

Mass protests in Belarus: 'Resign now, new elections'

BY ROY LANDERSEN

For the 10th Sunday in a row, 100,000 protesters filled the streets of Minsk, the capital of Belarus, Oct. 11, joined by tens of thousands more in other cities, demanding the resignation of Alexander Lukashenko. The hated ruler claimed he won the presidential election two months ago that was blatantly rigged. Protesters are calling for the release of political prisoners and new elections.

More than 700 protesters were grabbed by the cops and many were beaten, part of the regime's continuing efforts to put down the mass mobilizations. Police sprayed marchers with brightly colored dye from water cannons to identify them, then used tear gas and stun grenades against them.

The next day the interior ministry threatened to use live ammunition "if necessary" to quell the protests, complaining that some demonstrators had hurled bottles at riot police and others blocked roads with burning tires.

Despite the threats and brutality, the marches remain sizable and the

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Cut workweek with no cut in pay to stop layoffs



Fairacres Manor nursing home residents in Greeley, Colorado, backed by nursing staff, protest restrictions imposed on physical contact with loved ones Oct. 8. Rulers have shunted elderly into overcrowded, understaffed nursing homes, leaving thousands shut in to die.

Fight against rulers' attacks on workers' health, wages

This statement was released by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, Oct. 14.

Working people need to join together to fight for protection from the impact of the spreading capitalist social and economic crisis and to use all the resources available to stem the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

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

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Millions of workers in the U.S. have lost their jobs in the midst of a two-sided and intertwined capitalist economic and social crisis unfolding today.

One side is the efforts of the bosses and their government to make working people bear the brunt of a deep falloff in production and trade.

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Workers need a labor party to fight for all working people

BY TONY LANE

SHARON, Penn. — "You say you're different from Joe Biden or Donald Trump, let me shake your hand," Melinda Swartz, a worker at a stamping mill here, told Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president, and Dave Ferguson, the party's candidate for Congress in the 18th District, Oct. 9.

SWP candidates and campaigners have been meeting thousands of workers like Swartz coast to coast who are fed up with the capitalist parties.

"The Democrats and Republicans don't offer anything to working people, and the vast majority of working people know that," Jarrett tells them. "That's why workers need our own party, a labor party. It would be a real voice for working people, it would grow alongside a revitalized, expanding union movement, and would mobilize working people around issues like the fight against police brutality."

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Florida prisons back off ban on 3 issues of 'Militant,' but fight continues

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In an important victory for political rights, Florida prison officials Sept. 24 overturned their suppression of *Militant* issues nos. 33 and 34, and then two weeks later reversed their ban on no. 38.

Each of these issues had been suppressed for reporting on growing support for overturning a series of impoundments of the paper. But the response by a broad array of organizations and individuals sending letters to the Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee helped bring pressure to bear to get prison authorities to back off.

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Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books

Sept. 26 - Nov. 24 (week two)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	70	27	70	25
Atlanta	70	17	70	13
Chicago	110	37	110	22
Dallas	30	16	30	7
Lincoln	12	5	12	5
Los Angeles	90	25	90	29
Louisville	80	27	80	20
Miami	25	12	25	6
New Jersey	70	18	70	19
New York	85	37	85	28
Oakland	85	25	85	25
Philadelphia	25	11	25	7
Pittsburgh	40	21	40	8
Seattle	85	13	85	23
Twin Cities	25	5	25	8
Washington	60	23	55	20
Total U.S.	962	319	957	265
Prisoners	25	12		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	40	12	40	4
Manchester	35	11	35	3
Total U.K.	75	23	75	7
Canada	70	22	70	16
New Zealand	25	11	25	8
Australia	25	9	25	4
Total	1,182	396	1,152	300
SHOULD BE	1,200	300	1,200	300

Fed up with the two capitalist parties, workers scoop up the 'Militant,' books



Laid off cook Kim Pannella, center, with Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, right, and New Jersey U.S. Senate candidate Lea Sherman, in Philadelphia Oct. 10. "Whether Democrats or Republicans win election will make little difference to workers," Kennedy said. "The problem is capitalism." Intrigued, Pannella got *Militant* subscription, books.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Socialist Workers Party members and supporters of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, the party's presidential ticket, are taking the *Militant* and the campaign to fellow workers

in cities large and small, as well as to farm areas, from doorsteps to taxi lines and truck stops, to strike picket lines and social protests.

They are using the *Militant's* eight-

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On the picket line

- Canadian Dominion grocery workers strike wins solidarity 8
- Northern California hospital workers strike over short staffing 5
- Pennsylvania Steelworkers strike over NLMK concession contract 5
- Central Wash. vegetable packers organize to win union, rights 5

Fight against bans continues

Continued from front page

However, at that same Sept. 24 meeting the committee upheld a ban on issue no. 31. What is most significant here is that for the first time they gave a specific reason. Their “reason,” however, confirms that they banned no. 31 because they disagree with the paper’s political viewpoint. This is an explicit violation of First Amendment protections of freedom of speech and of the press.

In their Sept. 24 “notice of rejection” of the issue, officials at Florida State Prison in Raiford said the article, “Workers Oppose Federal Cops, Antifa Violence in Portland,” “is dangerously inflammatory” and that it “encourages, riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest” or “disruption of the institution.”

That accusation seems strange to anyone reading the article since it opposes both looting and violent attacks by groups like antifa in Portland, Oregon, as well as the government’s use of federal police and National Guard to attack political rights.

In a Sept. 28 letter to *Militant* attorney David Goldstein, Dean Peter-

son from the committee wrote that they rejected the appeal because “the language of the cited article calling for the replacement of cops and the entire justice system was sufficiently inflammatory to uphold the impoundment and reject the publication.”

This is a reference to the article’s last paragraph, which reports that Socialist Workers Party candidates in the 2020 election call for working people to build their own party, a labor party, that would help mobilize millions to bring to power a workers and farmers government. Replacing the capitalist government, the article explained, would open the door for uniting people to replace today’s entire criminal “justice” system, which exists to enforce capitalist exploitation and oppression. There is nothing “inflammatory” about the reporting.

“Florida prison officials have no right to suppress any issue of the paper because they disagree with its reporting on the political position of candidates running in the 2020 election, or any other political view,” said *Militant* editor John Studer. “Daily newspapers and other media frequently carry articles on the debate over police brutality, the criminal

‘justice’ system and the widespread protests against police brutality. Prisoners have the right to read and consider a wide range of views and to form their own opinion.”

The fight to defend the rights of the *Militant* and its readers behind bars is a cutting edge in the broader battles in defense of political rights. That’s why the Florida Press Association,

Protests hit cop killing of Jonathan Price in Texas



Herald-Banner/Brad Kellar

WOLFE CITY, Texas — Some 300 people turned out at the high school football stadium in this small, majority Caucasian town of 1,400 Oct. 10 to attend the funeral of Jonathan Price, a well-respected 31-year-old Black resident shot dead by city cop Shaun Lucas days earlier.

Authorities moved to quell outrage at the killing of the unarmed city worker and personal trainer by charging Lucas with murder and firing him. Price’s family is calling for authorities to release body camera footage of the killing.

Price had helped break up a dispute between two people outside the Kwik Chek convenience store Oct. 3. His family’s lawyer says Price stepped in when he saw a man assaulting a woman there.

Lucas says he arrived after getting a report of a “possible fight.” Price greeted him, offered to shake the officer’s hand and asked him if he was “doing good.” Lucas then tried to arrest Price, claiming he “appeared intoxicated.” When Price turned away, Lucas grabbed him and used a Taser, then shot him four times, killing him.

Helen Judkins, a laid-off oil equipment worker and friend of Price’s family, talked to this *Militant* worker-correspondent Oct. 7. “The thing the world needs is jobs and people who care and to come together to fight for that,” she said. “There has to be justice, because this is scary for everyone,” Staria Hashaway, who grew up with Price, told NBC.

— GEORGE CHALMERS

Fight prison ban on the ‘Militant’

Get letters of support from unions, churches and defenders of workers rights and free speech. Send to Dean Peterson, Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399, or email to Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com, with copies to themilitant@mac.com

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

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Amnesty International USA, American Civil Liberties Union - Florida, PEN America, the News Leaders Association and other individuals and organizations have joined in calling on Florida officials to overturn the bans.

“It is crucial that this fight over the rights of the press are public and publicized, to continue to press Florida officials to deliver the paper to our subscribers behind bars,” Studer said. “Join us in urging them to reject their explicit — and unconstitutional — attack on the paper’s reporting in issue no. 31.”

Send letters to Dean Peterson, Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South

Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399 or via email at Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com, with a copy to the *Militant* at themilitant@mac.com.

Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount plus \$2.75 shipping per order. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to:

Pathfinder Press, PO Box 162767
Atlanta GA 30321-2767

Friends and family members can order for them online. For more info:

www.pathfinderpress.com

THE MILITANT

Abolish the death penalty!

The U.S. government has executed seven federal inmates since July, the most in a single year since WWII. But opposition among working people to the death penalty continues to grow. The ‘Militant’ stands with the 2,600 prisoners, 55 in federal prisons, currently on death row.



Joseph C. Garza/The Tribune-Star via AP
Christopher Vialva’s mother speaks at protest in Indiana before his execution Sept. 24.

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Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Workers scoop up ‘Militant’

Continued from front page
week international drive underway now and through the elections to sign up subscribers and get books by party leaders and other revolutionaries into the hands of working people. They are also winning new contributors to the SWP Party-Building Fund, which runs simultaneously. And they’re finding real interest in a working-class paper and fighting campaign. The drive is ahead of schedule.

Members of Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are taking part in the drive as well.
At the end of the second week, campaigners report totals of 396 subscriptions (well ahead) and 300 books (right on target).

No worker should die on the job

Rebecca Williamson, SWP candidate for Congress in Washington’s 9th CD, spoke with roofer Adolfo Flores on his doorstep in Burien south of Seattle. Flores was injured on the job and is eligible for job training to find a new trade. “The Washington state government only covers half the cost of retraining,” he told Williamson. “How am I going to pay the other half?”

“No worker should be maimed or killed on the job,” Williamson told him. “Workers need to stick together to demand and enforce safe working conditions.” We need to fight for workers’ control of production, the only way we can really enforce safety on the job.

And workers need to demand that everyone out of work gets union-scale unemployment benefits until they are working again, she said.

Williamson pointed to the example of fruit packinghouse workers in the Yakima Valley who were on strike earlier in the year for safer working conditions, better pay and a union. She also told Flores about a fight for union representation also taking place at the Twin City Foods vegetable plant in Pasco.

“I used to work over there,” in the Yakima Valley, Flores said. He subscribed to the *Militant*, and picked up *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*, a collection of writings by revolutionaries Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, as well as *In Defense of the US Working Class* and *Is Socialist Revolu-*

tion in the US Possible? both by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

Fight for school safety

Jacob Perasso and Abby Tilsner, SWP candidates for Congress in up-state New York, met Elizabeth Hilder campaigning at a Walmart parking lot in Rutland, Vermont, Oct. 11. Hilder told them she quit her supermarket job to home school some of her children due to pandemic restrictions on school reopening.

“The question that faces workers is how to reopen schools safely,” Tilsner told her. “The only way to ensure that is for teachers and other school workers fighting to control conditions through their unions, in collaboration with parents.” A government-funded public works program could put people to work repairing and building classrooms, installing proper ventilation systems and other steps to allow students to go to class in person.

Hilder bought a subscription and a copy of *In Defense of the US Working Class*. Campaigners sold 12 subscriptions and seven books in Rutland and nearby towns, as part of talking to workers on their doorsteps and visiting dairy workers at their housing on the farm.

“I make \$12 an hour. It’s not enough,” 31-year-old moving company worker Quinton Goolsby told Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia, on his doorstep in Macon. “I’m not into politics — I’m into what’s real.” But when she showed him the SWP’s 2020 campaign platform he liked the section that calls for building the labor movement in every workplace and breaking with the Democratic and Republican parties. He subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* also by Jack Barnes.

In Louisville, Kentucky, two Walmart co-workers of Samir Hazboun, SWP candidate for Congress in the 3rd District, came to the Oct. 9 Militant Labor Forum where he spoke on the need for solidarity with striking workers at the Dominion grocery store chain in Newfoundland, Canada, and at DSI Tunneling in Louisville. Hazboun recommended reading *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Barnes. Both co-workers bought the book,

50 years ago: Ottawa sends troops to occupy Quebec

Fifty years ago this week, protests mounted in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada following the decision of Prime Minister Pierre-Elliot Trudeau — father of the Canadian prime minister today — to invoke the repressive War Measures Act on Oct. 16, 1970. His assault aimed to quell the rising movement for language and national rights of the Quebecois, a long oppressed French-speaking people in Canada, and stem growing moves towards the formation of a labor party based on the unions.

Some 8,000 soldiers occupied the streets of Montreal. More than 500 people were arrested without a warrant and over 31,000 search raids were carried out by the police and army. Vigorous protests involving the unions, students and others were organized to win the release of those detained.

Above, a firsthand report in Oct. 30, 1970, issue of the *Militant* from Mary-Alice Waters, the paper’s managing editor, who traveled to Montreal to help cover the struggle against the government’s assault.

Among those arrested in Trudeau’s roundup were Arthur Young and Penny Simpson, campaign manager and treasurer of the election campaign of Manon Leger, inset, candidate of the League for Socialist Action/Ligue socialiste ouvrière for Montreal mayor. The league was a forerunner of today’s Communist League.

Despite the arrests, League supporters waged an unflinching campaign, taking their literature to soldiers at army barracks and to working people across Quebec.

The government crackdown failed to quash the rising movement for national rights, which transformed conditions for people in Quebec.

The Militant Labor Forum is organizing a special forum Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m., at 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204 in Montreal. Next week’s *Militant* will feature further coverage.

— TERRY EVANS

subscribed to the *Militant*, and picked up some other books on special.

New contributors for party fund

“We’re getting a tremendous response to the SWP Party-Building Fund,” Ned Measel, fund organizer in Louisville, reports. “We have \$4,628 pledged toward our quota of \$5,000, which we thought would be challenging until we started asking for contributions. Seventeen people have pledged so far, including two first-

time contributors. Now we’re working on collecting it and raising more to help the Socialist Workers Party meet growing opportunities.”

The \$120,000 fund has a higher goal than in the last few years, reflecting greater opportunities and interest in the party today.

Tell your co-workers, friends and family about the *Militant*, the value of all the books on special offer, and the fund. To join in the effort see the directory on page 8.

New Pathfinder 2021 brochure presents arsenal for workers

BY JIM ALTENBERG

Pathfinder Press has just released new 2021 promotional brochures in both English and Spanish. These attractive “mini-catalogues” highlight Pathfinder’s newest titles, along with many others in the publishers’ arsenal needed by working people today to understand and act in the face of capitalism’s economic, social and moral crisis.

Of particular note are a new edition of Abram Leon’s *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation*, which takes up the historical development and continuing challenge of Jew-hatred today as well as the working-class road to resolve it once and for all; and *Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa*, which tells the story of Cuban volunteer medical personnel whose work was crucial in eradicating the deadly

2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa. It describes how their internationalist solidarity was grounded in the political and moral values of Cuba’s socialist revolution.

These and almost all of Pathfinder’s titles are enhanced with timely introductions, maps, glossaries, indexes, and many helpful photos and illustrations.

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party and *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions* are also featured in the new brochures. These two books, along with *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, all by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes, take up building a revolutionary party that is working class in program, composition and action. Also prominent in the 2021 brochure are Farrell Dobbs’ four-volume series on how workers

in the Midwest built a powerful fighting Teamsters union movement in the 1930s; *Cosmetics, Fashions and the Exploitation of Women*, which describes the working-class road to women’s emancipation; speeches by Malcolm X and Burkina Faso revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara; titles on the Bolshevik and Cuban revolutions and much more.

The new brochures will be an invaluable tool to introduce these political weapons to working people at their doorsteps, protest actions and strike picket lines. Pathfinder sales volunteers, who win orders for these books from bookstores and libraries, are already making plans to use the brochure to get out to customers across North America.

Copies can be obtained from distributors listed on page 8 or at www.pathfinderpress.com.

Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive		
Sept. 26-Nov. 24 (Week 2)		
Area	Quota	Collected
Albany	\$7,500	
Atlanta	\$11,000	\$1,336
Chicago	\$13,000	\$1,300
Dallas	\$2,750	
Lincoln	\$325	\$74
Los Angeles	\$12,500	
Louisville	\$5,000	\$310
Miami	\$3,750	
New York	\$15,500	\$307
N. New Jersey	\$6,000	\$1,680
Oakland	\$12,750	\$3,252
Philadelphia	\$3,500	
Pittsburgh	\$3,000	
Seattle	\$12,500	\$750
Twin Cities	\$4,250	
Wash., DC	\$6,000	
Other		
Total	\$119,325	\$9,009
Should Be	\$120,000	\$30,000

Workers need a labor party

Continued from front page

Reporter David Dye and photographer Tanner Mondok from the *Herald*, a daily paper here, were accompanying Jarrett and Ferguson as they spoke with working people on their doorsteps. They saw the response the SWP candidates are getting and joined in the discussions with working people who took campaign material, signed up to get the *Militant* and bought books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionists.

Dye asked whether the party's jobs program was like measures enacted by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the 1930s Great Depression. What the SWP is putting forward is "the opposite of what Roosevelt carried out," Jarrett said.

The party's platform calls on workers and their unions to fight for a government-financed public works program "that would put workers to work building the things we need and at union-scale wages," such as hospitals, schools, decent housing, child care centers and mass transit. To fight layoffs, the platform raises the need to fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, to spread around the available work.

The work projects organized by the Roosevelt administration were mostly make-work programs that robbed workers of their dignity and paid them barely enough to stay alive. The government did everything in its power to block these workers from forming unions.

Jarrett and Ferguson told those they met about the need to give solidarity to some 400 members of the United Steelworkers union on strike at the NLMK rolling mill in nearby Farrell, fighting against bosses' demands to raise workers' health care costs.

Swartz is also a member of the United Steelworkers union. She told the SWP candidates she knew some of the strikers and has been talking about their fight with her co-workers at the stamping mill. "Some say those

striking are just being bullheaded," Swartz said. "If I went on strike right now I'd just be hard-pressed." The question, she said, is do you fight "or do you just bow down?"

Jarrett agreed. "Working people can be transformed in struggle. We're capable of anything, including taking political power into our own hands and wielding it for all humanity."

Jarrett had visited the striking Steelworkers on their picket line the day before.

"We're fighting to continue to get yearly raises. The company wants to put an end to that," Elton Brown, one of the strikers, told Jarrett. "I don't want to give up something I've had for the last 21 years." Members of United Steelworkers Local Unit 1016-03 have been on strike for seven weeks.

The company doesn't want people outside the immediate area to know about the strike, Brown said. "The company wants to keep it right here in the [Shenango] valley."

When working people hear about the strike they will want to back it, Jarrett said. He told Local 1016-03 President Jim Wells that he and Alyson Kennedy, the party's candidate for president, will be talking about the strike and encouraging solidarity as they campaign around the country.

SWP candidate in Philadelphia: 'Wages should rise with inflation'

BY LEA SHERMAN

PHILADELPHIA — "How is it that the prices of everything are higher, and our wages are the same?" Carlos Lozada, a home health care worker, told Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy when she and other campaigners knocked on his door here Oct. 10.

The capitalists take advantage of every opportunity to make us pay for their crisis, Kennedy said. The party's platform says that workers and our unions should fight for automatic cost-of-living increases, so that "when prices go up our wages should go up," Kennedy said. "Everyone without a job should get unemployment benefits, whether they have government-recognized work documents or not, for as long as they can't find a job."

Kennedy also spoke with Kim Pannella, a cook for 26 years at a catering company until the owners shut down the business, leaving 11 workers without a job, severance pay or any benefits.

Pannella's husband works at a large union-organized pharmaceutical company. They've been working without a contract since February, and have gone for quite a while without a pay raise, even though the company is raking in profits, she said.

Pannella told Kennedy that she supported Donald Trump in the 2016 election, and will vote for him again,



Militant/Tony Lane

"Let me shake your hand," Melinda Swartz, in Sharon, Pennsylvania, told SWP vice presidential candidate Malcolm Jarrett, left, and David Ferguson, the party's candidate for 18th Congressional District in Pennsylvania, Oct. 9, after learning workers can vote for SWP instead of Donald Trump or Joe Biden. "Workers need our own party, a labor party," Jarrett said.

even though "I do not like the man."

She told Kennedy she agreed with Trump's tariffs on China, and credits him with "bringing back some jobs."

"Whatever party is in power, whether they back so-called free trade or protectionist tariffs, it makes little difference to workers," Kennedy said. "Neither Trump nor Biden can prevent the world economic slowdown. The Trump administration claims its policies have created more jobs, but what kind? The sort of jobs we have had for decades with low wages and a lot of part-time work. The problem we face is the capitalist profit system."

Pannella said she liked the campaign platform's call for a jobs program to put millions back to work at union-scale pay. "Why don't they have trade schools, vocational schools anymore?" she asked. "I went to school for cosmetology. And I became a cook. I learned this at vocational school."

"The schools aren't organized to educate," Kennedy said. "They are organized to try to make workers be obedient and accept our place in their system."

"The working class is the only force that can change the conditions we face," Kennedy said. "We produce everything. We need to bring a workers and farmers government to power, and use the wealth that we produce to begin solving the crisis that faces humanity."

Pannella got the titles *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* and *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*, both by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, along with a subscription to the *Militant*.

SWP candidates tour schedule

Oct. 13 - 18

New York City/N. New Jersey

Oct. 20 - 24

Kennedy - Louisville; Jarrett - Albany

Oct. 27 - Nov. 1

Kennedy - Chicago; Jarrett - Twin Cities



Militant/Raul Gonzalez

Joel Britton, right, SWP candidate for 13th Congressional District in California, shows *Teamster Rebellion*, story of hard-fought strikes that built a union and made Minneapolis a union town, to participant in Oct. 10 San Francisco demonstration in solidarity with struggle to bring down Lukashenko regime in Belarus.

'The Socialist Workers Party candidates are out there just like us, finding ways to make this world and their community a better place.'

Angie Lara, right, vice president of Workers United for Justice at Allan Brothers, talking to Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for president, in Washington's Yakima Valley. Lara helped lead strike for better conditions and union recognition.



Endorse the 2020 Socialist Workers Party campaign!

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.
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- ☐ Send me a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly. (\$5 enclosed, checks payable to the *Militant*.)

Send in along with your name, address, phone # and e-mail address to:
Socialist Workers Party 2020 Campaign, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, NY, NY 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282 Email: socialistworkers2020@gmail.com

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world! This column is dedicated to spreading the truth about workers' struggles for a union movement in every workplace today. It gives a voice to those engaged in battle and helps build solidarity. We need your help to make it a success. If you are involved in a skirmish or strike or know other workers who are, please contact me at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story gets told.

— Roy Landersen

Northern California hospital workers strike over short staffing

SAN LEANDRO, Calif. — Over 4,000 health care workers struck for five days here and at five other hospitals across Alameda and San Joaquin counties during the first week of October, in defense of health and safety for their patients and themselves.

"They want to shred every article of our current contract," Linda Strack, a telemetry nurse at Alameda Hospital, told the *Militant* Oct. 10. "They want to disband our safety committee. Instead of having one nurse from every department on it, they say, 'Why not just have one nurse?'"

"We are striking because it will only get worse unless we do something," she said. "We are here for our patients."

Over 3,000 members of the Service Employees International Union, including RNs and many other job classifications, as well as 1,125 nurses organized in the California Nurses Association, are on strike. They are challenging the way hospital administrators have responded to COVID-19 by doubling down on long-term profit-driven practices of short staffing and cost cutting.

At the Fairmont rehabilitation hospital, food service worker Cristian Paz led picketers in chants of, "Air conditioning, not popsicles." The hospital is over 100 years old, he told the *Militant*, and temperatures in patient rooms reached 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the recent heat wave. Bosses issued popsicles to "cool" patients down. "We are short staffed," Paz said. "Management chooses to pay overtime instead of scheduling adequate staff. And instead of hiring, they use staffing agencies."

The *East Bay Times* has tried to scandalize the workers, echoing the bosses at Alameda Health System saying workers shouldn't be striking "in the middle of pandemic." But strikers say support among working people there is strong.

"It's not just nurses on strike," Alison Austin, an RN at Fairmont hospital, told the *Militant*. "It's also clerical workers, nutritionists, receptionists, all the jobs. When we all walked out it looked like Exodus!"

— Eric Simpson

Pennsylvania Steelworkers strike over NLMK concession contract

FARRELL, Penn. — More than 400 United Steelworkers, members of Local 1016-03, have been on strike since Aug. 22 at the NLMK rolling mill here.

A majority of workers oppose the new medical insurance plan in the company's

proposed contract, "which would have less coverage than the one we have," Joe Germano, a roll grinder in the rolling mill, told the *Militant* on the picket line Oct. 3. It would have a \$4,500 pre-pay, local President Jim Wells added.

Union members were outraged, Wells said, when they heard that after a worker had died, the company shut down his family's insurance the next day. When the union demanded such callous measures be ruled out by the contract, the bosses took their signing bonus and proposed pay increase out of their offer.

More than a dozen members of United Electrical Workers Local 506, who work at the Wabtec plant in Erie, joined the Oct. 3 picket line. Workers there had struck for nine days early last year against company concession demands. Elton Brown, a shipper at NLMK, said how he told his brother, who is active in the UE local in Erie, about their strike. He and his co-workers "brought solidarity, which was good."

"The community support is outstanding, bringing food, toilet paper, wood and water," Wells said.

Messages of support and contributions can be sent to: USW Local 1016, 107 Broadway Ave, Wheatland, PA 16161. Tel.: (724) 346-1212.

— Tony Lane

Central Wash. vegetable packers organize to win union, rights

PASCO, Wash. — "Work is hard and there are a lot of accidents," Maria Meraz Cortez said to the *Militant* at a rally of more than 80 people outside Twin City Foods here in central Washington Oct. 2. The workers are fighting for safer working conditions, better wages and against higher health care costs. Two co-workers from the plant have died from COVID-19 and workers say the company has been disregarding safety. One worker's sign read, "We are people, not machines."



Militant/Eric Simpson

Health care workers picket in front of Fairmont Wellness Center in San Leandro, California, Oct. 8 during five-day strike at six public hospitals for safety for patients and themselves.

"There are some 560 workers" at the plant, which processes and packs frozen peas, corn, carrots and lima beans, Jorge Villegas, who works on the plant floor, told the *Militant*. Of these, only about 180 are permanent workers, with the rest seasonal employees, including many brought in from Mexico.

"The supervisors can fire anyone, anytime, even the best workers, without any reason," said Meraz, who has worked there since November 2018 and is still not a permanent worker. "Workers really hate this." She added, "When we report an injury, we are told, 'go to the Cold Room' [freezer] to work." The workers are fighting to win the United Food and Commercial Workers union to represent them. Some 200 workers have signed cards for the UFCW and the union has filed with the National Labor Relations Board for an election.

Along with lots of honks from passersby, signs reflected solidarity from the region, including from Columbia Basin College faculty, Teamsters and grocery workers, a firefighter, as well as Walmart workers and a railroad worker from the Seattle area.

Three carloads of people, including workers from a packinghouse in Naches, joined the rally. After a three-week strike in May, they too are fighting to form a union at Allan Brothers, a fruit packing company. Agustín López spoke for their new union, Trabajadores Uni-

dos por la Justicia (Workers United for Justice) at the rally, backing the workers at Twin City Foods in their struggle.

— Rebecca Williamson

After one-day strike, pharmacy workers locked out in Quebec

VARENNES, Quebec — After a one-day strike here Sept. 23, some 700 workers, members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) at the warehouse for the Jean Coutu pharmacy chain in Quebec, found themselves locked out the next day.

The union is demanding the employees be trained in all the jobs so that there can be just one job classification, with all warehouse workers entitled to the same pay and benefits. Audrey Benoit, president of the union, told the *Militant* the employers are "dragging things out."

Jean Coutu was bought out by Metro, a major food chain in Canada, in 2018 and integrated with another chain of pharmacies, where truckers work for a nonunion subcontractor. The unionists want every worker to be in the union.

This is the third company lockout since 1992. Benoit said the lockout is having an impact on delivery of medications to pharmacies. The workers have received solidarity from other CSN unions and the United Steelworkers. The workers are reaching out for support by picketing Jean Coutu pharmacies.

— Joe Young

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 30, 1995

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Iowa State Board of Parole for the first time in three years have agreed to meet with [Mark] Curtis.

Curtis, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, has been incarcerated since 1988, when he was framed on charges of rape and burglary while defending 17 co-workers at the Monfort (formerly Swift) meatpacking company. The "Swift 17" had been seized in an immigration raid on the plant. Curtis was beaten in the city jail by cops who called him a "Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds."

In September, a delegation of more than 20 trade unionists, political activists, local clergy, a farmer, former neighbors of Curtis, and other defense committee backers met with members of the parole board and delivered letters urging he be freed.



October 30, 1970

MONTREAL — Strong protest against the abrogation of all civil liberties throughout the province of Quebec was being heard here as Quebecois and Canadians reacted to the imposition of Canada's sweeping war measures act. Federal troops have been patrolling the streets of Montreal for almost a week.

Resentments run strong against this manifestation of the contempt of Canada's rulers for the basic rights of the Quebecois, who have been oppressed and discriminated against since Canada became a British colony several hundred years ago. But resistance to English Canadian oppression is also part of the historical record.

Questions remain unanswered. The answers depend on the strength of the mounting protest against this most serious threat to the civil liberties of Canadian citizens since the second world war.



October 27, 1945

The British dock strike continues solid. Estimates of the number of strikers range as high as 50,000. Striving desperately to crush this greatest dock strike since 1926, the government is bringing back troops from the continent to unload the 300 ships tied up in British ports. Some 10,000 soldiers are now being forced to act as strikebreakers.

The strike began a month ago in Liverpool when small groups of Longshoremens, fighting to maintain and improve wage standards, began walking out against the orders of the official union heads. The apparently "spontaneous" strike is led by a number of rank and file committees.

The workers resorted to the strike weapon to keep up their standard of living and to counter attempts of the bosses to place the burdens of the imperialist war on the backs of the working class.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Pandemic and Economic Crises — What Way Forward for Working People? Speaker: Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Fri., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Tel.: (312) 792-6160.

Canadian Dominion grocery workers strike wins solidarity

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

After more than six weeks on strike at Dominion stores in Newfoundland, Canada, more than 100 pickets from Unifor Local 597 and their supporters rallied in the rain Oct. 8 in the parking lot at a nonunion No Frills supermarket in Paradise, near the provincial capital St. John's. No Frills, like Dominion, is a subsidiary of Loblaw Companies Limited, owned by Galen Weston, one of the richest capitalists in Canada.

"The weather is not going to stop us. We're in this for the long haul," Kim Neil, a striker who has worked at Dominion for 30 years, told the press. Neil has been on the picket line twice before, during a 1997 strike and a lockout in 2003. "This is different this time. I think people are sick of being pushed around, not being treated fairly. Fair wages, sick days for part-timers, more full-time jobs. We want to work for Dominion, but they are not willing to be fair."

Strikers loudly chanted, "Listen Ga-

len hear our cry, when we're screwed, we multiply," and "One day longer, one day stronger." The strike by 1,400 members of the Unifor local at the 11 Dominion stores is one of the most important labor battles in North America today. It occurs against a backdrop of an increasing number of other strikes and organizing battles. Loblaw is the largest private employer in Canada. More than 80% of Dominion workers are classified as part time, with limited access to benefits. And they haven't received a raise since 2018.

The Dominion workers are fighting to reverse an insulting attack on their wages. In June Loblaw bosses unceremoniously cancelled a 2 Canadian-dollar-an-hour raise (\$1.50) given to "essential" workers when coronavirus exploded. The three-year contract the bosses are offering workers would only restore half that amount.

The day before the rally, Unifor 597 pickets had organized collections for the Newfoundland Food Bank in front of all 11 Dominion stores. "We're get-



Unifor Local 597

Rally at nonunion No Frills supermarket, Paradise, Newfoundland, Oct. 8. Some 1,400 Unifor Local 597 members have been on strike against Dominion grocery store bosses since Aug. 22.

ting support from the public, and we wanted to give back," one worker said in a video posted on the union website.

After almost two months on strike, the Dominion workers need solidarity

in their fight. Messages of support and donations should be sent to Unifor Local 597 at 301-55 Bond St., P.O. Box 922 Station C, St. John's, NL A1C 5L7, Canada, or info@unifor597.ca.

Socialist Workers Party updated 2020 campaign platform

WORKERS NEED A UNION MOVEMENT IN EVERY WORKPLACE. The Socialist Workers Party presents a fighting working-class program to build and use our unions to defend the interests of all working people. We need to fight growing employer attacks on our jobs, wages and working conditions. Build solidarity with workers' struggles to organize and defend themselves. Use union power on our own behalf, and for all those suffering blows by the bosses and their government. One union for all drivers — taxi, Uber, Lyft and other app-based and car service drivers!

MILLIONS NEED JOBS TODAY! Our unions need to fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building hospitals, schools, housing, mass transportation and much more that workers need. Fight for a sliding scale of hours and wages to stop layoffs and the effects of runaway prices. Cut the workweek with no cut in pay! For cost-of-living clauses in every contract that raise pay and retirement benefits to offset every rise in prices!

Demand immediate national government unemployment benefits at union scale for *all* those thrown out of work as long as they need it.

WORKERS NEED THEIR OWN PARTY, A LABOR PARTY. For our unions to lead a class break from the parties of the bosses, the Democrats and Republicans. A labor party can organize workers in our millions to fight in our own interest and in the interests of all those exploited and oppressed by capital. It can chart a course to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and establish a workers and farmers government.

WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION. Workers need to fight to wrest control of production out of the hands of the bosses. Employers care about profits, not the dangerous conditions we're forced to work under. This is the only road to take control of and enforce safety and health on the job. Demand the bosses open their books for inspection by workers and consumers. Work-

ers control of production is a school for learning to run the economy ourselves, in the interests of all producers, a crucial step alongside building a labor party to fight to take political power.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND. To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we support demands for nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to monopolization by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver's licenses for all.

OPPOSE WASHINGTON'S WARS. US hands off Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

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FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL & OF A CONTIGUOUS PALESTINIAN STATE.

The leaders of Arab states, of Israel and Palestinian leaders need to meet and recognize both the state of Israel and an independent Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred and murderous violence.

CUBA'S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation. End the US rulers' economic war against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo.

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

FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY! Demand that cops who kill and brutalize people be prosecuted. Fight racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system, with its frame-ups, "plea bar-

gains," onerous bail and "three strike" prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO ABORTION.

Defend women's right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

DEFEND POLITICAL RIGHTS. Defend the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Defend freedom of worship. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption. No to middle-class radical "cancel culture" and their efforts to shut up people they deem "politically incorrect."

DEFEND RIGHTS OF PRISONERS. End solitary confinement. End suppression of the *Militant*, books and other newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

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ALYSON KENNEDY

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Fight attacks on our health, wages



MALCOLM JARRETT

Continued from front page

We should demand the government ramp up production and distribution of the three-drug package President Donald Trump received when he was hospitalized that helped reduce the impact of the virus. This should be made available to *all* those stricken with the virus, free of charge.

Until a vaccine is developed and tested, it will be working people, especially the elderly, who are most exposed to the disease.

The U.S. rulers let bosses inflict a deadly toll on elderly residents in nursing homes, housing them in close proximity, alongside patients with COVID-19, while cutting staff in their drive for profits. Such conditions guaranteed the spread of the virus, epitomizing the callous values of the ruling capitalist families, for whom the lives of workers they can no longer exploit have no value.

The only section of the working class hit harder has been those who find themselves ground up by the criminal “justice” system and thrown into prison.

The Democratic and Republican parties and their candidates are committed to defending the for-profit U.S. health industry of hospitals, pharmaceutical monopolies and insurance behemoths whose every decision is based on maximizing their take. Millions in this country are left without medical coverage.

Access to health care cannot be based on an individual worker’s ability to pay. Health care must be a human right. Working people and our unions need to fight for a social solution, for cradle-to-grave health care for *all*. The SWP campaign starts from what working people need, not what the bosses say is “possible” under their dog-eat-dog capitalist system.

One inspiring example for workers here and worldwide to emulate is the way the Cuban Revolution — despite the pressure of decades of economic warfare from Washington — organizes to assure its people get

health care. Clinics are located in workers’ communities, and all the resources of the country are organized equally to reach every Cuban, at no cost. As they say, “No one is left on their own.”

And they offer their medical services to any country that asks, an example of selfless internationalism.

More workers are finding ways to stand up to attacks on our jobs, wages and working conditions — organizing strikes and protests in the face of the bosses’ unquenchable drive to dump the costs of today’s crisis onto our backs. These battles — like strikes at Newfoundland’s Dominion grocery stores, at NLMK Steel in Pennsylvania, by hospital workers in Northern California — deserve widespread solidarity.

Workers need to unite around a program of action that can meet our needs at *all* levels, including to halt the debilitating impact of rising joblessness. The SWP campaign says workers need to use our unions to fight for a shorter workweek with *no cut in pay*, to spread the available work around and prevent layoffs.

We need to fight for a government-funded public works program to put those cast out of work back in a job at union-scale pay, to build the things we need — hospitals, housing, schools and more.

To combat the inflation that is growing at the grocery store, we need escalator clauses in all union contracts and programs like Social Security that guarantee our wages go up to match any rise in prices.

To advance this course of struggle workers need our own political party, a labor party, that we can use to fight the rulers’ assault on all those who are exploited and oppressed by the workings of their system.

The Socialist Workers Party acts on the capacities of working people to fight together to change these conditions. As we do so we can build a self-confident and class-conscious movement of millions to bring an end to capitalist rule, and replace it with a workers and farmers government.

Join us!

‘Racial sensitivity’

Continued from page 7

sponse in cities, towns and rural areas earlier this year to join in protests against the cop killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

These protests, and others, were dealt a death blow by the leaders of Black Lives Matter, who champion looting and thuggery and who promote the same outlook as Bell.

Efforts to demonize working people who are Caucasian as innately reactionary are reinforced by the *New York Times* 1619 Project, which has been widely adopted in classrooms across the country. Packaged as “history,” this project joins in minimizing the importance of the centurieslong record of struggle against racial oppression. Instead, its author, Nikole Hannah-Jones, says, “Anti-Black racism runs in the very DNA of this country.”

The fact is that as a result of these struggles, there is less racism among working people today than ever. But as long as the capitalist ruling families hold power, they will continue to foster every form of prejudice to try to deepen divisions among us to perpetuate their rule.

“Racial sensitivity” training is one more tool they are grabbing to continue to do so. It also provides lucrative positions for those who promote and administer such programs, who are part of a growing parasitic social layer that are an integral social prop for continued capitalist exploitation and oppression.

Their ideology is promoted by a significant wing of the capitalist rulers — like the Sulzberger family that owns the *New York Times* and fervently backs the 1619 Project, despite growing evidence it is built on distortions of history. They see its authors and promoters as an important part of advancing the rule of their class.

As working people wage struggles against the deepening economic and social crisis we face today, we need to learn more about the history of our class and the lessons of previous battles, including the fight for Black rights. Doing so arms us for the mighty class struggles to come to overthrow capitalist rule, establish a workers and farmers government, and *use it* as the strongest weapon possible to end racist discrimination and violence once and for all.

Demand federal gov’t-financed public works program to create jobs

Continued from front page

The other is the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. It not only exacerbates the economic squeeze, but workers face a health industry of hospitals, pharmaceutical and insurance monopolies, and nursing homes where bosses’ decisions are based on making profit and workers have a very difficult time getting any serious care.

At the same time, food and electric prices are rising more rapidly than official Consumer Price Index figures, further cutting into workers’ take-home pay, pensions and Social Security.

For weeks the media has reported large companies laying off thousands of workers. Royal Dutch Shell said last month it’s cutting up to 9,000 jobs. BP has announced plans to eliminate about 10,000.

Bosses at Chevron Corp., the second-largest U.S. oil producer, say they’re eliminating many workers’ current jobs and will require these now former employees to reapply for jobs, saying unabashedly their goal is to cut costs at workers’ expense. As a start, some 700 workers in Houston are being taken off the company’s payroll starting Oct. 23. Worldwide, the company plans to slash some 7,000 jobs.

Amtrak bosses announced Oct. 8 that 2,400 workers’ jobs are on the chopping block. Restaurant chain Ruby Tuesday filed for bankruptcy Oct. 9, announcing 185 of its 421 restaurants will be closed for good. And the list goes on.

Some 1.3 million workers filed applications for state or federal unemployment benefits for the week ending Oct. 3, bringing the number seeking temporary relief to 25.5 million. Many others are out of work but aren’t getting any government aid, including those whose unemployment applications haven’t been processed or approved, immigrant workers without papers and part-time workers who aren’t eligible.

According to the government, 22 million jobs were eliminated in March and April, but today only 11 mil-

lion of these workers are back. That’s before the thousands of job losses being announced by bosses today.

The bosses’ goal is to increase production with fewer workers, using speedup and disdain for health and safety. According to an AFL-CIO report issued this month, 5,250 workers lost their lives on the job in 2018. That comes to an average of 14 workers a day. And that was a “normal” year, before COVID-19.

Rising prices of necessities

The government insists that the annual inflation rate for August over 2019 was just 1.7%. That’s why they plan virtually no cost-of-living increases for those on Social Security, disability or most pensions.

But what they’re referring to is so-called core inflation, which excludes food and energy prices. As workers well know, these prices are rising far more rapidly.

In the vice presidential candidates debate Oct. 7, Republican incumbent Mike Pence claimed the economy is fine. Democrat Kamala Harris said that’s not true and President Donald Trump is responsible, because he has allowed the coronavirus disease to spread. But both candidates and their parties have no proposals to defend the interests of the working classes.

The SWP presidential and vice presidential candidates Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett are the only ones putting forward a program advancing a working-class road forward.

They say the number one question is jobs and fighting to put millions back to work with a government-funded public works program to create jobs at union-scale wages and build hospitals, schools, housing and other things working people need. They call for cutting the workweek with no cut in pay, to spread the available work around and prevent layoffs. Every worker who wants one should have a productive job!

The SWP says workers need to build a union movement to fight for escalator clauses in every con-

tract and government entitlement program so our pay goes up to match any price increases, to protect our living standards.

The rulers for-profit ‘health’ setup

The U.S. rulers’ health care industry, like all others under capitalism, is based on generating profits, not providing care. The capitalist rulers themselves don’t have to worry about this setup, they can buy the best treatment available, whether experimental or on the market. And they extend the privilege to the meritocratic professional layers who facilitate their control.

When President Trump got COVID-19 he had his own government-paid doctors and exclusive treatment. This included getting an experimental antibody treatment by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, antiviral remdesivir and the steroid dexamethasone.

“Production of this package of drugs should be ramped up immediately and made available for everyone who needs them, free of charge,” Kennedy told the *Militant*.

Instead, the rulers tell workers to stay at home if you don’t feel well and see what happens, unless you find you can no longer breathe. Then you can go for some help, which at that point often means getting stuck on a ventilator. At least 80% of coronavirus patients in New York City put on ventilators ultimately died.

Former Colorado Democratic liberal Gov. Dick Lamm was unusually blunt in justifying the large-scale deaths of the elderly. When you’re old “you’ve got a duty to die and get out of the way,” he said. “We have a bigger duty when we ration medicine to a 5-year-old than to an 85-year-old.”

The Socialist Workers Party candidates say the opposite. “Medical care must be a right for all, not based on age or insurance eligibility or ability to pay,” Kennedy said. “The SWP calls for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care.”