

‘US hands off Cuba! End British complicity!’

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN AND ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

LONDON — Dozens of people joined “Hands off Cuba” protests here and in Manchester Nov. 7, demanding a halt to Washington’s economic war against Cuba aimed at advancing its decadeslong effort to overturn the Cuban Revolution. In an attack on freedom of assembly, police prevented protesters in Manchester from continuing their action after one hour.

“We are here today because the U.S. government has been stepping up its attacks against Cuba,” said Jonathan Silberman, a Communist League leader, who helped organize the protest in London’s Seven Sisters neighborhood.

These attacks include restrictions that have led to the closure of Western Union offices in Cuba, making it more difficult for Cubans living in the U.S. to send money to their families back home along with other measures making daily life increasingly difficult for Cubans.

“One thing that is less known,”  
Continued on page 4

Workers need our own party, a labor party!



Utica Observer-Dispatch/Alex Cooper

Workers march in Iliion, New York, Nov. 7, demand Remington Arms Co. honor union contract, give severance and vacation pay after plant shut down. Millions in U.S. have lost jobs.

A fighting course forward for working people today

The Socialist Workers Party and its 2020 candidates raised proposals and set an example advancing the struggles of working people against the effects of a social, economic and health crisis caused by the workings of capitalist exploitation that isn’t going away.

The party’s uncompromising stand  
Continued on page 8

Rulers’ response to 2020 vote shows fear of working class

BY TERRY EVANS

The 2020 presidential election is over say the Associated Press, CNN and other liberal news media. They’ve declared Democrat Joe Biden the next president, weeks prior to states certifying the vote; or the results of the recount underway in Georgia; or the

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‘Militant,’ books aid working people looking to confront capitalist crisis



Militant/Maggie Trowe

Taija Sexton, left, and Timothy Hays subscribe to *Militant*, get *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* in Bowling Green, Kentucky, from SWP campaigner Ellen Brickley Nov. 7.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Socialist Workers Party members are finding just as much receptivity to the *Militant*, books by party leaders and other revolutionary leaders, and the action program they raise for workers and our unions

to fight on today, as they did before the Nov. 3 elections. Many working people know that no matter who is in the White House there is no end in sight to the capitalist economic and social crisis.

With two weeks to go to complete  
Continued on page 3

SWP wins first round in Washington disclosure fight

BY MARY MARTIN

SEATTLE — The fight against government threats in Washington state to disclose the names and addresses of the electors here for the 2020 Socialist Workers Party presidential slate of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett has won an important initial victory. On Nov. 3 state officials informed Kathy Barnard, attorney for the Socialist Workers Party campaign, that the secretary of state’s office has decided to not disclose the personal information of the electors in response to the request they received. They will only disclose the information on the electors of the candidate who carried the state. This appears to be Democrat Joe Biden.

However the state also said that if a renewed request is made by anyone specifically asking for the SWP electors’ information, the party would have to take legal action to block its release. The party and its attorneys in the well-known labor law firm Barnard Iglitzin & Lavitt stand ready to respond as needed.

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Mass protests force Polish government retreat from attack on abortion rights

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Mass protests have taken place in Poland since an Oct. 22 ruling by the country’s Constitutional Tribunal ordered a near-total ban on abortion. Within hours of the decision people were in the streets. Since then daily rallies and marches have grown. Even the police admit that more than 400,000 people attended some 400 actions across the country Oct. 28.

These are the largest protest actions  
Continued on page 2

Fall Campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books

Sept. 26 - Nov. 24 (week six)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	70	49	70	36
Atlanta	70	52	70	55
Chicago	110	86	110	84
Dallas	30	25	30	22
Lincoln	12	10	12	10
Los Angeles	90	67	90	69
Louisville	80	63	80	59
Miami	25	15	25	12
New Jersey	70	52	70	54
New York	85	81	85	71
Oakland *	85	67	95	86
Philadelphia	25	20	25	19
Pittsburgh	40	32	40	20
Seattle	85	50	85	47
Twin Cities *	30	28	25	19
Washington *	60	47	60	46
Total U.S.	967	744	972	709
Prisoners	25	28		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	40	35	40	36
Manchester	35	34	35	33
Total U.K.	75	69	75	69
Canada	85	67	85	87
New Zealand	25	24	25	16
Australia	25	18	25	14
Total	1,202	950	1,182	895
SHOULD BE	1,200	900	1,200	900
*Raised goal				

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Belarus regime attacks protests, forced to free unionists 7

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Newfoundland strikers vote on Dominion’s ‘final offer’

Visually impaired unionists fight layoffs, for safety



# U.S. gov't to execute first woman in nearly 70 years

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The U.S. government has scheduled the first execution of a woman in nearly 70 years, setting a Dec. 8 date to put Lisa Montgomery to death. This will be the eighth federal execution since mid-July after a 17-year break in the capitalist rulers' use of this barbaric punishment.

All these executions take place by lethal injection of the drug pentobarbital at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana. This drug attacks the brain and central nervous system and is also used to euthanize animals.

Montgomery, from Melvern, Kansas, is the only woman on federal death row and has been there since 2008. She was convicted for the 2004 killing of Bobbie Jo Stinnett, who was eight months pregnant. Montgomery cut the baby girl from her abdomen and attempted to pass it off as her own child.

"Lisa Montgomery has long accepted full responsibility for her crime," her attorney, Kelley Henry, told the press. "But her severe mental illness and the devastating impact of her childhood trauma make executing her a profound injustice." Henry said this included being sex-trafficked as a child by her mother and gang-raped by adult men. All attempts by Montgomery to appeal her conviction and sentence have been exhausted.

The last federal execution of a woman occurred in 1953. Ethel Rosenberg and her husband Julius were sent to the electric chair that year, after refusing to admit their "guilt" in return for com-

mutation of their sentence. They were framed up on charges of conspiring to spy for the Soviet Union in the midst of an anti-communist witch hunt.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, 16 women have been executed by state authorities across the country.

The Justice Department also announced that Brandon Bernard will be executed two days after Montgomery is put to death. Bernard was convicted of involvement in the murder of two youth ministers in Texas in 1999, when he had just turned 18. His co-defendant, Christopher Vialva, who was then 19, was executed Sept. 24.

Despite declining public support for the death penalty, the capitalist rulers retain it as a tool to intimidate and terrorize working people, including vanguard workers who set an example by their determined resistance to the rulers' assaults.

## Protests force Polish gov't retreat from attack on abortion

**Continued from front page** in Poland in decades. Polls in the press say barely 15% of Poles back the threatened restrictions.

Feeling the pressure, the government has delayed publication of the court ruling indefinitely, meaning it hasn't gone into effect. Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki appealed for talks with the protesters and opposition lawmakers, as polls show a sharp drop in support for his ruling Law and Justice party.

The court decision would ban abor-



AP/Michael Conroy

**Protest at Indiana federal prison Aug. 26 against execution of a Native American, Lezmond Mitchell, opposed by Navajo Nation leaders. U.S. executions are among highest in the world.**

Over the years, capital punishment has been defended by both Democratic and Republican administrations. While President Donald Trump restarted federal executions this year, it was President Bill Clinton who signed the 1994 Violent Crime Control and

Law Enforcement Act, which added 60 federal crimes punishable by death.

During his 30-plus years in the Senate, Joe Biden consistently backed the use of the death penalty, only changing his position after announcing his candidacy for president.

tion in the case "of a severe and irreversible fetal defect or incurable illness that threatens the fetus's life." This was the grounds for 98% of all legal abortions in Poland last year. The procedure is now only allowed in cases of rape or incest, or if the woman's health or life is in danger.

The government had tried to stop the street protests using COVID-19 restrictions that limit public gatherings to no more than five people, to no avail. The justice minister had threatened to press criminal charges against organizers for "causing an epidemiological threat." A conviction could lead to eight years in prison.

Similar demonstrations had pushed back government attempts to pass extreme anti-abortion laws in 2016 and 2018.

Government officials had called protesters "barbarians," "vandals" and "left-wing fascists." There has been a heavy police presence at some of the actions, and some smaller clashes, but no mass arrests.

Some hospitals have turned away women who came seeking an abortion. Krystyna Kacpura, director for Federation for Women and Family Planning, told the media that many women have called, asking if the ruling is already being enforced.

Protests have continued daily.



Reuters/Kacper Pempel

**Oct. 30 Warsaw protest against new Polish gov't attack on women's right to abortion.**

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Toronto Star/Steve McKinley  
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‘Militant,’ books aid workers

Continued from front page

the fall subscription drive, campaigners from the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom have sold 950 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 895 books, toward the goal of 1,200 subscriptions and an equal number of books.

The SWP is also raising \$120,000 for its Party-Building Fund. The drives end Nov. 24.

“We’re winning new contributors to the fund,” SWP campaigner Kaitlin Estill reports. “In Bowling Green, Kentucky, we stopped by the house of Kenneth Matczak, a United Auto Workers union member we met during the GM strike last year. We discussed the elections, the SWP action program, and the outcome of the strike. He renewed his subscription and gave \$10 to the fund.”

In Carrollton, Georgia, Rachele Fruit spoke with Sherman Daniel, a machine operator at Southwire, on his doorstep Nov. 7. “Southwire doesn’t care about us at all,” Daniel said. “We’ve had eight or nine active cases of coronavirus in the plant,” but the company has done nothing to confront the problem. “We need to organize to fight growing employer attacks on our jobs, wages and working conditions,” Fruit said, and to fight for workers control of production, the only way to enforce safety on the job.

Labor party would aid workers fight

“Neither the Democrats nor Republicans have a jobs program and neither one will organize workers in a way that can minimize deaths from COVID-19,” Fruit said. She pointed to the need for a government-funded public works program to provide jobs for millions of unemployed, building housing, hospitals and other needed infrastructure.

“We need a workers’ party — a labor party — to fight for the interests of the working class and working farmers,” she said.

“I think it’s worth thinking about this idea of a new party for workers,” Daniel said. “I’m going to read this.” He subscribed to the *Militant*.

Retired worker Vandous Fisher Jr. liked the *Militant*’s coverage on labor struggles when SWP member Michelle Smith showed him the paper in the small town of Centralia, Washington, Nov. 6. “I’ve walked my share of

picket lines, including in 1980 against Exxon Mobil in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, when I was in the painters union,” he said. He was pleased to learn that Smith had been the SWP candidate for governor in Louisiana in 1983, presenting a working-class alternative. He subscribed to the *Militant*.

Democratic fox, Republican wolf

“You’re a little late aren’t you?” retired worker Harold Edge joked when SWP campaigners Seth Galinsky and Róger Calero knocked on his door in the Bronx, New York, Nov. 6. “Yes, the election is over,” Galinsky said, “but working people like you and me are going to face the same problems we did the day before the election.” Edge, who is African American, said he was a lifelong Democrat and was glad Trump was voted out.

As a youth he heard Malcolm X speak at the Audubon Ballroom and keeps a picture of him on the wall. Galinsky described what Malcolm said about the Democratic and Republican parties during the 1964 election. “The shrewd imperialists knew that the only way that you will voluntarily run to the fox,” Malcolm had said, “is to show you a wolf.”

“That was true then,” Edge said. “But the Democratic Party has changed.”

“It’s still a capitalist party,” Galinsky said. Every election working people vote out the “bad” guys and vote in the “good” guys. And then repeat the next time, but nothing fundamental changes. “Neither party has any solution to the problems working people face,” Galinsky said. “We need our own party, a labor party.”



Truck driver Charles Melson, right, gets *Militant* subscription and *In Defense of US Working Class*, book on special offer, from Joanne Murphy, James Harris in Delmar, Delaware, Nov. 10.

Edge thought that millions voted for Trump because of racism. “We’ve talked to a lot of workers who said they were voting for Trump, especially in small towns and rural areas, just like we’re talking to you,” Calero said.

“You should join us next time we go to those areas,” Galinsky said. “You’ll find they’re not racist, they’re grappling with the same crisis that you and I are.”

“This is the first time I’ve really felt comfortable talking with other people about Trump and what he represents,” Edge said.

“I supported the demonstrations against police brutality, but the looting was terrible,” Edge said, referring to protests after the killing of George Floyd. “It gave Trump and others an excuse to go after the demonstrators and ignore the real issue.”

“Antifa supporters and the leaders of Black Lives Matter groups promoted the looting and violence. They even said, ‘They’ve looted us for centuries, loot back,’” Galinsky noted.

Galinsky pointed to what Malcolm taught about the capacities of the exploited and oppressed to change our conditions and discover our worth.

Edge subscribed and bought a copy of *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and *The Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Join in expanding the readership of the *Militant*! Introduce friends, relatives, neighbors and other working people to the paper and the party. Contribute to the fund. For more information, see the directory on page 8 for the party unit nearest you, or contact the *Militant* at themilitant@mac.com.

Forum protests NZ gov’t raid on NKorea friendship group

BY FELICITY COGGAN AND JANET ROTH

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Police raided the homes of two leaders of the New Zealand-Democratic People’s Republic of Korea Society, which provides humanitarian aid and solidarity to the people of North Korea, Oct. 19. An investigator from the police Financial Intelligence Unit flew in from the capital, Wellington, to lead the raid.

Peter Wilson, secretary of the society, described the raid in an interview in *Counterpunch* Oct. 28. “I was presented with an unsigned copy of the search warrant, which cited a breach of United Nations Sanctions.” He was questioned about payments from the society’s bank account, which he declined to answer on the advice of Matt Robson, the society’s attorney. The cops seized documents and “my laptop, cellphone, and notebook with phone numbers and all of my different passwords in it.” The other society member, a Presbyterian Church minister, had his cellphone, laptop and the society’s bank statements taken.

At issue was 2,000 New Zealand dollars (\$1,380) the society sent to the North Korea Red Cross to combat COVID-19.

“This was intimidation,” Robson told an Oct. 30 Militant Labour Forum held here to protest the raids. Even under U.N. sanctions, he said, “it is legal to send humanitarian aid.”

“The Minister of Police said that it was an operational police matter,” he said. “But it is not routine for police to investigate a possible breach of U.N. sanctions.” Robson was Minister of Corrections and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in the government in 1999. He

said the raid was “instigated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs” and that the Government Security Communications Bureau and Security Intelligence Service were involved.

The raids were carried out using the 2011 Search and Surveillance Act, which gives the police wide powers. Wilson and his colleague could face 12 months in jail or a NZ\$10,000 fine, although no one has been charged yet.

The raids were a “fishing expedition to see what could be found to incriminate these individuals,” said Felicity Coggan of the Communist League, the other forum speaker. “And to intimidate all those who oppose sanctions against North Korea.”

Despite the sanctions exempting aid organizations, banks internationally are refusing to handle their transactions because of U.S. pressure, Robson said. “Of 17 NGOs that used to work in North Korea there is only one now.”

“These sanctions fall hardest on workers and farmers in North Korea,” Coggan said. U.N. agencies estimate 43% of the population is undernourished.

“Calling for an end to sanctions against the DPRK is a basic act of solidarity with workers and farmers there,” Coggan said. “Ending the sanctions would open opportunities for workers and farmers in both North and South Korea to get to know each other and work together, to fight to end the division of their country.”

Korea was divided into North and South, against the will of the Korean people, by the U.S. rulers after their victory in the second imperialist world war, with the acquiescence of the Stalinist

rulers in Moscow. Workers and farmers carried out revolutionary mobilizations throughout Korea after the war, and capitalism was overthrown in the North. Washington occupied the South and installed a dictatorship that put down revolutionary struggles there in blood.

Between 1950 and 1953, Wellington joined Washington in a brutal war seeking to reconquer all of Korea, sending over 6,000 troops.

Aided by volunteers from China, the North Koreans fought Washington to a stalemate, and the U.S. government and its U.N. allies to this day refuse to sign a peace treaty.

“The New Zealand government must end its complicity in sanctions against North Korea,” Coggan said, “and its police and spy agencies should back off their interference against the NZ-DPRK Society, and return all the materials they confiscated to their owners.”

**Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive**  
Sept. 26-Nov. 24 (Week 6)

Area	Quota	Collected
Albany*	\$7,700	\$4,850
Atlanta	\$11,000	\$7,507
Chicago	\$13,000	\$5,282
Dallas	\$2,750	\$1,850
Lincoln	\$325	\$210
Los Angeles	\$12,500	\$6,544
Louisville*	\$5,400	\$4,881
Miami	\$3,750	\$1,370
New York	\$15,500	\$10,198
N. New Jersey	\$6,000	\$3,327
Oakland	\$12,750	\$8,826
Philadelphia	\$3,500	\$1,310
Pittsburgh	\$3,000	\$2,000
Seattle	\$12,500	\$5,798
Twin Cities	\$4,250	\$3,039
Wash., D.C.	\$6,000	\$3,710
Other		\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$119,925</b>	<b>\$71,202</b>
<b>Should Be</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>

\*raised quota

— **MILITANT LABOR FORUMS** —

**CALIFORNIA**  
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**Stakes for Working People in Opposing New Moves by Oberlin College to Crush a Small-Store Owner.** Speaker: Jeff Powers, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Rd., Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

**WASHINGTON, DC**  
**The 2020 Presidential Election and the U.S. Working Class.** Speaker: Dave Prince, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Nov. 21, Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Donation: \$10. 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Tel.: (202) 536-5080.



# UK protests: ‘US hands off Cuba! End British complicity!’

**Continued from front page**  
Silberman said, is that “the U.K. rulers and government are just as hostile” as their U.S. counterparts “to the fact that workers and farmers in Cuba took power, showing a course of struggle workers need here and around the world.”

The protests were initiated by the Communist League and backed by a range of sponsors. In London these included the Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union, Papua Militant International, Colectivo Ají, Congreso de los Pueblos, Agenda Internacional de Paz — Londres, Nuevos Horizontes en el Reino Unido, and the Colectivo de teatro Macondo.

In Manchester they included Salford and Wigan Trades Councils; Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!; Paul Kelly of the National Union of Mineworkers; Brian Oreggio and Hugo Wils, members of Community Union at Pilgrim’s Pride U.K. meat works; and Sue Piper, a prominent local Cuba solidarity activist. Flyers promoting the actions were circulated by branches of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign in the two cities.

Serogo Tabuni from the Papua Militant International spoke at the London action. “West Papua is still a colony under the Indonesian regime,” he said. “Over half a million have been slaughtered by the colonial powers. We extend our solidarity to the brothers and sisters in Cuba who bring solidarity to peoples and the working class around the world.”

“The U.S. government is engaged in a slander campaign,” Silberman pointed out, “against Cuban medical volunteers fighting coronavirus in over 40 countries, calling them slaves and accusing the Cuban government of people trafficking.”

Dozens of passersby stopped to pick up leaflets and talk with the demonstrators. Among them, Angel Fernández, a cleaner originally from Santa Clara, Cuba, asked to speak to thank protesters for their solidarity.

A few other cleaners also joined the protest, including Alberto Durango of the Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union. He spoke, offering solidarity with the Cuban people’s refusal to submit to Washington’s demands and reporting that his union had recently picketed the offices of Facebook in London, forcing bosses to retract job cuts



Dozens join action in London Nov. 7 demanding “Hands off Cuba.” Similar protest took place in Manchester.

they had implemented.

Part of an interview about the protest that Silberman gave to Colombian journalist Dawits Buitrago was run on TV in Ecuador.

Colectivo de teatro Macondo performed a short sketch at the event.

“In an affront to Venezuela’s sov-

ereignty, the Bank of England refuses to hand over \$1 billion worth of gold owned by the Venezuelan government,” Pete Clifford, organizer of the protest in Manchester, told participants. “This is aimed, among other things, at Venezuela’s relations with revolutionary Cuba, including its supply of oil to Cuba.” Clif-

ford is a leader of the Communist League, a rail worker and member of the RMT union.

Bob Shepherd spoke for Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! He pointed to the class difference in the response of the governments of the U.K. and Cuba to the pandemic. He told participants, “Cuba has suffered 127 COVID-19 deaths.” On that basis, he said, “proportionately, the U.K. should have had fewer than 800 deaths, but it has had 45,000.”

After cops forced protesters to end their action early, Clifford sent letters to the Greater Manchester Police and the city’s mayor, Andrew Burnham, urging them to condemn the cops’ attack on freedom of assembly and “assure others of their right to organize such actions” in the future.

“This was blatant political policing,” said Paul Kelly, a former miner, member of the National Union of Mineworkers and another sponsor of the protest.

## SWP wins first round in Washington disclosure fight

**Continued from front page**

Campaigners gathered over 2,000 signatures to put the SWP ticket on the ballot, and won support for the working-class campaign on workers’ doorsteps, Walmart parking lots, strike picket lines, protests against cop brutality and elsewhere. But they also ran into some serious threats, including death threats and to burn down the campaign headquarters and everyone in it.

For decades the party has fought to prevent government disclosure of information about their campaign supporters and contributors, including in hard-fought battles in both Seattle and Washington state. These fights exposed decades of spying, harassment and disruption against the party by the FBI, cop agencies, bosses and others.

Since the fight was launched to stop the disclosure of the 2020 electors’ personal information, over \$20,000 was raised to pay for the legal costs and related expenses.

Dozens of solidarity messages were received from labor, academic and other individuals and groups across North America, strengthening the fight.

“This is just a little note to let you know that there is lots of support north of the border in your fight,” wrote Bart Dempsey, past president of United Steelworkers Local 7085 at the Glencore smelter in Belledune, New Brunswick. “To read this article [in the *Militant*] and see how far governments and their goons will go to try and intimidate the working class is appalling. Knowing what they know, and the threats and intimidation tactics that have already been proven, and the thought that they would look to release these peoples’ names and addresses is quite disturbing.

“Please keep up the good fight, and work,” Dempsey said, “and don’t be intimidated by these wrongful actions of the government’s goons.”

Support also came from Agustín López, member of the executive committee of Trabajadores Unidos por la Justicia, a union in Yakima Valley, Washington. “We support the struggle of the SWP in its fight for political and labor rights and civil rights for all working people,” he wrote, “to protect the

civil right to not share information that should not be shared, to protect privacy and prevent harassment.”

The Guinean Committee United for Status in Montreal, Quebec, wrote, “We, of the Guinean Committee United for Status, find that this is a profound attack on the political right allowing citizens to choose their political representatives, but also and above all the right to freedom of expression. We believe that this practice endangers democratic rights in general, but especially the lives of members of the Socialist Workers Party facing extreme right-wing radical groups.

“Furthermore, it could lead to political profiling of activists by the police and spying by the secret services, which constitutes a serious breach of privacy. Therefore, our Guinean committee demands the immediate end of this procedure which seriously undermines democratic rights and freedom of expression.”

Mark Downs, a member of ILWU Local 19 retirees, sent a message. “There is well over 100 years of evidence as well as very recent evidence to support the SWP’s request to not disclose these electors’ personal information,” he said.

“I served as a member of the executive board of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 19 in Seattle three times during my 40-year career as a union dockworker,” he said. “I have seen firsthand how the SWP puts a lot of effort into union organizing and human rights struggles, which has been true throughout their history.

“Because the SWP is effective in these efforts, the anti-working-class forces who support the capitalist state want to shut up the SWP. The state should not disclose the electors’ personal information.”

### Teachers face similar gov’t threat

Several teachers at Seattle Central College are supporting the SWP’s fight, drawing on their own experience in a battle they and their union have been engaged in against disclosure of their personal information.

“The SWP fight against the release of presidential electors’ personal information is important for all workers,” Barbara Kline, an English teacher at Seattle

Central, wrote. “Public records requests are being widely used to intimidate workers and unionists. This last May the Washington Federation of State Employees lost an injunction to halt the release of the full names, work addresses, work emails, hire dates and bargaining unit names for all the employees of 3 major community colleges in Seattle. The employees’ lawyers were successful in preventing birthdates or names of ‘protected employees’ — those who have been victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking — but everything else was released.”

The teachers were battling a lawsuit filed by the notorious anti-union Freedom Foundation, which was seeking to take advantage of state disclosure laws allowing employers to hand over this personal information to conduct a drive to break their union.

“Last week at our meeting of AFT Local 1789, our union president said that some members have already been contacted privately,” Kline said, “questioned about their union affiliation and encouraged to leave the union.

“This is the third in a series of requests for the public records of our college employees,” she said. “These requests started in 2016 and have included employees at the University of Washington.”

She concluded, “A victory in this fight is a gain for all of us.”

Washington has long been a battlefield over aggressive public disclosure laws. Liberal Democrats have promoted a series of these laws in the name of “cleaning up” government, as workers have increasingly lost confidence in the capitalist rulers’ two-party system.

The SWP was successful in winning exemption from having to turn over names and personal information of their campaign contributors in both Seattle and Washington state.

“The Socialist Workers Party campaign in Washington state sends a sincere thank you to all those who supported this fight in many ways,” SWP leader Edwin Fruit told the *Militant*. “We can’t be certain we won’t have to kick this defense of political rights back into gear, but from the messages we have received, you can see we’ll have strong support.

### Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes

This is a book about the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary — it can be made. It’s about the class struggle in the U.S., where the capacities of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by

the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. And just as wrongly. \$10

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# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

## Newfoundland strikers vote on Dominion's 'final offer'

The 1,400 workers who belong to Unifor Local 597 on strike at the Dominion supermarket chain in Newfoundland started voting on a "final" contract proposal from the company Nov. 9. The balloting continues at the picket lines until Nov. 13.

The three-month-long strike has shut down all 11 of the company's stores in the province. According to VOCM News, the proposal by Loblaw, Dominion's parent company, was presented to the union by the provincial government-appointed mediator.

On Nov. 6, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary shut down for the second time a strike picket line at the Weston Foods bakery in Mount Pearl — also owned by Loblaw — despite the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador's refusal to grant an injunction against secondary pickets there.

The union is suing the constabulary for violating their right to picket.

Workers struck after overwhelmingly rejecting the company's offer of a 1 Canadian dollar an hour wage increase (76 cents) over three years, after ending — in the middle of negotiations — the CA\$2 hourly wage increase it had earlier instituted as pandemic pay.

Strikers want the cut to be reversed and more workers to be made full time. Eighty percent of the workers are part time. Most earn only the minimum wage of CA\$12.15 an hour.

Unifor members held secondary pickets of Loblaw warehouses in Ajax, Ontario, and Moncton, New Brunswick Nov. 3.

Six workers at a nonunion RONA hardware store in Burlington, Ontario, sent a solidarity card and CA\$50 to Local 597. "Keep strong and I promise it will be worth it," wrote one worker.

Dominion workers continue to need solidarity. Send messages of support and donations to Unifor Local 597, 301-55 Bond St., P.O. Box 922 Station C, St. John's, NL A1C 5L7, Canada, or info@unifor597.ca.

—Beverly Bernardo

## Primary care nurses strike across New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Over 100 primary care workers held a lively picket here Nov. 9. It was part of a 24-hour strike and protest actions by over 3,000 nurses and administration and reception staff from family doctor offices and emergency clinics around the country.

The workers, members of the New Zealand Nurses Organization, are demanding equal pay with their counterparts in public hospitals. The union estimates primary health care nurses are paid 10% less than nurses working in hospitals, who won a significant pay raise after a series of strikes in 2018.

"We need the Government, the District Health Boards and the Ministry of Health to urgently provide extra funding" for family doctor practices to raise wages, the leaflet distributed by strikers said.

The nurses had struck for eight hours Sept. 3 and have voted to strike again Nov. 23 if their demands aren't met.

—Felicity Coggan

## Chicago feed workers strike for better pay and conditions

CHICAGO — Twenty-eight members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 881 at ReConserve went on strike Nov. 2 for better pay and



Militant/Felicity Coggan

Primary care workers in New Zealand Nurses Organization rally in Auckland Nov. 9 as part of 24-hour strike backing equal pay with nursing counterparts in public hospitals nationwide.

conditions. The company takes food scraps and converts them into feed for pigs and chickens.

The plant is located in the industrial village of Hodgkins on Chicago's Southwest Side. Alex Aguirre, who has worked there for 2 1/2 years, told the *Militant* they are "way underpaid" compared to other workers doing similar work at factories up and down the street. He also said that the company "doesn't maintain their equipment," making work more unsafe, a complaint echoed by most other strikers this worker-correspondent spoke to Nov. 6.

The mood on the picket line is up-

beat. Semitrucks rumbling by honked their air horns in support. Strikers said they're planning to set up a GoFundMe page.

Moises Zavala said another issue is the high cost of health insurance, \$150 a week for a family of three. And workers used to get two weeks paid vacation. But since Cook County passed an ordinance mandating workers get five paid sick days a year, the company says they will be subtracted from the vacation time.

Striker Joe Scaman said the low pay and poor maintenance shows a "lack of respect" by the bosses.

—Dean Hazlewood

# Visually impaired unionists fight layoffs, for safety

BY MAGGIE TROWE

CINCINNATI — Teamsters-organized workers at the factory run by the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired here are fighting back against layoffs, wage cuts and unsafe working conditions. Two-thirds of these 65 workers, members of Teamsters Local 100, are blind or visually impaired. They slit tape, produce exit signs and craft and exam paper, and assemble kitchen gadgets. Management of the nonprofit outfit imposed a COVID-related shutdown in April.

"We will recall laid-off employees

as business needs warrant based first on job function and then by seniority," they wrote laid-off workers. "Prior to recalling laid-off employees to regular job classifications, additional temporary transfers may be made available based on business needs."

"They wanted to retain people who were sighted, but those people are lower seniority. The employees that were blind have the most seniority," Dorian Stone, a union representative for Teamsters Local 100, told the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

Management brought a few workers back later in April and more in August,

ignoring seniority, Dave Perry, a production worker at the factory, told the *Militant*. "They cut some workers' pay in half," he said. "Managers engaged in production work, a violation of our union contract. They also hired workers from a temporary agency who are not blind and paid them less than the unionized workers."

During the shutdown management rearranged machines so there is no longer a physical barrier to keep workers out of the danger zone where cranes move huge tape rolls to slitting machines. They also recently told the blind workers they wouldn't help them cross the busy street in front of the plant, claiming this will help blind workers live more independently.

"About 25 workers signed a petition against these violations and presented it to management," Perry said. Workers also filed grievances against management doing production jobs and hiring temps, and for ending inadequate social distancing because machines were set too close together. This resistance got results.

All but 15 of the union workers are back now. The company is taking workers' temperatures as they enter. They're employing fewer from agencies.

"But we still have issues," Perry said. "We want everyone back. Our union steward is still on layoff and isn't allowed on company property to represent us. The company won't let business agent Dorian Stone, or local President Bill Davis, on company property either."

Having a union is important to him. "I've heard workers here in the 1980s had to fight like crazy to bring in the union," Perry said, "and a lot of people lost their jobs."

"Only 30% of blind people are able to find work they can do," Perry said. "We want to be productive, earn a living and be treated with respect."

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 27, 1995

The largest mobilizations against U.S. bases in decades have taken place in Japan recently. They were sparked by the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan school girl. Three U.S. soldiers entered guilty pleas to conspiring to abduct and rape the girl. More and more Japanese working people are raising their voices against the U.S. military presence.

Between 60,000 and 85,000 people marched in Okinawa. Among the slogans the protesters shouted was "Yankee go home." [U.S. Defense Secretary William] Perry said the Japanese have to accept some inconvenience in order to have the "credible security guarantee" provided by U.S. troops.

The protests have sent capitalist politicians scurrying to deliver some kind of change. The pressure was highlighted by [Prime Minister Tomiichi] Murayama's statement that "the issue of Okinawa will be the issue that determines the fate of this cabinet."



November 27, 1970

NEW YORK — The New York Women's Strike Coalition, representing some 30 organizations, held a news conference Nov. 12 to announce a march of women and children Dec. 12. The women will demand that the city provide free, community-controlled public abortion clinics and 24-hour child-care centers.

The coalition hopes to expose and protest the fact that despite the liberalized abortion law in New York, abortions are still not available to women who need them. In addition to the restriction contained in the law that abortions must be performed by a doctor, further restrictions say that abortions must be done in hospitals or in clinics with hospital facilities and that hospitals are not required to take abortion cases.

Women's liberation groups from eight colleges and universities in the city issued a statement endorsing the demonstration.



November 24, 1945

DETROIT — Despite the use of unlimited funds by Big Business in the most vicious anti-labor and anti-Negro campaign in the history of Detroit elections, labor's mayoralty candidate Richard Frankenstein, vice-president of the CIO United Automobile Workers, received the total of 216,917 votes against 274,455 for incumbent Mayor Jeffries.

Frankenstein failed to inspire his followers to get out labor's maximum vote. Had Frankenstein rallied the ranks of labor along class lines he would have stood an excellent chance of winning.

The SWP supported Frankenstein for election despite his bad union record and his lack of a sound political program. We gave him critical support because he was a labor candidate and it was necessary for all labor to unite.

This election has convinced labor that it no longer has to rely on the capitalist political "friends of labor."

# Social crisis, union fight mark life in Arizona mining towns

BY BETSEY STONE

KEARNY, Ariz. — Like other workers across the country, miners and others in Arizona’s “copper triangle” are facing an unprecedented economic and social crisis. Over 60% of copper produced in the U.S. comes from the state and despite some mine closings, it is still a big industry here.

Copper is an important component in electric car motors and batteries, and mine bosses and other area capitalists are hoping for big future profits.

During a trip in October to report for the *Militant* on the outcome of the fight of the United Steelworkers, Teamsters and other unions against union-busting copper giant Asarco, Ellie García and I spoke with nearby Hayden resident Jose Martinez, member of Steelworkers Local 886, about what workers face.

Martinez worked for 10 years at Asarco’s smelter in Hayden. He participated in the nine-month strike against Asarco that ended in July. The company has operations in Hayden, here in Kearney, at two mines near Tucson, and in Amarillo, Texas. The Hayden smelter and concentrator were shut down during the strike and the company refuses to say definitively whether they will open again.

Founded in 1911 as a company town, stores on Hayden’s main street are boarded up. The population has dropped precipitously and abandoned houses are all around. Miners say drug addiction has grown.

Martinez is staying for now, hoping to get his old job back. In the meantime, union assistance is helping workers like him survive.

We told him about the Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign and how it raises the need for workers and our unions to fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions to work building schools, infrastructure, hospitals and other things workers need. “Working people need to fight for better wages and conditions at every workplace. Going through experiences and struggles together can help in forging a working-class leadership,” García said.

“We need jobs and unions,” Martinez said. “The nearest hospital is an hour away in Globe, over mountain roads. The bridges and roads need work. There is plenty to do.”

We showed Martinez books by Socialist Workers Party leaders drawing the lessons of past union struggles. He decided to get a *Militant* subscription along with *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters and *Teamster Rebellion*, a book about the fight in the 1930s that made Minneapolis a union town.

We dropped by Maria’s Cafe in Mammoth to talk with owner Maria Garcia, whose husband Fernando is a miner. During the strike Garcia regularly delivered burritos and other food to miners on the picket line at Asarco’s giant Ray Mine, about an hour away.

She told us of the difficulties small-business owners face due to state-imposed coronavirus shutdowns. At first customers were afraid to even come for takeout. Things have picked up a little, but business is still down.

### Challenges under lockdowns

Maria Garcia’s 7-year-old son, who was doing online schoolwork in one of the booths, wants to get back to school, she said. Football has been cancelled for another son, who’s in high school. “After the softball games and other sports, people would gather at the family restaurants and celebrate,” Garcia said. “Now all the young people have is social media. I think we should be able to go to church, given other things that are opening up.”

School budget cutbacks have hit hard in the mining towns. The school in Mammoth has been closed and children are being bused to San Manuel, 15 minutes away. In some towns the school week has been cut to four days. Head Start preschools are being phased out.

“We are for teachers, school workers and their unions taking control of the situation, to work together and involve parents in ensuring schools are operat-



Militant/Betsey Stone

“Workers in this country have the sheer numbers, so they keep us down and divided,” Iris Lamb, left, told Socialist Workers party member Ellie García. “A powder keg is building up.”

ing safely,” Ellie García said. “Churches shouldn’t be discriminated against or treated any differently than any business or other organization.”

When we knocked on the door of Iris Lamb here in Kearny and told her about what the Socialist Workers Party candidates say about the need for workers to fight around jobs, she invited us in. “With a jobs program, we could fix the dams,” she said.

Lamb, who is married to a miner, is pro-union. There’s a long history of hard-fought and bloody battles for union recognition and better conditions by copper miners. But since the bitter union loss in the Phelps Dodge strike in the 1980s, the bosses — backed by the Arizona state government — have pushed the unions back. While miners continue to fight at Asarco and elsewhere, today most of the mines are nonunion.

When we raised the need for the unions and working people to break with the Democratic and Republican parties, Lamb said, “I can see why people voted for Trump, but he only gives lip service to solving the problems. The Democrats look down on workers.”

“Our party says the only way forward is for working people to depend on ourselves,” Ellie García said. “We are a

working-class party. We think that out of our struggles, working people will reach the conclusion we need to build our own party, a labor party, with the perspective of taking political power out of the hands of the capitalists.”

“It’s the policies of both the Democrats and Republicans that are responsible for the situation of workers now,” Lamb said.

Lamb, who has four children, said online learning puts parents in an impossible situation. “Parents are supposed to stay by the child and help them. I asked the teacher how am I supposed to do that with two children ‘in school’ in my house, an active 4-year-old and a nursing baby?” she said.

Lamb decided to endorse the Socialist Workers Party campaign, subscribed to the *Militant* and purchased *Teamster Rebellion*; *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*; and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

“Workers in this country have the sheer numbers, so they keep us down and divided,” she told us. “A powder keg is building up. I was just thinking about these things. I can’t believe you stopped by.”

## Cops videocam shows Walter Wallace shot in cold blood

PHILADELPHIA — Hundreds turned out for the Nov. 7 funeral service at the National Temple Baptist Church in North Philadelphia commemorating the life of Walter Wallace Jr. He was killed by Philadelphia cops Sean Matarazzo and Thomas Munz Oct. 26.

The killing is clearly shown on police body camera footage released Nov. 4. “You killed my son! You killed my son!” Wallace’s mother, Kathy Brant, can be seen crying out at the cops who had just gunned him down in front of their home. Brant had tried to physically shield 27-year-old Wallace from the police while they told her to “Back off!” “They paid me no mind and they just shot him,” Brant said later.

You can hear people yelling, “He’s mental!” referring to the fact that Wallace, who had a knife in his hand, was having a mental health crisis. The family had called for an ambulance, not police.

Neighbors rushed out to the street when the cops arrived. “I’m yelling, ‘Put down the gun, put down the gun,’” neighbor Maurice Holloway told the Philadelphia *Inquirer*. “Everyone is saying, ‘Don’t shoot him, we know him.’” Instead, the cops fired 14 shots.

After the body camera footage was released, hundreds demonstrated at City Hall.

The eulogy at the church was given by Wallace’s cousin, Rev. Roosevelt Brant III. His wife, Dominique Wallace; his brother, John; and his father Walter Wallace Sr. spoke. One of Wallace’s teachers, Cynthia Jefferson, spoke and called out those who sought to disrupt the demonstrations with anti-working-class violence. “Honor him: stop looting and shooting,” she said.

Another minister read out the names of Black men and women killed by police around the country.

Several political figures briefly gave remarks, including Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner. “Philadelphia owes you a lot,” Krasner said to the family, for helping in “keeping the peace.” Someone called out, “Yes, they do!” and mourners applauded and stood.

— JANET POST

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# Bolshevik Revolution showed road forward in Transcaucasus

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Weeks of fighting in the southern Caucasus between the regimes in Azerbaijan and Armenia over control of the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh has taken a big toll on working people throughout the area. With the Turkish government backing Azerbaijan and Moscow allied with Armenia's rulers, this decadeslong conflict has implications not just in the region, but for broader battles over markets and influence.

Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev announced Nov. 8 that his country's forces had taken the strategic city of Shusha, which sits on a mountaintop overlooking Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Two days later the governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia announced acceptance of a Moscow-brokered cease-fire. The agreement gives Azerbaijani forces control over all territory conquered in the past six weeks, including Shusha. It calls for some 2,000 Russian forces to deploy in Nagorno-Karabakh, with Ankara kept out of an area Moscow considers part of its "near abroad."

Nagorno-Karabakh, with a majority Armenian population, lies within Azerbaijan. A previous war for control of the enclave exploded as the Soviet Union was coming apart in the late 1980s and ended in a cease-fire in 1994, with no peace treaty, at the cost of some 30,000 lives. Hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis were driven out.

Thousands have been killed in the current fighting. According to the United Nations children's agency UNICEF, more than 130,000 civilians in the region have been displaced from their homes. Stepanakert was bombarded repeatedly.

Nagorno-Karabakh leader Arayik Harutyunyan told Reuters they had no option but to conclude this deal because of the risk of losing the whole enclave to Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani forces have far superior military strength than Armenia, with high-tech equipment, including drones purchased from the governments of Turkey and Israel.

## Impact of Bolshevik Revolution

This conflict goes back decades. The revolution by workers, soldiers and farmers in Russia in 1917 began to lay the groundwork for how to resolve it.

Workers and peasants across the former czarist prison house of nations made great strides in overcoming national divisions after the Bolshevik Revolution,

led by Vladimir Lenin, took power in October 1917. Solidarity was forged by uniting toilers in the fight against exploitation and oppression by landlords and capitalists, and against the predatory aims of intervening imperialist powers. The revolution rapidly spread throughout the Transcaucasus region where the class composition of these countries, including Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, was even more peasant-based than in Russia.

## Baku Commune

The Bolsheviks won allegiance from industrial workers in Baku, who came from throughout the region. With the formation of a soviet government in April 1918, the Baku Commune was formed. One of its central leaders was Stepan Shaumian, who was elected to the central committee of the Bolshevik Party in 1917. The Baku Commune backed the fight by workers and peasants throughout the Caucasus region in forging unity in struggles against landlord- and capitalist-backed forces.

But many challenges confronted the revolutionary government. Turkish forces invaded the Caucasus in February 1918 seeking to conquer the region. They stirred up nationalist animosities between Azerbaijanis, a Muslim Turkic-speaking people, and Armenians, who are Christians. Clashes ensued.

At the end of July pro-capitalist opponents of the Bolshevik leadership betrayed the Baku Commune. A newly formed counterrevolutionary government rounded up Shaumian and 25 other commune leaders, deported and executed them in September 1918.

Stepanakert is named after Shaumian. Statues of the Bolshevik leader still stand in both Armenia and in Baku.

Two years later, workers and farmers across the region rose up again as the Red Army advanced into the area.

Lenin called for the right to self-determination for oppressed nations and nationalities, an essential part of the Bolsheviks' program. The Soviet congress in January 1918 established the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic "leaving it to the workers and peasants of each nation to decide independently at their own authoritative congress of soviets whether they wished to participate in the federal government ... and on what terms."

By late 1922, 21 autonomous republics and regions had been established within the RSFSR, and the revolutionary government was collaborating with

## Belarus regime attacks protests, forced to free unionists



Many thousands protested in Minsk, the capital, and in other cities across Belarus Nov. 8. They marched despite the authoritarian government of Alexander Lukashenko sending in riot police, who broke up converging columns of demonstrators before they could rally in the center of the capital, which had been surrounded by an array of armored vehicles.

"The marches are still significant," Hanna Varsotskaya wrote in a Nov. 10 email to the *Militant* from Minsk. But "after last Sunday's march when more than 1,000 people were detained, and we hear now about beating and torturing," the feeling was, "We are back in August." She was referring to the way Lukashenko's regime responded with brutal assaults and mass arrests when huge protests broke out after he claimed a landslide victory in Aug. 9 elections whose results were clearly falsified.

Backed by Moscow, Lukashenko is now resorting to heavier police attacks, trying to hang onto power after three months of strikes and demonstrations all across the country. Protesters are demanding his resignation, an end to cop brutality, the freeing of political prisoners and new elections.

Working people continue to back the protests, even if some are intimidated from joining in. Many Minsk residents opened their doors Nov. 8 to offer shelter to demonstrators fleeing the cops, or passed warm food and drink to those confined by the police in outdoor compounds in freezing conditions.

Outbreaks of strikes and on-the-job resistance by thousands of workers have posed serious obstacles to Lukashenko's 26-year rule. He has subdued some of these actions for now by arrests of strike leaders and threats of firings.

But authorities in Soligorsk were forced to release four jailed strike leaders from Belaruskali, the huge potash mining conglomerate there, Nov. 3, after they were flooded with thousands of messages from trade unionists all around the world. Pictured above after their release are Yuri Korzun, left, Pavel Puchenia and Siarhei Charkasau. Anatol Bokun, co-chair of the strike committee, was released earlier the same day after 55 days in police custody.

— ROY LANDERSEN

soviet republics in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belorussia (Belarus), Georgia and Ukraine to form a *voluntary union* — the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Special steps were taken by the Bolsheviks to aid the development of the economy, language rights and culture of all the oppressed nationalities. There was a flowering of literacy and art in both Azerbaijan and Armenia. These efforts helped knit together people of the Caucasus region, leading to the formation of a joint Transcaucasian Federation in March 1922.

Lenin followed these developments closely. In a letter sent to the toilers in the Soviet republics in the Caucasus in April 1921, he emphasized, "Communists of the Transcaucasus should be fully alive to the *singularity* of their position and of the position of their republics, as distinct from the position and conditions of the RSFSR; that they should appreciate the need to refrain from copying our tactics, but thoughtfully vary them in adaptation to the differing concrete conditions."

Nagorno-Karabakh was officially incorporated into Azerbaijan in 1923. But doing so was not the product of a nationalist conflict. Communist leaders of the Azerbaijani soviet republic backed making this en-

clave part of the Soviet Armenian republic, recounts Ronald Grigor Suny, author of *The Baku Commune, 1917-1918*, in an interview with Middle East Research and Information Project.

"But because Armenia was so poor," he said, and had been flooded by Armenian refugees from Turkish massacres in 1915, agreement was reached that it would be best for it to be in Azerbaijan, which had the most advanced economy in the region, including the oil fields of Baku.

But this revolutionary course was reversed in the mid-1920s with the emergence of a privileged bureaucratic layer led by Joseph Stalin that overturned Lenin's revolutionary policies and reimposed Great Russian chauvinism over these oppressed peoples.

Through the last year of his life, Lenin fought Stalin's increasing efforts in this direction in the region. This fight is documented in an invaluable book from Pathfinder Press titled *Lenin's Final Fight*.



Militant/Mike Shur

## Lenin's Final Fight



\$17

SPEECHES & WRITINGS  
1922-23

## "I declare war to the death on Great Russian chauvinism."

"It must be *absolutely* insisted that the union Central Executive Committee should be *presided over* in turn by a Russian, Ukrainian, Georgian, etc. *Absolutely!*"

— V.I. Lenin, 1922

In 1922 and 1923 Lenin waged his last political battle. At stake was whether the revolution would remain on the proletarian course that had brought workers and peasants to power.

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# A fighting course forward for working people today

**Continued from front page**

—organizing with fellow workers to fight for what we *need*, rejecting the lies of the bosses and their parties, who say we don’t have the “smarts” to do so — was attractive to thousands. This fighting perspective is as indispensable after the election as it was before.

Working people cannot let growing numbers of our class be cast aside and left isolated. The bosses and their parties have proved incapable of providing jobs for millions today and are throwing more out of work.

Only a fight by workers and our unions can force the government to fund a public works program to employ millions at union-scale pay, building the houses, hospitals, schools and many other things working people need. To prevent layoffs workers need to fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in weekly take-home pay, to share the work available around.

It’s at work that we can join together as a class to stand up to the bosses and stop them further offloading the crisis of their system onto our shoulders.

As workers resist bosses’ attacks on jobs, wages and working conditions, we can draw millions into effective struggles and mutual solidarity. And we establish the foundations for strengthening a fighting union movement and building our own party, a labor party. It would inspire and win to its side all those who are exploited and oppressed by capital. It would expose the lie, told many times over by Democratic and Republican politicians alike, that workers and bosses in the U.S. are “all in this together.” It is workers worldwide who share common interests and must unite.

*Our* allies are the thousands taking to the streets of Poland to defend a woman’s right to choose abortion. They are among the working people in Belarus

fighting to rid themselves of the brutal Lukashenko regime. They are among the courageous demonstrators resisting the Nigerian rulers’ murderous cops.

We need to change which class is in power. Through our struggles, working people develop the courage, self-confidence and class consciousness necessary to build a movement, and our own party, to end capitalist rule. This is the road to replacing crisis-ridden capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government that will organize millions to put an end to the exploitative social relations of capitalism.

It would open the door to unleashing toiling humanity’s massive productive capacities, end the wars and environmental destruction endemic to the dog-eat-dog for-profit system, and advance the fight to eradicate racism and women’s oppression. Join the SWP and the *Militant* in this fight!

## Rulers’ response to 2020 vote shows their fear of the working class

**Continued from front page**

resolution of legal challenges to vote counting mounted by President Donald Trump.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell points out that Democrats who denounce Trump for refusing to concede at this point, had “just spent four years refusing to accept the validity of the last election.”

Democrats claim Trump’s decision not to concede is unprecedented. They’ve “forgotten” Al Gore’s challenge to the 2000 election result — which the same liberal media cheered — that postponed election results for over a month.

The Democrats, middle-class left and some “Never Trump” Republicans complain Trump’s refusal to concede is a threat to democracy. Groups like ShutDownDC threaten to do whatever it takes “to force Trump from office.”

Their threats are dangerous for the working class. There is enough time to resolve the election result and hear the legal challenges before Inauguration Day in January. Working-class parties like the Socialist Workers Party are more than familiar with Democrats and Republicans rigging ballot rights.

The real target of the liberals and middle-class radicals is the working class. They are astounded their pollsters got the election so wrong. They say the 71 million people who voted for Trump means that working people are becoming more right wing and racist.

This isn’t true. Millions of workers are looking for ways to fight against the capitalist crisis today. Hundreds of thousands joined protests against police brutality in cities, towns and rural areas across the country in early summer.

Whoever is finally declared the victor — Trump or Biden — will govern like all their Democratic and Republican predecessors, advancing the interests of the ruling capitalist families, at home and abroad.

Workers had no mass party of their own, so millions saw their only option as a search for a “lesser evil” among the bosses’ parties, hoping to find some respite from the deteriorating conditions of life we face, or to stay at home.

### Workers face economic, social crisis

Working people face a deep crisis with millions out of work and a pandemic whose deadly effects are exacerbated by the failure of the for-profit health insurance industry to provide the treatments workers need.

Over 21 million are still getting by on jobless benefits, with millions more out of work but not counted in official statistics. And bosses from the airlines to oil refineries to small businesses predict more layoffs and bankruptcies.

Those of us at work face a relentless assault on wages, safety and working conditions, as bosses fight to compete and make profits off our backs.

The repo man is back, seizing cars, appliances and more. Government measures to postpone evictions are expiring and millions face losing their homes. Inflation in food costs and other necessities is growing.

Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket, campaigned on the need for workers to have jobs and to join fights over wages and working conditions, bringing solidarity to these struggles. Out of these actions, workers can build and strengthen our unions. They said working people need our own political party, a labor party, to lead workers and farmers to take political power into our own hands.

### Washington fears working people

Liberal euphoria over Biden’s presumptive victory will dwindle much more rapidly than their anxiety about the 71 million who voted for Trump. They consider his voters not only stupid but also dangerous.

Even after four years in office, Trump got “more votes nationwide than he did in 2016,” complains Monica Hesse in the *Washington Post*, proving the “bad parts of America are not blips, they’re characteristics.”

“I am still stunned,” moans *New York Times* columnist Charles Blow — who views all politics through the prism of race and sex — that more Blacks, Latinos and women voted for Trump than in 2016. This was especially true in South Texas, where Trump did very well in counties that are overwhelmingly Latino.

Moreover, Trump’s working-class voters aren’t “going anywhere,” grumbled Margaret Renkl in the same paper. “And it’s not remotely clear what the rest of us can do about any of that.”

None of their contemptuous attitudes are new. Af-

ter the 2016 election Socialist Workers Party leader Steve Clark wrote that Hillary Clinton’s rebuke of those who wouldn’t vote for her as “deplorable” was an example of the fact that “the U.S. rulers and their government have begun to *fear* the working class.”

“[B]ecause they recognize that more and more working people are beginning to see that the bosses and their political parties have no ‘solutions’ that don’t further load the costs ... of the crisis of *their* system onto *us*,” Clark wrote in the introduction to *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*, a book SWP members campaign with today.

### Crisis of bosses’ parties deepens

If Biden takes office, he faces sharpening rifts within the Democratic Party. Democratic socialist Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez says if Biden makes cabinet appointments her wing of the party disapproves of or refuses to push a more radical program, fights in the party will intensify.

Blaming Ocasio-Cortez’s wing of the party for the Democrats’ loss of seats in the House, Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger told an acrimonious meeting of Democratic Party leaders, “We need to not ever use the word ‘socialist’ or ‘socialism’ ever again.”

While the Republican Party made gains in the House and appears likely to hold its majority in the Senate, political differences between Trump and other Republican leaders portend fissures to come.

These divisions reflect the crisis facing the capitalist rulers. What is most important are the steps working people make to counter the bosses’ offensive against our class and all those oppressed and exploited by capital, and the fight for our own political party.

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