

Join Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2021 elections

BY SETH GALINSKY

Socialist Workers Party candidates and campaign supporters are meeting growing numbers of working people who are looking for ways to resist the impact of the capitalist crisis. Many are interested in discussing the SWP's program for fighting to defend working-class interests.

"Neither the Democratic nor the Republican party is any good for the people," Benito Cohato, one of the 1,400 Teamsters on strike for better wages and conditions at New York City's Hunts Point Produce Market, told this worker-correspondent Jan. 17, during a solidarity rally there. "We need candidates that come from below."

Cohato was interested in the SWP's call for workers to build a labor party, based on our struggles for jobs, better wages, conditions and unions. Such a party would act to raise workers' confidence and explain that through revolutionary struggle working people in our millions can replace capitalist rule with a government of our own.

Róger Calero, SWP candidate for mayor of New York, told Cohato that

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Workers need our own party, a labor party!



Protest in Camacari, Brazil, Jan. 12 against Ford's decision to close its auto factories in Brazil.

Abolish the death penalty, a tool of capitalist oppression

Statement by Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey governor Jan. 20.

SWP STATEMENT

"An enormous machine for grinding people up," is how Cuban revolutionary Ramón Labañino described the

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As US administration changes, workers continue to face crisis

BY TERRY EVANS

Millions remain out of work, with fresh unemployment claims rising to 965,000 in the U.S. for the week of Jan. 14, the highest since August. Hardest hit continue to be hotel, restaurant and other service workers, with many of these businesses closed down by government coronavirus shutdowns.

Stagnant wages had already ensured more working people went into the current downturn living paycheck to paycheck, with rising expenses for housing, health care and other necessities. Many now face mounting debts and even greater insecurity.

These conditions effect workers worldwide. Ford bosses announced

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US gov't pushes aside legal appeals, executes 2 inmates with coronavirus

BY JANET POST

Cory Johnson was pronounced dead after being executed Jan. 14, and Dustin John Higgs was killed two days later, at the federal death-row prison in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Their executions mean the U.S. government has put to death 13 federal inmates since July. In both cases the U.S. Supreme Court voted 6 to 3 reversing a lower court stay of execution.

Johnson was diagnosed as "intellectually disabled" and therefore should have been exempt from the death penalty. After living in 12 different homes before the age of 13, he was sent to a facility for children with intellectual and

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India farmers set protest and global solidarity actions Jan. 26

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Hundreds of thousands of working farmers are maintaining their protests around the Indian capital, New Delhi, determined to roll back laws aimed at crushing their livelihoods. The measures passed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government would end state-guaranteed minimum prices for staple crops. They come after farmers' incomes have declined for years, forcing many into deepening debt.

Up to 300,000 farmers are organized at the protest sites by nearly 400 farm organizations. This is the largest protest against the Indian government in decades and the biggest opposition Modi has faced since coming into office.

The protests started from the northern states of Punjab, where many are Sikhs, and neighboring Haryana, before

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'Thought control' sedition charges are threat to workers' rights

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Federal prosecutors, aided by bosses, liberal political groups and tech moguls, are aggressively pursuing charges — including seditious conspiracy — against a small group of individuals who pushed their way into the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6 during a much larger protest outside against the certification of the 2020 presidential election.

The U.S. law on the books defines conspiring to commit sedition as plotting "to overthrow, put down or to destroy by force the government of the United States." But this and similar

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Build solidarity with NY produce strikers in 'fight for our worth'!



Militant/Sarah Katz

Jan. 17 rally at Hunts Point Produce Market in New York on first day of strike by 1,400 Teamsters. Workers' demand for \$1 hour raise is popular among workers throughout region.

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Rejecting the bosses' paltry offer of a raise of just 32 cents an hour this year, 34 cents next year and 37 cents the year after, 1,400 members of Teamsters Local 202 at Hunts Point Produce Market in the Bronx went on strike Jan. 17. The workers are demanding a \$1 an hour

raise each year.

"All we're asking for is \$1 an hour," Cisco Flores told a rally of some 200 workers outside the terminal on the first day of the strike. "If they don't give it to us, it's a slap in the face."

"This is a fight for our worth and the worth of the work we do on a dai-

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India farmers set Jan. 26 protest

Continued from front page spreading elsewhere.

Farmers’ unions are planning a massive tractor protest in the capital on India’s Republic Day Jan. 26 and are carrying out a recruitment drive in villages across Punjab signing up thousands.

The Modi government complains that farmers’ plans will spoil the traditional celebrations the government organizes on that day. It claims the farmers are “maligning the nation globally.”

Actions in solidarity with the farmers’ struggle continue to grow around the world. Over 500 rallied at the Sikh temple in Yuba City, California, Jan. 16.

A Global Day of Action in solidarity with the Indian farmers will take place Jan. 26, coinciding with the New Delhi tractorcade. In New York, a march will leave Times Square at 10 a.m. for the United Nations building.

“I urge workers and farmers in the U.S. to join these support actions,” Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey governor, told the *Militant*. “Working people all over the world have common interests.”

Camps sustained by growing support

A group of 25 men led by Faaroqi Mubeen from the Muslim Federation of Punjab volunteered for days to serve in the community kitchen at one of the New Delhi camps. “It is our responsibility to take care of the farmers,” he said. It is “the farmers who feed everyone.”

Irfan Jafri, a wheat, rice and soy-bean farmer who heads a local agricultural organization in Madhya Pradesh, brought 200 farmers from his village, spending two weeks in a camp. “During that time locals opened up their homes to us, Sikh groups gave us food, and we

had a chance to meet farmers from all over India,” he told the press.

“The central government is wondering who is funding the protests,” 70-year-old Sadhu Ram from a village near Kaithal, Haryana, told the *Times of India*. “If they want to know, our help is coming from the ordinary villagers, who are contributing wheat, rice and sugar because they know the farm laws will affect livelihoods.”

Trailers of food and firewood keep arriving from collection drives held in nearby states. The camps provide kitchens, accommodation, and medical and laundry facilities.

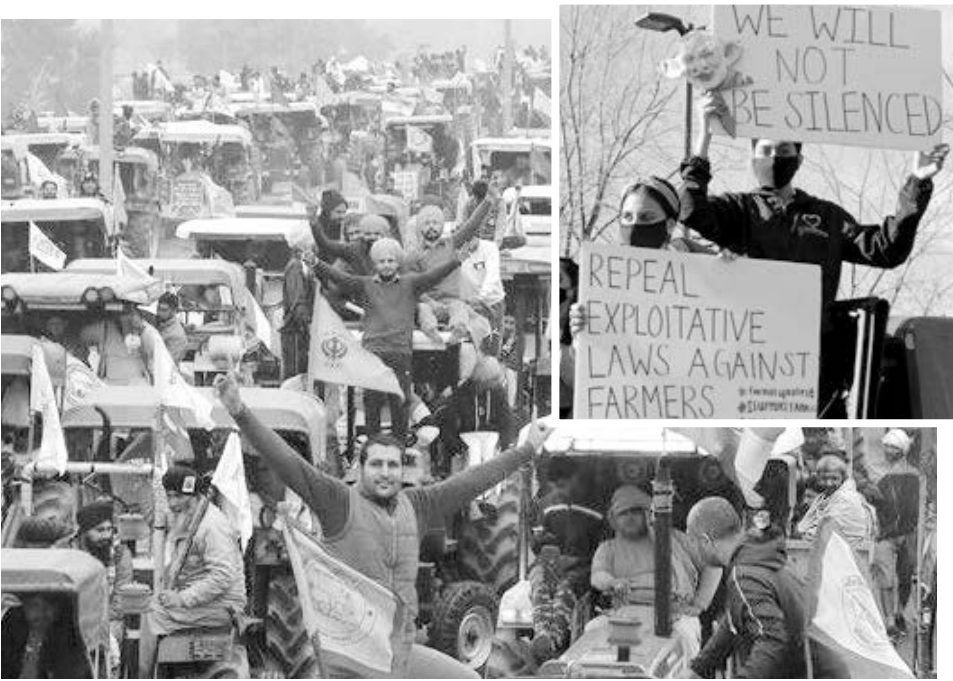
Villagers are excited to take turns at the camp sit-ins. But “people need to be rotated to enable work like crop watering and cattle care to continue back home,” Pawan Maan told the same paper. “The villages will keep sending more people and the government will be forced to listen to us.”

Farmers are “fearlessly taking on the powerful government,” Surmeet Mavi, an editor of the *Trolley Times*, a daily newsletter published from the protest site, told the BBC.

Protests against the new laws by farmers from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttarakhand to Tamil Nadu in the south have intensified in recent weeks. A thousand farmers made the three-day road trip north to Delhi from Kerala.

Talks between farmers and the government remain deadlocked despite the Supreme Court suspending Modi’s laws and offering to “mediate.”

Many family farmers in India faced increasing debts, even before the new laws take effect. In Punjab, the press reports three to four farmer suicides every day. Thousands of widows and other



Above, The Indian Express/Abhinav Saha; inset, Militant/Carole Lesnick
Indian farmers in tractorcade outside New Delhi Jan. 7 protest new laws that would end government-guaranteed price supports. Inset, support action in Yuba City, California, Jan. 16.

family members carrying portraits of farmers who took their own lives have joined the demonstrations.

As land is passed down from generation to generation, farms have become more subdivided. In the past 50 years the number of farms in India has doubled to about 146 million and the average size has halved to about 2½ acres.

In the eastern state of Bihar, minimum price supports were removed 15

years ago. Last year, while Punjabi farmers sold their rice at the state-mandated price of \$25 per 100 kilograms (220 pounds), farmers in Bihar were forced to sell that for \$16 on the open market.

The Indian rulers have their eyes on extending market prices across the country and reaping superprofits as state-backed price supports are removed. Small farmers can then be pushed out by larger scale capitalist production.

‘Stimulus’ fund for ‘Militant’ at \$49,267, and growing!

The *Militant’s* special “stimulus” fund appeal continues to increase! Contributions jumped this week by \$20,000, hitting \$49,267 with a total of 105 donations to the working-class newsweekly.

“Thank you so much for your excellent coverage and perspective for the working class. It’s indispensable!” Pat Travis wrote with her check from Knightdale, North Carolina.

“I can think of no more worthy cause than to donate my stimulus check to the *Militant*, my political beacon for many years!” Leslie Craine wrote from Windsor, Connecticut.

The *Militant*, with its coverage of the Socialist Workers Party campaigns across the country and its fighting program to advance the interests of working people, explaining the central questions are class against class, presents news on workers’ struggles and an international working-class perspective impossible to get elsewhere. It carries articles on political developments each week and special features on the history and lessons of past class struggles, like the review of *The Jewish Question* in this issue.

It advances a road for workers to defend ourselves and build a movement capable of organizing millions to take political power into our own hands, establish a workers and farmers government, and reach out to fellow toilers worldwide to end exploitation once and for all.

Please give as generously as you can. Send your contribution to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, or online at themilitant.com.

— JOHN STUDER

THE MILITANT

Cuban Revolution: Example to workers worldwide

Cuba’s workers and peasants taking political power and defending socialism and internationalism has set an example for over six decades in the face of Washington’s unrelenting hostility. The ‘Militant’ helps build solidarity actions with the Cuban Revolution today.



Militant/Mike Shur
Pedro Luis Pedroso, Cuban ambassador to U.N., speaks at New York event Jan. 9.

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Join 2021 SWP campaign!

Continued from front page

he had come to the rally to offer solidarity with their fight and learn more about the conditions they face. Calero asked him about safety at his job.

“There’s a lot of injuries,” Cohato replied. Customers walk around the areas where workers are stacking and processing the produce and bosses do little to safeguard them. “Just the other day a pallet stacked with produce fell on a customer.”

“That’s one reason why workers need to take control of production into our own hands,” Calero said. Workers, not the bosses, deciding the pace of production and how work is organized is key to defending our lives and limbs and those of customers. Cohato got a copy of the *Militant* and the campaign platform and arranged to stay in touch.

Calero is part of a national slate the SWP is running around the country that also includes Willie Cotton for New York City public advocate.

Later in the day, Calero spoke in Manhattan with a half-dozen “deliveristas,” while they were waiting for orders to deliver food and groceries through app-based companies like Relay, Uber Eats and others. They were pleased to hear the produce workers at Hunts Point were standing up to the bosses.

The number of deliveristas has mushroomed over the last year to 80,000 in New York City, a result of the pandemic shutdowns and ban on indoor dining.

Hundreds of deliveristas marched in the city Oct. 15 for better pay and conditions. Calero said that protests like this build solidarity among other workers and point the way forward for building a union to advance workers’ demands.

Fight for jobs key for working class

The SWP campaign is raising proposals that working people and our unions can fight for today.

“The fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions to work with decent wages is key,” Calero says. “It could be used to repair the infrastructure and build the hospitals, child care centers, schools, bridges and mass transit for a start.”

Wherever there are threats of lay-

offs, workers should demand that work hours be cut — with no cut in take-home pay — to spread around the available work.

The drive to get new subscribers of the *Militant* to renew and efforts to expand the circulation of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries and win a wider hearing for the party’s election campaigns reinforce each other.

Julio López immediately pulled out \$20 to renew his subscription for six months when SWP campaigners met him at his apartment in Manhattan Jan. 10.

López first subscribed at a protest against police brutality in the summer. He is a strong supporter of independence for the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico, where he was born. He told SWP campaigners that his father, who has faced more than one layoff, voted for Donald Trump, largely because of his promise to “bring back jobs.”

López was surprised when SWP campaigners told him that among those who have subscribed to the *Militant* are workers who voted for Trump, as well as Joe Biden, or didn’t back either of the two main capitalist party candidates.

He decided to buy *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes after we told him the book offered the clearest explanation anywhere of the conditions that led millions to vote for Trump, and why working people need to break from both bosses’ two parties and build one of our own.

‘Workers need to defend ourselves’

Rebecca Williamson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Seattle City Council, and SWP campaigner Michele Smith visited subscriber Lorna Ramos in Tacoma, Washington, Jan. 12.

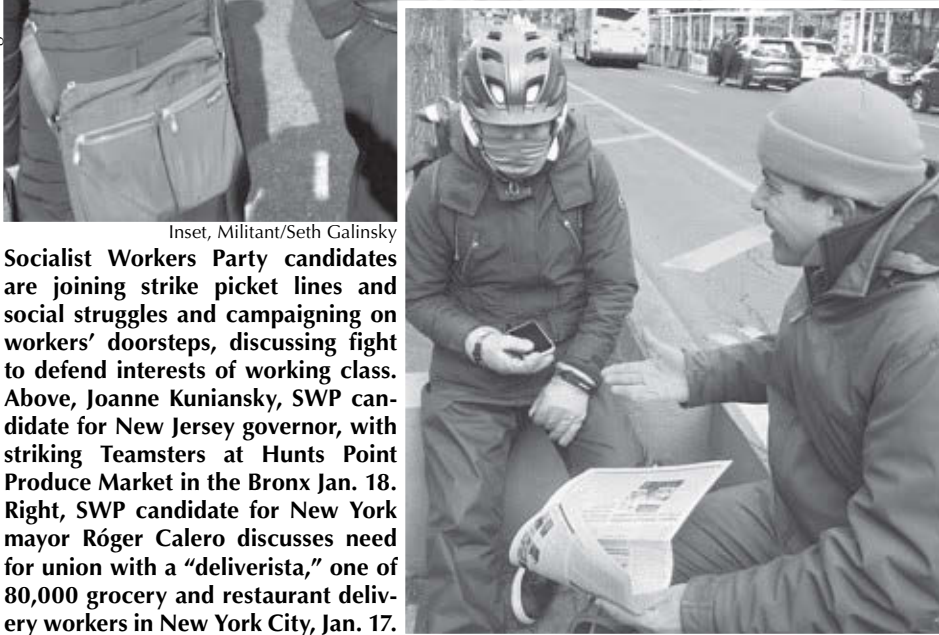
Williamson showed Ramos the paper’s coverage of the victory in Argentina legalizing abortion. “If you don’t want to have kids, a woman has to be careful,” Ramos replied. Smith said the decision about whether to have a child should rest with the woman alone. When Williamson described the number of women in Argentina who had previously died from botched, illegal abortions, Ramos was taken aback. She took that issue of the paper to read more about this.

Like thousands of hotel workers around the country, Ramos was laid off from where she had worked for 12 years when it closed temporarily. She hasn’t been called back. “They said they want to hire ‘new people.’ We know it’s so they can pay them less and work them harder than people who have been working there many years,” Ramos said. “But we are workers, and we need to defend ourselves.”

Ramos renewed her subscription and told Williamson and Smith that she plans to show the *Militant* to a co-worker she



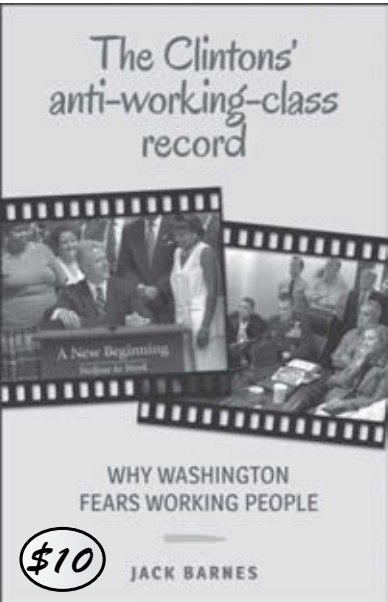
Militant/Candace Wagner



thinks will want to subscribe at her new job at a vegetable produce market.

Amazon workers want to renew

Socialist Workers Party campaigners from Atlanta and Louisville, Kentucky, went to Bessemer and Hueytown, Alabama, Jan. 13-14. As they met workers on their doorsteps they spoke about the need to support the unionization drive at the nearby Amazon warehouse. They sold three introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*, including to a Home Depot worker, who has friends working at Amazon. He was glad to hear about the fight for a union.



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— CALENDAR —

NEW YORK

New York
Solidarity March for Farmers in India. A Global Day of Action. Tues., Jan. 26. Starts at Times Square, 10 a.m.; Rally, United Nations, 11 a.m. *Information: (347) 971-6809.*

WASHINGTON

Seattle
End U.S. Blockade Against Cuba. Sun., Jan. 31. Picket line at Ballard Farmers Market, 11 a.m.; car caravan, 12 p.m. 22nd Ave. NW and Market Street. *Information: seattle-cuba@gmail.com.*



Militant/ Lisa Potash

Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta, speaks with laid-off structural engineer David Mills while campaigning door to door Jan. 15. “Only by organizing ourselves as the working class can we begin to address the problems the capitalist system creates,” said Fruit.

2021 Socialist Workers Party candidates Fight in the interests of the working class Workers need our own party, a labor party

Atlanta, Georgia

Rachele Fruit, mayor

Dallas, Texas

Gerardo Sánchez, City Council.

Lincoln, Nebraska

Joe Swanson, City Council At-Large

Miami, Florida

Anthony Dutrow, mayor

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, governor
Candace Wagner, lieutenant governor

New York, New York

Róger Calero, mayor
Willie Cotton, public advocate

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart, district attorney

Seattle, Washington

Henry Dennison, mayor
Rebecca Williamson, City Council

See directory on page 8 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

The Militant February 1, 2021

‘Sedition’ charge threat to rights

Continued from front page

laws, as U.S. history shows, have been used to assault political rights and attack the labor movement. They’re a danger to the working class.

In 1798, a few years after the American Revolution against British colonial rule, the Federalist Party administration of President John Adams pushed through the Alien and Sedition Acts. These attacks on political rights were aimed at increasing federal power, going after those sympathetic to the French Revolution and the French government’s challenges to Washington’s new navy.

The Sedition Act made it a crime to criticize the president or the government of the United States. Thomas Cooper, a newspaper editor in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, was indicted, convicted, fined and thrown in jail for six months for publishing an article critical of President Adams. The Alien Act gave the president the power to deport without trial French immigrants and other foreigners deemed “dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States.”

Sedition charges were used against abolitionists and others speaking out against the slavocracy. In 1832, after Nat Turner led a rebellion of slaves, the state of Virginia passed a law against “riots, routs, unlawful assemblies, trespasses and seditious speeches by free Negroes or mulattos,” who would be publicly whipped just like rebellious slaves.

In May 1918, as the U.S. rulers had entered the first imperialist world war to advance their interests, Congress again passed a Sedition Act. This law, along with the Espionage Act enacted the previous year, was aimed at silencing those who spoke out against the war. The Sedition Act made it a crime for anyone who made statements against the war or published “any disloyal, profane, scurrilous or abusive language about” the U.S. government. Those found guilty faced fines up to \$10,000 and imprisonment for up to 20 years.

The postmaster general used the law to ban delivery of publications like *The Masses* and *The Nation*.

Eugene V. Debs, a rail labor organizer and four-time presidential candidate of

the Socialist Party, was arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison for making an anti-war speech in June 1918 in Canton, Ohio. He ran as the SP presidential candidate again from prison in 1920, winning almost a million votes.

During and after the war, the Russian Revolution inspired workers in the U.S. and around the world. President Woodrow Wilson appointed A. Mitchell Palmer as attorney general and tasked him and the newly formed Bureau of Investigation with using the Sedition Act to go after the labor and new-born communist movements. They organized raids on union halls and political headquarters, arresting some 10,000 people, breaking up the founding convention of the Communist Party, and more in what became known as the Palmer Raids.

In 1941, as the U.S. rulers were gearing up to enter the second imperialist world war, 18 leaders of Teamsters Local 544 and of the Socialist Workers Party were framed up and convicted under the newly passed Smith Act on “conspiracy” charges that made the advocacy of ideas a federal crime.

These working-class fighters were being targeted by the federal government for building a trade-union campaign against President Franklin Roosevelt’s course toward entry into World War II and for refusing to abandon the struggle to improve working conditions and build and strengthen unions.

The Department of Justice handed down indictments on July 15, 1941. The conspiracy, the government said,

Build solidarity with NY produce workers strike!

Continued from front page

ly basis,” striker Nico Barry told the rally.

This is the first strike at the market in 35 years.

Some workers carried signs that read, “We make you a million, we want a dollar.” According to Local 202, workers’ base wages currently average between \$18 and \$21 an hour.

“Our rents go up, the price of the food

UK gas workers strike over pay cuts, work hours



STOCKPORT, England — Striking gas workers organized picketing here and in other parts of the U.K. to stand up to threatened pay cuts by their bosses at Centrica, which owns British Gas. Some 7,500 British Gas workers who install and maintain gas ovens, radiators, meters and other equipment went out for five days starting Jan. 7. The bosses are seeking to impose a pay freeze, a change in workers’ hours, and other concessions. The union has scheduled six further days of strike action starting Jan. 20.

— PETE CLIFFORD

included advocating overthrow of the government by force and publishing and circulating literature advocating this. All 18 were convicted under the Smith Act. They were sentenced to between 12 and 16 months in prison.

The Stalinist Communist Party, which backed the imperialist war, supported and aided in the federal prosecution of the defendants. In 1949, 11 CP leaders were indicted and jailed for violating this same thought-control law. “CP Trial Verdict Hits Rights of All” headlined the Oct. 24 *Militant* that year,

as the socialist newsweekly campaigned against this attack on workers’ rights.

In 1973 the SWP filed a landmark federal lawsuit challenging decades of FBI spying, harassment and disruption and waged a 13-year political campaign around it. The party won a powerful decision defending the SWP’s right to its revolutionary views, free from government interference.

Regardless of who is arrested today on charges of seditious conspiracy, the ruling families’ real target is the working class and its vanguard.

we buy in the store is going up,” 58-year-old truck driver Fernando Santiago told the *Militant*. “Our wages need to go up.”

“It’s not just about wages, it’s also the workload,” said truck driver José Lora, 52. “They increase the work but still pay the same wage.” During the worst of the pandemic, most of the owners “worked from home,” Lora said. “But we were in here working every day.”

The market is one of the largest work-

places in the city — and one of the biggest wholesale produce markets in the world. Some 60% of the fresh produce in the city, and for a large part of the tri-state area, passes through the market.

The Hunts Point Cooperative Market — which represents some 30 fruit and vegetable processing companies at the terminal — issued a press statement implying that bosses could not afford a bigger raise because business was down 30% from the pandemic. But when the *Militant* requested more information, Cooperative Market spokesperson Robert Leonard replied Jan. 18 that the overall drop for the year is just 10%.

Several workers told the *Militant* that they are working 10 to 12 hours a day. “And many bosses try to pressure us to work through our lunch breaks,” said striker William Gil.

There used to be more than 100 companies at the market, but over the last two decades many smaller businesses were driven out as bigger capitalist companies cornered the market. Their revenues are well over \$2 billion a year.

According to Local 202, bosses at the market received more than \$15 million in government pandemic assistance.

On Jan. 18 cops, some wearing riot gear, arrested six strike supporters for obstructing traffic. They were trying to convince truck drivers to honor the picket line. They were released and given summonses. “The bosses say that we are all one big family when it’s convenient for them,” said Benito Cohato. “When it’s not convenient they can make your life impossible.” He’s worked at the market for 15 years.

“No struggle wins in a day,” Cohato said. “We have to realize that we have the real power when we are united.”

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



February 5, 1996

NEW YORK — Walking through any commercial strip in Manhattan, one sees pockets of picketers, garbed in red and white signs emblazoned with “LOCAL 32B-32J ON STRIKE. Help Us Win!”

The strike involves some 30,000 maintenance workers, janitors, elevator operators, and cleaners who work in 1,300 commercial buildings throughout New York City. On January 23, nearly 3,000 workers marched through midtown Manhattan. It was the strikers’ biggest march to date.

Thomas Farina, a maintenance cleaner who is a shop steward at the World Trade Center, emphasized that the central issue is the two-tier wage setup the company is trying to impose. Currently all union members make the same wages and benefits regardless of seniority. By establishing a two-tier wage and benefit structure, “they want to break the union,” Farina stated.



February 5, 1971

The Nixon administration has decided on a major new escalation of the [Indochina] war. It appears as though the predominant military conception in the Pentagon is that revolutions “are fed from the outside.” If they fail to crush the revolution in one place, that must be because it is getting support from somewhere else.

Nixon’s attack on Cambodia last May was supposed to be the final step necessary to destroy the “outside sanctuaries” and at the same time to stabilize the new military regime in Pnom Penh. But today it cannot even be said that Lon Nol’s capital city is a secure refuge isolated in a sea of “hostile” territory.

The spring antiwar offensive must provide a resounding and unequivocal demonstration of public outrage not only against each step of the new escalation, but the whole course of U.S. aggression from beginning to end.



February 2, 1946

OKINAWA — The information that came over the radio a few weeks back that GIs in Manila had staged demonstration to “Get Us Home!” had a tremendous effect here.

At an American Veterans Committee meeting, the chairman got up and said: “I understand some of you men have something to say about demobilization.” There was a roar from the 12,000 throats.

Speaker after speaker said: “We can’t trust the War Department.” “We can’t trust the brass hats in Washington,” “We have to take things into our own hands.”

A bunch of Negro soldiers got up and said: “We’re all in this together for better or worse.” They got a big hand.

There has also been a change in the attitude toward labor. Now they say, “We ought to go on strike too, all over the world.”

Working-class fight for power is central to ‘Jewish Question’

The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation by Abram Leon, 346 pages, Pathfinder Press, fourth edition, 2020.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

I urge *Militant* readers to buy, read and study the new Pathfinder edition of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation*.

The murderous attack on Jews at the Koshers deli in Jersey City in December 2019, the cold-blooded massacre of Jews at the Hyper Cacher kosher supermarket in Paris in 2015 and other acts of anti-Semitic violence shattered the illusion of many that virulent Jew-hatred ended with the fall of the Nazi regime. Or that it is only a minor question today.



Why does Jew-hatred persist and how can it be eradicated? This book, kept in print and actively distributed since 1950 by the Socialist Workers Party, answers those questions and shows the road to ending the national oppression of the Jews, which along with the fight for Black emancipation, is an essential component of the coming American revolution.

Abram Leon, a communist and a Polish-born Jew, wrote the book as he took part in leading the underground working-class movement in Nazi-occupied Belgium in the 1940s before being captured by the Gestapo and sent to his death in the Auschwitz gas chambers.

In the crucible of war and pre-revolutionary turmoil, Leon, who had been a teenage leader of a socialist Zionist youth group, went through a rapid political evolution. “Under the impact of the sharpening class struggle ... he broke with its political course and led a fight to win its members to the communist program of the world movement led by Leon Trotsky,” the biography of Leon in the book explains. He was only 26 when he died in 1944.

Capitalism and the Jewish question

I was born five years after 6 million Jews were killed under the Nazi-organized Holocaust. My Jewish father and Christian mother gave their bookworm daughter *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, which chronicles a Jewish teenage girl and her family hiding from the Nazis in Holland in 1942. They also gave me *The Wall*, John Hersey’s historical novel about the heroic 1943 uprising of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto. The books gnawed at me. I preferred the one about fighting to the one about waiting to die. But they didn’t help me

understand why the Jews are persecuted or what to do about it.

That’s the most important reason to study *The Jewish Question*.

Leon explains that “the profound roots of twentieth century anti-Semitism” were not a “German” or “Hitler” phenomenon, but a product of the rule of the capitalist class and will continue to be a threat as long as dog-eat-dog capitalist social relations dominate.

He chronicles the relationship of Jews to other classes over earlier social stages of human development, explaining that under Greek and Roman rule through the end of antiquity and into the feudal era Jews occupied a distinct social niche, with Jewish merchants thriving. “Jews are historically a social group with a specific economic function. They are a class, or more precisely, a people-class,” Leon writes.

He describes how Jewish merchants also became money-lenders under feudalism and developed economic relations with kings, nobles, artisans and peasants, and the incipient bourgeoisie.

What changed? Capitalism emerged to replace feudalism as the dominant form of class society and exploitation. “It is only from the twelfth century on, parallel with the economic development of Western Europe, with the growth of cities and the formation of a native commercial and industrial class, that the condition of the Jews begins to worsen seriously, leading to their almost complete elimination from most of the Western countries,” Leon writes. “Persecutions of the Jews take on increasingly violent forms.”

As capitalism became dominant, a social differentiation began among the Jewish people and consequently the coming apart of the people-class. For the first time in centuries, a Jewish working class was created, including in garment and textile. And there was a mass emigration of persecuted Jews from backward Eastern Europe, particularly to the U.S.

Capitalists exploit anti-Semitism

“By socially differentiating Jews, by integrating the latter into economic life, and by emigration,” Leon says, “capitalism has laid the bases for the solution of the Jewish problem.”

But crisis-racked capitalism



Striking textile workers picket in New York City in 1913 carrying signs in Yiddish, Italian, Russian and English.

Demonstrate Saturday at the German Consulate Against Nazi Terror!



Above, issues of *Socialist Appeal*, as the *Militant* was called at the time, campaigning for Jewish refugees to be admitted to the U.S. Below, Jewish refugees aboard S.S. St. Louis reach Havana in 1939. They were refused entry by the Cuban government and in Miami by the Roosevelt administration. The 900 on board were forced back to Europe and 250 perished in Nazi camps.

couldn’t assimilate the Jews. “The fear-some crisis of the capitalist regime in the twentieth century has aggravated the plight of the Jews to an unparalleled degree,” Leon writes. And the capitalist rulers found they needed anti-Semitism and Jew-hatred to survive.

This reached a deadly high point with the victory of fascism in Germany and that regime’s use of anti-Semitism to win over millions of ruined middle-class people and sections of the demoralized working class after openings for a proletarian revolution there were destroyed by the counterrevolutionary policies of the Stalinists and Social Democrats.

This led to Hitler’s “Final Solution.”

Though Jew-hatred has declined among working people today, anti-Semitism remains a crucial tool the capitalist rulers will employ when social crisis again creates a pre-revolutionary rise of working-class resistance. Studying Leon’s book and fighting all acts of Jew-hatred remains crucial for the working-class movement.

Workers in their millions must fight and speak out against all forms of oppression and exploitation under capitalism, along a course of action toward taking political power into our own hands. This is the road toward winning the ruined small proprietors to see their salvation in a workers and farmers government.

There can be no revolution in the United States without resolving the Jewish question, just as working people in the United States cannot establish a workers and farmers government capable of ending the dictatorship of capital unless the fight against the national oppression of 44 million African Americans is a central part of the struggle.

Understanding and acting

on the fight against Jew-hatred in the U.S., where there are nearly 7 million Jews — more than in any other country, including Israel — is a life-or-death question for the working class.

National question and U.S. revolution

As is the fight for Black liberation. In *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes writes that the history of the African American struggle proves “that workers who are Black will comprise a disproportionately weighty part of the ranks and leadership of the mass social movement that will make a proletarian revolution.”

The solution to national questions can only be posed by the working class, Barnes explains. Leon’s book makes a similar case. “When the people of the factories and the fields have finally thrown off the yoke of the capitalists, when a future of unlimited development opens up before liberated humanity, the Jewish masses will be able to make a far from unimportant contribution toward the building of a new world.”

The Socialist Workers Party can take pride in its record on both questions, from the founding documents of the SWP in 1938-39 that included “Theses on the Jewish Question”; to campaigning for unrestricted immigration of Jewish refugees as the U.S. rulers shut the country’s doors; to organizing the February 1939 “Stop the Fascists” rally of 50,000 outside a pro-Nazi mass meeting in New York; to promoting study of *The Jewish Question* today.

Party leaders knew the importance of Leon’s work. Merchant Marine party members who sailed to Europe helped obtain the manuscript and bring it to the U.S. The party has kept it in print since. You’ll see how important that investment of resources was when you read *The Jewish Question*. It can be ordered for \$17 at www.pathfinderpress.com.

As US administration changes, workers continue to face crisis

Continued from front page

Jan. 11 they were immediately shutting down two of their three plants in Brazil, throwing almost 5,000 autoworkers and thousands more who make auto parts out of work. Unions there have called for protests at Ford dealerships nationwide.

Despite these conditions workers are looking for ways to stand up to the bosses. Workers at an Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama, are pressing ahead with their fight to establish a union in the face of bosses' resistance. United Steelworkers at Constellium in the same state just concluded a four-week strike, beating back some of the bosses' attacks on their working conditions and seniority.

"Whenever working people stand up to the bosses, they provide an example to millions of others," Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City mayor, told striking produce workers at the Hunts Point terminal in The Bronx Jan. 17. "Democrats and Republicans say 'we' must all work together to make things better. But *they* protect the interests of the capitalist class that exploits working people, and we need to protect ourselves," he said.

"My campaign presents a course for workers to fight together against the capitalist rulers and their parties," he said.

"Our unions need to lead workers to fight for a law cutting the workweek with no cut in pay. Thirty hours work for 40 hours pay!" Calero said. "We need to fight for a federally funded public works program to put millions back to work at union-scale wages building hospitals, houses and schools that workers need."

Crisis in bosses' parties sharpens

The SWP campaign is underway as conflicts between and within the bosses' Democratic and Republican parties are sharpening. Even as Donald Trump leaves office, the Democrats moved to impeach him again, charging he instigated an attempted coup at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6. They and some Never-Trump Republicans are determined to prevent him from running again in 2024. They hope to have him indicted, to attack his businesses and chip away at his ability to communicate with those who support him.

From progressives like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to the Clinton-Obama wing of the party, Democrats all claim Trump's assertion that the presidential election was stolen is itself a "criminal" act. They say remarks he made to thousands of supporters before a relatively small group of them broke through security and briefly occupied the Capitol Jan. 6, constitute an "incitement to insurrection." In fact, what Trump had urged his supporters to do was to walk "to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard."

Likewise, many Democrats are demanding that Republican senators who raised questions in Congress about the Electoral College's certification of Joe Biden's victory be driven from office.

There's no reason to think that November's presidential election was conducted any more or less fraudulently than many other U.S. elections. They're *all* rigged. The bourgeois electoral system is "rigged on behalf of the propertied owners and their large rent-collecting meritocracy," wrote SWP leader Steve Clark in 2016 in *The Clin-*



Times Daily/Dan Busey

Some 400 workers in United Steelworkers Local 200 ended four-week strike at Constellium plant in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, Jan. 11, pushing back bosses' attacks on conditions, seniority.

tons' Anti-Working-Class Record. The squashing of Bernie Sanders primary challenge to Hillary Clinton that year shows what bourgeois forces "will do when they've decided the result of a nomination or election beforehand."

The electoral process is rigged the most against the Socialist Workers Party and any other working-class party that tries to run.

Target is 'deplorable' workers

The real target of the Democrats' drive to destroy Trump is the millions

of workers who couldn't bring themselves to vote for Biden. They include millions who refuse to accept what has been inflicted on them by the bosses and the government and are repelled by the contempt increasingly and routinely shown them, especially by liberals. These are the workers Hillary Clinton called "deplorables."

The capitalist rulers increasingly *fear* working people, who are beginning to see that the bosses and their government have no "solutions" that don't dump the costs of the crisis of

Liberals use Capitol 'insurrection' to target political rights

BY SETH GALINSKY

Liberal Democrats and capitalist bosses are using the action by some Donald Trump supporters who entered the Capitol Jan. 6 — falsely claiming it was an "insurrection" or "fascist coup" — to escalate their attacks on freedom of speech and political rights more broadly. Their main target is not Trump, but working people.

The FBI has gone into action looking for people to prosecute and workers have been fired for joining the protest. Democratic Party politicians are trying to come up with a way to deal with what they see as "deplorable" workers who don't think like them.

"This escalating assault on political rights is a threat to all working people," Willie Cotton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York public advocate, said Jan. 18. "To be targeted by the rulers' political police or fired because of your ideas must be opposed."

In Massachusetts, Therese Duke was fired from her nursing job of 15 years by bosses at the UMass Memorial Hospital after being recorded on video during a tussle in D.C. the day *before* Trump supporters occupied the Capitol Building. Since her firing Duke has tried to launch online fundraisers to support herself, but says these have been shut down by the big tech companies.

Bosses at Metro North in New York are trying to fire rail worker Will Pepe for joining the Capitol occupation.

Ocasio-Cortez says the U.S. is "one of the most revered democracies in the world," and demands that any representative who claims the 2020 election was rigged must be thrown out of Congress.

Katie Couric, a longtime anchor of the CBS Evening News and NBC's

"Today" program, said, "The question is how are we going to really almost deprogram these people who have signed up for the cult of Trump."

Bosses at Facebook, Twitter, Snap, and Reddit have shut down Trump's personal accounts, claiming they have the right to close accounts of people they disagree with. Twitter has shut more than 70,000 accounts that it alleges post QAnon conspiracy theories. Facebook is removing content that even mentions "Stop the Steal."

Apple, Amazon and Google, which dominate the internet, have closed Parler, the conservative version of Twitter, by denying it access to their web servers.

Bosses at companies that ban posts they claim are violent are highly selective. Twitter, owned by billionaire Jack Dorsey, continues to allow posts under numerous variants of "KillTrump."

Attacks on free speech always end up undermining the political rights of working people. Last October Facebook "deactivated" the account of Cheryl LaBash, a co-chair of the National Network on Cuba, and 14 others for posting information on a Nov. 14-15 conference organized to fight against the U.S. economic war against Cuba. In the face of protests the page was restored after 24 hours.

Twitter has frequently blocked accounts of organizations and political leaders in Cuba who defend the revolution.

The U.S. rulers always seize on whatever opportunity they can to chip away at the political rights of working people. During World War II the second-class mailing permit of the *Militant* was revoked — and several issues destroyed at the post office — by the administra-

tion of Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Officials justified the measures citing the *Militant's* uncompromising defense of Black rights and complained the paper reported the war as a conflict "fought solely for the benefit of the ruling groups."

With the support of Black rights groups, trade unions and supporters of civil liberties the *Militant* forced the government to back down. As part of the latest attacks, Stripe, a web-based financial company, has stopped processing transactions on Trump's campaign website. Airbnb announced that it is banning anyone connected with the "riot" at the Capitol from using its services as well as anyone it alleges is part of a "hate group." The Transportation Security Administration and the FBI are threatening to add Trump supporters and others they deem suspicious onto the federal no-fly list.

Some anti-Trump union officials have jumped on the bandwagon. The SMART union's Transportation Division and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen sent a letter to the Federal Railroad Administration asking it to establish a "no-ride" list, banning those they call "suspected insurrectionists" from rail travel. The main target of these bans and other attacks by liberals and bosses are working people who refused to back Joe Biden for president. They think such "deplorables" must be held in check. *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman ran an opinion piece Jan. 10 titled, "When It Comes to Trump Supporters' Fascism, America Cannot Afford Appeasement."

Working people need to oppose all these attacks on our rights.

Cuban Five ‘defended revolution against colossal injustice’

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for January is *Absolved by Solidarity: 16 Watercolors for 16 Years of Unjust Imprisonment of the Cuban Five*, a bilingual edition in English and Spanish, by Antonio Guerrero. The Cuban revolutionaries had been gathering information to help the Cuban government prevent attacks from Miami by rightist Cuban exiles sponsored by successive U.S. administrations. The Cuban Five were framed up and jailed with long sentences. Guerrero said their “harsh and unjust sentences had only one purpose: punishing Cuba.” On Dec. 17, 2014, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Guerrero were freed under the pressure of the “jury of millions,” joining René González and Fernando González in Cuba. The excerpts are from the introduction by the editor, Mary-Alice Waters, and remarks by Guerrero. Copyright © 2015 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

THE JURY OF MILLIONS HAS SPOKEN! THE CUBAN FIVE ARE FREE!

On December 17, 2014, more than sixteen years after the battle began, Cuban president Raúl Castro informed the world that Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, and Antonio Guerrero were home. They join René González and Fernando González on Cuban soil.



Above, “The Jury’s Verdict” by Antonio Guerrero, photos left, Estudios Revolución

Above right, “The Jury’s Verdict” by Antonio Guerrero depicts fellow prisoners loudly applauding Cuban Five on their return after they were convicted, which he called “the first act of solidarity with our cause.” Above left, Cubans in Holguín celebrate release of remaining members of the Five. Below, from left, Fernando González, Ramón Labañino, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero and René González reunited in Havana, Dec. 17, 2014.

mous human and economic damages to our country, must cease.” The battle to advance and defend Cuba’s socialist revolution continues as it has since January 1, 1959.

Absolved by Solidarity was on its way to press the day its principal author and artist was freed from prison. The printing was postponed long enough to record that victory on the cover and add these few words and photographs. Publication of this powerful portrait of sixteen years of struggle could not be more timely. In its pages you will find not a backward glance at the “pain and abuses of prison.” You will find the dignity, strength, and humanity of the Cuban Revolution and the five unbowed soldiers who have become the face of that revolution the world over.

Absolved by Solidarity, indeed. As promised by Fidel, they have returned.

Mary-Alice Waters
December 20, 2014



I decided several months ago that the paintings would focus on our frame-up trial in Miami. This project grew out of the fifteen watercolors I did in 2013, which sought to tell the horrendous story of our seventeen months in punishment cells. In essence, this is a continuation of that story. ...

We hope this work will serve in some way to provide a picture of those days when, with the dignity we learned from our people, the five of us defended truth against colossal injustice.

We never felt defeated. We knew we would be acquitted by the honest men and women of the world, who have today become a growing wave of solidarity that won’t break until it carries us home.

Antonio Guerrero

Federal Correctional Institution,
Marianna, Florida
August 29, 2014

January BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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16 Watercolors for 16 Years of Unjust Imprisonment of the Cuban Five
by Antonio Guerrero
Paintings by one of Cuban Five from his prison cell conveying strength, integrity, creativity of five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned by Washington.
\$15. **Special price: \$10.50**



Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory

by Ernest Mandel
\$10. **Special price: \$7**

In Defense of Socialism

by Fidel Castro
\$12. **Special price: \$8.50**

The Truth About Yugoslavia

by Argiris Malapanis, George Fyson, Jonathan Silberman
The truth about the Yugoslav Revolution, the national conflicts bred by wings of the Stalinist regime, and the predatory intervention by the imperialist powers.
\$7. **Special price: \$5**



The Balkan Wars (1912-13)

by Leon Trotsky
\$27. **Special price: \$19**

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(Teamster Rebellion)
by Farrell Dobbs
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Across the island Cubans poured into the streets from factories, schools, and offices expressing their joy. Supporters around the world joined in celebration.

Gerardo Hernández gave voice to the sentiments of each of the Five when he told a national television audience in Cuba, “We’ve turned the page on the pain and abuses of prison. We’re on a new page now,” ready for new battles. “You can count on us for whatever is needed,” he told President Castro, who welcomed them.

Above all, it was the firmness, dignity, courage, and discipline of the Five that made possible the hard-fought victory won by the people of Cuba, their government, and a “jury of millions” around the world.

As Washington moves toward establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba for the first time in more than half a century, a new front has now opened in the decades-long battle to defend Cuban independence and sovereignty. Raúl Castro explained it unflinchingly in his message to the Cuban people: “In no way has the heart of the matter been solved. The economic, commercial, and financial blockade, which causes enor-

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Abolish death penalty, a tool of oppression

Continued from front page

capitalist “justice” system. Labañino was one of the Cuban 5, framed up and imprisoned in the U.S. for up to 16 years for acting to defend their revolution.

Nowhere can that be seen more clearly than in 13 federal executions carried out over the last seven months, after a 17-year hiatus. The two most recent were sanctified by a big majority of the black-robed “justices” on the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Jan. 13 execution of Lisa Montgomery — a woman diagnosed with serious mental disorders and kept in solitary confinement since 2007 — is just one example of the barbarity of the capitalist rulers.

They use the death penalty as a class weapon to terrorize and break the spirits of workers and farmers. It has been used against working-class militants who stand up to bosses in decades past, like the Haymarket martyrs and Industrial Workers of the World militant Joe Hill. It will be used again in the future as workers and farmers defend ourselves and rebel against attacks by the bosses and their government.

Thousands more are sentenced to death by the dangerous speedup and working conditions imposed by the bosses in search of higher profits at factories, warehouses, construction sites and railroads across the country. All working people have a stake in fighting for workers control of production and safety on the job. And demanding an immediate end to the rulers’ use of the death penalty and joining actions to protest its use.

Alongside executions and the deadly violence cops mete out, the U.S. rulers incarcerate a higher proportion of the population than any other country in the world, overwhelmingly working class and disproportionately Black. Prisons, rife with the abuse of inmates’ rights, are tools of ruling-class retribution. The capitalist ruling families are only a small minority of the population. To maintain their rule, they use a court system rigged against working people.

Onerous bail terms ensure thousands languish in jail for months, and even years before trial. Prosecutors use threats of long prison sentences to force workers to cop a plea bargain so only a tiny fraction of those charged with a “crime” ever get to court. This is a blow to the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The injustices and brutalities inherent to capitalist rule can be checked for a time as a result of working people’s struggles. But the foundation for sweeping them away can only be established when we organize ourselves independently to fight in our millions to replace the dictatorship of capital with a workers and farmers government, as working people have done in revolutionary Cuba.

That’s the most powerful tool our class has to deepen the struggles necessary to wipe out all exploitation and oppression.

The Socialist Workers Party demands: End the death penalty!

US gov’t pushes aside appeals, kills 2 more inmates

Continued from front page

emotional disabilities. He was held back in second grade for three years, and repeated third and fourth grades as well.

“If Johnson’s death sentence is carried out today, the United States will execute an intellectually disabled person, which is unconstitutional,” U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge James A. Wynn wrote in dissent when the Richmond, Virginia, court voted 8 to 7 against hearing an appeal by Johnson. It wasn’t until 2002 that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to bar executions of people with mental disability.

Johnson had been sentenced to death along with two other members of a Virginia crack-cocaine gang accused of killing 11 people.

At his execution, Johnson “seemed surprised” when asked if he had any last words. “No, I’m OK,” he said. In his final statement released by lawyers Johnson listed the victims by name and said, “I want these names to be remembered.

“I want to say that I am sorry for my crimes,” he added. “I wanted to say that to the families who were victimized by my actions.” He wrote a note that he was unhappy he wasn’t given the jelly doughnuts he asked for with his last meal. “This should be fixed,” he said.

Higgs executed two days later

Higgs was convicted in 1996 of fatally shooting three women on federal wildlife land in Prince George’s County, Maryland, after a dispute at a party. But a friend with him that day who is serving a life sentence, Willis Haynes, has admitted to killing the women, saying that Higgs did not “order him to do it,” as the prosecution claimed.

“What are courts to do when faced with legal questions of this kind? Are they simply to ignore them? Or are they, as in this case, to ‘hurry up, hurry up?’” Supreme Court Judge Stephen Breyer, who voted to postpone the execution, wrote. “That is no solution. Higgs’ case illustrates this dilemma.”

Higgs’ last words before his execution were, “I am not responsible for the deaths. I did not order the murders.”

Even though both Johnson and Higgs had COVID-19, the Supreme Court refused to postpone their executions. Higgs also had asthma. Because of potential coronavirus lung damage, the lethal injection of pentobarbital put them at greater risk of pulmonary edema, tantamount to waterboarding.

“Even if [Johnson and Higgs] were correct that their prior COVID infection would make their executions

more painful, the brief duration of pain they assert — likely measured in seconds, and at most around two minutes — is still far less than the ‘suffocation, which could take several minutes’ endured by inmates executed by hanging,” the government argued. Two million people signed a clemency petition for Higgs.

Three dozen protesters gathered across from the Terre Haute prison to oppose Higgs’ execution Jan. 15, as they have during earlier executions.

The director of Death Penalty Action, Abraham Bonowitz, who helped organize the protest, invited participants to speak. Rodrick Reed, brother of Texas death-row inmate Rodney Reed, encouraged participants to keep building protests against capital punishment. “We’ve got to get everyone involved,” he said.

“Executions are used as a brutal tool of punishment by the rulers against the working class. It’s possible to change this,” said Samir Hazboun, from Louisville, Kentucky, speaking for the Socialist Workers Party. “But no government run by the capitalist ruling class will do this for us. No matter which capitalist party is in power the use of the death penalty has to end.”

Though no further federal executions are yet set for 2021, eight are due in Texas, Alabama and Ohio.

LETTERS

Rail work more dangerous

Militant readers may be interested to know about a recent decision by the Federal Railroad Administration to reduce the brake tests required on freight trains. A train or cars can now be left parked with the brake system off for up to 24 hours, instead of four hours, without having to make a complete inspection to ensure the brakes all work.

The new regulations also allow carriers to have brake systems tested on rail cars every two or four years, instead of annually. The FRA boasts this will save rail bosses more than \$500 million over the next 10 years.

This shows how government agencies like the Federal Railroad Administration act to defend the bosses’ interests, putting their profits ahead of the safety of train crews and working people who

live near the tracks. It boosts the freight operators’ drive to slash jobs, lengthen trains and squeeze more work out of less workers.

Working people saw the horrendous impact of the rulers’ productivity drive in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, in 2013, when a loaded oil train whose air brakes had bled out rolled into town, exploding and killing 47 people. Disasters like this stem directly from the rail bosses’ train-crew cuts, reduction in maintenance,

and other government-abetted attacks on working conditions.

Rail workers need to fight for workers control over production through our unions, as the Socialist Workers Party’s action program explains. We should demand doubling train crews and reversing cuts in maintenance. Reduce train lengths, now up to two or three miles, to 50 cars, bring back cabooses or add an engine to the rear of every train. This would increase safety and require large-scale hiring of train crews and maintenance workers, much needed as millions are out of work.

Mobilizing rail workers and others to fight for measures like these is the way forward, not lobbying politicians or looking to the pro-boss Federal Railroad Administration.
*Naomi Craine, rail conductor
Chicago, Illinois*

US has long history of rigged elections

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Liberal media and Democrats sneer at claims of chicanery in the 2020 elections. But stealing the vote and rigging elections is not new in U.S. capitalist politics. The Democrats often led the way over the decades.

In the 1960 presidential election Democrat John F. Kennedy defeated Republican Richard Nixon by the narrowest of margins. Vote stuffing by the Democratic Party machine in Chicago led by Mayor Richard Daley gave Kennedy the victory.

Kennedy beat Nixon by 9,000 votes in Illinois by capturing a suspiciously high 450,000 advantage in Cook County, which covers Chicago. How was this done? It included cornering the graveyard vote; promising individuals money, a warm meal or a drink if they’d vote for the “right” person; and precinct captains marking up ballots for people to turn in. This was widely known, and described in detail by retired journalist Bob Crawford, who covered Chicago politics for decades for WBBM radio, in a 2016 interview.

“There was a cemetery where the names on the tombstones were registered and voted,” Earl Mazo, a reporter visiting Chicago during the 1960 election, told the *Washington Post*. “I remember a house. It was completely gutted. There was nobody there. But there were 56 votes for Kennedy in that house.”

Daley’s efforts at invention were more successful than Republican efforts in southern parts of the state.

Lyndon B. Johnson, who won the presidential election in 1964, got started in U.S. national politics by rigging the Democratic primary vote that resulted in him winning a U.S. Senate seat from Texas in 1948. In a chapter entitled “The Stealing,” biographer Robert Caro described how Johnson got elected in *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: Means of Ascent*.

A day after the polls closed, former Texas Gov. Coke Stevenson was leading Johnson by about 800 votes. But reports of “uncounted votes” from county election officials, like 427 in Duval County in the Rio Grande Valley — 425 of which were for Johnson — narrowed the gap. Five days later more ballots for Johnson were “found,” cutting Stevenson’s lead to 157 votes.

In Jim Wells County among those voting for Johnson were 200 names in alphabetical order in the same handwriting. On tally sheets submitted by election officials in Precinct 13 there, Caro writes, “The figure for Johnson, which had been reported as 765 on Election Night, was now 965 — because, according to testimony that would later be given, someone had, since Election Night, added a loop to the ‘7’ to change it into a ‘9.’” Johnson was now on the road to his Senate seat.

The Democrats — with help from political allies in the FBI — tried mightily for over four years to drive President Trump from office on fabricated charges he colluded with Moscow.

The best example of election rigging, of course, is the way the capitalist rulers of both parties seek to suppress ballot access for working-class candidates and parties like the Socialist Workers Party.

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