

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Workers oppose federal cops, antifa violence in Portland**

— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 84/NO. 31 AUGUST 10, 2020

## Capitalist rulers seek to paper over growing frictions in EU

BY TERRY EVANS

While millions of workers in countries across Europe confront rapidly rising unemployment, continuing outbreaks of coronavirus and attacks on wages and working conditions, the leaders of the European Union agreed to put together a 750 billion euros “recovery fund” (\$880 billion).

After acrimonious debate they decided the fund will be financed by the European Commission issuing bonds. The accord was acclaimed by the editors of the *Financial Times* as “the end of a process that started 70 years ago” — steps toward economic integration of the continent’s different capitalist economies.

In fact the agreement to launch the fund papers over deepening conflicts between Europe’s rival ruling classes. The prospect of forging a European capitalist superstate is coming apart under the strains of the worldwide crisis and competition from Washington. And the pact reached by officials from 27 EU member states has nothing to do with stopping profit-hungry bosses from inflicting more blows on working people.

Workers are organizing to defend themselves from attacks by the bosses and their governments. When aircraft

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## Workers need our own party, a labor party!



Senate candidate Lea Sherman signs up Don Hill in Paterson, New Jersey, July 26, to put SWP presidential ticket on ballot. SWP turned first batch of signatures in to state officials next day.

### SWP wins support in ballot fight across the country

BY EDWIN FRUIT

SEATTLE — Across Tennessee, New Jersey and Washington state, Socialist Workers Party campaigners are collecting signatures from working people who want to see a working-class party on the ballot in 2020. Through the fight for ballot status they’re winning support for the party’s ticket — Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president — and they will be doing

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### Join campaign to put SWP’s presidential ticket on ballot!

Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, issued the following statement July 28. Malcolm Jarrett is the party’s candidate for vice president.

### SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Join the fight to put the Socialist Workers Party 2020 presidential campaign on the ballot everywhere we can! Teams of campaigners are fanning out across Washington state,

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## March builds support for Bath shipyard workers strike

BY VED DOOKHUN

BATH, Maine — Over 300 spirited strikers, family members and supporters of the Bath Iron Works Shipbuilders strike gathered outside the International Association of Machinists Local S6 union hall, across the street from the shipyard here, for a rally and march July 25. The strike is now in its fifth week.

IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr. addressed the crowd, reminding everyone that the strike is the “largest going on in the country” right now, and that “the eyes of the nation are upon us.”

The company’s demand to use more subcontractors, who work for lower wages and threaten union members’ jobs, is the main issue in the strike. The union will not back down, Martinez stressed. He handed a check for \$10,000 from the international to Local S6 President Chris Weirs.

Workers marched from the union hall to both the north and south gates of the shipyard.

Company bosses say they’ve already made their “last, best and final” offer and have so far refused any further negotiations with the union. They’re recruiting strikebreakers from Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Both the union and the bosses have held separate meetings with federal

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## As virus rebounds, recovery falters, workers fight growing boss attacks



Militant/John Steele

Port of Montreal Longshore picket July 27, during four-day strike against unsafe job schedules.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

As bosses worldwide are stepping up attempts to restore their profits on our backs, working people are finding ways to defend ourselves. The fight by some 4,300 striking shipyard workers in Bath, Maine, is setting an example

of resisting deepening assaults on jobs, wages and working conditions.

Fresh viral outbreaks and accompanying renewed government lockdowns have slowed a tentative recovery of the global capitalist economy.

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## Join the fight against Pennsylvania prison ban on issue of the ‘Militant’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Militant* received a letter from a subscriber in Pennsylvania’s State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill July 23, saying that prison officials there banned issue no. 28 of the *Militant* because of “security issues.”

The inmate sent the form prison officials gave him that claimed the paper was confiscated because of what was on pages 3 and 4. It said that they “create a danger within the context of the correctional facility.” No notice was ever sent to the *Militant* informing it of the prison officials’ July 16 ban, which they are required to do by law.

The subscriber wrote to the *Militant* that he is challenging the ban from inside the prison. “I’m fighting it in here. Please help me fight out there,” he wrote.

We plan to do just that. *Militant* attorney David Goldstein has informed state prison officials that the paper is preparing to file a challenge to overturn the impoundment by the prison.

Prison authorities only say they’re impounding this issue because of those pages, but they don’t say what they object to. So what’s on those pages?

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—On the picket line, p. 6—

Unions in Mauritius fight for equal pay for immigrants

Montreal port workers fight for contract, safe work schedules



# Growing frictions tear at EU

**Continued from front page**  
manufacturer Airbus announced it was slashing 1,600 jobs, workers at eight of the company’s plants in Spain organized a one-day strike July 23. Thousands took to the streets of Budapest, Hungary, to protest the firing of the editor of a news website critical of the government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban. Almost all of the website’s staff resigned.

EU officials agreed to the new funding package after months of wrangling. Previously, the German rulers, the dominant power in the EU, had blocked all proposals for the European Commission to issue bonds, taking on additional debt. Instead, they had insisted individual EU member states facing financial difficulties be responsible for their own debt. The fund will finance grants and loans mainly to governments in southern Europe where the current crisis is felt most sharply.

### Accelerating national differences

Differences between the capitalist economies of EU member nations have accelerated since government-imposed lockdowns began. According to EU officials, the German economy contracted by 9.7% between April and June.

Italy’s shrank by nearly 16%.  
Some 12 million Italians, nearly half the workforce, have applied for relief payments from the government since the crisis began. As impoverishment among working people rises, organizers of food banks say they can’t keep up with requests for help.  
“If southern countries go bankrupt we all go bankrupt eventually,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel said

when the pact was announced, justifying her belated approval for the issuing of centralized euro-bonds. After Berlin acceded, the decision to “mutualize” the debts of the rival states was fiercely opposed by the wealthier ruling classes of Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden. While a unanimous “agreement” was finally reached, these governments made clear they opposed any further moves to cover the debts of the governments of Greece, Italy and Spain.

Weeks ago the German rulers watched with alarm as rival governments in Beijing and Moscow offered aid to Italian authorities after Berlin refused to export desperately needed medical equipment to Italy at the height of the spread of coronavirus. Berlin’s indifference toward those living in Italy fueled antagonism there towards the EU, anger that has been percolating for years.

With the EU weakened by the January withdrawal of the U.K., Berlin and Paris are determined to halt further splits in the bloc.

The EU was set up as a rival to Washington and to perpetuate the domination within Europe of the strongest imperialist ruling classes, primarily in Germany and to a lesser degree France. It gave them access to a vast tariff-free market across the continent, and the ability to use European-wide protectionist measures against Washington. But the launch of the euro in 1999 prevented rivals of Berlin and Paris within the eurozone from being able to devalue their own now-defunct currencies — a step often used by crisis-hit governments to make exports cheaper than those of their competitors.



Militant/Georges Mehrabian

**Public power workers contingent at June 2011 protest in Athens against government attacks on unions, layoffs demanded under terms of Berlin-led EU “bailout.” Growing capitalist crisis today, worsened by pandemic, is deepening rivalries and rifts among Europe’s capitalist rulers.**

In the decade since the 2008 world-wide financial crash, Berlin and Paris have tried to protect their own economies by using the EU to intensify assaults on working people in southern EU member states, especially in Greece. They made loans to the government in Athens conditional on slashing jobs, pensions and the minimum wage. Successive Greek governments have acquiesced to the EU’s dictates, devastating the lives of millions.  
Now working people in Italy are in the crosshairs.

### New frictions built into accord

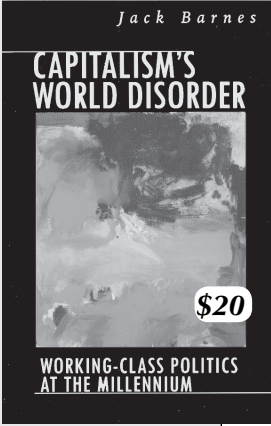
Getting access to the new “recovery fund” is conditioned on governments implementing “economic reforms” — EU doublespeak for deepening the exploitation of working people. Enforcing these terms will turn the crisis into an “opportunity,” EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen declared.  
Disbursement of the funds will also be subject to “regime conditionality,” more EU jargon aimed at pressuring member governments that frequently clash with EU officials, like those in Hungary and Poland, to back off if they want to get their hands on some cash.  
No concrete decisions were reached at the summit on how to deal with the debt created by establishing the fund,

aside from taxing plastic packaging, a measure that means working people will pay even more for groceries. Officials discussed but did not decide whether to raise funds by imposing more tariffs on imports from the U.S. and elsewhere.  
Further conflicts between the EU’s rival governments are assured, as they compete over markets and resources, accelerating the disintegration of the protectionist trading bloc that has been underway for years.

## Capitalism’s World Disorder

by Jack Barnes

“Conflicts between rival national capitalist classes and governments — and the evolution of world capitalism, which has increased uneven development — are blowing apart the myth of a ‘united Europe’ at an accelerating pace.”



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## THE MILITANT

### Youth call for end of military rule in Thailand

*In defiance of a government ban, thousands of Thai students rallied to demand the military government resign and for a new constitution to guarantee democratic rights. The ‘Militant’ supports struggles of workers, farmers and youth fighting for political rights.*



Reuters/Chaline Thirasupa

Thousands of Thai youth defy regime ban to protest for political rights in Bangkok July 18.

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# Fighters for Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain rally together

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Two of the most publicized cases where cops shot and killed people and haven't been indicted — the killings of emergency room technician Breonna Taylor in Louisville and Elijah McClain in Aurora, Colorado — came together in Kentucky July 24. Protesters from Aurora fighting for charges to be brought against the cops who killed Elijah McClain organized a caravan from that city to join a rally demanding justice for Taylor in Louisville.

"No matter the distance, we are going 1,000 miles during a pandemic because it means so much," Shenika Carter, who organized the caravan, told the media at a send-off rally in Aurora July 23. "It is that serious." About 40 people joined the caravan, some driving and others taking a flight.

Carter told WHAS radio that they'll continue coming to Louisville until the cops who shot Taylor are prosecuted, and she hopes that Taylor's family will not have to suffer official delays like McClain's family has had to deal with.

"We welcome our Colorado sisters and brothers to Louisville," a group of Metro Louisville Lutheran pastors said in a column published in the *Louisville Courier-Journal* July 24. "We stand in solidarity with them as they, like we, continue to seek justice for victims of police violence. We will continue to work alongside them."

While participants from the Aurora caravan were protesting in Louisville, a caravan organized to send solidarity to them drove around Chicago that same afternoon. Daily demonstrations in Louisville over the past 60 days and numerous protests in other cities and towns nationwide and around the world have demanded action against the cops who killed Taylor.

On March 13, three plainclothes cops — Myles Cosgrove, Brett Hankison and Jonathan Mattingly — broke down the door to Taylor's apartment in a late night "no-knock" raid. Her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, thinking they faced a break-in, fired one bullet that hit one of the cops in the leg. The cops then opened fire, shooting over 20 rounds into the apartment, killing Breonna Taylor.

One of the three cops involved was fired, but none of them have been arrested. Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, who is in charge of "investigating" the killing, keeps stalling on issuing a ruling. He says there's no timetable for him to decide.

Prominent sports and entertainment figures are speaking out, calling for the prosecution of the cops who killed Taylor. "We want the cops ar-

rested who committed that crime," Los Angeles Lakers basketball star LeBron James told the media after the team's practice game July 24. The cops "just knocked down the wrong door and started doing what they do at that point in time, and that's just shooting away. That's just not OK."

The Women's NBA announced July 25 they were dedicating the league's season to Breonna Taylor. "We are also dedicating this season to the 'Say Her Name Campaign,' a campaign committed to saying the names and fighting for justice for Black women," Layshia Clarendon of the New York Liberty announced before their first game.

## Cops cover up killing of McClain

In the case of Elijah McClain, it's been nearly a year and no charges have been brought against the cops who killed him. But protests by working people and youth in Aurora and other cities have exposed the authorities' efforts to cover up this crime.

McClain was walking home from a convenience store Aug. 24, 2019, when three cops stopped him after they said they received a complaint about a young Black man who was acting "suspicious."

The cops put him in a chokehold, ignoring his pleas that "I just can't breathe." Even though he was restrained, they had him injected with ketamine, a powerful sedative, at



Protesters from Aurora, Colorado, fighting for charges to be filed against cops who killed Elijah McClain joined 1,000-mile caravan for July 24 rally in Louisville demanding cops who killed Breonna Taylor there be arrested and prosecuted. Inset, Shenika Carter, who organized the caravan.

a dose high enough to put down a 220-pound person. McClain weighed 140 pounds. He suffered a heart attack on the way to a hospital.

District Attorney Dave Young had announced last November that no criminal charges would be filed against the cops. But protests by McClain's family spread in the wake of the cops' killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis May 26, and led city officials at the end of June to announce they are reviewing this decision.

Thousands protested in Aurora June 27, including violinists who traveled from around the country to play to honor McClain, who used to play his violin to soothe the animals at local shelters. The musicians stood their ground and continued to play as the

cops confronted protesters at a rally that evening.

Violin concerts to remember Elijah McClain have been mounted all across the country.

Attorneys representing McClain's family have also filed a lawsuit against the city of Aurora charging the police violated residents' constitutional rights when they deployed pepper spray and smoke canisters against protesters during the June 27 rally.

Artists in Denver have painted murals to keep McClain's memory alive, as well as paintings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. In Louisville, a mural featuring Taylor, Floyd, McClain and others, with the words "Say Their Names" covers the side of a warehouse over 100 feet wide and 30 feet tall.

# Teachers need workers control for schools to open safely

BY JOHN STUDER

A debate is raging among the capitalist candidates over whether schools should be opened this fall or students consigned to desocializing "learning-at-home."

But the real question isn't whether they should be open. It's how they can be opened to be safe for workers and students alike. The answer is for teachers and other school workers to use their unions to take control of how the schools are opened and run, to ensure they are safe to work and study in.

Teachers have recent experience fighting local governments and administrators to improve wages and conditions. Beginning in February 2018 one of the most significant strikes in decades broke out in West Virginia, in the heart of coal country. Some 35,000 teachers, janitors, bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other public school workers walked off the job, and closed down every school in the state. They demanded reversal of decades of government decisions to slash funds for schools and workers alike.

By relying on themselves, their power in numbers, and putting their stamp on their unions, they made progress. Most importantly, many said they saw what they were capable of when they organized and relied on themselves. Their fight took on elements of a broad social movement, fighting for the interests of the entire working class.

As word spread across the country, teachers in Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona and elsewhere set out to follow their example. "Don't make us go West Virginia on you!" became their battle cry.

These battles are something school

workers can build on today.

As the strikers showed, nothing is gained by appeals to the government, whether run by Democrats or Republicans, to do the right thing. It will take a powerful working-class fight to open and run schools that are safe and well provisioned, and where school workers are assured their jobs and pay.

## Workers control of school conditions

The National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers, as well as other unions of school workers, need to join together in mobilizing — along with parents, students and other working people — to fight for workers control over conditions in the schools and how they are run. It is only the workers who truly know what they confront — from the danger of coronavirus inside the schools to the blight of not enough staff, lack of needed supplies, nurses and librarians, and other necessities to do their work.

This is more true in the schools than in the mines, mills and factories, where the same challenge exists. At least in these workplaces the bosses care about production, as workers' labor power is the sole source of the profits they crave. Schools don't *make* anything the bosses and their governments can profit off of. They lose nothing if the schools are closed down, no matter how many crocodile tears they shed for the "poor little schoolchildren."

How can the buildings be reorganized so there is sufficient space between students, the heating and cooling systems rebuilt, and all the other changes needed to assure safety? How many more workers are needed to have a workable stu-

dent-teacher ratio and to guarantee that every school has nurses, librarians and other essential workers? How can work be reorganized in cafeterias, school buses, sporting events and more?

Schools can be opened safely if workers take control over the conditions there. Much of this will require more facilities and a crash construction program to build them. It's a question of social priorities.

Taking these steps will help thousands of workers thrown out of work by the capitalist economic crisis, exacerbated by the government shutdowns of production, trade and retail justified by the coronavirus epidemic. A government-funded program to rebuild the schools, and to build more of them to allow for greater spacing and more programs, can create sorely needed jobs at union pay and help unify the working class.

This will take a serious fight, because it runs against the grain of the way the dog-eat-dog capitalist rulers organize society based on only one thing — profit. The rulers don't care about "education," for them schooling is class-divided. For the "educated," the goal is to convince them you're part of the system, different than the "deplorable" working people.

## Education under capitalist rule

It just isn't true that the capitalist rulers need workers to be educated. They need for us to be obedient, not to be educated. More than anything else, they want to discourage us from having any ideas about ever playing a role in making history.

Allowing workers to make a living and to do so in a safe environment is a

Continued on page 9

## In Defense of the US Working Class

by Mary-Alice Waters



"Tens of thousands of teachers and school employees set an example in 2018 with their victorious strikes."

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# SWP mounts ballot fight

Continued from front page  
the same in Minnesota soon.

The party's candidates are the only voice in 2020 explaining that workers need to build their own party, a labor party, that can defend the interests of *all* working people against the entire capitalist class and its government.

Kennedy and Jarrett have already been certified for the ballot in Colorado and Vermont, and have met all the requirements in Louisiana.

SWP candidates have run in every presidential election since 1948.

Supporters of the party's ticket are going house to house in cities and towns large and small, asking working people to sign nominating petitions and help sign up others they know — their co-workers, friends and family.

They are collecting signatures in Walmart parking lots, at house meetings, and at protests against police brutality. Along the way they're broadening knowledge about the party's campaign platform, increasing the readership of the *Militant* newspaper and books by party leaders and other revolutionaries.

Here in Washington, campaigners plan to file their petitions to the state election commission by Aug. 7, with hundreds more than the 1,000 signatures required.

Kennedy met laid-off library storyteller Xiomara Bugarin at her home in West Seattle July 26. The candidate talked about the different class responses of the Cuban and the U.S. governments to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I know the Cubans send doctors all around the world," said Bugarin, who was born in El Salvador. "It impresses me that they do this despite the U.S. blockade." The Cuban government mobilized the population to keep the virus in check, Kennedy said. "They are only able to do this because they had made a revolution in 1959."

Bugarin signed the petition saying, "Working people need more options in the elections."

UPS worker Danel Griffin told Kennedy when she was campaigning in a Walmart parking lot that he had been considering voting for Jesse Ventura for president on the Green Party ticket.

"The Green Party is a capitalist party of reform," Kennedy said, "but it's still a capitalist party." In 2001 when Ventura was governor of Minnesota, he brought in the National Guard and hired scabs in an attempt to break a strike by government workers. "A labor party would organize solidarity with strikes and the fight against police brutality," Kennedy said.

Griffin signed the petition and got a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of the book, *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*.

Kennedy also spoke with Jaleel Harris, who is starting a job as a baggage handler at the airport. Harris recently got involved in the fight against police brutality. "I think the violence and looting hurts our cause," Harris told Kennedy. "I support defunding of the police to reallocate money for resources like schools for the Black and Latino communities."

Kennedy agreed about the looting. "But 'defunding' will not change the nature of the cops under capitalism," she said. "Their role is to defend the wealthy ruling class and put working people in their place."

"Only working people taking political power into their own hands can change that," Kennedy added. "In Cuba working people did make a socialist revolution. That's what is needed in the U.S."

Harris signed the petition and got a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?*

Rolly Konae told Kennedy about the intense speedup he has faced delivering packages for Amazon. "Before the pandemic we had to do 120 to 130 a day. Now it is 185 to 190."

Kennedy, who is a cashier at Walmart, described how Walmart workers in Kentucky who work in online grocery pickup told her they organized to go together to speak to bosses who were trying to double the amount of orders workers had to pick in a day. After some back and forth bosses agreed to send more workers to help. "We need to act like we have a union," Kennedy said.

## 'We need more unity among workers'

BY SUSAN LAMONT

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee — "The Democrats and Republicans, which are so much the same, have grown so dominant, so in control," Jimmy Smartt, an auto technician here in eastern Chattanooga, told SWP campaigners. Smartt and his wife Heather invited this correspondent and Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Georgia, into their apartment when we told them we were campaigning to put a working-class ticket on the ballot.

They were interested in the SWP platform that calls for building a labor party.

"We need to look to each other more, not to those in power," said Jimmy Smartt. "We need more unity among the workers at the bottom."

Some 91 people had signed in Tennessee to put the ticket on the ballot as of July 27. Campaigners plan to collect at least double the 275 state requirement.

The Smartts signed the petition, subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* "The answer is 'No!'" Jimmy Smartt said. "That's what I tell people all the time!" He agreed to be one of the 11 electors needed to get on the ballot.

Kirstin Griffin in Cleveland, Tennessee, first met SWP campaigners in May at a protest in Brunswick, Georgia, to demand the arrest and prosecution of the vigilantes who killed Ahmaud Arbery.

The 22-year-old nursing student signed up to be an elector for the SWP campaign July 24. She told party campaigners Janice Lynn and Sam Manuel she wants to learn more about the Cuban Revolution, which made it possible to have universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care for all, as opposed to what passes as health care in



Militant/Zena Jasper

UPS worker Danel Griffin signs at Walmart parking lot to put SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, left, and running mate Malcolm Jarrett on the ballot in Washington state.

the U.S. Griffin got a subscription to the *Militant* and purchased *Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa*. She was glad to see a *Militant* article about nurses on strike in Illinois to win safer staffing levels and a pay raise.

At Griffin's invitation, the campaigners participated in a protest that evening calling for the moving of a statue honoring confederate soldiers to a museum. Several protesters signed up to put the SWP candidates on the ballot.

In Lebanon, 20 minutes outside of Nashville, SWP campaigners Kaitlin Estill and Lisa Potash met retired army veterans Charles Bailey and Reginald Sweatt. Estill told them that under capitalism, society is organized to meet the needs of the capitalist class, not the needs of working people.

"You're right," Bailey said. "There's potato farmers right now that are digging holes to throw their potatoes in and hog farmers killing the animals they can't sell. All the while, meat prices are going up."

The Socialist Workers Party campaign platform demands that the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses. Sweatt and Bailey signed the petition.

The SWP campaigners also met Devontta Shields at his doorstep. He told them he quit his job at a local factory that makes Kool-Aid because he'd come home each night covered in the Kool-Aid powder. Workers need to wage a fight to wrest control of production from the bosses, Estill said, so they can organize work safely.

Shields recently went to his first-ever protest against police brutality. After seeing news on these protests "I decided I was going to go to one and then it turned out there was one in my home-

town," he said. Shields signed to put Kennedy and Jarrett on the ballot.

## 'Let me sign that!'

BY CANDACE WAGNER

TRENTON, New Jersey — Lea Sherman, the SWP's candidate for U.S. Senate, and vice presidential candidate Malcolm Jarrett filed 270 signatures with state election officials July 27 to get the party's presidential ticket on the ballot.

"This shows we have support among working people in New Jersey," Sherman said. The party plans to keep campaigning and get well over the required 800 signatures. "We invite all those who want to see a workers party on the ballot to join us in exceeding the requirements over the next couple of weeks and turning those signatures in."

Donna Barber, elections manager for the New Jersey Division of Elections, told Sherman to call and inform her when they'll be bringing the rest of the signatures in.

"Let me sign that. We need a voice," retired nurse Diane Popeck told SWP campaigner Chris Hoepfner July 26. She is one of the 270 people whose signatures were filed July 27. Popeck told Hoepfner she was fired once when she needed to extend her maternity leave, but fought and won her job back. When her husband got injured on the job at UPS, and wasn't treated right, "I convinced him to fight. You fight until they give up," she said. She subscribed to the *Militant* and bought three books to learn more about the party.

Sherman met retired postal worker Don Hill on his doorstep in Paterson the day before. "With many businesses reopening, the companies are organizing to restore their profits at the expense

Continued on page 5

## Socialist Workers Party campaign button



Available from campaign offices listed on page 8

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

- ☐ I want to endorse the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president.
- ☐ I want to join in campaigning or host a house meeting for the candidates. Please contact me.
- ☐ Here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help spread the word. (Make checks to Socialist Workers National Campaign)
- ☐ Send me a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly. (\$5 enclosed, checks payable to the *Militant*.)

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# Back Bath shipyard strike

Continued from front page

mediators, but nothing has come out of these discussions so far.

“This is not about greed on our part, it’s about dignity,” John LaPointe, an HVAC technician who has worked at Bath Iron Works for 31 years, told the *Militant* as he marched with his picket sign. Like many workers who voted to strike, LaPointe explained how he sees the fight as a knitting of generations. He wants to see his grandchildren have a future, he said. Many strikers told us the company had counted on pitting veteran shipbuilders against new hires, and said with pride that didn’t work.

In an attempt to show that production is taking place, the company posted a letter with a list of “completed jobs.”

Many of the strikers I talked to said the jobs the company is taking credit for were in fact completed or close to completion before the strike began. “They would have to be busing in hundreds of workers to get production going,” said LaPointe. “We aren’t seeing that happen right now.”

“They are just trying to scare people,” said striker Jaimie Bellefleur.

As the march ended many workers

stood around and wanted to talk. This *Militant* worker-correspondent talked to a group of shipfitters, who work together building the structure of the ship from the hull up.

Tiffany Briggs, who has worked at the yard since last September, expressed how grateful she was to be working a union job after having been stuck in several nonunion ones. “This strike is important for working people and I agree we are standing up for future generations,” she said.

“Unions were formed to give voice to the people,” she added. “Without workers nothing will be made in this world.”

“There are signs everywhere you go,” said Nate Graf, describing the support the strike has in the community. “You stand with us, we stand with you,” is how we look at it, he said.

Johnny Johnson, who works as a shipfitter, is a fifth generation shipbuilder and has worked for 10 years in the yard. “This is not my first strike,” he said, recalling how he was on the picket line with his parents during the last strike 20 years ago. “This strike is going to set a precedent for all workers,” he said, adding that they will be out on the picket line “as long as it takes.”

Fifty-year-old Laura Safford is training to be a pipe fitter. “The attack on seniority and hiring of contractors is the problem,” she said, explaining why she voted for the strike.

She said she had made a lawn sign that said, “Stop messing with our seniority.”

## Solidarity contributions boost strike

“This really helps our strike,” Local S6 President Weirs said as he accepted letters of solidarity that Malcolm Jarrett from Pittsburgh presented from United Electrical Workers Local 506 in Erie, Pennsylvania; Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ; and teachers from the Pittsburgh School District. Jarrett was also instrumental in getting a \$1,500 financial contribution from



Militant/Ved Dookhun

Shipyard workers on strike in Bath, Maine, and supporters march July 25 against company demands to expand subcontracting, cut back seniority rights and raise health care costs. “This is not about greed on our part,” said striker John LaPointe. “It’s about dignity,” and knitting together generations of workers.

Local 506. Jarrett had been involved in building solidarity with the UE local’s bitter strike against Wabtec in 2019. “I appreciate you bringing these down,” Weirs told him.

Jarrett is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president, and builds solidarity with the Bath strikers’ battle wherever he goes.

“This is an important fight, we need this for working people,” said Jim Labbe, a member of IAM Local 2740 in Skowhegan. He was part of a delegation of workers from Sappi Paper that presented a \$1,000 donation to the strikers at the rally.

Kristi Skhemi, a 26-year-old Walmart worker who joined some of his co-workers from Albany, New York, to come here, said this was his first picket line. The sign he carried saying he works at Walmart and supports their strike was very popular.

“This was a very eye-opening experience,” Skhemi said. He was im-

pacted by the unity of the strike. “It shows how strong and powerful it is when people get together.”

He said he’s eager to get the word out when he gets back to work.

Zak Larrabee, who came with supporters of the strike from the Boston area, also was impacted by the march and rally. He had come to the picket line the previous weekend with a friend, bringing sandwiches they stayed up late putting together. “What for me has always been ideas in books about the labor movement was more real than I had anticipated,” he said.

More solidarity is needed. Come to Bath and walk the picket lines. Send messages and contributions to the strike fund at IAM Local S6, 722 Washington St., Bath, ME 04530, or donations through PayPal at <https://www.paypal.me/LocalLodgeS>.

Candace Wagner contributed to this article.

## Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The story of the strikes and organizing drive the men and women of Teamsters Local 574 carried out in Minnesota in 1934, paving the way for the continent-wide rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations as a fighting social movement.

pathfinderpress.com

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 14, 1995

DETROIT — “This is a union town; if they break us here, they’ll go after us everywhere,” declared Bob Wiland, one of the 2,500 members of the six unions that struck this city’s two daily papers, the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Detroit News*, July 13.

The companies have announced plans to cut mailers’ jobs, to reclassify newspaper carriers (now union members) as management, and institute a \$100-per-month co-payment on medical coverage. The *Detroit Free Press* unilaterally enacted “merit” pay for reporters just before the strike.

Local cops moved quickly to side with the employers. Within an hour of the start of the strike, three pickets were arrested.

Three hundred strikers attended the July 18 Sterling Heights City Council meeting to protest the action of the cops and use of company goon squads.



August 7, 1970

Looking back from 25 years after the U.S. dropped the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the meaning of this barbaric act has become much clearer.

The destruction of two cities and murder of a half million people was not done to “save lives,” to end the war quickly, or to stop Japanese fascism. Historians have proven that the U.S. rulers ordered bombs dropped even though they knew that the Japanese were ready to surrender.

This hideous act of destruction was designed to assert U.S. dominance over Asia. The big question for U.S. rulers at the end of World War II was who was to control China. It never entered their minds that China should be left to the Chinese.

By dropping the bomb on Aug. 6 and 9, the U.S. showed the world it not only had this super weapon but had the ruthlessness to use it on live targets.



August 11, 1945

A strike of 350 miners in the small company-owned mining town of Force, Pa., was precipitated by the resignation of Dr. Elizabeth Hayes as company physician for Shawmut Mining Co. She resigned because of the failure of the company to clean up the town and provide proper sanitation.

“There is no good water supply, no sewage system, no passable streets, no streetlights, no presentable homes,” she declared.

Backed up by their wives, the miners stated: “We’ll hold out as long as we have to, until the company fixes sanitary conditions so we can get a doctor.” Forty-two years without the most elementary sanitation, the entire water supply in Force is polluted.

The description given of the houses in which the coal miners and their families live, is a revealing commentary on the brutal, anarchistic capitalist system.

should emulate the Cuban example” of sending volunteer doctors around the world. “Washington tries to blaspheme the Cuban Revolution. But the record speaks for itself.” He signed the petition and subscribed to the *Militant*.

SWP campaigner Laura Anderson told Robert Davis in Elizabeth about her visit to join the picket line of striking shipbuilders in Bath, Maine. “More experienced union members said they didn’t know what to expect from the young ones” on the picket line, Anderson said. “But these young workers are the most enthusiastic about defending the union they only recently joined.”

Davis, a young gas station worker, really liked that. “There is a lot of injustice. It’s not right,” he said. Davis told Anderson he supports the protests against police brutality. “But this looting is no good. They are destroying our own community. It has to stop.”

Davis subscribed to the *Militant* and said he would like to help out on the campaign.



Want to help campaign for the Socialist Workers Party and aid the fight to get on the ballot? See page 8 for the campaign office nearest you. Or email: [socialistworkers2020@gmail.com](mailto:socialistworkers2020@gmail.com)

Joanne Kuniansky contributed to this article.



# Workers fight boss attacks

Continued from front page

In the U.S., official government jobless figures for June, an understatement of the real level, were 20.4% in New York, 19.5% in Los Angeles and 16.1% in Chicago.

The parties of the ruling rich, the Democrats and Republicans, are haggling over the July 31 phaseout of the \$600 supplementary weekly payments to two-thirds of the 31.8 million people who rely on federal and state unemployment benefits. There are many more that haven't been able to cut through the red tape to claim, or haven't received, any of the benefits they deserve.

Meanwhile, many small businesses are folding and millions of furloughed workers are becoming permanently unemployed.

Working people also face cuts to wages and hours. Bosses claim this is a "shared sacrifice" and workers should be grateful to have any job at all. More than 6 million workers who want full-time work have been forced into part-time employment during the

## Montreal port workers fight for new contract, safe work schedules

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — For the second time this month, some 1,125 longshoremen at the Port of Montreal — members of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 375 — have gone on strike in their ongoing fight for a new contract. A central issue in their battle with the Maritime Employers Association is over exhausting and dangerous scheduling and hours of work.

As the four-day strike began, union spokesman Michel Murray told a press conference July 27 that workers can be forced to work 19 days out of 21 all year-round. "We have a new generation of longshoremen, young men and women," he said. "We can't make them do that."

The strikers have been without a contract since December 2018. The vote in favor of walking out was 99.5 percent.

The bosses had appealed to the government in October 2018 to abolish longshoremen's right to strike, claiming their working is "essential" to Canada's economy. Only this June, did the Canadian Labour Relations Board finally rule that the workers have the right to strike. Still, they ordered workers to maintain services for grain, bulk liquid cargo and Oceanex, a service that supplies goods to Newfoundland and Labrador.

Trying to turn workers against the strike, port authority officials called on the strikers "to ensure public health and safety" and stay on the job. And the *Canadian Press* backed the bosses, complaining strikers were "throwing a potential wrench into the economic recovery."

This fight is in the interests of all labor.

pandemic. Bosses at e-hail taxi company Lyft have cut employees' salaries by up to 30%.

More layoffs are coming. On July 24, oilfield service company Schlumberger announced plans to cut about 21,000 jobs. Bosses at Daimler, the parent company of Mercedes-Benz, said they may cut 30% of their workforce of 300,000 in 17 countries, and this comes on top of cuts of 10,000 jobs last December.

### Workers organize, resist

In response to these conditions, working people are carrying out on-the-job actions and organizing strikes. In southern Brazil, thousands of Renault autoworkers have been on strike since July 22 over the layoff of some 750 workers at the Sao Jose dos Pinhais plant. They're demanding the bosses rescind the job cuts.

Hundreds of hospital workers, members of the National Union of Healthcare Workers, at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital in Sonoma County, California, struck July 20-24.

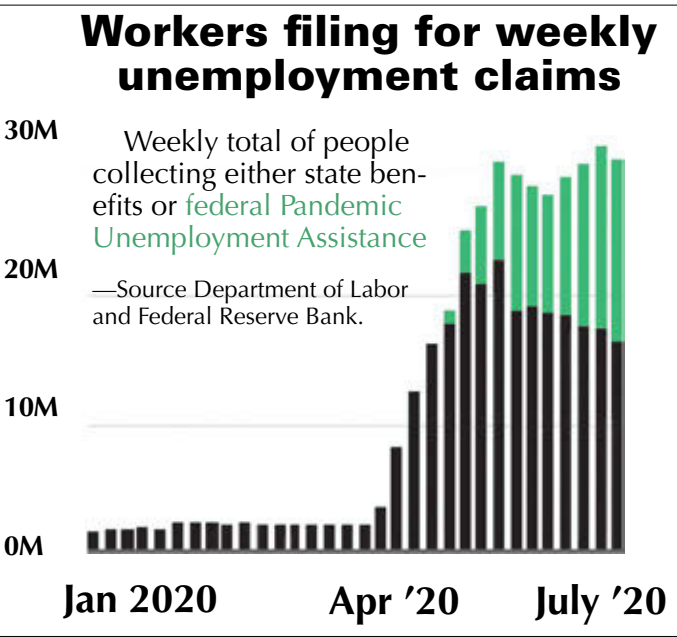
They are fighting the bosses' demands to reduce paid time off, sick leave, and more than double health care premiums for many workers. They are also demanding higher staffing levels and sufficient personal protective equipment.

Bosses in industries across the country view workers' lives as expendable. Nowhere is this more evident than in meatpacking where they speed up production lines, jam workers closer together and pressure them to come to work while sick. Across the U.S., more than 16,000 meatpackers in 23 states have been infected with coronavirus and 86 have died, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The owners of Smithfield Foods, the world's biggest pork processor, said that they couldn't slow down line speeds.

Kenneth Sullivan, Smithfield chief executive, said, "For better or worse, our plants are what they are," as if capitalist profiteering — with its deadly consequences for workers — is an inevitable and irreplaceable part of production. "Four walls, engineered design, efficient use of space, etc. Spread out? OK. Where?" he blithely told a Senate inquiry.

It will take a fight for workers control of production to ensure spacious and safe working conditions. Priorities and line speeds must be set by



### Events mark 1953 opening of the Cuban Revolution



Militant/Terry Coggan

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Cuba's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and the solidarity its medical workers have extended to countries worldwide are part of "the fight to make a better world possible for everyone," Cuba's ambassador to New Zealand, Edgardo Valdés López, right, told a meeting of 45 here July 25.

The event was organized by the Cuba Friendship Society to mark July 26, the date 67 years ago when forces under the command of Fidel Castro attacked the Moncada Barracks and "announced the beginning" of the revolutionary struggle against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

Similar commemorations were held around the world, including in Chicago, Albany and New York City.

The workers and farmers government established after Batista's overthrow in 1959 put its resources into organizing workers and farmers to meet their own needs, including a mass literacy drive and building a health care system to serve all the people.

Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, Valdés said, "Medical students went to the homes of all the population to check on people's health."

Above all, the ambassador said, "the Cuban people know how to live — and help each other — in difficult conditions."

Chairperson Robert Reid noted there are 30,000 Cuban health workers serving voluntarily in over 60 countries today. As part of its over 60-year-long campaign against Cuba's revolution, Washington slanders these medical personnel as "slaves" of the Cuban government.

Far from being "slaves," Cuban doctors join internationalist missions "as an act of solidarity," Valdés said. "They don't see health care as a business, but a human right."

— PATRICK BROWN

those who work, not those who run production to maximize profit-taking.

### Filipino workers trapped

Thousands of Filipino workers desperately crowded into a sports arena in Manila, the Philippines' capital, July 25 after a government transportation program was inundated with workers trying to return to their home provinces. Millions there have been caught up in one of the strictest and longest lockdowns, enforced by President Rodrigo Duterte.

In an email to the *Militant*, teacher Genoveva Valdez said, "What happened at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium is just one of the many poorly planned responses" by the government. A huge number of working people are "affected by the joblessness. They're leaving Manila because there's nothing left for them in the city."

In addition, there are almost 10 million Filipino workers overseas who send more than \$30 billion in annual remittances to help to sustain family members in the Philippines. Now some 700,000 are, or will be, jobless, adding to the economic slump.

Working people

everywhere face the same fight — to defend our interests against the bosses' attacks on our jobs, wages and conditions and to extend solidarity to workers' battles.

## Unions in Mauritius fight for equal pay for immigrants

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The Confederation of Workers in the Public and Private Sectors (CTSP) in Mauritius, backed by other unions, is campaigning for the largely immigrant workforce in the textile and garment industries to get the national minimum wage of 9,400 Mauritian rupees per month (\$237). The unions are demanding this be a universal payment for all workers — immigrant and native-born — who lose their jobs during the government's ongoing coronavirus-justified lockdown on most production.

They are also demanding workers still on the job have hygienic facilities at their workplaces. As a result of the campaign, the CTSP's membership is growing.

Mauritius, an island country of 1.3 million people off East Africa in the Indian Ocean, is home to more than 45,000 migrant workers, many working in textile and garment. They have been hit by the wave of mass unemployment sweeping these industries in countries from Africa to South and East Asia.

Even before coronavirus, they faced low wages, long hours, squalid living conditions — sometimes residing in dormitories behind factories — and

# Workers oppose federal cops, antifa violence in Portland

BY SETH GALINSKY

The sending of federal police to Portland, Oregon, to confront protests against cop brutality marked by violence from antifa and similar groups has sparked an intense debate. Many workers are outraged at seeing federal cops in full riot gear deployed on the streets firing tear gas, rubber bullets and exploding pepper balls.

The Donald Trump administration is taking advantage of the violent attacks by antifa and other middle-class radicals to claim the deployment is needed to enforce "law and order" and protect federal buildings. Leading the federal cops is the Border Patrol Tactical Unit — which is a Department of Homeland Security SWAT team whose training and camouflage fatigues mirror that of U.S. special forces — along with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Federal Protective Service agents.

Working people don't like the vandalizing of government buildings, looting and other violent acts, whether justified as political protest or the action of gangs. These aren't acts of frustration, but conscious destruction, which give the government pretexts to unleash more cop brutality.

Workers also don't like the introduction of federal cops, especially ones trained for military combat, which take advantage of the violence to chip away at the right to protest. Anger at the use of the federal cops boosted the size of demonstrations in Portland, Seattle and elsewhere.

### Portland: longtime antifa center

In many cities protesters calling for prosecution of the cops who killed George Floyd in Minneapolis relied on themselves to rapidly push back looting and vandalism. Lines of demonstrators at times protected stores



New York Times/Mason Trinca

Antifa forces prepare to do battle during July 20 Portland protest. Glorification of clashes with cops — which liberals try to pretty up, claiming destruction of property isn't violence — has nothing to do with fighting racism. It only gives the government a pretext to attack political rights and the fight against police brutality.

from gangs intent on grabbing what they could or antifa elements seeking to provoke violence and chaos. But especially in Portland and Seattle, long-time bases for antifa-aligned groups, protests are still frequently marred by the setting of fires, breaking windows on public buildings and other acts of violence. Black-owned businesses are among those that were burned.

If you look at pictures of the Portland protests, you can easily pick out these forces, brandishing shields, sticks, Molotov cocktails and other weaponry, often dressed in black.

Antifa and anarcho-radical forces oppose a working-class course to broaden out the movement, which could draw millions into independent political action against cop violence.

Liberal politicians and media pundits have worked overtime giving political cover to antifa violence and gang looting. "Destroying property, which can be replaced, is not violence," *New York Times* staffer Nikole Hannah-Jones claimed on CBS News in June,

rights of workers.

The Workers' Rights Act mandated compensation for job termination, portable retirement benefits, restrictions on contract labor, equal pay for equal work and paid vacations. It also introduced unemployment benefits for up to 12 months and regularized hours of work.

However, the bosses seized upon the onset of the coronavirus epidemic and related government-imposed shutdowns, which gave employers an opening to pressure the government to suspend or reverse most of these gains. And they used the threat of job loss and unemployment to threaten and intimidate workers.

The unions have fought the bosses' moves to gut workers' protections, but so far have only been able to force the government to continue the Portable Severance Fund, which protects all workers who are laid off. All employers have to contribute to the fund.

Prime Minister Pravin Jugnauth told the workers the rest of the law would be suspended until 2024. "Many migrant workers haven't received their salaries for over three months," Jane Rago, CTSP general secretary said, vowing the union will fight to win their pay.

fies battles with the cops. The site says it is "a digital community center for anarchist, anti-fascist, autonomous anti-capitalist and anti-colonial movements across so-called North America." They say they're anarchists with "no allegiance to representational politics."

### Glorification of violence

"We've all been mad for weeks now," one anonymous post from Portland says. "Sleepless and wide-eyed. Tear gas addicts. Can't sleep unless our skin is burning."

The writer describes

prying boards off windows "to light a massive fire with no police response." In what is a summary of the conduct of the antifa groups, the writer adds, "Violence is coming: may as well have fun while we wait."

This has nothing to do with fighting racism, ending police brutality or organizing working people to stand shoulder to shoulder in the face of attempts of the capitalist class to make us pay for the crisis of their system. In fact this glorification of violence for violence's sake among those who claim to be on the "left" is a deadly danger to the working class.

Fortunately the choice for working people isn't between the Trump administration and its deployment of federal forces in cities across the country or antifa thugs and their liberal apologists.

The Socialist Workers Party is campaigning for working people to build their own party, a labor party that can help mobilize millions to bring to power a workers and farmers government. That would open the road to replacing the dog-eat-dog capitalist system — and its cops and entire criminal "justice" system — once and for all.

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# SWP fought for US to admit Jewish refugees of Nazi terror

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August is *The Founding of the Socialist Workers Party: Minutes and Resolutions, 1938-39*. The program adopted was based on the communist course of V.I. Lenin and the Bolsheviks, who led workers and farmers to power in the 1917 Russian Revolution. At its founding convention the SWP deepened its orientation to the industrial working class and their unions. Its resolutions took up the fight against the bosses' assaults at home, the rise of fascism in Europe and the drive to war by Washington and the other imperialist powers. The excerpt is from "Theses on the Jewish Question." This was followed by a November 1938 statement by the SWP National Committee, "Open the Doors to Victims of Hitler's Nazi Terror!" Copyright © 1982 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Our approach to the Jewish question can be none other than that of the international class struggle. In its death agony the capitalist class maintains itself in power by resorting to unmitigated brutality and violence aimed at the working class, particularly at its vanguard. It utilizes every element of hatred and prejudice which it can fan into flame to



Members of Socialist Workers Party joined other groups picketing German Consulate in New York in November 1938. They demanded Washington open its doors to Jewish and other refugees, victims of Nazi brutalities as that regime began to prepare the Holocaust.

bring about division among the masses and to establish a social basis for its fascist, gangster rule. The Jews, by virtue of the fact that everywhere they form only a small minority of the population, and because anti-Semitism has always been fostered, sometimes openly, sometimes in masked form, constitute an easy scapegoat upon whom the big bourgeoisie can divert the pent-up, dangerous wrath of the backward elements among the masses, and particularly of the desperate middle classes. The fascist hirelings of the big bourgeoisie use the most vicious, lying propaganda to inflame to pogrom temperature the dormant antagonism to the Jews. Precisely because the fomenting of anti-Semitism has become an inseparable part of the technique of fascist reaction, the revolutionary party has a double duty to perform in combating it. It has the duty of exposing the real aims of the capitalists, hidden behind the smokescreen of anti-Semitism and thereby inoculating the masses against the poison; it has also the special task of mobilizing the real defense of the persecuted Jews, a defense of necessity based on the might of the organized working class. ...

The present decay of capitalism on a world scale and in each and every country, has ... not merely arrested the movement towards assimilation but has brought its speedy reversal. To defend its hold on property and its exploitation of the toiling masses, national capitalism

makes use of the ideology of national chauvinism. This is made the foundation of the totalitarian state. In the name of national chauvinism democratic rights are completely stripped from the working class. In exchange for these rights the masses are permitted the unrestricted play of anti-Semitism. The reactionary measures taken against the Jews in Germany and Austria, driving so many to suicide, are a yardstick by which to measure the strides taken by rotting capitalism back to the Middle Ages. At one stroke the Jews are deprived not only of their democratic rights as citizens, but of the elementary possibility of earning a livelihood. In this hideous fashion does capitalist democracy reach its end, not having lasted long enough to permit assimilation.

Many Jews — and not only Jews — delude themselves with the soothing thought that America is different, that these same phenomena cannot happen here. They continue to picture the United States as a great melting pot with a democracy far more securely founded than was European democracy. But the Jews and the entire working class must be forewarned — the same causes leading to decay are visibly at work here, and the same results are not merely possible but absolutely inevitable unless the working class learns, and learns quickly, to defend its hard-earned rights and to take the road to power. The second crisis piled on top of the first one leaves the capitalist ruling class in a serious predic-

ament and in a quandary concerning the way out. That it is fearful of its continued domination and considers the advisability of strong measures — fascist measures — cannot be doubted. The symptoms of increased discrimination against the Jews, of anti-Semitism, are already present. We must immediately sound the alarm to put the working class on guard against all the reactionary conspiracies of the big bourgeoisie; more particularly we must awaken the Jewish masses to a sense of realization of the danger and above all we must propose the proper measures to be taken against the growing danger. ...

In view of the awful plight of the Jews, it must be made a special point in the program of the various sections of the Fourth International to fight against restrictions on immigration, particularly Jewish immigration. In the U.S. we must fight against the imposing of barriers such as the necessity to prove by showing money or through affidavits that the immigrant will not become a public charge. Part of our combating of anti-Semitism must take the form of a fight for unrestricted immigration for refugees, especially Jews. ...

The Jews form a small minority of the American population — some 4.5 million out of 130 million. If the defense of the Jews depended on themselves alone, then their case would indeed be hopeless. ... [T]he attack against the Jews is merely the spearhead of the attack against the American working class for the purpose of lowering their standards of living and rendering them powerless to resist this economic blow by depriving them of their democratic rights. The workers and the Jewish masses are natural allies in the antifascist struggle. Our propaganda among both is to convince them to defeat fascism the workers must establish socialism. Not only the general working class is the natural ally of the Jews, but all the other national minorities — Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese, Greeks, Poles, Russians — who are assigned a lower status by the American ruling class, can be enlisted in the struggle for the rights of national minorities including the Jews. Above all the Negroes must be linked up with the struggle against reaction, for the Negroes are the worst victims of capitalist exploitation. Their struggle for equal rights is of the utmost importance for the workers' cause.

*August* **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

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## SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

# Help put the SWP on the ballot!



ALYSON KENNEDY

MALCOLM JARRETT

### Continued from front page

Tennessee, New Jersey and Minnesota. With backing from working people, the party has already won ballot status in Colorado and Vermont, and is filing in Louisiana Aug. 7. The party's goal is to be on the ballot in as many states as possible, as we have done every four years since 1948.

All working people have a stake in this struggle! Winning ballot status for the SWP gives us an opportunity to advance building our own political party, a labor party. The Democrats and Republicans both defend the interests of the employers whose attacks we face daily on our jobs, wages, working conditions and dignity at work.

If the political arena is left in the hands of the bosses and their parties, and we spend our time trying to figure out which is the "lesser of two evils," workers and our unions will continue to face blows from a government that serves the ruling class. But if workers forge our own labor party, we will have a powerful tool to fight to strengthen the unity of all workers and lead millions in struggle for the interests of all those who are exploited and oppressed.

The SWP is putting forward a fighting working-class program. No worker has to die on the job! Work can be performed safely, but as long as the capitalist class controls production, their profits will come before our health, limbs and lives.

To work safely, workers and our unions need to wage a fight to win control over all aspects of production. We should set the line speeds, organize the arrangement of work stations and have total power to put

in place other measures necessary to stop coronavirus infections and prevent work injuries.

As workers wrest greater control over production, we learn more about our own capacities and can see more clearly the need for our class and its allies to run the entire economy.

Neither Democratic nor Republican candidates act on the urgent need to reverse the rising joblessness facing the working class.

Our campaign calls for a government-funded public works program to put millions back to work at union-scale pay. Such a jobs program would be used to construct safe workplaces, rebuild and reopen shutdown hospitals and build schools where our children, teachers and other school workers can work safely.

Getting workers back on the job opens the door to acting together to stand up to the bosses and build unions. And, in the process, to build a labor party that can champion and lead these battles and fight for political power. On that foundation future progress for all toiling humanity can be made.

Campaign supporters are fighting to get on the ballot despite obstacles state governments place in front of working-class parties. In New York, for instance, Gov. Andrew Cuomo lowered the petitioning requirements of Democratic Party candidates to be on the primary ballot by 70%, then doubled the requirement for independent parties like the SWP to be on the ballot in November — the highest in the history of the state!

Join in the fight to get the Socialist Workers Party's presidential ticket on the ballot!

## Teachers need workers control for safe schools

### Continued from page 3

working-class fight. This is the *only* road forward. As the 2018 teachers strikes showed, school workers and their unions can organize and fight to accomplish this. We can't start by asking the bosses and the government to do this. They won't. Just look at their record of cuts to school funding.

This fight has to be linked to making a sharp break with the two parties of capitalist rule, the Democrats

and Republicans, and organizing an independent working-class political party, a labor party, to mobilize millions to fight for what working people need.

The transformation of learning requires a powerful working-class battle that can only be won by a fundamental change in society.

We need to fight to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class and its hangers on, and put in power a government of workers and farmers.

## LETTERS

### Decades helping build SWP

Fred White, a longtime supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, died June 10 in Atlanta following a heart attack. He was 77 years old.

Fred was born into a working-class family in Connecticut and, like other young men in the early 1960s, ended up in the military. He was stationed at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay when U.S.-backed mercenaries invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961. Workers and peasants in Cuba, led by Fidel Castro and the Revolutionary Armed Forces, defeated U.S. imperialism's attempt to overthrow the revolution in just three days. Fred liked to explain this was the origin of his lifelong support for the Cuban Revolution.

Fred joined the Young Socialist Alliance at the University of Tallahassee in Florida in the late 1960s and then the Socialist Workers Party. I first met Fred during the early 1970s, when he was a member of the Boston SWP branch, where he participated in the hard-fought battles to defend school desegregation and Boston's Black community from racist attack.

For the past 40-plus years, Fred

lived in Atlanta. After he became a supporter, he worked with other volunteers at the Pathfinder Press warehouse to fill orders for prisoners who wrote in from around the country for Pathfinder titles, offered at a discounted rate.

In the 1980s Fred was active in the fight to organize workers at the city water department — where he worked — bus drivers, employees at Grady Hospital and other city and Fulton County workers into American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1644.

In the 1990s, Fred decided to learn Spanish and took immersion courses in Ecuador and Mexico. In 1998, he met his wife, Rosa, a native of Mexico, at a restaurant in Athens, Georgia, that specialized

in tutoring Spanish as well as serving food. Rosa was one of those who helped patrons practice their Spanish while they enjoyed their meals.

In 2017 Fred joined the International May Day Brigade to Cuba, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Fred loved to read and looked forward to each new Pathfinder title. He also enjoyed attending Militant Labor Forums when his health permitted. Fred was a regular monthly contributor to the party, the *Militant* and party fund drives, a sign of his lifelong support for the SWP's working-class course and the socialist future we are fighting for.

Shortly before his death, Fred called to tell me he wanted to give his "stimulus" check to the party. He really enjoyed seeing that check go toward building the SWP.

Susan LaMont  
Atlanta, Georgia

### '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](http://www.themilitant.com)

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

## Fight 'Militant' ban

### Continued from front page

The main article on page 3 is a continuation of a front-page story covering nationwide protests against police brutality. It describes protests demanding the cops be prosecuted for the killing of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky; Elijah McClain in Aurora, Colorado; and Ejaz Choudry in Mississauga, Ontario.

Two photographs show a June 27 protest by thousands in Aurora against the killing of McClain, and violinists playing music to honor him as cops confront the protesters. McClain played the violin to comfort animals at area shelters. Coverage of such marches and rallies has appeared in thousands of newspapers over the past couple of months.

Page 4 contains reporting on the Socialist Workers Party national election campaign and its program. Photos show Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, SWP candidates for president and vice president, on the picket line with striking shipyard workers in Bath, Maine. Also pictured is a banner of the SWP candidates in a New York protest calling for "Prosecute cops responsible for police brutality!" Millions have joined similar protests in cities and towns in the U.S. over the past few months. Reporting on such developments certainly doesn't create "a danger" in "the correctional facility." And it is impermissible for prison officials to suppress news they just don't like.

"We will be reaching out to supporters of political rights as we have done many times before to send letters to Pennsylvania prison authorities urging them to reverse this ban," *Militant* editor John Studer said. "We're confident that this can be beaten back, as has been the case in most attempts to ban the *Militant* from our subscribers behind prison walls — from Florida to Indiana, Washington to California."

Among those who have spoken out, some numerous times, against similar efforts to ban the *Militant* are Amnesty International USA, National Lawyers Guild, PEN America, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, union officials and many others.

"At issue is the right to freedom of speech and of the press," continued Studer. "The millions of workers incarcerated in the U.S. must have the right to read and think for themselves, to form their own opinions about political developments in the U.S. and worldwide."

Pennsylvania authorities maintain a list of "denied publications," which shows every time a publication has been impounded and what the outcome was. The *Militant* has never been put on this list before.

We ask readers and supporters of free speech to send letters protesting the impoundment of the *Militant* to Diana Woodside, director of Policy, Grants and Legislative Affairs, Department of Corrections, 1920 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 or Email: [dwoodside@pa.gov](mailto:dwoodside@pa.gov).

### Ban on books

Pennsylvania prison officials have previously targeted the right of inmates to read what they want. Two years ago officials in Pennsylvania severely restricted prisoners' access to books. Under pressure from defenders of prisoners' rights, they had to back off.

In September 2018 new rules were announced, backed by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, that prisoners could no longer order books directly from publishers. They also could no longer receive free books donated over the years by organizations like Books Through Bars in Philadelphia and Book 'Em in Pittsburgh.

Two months later these restrictions were dropped. Family and friends can now order books and inmates can place orders directly from a hard-copy catalog and order free books. But they all have to be screened at a "processing center" in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, before prisoners can receive them.

### Fight 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](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)

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