

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Lift US sanctions on NKorea!
For a nuclear-free peninsula**
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 39 OCTOBER 28, 2019

‘Militant’ and books drive builds support for labor battles

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The drive to expand readership of the *Militant* and of books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other working-class revolutionary leaders got off to a good start during its first week. The drive focuses on helping workers, farmers and other exploited producers in cities, towns and rural areas gain a deeper understanding of what our class faces today, and how we can advance solidarity with struggles workers are engaged in, as well as introducing the party’s program through door-to-door discussions.

Party members and other *Militant* supporters use the paper to build support for the nearly 50,000 autoworkers locked in an important national strike battle against General Motors.

“We’ve received an overwhelming response — especially for the *Militant*’s support to the GM strikers — from workers at the Ford assembly plant here where some 6,000 United Auto Workers members work,” writes SWP member Dan Fein from Chicago. “At the afternoon shift change Oct. 9, workers bought five subscriptions, 61

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Solidarity with strikers at GM, Mack Truck!

Equal pay, permanent jobs is fight for all workers



Militant/John Staggs

United Auto Workers picket Mack Truck plant in Macungie, Penn., Oct. 14. Workers are fighting to win same wage, benefits for temps as for permanent workers, no health cost hikes.

3,600 Mack Truck unionists strike against concessions

BY JOHN STAGGS

LOWER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP, Penn. — More than 3,600 Mack Truck workers in five cities went on strike Oct. 13. “We had to show them

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Autoworkers at GM win support in working class

BY NAOMI CRAINE

AND DEAN HAZLEWOOD

TOLEDO, Ohio — Morale is high on General Motors workers’ picket lines at 33 factories and 22 parts warehouses around the country, one

UAW negotiators announced a tentative settlement Oct. 16, which will be voted on in the coming days. For updates visit themilitant.com

month into the strike by some 49,000 members of the United Auto Workers union.

“The solidarity we’ve gotten has been overwhelming,” Pamela

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Liberals’ hysteria for impeachment targets ‘deplorable’ workers, our rights

BY TERRY EVANS

The Democrats, the liberal big-business media and the middle-class left are stepping up their furious impeachment campaign based on charges coming from the rulers’ political police. Their goal is to overturn the 2016 election and oust President Donald Trump. Their real target is the working class.

Trump — a defender of the interests of the capitalist rulers against working people, like all the Democrats and Republicans — responds to the frame-up methods the liberals are using by portraying himself as a victim of an assault

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Ankara hands off Kurds in Syria! US out of Mideast!

BY TERRY EVANS

The capitalist rulers in Turkey and Islamist Syrian forces they arm and control launched airstrikes, artillery bombardments and a ground invasion of northeastern Syria Oct. 9, targeting the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces there. Their goal is to weaken the Kurds hold on the autonomous area of Syria carved out over the last few years in the course of their struggle for national rights.

Washington decided to withdraw its 1,000 troops from northern Syria four days later. President Donald Trump said it was time to get out of the “never-endless wars” in the region. Faced with this, SDF leaders decided to make a deal with Moscow and Damascus to move their forces into parts of the Kurdish region.

Washington is evacuating most of these troops to other U.S. bases in the Mideast, as part of expanding its forces and military capacities in the

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Copper miners reject Asarco’s ‘insulting’ offer, shut down mines

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

“We don’t like going on strike, but when we get pushed against the wall, we are going to take action and we did,” United Steelworkers spokesperson Manny Armenta told the press outside the Asarco mine in Sahuarita, near Tucson, Oct. 14. Some 2,000 Asarco workers from nine unions went on strike the night before at four open pit copper mine complexes in

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Ft. Worth outcry leads to indictment of cop who killed Atatiana Jefferson



Working people outraged at cop killing Atatiana Jefferson inside her own home overflowed Ft. Worth City Council meeting Oct. 15. Some 200 who couldn’t get in protested outside.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

FORT WORTH, Texas — Hundreds of people, outraged at the cop killing of Atatiana Jefferson, turned out for a vigil and to stand with her family Oct. 13 in front of the house where she was shot dead by Fort Worth officer Aaron Dean. Jefferson, 28, lived in an historic Black community on the Southside of the city.

Two cops went to her home the day before at 2:30 a.m. after a neighbor

called the police concerned that Jefferson’s front door was open and requested they check it. The cops neither knocked on the door, nor announced they were police officers. Instead, they entered the back yard where Dean shouted to Jefferson to raise her hands before shooting her dead only a split second later.

Jefferson was with her 8-year-old nephew playing video games when the

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‘Standing up, fighting back helps unite working people’

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL, Quebec — “The heart of a union is workers’ activity in defense of our rights,” Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president in 2016, told striking members of United Steelworkers Local 9414 Oct. 10, when she visited their picket line at the Galvano plant in Saint-Mathieu-De-Beloeil, 30 miles south of Montreal.

“That’s what laid-off coal miners at Blackjewel in Kentucky showed when they blocked the rail tracks to prevent the company from shipping out its coal after bosses declared bankruptcy and clawed back paychecks deposited in the miners’ bank accounts,” she said. “And we see that in the strike against General Motors by nearly 50,000 United Auto Workers.”

Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, the SWP’s candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, visited the Steelworkers as part of their North American speaking tour.

Pierre-Luc Filion, Communist League candidate in Longueuil-St. Hubert in the Oct. 21 federal elections in Canada, joined the picket line with Kennedy and Jarrett. Three days before Filion and two other workers from the Walmart store where he works had joined a strike solidarity action.

Since July 9, the 35 USW members at Galvano have been striking against the bosses’ efforts to impose 12-hour shifts and run production around-the-clock.

“In our contract negotiations, the USW came in with our demands on a few sheets of paper. Galvano came in with a book so thick it looked like the Bible. They wanted to change every-

thing. We said no,” striker Karl Perron told the socialist campaigners.

“We will get out the word on your strike when we return to the U.S.,” Jarrett responded. “Workers produce everything. We need to stand together wherever we live.”

During their picket line visit, the three socialist candidates discussed a range of issues confronting working people. Striker Yvan Dupuis said he was concerned that dairy farmers in Quebec would be hit by the outcome of the trade deal negotiated between the Canadian and U.S. governments. Under the terms of the deal — yet to be ratified by either Ottawa or Washington — subsidies the Canadian government provides to dairy farmers here would be cut.

“Dairy farmers are losing their farms in the U.S., too,” Kennedy said. “Both free trade deals and tariffs are used by the capitalist rulers for their own profits. Workers go to the wall either way. We need to build our own party to overthrow the capitalist class, like working people did during the Cuban Revolution.” SWP candidates demand the nationalization of the land to halt farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt and to put the soil at the service of the farmers who till it.

Later that evening the SWP campaigners spoke to 35 people at a lively Militant Labor Forum here. “After decades of deteriorating conditions, working people are taking a stand, getting solidarity, and even winning — this is a good sign!” Kennedy said in opening her talk. She pointed to the powerful mobilizations of working people against



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

From left, Pierre-Luc Filion, Communist League candidate in Montreal; Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party 2016 candidate for president; and Malcolm Jarrett, SWP candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, visit United Steelworkers on strike at Galvano plant in Quebec Oct. 10.

governments in Algeria and Sudan and the governor in Puerto Rico earlier this year and the challenge that lies ahead of forging the revolutionary leadership working people need.

Jarrett told meeting participants the SWP and CL “are looking for fighters as more working people respond to the deepening crisis of the capitalist system. We are part of these fights and we urge you to join with us at them.”

“Working people in the U.S. need to break with the capitalist two-party system and its ‘choice’ of voting for the lesser-evil,” Jarrett added.

“I was convinced to come because I would learn important things about what’s happening to workers,” said Walmart cashier Amelie Francoeur, after the program.

“I learned that people in the U.S. face the same reality as we do here and I was impressed by how tenacious the SWP candidates are,” Jennifer Alves Nadeau told the *Militant*. Nadeau is an elementary school teacher and participant in the fight against Quebec’s Law 21, which bans the right to wear religious symbols by teachers and other public workers.

The previous day Jarrett and CL candidate Steve Penner, running in the Montreal riding of Papineau, met retirement home worker Chantal Poirier in Alexandria, Ontario. When Penner explained that all the parties in the televised election debates represent the ruling rich and the CL is building a party of workers to take power into our own

hands, Poirier replied, “Not one of them is any better than the other. I think we could run the country better.”

“We know, we do the work, we are the ones facing worse conditions, lower pay, higher taxes,” she added.

Learning from working-class history

Prior to visiting Montreal, Kennedy and Jarrett spoke at Militant Labor Forums in New York and Union City, New Jersey.

“I enjoyed hearing about the strikes and movements from before my time that achieved something,” Walmart worker Rochelle Harrell, who had attended the New Jersey meeting, told the *Militant*. Harrell was referring to how Jarrett described the working-class-led civil rights movement that tore down Jim Crow segregation. “I read the article about the United Auto Workers and their strike at GM. It’s really a beautiful thing that so many of us from other companies came to support them,” she said.

“The more workers come together, the more ideas you share, and the more you can act together,” Bouraima Berte, a worker from West Africa attending the New York forum, told the *Militant*.

Francesca Cruz, 23, a cashier and college student, came to the New York program after discussing political questions with co-worker Don Mackle, an SWP campaign supporter. We “talked about how the system works and opening people’s eyes to help make them aware we can change things,” said Cruz.

The Militant

Vol. 83/No. 39

Closing news date: October 16, 2019

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Rôger Calero, Seth Galsinsky, Emma Johnson, Martin Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

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

Business Manager: Valerie Johnson

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

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Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

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THE MILITANT

Support independent truckers’ protests!

‘10-4’ demonstrations in Washington, D.C., South Dakota and more Oct. 4 by independent truckers against onerous government regulations were joined by Kentucky coal miners and others. The *‘Militant’* covers truckers’ actions across the country in defense of their livelihood.



Truckers protest at U.S. Capitol, Oct. 4, protesting government attacks against them.

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‘Militant’ drive boosts strikes

Continued from front page
copies of the paper and two copies of *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions* and one of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*.

“We have visited UAW strike picket lines in Fort Wayne, Bedford and Kokomo, Indiana; Flint, Michigan; Toledo, Ohio; and Bolingbrook, Illinois,” Fein said. “Everywhere the paper is well received. And we combined the picket line visits with using the paper to build support for the strike by knocking on workers’ doors in each area.”

With 49 *Militant* subscriptions sold during the drive’s first week, supporters in Chicago raised their goal to 110.

In Bedford, Samir Hazboun, SWP candidate for Kentucky lieutenant governor, and a team of supporters from Louisville went door to door a few blocks from the UAW picket line at the GM casting plant to build solidarity Oct 12. “I’m behind the strikers 100 percent,” said Tammy Hopper when SWP campaigners knocked on her door. “Many of these lost their mortgages, missed car payments, medical bills. It’s awful how these company people treat these workers.”

At the same house, Richard Troyer, a self-employed worker, was getting ready to bring firewood to the GM picketers. He asked Hazboun, “If you’re running in Kentucky why are you here in Indiana?”

“We’re trying to help build a working-class movement that can really change the conditions we face,” Hazboun said. “We say what changes things is what the GM workers are doing — standing up and fighting back. We need a movement that is independent of the capitalist class. The Democrats and Republicans will stab workers in the back first chance they get.”

They talked about whether the problem was foreign-made cars versus American-built, and about immigration. “We need to build an international workers movement,” Hazboun said. “And we need to fight for amnesty for undocumented immigrants. That’s critical for the unity of the working class.”

“I don’t think a border wall will fix anything,” Troyer said. “We should be trying to figure out how to fight for better wages, benefits and conditions

for workers in Mexico so they don’t feel the need to leave their homes. That would be good for all of us.”

Troyer got *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes and a *Militant* subscription.

Role of revolutionary literature

When Joel Britton and supporters of his SWP campaign for mayor of San Francisco took the party and its program to workers on their doorsteps in San Jose Oct. 12, they met sanitation worker Tony Johnson, who described what he and his co-workers face at the nonunion recycling plant where they work.

He told Britton he was inspired when Teamster union members, trash and recycling workers, on strike at Republic Services from Marshfield, Massachusetts, came all the way to California to picket the company sites in San Jose, Fremont and Milpitas. Sanitation workers and other truck drivers refused to cross their picket lines. “Please write about this fight in your paper,” Johnson said.

“I have to be involved, I’ll keep fighting. You people have made my day,” Johnson said as he signed up for a *Militant* subscription and got *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Barnes and *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

One of the central goals of the drive is to get into the hands of working-class fighters a broad range of books by revolutionary leaders. They explain — from the rich experiences of our class — how we can transform ourselves in struggle, gain self-confidence and build class consciousness.

All Pathfinder books and copies of the *New International* magazine, edited by SWP leaders and co-thinkers abroad, will be offered at 20% off through the drive. In addition, eight titles are offered at half price when purchased with a *Militant* subscription. (See ad below.) Beginning Nov. 1, an important new title will be available — *The Turn to Industry:*



Militant/Linda Joyce
Susan Lamont shows *Militant* coverage of strike on UAW picket line in Spring Hill, Tennessee, Oct. 12. Some 49,000 autoworkers have been on strike in U.S. since Sept. 16.

Forging a Proletarian Party.

As mass working-class mobilizations are shaking class relations from Sudan to Hong Kong, Puerto Rico to Haiti, discussing how to build independent working-class political parties is critical.

The drive is an international effort, including participation by Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, as well as workers who join in around the globe.

Farmworkers speak out

Anthony Dutrow, SWP candidate for Miami City Commission, and party member Chuck Guerra went house to house in Bell Glade, Florida, Oct. 13. They spoke with agricultural workers about conditions they face on area farms and how the U.S. Department of Agriculture continues to stall in repairing the dilapidated housing complex they have to live in. The government built it decades ago to assure bosses a steady supply of labor for the big sugar crops and area mills.

“We had to buy our own paint to cover the growing mold outbreak that goes unattended by the housing authority,” 22-year-old Emmanuelle Datiniste told Dutrow. “Mold was so

bad in the walls that it got all over my baby’s clothes.”

The team sold two subscriptions, one to a woman whose husband drives a sugar cane truck 12 hours a day. “She was interested in the party’s program to unite the entire working class, especially with farmworkers, who are the most poorly paid,” Dutrow said. A farmworker originally from Mexico also got a subscription, and asked that “we bring the Spanish-language edition of *In Defense of the US Working Class* the next time we come by.”

The *Militant* is appealing to readers who value its coverage of labor struggles and the political questions facing workers today to join in this effort to broaden the reach of the paper and revolutionary books. To get involved, contact the SWP or Communist League in your area, listed in the directory on page 8.

Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund Oct. 5 - Dec. 10	
Area	Quota
Albany	\$6,000
Atlanta	\$9,250
Chicago	\$11,000
Dallas	\$2,500
Lincoln	\$250
Los Angeles	\$10,500
Louisville	\$2,500
Miami	\$3,500
New York	\$14,000
N. New Jersey	\$3,300
Oakland	\$12,000
Philadelphia	\$2,500
Pittsburgh	\$2,000
Seattle	\$10,000
Twin Cities	\$4,500
Washington, D.C.	\$4,600
Total	\$98,400
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JACK BARNES

Prices are:
Book only/Book with subscription.

See distributors on page 8

Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books Oct. 5 - Dec. 10 (Week 1)				
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	70	11	70	8
Atlanta	70	17	110	55
Chicago*	110	45	100	20
Dallas	35	10	35	0
Lincoln	12	3	15	7
Los Angeles	90	20	90	23
Louisville	60	9	60	16
Miami	25	15	25	4
New Jersey	40	13	70	39
New York	80	16	120	58
Oakland	70	13	100	28
Philadelphia	25	3	25	0
Pittsburgh	25	8	25	3
Seattle	70	11	90	8
Twin Cities	35	12	45	22
Washington, D.C.	50	4	50	7
Total U.S.	867	210	1,030	298
Prisoners	25	5		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	50	15	75	28
Manchester	35	0	45	0
Total U.K.	85	15	120	28
Canada	70	10	150	11
New Zealand	20	3	20	8
Australia	25	3	25	2
Total	1,092	246	1,345	347
SHOULD BE	1,100	121	1,250	138
*Raised goal				

Ankara hands off Syria Kurds!

Continued from front page

region. The U.S. rulers' central goal is to counter the rising military and political influence of the bourgeois clerical Iranian rulers.

The 30 million oppressed Kurds living in Syria, Turkey, Iraq and Iran are the world's largest nationality without their own country.

In the first days of the Turkish rulers' onslaught some 200,000 people fled their homes from near Syria's border with Turkey. Scores have been killed, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Turkish government has also arrested opponents of its offensive inside Turkey, including four mayors from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party in districts near Turkey's border with Syria.

The Turkish government threatens to force hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees in Turkey to move into the so-called safe zone it seeks to impose along the border. This, they hope, will kill two birds with one stone — getting rid of Syrian refugees who are a drain on Ankara's resources while also forming a human barrier between the Kurds in Syria and those in Turkey.

Shorn of Washington's backing, the Syrian Democratic Forces leadership turned to the governments of Russia and Iran, no friends of the Kurds' struggle for national rights, who brokered an agreement for the Bashar al-Assad government to send its forces into border areas in the SDF-controlled region.

The capitalist rulers in Tehran and Moscow had provided decisive military force to prop up Assad after his rule was shaken by a popular uprising for political rights and a subsequent civil war, helping him bring large parts of the country back under his control.

But until now Assad's forces have not tried to move inside the 25% of the country controlled by the Kurdish-led forces, where most of Syria's oil is located. The Assad regime responded rapidly to the SDF's invitation, dispatching troops to Manbij and other towns in the border area.

Moscow also began deploying military police there, patrolling areas between the invading Turkish government-backed forces and Assad's troops.

No end to 'endless wars'

Defense Secretary Mark Esper announced the evacuation of most U.S. troops from northeast Syria to Iraq Oct. 13. The remaining 300 U.S. troops in the country will reinforce Washington's al-Tanf base in the south of Syria. That

base lies close to the strategic Baghdad to Damascus highway, a route Tehran wants to use to transfer arms to the militias that it organizes across the region.

Washington's pullback was condemned by both Democratic and Republican politicians. The Democrats are the most bellicose of the bipartisan "war party" today, pushing continued war moves in the Middle East and Afghanistan. The Trump administration imposed tariffs on steel produced in Turkey and halted talks on a trade deal with Ankara Oct. 14.

But the pullback of U.S. forces in Syria has nothing to do with ending the rulers' military intervention in the Mideast.

Both Democratic and Republican-led governments in Washington have carried out wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere after the implosion of the Soviet Union, believing this meant they could impose subservient governments wherever they choose. But these wars furthered the fracturing of the U.S.-dominated imperialist world order in the Mideast and landed Washington in a quagmire.

Far from withdrawing Washington's forces, Trump is increasing their deployment. The U.S. rulers intend to challenge the growing influence the Iranian rulers have established through their military intervention in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and elsewhere.

The administration has deployed an additional 3,000 U.S. troops, two fighter squadrons and a missile defense system to Saudi Arabia. Since May, 14,000 U.S. forces have been deployed to the Arab-Persian Gulf region. Working people



Militant photos: above, Catharina Tirsén; right, Arlene Rubinstein
Above, Jonathan Silberman, Communist League candidate for U.K. Parliament, left, speaks at Oct. 8 London action to protest Turkish government invasion of Kurdish-held area in northeastern Syria. Right, protester at Oct. 12, Washington D.C., action appeals for solidarity with Kurdish people's fight for national rights.

have no interest in backing the rulers' use of Washington's massive military might anywhere across the Mideast, explained Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party's presidential candidate in 2016, in a statement "Solidarity with the Working People of Syria," published in the *Militant* in March of that year.

US, Ankara out now!

"Syrian toilers need the space to mobilize in political action, to learn in struggle, to be transformed from victims into conscious actors in history. All the imperialist and capitalist forces intervening in Syria today are obstacles to this course," she said.

"We oppose the U.S. rulers' involvement in the war in Syria and Iraq and call for Washington, its allies and others — from London and Paris to Moscow, Ankara and Tehran — to withdraw their warplanes, ships and troops now."

The SWP today demands the capitalist rulers in Ankara halt their bloody assault on the Kurds and pull their forces out of Syria.

Kurds and supporters of Kurdish self-determination have organized protests of thousands against the Turkish-government orchestrated invasion of Syria, including in Erbil, in the Kurdish region of Iraq, as well as in Washington, London, Paris and elsewhere.

Georgia cop faces prison in shooting of Anthony Hill

BY JANICE LYNN

DECATUR, Ga. — After six days of deliberation, jurors Oct. 14 found former DeKalb County cop Robert Olsen guilty of aggravated assault and other lesser charges in the 2015 killing of Anthony Hill. The 27-year-old African American veteran of the Afghanistan War, who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, had been wandering naked and unarmed

around his apartment complex.

The jury acquitted the cop on two counts of felony murder. Sentencing was set for Nov. 1 and Olsen could face up to 35 years in prison.

Even though he was convicted, Olsen wasn't taken to jail. He is required to wear an ankle monitor until his sentencing. Opponents of police brutality say they plan to be there Nov. 1.

Hill had received a medical discharge

from the Air Force after being diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Olsen had been dispatched to Hill's apartment complex after the police got calls saying Hill was wandering around there naked. Olsen's lawyers claimed the cop feared for his safety when Hill approached him. Olsen then fired two shots killing Hill. Olsen, who is Caucasian, is 40 pounds heavier and 5 inches taller than Hill was.

Olsen resigned from the police department after his indictment in 2016. This was the first time in more than five years that a Georgia cop was prosecuted for a fatal shooting. Protests by Hill's family and opponents of police brutality forced murder charges to be filed.

At the trial, Hill's mother, father, sister, two uncles and an aunt welcomed the solidarity of supporters who came to join them. These included members of the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as well as Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president in 2016, and Malcolm Jarrett, SWP candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, who were on tour in Georgia.

Cop indicted in Ft. Worth killing

Continued from front page

cops arrived. She had picked up her handgun when she heard a noise from the backyard, Dean's arrest warrant says.

The family held a press conference at the office of attorney Lee Merritt Oct. 14. He was also one of the attorneys for the family of Botham Jean who was killed in his home by Dallas cop Amber Guyger last fall.

Jefferson's killing happened within weeks of the murder conviction and 10-year prison sentence of Guyger.

A smaller crowd of people gathered across the street from the site of the killing Oct. 14, when they heard the news that Dean had been charged with murder and released on a \$200,000 bond. Dean quit the cops that day.

"Now the mask is coming off," Rev. Kyev Tatum, pastor at New Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church here, told the crowd. "This is not just happening to one color," he continued, "it is happening to Black, brown and poor whites. No more harassment and targeting of the Southside by po-

lice. But until he [Dean] is convicted of murder this is not over. Everyone needs to turn out for the trial. No bail. No bond."

Andrew Hernandez, who came from Mansfield, said, "My sister lives down the street. I came to show support. Members of my family could get 25 to 50 years or life for drug charges. But cops kill and only get 10 years."

Kenneth Frances, who lives down the street when he is not driving a truck in the oil fields in Odessa, told the *Militant* that he thought "this is the beginning of the end of officers getting away with killing people which is common practice around here."

Since June, Fort Worth cops have shot seven people, six of them fatally. "You are going to pay for common practice. It took three days for a murder charge. The ball is rolling," Frances added.

James Smith, the neighbor who had called the cops to request they check the premises, told the *Fort Worth Star Telegraph*, "I don't know what went on in that house, but I know she wasn't a threat."

Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq

by Jack Barnes

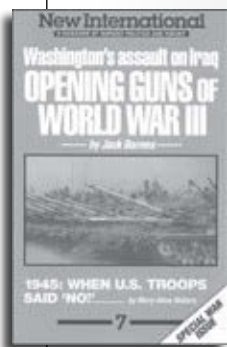
In New International no. 7

"Despite the results of the U.S. military 'victory' in Iraq, an imperialist-imposed Mideast 'peace' is further from Washington's grasp than ever."

—Jack Barnes

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—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Working People Make Gains When We Stand Together and Fight. Speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of San Francisco. Fri., Nov. 1. Reception, 6.30 p.m.; program, 7.30 p.m. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

PG&E cuts power to 700,000 homes in Northern California

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif. — “It’s outrageous what PG&E is doing,” Crystal Perdiguerra, a resident of East Oakland whose husband uses a home dialysis machine, told the *Militant*.

Perdiguerra, like many others, is angry at the disdain shown by Pacific Gas & Electric bosses when they upended the lives of millions in Northern California by shutting off power to over 700,000 homes and businesses Oct. 9. Company officials claim this was necessary to prevent possible wildfires.

PG&E is a mammoth power monopoly that supplies gas and electric services to roughly one in 20 people in the U.S.

Because of a breakdown in PG&E’s warning system and website, millions of people in the targeted 34 counties did not know when, or if, their electricity would suddenly disappear.

Worried about the power going off unexpectedly when her husband was on the dialysis machine, Perdiguerra, a hospital maintenance engineer, repeatedly tried to reach PG&E. All she got was a useless recording.

Her neighbor, Brandy Swisher, a home care worker with patients whose survival depends on electrically powered medical equipment, was equally outraged. “A lot of people need this power,” she said, “including newborns.”

PG&E has a long record of failure to maintain its infrastructure. Its lines and other equipment have ignited a multitude of wildfires, including the notorious Camp Fire last year that wiped out the town of Paradise, killing 85.

They admit that so far this year they have removed fewer than 40% of the 50,000 dead or dying trees that are threatening to fall on live wires. Instead, the utility bosses’ answer is to shut off electricity whenever high winds pick up.

Opposition exploded as the shutdown unfolded over the past week. Staffs at nursing homes and other critical services scrambled to find generators. Schools, clinics and businesses lost power and traffic signals

and lights ceased to function.

People were left to fend for themselves. Repeated announcements were made urging everyone to stock candles, flashlights, canned food, water and other necessities, which quickly disappeared from store shelves. Food stored in refrigerators and freezers went bad.

The pushback was so strong that CEO Bill Johnson, whose annual base salary is \$2.5 million, plus return on his PG&E shares, had to apologize for what he called “inconsistent” and at times “incorrect” information about the shutoff from the company.

While refusing to invest in what is needed for basic safety, those running PG&E have spent billions on executive salaries, dividends to shareholders and contributions to pliant capitalist politicians.

Meanwhile, PG&E is in bankruptcy court, owing some \$30 billion to settle lawsuits from fires caused by the bosses’ neglect. Hedge fund profiteers and shareholders like Johnson are vying for the right to control the utility, hoping to wring out more profits.

‘Workers’ control over PG&E’

“They don’t care about us. All they care about is the money they make for themselves,” Angel Lozano, a worker at an auto body shop, told Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for



North Bay Bohemian/Tom Gogola

Burned, mangled power lines in Santa Rosa, California, Oct. 2017. PG&E faces millions of dollars in damages over responsibility for fire for poor maintenance, failure to clear vegetation.

mayor of San Francisco, while he and supporters were campaigning door to door in San Jose.

“Take the profits out of this service that millions depend on,” Britton said. “We should nationalize the company under the control of the workers.”

“We can take steps today that will make changes such as this possible,” Britton said, “by supporting workers’ struggles like the GM strike and building a stronger union movement.”

“The capitalist politicians of both parties have made it possible for PG&E to get away with its criminal activities,” Britton said. “We need to stop supporting these parties and cre-

ate a movement of millions that can replace capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government.”

As a former process operator in an oil refinery and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, Britton said that he learned firsthand the importance of union struggles for safe working conditions that can protect against explosions, fires and other disasters.

“PG&E workers, most of whom are members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, need to be in control of operations of this utility,” Britton said. “They know from their own experiences what is safe and what is dangerously unsafe.”

Copper miners strike, reject Asarco’s ‘insulting’ offer

Continued from front page

Arizona and a smelter in Amarillo, Texas.

The union members have been forced to work 10- to 12-hour shifts, Armenta noted. “It takes a toll,” he said. “People deserve better pay.”

“These workers have already endured nine years without a pay raise — and to receive a final offer that freezes pensions plans, leaves two thirds of the workers without a raise, and more than doubles their out-of-

pocket employee paid health care is not an offer of equity, it is an insult,” said Teamsters Local 104 spokesperson Karla Schumann.

The company said their concession demands were their “last, best and final” offer.

Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, International Association of Machinists, United Auto Workers, International Union of Operating Engineers and the Boilermakers are also part of

the strike. Workers are picketing the five struck Asarco facilities around the clock.

Asarco is owned by Grupo Mexico, the largest mining company in Mexico. Union members note that copper prices over the last several years have been double or triple what they were over the previous three decades, leading to higher profits for the bosses.

On the eve of the strike Asarco workers won a victory they’ve been fighting for since 2011. On Oct. 7, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear a company appeal against a court order to pay hundreds of workers hired since then over \$10 million in copper production bonuses.

Copper workers have a long history of standing up to the mine bosses in Arizona. A hard-fought three-year battle against concessions demanded by Phelps Dodge began in 1983. The Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers union was broken when the bosses brought in strikebreakers and got the government to send in hundreds of Arizona National Guard, state troopers and SWAT sharpshooters. Today the nonunion mine, one of the largest in the world, is run by Freeport McMoRan.

Union members at Asarco were forced on strike in 1990 and for four months in 2005.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 31, 1994

LOS ANGELES — Seventy thousand people marched through the streets here October 16 to protest Proposition 187, an anti-immigrant measure on the November ballot. The large turnout — it was the biggest such action in years — dealt a blow to the ongoing campaign by capitalist politicians and rightist forces in California to intimidate immigrant workers.

The legislative proposal would deny the right to public education, health care, and social services to undocumented workers and their children.

The great majority of marchers were Latino. For the first time in recent immigrant rights actions, there was a significant number of unionists marching.

The coalition is proceeding on the basis that whatever the outcome of the vote on 187, the immigrant-bashing drive will continue and the fight against it will also continue.



October 31, 1969

While the Shah of Iran was lunching at New York’s luxurious Waldorf-Astoria Hotel Oct. 18, students were peacefully protesting this brutal dictator’s state visit to the government that put him in power via a 1953 CIA-inspired coup. Uniformed and plainclothes police brutally attacked the demonstration, arresting three Iranians, one American and beating several others.

Sponsored by the Iranian Students Association, the picket line was supported by the Young Socialist Alliance, Youth Against War and Fascism and the Organization of Arab Students.

The demonstration had been called to draw attention to the brutal repression in Iran, which has resulted in the execution, imprisonment and torture of hundreds of dissidents, including students, religious leaders, and the Kurdish minority that has taken to armed struggle against the repression.



October 28, 1944

Before, during and after the war, the all-absorbing interest of the corporation owners is profits. The automotive moguls are pressing for a policy of low output and high prices. According to the CIO United Automobile Workers’ reports, the auto industry is insisting on price increases for new cars from 25 to 40 per cent.

They are prepared to produce 6,700,000 cars a year — with 40 per cent less workers than now employed. This is an admission that labour productivity, the amount of production per man-hour of work, has increased 26 per cent during the war, without a corresponding increase in hourly wage rates.

General Motors, for instance, which is spearheading the drive for higher prices, lower wages and reduced employment, increased its cash assets alone since 1939 from \$155,000,000 to \$287,000,000.

‘Militant’ Prisoners Fund

The 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

Lift US sanctions on NKorea! For a nuclear-free peninsula!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington should immediately and unconditionally “lift all sanctions against the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea” and “live up to the White House pledge last year to halt joint war games with Seoul,” wrote Steve Clark, Oct. 10, for the Socialist Workers Party National Committee in a letter to the North Korean government. The letter was sent on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the founding of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

The letter also demanded an end to “the US government’s ‘nuclear umbrella’ over South Korea and Japan” and that Washington “sign a peace treaty ending the bloody war the US rulers waged against the DPRK from 1950 to 1953.”

The demands are a step “toward halting development and deployment of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula by any government,” Clark explained.

“A world without nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction,” he wrote, “is the aspiration of workers and farmers not only across Asia but the world over.”

The first “working level” negotiating session since President Donald Trump met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Korea in June took place in Stockholm, Sweden, Oct. 5. The meeting between Stephen Biegun, U.S. special representative on North Korea, and chief North Korean negotiator Kim Myong Gil, ended without agreement. The DPRK’s representative said Washington had come to the talks “empty-handed.”

The U.S. government, backed by the United Nations Security Council, continues to impose harsh sanctions on the DPRK, insisting Pyongyang shut down its nuclear weapons and long-range missile capabilities before steps would be taken to begin to lift Washington’s economic squeeze. The sanctions restrict oil imports as well as metal and agricultural exports. Their impact falls hardest on workers and farmers.

Earlier this year the Trump administration announced it was ending its annual Key Resolve and Foal Eagle “war games.” The deployment of tens of thousands of U.S. and South Korea troops in provocative exercises carried a constant threat of war against

North Korea and were a barrier to denuclearization. While an important step forward, these “games” have been replaced with “newly designed Command Post exercises and revised field training programs,” a Pentagon statement said at the time.

“We intend to increase the volume of exercises, including test launches” of Hyunmoo-series missiles, South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Park Han-ki told the *Hankyoreh*, a South Korean newspaper, Oct. 9. “We also do exercises with joint South Korea-U.S. assets.”

Seoul has also obtained more F-35A fighter jets from the U.S. with plans to have 40 on hand over the next two years. Meanwhile, Washington maintains more than 23,000 troops in South Korea.

The U.N. Security Council condemned an Oct. 2 submarine-launched ballistic missile test by the North Korean government. In response, the DPRK Foreign Ministry pointed out that the Security Council was “mum about the test-fire of Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile recently conducted by the U.S.”

U.S. rulers divide Korean Peninsula

The root of the conflict goes back to Washington’s division of the Korean



City of Wonsan in North Korea after 1950-53 war shows utter devastation caused by bombardment by U.S.-led forces. Washington has never agreed to a peace treaty and keeps war force of over 23,000 troops with heavy armaments, warships, planes stationed in South Korea.

Peninsula after World War II, against the will of the Korean people who had been resisting the occupation of their country by Japanese imperialism.

Washington imposed a dictatorial capitalist-landlord regime that crushed popular uprisings in the South. In the North, Korean workers and farmers established their own government, which carried through land reform, and the nationalization of basic industries.

In an attempt to overturn gains made by working people, the U.S. rulers launched the 1950-53 Korean War, using carpet-bombing and napalm to kill more than 4 million people. The war ended in a stalemate, as Korean

combatants, with the help of Chinese volunteers, pushed U.S.-led forces back. This was U.S. imperialism’s first military defeat in history.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party are joining other workers to “resist assaults on our rights and on our living and job conditions by the bosses and their capitalist government and political parties,” wrote Clark.

“Toilers engaged in such resistance can and will be won to championing the Korean people’s efforts to reunify their country,” he said. “End all economic sanctions against the Korean people! US military forces out of Korea! For a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula! Korea is one!”

Workers, peasants in Ecuador push back gov’t attacks

BY SETH GALINSKY

After nearly two weeks of protest and a general strike by thousands of workers, students and indigenous peoples from the countryside, Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno was forced to reverse his Oct. 1 decree that increased fuel prices in the country.

Moreno sent cops to use tear gas, rubber bullets and clubs and imposed a curfew, hoping to crush the protests. Seven people were killed, 1,340 injured and at least 1,152 detained. All to no avail. By Oct. 14 Moreno was forced to revoke the decree. Many of those jailed have since been released.

Indigenous peasant farmers and farmworkers had marched for miles to protest in the capital. They were joined by teachers, taxi drivers and other unionists and workers to oppose the increase. Other protests took place across the country.

Under the government’s decree, diesel fuel prices more than doubled from \$1.03 to \$2.30 a gallon, and gas jumped from \$1.85 to \$2.39. Public bus rides went up by a third.

This was a serious blow to workers and farmers in a country where more than 60% of the population lives on less than \$11 a day. Ecuador has used the U.S. dollar as its currency since 2000.

For the last decade, Ecuador’s economy has been battered by the fall in oil prices, its main export.

Moreno imposed the anti-worker package at the behest of the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund as a condition for \$4 billion in loans. Those loans are aimed at ensuring payment of the country’s foreign debt and improving conditions for capitalist investors. The package includes

layoffs of workers at state-owned companies, cutting public workers annual vacations in half, to 15 days a year, and slashing temporary government workers’ wages by 20% if their contracts are renewed.

At the same time, the government reduced or eliminated tariffs on imported machinery, computers, cellphones and agricultural equipment.

U.S. capitalism is Ecuador’s largest trading partner, accounting for some \$5.8 billion of the country’s imports and \$6.7 billion of its exports.

A ‘progressive’ government

Moreno was the handpicked successor of former President Rafael Correa and had been Correa’s vice president when he was in office from 2007 to 2017. Correa’s government, like those of Hugo Chávez in neighboring Venezuela and Evo Morales in Bolivia, posed as a savior that would care for the poor and oppressed.

While calling themselves “socialists” or “revolutionary” — Correa called his government a “Citizens Revolution” — these governments strove to “manage” capitalism, not overthrow it. They rejected the example set by the Cuban Revolution of organizing and mobilizing workers and farmers. Instead they turned working people into recipients of welfare programs, while leaving industry, banks and landholdings in the hands of Ecuadorian capitalists and imperialist monopolies.

Hit by the 2008 global financial collapse, throughout his presidency Correa financed social programs and infrastructure by increasing debt as well as imposing some taxes and royalties on mining and oil concessions. This

set the stage for today’s deeper crisis and the demands of the IMF.

Despite all his talk of governing for the poor, Correa clashed both with indigenous farmers and with workers in the cities. Indigenous leaders fought against his moves to open up their lands to capitalist mining companies.

After he took office, Moreno began to distance himself from much of Correa’s anti-imperialist rhetoric. He increasingly took steps toward accommodation with the U.S. rulers. He was quick to blame the government of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela for the protests. Moreno has backed Washington’s efforts to overthrow Maduro.

On Oct. 7 Moreno appeared in a television address flanked by the army high command, charging the protests were a coup attempt orchestrated by former ally Correa, aided by Maduro.

Correa still enjoys support among many working people in Ecuador. But many workers and farmers among those fighting the government decree blamed both Correa and Moreno for the growing crisis. “Only the people can save the people,” the National Teachers Union said.

As the protests continued Moreno called for a dialogue, which was agreed to by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (Conaie). Some 25% of Ecuador’s population is made up of various indigenous groups.

The government has now set up a commission, including leaders of Conaie, tasked with drawing up an alternative plan to lower the government’s budget deficit. Whether they can reach agreement remains to be seen.

U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

by Jack Barnes

in New International no. 11

“The war left a divided Korea, denied its national unification after more than half a century of occupation by Tokyo and Washington. This remains the most important and explosive unresolved national division imposed by the victors of World War II.”



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GM strike for equal pay, permanent jobs wins broad solidarity

Continued from front page

Ahrendt, who has worked at GM for 35 years, told the *Militant* as she picketed the transmission plant here Oct. 12. “Jeep workers came by, nurses came by.”

“One guy from Mansfield Metal gave up a vacation day to join us on the line. This keeps us going,” said Denise Coleman Walton, who has worked at GM for 22 years at three different plants after the bosses closed the first one then another. “You learn that it’s not all about me.”

The biggest issue in the strike is not higher wages, but for all workers to be permanent and get equal pay. Strikers want an end to the 7% of GM workers who are “temporary.” They want an end to the two-tier divisions for permanent workers. Currently, for those hired after 2009, it takes eight years for their pay to approach that of workers hired earlier. They want the bosses to reverse their decision to shutter four plants — in Lordstown, Ohio; Baltimore; Warren, Michigan; and Detroit-Hamtramck. And they oppose GM’s demand that workers pay a higher percentage of the cost of medical insurance.

GM collaborated with the Barack Obama administration in 2009 to put together a sizable government bailout and bankruptcy to let the bosses carve up the company, keeping the most profitable lines while dumping those that were losing money, along with the workers there and their pensions.

Even though GM was out of bankruptcy in just a little over a month, they used it to press workers to accept deep concessions. This included the two-tier wage system, use of temps, and contracting out some maintenance, cleaning and other work. This work is now done by UAW-organized contractor Aramark, whose 850 workers at GM in Michigan and Ohio are also on strike.

This all paid off big time for GM bosses, who made \$35 billion in profit over the last three years.

General Motors — with some \$17.5 billion in cash on hand — hopes it can starve the strikers and their union into submission. The United Auto Workers union has raised strike pay to \$275 a week and says that workers

can take part-time jobs without losing their strike pay.

‘We want to get rid of two tiers’

Workers say it’s time to recover what they lost over the last decade. “This fight is about the future,” assembly worker Doug Groch told us. “We want to eliminate the two-tier system.”

“It used to be if you worked more than 120 days as a temp they had to hire you permanent,” said Angela Kilgore, who started temporary and became permanent in 2000. Now workers can be temps for years.

One worker after another told us about the grinding effect of forced overtime. A few years ago the Toledo plant — with some 1,700 workers — went from three shifts to two. “I work 12 hours a day, six to seven days per week. It’s grueling,” said Kelly Arter. She started working for GM 43 years ago at the Willow Run plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan. A significant number of GM workers, who call themselves “gypsies,” have transferred as the bosses shut plants down.

“A lot of people just came over from Lordstown,” Arter said. “Some just got here and went straight on the picket line, they haven’t even been inside yet.”

Doris Fenlon had just started in July as a temporary worker. “I believe in the union,” she said walking the line Oct. 11. “Sometimes a strike is what it takes to let the company know what we need.”

“I was in the last group hired as ‘regular full-time employees’ in November

2000,” Kim Banks, 53, told *Militant* worker-correspondents at the picket line outside the GM casting plant in Bedford, Indiana, Oct. 12. “We’ve always thought that it was wrong to have the ‘temp’ category.”

“When we complained about what GM was doing to us, we were told, ‘They can do it because of the bankruptcy,’” said 68-year-old Jim Horner. He works in the melting department and has been at the plant for 47 years, since he got out of the Marines after serving in Vietnam. “But with this strike we’re saying, no, they can’t do that any more.”

Standing in the rain by the burn barrel at the GM plant in Spring Hill, Tennessee, Oct. 11, Paul Forcier described the conditions on the assembly line. “They are always looking to add more to your job,” he said. “People have carpal tunnel syndrome. They can’t open their hands they’re so cramped. And have all kinds of other injuries and problems,” said Forcier. He started working for GM in 1997 in Lansing, Michigan, and Spring Hill is the sixth plant he has worked in.

UAW workers strike at Mack Truck

Continued from front page

we were serious and united about turning down all their concession demands,” Walt Smith, president of United Auto Workers Local 677, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent at the union hall the next day.

Almost 1,500 workers gathered here in a spirited rally to start the picketing, waving signs and wearing red union T-shirts outside this massive cab and vehicle assembly plant, the largest of Mack’s plants, with some 2,000 workers.

In addition to this plant, Mack — which was bought by Swedish Volvo in 2000 — has a sizable powertrain factory in Hagerstown, Maryland, and other facilities on strike in Middletown, Baltimore, and Jacksonville, Florida.

According to the UAW, union representatives could not reach agreement with the company over wage increases, “job security,” work schedules, seniority, pensions, health care coverage, subcontracting and the use of temporary workers.

Smith said that in addition to the temps, the last contract put in place multiple tiers among full-time workers, with new employees starting at about \$20 an

The contracting out of house-keeping and material handling has had an impact on older workers especially, he said. “Some of the lighter jobs that workers could move to as they got older or were injured are gone.”

Thousands laid off

GM claims that it needs more concessions, including expanding the use of temporary workers to compete with its nonunion rivals. Some 56% of auto assembly in the U.S. — primarily Toyota, Honda, Hyundai and Volkswagen — is nonunion. Many workers at the nonunion plants are watching the strike closely.

UAW officials have demanded that GM “bring back” some auto production from Mexico to avoid shutting down plants in the U.S. and guarantee “job security.” GM pays workers at its plants in Mexico as little as \$1.90 an hour. Some longtime workers make \$4.50 an hour.

Around 10,000 workers at non-UAW auto plants and parts plants in Mexico, Ohio and Ontario, Canada, have been laid off since the strike started. In fact, many cars assembled in the U.S. contain parts made in Mexico and vice versa.

Some 6,000 workers at GM’s assembly plant in Silao, Mexico, have been laid off because of a lack of U.S. manufactured parts.

This highlights the need to not let GM pit workers in different countries against each other, but to strengthen solidarity and fight for better conditions and wages wherever the cars are produced. Some workers on the picket line tell *Militant* worker-correspondents they are proud of the solidarity they have gotten from GM workers in Mexico.

Maggie Trowe from Louisville, Kentucky and Susan LaMont from Atlanta contributed to this article.



Militant/Naomi Craine

Autoworkers from UAW Local 14 picket outside General Motors Toledo transmission plant Oct. 12. United Auto Workers strike, which started Sept. 16, is now longest national strike at GM since 1970.

New book available Nov. 1 The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party

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to Industry
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JACK BARNES

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— Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

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Nicaraguan Revolution opened way for women's emancipation

Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution, with speeches and interviews by leaders of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. The excerpt is from a 1982 speech, "Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution," by Tomás Borge. Under the FSLN-led workers and farmers government established in 1979, women made gains. The Nicaraguan Revolution inspired popular struggles across Central America and reinforced the Cuban Revolution. However, by the late 1980s, the FSLN leadership had abandoned its working-class course, and efforts to look to the example of the socialist revolution in Cuba. This led to the erosion of the revolutionary foundations of the FSLN, which degenerated into a radical bourgeois electoral party. It lost power in a February 1990 election. Copyright ©1985 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY TOMÁS BORGE

The woman question is nothing more than an aspect of social reality in its totality. The definitive answer to the liberation of women can emerge only with the total resolution of the class contradictions, of the social diseases that originate in a society like ours — politically liberated but with the rope of economic dependence still around our neck. ...



Militant/Linda Joyce

Women in militia in Bluefields, Nicaragua, 1983. After revolutionary course was abandoned by Sandinista leaders in late 1980s, women lost many gains. Abortion was totally banned in 2006.

Before the revolutionary triumph, the incorporation of women in productive work was minimal. The great majority of women were condemned to slavery in the home. When women could sell their labor power, in addition to fulfilling their obligations on the job, they had to fulfill their duties in the home to assure the upbringing of their children. All of this in a regime of political oppression and misery imposed by a dependent capitalist society. And subjected, on the other hand, to exploitation by man — the males of the species — who placed on the woman's shoulders the fundamental weight of household chores, thereby endlessly prolonging her working day.

Did this end with the triumph of the Sandinista people's revolution, we ask ourselves?

The triumph of the Sandinista people's revolution eliminated the terror and opened the way for the process of national liberation, initiating at the same time economic and social transformations that represented a qualitative advance in the conquest of freedom and development.

It can't be said, therefore, that the situation of women in Nicaragua has in no way changed.

The entire society seized its future and women gained the right, taking into account their varied and even spectacular participation in the revolutionary struggle, to participate in an

active manner in the process of national transformation.

Nevertheless, all of us have to honestly admit that we haven't confronted the struggle for women's liberation with the same courage and decisiveness. ...

Independently of the fact that women often receive the help of men, the truth is that the customs and level of development of our society impose this superexploitation on women. And it is in this sense that women are not only exploited — they're superexploited. They are exploited in their workplaces, if they work. They are exploited by lower wages and exploited in the home. That is, they are triply exploited.

What can be done to eliminate this dramatic plight of women?

There is no other alternative except to change the basic economic structure of society. There is no alternative but to develop an economy that guarantees the satisfaction of the fundamental needs of our people. There is no alternative but to create a productive apparatus whose rationale is not individual profit, but rather satisfaction of the demands of the entire society, the demands of the workers — whose rationale is to reaffirm and emphasize the potential of man and woman to live together socially as human beings.

This process of change, compañeras, is complicated, difficult, and will take place over time. But are we going to wait

until economic development and social transformation have reached their culmination before we begin to think out the woman question? This would certainly be an inconsistency.

But how can we begin to conceive of women's liberation right now with all the existing limitations?

We took, as we said, the first step, which was national liberation. Now we must take concrete steps to legally guarantee in daily practice full equality between the sexes. [Applause]

Men and women had the right and the duty to fight — to participate in the revolutionary struggle. Women played an outstanding role in the guerrilla struggle, in the clandestine struggle, in self-denial, in sacrifice, and in dedication. ...

A concrete answer to these questions will be possible only to the extent that the individual tasks of women are socialized. It is society that has to provide the necessary day-care centers, laundries, people's restaurants, and other services that will, in effect, free women from household work. This is not easy.

So far, the revolution has only been able to build twenty child-care centers — obviously an insufficient number. The problem is that the cost of construction, equipment, and maintenance is very high. With all the economic difficulties that are holding our country back, it's impossible for us to move forward to the massive creation of these centers. And yet we must do it — not only to enable women to dedicate themselves to productive, social, and cultural tasks, but also to assure that the overall education of our children is as rich as possible.

How can we do it? How can we overcome this contradiction between the possible and the necessary?

We must look for audacious answers, I believe — answers based not so much on purely budgetary considerations but on the initiative, organization, and strength of the masses. Here AMNLAE [Association of Nicaraguan Women] should be the leading force and catalyst of these initiatives, fundamentally in coordination with the CDSs [Sandinista Defense Committees]. [Applause and slogans]

This is possible in a revolutionary society. There is no task that wouldn't be possible for the revolutionary masses and there is no task that wouldn't be possible for Nicaraguan women. [Applause]

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Unity and solidarity is crucial to working-class struggles

Labor struggles are picking up as workers grow more confident they can organize to stand up to the bosses’ attacks. Some 3,600 workers at Mack Truck went on strike this week, as well as 2,000 Asarco copper miners in Arizona and Texas, reinforcing the fight of nearly 50,000 UAW members on strike at GM, who got word of a tentative agreement Oct. 16.

These UAW members are fighting against the divisions GM bosses have imposed to extract higher profits, with lower pay for newer workers, and growing numbers of temps.

Chicago City Hall announced it will close schools Oct. 17 because the teachers union says it has little choice but to go on strike like it did in 2012. Drivers at e-hail companies have organized protests against bosses’ pay cuts and schedule abuses. When the lights went out at a Walmart store in California and the bosses demanded workers strap on flashlights and keep working, a layer of workers walked out — and weren’t victimized.

With unemployment at a low ebb, more workers see the chance to claw back some of what the bosses have taken from us.

Despite today’s economic uptick, workers continue to face stagnant wages, job insecurity, declining health

care, growing indebtedness, more difficulties in being able to afford to get married, get a home and raise a family. And we bear the deadly toll of Washington’s wars around the world.

In these conditions working people have watched protests in Sudan, Hong Kong and elsewhere that have shaken hated rulers, showing our potential power.

Two things are key to today’s working-class battles. First is the unity of the workers — beating back efforts of the bosses to pit us against each other. Employed and unemployed, full-time and temp, immigrant and native-born, Black, Hispanic and Caucasian, men and women standing together for each other in struggle.

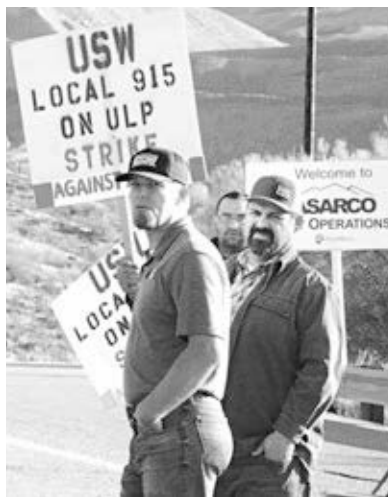
Second is organizing solidarity with the fights that break out today — this is crucial for their success. The bosses do everything they can to keep our battles out of the media, to prevent union fighters from getting a hearing. They try to turn other workers against

those who stand up to attacks.

The employing class is aided by both the left and right of capitalist politics who scornfully attack the rights of working people — whose labor produces all wealth — as “deplorables” needing to be held in check.

The *Militant* urges readers to spread the word about these fights, win support and bring others to meet fighting workers on the picket lines. Seeing our common cause raises workers’ self-confidence and consciousness of ourselves as one powerful social class. It helps us grapple with broader political questions in class terms.

The *Militant* tells workers’ side of the story and is a tool for building solidarity. Alongside books by revolutionary working-class leaders distributed by Socialist Workers Party members, the paper places today’s labor battles in continuity with working-class struggles over decades. It points the road forward — to building the kind of party needed to lead millions in revolutionary struggle that can replace capitalist rule with workers power.



Arizona Silver Belt
Copper workers picket outside Asarco Ray mine in Kearny, Arizona, Oct. 14.

Liberals’ hysteria targets ‘deplorable’ workers, political rights

Continued from front page

on due process and constitutional rights, questions of vital importance for the working class.

Using secondhand anonymous claims by two unnamed CIA agents — one now acknowledged to be a registered Democrat — House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi opened an impeachment inquiry in the

Mack Truck strike

Continued from page 7

trucking have shown signs of cooling off. Mack bosses had said before the strike they were considering a cutback in production here sometime in the fall.

“The last four years we have helped Mack Truck make significant profit through our work,” Doug Irvine, president of UAW Local 2301 in Baltimore and head of the UAW’s Mack Truck Council, told the press. “All we are asking is that the company treat us with the dignity and respect we deserve.”

“We have no plans to close any U.S. manufacturing,” Mack President Martin Weissburg said in a press release.

But the unionists know better than to trust what the bosses say. “At one point they set up a plant in South Carolina they thought was going to be nonunion,” Dan Frey, who has worked 47 years at Mack, told the *Militant*. “But we went down and organized that plant. After Volvo bought Mack Truck they closed that plant down and moved production back here. We’re not going to let them try that again.”

The company wants to make workers pay higher insurance premiums, UAW Local 171 Executive Board member Mike Lindewurth told two *Militant* worker correspondents who visited Hagerstown Oct. 15.

As many as 15% of the workers there are temps who get paid less, just like at General Motors, Lindewurth said, and Mack Truck bosses want to increase that number. “We don’t like it that someone we are working shoulder-to-shoulder with is making less,” he said. “It’s unfair.”

“We all do the same jobs, we should get the same pay,” Local 171 President David Fowler added.

In addition the company wants to stop paying overtime until workers hit 40 hours in a week.

“We’re out here picketing from top to bottom,” picket captain Chawn Rosenberry said, “to get everybody a fair deal.”

Company officials told the union they wouldn’t be ready to reopen negotiations until Oct. 21.

Sarah Ulman from Washington, D.C., contributed to this article.

House of Representatives. She brushes aside Trump’s insistence that any inquiry has to be debated and approved by the House before he will cooperate.

Democratic frontrunner Joe Biden says no evidence or hearing is necessary to dump the president. Trump has already “indicted” and “convicted himself,” Biden opined Oct. 9. Biden’s conduct as the Barack Obama administration’s muscle man in dealing with Ukraine and son Hunter’s shady profiteering there was part of the target of Trump’s inquiries.

The real focus of the liberals’ hatred are the millions of “deplorable” working people who either voted for Trump or refused to vote at all, looking for some way to fight back against moves by Democratic and Republican administrations alike to offload the capitalist economic crisis onto their shoulders and use them as cannon fodder in Washington’s decadeslong wars.

Liberal meritocratic “smarts” view these voters as dangerous, and assign themselves the right to nullify their ballots by overturning the 2016 election.

False claims to speak for ‘all Americans’

“Impeaching and removing the president is something the American people are demanding,” millionaire businessman Tom Steyer claimed on national TV after he bought his way into the Democratic Party’s Oct. 15 presidential candidates’ debate.

“If we don’t impeach the president, he will get re-elected,” Democratic Congressman Al Green admitted earlier this year.

“They want to erase your vote like it never existed,” Trump told a rally of 20,000 supporters in Minneapolis Oct. 11.

The central claim of the Democrats’ impeachment witch hunt is that Trump withheld military aid to the Ukrainian government to force it to investigate Biden’s bullying conduct there. But they are stymied in making the “blackmail” claims stick by the fact that Washington did release the promised aid without Kiev buckling under, and by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s persistent denial that he was ever pressured or “blackmailed” by the president.

Both Democratic and Republican administrations use Washington’s economic weight and military might to press governments around the world to do their bidding.

Not confident that a hearsay account from anonymous liberal CIA agents is sufficient to bring down a president, Democrats are fishing around broadly. The inquiry is being run just like ex-FBI boss Robert Mueller’s three-year “special counsel” probe into Trump’s alleged “collusion” with Moscow. That operation led to indictments, guilty pleas and convictions from a number of Trump associates on utterly unrelated charges, but failed to find any real dirt on the

president and fizzled out earlier this year.

Federal prosecutors indicted Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman Oct. 10. Both worked with Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani when he was looking into Biden’s bullying in Ukraine. The charges are on unrelated allegations of campaign finance law violations, but Democrats hope they can use the threat of prosecution to get one of them to finger the president for something.

Workers basic rights under attack

Trump wrote Pelosi Oct. 8 that he will not cooperate because her star chamber probe denies him “the right to cross-examine witnesses, to call witnesses, to receive transcripts of testimony, to have access to evidence,” and to any legal representation.

These are all rights in the Constitution to protect people from attacks by the government. They are essential for workers to defend themselves against the capitalist rulers, their state, cops and courts.

The *New York Times* editors brushed aside the president’s argument. “Due process protections like these are provided at criminal trials” but are not required at an impeachment inquiry, they argued, which is more “like a grand jury.”

The comparison is apt. As many workers know from bitter experience, cops and prosecutors use grand juries to frame up those they target. Those they subpoena are compelled to testify or face jail, and are interrogated without legal representation or the right to refuse to testify on constitutional grounds.

Democrats want to use the same method to interrogate Trump and anyone else they feel like putting on the stand, while denying them the right to confront their accusers, whose identity they keep secret.

Fearing that Democrats will be unable to get federal prosecutors to launch criminal charges against White House officials who refuse to testify, *Times* writer Josh Chafetz insists the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives should bypass the courts and dispatch its “sergeant at arms” to seize anyone who repudiates a subpoena and imprison them in the House.

“The Socialist Workers Party doesn’t support any capitalist politician, Democrat, Republican or otherwise labeled,” Lea Sherman, SWP candidate for New Jersey General Assembly, said Oct. 16. “We view all political questions based on how they point the road forward for the working class and jealously guard our political rights that are needed to advance our struggles.”

Liberals use the FBI, CIA, special prosecutors and the rest to try and turn their political opponents into criminals. This helps pave the way for the rulers’ use of these same anti-working-class forces against fighting workers as the class struggle picks up — as they’ve done repeatedly in decades past.