

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Protests in Colombia, Chile resist government attacks

— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 45 DECEMBER 9, 2019

## SWP fall drive gets truth out about workers' strike battles

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As the Socialist Workers Party drive to expand the readership of the *Militant* and books by revolutionary working-class leaders enters its final stretch, the newspaper is being used by party members to build solidarity with labor battles waged by workers at Canadian National Railway and copper miners at Asarco in Arizona and Texas.

The *Militant* tells the truth about these fights. It explains why all workers have a stake in the outcome.

Going door to door in South Dallas Nov. 16, SWP campaigners met Teamster union member Cotter Lee, vice president of the Decorators Union. "I'm a union guy and that title caught my eye," he told SWP member Hilda Cuzco, pointing to *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*.

Lee purchased a copy of the book and told Cuzco he wants to join solidarity actions for the striking copper miners after she described the fight at Asarco to him.

"No working-class organization could ever prevail in face of the em-

Continued on page 3

## 'Strike for safety' at CN wins widespread support

Teamsters union announces tentative agreement



Militant/John Steele

Rail workers picket CN headquarters in Montreal Nov. 26 shortly before tentative agreement announced. Fight for safety for workers and surrounding communities was at center of strike.

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — "I believe that this strike is important for my safety as well as the community," conductor Yohan St-Amant told *Militant* worker-correspondents bringing solidarity to the Canadian National Railway picket at the rail yard in Shawinigan, Quebec, Nov. 23. "We are all familiar

with the tragedy at Lac-Mégantic and no one wants that to be repeated. So we have to fight for our safety."

In 2013 a runaway oil train derailed

AS WE GO TO PRESS Teamsters Canada announced an agreement was reached in the CN strike and strikers will return to work Nov. 27. Workers will vote after union meetings are held to discuss the agreement.

and exploded, destroying downtown Lac-Mégantic and killing 47 people.

"We are tired of being tired," has become one of the main slogans of the 3,200 strikers. They are fighting concessions demanded by Canadian Na-

Continued on page 7

## Fear of defeat in 2020 drives the Democrats' push to impeach Trump

BY TERRY EVANS

Working people today are taking it on the chin as the bosses and their government continue to push the effects of the crisis of capitalism onto our backs. While there's been an uptick in jobs for workers, the hours, wages and working conditions we face are daunting.

And this crisis is reflected in U.S. politics today — from the crisis shaking the bosses' two political parties, the Democrats and Republicans, to the liberals' frantic efforts to bring down the presidency of Donald Trump.

Over decades the bosses have succeeded in driving down the price of our labor power, and union officials

Continued on page 4

## Iran protests hit economic crisis, rulers Mideast wars

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Working people have joined anti-government demonstrations in some 100 cities and towns across Iran, protesting the Iranian rulers' military intervention across the Mideast and the government's doubling of fuel prices.

The actions take place as the political and economic crisis of the imperialist-imposed order across the region deepens. In the past month, hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets in neighboring Iraq and Lebanon to demand jobs and an end to the sectarian political system imposed in both countries — a system that the Iranian rulers have used to consolidate their influence there. In Iraq, demonstrators demanded Tehran's military forces — which the Iraqi rulers depend on to defend their interests — leave the country.

Protests by workers and youth in Iran were triggered by the regime's

Continued on page 9

## DC protest: Cops who killed Bijan Ghaisar should face charges!

BY GLOVA SCOTT

WASHINGTON — Family members and others gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial Nov. 17 to protest after federal prosecutors decided not to file charges against U.S. Park Police officers Alejandro Amaya and Lucas Vinyard for the 2017 killing of Bijan Ghaisar.

His sister, Negeen Ghaisar, led chants of "This is not over" and "We are Bijan." His father James and mother Kelly also participated.

Continued on page 4

## Solidarity with copper strikers fighting Asarco union busting!



Fred Yamashita

Strikers and supporters at pre-Thanksgiving dinner at Mission mine picket line near Sahuarita, Arizona, Nov. 24. Asarco is trying to break the union by hiring strikebreakers.

BY BERNIE SENTER

Some 1,700 copper workers at four open-pit mine and processing complexes in Arizona and a refinery in Amarillo, Texas, have been on strike against mining giant Asarco since Oct. 13, fighting the bosses' draconian union-busting demands.

Asarco's "last, best and final" offer was "insulting," workers say. It included a four-year wage freeze for

most workers, a freeze on pensions, doubling or tripling health care costs and weakening of union protections on the job.

The workers — members of the United Steelworkers, Teamsters and five other unions — need and deserve growing solidarity. Letters of support, visits to reinforce picket lines and donations to their strike funds and food

Continued on page 7

### Inside

Editorial: Help make 'Militant,' book, fund drive 9

Workers organize support for flood-hit parts of UK 2

Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform 5

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Indiana teachers rally for higher pay, better working conditions

Striking steelworkers in British Columbia rally over concessions

# Workers organize support for flood-hit parts of UK

BY HUGO WILS

BENTLEY, England — Inadequate provision of flood defenses and other infrastructure, coupled with the government's refusal to organize much needed aid, have wreaked havoc on the livelihoods of workers and farmers across parts of Yorkshire and the Midlands after flooding here.

Some 300 homes in the South Yorkshire village of Fishlake have been flooded after heavy rain, with more than 1,200 people evacuated. Train lines and roads across the region have been blocked.

"The degree of solidarity and initiative by working people in the face of these problems is a small but telling example of what we are capable of," Caroline Bellamy told the *Militant*. Bellamy, who had visited the area Nov. 16 to learn more about what workers face, is the Communist League candidate for Wythenshawe and Sale East, in Manchester in the Dec. 12 parliamentary elections.

In this former mining village of Bentley, also in Yorkshire, Bellamy and CL campaigners met with some of the volunteers organizing to get aid to those affected by the disaster. Volunteers explained that as workers from a local supermarket realized the extent of the flooding they pressed the company to donate a lorry full of material for the cleanup effort. A food bank for residents and volunteers was set up. "Everybody coming together like this feels great!" commented shop owner Brett Horton. He and 10 others filled a minibus and drove some 70 miles from Leicester to help out.

"The Council was no use," Tina Wal-

lett, one of the volunteers here, told Bellamy. "I phoned them to ask for sandbags. They said that if the water wasn't in the garden we weren't a priority. So the water was in the house by the time we got sandbags." Wallett was on her way to help clean out other people's homes in a nearby caravan park.

"Dredging all over the country has been neglected for decades," Ed Bayston, a farmer from East Cowick, told the *Daily Mirror*. He has helped neighboring farmers get their cattle out of harm's way during the deluge. "There's excess trees and vegetation, in and on, the river banks restricting the flow of water," he said. Clearing away this debris would "reduce the risk of flooding."

"It's all too little too late from the Labour-run Council," Steve Miller, a former coal miner from Bentley, told Bellamy.

"But this time the community's come together," said Miller, who is organizing the relief effort, ensuring donations of cleaning and food supplies get distributed.

Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson was jeered by some residents when he visited flood-hit areas a full five days after the deluge began and after his government had offered a paltry £500



Militant/Hugo Wils

Caroline Bellamy, U.K. Communist League parliamentary candidate in Manchester, speaks with Steve Miller in Bentley Nov. 16. Miller is organizing workers into flood relief efforts.

(\$640) in aid to each affected household. Fueling resentment towards people in other parts of the country, Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn claimed Johnson's tardy response was because the area hit was in the north of England, not the more prosperous south.

"Politicians tell you what you want to hear and then don't do it," Miller said.

"None of the capitalist politicians have an answer that doesn't involve making working people pay," responded Bellamy. "The lack of flood defense and support to those affected is part of a broader package of what working peo-

ple are going through. Your initiative is an example of the road we have to go.

"And together we have to fight for the government to fund a program of public works to build the infrastructure we need," she said.

"The workers and farmers government in Cuba responds to such disasters by organizing solidarity from working people, that's the difference a revolution can make," CL campaign supporter Ogmundur Jonsson added.

Miller replied, "I can see a revolution like it coming here. People have had enough."

## 'Our History Is Still Being Written' now out in French

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — The French-language translation of Pathfinder Press's *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* by

Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sío Wong just rolled off the presses. This new translation adds to the already existing editions in English, Spanish, Farsi and Chinese.

These interviews, conducted from 2002-2005, present a powerful introduction to the Cuban Revolution. They show how Cuba's workers and farmers were able to change the course of history in their country and around the world, transforming themselves in doing so.

The generals tell how they joined the revolutionary movement led by Fidel Castro as teenagers to help overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and open the way to a socialist revolution. They

also describe the massive Chinese immigration in 19th-century Cuba and how the socialist revolution was "the most important measure to uproot discrimination against Chinese and blacks in Cuba."

One chapter is devoted to their participation in the internationalist mission Cuba shouldered in Angola from 1975 to 1991, helping to defend that newly independent country against repeated military aggression by the apartheid regime in South Africa and its African allies, with the backing of Washington. This unprecedented effort involved a total of 375,000 volunteer combatants, as well as 50,000 doctors, teachers and other Cubans.

Continued on page 3

# THE MILITANT

**Defend struggle for political rights in Hong Kong**

*Facing police attacks and threats by Beijing, working people and students in Hong Kong continue to take to the streets by the tens of thousands in their fight for political rights, including for direct election of the city's rulers. The 'Militant' solidarizes with and covers these fights.*



South China Morning Post/Nora Tam

Office workers join students Nov. 8 in protesting attacks on their rights in Hong Kong.

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

**NEW READERS**

\$5 for 12 issues

---

**RENEWAL**

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018. OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT: WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

## The Militant

**Vol. 83/No. 45**  
**Closing news date:** November 26, 2019  
**Editor:** John Studer  
**Managing Editor:** Terry Evans

**Editorial volunteers:** Róger Calero, Seth Galsinsky, 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.  
**Telephone:** (212) 244-4899  
**Fax:** (212) 244-4947  
**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.  
**Africa, Asia, and the Middle East:** For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.  
**Canada:** For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.  
**United Kingdom:** Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.  
**Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe:** Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.  
**France:** Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.  
**New Zealand and the Pacific Islands:** Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643, New Zealand.  
**Australia:** Send A\$70 for one year to Suite 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville NSW 2142, Australia.

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

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

# Drive gets truth out on strikes

Continued from front page

ploying class and their state power if it relied on the mobilization of wage workers in America's largest metropolitan areas alone," writes SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, in the introduction to the book.

"With class-struggle leadership of a high caliber, however, with a proletarian leadership that acts socially and thinks politically, the unions can reach out and organize workers and their allies in smaller cities and towns — women and men, working people of all skin colors, nationalities, mother tongues, immigration statuses, and religions," he writes.

Lee also got the titles *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by Barnes and *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

SWP members joining picket lines and solidarity actions of copper workers on strike in Arizona and through door-to-door discussions with workers

## 'Our History'

Continued from page 2

These Cuban forces led the historic defeat of Pretoria's army in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale from 1987 to 1988 in southern Angola. This turning point gave a boost to embattled workers and youth in South Africa and helped lead to the freeing of Nelson Mandela in 1990 and the overthrow of the apartheid regime.

The book contains several chapters describing the responsibilities each general was shouldering when they were interviewed — helping to generalize urban farming across the country in order to face the food shortage that hit Cuba after the collapse of trade relations when the Soviet Union imploded in the early 1990s; organizing the decontamination of Havana Bay; and organizing former Cuban military officers to transmit the lessons of their revolutionary experiences. Their goal was to strengthen the Cuban Revolution in younger generations.

The book is available at pathfinderpress.com and from distributors listed on page 8.

in the area have sold 40 subscriptions to the *Militant* — 30 of them to striking miners, who have also purchased eight books, reports Deborah Liatos.

### Solidarity with workers in Iraq

"My party has opposed Washington's military intervention in Iraq during the first Gulf War in 1990 through to today and calls for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from the Middle East," Maggie Trowe, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Kentucky told a rally of some two dozen Iraqis Nov. 18. The action was called in solidarity with protests sweeping southern Iraq against the sectarian political system, worsening living conditions and Tehran's interference in the country.

"We join you in calling for an end to the lethal attacks on protesters in Iraq by the government there and we join with workers in Iraq and Iran to oppose Tehran's reactionary military presence in the region," Trowe said.

Three rally participants got subscriptions to the *Militant*, one of them bought *New International* no. 7 with the article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," by Jack Barnes, and a copy of *The First and Second Declarations of Havana* in Arabic.

SWP members Ned Measel and Kaitlin Estill joined a rally of over 12,000 teachers and supporters in Indianapolis Nov. 19.

"This fight of the teachers needs to win support from other school workers, parents and within the broader labor movement," Estill told art teacher Diana Sale at the rally. Sale was interested in hearing more about the nine-day strike by West Virginia teachers last year, which drew on the legacy of coal miners' battles that have taken place in that state. She purchased a *Militant* subscription and the book *In Defense of the US Working Class*, which describes the West Virginia teachers' fight.

### Step up contributions to SWP fund

The drive to sell 1,100 *Militant* subscriptions and 1,250 books runs through Dec. 10. At the same time the SWP has launched a \$100,000 fund to



Militant/Eric Simpson

SWP member and rail worker Deborah Liatos speaks with Asarco striker Jim Wagener at Nov. 18 rally in Tucson, Arizona. He got a *Militant* subscription and *In Defense of US Working Class*.

help cover the party's political activities. Winning new contributions and collecting pledges to the fund in the final two weeks of the campaign can help take the fund drive over the top.

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 a 20% discount through the end of the drive. In addition, eight titles are offered at half price when purchased with a *Militant* subscription. And the most recently published book *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes is available at a special price of \$12 and for \$10 with a subscription.

"We just moved here from South Dakota and people there don't like the governor who claimed to be for the farmers, but she hasn't carried out that promise," Samantha Hanson, a part-time retail worker, told SWP member Jeanne Fitzmaurice on Hanson's doorstep in Kent, Washington, Nov. 23. "I don't think you can make changes through elections. It's going to take a revolution."

Hanson wanted to learn more about the SWP's program and purchased *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Pro-*

letarian Party, *In Defense of the US Working Class* and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* as well a *Militant* subscription.

Those wanting to join the effort to broaden the reach of the *Militant* and revolutionary books and help with the fund drive, can contact the SWP or Communist League branches in your area listed on page 8.

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**U.S. Troops Out of Mideast!** Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Dec. 7, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 1440 Biscayne Blvd. Suite 215. Tel: (305) 929-8966.

## Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books

Oct. 5 - Dec. 10 (Week 7)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	70	41	70	25
Atlanta	70	53	110	89
Chicago*	110	101	100	81
Dallas	35	36	35	34
Lincoln	12	9	15	12
Los Angeles	90	79	90	81
Louisville	65	53	65	59
Miami	25	17	25	17
N. New Jersey	40	37	70	69
New York	80	51	120	107
Oakland	70	62	100	89
Philadelphia	25	21	25	26
Pittsburgh	25	24	25	19
Seattle	70	58	90	51
Twin Cities	35	24	45	29
Washington	50	34	50	47
Total U.S.	872	700	1,035	835
Prisoners	25	20		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	50	42	75	58
Manchester	35	29	45	27
Total U.K.	85	71	120	85
Canada	70	59	150	139
New Zealand	20	24	20	33
Australia	25	22	35	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,125</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>975</b>
*Raised goal				

## Special offer on books...

Prices are:  
Book only/Book with subscription.

See distributors on page 8

Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive		
Oct. 5 - Dec. 10 (Week 7)		
Area	Quota	Collected
Albany	\$6,000	\$2,225
Atlanta	\$9,250	\$6,664
Chicago	\$11,000	\$6,274
Dallas	\$2,500	\$1,438
Lincoln	\$250	\$189
Los Angeles	\$10,500	\$8,831
Louisville*	\$2,800	\$1,680
Miami	\$3,500	\$2,441
New York	\$14,000	\$9,965
N. New Jersey	\$3,300	\$2,461
Oakland	\$12,000	\$9,533
Philadelphia	\$2,500	\$1,680
Pittsburgh*	\$2,300	\$1,915
Seattle	\$10,000	\$5,192
Twin Cities	\$4,500	\$2,170
Washington, DC	\$4,600	\$3,864
Other		\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,000</b>	<b>\$67,021</b>
<b>Should Be</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$77,777</b>
*raised quota		

# Fear drives push to get Trump

Continued from front page

haven't organized working people to fight to stop them. Fully 63% of the production and nonsupervisory jobs bosses have "created" over the last 30 years have been lower-paid work at less than 40 hours a week.

Since 2010 the number of manufacturing jobs in the U.S. has grown by over 1 million to 13 million. In fact, one of the lies peddled to make us think factory work is disappearing is that the government counts the growing number of contract workers in industry as "service" workers, because their employers are the temp agencies.

The almost 15 million jobs at hotels, restaurants and similar "leisure and hospitality" places average 24.6 hours a week and pay \$14.65 an hour. Of the 13.5 million jobs in Walmart and other retail, the average is 30.3 hours a week and \$16.73 an hour.

The social conditions workers face deepen the crisis. Some recent headlines read: "Twenty Percent of Those Age 65 and Up Haven't Retired. Many Can't Afford To;" "US Credit Card Interest Rates Hit 25-Year High;" "The Share of Americans Age 25-29 Living with Parents is the Highest in 75 Years;" "Heart-Failure Deaths Rise, Contributing to Worsening Life Expectancy;" "U.S. Life Expectancy Falls Further."

The U.S. now ranks 29th in the world in life expectancy.

As their imperialist domination ebbs, the U.S. rulers are stuck in a seemingly unending series of wars abroad, in which working people are the cannon fodder.

These conditions are what led to the election of Barack Obama, who promised — and failed to deliver — "change," and also of Donald Trump,

who won many of those same voters when he said he would "drain the swamp" in Washington and speak for working people.

"The U.S. rulers and their government increasingly have begun to fear the working class," Socialist Workers Party leader Steve Clark wrote in his introduction to *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*. "They fear us because they recognize that more and more working people are beginning to see that the bosses and their political parties have no 'solutions' that don't further load the costs — monetary and human — of the crisis of their system on us."

## Liberals impeachment hysteria

The impeachment press, liberal Democrats and the middle-class left are convinced something has to be done to control the working class, who they deride as Trump's "base." They are convinced the working people, especially in "flyover country" between the two coasts, are a reactionary racist mob, "deplorables" as Hillary Clinton famously smeared us.

This "base" demands that Donald Trump keep feeding them "red meat," *New York Times* columnist Paul Klugman charged Nov. 21.

This is what is behind what would otherwise seem to be a contradiction. The *Times* churns out article after article like Klugman's, arguing that all right-thinking people can see Trump is a crook and a threat to "national security" who must be ousted. At the same time, these people say they fear if he survives to the 2020 election, he has a good chance of winning another term.

"Let the people decide" in 2020 is "dangerous," Democratic House



Militant/Alyson Kennedy

Gerardo Sanchez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, one of party's 2020 candidates, interviewed at Nov. 17 protest celebrating stay of execution of Rodney Reed.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi wrote in a Nov. 18 letter to fellow party members. This kind of dangerous thinking, she said, "adds to the urgency" of their drive to impeach and indict the president.

Concerned that five days of carefully stage-managed public hearings at the House Intelligence Committee had failed to produce the support to get Trump, the liberals continue to conjure up new claims of "immoral" and impeachable behavior by the president.

When the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, an appointee of Barack Obama, testified at the hearing, Trump tweeted, "Everywhere Marie Yovanovitch went turned bad. She started off in Somalia, how did that go?" And, he pointed out the simple fact, "It is a U.S. President's absolute right to appoint ambassadors." Democrats immediately tried to paint this as impeachable "witness intimidation."

In the liberals' frenzy to get Trump, all means are good. They lionize the U.S. rulers' political police, notorious for their lifelong efforts to topple governments Washington hates and frames up Black rights fighters, anti-war and union militants as well as members of the Socialist Workers Party. They promote people like the anonymous CIA hit man who was the "whistleblower" in the current impeachment "inquiry" and the two former FBI bosses — James Comey and Robert Mueller — who were the champions in the failed effort to bring the president down on charges of being a Russian agent.

They talk of these spies and assassins as "dedicated public servants." Susan Rice, national security advisor under Obama, laments Trump's tweets in the *Times* Nov. 22, saying, "Who wins when the State Department, intelligence and law enforcement agencies and the Pentagon struggle to attract and retain top talent?"

They bolster the very cop agencies that will be used against working people when our struggles against the bosses' assaults pick up.

In Wisconsin, a state Democrats say they have to win next November, 53 percent now say they oppose impeachment. And, the Marquette poll shows that if the election were today Trump would beat Democratic candidates Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren or Pete Buttigieg there.

Trump's administration, like all those before, seeks to govern in the interests of the country's capitalist rulers. Their policies have done nothing

to alleviate the conditions working people face. Trump seeks to use the Democrats' flagrant denial of due process in their witch hunt against him and the drop in unemployment to win reelection.

## Socialist Workers Party in 2020

The Socialist Workers Party will run its own candidates for president and vice president in 2020, and for federal and state offices across the country, as it has in every election since 1948.

The SWP presents a "fighting program to confront the political, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism." It supports workers' struggles — like the strikes today against union busting by Asarco bosses in Arizona and Texas and for safe working conditions at Canadian National Railway — and says workers need our own party, a labor party, to fight to take political power.

The party joins in protests against Washington's wars in Afghanistan and the Middle East, against police brutality or attacks on women's right to choose abortion, against capitalism's responsibility for despoiling the air, water and soil, and for amnesty for workers here without papers.

And the party fights to defend political and constitutional rights against all those who seek to close down room for the working class to defend itself.

# Prosecute cops who killed Bijan Ghaisar



Militant/Glova Scott

Nov. 17 protest at Lincoln Memorial demanding prosecution of cops who killed Bijan Ghaisar. At left is his sister, Negeen Ghaisar, with her husband. At right is his father, James Ghaisar.

Continued from front page

"For two years I kept my hope that there would be justice, to protect others from the brutality that killed my son. For two years we were left in the dark," James Ghaisar said at the protest. "Be concerned for yourself that you and your loved ones can be executed military style within minutes of a fender bender."

Ghaisar had stopped his Jeep Grand Cherokee on the George Washington

Memorial Parkway and was hit from behind by another car. He drove off and was chased by the two cops. They pulled in front of his car and shot Ghaisar nine times, four times in the head. He was unarmed.

In announcing the decision not to press charges, U.S. Attorney for the District Jessie Liu said it's not a crime if "an officer acted out of fear, mistake, panic, misperception, negligence or even poor judgment."

## — CALENDAR —

### NEW YORK

#### New York

**Thomas Sankara's Legacy Today. Sankara Everywhere. Sankara Nowhere.** Speakers: Dr. Boukary Sawadogo, professor, City College; Issa Zougrana, project coordinator, Stand for Life & Liberty; Basninwende Isonore Dianda, teacher; Peter Thierjung, Socialist Workers Party. With the participation of Paul Sankara, brother of Thomas Sankara. Sun., Dec. 8, 4 to 8 p.m. Translation to French. *Harlem YMCA, 180 W. 135 St.* Sponsored by the *International Committee of Sankara Annual Conference.*

**Commemorate and Celebrate 5th Anniversary of Freedom for All of the Cuban Five!** Speakers: Ana Silvia Rodriguez, Cuba's ambassador to United Nations; Martin Garbus, lead attorney for Cuban Five and author of *North of Havana*; Mary-Alice Waters, author and editor, *It's the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US 'Justice' System*; *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class.* Solidarity video message by the Cuban Five. Music performance by Bomba Yo. Sat., Dec. 14. Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10. *The People's Forum, 320 West 37th St.* Sponsored by the *New York/New Jersey Cuba Si Coalition.* Tel: (917) 887 8710.

# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

Are you involved in a union organizing drive or strike? Brought solidarity to fellow workers on the picket line? Let us know! Send articles, photos and letters to [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com) or through our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

## Indiana teachers rally for higher pay, better working conditions

INDIANAPOLIS — “Enough is enough!” was the main slogan as over 12,000 teachers and their supporters rallied around the state Capitol Building here Nov. 19, demanding higher pay, smaller classes and better working conditions. Indiana comes in dead last of the 50 states for teachers’ pay increases over the last 15 years.

Over 145 school districts cancelled classes because of the large number of teachers who joined the action.

The protest was backed by both the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party who joined the rally met Diana Sale, an art teacher who has been teaching for 30 years. She explained that she has to have a second job to meet all her expenses.

“And the state legislature recently passed a rule that teachers who want to renew their license — which they have to do every five years — now have to complete an ‘externship’ of 15 hours of unpaid work with a local business, on top of their teaching responsibilities,” she said. “Our union has to take this on.”

“I spent about \$400 at the beginning of the year trying to get my classroom together,” Brenda Johnson, a fifth-grade teacher at the Gary Community School Corp., told the *Times of Northwest Indiana* at the rally. Her school system was in such a crisis it was taken over by the state in 2017.

“I shouldn’t have to pay for paper, pencils, posters, crayons, markers,” she said. “The pay is not good enough.”

Most protesters were dressed in red, as teachers and other school workers wore in a series of protests last year in West Virginia, Kentucky, Arizona, North Carolina and other states. They called their protest Red for Ed Action Day.

“As I look out into this sea of red, I see hope and I see our future,” AFT-Indiana President GlenEva Dunham told the rally. “This is just a beginning.”

— Kaitlin Estill

## Striking steelworkers in British Columbia rally over concessions

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Over 500 striking members of United Steelworkers Local 1937 and their supporters marched and rallied at Western Forest Products corporate headquarters in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Nov. 6.

Workers came by busload from throughout the area.

Some 2,600 local members walked out July 1 over the company’s demands for concessions on pensions,



Militant/Carl Weinberg

Socialist Workers Party member Kaitlin Estill, right, speaks with art teacher Diana Sale at rally of over 12,000 in Indianapolis Nov. 19 backing teachers’ fight for pay raise, smaller class sizes.

contracting out work, seniority rights and shift scheduling.

“We fight for the generations to come,” Sylvia Catchpole, who has

worked for Western for 43 years, told the *Times Colonist*. “We are not about to go backwards.”

— Ned Dmytryshyn

# Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform

*The Socialist Workers Party’s fighting program to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism:*

**UNIONS/FOR A LABOR PARTY** Support workers’ struggles to organize to defend themselves, to use union power on behalf of ourselves and all working people. Workers need their own party, a labor party. *One* union for *all* drivers — taxi, Uber, Lyft, other app-based and car service drivers! Support farmworkers in their fight to organize unions and for safe working conditions.

**AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS** in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver’s licenses for all.

**JOBS** Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation and quality affordable housing workers need. Set the minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

**OPPOSE WASHINGTON’S WARS** US hands off Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

**CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE** End the US rulers’ economic war against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation.

**HEALTH CARE FOR ALL** Fight for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care, and retirement income for all.

**ABORTION** Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

**ISRAEL & PALESTINE** For the recognition of Israel and of a contiguous Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred and murderous violence.

**WORKERS CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION & SAFETY** Capitalism’s profit drive is the despoiler of nature and cause of unsafe working conditions. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production and safety in the factories, mines, railroads and all energy monopolies to protect those on the job and in nearby communities, and to control emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases to prevent the poisoning of the air, water and soil. Workers control over production to prevent disasters like the Boeing 737 MAX.

**“JUSTICE” SYSTEM** Fight against police brutality, racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system with its frame-ups, “plea bargains,” onerous bail and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

**POLITICAL RIGHTS** Defend democratic rights — the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption.

**PRISONER RIGHTS** End solitary confinement. End suppression of the *Militant*, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

**FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND** To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to control by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

*Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalists and break from their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans. For a labor party and a movement of millions to fight for these demands along a course to replace the rule of the exploitative capitalist class with a workers and farmers government.*

*Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!*

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



December 12, 1994

The effects of Washington’s effort to starve the people of Iraq are prompting warnings of approaching famine and total economic collapse.

At a November 14 meeting, the United Nations Security Council, at the behest of the U.S. government, decided to maintain economic sanctions on Iraq. The sanctions, which were imposed in August 1990 at the opening of the Persian Gulf War, prevent Baghdad from selling oil to purchase food, medicine, and spare parts.

The [*New York Times*] editors warned that if the Clinton administration does not shift its policy, “the U.S. may face even more awkward problems from Iraq down the road and a breakdown of the allied unity on which containment of Baghdad ultimately depends.”



December 12, 1969

The stalemated nationwide strike of 147,000 General Electric workers, now in its sixth week, has brought into sharp relief some of the issues that make this strike a pivotal turning point for the future of organized labor.

The [Nixon] administration policy is to put the cost of the [Vietnam] war-created inflation on the workers.

The major December Moratorium action of the Bay Area Peace Action Council will be a rally, march and picket line Dec. 13 in support of striking General Electric workers.

United Electrical Workers Local 1412 has voted full support and endorsement to the action. Union members will speak at campus and other rallies to build the demonstration. The union is urging other locals and labor councils to back the action.



December 9, 1944

[President Franklin] Roosevelt’s pre-election demagoguery reached its height in his Chicago speech when he promised that the capitalist “free enterprise” system would provide 60 million jobs “after the war.” His supporters among the liberals and labor bureaucrats seized upon this counterfeit “promise” and are passing it around as good coin.

Roosevelt’s “equality of sacrifice” promise during the war, like his promise for jobs “after the war,” is a monstrous hoax.

When the struggle over the division of the national income is directed against the government, the methods of “pure and simple trade unionism” are hopelessly inadequate. Labor can maintain its standard of living only by waging an irreconcilable political struggle against the capitalist government.

# Protests in Colombia, Chile resist government attacks

BY SETH GALINSKY

A wave of protests by working people is shaking capitalist regimes from Chile to Ecuador to Colombia today. And they are a challenge to Washington's progress in asserting its imperialist sway in the hemisphere.

New governments elected in Ecuador and Brazil in the last two years forced out Cuban internationalist medical volunteers from their countries, and joined in the U.S. rulers' slander campaign against the Cuban Revolution. In August 2018 President Lenin Moreno pulled Ecuador out of the Cuban- and Venezuelan-led ALBA trade alliance, which serves as a counterweight to Washington's exploitative "free trade" pacts.

And on Nov. 10, rightist forces in Bolivia succeeded in ousting President Evo Morales, opening the door to deeper attacks on working people and indigenous farmers there.

But the ongoing worldwide capitalist economic crisis is destabilizing governments across Latin America. The foreign debt of Latin American and Caribbean governments has nearly doubled since 2010 to some \$2.5 trillion. There is no end in sight to the crisis that imperialism itself is preparing.

The government of Colombian President Iván Duque is the latest to be shaken by mass protests. Hundreds of thousands of union workers, students, indigenous and farmers took to the streets around the country Nov. 21 to protest

Duque's government and its policies.

For decades the Colombian government has been one of Washington's closest allies, working closely with the Pentagon and aiding the U.S. rulers' campaign against the government of Nicolás Maduro in neighboring Venezuela.

## 'No confidence in Colombian gov't'

"The people have no confidence that the president will solve the grave problems we face," small coffee farmer Rubén Darío Cifuentes told the *Militant* by phone from Cauca province Nov. 23.

Official unemployment is nearly 11%. In early November, Defense Minister Guillermo Botero resigned following revelations that the military had covered up the killing of at least eight children when the army attacked a small band of guerrillas.

Colombian labor unions called for the Nov. 21 protest in October. Inspired by large anti-government actions in Ecuador and Chile, support for the action took off.

Duque responded by ordering the closing of border crossings and deporting 24 Venezuelans he claimed were instigating unrest. He deployed some 170,000 cops and soldiers around the country. But the fear and intimidation campaign didn't work.

One big issue is so-called government pension reform, Alberto Solando Cordero, a mine worker official of the *Sintramienergética* union, told the *Militant* two days after the protest.



Reuters/Carlos Jasso

Days after hundreds of thousands of union workers, students, indigenous and farmers joined anti-government actions across Colombia, protests and strikes continued in Bogota Nov. 25.

In Colombia "you have to work 1,200 weeks to qualify for your full pension," Solando said. Under the "reform," if you work less than 40 hours it would no longer be counted as a full week, forcing workers to wait longer to retire. Millions never qualify for even the paltry sums the government currently pays out.

It's not just the economy. "The government has not been carrying out the peace accords," Solando said, referring to the 2016 agreement the Colombian rulers signed with FARC guerrillas in talks mediated by Cuba. The agreement was hailed by workers and peasants and created greater political space.

The government has reneged on promises to provide land for former guerrillas, aid for farming, and housing, he said. Some of the former guerrillas have taken up arms again and are collaborating with drug traffickers.

"The biggest problem we have is that the state is carrying out the demands of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, with evil consequences," César Pachón, a leader of Dignidad Papera, an organization of small potato farmers, told the *Militant* from Boyacá. "And the 'free trade' pact with the U.S. has just deepened the crisis."

"Peasants don't want to be criminals," Pachón said, "but many end up growing illicit coca, because they can't survive on the price they get for coffee, sugar cane, milk or potatoes."

Most of what Colombia exports is agricultural produce or raw materials. Finished products are then imported at high prices, sinking the country

deeper in debt.

Colombia is one of the top four milk producing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. "But we import powdered milk from the U.S. because we don't have a factory to produce it," Pachón said.

At least 52 indigenous people have been killed in Cauca so far this year. Hundreds of other activists have been killed around the country. "In Cauca they have been killed by drug gangs. The indigenous people have their own guards to prevent trafficking because the government authorities do nothing," Pachón said.

"The protests are going to continue," Pachón said.

## Chile: 30 years of abuse

Chile has been a symbol of the success U.S. imperialism has had in imposing its will on Latin America. In 1973 a CIA-instigated coup overthrew Salvador Allende — elected president three years before at a time of ascending working-class struggles — and imposed a reign of terror headed by Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

In 1988 Pinochet held a referendum to put the stamp of approval on another eight years of his regime. But it was defeated, leading to new elections. Successive capitalist governments restored "democracy," but kept in place or deepened the anti-working-class economic and social measures initiated under Pinochet's regime.

On Oct. 25, a series of protests

Continued on page 9

## Bolivia protests falter after deal with 'interim' gov't

For two weeks workers, peasants and indigenous communities organized protests across Bolivia against the ouster of President Evo Morales. These have wound down for now after a shaky agreement was reached between the new government and the protesters.

Morales resigned and left the country in the face of violent actions led by rightist businessman Luis Fernando Camacho, a mutiny by the police, and calls for his ouster by both the military high command and the Bolivian Workers Federation. They charged that Morales' victory in Oct. 20 elections was fraudulent.

Senate Second Vice President Jeanine Áñez proclaimed herself "interim" president of Bolivia, saying her priority was to organize new elections. But she immediately launched attacks on working people and indigenous peoples.

She sent security forces against those who protested her takeover, leaving more than 30 dead and scores wounded. She reversed social and foreign policies adopted under Morales, breaking off all relations with the Nicolás Maduro government in Venezuela and pulling Bolivia out of ALBA, an alternative trade bloc to Washington's domination, led by Cuba and Venezuela. And she stacked her new cabinet with rightists and opponents of the rights of the indigenous peoples. She expelled the members of Cuba's internationalist medical mission in Bolivia, arresting four on outrageous charges they had fomented rebellion in Bolivia.

The ouster of Morales was met with protests, especially from the country's indigenous Quechua and Aymara majority, including many who had been critical of him. They marched and blocked roads across the country.

On Nov. 22 protest leaders in the majority indigenous town of El Alto on the outskirts of La Paz signed an agreement with the government. On Nov. 25 a broader national agreement was reached.

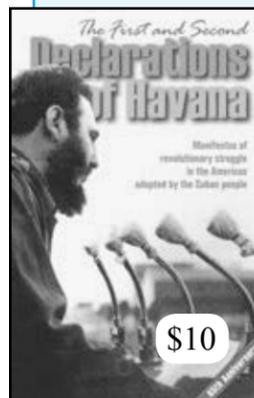
Áñez's government said it would withdraw the army and police from conflicted areas within 48 hours, rescind a decree that granted immunity to cops and soldiers who killed demonstrators and release those taken prisoner during the protests. It said there will be no reprisals against protest leaders or leaders of Morales' Movement Toward Socialism (MAS).

The Congress — including the MAS, which still holds a majority of the seats — voted unanimously Nov. 25 to hold new elections, although no date was set. It was agreed Morales will not be allowed to run.

But families of those detained and leaders of the protests say that the government is already violating the agreement. And the government's new interior minister rightist Arturo Murillo has threatened further attacks on MAS leaders. "We're going to go hunting for Juan Ramón Quintana," a former minister under Morales, Murillo said. One MAS candidate in the October elections was arrested Nov. 25 after the agreement was signed and accused of being the "intellectual author" of terrorist attacks.

— S.G.

## What working people can learn from Cuba's socialist revolution



### The First and Second Declarations of Havana

Nowhere are questions of revolutionary strategy in the Americas addressed with greater truthfulness and clarity than in the First and Second Declarations of Havana, adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962.

### Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

This book is about the class struggle in the U.S., where the potential of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. And just as wrongly.



www.pathfinderpress.com

# 'Strike for safety' wins support

Continued from front page

tional to reduce crew sizes on trains to one conductor, eliminating the brakeman; reducing the length of workers' rest periods and their right to schedule a full 48 hours off; as well as increasing the use of mandatory overtime. These demands threaten the life and limb of the workers and those who live near the tracks.

The "strike for safety" by Teamster union conductors — including those conductors who work in the yard and yardmasters who've been on strike since Nov. 19 — confronts the unrelenting drive of the rail bosses to jack up profits.

Bosses in the mining, chemical, petroleum, grain handling and other industries that rely on rail transportation — as well as the capitalist media that speak for them — are demanding the minority Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recall Parliament and pass back-to-work legislation to break the strike.

And government officials in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec are campaigning to pit farmers who have been severely impacted by the strike at critical harvest time against the strikers.

The CN workers' fight has touched a nerve among millions of workers who themselves face the grinding profit-productivity drive of the bosses. They push for fewer workers to produce more in less time for less pay as the capitalists' economic crisis forces them into increasingly cutthroat competition worldwide.

"We need more rest and we want to be with our families," striker Sheldon Lemire said while picketing at the Canadian National Taschereau yard Nov. 21 in Lachine. "We lose people every year. Nine people have been killed on the job in the last two years!"

William Shannon joined two other Walmart workers to bring solidarity to picketers line at the Joffre yard in Levis just south of Quebec City Nov. 23. When CN conductor Frederic LeBlanc told them the rail bosses "want to do more with fewer people," Shannon replied, "That's just what they do at Walmart!"

## Farmers, workers have same enemy

Farmers from the western prairies to Quebec who rely on rail transport to get propane fuel to dry out wet corn and grains, keep livestock warm, and to ship crops to market are also victims of the railway bosses. The bosses are using supervisory personnel to run some trains, but, "We wonder if CN is choosing not to ship goods like propane in order to manufacture a crisis and force back-to-work legislation," Teamsters union President Lyndon Isaak said in a Nov. 22 statement.

On that same day some 50 farmers from rural areas south of Montreal drove their tractors to Canadian National's headquarters in downtown Montreal, demanding the government do something about the dwindling supply of propane. On Nov. 25, 300 farmers protested in front of the Montreal office of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

At the CN headquarters some farmers blamed the workers, while others did not. There were no signs calling for strikebreaking legislation. Communist League members supporting both the farmers and the strikers at the Nov. 25 action found protesting farmers they

talked to understood and sympathized with the strikers.

"I'm not against the workers. But we need the propane," corn farmer Alexander Lussier told this worker-correspondent at the rally.

"I blame Trudeau. They don't give the workers what they need to work safely and they don't give us what we need to work," said corn and soybean farmer Yvonne Boulderice.

"The farmers are in dire need of propane not only to dry corn, but also to keep chicks and piglets warm in the barns. The rail workers haven't had a contract in a long time and the government isn't negotiating," dairy farmer Pierre Robidoux told the *Militant* when strike supporters dropped by his farm in St-Isidore outside Montreal. "It's not the rail workers' fault. It's the company's. There aren't enough workers. It's dangerous, they get tired," and accidents can happen.

## Solidarity with CN strikers!

Canadian National locomotive engineers, who are not on strike, but aren't working because of it, have been turning out in force to bolster the picket lines. At the Shawinigan picket line, one brought down hot moose stew he had just prepared.

The strikers aren't getting any "strike pay" from their union, and the cops and municipal authorities in many places

# Solidarity with copper workers' strike against Asarco!

Continued from front page  
pantry are crucial.

In a phone conference with investors less than two weeks after the start of the strike, corporate executives from Grupo Mexico, which owns Asarco, made it clear they are not interested in negotiating a settlement with the unions. The company claims that 340 workers out of some 2,000 have crossed the picket line. The bosses say they hope to get back up to 100% production by January by hiring more people.

The strikers are buoyed by a steady flow of support. A turkey dinner for strikers, their families and area supporters Nov. 24 drew almost 100 people at the Mission mine picket line south of Tucson. Generous donations came from other unions and the community.

"People have come by the [picket] line all week with donations," Teamsters Local 104 spokesperson Karla Schumann told the *Militant*. "The miners know they are not alone in this and they are blown away by the support from other labor organizations, family and neighbors."

As the bosses drag the strike on, "some strikers have had to start doing side work," striker David Copeland told the *Militant*. "I'm not seeing anyone give up." Picket lines at the mine entrances are up 24 hours, seven days a week and supporters are invited to — and do — join in.

"Pretty close to 75% of the miners are striking" at the two mines in the Tucson area, said Alex Terrazas, president of United Steelworkers Local 937. "Ninety-five percent of the miners in Kearny and Hayden — 80 miles east of Phoenix — are out."

Because of the strike, Asarco has closed its smelter and concentrator in



Militant/Steve Penner

**Militant correspondent Sylvie Charbin talks with Pierre Robidoux on his farm outside Montreal Nov. 24 about CN rail workers strike. Robidoux said he appreciated discussion on need for alliance of farmers and workers, saying big business media "doesn't care what we think."**

have harassed the strikers with tickets and court injunctions limiting picketing.

The Coalition of Citizens and Organizations Committed to Rail Safety in Lac-Mégantic issued a statement Nov. 25 saying it was "eager to give its full support to CN Rail workers who are currently struggling to improve their working conditions."

"Better working conditions are the only guarantee of the maintenance of minimum safety conditions for them," the committee said, "and for the populations living around the railways of Canada."

"Here in Lac-Mégantic we still remember the sad fate of Tom Harding,"

the statement added, pointing to attempts by the rail bosses and Canadian government to frame up the engineer for the disaster there, "a man unjustly accused by an industry insensitive and ungrateful to its workers, yet so affable towards its shareholders!"

Considering the high stakes for working people everywhere, support is needed from the organized labor movement and all workers and farmers. This is crucial to help beat back the demands of the rail bosses and stay the hands of Ottawa from moving to break the strike.

*Sylvie Charbin contributed to this article.*

Hayden and its refinery in Amarillo. Bosses are keeping the mines open.

A Nov. 14 "negotiating" session — the only one bosses have agreed to since the start of the strike — ended without any actual negotiations taking place. No further talks are scheduled.

Grupo Mexico is the world's fourth largest copper producer, with operations in Argentina, Peru, Mexico, Chile, Ecuador and Spain as well as the U.S. It reported profits of 37% in 2016. Asarco accounts for a third of Grupo Mexico's copper production.

Asarco does not even claim that the its concession demands are necessary to compete against its rivals. In fact, copper barons worldwide anticipate an increase in copper demand. "Copper is morphing from its traditional role as an industrial metal," a Nov. 19 article in the business journal *Forbes*

says, and "is developing new markets in electric cars (which use four times as much copper as a gasoline-powered car) and in renewable energy systems such as wind and solar."

Reuters reports that Freeport-McMoran and other copper companies have sunk an additional \$1.1 billion in U.S. production, including in opening more mines. Freeport-McMoran took over the Phelps Dodge copper mine in Morenci, Arizona, where workers fought a bitter three-year fight against union busting in the 1980s. Their union was broken by government intervention with National Guard and sharpshooters.

Donations to the strike fund and food pantry can be sent to the Pima Area Labor Federation Community Services via [paypal.me/palfcommunityservice](http://paypal.me/palfcommunityservice). Solidarity messages to the strike can be sent via [palfchair@gmail.com](mailto:palfchair@gmail.com).

**Special offer on new book**

## The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party

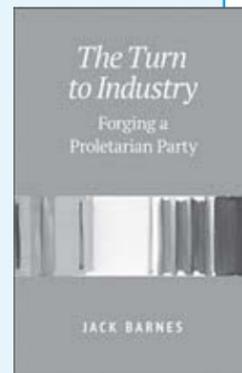
is about the working-class program, composition, and course of conduct of the only kind of party worthy of the name 'revolutionary' in the imperialist epoch.

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 capitalist class in all its economic, social, and political forms.

This book is about building such a party in the United States and in other capitalist countries around the world.

— Jack Barnes, National Secretary of  
the Socialist Workers Party

**Special offer: \$12 — or \$10 with *Militant* subscription**  
**[pathfinderpress.com](http://pathfinderpress.com)**



# 'Teamsters union treated owner-drivers as fellow workers'

Teamster Politics by Farrell Dobbs is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. It is the third volume of a four-part series on the history of that union during the giant labor battles of the 1930s. Dobbs emerged from the ranks to become a leader of the 1934 Teamster strikes and the central organizer of the 11-state drive to bring tens of thousands of over-the-road truckers into the union. Dobbs went on to become the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party from 1953 to 1972. He was the party's presidential candidate four times. The excerpt is from the appendix "How the Teamsters Union Organized Independent Truckers in the 1930s." Copyright © 1975 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Teamsters Port Division

Truck drivers picket in Wilmington, California, Sept. 9, demanding NFI company bosses treat them as workers, not "contractors." Farrell Dobbs explains how owner-operators, loaded by debt, are also exploited workers.

The validity of that policy was confirmed by its results. In the major struggles of that period against the trucking employers generally, the union's owner-operator members served loyally. They volunteered their trucks to transport pickets and shared in the picketing. A significant number of our casualties in battles with the cops were from among this category of workers. After the union had been consolidated, they continued to play a constructive role. Like other members of the organization, they looked upon those of their own kind who took an antilabor stance as finks and dealt with them accordingly.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

During the depression of the 1930s individually owned trucks appeared in the transportation industry in ever-increasing numbers. A major factor in this development was an intensive sales campaign by the auto corporations. Their caper was to induce the unemployed to buy themselves a job by buying a truck. Workers who could scrape up the down payment were allowed to meet the balance of the purchase price on a long-term installment basis. Incentive for such purchases was given by the federal

government, which used individually owned trucks on its "make-work" projects for the unemployed of that period. State, county, and city engineering departments followed suit, especially in connection with road work.

Comparable trends developed within private industry. Firms having their own fleets of trucks often kept a surplus of rigs on hand by hiring independent owner-operators, who usually found themselves payless — despite the time put in — when they were not actually hauling something. Fluctuations in business volume were thus compensated for at the expense of the owner-operators and to the profit of the fleet owners. Broker setups appeared in the form of companies that relied entirely on individual truck owners to move goods. In such cases virtually the entire overhead cost of trucking operations was shoved on to the owner-operators, thereby impairing their capacity to earn a living. These and other practices of a comparable nature held sway in coal and ice delivery, construction hauling, motor freight, and elsewhere in transportation.

Immediate profit-taking along these lines was not the only object the capitalists had in mind. Advantage was sought from ambitions that developed among independent owner-operators to expand their holdings and go into business for themselves. Illusions were fostered that such prospects were open to all individual owners, so as to trick them into identifying themselves with the problems of management. To the extent that the

scheme worked, divisions were sown between owner-operators and the drivers of company fleets. Unionization of the industry was thereby impeded; the laws of the open-shop jungle could better prevail; and the trucking bosses were able to wax fatter in all respects. ...

Such were the prevailing conditions throughout the trucking industry when Trotskyists in Minneapolis began to win leadership influence within the IBT [International Brotherhood of Teamsters] during the second half of the 1930s. In shaping our overall class-struggle policy, close attention to the independent owner-operator question was included. We began by taking full account of the realities of the existing situation. Drivers owning their own trucks had become a factor of major dimensions within the industry. To consolidate the union power, they had to be brought into an alliance with the fleet drivers. Before that could be done, however, a course had to be developed that would serve the owner-operators' interests.

Careful examination of all the factors involved convinced us that those owning one truck, who did their own driving, should be approached by the union as fellow workers. Proceeding accordingly, we set out to organize as many of these individuals as possible. They were then extended the democratic right to shape the demands that were made upon their employers, the leasing companies. On that basis the union as a whole followed through by backing them in struggles to improve their take-home pay.

Our course had checkmated the divisive schemes of the bosses. In Minneapolis the truck drivers and allied workers had emerged as a power, and the union was able to march forward in advancing the interests of all its members. ...

A man who owns the truck which he drives is merely an employee who is required to furnish his own tools as a condition of employment. He has a full legal right to be represented by a labor organization. ...

We approached the equipment as expensive tools the individual owner-operators had been required to provide in order to get jobs as drivers. This served our objective, which was to make the leasing companies pay for the use of those tools, as though they were the owners. That would reduce their advantage down to having the owner-drivers buy the equipment initially, and there wouldn't be much percentage for the operating companies in such an arrangement. To the extent that we could succeed in that course, the trend toward an increase in the use of owner-operated rigs could be reversed; and a healthier situation could be established, with trucking firms again using their own fleets, operated by drivers paid on a regular wage basis.

In striving toward that goal we were aided by gains registered in securing higher wages and better conditions for fleet drivers. Those accomplishments were noted by the owner-operators, many of whom began to realize that they, too, would be better off as fleet drivers.

## IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

### UNITED STATES

**CALIFORNIA: Oakland:** 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont, Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

**FLORIDA: Miami:** 1444 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 215. Zip: 33132. Tel: (305) 929-8966. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

**GEORGIA: Atlanta:** 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

**ILLINOIS: Chicago:** 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 455-0111. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

**KENTUCKY: Louisville:** 1939 Goldsmith Lane, Suite 134. Zip: 40218. Tel: (502) 882-1041. Email: louisvilleswp@gmail.com

**MINNESOTA: St. Paul:** 1821 University Ave. W Suite S-106A. Zip: 55104. Tel: (651) 340-5586. Email: twincities.swp@gmail.com

**NEBRASKA: Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6811. Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincoln@gmail.com

**NEW JERSEY:** 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 257-5753. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

**NEW YORK: New York:** 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** 285 Washington Ave. #1R. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 810-1586. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

**PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** P.O. Box 79142. Zip: 15216. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

**TEXAS: Dallas:** 1005 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 207. Zip: 75208. Tel: (469) 513-1051. Email: dallasswp@gmail.com

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

**WASHINGTON: Seattle:** 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** Suite 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville, NSW 2142. Tel: (02) 8677 0108. Email: cl\_australia@optusnet.com.au

### CANADA

**QUEBEC: Montreal:** 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: cllcmontreal@fastmail.com

### FRANCE

**Paris:** BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643. Tel: (09) 636-3231. Email: clauack@xtra.co.nz

### UNITED KINGDOM

**ENGLAND: London:** 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 312-8119. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

## November BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

30% DISCOUNT

### Teamster Politics

by Farrell Dobbs  
Dobbs, a central leader of Teamster battles in 1930s, recounts how Local 544 in Minneapolis fought to organize truck drivers across the Midwest and lead the union onto an independent working-class course.

\$16. **Special price: \$11**

### Their Trotsky and Ours

by Jack Barnes

\$12. **Special price: \$8**

### Land or Death

The Peasant Struggle in Peru

by Hugo Blanco

\$15. **Special price: \$10.50**

### Cuba for Beginners

by Eduardo Del Rio Rius

\$12. **Special price: \$8**

### Letters from Prison

A Revolutionary Party Prepares for Post-World War II Labor Battles

by James P. Cannon

Imprisoned with 17 other SWP and union leaders for opposing U.S. rulers entry into World War II, Cannon writes to prepare a communist party for explosive post-war labor battles.

\$20. **Special price: \$14**

### ¡EE.UU. fuera del Oriente Medio!

Cuba habla en Naciones Unidas (U.S. Hands off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks at the United Nations)

by Fidel Castro, Ricardo Alarcón

\$12. **Special price: \$8**

### Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM OFFER GOOD UNTIL NOVEMBER 30

## Help make 'Militant,' book, fund drive

The *Militant* urges its readers to join with Socialist Workers Party members in the final two weeks of the campaign to expand the readership of the paper and books by SWP and other revolutionary working-class leaders and to win contributions to the party's \$100,000 fund drive.

The *Militant* is a tool for workers who are organizing to fight against the daily indignities we face at work as well as the bosses' attacks on our wages, on safety and working conditions. It's a crucial tool for building solidarity with struggles by working people — from the just concluded "strike for safety" waged by Teamster rail members at Canadian National, to the ongoing bitter strike by copper miners aimed at pushing back Asarco bosses' union-busting attacks, to social struggles against police brutality, for amnesty for immigrants without papers, for the rights of women, against Washington's wars and more.

It explains that workers need our own party — a labor party — to fight in our class interests and chart a course to take political power.

The *Militant* not only describes why these struggles are in the interests of *all* workers, but what can be done to strengthen them. And why working-class solidarity makes a difference.

It is a unique source of news about struggles for political rights being waged by millions from Iraq and Lebanon to Hong Kong. As working people continue to initiate struggles in response to the ef-

fects of the crisis of capitalism visited on them and imperialist intervention in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia and elsewhere, books that present the lessons of the Cuban and Russian Revolutions and explain a working-class road forward are indispensable.

Along with the *Militant*, titles by SWP leaders and other revolutionists explain how workers and farmers have fought successfully in past struggles, gaining confidence and class consciousness in the process. They explain how every political question we confront is a *class* question.

Above all, they explain that workers can learn the opposite of everything we are taught about ourselves under capitalism — what we *are* capable of becoming, as we fight to change the miserable conditions the rulers foist on us.

In contrast to the rigged capitalist two-party system — the Republicans and Democrats, with their growing "socialist" reform hangers-on — the *Militant* and these books present the program and activities of the Socialist Workers Party, its candidates and those of Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K.

Join this campaign! Show the paper to your co-workers, neighbors and friends, and join SWP members taking the paper and books to workers' battles and on their doorsteps in cities, towns and rural areas. Help win new contributors to the work of the SWP.

Thanks!

## Protests in Colombia, Chile resist gov't attacks

Continued from page 6

against the government culminated with some 1.2 million people jammed into central Santiago. The protests began when high school youth took to the streets against a 30 peso (42 cents) increase in subway fares. "It's not about 30 pesos. It's about 30 years," protesters said, highlighting the pent-up anger over decades of attacks.

"It was the largest protest since the 1989 return of democracy," Enrique Solar, an official of the Port Workers Union of Chile, told the *Militant*. "Everything exploded. It's been 30 years of injustice."

Chileans often denounce the two-tier health care system, one for working people, the other for the better off. "The public health system is terrible," Solar said. "You can die waiting for them to give you an appointment for an operation. But if you have money, you get attention in 10 minutes at a private clinic."

When the recent round of protests broke out,

Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, a Harvard-educated billionaire, declared the country was "at war." The police attacked protesters with tear gas, high pressure water streams, and "rubber" bullets, which turned out to have less than 20% rubber.

At least 285 protesters lost an eye or had severe trauma from being shot in the face at close range by the cops. More than 20 demonstrators were killed, "and there've been disappeared," Solar said.

With the repression just fueling anger, Piñera decided to try economic concessions. He announced he would raise pensions for the poorest by 20%, increase the minimum wage by 16%, cancel a 9.2% hike in electricity rates and cut the cost of medicines. And he proposed cutting the pay of legislators, who earn a minimum of \$27,000 a month.

But it's too little, too late, Solar said.

Like in Colombia and Ecuador, the traditional capitalist rulers are discredited. "The people are fed up with all the parties," he said.

## Conviction overturned, Gerald Reed's still in jail

BY MARK CLEMENTS

CHICAGO — Gerald Reed went back to court here Oct. 25 in another bid to win his freedom. He has been incarcerated on frame-up charges extracted by cop torture for a 1990 double homicide that was overturned last year.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Gainer threw out Reed's conviction last Dec. 19, granting him a new trial. He scheduled a hearing three weeks later to discuss bail, and ruled Reed could not be returned to prison. He was remanded to the Cook County Jail.

More than eight years ago, the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission upheld Reed's claim he had been tortured by Chicago police detectives. The commission had been set up following protests that forced out the truth about widespread torture and frame-ups by Chicago Police Commander John Burge and his notorious Midnight Crew.

The latest chapter in Reed's ordeal began two days after Gainer's decision, when Cook County Special Prosecutor Robert Milan announced plans to retry Reed and blocked him from getting bail. Then Gainer stepped down from the bench and the case was assigned to a new judge, Thomas Hennelly.

At the Jan. 9 hearing, Hennelly said he was unfamiliar with the case and postponed arguments until Jan. 30. That hearing was supposed to address the mo-

tion for bail and another motion to dismiss the original 1990 indictment filed by Reed's attorneys, Elliot Zinger and Larry Dreyfus. But the judge declined for months to rule on the motions.

Armanda Shackelford, Reed's mother and a tireless fighter for his release, has attended every hearing, accompanied each time by dozens of his supporters, including mothers of other Burge torture victims.

They listened in amazement Oct. 25 as Hennelly finally explained the monthslong delay. The judge announced that court clerks had never sent him the full trial transcript, and that Reed's torture-forced "confession" had not been suppressed. In all Reed has spent nearly 30 years behind prison walls.

The procedural delays and snaillike pace of legal proceedings Reed has had to endure exemplify the situation confronting more than 100 men still in Illinois prisons who have yet to receive hearings on their allegations of torture. The outcome of Reed's fight has important implications for these remaining imprisoned victims of torture at the hands of Burge and his crew.

Meanwhile, Reed and his supporters plan to step up the fight both inside and outside the courtroom for his release on bail and his exoneration.

*Mark Clements was a victim of Chicago police torture and spent 28 years in prison on frame-up charges.*

## Protests across Iran

Continued from front page

removal of fuel subsidies Nov. 15. Beginning in the southwest, in Ahwaz, an Arabic-speaking province that borders Iraq, the actions rapidly swept the country to Tabriz, Mashhad, Isfahan, Khorramshahr, Shiraz and the capital, Tehran.

Demonstrators in Mashhad, Behbahan, Ahwaz and Chabahar chanted, "Oil revenue has gone missing, it's been spent in Palestine," reported *Rudaw*.

For years, the Iranian government has funded and helped organize Islamic Jihad and Hamas in Gaza; Hezbollah, an armed group in Lebanon; and militias across Syria and Iraq, where it has established military bases and transports rockets to Hezbollah to target Israel. The bloody toll of the Iranian rulers' wars are borne by working people, including in Iran.

In the Kurdish region of Urmia in Iran, demonstrators chanted, "The enemy is here," referring to the hated clerical government. In Tehran, students shouted, "Death to the regime."

The government's riot police were backed by a mobilization of half a million of the murderous Basij paramilitary force, which is linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Between 100 and 200 demonstrators have been killed by live fire, including from snipers. Over 1,000 have been arrested. The regime claimed it has suppressed the demonstrations. Similarly, Iran's militias in Iraq are used by the Iraqi government to kill anti-government demonstrators there.

Less than two years ago demonstrations swept Iran, fueled by the exposure of huge government spending on religious institutions linked to the capitalist rulers' Revolutionary Guard, which has been central to recruiting the militias they use to extend their regional clout.

Since then, the Iranian rulers' crisis has sharpened as economic conditions worsen for working people while Tehran has continued to bolster its regional military incursions. Inflation has soared to 50% while wages stagnate in a contracting economy, deepened with the reimposition of crippling sanctions by Washington that constrict oil exports.

"Nothing propels mounting resistance more than the privileged classes' military adventures and wars," writes Socialist Workers Party leader Steve Clark, in the party's statement "Revolution, Counterrevolution and War in Iran."

Through pressing working people into their military service, Clark says, "The Iranian bourgeoisie's aim is to increase its regional power and influence by force of arms, extending beyond Iran's borders the nearly four-decade-long political, cleric-dominated counterrevolution that pushed back the workers, farmers, women and oppressed nationalities who carried out the historic Iranian Revolution of 1979." The statement is available on the *Militant's* website.

### IDF missiles hit Iran's forces in Syria

The Israeli rulers have stepped up their assaults aimed at pushing back the buildup of Tehran's proxy forces in Syria. In the biggest attack by the Israeli Defense Forces in Syria in 18 months, its warplanes attacked more than 20 military sites near the capital, Damascus, Nov. 20. The assault was in retaliation for four rockets fired towards the Golan Heights the previous day by Iranian-commanded forces in Syria. All four of Tehran's rockets were downed by Israeli anti-missile defenses.

Facilities of the Iranian Quds Force, some inside Syrian bases, as well as six Syrian surface-to-air missile batteries were hit, killing 23 people. Two were civilians; five were Syrian soldiers; and the other 16, Iranian or Tehran-backed fighters.

The government in Iran has repeatedly vowed to destroy the state of Israel. It has used its intervention in Syria to help turn the Syrian civil war in favor of its ally, the Bashar al-Assad tyranny, and to strengthen its forces there.

IDF spokesperson Brig. Gen. Hiday Zilberman said, "We will not let Iran entrench in Syria," repeating the often-stated aim of the Israeli rulers.

Tel Aviv gave notice of its airstrikes to the command of Moscow's forces in Syria. The Israeli strikes avoided Russian-supplied S-300 missile batteries stationed there. Mikhail Bogdanov, Russian deputy foreign minister, criticized the attacks, saying they violated Syrian sovereignty. But Moscow took no action to defend Assad's forces from Tel Aviv's bombardment.