Help ‘Militant’ win new readers, contribute to $115,000 fund!

BY JOHN STUDER
Editor of the Militant

The Militant is urging its readers to join us in stepping up efforts to expand the reach of the paper. Get the Militant into the hands of your co-workers and other workers you know.

To maximize our ability to get the paper out broadly to workers, farmers and youth — all over the world — join us in raising contributions for an immediate $115,000 fund we are launching. This will allow us to strengthen our efforts to get out news of the struggles being waged by workers and farmers to protect themselves during the intertwined economic, social and health crises we face today.

This is the time to act!

Now more than ever workers need to work together on the job, to strengthen themselves in the face of the employers’ attacks and to gain confidence in our capacities to act together. Since it was first published in 1928 the Militant has been a vital voice for working-class struggles, building solidarity, and for needed discussions about how workers can fight most effectively.

As millions of workers are being thrown out of work, millions more are still on the job, looking for a way to stand up to the bosses. Supporters of the Militant can get it into the homes of millions of workers.

Continued on page 4

Algeria rulers use pretext of virus outbreak to bar protests

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The Algerian government has faced weekly street protests for political rights across the country for more than a year. It has unleashed repression, offered cosmetic concessions and tried to sow divisions among demonstrators.

Nothing it has done has prevented working people from joining the actions. But when people started dying from the coronavirus the rulers found a justification to clamp down on the protests and buy themselves some time.

On March 17 President Abdelmadjid Tebboune announced that all marches are temporarily banned because of the spread of the disease. For the first time in 57 weeks the streets of Algiers, the capital, were empty the following Saturday.

In February last year, then President Abdelaziz Bouteflika announced he would seek a fifth term in office. This triggered widespread protests that demanded a halt to the military’s domination of the capitalist government, which has presided over an unemployment rate of 28% for young people, and slashed spending on social programs.

Initially the government arrested participants who waved the flag of the Berbers, an oppressed nationality who was long banned in Algeria. The Berbers are distinct in language, culture, and traditions.

Continued on page 8

Protests, job actions hit bosses’ disdain for safety

Workers’ fights today are road to force gov’t action

BY ROY LANDERSEN

As the bosses and their governments at a federal, state and local level seek to manage growing depression conditions and impose lockdowns on workers, we need to get the message out: The bosses’ attacks on working people today will only increase.

Workers at Perdue chicken processing plant in Kathleen, Georgia, walked off the job March 23 to demand bosses clean, disinfect factory to defend them from coronavirus.

BY TERRY EVANS

“We have a revolutionary duty to fulfil, so we take our fear and put it to one side,” Leonardo Fernández, 68, an intensive care specialist, told Reuters in Havana March 21. He was meeting up with the brigade of 52 Cuban volunteer medical workers on their way to fight the spread of coronavirus in Lombardy, Italy, which has the world’s highest death toll from the disease.

This is his eighth international mission. He took part in the battle to push back Ebola in Liberia in West Africa in 2014.

“We are going to fulfill an honorable task, based on the principle of

Continued on page 11

Workers at Perdue chicken processing plant in Kathleen, Georgia, walked off the job March 23 to demand bosses clean, disinfect factory to defend them from coronavirus.

Continued on page 8

Asarco strikers fight continues against bosses’ union busting

BY BERNIE SENTER

“The strike lines are still up,” Alex Terrazas, United Steelworkers Local 937 union president, told the Militant by phone March 23. Terrazas, a worker at Asarco’s Mission Mine near Tucson, Arizona, was referring to the strike by 1,700 copper miners in Arizona and Texas against the mining bosses’ union-busting drive. “We are

Continued on page 11

Socialist Workers Party demands government take action now against economic, social, health crises

The Socialist Workers Party urges workers to fight for the government to take immediate action to protect working people. See page 4 for the complete March 18 statement by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president.

We must demand emergency relief for the working class, farmers, small shop owners, and other exploited producers under the hammer blows of lockdowns and layoffs struck by the bosses, their government, and their Democratic and Republican parties.

Call on the government to construct emergency hospitals, provide beds and expand the production of medical equipment and supplies — now! Increase the training of workers to treat those infected and massively expand testing for the virus — now!

Demand that the government provide immediate jobless benefits for all workers, farmers and other exploited producers — whether or not they have “papers” the rulers demand in order to be “legal” for as long as they need it! Weekly unemployment relief that working people can depend on — not just a one-time check in the mail that falls far short of what is needed.

The working class and unions need to fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages — building hospitals, housing, and other facilities working people need.

We need to demand a crash government program to greatly expand the resources to produce a coronavirus vaccine, as well as medicines to ameliorate the conditions and cure those infected. Such vital work can’t be left to profit-driven decisions and priorities by the owners of giant drug companies, nor to billion-dollar federal bonanzas for their coffers.

Continued on page 11

Working people in Cuba set the example for int’l solidarity

BY TERRY EVANS

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Workers face health and economic crises

Workers need road forward to battle economic and social crises

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British gov’t debates impact of Huawei deal on US trade bloc

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson has faced down a revolt by some Conservative Members of Parliament. They had opposed his January decision to approve involvement of the Chinese company Huawei in building the next generation of the U.K.’s 5G telecommunications network. Johnson’s opponents say the decision will make it more difficult to reach a much needed expanded trade bloc with Washington.

Owen Paterson, one of 38 Conservatives who voted against the government, accused it of having “infiltrated the Americans.”

Opposition was led by senior party members, including former leader Iain Duncan Smith who, just months ago, led Boris Johnson’s leadership election bid. Their amendment to outlaw Huawei’s involvement in U.K. networks after 2022 was defeated.

The U.S. administration urged an outright ban on the company. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo rebuked Johnson last week, saying that allowing Huawei access to the U.K. market accounted for 19% of U.K.’s exports and 11% of imports in 2018. The British government seeks a stronger bloc with Washington and a reduction in U.S. tariffs, as a strategic move after the U.K.’s exit from the EU.

The U.S. administration said the U.K. is “determined to maintain freedom from Chinese government influence” and “the American people deserve to know that the companies they use are secure.”

Washington and London have long boasted of a “special relationship,” and the U.S. market accounted for 19% of the U.K.’s exports and 11% of imports in 2018. The British government seeks a stronger bloc with Washington and a reduction in U.S. tariffs, as a strategic move after the U.K.’s exit from the EU.

Johnson insists his government will do nothing to damage relations with Washington. He says that Huawei equipment is limited to just 35% of the U.K.’s 5G network. But Conservatives who led this month’s revolt are preparing for another attempt at a total ban.

The Militant/Raul Gonzalez

Support fights against hospital closures!

The ‘Militant’ champions the fight of nurses in Daly City, California, who came together to fight against the bosses’ moves to close Seton hospital. They succeeded in keeping it open to provide sorely needed services and medical personnel for the protection of working people.

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Workers donate Walmart ‘blood money’ to the SWP

This week several Walmart workers in the Twin Cities in Minnesota sent $6134.50 from bonuses — the bosses’ “blood money” bribes — they received to the Socialist Workers Party.

“arise of Beijing. They see Huawei as an imperialist exploiter and to check the rise of Beijing. They see Huawei as a threat to this. Washington accuses the company of stealing trade secrets and intellectual property and using them to gain competitive advantage over its rivals through Chinese government grants, land licenses and other financial assistance worth more than $75 billion,” 20 U.S. senators said in a letter to MPs in the U.K.

The bipartisan letter called on the House of Commons to “strongly urge the United Kingdom to revisit” the decision.

The Australian government also weighed in against London. Both the U.S. and Australian governments, members of the “Five Eyes” international intelligence and security cooperation group — along with the governments of Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. — have banned the Chinese firm.

The conflict occurs as London-Washington trade talks get underway in parallel with post-Brexit negotiations between the U.K. government and the European Union.

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Larry Quinn: 20-year cadre of the Socialist Workers Party

BY MAGGIE TROVE

ALBANY, N.Y. — More than 60 people attended a meeting at the Everly Cromwell Community Center here March 15 to celebrate the political life of Larry Quinn, a 20-year cadre of the Socialist Workers Party who died March 6.

Quinn moved to the Albany area with his companion Kathie Fitzgerald in 2018. He rejoined the party and got a job at Walmart where he participated with others in the fight for a union. Quinn helped open the SWP’s first public hall in the city in three decades.

Quinn was the 2019 SWP candidate for Troy City Council president and campaigned across the region with the party’s mayoral candidate, Samantha Hamlin.

Jacob Perasso, an SWP leader in Albany, chaired the meeting. Perasso thanked Virgina Phoenix, director of the center, for hosting the celebration, recalling the scalppling against police brutality there last May that featured speakers from the Black community.

Beverly Hoggs, one of those fighters, attended the celebration. Quinn had a long history in the fight for Black rights. “He was a fighter for what he believed in,” Hogs told this reporter. “I loved that dude.”


Mike Fitzsimmons, a leader of the Albany Medical Center nurses’ organizing drive, was also present.

Working-class line of march

Lawrence Michael Quinn was born in 1952 in Bayonne, New Jersey. He got his first job at 14 cleaning shipping hold. For two decades he worked on state highways and bridges and was an active unionist.

Worried as a young man to the Irish Republican movement and the fight to unite Ireland, he built solidarity with the struggles, from the 1972 Bloody Sunday massacre by British soldiers to the peace agreement in the late 1990s. He was editor of the Irish People newspaper in the 1990s.

His experiences as a worker and his growing understanding of class politics led Quinn to first join the Socialist Workers Party in 2000 and move to Pittsburgh.

From 2003 to 2017 he and Fitzgerald took responsibility for maintaining the upstate New York facility where the party organized a leadership school and editorial work.

“Larry joined the Socialist Workers Party 20 years ago to become a better fighter,” Paul Mailhot, a member of the SWP National Committee, told participants.

“His experience as a worker and a fighter for Irish freedom convinced him that only a working-class movement with a revolutionary leadership was capable of carrying the fight to the end, to the working class taking power and beginning the transformations necessary to resolve the wars, national discriminations, oppression and exploitation that capitalism brings down on working people.”

Openings to join resistance

When Quinn joined in 2000 the Socialist Workers Party was organizing the “third campaign for the turn to industry,” Mailhot said.

“There were new stirrings of resistance in the working class after a decade-long rout of the labor movement, with the most important developments in make-upicking plants, coal mines and garment factories,” Quinn wrote.

The beginning of more strikes and organizing drives posed opportunities and challenges for the party. “Larry was inspired by the prospects and quickly jumped into it, inspiring others,” Mailhot said.

“It is an appropriate time to draw on the lessons of today as party members are seeking to join struggles with co-workers around conditions on the job at Walmart and on the railroad,” said Tony Lane, an SWP leader in Pittsburgh who worked with Quinn in the mines.

“Larry helped the party establish fighting, meatpackaging and coal, where conditions were very different from what he was used to.”

Confidence in working class

Samantha Hamlin, now SWP candidate for Congress in Illinois, worked with Quinn in Albany.

“I joined the party at around the same time Quinn rejoined after a short time out of the party,” she said. “We both knew the decision was making was one of confidence in the working class.”

“Our work to boost their confidence in the working class.”

As we were getting to know co-workers at Walmart, we built solidarity with union and social struggles, she said. When workers at Stop & Shop, a large grocery chain in New England went on strike, she and Quinn and co-workers wrote solidarity messages on cards they took to strikers.

They did the same for nurses at Albany Medical Center.

“Through this kind of work on the job, party members became known not only as supporters of union struggles, but as revolutionaries who take up the fight against all oppressed and exploited,” Hamlin said.

“It helped us join workers’ struggles for better conditions on the job, like a recent situation in the tire and tube department at a Walmart in Chicago where I helped lead 10 co-workers to refuse to work in sewage after being ordered to by the boss. Or the recent fight in a Walmart store in Albany where the workers waged a successful struggle to take their meal break at lunchtime, which was usually 2 hours instead of at an earlier time that the boss was trying to force.”

“Through struggles like these workers learn confidence and how to fight,” she continued. “These are necessary battles to begin to build a union. And through them workers come to see our party as one of competent union fighters, full of confidence in the ability to overthrow capitalism and its dog-eat-dog values.”

“Quinn’s confidence in the working class, shining through everything he did,” Hamlin said. “He will be deeply missed by everyone who had the honor of knowing him. And we know he is building the proletariat revolutionary movement he dedicated his life to.”

Participants in the meeting contributed $2,800 to the Socialist Workers Party.

Bosss track your ‘happiness’ by spying on your life

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Claiming they’re determined to bring “happiness” to their workers, bosses are increasingly intruding into their personal lives, supposedly to monitor how pleased they are with the company. The fact is, this is part of the bosses’ drive to speed up the pace of work to boost their profits.

“Smile! Your Boss Is Tracking Your Happiness!” headlined a March 7 Wall Street Journal article that described companies’ use of new software to spy on workers’ thoughts and behavior.

Some companies pay up to $1 million a year to software firm Receptiviti, which digs around in personal email and messages. When workers are down, Receptiviti Chief Executive Officer Jonathon Kreindler told the Journal, they less frequently use “we” or “us” in talking about their employers.

Another “happiness monitoring device,” being developed by Cornerstone OnDemand Inc., is to gather heart-rate data through devices workers would wear, such as smartwatches that companies are using to rhythmically scan workers’ faces to monitor their moods. “Companies are going to be really watching and driving up the performance of the employees that they have,” Nicole Jordan, an executive at Grant Thornton, one of the largest accounting firms in the world, told the Journal.

At Ford Motor Co., “HappyOnNet” machines have been in place at the en- trance to some plants for a few years. Workers are asked questions like “How optimistic are you feeling about your day today?” and told to answer.

Those working in retail face some of the greatest pressures. Amid a rash of panic-buying over coronavirus concerns, these government-designated “essential workers” are under intense pressure to restock shelves fast and often, 10,000 employees at Walmart, Target and CVS told Business Insider.

At the same time, with strict attendance policies and being asked questions like “How optimistic are you feeling about your day today?” and told to answer.

The Militant April 6, 2020 3
Help get out the ‘Militant!’

Continued from front page hands of other workers wherever they can, deepening discussions about a working-class road forward.

They are using the Socialist Workers Party’s call to action for workers to organize and demand the government act now to protect working people. The call is reprinted in this issue and the demands it in highlighted on the front page.

The paper gives voice to workers’ fights — like that waged by packing-house workers in Georgia featured in this issue. And like the fight by Walmart workers in Los Angeles who won the right of cashiers to have stools and to sit down as they worked. At a Walmart store in the Washington, D.C., area a worker wrote out a petition on a piece of cardboard that workers circulated demanding bosses fix the broken sink in the break room so workers could wash their hands. They won that fight too.

Every fight on the job around wages and working conditions is important. The more workers learn about each other’s struggles, the more our self-confidence can grow.

Send in reports of your experiences on the job and in discussions with fellow workers! Help make the paper a lively and concrete source of information about working-class struggles and fights.

Couple this with introducing people to books by Socialist Workers Party leaders on special offer. These include: The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party and Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power; both by SWP National Secretary Jack郝雷特’s Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions. Also Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa by Enrique Ubieto Gómez. Ubieto Gómez’ timely book describes how the Cuban Revolution prepared workers and farmers there to offer support worldwide to those battling the scourge of the Ebola virus. These titles explain what is behind the deepening crisis of capitalism we confront. They draw on decades of experiences of the working-class movement and of revolutionary struggles. They explain how the only way working people can get the lash of the bosses off our back once and for all is organizing to overthrow the exploiting capitalist class, and replace it with our own workers and farmers government and changing our world in the process. These books describe how the kind of party necessary to do that can be built through our struggles, as well as the fact that there is an example we can look to in the 1956-1959 revolution made by Cuban workers and farmers that stands strong today.

The Militant is a voice of uncompromising opposition to the punishing sanctions Washington imposes on the people of Cuba, as well as Venezuela and Iran. And to the imperialists we are demanding the U.S. rulers continue to wage in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Join in getting ‘Militant’ around

As the coronavirus outbreak continues to spread, the capitalist rulers worldwide have responded with efforts to defend their profit-driven system of exploitation. They’re increasingly imposing re-traficking lock-downs that make it more difficult for workers to organize to protect ourselves.

The Militant intends to continue publishing every week, and, with your help, aims to increase its circulation.

Many smaller papers, weeklies and others, are being forced to stop publication or retreat to the web. Their crisis is built on the fact that the provision of news under the profit system means that most media are dependent on advertising revenue. Because of the effects of the shutdowns, much of that advertising -- especially from smaller businesses that are also shut down -- is drying up.

The Militant doesn’t seek advertising. The bedrock of the paper’s financing is our readers, who value its honest and informative coverage of the world in the service of working people. It’s even more essential in times of crises, pointing the way forward. Clock out on the web; choose pages in 1929, 1951 and 2006.

Redouble your efforts!

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2020! Campaign for what you are for, not who you are against!

☐ I want to endorse the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Alyson Kennedy, the party's presidential candidate for vice president. I'm using this announcement to introduce people to Socialist Workers National Campaign.

☐ Here is my contribution of $____ to help spread the word. (Make checks to Socialist Workers National Campaign.)

☐ I would like to include a 12-week subscription to the Militant, the campaign newspaper. ($5 enclosed, checks payable to the Militant.)

Socialist Workers Party 2020 Campaign, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, NY, NY 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282 e-mail: Socialistsocialists2020@gmail.com

Since 1928, the Militant has been a unique voice for working-class struggles and speaking out in the defense of all working people. It’s even more essential in times of crises, pointing the way forward. Clock out on the web; choose pages in 1929, 1951 and 2006.
Medical Group.

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talism: the foundation of all social interaction — 

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of the farmers who till it, as opposed 

rural debt, we demand nationalization of 

The Militant   April 6, 2020            5

March 24 protest at Richmond, California, Kaiser Permanente, demanding immediate action to get needed protective gear. Nurses protested at other Kaiser hospitals earlier in the week. 

date Alyson Kennedy demanding the government act now to protect working people and humankind. 

The successful fight by nurses in the California Nurses Association and hospital workers who are members of the National Union of Healthcare Workers 

to prevent Seton hospital in Daly City from being closed is an example to be 

enous bail and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately 

ratifying their books for inspection by workers 

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Malcolm Jarrett for vice president

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Lea Sherman, US Senate, New Jersey
William H. Weiss, 90th CD, New York
Seth Galifianakis, 10th CD, New York
Aldy Tissern, 21st CD, Albany
Jacob Petrouso, 21st CD, Albany
Candace Wagner, 8th CD, Union City, NJ

Mid-Atlantic Region
James Harris, delegate to Congress, D.C.
Gottlieb Hart, 3rd CD, Philadelphia
Ruth Robinett, 14th CD, Washington, PA
David Ferguson, 18th CD, Pittsburgh

South
Pachelle Fuitt, US Senate, Georgia
Anthony Durzon, 27th CD, Miami
See directory on page 10 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EX-

UNIONS/FOR A LABOR PARTY Sup-

jobs Fight for a federal govern-

are uprooted through working-class 

A SOCIALIST PLATFORM for the 

NATIONAL UNION OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

due to actions by SWP presidential candi-

Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?
Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes

"Only when capitalist social relations are uprooted through working-class action along the road to the conquest of state power will the workers’ capitalist-constituted economic composition, the wages system, cease to be 

"We are prudently managing our resources to ensure this equipment is available for our health care work-

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Anthony Durzon, 27th CD, Miami
See directory on page 10 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

March 24 protest at Richmond, California, Kaiser Permanente, demanding immediate action to get needed protective gear. Nurses protested at other Kaiser hospitals earlier in the week. 

date Alyson Kennedy demanding the government act now to protect working people and humankind. 

The successful fight by nurses in the California Nurses Association and hospital workers who are members of the National Union of Healthcare Workers 

to prevent Seton hospital in Daly City from being closed is an example to be 

enous bail and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately 

ratifying their books for inspection by workers 

the bosses and their gov-

authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an 

their living expenses. 

of the farmers who till it, as opposed 

rural debt, we demand nationalization of 

To put a halt to farm fore-

s to be the foundation of all social interaction — 

new human relations emerge." 

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2020 Socialist Workers Party candidates
Alyson Kennedy for president 
Malcolm Jarrett for vice president

New York/New Jersey
Lea Sherman, US Senate, New Jersey
William H. Weiss, 90th CD, New York
Seth Galifianakis, 10th CD, New York
Aldy Tissern, 21st CD, Albany
Jacob Petrouso, 21st CD, Albany
Candace Wagner, 8th CD, Union City, NJ

Mid-Atlantic Region
James Harris, delegate to Congress, D.C.
Gottlieb Hart, 3rd CD, Philadelphia
Ruth Robinett, 14th CD, Washington, PA
David Ferguson, 18th CD, Pittsburgh

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CUBA’S REVOLUTION — AN EX-

UNIONS/FOR A LABOR PARTY Sup-

jobs Fight for a federal govern-

are uprooted through working-class 

A SOCIALIST PLATFORM for the 

NATIONAL UNION OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

due to actions by SWP presidential candi-

Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?
Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes

"Only when capitalist social relations are uprooted through working-class action along the road to the conquest of state power will the workers’ capitalist-constituted economic composition, the wages system, cease to be 

"We are prudently managing our resources to ensure this equipment is available for our health care work-

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

UK: Workers strike over low wages, multiter conditions

LONDON — Seventy refuse workers picked the Thames Road Serco waste disposal depot in Bexley, in south-east London, March 18. Unite union members were taking strike action against low wages, lack of sick pay and multiter wages and conditions. Truck drivers passing along the busy highway sounded their horns in solidarity with the strikers.

“This coronavirus problem, some people were being told, was a good time off to tend to family members,” Richard Thompson told the Militant. He has worked at the depot for 15 years. “The company hasn’t even provided hand sanitation for when we’re out on a run. The last they told us was that we’d have to wait for four weeks for supplies.”

“Some people are on less than 9 pounds per hour ($10.50) and there are at least four different sets of conditions involving huge differences in pay. Striking filing Poppell said, ‘People are fed up. Some workers get sick pay, others don’t. Same on holidays. Some are on zero-hour contracts. If you’re doing the same job, you should get the same pay and conditions.’

The union is demanding 13 pounds per hour, the rate refuse workers get in the neighboring Greenwich Borough. Danny Hogan, union secretary at the plant, told the Militant that conditions have deteriorated since Serco took over a decade ago. “The vote for industrial action was 93% in favor on a 60% turnout,” he said.

Workers reported that six months ago there were 40 union members at the depot. There are now 140.

One of the newer members is Garth Evans, who has worked there for 18 months. Celebrating the size and militancy of the picket line, Evans commented: “We really need this. The company didn’t expect it. But we know we need unity and strength.” A couple of workers joined the strike and signed up for the union, convinced by the pickets to do so.

Attempts by company supervisors to break the action by driving trucks out of the depot were stymied for hours as pickets blocked their path. The company then called cops who manhandled strikers as they tried to let the trucks pass. The next morning supervisors got the trucks out at 4 a.m. before picketing began.

After two days of strike action the company conceded it would offer sick pay, and workers approved a proposal from union officials to suspend the stoppage.

Teachers in Minnesota strike 3 days, demand more hiring

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Teachers ended a three-day strike March 13 that shut down public schools here, the first such walkout since 1946. The St. Paul Fed- eration of Educators, with 3,600 mem- bers, picketed schools each morning and held spirited rallies and marches throughout the city every afternoon.

“We need more interpreters, more mental health support and more staff for special education students,” high school teacher Peter See told the Militant at a rally March 10 on first day of the strike. “And every school needs a nurse.”

Jason Bresette, a middle school teacher, said, “Most teachers work 60 to 80 hours per week. Our students have so many needs, they need more adult support.”

The school district has not released details of a proposed two-year settle- ment, and a date hasn’t been set for teachers to vote on the contract. Fed- eration President Nick Faber told the teachers an election will be called if no agreement is reached.

Sanitation workers, members of Unite union on strike in south-east London, stop refuse truck March 18. Two-day walkout won sick pay. Workers are also demanding end to multeter wages.

BY EMMA JOHNSON

In decisions that deal blows to wom- en’s rights and women’s rights, the governments of Ohio and Texas have banned abortions, using the spread of the coronavirus as a pretext.

On March 17 Ohio’s Department of Health ordered all abortion providers to immediately stop performing the oper- ation. Attorney General David Yost, three days later, declared abortions are “nonessential” medical procedures and the personal protective equipment used to carry them out is needed for corona- virus patients. “If a woman was forced to break the law to terminate pregnancies to her will this is the latest step in the state government’s attacks on women’s reproductive health, in response to the Ohio state’s big cities. As a result, the extra costs of travel for working-class women and those living in rural areas make abortion even harder to access.

The state has mandatory counseling to discourage women from getting the procedure; waiting periods; compli- cated protocols for medical abortions; parental consent for minors; and an obligation that the patient be shown an ultrasound image of the fetus. In addi- tion, health plans purchased under the Affordable Care Act only permit abor- tion when a woman’s life or mental health is in danger.

Abortion Is a Woman’s Right!

by Pat Grogan, Evelyn Reed

Why abortion rights are central not only to the fight for the full emancipation of women, but to forging a united and fighting labor movement. — $5

pathfinderpress.com

April 10, 1995

PARIS — A strike wave in France, taking place in the midst of the presi- dential campaign, has become a focal point to shake up politics here. Walkouts are spreading among postal, railroad, bus and subway workers, as well as to the auto industry.

Several thousand Renault strikers from plants throughout France dem- onstrated in front of the company’s headquarters during the reopening of wage negotiations. Thousands of oth- ers blocked gates at struck plants.

As workers assert themselves through the airlifting of presidential candidates adapt to the new situation. Jacques Chirac, the leading candi- date, explained to the conservative Le Figaro: “With the airwaves and the railway, we are creating the fabric like our country has never seen, which is getting worse and impairs the cohesion of the nation.”

April 10, 1970

NEW YORK — Close to 3,000 dem- onstrators, mostly women, marched in mid-town Manhattan, March 28 in a militant show of support for “Free Abortions on Demand.” The demon- stration was organized by People to Abolish Abortion Laws, a broad coal- ition of women’s liberation groups and other organizations supporting the right to abolish New York State’s 140-year-old abortion-abortee abortion laws. It was the first time in decades that such a broad spectrum of groups have been brought together to fight for a demand that is vital to everyone.

Signs demanded the right to abor- tion at any age, establishment of free abortion clinics, total repeal of all abortion laws, and no forced steriliza- tions. The response from many people along the march route was friendly and encouraging.

The Militant/Jonathan Silberman

April 7, 1945

UNDER the weight of the contradictions inherent in the bourgeois regime; under the growing pressure of the revol- utionary upsurge of the proletariat and under military defeats, the Hitler apparatus is inexorably going down!

The governments of Washington and London, and the industrial and banking magnates, know that the col- lapse of Hitler will give impetus to the revolution in Germany and through all Europe.

Imbued with this preoccupation, the so-called democracies are today at the actions of concentric drawing up the most detailed plans to stem the offensive of the working class and to replace, with- out grave consequences for themselves, the man whom in 1933 these same “de- mocracies” aided in taking power with the mission to crush the revolution in Germany and abroad.

-25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO-
Kurds honor those slain in Saddam’s Halabja massacre

BY TERRY EVANS
Some 30 million Kurds across the Middle East have fought for their nation’s independence and sovereignty, long oppressed and shelled by U.S. economic and military sanctions. Their challenge has been to build the most powerful grassroots army in the region to defend Kurdish life and protect the Kurdish nation from the forces of imperialism.

In March 16 Kurds in Iraq and elsewhere commemorated the 1988 chemical weapons massacre by the Saddam Hussein regime in Halabja. The horrors of that attack, which killed 5,000 people and injured 10,000, forced some 100,000 to flee to Iran, forced many others to leave their villages and flee to the Kurdish mountains. The remaining Kurds were subjected to economic sanctions and targeted by Saddam’s regime to crush resistance in Iraq’s Kurdistan region.

In addition to the tens of thousands of Kurds who were killed or forcibly relocated, the regime’s genocidal assaults forced some 100,000 to flee to Iran, where they were welcomed and offered support by fellow Kurds.

The Anfal and Halabja attacks were organized by Ali Hassan al-Majid, Saddam’s cousin, better known to the Kurds as “Chemical Ali” for ordering mass poison-gas bombing attacks using sarin and other deadly toxins aimed at exterminating the town’s population. Sarin is heavier than air and easily penetrated into the shelters. In the immediate aftermath of the onslaught Saddam’s regime expanded its chemical offensive, including further gas attacks, and took control of other territory held by Kurdish fighters.

Washington backed the Iraqi rulers’ 1980-88 war on Iran, though it publicly claimed “neutrality.” CIA files unearthed later show Washington provided Saddam’s military with targeting information throughout the chemical campaign. The U.S. rulers kept quiet about Baghdad’s assaults on Kurds until they sharply shifted their policy against Sad- dam’s regime and began publicizing its brutality in order to rationalize U.S. imperialism’s 1990-91 war against Iraq.

In 1990 the Saddam regime invaded Kuwait, offering Washington an excuse to unleash its own bloody slaughter. After the notorious “turkey shoot” that slaughtered thousands of fleeing Iraqi soldiers, the U.S. government declared a military victory.

Far from creating better conditions to enforce U.S. imperialism’s domination of the region, Washington’s assault exacerbated turmoil and class and national struggles there. The Kurdish people took advantage of the weakening of the Iraqi rulers and revolted across northern Iraq, driving out Saddam’s forces. At the same time, the Shiite population of southern Iraq rose up against Saddam’s hated government. Washington’s war had unintended consequences. “Baghdad’s defeat opened a wedge for our uprising and then in 1992 for the establishment and survival of the Kurdistan Regional Government in northern Iraq,” Hazhar Majeed, owner of the Endese bookshop in Sulaymaniyah, part of the KRG’s territory, told Militant reporters in a 2017 interview. After a second U.S. intervention in 2003 overthrew Saddam, mobilizations against successive Iraqi regimes have taken place, including today’s battle to rid the country of its current government and end Tehran’s and Washington’s intervention there.

Struggle for Kurdish sovereignty
The Kurdish people had been denied a homeland when the imperialist gov- ernments of Britain and the U.S. carved up the Mideast after the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire in the first impe- rialist world war. But the Kurds have never stopped fighting to win sovereignty. Sloggers like that at Halabja only deepened their determination.

Neither Washington nor Baghdad anticipated the depth of the Kurds’ rebel- lion. “The Kurdish people have come to the center stage of world politics as never before, not primarily as victims, but as courageous and determined fighters for national rights,” Jack Barnes.

“A conspiracy to keep women from being beautiful?”

BY SETH GALINSKY
Author Sesali Bowen provides a justification for the so-called “beau- ty wars” in her new book, In the name of opposing what she calls the “shaming” of women who use cosmetic surgery. In “What Women Who Criticize Plastic Surgery Say” in the March 4 Times, in the name of opposing what she calls the “shaming” of women who use cosmetic surgery. In “What Women Who Criticize Plastic Surgery Say” in the March 4 Times, in the name of opposing what she calls the “shaming” of women who use cosmetic surgery.

“Women who use cosmetic surgery ‘has been oversimplified as unnec- essary, self-obsessed and harmful.’” She writes off the stories of women who were left disfigured or dead as scare tac- tics to “shame” those who undergo the surgeon’s knife. They should not have gone to the “black market,” she says. And she ignores the fact that cosmetic surgery is a big business, worth some $20 billion a year.

There is nothing new in Bowen’s ar- gument. In 1954 a sharp debate broke out in the pages of the Militant, after it published an exposé by Joseph Hansen of the cosmetics industry and how it profits off undermining women’s self- confidence. This debate is available in the book Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women by Evelyn Reed, Joseph Hansen and Mary-Alice Waters.

In the 1980 introduction to the Spanish-language edition of the book, Waters describes the even greater resources de- voted by capitalist companies since the 1954 debate to keep markets and push the working class to “shop until you drop”—to “need” everything “from must-have cellphones, to the latest mod- el automobiles . . . [to] an exploding ar- ray of ‘cosmetic’ surgeries.”

“The pressure to be ‘fashionable’—that is to be ‘employable’, and at- tractive to a potential spouse,” Waters writes, “has penetrated even more deeply into the working class.” And the ever-changing “beauty” standards are an integral part of the perpetuation of women’s oppression.

Bowen says women who criticize plastic surgery are “conventionally attractive with flat stomachs and round derrieres,” and have an ulterior motive. They “fear that their pretty privilege”— the benefits they get to enjoy for meet- ing those standards without the help of a doctor—is at risk. If beauty became de- mocracized by more people simply pay- ing surgeons for it, the proverbial finish line gets pushed further away. Even more women should undergo surgery to even up the competition, she contends. Similar arguments were presented in the 1954 debate. Militant reader Louise Manning complained that the exposed of the cosmetics industry by Hansen was an affront to the right of working-class women to strive for “some loveliness and beauty in their lives.” And she added, “The wealthy are beautiful because the workers are wretched.”

Hansen responded that you might as well say that “morality is predominantly monopolized by the wealthy” and that the “wealthy are moral because the workers are immoral.”

He concluded that “as for so-called ordinary women, whether housewives or workers, . . . you are a moron. . . . who use cosmetic and fashion industries, Reed notes. But that “doesn’t mean that we must accept these edicts and compul- sions complacently or without protest.”

“The workers in the plants are often obliged to accept speedups, pay cuts, and attacks on their unions,” Reed says. “They are always putting up, even when they are under protest, under continuing struggle against them, and in a constant movement to oppose their needs and will against the capitalists.”

Reed concludes that “the class strug- gle is a movement of opposition, not adaptation, and this holds true not only of the workers in the plants, but also of women as well, both workers and house- wives.” That’s as true today as it was during the 1954 debate.
Protests, job actions take on bosses’ disdai n for workers’ health, safety

Three books to be read as one...

... about building the only kind of party worthy of the name “revolutionary” in the imperialist epoch.

A party that’s working class in program, composition, and action.

A party that recognizes, in word and deed, the most revolutionary fact of our time: That working people — those the bosses and privileged layers who see them fear as “deplorables,” “criminals,” or just plain “trash” — have the power to create a different world as we organize and act together to defend our own interests, not those of the class that grows rich off exploiting our labor. That as we advance along that revolutionary course, we’ll transform ourselves and awaken to our capacities — to our own worth.

Three books about building such a party in the U.S. and worldwide.

See distributors page 10 or visit pathfinderpress.com

Algerian rulers bar protests

Continued from front page have fought for national and language rights for decades. When that didn’t quell the actions, authorities arrested thousands of others, saying they were leaders of the protests.

In April army chief Gen. Ahmed Gaed Salah urged Beuatifulka to resign, which he did within hours. Then the army postponed elections. “We’re not getting anything — no cleanliness, no ex-

Continued from front page...
Workers need road forward to battle economic and social crises

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The coronavirus pandemic has precipitated the fastest fall ever on the capitalists’ stock markets the world over, posing new need for workers to organize and chart a road forward out of the unfolding economic and social crises. In the U.S. and around the world, the capitalist rulers are trying to stem the virus tide by shutting down much of the economy and globalized world production and trade, apart from “essential” industries and services. Borders have been closed, lockdowns and curfews imposed in ever more far-reaching fashion. As the social dislocation for hundreds of millions of working people increase, so too will attacks on our rights and political space.

And protests and job fights by workers seeking to defend their livelihood and wages, and enforce a measure of safety on the job, are taking place and will spread.

Workers need to find ways to discuss and take action against the efforts of the bosses to boost profits with disregard for safety and working conditions, like nurses, meatpacking, Walmart and other workers have been doing.

Urgent relief, including a government-guaranteed weekly living income, is needed for many millions of workers, farmers, small shop owners and other self-employed workers hit by layoffs and lockdown regulations, whether in big cities, small towns or the countryside. So are the government resources for a crash program to produce effective ameliorative medications, a vaccine and a cure.

This is what the Socialist Workers Party’s call to action, reprinted in this issue, explains. Used alongside the Militant newspaper, it is being advanced to candidates and fighting workers on the job and in discussions across the country.

Bosses and coupon-clipping investors are jacking up prices and wages in panic mode, as their confidence in government and central bank measures to stem the deepening crisis swings up and down. The capitalist rulers have little room today to use banking or currency manipulations to curb the sharpening contraction of their economy.

The shutdowns of all but certain key industries and government lockdowns spreading around the world have spawned a growing international depression. The “Big Three” auto bosses, Boeing and other large factory owners have shut down.

An additional external shock, in the midst of this crisis, is the collapse of crude oil production quotas and price fixing dealing between the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Russia. This caused a glut amid falling demand and already plummeting prices. Low prices will hit highly indebted U.S. shale oil producers hard as well as the budgets of governments dependent on oil exports like Venezuela, Nigeria and Iran.

Unemployment relief for all now!

Unemployment has skyrocketed. In mid-March, in big cities nationwide work hours dropped by over half in just one week. In San Francisco, they plummeted 15% in two-weeks. Not government statistics, is the real indicator of joblessness.

Many workers seeking sorely needed unemployment pay or other state benefits and websites crashing, no one answering the phone and — if they do get through — being told that because of the massive numbers applying, their benefits won’t be processed for weeks or even months.

So-called essential workers, exempt from government lockdown orders, include millions of farmworkers and workers in health; rail, trucking and other transport; retail; and a variety of different factories. Most farmworkers and many others don’t have sick pay. Many Southern California’s 34 million workers in food, retail and hospitality have been thrown out of work, and many live paycheck to pay-check. Undocumented workers in agriculture and other jobs can’t turn to the government for aid.

Millions already faced a crisis before the virus struck. More than a third of the U.S. population didn’t have enough cash on hand to cover an unexpected $400 expense, a 2019 Federal Reserve survey concluded.

“Getting infected with the virus is not as much of an existential threat to my life as not having money for rent and food,” Ali Tahir in Austin, Texas, told the March 20 Wall Street Journal.

He operates a small Pakistani food catering business and has a second job as an event burttender. Being self-employed like many gig workers, he is ineligible for unemployment benefits.

The SWP says workers need to come together to fight back. Demand that the government provide “weekly unemployment relief that working people can depend on — not just a one-time check in the mail that falls far short of what is needed.”

For workers in industries that aren’t shut down — like Walmart and other large retail chains and grocery stores — the bosses are using the crisis to push fewer to work harder and other speedup measures, while largely ignoring safety considerations.

Workers face depression conditions

John Mauldin, an investment adviser for the boss class, wrote March 20 that jobless figures “are not recession numbers. They are depression numbers.”

“The U.S. is facing a deflationary depression. One cannot have the economic impacts we are seeing and think they will magically go away when the virus does,” he said. And conditions are far worse for the toilers in the semicolonial world in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The coronavirus pandemic has acted as an external shock to the already crisis-ridden global capitalist economy, which turned that crisis into a spiraling economic, social and medical disaster for humanity. The rulers’ woefully inadequate, profit-driven and insurance-organized medical and hospital system can’t begin to deal with the spread of the disease. Global production and trade is tumbling.

The 1988 Socialist Workers Party resolution “What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold” and a brief 1923 article “The Curve of Capitalist Development” by Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky are invaluable weapons for working-class fighters to understand the deeper economic forces at work behind this unprecedented historic crisis. They are reproduced in New International no. 10, a journal of Marxist politics and theory, available from distributors listed on page 10.

The resolution explains that “the October 1987 international stock market crash was a product of explosive pressures that have built up by the evolution of the imperialist-determinat ed world economy since the declining potential to spiral out of control and trigger a worldwide depression and generalized social crisis.”

The Militant April 6, 2020
Cuban workers and farmers, many having just learned to read and write through mass literacy campaigns, sign Second Declaration of Havana, 1962. In face of U.S. stand against the revolution, they display their support for Cuba’s socialist revolution, and for struggles for popular power throughout the Americas. 

On September 2, 1960, during the most intense period of mass mobilization the revolution had yet known. In the weeks before and after that outpouring, in response to the imperialists’ increasing acts of armed terror and economic sabotage, hundreds of thousands of workers were taking control of more and more industrial enterprises in Cuba — factory after factory was “internationalized,” as Cuban workers termed it, and then nationalized by the revolutionary government.

In June 1960 three major imperialist-owned oil trusts in Cuba had announced their refusal to refine petroleum bought from the Soviet Union. Cuban workers responded by taking control of refinery and oil storage facilities, and refined the oil themselves. Within days U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered punitive action, slashing by 95 percent the quota of sugar Washington had earlier agreed to import during the remaining months of 1960. Within seventy-two hours, the Soviet Union announced that they would sell all Cuban sugar the U.S. refused to buy.

The First and Second Declarations of Havana
Manifestos of Revolutionary Struggle in the Americas Ad- ducted by the Cuban People

The First Ten Years of Anti-Imperialist, Anti-Bolshevik
Report of a Participant by James P. Cannon

Military Writings by Leon Trotsky

The excerpt below is from the pref- 
face to V.I. Lenin’s “What Does the Cuban Revolution Teach? That revolution is possible,” Cuban leader Fidel Castro explained, reading the Second Declaration to the young militants who did not live the tumultuous revolutionary events in the heat of which these documents were forged and signed on to by millions. . .

The Militant April 6, 2020
**Socialist Workers Party statement**

Call to action to meet unfolding crises

**Continued from page 4 in order to multiply such resistance.**

In October members of the Steelworkers, Teamsters and other unions went on strike against the company's demands. These include the immediate restoration of health care costs, extension of the decadelong wage freeze for most workers, freezing pensions and restricting the unions' right to protect their members.

We need to demand a crash government program to greatly expand the resources to produce a coronavirus vaccine, as well as medicines to ameliorate the conditions of those infected. Such vital work can't be left to profit-driven decisions and priorities by the bosses of giant drug companies, nor to billion-dollar federal subsidies for their coffers.

It is the capitalist government's responsibility to take charge of the committee to mobilize, organize and utilize the capacities of the country's working people to produce a vaccine, using all the scientific and technological advances available.

What's more, steps forward in developing vaccines and treatments must be shared with those who need it around the world, and not locked in patents and "intellectual property" red tape at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives.

Price gouging by profiteers, anti-social housing, turning your back on others in need—all these are by-products of the panic and fear bred by the rulers' refusal to take the necessary measures. Such cowardice and fear are especially rampant today amid middle class and professional lay-offs.

But absolute action by the working class and unions can counter these anti-working-class acts and acts by pointing a way forward.

Workers standing together to fight the bosses is the foundation on which all other progress rests. A war footing is necessary to confront today's deepening capitalist crisis and its consequences. Not a war for superprofits of the ruling class in the U.S. and around the world, like the wars workers have endured for decades and have now been energized by the unprecedented scale of the current crisis and its consequences.

As we gain confidence in ourselves and fellow workers, we can rebuild our badly weakened unions and begin another union movement once again.

We can establish our own party, a labor party that helps us organize and fight politically for these demands. A revolutionary party that speaks—and about all, acts for all working people.

And we will build a party of courage, class consciousness, and battle-tested experience and savvy needed to build a movement of millions. A movement to overturn rule by the capitalist exploiters, replace it with a workers' government, and march arm in arm with our sisters and brothers everywhere toward a socialist world.

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**Asarco strikers fight bosses’ union busting**

**Continued from front page**

**continuing to fight this corporate tyranny.**

In October members of the Steelworkers, Teamsters and other unions went on strike against the company's demands. These include the immediate restoration of health care costs, extension of the decadelong wage freeze for most workers, freezing pensions and restricting the unions' right to protect their members on the job.

Nearly 5,647 at the company’s three open-pit mines—Mission, Ray and Silver Bell—and the smelter in Hayden, Arizona, and refinery in Amarillo, Texas, They've won a steady stream of solidarity from working people and local small businesses.

The spread of the coronavirus in the U.S. has had an effect on the strike. “We cut back to 10 people max at the picket lines,” Terrazas said. “We stopped the regular Sunday dinners at the Mission Mine pickup line and the Friday night dinners and movie showings at the Silver Bell Mine.”

These were events that drew strikers, their families and supporters together every week. Strikers and their supporters continue to get together on the picket lines, many at a regular time slot, he said.

The impact of the virus has also affected the strikers’ mood. "We're not running the run on essential products at stores in smaller cities, where the mines are located. The food pantry in Kearny, Arizona, closed March 16 after available grocery supplies dwindled. The pantry in Manzanillo, the other mine area is still open, but short on many needed items.

Asarco has maintained some production with workers who have crossed the picket lines, replace- ment workers, they said, and superintendents.

Terrazas noted that with less experienced workers a fire broke out at the Mine Mission Feb. 19, slowing down production.

At the refinery in Amarillo, “the company is trying to make coals out of copper from the mines in Arizona but it hasn't worked out very well,” Leonardo Segura, vice president of USW Local 5613, told the Militant by phone March 24. Segura is a worker on strike there. “About three weeks back we heard a boom. The second cooler in the rod line messed up on them.” Segura said strikers are maintaining picket lines of two to five people.

In March, Asarco paid $33,000 in fines to the Environmental Protection Agency for releasing dust containing lead, arsenic and other hazardous pollutants at the Hayden smelter in 2015. The EPA reported that industries in Arizona released 170 million pounds of toxic chemicals in 2018. That year eight of the state’s top 10 ranked releases came from copper mines and smelters.

The American Federation of Teachers union at Seattle community colleges voted March 3 to send a $400 contribution to the strike fund along with a message of support to the strikers.

Send financial contributions and solidarity messages to USW Local 915 Strike Assistance, PO Box 550, Kearny, AZ 85357; USW Local 5225 Strike Assistance, PO Box 896, Kearny, AZ 85357; USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy 136, Amarillo, TX 79108; or via pay-pal: palfich@gmail.com. Solidarity messages can be sent to albert_ropo@yahoo.com. Com. Write to the food pantries at: USW 915 and 886 haul, 107 Hammond Dr., Kearny; IBEW Local 570 haul 38, 3730 W.icie Rd, Tucson; and USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy 136, Amarillo, Texas.

Deborah Liatos contributed to this article.

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**Cuba int’l solidarity**

Continued from front page

solidarity,” fellow doctor Graciánio Diaz toldReuters.

Such class-war internationalism has been a hallmark of the Cuban Revolution since workers and farmers, led by Fidel Castro and the Rebel Army, overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959 and went on to take power into their own hands. During the revolutionary war they established clinics and field hospitals in areas they controlled, treating rebel soldiers, but also enemy combatants as well as civilians, peasants, many getting medical care for the first time.

Working people gained confidence in their own capacities to resolve what at times seemed like insurmountable problems of development and society.

In recent days the government has also sent medical brigades to combat coronavirus in Grenada, Nicaragua, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, Sri Lanka and Argentina. The government is deploying Cuba's successful methodology and skills throughout the world, not wrapped up in patents and “intellectual property.”

Recently the government announced that the country was send out to take power into their own hands. During the revolutionary war it established clinics and field hospitals in areas they controlled, treating rebel soldiers, but also enemy combatants as well as civilians, peasants, many getting medical care for the first time.

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Government looks to working people

The government’s response to the worldwide spread of the virus is consistent with the steps to minimize the impact of the disease in Cuba. It looks to the creativity and capacities of the country’s working people to combat the medical and economic challenges.

Nearly 65,000 workplace meetings involving some 2.5 million workers have already taken place since March 9, organized by the Central Organizations of Cuban Workers (CTC), to discuss the prevention of coronavirus.

Garment shops all over the country have switched over to production of thousands of face masks every day.

The government has mobilized 28,000 medical students to visit people at their homes nationwide. They rapidly received training to safely screen and isolate individuals who might have the disease, and then inform family doctors who make those infected get treatment.

Each student is expected to visit 80 houses a day. More than a million people had been visited by March 20, reported Prensa Latina.

“We’re taking every precaution to protect the medical students involved,” Jorge González Pérez, national director of Health Education, told the Ministry of Public Health, told Radio Havana. “The aim is for the early detection and diagnosis of any possible cases of COVID-19.”

Somier Santana, a third-year medical student, knocked on the door of an elderly resident of Manzanillo in the southeastern part of the island, Juventud Rebelde reported. When she asked if he or his family had any symptoms, he told her they were well and “ready for the fight.” As she was leaving he called out, “Today the revolution came to my house. That’s why I will defend it until I die!”

On March 20, Cuba announced new measures, including suspending school for four weeks; closing dance clubs, pools and gyms; giving special attention to senior citizens who live at home or who live alone; increasing food production; and ending most travel from cities. All Cubans coming to the island are quarantined for 14 days and tourists can no longer enter the country. Restaurants must cut their seating in half.

To make sure everyone is well-informed of what to do, the mass organizations together with local gov- ernments organize visits to every home in the country.

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By pointing a way forward.

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**Socialist Workers Party Statement**

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