

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Support labor struggles, vote Socialist Workers Party!

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 40 NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Militant, books drive advances solidarity with union battles

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Socialist Workers Party members and supporters have been taking the *Militant* to workers on strike at Mack Truck, Asarco and General Motors and building support for these fights through taking news of these class battles door to door to working people in cities, towns and rural areas.

This is an important part of the fall campaign to expand the readership of the paper and introduce working people to books by SWP leaders and other working-class revolutionary leaders that explain how to build an effective independent fighting movement to counter the bosses and their government. The nine-week drive to sell 1,100 *Militant* subscriptions and 1,250 books runs through Dec. 10.

Thirteen subscriptions were sold to copper miners on strike against Asarco and other workers near Tucson and Kearny, Arizona, and by going door to door there, reports Deborah Liatos. Six were sold at the picket lines, four and the book *In Defense of the US Working Class* were sold at the

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Liberals drive to oust Trump built on fear of working class

BY TERRY EVANS

The announcement of first one and then two nameless CIA agents with “evidence” that President Donald Trump should be removed from office was greeted with fervor by Democrats trying to ensure they don’t have to run against Trump in the 2020 election. This led to no less than six Democratic Party-controlled House committees launching impeachment “inquiries” demanding an endless stream of administration witnesses and documents.

Now, however, Adam Schiff, Democratic chair of the House Intelligence Committee, has dropped his demand that congressional investigators question the first CIA agent, who they admit is a Democratic Party supporter, insisting instead he or she must *not* be seen or heard from. And mention of the second secret source — another spy Democrats claimed had even more damning evidence of the president’s wrongdoing — has mysteriously vanished from the liberal press or prospective House committee witness lists.

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Support strikers at GM, Mack Truck, Asarco mines



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Copper workers rally at Asarco Mission mine in Sahuarita, Arizona, Oct. 19. Mine bosses are demanding workers quit union, cross picket lines in important fight in Arizona, Texas.

Strikers: ‘All Mack Truck cares about is profits’

BY JOHN STAGGS

MACUNGIE, Penn. — More than 3,600 United Auto Workers members on strike at Mack Truck plants in five cities are standing up to the bosses’ steep concession contract demands. Sweden-based Volvo Group owns Mack.

They went on strike Oct. 13 in the face of Volvo’s demands to expand the hiring of temporary workers at lower pay and benefits than permanent workers get, jack up the cost of health insurance, maintain divisive wage tiers with six years to reach full pay, and other anti-worker demands.

Volvo wants to eliminate a clause in previous contracts that requires the UAW to have a say before the company

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Asarco miners fight against bosses’ union-busting drive

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

KEARNY, Ariz. — A battle is unfolding here in the face of the attempt by the Asarco copper bosses to break the strike that began Oct. 13 by almost 2,000 members of the United Steelworkers, Teamsters and seven other unions at four copper mining complexes in Arizona and a smelter in Amarillo, Texas.

Grupo Mexico-owned Asarco’s “last, best and final” offer would leave two-

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Mass protests in Lebanon unite toilers in fight to bring down gov’t



Reuters/Omar Ibrahim

Oct. 22 protest in Tripoli, Lebanon. Beginning to overcome sectarian and religious divisions, thousands have been protesting across the country against government’s “austerity” assault.

BY TERRY EVANS

The wars and political conflicts among capitalist rulers competing to advance their national interests, including the Turkish rulers’ invasion in northeast Syria to assault the Kurds, continue to bear down on working people in the Middle East. Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese toilers of all religious groups have risen up to demand the fall of the

governing coalition of Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri that is backed by both Washington and Tehran.

The protests in Lebanon began after the government imposed a new tax on phone calls. For years workers and farmers there faced declining living standards; government moves to scapegoat and deport some of the 1.5 million

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Oberlin appeals court victory by bakery in college’s smear campaign

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Oberlin College’s administration is stepping up its campaign to reverse a victory for working people against class privilege and slanderous race-baiting. The Board of Trustees announced Oct. 8 it was filing an appeal against the jury verdict that led to a multimillion dollar libel judgment to the Gibson family and their bakery over the school’s efforts to smear them as racists and drive them out of business.

The school has hired a new team of prominent Washington, D.C., lawyers to join three other expensive firms retained by the college to try and over-

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32,500 Chicago teachers, school workers strike for new contract

BY ILONA GERSH AND SAMANTHA HAMLIN

CHICAGO — Some 25,000 Chicago Teachers Union members and 7,500 school support staff — custodians, bus aides, special education assistants, teaching assistants and more, members of Service Employees International Union Local 73 — walked out here Oct. 17. They set up spirited pickets outside all 514 public

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US rulers step up economic war against Cuban Revolution

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.S. government announced new measures Oct. 18 that step up its nearly 60-year-long economic war on the Cuban Revolution.

Elliot Abrams, U.S. special envoy for Venezuela, told Reuters Oct. 9, “We’re always looking to ways to squeeze [Cuba] because we do not see any improvement in their conduct either with respect to Venezuela or human rights internally.”

Washington’s goal is to undermine the Cuban Revolution. The U.S. rulers — Democrats and Republicans alike — fear the example of the revolution, which proved that working people can take power out of the hands of the capitalist class and organize society in their own interests.

In April, the Donald Trump administration announced it would allow Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, passed during the Bill Clinton administration, to go into effect. This provision had been suspended ever since it was passed. The administration’s move opened the door to lawsuits by Cuban Americans demanding compensation from those they claim are profiting from property or businesses that were nationalized during the revolution.

Eighteen lawsuits have been filed since, including one by José Ramón López Regueiro, son of the former owner of Havana’s international airport. He sued American Airlines and Chile’s Latam Airlines Group demanding \$3 billion.

In June the Donald Trump administration restored some restrictions on travel to Cuba that had been loosened by the Barack Obama administration

in 2016. This includes banning “people to people” trips and barring all stops in Cuba by cruise ships, private yachts and fishing vessels, cutting tourism hard cash income.

In September the State Department put Cuban leader Raúl Castro and his four children on a list banning their travel to the United States.

Washington’s new measures in October included barring Cuba from importing anything with more than 10% U.S.-origin content, a change from the previous ceiling of 25%. It also bans leasing planes from U.S. companies.

Washington targets Cuba’s oil supply

A key target for Washington is Cuba’s oil supply, especially from Venezuela. In April sanctions were expanded to include oil-shipping companies and their vessels. In July, Cubametales, the country’s oil import-export company, was sanctioned. Venezuela has tried to continue shipping using its own tankers, but the economic crisis and U.S. economic sabotage there places this in jeopardy.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel went on television to explain the effects of these attacks, saying September would be rough. To save fuel, air conditioning was cut off in government buildings. Public transit was slashed, cutting passengers from 1.1 million a day in Havana almost in half.

Oxen were pressed into service in agriculture to cut use of tractors. Steel and cement plants reduced production. At times lines of cars snaked around the block as people waited to fill up their gas tanks.

Public workers with government cars organized to pick up passengers

Catalonia protests hit jailing of independence leaders



Half a million protesters marched from all across Catalonia to converge in the capital Barcelona Oct. 18 after Spain’s Supreme Court four days earlier sentenced nine Catalan parliamentarians to up to 13 years in prison for “sedition.” This comes on top of a general strike paralyzing the city amid renewed calls for Catalonia to secede from Spain.

In 2017, the Catalan parliament declared independence after a “yes” vote won a majority in an Oct. 1 referendum. The Spanish government had declared the vote illegal and state cops tried to prevent it. Madrid retaliated by imposing direct rule and bringing the charges against independence leaders.

As popular protests over the jailings have grown, Spain’s acting Socialist Party Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said the prison terms were for “criminal conduct” that had fractured Spanish society. Catalonia’s president, Quim Torra, called for a second referendum on independence.

Some 7.5 million people live in Catalonia, the most industrialized section of Spain, with its own distinct history and language. Support for independence has grown in recent years.

Some immigrants from other parts of Spain and abroad — attracted by jobs there — don’t share the pro-independence sentiments. This is fueled by the fact that some Catalan independence party leaders joined in the Spanish rulers’ attacks on working-class living standards.

— ROY LANDERSEN

at bus stops. Many individual workers did the same, a quality that marks the Cuban Revolution.

More oil shipments arrived in October, easing the fuel shortage. But the U.S. administration has no intention of relenting. On Sept. 10 Trump fired National Security Adviser John Bolton, who he saw as an obstacle to cutting back U.S. involvement in “endless wars” around the world. But two days later he tweeted, “My views on Venezuela, and especially Cuba, were far stronger than those of John Bolton. He was holding me back!”

“Working people should demand the U.S. government end all its assaults on the peoples of Venezuela and Cuba,”

James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for delegate to U.S. Congress, said Oct. 19. “In 1959 workers and farmers in Cuba overthrew U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista, took control of their own destiny and stood tall in support of struggles by workers worldwide. The Cuban Revolution is an example for workers here and elsewhere to emulate!”

‘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 at www.themilitant.com

THE MILITANT

Join the fight against police brutality!

Since June, Fort Worth cops have killed six people, including the brutal shooting of Atatiana Jefferson in her home Oct. 12. The ‘Militant’ has given voice to the fight for justice for victims of police killings for decades — from Amadou Diallo and Freddie Gray to Botham Jean.



Outrage at cop killing of Atatiana Jefferson fills Ft. Worth City Council meeting Oct. 15.

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

'Militant,' book, fund drive

Continued from front page

United Steelworkers union hall in Kearny, and three on workers' doorsteps in Kearny.

"I decided to get the subscription because I believe in what you are doing," Robert Kershner, who works as a heavy equipment operator at the Mission mine in Sahuarita, told Liatos. "You support our movement and I'll support yours."

From Chicago, Naomi Craine writes, "We've found a lot of interest taking the *Militant* and books on working-class politics to GM strikers in the region and door to door near their picket lines."

In a visit to GM picket lines in Toledo, Ohio, Oct. 11-12, two strikers subscribed to the *Militant* and another 15 got copies of the paper, Craine said. "When we knocked on doors of workers across the road from the plant, we found a lot of interest in the SWP's program." Three subscriptions were sold there, she said. "I honk for the strikers every day," Amanda Godbee, a drywall finisher and union member, told Craine, talking about the GM picket line she drives by.

Washington out of the Mideast!

They also discussed the role of the U.S. rulers' military forces in the Middle East. "Washington as well as the governments of Turkey and Iran use workers as cannon fodder in wars for the interests of the wealthy," Craine said. "We're for bringing all U.S. troops home." Godbee nodded in agreement, saying her husband had served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. She got a *Militant* subscription.

"We also talked to autoworkers at the shift change at Chrysler's Jeep plant in Toledo, selling 18 copies of the *Militant*," said Craine. Like other autoworkers, they're following the GM strike closely.

A big topic of discussion in Chicago is the teachers strike. Campaigners are making use of the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism*, by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. One copy was sold going door to door in the Ashburn neighborhood to a woman who works in a clothing store.

"We talked about supporting the teachers' fight for better working conditions, including smaller class sizes," said Craine, "but we explained even if they win all their demands it won't change the basic character of capitalist schooling, which is designed to 'learn' workers to be obedient, not to be educated. Opening the door to real lifelong learning involves building a movement for working people to take political power."

To encourage greater readership of the party's revolutionary program, all Pathfinder books and copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* are being offered at 20% off. 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: Forging a Proletarian Party*.

Get workers' point of view

Going door to door in Beloeil, south of Montreal, Katy LeRougetel and Amelie Lanteigne met up with Michelle Guay, who has been following the strike by 35 members of the United Steelworkers at the Galvano plant there. "It's important to get workers' point of view," Guay said, asking the two campaigners to come back in a few days when she'll have the money to get the *Militant* subscription.

"Going door to door made me realize how important an activity this is," said Lanteigne, who is new to campaigning along with Communist League members. "It's knocking on one door after another that makes you see that the capitalist system tries to divide us and creates fears that aren't real."

In New Zealand, Patrick Brown, the Communist League candidate for Auckland Council, and campaign supporter Janet Roth traveled 125 miles south of Auckland to the King County town of Te Kuiti Oct. 8 to join with some 200 farmers at a government-sponsored meeting. The farmers heard cabinet ministers and other government officials propose measures to place the burden on



Militant/Katy LeRougetel
Communist League campaign supporter Amelie Lanteigne, right, introduces *Militant* to Michelle Guay in Beloeil, Quebec, Oct. 19. Guay said she backs Steelworkers strike at Galvano plant.

farmers to expand fencing and planting along polluted waterways.

A number of farmers objected, saying that bearing the labor and financial hardships of such measures might force some indebted farmers to sell part or all of their land. Seven copies of the *Militant* were sold there, with a number interested in the article in the Oct. 14 issue about farmers protesting against government attacks in the Netherlands.

Following the meeting the two campaigners went door to door in the neighborhood, selling a *Militant* subscription to a retired timber worker.

SWP fall fund drive

The Socialist Workers Party is also campaigning to raise \$100,000 to finance its political work. This is the party's one annual fund.

When party members and supporters talk to workers on their doorsteps or at labor actions and social protests, they often asked if they could give some money. These contributions are an important part of the fund effort.

Others more familiar with the party and the *Militant* join in to make pledges and larger contributions. Every donation, no matter how modest, is crucial.

Those who value the SWP's efforts

to tell the truth about the big political questions facing workers today, and build support for today's labor struggles, are encouraged to join in this effort to broaden the reach of the *Militant* and revolutionary books and to give to the fund drive. To get involved contact the SWP or Communist Leagues listed in directory on page 8.

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Fall Campaign to sell *Militant* subscriptions and books

Oct. 5 - Dec. 10 (Week 2)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	70	16	70	11
Atlanta	70	23	110	63
Chicago*	110	58	100	25
Dallas	35	14	35	7
Lincoln	12	5	15	7
Los Angeles	90	32	90	26
Louisville	60	12	60	21
Miami	25	15	25	6
N. New Jersey	40	15	70	41
New York	80	18	120	58
Oakland	70	30	100	33
Philadelphia	25	3	25	7
Pittsburgh	25	11	25	4
Seattle	70	21	90	13
Twin Cities	35	12	35	22
Washington	50	13	50	13
Total U.S.	867	298	1,020	357
Prisoners	25	11		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	50	20	75	39
Manchester	35		45	
Total U.K.	85	20	120	39
Canada	70	19	150	21
New Zealand	20	9	20	10
Australia	25	5	25	3
Total	1,092	362	1,335	430
SHOULD BE	1,100	242	1,250	275
*Raised goal				

Special offer on books...

Prices are:
Book only/Book with subscription.

See distributors on page 8

Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive Oct. 5 - Dec. 10 (Week 2)		
Area	Quota	Collected
Albany	\$6,000	\$0
Atlanta	\$9,250	\$0
Chicago	\$11,000	\$2,477
Dallas	\$2,500	\$350
Lincoln	\$250	\$0
Los Angeles	\$10,500	\$1,364
Louisville	\$2,500	\$825
Miami	\$3,500	\$0
New York	\$14,000	\$2,150
N. New Jersey	\$3,300	\$0
Oakland	\$12,000	\$3,760
Philadelphia	\$2,500	\$0
Pittsburgh	\$2,000	\$600
Seattle	\$10,000	\$821
Twin Cities	\$4,500	\$0
Washington, DC	\$4,600	\$0
Other		\$0
Total	\$98,400	\$12,347
Should Be	\$100,000	\$22,222

Socialist Workers Party says workers need our own party

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH —“From the United Auto Workers union members on strike against General Motors, and the UAW Mack Truck workers, to the Asarco copper miners in Arizona, we see the beginnings of a new uptick in the struggles of working people,” Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, told some 80 people at an Oct. 15 League of Women Voters debate with his two capitalist party opponents here. “These workers, and all working people, are facing the economic and political crisis of capitalism.”

“The SWP campaign joins with working people everywhere on picket lines and in social protests,” he said. “That’s the only way to build a fighting labor movement where working people can begin to act independently of the Democrats and Republicans and have a political voice of our own.”

One thing debated was a recently released report saying that poverty among African American women and children here is higher than in 85% of similarly sized U.S. cities.

“Poverty everywhere is an indictment of capitalism,” Jarrett said. “Our campaign begins with the increasing ability of working people to fight — to demand jobs at union-scale wages and benefits and for a government-funded public works program to build hospitals, housing, schools and other things that better the conditions of working people.

“These fights will make us more confident, more class conscious, as we begin to discuss how the working class can take power from the capitalists and put it into our own hands.”

Jarrett was asked what kind of “yard signs” his campaign has. “The SWP doesn’t have yard signs,” he said. “What we do is go door to door to talk with fellow workers, so that they see they are not isolated, that there’s others who think like them, who are interested in the millions of workers in struggle from Puerto Rico to Hong Kong.”

The candidates were asked about their attitude toward the police. “We see what’s happening around the country, with protests against police brutality,” he said. “The cops increasingly know they can be charged, tried, convicted and put in prison, if we fight.

We need a broad working-class movement against cop brutality.”

While on a recent national speaking tour with Alyson Kennedy, who was the SWP 2016 candidate for president, the two socialist campaigners joined fights for justice in the police killings of Botham Jean in Dallas and Anthony Hill in Decatur, Georgia. They attended the trials of the two cops responsible. Both were convicted.

‘Join the UAW picket line’

Helen Meyers, SWP candidate for city council in St. Paul, Minnesota, also spoke at a League of Women Voters candidates debate Oct. 15, along with the incumbent and two other candidates.

“Every action that advances the organization of the working class and the confidence that workers have in our own collective power is a step on the road to overthrowing the ruling capitalists and bringing workers and farmers to power,” Meyers told over 100 people at the forum.

“That’s why I encourage all workers, unionized and unorganized, to back the 50,000 UAW members now on strike against General Motors, and join them on the picket line in Hudson,



Photo courtesy of The Northside Chronicle

The Socialist Workers Party “begins with the ability of working people to fight,” said Malcolm Jarrett, speaking, SWP candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, at Oct. 15 candidates debate.

Wisconsin, and elsewhere.

“The biggest task facing working people is to organize and act independently of the ruling capitalists and their political parties — the Democrats and the Republicans,” she said.

The candidates were asked about today’s “crisis of affordable housing.” “So long as land is privately owned, and housing is determined by the market, decent housing will remain unaffordable for millions of working-class people.”

Like Jarrett, she said that workers

need to fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages to build the housing that is needed.

“My campaign calls for nationalization of the land, to put it in the hands of the farmers who work it, as opposed to the banks and landlords,” Meyers said.

The *Militant* urges workers to go out and vote for SWP candidates in their area Nov. 5.

David Rosenfeld, from St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this article.

Protest anti-Semitic attack on German synagogue

BY JANET POST

Two people were killed in a failed anti-Semitic assault on a synagogue Oct. 9 in Halle, Germany, on Yom Kippur, considered by Jews to be one of the most sacred days of the year. Heavily armed Stephan Balliet, 27, from Benndorf, attempted to get into the synagogue while uttering anti-Semitic slurs. He live-streamed the attack through a camera he wore on a helmet.

More than 70 people in the temple escaped as Balliet’s homemade ordinance, including an improvised bomb aimed at the door, failed to work. He then went on a rampage in the streets, killing a 40-year-old woman who yelled at him and a 20-year-old man when he attacked a nearby Turkish kebab shop. Two others were wounded.

“The Holocaust never happened,” Belliet ranted in a video played on the Internet. “The root of all these problems is the Jew.” Prior to the attack, he posted an anti-Semitic manifesto online in English, saying, “If I fail and die but kill a single Jew, it was worth it.”

To pay tribute to those killed, some 2,000 people on Oct. 11 organized a human chain outside the synagogue. The day before hundreds held a vigil there and hundreds more gathered in memorial at the city center. A moment of silence was observed at the Germany-Argentina soccer match in Dortmund and another vigil was held outside Berlin’s New Synagogue.

The Halle temple was built after the second imperialist world war to replace its original synagogue, destroyed during Nazi pogroms in 1938. It was fortified in 2012 after a rabbi and three children were killed by an anti-Semitic gunman at a Jewish school in Toulouse, France.

The Jewish community in Halle had asked authorities for protection for Yom Kippur. The cops declined.

“It is scandalous that the synagogue in Halle was not protected,” said Josef Schuster, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

Speak out against Jew-hatred

“There is an increase in attacks against Jews by isolated rightists. Some in the middle-class left oppose the existence of Israel today. These attacks will grow, if not fought by the working class and its organizations,” Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh Council, told the *Militant*. “And history has shown that the capitalist rulers will turn to Jew-hatred in increasingly deadly ways as their crisis deepens, seeking to make Jews a scapegoat to turn the eyes of workers away from the actual source of the carnage they face — which is capitalism itself.

“But at the same time, there is less racism, anti-immigrant sentiment and anti-Semitism among working people today than at any time in history,” he

said. Last October, Jarrett joined thousands of working people in Pittsburgh at vigils and other activities after 11 Jews were killed in an anti-Semitic massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue there.

Just three days before the attack in Halle, a spokesman for German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s government told the press that Tehran’s threats to destroy Israel are not an expression of anti-Semitism. This followed a speech given in late September by Gen. Hossein Salami, commander-in-chief of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards, where he said Israel “must be wiped off the map.”

“This same false distinction is used by some on the middle-class left in the U.S. to claim calling for the destruction of the state of Israel isn’t anti-Semitism,” Jarrett said. “The SWP supports the existence of Israel as a refuge for Jews. Jew-hatred will only be ended once and for all when working people take power and begin to organize society in the interests of the vast majority.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Leandro

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 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Donation: \$10. Marina Community Center, Room C, 15301 Wicks Blvd. Tel.: (415) 370-3442.

NEW JERSEY

Union City

Hear the New Jersey Socialist Workers Party Candidates. Speakers: Lea Sherman and Candace Wagner for New Jersey General Assembly. Sat., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 3600 Bergenline Ave., 2nd floor. Tel.: (551) 257-5753.

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— Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

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The Turn to Industry
Forging a Proletarian Party

JACK BARNES

Lebanon protests unite toilers

Continued from front page

refugees that fled Syria's civil war; and foreign interventions by the rulers of the region's rival capitalist powers who seek to bring Lebanon under their domination.

"Neither Saudi, nor Iran will be able to take this protest down," chanted demonstrators in Beirut Oct. 20. Hariri's government depends on loans from the Saudi monarchy and its allies in the Gulf, who press him to push back against the influence of Tehran-backed Hezbollah in his ruling coalition.

Hezbollah is a capitalist political party that seeks to set up a government in Lebanon modeled on the bourgeois clerical regime in Tehran, its main backer and a fierce rival of the Saudi monarchy. Its militias fight alongside Tehran's forces in Syria's civil war, helping Syrian President Bashar al-Assad reimpose his brutal rule over the country. Hezbollah's leadership boasts its rockets can hit any target in Israel.

In July the Washington-led International Monetary Fund said further loans would be hostage to Hariri pressing ahead with cuts in social measures that working people rely on, including a

hike in sales taxes, freezing early retirement for workers in the public sector and eliminating electricity subsidies.

Unemployment among those aged under 35 stands at 37%, while working people bear the brunt of daily electricity outages and sporadic water supplies.

Once protests started, they rapidly expanded their political reach, demanding a halt to corruption and the government's resignation. Hariri rapidly pulled back the phone tax hike, and then cut the salaries of ministers and lawmakers in half Oct. 21, but thousands continued to protest.

"We are remaining in the streets. We don't believe a single word he said," teacher Maya Mhana told Reuters.

Demonstrators demanding Hariri's fall come from all religions. In the largely Shiite neighborhoods dominated by Tehran-backed Hezbollah in southern Lebanon protesters targeted its offices.

Hezbollah head Hassan Nasrallah attacked the calls for the government to resign Oct. 19. "Nasrallah is one of them," responded demonstrators in the city of Tyre. Washington has imposed sanctions on Hezbollah officials, part of its squeeze on Tehran aimed at pushing



Silas Stein/picture-alliance/dpa/AP Images

Tens of thousands of Kurds and supporters demonstrated Oct. 19 across Germany, including in Frankfurt, above, to protest Ankara's invasion of the Kurdish region in northeastern Syria.

back the Iranian rulers' military interventions in the region.

Washington eyes Syrian oil fields

While Washington has begun moving 1,000 troops in Syria out of the way of a Turkish government invasion targeting Kurds, the U.S. rulers are reinforcing their military position elsewhere across the region. Since May they have

deployed an extra 14,000 troops to the Mideast, along with Patriot air and missile defense batteries, B-52 bombers and a carrier strike group.

The Pentagon also announced it is considering redeploying hundreds of U.S. troops back to northeast Syria. They would be tasked with defending Syria's oil fields, which are held by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces. The Assad government, backed by Moscow, has long coveted these resources. Some 200 mercenaries sent by Moscow to try and retake the SDF-held oil fields in Deir el-Zour province were killed in U.S. airstrikes last year.

Washington's air power will "prevent our adversaries Russia and Iran from exploiting this situation and protect our partners on the ground," said Sen. Jim Inhofe, Oct. 19.

"The Socialist Workers Party demands Ankara get out of the Syrian Kurds territory," Seth Galinsky, SWP candidate for New York City public advocate, told the *Militant* Oct. 22. "We support the Kurds' fight for national sovereignty in Syria and throughout the region.

"Washington should immediately and unconditionally withdraw all U.S. forces from the Mideast," he said. "Its intervention serves the interests of the U.S. capitalist rulers, not those of working people either there or here at home."

UK rulers seek to get around 2016 vote to get out of EU

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — The House of Commons voted Oct. 19 to instruct Prime Minister Boris Johnson to seek another extension to the deadline for the U.K. to get out of the EU — the latest episode in a campaign by the U.K.'s propertied rulers to get around the majority vote to do so in a 2016 referendum.

While the EU considers its response, Johnson's minority government is seeking allies to push through Parliament the withdrawal arrangements it reached with the 27 other governments in the EU, before the Oct. 31 deadline.

Johnson claimed the deal, approved at an EU summit days before, was "great" and "new." But "there isn't a lot of difference between what [previous Prime Minister] Theresa May had and what Boris Johnson has," commented Stuart Rose, chairman of online supermarket Ocado and former chairman of the "Britain Stronger In Europe" campaign. Rose, other business leaders and the bulk of the capitalist dailies backed the Johnson deal — just as they had backed the rejected deal negotiated by May.

Whatever the European governments decide about an extension, the "withdrawal" agreement will apply only to the EU's "political institutions." EU trade, customs, security and other regulations will continue to apply to the U.K. until the end of a 14-month so-called implementation period, which could be extended for two years while officials discuss new trade and other arrangements between the U.K. and the EU.

Under the pretext of keeping trade between the border of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland frictionless, May's previous government kept the entire U.K. enmeshed in the EU.

Under Johnson's deal the U.K. government would be able to seek its own trade deals for the British capitalists with other governments outside of Europe after the transition period. Northern Ireland would remain part of the U.K.'s customs territory but would continue to be subject to a raft of EU regulations, including its rules on sales taxes. There would be no customs check at the border

between the Republic and Northern Ireland but there would be between Northern Ireland and the British mainland.

This arrangement would be subject to ratification by a vote in the Northern Ireland Assembly four years after the end of the implementation period.

"The Irish border issue should be settled by the Irish people. Britain should get out — just as the U.K. should get out of the EU — now!" commented Communist League parliamentary candidate Caroline Bellamy. "For working people, the only issue is putting ourselves in the best position to fight the bosses' assaults on our living standards, job security, broader social conditions and the U.K.'s and its allies' endless wars abroad."

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn condemned the arrangement, claiming it would create "a border down the

Irish sea between Britain and Northern Ireland." Democratic Unionist Party leaders claimed the deal was an "awful betrayal." Scottish National Party leader Nicola Sturgeon complained the deal would take Scotland "out of the EU's single market and customs union — all against our will." She called for a new referendum on Scotland's independence in 2020. Following the Commons sitting, a number of Members of Parliament joined thousands of middle-class protesters demonstrating outside Parliament for the U.K. to remain in the EU.

The bulk of the rest of the withdrawal agreement negotiated by May — which Johnson had said would turn the U.K. into a "vassal state" of the EU — remains intact. "This is Brexit in name only" commented Nigel Farage, leader of the Brexit Party.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 7, 1994

UNITED NATIONS — "Not only has the economic, commercial, and financial blockade carried out by the United States against Cuba not been reduced in any way, but on the contrary, it has been strengthened."

With these words, Fernando Remírez, permanent representative of Cuba to the United Nations, introduced a resolution opposing Washington's 35-year embargo of the island. The resolution was approved in the UN General Assembly with 101 governments voting in favor, 2 opposed, and 48 abstaining. Only the representative of Israel joined Washington in voting "no."

Remírez called for "the dismantling of the aggressive policy against Cuba, the backbone of which is the economic, commercial and financial blockade against my country." An embargo, he added, "which is today being suffered by Cuba, but of which tomorrow any nation might be a victim."



November 7, 1969

CLEVELAND — Carl Stokes, incumbent Democratic Party candidate for mayor, has agreed to debate Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Syd Stapleton before the City Club. As the campaign moves into its last week, it has gotten harder to differentiate between the positions of Stokes and [Republican] Perk.

Both candidates are hitting the "law-and-order" question equally hard. Recently Stokes has gone beyond calling for more police and suggested that the source of the problem is "permissive parents." He has even indicated that the solution to the problem is "more whippings."

On the [Case-Western Reserve] campus, there will be a mock election for mayor and a series of referendum-style questions on the war, Black control of the Black community, and lowering the voting age to 19 — a question that is on the general ballot.



November 4, 1944

Twenty-seven years ago on November 7, 1917 the chain of capitalism snapped in the Czarist Empire. Led by the Bolshevik Party of Lenin and Trotsky the Russian workers and peasants smashed the age-old tyranny of the capitalists, landlords and priests, and for the first time in history established the rule of the toiling people. The red dawn of that day ushered in a new epoch in the history of mankind.

The deeds of the Bolsheviks were as good as their declarations. Land to the peasants! Factories to the workers! All power to the working people! An end to the imperialist war! This program of the Bolsheviks became the law of the workers' state in the Congress of the Soviets, under the guidance of Lenin's party.

The Russian revolution awakened great hopes among the war-weary masses on both sides of the trenches.

Back GM, Mack Truck strikes

Continued from front page
builds any new factories. Workers here worry the company is talking about building a new plant in California and shifting work there.

Several hundred strikers and family members rallied outside the plant here Oct. 20, the day before UAW Local 677 was set to restart negotiations with the bosses. They were joined by other supporters, including members of the Teamsters union, Communications Workers of America and officials of the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council.

Volvo had profits of \$1.12 billion in the third-quarter of last year, nearly \$100 million more than the same period the year before. But sales this year are running way behind 2018, as trucking slows down along with the capitalist economy.

Steve Gerhard, a 22-year veteran at the plant, told the *Militant* during the rally, “The company just thinks about profits. The union is our fraternity and we need to keep people informed about the real issues.”

Jake Schantzenbach has worked on the assembly line for five years. “I didn’t have to go through the six-year progression to get full pay, but the new hires now get a 1% raise each year for the first five years and then the big jump to full pay the sixth year. That needs to change,” he said. “Getting ready for this contract fight has gotten everyone working together the most I have seen.”

After the rally some workers made the nearly 2-mile walk to bring their kids to visit every picket station, telling me they wanted to raise them in the spirit of standing up for the rights of the working class.

Nine picket tents are stationed at entrances around the massive assembly plant here, the largest of the Mack Truck factories, with some 2,000 workers. Local residents, other area union members and small businesses keep up steady deliveries of coffee, donuts, pizzas and hand warmers for picketers.

Bosses push to keep pay down

Two days before the rally, Volvo Group President and CEO Martin Lundstedt insisted the company is “not ready to compromise.” He said they

had to keep costs down, because their major competitors — Daimler, Paccar and Navistar — “have the majority of their production in Mexico,” while “we have 100% of our production for North America in the U.S.”

Trying to increase the pressure on strikers, the company cut off workers’ medical coverage.

“After the first year, you get a raise of just 18 cents,” picket captain Allen Starr told *Militant* worker-correspondents on a solidarity visit four days earlier. “Besides job security, the pay tiers is the biggest issue for me.”

Besides the Macungie plant, Mack Truck workers are on strike at a Middletown plant that rebuilds older trucks, the big powertrain factory in Hagerstown, Maryland, and facilities in Baltimore and in Jacksonville, Florida.

Candace Wagner in Union City, New Jersey, contributed to this article.



GM workers debate, vote on new contract

BY MAGGIE TROWE

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Some 49,000 United Auto Workers union members have begun voting on the proposed contract union officials negotiated with

Copper workers fight Asarco union-busting assault

Continued from front page

thirds of the workers who’ve been without a pay raise in nearly a decade with four more years of a wage freeze, and would more than double their health insurance expenses. The workers have been working without a contract since the end of 2018. Asarco didn’t answer the *Militant*’s request for comment.

Asarco bosses are campaigning to convince workers to cross the picket lines and resign from the union. Strikers are picketing around the clock and are winning solidarity.

Copper workers have a proud history of standing up to the mine bosses in Arizona going back more than a century. A hard-fought three-year battle against union-busting concessions demanded

Anti-labor outfit attacks autoworker, miner strikes

At a time when tens of thousands of union workers at General Motors, Mack Truck, Asarco copper mines and smelters, and in Chicago schools are fighting the bosses and need solidarity, the anti-labor World Socialist Web Site is working overtime to try and convince them to break up their unions.

The website is run by the so-called Socialist Equality Party. Despite the name, the website and the party have nothing to do with the fight of the working class or for socialism.

This outfit has a long history of trying to demoralize workers involved in labor battles and encourage them to quit their unions — doing dirty work for the capitalist bosses.

They especially try to take advantage of leadership defaults in the union or objective difficulties during a strike to promote government agents’ and bosses’ slanders against the union. Don’t fall for it! We can solve our own problems.

Several members of this notorious group were at the solidarity rally organized by United Auto Workers Local 677 outside the Mack Truck plant in Macungie, Pennsylvania, Oct. 20 passing out attacks on the union.

A typical article run Oct. 18 on the WSWWS website attacked the strike at Asarco, saying workers there “can only win if they break their struggle free of the unions.” What could make the capitalist bosses at GM, Mack Truck and Asarco happier than convincing workers to break up their unions, in the middle of a strike no less?

This is the exact opposite of what is needed to advance the working-class fight. Workers need our unions. We need them to be stronger. To fight harder. To be a place to debate and discuss how to fight most effectively. That’s why disruption by WSWWS must be rejected.

— SETH GALINSKY



Militant/Roy Landersen

Mack Truck strikers rally in Macungie, Pennsylvania, Oct. 20, part of 3,600 out on strike. “The company just thinks about profits,” said striker Steve Gerhard. “The union is our fraternity.”

General Motors after the longest strike since 1970 at the company’s 33 factories and 22 parts warehouses across the country. The picket lines remain up pending the result of the vote, set to be completed by Oct. 25.

The 850 UAW members at Aramark, under contract to perform maintenance and cleaning at five GM plants in Michigan and Ohio, are also voting on a new contract.

The striking workers have won widespread solidarity, because working peo-

ple see the stakes in their fight for the entire working class. Workers at non-union auto plants, where the percentage of lower paid temporary workers is even higher than at GM, are watching the strike and vote closely.

And the strikers gained self-confidence. “They didn’t think that we would stay out this long,” Derek Cordell told the *Militant* on the picket line outside the Corvette plant here. “It shows when we stand together and fight for what we be-

Continued on page 7

by Phelps Dodge began in 1983. The strike was lost when the bosses brought in strikebreakers and decertified the union, and the government sent in hundreds of National Guard, state troopers and SWAT sharpshooters.

Over 100 strikers and their supporters held a rally Oct. 19 at the Mission mine in Sahuarita. “Anywhere you go in this world, if you don’t fight you’re going to lose,” said United Steelworkers Sub-District 2 Director Manny Armenta.

Alex Terrazas, a working miner at the Mission complex and USW Local 937 president, told the rally, “We can’t afford higher insurance for families. You know it feels like we’re being punished for having families.”

The picket lines are stocked with food, water and other supplies, much of it from workers, truck drivers, small-business people and even hunters who stop by to give aid and solidarity or to picket for a while.

“This is our first strike. Our fathers fought it for us and now we’re fighting it for future generations,” 21-year-old Miguel Estrada, who has worked at the Ray mine for a year, said on the picket line Oct. 19.

Wes Oswald, a teacher and part of a delegation from the Tucson Education Association, told *Militant* worker-correspondents Oct. 18 at the picket line in Sahuarita that “during our walkout a year ago — the Red for Ed walkout — there were many unions supporting us. It’s important we support them.”

“A lot of local stores and restaurants have donated food to help us get through this,” Illias Romero, who has worked at the Ray mine for two years, said Oct. 19. “It’s cool to see the communities pull through for us.”

Small number crossed picket line

Asarco has succeeded in getting a small number of workers to cross the

picket lines at the Ray and Hayden complexes near Kearny and at the Mission mine. Strikers say that most of the 100 workers at the Silver Bell mine — the smallest of Asarco’s facilities — have crossed. But the strike remains strong, forcing Asarco to close down smelters in Hayden and in Amarillo, Texas.

“Any employees who wish to continue working are welcome to report to Ray or Mission where they will be considered for any available openings,” Asarco wrote workers Oct. 18. It added that if workers resign from the union “the Union is legally required to represent you the same as anyone else.”

Workers on the picket lines told the *Militant* how they stepped up efforts to strengthen union consciousness even before the strike started.

Mission mine heavy equipment operator Robert Kershner, 31, said while picketing there Oct. 17 that he spoke to co-workers who were considering scabbing. “I explained why we were striking and they said they had a lot of bills and a family to feed. I told them I also have a lot of bills and a family to feed but I’m striking for a better future for my family.”

“I was 8 when my dad went on strike,” heavy equipment operator Monica Badillo said. “My dad taught me, ‘Never cross a picket line.’ We lost our car, but when it was all over we bought another one.”

“We tell new workers the reason you have ear plugs, steel toes, hard hats and other safety equipment is because the union fought for it,” added Raul Romero. Five generations of his family have worked in Arizona mines or in smelters.

Send letters of solidarity or contributions to help the fight to USW Local 915, P.O. Box 550, Kearny, AZ 85137.

Deborah Liatos is a rail worker and member of SMART-TD Local 1544.

Oberlin defends smear attacks

Continued from front page
turn the verdict by turning the target of its slanders into the criminal.

In a press release announcing the appeal, new attorney Lee Levine tried to reframe the case as setting “a precedent that endangers free speech on campuses.” This post-trial narrative seeks to paint the college as the victim, claiming it was just trying to facilitate students’ exercise of their constitutional rights. But this is simply false. There was no mention of any students’ opinions in the lawsuit by the Gibsons, or, for that matter, by the college in its own defense.

What is at stake is the slanderous, self-righteous course of action by the administration officials, defaming a small business as racist, cutting off its contract with the college and promoting a boycott to bring them to their knees.

The unanimous jury verdict reflected the opinions of working people in the area, who see the college as a meritocratic institution used to getting its way.

The college’s appeal and heavy array of lawyers shows the college is planning a protracted, bruising and expensive battle aimed at one thing — forcing the Gibsons out of business unless they relinquish their legal victory.

In a transparent effort to weaken the support of local working people for the Gibsons, the college put out a glossy 24-page booklet entitled “Our Community,” to remind everyone that Oberlin is a company town “economically intertwined” with the school. College administrators explain that they spend \$143 million annually in the local economy and that area residents should recognize — and bow down to — their largesse. It also trumpets the school’s community service and green credentials.

Guilty as charged

On June 7, a Lorain County jury found the college administration and its dean of students and vice president, Meredith Raimondo, guilty of a defamatory and destructive campaign against the 134-year-old family business. Damages and costs of \$44 million were awarded by the jury against them.

Citing Ohio state law, which unconstitutionally limits punitive damages awards, Judge John Miraldi lowered the judgment to \$25 million. He also awarded \$6.5 million in legal fees. The Gibsons’ lawyers have indicated that in the case of an appeal they will raise the stakes for the college by seeking to overturn Ohio’s punitive award cap and

have the full verdict restored, plus additional fees and interest. Similar challenges have recently been successful in 13 other states.

The student-run *Oberlin Review*, which has dutifully echoed the college administration’s line against the Gibsons, expressed some concern about the college’s disdainful better-than-thou attitude by holding a self-congratulatory fireworks celebration at its Oct. 5 homecoming event. It signaled “a larger dissonance for an institution currently grappling with ... financial stability,” the *Review* editorialized Oct. 11, and “how to treat community members with fairness and respect.”

Oberlin College’s financial crisis

Oberlin College admits it has been hit hard by the crisis of capitalism in recent years. “Structural deficits in its operating budgets,” a slick May 10 44-page administration report entitled “One Oberlin” says, are eating into its billion dollar endowment by as much as 8% annually.

The college complains that the pay and benefits won by the schools’ employees, organized by the United Auto Workers, is “34% higher than the average” of its regional competitors. The report says, “Oberlin will need to reduce personnel costs by at least \$4 million” by 2024.

Just like any other capitalist employer, the review says they’ve decided on cost reduction “levers,” including job cuts, contracting out work, speedup and wage reductions. This, they say, will require “a culture of managerial courage.”

And they say they’re cutting 100 students out of the school’s well-known music conservatory in order to add 100 more to the liberal arts division, whose students pay more to go there.

The libel case stemmed from an incident in November 2016 when an African American student tried to use fake ID to buy wine at the bakery. He then tried to steal it. When the store owner’s son went to stop him outside, the student and two friends wrestled him to the ground. The students were arrested and all pled guilty to misdemeanor charges and admitted in court that no racism was involved.

The jury found that college officials, led by Raimondo, orchestrated, helped organize and participated in two days of subsequent student protests outside the store. The administration led in perpetrating the libel, without a shred of evidence, that the bakery owners had a long history of racism. They canceled standing orders of goods from the bakery as part of a boycott campaign against the store.

When challenged by a faculty member, who said no one in town supported their charges of racism, Raimondo said, “F--k him. I’d say unleash the students if I wasn’t convinced this needs to be put behind us.”

School officials argued the trial should be moved out of the area, saying that they “could not (and did not) receive a fair trial in Lorain County.” But the fact is it was working-class solidarity, not “prejudice,” that generated widespread support there and helped to sustain the Gibsons in their battle.

“Institutions like Oberlin College should not be permitted to bully others while hiding behind the claimed shield

Youth, unions protest government attacks in Chile



Fernando Lavoz/NurPhoto via ZUMA Press

Student protests, which began in Chile Oct. 5 over a government 30 pesos hike (41 cents) in public transit fares, grew into nationwide mass demonstrations by Oct. 19, paralyzing cities from Santiago, the capital, to Osorno, above. Placard reads: “They took away so much that they took away our fear.”

“The rise in the price of the metro was just the drop that led all this to spill over,” Constanza Uribe, 18, a university student, told the *Wall Street Journal* Oct. 21. Millions face a rising cost of living along with stagnant pay, and see Chile’s capitalist class living in ostentatious luxury.

Saying the country is “at war,” President Sebastián Piñera, a Harvard-educated billionaire capitalist, announced a state of emergency and curfew Oct. 20 even as he suspended the fare increase. He deployed more than 10,000 troops to back police firing water cannons, rubber bullets and tear gas trying to quell the demonstrations. Nearly 2,000 people have been arrested. Eleven people have been killed so far.

Members of Portuaria de Chile union announced they would shut down 20 ports Oct. 21 and join the demonstrations. Union workers at BHP’s Escondida copper mine, the world’s largest, walked off the job the next day, amid calls for a general strike.

“Something’s not right with this country and 14 year olds were the first ones to say so,” Patricio Tapia, president of Escondida Union No. 1, told Bloomberg News. “Now it’s workers’ turn to say enough is enough.”

— ROY LANDERSEN

of free speech,” Lee Plakas, lead attorney for the Gibsons and their store, told the press after the college filed its appeal. “There are no exemptions from the law of defamation.”

And that’s why class conscious workers support the verdict and damages award, as a political blow against high-handed class disdain and against race-baiting.

General Motors, Mack Truck strikes

Continued from page 6
lieve in we can win.”

UAW Local 1853 members at GM’s large Spring Hill, Tennessee, plant, with 3,300 workers, voted the contract down 51% to 49% Oct. 21. The day before workers at Saginaw and Warren, Michigan, facilities, with some 1,800 UAW members, voted overwhelmingly in favor.

There is a real debate among workers over the contract. They went on strike Sept. 16 after GM bosses demanded expanding the number of temporary workers — over 7% of the GM workforce — keeping a divisive eight-year-long two-tier wage “progression” for regular workers, closing four plants, and other attacks.

The auto barons claimed they need to save money on labor costs to compete with GM’s nonunion rivals. Some 56% of auto assembly plants in the U.S. — primarily Toyota, Honda, Hyundai and Volkswagen — are nonunion.

Workers fought to make temporary workers permanent, an end to two-tier wages, and guarantees of “job security.”

GM withdrew its demand to jack up the cost of health insurance before the strike began. In the tentative deal, GM also dropped some of its steepest concession demands. Full-time temporary workers would be made permanent after three years of continuous work, and

regular workers, who start out at half the wages of those hired prior to 2009, would make top rate in four years instead of eight. But union officials agreed to let the bosses shutter three of the four plants slated to be closed.

For this reason, leaders of the UAW in Lordstown, Ohio, which is closed, are calling for a no vote.

Mike Yakim, a UAW member at GM’s Landing Delta Township, Michigan, plant, told the *Detroit Free Press* that he is skeptical of the proposed deal for temporary workers. “What’s to say they run you two years and six months and lay you off for 31 days?” he said. “Then the seniority is broken and you’re back to square one. I don’t trust General Motors.”

John Ryan Bishop, a worker at the Flint assembly plant, told the *Free Press*, “Overall, I do think it’s a pretty good deal especially on the in-progression workers [permanent workers on a lower pay tier]. We’re staying above inflation in terms of our wage gains.”

Militant worker-correspondents met Kenneth Matczak, who works on the Corvette assembly line, while going door to door in Bowling Green Oct. 18. “I’m going to vote against the contract proposal,” he said. “Three years for temps to become full employees isn’t right. The whole point of the strike is to eliminate that separation between us.”

Are they rich because they’re smart?

Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism

by Jack Barnes



Are they rich because they’re smart?

CLASS, PRIVILEGE AND LEARNING UNDER CAPITALISM

JACK BARNES

\$10

“The meritocracy are mortified to be identified with working people. They fear someday being ruled by those they worry could become the ‘great mob’: the toiling and producing majority.”

pathfinderpress.com

Fidel: UN support for US attack on Iraq is 'shameful day'

The Spanish edition of U.S. Hands off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations by Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcón, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. This excerpt is from a 1990 speech by Fidel Castro to a ceremony celebrating the 30th anniversary of Cuba's Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. It's titled, "We Had the Honor to Vote 'No.'" In 1990, as U.S. imperialism was preparing for a massive invasion of Iraq, the permanent members of United Nations Security Council — Britain, China, France, the USSR and the U.S. — voted to back the bloody slaughter. Cuba, serving a two-year term on the Security Council, was the only country to vote against. "End the philosophy of plunder and the philosophy of war will be ended as well," Castro had told the U.N. General Assembly 30 years earlier. Copyright ©1990 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Protest against coming U.S. war on Iraq Dec. 8, 1990, in Salt Lake City, Utah. U.N. Security Council unanimously backed Washington, except for revolutionary Cuba, which voted "No."

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FIDEL CASTRO

In recent days we have been more than a little concerned about the fate of dozens and dozens of Third World countries. You will have noted the conduct of our representative on the United Nations Security Council around the crisis in the Arab-Persian Gulf. We have the privilege of be-

ing able to act there in a completely selfless manner, in a completely dignified manner, and with a spirit of complete fairness. We have made extraordinary efforts to achieve peace. We have sought to find a solution to the problem without war, a solution that is just.

We did not hesitate to reject and condemn the occupation and annexation of Kuwait. We did so as a matter of principle and on the basis of norms of international law that we believe should hold sway in our world. We therefore did not hesitate to support resolutions condemning those actions that, in our judgment, violated international law.

But at the same time, we have energetically opposed everything we consider unjust. And one of the most unjust things is the attempt to force an entire people to surrender through hunger. This is what the embargo amounts to.

We first of all energetically fought to exclude food and medicine from the embargo. For if one can condemn the practice of taking hostages and turning innocent persons into hostages — a practice we oppose and will always oppose — it is even more cruel to try to starve to death millions of women, elderly people, and children to attain a given objective. And this embargo does not affect the military forces primarily. Rather it causes suffering to

the civilian population, and among them to millions of women, elderly people, and children.

This is a detestable practice. Yet this is what the United States has sought to do and has done, in opposition to Cuba's efforts to clearly define the embargo and to exclude from it food and medicine. ...

But then something occurred that was truly shameful: the Security Council passed a resolution giving its blessing to the unilateral blockade by the United States, a resolution we opposed. I believe that was a shameful day, a dishonorable day for the Security Council — the day that body gave its blessing to unilateral military action by the United States. At that moment it became clear that the United States was running the show in the Security Council.

Now they have approved an air embargo. Cuba voted against it, the only country to do so! We had the honor and glory of being the only country to vote "No"! [Prolonged applause] History will record the honor, the dignity, and the courage with which Cuba acted during that moment of such importance to the life of humanity. It was necessary to take a firm position and we did not abstain — we voted "No"! And we will vote against everything we do not agree with, even if we are the only ones. [Applause] ...

We believe there should be guaran-

tees for all the countries of the region. And we believe that if the United Nations is able to achieve a political solution, it could also work out formulas to provide guarantees to all the countries of the region. This would include both the withdrawal of Iraqi troops to their border and their territory, and the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops from the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Failure to attain a political solution would be a defeat for humanity, and we have concentrated our efforts on achieving such a political solution. We have worked for this and continue to do so, although we are aware that less and less time remains.

We do this not only because it flows from the political principles of our people and our revolution, and not only to fulfill international obligations. We do this because it genuinely pains us very much to see a world catastrophe approaching, and not able to be halted. And here we are not dealing with a catastrophe of nuclear weapons, no — although no one knows what will happen there. No one can say for sure whether or not chemical weapons and nuclear weapons will be used.

But such a war will not only cost many lives on the battlefield there. Such a war would also be a catastrophe for the world economy, especially for the economies of the developing countries, of the non-oil-producing Third World countries, which are the vast majority. Just as some countries will be swimming in money, others will be swimming in misery, sacrifice, and suffering of every type. For every life lost on the battlefields of the Arab-Persian Gulf, a thousand persons will die of hunger in the Third World. Such a fate would be unavoidable.

The outbreak of a conflict in the Arab-Persian Gulf — the military solution — would entail the risk of becoming a chemical war, and perhaps a war involving the use of tactical nuclear weapons. In addition, there would be incalculable destruction not only of lives but of energy resources, which are becoming more and more each day the Achilles' heel of the world economy and the economies of Third World countries. ...

We will continue waging this honorable and at times solitary battle. We will not give up our principles, we will not vacillate, and we will not retreat!

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

Liberals drive built on fear of working class

Continued from front page

Having used the anonymous claims from these members of the U.S. rulers' political police to get their impeachment witch hunt rolling, Democrats now want to bury all mention of the so-called whistleblowers. They say agent #1 fears Congress wouldn't be able to keep their identity from being revealed. Even more important, they fear being subpoenaed by any Republican-led Senate committee. So Democratic House leaders say they don't need either spy to testify.

In the meantime, their "inquiry" — a hit job aimed at nullifying the votes of those who elected Trump president in 2016 — rolls on, as they press and probe for dirt on him and his associates.

Most of the house interrogations have been held behind closed doors, without any transcript released afterward. These proceedings are a "partisan Star Chamber," Republican Rep. Scott Perry said Oct. 14. The Democrats just leak "selective things they want for their narrative."

Democrats want to oust Trump, but don't want to face him at the polls. Removing him through a witch hunt prior to the 2020 election ensures they don't have to try to win votes from the millions of workers who voted for Trump in 2016.

These workers were looking for a change from successive Democratic and Republican administrations that had offloaded the crisis of the capitalist system onto their shoulders. They were drawn to Trump's promise to "drain the swamp" of politicians from both parties who for years had shown nothing but disdain for working people's lives.

Liberals are more and more openly scornful towards those they call Trump's "base." MSNBC's Joe Scarborough derided Trump supporters Oct. 18 as "ignorant" for backing a president he alleges is responsible for Kurds in Syria being "wiped out." The "Morning Joe" host commanded Trump supporters to watch more news shows like his and to be less "dumb."

Liberals and like-minded meritocrats in the upper-middle class believe their own "brightness" gives them "the right to make decisions, to administer and 'regulate' society for the bourgeoisie — on behalf of what they claim to be the interests of 'the people,'" explains Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes in the book *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*. "Above all they are mortified to be identified with working people in the United States" and "lecture us on our manners and mores."

In 2016 the Democratic presidential field had been narrowed to just two candidates — Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Today there are 19 contending hopefuls.

Crisis deepens inside Democratic Party

While they are all shouting for impeachment and glorifying the secret political police "whistleblowers," they sharply disagree on how to win next November. Some say they have to try to reach out to the workers who voted for Trump while others want to turn their back on them forever as stupid and hopeless.

Tulsi Gabbard, a military veteran, was the last of the Democrats vying for the party's presidential nomination to back impeaching the president. During the recent candidate's debate she pointed out that Trump had in fact *won* the election in 2016, and that any attempt to impeach him should not be "hyperpartisan."

Hillary Clinton — who calls workers who voted for Trump "deplorables" — struck back, calling Trump an "illegitimate president." She said she really won the 2016 election and could do so again if she chose to run in 2020.

Then she went on to smear Gabbard, calling her a tool of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Clinton claimed Gabbard was being prepped to run as a third party candidate to siphon votes from the Democrats and hand the 2020 election to Trump.

Gabbard retaliated by denouncing Clinton as a "warmonger" and "the embodiment of the corruption, the personification of the rot that has sickened the Democratic Party for so long."

Despite these divisions, all wings of the Democratic Party, like Trump and all the Republicans, defend the interests of the country's capitalist rulers at home and stand ready to wield Washington's military might to advance their interests abroad.

Deep strains also wrack the Republicans, reflected in their current divisions over war policy in Syria and elsewhere. Trump says he wants out of Washington's "endless wars" in the Middle East, while the Republican leadership in the Senate joins the Democratic war party in saying the U.S. pull-back there is a disaster of epic proportions.

The 2016 elections dealt an unprecedented blow to the stability of the bosses' long-standing method of rule — getting workers to hold their nose and vote for the "lesser evil" — voting for the Democrats one time, Republicans the next, and on and on. The former stability of the two-party shell game will not be restored.

Chicago school strike

Continued from front page

schools in the district and organized sizable protests throughout the city.

Teachers are fighting for smaller class sizes and more support staff like nurses, social workers and librarians. They want a three-year contract with a 15% wage increase and better teachers' health insurance.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the city of Chicago offered teachers a 16% raise in salaries stretched out over a five-year period, but have refused to address class sizes or staffing issues. Lightfoot, who was elected earlier this year, calling herself a "progressive," has accused the striking teachers of contributing to higher crime rates in the city. She says their strike allows students — who must all be criminals — to be on the streets.

"At my school this year, we have a first-second grade, a third-fourth grade, and a fifth-sixth grade," Theresa Ibrahim, special ed teacher for 33 years, told the *Militant*. "There's split levels, with at least 30 students in each classroom. Some even have more than 30. We're fighting for smaller class sizes."

"Also, we used to have 30 minutes built-in time to prepare before school," she said. Now they want to take that away. "Teachers have to come early and stay late to prepare. We're asking for those paid 30 minutes back too."

Martha Rivera, a bilingual coordinator with 21 years teaching, said, "We're out here because we don't have enough resources for the students with special needs. They don't have support."

"If you don't have a nurse what are kids with allergies and conditions like asthma supposed to do? There's a nurse at our school only one day a week," she said. Fewer than 115 school nurses have to cover over 500 schools.

This was the first time the teachers and the 7,500 SEIU Local 73 members have gone on strike together. This makes both stronger.

Many school workers are part time and have a hard time getting by. "There is no reason why a bus aide should have to get two or three more jobs in order to survive," SEIU Local 73 President Dian Palmer said the day before the strike. Support staff workers are fighting for higher wages and to stop the city's practice of pulling them off their jobs to fill in on other work.

The union is also demanding Chicago Public Schools stop contracting out support jobs. "There is no reason why custodians should be struggling for resources while Aramark and Sodexo receive millions of dollars from the school district," Palmer said. Aramark and Sodexo workers don't have a union.

Workers need our own party

CTU officials complain that the new mayor — who ran as a friend of labor with support by some unions — isn't carrying through on her campaign promises. At a Labor Day rally Lightfoot had claimed "Labor will always have a partner in the Mayor's Office."

"Candidate Lightfoot ran on a platform calling for equity and educational justice — including a nurse, a social worker and a librarian in every school — all proposals her negotiating team rejected," an Oct. 21 CTU news release said.

"But reliance on either the Democratic or Republican Parties for public workers to make gains is a losing proposition," Dan Fein, who ran as Socialist Workers Party candidate against Lightfoot, told the *Militant*. "From West Virginia and Arizona to New Jersey and Illinois, teachers and other school workers have been fighting both Democratic and Republican government attempts to slash school budgets, cut health and pension benefits for workers, and limit wage increases."

"We can only rely on our own strength," Fein said. "Working people need our own political party to fight for the interests of workers and all the oppressed and exploited. And to chart a course to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and their twin parties."

Correction

The article in the Oct. 28 *Militant* "Copper miners reject Asarco's 'insulting' offer, shut down mines" incorrectly reported that the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers union was broken in the 1983-86 Phelps Dodge copper mine strike. That union, however, had merged in 1967 with the United Steelworkers of America, which led the 1983 strike.