After 40-day strike GM workers approve contract
Discussion continues on fight to end wage tiers

BY SAM MANUEL
SPRING HILL, Tenn. — Some 49,000 United Auto Workers members are back at work at General Motors after approving a new four-year contract 57% to 43%. The discussion among workers continues on what was accomplished in the 40-day strike, and the need to fight to end divisive multilayer wage scales; equalize pay and benefits for workers at assembly plants, part plants and distribution centers; and to strengthen the union. With the GM strike over and contract approved, UAW officials opened talks with Ford, while extending the old contract with Fiat-Chrysler.

GM workers gained confidence during the strike, standing together and building unity in fight for equal pay for equal work. Above, Sept. 18 UAW picket at Detroit-Hamtramck plant.

Back strikers’ fight against copper bosses’ union busting

BY ALYSON KENNEDY
AMARILLO, Texas — Two weeks into the strike by more than 1,700 Asarco copper workers in Arizona and Texas, the bosses have refused to negotiate with the seven unions there, claiming they won’t meet until Nov. 14. It looks like Asarco is organizing to bring in replacement workers to try to break the strike. Teamsters Local 104 spokesperson Dawn Schumann told the Militant by phone from Tucson, Arizona, Oct. 29.

The workers and their unions are also preparing for what they believe could be a long and hard-fought strike. Groups of workers fanned out from the picket line by the Mission Mine in Sahuarita, Arizona, Oct. 29 to pass out flyers explaining what’s at stake in the strike, in neighboring communities. Plans are in the works already for a Thanksgiving dinner for strikers.

Workers who belong to the United

Continued on page 4

UFCW union local says ‘No!’ to any prison ban of ‘Militant’

BY SETH GALINSKY
“While you can imprison the person, you cannot imprison their mind.” United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 President John Grant wrote Florida prison officials Oct. 16.

“We call on you to do the right thing and respect the constitutional foundations of our country and society: stop censoring the Militant and other publications.”

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Protests sweep Iraq, Lebanon

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The Iraqi government is partly dependent for its defense on militias, known as Popular Mobilization Forces, organized among Shiite Iraqis by Tehran’s Revolutionary Guard.

Despite mounting casualties the numbers joining the anti-government protests has broadened. In defiance of the education minister, school students walked out of classes Oct. 28. The teachers’ union announced a four-day strike that day, demanding the government resign.

Tehran seeks to extend reach

The bourgeois clerical regime in Iraq has relentlessly sought to extend its counterrevolutionary reach throughout the Mideast, using proxy fighters like the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq, as well as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria and Houthi rebels in Yemen.

The Israeli rulers launched airstrikes on PMF bases in Iraq this summer seeking to prevent Tehran from transferring weapons to allied militias in Syria where they are used to target Israel civilians. Hezbollah’s leaders boast they have mis-siles in place that can hit every square inch of Israel.

The Iranian rulers’ interventions across the Mideast are falsely presented by both Washington and the capitalist rulers in Iran as the result of the 1979 Iranian Revolution.

In fact the moves of Iran’s bourgeois clerical rulers both at home and abroad are the outcome of a counterrevolution that they carried out, taking years to turn back significant gains by workers, farmers, women and oppressed nationalities won with their revolution.

Millions had mobilized to overthrow the brutal rule of the U.S.-backed shah. They organized to use that victory to win new political and social rights. Workers set up workers councils in the oil fields, among other workplaces to demand for their class interests.

“In Iran today, faced with rising unrest among working people and the oppressed, the only way for the capitalist rulers to defend and preserve their counterrevolutionary regime at home is to continue extending political reaction throughout Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and divided Kurdistan,” Socialist Workers Party leader Steve Clark explains in Revolution, Counterrevolution and War in Iran, a Militant supplement published last April. It is available on the Militant’s website.

‘End sectarian political system’

Working people in Lebanon are demanding the fall of the governing coalition, where posts are allocated on religious lines. The prime minister has to be a Sunni Muslim, the speaker a Shiite Muslim and the president a Maronite Christian. Strict quotas determine appointments in the army and other state institutions, which claims to represent all Shites in Lebanon, plays a crucial role in the government. Hezbollah head Hassan Nasrallah has fought to quell the protests, but instead they have spread into Shiite areas that the Tehran-backed outfit controls.

State security forces stood aside as Hezbollah thugs set fire to and broke up encampments of protest organizers in the streets where posts are allocated on religious lines. In one month the government attacks against working people have been joined by unions fighting back against decades of government and bosses’ attacks. The ‘Militant’ covers the eruption of protests from Chile to Lebanon, Hong Kong to Iraq spawned by deepening capitalist crisis.

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Hong Kong protests back Catalan independence fight

Protesters in Hong Kong hold Catalan flags showing solidarity with Catalonia’s independence movement in Spain during the 20th week of marches for political rights Oct. 20. The action was on the Chinese mainland, in Kowloon, which is part of the semi-autonomous territory of Hong Kong.

In Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, some 350,000 marched Oct. 26 demanding Madrid free nine jailed separatist leaders. There have been daily protests since the Spanish Supreme Court imprisoned them Oct. 14 for helping organize a referendum for independence in 2017.

Wilson Ng wrote the Militant from Hong Kong Oct. 26 that he “took part in the mass demonstration in Kowloon,” and it was “well over 100,000.”

Jeremy Shamsi, convenor of the Civil Human Rights Front, was assaulted by four masked thugs with hammers and knives Oct. 16 and hospitalized with head injuries. The coalition, which has organized the largest marches in Hong Kong, demands an end to cop brutality, amnesty for over 2,600 arrested protesters and direct election of city officials.

The demonstrations are a response to Beijing tightening its grip on the financial hub and former British colony, run by the Chinese leaders under a 1997 agreement as “one country, two systems.” The protest movement is a major political crisis both for Hong Kong’s administrators and for Chinese President Xi Jinping, who vows to suppress any attempt to split China.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views. These are expressed in editorials.
Continued from page 2

At a rally of striking Chicago teachers and other school workers the next day, party members and supporters sold six subscriptions and 11 books, including In Defense of the US Working Class.

Chicago distributors rapidly ran out of the 80 papers they had ordered for the week, so 50 more were rushed to them in time for another Ford plant gate team Oct. 29.

The nine-week drive to sell 1,100 Militant subscriptions and 1,250 books goes until Dec. 10. It runs concurrently with the Socialist Workers Party’s fall campaign to raise $100,000 to finance its ongoing political work.

The SWP aims to expand readership of the books and the Militant, and to introduce working people to its revolutionary program. Party members offer them the opportunity to read about lessons from previous working-class struggles on how to build an effective independent fighting movement to counter the bosses and their government. They focus on discussions with working people on their doorsteps in cities, towns and rural areas, and at labor actions and social protests.

To encourage greater understanding of the party’s revolutionary program, all Pathfinder books and copies of the Marxist magazine New International are being offered at 20% off. In addition, eight titles are offered at half price when purchased with a Militant subscription. (See ad below.)

An invaluable new book has just been added to the party’s arsenal — The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party by Jack Barnes.

The introduction is printed in a special four-page spread in this issue. Through Dec. 31 the title is being offered at a special price of $12, $10 with a Militant subscription.

**Fund drive starts strong in Oakland**

In Oakland, California, party members have already collected over half of the $12,000 quota adopted by the SWP branch there. “We’ve had an enthusiastic and early response to a letter appealing for contributions to the Party-Building Fund we sent out in the first week of the drive,” wrote Carole Lesnick.

“The party’s work described in the Militant has been quite an inspiration for fund contributors,” she said. “We included a sub blank for those whose subs were about to expire. Four people have sent them back so far — three resubscribing for a year.

“We’re working on getting new contributors,” Lesnick said. “We’ve gotten 513 from campaign teams talking to workers and look to increase this.”

Those wanting to join the effort to broaden the reach of the Militant and revolutionary books and to kick in to the fund drive, can contact the SWP or Communist League branches listed in the directory on page 9.

### Vote Nov. 5 for the 2019 Socialist Workers Party candidates!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Candidate 1</th>
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<td>California</td>
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<td>Sam Smith, City Council</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
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- **New York**: Send Gallinsky, New York City Public Advocate, Vod Dokhout, Mayor of Troy, Lawrence Quinn, Troy City Council, Ashby Turner, Albany County Executive.
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**Militant/Samir Hazboun**

*Send a check or money order payable to ‘Militant’ and earmarked ‘Prisoners’ Fund’ to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com*

### Socialists Workers Party Fund Drive

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### SWP's Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party

Jack Barnes, the late party leader, called for the party to turn to industry to forge a revolutionary party independent of the state. This book explains the rationale and early steps in setting up the Party-Building Fund.

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Steelworkers, the largest numbers on strike; the Teamsters, and five other unions walked out Oct. 31 after rejecting Asarco’s “last, best and final” concession contract, which would have left most of the workers facing four more years without a pay raise, on top of nearly a decade without one.

Asarco is a subsidiary of Grupo Mexico, the fourth largest copper mining company in the world. The Hayden, Arizona, and Amarillo smelters are shut down because of the strike. The Silver Bell mine, Asarco’s smallest, is still working, because some miners are crossing the picket lines, as are some workers at other mines. If Asarco attempts to bring in “replacement” workers, it would be a major escalation in its attack on the unions.

This area has been the scene of bitter struggles between miners and copper bosses for over 100 years, including the clashing of three-year fight against Phelps Dodge in Morenci, Arizona, in the 1980s. Bosses replaced strikers with the army and got the state government to send armed National Guard troops and SWAT sharpshooters to break the union.

Asarco hasn’t replied to interview requests by the Militant or other media.

“We need the union”

“It’s not just about the money,” Jack James, a Haul truck operator at the Mission Mine, told the Militant. With the dangerous conditions in mining and smelting, “we can’t just wait for a government MSPA inspector to come by. We need the union to be there to make sure that faulty equipment and conditions are fixed quickly.”

James said that for the last decade workers “didn’t even get a cost-of-living increase. That means in reality our wages went down.” James was one of the unionists who crossed the picket lines to talk to people to call Asarco and tell them to return to the negotiating table.

Worker-correspondents from the Militant visited the picket shack across from Asarco’s refinery in Amarillo Oct. 19.

“We are standing up to let them know that we’re not going to go back to work until the owners of this place, David DiCioccio, a mobile equipment operator. “We are striking for the future. I have been here since 1976. But most of the workers are young.

“When Grupo bought Asarco in 1999, they let this refinery go bankrupt. We took a pay cut at the time,” Devor recounts. “In 2005 we went on strike for 5 1/2 months. With the proposed increase in health insurance premiums we will actually lose $2 an hour.”

He said Asarco also wants to increase health insurance deductibles and freeze retirement pay. “We need the union to be there to make sure that faulty equipment and conditions are fixed quickly,”

Mack Truck strike ends

The 12-day strike by 3,500 UAW members at six Mack Truck plants in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Florida ended with a tentative agreement Oct. 25, and a return to work expected on Oct. 28.

The terms of the deal have not been announced.

Continued from front page

neered bankruptcy and the effects of the world capitalist financial crisis to begin imposing lower wages for new hires, spun off “unprofitable” plants, and set up different divisions that paid lower wages to the workers.

The strike won widespread support from other working people and small business owners, who honked horns as they drove by picket lines, and dropped off food, beverages, wood for burn bars and more to help workers stay strong during the strike. And many other workers watched the strike closely, considering how unions and solidarity can be used to advance their class interests.

Under the old contract so-called legacy workers, those hired in the assembly plants prior to 2008, got the top wage, some $30 an hour. Workers hired since 2007 started out at just over half that and took about eight years of “progression” before they reached top rate, which is not quite what the legacy workers got.

The new contract has two raises, two point payments that don’t roll over into workers’ wages, and a signing bonus.

In the new deal, some 3,000 workers at GM’s parts manufacturing subsidiary GM Components-Ohio, accepted a $22.50 an hour. Another set of wage tiers at GM’s parts warehouses top out at $25 for those hired after 2015 and at $31 after 2020, instead of $22.50 earlier.

GM contracts out 850 cleaning and maintenance jobs at its plants in Ohio and Michigan to Aramark Corporation. The workers also belong to the UAW and approved a separate contract.

Strikers made clear their desire to get rid of the divisions. “No more tiers,” read many signs on the picket lines. “Equal work, equal pay! Temp lives matter,” was a popular slogan on T-shirts.

Some divisions were narrowed with the new contract. Temporary workers at the assembly plants, numbering 7%, get both lower pay and fewer benefits. They are now supposed to become permanent workers after three years. All permanent workers in these factories are to reach top wage after four years, instead of the three years allowed by the old contract.

The picket line that they got to know while the contract expires it’s going to be a different fight.”

Blackjewel miners’ encampment protest wins back pay

Coal miners in Cumberland, Kentucky, who blocked a coal train for two months, have won their right to get the wages owed them. Their final paychecks had been clawed back by bankrupt Blackjewel bosses in July.

“The credit for this settlement belongs to the miners and their families who blocked the railway tracks,” said Bill Pleffersdorf, attorney for the Blackjewel miners in the bankruptcy court, told miners and supporters Oct. 24.

“Blackjewel, then the sixth-largest coal mining company in the U.S., declared bankruptcy July 1 and laid off 300 miners in Kentucky and 1,400 more in Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Between July 29 and Oct. 30 that the union is organizing a rally at the Amarillo pickle line Nov. 6. Strikers are picketing in below freezing temperatures and snow.

Like their fellow strikers in Amarillo, Asarco workers in Arizona are getting donations of money, food and other items from the unions and small businesses in the area.

The IBEW in Tucson, another of the unions on strike, is coordinating a food pantry for the pickets.

Solidarity messages can be sent to the strikers via palfchair@gmail.com. Donations to the food pantry can be made via: paypal.me/palcommunityservice.

Seth Galinsky in New York contributed to this article.

Blackjewel Employees Stand Together

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BY JACK BARNES

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party is about the working-class program, composition, and course of conduct of the only kind of party worthy of the name “revolutionary” in the imperialist epoch. The only kind of party that can recognize the most revolutionary fact of this epoch — the worth of working people, and our power to change society when we organize and act against the capitalists and all the economic, social, and political forms of their class rule.

This book is about building such a party in the United States and in other capitalist countries around the world. It is about the course the Socialist Workers Party and its predecessors have followed for one hundred years and counting.

“We will not succeed in rooting the capitalist system, much less in defending the revolutionary proletarian principles of the party from being undermined, unless the party is an overwhelmingly proletarian party, composed of the decisive majority of workers in the factories, mines, and mills,” emphasized resolutions adopted by the SWP convention in 1938. The party must become “an inseparable part of the trade unions and their struggles.” It must be an inseparable part of daily battles waged by the working class and other exploited producers to defend ourselves and our families against the brutal consequences of capitalist oppression.

That orientation — the course of the Bolsheviks under V.I. Lenin in leading the workers and peasants to power in October 1917 — has been our strategic course since a communist party was founded in the United States two years later, along with others affiliating to the new Communist International. The new party had one sole aim — emulating the Bolsheviks’ example. The SWP is the direct descendant of that party.

With the rise of industrial capitalism some two hundred fifty years ago, conflicts between workers and employers increasingly took on “the character of collisions between two classes,” explained Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in the Communist Manifesto, the founding program of the revolutionary working-class movement. In its cutthroat drive for profits, workers have no choice but to “clab together in order to keep up the rate of wages” and resist employers’ push to extend the workday and speed up production, with cold disregard for our health and safety. Inevitably, workers “begin to form combinations (trade unions) against the employing class.”

Some two centuries of class-struggle experience have confirmed that such “combinations” take many initial forms from acts of resistance on the job; to battles against company lockouts; to strikes, organizing drives, and campaigns to expand union power.

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party is a new edition of the book first published in 1981 under the title The Changing Face of US Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions. It is intended to be read, and above all used, as a guide to building a revolutionary workers party. Along with documents from earlier editions selected to focus on fundamental questions at the heart of the Socialist Workers Party’s turn to industry from the 1970s on, it also includes three new pieces that give further concreteness to these reports.

Two of them are from the pages of the Militant newswly — one on the Steelworkers Fight Back campaign of the mid-1970s, the other a column by party veteran Marvel Scholl entitled “The Making of a Union Bureaucrat.” The third is from a February 1980 report by Ken Shilman, who organized the work of party members in the United Mine Workers union at the time, drawing a balance sheet on the first two years of party building and trade union activity in the coalfields of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Alabama.

During the 1960s the SWP and its affiliated youth organization, the Young Socialist Alliance, had grown rapidly, recruiting large numbers of new members who had been won to the revolutionary working-class movement as students fighting Jim Crow segregation — North and South — as well as organizing against the Vietnam War and the oppression of women. In February 1978 the

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Special offer!

The Turn to Industry
Forging a Proletarian Party

S$12/$10

with subscription

until Dec. 31

See distributors page 9 or visit pathfinderpress.com
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The Militant November 11, 2019

breadth of this activity captured in the inghouses, airports, and other industries, garment shops, textile mills, packing plants, steel mills, rail yards, coal mines, work alongside other workers in auto the large majority of party members enthusiasm, as well as disciplined atten

Hovland, who was also the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in

Introduction to: The Turn To Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party

The Militant November 11, 2019

Railroad workers under attack

Railroad workers resist

Milwaukee Rd. bankruptcy: owners plan ripoff

Miners fight safety cuts, firings

Get the companion books to the

Top Left, autoworker union leader at GM’s Flint assembly plant, August 2019. Right, Militant cartoonist holds a sign at a 1977...
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toward the fundamental concepts of Marxism — the class criterion of the state, the class criterion in the appraisal of all political questions, the conception of politics, including war, as the expression of class interests, and so forth and so on. “From all this,” said Cannon, “we conclude that we are ‘conservative’ by nature, and extend that epithet to cover everything we have done in the past.”

The epithet “conservative” or “radical,” leveled against the working class by self-appointed “social justice warriors.” Many of them resort to slander and thuggery to intimidate those they come into conflict with, whether over political differences, relations between the sexes, or small shopkeepers merely protecting themselves from shoplifting or other depredations.

Showing disdain for due process and constitutional protections conquered in struggle by workers, and working Americans, women, and others, these sanctimonious inquisitors organize to smear, shout down, and silence their chosen victims.

The real targets, however, are tens of millions of working people across the US, whom these scornful (and sometimes radical) Marxist prophets of class privilege seek to drum out of the human race as ignorant, backward, racist, and reactionary. But these “depravity scholars” or “experts” are not simply “generations of workers whom the bosses — as well as many union officials — wrote off as ‘trash’ during the great labor battles that exploded to their shock in the 1930s.

What I wrote in Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? about today’s self-designated “enlightened meritocracy” has been confirmed many times over. This “handsomely remunerated” layer — university presidents, deans, and professors; high-and-mighty officials of “nonprofit” media, tech professionals; entertainers and sports personalities; and many others — “is determined to con the world into accepting the myth that the economic and social advancement of its members is just reward for their individual intelligence, education, and ‘service.’”

They truly believe they have “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.’”

But above everything else, “they are mortified to be identified with working people in the United States — Cauca- cian, Black, or Latino; native- or foreign-born. Their attitudes toward those who produce society’s wealth, the foundations of culture, extend from saccharine condescension to occasional and unspecific open contempt, as they lecture us on our manners and mores.”

A few years on, the only update needed is the allusion to their open contempt being “occasional” and “unspecific.” Today it’s both frequent and intentional.

Working people have nothing to gain and everything to lose by relying on the propertied families, the capitalist two-party system, their “socialist” water carriers among professionals and the upper middle class, and their
government and state. We must or- ganize ourselves independently, both politically and organizationally, of the propertied classes who derive their enormous wealth and power from exploiting the social labor of workers, farmers, and other toiling producers — and above all to replace the reality from us in order to retard the development of class consciousness.

Today, the program and course of action presented in The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party are needed by working people whether fighting for unpaid wages in a mine in Kentucky; organizing to resist unsafe working con- ditions in a massive retail conglomerate; or on a two-hundred-car freight train; defending a woman’s right to choose abortion; demanding amnesty for undocumented immigrants; mobilizing against cops brutality; or organizing solidari- ty with struggles by working people anywhere in the world. Class-conscious workers openly and boldly join in every fight, every “com- bination” we can to resist the bosses’ assaults, whether or not we’ve yet forged a union in our workplace.

We join in the pressing task of rebuilding and strengthening the labor move- ment, taking part in and championing efforts to organize all workers — the unemployed wherever workers are fighting, whatever the official status of their “papers.”

And we explain the need for and help advance class consciousness, which unites not divides us, as we begin to transform ourselves and the trade unions into instruments of struggle against capitalist rule and ex- ertion itself.

There are no guarantees about what percentage of our class will become organized into unions, or how many unions will be transformed. “We’re not prophets but revolutionaries who work to steer developments in the di- rection of strengthening the unity of the working class in struggle,” notes the report in these pages that draws lessons the SWP learned from the first year of their turn to industry.

In the two great socialist revolu- tions of the twentieth century — in 1917, and then some four decades later in Cuba — the centrality of trade unions and the fight to transform them came largely after, not before, the struggle for workers power. But revolutionary-minded workers can’t bank on that pattern being repeated in today’s world, in which both the level of industrialization and the size and weight of the working class are much larger, not only in imperialist countries but also many others.

One thing we know for sure, how- ever, is that a socialist revolution in the United States is inconceivable without organizing our class to fight to build unions and to use union power to ad- vance the interests of working people here and around the world. And the forging of a proletarian party — a revolutionary political instrument of the working class, aimed above all at changing which class is exercising state power — is impossible without participating in that struggle.

The biggest obstacle to class con- sciousness is what all the institutions of capitalist society teach working people to think of ourselves. What we’re taught about our worth as hu- man beings. What we’re told we’re not capable of doing and never will be. What we’re lectured about day in and day out by the bosses and their middle class “experts” and “regulators,” much of it echoed by union bureaucrats.

But the class struggle has a differ- ent story to tell. Malcolm X, Ernesto Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, Maur- rice Bishop, Thomas Sankara, and other outstanding revolutionary lead- ers never tired of reminding working people why discovering our worth is more important than harping on our oppression and exploitation. Of ex- plaining what we are capable of be- coming. And of showing us in action how we are capable of transforming ourselves — and the foundations of society itself — as we organize to- gether and fight.

It is through such class battles, which include all social and political struggles in the interests of working people, that we gain experience and confidence, in ourselves and in each other. It’s how ties of class solidarity and loyalty are forged. The SWP’s program adopted in 1938, and still guid- ing our course today, tells the truth as well as it is possible to do:

“All methods are good that raise the class-consciousness of the work- ers, their trust in their own forces, their readiness for self-sacrifice in the struggle. The impermissible methods are those that implant fear and submis- sion in the oppressed in the face of their oppressors, that crush the spirit of protest and indignation or substitute for the will of the masses — the will of the ruling class — the will of the dictatorship of the proletariat; for an analysis of reality — dem- agogy and frame-up.”

There’s nothing to add today to the closing sentences of that program. The Socialist Workers Party “uncompro- misingly gives battle to all political groupings tied to the apron strings of the bourgeoisie. Its task — the aboli- tion of capitalism’s domination. Its aim — socialism. Its method — the prole- tarian revolution.”

September 27, 2019
Steelworkers in New Brunswick fight Glencore lockout

MONTREAL — Some 280 members of United Steelworkers Local 7085, locked out since April 24 by Glencore’s smelter in Bellecline, New Brunswick, are determined to continue their fight. Workers had voted by 90% to strike. Hours before this was to take effect, the company locked them out.

Under threat of plant closure, union members had given up millions of dollars in pay and pension money over the last few weeks, which the union members are now fighting to get back. “We’re drawing the line,” Local President Bart Dempsey told the Militant Oct. 10. “It’s our turn now, no concessions.”

“We work with a hundred toxins — cadmium, mercury, etc., holding tanks at 500 to 800 degrees, and a multitude of heavy equipment traf-
tanks at 500 to 800 degrees,” Dempsey said. “The company tries to spin that it’s an everyday place to work. No. We need a union safety rep on full time.”

The company is getting wider support and giving a boost to others. The 180 sawmill workers at the Chaleur mill in Belledune won union representa-
tion this September.

Send solidarity messages and fi-
cancial contributions to USW Local 7085, PO 1003, Bellevue, NB E8G 2X9.

Quebec senior residence workers strike for wages and more staff

GATINEAU, Quebec — The 110 workers at Le Monastère (8210) Québec senior residence picketed here Oct. 14, chanting and carrying signs saying, “Take Care of the Seniors” and Solidarity.”

Members of Teamsters Local 106 have been on strike since Sept. 30. Their main demands are for more staff and higher wages.

The majority earns about 12.50 Ca-
adian dollars an hour ($9.50) despite many years of service. They want wage parity with patient care atten-
dants at the other residences that be-
tong to Chartwell, the company that owns Le Monastère.

Strikers wore red T-shirts saying “We respect our seniors and those who look after them.” Several driv-
ers going by honked to support the strikers.

The attendants “work like crazy. Sometimes one person is responsible for 20 rooms,” union representative Sylvie Soulire told the Militant.

In July, 930 workers in other senior residences in several towns in Que-
bec had struck for 10 days for a $15 an hour minimum wage. Their fight still continues.

— François Bradette

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Crisis of US two-party system

Continued from front page

working people who either voted for Trump in 2016, or who couldn’t bring themselves to vote for either candidate of the two main capitalist parties. Convinced that these workers are backward and bigoted, liberals want at all costs to get Trump out now to prevent working people from electing him again in 2020.

Hillary Clinton, who smeared Trump supporters as “deplorables” when she lost to him in 2016, has stepped up her public appearances, refusing to rule out running again. Others from her wing of the party, like former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Secretary of State John Kerry are being urged to get into the race.

Weeks after launching their impeachment inquiry into the president — built largely in the big cities.

Like Trump they both say they dislike U.S. wars abroad, but all of them will continue to command Washington’s vast military power in defense of U.S. imperialist interests around the world.

“In contrast to the Democrats, Republicans and other politicians who seek to reform capitalism, Socialist Workers Party candidates start with the capacities of working people to change our conditions,” Seth Galinsky, SWP candidate for New York City public advocate, told the Militant.

“We organize together with fellow workers to fight against assaults by the bosses, their parties and their government. We advocate building a labor party, independent of the capitalist parties. Such a course offers a way to mobilize workers in our millions to take power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and establish a workers and farmers government.”

Continued from front page

locations.” (See sidebar for full letter.) The SWP’s unionist said his local’s members believe the bans on the Militant newsweekly earlier this year are “abhorrent” and “unacceptable.”

“Further, an employee brought to our attention that any new steps to ban the socialist newsweekly will be met with a growing outcry of public protest. Florida authorities overturned most of the bans and haven’t seized any further issues since mid-August. Fourteen out of 16 issues before then had been impounded over three months, a serious attack on the constitutional rights of both the Militant and its prisoner subscribers.

Prison officials claimed — without any basis in fact — that articles reporting on conditions in other prisons around the U.S., on campaigns against solitary confinement, and even articles reporting on the Militant’s fight to overturn prison bans were “pro-institutional” — the “accuse go, order of” or “discipline of” the prisons or encouraged “physical violence or group disruption.”

The Militant won broad and growing support in the fight against suppression of the paper.

More than 40 letters from a wide range of national and local organizations and individuals were sent to the Florida prison system’s Literature Review Committee urging the bans be lifted. As a result, the committee reversed the last six prison bans in a row, and not a single issue has been impounded since.

Along with UFCW Local 770 other groups that wrote included Amnesty International USA, PEN America, National Lawyers Guild, American Civil Liberties Union Florida, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, the National Coalition Against Censorship, Florida Press Association, American Booksellers for Free Expression, Riverside Church Prison Ministry, American Library Association-Office for Intellectual Freedom, Southern Center for Human Rights, and more.

Numerous individuals sent letters, including unionists, professors, teachers and other school workers; over 80 workers at Walmart stores in Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Quebec and Washington; and factory workers in England.

Several of the Militant’s subscribers by behind bars in Florida filed grievances against the impermissible. A number wrote in to let the Militant know they are getting the paper once again and to congratulate us on our common success.

“This is a great victory,” one prisoner wrote. “Thanks for your support in this struggle for our rights.”

UFCW union local says ‘No!’ to bans on ‘Militant’

“None of our subscribers knows that the Militant will never give up its defense of the rights of workers on both sides of the prison walls,” said Militant editor John Studer. “As a result of our successful fight, more prisoners are subscribing and the Militant is better known.

“And it’s an example that will help all those fighting to end prison suppression of other books and publications,” he said.

CHICAGO — After two weeks on strike, 25,000 members of the Chicago Teachers Union are picketing and holding nearly daily rallies around the city.

“We’ve won broad support in their fight for smaller class sizes and more support staff like nurses, social workers and librarians.

They’ve been joined from the beginning by 7,500 school support workers, members of Service Employees International Union Local 73. “We need to be able to cover all the students all the time and not get pulled out of our classrooms to cover for other teachers who are absent that day,” Laura Orejuela, an SEIU member who works with students with special needs, told the Militant Oct. 26.

On Oct. 28 the SEIU announced a tentative contract with city officials. The proposed deal includes raises of at least 16% over a five-year contract and improvements in working conditions.

“The campaign is almost over,” Sylvester Boston, a custodian with 27 years in city schools, told this worker-correspondent as he headed in to vote on the contract Oct. 29. He plans to stay out with the teachers as long as their strike lasts. The SEU is encouraging its members to do the same.

As of Oct. 30, the Chicago Teachers Union says issues still in dispute include guarantees for reduced class sizes and restoration of 30 minutes of preparation time in the morning taken away in the previous contract.

— NAOMI CRAINE

Striking Chicago teachers, school workers win support

10

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November 11, 2019

The swath of Democratic and Republican candidates in 2016 evoked unprecedented distrust and loathing from wide layers of working people. Trump said he stood outside of the Washington quagmire, claiming to be different from all factions within both parties. From the moment he got elected, Democrats and their mouthpieces in the liberal media have been in a frenzy to undo the result.

Both wings of the Democratic Party believe impeachment would help clear their way to power. The left and socialist wing of the party wants a road to the presidency built on turning their back on the majority of the working class they dismiss as reactionary. They believe they can get elected by winning votes of African Americans, Latinos, and women largely in the big cities.

Elizabeth Warren, the front runner for the Democrats’ nomination, says she’s a radical-minded capitalist who will manipulate taxes and use an army of federal regulatory agencies to manage the big corporations and make capitalist exploitation more agreeable. Bernie Sanders offers similar policies in the name of “socialism.” Both contrive to treat workers as objects to be administered.

Democrats use of FBI and CIA agents to go after Trump opens the door for the use of the U.S. rulers’ political police and criminal “justice” system against other political figures and workers who are perceived as enemies. First and foremost this includes militant workers and the Ukrainian government probe corruption, including Hunter Biden’s efforts to profit from his father’s position as vice president.

So they continue to dig around on other fronts. New York prosecutors got a court ruling that Trump must hand over his tax returns to a criminal investigation, including Hunter Biden’s efforts to profit from his father’s position as vice president. The Internal Revenue Service to try to force him to hand over Trump’s returns.

Their goal is to criminalize those they consider their “enemies.”

Democrats and Republicans are now going after studio executives. They have been in a frenzy to undo the result.

Like Trump they both say they dislike U.S. wars abroad, but all of them will continue to command Washington’s vast military power in defense of U.S. imperialist interests around the world.

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