**US rulers step up assault on Venezuela’s sovereignty**

**BY ROGER CALERO**

The imperialist rulers in Washington continue to step up their efforts to choke off Venezuela’s oil trade, part of their relentless drive to force the government of President Nicolás Maduro out of power and to deal blows to the Cuban Revolution.

The U.S. Treasury Department is targeting for sanctions any international shipping firm or oil tanker that transports Venezuelan crude exports abroad or attempts to deliver directly needed gasoline for domestic consumption.

U.S. federal prosecutors filed suit July 1 to allow Washington to seize four tankers sailing toward Venezuela with gasoline supplied by Tehran. Washington aims both to deter any oil trade with the government in Caracas and to deprive Tehran of any revenue. As pressure by Washington forces commercial traders to back down from dealing with Venezuela, the Maduro government has increasingly turned to the Iranian rulers for fuel and other supplies. In June — in defiance of Washington’s punishing trade and financial sanctions against the two governments — five Iranian tankers delivered fuel supplies expected to temporarily alleviate shortages that have led to dayslong lines at gas stations.

Since 2017 the U.S. rulers have

Protests demand prosecute cops who shot Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain

**BY BRIAN WILLIAMS**

Following widespread protests worldwide by hundreds of thousands of working people after Minneapolis cops killed George Floyd, demonstrators against police brutality continue taking to the streets. The number and size of these actions are smaller than over past weeks, but families who

Bath shipyard workers’ strike gains solidarity

**SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT**

Striking shipyard workers in Bath, Maine; nurses walking the picket line for jobs and sick pay in Joliet, Illinois; and protesters across the country demand back wages and demand end to military rule.

Workers fight back against boss attacks on jobs, safety

**BY ROY LANDERSEN**

From Maine shipyard strikers to food delivery bike and scooter drivers in Brazil, workers are fighting for their jobs, better wages and safer working conditions against the bosses’ drive to extract more profits from our labor power.

From autoworkers in Spain and France to garment workers in South Asia, workers are also waging a fight to keep their jobs. These battles show both the potential power of the working class and also the burning need for solidarity.

The bosses and their governments are pushing to crank up production to compete with their rivals worldwide, who are doing the same. They’re reorganizing their mines, mills, plants and retail outlets to be “leaner and meaner,” cutting jobs and squeezing workers.

Big-business bosses are slashing jobs. Top managers at American Airlines announced July 2 that 20,000 workers have to be laid off to “right-size our team.” A quarter of the work force — pilots, flight attendants, airport agents, mechanics and baggage handlers — loses their jobs.

But signs of a June uptick in manufacturing from the U.S. to China, the world’s two largest economies, are clouded by government lockdowns

Socialist Workers Party candidates get hearing in Bath, Boston, Albany

**BY VED DOOKHUN**

BATH, Maine — Some 350 striking shipbuilders, family members and supporters took part in a July 3 “Solidarity Pig Roast” at the Machinists Local S6 union hall here. The event was sponsored by local members, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 567, and three small area businesses. The mood was defiant as the company had announced the day before it was hiring more subcontractors to fill the jobs of Machinists

Hundreds rally in face of bosses push to impose attacks on union

**BY VED DOOKHUN**

BATH, Maine — Some 350 striking shipbuilders, family members and supporters took part in a July 3 “Solidarity Pig Roast” at the Machinists Local S6 union hall here. The event was sponsored by local members, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 567, and three small area businesses. The mood was defiant as the company had announced the day before it was hiring more subcontractors to fill the jobs of Machinists

**Inside**

Demonstrators across Sudan demand end to military rule

Joliet: Nurses at AMITA strike over staffing, conditions

Ukrainian miners march on government

Workers will develop a movement of their own, a labor party

Asarco miners end strike, look to continue to fight
The Militant  July 20, 2020

US hits Venezuela’s sovereignty

Continued from front page

ratcheted up crippling economic sanctions against Caracas, including an oil embargo. They’ve also imposed a broad ban on dealings by other governments with Venezuelan state enterprises. These moves have aggravated shortages of food, medicine, gasoline and equipment. Gasoline shortages got even worse after Russian oil producer Rosneft suspended operations in Venezuela in March.

Imperialist rulers in the United Kingdom, across Europe and in Canada — as well as some of Washington’s allies in Latin America — have also turned against Venezuela declaring the Maduro government illegitimate. They claim the pro-imperialist opposition leader, Juan Guaido, who proclaimed himself president in January 2019, is the real head of state.

The U.S. government seeks to capitalize on the economic and social crisis facing working people in Venezuela, the result of the sanctions, the COVID-19 outbreak, the worldwide capitalist crisis and collapse of the country’s oil industry.

A major target of Washington’s oil embargo against the Maduro government is blocking shipments to Cuba.

Washington is tightening its over 60-year-long economic war against the Cuban people and their revolution. The Cuban government has maintained its solidarity with the Venezuelan people and defense of their sovereignty. Most recently, a special contingent of doctors and nurses arrived in the state of Zulia to help beat back a COVID-19 outbreak in the city of Maracaibo. Cuban medical personnel are also deployed in towns along the border, treating Venezuelans returning from neighboring Colombia and Brazil, two countries where working people are being devastated by the disease.

The stepped-up pressure from Washington was buttressed when a British high court ruled July 2 to deny the Maduro government access to $1 billion worth of gold the country had placed in the Bank of England’s vaults.

The decision upholds the bank, which has refused to transfer 31 tons of Venezuelan gold — part of the patrimony of that country — to the Maduro government. Caracas filed suit after bank directors rejected a request to transfer the funds to a U.N. Development Program to purchase medical supplies and equipment to aid the fight against the coronavirus epidemic.

Oil industry in shambles

Alongside the punishing effects of U.S. sanctions, the state oil company PDVSA is saddled with crippling debt and corruption. Venezuela’s oil industry has been in shambles, with the lowest production levels in decades. In the last couple of years the Venezuelan government has increasingly opened the country’s nationalized oil fields to foreign exploitation, including with Russian and Chinese corporations. The Maduro government has floated proposals to reduce taxes and royalties in an effort to attract foreign investment. “Even the possibility of opening up completely to private capital” by the Maduro government, Dolores Dobarro, a Venezuelan oil law professor, told investment service Standard & Poor’s Global, “is more aggressive than the proposals from the political opposition.”

Presented by the Maduro government as a first step toward stabilizing gasoline supplies, a new distribution and pricing regime went into effect June 1 that puts an end to a long-standing policy to heavily subsidize fuel to the country’s population. The goal, said Maduro, is to bring prices more in line with those internationally. Venezuelans will now have to buy either a fixed quota of gas per month, at a price that is 75 percent subsidized, or have access to an unlimited amount at a price of 50 cents per liter, payable in U.S. dollars.

The “dollarized” stations run by private companies will also be permitted to import fuel, effectively ending a 50-year-long state monopolies on gasoline supply. “There is no sight the new scheme widens the gap between those who have access to dollars and those who don’t,” Luis Salas, a former vice president in Maduro’s government who opposes the measure, told Venezuelanalysis. This means greater difficulties for workers and farmers.

“Internationalizing” prices in a country where the minimum wage is around $5 per month and most public employees make around $10, “is not the way to go,” Salas argued. Cook- ing gas distribution, previously handled by PDVSA, is already in private hands in parts of the country, and the same thing is happening with electricity, he said.

“We still have to see what impact the price hike will have on prices of other goods and services,” he added.

Gas line in Caracas June 1 after government cut back subsidy, ended state monopoly on fuel sales. U.S. rulers’ stifling economic sanctions are effort to bring down Maduro government.

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THE MILITANT

Revolutionary Cuba has sent over 2,000 doctors and other health worker volunteers to 30 countries to fight coronavirus despite Washington’s slanders and threats. The ‘Militant’ has told the truth about Cuban Revolution and its communist leadership for over six decades.

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Cuba doctor greeted in Guantánamo on return from treating COVID patients in Italy.

Gas line in Caracas June 1 after government cut back subsidy, ended state monopoly on fuel sales. U.S. rulers’ stifling economic sanctions are effort to bring down Maduro government.

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Radio Guantánamo
Demand cops be prosecuted

Continued from front page

have had loved ones killed gained renewed confidence to press forward the struggle to get the cops respon-

sible prosecuted.

The family of Breonna Taylor, shot dead in her apartment March 13 by cops with a “no-knock warrant,” have made the fight to get the cops charged for her killing a prominent part of demonstrations around the country.

As a result of the determination of working people and youth to join pro-
test actions, the cover-up of the cop killing of Elijah McClain last August in Aurora, Colorado, is now coming apart. McClain, 23, was walking home from a convenience store when three cops stopped him after receiv-
ing a complaint about a young Black man acting “suspicious.” McClain was wearing a mask and waving his arms, which he routinely did outside because he had anemia — a blood condition — and became cold easily.

According to a police body camera, McClain tells the officers, “I am going home. ... Leave me alone.” But instead they struggled to get McClain inside a chokehold. He repeatedly tells them, “I just can’t breathe.” They have him in-

ject with ketamine, a powerful seda-
tive, at a dose that would knock down a 220-pound person. McClain weighed

140 pounds. He suffered cardiac arrest on the way to a hospital.

The killing was promptly swept un-
der the rug, with District Attorney Dave

Young announcing that no criminal

prosecution of the officers involved.

Dozens of protesters took to the streets July 5 after cops in Phoe-
nix killed James Garcia the previ-

ous day as he sat in a parked car.

Four cops, with weapons drawn, surrounded the stationary vehicle in a driveway of a friend

Garcia was visiting. One cop shouted, “Hey, stop f— mov-

ing. I will f—— shoot you,” a video by a bystander shows. The cop then told Garcia to get out. He re-

fused, so they shot and killed him.

The cops say they were re-

sponding to a complaint about a man suspected of aggra-

vating the assault before a sec-

ond action to protest the killing was held July 6.

Killing of Ejaz Choudry

In Mississauga, Ontario, hundreds of people rallied at the headquarters of the Peel Regional Police June 27 to pro-
test the cop killing of 62-year-old Ejaz Choudry a week earlier.

“It’s been seven days and those offi-

cers are still out there,” Khizar Shahzad, a nephew of Choudry, told the protest-

ers, saying pressure needs to be put on authorities to “do something about it.”

The rally was organized by the Na-

tional Council of Canadian Muslims.

Mustafa Farooq, chief executive officer of the group, called for an end to po-

lice brutality so that we have “no more massacres” that we have to say of people beaten or killed by the cops.

“Unions need to get involved in these kinds of fights,” school teacher Fred Pareja told the Militant at the rally. “We’re more powerful as we act together.”

According to his family, Choudry, who suffered from schizophrenia, was having a mental health crisis when police barged into his apartment for a “wellness check” and shot him.

Choudry, a father of four, was originally from Pakistan.

Fighting for authorities to indict cops responsible for these killings helps edu-
cate millions about the real role of po-
lice under capitalist rule. The breadth of recent protests also provides a powerful example of the capacities of working people to stand up to the brutality the cops unleash.

At the same time that several of these fights are drawing increased attention, Democratic Party politicians and mid-

dle-class radicals prominent at many protests perpetuate the illusion that the brutality cops inflict on working people can be brought to an end by various re-

forms and by voting Democrats into of-

fice. They call for “defunding” or “abol-

ishing” the police. When the cops are under fire liberals always offer ways to “improve” their conduct. But cops are an integral part of an inherently brutal social system based on the exploitation of working people.

As long as capitalism exists, the bosses and their government will use the police to mete out punishment to protect the profits, property and power of the ruling class.

In Seattle in early June, middle-class radicals took over a six-block area that included a police precinct building — with acquiescence of city authorities. They renamed the area CHOP — the Capital Hill Occupation Protest — pro-

claimed it a “no cop co-op” and ap-

pointed their own armed thugs to do the policing. Their actions had nothing to do with the steps the working class will take in the course of deepening mass struggle to defend ourselves from the cops’ assaults on our picket lines in a disciplined way, led by proven fighters from our own ranks.

Inevitably the CHOP led to disaster. On nine days two Black teenagers were shot and killed in the occupied area and others were wounded. No one has been charged with the killings.

“This doesn’t look like a protest to me no more,” Horace Lorenzo Anderson, whose son was shot to death there, told the media.

After three weeks, Mayor Jenny Durkan changed her stance and or-
dered the cops to move in and dis-
mantle the occupation.

As long as the capitalist social system exists, calls to abolish the police take working people away from eradicating the root of the problem. Large numbers of working people prefer some kind of police presence because it will deter criminal gangs operating in the neigh-

borhoods where our families live, at the same time that growing numbers are also determined to join fights against cop brutality.

The road forward is to end the social system that breeds cop brutality by or-

ganizing working people in their mil-
lions to take political power. Workers and farmers in Cuba showed that this is possible through the socialist revolution they made in 1959 and have defended ever since.

Over $134,000 donated to SWP ‘stimulus’ appeal

The enthusiastic response over the last nearly four months to the Socialist Workers Party special “stimulus” appeal has greatly augmented the resources of the party. The total now stands at $134,700, from 122 contributors!

As payouts continue to be sent out from Washington, contributions con-

inue to come to the party.

The funds are dedicated to building a financial stake for the SWP — ear-

marking toward the long-term historic work of building a proletarian party as the crisis of capitalism and the class struggle unfold. A party that will organize workers and their allies in their tens of millions to end capitalist exploitation and rule, and its brutal consequences, and join hands with toilers worldwide to build a new social order based on human solidarity.

If you’d like to donate from your government payout, send a check to the Socialist Workers Party at 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Special Fund.”

— EMMA JOHNSON
Continued from front page... The Militant  July 20, 2020

against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo.

Korea, the Middle East. End US colo-

wages building roads, bridges, hosp-

in the US, a life-and-

economic, social and moral crisis caused

by capitalism:

safety guy because the boss wanted me

in a hurry. "You're right, they don't care

about our safety," Kennedy said. "We need

the unions to join the fight to demand

that cops who commit brutality are

prosecuted."

Five strikers bought subscrip-

tions to the Militant and 27 picked

up single copies.

A' party trying to do things

"I was unaware of the struggles that are going on

today," Amanda Plott, a 22-year-old worker at a

Target warehouse, said after hearing Kennedy and

Jarrett speak at a campaign forum in Albany.

Plott described learning about the strikes of copper

workers at Asarco and fruit packers in Washington

"This is an

"She said. Plott had

met SWP campaigners at a re-

recent protest against cop brutali-

ty."

This is a party trying to do

things on the ground, not just

try to get votes. I have never heard

that from a party before," she said.

"We need more of this," Gregory

Rose told Kennedy, when she described

the shipyard. "You got him as she came

punished at a Bath Walmart. "How work-

ing people are treated in the U.S., espe-

cially since COVID-19, is not right," he

said.

"Health care in the U.S. is for profit,"

Kennedy said. "That is why Cuba is an

example for workers. Cuban work-

ers and farmers made a revolution and

established health care as a right. They

mobilized students and working people to

go into the neighborhoods to find out

why workers have COVID to make sure

they receive needed care." It is a

"As a communist country Cuba takes

a different approach," Rose said. He

got a subscription to the Militant and a copy

of Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the

Road to Workers Power.

Socialist Workers Party campaigners across the country

encourage those they meet to join them in

supporting labor battles, marching against police brutality, and campaign-

ing among fellow workers on their door-

steps in cities, towns and rural areas.

Fight for jobs program

How to combat the impact of rising un-

employment is a frequent question that

comes up in these discussions. Maggie

Trowe, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate

from Kentucky, told Wayne Clarkson

in Louisville's Newburg neighborhood

July 3, that the party urges a fight for a

government-funded jobs program to put

millions to work at union-scale wages.

That sounds good. But how do we get

that?" Clarkson said, a laid-off dental appli-

ance worker, asked.

"We have to fight for it," replied

Trowe. "The way we have won things

in the past — that's how we can build a

united movement today."

Trowe showed him Malcolm X, Black

Liberation, and the Road to Workers

Power. The book describes the leader-

ship role of Black workers in social

and political struggles in the U.S. and

explains why the fight for a workers and farmers government opens the road to the

fight to end all exploitation and op-

pression. Clarkson subscribed to the

Militant and bought the book.

Janine Johnson subscribed at a July

5 picket line of striking nurses in Joliet,

Illinois, saying she wanted to read about

"other unions, standing up for their

rights around the country and the world. We need to share our experiences."

To get involved in the SWP campaign, contact the party campaign offices near-

est you, listed on page 8.

Jacquie Henderson in Louisville,

Kentucky, Laura Anderson in Albany,

New York, and Dan Fein in Chicago

carried the article.

Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform

This is the SWP's fighting cam-

paign platform to confront the eco-

nomic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism:

UNIONS/FOR A LABOR PARTY Sup-

port workers' struggles to organize to defend themselves, to use union power on behalf of ourselves and all working people. Workers need their own party, a labor party for all workers, not for banks, landlords, car companies, McDonalds, or any other employers. Workers need the unions to join the fight to demand

G E N E R A L "JOBS"

FIGHT for a federal govern-

ment lie to working people about the policies and programs it says are for "jobs" — the Democrats and Republicans.

Veterans against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo.

JOBS — Workers Allies on the Land To put a halt to farm fore-

closures, bankruptcy courts and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of all working people.

Israel & Palestine For the recognition of Israel and of a contiguous Pal-

estinian state. For the right of Jews to emigrate from Israel and the right of Palestinians to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jews-hating and murder-

ous violence.

Workers control over produc-

tion The bosses and their gov-

ernment-guaranteed cradle-

to-grave health care, and retirement in-

come for all.

ABORTION Defend women's right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, se-

cure abortions.

ISRAEL & PALESTINE For the recog-

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ABORTION Defend women's right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, se-

cure abortions.
Demonstrators across Sudan demand end to military rule

BY TERRY EVANS

Determined to remove the military from Sudan’s transitional government, tens of thousands of working people joined the demonstrations in cities and towns across the country June 30.

After weeks of massive protests and street battles with the military in the spring of last year, an agreement was brokered by the African Union and a number of capitalist governments in the region on July 5, 2019. It established a three-year transitional administration in which army generals were to share office with protest leaders and opposition political parties. That government is headed by Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok.

The widely hated regime of Gen. Omar al-Bashir, which came to power in a coup 30 years earlier, was forced out by mass protests in April 2019, replaced with a new military government. The protests, begun by working people against sharp price hikes, were fueled by decades of political repression and the deadly impact of the civil wars waged by Sudan’s capitalist rulers. After weeks of battles against brutal attacks by the new regime, hundreds of thousands took to the streets June 30.

A year later “the army is ruling the country, not civilians,” Amed Alzain told Middle East Eye at a protest in the Burri district of the capital, Khartoum. “They are leading the economy and the market through the companies of the army, they are controlling security—we haven’t achieved the goals of the revolution and this is why we are protesting again.”

Demonstrators also demanded the trial of leading figures from Bashir’s regime they hold responsible for the slaughter of hundreds of anti-government protesters during his final months in office. Bashir was convicted of corruption in December and sentenced to two years behind bars.

“Carry out reforms, Hamdok, do not fail those who brought you to power,” protesters chanted in Dongola, in the north of the country. In eastern Sudan demonstraters demanded the government take steps to halt water shortages and condemned its decision to raise bread prices in May.

Economic crisis worsens

An annual inflation rate of over 100% is devastating the lives of Sudanese working people, on top of the effect of the worldwide capitalist social and economic crisis.

In April the government imposed a lockdown in the name of reducing the spread of coronavirus. It pledged to provide aid to some of those thrown out of work. But three months later many people say they have yet to receive promised food baskets.

The June 30 protests spread in all five states in Sudan’s Darfur region, where marchers raised additional demands for the disarmament of militias used by the former Bashir regime in its war against the people of Darfur and the removal of state governors, appointed by the military. Days later one of the governors resigned.

“Little has changed in Darfur since last year,” Mouhbarak Sinini, a worker from Darfur now living in the U.K., told the Militant by phone July 5. “Militias still operate there and make it hard for farmers to get access to their land or collect firewood.”

Bashir sustained his rule by building on national and religious divisions fostered by the British colonial rulers among the country’s countless minority before the country’s independence in 1956. Different black African peoples in Darfur have faced systematic discrimination and brutality for decades, at the hands of governments loyal to the country’s ruling capitalist families based among the Arab population.

Beginning in 2003 Bashir’s forces killed tens of thousands and forced millions to flee their homes in the region as they fought the peoples and displaced the people of Darfur had faced an independent Islamic Sultanate for centuries until it was conquered by the British in 1916 and made part of Sudan. Just before he was forced from office, Bashir claimed nationwide protests against his regime were in fact instigated by people from Darfur. “We are all Darfurians,” demonstrators around the country chanted in reply.

The June 30 protests were organized by the Sudanese Professionals Association, a middle-class-led coalition that coordinated the actions that led to the ouster of Bashir.

Dag Tirsén in London contributed to this article.

July 24, 1970

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville’s famous “Black Six” won a verdict of acquittal here July 7. Circuit Judge S. Rush Nicholson said the prosecution had failed to prove the charge of conspiracy. The verdict came after a two-year battle that started in the wake of an uprising in Louisville’s West End ghetto in late May 1968.

When the case came to trial in June, the prosecution put 22 witnesses on the stand but was unable to produce evidence that the six were ever all together in one place. During the disorders that produced the case, two Black youths were fatally shot. No charges were ever brought in these shootings.

The six had wide support in Louisville’s Black community. In the midst of the original hysteria, groups of white citizens also organized to urge the white community to recognize racism and poverty as the real cause of the uprising.

The Militant July 20, 2020

JOLIET, Ill. — Members of the Illinois Nurses Association at AMITA Health Saint Joseph Medical Center here set up strike picket lines July 4 in a fight to win safer staffing levels, keep their sick pay and get a raise. There are 720 nurses on strike.

Picketers were joined the next day by two members of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 44, some neighbors who brought the strikers cold water and this Militant worker-correspondent who works at Walmart in Chicago. Many drivers passing by honked their car horns to show solidarity.

“In every contract negotiation we fight for a better patient/nurse ratio. Nurses should be making the ratio decisions, not the administrators,” Olga Deschamps, who has worked 25 years as a nurse, told the Militant. “We know what’s safe. Our strike is for patient safety!”

Striker Teresa Mathe has worked 39 years as a nurse. “When the administrators calculate the staffing ratio, they count managers as nurses,” she said. “But managers do not do the work of nurses.”

The nurses had been working without a contract since May 9. The bosses are now hiring strikebreakers. The next negotiating meeting is scheduled for July 8.

“AMITA owns 220 hospitals in the U.S. We are the only one with a union. It took a 61-day strike in 1993 to win the union here. This is the first strike since then,” said nurse Joe Sanchez. “The hospital wants to eliminate our sick pay. The hospital says other hospitals in the area don’t have sick pay benefits, so we shouldn’t either.

“We answer that nurses at all other hospitals need sick pay also. The outcome of our strike will affect all nurses,” he said. “We’re also fighting for a pay raise. The company offer has no pay raise for three years.”

— DAN FEIN

July 24, 1995

THE MILITANT

LOUISVILLE: Nurses at AMITA strike over staffing, conditions

The Militant July 20, 2020

The Militant

July 4, 1970

THE MILITANT

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville’s famous “Black Six” won a verdict of acquittal here July 7. Circuit Judge S. Rush Nicholson said the prosecution had failed to prove the charge of conspiracy. The verdict came after a two-year battle that started in the wake of an uprising in Louisville’s West End ghetto in late May 1968.

When the case came to trial in June, the prosecution put 22 witnesses on the stand but was unable to produce evidence that the six were ever all together in one place. During the disorders that produced the case, two Black youths were fatally shot. No charges were ever brought in these shootings.

The six had wide support in Louisville’s Black community. In the midst of the original hysteria, groups of white citizens also organized to urge the white community to recognize racism and poverty as the real cause of the uprising.

THE MILITANT

THE MILITANT

July 21, 1945

NEW YORK — The powerful New York Publishers Association has teamed up with the War Labor Board to try its hand at union-busting. But so far the newspaper-government all-out drive to smash the striking deliverers’ union hasn’t passed first base. The thousands of newspapers in the area are still empty. The 8,000,000 circulation of 14 metropolitan dailies has been cut to a fraction of normal.

Using the slogan of the fighting coal miners, “No contract, no work,” the deliverymen, 1,700 strong, walked out June 30. The shutdown was effective.

The publishers made it absolutely clear that they were out for nothing less than the complete smashing of the union. It’s the duty of every class-conscious rank and file union member to say to the embattled Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union, “We are on your side. Your fight is our fight!”
The Militant July 20, 2020

Workers worldwide fight against bosses on jobs, safety with the message, “Our virus is the closure.”

These working-class struggles were fought in wages and working conditions — from shopfloor skirmishes to strikes of millions of workers — with the working class organizing to chart a course to unite the workforce, build class consciousness and strike battles — are essential for working-class political action.

The Socialist Workers Party is gaining ground at the ballot box in this year’s presidential election. SWP candidates for mayor have run in a dozen big US cities, stunning Democrats unable to field a candidate.

In Israel, social workers launched a nationwide strike July 6, demanding the action continues and what results are achieved.

The city cops threatened the strikers with fines, and from more mines, both from the Unions of Miners of Ukraine and has been making ends meet.

The bosses’ demand to use more coal-burning power plants — has become a net importer.

That’s part of building support for the workers and putting pressure on the government.

Soon we will have to work like our grandparents did — with saddlehammers — one miner in eastern Ukraine.

The union disputes this, saying work is “app employers” like Uber, Brazil’s delivery app, and other delivery services.

Workers worldwide need to understand that leverage does not come by simply voting for candidates to office, but by organizing working-class power to demand better working conditions, child care centers, schools, and to reorganize their own political party, a Marxist-Leninist party of the working class.

The Militant is the mouthpiece of the Socialist Workers Party. It is yours, the working class. The Militant is a news sheet that speaks to the world. Its mission is to help workers think and act as class-conscious people, organised to fight for their own interests as the working class.

Two important stakes in this strike are getting employers to use more natural gas and coal in power plants. The bosses are demanding that 70% of power be produced from gas and 30% from coal.

The state is paying for this, but the workers are getting nothing out of it.

Workers worldwide need to understand that leverage does not come by simply voting for candidates to office, but by organizing working-class power to demand better working conditions, child care centers, schools, and to reorganize their own political party, a Marxist-Leninist party of the working class.

Diaz, who has worked at the shipyard, said, “Even when you heard the vote was 87% against, you didn’t smell any trouble.”

There are important stakes in this strike. Help build solidarity for the shipyard bosses, and for the workers who broke the Paparazzi workers’ union” at the International Shipbuilding Paper mill.

The strike is over 4,300 machinists, some of whom are direct employees of the Bath Iron Works, a major shipyard with contracts to build 11 Arleigh Burke destroyer destroyers for the Navy. It is in its third week.

The Militant workers correspondent — a furloughed rail worker — was interviewed by others from Albany, New York, and Boston, as well as by Al- lied Kenneth and Malcolm Jarrett, the Socialists Workers Party candidates for president and vice president, to bring solidarity to the strikers.

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In the face of widespread unemploy- ment and ills caused by the virus, workers in their millions for jobs and working conditions are demanding more. The SWP is campaigning for workers to organize their own political party, a Marxist-Leninist party of the working class.

The militant is the voice of the working class, the voice of the exploited, the voice of the oppressed, the voice of the poor, the voice of the voiceless. It speaks for workers who are fighting for a brighter future, a future without oppression, a future where workers control their own destiny.

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Workers will develop a movement of their own, a labor party

history of one or another group of workers to form a class, which manifested itself in a series of strikes over economic de-
mands. Then, early in 1886, the conflict assumed political characteristics with a massive strike wave in support of the eight-hour day. While trade unions di-
rected this demand against one or an-
other particular employer in economic struggles, it had broader significance. The workers as a class were pressing a politi-
cal issue against the capitalists as a class, explicitly so in calling for laws to limit the hours of labor.

The indicated next step for trade unionists was building their own po-
litical organization, and they moved instinctively in that direction. By the fall of 1886 labor parties, with plat-
forms that varied from city to city, had again sprung up in several indus-
trial centers and were running candid-
dates for public office.

A major campaign was organized in New York City, where the Knights of Labor, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, and the So-
cialist Labor Party acted jointly to launch a mass party in labor's name. A majority chose Henry George to head the new party's slate as its nominee for mayor. He was the leader of a petty bourgeoisie sect that advanced a taxation scheme as a cure-all for the evils inflicted by capitalism. He centered this movement in New York City, where the Knights of Labor, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, and the Socialist Labor Party acted jointly to launch a mass party in labor's name.

The various platforms for these inde-
dependent mass political actions focused on issues of immediate concern to the workers in each locality. Little or no attention was given to the “single tax” issue, which remained limited essentially to New York. The labor slates, taken as a whole, made an impressive showing in the No-

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didate, was included in the New York party's platform. The socialists—who rejected the “single tax” fallacies — backed the campaign organized around the George ticket, because when what was decisive was organized labor’s stepping forward into the political arena as an in-

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That the first program of this party is
clear, who can tell them [the workers]
there whose minds are theoretically
still confused and extremely deficient,
and the overall results of the balloting
maintained interest in the developing
independent political action. The work-
ers’ mood opened the door to uniting
among the several local labor parties as the first step in building a national political movement. Engels took up this perspec-
tive for his 1884 book The Proletariat in
1884 and the SFP’s presidential can-
didate four times. This excerpt is from

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

During the 1886 labor uprising large-
numbers of both native-born and foreign-born workers joined trade unions. This widening discontent with the legacy of which is felt to this day.

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Continued from front page

The fight to defend women’s right to choose whether to have an abortion is a necessary for women’s emancipation and the line of march of the working class as a whole. The majority sentiment for this right still exists even after decades of assaults. June 29, when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a Louisiana law that would have restricted abortion, provided a historic victory. The decision at a nearby hospital to practice. The 5-4 vote also registered the importance of working people continuing to look for ways to win and mobilize support for the right to choose. While a couple hundred workers ended up crossing the picket lines, protests against the court’s decision to go after abortion access have continued. The SWP presents a fighting program for working people to wage effective struggles against the bosses’ rapacious drive for profit at our expense. "We’re using our campaign to tell the truth about these struggles and to build solidarity."

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Asarco miners end strike, look to continue to fight

BY BERNIE SENTER and DEBORAH LIATOS

After nearly nine months on the picket line in a bitter strike against Asarco copper and its international parent, Grupo Mexico, the United Steelworkers and six other unions representing 1,700 miners in Arizona and Texas voted to strike July 6. Three weeks earlier the regional office of the National Labor Relations Board in Phoenix filed a complaint against the company charging it violated federal labor laws, including failing to bar- gain in good faith with the unions. The unions offered to return to work at Asar- co’s five mines and processing plants. In a July 5 letter to striking miners, Steelworkers union officials argued they would be in a better position whether they got their jobs back or not. If the NLRB’s charges are adopted, they say, the company would be subject to fines and could lose its collective bargaining rights. If the company refuses, workers could be eligible for unemployment and for back pay from the period they were forced off strike.

The strike after Asarco bosses refused further negotiations over their “last, best and final offer.” They insisted a 10-year-long wage freeze would be extended for most workers in the new contract—health care premiums would be doubled or tripled, and the ability of the union to represent miners on the job would be cur- tailed. After the strike began, the company hired strikebreakers and used two hired strikebreakers to crowbar the locked gates and let other workers in. Asarco announced in December that it had imple- mented this contract.

“I hope Asarco calls us back and we can contin- ue the fight on our terms,” a group of miners told the Militant. "They have an agreement with,” Leonard Segura, a long-time worker at the Asarco refinery and vice president of USW Local 5613 in Amarillo, Texas, told the Militant July 6 by phone. “We still have the food pantry going. We just got more supplies today.”

“We’re trying to force the company to take us back under the terms of the previous contract,” Lyle Murphy, president of USW Local 5232 at the Ray Mine in Kearny, Arizona, told the Militant. He has worked 16 years at the mine. “We’ll keep our strike assistance fund going.”

Asarco bosses have so far refused to comment to the press on the unions’ decision to end the strike and whether they will offer workers their jobs back. They also have not said whether they will contest the NLRB’s charges. Strikers maintain round-the-clock picket lines for the duration at many of Asarco’s struck mines and processing facilities. For some periods, they were taken down during COVID-19 outbreaks un- der pressure from company officials. In addition to picketing, strikers organized well-attended weekly dinners, movie showings and other activities for miners, their families and supporters in the area. A number of public rallies were organized outside Asarco’s corporate head- quarters and a contingent of 70 miners joined the Martin Luther King Day march and rally in Tac- sor, Arizona.

While a couple hundred miners ended up crossing the picket lines over the monthslong fight, Mur- phy said that only 13 people out of 158 members in his local crossed over.

The strikers won solidarity and contributions from longshoremen in Washington state, Walmart workers in a number of places, and other unions. “I want to thank all the people who assisted us with contributions,” Murphy said. "What you did getting the word out helped a lot. From Maine to Massachusetts and Canada we get help with dona- tions which were greatly appreciated. The Militant created our striker fund to support more supplies today.”

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Socialist Workers Party Statement

Fight for jobs program!

ALYSON KENNEDY

MALCOLM JARRETT

called medical criteria, like the age of fetal viability. We won’t find in the Constitution and linking it to so- cial gains for the working class have been accom- plished in the history of capitalist class struggles where you live and work. Fight for what you really want, not some wretched “lesser-evil” capitalist politician. This is a life worth living!

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Socialist Workers Party Statement

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KEEPING WORKERS at work...