

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Iraqi protests grow, demand halt to Tehran's interference
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 42 NOVEMBER 18, 2019

'Break from bosses 2-party system, build a labor party'

The following is a Nov. 6 statement by Malcolm Jarrett, who ran as the Socialist Workers Party 2019 candidate for Pittsburgh City Council.

The capitalist rulers use their two-party shell game to try and get working people caught up chasing after "lesser evil" candidates who won't do as much damage as those of the bosses' other party.

My party says workers need to

SWP STATEMENT

break from all lesser-evil politics. We need our own party, a labor party, to fight to unite all those who are exploited and oppressed by capital and to chart a course toward taking political power into our own hands.

The boss class engages in dog-eat-dog competition at home and abroad for markets and profit, working to

Continued on page 9

US-Chinese rulers' rivalry grows despite new trade deal

BY ROY LANDERSEN

As the governments of China and the U.S. prepare to sign "phase-one" of an agreement over their trade conflicts, rivalry between Washington, the world's dominant imperialist power, and the rising power of Beijing continues to harden.

The planned deal between the two rivals "sidesteps some of the biggest issues dividing" them, according to *Fortune* magazine. It would put off a further tariff increase threatened by President Donald Trump in return for some concessions by Beijing, including the resumption of Chinese purchases of U.S. farm goods and aircraft. It is touted to contain provisions against currency manipulation and against what Washington says is Beijing's intellectual property theft.

A meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, where Trump was due to sign the trade deal

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Asarco strike deserves support of all workers

Company bosses 'want to get rid of the union'



Teamsters Local 104

Strikers at 24-hour picket line at Mission Mine, Sahuarita, Arizona, Nov. 5, where Asarco is bringing in strikebreakers. Area working people are joining the pickets to show solidarity.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Workers on strike since Oct. 13 against Asarco copper bosses at the company's mine and processing complexes in Arizona and its smelter in Texas are winning broad solidarity for their fight for better wages, benefits and union rights.

"The support's been nonstop," Alex

Terrazas, president of United Steelworkers Local 937 and a utility worker at the Mission open pit mine, told the *Militant* by phone Nov. 5. "The best has been the tons of common people coming by to drop off food or just hang out with us on the picket line."

"When someone who doesn't work

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New book 'The Turn to Industry' boosts fall 'Militant,' book drive



Militant/Glova Scott

Malcolm Jarrett, left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, talks with Oupoh Ble in Hagerstown, Maryland, Oct. 29, where Mack Truck workers had gone on strike.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The campaign to expand readership of the *Militant* and introduce working people to the program of the Socialist Workers Party has a brand new title to make use of, *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

The book explains that only a party with a working-class program and composition "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 capitalist class in all its economic, social and political forms," writes Barnes.

Party members and supporters are finding this title and other books by working-class revolutionary leaders are attracting interest as campaigners speak with working people.

"We're trying to organize a union at Delta Airlines, but they are fighting it all the way," ramp worker Roderick

Continued on page 3

Why working people shouldn't join the liberals' impeachment crusade

BY TERRY EVANS

In a letter to the *Militant*, on page 9, reader Virginia Wilkinson says she started reading the paper for its good labor coverage, but cannot "sympathize

with your support for Donald Trump, who has shown no signs of genuine support for working people."

But the *Militant* has never offered one ounce of support to the president. For 90 years since it first came out, the *Militant* has never backed any Democrat, Republican or other capitalist politician. And there is no question Donald Trump — a real estate mogul — rules for the propertied class.

The *Militant* campaigned in every 2016 issue for Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, and urged workers to break

Continued on page 9

California blackout, fire show need for workers control of power companies

BY JEFF POWERS

GEYSERVILLE, Calif. — In late October hundreds of thousands of California residents had their electric power shut off by Pacific, Gas and Electric, and Southern California Edison — the state's two largest utility monopolies. Both companies initially claimed the shutdowns were necessary to prevent possible forest fires as high winds approaching 80 mph were predicted, along with low humidity in areas where their power lines run through extremely dry vegetation.

But even with the shutdowns, two big fires broke out. The Kincadee Fire

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As competition heats up, retail bosses tell workers, 'Speed up'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Amazon, like its giant retail competitor Walmart, seeks to maximize its profits off workers' backs. Both companies are stepping up use of robots to press their relentless speedup and intensify the exploitation of workers.

A study by the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health this year describes conditions at the Amazon Fulfillment Center on Staten Island in New York. Some 2,500 workers are employed there.

"The majority of workers (80%) were pressured to work harder or faster at their facility; 66% expressed experiencing physical pain while performing work duties, and 42% continued to experience pain even when they weren't at work," the report, titled "Time Off Task: Pressure, Pain and Productivity at Amazon," says.

It points to similar oppressive conditions at other fulfillment centers, such as heat stress when workers were forced to work at an unsustainable pace at the Amazon warehouse in Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, in 2015.

Bosses are constantly spying on workers they falsely claim are their "associates." In the Staten Island plant, "workers are evaluated based on the speed in which they work," says the report, "and when workers take breaks, this time is considered 'time off task.'" And if this ticks too high, you get fired.

Workers are finding ways to protest these conditions. Late in the evening on Oct. 2 some 60 Amazon warehouse workers in yellow vests walked out of a delivery center in Eagan, Minnesota,

waving protest signs in a near-freezing rain. The workers — mostly women of Somali descent — demanded restrictions on the weight of the boxes, reversal of a 30-hour weekly workload cap and higher wages on night shift.

A few days earlier workers at an Amazon delivery center in Sacramento, California, organized to protest the firing of a worker who went an hour over on her bereavement leave after her mother-in-law died.

Driven by cutthroat competition, Amazon, Walmart, Target and other rivals are all pushing to squeeze more out of their workers. As employees organize to fight these worsening conditions, it lays the basis for uniting workers in stronger actions and building a union.

Amazon hired nearly 100,000 new workers in the third-quarter, most for jobs in the company's warehouses and transportation division. Amazon now employs 750,000 workers worldwide — 400,000 of them in the U.S. And further hiring for Black Friday and Christmas is coming.

Meanwhile, Amazon's profits took a nosedive over the same period, falling 26% from a year ago. This is the company's first profit decline since 2017. Much of this results from extra expenses involved in Amazon's drive to reduce shipping times for "prime" subscribers to just one day.

The company has put "heavy investment" into this, the *Wall Street Journal* notes, reorganizing its warehouses and looking to cut transportation costs, especially in cities and suburbs. But the biggest impact, which the capitalist



Above, AP Photo/Kathy Willens

Worker at Amazon Fulfillment Center in Staten Island, New York, hits button to indicate order robotically transported to her workstation is done. Bosses' speedup has led to increase in on-the-job injuries. Inset, company tests drone making deliveries.



media doesn't say much about, is the bosses' drive to force workers to pack, ship and deliver ever greater numbers of packages faster and faster, at the expense of safety and their health.

Amazon, and others in retail and transportation operations like Uber, Wing and UPS, are gearing up to begin drone deliveries directly to a customer's doorstep. Uber said it will run test drones in San Diego before the year ends. Amazon claims it is "testing" drone operations today and will begin delivering packages by drones "within months," the *Journal* reported. Amazon says its drones will be deployed to make deliveries in 30 minutes or less, flying a maximum of 15 miles round trip. Earlier plans included use of blimps hovering over city neighborhoods releasing the drone fleet.

scurrying to catch up. A year ago Amazon announced new devices embedded with its Alexa voice-activated assistant to do things like turn on house lights or your microwave oven.

At the end of September Amazon began promoting an Alexa-embedded "ring that you tap to start a conversation, and AI [artificial intelligence] built into the frames of glasses," the article said.

These devices are programmed to learn more and more about your habits and surroundings. All of this is then plugged into their profit-seeking algorithms, which churn out more and more ads to clutter up your "experience" on your smart phone and computer.

'Smart' device spying

"The prospect of being constantly surrounded by smart devices ready to listen in on your every conversation might fill many people with horror," said the *Financial Times* Sept. 26. "But this is the future as imagined by Amazon — and it is arriving much faster than you might think."

Since Amazon bosses introduced Alexa, they've been flooding the market with such gadgets, and Google is

Read about the battles that forged the US labor movement



See distributors on page 8, or order at www.pathfinderpress.com

THE MILITANT

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From coal miners in Kentucky, who fought bankrupt Blackjewel bosses for money owed them, to copper miners on strike in Arizona and Texas against Asarco's union-busting drive, to autoworkers fighting against wage tiers, the 'Militant' tells workers' side of the story.



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The Militant

Vol. 83/No. 42

Closing news date: November 6, 2019

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Martín Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

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

Business Manager: Valerie Johnson

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

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E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

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

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

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New book boosts fall 'Militant,' book drive

Continued from front page

Grooms told SWP member Rachele Fruit, outside his apartment in East Point, Georgia, Nov. 1. Grooms, who has worked at Delta for 10 years, signed up for a *Militant* subscription. "We have no voice. They tell us what to do, and we're supposed to jump, but we don't have enough people to get the job done. They give us three people to work eight flights with no time for bathroom, lunch or water breaks. They call the system Rapid Recovery. We tell them, 'The planes can recover; our bodies can't.'"

"We have to begin to act together," Fruit said, "to build a movement and leadership that is independent of the bosses and their government that can lead a fight to get rid of the capitalist system."

Grooms said he would read the introduction to *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* that's printed in the Nov. 11 issue of the *Militant* to see if he would like to get that book.

Socialist Workers Party members from Los Angeles were well received while campaigning Oct. 26 in a working-class neighborhood in Whittier, some 20 miles east of L.A.

When Bernie Senter introduced

the party to Adrian Cano at his apartment, Cano responded that he had been out campaigning earlier that day, going door to door with members of his union, the carpenters, in support of Democrats.

"To strengthen our unions we need to build solidarity with other workers on strike like the copper miners in Arizona and the recent General Motors strike," said Senter. "These strikes are taking place at the same time that hundreds of thousands of people in Lebanon, Chile, Hong Kong and elsewhere are mobilizing in the streets."

"For decades the unions have supported Democrats," he continued. "The result is the unions have gotten weaker, not stronger. Weaker because it's an obstacle to charting an independent working-class road forward." SWP campaigners explain why workers need to break from the capitalist two-party system and build their own party — a labor party.

Cano told Senter that this perspective made a lot of sense. He got a subscription to the *Militant* and the book *In Defense of the US Working Class*. Senter asked Cano to join him in campaigning for the SWP. "I'd like to do that," Cano responded.

At another house in the neighborhood, Gloria Saenz signed up for the paper and purchased *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* following a discussion with Senter and other SWP members about the copper miners' and autoworkers' fights. "It's about time things started moving," she said. That day six subscriptions and three books were sold in Whittier.

SWP fund drive

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 Party-Building Fund through week four is at \$33,485. Efforts are needed to put the drive on schedule over the next couple of weeks as funds are urgently needed to cover the party's political work, from reporting trips to meeting weekly expenses.

To encourage greater understanding 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 below). *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* is available for \$10 with a subscription.

Layla Jimale, a 24-year-old culinary student, got a copy of that title as well as *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and a subscription to the *Militant* after she attended a Militant Labor Forum featuring a talk by Henry Dennison, SWP candidate for Seattle City Council. The day before she had met SWP members who were campaigning in her neighborhood.

"I've learned so much from the second you guys knocked on my door," she told SWP member Rebecca Wil-



Militant/Laura Garza
Gloria Saenz purchases subscription to *Militant* Oct. 26 after discussing Asarco copper miners strike with SWP member Bernie Senter on her doorstep in Whittier, California.

liamson, "and I want to learn more."

Hannah Pederson, 20, a student at the University of Washington, also attended the program. She had previously joined party members campaigning for Dennison door to door. "I would like to hear more about the SWP's philosophy of running candidates and more about its platform," she told Williamson, as she purchased a copy of *The Turn to Industry*.

Those wanting to join the effort to broaden the reach of the *Militant* and revolutionary books and to contribute to the fund drive can contact the SWP or Communist League branches listed in the directory. (See page 8.)



Militant /Ogmundur Jonsson
Frederico Paiva gets a *Militant* subscription as he talks with Caroline Bellamy, right, Communist League parliamentary candidate for Wythenshawe and Sale East in Manchester, England, and CL campaigner Olof Andra Proppe about the League's call for workers to build their own party.

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Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive		
Oct. 5 - Dec. 10 (Week 4)		
Area	Quota	Collected
Albany	\$6,000	\$625
Atlanta	\$9,250	\$3,100
Chicago	\$11,000	\$2,965
Dallas	\$2,500	\$728
Lincoln	\$250	\$75
Los Angeles	\$10,500	\$3,458
Louisville	\$2,500	\$1,580
Miami	\$3,500	\$1,991
New York	\$14,000	\$3,792
N. New Jersey	\$3,300	\$375
Oakland	\$12,000	\$7,613
Philadelphia	\$2,500	\$475
Pittsburgh*	\$2,300	\$600
Seattle	\$10,000	\$3,149
Twin Cities	\$4,500	\$1,395
Washington, DC	\$4,600	\$1,564
Other		\$0
Total	\$98,700	\$33,485
Should Be	\$100,000	\$44,444

*raised quota

Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books

Oct. 5 - Dec. 10 (Week 4)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	70	25	70	14
Atlanta	70	37	110	68
Chicago*	110	78	100	49
Dallas	35	21	35	10
Lincoln	12	6	15	9
Los Angeles	90	48	90	51
Louisville	60	24	60	18
Miami	25	9	25	10
New Jersey	40	24	70	48
New York	80	22	120	82
Oakland	70	36	100	55
Philadelphia	25	11	25	12
Pittsburgh	25	13	25	9
Seattle	70	35	90	32
Twin Cities	35	18	35	23
Washington	50	19	50	23
Total U.S.	867	426	1,020	513
Prisoners	25	11		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	50	22	75	40
Manchester	35	18	45	18
Total U.K.	85	40	120	58
Canada	70	31	150	45
New Zealand	20	12	20	11
Australia	25	13	25	6
Total	1,092	533	1,335	633
SHOULD BE	1,100	484	1,250	550

*Raised goal

DC meeting: 'US hands off Cuba and Venezuela'

BY OMARI MUSA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 100 participants gathered at the African American Civil War Museum for a "U.S. Imperialist Hands Off Cuba and Venezuela" forum here Oct. 19.

The museum is an important institution in D.C. Its mission "is to correct a great wrong in history that largely ignored the enormous contributions of the 209,145 members of the United States Colored Troops. It tells the stories and preserves for posterity the historic roles these brave men of African, European, and Hispanic descent played in ending slavery and keeping America united under one flag."

The forum was part of the annual meeting of the National Network on Cuba. It was hosted by the D.C. Metro Coalition in Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution and the NNOC.

Nubia Kai, a leader of the D.C. Metro Coalition and a participant in this year's May Day International Volunteer Work Brigade in Solidarity with Cuba, opened the event with a powerful poem dedicated to the Cuban Revolution and the country's fight for sovereignty in the face of attacks by the U.S. government.

Pointing to the murals depicting African American soldiers fighting the slavery, José Ramón Cabañas, Cuba's ambassador to the U.S., said, "This is part of our common culture. We came from the same place, in the same ships — and if you changed the uniforms, we were fighting the same wars for our freedom and independence."

"We are family," he continued. "We fought revolutionary struggles to overthrow slavery in Cuba and here in the U.S. Our solidarity has strong historic roots."

Turning to the U.S. war against the island, Cabañas said, "The purpose of the blockade is to kill our revolution. That has been U.S. policy from the beginning. Our sin, in the eyes of the U.S. government, is we made a revolution and our example and steadfastness in the face of 60 years of hostility by the U.S. government."

The theme of solidarity was also part of the talk by James Harris, who recently returned from the 6th African Continental Conference in Solidarity with Cuba. Harris is active in the D.C. Metro Coalition and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party. He noted that many at the conference of 300 held in Abuja, Nigeria, asked if activists in the U.S. could organize support for Cuba.

"I explained that the U.S. is a class-divided society. Ordinary working people are interested in learning about the Cuban Revolution," said Harris. "Our responsibility is to explain that class reality at these conferences. It

gives those we meet confidence in their capacities as well as ours." He thanked the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) for organizing regional conferences that bring activists with different views together in support of the Cuban Revolution.

"The U.S. economic blockade of Cuba has cost \$138 billion since it was instituted," Dr. Jourdy James Heredia told the gathering. James is deputy director and lead researcher of the Center for the Study and Research of the World Economy in Havana. She pointed to the reinforcement of the blockade by the Trump administration. "Title III of the Helms Burton Act," which was implemented for the first time this year, "impedes needed foreign investment in Cuba. It allows former capitalists and landowners whose property was nationalized by the revolutionary government to file suits in the U.S. courts to reclaim their property."

She explained that similar property claims had been settled with every other capitalist country in the world in the 1960s, but the U.S. government has always refused to negotiate them.

"The purpose of this and other measures is to impose suffering on the Cuban people," she concluded.

Longtime activist and musician Patricio Zamorano brought solidarity to the meeting from the metro-area Foro de Sao Paulo group. Zamorano and the Foro were energetic builders



Photos by Prensa Latina/Diony Sanabia

"We fought revolutionary struggles to overthrow slavery in Cuba and here in the U.S.," José Ramón Cabañas, inset, Cuba's ambassador to the U.S., told event in solidarity with Cuba and Venezuela in Washington, D.C., Oct. 19. "Our solidarity has strong historic roots."



of the meeting from the beginning.

Netfa Freeman, a leader of Pan-African Community Action, spoke about the current sanctions and attacks on Venezuela. Freeman pointed out it was the Barack Obama administration that first imposed sanctions against the Venezuelan regime. He urged solidarity with individuals who in the spring tried to prevent the Venezuelan Embassy here from being seized by the U.S. government. They face up to one year in jail.

Howard County Friends of Latin America leader Leslie Salgado read excerpts from a report by the Council on Hemispheric Affairs outlining the economic and political crisis in Ecuador.

The NNOC meeting continued the following day with reports from solidarity groups around the country on their activities. Major upcoming activities include support for a resolution that will be presented Nov. 7 by the Cuban delegation to the United Nations calling for an end to the U.S. embargo. Participants were also urged to endorse and help build a National Conference for the Normalization of U.S.-Cuba Relations to take place in New York City March 21-22, 2020.

Dan Fein from Chicago, and Arlene Rubinstein from Washington, D.C., contributed to this article.

UK election: 'Workers need our own political party'

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England — "I can't decide how to vote. I don't understand why they don't do Brexit," rail worker Danny Boyle told this reporter as we talked during a break at Manchester Piccadilly station, where we both work. Similar conversations among working people are taking place across the country in the run-up to the Dec. 12 parliamentary election.

The snap poll was called after the minority Conservative Party government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson failed to win a vote to proceed with its "transition" deal that he says will take the U.K. out of the European Union. Media pundits are unanimous in declaring that the outcome of the election cannot be predicted.

Johnson pitches the Conservatives' appeal as the party that will implement the 2016 referendum for the U.K. to quit the EU.

"If older, white, working-class men from the north of England split from their Labour roots" in areas that voted to leave, "the Tories will win" contemplates Mike Wade in *The Times* Nov. 1. Liberal commentators that favor the U.K. remaining in the EU view workers who voted "leave" as bigoted and backward.

"All the main parties sought to undermine the referendum result. And the bosses' assaults on working people means the Communist League is getting a serious response to its campaign," Caroline Bellamy, the party's candidate for Wythenshawe and Sale East in Manchester and a production line meat worker and member of the Community trades union, told the *Militant*. The CL is also standing Jonathan

Silberman in Tottenham, London.

"Your party is small today," hospital worker Scott Francis told Bellamy when he signed to put her on the ballot. "Isn't there a way to build a working-class party more quickly?" he asked.

"The idea workers need our own party gets a broad hearing today," Bellamy responded. "Such a party can only be forged through union battles and other struggles by working people." Bellamy reported that two of those who nominated her in Wythenshawe renewed their subscriptions to the *Militant* and bought the book *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by Jack Barnes.

"I'll probably vote for the Brexit Party, at least they say they'll get us out of the EU," Matthew O'Neill told CL campaign supporter Hugo Wils. Both work at the same factory as Bellamy. "A vote for Labour is against democracy, because that party is preventing the referendum result from being carried out," O'Neill added.

"The Brexit Party's call for the U.K. to get out of the EU is aimed at bolstering the capitalist rulers here in their trade conflicts with their rivals," Wils replied. "It speaks as if workers have a common 'British interest' with the bosses." The CL has the opposite approach, Wils explained. "Workers need the U.K. to get out of the EU now to strengthen our fight against the capitalist rulers at home."

Paul Rawlings, a retired factory engineer, told CL campaigner Anne Howie that he had always voted Labour, when she knocked on his door in Wythenshawe. But he agreed when she pointed out that "Labour is no different from the other capitalist parties. Its radical talk is a mask for saving capitalism, not mobi-

lizing working people to replace it."

The CL's program says, "Unions should organize all workers — agency, temporary, 'permanent,' and native- and foreign-born" — and should "fight all two-tier wages and conditions" that workers face. The program points to building "a movement of millions" that can "establish a workers and farmers government."

Capitalist parties debate 'Brexit'

Prime Minister Johnson's planned deal with the EU will continue to tie the U.K. to the protectionist trading bloc. Johnson seeks to steal the ground from Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn by promising to increase government funding for health care, schools and policing. Corbyn retorts by raising the mark on how much he will "promise" to spend.

Beating the drum for British bosses, Corbyn alleges Johnson will cut a trade deal with U.S. President Donald Trump that will involve selling parts of the National Health Service to U.S. companies, a claim the Conservatives deny. Under both Conservative and Labour governments health care provision has declined for working people.

Appealing to predominantly middle-class supporters of the U.K. remaining in the EU, Corbyn says he will hold another referendum with two options, either a "Brexit deal" that retains most of the U.K.'s relations with the EU, or overturning the 2016 referendum to leave — denying people a vote to reaffirm that decision.

"No one can trust any of these parties," rail worker Jamal Ahmed told this reporter. "Trust has to begin with ourselves," I responded, "that's why the CL says 'workers need our own party.'"

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

FLORIDA

Miami

Oppose Florida Prison Literature Bans, Solitary Confinement: Defend Right of Ex-Felons to Vote. Fri., Nov. 15, 7 p.m. Speaker: Chuck Guerra, Socialist Workers Party. Donation: \$5. 1444 Biscayne Blvd. Suite 215. Tel: (305) 929-8966.

Fight continues to keep last abortion clinic in Missouri

BY JANET POST

Planned Parenthood is continuing to fight against a concerted political campaign by Missouri's governor, the state's director of health services and anti-abortion forces to close the only clinic in the state that provides abortion services. Protesters carrying a large banner saying "Abortion is healthcare" gathered across the street from an Oct. 28 meeting in St. Louis of the Missouri Administrative Hearing Commission on the state's move to shut the clinic down.

Missouri is one of six states that have only one facility that offers abortions, along with Kentucky, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota and West Virginia.

In March, the St. Louis clinic was "investigated" by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, which then charged the facility with "deficiencies." State officials also claimed some of the Planned Parenthood doctors were unwilling to talk with investigators.

In June, the state moved to revoke the clinic's license, but a federal judge two months later ruled the facility could stay open until the Administrative Hearing Commission took up the case. A ruling on the clinic's license is expected in February.

At the hearing Planned Parenthood learned to their surprise that the director of the health department had ordered the compiling of detailed information from patients' medical records.

On Oct. 29 Yamelsie Rodriguez, president of Reproductive Health Services of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis region, told the media, "Missouri's top health official, Randall Williams, scrutinized menstrual cycles of women in this state in order to end abortion access."

Elizabeth Nash, a representative of the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights, said they had never heard of any other

state governments tracking menstruation of clinic patients.

Missouri officials had earlier imposed a requirement that women at the St. Louis clinic had to get not one, but two invasive pelvic exams prior to being allowed to have an abortion. Under pressure, the state had to back off in June.

New restrictions on right to choose

Missouri is one of several states that have recently passed new restrictions on women's right to have an abortion that challenge the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision making it legal. Gov. Mike Parson signed a law banning abortions beyond eight weeks of pregnancy in May, including in pregnancies from rape or incest.

If the clinic is ordered to stop performing abortions, it would make



AP photo/Jeff Roberson

Supporters of women's right to choose abortion protest in St. Louis in May in defense of Planned Parenthood family planning clinic there against government moves to close it down.

Missouri the first state where the procedure is not available since 1974, the year after the Roe v. Wade decision decriminalized abortion.

Planned Parenthood opened a new clinic in Fairview Heights, Illinois, Oct. 30, across the Mississippi River from St. Louis.

US-China rulers' rivalry grows despite new trade deal

Continued from front page

with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Santiago, Chile, was called off by the host government Oct. 30 in response to a wave of protests against its anti-working-class measures. The government there has imposed a state of emergency and a curfew to try to push back the actions by working people and students.

Since July 2018, the Trump administration has slapped tariffs on \$550 billion worth of Chinese products. In return, the Chinese government has imposed duties on \$185 billion of U.S. goods. The U.S. rulers wield the greater weight of their domestic market and the U.S. dollar, the global reserve currency, to try to extract more from Beijing in trade negotiations. They hope the measures can hold off the rise of Chinese capitalism and offset their own decline.

The tariff duel shows that behind the facade of a "rules-based" imperialist world order are ruthless conflicts between rival capitalists. Competi-

tion in trade and investment between Beijing and Washington intensified in the wake of the global financial crisis a decade ago, as the Chinese capitalists emerged with the second-largest economy in the world. As conflicts for markets and fields of investment sharpen, bosses everywhere are driven to get ahead of rivals by cutting wages and worsening the job and living conditions of working people.

In an Oct. 24 speech, Vice President Mike Pence complained that Beijing "has become even more aggressive and destabilizing," and that previous U.S. governments had abetted and profited from Beijing's rising world influence. He claimed the Trump administration's policies at home and abroad had reversed this course and prevented Beijing from surpassing Washington to become the world's largest economy.

He repeated the U.S. rulers' growing concerns about the "archipelago of military bases" Beijing has established on artificial islands in the South China

Sea and the rising number of Chinese-owned commercial ports from Sri Lanka to Pakistan to Greece that Washington worries could become naval bases.

But Washington too rose as a world power by seizing markets from competitors and using its deadly military might. It established its supremacy at the end of the Second World War and has inflicted numerous devastating wars on nations around the world since then. The U.S. rulers have spread their own military bases and their unequalled armed might to counter rivals, to try to block revolutionary struggles by workers and the oppressed and hold onto to their dominant position.

Pence demanded that the Chinese government commit to "ending the trade practices that have taken advantage" of U.S. capitalism "for far too long." He reiterated Washington's demands that the expanding Chinese market be opened up to more competition by foreign, chiefly U.S., capital. They want Beijing to end its forced transfer of technology from foreign investors in China to Chinese companies and its protectionism through large state subsidies to Chinese enterprises.

The day after Pence's speech, Hua Chunying, a Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman, denounced his comments as "lies." On Oct. 11, the *People's Daily* reiterated the position of the Chinese government on the trade talks with Washington, stating that Beijing "cannot be shaken" from subsidizing state firms.

In early October, the Trump administration extended its export black list to 28 Chinese firms engaged in video-surveillance and facial-recognition technology. Huawei, the giant Chinese telecom firm, has been on that restrictive list since May.

Washington applied pressure on the government in Taiwan Nov. 3 to restrict the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, the world's largest chipmaker, from supplying Huawei now that U.S. supplies to Huawei have been cut off. Washington's primary concern in curbing high tech exports, especially those with military uses, is to stem Beijing's rise as a military power that could rival the U.S. imperialists.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 21, 1994

DECATUR, Illinois — When Janey McKinney's husband was locked out by A.E. Staley, a major producer of corn sweeteners, in June 1993, she said she had two choices: "Either lie down and get walked on or stand up and fight. And I've never been someone to lie down."

McKinney and her husband Bob joined 150 locked-out workers and family members to become "Road Warriors," traveling across the country to tell their story, reach out for support, and extend solidarity to other unions fighting their own battles.

Today with 1,800 members of the United Auto Workers on strike against Caterpillar, another 1,250 members of the United Rubber Workers on strike against Bridgestone/Firestone, and 762 members of United Paperworkers International Union locked out at A.E. Staley, more than 10 percent of the industrial working class of Decatur is on the picket lines.



November 21, 1969

One of the most immediate problems facing antiwar GIs — the right to on-post distribution of their publications — was slated to come before the Federal Court House in Clinton, North Carolina, the GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee announced.

The antiwar newspaper is entitled *Bragg Briefs*.

The argument is a crucial one; the decision on this case will affect dozens of bases where more than 60 different antiwar papers are being published. The issue at stake is the constitutional rights of American servicemen to freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

[The Army's] reasoning is that the distribution of the paper would "constitute a clear danger to the loyalty, discipline and morale of the military personnel."

Attorney [Leonard] Boudin will argue that the Army is invoking a process of censorship contrary to fundamental First Amendment rights.



November 18, 1944

A national conference of Canadian Trotskyists was held to discuss the major political and organizational tasks confronting the Trotskyist movement in Canada during the coming period.

Due to wartime repressions and restrictions, this was the first conference on a national scale which the Canadian Trotskyists have been able to convene in several years. It reflected the tremendous increase in the economic and political activity of the Canadian masses, who have been moving steadily leftward as shown by the huge growth in the trade union movement.

Representatives at the conference included active trade unionists. In the spirit of greatest optimism for the future of the revolutionary socialist movement in Canada and internationally, they discussed the perspectives of the working class and adopted a program of action in the coming period.

Asarco strike deserves support

Continued from front page

beside you comes out and says, 'I stand with you,' it's like a rejuvenation. It shows we're out there for a reason."

Members of the teachers union, the nurses union, and the Pima Area Labor Federation, as well as the sheet metal, carpenters and machinists unions have donated food and money as well as walking the picket lines, which are up around the clock.

More than 1,700 workers from eight unions at the copper complexes went on strike after voting by 77% to reject the company's "last, best and final" offer. Asarco's proposal left "two-thirds of the workers without any pay increase for the next four years," Terrazas said. Most workers have not had a wage increase in 10 years.

And that's on top of Asarco's demands to freeze pensions — which had been slashed for new hires in 2011 — and jack up the cost of health insurance. "When you add it all up, we would be taking a steep pay cut," he said. Similar attacks are faced by millions of workers in industries across the country.

The bosses also want to get rid of a neutrality agreement with the unions, "which protects our right to be able to organize and speak about the union," Terrazas said. "They want to get rid of the union. That's why we're not going to quit."

The strike has forced Asarco to shut down its smelters in Hayden, Arizona, and Amarillo, Texas, despite attempts by the bosses to keep production going and break the strike. While the strike is solid at most of the mines and smelters, at Silver Bell, Asarco's smallest mine with less than 140 workers, most miners are crossing the line.

Asarco has also been hiring "temporary replacement" workers, but has so far been unable to get enough production to restart the smelters.

"They're trying to push production over safety," Terrazas said. "We've seen the ambulance going in there. I know of at least three workers injured since the strike began."

Some union members have been

talking to the scabs. "Some workers have been asking about coming back out. Their conscience is eating at them," he said.

Striker Monica Baldillo, a heavy equipment operator at the Hayden complex and a member of USW Local 886, told the *Militant* by phone "a lot of small businesses in Mammoth, Hayden and Kearny have helped us. They say 'we're supporting you.' It's amazing."

Maria's Cafe in Mammoth has been handing out free breakfast burritos to strikers in the area. Some strikers "don't want to spend money to buy some food when they need to pay bills," Maria Garcia, the cafe owners' daughter, told the *Tucson Sentinel* Oct. 31. The solidarity is "a community thing, trying to motivate them to continue this," she added.

Teamsters Local 104 spokesperson Dawn Schumann took a break from cooking breakfast for picketers at the Mission Mine to return the *Militant's* request for an update on the strike.

"One of our Teamsters freight drivers came by here yesterday, brought his smoker and cooked chicken for the strikers all day long," she noted. That was Jimmy Harrison, who works for UPS. The picket lines are bolstered at shift change time, three times a day. Strikers and their families can come by and get a hot meal at the midday shift change.

Solidarity day

The Pima Area Labor Federation has set up a food pantry for the strikers at the IBEW Local 570 hall in Tucson.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is organizing a solidarity day at the Mission and Silver Bell Mine picket line Nov. 13.

Asarco told the union bargaining committee Oct. 30 that it will return to the negotiating table Nov. 14, the first talks since the strike began.

The company is owned by Grupo Mexico, which owns mines in Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Spain. It reported a profit of \$1.3 billion in 2018.

It has not responded to the *Militant's* request for comment.

Israel protest: 'Don't deport Filipino classmates'



United Children of Israel

About 1,000 students, parents and teachers protested outside Givon Prison near Tel Aviv Oct. 31, demanding the release of two Israeli-born Filipino students and their mothers who were slated for deportation. The students, some wearing scout uniforms, chanted "Don't expel our friends."

The next day Gena Antigo, 13, her mother Berly Antigo, Ralph Harel, 10, and his mother Maureen Mariano were released on bail. Both Gena and Ralph are members of the scouts. The immigration agency "is still aiming to deport them, but tonight they will not be sleeping behind bars. A moment of pure joy," stated United Children of Israel, a group of Filipina women organized to stop the deportations of their Israeli-born children.

There are some 60,000 foreign caregivers in Israel, most with five-year visas, including 30,000 from the Philippines. Their visas are revoked if they get married or if they get pregnant, unless they send their children back to the mother's country of origin. At least 6,000 Filipinos have overstayed their visas.

The local Parent Teacher Association helped organize the protest. "The parents heard about what was happening from their children. The parents say our children are the same as their children. They want them to be together," Beth Franco, a leader of the group, told the *Militant* by phone from Tel Aviv Nov. 4. "Without the support of so many Israelis we could not have moved forward. Many Israelis have opened their hearts to the foreign workers who stay with them. They have our back."

Franco came to Israel in 1999 and has a 12-year-old daughter. Her visa expired years ago. "This is the only country our children know," she says. "They speak Hebrew. They celebrate Israel independence day."

Among the protesters was Zeev Degani, principal of Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium school, who came with 400 students. Joining the protest is "the most important education that students can get," he told Kan TV News.

— SETH GALINSKY

The Arizona AFL-CIO is urging everyone to "stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters on strike against Asarco and Grupo Mexico!"

Send solidarity messages to the strikers via palfchair@gmail.com. Donations to the food pantry can be made

via: paypal.me/palfcommunityservice. Everyone is welcome to join the picket lines in Arizona and Amarillo, Texas.

Deborah Liatos, a rail worker and member of SMART-TD Local 1544 from Los Angeles, contributed to this article.

After GM workers settle, workers at Ford debate, vote on new contract

BY SETH GALINSKY

Some 55,000 United Auto Workers members at Ford Motor Co. will finish voting by Nov. 8 on a new contract patterned on the one recently approved by workers at General Motors after a 40-day strike. The strike by 49,000 GM workers showed their desire to fight to get rid of the multiple wage tiers through which the auto barons boost their profits by lowering their labor costs and keeping workers divided.

The strike won widespread solidarity from workers and small business owners and was followed by millions of others, looking for ways to defend their interests against the bosses.

The tentative Ford accord — like the one at GM — speeds up the wage "progression" for a layer of current workers who will now reach top wage in four years instead of eight, but keeps the multitier for new hires. Temp workers — currently stuck at the lowest wage tier, just over half the top rate — will from

now on be limited to 8% of the workforce at Ford. They are to become permanent employees after at most three years of continuous work and then subject to the same wage "progression" that the tiers of "permanent" workers face.

Ilona Gersh and other Socialist Workers Party campaigners selling the *Militant* at the Ford plant gate on Chicago's South Side Nov. 6 learned what some UAW members think about the proposed contract.

"I'm most concerned about fair wages," said engine installer Jeremy Kennedy, 25. "I started as a temporary worker about a year ago and was hired full time after about five months. I make about \$17 an hour." He likes the contract provision that will get all current "permanent" workers to full pay in four years.

"I wanted to eliminate the wage tiers and temp work altogether," said Beatrice Watts, 39, an assembly worker. "But it looks like that's not in the cards this time around."

Courts back two capitalist parties' ballot monopoly

Confirming its role as a guardian of the capitalist rulers' two-party system, the black-robed Supreme Court justices continue to refuse to hear any cases that involve opening up greater access to the ballot for third-party candidates. However, they do hear — and uphold — cases brought by either Democrats or Republicans to further restrict getting on the ballot.

On Oct. 7 it rejected hearing an appeal of a decision by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals that overturned a lower court decision lifting onerous petitioning requirements in special elections in Alabama.

Since 1992 the Supreme Court has cursorily rejected review of all 60 election law cases brought by parties other than the Democrats or Republicans.

Restricting the franchise for working people is a bipartisan effort. Republicans have promoted state laws that make it harder for people to register, or vote early, laws aimed at African Americans. Both parties have backed laws that push deadlines for filing by third parties back further and further. To field a slate of third-party candidates in the November 2020 campaign in California, you have to gather 65,000 valid signatures and have filed by Oct. 2, 2019!

Democrats are pushing measures that effectively throw opponent parties off the ballot. New York state will hear a proposal backed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state's Democrats that will jack up the number of votes a political party needs to get to retain a spot on the ballot for gubernatorial contests by five times — from 50,000 to 250,000. Their target is the Working Families Party — which always back Democrats, but sometimes promotes challengers against nominees inside the state party organization it considers not to be progressive enough.

And many workers are directly barred from voting. Thirty-two states impose restrictions on former felons right to vote, excluding millions of workers from the franchise.

— TERRY EVANS

Iraqi protests grow, demand halt to Tehran's interference

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Tens of thousands of Iraqis rallied in Baghdad Nov. 1 in the largest anti-government demonstrations since the U.S. invasion in 2003. The actions — fueled by deteriorating living conditions, demands for political rights and widespread anger about the Iranian government's intervention in Iraq — have been gaining momentum in size and breadth despite the deadly violence inflicted on protesters by government-backed forces.

About 5,000 people also demonstrated in Basra that day. On Nov. 2 thousands of protesters blocked all roads leading to Iraq's nearby main Gulf port Umm Qasr. Demonstrators had been blocking the port's entrance since Oct. 29. They carried signs saying "Iran out of Iraqi affairs" and "The Iraqi government made by Iran," reported Al Jazeera.

The Iranian rulers organize militias in Iraq, part of efforts to mobilize proxy forces in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen to impose their sway across the region and to threaten Israel.

"The government here relies on Tehran's militias to defend itself. And they operate a 'shoot to kill' policy," Abdullah Salah Aldeen, a 25-year-old worker in a hearing aid center who participated in the Nov. 1 action, told the *Militant* in a phone interview the following day.

More than 250 people have been killed and 10,000 wounded in attacks on the protesters over the past month, in actions that have called for the "downfall of the regime."

"We will continue blocking roads, organizing strikes and staying away from schools," Aldeen said. Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, leader of Iraq's Shiite-led government, agreed to step down but only if a replacement is found. And President Barham Salih promised to hold early elections once a new voting law was in place.

Salih proposes to scrap the current setup, where people cast votes for coalitions of different parties, divided largely along religious lines, rather than directly for candidates. The system, established after the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, has solidified the predominance of capitalist parties organized on a sectarian basis. "No one votes to elect the prime minister, he is appointed by the parliament," Aldeen told the *Militant*.

"We want an end to sectarian power-

sharing. Jobs should not be doled out based on whether you are a Sunni or Shiite," Abdulraman Saad, a 22-year-old law student told Reuters. "We want all these parties gone and replaced with a presidential system."

Abdul-Mahdi came into office a year ago once a deal was cut between a bloc of parties led by Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and Hadi al-Ameri, leader of the Tehran-backed Hasd al-Shaabi militia.

With al-Sadr now calling for new elections and for Abdul-Mahdi to resign, the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Quds Force, Qassem Soleimani, traveled to Baghdad Oct. 30 to tell Ameri "and his militia leaders to keep supporting Abdul Mahdi," Reuters reported.

The Iranian rulers fear the toppling of governments they back in Iraq and Lebanon would reduce their clout there and give confidence to working people



AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed

Demonstrators in Iraq block Jomhuriya bridge in Baghdad Nov. 3. Protesters demand end to government's refusal to provide jobs, electricity, and an end to Tehran's ongoing intervention.

inside Iran who staged anti-government demonstrations across the country in late 2017. Those protests were fueled by opposition to the deadly consequences of Tehran's wars around the Mideast.

Washington continues to station 5,200 troops in Iraq, part of the vast forces it deploys across the region to defend the U.S. rulers' interests against their rivals.

California wildfire shows need for workers control

Continued from front page

in Northern California that has burned over 77,000 acres, while the Tick Fire around Los Angeles has burned close to 5,000 acres. PG&E equipment appears to have caused the Kincade Fire. The company admits a broken jumper cable was reported at one of their towers where the blaze began.

The Kincade Fire caused government authorities to order 180,000 people to evacuate from this city, Healdsburg, Windsor and the surrounding area. Everyone there was left to get out on his or her own. No public transportation was provided and the temporary shelters the state set up were quickly overrun.

"We have been in our house nine years. Most of the people like my father who work for the wineries live and work here year round," Fatima Rodriguez, a high school freshman here, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent. "We went to Healdsburg where we stayed with family members. Then we were evacuated from there a few days later and went to Cloverdale where other family members took us in."

"I just got my gas turned back on yesterday," Nancy Walker told us. "Geyserville was evacuated from Wednesday, October 23 to Thursday,

October 31. Thousands of people were on the road. There weren't enough motel rooms. I slept in my van outside the shelter in Healdsburg."

Workers and grocery and restaurant owners had little option but to watch food go bad, hoping the fire wouldn't destroy their homes and businesses. If you were sick at home on life support or other electricity-run health equipment, you had to hope you could make it to an emergency facility with a generator in time to survive.

PG&E bosses started these "preventative" mass evacuations after they were responsible for starting the Camp Fire — the deadliest forest fire in California's history — that destroyed the town of Paradise in November 2018. The fire and social catastrophe it produced led to the death of at least 80 people, burning over 150,000 acres and destroying 14,000 residences. A nearly 100-year-old faulty PG&E power line was found to be the cause of the blaze. Faced with some \$30 billion in wildfire liabilities, company bosses filed for bankruptcy in January.

Since then PG&E management has done little to fix their aging infrastructure and clean out brush and other debris that can serve as tinder under their power lines.

Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for San Francisco mayor, said what we are seeing is the way the capitalist system and politics work. Workers need their own party — a labor party — to fight against the attacks by the bosses and their government backers to defend our interests, and to chart an independent working-class road forward.

In a statement Britton has been campaigning with, he says, "Putting electrical wires underground has been rejected as too expensive as untold millions have been spent on executive salaries and bonuses and billions of dollars are paid to settle lawsuits.

"PG&E workers, most of whom are members of the IBEW union, need to be in control of operations of this utility. They know from their experiences what is safe and what is dangerously unsafe and must have the authority to organize

PG&E's workload.

"The fight for nationalization of PG&E under workers control will require organizing independently of the capitalist parties — the Democrats and Republicans. This fight can be part of a movement of millions of working people that we need to build and chart a course out of the capitalist economic, social and moral crisis to replace capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government."

Capitalist vultures seek to profit

Seeking to avoid being caught up in the blame for the fires, blackouts and social catastrophe PG&E greed has produced, area politicians who have taken big contributions from the company in the past have tried to take their distance. California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the state may have to take over the company, saying PG&E has shown "years and years of greed and years and years of mismanagement." Newsom had earlier introduced legislation in the California State Assembly extending a surcharge paid by customers until 2035. During Newsom's election campaign, PG&E donated \$208,000 for his help.

When PG&E found itself facing bankruptcy, a group of hedge funds — including Abrams Capital, Baupost Group and Knighthead Capital — sensed a potential gold mine and invested in it, joining some existing shareholders to name a new board and draft a plan to get out of bankruptcy with profits assured by screwing bondholders and fire victims.

Now they're being challenged by the bondholders — led by hedge fund Elliott Management — hoping to profit by taking the utility over and shafting the stockholder bloc.

Seeking leverage in the bankruptcy court battle, Elliott has offered fire victims higher compensation and told International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1245 officials, who represent many PG&E workers, they'll protect their pension funds. The Elliott-led group is asking for an additional \$672 million in fees to reorganize the utility.

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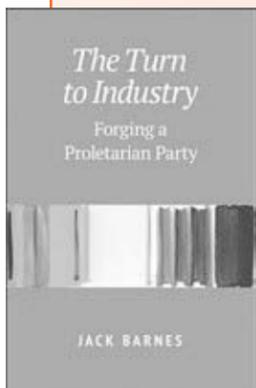
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— Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

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'Communism is not a doctrine, but a movement'

Their Trotsky and Ours by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. Based on his 1982 speech, it explains that to lead a successful working-class revolution, a mass proletarian party is needed whose cadres have absorbed an internationalist communist program, whose life and work are rooted in the working class, who derive deep satisfaction from doing politics and have forged a leadership with an acute sense of what to do next. The excerpt below is from the chapter "Marxism, Bolshevism, and the Communist International." Copyright © 1983 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin, left, speaking in Moscow in 1920 and Fidel Castro, right, addressing mass rally in Havana in 1962. Russian and Cuban Revolutions, two great proletarian revolutions of the 20th century, made key contributions to the development of internationalist working-class program and strategy.



preserving old ones and understanding them in new ways. Our revolutionary continuity is a living thing. It is our *current* understanding of the rich lessons of revolutions and class battles that came before us, and this understanding changes as our class goes through new experiences.

The program of the Communist International was not only in continuity with but also far richer and more extensive than the program of the pre-World War I Bolshevik Party, for example. The world proletariat had gone through the first imperialist world war, the collapse of the Second International as a revolutionary organization, and the 1917 Russian

Revolution. These events, culminating in the establishment of the world's first workers state, had put all wings of the workers movement to the test. The Third International didn't just preserve what was best from the program of its forerunners, what had stood the test of titanic events. It also made additions and altered the weight and emphasis it gave to various aspects of this program.

Similarly, [with] the Cuban Revolution ... these experiences enrich and change the way we understand and apply our revolutionary continuity today. If new socialist revolutions didn't affect us this way, we would be finished as a revolutionary organization.

Questions that couldn't be answered definitively twenty-five years ago have been settled by the class struggle. For example, were all revolutions going to be led — and warped — by parties trained in the school of Stalinism? That could have seemed to be the case during the period between World War II and late 1959. We were confident that the answer was "no," but it was nonetheless an open question until it was settled in *practice* by the victory of the Cuban Revolution. ...

But each generation of working-class fighters must see these lessons through its own eyes, from the standpoint of the concrete experiences it has gone through and anticipates. In that way, each generation understands its continuity more deeply, enriches it, uses those aspects that most directly relate to its own experiences.

the Cuban, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, and Grenadian revolutions are part of this common revolutionary continuity. But determining just what, concretely, that consists of is a little more complicated than it might seem. Because political continuity is not like the doctrine of a church, which is ultimately judged right or wrong by some body of people who claim a direct line to someone or something you can't argue with. That is how the articles of a faith are settled.

But as Engels wrote just two months before the formation of the Communist League at the end of 1847, "Communism is not a doctrine but a *movement*; it proceeds not from principles but from *facts*. ... Communism, insofar as it is a theory, is the theoretical expression of the position of the proletariat in this [class] struggle and the theoretical summation of the conditions for the liberation of the proletariat."

Communists don't have any articles of faith. What we have, as Engels explained, is simply the political generalizations and strategic lessons from the experiences of a class that has been marching toward taking power ever since it was born and began to wage battles in its own name — *the modern working class*. ...

It is only by generalizing and drawing the lessons of the actual experiences of the working class that revolutionists develop a program and strategy that can help us lead our class toward that goal — the dictatorship of the proletariat. That is where our political continuity comes from.

Lenin said that without revolutionary theory, there can be no revolutionary movement. You hear that quotation so many times that it can sometimes lose its meaning. But it is important to think about what Lenin actually said. He didn't say that without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary *action*. That would be wrong. Horribly and disarmingly so. There can be, have been, and will continue to be revolutionary struggles by working people that are not guided by organizations equipped with revolutionary theory. Revolutionary struggles, but not a revolutionary *movement*. Because building a revolutionary movement, as opposed to action alone, necessitates a conscious generalization of lessons that our class has learned through struggle into a program and strategy, a political continuity, upon which revolutionary *organization* is based.

These lessons — what to do, and in some ways even more importantly, what not to do — have been paid for in blood many times over by our class. They are irreplaceable.

The fact that our program and strategy are rooted in the experience of the working class, however, also means that new experiences *change*, better enrich, our revolutionary continuity. They cannot alter past events, of course. But our political continuity is not frozen. It is the evolving consciousness of the vanguard of a class, expressed in program and strategy and embodied in revolutionary organizations and their cadres.

We incorporate new lessons while

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

Our revolutionary political continuity, that of the modern working class, does not go back very far — only 135 years. It goes back to the generalizations adopted by the Communist League and presented in initial form in its manifesto, which [Karl] Marx and [Frederick] Engels were assigned to draft, and in its organizational rules, which they also had a major role in preparing.

The lessons drawn by the leaders of

November BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Break from bosses, build a labor party

Continued from front page

push wages down and speed up labor — disdainful of the effects on safety as they despoil the land, sea and air. They do so with little thought to whether we have enough food to eat, a place to live, the means to raise a family or any way to survive as we get older. The propertied rulers in the U.S. have their tentacles everywhere in the world with the same agenda — seeking control over resources and to rake in profit off the backs of labor.

This leads to sharpening competition, trade conflicts and wars from the Middle East to Afghanistan and threats of war elsewhere. When workers are killed in their wars, or come home maimed and distraught, they're tossed aside as no longer useful and left to fend for themselves.

The rulers increasingly fear the working class and coming class struggles. So they look for ways to regulate us, control us and stop us from becoming actors in history.

Their biggest ploy is to try and pit workers against each other — employed versus those without jobs, Caucasians against Blacks against Hispanics, men against women, native-born against immigrant, and more. They work overtime trying to keep us divided.

But even buttressed by the millions of self-absorbed meritocrats who clog up the liberal press editorial offices, college faculties, government regulatory agencies and do-gooder nongovernmental organizations, the rulers and their hangers-on are a minority who do nothing to create anything of human value. With our labor we produce all the wealth.

In their insatiable drive to make profit off of land and labor, they ruin everything around them. To working people falls the guardianship of science and art, and the earth and all that is on it. Working people need to fight to impose workers control over the pace of work and conditions at the places where we labor, and to extend our control over all production and transportation to prevent the bosses' fouling of the earth, skies and oceans.

They work to try and "learn" us that we aren't worth anything, we're just not smart, we're bigoted and irresponsible. And that the best we can do is

try to stay out of their jails and scrape and save to send our kids to a "good school" to get out of the working class and join them in keeping working people down.

But that is a lie.

Today the capitalist rulers are in the midst of an economic, social, political and moral crisis. Their disdain for working people; their greed; their willingness to step on anyone and anything to advance their wealth and the way their system daily fosters homelessness, drug addiction, and mental illness — these conditions are beginning to change the outlook of millions.

The great U.S. working-class leader Malcolm X explained that the exploiters rule by trying to destroy our self-confidence. By coming together in struggle, we learn our own self-worth and our common interests and power as a class.

Heading into the 2020 presidential elections, the capitalist rulers' Democratic and Republican two-party system is weakened. From Donald Trump to Elizabeth Warren, from libertarian to capitalist-reform socialist, their candidates do not point a way forward for the working class.

The Socialist Workers Party will be fielding a slate of candidates for president and vice president, the Senate and House, and other offices all across the country, armed with a fighting working-class program to confront the assaults of the bosses and their government.

We'll be part of millions worldwide, from Iraq to Lebanon, from Ecuador to Chile and Haiti, from Sudan to Algeria and Hong Kong, organizing to fight together and looking for a road to successfully bring an end to oppression and tyranny.

We'll explain there are examples we can learn from that point the way forward — from the building of the Teamsters union movement in the Midwest, led by Socialist Workers Party leaders in the 1930s, to the Cuban Revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in 1959 and has been setting an example of workers and farmers in power for decades since.

We have nothing to lose but oppression and exploitation. We have a world to win. Join us, there is no better life to live!

Impeachment crusade

Continued from front page

from the two parties of capitalist rule, the Democrats and Republicans, no matter who they nominated.

The paper's headline that Wilkinson cites — "Liberals Drive to Oust Trump Built on Fear of Working Class" — accompanies an article that explains, "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." And the *Militant* champions battles by labor and all those oppressed and exploited against the bosses, their

REPLY TO A READER

politicians and the government in power that serves them, including Trump's.

But there are crucial questions for working people in opposing the campaign of the liberals and their craven media that seek to overturn the 2016 election. Their real target is the working people who voted for Trump, or who couldn't bring themselves to vote for any of the bosses' candidates.

This includes millions of workers Hillary Clinton called "deplorable," who were looking for a change from what successive Democratic and Republican administrations have done to aid the bosses in their assaults on workers. These attacks have not let up during the so-called economic recovery that followed the 2007 financial crisis. Millions were drawn to vote for someone like Trump, who stood outside the factions of both bourgeois parties, and who demagogically claimed he would halt the carnage facing working people and "drain the swamp" in Washington.

The liberals — who have backed the capitalist rulers' drive to boost profits whenever they've been in office — think they're entitled to "regulate" and control the lives of the rest of us, especially those who don't vote the way they think we should. Democratic Congressman Al Green says the reason Trump must be impeached is to prevent people from reelecting him.

Rising fear of working people

Liberals along with the ruling rich have a rising fear of working people. They fear us because growing numbers of working people recognize that the bosses and their parties have no solution to the crisis of their system that doesn't involve making workers pay. This has made more workers open to fighting declining living and working conditions and to discussing an independent working-class political road forward.

The capitalist rulers fear coming working-class struggles — battles in which our confidence in our own capacities will grow, as we acquire consciousness of ourselves as a fighting class with interests in common with other workers worldwide.

The *Militant* tells the truth about the methods used by the liberals in their witch hunt of the president that are dangerous for the working class.

These include using and praising Washington's political police, the FBI and CIA; grand juries and secret star chamber "hearings"; and hearsay claims from secret witnesses you have no chance to confront or refute. All these are features of the capitalist "justice" system that's regularly used against workers. But in this case it involves an effort to impeach and indict a capitalist politician who was elected to the presidency. They're taking steps to limit the franchise to prevent us "voting the wrong way."

They trample on constitutional protections working people have fought for — from the Bill of Rights to the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution conquered in the second American Revolution. These are crucial to protect our ability to discuss and act in our own class interests without government disruption. The anti-Trump "resistance" sets precedents to be used against fighting workers and opponents of Washington's wars as the crisis of capitalism deepens, as the rulers have done time and time again.

Opposing the liberals' drive to oust the president can't be equated with giving him one iota of political support. Working people have nothing to gain from relying on the bosses, their parties or their government, and everything to win by organizing ourselves independently of them to fight for our own class interests. Jealously guarding our hard-won rights is a cornerstone of working people's line of march forward.

LETTERS

George Johnson

George Johnson, a former member and longtime supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, died after a long illness in Bend, Oregon, Oct. 15. He was 82.

Johnson served in the Army, stationed in South Korea in the late 1950s. After his discharge he worked as a journalist there and in Vietnam where he saw firsthand the role of U.S. imperialism.

After his return to the U.S., he joined the Socialist Workers Party in 1968. Johnson worked with GIs who organized protests against the U.S. rulers' war in Vietnam and wrote about their struggle for the *Militant* newspaper.

He was the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in California in 1980 and a member of party branches in San Francisco, San Jose, New York, Newark, Boston and Seattle.

After the party organized its members to work in industrial unions from 1978, Johnson was a member of party fractions in the United Auto Workers; the Machinists union; the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union; and in the garment industry.

He also volunteered in the party print shop and was a staff writer for the *Militant* in the early 1980s.

He and his companion Louise

Goodman remained loyal supporters of the SWP.

*Edwin Fruit
Seattle, Washington*

Shocked at Trump coverage

I sympathize with most of your support for workers — that's why I paid for a subscription. However, I now question that decision.

I cannot for a moment sympathize with your support for Donald Trump, who has shown no signs of genuine support for working people. He does not care about the regulations that protect them or that provide clean water, reliable health services, gun safety or safe environmental conditions.

He thinks it is more important to keep ambitious, resourceful, hopeful people out of the U.S. than it is to repair roads and bridges or improve educational programs in the U.S.

He makes lots of promises and lots of claims — why anyone believes him, I cannot fathom. He is so obviously on the side of Big Money and autocrats around the world. He is doing the exact opposite of "Making America Great Again." One dramatic example of that is his withdrawal from collaborative efforts with other nations — collaborations like the Paris Climate accords and others that we used to lead.

I am shocked that the *Militant* would headline such a claim as "Liberals Drive to Oust Trump Built on Fear of Working Class."

*Virginia Wilkinson
by email*

Bull's-eye on impeachment

The Terry Evans article regarding impeachment history and the contempt phony liberals have for working people in general and the Trump voter specifically was dead on. Bull's-eye. Keep up your courage.

*John Lease
by email*

The letters column is an open forum on subjects of interest to working people. If necessary your letter will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The fund makes possible reduced rate subscriptions for prisoners. 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