and farmers, and representatives of their mass organizations, they will learn about the history of the revolution and its impact on the lives of working people on the island. Brigadistas can share their experiences in the labor and social struggles and political developments they have been part of in their own countries.

John Staggs, who is going on this year’s brigade, told the meeting he first heard about Cuba from news coverage of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro



Militant/Janet Post

“The best way to learn about Cuba is to go and see for yourself,” professor Enrique Sacerio-Garí told meeting in Philadelphia, Feb. 3. John Staggs, left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Philadelphia City Council at-Large, described the 2019 May Day brigade to Cuba.

and rebel forces fighting in the Sierra Maestra mountains before the revolution triumphed. “But then after the 1959 victory I found out the revolutionaries were actually carrying out their program,” he said. “That made a tremendous impact on me.”

Staggs said he looks forward to discussing with Cuban workers and other brigadistas the reality of life under U.S. capitalism as well as the

teachers strike in West Virginia and other fights in the labor movement here that he, as a Walmart worker, has joined in solidarity.

The U.S. contingent is being organized by the National Network on Cuba. Applications need to be submitted by March 15 and are available, along with the itinerary, at www.nnoc.info. A \$650 fee covers all expenses. Round-trip airfare to Cuba is extra.

Political crisis in Venezuela deepens - US hands off!

Continued from front page

Chávez, a former military officer, was elected president in 1998 in the midst of an upsurge by workers and peasants across the country. They fought for land for poor peasants, to build labor unions and for social programs to benefit the most oppressed. In the first years Chávez backed their struggles. And revolutionary Cuba bolstered the fight by sending thousands of internationalist volunteers to help extend literacy nationwide and provide health care.

Washington has especially hated the friendly relations between revolutionary Cuba and the people of Venezuela.

Chávez, and then Maduro, made it clear they had no intention of following the road opened by Cuban workers and farmers, who through their 1959 revolution formed a workers and farmers government, nationalized both foreign and Cuban capitalist-owned industry and banks, dismantled the old army and carried out a socialist transformation.

Instead, the Venezuelan government tried to regulate capitalism and the market. It took some profits from the state-owned oil company to fund

social programs, subsidize food and build houses.

‘Managing’ capitalism no solution

Widespread corruption, lack of maintenance and mismanagement of the oil company led to breakdowns and falling production. Declining wages and deteriorating working conditions led to a growing exodus of workers and a 45 percent drop in production since 2014.

These developments were exacerbated by a drop of some 50 percent in oil prices over the same period. Oil accounted for 95 percent of the country’s hard currency. While the Maduro government has been able to keep some social programs going, conditions for working people have worsened. Inflation is at 1 million percent. Basic medicines are unattainable. Violent crime is rampant, among the highest in the world. Basic necessities are often available only on the black market.

The deterioration of health care, closing of factories and landlord-sponsored paramilitary attacks on peasants organizing for land, have all taken a toll. Millions have fled the country.

Maduro blames U.S. imperialism —

and it has played a role — but the policy of the government to try to shore up capitalism is at the root of the crisis.

As more workers have joined the protests calling on Maduro to step down, he has sent special police units to attack his opponents in working-class neighborhoods.

Maduro offered to negotiate with Guaidó. But with growing international backing and the U.S. rulers squeezing the government, Guaidó brushed Maduro aside.

Taking advantage of the unpopularity of Maduro’s refusal to allow international “humanitarian” aid to reach Venezuela, Guaidó announced he was organizing the shipment of millions of dollars of basic necessities. He calls on the army to let the aid in.

Promoting slanders that Cuban advisers “run” the Venezuelan security forces, the Donald Trump administration announced plans to step up U.S. pressure on revolutionary Cuba.

Cuba has some 21,000 internationalist volunteers in Venezuela, providing medical care to those most in need. And Cuba demands the U.S. rulers back off their attacks on Venezuelan sovereignty and let the people there determine their own affairs.

The Trump administration has indicated it might not renew the suspension of “Title III” of the Helms-Burton law in March. U.S. citizens — both native-born capitalists and those who fled Cuba after the revolution — would then be able to file lawsuits against Cuba demanding payment for properties that were nationalized after 1959.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Why Working People Should Support Withdrawal of All U.S. Troops from the Mideast and Afghanistan! U.S. Hands Off Venezuela. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Rd. Tel: (510) 686-1351.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Crisis in Venezuela. U.S. Hands off! Speaker: Kevin Dwire, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 1821 University Ave. W., Suite 106A. Tel: (651) 340-5586.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

The Legacy of Malcolm X. How Is Malcolm Relevant Today in the Fight Against Racism and Exploitation? Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

CANADA

Montreal

Crisis in Venezuela. What Way Forward for Working People? Speaker: Paul Landry, Communist League. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 7107 St. Denis, Room 204. Tel: (514) 272-5840.

Campaign with the Socialist Workers Party candidates!

California

Dennis Richter, Los Angeles City Council
Laura Garza, Los Angeles School Board

Florida

Anthony Dutrow, Miami City Commission

Illinois

Dan Fein, Chicago Mayor

Kentucky

Amy Husk, Governor

Minnesota

David Rosenfeld, St. Paul City Council

Nebraska

Joe Swanson, Lincoln Mayor

New Jersey

Lea Sherman, State Assembly
Candace Wagner, State Assembly

New York

Seth Galinsky, New York City Public Advocate
Samantha Hamlin, Mayor of Troy
Lawrence Quinn, Troy City Council

Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart, Philadelphia Mayor
John Staggs, Philadelphia City Council
Malcolm Jarrett, Pittsburgh City Council

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, Dallas Mayor

Washington

Henry Clay Dennison, Seattle City Council.

See directory on page 8 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

—CALENDAR—

IDAHO

Mullan

Two Years Solid at Local 5114: Fighting for Fairness at Lucky Friday. Rally and march to support silver miners on strike at Lucky Friday mine since March 2017. Sat., March 16, 11 a.m. *Mullan Pavilion.* Tel: (208) 744-1774. Sponsored by United Steelworkers Local 5114.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Are you involved in a union organizing drive or strike? Brought solidarity to fellow workers on the picket line? Let us know! Send articles, photos and letters to themilitant@mac.com or through our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Autoworkers strike in Hungary wins 18 percent monthly raise

A seven-day strike by thousands of autoworkers in Hungary, members of the Audi Hungaria Independent Trade Union, ended Jan. 30 with the unionists winning an 18 percent monthly wage raise and other benefits. That means at least \$273 more a month.

The strike had stopped production at Audi's engine plant in the city of Gyor. The plant, which employs some 9,000 union members, is the largest producer of engines in Europe. The plant's production makes up 9 percent of exports from Hungary.

Foreign-owned auto companies account for some 30 percent of industrial output in Hungary. For years these companies have profited off the country's relatively skilled workers forced to take lower wages.

The walkout upended production throughout Audi's European operations. Bosses at the plant in Ingolstadt, Germany, were forced to shut down for two days because of a shortage of engines.

In addition to the wage hike, the union said the agreement guarantees workers at least one weekend off each month, starting in May, and anniversary bonuses.

"The fact that [union members] were effective with their demands and got almost everything they wanted shows how vulnerable German auto companies are to their supply chains in central and eastern Europe," Milan Nic, of the German Council for Foreign Relations, told the *Financial Times*.

Workers are winning higher pay across central Europe. Hungarian workers' wages in industry and construction rose 9 percent in the third quarter of 2018 over the year before, and 7 percent in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The strike was part of workers' response to anti-working-class measures adopted by the government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban in December, that give bosses the right to impose mandatory overtime of up to 400 hours

a year, the equivalent of an extra eight hours a week.

The success of the autoworkers strike "may encourage similar action by workers in other sectors," said the *Times*.

— Brian Williams

Building workers in New Jersey strike three days for contract

FORT LEE, N.J. — Chanting "What do we want? Contracts" and "If we don't get it, shut it down," some 200 workers at Horizon House Buildings and their supporters rallied here Jan. 29 in a fight for a new contract. Some residents showed their support by raising fists and honking horns. The day before 76 door attendants, porters, mechanics and valets, members of 32BJ Service Employees International Union, began a three-day strike. They picketed all six of the buildings, which house over 2,000 people. The workers have been without a contract since last May.

"Management told us they needed



Daily News Hungary

Strike by thousands of autoworkers in Gyor, Hungary, won 18 percent pay hike, Jan. 24-30. Government recently gave bosses right to impose mandatory overtime of 400 hours per year.

to save \$900,000. We came back with a proposal to change to a different health plan that would save them \$1 million," porter Christian Pimentel, told the *Militant*. Pimentel has worked at the company for 16 years and is on the union negotiating committee. "But then they moved the goal posts. They demanded to take away our pen-

sion. It became clear they want to get rid of us and the union."

Jason Bavolar and George Castaneda said that the board wants to replace them with minimum wage, nonunion workers from a contractor that has already been lined up. Workers returned to work, Jan. 31. Negotiations will continue.

— Jennie Kranepool

Protesters demand dignity, rights for Australian Aborigines

BY JANET ROTH

SYDNEY — Tens of thousands demonstrated Jan. 26 across Australia in support of Aboriginal rights on "Invasion Day" rallies called to counter the capitalist rulers' annual Australia Day.

The holiday marks the anniversary of the founding of the British convict settlement at Sydney Cove in 1788. Colonial settler forces fought brutal frontier wars against the continent's indigenous inhabitants to dispossess them of their land and culture. The "Invasion Day" protests bring attention to this history, and to the continuing abuse, discrimination and attacks on rights. These demonstrations have been growing in size in recent years.

"They should get charged with murder," Leetona Dungay told the rally here, referring to the prison guards who killed her son, David Dungay Jr., 26, at Sydney's Long Bay jail in December 2015.

"They stormed his cell because he refused to stop eating biscuits. He said 12 times to them, 'I can't breathe!'" said Paul Silva, David Dungay's nephew. He invited everyone to join the family at the March 4 court hearing into Dungay's death.

Over the last decade 147 indigenous people have died in custody. Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders make up 28 percent of those in adult prisons and 54 percent of those in youth detention, despite being 3 percent of the population.

Sue-Ellen Tighe, from Grandmothers Against Removals, condemned a new adoption law passed in New South Wales last November affecting children in state care. "They can remove an Aboriginal child and adopt out without informed consent" of their parents or guardians, she said at the Sydney demonstration.

"Our removal rates are above any-

where else in the world. These policies need to be halted now. Never again, 'Stolen Generations,'" said Tighe. She was referring to the aggressive assimilationist policies of the Australian rulers who forcibly removed an estimated 10 to 33 percent of all indigenous children from their families between 1910 and 1970.

Protesters also expressed concern at the rising number of indigenous youth committing suicide. "We lost five young ones in the last couple of weeks," Wurundjeri elder Di Kerr told the rally in Melbourne.

Linda Harris, Communist League candidate for the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, joined the protest and campaigned with supporters at the Yabun festival of indigenous music and culture, where the Sydney march ended. "The capitalist rulers use this day to promote the myth we are all Australians with common interests. But we are class-divided — there is no 'we,'" she told those she met.

"The unions need to be part of the fight against Aboriginal deaths in custody. It's by working people joining together in struggle that we can build a movement to take political power and open the door for working people to take decisive steps to end discrimination and oppression," she said.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



February 21, 1994

LOS ANGELES — Congress dealt a blow to democratic and human rights when it voted to curb disaster aid for undocumented immigrant victims of the earthquake here. The measure, an amendment to an earthquake relief bill, was approved by the House by a vote of 337 to 54.

The bill excludes undocumented immigrants left homeless by the quake from receiving federal rent subsidies granted for an 18-month period. Undocumented homeowners are denied access to low-cost federal home repair loans. Similar loans to small businesspeople will be barred.

The measure is intended to intimidate immigrant quake victims from seeking even the minimal emergency aid to which they are entitled. Federal officials also instituted policies to make it more difficult for people to get food stamps.



February 21, 1969

The smoldering anger of the nation's soft-coal miners against both the corporations and their own top union leadership was amply demonstrated when 3,000 coal diggers met at Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 26 to form their own Black Lung Association.

Black lung is a disabling disease which leads to emphysema, heart failure, tuberculosis, or pneumonia. Dr. I.E. Buff, a cardiologist, says that 100,000 of the nation's 135,000 soft coal miners are afflicted.

The Bureau of Mines is interested in coal dust as a hazard only if there is enough present to cause explosions and fires. It has no interest in dust as a medical hazard. Neither, apparently, is any other governmental agency, state or federal. And so far the United Mine Workers top officials have displayed the same lack of concern.



February 19, 1944

Allied military authorities in Italy gave a further demonstration of their "democratic" aims by handing over governmental control of south Italy to the dictatorship of Mussolini's former comrades-in-arms, General Badoglio and King Victor Emmanuel.

This is in line with the entire policy pursued from the beginning by the Allied powers in Italy. Step by step, the Allied Military Government has proceeded to crush the political and democratic rights of the Italian workers and peasants, which they had reached out to regain in the revolutionary upsurge that toppled Mussolini's regime.

The AMG has banned all forms of political activity except the monarchist, prohibited political gatherings of the working class and liberal parties, censored and suppressed opinion antagonistic to Badoglio and the King.

Recommended reading

"The principal lesson of the Teamster experience is not that under an adverse relationship of forces, the workers can be overcome, but that with proper leadership,



they can overcome."

— Farrell Dobbs

pathfinderpress.com

Working people respond with solidarity after Havana tornado

Cuban gov’t, mass organizations lead recovery work

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN, MARTÍN KOPPEL AND RÓGER CALERO

HAVANA — After a tornado ripped through the Cuban capital Jan. 27, wreaking serious damage in several of the poorest working-class neighborhoods here, the government, mass organizations and working people across the city went into action immediately.

Drawing on reserves set aside for such emergencies, as well as supplies donated by many workplaces, volunteer work brigades were organized to rapidly clear debris, restore basic services and begin to rebuild damaged homes and other buildings.

Less than a week later, *Militant* reporters visited two of the five Havana districts ravaged by the storm, Diez de Octubre and Regla. We spoke with dozens of local residents and others helping with recovery efforts, and were welcomed into the volunteer work brigades.

“In our country we’re always prepared for hurricanes,” Amparo Clavell, a retired port worker and resident of Regla, told us. In Cuba, unlike capitalist countries, working people are organized ahead of time to protect lives and minimize losses.

“But the tornado was sudden. It struck without warning. And it caused a lot of damage,” Clavell said. It was the first tornado to hit Cuba in eight decades.

Six people have died and 200 were injured as a result of the storm, the daily *Granma* reported. Some 3,500 homes were damaged along with several hospitals, clinics, schools and neighborhood stores. Hundreds of thousands lost electricity, water and phone service.

We visited the Luyanó neighborhood in the Diez de Octubre district Feb. 2. It was a hive of activity. Hundreds of residents and other volunteers were at work clearing rubble. Utility workers were restoring downed telephone lines while construction workers replaced

roofs, windows and water tanks. Bárbara Borrego, a retired hospital worker, invited us into her home to see the damage. The roof had been torn off by the 200-mile-an-hour winds. “I clung to the door frame for protection,” she said. “Miraculously, I wasn’t hurt.” Many residents had been evacuated to other homes until theirs could be repaired.

Workers restore electricity

Electrical and telephone crews from Havana were in evidence everywhere, reinforced by teams from provinces across the island. By Feb. 3 water and electricity had been restored in most of the storm-ravaged areas of Havana, and phone service was partially restored.

In Luyanó, the Hijos de Galicia maternity hospital had lost much of its roof, all its water tanks and most of its windows. Workers from two state construction contingents were busy repairing the facility.

In all the affected neighborhoods, state-run depots have been set up to provide residents with construction materials at steeply discounted prices to repair their homes. Those unable to pay now receive low-interest loans payable in 15 years.

Hundreds of volunteers from workplaces and schools across the region have offered their help. They are being organized by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers — the trade union federation — Federation of University Students, Union of Young Communists, neighborhood-based Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, Cuban Women’s Federation and other mass organizations.

“I’m from Santa Clara and know people there who volunteered to come here for the recovery work,” said Francisco Hernández, who was visiting his sister in Luyanó. Santa Clara is a four-hour drive from Havana.

Hernández pointed to new electric poles installed by utility workers within three days after the tornado. “They did a good job and did it fast,” he said.

Students volunteer

A polyclinic, itself badly damaged, was the organizing center of much of the volunteer work in Luyanó. Among those reporting for duty Feb. 2 was a group of 40 medical students. They were organized into teams to go house to house and talk with residents, assess their needs — food, water, clothing, bedding,



Top, student volunteers join construction workers mixing cement Feb. 2, part of efforts to repair polyclinic damaged by tornado in Havana’s Diez de Octubre district. **Below**, string quartet plays in Diez de Octubre in Havana. It was one of many musical groups, artists, clowns and magicians who have performed in the storm-ravaged neighborhood in solidarity with working people there.

housing repairs, emotional support — and add the information to a centralized registry to make sure those needs are addressed.

Luis Alberto Pichs, rector of the Havana medical school, oriented the students beforehand. “You must remember people have been without power and water for six days,” Pichs told them. “You need to approach them with sensitivity as well as solidarity” — to listen to them and win their confidence that something will be done to help them.

While we were there, a group of social workers from the La Lisa neighborhood was also going door to door. A Baptist church served free spaghetti lunches. A string quartet, an opera trio, and Latin Grammy nominee Diego Gutiérrez all gave street performances, coordinated by the ministry of culture.

The two *Militant* reporters visiting Luyanó were invited to come back the next day for a morning of voluntary work at the polyclinic. When we asked if we needed official approval to participate, the answer was, “We need you, not your passports. Just show up tomorrow at 8 a.m.”

We joined with doctors, other medical staff, and 70 nursing and medical students from African countries who are studying in Cuba. Together we shoveled rubble, removed damaged roofing panels, brought in replacement panels and unloaded sand for mixing into cement.

House to house in Regla

The other team of *Militant* reporters visited Regla, one of the areas hit hardest by the tornado. Electrical and telephone workers were everywhere, putting up lines and poles.

State-run food stands provided plates of rice, stewed vegetables, cake and other street food at very low prices. Imara Cambell, who works at the nearby cemetery, was among a group of women waiting by one of the tents for some fried chicken to arrive. “Electrical power is just coming back on — we haven’t been able to cook for the past week,” she told us. “This situation isn’t easy,” said Amparo Clavell, who was also waiting for the food. “But in Regla we always stick together. You know, we’re proud of our history of struggle, from the times of slavery to the revolutionary war.” Under Spanish colonial rule, Regla was the port of entry for ships carrying African slaves and Chinese indentured workers. Later, many joined the independence struggle against Spain.

Continued on next page

What are lessons for workers from the LA teachers strike?

BY DENNIS RICHTER

The six-day strike in Los Angeles by more than 30,000 teachers deserves further assessment. This is in the interest of all those in the working class who participated in the walkout, and all those across the country interested in how we can fight effectively.

The Feb. 4 *Militant* says, “Los An-

AS I SEE IT

geles Teachers Won with Broad Strike Support.” A more accurate headline would have been “Los Angeles Teachers *Make Modest Gains* with Broad Support.”

There was broad support for the strike, but it wasn’t mobilized to win what the teachers deserved.

I walked the picket line on several occasions at Dorsey High School, near where I live. The spirit was high and often you heard honking from passing motorists. I rode the train with teachers to City Hall to march to the Board of Education on the Monday the strike began.

Thirty of my co-workers at Walmart signed a card expressing solidarity with teachers who were standing up. Every worker I asked signed the card. This was a reflection of working people’s desire to see successful fights conducted against the anti-working-class offensive of the bosses, the local state and federal governments.

California is a so-called blue state, with the Democratic Party firmly in command in the governor’s mansion, the state legislature, and in City Hall in L.A., San Francisco and many other cities. This political establishment presides over the deepening carnage millions of workers and farmers here face.

The cutbacks in school funding go hand in hand with the rulers’ cutbacks in funding for health care and other social necessities for working people, and the bosses’ attacks on wages, speedup on the job, and the gutting of safety protection.

Teachers in Los Angeles, like all teachers and public employees, confront the capitalist rulers only indirectly. The teachers’ employer, the Los Angeles

Solidarity after Havana tornado

Continued from page 6

At another spot, a brigade of 80 volunteers from the Havana Historian’s Office brought a truckload of clothing, food and water. They handed out supplies to residents and organized house-to-house teams.

“We collected clothing and shoes donated by our families and others. Bottles of water, canned goods, medicine, and some appliances came from our own workplace supplies,” said Perla Rosales, the brigade captain. Rosales, an architect, is assistant director at the Historian’s Office, which is responsible for restoration work in the historic district of Old Havana.

We accompanied one of the volunteers, Francis Crespo, who delivered food to the home of Juan Escull, a retired dockworker. Escull showed us the windows in his bedroom that had been blown out by the storm, as well as the damaged water tank on the apartment building roof.

We also joined four young volun-

teers going door to door. “We’re finding out which households have the most pressing needs,” said Adrián García. “Our first priorities are the elderly and the children.” After learning what was needed, they returned to the dispatch center, picked up whatever water, clothing or food they had, and returned to make deliveries.

As the day was drawing to a close, we spotted a crowd of children in the street, clapping and shouting, and stopped to join in. They were being entertained by clowns and magicians belonging to the Martha Machado Artistic Brigade. This contingent of musicians, artists and entertainers, which travels across the island, recruiting young people to join them in each area, is organized by internationally famous Cuban artist Alexis Leyva, who goes by the name Kcho.

Kcho’s name will be known to many *Militant* readers. In 2013 he created a replica of the solitary confinement cells in U.S. prisons where the Cuban Five had been held. Installed in the lobby of the Havana Fine Arts Museum, it was visited by many hundreds of people, who learned more about the campaign to free the Five by studying the book *I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived*, published by Pathfinder Press. That book of paintings by Antonio Guerrero, one of the Cuban Five prisoners, had been the inspiration Kcho used to design his art installation.

What came through in talking with one person after another, residents and volunteers alike, was the confidence and pride of working people. Working-class solidarity is a way of life here. At the same time, what they accomplish through their own labor affects who they are. The banner under which they organize: “In Cuba no one is left to fend for themself.”

Mary-Alice Waters contributed to this article.



Retired mine workers bring solidarity to 9-day strike by teachers and school workers, Kanawha County, West Virginia, Feb. 22, 2018. Strike took on aspects of a social movement, impacted by the fighting traditions of miners union in that state going back decades. It set an example for the kind of labor movement workers will need to build to respond to the bosses’ attacks.

Unified School District, isn’t run by capitalists, but government bodies that represent the class interests of the bosses.

Teachers don’t have the power to shut down production and cripple their bosses. The capitalist rulers don’t put much value on “education.”

Learning under capitalism

This was taken up in a campaign statement urging support for the teachers strike I released that was printed in the *Militant*. It pointed to *Are They Rich Because They Are Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*, by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. “In the US today, under capitalism, the only future we can count on is one in which education will worsen — in which education will fuel rather than retard social differentiation. There will only be ‘education’ to squelch curiosity and creativity among the vast majority of youth, and to encourage escapism,” Barnes says.

“It is not true that the capitalist class needs for workers to be educated; it’s a lie. They need for us to be obedient, not to be educated,” says Barnes. “Above all, they need for us to lose any desire over time to broaden our scope and become citizens of the world.”

Teachers’ union officials and many teachers tend to argue their profession is somehow special. Education is crucial under capitalism to move up, they say. But this isn’t true, at least not for all but a tiny handful.

Teachers are workers, who deserve higher pay and more human working conditions. We should mobilize and fight to win that.

But the fight for learning is a different story. That’s a broader class and social battle that can only be won by a fundamental change in society that puts human beings and their needs before private profit.

The living example of the Cuban Revolution shows what is possible. Workers and farmers, with class values and priorities opposite to those taught by the dog-eat-dog capitalist system, took political power in 1959 and began using it to mobilize the toiling majority to meet their needs. In 1961 their revolutionary government organized some 100,000 young volunteers in literacy brigades to wipe out widespread illiteracy in a single year. This opened the door to widen access to culture and political life for working people, a step that was crucial for strengthening the revolution.

“To be meaningful, education has to create the possibilities for society as a whole to advance, instead of reinforcing the exploitation of the majority by a few,” Barnes writes. “Until then, the only ‘liberal education’ available to any fighter who wants one is political education within the workers movement.”

Independent, working-class road

The other problem the teachers faced was their union officials’ strategy of reliance on Democratic Party officials. And it’s deadly. For public workers in particular, it means orienting toward those who are your bosses, the ones responsible to the capitalist rulers to keep you in check. They’ve been presiding over cutbacks in education.

The only road for school workers is to turn to the unions, to all those who face the attacks of the bosses today. We have a common interest in fighting to defend and advance the wages and working conditions of all working people.

This was the power shown in the example of last spring’s teachers strike in West Virginia. In the book *In Defense of the US Working Class*, SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters calls that strike “one of the most significant strikes in a quarter century” that “exploded onto the national scene. Some thirty-five thousand teachers, janitors, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other public school employees walked off the job together, defying past court rulings denying public employees the right to strike.”

“With support from their pupils, families, unions and churches — and a living memory of the many bitter strikes fought by miners — they organized emergency food services for students and strikers. Daytime activities for the children were put in place. In the best tradition of trade unionism — and a precursor of the fighting labor movement that will again be built — the strike took on elements of a genuine social movement, battling for the needs of the entire working class and its allies.”

Unlike that strike, the L.A. teachers strike didn’t strengthen their ability to fight against future attacks. The union leadership led by Alex Caputo-Pearl put winning a settlement for the strike in the hands of L.A.’s Democratic Mayor Eric Garcetti, and other top California Democrats.

That’s why what teachers “won” was more limited than it should have been.

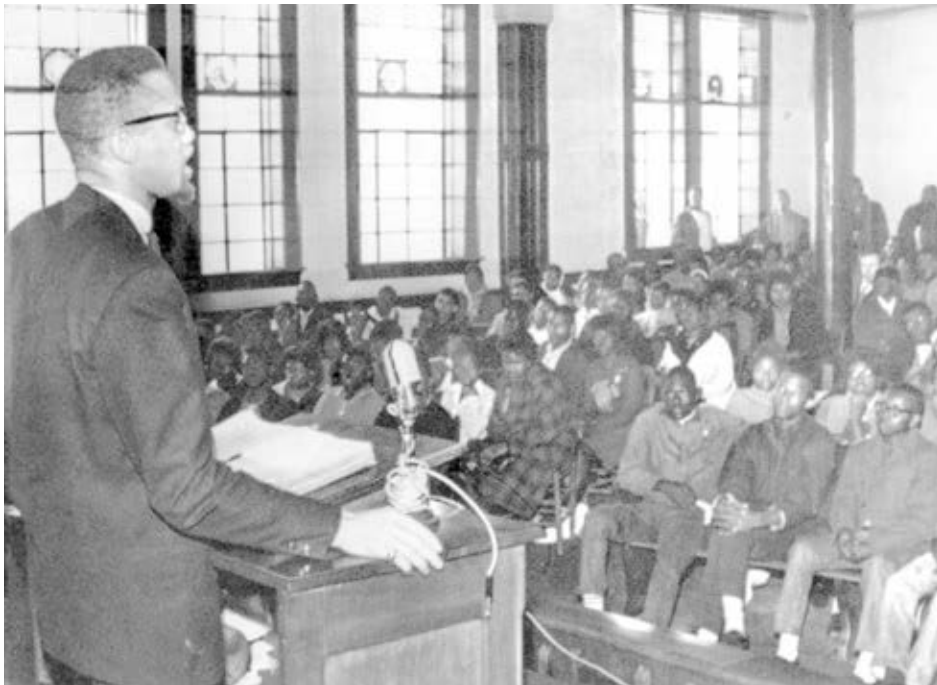
Dennis Richter is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council in Los Angeles District 12.

‘There’s a revolution going on, a worldwide revolution’

The excerpt below is from February 1965: The Final Speeches, by Malcolm X, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for February. It is from the speech “There’s a Worldwide Revolution Going On” given in Harlem, New York, Feb. 15. Malcolm X came out of the bourgeois nationalist Nation of Islam to become the outstanding leader of the Black liberation movement of the 1960s in the U.S. He was drawn to the secular revolutionary government in Algeria as well as to the internationalist example of the Cuban Revolution. He opposed both the Democrats and Republicans, the ruling parties of U.S. imperialism.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

A January 1965 Young Socialist interview with Malcolm is reprinted in Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. Malcolm became “a revolutionary leader of the working class,” Barnes said. The excerpt from Malcolm X below is reprinted as a tribute during Black History Month. Feb. 21 marks 54 years since he was assassinated, six days after giving this speech. Copyright © 1992 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Malcolm X speaks to young civil rights fighters in Selma, Alabama, Feb. 4, 1965. In last weeks of his life, Malcolm spoke increasingly as a revolutionary leader of the entire working class.

BY MALCOLM X

You and I are living at a time when there’s a revolution going on. A worldwide revolution. It goes beyond Mississippi. It goes beyond Alabama. It goes beyond Harlem. There’s a worldwide revolution going on. And it’s in two phases.

Number one, what is it revolting against? The power structure. The American power structure? No. The French power structure? No. The English power structure? No. Then what power structure? An international Western power structure. An international power structure consisting of American interests, French interests, English interests, Belgian interests, European interests. These countries that formerly colonized the dark man formed into a giant international combine. A structure, a house that has ruled the world up until now. And in recent times there has been a revolution taking place in Asia and in Africa, whacking away at the strength or at the foundation of the power structure.

Now, the man was shook up enough when Africa was in revolt and when Asia was in revolt. All of this revolt was actually taking place on the outside of his house, on the outside of his base, or on the outside of his headquarters. But now he’s faced with something new. Just as the French and the British and the Americans formed one huge home or house or power struc-

ture, those brothers in Africa and Asia, although they are fighting against it, they also have some brothers on the inside of the house.

And as fast as the brothers in Africa and Asia get their independence, get freedom, get strength, begin to rise up, begin to change their image from negative to positive — this African image that has jumped from negative to positive affects the image that the Black man in the Western Hemisphere has of himself. Whereas in the West Indies and in Latin American countries and in the United States, you or I used to be ashamed of ourselves, used to look down upon ourselves, used to have no tendency whatsoever or desire whatsoever to stick together. As the African nations become independent and mold a new image — a positive image, a militant image, an upright image, the image of a man, not a boy — how has this affected the Black man in the Western Hemisphere? It has taken the Black man in the Caribbean and given him some pride. It has given pride to the Black man in Latin America and has given pride to the Black man right here in the United States. So that when the Black revolution begins to roll on the African continent, it affects the Black man in the United States and affects the relationship between the Black man and the white man in the United States.

When the Black man in the Carib-

bean sees the brother on the continent of Africa waking up and rising up, the Black man in the Caribbean begins to throw back his shoulders and stick out his chest and stand up. [Applause] Now, when that Black man goes to England he’s right inside the English power structure, ready to give it trouble. When the Black man from the French West Indies goes to France, why the effect upon him of the African revolution is the same as the effect upon us here in the States by the African revolution. ...

So this is what you have to understand. And as the brothers on the African continent lead the way, it has an effect and an impact upon the brothers here, upon the brothers here in the Western Hemisphere. So that when you find the Afro-American community in France uniting not only with itself, but for the first time beginning to unite and work in conjunction with the African community, this frightens old de Gaulle to death, because he sees some new problems in front of him.

And when the West Indian community, which is an Afro-American community in England, begins to unite and then unite also with the African community in England and reach out and get the Asian community, it’s trouble for old John Bull. Trouble that he never foresaw before. And this is something that he has to face up to.

Likewise, here in America, with you and me. For the first time in our history here you find we have a tendency to want to come together. For the first time we have a tendency to want to work together. And, up to now, no organization on the American continent has tried to unite you and me with our brothers and sisters back home. At no time. None of them. [Applause] ...

So this has been the purpose of the OAAU and also the Muslim Mosque: to give us direct links, direct contact, direct communication and cooperation with our brothers and sisters all over the earth. And once we are successful in uniting ourselves with our people all over the world, it puts us in a position where we no longer are a minority who can be abused and walked upon. We become a part of the majority. And then if this man over here plays too rough, we have some brothers who can play as rough as he. [Applause]

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OF THE MONTH

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Join Socialist Workers Party campaign!

Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City Public Advocate, released this statement Feb. 6. Galinsky had just returned from two days campaigning door to door and farm to farm in upstate New York.

All you have to do is knock on doors in working-class neighborhoods and rural areas to hear about workers' reality in today's capitalist economic recovery — vacant homes, bankrupt farms, growing numbers of homeless and the blight of the opioid crisis. Veterans back from wars that never end.

And everyone knows, sooner or later it'll be worse when the inevitable next downturn hits.

The capitalist rulers in the U.S., Europe and worldwide, despite their rivalries, have in common their class disdain for the men and women from nowhere — workers, farmers and other small producers.

But now they are beginning to fear us. You could see that in the reaction of many of the representatives of the capitalist class to the 2016 presidential election. Their view was epitomized by Hillary Clinton who called working people a "basket of deplorables."

If working people won't vote the way the "smart" people want, their answer is to take steps to restrict their right to vote!

That's the same attitude as the British rulers who in the face of the majority vote — especially from working people — to get out of the European Union, refuse

to implement that decision. They want to force another referendum to get workers to vote their way this time.

You can see it in the French rulers' attacks on the tens of thousands of yellow vest protesters who keep coming back. The French government has fired rubber bullets at unarmed protesters and pushed a new law to sharply restrict the right to protest.

But working people everywhere have common interests — whether we're wage slaves, as in the case of workers, or debt slaves like small farmers and other small proprietors. To fight effectively against the carnage of capitalism and the attacks of the bosses and their government, we need to break with all the bosses' parties and rely on ourselves. Working people need to fight side by side, to show solidarity with each other's strikes and protest actions, and in independent working-class political action.

That's why the Socialist Workers Party is running a slate of candidates in local and state elections across the country. Our candidates and supporters are going door to door, in small towns and working-class neighborhoods in big cities, and farmhouse to farmhouse, to introduce the party, discuss the big questions on workers' minds and point to the need for working people to organize to take political power into our own hands. We introduce everyone we meet to the *Militant* and to books by party leaders. We look to develop long-term collaboration and to win new members.

Join us!

US, China rulers vie over trade, telecom markets

Continued from front page

be talking," Trump told the *New York Times* after the trade meetings. He said he expected "some significant changes" to Beijing's economic policies at further talks. He released a letter showing Beijing intended to increase imports of U.S. soybeans.

President Trump's threat is to increase duties on Chinese imports into the United States from 10 to 25 percent. Facing a real slowdown in production, the Chinese rulers are keen to avoid this.

Fight for telecoms supremacy

The U.S. rulers are also pressing Beijing to end forced transfers of new technology from foreign investors to Chinese partner firms and ease other state protections of its large market. Through the "Made in China 2025" plan, Beijing hopes to challenge Washington's dominance in tech production and profits.

Washington's 13 new indictments against Huawei stem from long-running probes into the world's largest telecommunications firm. U.S. prosecutors allege widespread industrial espionage by the Chinese company, close links to Beijing's cyber-warfare efforts, as well as financial and legal deception in circumventing U.S.-imposed sanctions against Iran.

The FBI, the U.S. rulers' top domestic spy agency, cited emails from 2013 showing Huawei rewarded its employees worldwide for industrial espionage. Huawei was charged with stealing trade secrets from its U.S. competitor T-Mobile, including theft of a complete robotic arm intended to be duplicated in China.

Such theft on all sides is a common part of the dog-

eat-dog workings of capitalism. In 2010, the National Security Agency secretly broke into Huawei's headquarters in an operation code-named "Shotgiant."

Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer, also faces charges. She was detained in Vancouver, British Columbia, Dec. 1, and is now engaged in a court battle trying to prevent her extradition to the U.S.

At stake is which capitalist power will dominate the cellular electronic technology known as 5G. This will revolutionize the speed and power of cellphones and other central infrastructure. It is vulnerable to cyber espionage by rival companies and governments alike.

In going after Huawei, FBI Director Christopher Wray spoke on behalf of the U.S. rulers when he said that firms like Huawei "pose a dual threat to both our economic and national security."

The governments of the U.S., Australia and New Zealand have banned Huawei's participation in developing their 5G networks. British Telecom, Deutsche Telekom, and Vodafone place restrictions on Huawei's involvement.

Governments in "emerging nations" in Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East have less qualms in deploying Huawei's cheaper equipment. They don't have a stake in Washington's conflicts with Beijing.

As James Politi wrote in the Jan. 20 *Financial Times*, there are concerns among the U.S. rulers "that China is winning the race to develop the technologies of the future, and needs to be stopped — for economic, strategic and military reasons — if the U.S. is to retain its global dominance in the twenty-first century."

Democrats aim at rights

Continued from front page

making "bad" decisions — as they did by electing Trump to the presidency. They think working people need to be "managed" by "smarter" people like themselves, acting on behalf of the capitalist rulers.

These workers are the people Hillary Clinton denigrated in 2016 as "a basket of deplorables." She said the president's voters come from the "backward" areas of the country between New York and California — the coastal "dynamic" areas where she won her votes.

Kamala Harris reiterates Clinton's views. Last March she declared, "California represents the future and if Donald Trump and Jeff Sessions don't like it, they are in for a fight."

Liberals' disdain for working people

Tens of thousands of working people joined in the victorious teachers strike in West Virginia last year, a strike that built on traditions from decades of miners' battles against the coal bosses. It offered fellow workers around the country an example of the capacities of our class to organize and fight.

Their actions are "a living refutation of the portrait of working-class bigotry and 'backwardness' painted ... by a broad spectrum of middle-class liberals and much of the radical left," explains Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters in *In Defense of the US Working Class*. "It is not only Donald Trump they obsessively hope to impeach," she adds. "Their target ... is that class of people that is rising up, many of whom voted for Donald Trump."

Like state prosecutors across the country under the capitalist "justice" system, Harris helped implement the massive rise in the prison population, spurred by "anti-crime" legislation from the Bill Clinton administration. In 2014, Harris' office opposed the release of prisoners eligible for parole on the grounds that the state needed them as a supply of cheap labor. She backed laws to allow prosecution of parents whose children skip school.

Like Clinton and Nancy Pelosi, Harris is a "mainstream" Democratic Party "progressive." These are the ones — not the "democratic socialists" elected in 2018 like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — who are leading the charge against Trump and working people.

In the eyes of the liberals, anyone who might obstruct the Democratic Party's path to the White House should be shut up. When former Starbucks boss Howard Schultz spoke in New York after announcing he was considering a run for president as a "centrist independent," Democrats organized repeated attempts to shout him down.

The liberals are so concerned about potential for unrest in the working class that they've moved to criminalize political differences within the ruling class itself. They've turned to the FBI — a tool of the capitalist class to frame up working-class militants, Black rights fighters and opponents of the rulers' wars — to take down Trump. They hope former FBI boss Robert Mueller's special counsel probe into Trump's 2016 campaign will dig up enough dirt to oust the president even before 2020.

At dawn on Jan. 25, Mueller sent a 29-member FBI team armed to the teeth with assault weapons, two armored vehicles, an overhead helicopter, drones and an amphibious vehicle as backup to arrest former Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone at his Florida home. They cuffed and perp walked him out before a phalanx of press who said they'd gotten a "tip" to be there.

Stone said that he would have voluntarily turned himself in if only he had been asked. In fact, such methods are dangerous for the working class.

The Republican Party is fractured as well. Many "Never Trumpers" view the president as an erratic outsider who threatens their party. Republican leader Mitch McConnell sponsored a bill through the Senate — with bipartisan support — that denounced Trump's plans to withdraw troops from Syria and Afghanistan.

"The Democrats and Republicans try to trap working people into voting for the 'lesser evil,'" Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Chicago mayor, told the *Militant*. "But there is an alternative. Workers need to act independently of the bosses and their parties. The SWP's campaigns across the country explain that through working-class struggle our class will develop the confidence, courage and leadership to be able to take political power into our own hands."

LETTERS

Donate with click of the mouse

Thank you for your article on the *Militant* winter special appeal in the Feb. 11 issue. I appreciate your contrast of how the *Militant*, published in the interests of working people, is financed by its readers, with the *New York Times*, which is beholden to the capitalist rulers.

I'm glad that, with a few clicks of the mouse, I was able just now to donate \$100 to the winter fund.

Ray Parsons

Delmar, New York

Please send me the newspaper!

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'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. 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. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com

I have been reading the newspaper since a friend here received it and would loan it to me, but he was transferred. I would like to keep educating myself about what is happening with the social class and economy that we are living through.

A prisoner
Florida

The letters column is open for all viewpoints of interest to working people. Where necessary letters will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.