

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Hong Kong protest movement
revives with May 1 rallies**
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 84/NO. 19 MAY 18, 2020

Working people hold May Day celebrations all across Cuba

BY SETH GALINSKY

The million-strong international workers May Day parade in Havana and similar ones across Cuba did not take place this year, a decision made by the revolutionary government in the context of the worldwide coronavirus outbreak. But workers and farmers are expressing their support and defense of the revolution in many ways.

Working people and youth organized efforts to increase food and industrial production both on the job and through volunteer brigades. They helped out on millions of home health visits to stop the spread of coronavirus, donated blood and held thousands of May Day celebrations at their workplaces, on farms or in front of the apartment buildings where they live.

“There are days that are surprising,” *Trabajadores*, the newspaper of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), wrote May 1. “There are workdays that are looked at with pride, because more labor was carried out than it was possible to imagine.”

“The pandemic has had a serious impact on the world economy and Cuba is part of that economy,” said Federico Hernández, first secretary of the Communist Party in Granma province. “We have to organize ourselves more and be more effective in

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Demand jobs! Join workers fights over wages, conditions



Driver Jose Gonzalez addresses fellow independent truckers in Fontana, California, during protest against brokers driving down their wages and anti-worker government regulations.

Demand gov't-funded public works program to create jobs

Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party 2020 candidate for president, issued the following statement May 6. Malcolm Jarrett is the party's vice presidential candidate.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Working people are finding ways to unite and fight the rulers' assaults on our jobs, wages and working conditions. Owner-operator truckers protested May 1 in Los Angeles, Chicago

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Workers' protests take on impact of capitalist crisis

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Hundreds of millions of working people are being thrown out of their jobs to face the dire consequences of government-mandated economic shutdowns — mounting depression conditions not seen for almost a century. These are the consequence not of a disease, but of the deepening crisis of capitalist rule, whose priorities are profits for a handful of propertied families at the expense of workers and farmers.

Over the last six weeks more than 30 million workers in the U.S. have lost their jobs, and that's just the gov-

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Independent truckers rally over attacks on their pay

BY BERNIE SENTER

FONTANA, Calif. — With horns blasting and big rig truck cabs plastered with signs saying, “No to cheap freight,” “Enough is enough!” and “Stop abusive brokers,” 50 owner-operators convoyed from here to Los Angeles May 1. They joined with 60 other truckers coming from the Port of Los Angeles in a “slow roll” around downtown Los Angeles to focus attention on the crisis they face.

Similar protests by hundreds of truckers in Chicago, Washington, D.C., Houston, Miami and elsewhere took place the same day and earlier in the week. The truckers called the actions “Mayday” protests — an SOS call for changes in the industry.

“The rates I get for a load have been cut in half,” Rogelio Sanchez, who has been driving his own truck since 1995, told the *Militant*. Like the other owner-operators at the protest, Sanchez said he bids for work from freight brokers.

“Since the beginning of the year there has been a lot less shipments from China. And it's gotten worse since the COVID-19. I'm struggling. There's a lot of truckers desperate for work right now. The brokers take advantage of us, they're gouging us. They sell us loads for as cheap as possible.”

Carlos Orellana has been a trucker

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'Militant' extends drive for readers, to spread the word about workers' struggles

From John Studer, editor of the *Militant*

The *Militant* is extending the paper's drive to expand the number of working people getting subscriptions, reading books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionists, and contributing to the Militant Fighting Fund two more weeks, through June 2.

The reason isn't because we are behind — in fact the drive is ahead of schedule. Taking advantage of the extra time to further expand the reach of the paper broadly to workers, farmers and youth in cities, small towns and rural areas can help make it a more effective voice for our struggles and for building solidarity. It will widen interest in the SWP's program and party-building activities.

Extending the drive will also be an opportunity for the *Militant* to give voice to SWP members and other workers' mounting resistance to the bosses' attacks that they and co-workers are part of in the retail stores, railroads and other places where they work. This is the starting point in meeting the growing attacks by the bosses and their government today. Each and every fight on the job around wages and working conditions is important and needs to be reported.

The *Militant* is a unique and indispensable tool for workers who want to fight the impact of today's deepening capitalist crisis on their lives. Nowhere else can workers learn about each others' struggles and find out more about how as a class we can chart a road forward.

The paper's supporters in areas across the country — and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. — will want to discuss increasing their goals.

John Studer

Fight grows to overturn ban on the 'Militant' in Florida prisons

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“The prison officials are targeting the *Militant* because of its political viewpoints,” wrote the paper's attorney, David Goldstein, in an appeal filed with the Florida Department of Corrections' Literature Review Committee May 1. This is “in violation of the First Amendment rights of both subscribers and publishers.”

The *Militant* received notice April 17 that the Jefferson Correctional Institution in Monticello, Florida, impounded issue no. 13, claiming photos on pages 1, 5, 14 and 16 were “gang signs.”

What “you perceive as ‘gang related’ symbols are meant to be symbols of solidarity,” wrote Walmart workers Danielle Snyder and Dan Fein from the Chicago area April 29 to the Literature Review Committee, urging it to overturn the ban. “The U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of speech for all, and this includes prisoners”

who “still have the right to read and possess different points of view.”

What the pictures prison authorities cite to justify their ban actually

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Asarco strikers: We're still out here fighting for our rights

Venezuela: Working people pay price for US sanctions

BY RÓGER CALERO

Washington is not letting up on its sanctions and other violations of Venezuela's sovereignty aimed at forcing the government of President Nicolás Maduro from power. "The United States is not done," and will continue to squeeze harder, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said April 23.

The U.S. rulers seek to capitalize on the economic and social crisis facing working people that has accelerated in Venezuela as a result of trade and financial sanctions, the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and a steep drop in the price of crude oil.

Washington's assaults in Venezuela are tied to its decadeslong war against the Cuban Revolution. Cuba has sent over 20,000 medical and other volunteers to serve there, in return for vitally needed shipments of oil. These shipments have been a special target of the U.S. capitalist rulers. Washington claims the Cuban volunteers are really disguised military forces propping up Maduro.

The U.S. rulers' measures are forcing foreign companies and banking institutions to halt transactions with Venezuela in order to avoid U.S. retaliation. Caracas has been able to bypass some U.S. sanctions with the help of the Russian government, and to a lesser extent from the Indian, Iranian, Turkish and Chinese governments. Russian investment has helped stabilize Venezuela's declining oil industry, and has been a lifeline exchanging gasoline and oil-processing chemicals for crude oil. However, state-controlled Russian oil producer Rosneft suspended operations there March 28 after being placed under U.S. sanctions.

The country has faced shortages of gasoline in the last couple of years, since the U.S. government escalated financial sanctions against Venezuela's nationalized oil company PDVSA. And the shortages have gotten worse since the recent moves by Washington. In addition to long lines workers face at gas stations, fuel shortages are forcing farmers to let crops rot in the fields since they have no way to get them to market.

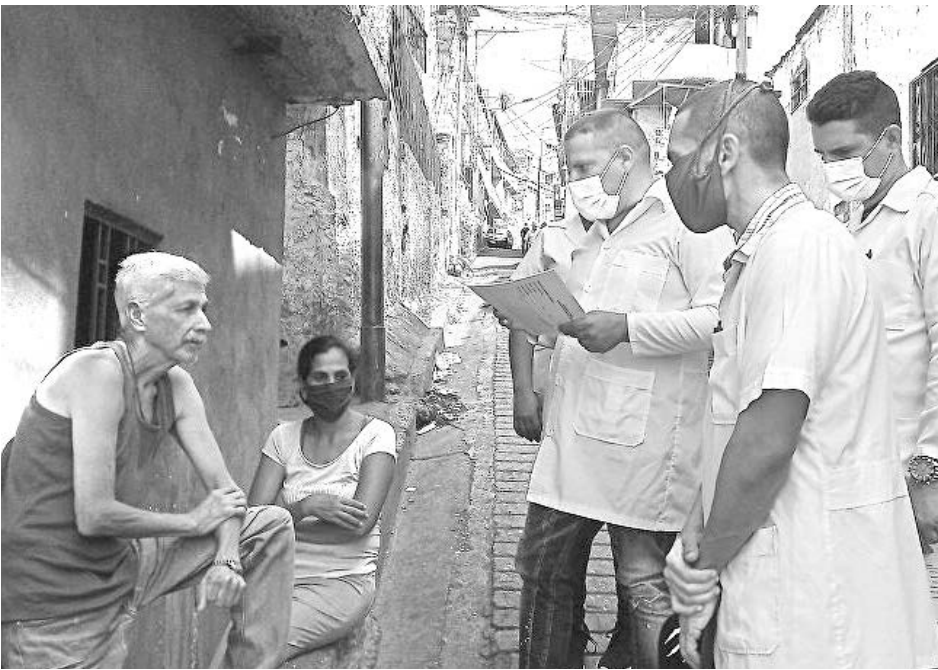
Workers pay price for crisis

It's working people who pay the price for the U.S. sanctions, on top of regular power outages, scarcity of life-saving medicines and equipment, high food prices, and the dire situation of some 5 million Venezuelans who left the country since 2015 trying to make a living in neighboring countries.

The Venezuelan government announced March 23 a series of special measures in an attempt to lessen the impact of the social turmoil, which is aggravated by the coronavirus outbreak. These include suspension of residential and commercial rents for six months, cash bonuses, and allocation of funds to maintain government-subsidized food packages distributed to families in working-class neighborhoods.

In the meantime, there were protests and looting incidents in several cities due to food and fuel scarcity, and lockdown measures imposed by the government in response to the disease.

In the last couple of years the Maduro government has steadily reversed measures that late President Hugo Chávez, elected in 1998, had instituted as part of a strategy to "manage" the



Sputnik/Marco Terrugi

Cuban doctors in April visit working people in their homes in Petare neighborhood in Caracas, Venezuela's capital, examining them for symptoms of COVID-19. Washington's hatred for the Maduro government in Venezuela is tied to its political and economic relations with Cuba.

capitalist economy. Chávez and then Maduro referred to their approach as the Bolivarian Revolution or 21st century socialism. These reforms were never intended to uproot capitalist relations. Chávez said he had a different course than the Cuban Revolution.

Greater and greater aspects of the government-owned oil industry are being placed in the hands of foreign joint ventures for exploration, pumping and sales of Venezuelan crude. PDVSA threatens to unravel, from U.S. sanctions, years of mismanagement and corruption.

To increase the availability of food and as a concession to native capitalists, the Maduro government has been relaxing price controls. It had previously attempted to keep prices on basic goods lower. But capitalist food monopolies and big landowners stopped or cut back on production they deemed unprofitable, or turned to selling their products at higher prices on the black market.

The government also loosened restrictions on imports and exports, as well as currency exchange controls used to curb outflow of capital. Capitalist companies are increasing exports and store shelves are filling up again — at prices unaffordable for most working people.

According to Reuters, in the last year it found 120 new "dollar stores" in Caracas alone — stores that deal in products from Costco and Sam's Club at double or triple U.S. prices.

In mid-March the International Monetary Fund rejected a \$5 billion loan request from the Venezuelan government to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, saying Maduro's government lacks international recognition.

In clear violation of Venezuela's sovereignty, Washington took control of \$11.6 billion of the country's assets in the U.S., including Citgo, PDVSA's subsidiary there.

With bipartisan support the Trump administration has backed the pro-imperialist opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who proclaimed himself president in January 2019.

Guaidó's attempt to provoke a military coup last year and mobilize popular actions to topple the Maduro government have fallen flat. Many distrust the pro-imperialist opposition, whose leaders can't hide their contempt for working people.

The Cuban government has made it clear that it will not end its 20-year collaboration with the Venezuelan government and people and that it defends the right of the Venezuelan people to make their own decisions. It proudly defends the contributions of its civilian contingent of doctors and nurses — the "army of white coats" — who work with the Venezuelan health system in poor barrios and rural areas. These Cuban medical personnel have been at the forefront of the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic in Venezuela.

THE MILITANT

Defend women's right to choose abortion

In Poland protesters have taken to the streets to fight government attempts to ban abortion. The struggle for access to family planning and abortion is a fundamental right for women and key to uniting the working class. The 'Militant' supports and covers these actions.



Reuters/Kacper Pempel

Protest in Poland April 16 against bill that would ban women's right to abortion.

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NY Mayor de Blasio scapegoats Jews for spreading coronavirus



Todd Maisel

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio personally supervised cops breaking up Hasidic funeral service in Brooklyn April 28, saying stepped up policing was “message to the Jewish community.”

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEW YORK — Mayor Bill de Blasio singled out “the Jewish community” for not practicing social distancing, claiming they endangered others’ lives. He followed up his smears by ordering the New York Police Department to step up patrols in Jewish neighborhoods in Brooklyn, home to Hasidic communities, to physically break up funerals and religious services and arrest those involved.

De Blasio’s comments came after more than 2,000 Orthodox Jews gathered in the Williamsburg area of Brooklyn to take part in the funeral for a prominent rabbi April 28. The mayor has since admitted that his office and the NYPD took part in planning the event in advance.

Under an agreement with the city, Orthodox synagogue leaders had organized for the family to gather at the synagogue while others gathered nearby to listen to the service over loudspeakers. As the funeral neared, cops breached the agreement and told the crowd no loudspeakers would be permitted, so people moved in toward the synagogue to hear the ceremony.

“When I heard I went there myself to ensure the crowd was dispersed,” de Blasio boasted. Video footage shows cops moving in and police sirens blasting, as cops broke up the peaceful gathering.

“My message to the Jewish community, and all communities, is this simple: the time for warnings has passed,” de Blasio threatened. “I have instruct-

ed the NYPD to proceed immediately to summons or even arrest those who gather in large groups.”

Earlier that day thousands in the city’s parks watched a flyover by military Thunderbirds and Blue Angels aircraft. Pictures in the press show many attending the event without observing much social distancing or being forced to do so by authorities.

Meets storm of criticism

De Blasio’s singling out New York’s 1-million-plus “Jewish community” for spreading coronavirus met widespread criticism for encouraging anti-Semitism among those who scapegoat Jews for today’s social crisis.

“This type of horrible stereotyping is dangerous and completely unacceptable at any time,” Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress, said in an April 29 statement. The group said it would formally censure de Blasio for his remarks that

Contributions grow to SWP ‘stimulus’ payout appeal

The special Socialist Workers Party appeal for donations from the one-time federal government “stimulus” payments now counts 41 contributors from around the U.S. The total stands at \$45,220, and is growing!

The appeal for contributions toward the long-term work of the party was announced two and a half weeks ago in response to a number of requests from recipients asking how they should make out their check to the SWP.

“With great pleasure we send our contribution to help build the special fund,” writes Ruth Nebbia. Similar notes accompany many of the contributions. “We know the funds will be put to good use,” Vivian Sahnner, a Walmart worker, wrote. “I’m happy to send this for the SWP’s work.”

Contributors have turned the appeal into an extraordinary reinforcement of the party’s ability to respond, now and going forward, to the unfolding deep-going economic and social crisis of capitalism. And to advance working-class struggle to end the exploitation of capital and build a new world.

To help augment the special appeal, send a check made out to the Socialist Workers Party to 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. On the memo line write “Special Fund.”

— EMMA JOHNSON

“painted the Jewish community as lawbreakers and unconcerned about the city’s public health.”

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, said de Blasio’s comments were “outrageous.”

Others, like *New York Times* writer Bari Weiss, claimed de Blasio was right to be angered by those attending the funeral, but criticized his comments for sending “an inadvertent message to anti-Semites that Jews were to blame.”

De Blasio hasn’t backed off. On April 29 he said his blaming of Jews was merely “love, but it was tough love.”

The following day he ordered cops to break up another Jewish funeral service in Brooklyn. They also raided two Brooklyn synagogues, driving worshippers out and issuing summonses. Cop cars from the Strategic Response Group, a rapid-deployment force used for civil unrest and crowd control, lined the main streets of Williamsburg’s Hasidic areas.

Since the pandemic began, New York cops have repeatedly broken up prayers and family gatherings in Jewish neighborhoods.

De Blasio’s “words and actions must be denounced for what they are:

anti-Semitism,” said Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in New York’s 10th District, in a May 5 statement. Anti-Semitism, the socialist candidate explained, “invents a mythical scapegoat — the ‘evil Jewish capitalists’ — to take eyes off the real enemy: the capitalist system and its dog-eat-dog morality.”

Working people must condemn Jew-hatred “in all its ugly manifestations,” Galinsky urged. “Without this we will not be able to unite to defend our interests along the road to taking power out of the hands of the capitalist class.”

The targeting of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews for allegedly spreading a deadly virus comes in the midst of rising numbers of Jew-hating attacks in Brooklyn, the New York-New Jersey region and elsewhere.

In December three people were shot dead in an assault that targeted Jews shopping at the New Jersey Kosher Supermarket in Jersey City. Later in December a man broke into a rabbi’s home in Monsey, Rockland County, 25 miles north of New York City, where he used a machete to stab five Hasidic Jews. Anti-Semitic attacks here reached record numbers in 2019.

NY cops turned loose on political rallies, people ‘gathering’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — Implementing orders from Mayor Bill de Blasio that demonstrations not take place now, dozens of cops moved to break up a gathering of about 12 people May 3 protesting the partnership between Mount Sinai hospital, the city and the anti-gay evangelical group Samaritan’s Purse.

The small rally and press conference called by Reclaim Pride Coalition was held outside the hospital’s Beth Israel Medical Center in Lower Manhattan.

“About 50 police officers arrived at First Avenue and East 16th Street with lights and sirens to discourage the protestors from massing across from the hospital,” *am New York* reported on its front page. “Most of the protestors, however, were scattered with more than 20 feet of distance.” The cops also threatened journalists covering the event.

Officers issued citations to some people attending the event, claiming they were in violation of state and city bans on organized gatherings put in place during the “coronavirus crisis.” Protester Ann Northrop was summoned for standing in the First Avenue service lane, away from Reclaim Pride Coalition’s podium. “What happened to free speech in this country?” she said to the media.

Samaritan’s Purse, based in Boone, North Carolina, was founded by fundamentalist preacher Franklin Graham, a son of the late Rev. Billy Graham. In a deal with the Mount Sinai Health System, approved by the city, the organization coordinated a 68-bed field hospital set up in Central Park to deal with COVID-19 cases from the hospital. With just eight patients left in their tents, the group plans to wrap up its operations soon.

Since its appearance in New York in March, the group has attracted quite a bit of controversy. It urges its volunteers to sign a “Statement of Faith” that denounces gay marriage and says anyone who doesn’t practice their version of Christianity — and that means Jews, Muslims and more — will be consigned “to everlasting punishment in hell.” The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine backed out of an agreement to allow the group to operate an overflow facility inside the church.

But Mayor de Blasio and the New York Police Department are on their own holy warpath, saying they’re going to use naked police power to enforce “social distancing,” and have declared the right to protest — whether against attacks on gay rights or any other politi-

cal issue — as illegal. “We’re not doing rallies at this point,” the mayor said at a May 1 news conference. He emphasized that the cops will enforce this. Such actions “spread the disease and help to kill people. It’s unacceptable.”

NYPD bosses say they are organizing to unleash an army of 1,000 cops this weekend determined to keep people apart at parks, beaches and playgrounds.

They proved what they mean May 3 when plainclothes cops moved to grab a couple they had ordered to step apart and then went after bystander Donni Wright. Another bystander caught the whole thing on video.

The cop pulls out his Taser, calling Wright a “n---r” and telling him to “move the f---k back right now.” Then he attacks Wright, punching him repeatedly in the head and torso and pinning the guy down by putting his knee on Wright’s head. Wright, who works for the New York City Housing Authority, offered no resistance and was arrested.

After the video got out, there was an outcry and the attack is now under review. But it’s clear the cops have been unleashed. “There’s going to be a crack-down everywhere if we see gatherings,” de Blasio told the media.

The Jewish Question

A Marxist Interpretation
by Abram Leon

“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.”

THE JEWISH QUESTION

\$15

A MARXIST INTERPRETATION
ABRAM LEON

Pathfinderpress.com

Unfolding capitalist crisis fuels interest in ‘Militant’

BY SETH GALINSKY

Over the past week SWP members have continued to increase the reach of the paper. The drive got a boost when Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for president, and Malcolm Jarrett, the party’s candidate for vice president, visited workers in several small towns in coal-mining regions in West Virginia.

“There are no jobs out here,” laid-off oil field worker Jonathan Johnson told them. Johnson said he worried that the government’s decision to print money in the midst of the shutdown of many factories and businesses “will deflate our currency.”

Their mounting debts could spark a dangerous bout of inflation, Kennedy explained, that will fall hardest on workers and farmers. The party’s campaign platform urges support for workers’ struggles to defend themselves and use union power, including to fight the bosses for higher wages to counter a rise in prices.

“They pay this stimulus money to pacify us,” Kennedy explained. Then they will demand “working people sacrifice. They will want us to take wage cuts, accept speedup.”

The SWP calls for workers control of production and for opening the books of the companies so workers can see where the wealth we produce goes. Johnson was one of three workers in West Virginia who subscribed to the *Militant* that day.

Truckers fight attack on livelihood

“The brokers abuse us,” truck driver Alfredo Bettis told Malcolm Jarrett at a truckers’ protest in Washington, D.C., May 3. “They used to take 10% or 20%, now they take 50% or 60%.”

Jarrett and campaign supporters joined the action to back the drivers.

Bettis, an independent owner-operator originally from Peru, came over to talk to Jarrett after a trucker who opposes the Cuban Revolution started yelling, trying to convince other protesters to stay away from SWP campaigners.

But that just served to pique Bettis’ interest. “What is this all about?” he asked Jarrett.

The SWP candidate gave Bettis a copy of the campaign’s 2020 platform. “We are here in solidarity with the drivers who are looking for a way forward in the midst of the deepening capitalist economic crisis,” Jarrett said. Bettis was interested and subscribed to the *Militant*.

As more workers realize they are going through a crisis like no one living today has experienced, SWP members find real interest in discussing what can be done and learning more about the working-class struggles reported in the pages of the *Militant*. Many nod in agreement when campaigners say the crisis is not caused by the virus, but by capitalism.

Fund contributions pick up

Party members are winning contributions to the Militant Fighting Fund. Many campaign teams report workers handing \$5, \$10 and \$20 saying, “I like what you are doing.” The increase in donations is also reflected in the thousands of dollars that have come in through online payments.

Every contribution, of whatever amount, strengthens the ability to get the *Militant* into the hands of working people. So far over \$72,000 has been raised towards the \$115,000 goal.

Earlier last week Kennedy and Jarrett joined congressional candidate David Ferguson to speak with working people at a trailer park near Breezewood, Pennsylvania.

“Two of the workers we met told us they had voted for Donald Trump and said they thought we wouldn’t want to talk to them,” Kennedy told the *Militant*. “I told them of course we wanted to talk to them. Working people have to be able to discuss, debate, exchange views to be able to find a way forward, regardless of who you voted for or if you didn’t vote or can’t vote.”

Disabled worker Gary Bussard told Kennedy and Ferguson that he opposed the government measures that have shut down much of the economy. “I’m against it, that’s our lifeblood,” Bussard said. “I’m against the government telling people what to do, don’t work, stay in your home.”

“Workers need to be at work,” Kennedy replied. “That’s the only way we can come together to learn how to fight the attacks of the bosses and their government.”

Bussard told them how



Malcolm Jarrett, right, SWP vice presidential candidate, talks with driver Alfredo Bettis, center, at truckers’ protest in Washington, D.C., May 3. Truckers across the country protested May 1.

his family lost their farm back in the ’90s when their cows got sick. “We asked the Federal Housing Administration and Farm Credit to defer our payments, but they wouldn’t do it,” he said.

“The wealthy capitalist farmers get government help, but that’s harder

for working farmers,” Kennedy explained. “We demand an end to farm foreclosures.”

“Oh my gosh. Why didn’t you come around 25 years ago,” Bussard replied.

Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers

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Celebrate Cindy Jaquith’s 55 years building the communist movement

BY SETH GALINSKY

Cindy Jaquith, a cadre and leader of the Socialist Workers Party for some 55 years, died unexpectedly in Miami May 2 of complications from an intestinal illness.

Over the years, Jaquith shouldered a wide range of national and international leadership responsibilities in building the Socialist Workers Party and the world communist movement.

Jaquith joined the Young Socialist Alliance in the mid-1960s while a student at Carleton College in Minnesota. Like thousands of other young people of her generation, she was inspired by the Cuban Revolution and the proletarian fight to overthrow Jim Crow segregation.

She was a member of and helped build the party’s trade union fractions in a number of cities, served stints as editor of the *Militant* and took major responsibility for the party’s work in the women’s liberation movement beginning in the early 1970s.

Jaquith first joined the *Militant* staff in 1972. As part of her responsibilities she frequently traveled to the Kentucky coalfields during the Brookside United Mine Workers organizing drive, a fight portrayed in the movie *Harlan County USA*. She participated in and reported on the historic march of 100,000 for the Equal Rights Amendment for women in Washington, D.C., on July 9, 1978.

In January 1979, when workers and farmers in Iran took to the streets in their millions and a month later brought down the hated U.S.-backed shah, Jaquith was assigned to cover the unfolding revolution. Over the next year she traveled back and forth to Iran, collaborating with fellow communists to get eyewitness coverage of this working-class upsurge into the hands of working people around the world.

She interviewed garment workers, soldiers and other working people at the forefront of making the revolution. She wrote about the mass mobilizations of women fighting for their liberation, and the organization of workers into factory committees to defend their interests. Ja-



Cindy Jaquith speaking in Miami, August 2016.

quith covered the press conference that announced the formation of the Socialist Workers Party of Iran. Upon her return, she toured the U.S. giving public forums on the Iranian Revolution.

The articles Jaquith wrote were invaluable for workers in the U.S. and around the world to understand the working-class course of the Iranian Revolution and its lasting impact today, despite the counterrevolution by reactionary bourgeois clerical forces that prevented a workers and farmers government from coming to power.

From August 1985 to November 1987, Jaquith headed up the Managua Bureau of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, the paper’s Spanish-language sister publication. The bureau was established in August 1979, one month after the victory of the Sandinista Revolution. She returned to direct the bureau in mid-1990 until it closed in December that year.

Over the last five years, Jaquith was a leader of the Miami branch of the party. She worked at Walmart and was the party’s candidate for mayor of Miami in 2017.

The *Militant* will carry a fuller account of Jaquith’s political contributions in a future issue. Messages from those who knew and worked with Jaquith will be featured in the article and at an upcoming meeting to celebrate her life. Send messages to the-militant@mac.com.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund						
April 4 - June 2 (week four)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Received
UNITED STATES						
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Atlanta	45	30	45	18	\$9,750	\$6,815
Chicago *	80	67	60	30	\$11,400	\$7,065
Dallas	20	17	20	14	\$2,500	\$1,447
Lincoln	10	4	10	8	\$250	\$100
Los Angeles	60	46	60	26	\$10,800	\$5,277
Louisville	40	20	40	25	\$3,200	\$2,000
Miami	20	8	20	5	\$3,500	\$2,429
New Jersey	35	34	40	18	\$3,500	\$3,176
New York	50	38	50	27	\$13,500	\$9,886
Oakland	50	40	65	32	\$12,000	\$6,941
Philadelphia	20	17	20	15	\$3,000	\$1,830
Pittsburgh *	25	20	20	8	\$2,250	\$1,450
Seattle	40	19	40	16	\$10,000	\$4,993
Twin Cities	20	19	20	12	\$3,500	\$2,165
Washington *	30	26	30	16	\$5,500	\$4,150
Other		1				\$100
Total U.S.	590	429	585	288	\$100,250	\$61,484
Prisoners	25	18				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	30	18	30	13	\$3,000	\$860
Manchester *	20	16	35	31	\$1,380	\$500
Total U.K.	50	34	65	44	\$4,380	\$1,360
Canada	50	24	65	21	\$9,000	\$5,953
New Zealand	10	5	10	9	\$3,000	\$2,850
Australia	15	8	15	8	\$800	\$800
Total	740	518	740	370	\$117,430	\$72,446
SHOULD BE	700	350	700	350	\$115,000	\$57,500
*Raised goal						

Capitalist crisis fuels interest

Continued from page 4

Party candidate for U.S. Senate, spoke to fellow workers at a New Jersey store. Railroad worker Eric Thompson told Sherman about the worsening conditions working people face, including the closing of many hospitals in New York and New Jersey over the last couple decades.

Thompson said that when one of his co-workers was having trouble, his shop steward said, "Don't worry about him, just worry about yourself." Thompson said that's not right, "we have to help each other out."

Sherman said, "Working people have to unite to stand up to the bosses, we need solidarity." SWP members join fights with their co-workers to counter the bosses' attacks. Thompson looked at the book *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*, which explains the need for fighting unions that defend the interests of all working people. He subscribed to the *Militant* and got the "three books to be read as one," which includes *Tribunes*. (For these and other books on special during the drive see ad on page 7.)

'Education' fraud under capitalism

"Sometimes I don't agree, or maybe don't understand your ideas," handyman Thomas O'Sullivan told Communist League campaigner Ogmundur Jonsson in Manchester, England. "But I thought it was important to know where you get them from." He bought *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party*, renewed his

Militant subscription and kicked in £4 (\$5) for the *Militant* fund.

Alex Langford-Taylor told CL member Hugo Wils she liked the CL's call for a public works program.

"The employers will use this crisis to make people redundant and make those who are left over cover the workload," she said. "It happened to me once in a previous job."

Langford-Taylor got the book *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes.

"I've thought a lot about this question," she said. "Many of my friends with degrees can't get jobs in the field they studied and now are trying to pay off massive student debt."

"The book describes the fraud of 'education' under capitalism," Wils explained, "and why it's a rational-



Militant/Janice Lynn

Marcus Kufi, right, gets *Militant* and *Red Zone* book in Atlanta area Walmart parking lot.

ization for capitalist exploitation." It explains that in coming struggles workers will begin to transform ourselves and our attitudes toward life,

work and each other and how we'll discover that the fight by the working class to take political power is both possible and necessary.

Fight grows against Florida prison ban on 'Militant'

Continued from front page

show are workers with their fists in the air expressing their determination to fight for safety, unions and dignity on the job. They include striking meatpackers at a Perdue chicken processing plant in Kathleen, Georgia, and nurses protesting outside a medical facility in Richmond, California, in March. Another photo shows members of United Steelworkers Local 8888 during their successful fight to organize a union at the Newport News, Virginia, shipyard in 1979.

Authorities allege these photos are "a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system or the safety of any person."

This impoundment "is arbitrary, capricious, discriminatory, unconstitutional," wrote Goldstein. "There is not the slightest hint of anything on the listed pages (or elsewhere in the issue) that could rationally be construed as threatening FDOC prison security."

Letters urging the Literature Review Committee to overturn this outrageous ban have been sent by the

National Lawyers Guild, American Civil Liberties Union of Florida and Amnesty International USA.

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press "strongly urges the Literature Review Committee to overturn the impoundment," said the organization's May 4 letter. "It appears arbitrary and irrational. Prisons should not invoke facially legitimate but overly broad justifications — such as 'safety and security' — to censor content."

From Piedmont, Quebec, professor David Lefrancois wrote, "Raising fists in the air is overly familiar as part of public, political, sportive, events. Like numerous defenders of political rights, subscribing or not to the *Militant*, I am sending this letter of support of the fight against censorship, calling on the Committee to overturn all the bans of the paper in Florida prisons."

This is the first issue of the paper Florida prison officials have barred in eight months. But from mid-2017 to August 2019 they impounded almost three dozen issues, over one-third of all *Militant* issues printed over that time. Most

of these were subsequently overturned.

The bans of the *Militant* over the two years "were at least 7-8 times as many as in the entire rest of the nation, state and federal prisons combined in the past decade," wrote Goldstein.

The *Militant* is mailed to subscribers in 87 federal and state prisons in 21 states. It has 53 subscribers in 24 prisons in Florida. Banning an issue at one prison removes the paper from all subscribers throughout the state.

"A policy that bans the reporting or coverage of worker protests," wrote Goldstein, "or otherwise offends the political sensibilities of a prison official, as is plainly the case here, cannot withstand constitutional scrutiny."

"The *Militant* requests that the Literature Review Committee overturn this impoundment and direct that this issue be immediately distributed to all inmate subscribers in FDOC custody."

"Whether workers are protesting in the streets or are behind bars they have the same constitutional right to freedom of speech and the right to read and form their own opinions about political events around the world," said *Militant* editor John Studer. "We are fighting to reverse this ban as we've done every time other issues have been barred over the years."

Studer urged readers of the paper to keep getting statements from co-workers, unions, churches and defenders of political rights calling for ending the impoundment. They should be sent to the Literature Review Committee, Attn: Dean Peterson, 501 South Calhoun St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500. Email: Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com. Send a copy to themilitant@mac.com.

Contribute to the *Militant*, help win new readers

Help show the *Militant* and books to co-workers, neighbors, friends and relatives. See page 8 for a distributor near you. Or contact themilitant@mac.com.

Send contributions for the fund to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Online at: www.themilitant.com

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 22, 1995

The advances being made today in the fight for Irish self-determination give working people and defenders of democratic rights around the world cause to celebrate and get involved. Those who want to put an end to centuries of Irish oppression and more than 70 years of outright partition of their nation have the initiative. "All my life I've been a second-class citizen," explained one 65-year-old worker demonstrating May 7 in Belfast. The door is open for more workers and youth to come into political action, and a growing number are starting to walk through it.

"There are more people taking to the streets today," explained one participant in the Belfast rally. Workers, young people, and supporters of democratic rights should join our sisters and brothers in Ireland demanding: British troops out now! Free all Irish political prisoners!



May 22, 1970

Just one week after the Kent State massacre, seven more young people are dead at the hands of the cops and national guardsmen, this time Black youth in Augusta, Ga. Six were killed when state troopers and guardsmen attacked residents of the Black community protesting the killing of the seventh victim, a teen-age Black youth, in a local jail.

The official police version was that Charles Oatman, 16, died after two teen-age cellmates hit him with a belt and shoe and knocked him against the wall. The Black community, properly contemptuous of such a story, marched in angry protest. Governor Lester Maddox, who announced that "they'd better be prepared to meet their maker," unleashed the troopers and Guard.

This latest monstrous deed will certainly evoke massive protest. All opponents of racism, of war, of capitalist violence must organize and act to call a halt.



May 19, 1945

Pennsylvania's 72,000 hard coal miners, upholding the militant traditions of the United Mine Workers, continue to stand firm after two weeks of their strike to win a new contract and substantial wage gains. Their walkout began on May 1 with the expiration of their old contract, in conformity with their "no contract, no work" policy.

All government attempts to intimidate the miners and force them back into the pits have proven futile in the face of their fighting determination and solidarity. For more than a week they have ignored a government back-to-work order and the "seizure" of the struck mines.

The mine owners and their government agents hope to use the weapon of hunger to whip miners back to work on the operators' terms. The *United Mine Workers Journal* exposes the price-robbery and planned shortages, especially of meat, in the company-owned mining towns.

Fight Florida prison ban on the 'Militant'

Get out the word. Distribute copies of *Militant* articles on this fight.

Get statements of support for the *Militant's* appeal from unions, churches and defenders of workers rights and free speech. Send to: themilitant@mac.com.

Send a check to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked "Prisoners Rights Fight."

Workers protests take on impact of capitalist crisis

Continued from front page

ernment’s “official” figures. In fact, the number is far greater if you were to add in temporary workers, “self-employed” workers, undocumented workers and all those who work off the books.

Under the variety of lockdown orders imposed by governments at all levels, these workers — and millions more who the capitalist rulers don’t consider “essential” — are condemned to hunker down in their homes, isolated, watching their bank accounts disappear. They are subjected to the capitalist media’s nonstop drive to terrify them about coronavirus.

Workers need to have a job, to be at work, to be active in the working *class*, looking to organize and fight to defend our right to work, our wages and working conditions against the bosses’ efforts to make us pay for their crisis.

The bosses are looking to get production going again, as their profits plummet and their competitive positions in world trade stand exposed. Overall orders in the U.S. for durable goods fell 14.7% in March alone, the second biggest collapse ever recorded.

The employing class looks forward



Truckers’ rigs parked near Capitol in Washington D.C., May 1, after rolling “Mayday” protests over squeeze between rising costs and cuts of up to half in payments by brokerage companies, exploiting truckers’ competition for freight jobs.

to increasing its exploitation of the working class, to outcompete its rivals on our backs.

Many bosses combine plans to reopen their factories with slashing more jobs to maximize profits. GE bosses announced May 4 they are eliminating some 13,000 workers in their aviation division and furloughing thousands more. The Big Three auto companies — General Motors, Ford and Fiat Chrysler — say they will reopen production on May 18.

Workers power comes from the fact that our labor power is what produces all wealth, including the lion’s share

elsewhere also marched on May Day, demanding amnesty to be able to work without fear of deportation.

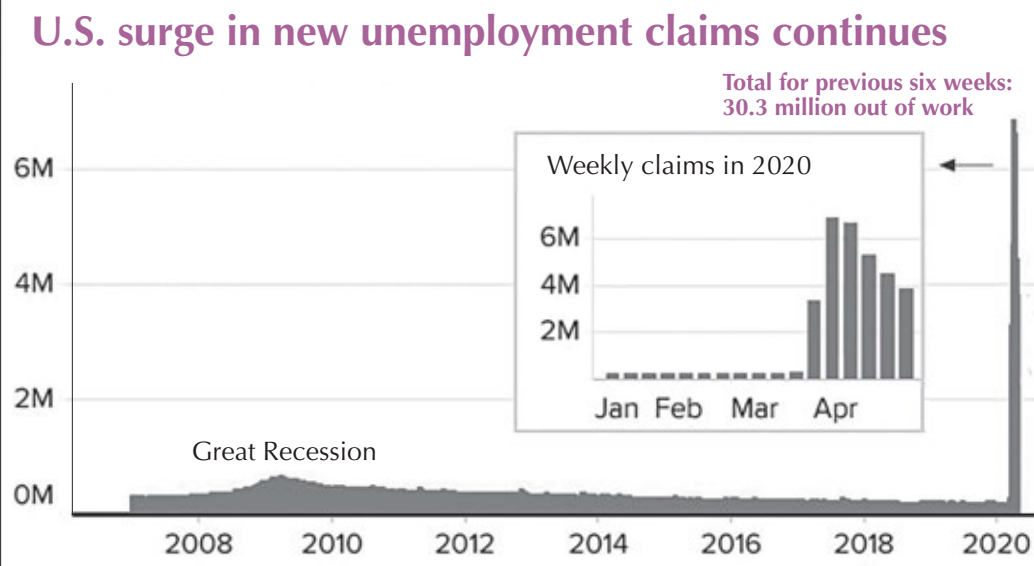
Similar battles are unfolding worldwide, from garment workers fighting for work and back pay in Bangladesh to Debenhams department store workers in Ireland demanding their jobs back.

Attacks on political rights

The city government in New York is trying to push back workers’ political rights, to make it harder for us to organize and fight. “We’re not doing rallies at this point,” New York Mayor Bill de Blasio told a May 1 press conference. He has unleashed thousands of cops to enforce this and other attacks on workers who seek to come together.

Demonstrations against government clampdowns and harassment have taken place in state capitals across the U.S., and from Beirut to Hong Kong.

The bosses are pushing to get their factories, mines, mills, transportation and retail outlets going again, but the reality is the unprecedented free fall in global production and trade will mean a prolonged capitalist crisis looms, with



no way back to “normal.”

The *Wall Street Journal* carried a May 4 article headlined “Global Factory Output Plunges, With Slow Rebound Projected.” Demand is way down, supply chains remain disrupted, borders closed and trade emasculated.

The aviation industry is particularly hard hit. The headlines say it all: “Boeing Will Cut 16,000 Jobs After Posting a Massive Loss”; “Airline Shares Tank After Warren Buffett Reveals He Dumped Airline Stocks.”

Central banks have flooded the coffers of big business and imperialist banks with ever more stimuli, pushing their debt higher in an effort to finance the bosses out of the deflationary slump. These mountains of government debt, not seen since the second imperialist world war, threaten both financial and currency crises in the future.

Working people in the U.S. and around the world, saddled with debt for their cars or student loans, homes, farms or small businesses, are already hit hard. Worse, they, like toilers living in countries across the underdeveloped world, will bear the brunt as inflationary pressures erupt and interest rates climb.

In a taste of things to come, the Iranian government, after five decades of “chronic inflation,” announced plans to cut four zeros from the country’s currency, and give it a new name.

Such conditions will breed more struggles, leading to solidarity among fellow working people, whether wage slaves or debt slaves, against the same class enemy, the billionaire exploiters.

Layoffs are now spreading to public workers, as local, state and federal governments look to cut expenses by cutting services.

Capitalist crisis hits all workers

The economic crash is speeding up the unraveling of the European Union, as the capitalist masters in each country seek to look out for number one. The European Commission released its “spring forecast” May 6, predicting a collapse in economic output on the con-

Independent truckers rally over attacks on pay, gov’t regulations

Continued from front page

for 12 years and got his own rig eight years ago. “I used to get over \$1,400 flat rate to take a load from Los Angeles to Phoenix,” he explained. “Now the brokers offer \$700.” Out of that money comes truck payments, cargo and insurance, fuel, maintenance and other overhead expenses. That leaves drivers like Orellana little or nothing at the end.

Marvin Romero from Hesperia said, “Every time I have to go on the road I call a broker for a load. From Los Angeles to Houston they offer \$1,900. That’s about \$1 a mile. I would barely break even. We’re demanding a fair price. I love driving,” he said. “We just want respect. We’re forced to bid against each

other, fighting against each other.”

Birkeran Singh, originally from Punjab, India, has been a trucker for five years, since he was 19 years old. “I haven’t worked for over a month because the pay is no good. I can’t break even,” he said. “Some truckers are working negative, going in the hole after all their expenses just to be able to drive.”

Another common complaint is about the Electronic Logging Device. It is installed in each truck as a result of a federal mandate that regulates the hours each driver can operate the vehicle.

“It’s made the situation go from bad to worse,” Victor Castro said. “The computer tells you what you can and can’t do. You’re forced to drive for a longer time because the computer is pushing you.”

Sanchez said that “last week a convoy of 60 trucks was swarmed by the California Highway Patrol.” Many got \$200 tickets for allegedly blocking traffic while trying to keep the caravan together. Scores of Highway Patrol cars were stationed all along the route to and from Los Angeles May 1.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party joined the caravan with signs saying, “Guarantee truckers cost of operation, including living expenses” and “Build hospitals, housing, schools. For a massive public works program at union wages.”

The party’s participation was welcomed. Six truckers and family members got subscriptions to the *Militant*. “This is good you’re covering what is happening around the world,” Cynthia Gonzalez from Victorville said after she looked through the paper. She has been trucking together with her husband, Victor, for 12 years.

“We need to know what is going on elsewhere,” she said. “The news doesn’t inform us of what is happening, it

doesn’t know what the truckers and their families are going through. If not for the truckers, we wouldn’t have anything, no food, no toilet paper, everything we wear on our backs.”

Josefina Otero contributed to this article.

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — More than 70 truckers protesting low freight rates and rapacious brokers’ fees have been parked on the Mall at the U.S. Capitol since May 1. They say they want to meet with President Donald Trump to discuss relief they desperately need.

“This crisis is pushing us together. We have to educate ourselves. Demands for more government regulation of the industry won’t solve it,” owner-driver Mike Landis from Lititz, Pennsylvania, told the *Militant* May 2. Landis, who has 16 years trucking, is an organizer for U.S. Transportation Alliance, which fights for safety. “Better to decide that we are not going to haul freight for less than a certain rate per mile.”

After 12 years as a union coal miner near Beckley, West Virginia, Adam Gentry became a trucker. “Here we are again,” he said. This was the second time Gentry faced depression conditions because of a crisis in the industry he works in. “What makes matters worse is the way we are treated. When we arrive with a load, we have to call on the phone and sit in our trucks. No bathrooms for us, no facilities.”

Detention — the name of the punishment many of us remember from high school — is the industry term to describe the time truckers have to sit and wait for a load.

“We have to wait for two to three days

to pick up a load. You can put in your detention time with the broker, but you don’t always get repaid,” Gentry said. “On top of that there’s the lump sum fees at the other end. The grocery warehouses are the worst, asking \$500 to unload the truck. That’s like asking your mailman to pay you for delivering your mail.”

“We have no choice but to be here,” Pavlo Udud, 25, said. He had come with 13 other Ukrainian-American truckers from Cleveland to take part in his first protest.

“It took this crisis to get guys to come together,” Kris Young, who came to the protest with her husband, Scott Obermiller, told the *Militant* May 3. They have a rig and a trailer they bought secondhand. She said she was happy with the strong turnout.

Young pointed to the diverse range of truckers there. “We have Black, white, Spanish, the trucker up the street, I don’t know what country he’s from, but he brought in food for everybody,” she said. “We have all kinds of nationalities, all kinds of religions.”

She said the whole setup is rigged against the truckers. “We’re overregulated as it is, we don’t need regulation, and if there’s more, they’ll just regulate how much we can get,” she said. “We don’t want a bailout from the government. We just want stuff fixed.”

Tony Lane from Pittsburgh contributed to this article.

Hong Kong protest movement revives with May 1 rallies

any gathering larger than four. So the unions and protest organizations set up dozens of booths around the city to hand out literature about what is facing workers during the lockdown, to advance the demands of the protesters and to get out the word that they would be starting up again.

Lee Cheuk-yan, secretary-general of the confederation and a supporter of the protests, was one of those distributing flyers in the popular Mong Kok shopping area, urging workers to build unions.

“Many people now see unions as one of the future’s front lines in our fight,” he said.

Thousands more showed their sup-

port for the demonstrations by going to protester-friendly stores, restaurants and other venues that decorated their storefronts with protest messages. “You know, after being trapped for so long, it’s normal that you want to get out and spend money and to support the ‘yellow’ shops,” a 60-year-old medical worker who goes by the name Cat, but didn’t give her last name, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

In recent weeks several of the central leaders of the protest movement have been arrested. Chinese officials demand the Hong Kong government adopt a series of new laws to criminalize protests as sedition.

More protests are planned.

Asarco strikers say ‘We’re still out here fighting for our rights’

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

“We’re out here at shift change at Asarco’s Pima Mine Road Mission complex to show these guys that we’re still strong. We are still fighting for our rights, fighting for our better contracts and a better future,” Alex Terrazas, a striking copper miner at the Mission Mine in Sahuarita, Arizona, and president of United Steelworkers Local 937, reported online.

Almost two dozen cars held a drive-in picket across from the Mission Mine April 26.

Regular picket lines have been suspended for the time being at the Mission Mine, as well as at Asarco’s Silver Bell Mine in Arizona and refinery in Amarillo, Texas. Picket lines are going strong at the Ray Mine and Hayden complex in Arizona. Strike activities include a drive-in movie showing April 24 at USW Local 886 union hall in Kearny.

Steelworkers, Teamsters and five oth-

er unions are facing off against Asarco bosses, who seek to bust the unions. Asarco is owned by Grupo Mexico, one of the largest copper barons worldwide. The bosses are determined to extend a decadelong wage freeze for most workers, more than double health care costs, freeze pensions and restrict the unions’ right to protect workers on the job.

Send solidarity messages and much needed donations to USW Local 915 Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 550, Kearny, AZ 85137; USW Local 5252 Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 896, Kearny, AZ 85137; USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy 136, Amarillo, TX 79108; or via paypal.me/palfcommunityservice for Tucson-area strikers. Solidarity messages can be sent to palfchair@gmail.com. Contribute to the food pantries at: USW 915 and 886 hall, 107 Hammond Dr., Kearny; IBEW Local 570 hall, 750 S. Tucson Blvd., Tucson; USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy 136, Amarillo, Texas.



Farmworkers organized caravan to Olympia, Washington, May 1, demanding recognition of rights. Placard on left says, “Without farmworkers, there are no apples.”

The FBI: The political police of the US capitalist class

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May is 50 Years of Covert Operations in the U.S. by Larry Seigle. It also includes "Imperialist War and the Working Class" by Farrell Dobbs, who was a central leader of the Socialist Workers Party and the Minneapolis Teamsters battles in the 1930s; and an introduction by Steve Clark. The excerpt is from the chapter "Origins of FBI Assault on Socialist Workers Party." The book traces the decadeslong use of Washington's political police against the unions, the SWP and other working-class organizations and struggles. At the end of the SWP's 15-year lawsuit against the FBI in 1987, Judge Thomas Griesa ruled that their spying and disruption were unconstitutional. The book is a weapon for all working people in the fight to defend political rights. Copyright © 2014 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LARRY SEIGLE

For several years after the First World War, the FBI had functioned as a political police force, carrying out the arrest or deportation of some 3,000 unionists and political activists in 1919 and 1920 (the infamous "Palmer Raids"). But following widespread protests over these and other FBI actions, and with the decline of the postwar labor radical-

ization, the capitalist rulers decided against a federal secret police agency. They relied instead on city and state cops with well-established "bomb squads" and "radical units" and on state national guard units in cases of extreme necessity. These local and state agencies had intimate connections with anti-labor "citizens" organizations organized by the employers and with hated private detective agencies, such as the Pinkertons, with long experience in union busting.

By the mid-1930s, however, a vast social movement was on the rise, with the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) at the forefront. The relationship of forces was shifting in favor of working-class organizations. The bosses' old methods could no longer always be counted on. Communist perspectives did not come close to commanding majority support among working people, and in fact remained the views of a small minority, but the bosses were nonetheless concerned that progressive anticapitalist and anti-imperialist political positions advanced by class-struggle-minded union leaders were winning a hearing among a substantial section of the ranks of labor. Especially in times of crisis, such as war, minority points of view defended by established and respected working-class fighters could rapidly gain support. With this in mind, the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt expanded and centralized federal police power. During and after the Watergate scandals of the mid-1970s, the immense scope of FBI disruption, spying, and provocations against the people of the United States came to light in an unprecedented way. But the origins of these operations are not — as most commentators place them — in the spread of McCarthyism in the 1950s or in Washington's attempts to disrupt the anti-Vietnam War movement and social protests of the 1960s. The fact is that these FBI operations



July 26, 1941, *Militant* explains that 18 leaders of Socialist Workers Party and the Minneapolis Teamsters were framed up by the FBI, jailed over opposition to U.S. rulers' drive to enter second imperialist world war to fight for markets and power.

began on the eve of the Second World War. They were central to preparations by the US capitalist rulers to lead the nation into another carnage to promote their interests against their imperialist rivals and against the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America struggling for liberation from colonial domination. These operations were directed against the leadership — and potential leadership — of the two major social forces in the United States that threatened to interfere with the ability of the US ruling families to accomplish their objectives: the labor unions and the Black movement. The government's aim was to isolate class-struggle leaders who could provide guidance to a broader movement that might develop. ... The drive toward war necessitated an assault on working people at home and against democratic rights in general. Roosevelt gave FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover free rein to use the FBI against the labor movement and Black organizations. The White House and Justice Department secretly authorized many of the illegal methods used by the FBI and turned a blind eye toward others. This authorization for the FBI to assume the functions of a political police force was done without legislation, which would have had to be proposed and debated in Congress. It was accomplished instead by "executive or-

der," a device that was rapidly assuming a major place in the operations of the government and would increasingly become a major mode of governing in the decades to come. On September 6, 1939, Roosevelt issued an executive order directing the FBI "to take charge of investigative work" in matters relating to "espionage, counterespionage, sabotage, subversive activities and violations of the neutrality laws." The key phrase was "subversive activities," and the most important decision was to include this slippery concept in the list of responsibilities given the FBI. While there were federal laws against espionage, sabotage, and violation of US "neutrality," no law explained what "subversive activity" might consist of. Two days later Roosevelt — again by executive decree — made a "finding" of the existence of a "national emergency." This allowed an increase in military spending without having to ask Congress for additional appropriations, thereby avoiding a sharpening public debate over the US government's march toward war. Simultaneously, the president ordered an expansion of the FBI's forces. His objective, Roosevelt told a news conference, was to avoid a repetition of "some of the things that happened" during World War I: "It is to guard against that, and against the spread by any foreign nation of propaganda in this country which would tend to be subversive — I believe that is the word — of our form of government." ... The historical evolution of the FBI is part of a broader phenomenon in the United States. Underlying the threat today to the rights of privacy and freedom of association is the arbitrary rule by an expanding federal executive power. This power carries out policies at home and abroad that it is less and less able to openly proclaim or mobilize majority support for. It relies increasingly on covert methods to accomplish hidden or half-hidden objectives.

May BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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— SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT —

Demand public works program for jobs

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and Washington, D.C., demanding an end to usurious brokers profiting by gouging them and destroying their lives. Workers at Walmart and other retail outlets are fighting speedup and arbitrary scheduling changes and dangerous working conditions, and workers all over the world are doing the same.

Socialist Workers Party members at Walmart, on the railroad and elsewhere are part of these fights. The heart of all these battles is workers looking to win greater control over all aspects of production.

We also face growing attacks on our rights by the capitalist rulers. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio threatens — and *acts* — to use the city’s cops to shut down all protests there. And he tries to divide working people and divert our attention from the disaster of the profit-driven “health care” system under capitalism by scapegoating the city’s Jewish population with spreading the virus.

Millions of us have been tossed out of work, over 30 million in the last six weeks. And that’s the “official” figure, not counting temp and contract workers, workers without government-approved papers and many others who aren’t on the books.

Workers need to be back at work, joining with co-workers to strengthen struggles against the bosses’ attacks. Workers stuck at home longer and longer face economic disaster, social atomization and demoralization.

My campaign urges workers to organize to fight for:

- A massive government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages to build hospitals, schools, affordable housing and other things we badly need. Getting more of us into work *now* undercuts the bosses’ ability to pit employed against unemployed and make condi-

tions for all workers worse.

- We also fight for amnesty for undocumented workers to prevent bosses using the threat of deportation against immigrants to drive down wages and conditions for the entire the working class.

The bosses use their monopoly over production to build products with built-in “planned obsolescence,” with utter disregard for the safety of both workers and those who buy their shoddy products, with a morality built on maximizing their profits at the expense of all who toil for a living.

- The SWP explains workers need to fight to wrest more and more control over production from the bosses’ grasp. That struggle requires building committees of all workers in the factories and other job sites, and of consumers who have a real stake in this effort. These committees can fight to reveal to all how the bosses cook their books and organize to exploit us. As one worker at Debenhams in Ireland thrown out of work by the bosses’ claims of debt said, “We need to see their books.”

- As workers take control of production, we learn that only our class is capable of deciding priorities and running society in the interests of human needs. Workers control is a school for taking political power into our own hands.

- Workers must break from the bosses’ two parties, the Democrats and Republicans. We need our own political party, a labor party, that gives a voice to every struggle workers and our allies wage today. A labor party would increase our readiness for sharper class battles to come and lead a fight for workers and farmers to take political power into our own hands.

Join us!

Working people hold May Day celebrations in Cuba

Continued from front page

what we do. We already see the impact with the participation and role of our people as part of this immense response.”

Car caravans with their horns blaring, and other workers on bikes, took to the streets for May Day in 13 cities in the province. At many apartment buildings residents stood out front waving Cuban flags, listening to speeches on the meaning of May Day and singing the Cuban national anthem.

Workers, youth step up to challenge

The U.S. rulers have never forgiven working people in Cuba for overturning the U.S.-backed Batista regime in 1959 and replacing it with a workers and farmers government. In the course of the struggle, to build socialism and volunteering to act in solidarity with revolutionary struggles worldwide, Cuba’s working people transformed themselves, taking control of their own destiny. This revolutionary spirit lives today.

To the U.S. rulers’ chagrin, Cuba’s working people and youth are stepping up to meet the challenge of the impact of the worldwide capitalist economic crisis and the more than 60-year U.S. economic war against Cuba’s revolution. Because the island nation has to import some 60% of its food, along with pesticides and fertilizer, workers are helping to boost production.

In Guantánamo province alone the CTC has organized 419 workers into 26 brigades to strengthen agricultural work. Among the brigadistas are construction, education, sports and culture workers.

José Ramón Machado, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, is traveling around the island along with Salvador Valdés Mesa, Cuba’s vice president, meeting with small farmers, farmworkers and others to maximize food production.

They are emphasizing “short cycle” crops — such as squash, okra, eggplant and lettuce. This allows at least three harvests from spring to summer. “We have to plant even in between furrows” to take advantage of available land, Machado told farmers and state farm officials in Guantánamo April 30. To substitute for pesticides, “we have to dust off the hoes” for weeding.

Leaders of the CTC and the Communist Party in Ciego de Ávila addressed May Day gatherings at apartment complexes and worksites across the city. These became “tribunes of revolutionary reaffirmation,” *Trabajadores* reported.

Because of shortages of transportation, workers at the La Bombonera candy factory in Camagüey are “all getting out our bicycles to come to work,” administrator Odalys Palmero Valera told *Trabajadores*.

Among those on 17 CTC agricultural brigades in Santa Clara province are letter carriers and workers from the Etecsa phone company. “It is us Cubans who have to plant, produce and harvest our own food,” said brigadista Pedro Rodríguez.

Even with strict measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus, including setting up hand-washing stations at factory entrances, many workplaces have met or surpassed their production quotas.

As of May 4 there were 1,685 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cuba, but not a single case reported on the job. This is in sharp contrast to the imperialist U.S., where bosses organize production with utter disregard for workers’ safety to squeeze out maximum profit, with hundreds of workers getting infected.

Residents of the Buenos Aires-Bellavista neighborhood of Camagüey, which is under quarantine because of the virus there, cleared a garbage-filled area and turned it into an urban garden for local consumption. They put up a sign “Long live May Day.”

Revolutionary Cuba continues to send health care workers around the world — now more than 2,000 in at least 23 countries — to fight COVID-19.

“I am sure that if the current United States government asks us for assistance to confront COVID-19, Cuba would provide it,” Josefina Vidal, Cuba’s ambassador to Canada, told the *Progressive*, despite Washington pressuring governments to reject Cuba’s help.

Washington is “trying to divert attention from its own privatized health system, which is not capable of guaranteeing the health of its population in normal times and even less now in the context of the pandemic,” Vidal said. “Health should not be a business, and access to medical care is a human right.”

Debenhams workers fight layoffs in Ireland

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England — “We’re not giving up our fight,” Jane Crowe, a Mandate union shop steward at Debenhams’ Henry Street department store in Dublin, told the *Militant*. Workers at 10 stores across the Republic of Ireland held a second round of protests against job cuts April 29 and 30, after 2,000 of them had been thrown out of work at Debenhams April 19.

“This is an essential protest,” read a banner the sacked workers held at the Henry Street store, a reference to cops ordering them to end their demonstration the previous week, claiming it was “nonessential.” This time cops did not stop the action in Dublin, but in Cork they harassed the 30 workers protesting outside a store there, threatening they could face prosecution.

On April 30 workers rallied outside Ireland’s High Court in Dublin where Judge Mark Sanfey appointed liquidators to carry through bosses’ request to wind up the company in the republic.

“I believe Debenhams U.K. are devious about what’s really going on,” Crowe explained. “We need to see their books. One minute they say they have no money to pay workers redundancy pay, next they are buying up stock at reduced prices to sell later.”

Messages of support to store workers can be sent to Dave Gibney, Mandate Union, 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1, Ireland. Or email: dgibney@mandate.ie.

In the U.K. Debenhams has, according to shop workers union USDAW, decided not to give redundancy pay to thousands who will lose jobs when they close 50 stores. Instead, workers will have to apply for the substantially smaller payout from the government.

Across the Republic of Ireland, workers face devastation with just under half the country’s total workforce of 2.3 million dependent on state benefits. This figure includes some 591,000 laid off in the last few months. Many may not be able to return to their former jobs once the coronavirus lockdown ends.

Cuban embassy attack

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — At least 30 rounds from an AK-47 assault rifle were fired at the Cuban Embassy here April 30 shortly after 2 a.m. Seven people were inside at the time. None were injured. The bullets were sprayed over the front of the building, damaging the statue of Cuban independence leader José Martí. Some 10 ricocheted inside the building, Cuban Ambassador José Ramón Cabañas reported.

Washington is tightening its economic war against Cuba and its revolution. U.S. authorities have made no condemnation of the attack nor provided information to Cuba since the arrest of the alleged shooter.

The next day, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ramped up Washington’s slanders against Cuban medical volunteers — who go anywhere they’re asked to offer solidarity — as a Cuban brigade arrived in South Africa. “The regime in Havana has taken advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to continue its exploitation of Cuban medical workers,” he told reporters.

“When you see every day, absolutely every day, high-level officials of the U.S. government attacking Cuba, tightening the blockade,” Cabañas said in a May 4 interview with Prensa Latina, “and the U.S. officials gruesomely and immorally attack our brigades and our medical doctors, well, the verbal terrorism only lacked armed terrorism, and it has happened.”

The D.C. Metro Coalition in Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution condemned the attack and said it is organizing to stand in solidarity with Cuba in front of the embassy May 7.

“The Socialist Workers Party defends the Cuban Revolution as an example for working people in the U.S.,” said James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for D.C. delegate to U.S. Congress. “I will be campaigning to build the May 7 protest.”

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’ and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com