

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Books by Fernández, Labañino
launched at Havana Book Fair
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 9 MARCH 4, 2019

‘The working people need to build our own political party’

BY ROY LANDERSEN

NEW YORK — “All drivers just need to turn off their apps for a few hours and refuse to take any rides. Uber and Lyft would have to listen to us,” an Uber driver and immigrant from Nigeria here told Seth Galinsky, the Socialist Workers Party’s candidate for New York City Public Advocate. Galinsky met this driver and others Feb. 17 at an area airport to introduce them to his campaign and the Socialist Workers Party.

“If you did that, that would be the start of getting organized,” Galinsky said.

The worker described how the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission defends the companies. “And [Gov.] Cuomo and [Mayor] de Blasio don’t do anything for us. The Democrats are supposed to be the party of working people,” he said.

“The Democrats and Republicans
Continued on page 3

Political crisis wracks toilers in Venezuela - US hands off!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington continues to turn up economic and financial pressure in hopes of bringing down the government of President Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela.

In a speech Feb. 18 in Miami, where the largest émigré Venezuelan population in the U.S. lives, President Donald Trump urged the Venezuelan military brass to break with Maduro and throw their lot in with the opposition led by self-proclaimed president Juan Guaidó. If they don’t, he said, “You will find no safe harbor, no easy exit and no way out. You will lose everything.”

The Maduro government has maintained a course that pushes working people out of politics and demoralizes them. That’s why in the midst of the capitalist economic and social crisis there the imperialist rulers in Washington feel they’re in a stronger position.
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School workers strike beats back gov’t attack

W.Va. strike wins solidarity of coal miners, others



Kenny Kemp/Charleston Gazette-Mail via AP

Picket line Feb. 19 outside Capital High School, Charleston, W. Va. All schools were shut down.

BY SETH GALINSKY

More than 30,000 teachers, bus drivers, janitors, cooks and other school workers shut down all the schools across West Virginia Feb. 19 and 20 to protest an education “reform” bill. The measure, submitted by State Senate President Mitch Carmichael, included attacks on both union rights and public education.

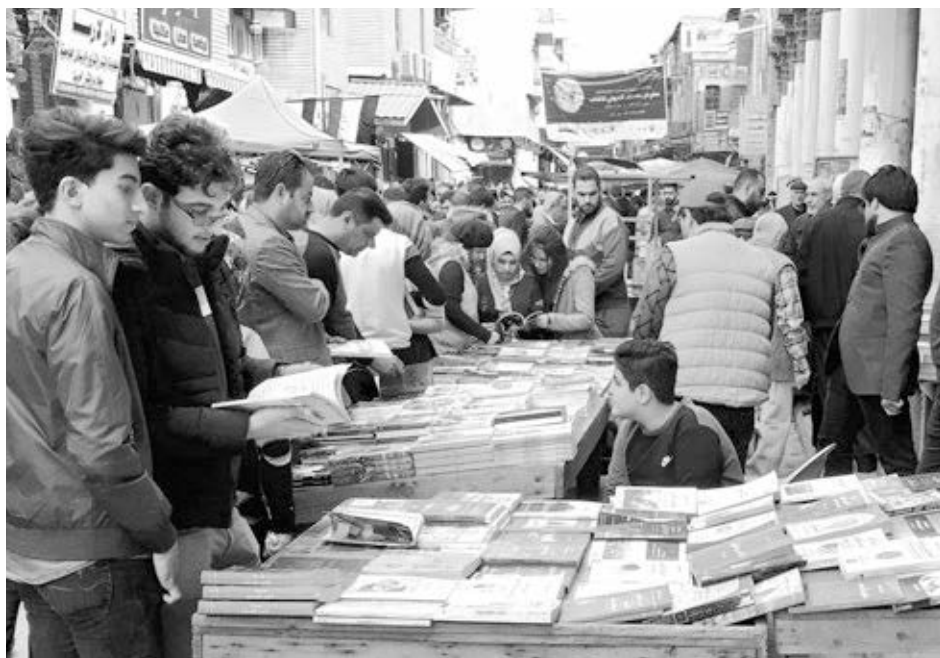
The walkout began nearly a year to the day that the school workers shut

down every school in the state last year, inspiring other school workers across the country to fight for better wages and working conditions.

Officials in Putnam County were the only ones in the state’s 55 counties to try to keep schools open. That meant that school workers there would be docked pay for every day on strike. Teachers from other counties flocked to Putnam to bolster the picket lines.

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Iraqis proud of Baghdad booksellers’ district that survived war, repression



Militant/Ögmundur Jónsson

Al-Mutanabbi Street, Baghdad’s historic booksellers’ district, on a typical packed Friday Feb. 8. The stalls display books of every kind, political and not, in Arabic, English and other languages.

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

BAGHDAD, Iraq — “You must visit Al-Mutanabbi Street,” numerous Iraqis told volunteers staffing the Pathfinder Books booth at the Feb. 7-18 Baghdad International Book Fair. “And you must go on a Friday.”

So we did.

The pride in Baghdad’s historic booksellers’ district is well justified. On Fridays, the first day of the weekend here, crowds pack the street, where many buildings — like in much of Baghdad — bear the scars of decades of U.S.-organized imperialist

war and of terrorism by groups pretending to speak for the Shiite or Sunni populations.

People browse the street stalls and shops displaying books of every kind, old and new, in Arabic, English and other languages. Turn into an alley and you find a courtyard with yet more bookstalls, as well as a busy outdoor café. Walk up the open-air stairway and you find balconies lined with publishers’ offices and — you guessed it — more bookstores.

“Al-Mutanabbi” — Abu al-Tayyib
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Liberals’ ‘Green New Deal’ scheme no road forward for working people

BY TERRY EVANS

“We will save all of creation!” Sen. Edward Markey claimed when he and House of Representatives member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez launched their “Green New Deal” Feb. 7. Their scheme

is backed by a number of Democratic Party 2020 presidential candidates and other liberals. But it is dangerous for the working class. It points away from a course of struggle against the capitalist rulers whose plunder undermines the two sources of all wealth — nature and the labor of working people.

The bill isn’t a set of proposals to vote
Continued on page 7

Thousands protest in Haiti, demand president, prime minister resign

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Working people in Haiti have been mounting widespread protests since Feb. 7 demanding the resignation of President Jovenel Moïse and Prime Minister Jean Henry Ceant. A social crisis has wracked the country since hurricanes hit in 2008, 2012 and 2016, a deadly earthquake in 2010 as well as a cholera epidemic. This all comes on top of decades of colonial plunder at the hands of the U.S. capitalist rulers.

Anger among Haiti’s youth has ex-
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Muslim prisoner in Alabama, executed, denied right to imam 4

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Coal miners in Ukraine march demanding back pay

Quebec aluminum workers stand firm in over yearlong lockout

Thousands protest in Haiti

Continued from front page
ploded, with thousands proclaiming, “We’re fed up!” They are protesting soaring inflation, joblessness and rampant corruption.

Despite pledging to fight graft, Moïse’s government has failed to prosecute top officials accused of embezzlement.

In the capital, Port-au-Prince, and in most of Haiti’s largest towns, streets are blocked by burning tires or cars. At least seven people have been killed as police have moved to violently disperse protesters. Businesses, offices and schools have been closed. There are shortages of gasoline and food, medicines and hospital supplies.

After a week of silence, Moïse made a prerecorded address in Creole Feb. 14. He announced that he would not step down to “leave the country in the hands of armed gangs and drugs traffickers.” He claimed he would take unspecified economic measures to “relieve our pain.”

Far from quelling the unrest, this fueled new protests. Bourgeois opposition leaders called his announcement “a declaration of war” against the Haitian people. They are trying to take advantage of the unrest, but offer no alternative.

Moïse was elected president in February 2017 promising to create jobs and fight corruption. This soon proved hollow. He is nicknamed “Banana Man,” as he owns a string of businesses that include a number of plantations.

Ceant, who was installed as the new prime minister by Moïse last September after a similar round of protests, promised Feb. 16 to cut government expenditures on bureaucracy by 30 percent.

“The situation has gotten worse,” Widler Saintil, a 35-year-old shopkeeper, told The Associated Press, adding that he would continue protesting until Moïse resigns.

Tracy Hotta, a Canadian nurse, told CNN, “They’re very destitute down here. They’re taking desperate measures to try and make a change themselves.”

Washington has responded by evacuating “nonessential” personnel from its embassy and sending in extra security forces.

The U.S. rulers have a long record of military and political intervention in Haiti. The administration of President Donald Trump is trying to end temporary protected status for Haitians who came to the U.S. after the earthquake and hurricane damage.

Revolutionary Cuba, by contrast, has had an internationalist medical mission of volunteer doctors and nurses in Haiti since 1998. Such missions around the world are a hallmark of



Haitian working people gather in Port-au-Prince Feb. 7 demanding President Jovenel Moïse resign. Protests were triggered by soaring inflation, youth joblessness and rampant corruption.

Cuban working people’s internationalism. They’ve been decisive in offering medical care to tens of thousands during the social catastrophes since.

There are close to 600 Cuban medical personnel in Haiti today, continuing to offer free medical care in villages and towns across the country.

Thanks to ‘Militant’ readers, appeal goes over the top

BY TERRY EVANS

Contributions of \$11,914 have been received at the *Militant*, taking the paper’s \$10,000 special appeal over the top. This will help finance the paper’s publication between now and its annual fund drive in the spring. Thank you to the readers of the *Militant*!

After longtime reader George Blue in Michigan City, Indiana, sent in a check for the appeal to the Socialist Workers Party headquarters in Chicago, Dan Fein, the party’s candidate for mayor, visited him at his home. Blue

got five books on revolutionary politics, and a day later he phoned Fein to ask for six more titles.

The *Militant* relies for financial backing on the paper’s working-class and broader readership — the only reliable source possible. Millie Townsend reports that three co-workers, who recently subscribed to the paper at the retail store in the Alba-

ny, New York, area where she works, made contributions.

Thanks again to everyone who kicked into this special appeal. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the *Militant*, anytime during the year, can do so at the paper’s website, www.themilitant.com, or mail to 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, N.Y. 10018.

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— Jack Barnes

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THE MILITANT

All US forces, nukes out of Korea, Pacific!

An agreement on denuclearization between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would be good for working people. For almost 70 years, the ‘Militant’ has called for Washington to withdraw its forces and end its aggression against the Korean people.

Reuters/Kim Hong-Ji

Woman reads ribbons for peace and reunification on North/South Korea border.

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'Workers need our own party'

Continued from front page

are both parties of the bosses," Galinsky said. "That's why we need our own voice, our own working-class party and why we can't depend on them to get better wages, benefits or relief from the conditions we face." Most drivers said they work six days a week, many 10 hours a day or more.

"We need one union for all the drivers — Uber and all e-hail drivers, yellow and green taxis and black limo drivers in one union," Galinsky explained.

The Uber driver bought *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes and *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters. He also got a copy of the *Militant* and gave a \$7 contribution to the campaign.

Galinsky discussed with drivers originally from Bangladesh, the Republic of Georgia, Nigeria, Romania, Tibet and elsewhere. One older Bangladeshi worker said, "You can't do anything. We've tried it all, going on strike, protesting at the Taxi and Limousine Commission. You can't unite the drivers."

"We need a union, you're right," another driver said. He was a Yellow Cab driver before signing up with Uber. "One stick by itself can be easily broken," he said, "but when you

towns, cities and rural areas to knock on doors in working-class neighborhoods.

Their goal is to get into discussions, to learn about the political questions on workers' minds — from developments in Venezuela to the yellow vest protests in France to the economic and social crisis facing workers and farmers, small proprietors and the self-employed today.

SWP members introduce the party and a wide array of books by party leaders and other revolutionaries worldwide to read, study and discuss, as well as the *Militant*. Out of this, the party's reach can be expanded and fresh forces won to join party campaigns.

SWP members are also campaigning to build the April 21-May 5 International May Day Brigade to Cuba. This is an opportunity for workers and young people to learn firsthand about the revolution and its example for workers worldwide. At the same time participants can tell Cuban workers and farmers about the class struggle in the U.S. and the activities they're involved in.

Joins picketing nurses

Galinsky also joined an action by nurses at Mt. Sinai Hospital Feb. 13, one of 13 informational picket lines by nurses fighting for a new contract around the city. The New York State Nurses Association is in negotiations with privately owned hospital bosses here.

Pickers told Galinsky and his supporters that their central demand is for the hospitals to hire more nurses, lowering the patient-to-nurse ratio. Staffing levels are too low for nurses to give patients the care that they deserve.

Union officials gave a shout out to Galinsky for joining their protest and offered him the opportunity to take the bullhorn. "Nurses have a right to decent working conditions," Galinsky told picketers. "Health care is a right. You're fighting not just for yourselves but for all of us."

The SWP candidate raised with many nurses what he had seen in revolutionary Cuba. "In the U.S. when you walk into a hospital the first thing they ask is 'do you have insurance?'" he said. "In Cuba, because of their revolution, they just ask, 'What's wrong? How can we help you?' They

don't have health insurance, they have health care. Under capitalism health care is just a commodity."

Galinsky told the nurses that as he and his supporters campaign door to door in working-class areas, he will spread the word about their fight.



Militant/Mike Shur

Seth Galinsky, SWP candidate for New York City Public Advocate, joins nurses' informational picket line at Mount Sinai Hospital demanding bosses hire more nurses Feb. 13.

put the sticks together they can't be broken." He got a copy of *In Defense of the US Working Class*.

Galinsky told drivers he was running to promote solidarity, to urge working people to find ways to overcome divisions among us, to forge unity, to get organized in unions, to strengthen existing unions — all to win better wages, benefits and working conditions. The Socialist Workers Party candidate and supporters are discussing with workers across New York the challenges all working people face, including drivers.

Campaigning at workers' doorsteps

The backbone of Galinsky's campaign, and of SWP candidates and supporters across the country, is to get in their cars and head out, stopping in



Militant/Leroy Watson

Dan Fein, left, SWP candidate for Chicago mayor, talks with Charles Duise at his apartment, Feb. 17. Backbone of SWP campaign is to take their candidates and program out to working-class neighborhoods across the country and discuss political questions on workers' minds.

The following day, Galinsky campaigned outside the federal Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn talking to family members and friends visiting inmates locked up inside.

A couple of weeks ago, during a freezing spell, the center was the site of protests after word got out that the jail had no heat or electricity. Prison officials covered it up and dragged their feet getting it fixed.

Sarita Ricauter, whose husband has been locked up there for nearly two years awaiting trial and sentencing, spoke with Galinsky and supporter Don Mackle as she came out after a visit.

Last time she came to visit, she said, "We didn't even know that there was no heat," she said. "The officials said there were no social visits allowed, no phone calls, but they didn't say why, so we left without seeing my husband."

Then she saw a video about the prison having no heat, and she said "that's where my husband's in prison!"

"That's how I heard about the protest and I was here Saturday and Sunday" joining

in the action.

"It was important you took part," Galinsky said. "And it had an impact. It shows the power working people have when we come together, stand up and fight."

Ricauter said she was proud she joined the protest.

Many family members eagerly took Galinsky's campaign flyers and three got copies of the *Militant*. One gave a \$4 donation.

Readers are invited to send in reports for this column, as well as photos, to enrich the paper each week.

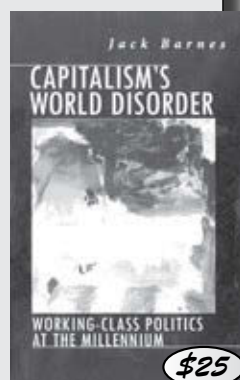
To join in or to find out more, contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you. (See directory on page 4.)

Capitalism's World Disorder

by Jack Barnes

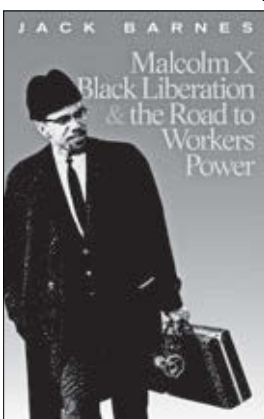
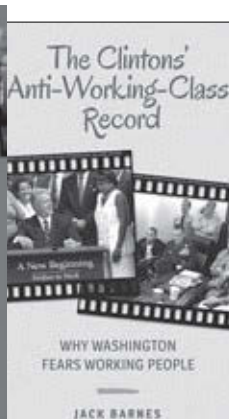
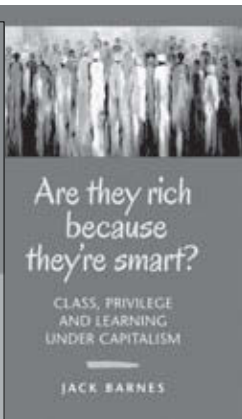
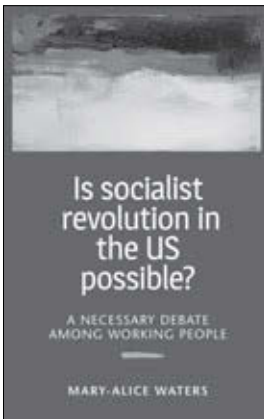
"A new pattern is being woven in struggle today as working people emerge from a period of retreat. The emerging pattern is taking shape, defined by the actions of a vanguard whose ranks increase with every single worker or farmer who reaches out to others with the hand of solidarity and offers to fight together."

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Muslim prisoner in Alabama executed, denied right to imam

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a ruling reinforcing religious discrimination, the U.S. Supreme Court Feb. 7 gave the state of Alabama the go-ahead to execute Muslim prisoner Domineque Ray, denying his request to have his imam by his side at the time of his death.

“Domineque was a devout Muslim and a human being,” Spencer Hahn, one of Ray’s attorneys, wrote in a statement. “He wanted equal treatment in his last moments.”

Ray, 42, had been on death row for the past 20 years, after being convicted for the killing of a 15-year-old girl. In November 2018 the state of Alabama announced he would be executed in February.

In a meeting with the prison warden Jan. 23, Ray was told that the prison chaplain, a Protestant Christian minister, was going to be in the execution chamber during his death. Officials claimed that as an employee of the prison system, he was “a member of the execution team.” Ray requested that his imam be present instead, which state authorities rejected, claiming “safety” and “security” concerns.

Five days later Ray filed a lawsuit saying the prison’s policy violated federal laws barring religious discrimination and the First Amendment’s establishment clause.

On Feb. 6, a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals based in Atlanta stayed the execution, saying that Ray made a “powerful” claim to discrimination and that the court should be allowed to hear and decide the case.

“It looks substantially likely to us that Alabama has run afoul of the establishment clause,” the court ruled, adding there is “no principle more elemental to the establishment clause than that the state and the federal government shall not favor one religious denomination over another.”

Alabama officials appealed this ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court the same day, arguing that executions must be conducted “in an orderly and secure fashion.”

The Supreme Court justices agreed. In a 5-4 vote Feb. 7 the high court va-

cated the stay, opening the door for the execution, which took place two hours after the ruling. Their two-paragraph opinion said nothing about the question of religious discrimination. The black-robed justices argued instead that Ray had taken too long — until Jan. 28 — “to seek relief.”

The court ruling ignored the fact that Ray had learned that the prison would not allow the imam to be present with him in the death chamber just five days earlier.

Calling the court’s ruling “profoundly wrong,” Justice Elena Kagan wrote a dissenting opinion that under Alabama state policy “a Christian prisoner may have a minister of his own faith accompany him into the execution chamber to say his last rites. But if an inmate practices a different religion — whether Islam, Judaism, or any other — he may not die with a minister of his own faith by his side.”

When state prison officials moved Ray from his cell to the death watch area a few days before the execution, they denied him the right to take his Quran with him. Ray sued against this violation of his rights also, and a U.S. District Court judge ordered state officials to give him a Quran. They decided not to fight this decision and provided him with one.

Many opponents of religious discrimination across the political spectrum spoke out against the court’s decision to allow prison authorities to

Thousands of workers strike in Mexico, win wage hike



More than 25,000 workers at 45 factories — mostly foreign-owned auto- and electrical-parts plants — in Matamoros, Mexico, near the U.S. border ended a rolling strike Feb. 11 after winning a 20 percent wage increase plus a one-time bonus of about \$1,700. The strike began Jan. 25. Above, strikers at Jan. 31 rally.

Newly elected Mexican President Manuel López Obrador had recently increased the daily minimum wage in border areas to the equivalent of \$9.13 a day. Seeing this increase, workers walked out demanding an across-the-board raise for everyone.

Even before the ink was dried on the deal, some bosses began to take reprisals. According to *La Jornada*, companies have since fired 1,500 workers, claiming they can’t afford to pay the higher wages.

But threats by the companies to shut down haven’t deterred other workers inspired by the victory. Workers at a Coca-Cola bottling plant and other workplaces have followed suit, going on strike for higher wages.

— SETH GALINSKY

refuse Ray’s request to have his imam at his execution. The American Civil Liberties Union issued a statement saying Alabama’s actions were “a clear violation of his right to freedom of religion.”

And Seth Mandel, executive editor of the *Washington Examiner* magazine, said, “As a conservative who opposes both the death penalty and religious discrimination I find this story appalling.”

Rail workers need to use union power to fight for safety

BY JOE SWANSON

At least 24 rail workers died on the job in 2018 in North America. We are now into the sixth week of 2019 and at least four rail workers have been killed on the job — all because of the rail boss-

AS I SEE IT

es’ drive for more profit.

The increase in workers’ deaths lies with rail bosses pushing greater train lengths with smaller and smaller crews, on schedules that dictate constant fatigue, often insufficient training and

a boss-led culture of cutting corners. Profit-driven employers are pushing for more, even though they know perfectly well this causes increased dangers to crews and to those who live and work near rail lines.

My party, the Socialist Workers Party, says no worker has to die. Workers need to use union power to fight for control over working conditions and against the bosses’ speedup and harassment.

The latest fatalities came on a Canadian Pacific freight train in the early morning hours of Feb. 4. The three crew members — engineer Andrew Dockrell, conductor Dylan Paradis and conductor

trainee Daniel Waldenberger-Bulmer — were killed when their train rolled down a steep grade and derailed in frigid conditions with failed air brakes near Field, British Columbia. The train carried 112 loaded grain hoppers. It weighed over 11,000 tons and was over 5,500 feet long. Only 13 rail cars were still on the track after the disaster.

Three days later Keith Gilmore, a Norfolk Southern conductor with only six months experience, was killed in a move in a Baltimore yard when he struck rail cars standing on an adjacent track.

Fight for workers control

When I hired out on the railroad in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1960 crews were five strong and rail workers who trained me fought to use union power to control conditions on trains in the yard and on the road. I was educated by rail workers who learned from past generations who had won that power in battle.

I also had the chance to learn from a visit with Cuban rail workers in Havana some years ago. Workers that operate the trains in Cuba have five or more on a crew, seldom work at night and could not remember the last time a rail worker was killed or seriously injured on the job. That’s because they control conditions on the job, a result of the gains made by Cuban workers and working farmers making a revolution. They overthrew the bosses, replacing them with a workers and farmers government based on social needs, not profits.

Most trains on the road when I started were no longer than 50 to 75 cars, approximately 2,000 to 3,000 feet in

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—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.

Coal miners in Ukraine march demanding back pay

Over 350 coal miners and their supporters marched in Lviv, Ukraine, Feb. 6, protesting outside government offices. The miners, including members of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NPGU), were demanding their unpaid wages for the last month and a half from the Lviv-vugillia state-owned mines.

The workers are owed 210 million hryvnia (\$7.7 million). Some 4,000 of the 12,000 miners in the Lviv region are members of the NPGU.

Union President Mykhailo Volynets told the *Militant* Feb. 8 that the Ministry of Energy and the Coal Industry claims it cannot pay into the miners' health care fund. Volynets said that 60 percent of miners either have black lung or have been injured in the mines.

In one of the Lvivvugillia mines, Stepova, eight miners died and 21 were injured in March 2017 after a methane gas explosion and tunnel collapse. At the time, Volynets told the media, "The government said they lacked money to provide safety, to buy new equipment and modernize the mines."

Volynets told the *Militant* that deteriorating conditions in the mines are a result of "the ongoing war with the Russian Federation and corruption in the Ukrainian government."

"At the same time Ukraine miners aren't being paid, the government is spending money to import more coal from Russia, even though Ukraine has huge coal resources," he said. The *Kyiv Post* reported that imported coal increased by 11 percent from 2017 to 2018. "And incredibly, 62 percent of those imports — \$1.7 billion worth — came from Russia, a country that is waging war against Ukraine."

For over two years miners in Ukraine's state-owned coal industry both in the Lviv and Donetsk regions have carried out strikes with round-the-clock picketing, sat in at the mines, and

blocked entrances to mine bosses' offices and roads leading toward the mines. They have rallied outside parliament demanding the government pay them back wages. The miners have won some back pay but still face unpaid wages.

NPGU was forged in 1989-91 in a wave of massive strikes and protests by miners and other workers for higher pay and safer conditions. They also raised political demands, which helped lead to an independent Ukraine.

Messages of solidarity for the Lviv miners can be sent to the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine, St. Velyka Vasylykivska 65, Office 39, Kiev 03150, Ukraine. Email: international-dep@kvpu.org.ua

—Janet Post

Quebec aluminum workers stand firm in over yearlong lockout

BECANCOUR, Quebec — Over 1,000 ABI Becancour aluminum smelter workers, members of United Steelworkers Local 9700, have stood strong here since being locked out over a year ago. Solidarity and contributions from other workers have given the USW members the resolve to keep fighting. The bosses locked workers out just hours after they voted down a concession contract that



Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine

Coal miners and supporters protest in Lviv, Ukraine, Feb. 6, demanding back pay. Some 4,000 of 12,000 miners in state-owned Lviv regional mines belong to independent miners union.

would have undermined their pensions, gutted plant-wide seniority and imposed other concessions. The smelter — the second largest in North America — is owned by Alcoa and Rio Tinto Alcan.

According to locked-out workers on the picket line here Feb. 12, over 400 local unions have contributed to the strike fund, helping provide workers with a union sustainer of \$635 a week. USW members at ArcelorMittal North Shore Steel give \$9,000 a week to the smelter workers "as long as the conflict lasts."

Others have sent statements of support, including 22 Walmart workers

from two stores in Montreal that said, "Your struggle for a decent union contract at ABI Becancour is our struggle."

In early February the ABI bosses contacted Local 9700 officials to restart negotiations after months of refusing to negotiate. Then Feb. 15 the company walked out of the new talks.

Send solidarity messages and donations to Metallos SL 9700 F.D.P. Attention Eric Moore, section locale 9700; 8310, rue Desormeaux; Becancour, Quebec G9H 2X2. For credit card donations: www.metallos.org/lockout-abi/.

—Adèle LeBlanc and John Steele

Rail workers need to use union power in fight for safety

Continued from page 4

length. The conductor and a brake person were in the caboose at the end of the train. Their responsibility was to watch both sides of the train looking towards the head end and they had the power to "pull" the emergency air brake to stop the train if they saw a problem. By having a "rear end" crew, the workers could also help protect working people and working farmers and ranchers who worked or lived close by. Yard workers had similar size crews.

After years of attacks on workers and job conditions by the bosses, trains in North America today increasingly

reach over 10,000 feet in length, some over 15,000 feet, and train weight can exceed 15,000 tons. More and more yard conductors work alone using a "Beltpack" for Remote Control Operation. Rail bosses run most trains now with two-person crews, both on the head end. They are pushing to run engineer-only trains. Their longer-term plan is to run with "automation" — eliminate an operating crew altogether — as they do now on some iron ore lines in Australia.

For decades top union officials in North America have followed a course of class collaboration, looking

to the Democrats and Republicans to pass laws setting a minimum crew size of two workers and other government regulations to slow down the bosses' push for one-person operations and automation.

Mobilize union power

The place to start today is to reverse that trend in our unions and fight on a different course.

We need to educate, organize, and mobilize the union, to explain that there is no solution for a safe workplace except what I was taught on the job by fellow rail workers in 1960 — to use union power and fight for workers control.

We should fight for no trains over 50 cars in length, with four-person crews, including two engineers on the locomotive and two workers on a caboose or engine on the rear. The increase in crew size and increase in trains will provide much needed jobs for thousands in hard-hit working-class communities across North America.

Rail workers have a social responsibility to fight to make their workplace safe not only for themselves, but for all those who live and work near the tracks.

And we must chart the course forward that Karl Marx outlined in "Trade Unions: Their Past, Present and Future." He argued that unions "must now learn to act deliberately as organizing centers of the working class in the broad interest of its *complete emancipation*." Adding, "They must convince the world at large that their efforts, far from being narrow and selfish, aim at the emancipation of the downtrodden millions."

Joe Swanson worked 31 years on the railroad and is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Lincoln, Nebraska.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



March 7, 1994

Some 3,700 workers across South Africa won their one-month strike against Amalgamated Beverage Industries (ABI), a franchise of U.S. soft drink giant Coca-Cola. The 2,500 members of the Food and Allied Workers Union and 1,200 nonunion employees obtained a 15-month contract with a 13.1 percent wage increase. Workers returned to their jobs February 1.

Hundreds of workers returned every day to nine ABI plants throughout South Africa to protest the apartheid conditions in the factories. Workers explained that they would remain on strike if necessary until an ANC-led democratic government was elected at the end of April. In this period of social and political upheaval in South Africa, the striking workers succeeded in forging unity despite a 50 percent unemployment rate and attacks and scabbing organized by the company against the strike.



March 7, 1969

An Indian family that has been in the forefront of the struggle for Native American rights was forcefully evicted from their small home in Cornwall, N.Y., Feb. 21. It was the third time in the past two years that the Madison family has been compelled to move because of pressure from local racists who resent their activities and the fact that Black and Indian friends visit their home.

Anticipating the eviction, the Madisons had made plans some months ago to move into a house near an abandoned mill. Last month this building was burned to the ground.

Unable to find a new home because landlords have refused to rent to them, the Madisons are "camped out" in the corner of the abandoned mill itself where there is no electricity or water and very little heat. Before the Feb. 21 deadline the Madisons decided that they would not leave quietly on their own.



March 4, 1944

When Roosevelt and Biddle in July 1941 indicted the Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO and Trotskyist leaders under the Smith "Gag" Act, many labor leaders preferred to view this as an exceptional and isolated case. They treated the Minneapolis trial as a private conflict between the defendants and government which did not affect them or the rest of the labor movement. Their chief concern was to uphold Roosevelt's reputation as "friend of labor" and guardian of civil liberties.

Events since the trial demonstrate the far-reaching significance of the Minneapolis prosecutions and convictions. In wielding the Smith Act club against the Trotskyists, the government launched the initial attack of an all-out offensive by Big Business and its political agents to smash the entire union movement and destroy the democratic rights of the American people.

Iraqis proud of book district

Continued from front page

Ahmad ibn al-Husayn, for whom the street is named — was a 10th-century poet whose statue overlooks the Tigris River at one end of the road.

Nearby is Al-Qushla, a 19th-century Ottoman fort being put to much better use in the 21st century. At one spot is a crowd listening to a poet's lively reading of his work, supported by a violinist; at another, a speaker addressing a couple of dozen people on current politics.

Afterwards, Adel Hatem told this reporter what he'd been saying. "There is a struggle going on between the U.S. and Iran, and it is taking place on Iraqi soil," he said. "But the Iraqi people have suffered too many wars. This fight has nothing to do with us."

The U.S. imperialist rulers maintain some 5,000 troops in Iraq, while the counterrevolutionary cleric-dominated capitalist regime in Iran sponsors Shiite sectarian militias here, above all the Hashd al-Shaabi ("Popular Mobilization Units"). Putting the Baghdad regime — already torn between dependence on both Washington and Tehran — on the spot, President Trump recently said that U.S. troops will remain in Iraq, among other things, "to watch Iran."

Hatem told us that these speakouts and cultural events at Al-Qushla started five years ago. The opportunity to read and discuss whatever you like is not taken for granted by working people in Iraq. Faris Jejjio, who showed us around Al-Mutanabbi Street, reminded us that we were there on the anniversary of the 1963 coup that opened the way later in the decade to the Baath Party dictatorship, soon dominated by Saddam Hussein.

The coup put a bloody end to what had been a period of revolutionary upheaval. Jejjio pointed out a building where many were executed and their bodies thrown in the Tigris. The bloodletting took thousands of lives.

Decades of war and conflict

In July 1958 a coup led by Gen. Abdul al-Karim Qasim, backed by a popular insurrection, had swept the British-installed monarchy from power. The Qasim government, politically supported by the Communist Party, at first responded to mass pressure, initiating a land reform and other measures in the interest of workers and farmers. The regime soon became increasingly repressive, however, suppressing trade union and peasant struggles and waging war on the oppressed Kurds of northern Iraq. Qasim turned on his Communist Party backers, arresting many.

After the 1963 coup, all political opposition was driven underground. On Al-Mutanabbi Street we met a veteran book publisher who used to print and distribute material clandestinely for the Communist Party during Saddam's brutal dictatorship.

That regime was ousted in 2003 through an imperialist invasion led by Washington. An unintended consequence of that assault was to open some political space in Iraq. With no reason to fear any immediate challenge to their hold on power, the occupying forces allowed political parties to function openly again, including the Communist Party.

Soon after the invasion, reactionary capitalist forces using sectarian appeals to try to turn the Sunni and Shiite communities against each other began a campaign of terror. Explosions became a regular occurrence on the streets of Baghdad.

One of these was a March 2007 car bomb that destroyed the famous Al-Shabandar Cafe on Al-Mutanabbi Street, killing nearly 30 people and injuring 100. The street was closed for a year. Mohammad al-Khashali, the owner of the cafe, who lost four sons and a grandson in the explosion, insisted on rebuilding the cafe and reopened it as the Shabandar Martyrs' Cafe. The beautiful 100-year-old venue is known as a meeting place for writers, artists and political people to gather and exchange ideas.

School workers strike beats back gov't attack

Continued from front page

"We want to make this 55 strong, not 54 strong, because we're all 55 united here," Parry Casto, a teacher from Cabell County, told WOWK-TV outside Hurricane High School in Putnam County Feb. 19. "And we'll stay here as long as it takes."

Not a single school bus in Putnam County moved and only a handful of students showed up for class.

Hundreds of teachers from around the state descended on the Capitol in Charleston later in the day, chanting "Kill the bill," as the House of Delegates debated the measure that had just been rammed through the state Senate.

United Mine Workers union President Cecil Roberts and other mine-workers joined the picket line at Capital High School in Charleston Feb. 19.

The bill included a pay hike for school workers and funding for additional school personnel promised during last year's strike. But it also included provisions eliminating seniority, increasing class size, widening pay differences between teachers depending on "expertise," establishing charter schools in West Virginia for the first time, and setting up so-called education savings accounts to be used to pay for home schooling or private schools.

The proposed legislation also included measures aimed at undercutting the unions and school workers strikes.

If passed, school workers would have gotten a 5 percent pay raise. "We could say yes to this immediately and we



Top, "There is a struggle going on between the U.S. and Iran, and it is taking place on Iraqi soil," Adel Hatem told speakout at Baghdad's Al-Qushla fort Feb. 8. Below, protest against murder of novelist Alaa Mashzoub, known for opposition to foreign intervention, Feb. 6, sponsored by writers' union.

As crowds thronged the streets during our visit, one group held up a banner and shouted slogans denouncing the Feb. 2 killing of novelist Alaa Mashzoub. There has been widespread outcry, including a protest organized

by the Union of Iraqi Writers in central Baghdad, over the assassination of the popular author. Mashzoub was gunned down in Karbala, his home city, shortly after speaking out to criticize the Iranian rulers' interference in Iraq.

could have our raise, but it's not that," Bridgeport prekindergarten teacher Jessica Jones told WNews.com.

West Virginia is one of the states with the lowest funding for schools and wages. That means dilapidated classrooms, teachers and other school workers forced to work two or three jobs, and overcrowded classrooms lacking sorely needed supplies.

Carmichael claims the goal of his "comprehensive education reforms" is to prepare students to more effectively "compete" for jobs.

The capitalist rulers and their representatives like Carmichael promote the illusion that "education" is a ticket out of low-paying jobs for the working class. But the reality is that education under capitalism is meant to churn out obedient workers who don't need to know much to toil and increase the bosses' profits. The rulers don't see any reason to shell out more for learning for working people.

Bill goes down to defeat

Midway through the first day of the strike, with hundreds of chanting teachers crammed into the House of Delegates gallery, the delegates voted to "suspend indefinitely" the bill in a bipartisan 53-45 vote. Twelve Republicans voted with Democrats to kill the bill.

Gov. Jim Justice told school workers immediately after the vote to "go back to work. Go back to work right now. Go back to work tomorrow."

But the school workers said no. They weren't going back until they

were 100 percent sure the bill was dead. According to House rules, the legislators could reconsider within the next 24 hours.

"School workers have not forgotten the lesson of last year's showdown," special education teacher Brandon Wolford, told the *Militant* by phone from Mingo County while on his way to a rally. The county was a stronghold of the United Mine Workers union.

Previous struggles by "the miners and the UMW taught us something," he said earlier. "Stand up for yourself. You have nothing to lose."

Last year's teachers strike in West Virginia was marked by lessons from decades of hard-fought labor battles by the miners. This gave it aspects of a broader social movement and large-scale working-class solidarity.

Book by Cuban leader José Ramón Fernández launched

Havana Book Fair also hosts launch of prison diary by Ramón Labañino, one of Cuban 5

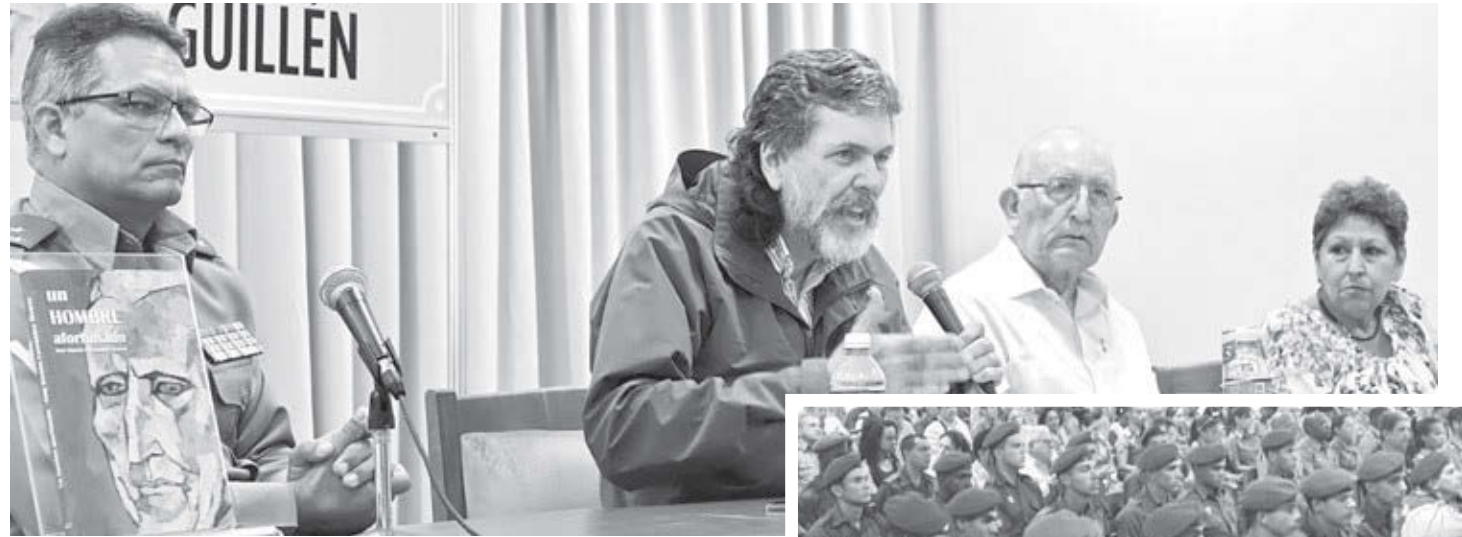
BY MARTÍN KOPPEL
AND JONATHAN SILBERMAN

HAVANA — *Un hombre afortunado* (A Fortunate Man) by José Ramón Fernández, one of the Cuban revolution's historic leaders, was presented to a packed audience at the Havana International Book Fair Feb. 13.

Fernández was commander of the main column of Cuban revolutionary forces that in 1961 defeated Washington's mercenary invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. A division general in the Revolutionary Armed Forces, he carried out a variety of central leadership responsibilities, from education minister and president of the Cuban Olympic Committee to vice president of the Council of Ministers. He died in January at age 95.

A second major presentation was held Feb. 16, featuring *Hombre del silencio: Diario de prisión* (A Man of Silence: Prison Diary) by Ramón Labañino. Labañino was one of the Cuban Five — as they became known internationally — who were framed up and spent up to 16 years in U.S. prisons for their actions to protect Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries. Today he is vice president of the National Association of Economists and Accountants of Cuba.

The presentation of Fernández's book was a tribute to his lifelong record and example. The audience included many of those who had worked with him over the decades, as well as dozens of young members of the armed forces and mili-



Militant photos: Top, Jonathan Silberman; right, Martín Koppel. Meeting to launch *Un hombre afortunado* (A Fortunate Man) by José Ramón Fernández, one of the Cuban revolution's historic leaders, at Havana International Book Fair Feb. 13. From left, Col. Rigoberto Santiesteban, director of Verde Olivo publishing house; Abel Prieto, director of José Martí Program and former minister of culture; Div. Gen. Ulises Rosales del Toro; and Isora Gutiérrez, editor of book. Inset, part of audience at meeting.

tary cadets. Among those present was Asela de los Santos, his wife, who was a combatant in Cuba's revolutionary war and a founding leader of the Federation of Cuban Women.

Fernández had stressed that the book's "main purpose was to share with the Cuban people his experiences in the battle for the revolution," said Col. Rigoberto Santiesteban, director of Verde Olivo, publishing house of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, which issued the book.

Abel Prieto, director of the José Martí Program and previously Cuba's longtime minister of culture, outlined Fernández's account of how he became a revolutionary. A young military officer in Cuba's armed forces, Fernández led a 1956 conspiracy by a group of military men to overthrow the Batista dictatorship. He was arrested and imprisoned on the Isle of Pines (now Isle of Youth).

In his book, Prieto pointed out, Fernández explains how Fidel Castro, central leader of the July 26 Movement and the Rebel Army, demonstratively reached out to those like him who opposed the Batista dictatorship and sought to bring them into the revolutionary struggle. Fellow inmates who were July 26 Movement cadres worked closely with Fernández, and on Jan. 1, 1959, as a popular insurrection swept Cuba, they organized the release of the jailed revolutionaries.

Fernández describes his participation in the forging of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, in the victory at the Bay of Pigs, and the variety and scope of his subsequent leadership responsibilities, Prieto said.

Also speaking at the event was Div. Gen. Ulises Rosales del Toro, a fellow revolutionary combatant and longtime Cuban leader. He saluted the revolutionary record of Asela de los Santos, which included her decadeslong collaboration with Fernández.

Labañino's prison diary

The Feb. 16 presentation of Labañino's prison diary also drew a standing room only audience, including many students from a high school for youth aspiring to serve in the interior ministry, which is responsible for Cuba's state security, national police and customs. The book was released by Capitán San Luis, the ministry's publishing house.

Labañino saluted his four comrades in arms seated in the front row — Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and René González. The book, he said, is "dedicated to the men and women of state security, of the interior ministry, who are defending our country." The title — *A Man of Silence* — refers to state security officers who carry out undercover missions, as the Cuban Five did in the United States in the 1990s, whose contributions to the defense of the revolution often go unknown.

The prison diary begins in 2002, after the five revolutionaries were convicted in federal court and began to serve their sentences in different U.S. prisons. Labañino, along with Hernández and Guerrero, had been given life sentences on trumped-up charges of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and, in Hernández's case, of

"conspiracy to commit murder."

The book shows "the dehumanizing character of the U.S. prison system," said Labañino, who spent years at the notorious federal penitentiary in Beaumont, Texas. It also mentions the support they received from those in the United States campaigning for the release of the Five. "We know the people and the government of the United States are two different things," he emphasized.

Among those speaking in the discussion period were two students from the interior ministry's Hermanos Martínez Tamayo high school. Addressing all of the Cuban Five, one of them said, "You are an example for us, and for people in many countries. Thank you for being that example, which young people and our revolution need today."

Liberals' 'Green New Deal' scheme

Continued from front page

on, it's a nonbinding statement of intentions. It's a schema to grow the capitalist government's federal bureaucracy to regulate our lives in the name of saving the planet. Markey denounced Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell when he said he intended to call for debate and a vote on the plan. Democratic House leader Nancy Pelosi pointed to the plan's lack of specifics, saying, "Nobody knows what it means but they're for it, right?"

Supporters of the liberal Democrats' crusade argue we're all doomed unless drastic, immediate action is taken to reform capitalist rule. The model they point to is the capitalist rulers' mobilization to massively expand their military might to win out over their rivals in the second imperialist world war. Ocasio-Cortez praises Washington's war production and victory.

"Large sections of the planet will be rendered uninhabitable," if the deal is not adopted, threatened *New York Times* columnist Farhad Manjoo Feb. 13.

Such hysteria campaigns "are both endemic to and necessary for the maintenance of capitalist social relations,"

explains a Socialist Workers Party resolution, "The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class, In Defense of Land and Labor," published in *New International* no. 14.

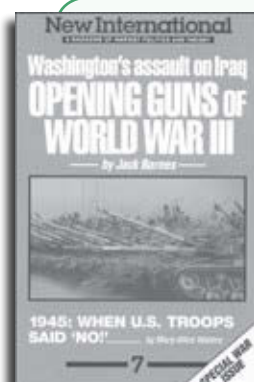
They are aimed at preventing working people "from recognizing the actual source of these threats to civilization: the capitalist mode of production, the world imperialist order and the enormous wealth and power the rulers wring from nature and the exploited producers. Their aim is to instill fear and paralysis among working people."

Is the answer to reform capitalism?

The liberals' plan is a 10-year forced march to eliminate all fossil fuel from manufacturing, power production and our lives. It would get rid of all nonbattery operated cars, air travel, and rebuild or refit every building in the country. The only possible delays, a document released by Ocasio-Cortez said, would be "because we aren't sure that we'll be able to fully get rid of farting cows and airplanes that fast."

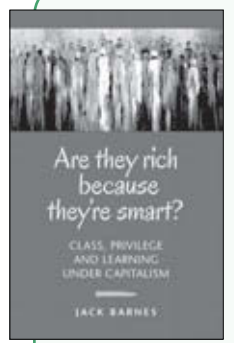
This "plan" is accompanied by a plethora of other proposed reforms of

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Stewardship of nature falls to working class

The excerpt below is from “*The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class*,” a resolution adopted by the Socialist Workers Party and published in New International no. 14. The Militant is printing it as part of addressing the anti-working-class course presented by liberal and “socialist” Democrats in their “Green New Deal.”

Science and technology — which are developed and used by social labor — have established the knowledge and the means to lessen the burdens and dangers of work, to advance the quality of life, and to conserve and improve the earth’s patrimony. ...

Since the rise of the world capitalist order, humanity has faced — and increasingly continues to face — questions of life or death in stemming capital’s accelerated destruction of labor and nature and its effects on hundreds of millions of toilers. The stakes for the world’s working people are enormous. Grave and growing dangers to life on earth are posed by the existence of massive conventional and strategic weapons arsenals, and by the inevitability of nuclear arms proliferation on a scale completely new since Washington’s heinous 1945 incineration of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. ...

But “green-red” politics, as a number of middle-

class currents in the workers movement describe their program and activity today, is not a proletarian course. “Green” politics and “environmentalism” like “peace” politics and “pacifism” are expressions of bourgeois politics. They lead towards class-collaborationism. They lead away from the fight for independent working-class political action and the conquest of power by workers and farmers — the only road to peace and to the effective defense of labor and the earth’s land, waters and atmosphere. Concrete gains for working people can and will be won as by-products along that road of revolutionary struggle. ...

Capital’s debasing of the means of production into simultaneous means of destruction is not the product of technology, synthetic chemicals or bioengineering. It is the product of the drive by the exploiting classes and their armies, cops, and courts to defend, extend, and increase their accumulation of capital and reproduction of capitalist social relations to maintain their own class rule. It is only by resolving the “modern conflict” between capital and labor — leading the toilers to the conquest of power and the establishment of workers and farmers governments — that the creative and productive potential of humanity’s transformation of nature will be set free, enabling us to control the avoidable dangers that such transformation entails.

Crisis wracks toilers in Venezuela - US hands off!

Continued from front page

tion today to press for the fall of Maduro.

The U.S. government froze U.S. bank accounts of the Venezuelan government and its state-owned PDVSA oil company on Jan. 28. It has also blocked the sale of raw materials needed to process oil in Venezuela.

Working people need to oppose Washington’s interference with Venezuela’s sovereignty and demand U.S. Hands Off!

Outcome of Chávez, Maduro course

The economic, social and political crisis in Venezuela is the consequence of the political course followed by the government of Hugo Chávez that came to power in 1998, a course continued by Maduro since Chávez’s death in 2013.

Chávez, a military officer, was elected president in 1998 amid a working-class uprising. His final election rally was 700,000 strong.

Chávez called his political course the Bolivarian Revolution and sometimes 21st Century socialism, which he sharply differentiated from the Cuban Revolution, where Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement led workers and farmers to take political power. Instead, Chávez and Maduro used income from oil sales to fund welfare programs that fostered workers’ dependency, and attempted to “manage” the capitalist economy. This diversion from a course toward taking power began the process of demobilizing Venezuelan toilers.

In Cuba the communist leadership of the revolution led by Castro encouraged workers control and carried out a deep agrarian reform that guaranteed that peasants could work their own land — transforming the island’s workers and farmers into the masters of their own destiny and opening a socialist revolution.

In Venezuela production and land remained in the hands of the capitalist class.

Ostensibly to encourage production and make importing of necessary materials easier, Chávez set up a system where capitalists could buy dollars at a lower rate than on the “free” market. This became a huge source of corruption, especially with capitalists most allied to the government. They made a killing in an endless cycle of buying dollars cheap, then reselling them on the black market, instead of using them to buy needed imports.

The government and military bureaucracy mushroomed. The state-run oil industry was plundered by bosses and bureaucrats while some of the profits were used to fund the government’s welfare programs. When the price of oil was high, this masked the underlying contradictions. But when oil supplies on the world market were glutted, the price of oil plummeted.

The government tried to keep funding their welfare programs by printing money to make up for the short

fall, sparking out-of-control inflation — now over 1 million percent this year. No matter how often Maduro raises the minimum wage, it can’t keep up with daily price increases. Government-subsidized products are scarce. Workers seeking necessities end up standing in lines for hours in hopes of finding something.

The resulting crisis and depoliticization of working people has opened the door for Guaidó and greater interference by Washington.

What the U.S. rulers hate the most about the Chávez and Maduro governments are the friendly ties these governments have had with the Cuban Revolution. Tens of thousands of Cuban internationalist volunteers have spent time over the past 20 years in Venezuela, staffing medical clinics, including in the most isolated areas, participating in literacy campaigns, and helping to train the army. And the Venezuelan government sent oil to Cuba at low prices.

Maduro says there isn’t a crisis

Despite the conditions that have led some 3 million people to flee the country, Maduro has repeatedly denied there is a crisis.

In a Feb. 7 “Open letter to the people of the U.S.,” Maduro claimed that the U.S. government is “waging a military attack on Venezuela under the pretext of a nonexistent humanitarian crisis.”

Denying the existence of the crisis gives a handle to the cynical maneuvers of the U.S. government and Guaidó, who shed crocodile tears about the suffering people of Venezuela to present themselves as fighters for humanitarian aid.

The opposition and Washington have said they intend to deliver a convoy of aid to help Venezuelans into the country Feb. 23. Maduro says it isn’t needed and won’t be permitted.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, three U.S. military cargo planes brought supplies to the Colombian border town of Cúcuta Feb. 16. Their “humanitarian” aid? Hygiene kits with soap and toothbrushes. And nutritional bars for just 3,500 kids. They say they will be sending a few hundred tons, which would not make a dent in the crisis.

The U.S. rulers are using the crisis in Venezuela to slander and, they hope, to isolate the Cuban Revolution. In his Feb. 18 speech in Miami President Trump called Maduro “a Cuban puppet.” Washington and Guaidó have been promoting bald-faced lies that the Cuban advisers in the army are directing torture and repression against Maduro’s opponents.

Developments in Venezuela are dangerous for working people there and for the Cuban Revolution. The only road forward is for workers and farmers to organize and follow Cuba’s example, take political power into their own hands, and overthrow capitalist exploitation and oppression.

‘Green New Deal’ scheme

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capitalism, described as modeled on Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal in the 1930s. Like this scheme, that “deal” was aimed at saving the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression. It culminated in the rulers’ drive to World War II, no strike legislation and the internment of virtually all Japanese-Americans.

When Ocasio-Cortez’s office issued a FAQ statement designed to offer more detail on the scheme, it brought forth ridicule from some in the press. One proposal said it would guarantee “economic security” to all those “unwilling to work.” Her office withdrew the document, claiming it was issued “by mistake.”

The Democratic Socialists of America member argues, “Americans love a challenge. This is our moonshot.” But we aren’t all “Americans,” the U.S. is class-divided. And what’s good for the capitalist exploiters usually means something bad for working people.

“My job is to make sure that people are protected in society,” Ocasio-Cortez says, adding that requires “massive government intervention.” But urging increased reliance for protection on a state bureaucracy organized to serve the capitalist rulers’ interests is not a way to build working people’s fighting capacities, self-confidence or independent organization, nor to halt the rulers’ contamination of the environment. As the SWP statement explains, that “falls to the working class,” and will only be advanced when we struggle together with fellow workers against the rulers’ grinding assaults, transform ourselves in the process and chart a course to take political power out of their hands.

Ocasio-Cortez promotes a fake socialism that says progress can be built while the lawful workings of the market system and the rule of capital remain.

Road forward is working-class struggle

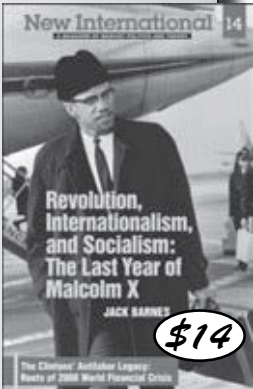
The SWP resolution explains that the “fight for safety on the job is inseparable from social and political struggles by vanguard workers and the union movement to combat the exploiters’ ... fouling of the earth, water and skies.” It points to the need for working people to fight to “impose workers control over the industries where we create wealth expropriated from us by the ruling capitalist families.”

As long as the capitalist rulers hold power they will continue exploiting us and poisoning the atmosphere as they are driven to maximize profits in conflicts with their rivals. All radical reform programs simply try to gloss over this reality. Organizing to build a party that can lead the working class to take power out of their hands *does* open a way forward.

“If we translate everything commonly thought of as an environmental issue into how to advance the protection of the working class, and how the working class can extend that protection to all,” the Socialist Workers Party resolution states, “then we can hardly ever go wrong.”

The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor

“The international working class, whose ranks are growing on every continent and in every country, remains the only force capable of resolving the crises produced by capitalism’s degradation of nature and labor”
Socialist Workers Party statement —
New International no. 14.



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