**SWP fighting 2020 platform points political road forward**

As the Socialist Workers Party prepares to launch its 2020 campaign for president and vice president, the party has begun announcing a series of candidates for federal and state offices across the country (see page 3).

This is the SWP’s fighting campaign platform 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 in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite.

**Solidarity crucial in striking Asarco workers’ fight against union busting**


**BY DEBORAH LIATOS**

“It’s about the solidarity, about everybody sticking together and staying together, outside of that it’s community support, labor organization support,” Karla Schumann, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 104, said at the picket line outside Asarco’s Mission Mine in Sahuarita, Arizona, Dec. 29.

She was speaking at an expanded picket line and dinner attended by 150 strikers and supporters to celebrate the holidays. Gifts to the children of striking copper workers were distributed Dec. 23.

Some 1,700 workers at four Asarco complexes in Arizona and its refinery in Amarillo, Texas, have been on strike since massive post-World War II mobilizations wrested independence from British colonial rule.

The new law promulgated by Modi and his Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party fast-tracks citizenship for migrants from neighboring major-ity-Muslim countries — Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. But only Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians.

**India protesters demand repeal of anti-Muslim act**

New law makes religion the basis for citizenship discriminations against Muslims.

It is a direct challenge to the secular tradition that has marked the country since massive post-World War II mobilizations wrested independence from British colonial rule.

**US hands off Iraq, Iran! Get out of the Middle East!**

**BY BRIAN WILLIAMS**

Washington mounted airstrikes Dec. 29, targeting the Tehran-backed Kataeb Hezbollah militia, whose forces are part of Iraq’s military — hitting three sites in Iraq and two in Syria, killing at least 25 militia members. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper warned that Washington may take “additional actions” in response to “bad behavior from militia groups or from Iran.”

Washington said the strikes were retaliation for rocket attacks on an Iraqi army base near Kirkuk two days before that killed a U.S. contractor and wounded four U.S. soldiers. According to the Wall Street Journal, this was the 11th time over the past two months that U.S. troops in Iraq were targeted by rocket fire.

Kataeb Hezbollah was formed in 2003 at the initiative of the reactionary clerical regime in Iran after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. It was one of the first

Continued on page 4

**Liberals ‘impeach’ drive aims to stiffle political voice of working people**

**BY TERRY EVANS**

As “resistance”-obsessed liberals struggle to find ways to oust President Donald Trump, they are pushing to limit the political rights of millions of working people. A Dec. 20 New York Times headline described the problem they face as “The Tyranny of the 63 Million,” targeting working people who voted for the president. These workers, as well as those who decided not to vote for either ruling-class party, were disgusted with the disdain in

Continued on page 7

**Inside**

Johnson says workers ’lent’ him their votes to get UK out of EU

Harry Villegos (Pombo): Fought at side of Che Guevara

Reply to a reader: Fight to end the rents and mortgages system

–On the picket line, p. 5–

Minnesota Teamsters walk out in support of UNFI strikers

Striking Kaiser workers demand more staffing for patient care

Continued on page 4

**Speak out against Jew-hatred after machete attack on Hanukkah in NY!**

**BY WILLIE COTTON**

MONSEY, N.Y. — A violent attack at the Rockland County home of Rabbi Chaim Rottenberg during a Hanukkah celebration Dec. 28 seriously injured five people. The attacker barged into the event, held next to the rabbi’s synagogue, with a machete and attacked dozens of those attending.

Some tried to defend themselves, throwing furniture at the attacker and forcing him to retreat. When Joseph Gluck confronted the assailant he screamed at Gluck, “Hey you, I’ll get you.” Gluck lured the attacker outside. Joseph Neumann who was stabbed multiple times remains in critical condition.

Grafton Thomas, a 37-year-old African American, was arrested hours after the attack and pled not guilty to five counts of attempted murder and

Continued on page 7

**Rally in Kochi, India, Jan. 1 protests government moves to undercut unity, secular state.**

**BY ROY LANDERSEN**

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets across India protesting the push by the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enforce a new Citizenship Amendment Act passed Dec. 11. The sectarian law makes religion the criterion for who will be offered Indian citizenship and openly discrimimates against Muslims.

It is a direct challenge to the secular tradition that has marked the country since massive post-World War II mobilizations wrested independence from British colonial rule.

**AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS** in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite.

**Continued on page 3**

**Continued on page 6**

**Continued on page 4**

**Continued on page 3**
Johnson says workers ‘lent’ him their votes to get UK out of EU

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN
LONDON — Boris Johnson claimed his Conservative Party’s huge electoral victory, built on an overwhelmingly working-class vote, was the “starting gun being fired on what promises to be a fantastic year and a remarkable decade for our United Kingdom.” But claims that the instability that has wracked politics in the U.K. in recent years are over are a pipe dream. The weakness, heterogeneity and loss of nerve of the British ruling class was not the result of a two-year hung Parliament. It has been decades in the making as their military and economic forces decline amidst capitalism’s spreading world disorder.

Johnson thanked those who do not consider themselves “natural Tories” for “lending” him their vote, implying that he only wanted to get Brexit sorted, to get it over and done with. “I’ve had enough of it,” John Wilkinson, 55, a worker at the Tulip meat factory in Manchester, told the Militant.

Whether Johnson is capable of turning these “lent” votes into a long-term shift in working-class political support is far from assured.

Johnson’s insistence on his “One Nation Conservatism” — a claim to bring “rich and poor” together under the banner of “one nation” — is itself a recognition of the nervousness within the capitalist class about what’s brewing in the deep-seated anger, including the alienation from the entire capitalist political setup.

Labour Party doesn’t defend labor

The Labour Party itself has been dealt a body blow for this very reason. Under the impact of the capitalist crisis and shifts within the party itself, working-class support has moved away from Labour in every election since 1997. Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader that led the electoral debacle, has followed the course begun by former Prime Minister Anthony Blair to transform Labour into a middle-class liberal big city party. Corbyn has spearheaded attacks on working-class consciousness under the banner of “identity politics.”

Workers looking for answers to deteriorating conditions of life and work, for jobs, health care and housing, and no more Grenfell Tower-style disasters, saw Corbyn’s bourgeois socialists in the working class: the deep-seated anger, including the alienation from the entire capitalist political setup.

Picket at Waterloo station, London, during December strike against South Western Railway in defense of guard jobs, safety for rail workers and passengers. Fight by workers to get UK out of EU took place against backdrop of deepening capitalist crisis, growing disarray of Labour Party.

Such sneering anti-working-class contempt, in the mold of Hillary Clinton’s depiction of Donald Trump supporters as “deplorables,” goes back years in the Labour Party.

In 2014 Emily Thornberry, now a candidate to replace Corbyn as leader, posted a picture of a worker’s home with an English flag and van outside, labeling the resident “white van man.” Four years earlier in the 2010 election, Prime Minister Gordon Brown was caught on TV complaining to his aides about why a lifelong Labour Party supporter, a “bigoted woman” in Brown’s insensitive — had been allowed to ask him about immigration.

The revolt against Labour was also a rejection of this “white van” nonsense. Every time Labour attacked Johnson for an un–politically correct” statement, the Conservative Party won more votes.

During the campaign Corbyn refused to apologize in a BBC interview for persistent anti-Semitic remarks by Labour leaders, an example of how Jew-hated endures in capitalist politics today and won’t go away. Labour’s anti-Semitism was not a decisive factor in the election result. There has been a decline in anti-Semitism in the working class, and many workers were repelled by Corbyn’s position.

None of this implies that the shift in votes to the Conservatives means work- ers are becoming more reactionary.

The government will honor its commitment for the U.K. to leave the EU’s political institutions on Jan. 31, but negotiation over trading relations with these rivals in the protectionist bloc have yet to begin. EU officials cast doubt on completing them in the 11-month “transition” period and make no secret of their plan to extract the most concessions possible. The new government will be affected in these negotiations by the U.K.’s long-term decline against its rivals.

The U.K.’s rulers have military bases around the world. But their armed forces have declined in strength, numbers and quality. The army totals 73,000 — down from 102,000 at the time of the 2003 Iraq war. The navy is less than half its 1990 size. The economy has dropped to sixth in the world and growth has stagnated as profit rates and industrial investment fall. Without economic and military clout, the pound sterling is increasingly irrelevant as a reserve currency. And the United Kingdom itself is under strain. Demands for a second Scottish independence vote immediately followed the Scottish National Party’s landslide electoral victory north of the border. And pressures toward a United Ireland are increasing.

By check or international money order made out to CL Johnson’s Brexit deal negotiated with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and the U.K. drew a customs line down the Irish Sea just as all-Ireland economic, social and cultural life is increasing.

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Continued from front page

From the Phillips 66 oil refinery and its neighbors in Hayden, Arizona, but has kept up some mining with supervisors, non-union contractors and over 300 workers on site.

The copper giant has now begun advertising on its website to hire mine laborers, haul truck drivers, electricians, mechanics and other workers in a bid to replace striking workers and increase production.

A delegation of five members of United Steelworkers Local 675 In Los Angeles County, including workers from the Phillips 66 oil refinery and the Marathon oil refinery, brought solidarity to the Asarco strikers in Kearny, Arizona, Dec. 21.

“This is a struggle against an international capitalist company that operates on both sides of the border,” David Campbell, secretary-treasurer of Local 675, who participated in the delegation, told the Militant by phone. “The strikers were appreciative that our local traveled so far to join the picket lines.

Asarco out to smash union

“Asarco is out to smash the union,” Campbell said. “If the copper miners are smashed, other industries will be encouraged to do likewise.”

We brought $900 from plant gate collections and the Mexico Mining Federation itself also contributed $2,000, will continue to contribute $1,000 a month to the strike and hopes to do more.”

He urged other union locals to follow the example.

Eli Green, a pipefitter at the Marathon oil refinery who was on the delegation, said: “Most of the money raised came from a morning plant gate collection at Marathon. The balance came from cans located in departments in the refinery. We were able to raise strike 30 days in 2015. The solidarity we received helped us so much and lifted our spirits.”

Mexico City-based Grupo Mexico, which owns Asarco, is the third largest copper mining company in the United States and the fourth largest in the world. The company braggs that it produces copper more cheaply than any of its competitors.

Grupo Mexico hopes to keep it that way by busting the unions at Asarco.

According to its 2019 annual report, Asarco has been pushing to produce more “with a focus on human capital with the only goal being to recover and continue an operation that is sustainable in the long run.”

The company says that it offered pay increases to “skilled workers,” about a fourth of the workers. It doesn’t mention that this means three-quarters of the workers would have no wage increase, on top of already going without a raise for nearly 10 years.

Any mine or factory worker, wheth-
er at U.S. or foreign-owned companies, knows exactly what Asarco bosses are handing out. Speedup, cutting cor-
cers on safety, and pushing to widen divisions among workers and weaken their unions — all to jack up profits for the bosses.

Grupo Mexico and Asarco — just like U.S. mine bosses — are well known for their disregard for the safety of their workers and those who live near their mines. Two Asarco workers were killed after the vehicles they were in were crushed by massive mining vehicles used in the company’s open pit mines, one in 2010 and the other in 2017.

In 2012, Asarco received 51 cita-
tions for safety violations at its Hayden copper concentrator operation alone, including 15 that were considered “sig-
nificant and substantial” by the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

In 2014 Grupo Mexico’s Buenavista del Cobre mine in Cananéa, Mex-
ico, flooded 40,000 cubic meters of toxic copper sulfate into the Sonora and Bacanuchi Rivers, poisoning the land and water.

More solidarity is needed. Spread the word. Strike supporters are encouraged to visit the picket lines. For picketers at the Mission and Silver Bell complexes near Tucson, send contributions to the Pima Area Labor Federation Community Ser-
vices via paypal.me/palfcommunityservice. Solidarity messages to the strike can be sent via palchair@gmail.com. For picketers at the Ray Mine and Hayden Smelter, send contributions and messag-
es to USW Local 915, Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 550, Kearny, AZ 85357. For picketers at the Amarillo refinery, send to USW Local 561, 4230 Texas Hwy 136, Amarillo, TX 79108.

Continued from front page

To put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospi-
tals, child care centers, mass transpor-
tation, and quality, affordable housing workers need set. The minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.


CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMP-
LE End the US rules’ economic war against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform agriculture in struggle, to take political power and uproot capita-
list exploitation.

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

ABORTION Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, se-
cure abortions.

ISRAEL & PALESTINE For the rec-
ognition 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, Jewish and Arab workers to fight for a united, classless society.

WORKERS CONTROL OVER PRO-
DUCTION & SAFETY Capitalism’s profit drive is the despoiler of nature and cause of unsafe working condi-
tions. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over produc-
tion 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 CO2 and other greenhouse gases to prevent the poisoning of the air, water and soil. Workers control over produc-
tion to prevent disasters like the Bee-
ing 737 MAX.

“JUSTICE” SYSTEM Fight against po-
lace 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 demo-
ocratic 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 con-
finement. End suppression of the Mili-
tant, books and newspapers by prison author-
ties. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND To put an end to farm fore-
closures, bankruptcies and skyrocket-
ning 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 produc-
tion, including their living expenses.

Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalist-
is and break from their political par-
ties — 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!

Giant ore truck crashed Asarco mine worker Thomas Renavida to death in 2010. Safety camera on truck could have prevented death, but Asarco like other mine bosses refuses to install them.

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Continued from front page

The Militant January 13, 2020 3
India protests

Continued from front page

ans, Jains and Christians can qualify, not Muslims. And it excludes persecuted minorities, especially Muslims, from nearby non-Muslim majority countries like Sri Lanka, China and Myanmar.

The ruling capitalist families that Modi represents seek to strengthen their ability to exploit India’s over 1.3 billion people and better position themselves to compete with Beijing and other rivals. It goes along with a reactionary new National Registry of Citizens to be implemented across the country forcing millions to prove or accept proof of citizenship. A similar move in Assam province in August stripped citizenship from nearly 1.9 million people, mainly Muslims. Sev-

eral hundred have been arrested and thrown into detention camps.

Protests over the new law began at two historically Muslim universities near the capital, New Delhi. Police at-
tacked the students there Dec. 15, firing tear gas and beating them. Scores were injured and several murdered. This trig-
gered broader protests from both Mus-
lims and non-Muslim areas.

Tens of thousands more students erupted in protest at other campuses. Demo-
strations were also held in New Delhi holding signs like “No to CAA” and “No to citizenship based on reli-
gion.” Both events also took place among Indian students abroad from Britain to the U.S.

“This act now puts India’s social fabric under threat,” Shrey Kapoor, a Harvard student from India, told the Financial Times. “Violence against defenseless students was the tipping point for me.”

Protesters at rallies began to fly In-
dia’s flag and quote its constitution as emblems of secular equality. Muslims have been joined by significant numbers of other faiths. Dalits, the community at the bottom of the still common Hindu hierarchical caste system, also joined. At least 26 people, mostly Muslims, have been killed in police and mob attacks across the country, mainly in the most popu-

lar and non-Muslim areas.

Erupting in protest at other campuses.

The Militant

January 13, 2020

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Speak Out Against Jew-Hatred, At-
tacks and Killings. Speaker: Eric Simp-
son, Socialist Workers Party Tel., Jan. 17,
7:30 p.m. Donation: $5. 675 Regenber-

FLORIDA

Miami

Where Should Workers Stand on Cli-
mate Debate? Speaker: Chuck Guerra, So-
cialist Workers Party. Tel., Jan. 18, 7 p.m. Dona-

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Behind the Rise of Anti-Semitic At-
tacks: A Working-Class Response. Speaker: Ogundarin Jonsson, Communist League. Tel., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Office 129, Royal Exchange Build-
ings, 1 Old Bank St. Tel. (0161) 312-8119.

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Harry Villegas (Pombo): Fought at side of Che Guevara

Cuban revolutionary leader Harry Villegas died Dec. 29 in Havana, after engaging in more than six de-

cades of struggle against capitalist exploitation, imperialist oppression, and for national liberation and so-

cialism. He is best known for fighting alongside Ernesto Che Guevara in those battles — from Cuba itself, to the Congo in 1965 (when Che gave him the nom de guerre Pombo); to Bolivia in 1967.

Villegas was born in 1940 in the foothills of the Sierra Maestra moun-
tains of eastern Cuba. As a teenager he joined the revolutionary struggle against the U.S.-backed dictatorship. In 1957 he became a combatant in the Rebel Army led by Fidel Castro, fighting much of the time in a column commanded by Guevara. After the revolution’s triumph on Jan. 1, 1959, Villegas shouldered responsibilities helping lead factory workers to restructure production in the interests of working people. He returned to active military duty in 1962, later serving in the internationalist missions in the Congo and Bolivia.

From 1977 to 1979, and again from 1981 to 1988, Villegas was part of the leadership of Cuba’s volunteer military mission in Angola, fighting alongside Angolan and Namibian forces in the victorious battle against aggression by South Africa’s apartheid regime and its backers in Washington.

Villegas was a Central Committee member of the Communist Party of Cuba from 1997 to 2011, a deputy of Cuba’s National Assembly, and executive vice presi-
dent of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Rev-
olution. Retired from active duty at the time of his death, he held the rank of brigadier general.

Villegas is the author of Pombo: A Man of Che’s guerrilla; Cuba and Angola: The War for Freedom; At the Side of Che Guevara; and co-author of Making His-
tory: Interviews with Four Generals of Cuba’s Revo-
lutionary Armed Forces. A coming issue will carry a full appreciation of his revolutionary life and work in Cuba and worldwide.

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Pombo: A Man of Che’s guerrilla

by Harry Villegas

The diary by Pombo of the 1966-68 revolutionary campaign in Bolivia led by Ernesto Che Guevara, an epic chapter in the history of the Americas. pathfinderpress.com

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Harry Villegas, left, and fellow combatants Alberto Fernández Montes and Sarapio Aquino in Bolivia in 1966 or 1967, part of revolutionary struggle led by Che Guevara.

The Socialist Workers Party invites you to a celebration of the 61st Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution

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email: newyorkswp@gmail.com

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HISTORICAL CALENDAR

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. Hands Off Cuba! Speakers: Cleve Andrew Pulley, D.C. Metro Coalition delegate to 2019 Anti-Imperialist Confe-

rence in Havana; José Perièrrea, Cuban American immigration lawyer; Special guest from Cuban Embassy Sat., Jan. 11, 7 p.m. St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 2553 Newton St., NW Tel: (202) 501-9463. Sponsored by D.C. Metro Coalition in Sol-

arity with the Cuban Revolution.

$20

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Minnesota Teamsters walk out in support of UNFI strikers

HOPKINS, Minn. — Seven hundred members of Teamsters Local 120 walked out here Dec. 17 at United Natural Foods Inc., the largest organic grocery distributor in North America. The workers were supporting Teamsters Local 414 members who had set up a picket line outside the Hopkins warehouse after they went on strike Dec. 12 at the UNFI warehouse in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

The company refused to negotiate in good faith and the bosses were demanding concessions that would gut the union contract, picketing Local 414 members said. They have been working without a contract since Sept. 14.

Five thousand Teamsters work at dozens of UNFI distribution centers across the country. Whole Foods/Amazon is the company's largest customer.

Local 414 had extended its picket line to plants here and in Green Bay, Wisconsin, to broaden fellow workers' knowledge about the fight and win solidarity.

Nearly every worker walked off the job at the Hopkins warehouse. Members of the Machinists and the Plumbers and Pipefitters unions also honored the picket lines.

When the company tried to lower-paid nonunion contract workers to load the trucks, they walked out too.

By the next day, there were dozens of trucks with inbound freight parked outside the warehouse. No work was going on inside. UNFI bosses then announced Dec. 19 they would return to negotiations with Local 414 in Ft. Wayne. The extended picket lines were taken down and workers returned to work at all three facilities.

Mark Severs, a Militant worker-correspondent and member of Minneapolis-area Teamsters Local 638, who drives for a company that makes deliveries to the warehouse, joined the picketers.

"Once drivers where I work learned the pickets were up, we agreed we were not going to cross the picket line," he said.

$16 each all four for $50

See list of distributors on page 8 or order at pathfinderpress.com

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 or through our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

— Carole Lesnick

The Militant January 13, 2020 5

Striking Kaiser workers demand more staffing for patient care

OAKLAND, Calif. — Thousands of mental health workers went on a five-day strike Dec. 16-20 at up to 100 Kaiser Permanente clinics throughout the state demanding increased staffing and a 3% pay raise. Areas where actions were organized included San Francisco, Oakland, San Leandro, San Jose, Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego.

The National Union of Healthcare Workers, which represents the strikers, is calling for Kaiser to fix its “broken” mental health system where patients wait months for appointments. At the same time as patients can’t get timely care, therapists are overworked by large caseloads.

“Kaiser has been understaffing mental health clinics across California for many years,” Kirstin Quinn-Siegel, a nurse and family therapist at Kaiser for eight years, told the Militant at a rally here Dec. 20. “After the initial appointment it takes you about six weeks to the next appointment.”

Sarah Louise, a patient at Kaiser and strike supporter, said, “I’m here today in support of mental health providers because they provide care I need and sometimes cannot get.”

— Helen Meyers

The Teamsters Series

Lessons from U.S. labor battles of the 1930s

by Farrell Dobbs

The Militant

“The principal lesson of the Teamster experience is not that under an adverse relationship of forces, the workers can be overcome, but that with proper leadership, they can overcome.”

— Helen Meyers

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

January 16, 1995

BOSTON — Less than seven hours after an abortion gunman walked into two Boston-area clinics December 30, the gunman killed two clinic workers, more than 500 people turned out in front of one of the medical facilities to protest the killings and demand a woman’s right to choose.

The next day, 2,000 demonstrated at the state Capitol to denounce antiabortion terrorism and demand the government provide protection at abortion clinics.

Chief Judge Donald Russell of the U.S. District Court in South Carolina denied that soldiers at Ft. Jackson have the right to hold an open meeting on post to discuss the war and related issues.

His decision was in response to a suit which grew out of the harassment and imprisonment of eight leaders of GIs United Against the War in Vietnam at the South Carolina base last spring. The day following an informal meeting at which many GIs spoke out against the war, eight leaders were arrested; three of them served 61 days imprisonment in the base stockade.

They were released when their case received nationwide attention.

January 16, 1970

A federal district court has denied GIs the constitutional right of freedom of assembly in a ruling on a civil-liberties suit arising out of the Ft. Jackson case. But the decision opens the path for further appeals in higher courts.

Chief Judge Donald B. Russell of the U.S. District Court in South Carolina denied that soldiers at Ft. Jackson have the right to hold an open meeting on post to discuss the war and related issues.

His decision was in response to a suit which grew out of the harassment and imprisonment of eight leaders of GIs United Against the War in Vietnam at the South Carolina base last spring. The day following an informal meeting at which many GIs spoke out against the war, eight leaders were arrested; three of them served 61 days imprisonment in the base stockade.

They were released when their case received nationwide attention.

January 13, 1945

Following on the heels of a national campaign to whip up sentiment for labor conscription, Roosevelt submitted his annual message to the new Congress demanding immediate enactment of forced labor legislation. Roosevelt’s lengthy message can be boiled down to the following specific proposals: (1) a National Service Act to be adopted “at the earliest possible moment”; (2) immediate legislation providing for the conscription of those now classified as 4-F; (3) universal peacetime military training for American youth; and (4) amendment of the Selective Service Act “to provide for the induction of nurses into the armed forces.”

These measures are intended to supplement Roosevelt’s job-freeze decrees, to place practically the whole working population under the control of a military caste, Prussianize American life and to stratify the labor movement.

NY govt’ to flood downtown with electric cargo-haul bikes

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — In their drive to get an edge on their competitors and boost their profits, Amazon has begun using some 100 electric delivery bikes to make last-mile delivery trucks on city streets here.

Billed as a way to ease congestion and cut down on pollution, the company deploys 90 of these bikes for Whole Foods deliveries in Manhattan and Brooklyn. As part of a pilot project sponsored by the city, UPS and DHL are getting into the act. This plan involves using some 1,500 electric bikes operating below 60th Street in Manhattan. Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg told the media Dec. 4 that she anticipates this will be expanding “soon.”

The latest figures for the city government report almost 1.8 million vehicles drive in and out of Manhattan every day and 2.1 million vehicles are registered in the city. Traffic is most dense in the areas where the delivery bikes have been set loose.

In addition to being able to park in commercial loading zones, the bikes will be able to pull up onto the sidewalk. The bikes have a storage compartment that is loaded with hundreds of pounds of cargo when they set out.

Logan Powell, who has been doing bike deliveries for Breakfast, Lunch and Courier Systems for months, told the Gothamist that it would be easier if two-way bike lanes were formed on one-way streets. It would be much easier still if all traffic was obliterated!

Many e-tail orders never get delivered. In 2017, 365 million tons of cargo were left, or passed through New York City. Amazon and other online retailers simply drop packages off on the porches of homes, outside apartment doors or right inside building lobbies.

On any give day, over 90,000 packages disappear or are stolen in the city. Nationwide, more than 1.7 million packages “go missing” every day.

— Carole Lesnick

The Militant January 13, 2020

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The Militant January 13, 2020
US hands off Iraq, Iran!

Continued from front page
groups to dispatch fighters to Syria to support the dictatorial rule of Bashar al-
Assad during the civil war there.

Both Washington and Tehran continue
to clash as each government pushes to further its own economic, political, and
military interests in the Green Zone and
other countries in the Middle East. Their conflict is part of broader clashes between U.S. and other imperialist pow-
ers, Moscow, Ankara and other regional
capitalist rivals.

Iran’s capitalist rulers aim to in-
crease their regional power by force of
arms, extending beyond Iran's borders
the nearly four-decade-long, cleric-
dominated political counterrevolution
that pushed back the workers, farmers, women and oppressed nationalities
who carried out the historic Iranian
Revolution of 1979. This was a pow-
erful, modern popular social revolu-
tion, not a religious jihad as is falsely
claimed by the U.S. rulers.

The attacks and counterattacks also
take place amid continuing mass anti-
government protests in Iraq that are
the effects of interference by both Washin-
gton and Tehran and the exacerbation of the grinding capitalist economic crisis on working people there. The day before the U.S. airstrike, anti-government pro-
testers temporarily halted operations at
the Nasiriya oilfield in southern Iraq.

Since Oct. 1 Iraqi government forces
and Iranian-backed militia thugs have killed over 450 protesters and wound-
ed some 25,000. The mass mobilizations have forced
Iraqi Prime Minister Abdul-Mahdi to say he will step down and caused an ongoing political crisis in the country. But he remains in office until agreement
on a replacement can be reached among
Iraqi political parties, all facing pres-
sure from Tehran and Washington.

Trying to drive a blow to these pro-
tests is one of the central aims of Tehran,their Iraqi militia forces and allies in the
Iraqi government.

Pro-Tehran rally at U.S. Embassy
Iraqi government forces made an
attempt to stop hundreds of militia
fighters and supporters who entered
the heavily fortified Green Zone and
gathered outside the U.S. Embassy in
Baghdad Dec. 31. This orchestrated
move was falsely presented in the U.S.
press as “protests.” Dozens of partici-
pants, many in Iraqi or militia fatigues
or carrying flags of the Popular Mobi-
lization Forces, smashed the gate and
made a foray into the compound. Hun-
dreds set up tents outside the embassy.

Many bourgeois forces were aware
of the move. Yassine al-Vasseri, Iraq’s
Minister of the Interior, and other govern-
ment officials showed up there, as well as cen-
tral leaders of the militias. Yasseri told
AP that the prime minister had warned the U.S. that the airstrikes would have
serious consequences.

U.S. forces kept most of the militia
forces at bay with tear gas. The next day
the attacks in Iraq were reinforced by Aajol helicopters and 100 additional Mar-
ines. Senior leaders of the militias ordered
their forces to withdraw Jan. 1 and they
did so, taking down their camps. Some set up a new “camp” well outside the
Green Zone. Kataeb Hezbollah said they had won a victory and would now
seek withdrawal of U.S. troops through
the nation’s parliament.

Iraq uprising inspires art, culture in Tahrir Square

"Revolutionary and artistic events grow up next to each other, in a kind of sym-
pathic resonance," Alaa Mustafa, a 20-year-old artist, told Al Jazeera. "The
people’s drawings, their poetry, their music, and the music of the world are
all synchronized in this moment of change.

The flowering of art and literature, emblematic of the newly found sense
of freedom that accompanies truly popular struggles, is being demonstrated in
Tahrir (Liberation) Square in the heart of Baghdad during more than three
months of anti-government demonstrations there.

A multitude of murals depicting protesters’ aspirations, as well as govern-
ment attempts to repress them, adorn the walls of “the tunnel,” a roadway
in the square. One beautiful design, inset, by Sajad Mustafa, an artist from Basra,
have the name of everyone martyred.

The main message of the drawings in Tahrir Square tunnel is to make those
drawings as the symbol of the protests in Iraq,” Mustafa told the Kurd-
ish news agency Rudaw.

Other murals depict the role of women in the movement, above. Behind the ongoing protests is the lack of jobs and electricity, water and
other government services for working people and youth in one of the most
poor and devastated regions in the world — as well as hatred for the intervention in the
country’s affairs by both Tehran and Washington.

The corruption and nepotism that marks capitalism in Iraq has also
fueled the protests.

A massive gathering was held in the square Dec. 10 with people coming from all the southern provinces. Those from Basra's poorest slums mixed with
students from Baghdad's top universities.

In early December, demonstrators in Tahrir Square were targeted by regime
forces and Tehran-backed paramilitary thugs with over a dozen wounded in
stabbing incidents and gunfire that killed at least 14.

In response, some young people organized checkpoints to try to prevent
would-be attackers with arms from entering the area. Others formed units
with protective gear to neutralize tear gas attacks. Some set up field clinics.

They're intermixed with bookstalls, theater groups and, of course, the murals.

"First, end all Iranian and American influence in Iraq," Mustafa, a 19-year-
old,Calculated by the official Charity Commission in the United Kingdom, where it is
based. Nonetheless, U.S. tax officials charged the group had ties to Hamas
and terrorism.

The IRS also claimed that the Friendshipship aid caravans to Cuba violate
U.S. sanctions against Cuba and cited IFCO's support for U.S. stu-
dents attending ELAM.

"This reinterpretation "justifies our steadfast commitment to defend the
rights of the disenfranchised, the
wrongly imprisoned, and the victims of police brutality,” IFCO said in
an amendment on the victory.

IFCO wins victory in fight against IRS harassment

By SARA LOBMAN
NEW YORK — In an important
victory for political rights, the Interre-
ligious Foundation for Community Orga-
nization announced Dec. 19 that it had
won its fight against revocation of its
tax-exempt status by the Internal Re-
venue Service in 2007.

As reported by Al-Quds, an agree-
tment by Martin Stolar noted, this is a vindication of our right to do
work in solidarity with the people of
Cuba, of Palestine, and to stand up for
the voiceless, including prisoners,” Gail
Wald, the executive director of IFCO,
told the Militant Jan. 1.

Since 1992 IFCO has been best known for its yearly “Friendshipship caravans”
that bring humanitarian aid and solidarity
to the people of Cuba. It also ad-
ministers a scholarship program that has
allowed nearly 200 young people from
the United States to graduate as
doctors from Cuba’s Latin American
School of Medicine (ELAM). They re-
turn to the U.S. to offer medical care to
those who might do without in
working-class communities.

In 2011 the IRS went after IFCO,
targeting the group’s backing of a
project called Viva Palestina, which
organized convoys to bring food and
medical supplies to people in the Gaza
Strip. Viva Palestina was not on any
U.S. government “terrorist” list and
was recognized as a legitimate char-
ity by the official Charity Commission
in the United Kingdom, where it is
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Speak out against Jew-hatred!

Continued from front page

one count of burglary. In addition, federal hate crime charges have been filed against him.

Officials released evidence of anti-Semitic writings found in Thomas’ journal and on the internet.

The day after the attack, New York City, New Jersey, Dec. 10 at a kosher supermarket where two anti-Semitic attackers killed three people — Moshe Deutsch, Leah Mindel Ferencz and Duisy Wigiyaourage.

While Jew-hatred is at a low ebb among working people, there has been an increase in anti-Semitic violence in the U.S., and worldwide, including deadly attacks at synagogues in Poway, California and Pittsburgh.

The anti-Semitic assaults have come overwhelmingly from lone-wolf attackers, with political outlooks that range from right wing to extreme right.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, there have been at least 10 anti-Semitic incidents in the New York/New Jersey area in the last two weeks, including a physical attack on a 22-year-old Hasidic Jew in Williamsburg, a Brooklyn neighborhood, Jan. 1.

A rally to denounce Jew-hatred and the attacks has been set for Sunday, Jan. 5 at 11 a.m., gathering at Foley Square in New York. Sponsors include the United Jewish Appeal, the ADL and the New York Board of Rabbis.

Liberals ‘impeach’ drive aims to stifle workers’ voices

Continued from front page

Washington for the carnage they face under today’s crisis of capitalism.

David Leonhardt laments in the same paper that the Democrats can’t oust Trump before next November, they are fielding an “unnecessarily weak presidential field” in 2020.

His solution is “to choose the judgment of experts” in place of that of “ordinary citizens,” who he and fellow meritocrats seek to block from affecting government decisions.

What he’s really describing is the deepening crisis of the capitalist rulers’ two-party system, which has served their class interests well since the rise of Washington as an imperialist power.

Today it has led to the Democrats’ “impeachment” assault on the Trump administration by working-class rights.

Despite calling 17 witnesses, submit-ting 8,000 pages of testimony, organiz-ing over 100 House staff members full-time to dig up dirt on the president, and forcing through a partisan vote to impeach, Democrats now refuse to present their motions to the Senate. With no hope of winning in the upper house, they hope to milk political advantage from their stage-managed “trial,” while they desperately fret over whether any of their 2020 can-didates can defeat the president.

Working-class road forward

From the point of view of working people, it is necessary to expose and fight all efforts by the rulers to restrict our rights, whether they come from this liberal crucible or any other source.

There is a road forward amid the capitalist attacks workers face today, in Washington and in labor battles like Asarco bosses’ union-busting assault on copper miners in Arizona and Texas.

The Socialist Workers Party is presenting a working-class alternative, urging fellow workers to join to advance all efforts to unite and strengthen struggles against the rulers’ attacks along a coarse to break with both the Democrats and Republi-can and build our own labor party. In the years ahead the crisis of capitalism will result in revolutionary struggles by working people in which we can gain the confidence and class-consciousness to take political power into our own hands.

Liberals target workers’ rights

Anti-Trump FBI agent Peter Strzok was a staffer for former FBI Direc-tor Robert Mueller’s failed crusade to oust the president on Democrats’ ginned-up charges he colluded with Moscow to swing the 2016 vote. Strzok sent texts to FBI lawyer Lisa Page describing working people in Loudoun County, Virginia, as “igno rant hillbillies [sic].” And he claimed he could “smell” Trump supporters at Walmart stores.

Paul Krugman, a columnist for the New York Times, says if you look at pictures of a crowd watching the lynching of African Americans decades ago it’s like areas of “Republican support in places like eastern Kentucky,” a hard hit coal-mining center.

In his Dec. 29 op-ed, Leonardart points to some of the changes he’d like to see imposed to restrict work-ers’ ability to affect politics. “When voters are given the dominant role in the electoral process,” he says, “only an unrepresentative subset tends to participate, which skews the process.” What kind of process does he prefer?

Give “party leaders a larger role in se-lecting nominees.”

The liberal impeachment party’s attacks on the Trump administration — and on workers’ rights — cross many fronts.

In response to the continued cri-sis of the imperialist “world order” spanning and feeding wars across the Midwest, the Democrats demand more robust military interventions by Washington.

To buttress their attacks on the Trump administration, they seek to rely on and bolster the authority and reach of the U.S. rulers’ political police. They tout cooperative “heroic Ameri-cans” like former FBI chiefs Mueller and James Comey and ex-FBI and CIA Director William Webster. This aims to strengthen spy and disruption agencies with decades of gathering at Foley Square against the struggles and rights of working people.

And they try to chip away at crucial rights for working people to discuss, debate and vote.

Jew-Hatred in the Epoch of Imperialism

Below are excerpts from The Jewish Question, A Marxist Interpretation written by Belgian revolutionary Alexander Leon, chronicler of the second imperialist world war. Leon was killed at the Auschwitz extermination camp at the age of 26.

“The disappearance of Hitler can change nothing fundamental in the situ-ation of the Jews. A transitory improve-ment of their condition will in no wise alter the profound roots of twentieth century anti-Semitism. …

The tragic fate of Judaism mirrors with singular sharpness the situation of all humanity. Capitalism bars the road of the past as well as the highway to the future. Only the destruction of capitalism will make it possible for humanity to benefit from the immense achievements of the industrial era.

www.pathfinderpress.com

Atlanta
Jew-Hatred in the Epoch of Imperialism

Speaker: Dave Prince, Socialist Workers Party National Committee
Sat., Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m. c.c.
777 Cleveland Ave., SW Suite 103
Sponsored by: Militant Labor Forum
Tel: (678) 528-7928
Donation: $5

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The Militant   January 13, 2020

‘Only social revolution can sweep clean path for new culture’

The opposition of writers and artists is one of the forces which can usefully carry so far — should give rise to an active, uncompromising condemnation. The rehearsal which this shameful negation of principles of art inspires in the artistic world — a negation which never has civilisation been menaced so perilously — is certain to discredit and overthrow of regimes that are destroying, along with the right of the proletariat to assure a better world, every sentiment of nobility and even of human dignity.

The communist revolution is not far off. It realises that the role of the artist in a decadent capitalist society is determined by the conflict between the individual and various social forms which are hostile to him. This is precisely because, in our eyes, it represents not communism but its most treacherous and dangerous enemy.

The conception of the writer’s function is Marx worked out is worth recalling. ‘The writer’, he said, ‘naturally must make money in order to live and write, but he should not under any circumstances live and write in order to make money . . . The writer by no means looks on his work as a means. It is an end in itself and so little a means in the eyes of himself and of others that if necessary he sacrifices his existence for the existence of his work . . . The first condition of freedom of the press is that it is free from business exploitation.’

It is more than ever fitting to use this statement against those who would regiment intellectual activity in the direction of ends foreign to itself and prescribe, in the guise of so-called reasons of state, the aims. The free choice of these themes and the author’s decision on all restrictions on the range of his exploitations — these are positions which the artist has a right to claim as inalienable . . .

The independence of art — for the complete liberation of art.
Celebrate 61 years of Cuban Revolution!

The landlords are making it difficult for tenants to live comfortably in their homes. No matter what laws are passed, the rents increase every year. I’m a fighter and proud that my stepfather was one of the hotel workers who went on strike and won a victory against Marriott last year. My question is, what can we do about the high rents? We need to get control over this. Brigitte Blalock San Leandro, California

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate what city you are from and if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

The Cuban Revolution is the only living revolution in the world today — faces big challenges and pressures, including from U.S. imperialist’s relentless efforts to overturn it. The days and years ahead will not be easy. That’s why we need both to learn from its example and to strengthen the fight against Washington’s attempts to plunder and destroy it. This year’s April 26-May 10 15th International May Day Brigade of Volunteer Work and Solidarity With Cuba is an excellent opportunity to do both. You can get all the details from www.moc.info.

U.S. hands off Cuba! End Washington’s economic war against Cuba! Long live the Cuban Revolution!

The Cuban Revolution in World Politics

This series of more than 30 books and pamphlets includes essential speeches, documents, and interviews spanning over 60 years of revolutionary activity by men and women whose lives have been shaped by their determination to defend the Cuban Revolution and its internationalist course from the Congo, to Angola and southern Africa to Grenada, to Algeria from Iraq to Lebanon from Hong Kong to France. They show that working people around the world capable of heroic courage and self-sacrifice in fighting in their millions against the effects of decaying capitalism in crisis today. But they lack the revolutionary working-class leadership to chart a road to take political power.

The Cuban Revolution showed it is possible to fight and to win — if we forge a leadership through the battles of workers and farmers, build a revolutionary party and draw all the oppressed and exploited behind our banner. There is a treasure-trove of books on the history, politics and internationalist solidarity of the Cuban Revolution available at pathfinderpress.com.

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The Alternative militants will offer workers to escape cut-throat landlords is to lure us into becoming a home “owner.” But this road offers no more respite from landlords squeeze us because they are driven to do so by the operation of the market system. “In such a society the housing shortage is no accident; it is a necessary institution,” Engels writes. It is a byproduct built into the heart of capitalist exploitation.

The alternative the bosses offer workers to escape cuts and rising property taxes is to offer them to be “home owner.” But this road offers no more respite from landlords squeeze us because they are driven to do so by the operation of the market system. “In such a society the housing shortage is no accident; it is a necessary institution,” Engels writes. It is a byproduct built into the heart of capitalist exploitation.

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