

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
US rulers' 'administrative state'
seeks to control workers' lives
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 85/NO. 6 FEBRUARY 15, 2021

SWP ballot drive in Dallas discusses class road forward

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

DALLAS — “In the face of high unemployment, our unions need to lead a fight for a massive government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building hospitals, schools, affordable housing and more,” Gerardo Sánchez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Dallas City Council District 1, told Rodrigo Gurrola here Feb. 1.

“I got laid off two months ago from a job in the oil fields near Midland,” Gurrola said. “I was working 12-hour days, six days a week and now I am not getting any unemployment.”

The SWP platform calls for cutting the workweek with no cut in pay to spread around the available work. And for every worker to get unemployment benefits for as long as they need it. A fight around these demands would help overcome divisions between workers in and out of work, and put working people in a better position to organize the unions we need.

Gurrola got a copy of the *Militant* and signed a petition to put Sánchez on the ballot for the May 1 election. Sánchez works in the tire and lube department at Walmart.

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Fight for cut in workweek, no cut in pay to stop layoffs!



Jan. 27 picket line at Borgers USA auto parts plant in Norwalk, Ohio. Workers went on strike Jan. 21 in fight to improve pay, benefits, and win recognition of their union.

Fight gov't campaign against constitutional rights we need!

Statement by Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party City Council At-Large candidate in Lincoln, Nebraska, Feb. 3.

SWP STATEMENT

Facing rising joblessness and boss assaults on our wages, hours and working conditions, working people need to

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Biden attacks political rights as bosses cut jobs and wages

BY TERRY EVANS

Working people in the U.S. face an economic and social crisis with millions of jobs closed down and bosses attacking the hours, wages and working conditions of those still on the job in a drive to crush their competitors and defend their profits. President Joe Biden is doing nothing to reverse this.

What he is doing is issuing reams of executive orders — diktats not debated or voted on by anyone — aimed at regulating working people more closely.

Liberals are convinced working people are too stupid to recognize what's good for them, as evidenced, they say, by the over 140 million who

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Honduran workers, peasants seek road forward as US rulers fuel economic crisis

BY SETH GALINSKY

President Joe Biden insists he will hold off on any substantial changes to the previous administrations' moves to bar large-scale immigration across the Mexican border, fearing to trigger a surge from Central America.

This meant Guatemalan soldiers and police saw fit to unleash tear gas and violent assaults against a caravan of 7,500 Hondurans heading toward the U.S. border Jan. 17. Since then at least two-thirds have been sent back to Honduras.

On Feb. 2 administration spokespeople told the press Biden would ask the Department of Homeland Security to “review” Donald Trump's “Remain

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Bosses drive for profit leads to Georgia poultry plant deaths

BY JANICE LYNN

GAINESVILLE, Ga. — Six workers at the nonunion Foundation Food Group poultry plant here were killed Jan. 28 when a liquid nitrogen line ruptured and spewed a deadly freezing fog of nitrogen vapor. Nitrogen, used to freeze chicken, can reduce the oxygen in the air and cause asphyxiation, as well as death from burns from the cold.

Five of the workers died at the plant. A dozen workers were taken to an emergency room with injuries and respiratory difficulties. One of those died at the hospital and three are in critical condition. Some 130 workers had to be evacuated and the plant remains closed.

“I work in the area where the nitrogen leak happened,” María Caudillo told the *Militant* as we sat in her carport. “I don't know what happened. I fainted and when I woke up I was in the hospital.” She asked that her actual name not be used for this article. “I

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Join the 'Militant' in its fight to end Pa. prison ban on the newsweekly!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Join the *Militant* in its fight to overturn a ban of the Jan. 4 issue of the paper imposed by prison officials at the Camp Hill State Correctional Institution in Pennsylvania.

The inmate-subscriber whose paper was seized sent the denial form to the *Militant*. He said he plans to file an appeal of the ban as per prison regulations.

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Protests erupt against Polish gov't ban on women's right to abortion



Reuters/Aleksandra Szmigiel

Tens of thousands took to streets across Poland Jan. 29, including in Warsaw, above, to protest government's imposition of near-total ban on women's right to choose to have an abortion.

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The Polish government moved Jan. 27 to implement a near-total ban on women's right to choose to have an abortion, effective immediately. The ban had been adopted three months earlier, but was postponed under the

pressure of mass demonstrations of hundreds of thousands across the country.

Following the government's announcement, tens of thousands rapidly took to the streets, especially in

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Amazon workers' union drive in Alabama gains support

Minnesota refinery workers win support in fight for safety, jobs

Car caravans demand: ‘End US embargo against Cuba!’

BY STEVE WARSHALL

MIAMI — Over 100 cars and more than 25 bicycle riders joined in a spirited caravan protesting the U.S. government’s criminal embargo against Cuba here Jan. 31. Similar actions took place in Los Angeles, New York, Seattle and other cities in response to a call for monthly protests by the National Network on Cuba.

The action here was called together by YouTube personality Jorge Medina, widely known as El Protestón Cubano, and was attended by protesters originally from Cuba as well as the U.S. They held signs calling for the end of the U.S. embargo, open travel between the two countries, remittances to relatives in Cuba without U.S. government interference and normal consular relations between the two countries.

The protest was also attended by Seattle-area schoolteacher Carlos Lazo, who first organized what have now become regular monthly protests.

The caravan stopped at a monument in Coral Gables Park to José Martí, one of Cuba’s revolutionary heroes. Jan. 28 was the 168th anniversary of his birth.

A brief rally was held after the event where plans for building next month’s caravan were announced.



BY DEBORAH LIATOS

LOS ANGELES — Some 60 participants took part in a car caravan here Jan. 31 demanding an end to the U.S. embargo of Cuba. The caravan assembled in MacArthur Park with a short rally and wove through mostly

working-class areas to the Boyle Heights neighborhood, with another rally to wrap up.

Telemundo, Univision, and the local ABC affiliate sent reporting team to the event, with coverage carried on all three stations.

The action, organized by the Los Angeles U.S. Hands Off Cuba Committee, demanded an end to Washington’s economic war against Cuba, U.S. out of Guantánamo and for U.S. cooperation with the Cuban government in fighting COVID-19. New for this area was the participation of several people born in Cuba.

Pacey Bynum, a FedEx driver, told the *Militant* why she decided to join the protest caravan. “For a while I knew the topical history of what the U.S. was doing in Cuba. I became aware the U.S. was punishing Cuba for having a different style of government. Cuba has been punished for decades,” she said. “They’ve sent doctors to help a lot of countries.”

Maureen Cruise is a retired registered nurse and Service Employees International Union member who volunteers for California Nurses Association/National Nurses United. She said, “We really need to invite Cuban medical personnel to the U.S. The U.S. has an insurance system, not a health care system. A wealth care system.”

Speakers at the send-off rally included Mark Friedman, coordinator of the Los Angeles U.S. Hands Off Cuba Committee; University of California student Johanna Cervantes; John Parker from the Socialist Unity Party; Dexter Martin from the All-African People’s



Militant/Chuck Guerra

Caravan participants in Miami Jan. 31 protesting U.S. government embargo of Cuba rally at José Martí monument, above. Car caravans occurred in Seattle, Los Angeles and New York as well.

Revolutionary Party; and Norton Sandler for the Socialist Workers Party.

When the caravan reached Boyle Heights, participants got out of their cars at a busy intersection and distributed informational leaflets. They detailed the severe restrictions the U.S. government has imposed on the Cuban people over the past few years, tighten-

ing its criminal economic war against the revolutionary workers and farmers government there. A second flyer highlighted how the Cuban government has handled the COVID-19 pandemic. It explained how Cuba, with a population similar to Los Angeles County, has recorded under 220 deaths while more than 16,500 have died here.

Number of contributors to ‘Militant’ appeal grows!

“I am responding to your call for donations. I’ve been a long-term subscriber, with my subscription being paid for by donors. So, I am going to purchase a year’s subscription, plus donate \$25,” one of the *Militant’s* subscribers behind bars in Pennsylvania wrote in response to the paper’s call for readers to contribute as much as they can from government “stimulus” payouts.

That brings donations so far to \$63,112 from 138 readers!

The Pennsylvania prisoner also got a copy of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*, by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes.

This special fund helps make it possible for the *Militant* to cover breaking developments in the class struggle, to report on new political developments in the U.S. and worldwide from the point of view of the working class, and to run longer articles on the programmatic and leadership continuity and rich history over 175 years of revolutionary working-class struggle.

It features weekly coverage of the 2021 Socialist Workers Party candidates, who explain workers need to build a class-struggle union movement and our own political party, a labor party, on the road to the working class taking political power into our own hands.

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

‘When you beat the owners, it’s a victory!’

Some 1,400 produce warehouse workers, members of Teamsters Local 202 at the Hunts Point market in New York City, went on strike for a week Jan. 17, winning a wage increase. “We can accomplish something when we stick together,” one worker told the ‘Militant.’



Teamsters Joint Council 16 Teamsters members vote to approve contract Jan. 23 at Hunts Point Produce Market.

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

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

SWP campaigns in Dallas

Continued from front page

Supporters of the SWP 2021 election campaign from Dallas, Houston, Albuquerque and Los Angeles talked to hundreds of working people over the Jan. 30 weekend. So far over 170 people out of a goal of 200 have signed to put the party on the ballot.

“The way I see it the Democrats and Republicans are a two-headed snake,” Carlos Rodríguez told campaign supporter Leslie Dork after she knocked on his door. “When they get into office it is all about them. We need a different way.” Dork had explained that the SWP says working people need our own party, a labor party, based on a fighting union movement.

Rodríquez, who installs power lines for a telecommunications company, told her, “Right now my family has no health insurance. I can get it for myself through my job, but for my family it would cost over \$1,400 a month. I owe a \$12,000 medical bill for my newborn child.”

The Socialist Workers Party platform calls for workers and their unions to fight for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care for all as a social right — not insurance.

Party campaigners point to what working people accomplished in Cuba, where everyone receives the best health care available. Cuba has one of the highest number of doctors per capita of any country in the world. That’s only possible because working people carried out a revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and established a workers and farmers government.

Building a labor party in this country would open the road to working people in our millions doing the same.

Sánchez and Dennis Richter, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in California, were the featured speakers at a Militant Labor Forum here Jan. 30.

“We aim to educate and raise work-

ing-class consciousness along a road to building a revolutionary movement that can take political power,” Richter said. SWP campaigners point to the example set by union struggles unfolding today for building workers’ confidence. “We are for revitalizing the unions and organizing new combinations of workers,” he said.

Sánchez noted that at least 18 Walmart workers have signed petitions to put his name on the ballot.

“My co-workers ask me ‘What does City Council do?’” Sánchez said. “I tell them that it passes budgets for the city of Dallas to protect the interests of the bosses and the wealthy. And a lot of the budget comes from taxes on working people.”

That’s why working people need to break from the Democratic and Republican parties and rely on their own strength.

Sánchez noted that there is no “Dallas” solution to the problems working people face. “Whatever happens in India with the mass protests of farmers, or with the fight to get a union at Amazon in Bessemer, Alabama, affects working people here,” he said. “We are part of the world.”

At the meeting, \$800 was raised for the campaign.

Help put SWP candidate Joe Swanson on the ballot!

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign will kick off the drive to put Joe Swanson on the ballot for City Council At-Large in Lincoln, Nebraska, with a weekend of campaigning Feb. 6-7.

Swanson is a long-time union member who worked on the railroad, in meatpacking and elsewhere. He is a member of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers — Transportation Division Alumni Association Local 1732.

Volunteers from Nebraska, Chicago and Twin Cities will join Swanson to use the

SWP campaign to discuss how workers can organize to defend our interests in struggle against the bosses and their Democratic and Republican parties. Their goal is to collect the 150 signatures needed to put Swanson on the ballot. Above, Rae Arellano signs Swanson’s petition in Lincoln.

The weekend will include a public meeting Feb. 6. If you’d like to help campaign, or contribute to the financial costs, contact the Socialist Workers Party in Lincoln, Chicago or Twin Cities, listed on page 8.

— NAOMI CRAINE



Socialist Workers Party fighting action program

THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY PRESENTS A FIGHTING WORKING-CLASS PROGRAM. WE NEED TO ORGANIZE TO FIGHT GROWING EMPLOYER ATTACKS ON OUR JOBS, WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS. Build solidarity with workers’ struggles to organize and defend themselves. On this course, we can build and use union power on our own behalf, and for all those suffering blows by the bosses and their government. One union for all drivers — taxi, Uber, Lyft and other app-based and car service drivers!

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

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

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

WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION. Workers need to fight to wrest control of production out of the hands of the bosses. Employers care about profits, not the dangerous conditions we’re forced to work under. This is the only road to take control of and enforce safety and health on the job. Demand

the bosses open their books for inspection by workers and consumers. Workers control of production is a school for learning to run the economy ourselves, in the interests of all producers, a crucial step alongside building a labor party to fight to take political power.

FARMERS — WORKERS’ ALLIES ON THE LAND. Fight for immediate government relief to fully cover farmers’ production costs, including living expenses for themselves and their families. No more foreclosures! Nationalize the land, guaranteeing its use by those who live on and till it, not “repo” seizures by absentee bankers, landowners, or capitalist farmers.

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

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

FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL AND OF A CONTIGUOUS PALESTINIAN STATE. The leaders of Arab states, of Israel and Palestinian leaders need to meet and recognize both the state of Israel and an independent Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred and murderous violence.

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

FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY! Demand that cops who kill and brutalize people be prosecuted. Fight racist discrimina-

tion and the entire capitalist injustice system, with its frame-ups, “plea bargains,” onerous bail and “three strike” prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

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

WOMEN’S RIGHT TO ABORTION. Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

DEFEND POLITICAL RIGHTS. Defend the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Defend freedom of worship. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption. No to reactionary “cancel culture” and efforts to shut up people by public lynching through social media.

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

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Abolish the Death Penalty: Anti-Working-Class Weapon in the Hands of the Rulers. Speaker: Carole Lesnick, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite no. 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Abolish the Death Penalty: A Tool of Capitalist Oppression. Speaker: Janet Post, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 12, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite no. 16. Tel.: (215) 708-1270.

2021 Socialist Workers Party candidates

Fight in the interests of the working class

Workers need our own party, a labor party

Atlanta

Rachele Fruit, mayor

Dallas

Gerardo Sánchez, City Council Dist. 1

Lincoln, Nebraska

Joe Swanson, City Council At-Large

Miami

Anthony Dutrow, mayor

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, governor

Candace Wagner, lieutenant governor

New York

Róger Calero, mayor

Willie Cotton, public advocate

Philadelphia

Osborne Hart, district attorney

Seattle

Henry Dennison, mayor

Rebecca Williamson, City Council

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

Will Biden unravel openings for toilers in the Middle East?

BY SETH GALINSKY

Will President Joe Biden jettison the Donald Trump administration’s Mid-east moves that pushed forward the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Arab and Muslim regimes? This extension of mutual recognition is good for working people in Israel, Palestine and the Middle East and can open the door to further advances.

On Feb. 1, the government of Kosova established diplomatic relations with Israel, joining the governments of Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, which did so last year. Kosova officials say it will open its embassy in Jerusalem, not Tel Aviv, the first Muslim-majority country to do so.

These regimes see the moves as an opportunity to expand trade and other ties, boosting the profits of their capitalist classes.

Many of these regimes also see the pacts as a way to counter the Shiite-clerical regime in Iran, their major rival. The rulers of Saudi Arabia see Tehran’s military intervention and its organizing of armed groups in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen as a threat. The Saudi government itself, one of the main backers of the accords, has not yet recognized Israel.

Openings for working people

For workers, union activists, farmers, artists and others — be they Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, or Persian — the pacts increase possibilities to meet each other, to work side by side, to discuss, debate and act together in common struggles.

Shifts in relations between Arab and Israeli governments are evident in other ways. In November, the Moroccan primary school system released a syllabus that incorporates Moroccan Jewish history and culture, the first time any Arab country has done so.

A Palestinian leadership worthy of the Palestinian people’s national aspirations would take advantage of these shifts by agreeing to immediate talks to recognize the right of Israel to exist and to win recognition of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. It would support the right of Jews around the world — in the face of rising anti-Se-

mitic attacks — to take refuge in Israel. Neither the Palestinian National Authority nor Gaza-based Hamas have done so.

In a 2017 statement “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel,” Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes wrote, “Working people of all national backgrounds, religious beliefs and political allegiances in Israel and Palestine can use and defend their space to speak, organize and begin redressing the blood-drenched legacy of imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation.

“These historic outrages,” Barnes wrote, “include ruthless colonial and national oppression across the Arab and Muslim countries, as well as the genocidal crimes of the Holocaust.”

The SWP, he says, is “for whatever helps working people organize and act together. ... We are for whatever renews our class solidarity and self-confidence, advancing us along a revolutionary course toward a united struggle for workers power.”

Return to Obama’s policies?

Biden says he backs the Abraham Accords, while refusing to grant any credit to Trump for their signing. But his foreign policy team and initial moves have the Israeli government and some in the U.S. ruling class concerned that he intends to return to the policies of the Barack Obama White House.

Columnist Hugh Hewitt warned in the Jan. 31 *Washington Post* that “of all the accomplishments of the Trump administration, the one that seemed least likely to fall under President Biden ... were the Abraham Accords. No longer.”

Obama acted on the belief that his administration’s pressure on and criticism of the Israeli government would result in talks with Palestinian leaders. That never happened. No improvement in relations between Israel and the Palestinians or Arab regimes took place during Obama’s tenure. Attacks between Israeli forces and Hamas and other Palestinian groups that oppose the existence of Israel occurred regularly.

Two weeks after his inauguration Biden had still not called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

But Biden’s State Department sus-

Protests continue in Russia, demand ‘Free Navalny!’



Ksenia Korshun via Reuters

For the second week in a row, tens of thousands demonstrated against Russian President Vladimir Putin, defying a police crackdown Jan. 31. The protests, demanding the release from prison of Alexei Navalny, Putin’s main bourgeois political opponent, are the most widespread in the country in years.

Scores braved temperatures of -40°F in Yakutsk, above. Cops detained more than 5,000 people in 86 cities. Protests ranged from Vladivostok on the Pacific Ocean to the Kaliningrad enclave on the Baltic Sea.

“Down with the czar!” several thousand people chanted in St. Petersburg, Russia’s second-largest city. Some of the biggest rallies were in Novosibirsk and Krasnoyarsk, in eastern Siberia, and Yekaterinburg, in the Urals.

The government doesn’t “allow people to express their opinions,” Masha Ulyanova told the *Washington Post* in Moscow. “They are afraid that they’ll lose power and they will have to live in this poor country that they have robbed.”

Navalny’s imprisonment has become a lightning rod for anger over declining living standards, decaying health services, Moscow’s military interventions abroad and its attacks on political rights at home. Wages have declined 10% in the past seven years.

Thousands trying to rally outside the jail holding Navalny chanted “Putin, thief!” referring to an extensively viewed video released by Navalny’s anti-corruption campaign that reported a luxurious Black Sea palace had been built for the Russian president. Putin denies ownership of the complex.

Navalny was detained when he arrived back in Russia from Germany, where he was recovering from being poisoned by a military-grade nerve toxin, an attack he says was ordered by Putin. He was sentenced to three and a half years in prison Feb. 2, for breaching parole terms from a previous frame-up for “embezzlement.” He is appealing the ruling.

— ROY LANDERSEN

pending the sale of F-35 jets to the government of the United Arab Emirates Jan. 27 for further review. The sale had been approved by Trump after the UAE became the first Arab government to recognize Israel in 26 years last August.

Secretary of State Anthony Blinken says that Washington plans to end U.S. military support for Saudi airstrikes on Yemen, part of a bloody conflict against Tehran-backed Houthi combatants.

Revive Iran pact?

Biden says one of his priorities is to revive the 2015 deal with the Iranian

government aimed at restricting its acquisition of nuclear weapons, which the Trump administration pulled out of in 2018.

But Blinken says Tehran’s actions since then mean “we are a long way from” going back to that pact. The Iranian government insists Washington must lift the crippling sanctions imposed by Trump on the country, or Tehran will not abide by any restrictions on its development of nuclear or other weapons. It has developed ballistic missiles and used cruise missiles to strike oil fields in Saudi Arabia.

For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel

- For repeal of U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act
- For workers’ solidarity in Israel, Palestine, the world over

Socialist Workers Party statement



Read or download ready-to-print flyer at www.themilitant.com

Join ‘Militant’ fight to end Pennsylvania prison ban

Continued from front page

The denial form justifies the impoundment by saying page 2 of the issue could “create a danger within the context of the correctional facility.” But the only article on page 2 is “Workers in Scotland Speak Out Against Economic, Health Crisis.”

The form also says, “Brief Description: Socialist Workers Party Action, speaks on social unrest and standing against law enforcement.” Prison authorities are likely referring to the “Socialist Workers Party Action Program” appearing on page 3, which is the election campaign platform of the SWP that has been run in many issues over the past year.

No notice was ever sent to the *Militant* informing it of the prison officials’ ban, which they are required to do by law.

On Feb. 1 *Militant* attorney David Goldstein spoke with Diana Woodside, director of Policy, Grants and Legisla-

tive Affairs at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. He sent her the issue and the impoundment notice. Woodside said she will review the issue and inform him if the denial is reversed. Otherwise Goldstein will appeal the ruling in order to overturn the ban.

An issue of the *Militant* sent to a different subscriber was banned at Camp Hill last July, an action Woodside reversed.

“At issue are constitutional rights to freedom of speech and of the press,” said *Militant* editor John Studer. “The millions of workers behind bars in the U.S. must have the right to read and think for themselves, form their own opinions about political developments in the U.S. and worldwide, and to be participants of the class struggle.

“We ask supporters of prisoners’ rights to join in the fight to reverse this,” said Studer.

Among those who have spoken out,

some numerous times, against previous efforts by prison officials to ban the *Militant* are Amnesty International USA, National Lawyers Guild, PEN America, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Florida Press Association, American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, union officials and many others.

Letters demanding the ban be reversed can be sent to Diana Woodside at 1920 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. Email: dwoodside@pa.gov. Please send copies to the *Militant*.

The ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’ earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018 or donate online at: www.themilitant.com

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Minnesota refinery workers win support in fight for safety, jobs

ST. PAUL PARK, Minn. — Teamsters Local 120 members at Marathon’s oil refinery here have been on strike since Jan. 21, fighting for safer working conditions and no subcontracting out of jobs. The union made an unconditional offer to return to work while the contract was being negotiated, but when workers attempted to do so the gates were locked and their badges deactivated. Marathon also got a compliant judge to limit the picket lines to two.

The workers responded by setting up expanded picket lines at a Marathon-owned gas station in St. Paul Park supplied by the refinery. “Now that they have locked us out, we have filed for unemployment,” striker Adam Speedling told the *Militant* as he and his family picketed at the station Jan. 30. “We expect the company will deny it and we’ll have to fight for it.”

Marathon is the largest owner of oil refineries in the U.S.

The workers are receiving significant support from workers and unionists in the area. “Boom! \$65,000 raised for locked-out Marathon Teamsters in just over 24 hours,” the Local posted on its Facebook page Jan. 30. “If Marathon thinks they can starve our members out with this lockout they are WRONG!”

Pledges and contributions so far include \$10,000 from Teamsters Local 554, over \$4,000 from union members at the Flint Hills refinery, and \$10,000 from Teamsters Local 89.

“Thank you for all the support, keep it coming,” Local 120 responded. “When it comes to safety, we won’t back down and we won’t give up ... as long as it takes.”

To show that solidarity goes both ways, Local 120 members organized food distribution Jan. 30-31, giving out 30-pound boxes of meat, fresh produce and dairy products to area families.

On the picket line strikers Sam Rustin and Dick Briguet, who used to be part of a full-time fire department at the refinery before the bosses disbanded it, told the *Militant* about the bosses’ disregard for safety. “There now is a volunteer EMT [emergency medical team],

but presently all those workers are out on strike,” Rustin said. “The local fire departments only serve as backup, and they’re not trained to handle the hazardous and volatile chemical hydrofluoric acid should an accident happen.”

The picket line continues 24/7. Solidarity is welcome.

—Helen Meyers and Nick Neeser

Gas workers in UK strike against boss moves to cut pay

STOCKPORT, England — Striking gas workers in the U.K. have held 11 strike days beginning Jan. 7 through Feb. 1, standing up to bullying tactics by Centrica bosses seeking to impose pay cuts. The 7,500 workers, members of the GMB union who install and maintain gas cookers, radiators, meters and other equipment, have set up picket lines around the country.

Centrica, which owns British Gas, is seeking to impose a pay freeze, an extra three hours work a week with no extra pay, and changes to working conditions. Workers who refuse to sign on by March 31 will be fired, then rehired under the bosses’ conditions. They say Centrica needs these concessions to “modernize” the company, which they claim shows how it has been able to be “agile and responsive” in reacting to the coronavirus crisis.

“We face up to 20% pay cut” one



Militant/Kevin Dwire

Locked out Teamster Local 120 members and their families picket at gas station supplied by Marathon Oil in St. Paul Park, Minnesota, Jan. 30 in fight against unsafe working conditions.

picket outside the company headquarters here in Greater Manchester told the *Militant*, declining under union advice to give his name for fear of victimization.

“They are trying to undermine the union by forcing us to contract with them individually,” added another picket.

Still the mood on the picket line was determined. “If we can’t stop this, other companies will do it next,” a picket named Steve said. Before

Centrica began pushing its “fire and rehire” scheme, British Airways and other airline companies used the same tactic to impose job and pay cuts.

Five hundred bus workers in Manchester are voting on whether to strike in the face of similar threats from bosses at Go North West. The company said it wanted drivers to work longer hours, face a 10% pay cut and lose sick-pay entitlements. The bosses rejected union officials’ counteroffer of a pay freeze.

—Pete Clifford

Amazon workers’ union drive in Alabama gains support

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — “The main thing is for people to vote for the union, whether it’s held in person or by mail,” Sharon Franklin, a worker at Amazon’s fulfillment center in Bessemer, Alabama, told the *Militant* in a phone interview Jan. 30.

Some 2,000 workers at the warehouse signed union cards over the fall and won the right to vote for union representation in an election beginning Feb. 8 and running through March 29. Workers are trying to bring in the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, which organizes warehouses, department stores and some poultry plants in the South.

Some 5,800 workers are eligible to

vote in the election. As part of their anti-union campaign, Amazon filed an appeal with the National Labor Relations Board asking for the election to be postponed and held in person on their property. The NLRB had decided the vote would be done by mail, citing concerns about high COVID-19 rates in Alabama.

Amazon also launched a website #DoltWithoutDues aimed at pressuring workers to vote against the union, saying union dues will take money away from their families. It urges them to take back their signed union cards. “They’re showing us videos every week talking against the union,” Franklin said. “Some co-workers say they will vote ‘no,’ but

more say they are for the union.”

In a show of solidarity Jan. 23, the National Football League Players Association came out with a statement of support for Amazon workers having a union, before one of the league championship playoff games. There’s now a video on the union’s www.BAmazonUnion.org website that features statements by NFL Players Association Executive Director DeMaurice Smith and several players. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 136 will hold a rally to support the organizing drive, Feb. 6 from 4:45 to 6 p.m. The union tent will be located at Circle K, 998 Academy Dr., Bessemer, exit 108.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



February 19, 1996

A two-day strike of almost half a million miners in Russia highlighted the deepening economic and political crisis there and the growing numbers of workers facing depression conditions. One million Ukrainian miners joined the strike, bringing the total number of miners out to more than a million, to demand payment of hundreds of millions of dollars owed to them in back wages.

To end the stoppage the [Russian] government approved a plan, including \$2.2 billion in state funds to the coal industry, and the miners agreed to return to work. In Ukraine, the strikes continued.

The IMF is in negotiations with the Russian government over the terms of a pending \$9 billion loan. A *New York Times* article noted the “worries” of the imperialist lending institutions that “budget-busting promises could undermine the country’s market reforms.”



February 19, 1971

FEB. 9 — As thousands of South Vietnamese troops poured into Laos, carried by hundreds of U.S. planes and preceded by massive U.S. aerial and artillery bombardment, the administration’s claim that it was not widening the war found few takers.

[President Richard] Nixon has no intention of getting out of Indochina this side of being driven out. He is fully determined to carry through the U.S. imperialist aim of crushing the revolution occurring in that part of the world.

However, the antiwar sentiments of the American population have severely limited Nixon’s room for maneuver. Unlike Cambodia 10 months ago, the invasion did not include substantial numbers of U.S. forces. The attempt to placate U.S. opinion is dependent on being able to get the Saigon troops to do a larger share of the fighting — in Vietnam, Cambodia, and now Laos.



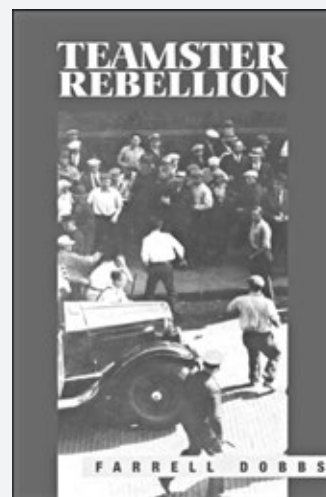
February 16, 1946

A gigantic price steal is being engineered behind the scenes in Washington to rob the workers of the benefit of any wage gains won during the present great strike struggles.

The Truman administration last week revealed that it is preparing to settle the steel and other current major strikes on the basis of granting the corporations most of the scandalous price increases they have been demanding.

This policy, it appears, will be wrapped up in some new “wage price stabilization” formula which will leave the door wide open for unrestricted prices while attempting to fix wages at some new frozen level.

Unable to break labor’s strike struggles for higher wages to meet the wartime inflation already imposed on the wage-earning consumers, Big Business aided by the capitalist government is heading for all-out inflation.



Story of 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by Farrell Dobbs, a central leader of that battle.

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Fight attacks on jobs, wages

Continued from front page

either voted for Donald Trump in 2020 or didn't vote for either capitalist party candidate. The Democrats are leading a serious and dangerous assault on hard-won political rights working people need, smearing those who disagree with them as "domestic terrorists."

Only 6.9% of the U.S. population has received at least one vaccination dose against coronavirus as of Jan. 29. With health care organized solely for the profits of the owners of the hospital and pharmaceutical industries, barely half the meager number of vaccination doses shipped to states and nursing homes has been administered. At the same time, Pfizer, which raced to produce the first vaccine, announced Feb. 2 that it expected to rake in a profit margin in the "high 20s" as a percent of income on each shot.

Examples of boss attacks on workers abound. Ford Motor Co. began idling two of the three shifts at its immense Chicago assembly plant Feb. 1, as well as idling light truck plants in Louisville, Kentucky, and Oakville, Ontario. Workers hit by the furloughs will only receive up to 75% of their pay.

With restaurants, retail outlets and countless other jobs shut down, e-hail drivers face stiff competition for fares. Bosses at Lyft chose this moment to introduce a new "priority mode" feature. Drivers who turn it on are scheduled for more rides per hour than those that don't, but they're paid 10% less for each job. Those who don't use it say they get hardly any rides at all.

South Carolina Port Authority officials announced plans to open a large, new Charleston facility non-union in March, challenging the East Coast-wide contract between the ship-ers' association and the International Longshoremen's Association. They say their state policy is "right to work," meaning no union.

Under these conditions many workers are looking for a way to push back against the attacks of the bosses and

their government, and some skirmishes are taking place. This includes the organizing drive by Amazon workers in Bessemer, Alabama, and the fight against Marathon Petroleum refinery bosses' lockout in Minnesota. They deserve widespread publicity and solidarity. It is only out of these struggles that a stronger labor movement and working-class battles can grow.

"This is the only road forward, a fight of class against class," Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey governor, told a Militant Labor Forum in New York Jan. 30.

"The SWP campaign urges workers to organize a fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions back to work *now*, at union-scale pay, to build the hospitals, housing, schools and other things working people need," she said. "And for our unions to fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, to stop more layoffs."

Kuniansky is one of several SWP candidates in 2021 whose campaigns offer workers a fighting perspective for our class to unite and battle to defend ourselves. "Through struggles working people more and more see ourselves as a class, preparing for bigger battles ahead. Through this we can forge a leadership to mobilize millions to overturn capitalist rule and bring a workers and farmers government to power," she said.

Until workers build their own party, breaking from the Democrats and Republicans, millions will react against the paternalistic and anti-working-class disdain of the Biden administration and will be drawn to Donald Trump or someone else like him who claims they'll "drain the swamp" in Washington, bring back jobs and end the "American carnage."

Attack on political rights

The Democrats, backed by a layer of Never-Trump Republicans and the middle-class left, are trying to whip up a hysteria over the so-called insurrection of Jan. 6. A relative handful of would-be paramilitaries and conspiracy theorists, including some reactionary Confederate-flag carriers, got into the Capitol for

India farmers continue protests against new gov't laws



Press Trust of India

After a tractorcade of hundreds of thousands of farmers and their supporters wound its way through New Delhi, India's capital, Jan. 26, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi stepped up efforts to put an end to their monthslong protests against new laws that threaten their livelihoods. Until the measures are revoked, however, farmers are determined to maintain protest encampments they have set up around the capital.

The photo above shows protesters at the Ghazipur encampment celebrating as reinforcements arrive Jan. 31.

Modi's "reforms" would remove state-backed guaranteed crop prices, allowing large capitalist buyers to drive down the prices farmers get for what they produce. Millions of working farmers would be forced deeper into debt or off their land altogether.

Farmers "are well organized," Gursimran Singh told *Militant* correspondent Katy LeRougetel by phone from Punjab Jan. 29. His family has a farm and lives in Mandiani, a village of 2,000. He said that each household sent at least one person to the Delhi protest. "Seven or eight tractors went. Some people went on bicycles, some even walked."

"Everything is based on volunteers," Singh said, with free food from communal kitchens. He explained they're winning widespread support from working people around the encampments. "The poor people [near the Delhi camps] are saying, 'You should stay here, you feed us.'"

Heavy cop deployments tried to isolate three main protest encampments on the outskirts of the Indian capital Jan. 30-31, blocking road access with concrete barriers, trenches and razor wire. They have cut phone and internet connections and arrested some journalists visiting the area.

When police attempted to move protesters from the Ghazipur camp, thousands of farmers marched there from western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand to defend them. These farmers, "who were not part of the protest, have now come to bolster the movement," Rakesh Tikait, president of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, told Reuters.

— ROY LANDERSEN

a while. Liberals are using this to try to drive Trump out of politics forever and to attack crucial political rights working people use.

They call for new laws against "domestic terrorism," to give more leeway to spying, disruption and other assaults by the FBI — the capitalist rulers' political police. They push greater use of conspiracy charges, indicting people for what they say and think, not for what they do.

There is a long history of these kinds of frame-ups and attacks — and they are used to target the working class and its vanguard. The Socialist Workers Party knows and fought successfully against these kinds of attacks in the past.

The Democrats are also trying to use this hysteria to deal blows to their main bourgeois opponent, the Republicans. "The enemy is within the House of Representatives," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared there Jan. 28, pointing her finger at Republicans.

Addressing Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez cried, "You almost had me murdered." All he did Jan. 6 was stand up in the Senate, challenging the 2020 election results.

The impeachment trial of Trump — which the Democrats organized to hold *after* he left office — is another part of their attack on political rights. In disregard for the Constitution, they rammed charges that Trump incited

"insurrection or rebellion" through the House without allowing a single witness — even their own — to speak, examining any evidence or allowing the president to say anything in his defense. Then they sat on the indictment until after he left office.

Democrats are trampling on precedent and the law in an effort to prevent Trump or anyone like him from ever running for president again. If their impeachment move fails — which looks likely — they will seek any means possible to jail him and ruin his family and his associates, and bury them in endless litigation.

The liberals' real target is the working class. They smear all those who backed Trump — including a larger number of Blacks and Latinos than in 2016 — as "white supremacists." This is part of a broader effort on their part to make race — not the sharpening class differentiation in the country — the cutting edge of all politics.

The fact is there is no rise in "white supremacism" among working people. The mass Black-led mobilizations that overthrew Jim Crow segregation and developments since changed social relations in the U.S. That hasn't been reversed.

The liberals' goal in advancing this line is to put roadblocks in the way of workers of all races, colors and creeds coming together against the attacks of the bosses and their government.

US rulers' 'administrative state' seeks to control workers' lives

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Starting out his presidency by issuing a swath of executive orders, Joe Biden, like Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and Donald Trump before him, is strengthening the administrative state, an intrinsic part of modern U.S. capitalist rule. Through thousands of federal rules and regulations, liberals especially aim to browbeat and control the lives of workers. They think working people cannot be trusted to know what is in their own interests.

The propertied rulers exercise their state power not only through the courts, military and police, but through a massive administration of nonelected agencies. Connected to the proliferation of this bureaucracy is a shift from the legislative branch of government to the executive office of the president.

"The expanding concentration of power in the hands of the presidency — including the de facto power to declare wars, and to bypass legislation and debate by issuing Executive Orders," writes Steve Clark in the introduction to the Pathfinder book *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* "is dangerous (ultimately a bonapartist threat) to the interests of workers, working farmers, and the labor movement."

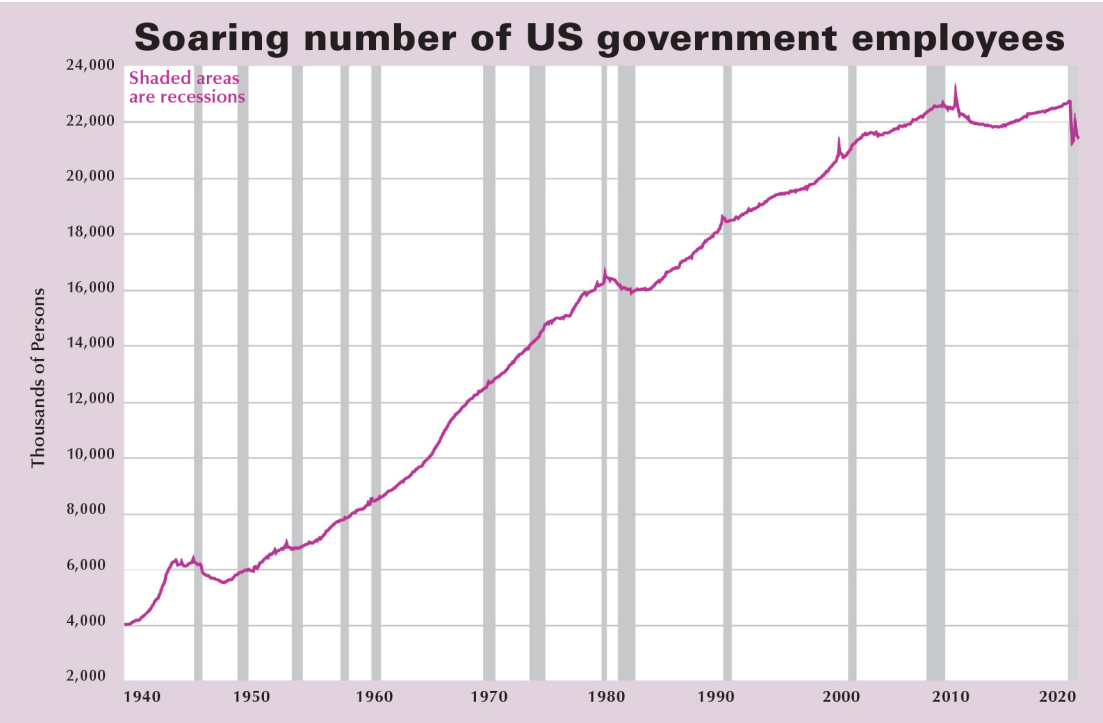
In his first nine days in office Biden has signed 42 executive orders, instead of placing these issues before Congress to debate and rule on.

The Biden administration is the political continuation of the presidencies of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. "I've got a pen and I've got a phone," Obama announced in 2014, telling legislators if they don't vote for his agenda, he'll issue executive orders anyway.

And he did. Between 2009 and 2017, Obama issued 276 executive orders. Clinton during his terms from 1993 to 2001 issued 308 presidential decrees. Donald Trump issued 220 presidential decrees during his four years in office.

The growth of government regulatory agencies that impose rules and restrictions on the lives of working people is an ever-increasing part of capitalist rule. This administrative state has its roots in the rise of monopolies and imperialist domination by the wealthiest capitalist powers in the early 1900s. This trend has accelerated exponentially since World War II.

There are 605 U.S. government agencies and departments today, em-



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The number of employees in the U.S. administrative state apparatus increased from 4 million in 1939 to 21.4 million today. Most are in administrative, regulatory, police and military departments, who maintain capitalist order and social relations of exploitation and oppression. Sharp drop in 2020 result of capitalist crisis after pandemic.

ploying 730,300 at the Department of Defense; 363,400 at the Department of Veteran Affairs; 186,400 at the Department of Homeland Security; and 113,000 at the Department of Justice.

The number of U.S. government employees has increased from 4 million in 1939 to 21.4 million at the end of last year. And this doesn't count the CIA and other secret police, whose numbers are kept under wraps. While this includes postal, transportation and hospital workers who operate services of value to working people, most are employed by agencies aimed at maintaining and defending social relations of exploitation and oppression.

In 2015 the Code of Federal Regulations totaled 178,277 pages in 237 volumes. The Obama administration in 2016 added over 97,000 pages to the Federal Register, an all-time record, including thousands more rules and regulations, reported *Forbes* magazine. That year agencies issued 18 times as many rules than laws that were voted on by Congress.

Courts will not protect you from the ever-expanding reach of this burgeoning apparatus. In 2019 a Supreme Court ruling reaffirmed that lower courts should defer to federal agencies' interpretations of their own regulations and not rule against them.

The increasing number of government agencies has been accompanied by a rapid growth in nongovernmental organizations, "think tanks" and foundations, often funded by wealthy capitalists. About 1.5 million NGOs operate in the U.S., according to the State

Department, largely formed in the past 30 years. Most are tied to government agencies or are used by the U.S. rulers to advance their goals.

A social layer encompassing millions of self-styled "meritocrats," who see themselves as arbiters over the lives of the "deplorables," runs the administrative state and its many appendages.

"Their existence is more and more alien to the conditions of life of working people," writes Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, in *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. "Its members truly believe that their 'brightness,' their 'quickness,' their 'contributions to public life' ... give them the right to make decisions, to administer society on behalf of the bourgeoisie — what

Polish protests hit gov't abortion ban

Continued from front page

Warsaw, the capital. "We are inviting everyone, please, go out, be motivated, so we can walk together, make a mark," protest leader Marta Lempart said.

Gabriela Stepniak was among those who joined the march in Warsaw. "I want us to have our basic rights, the right to decide about our bodies, the right to decide what we want to do and if we want to bear children and in what circumstances to have children," she told Reuters.

Some protesters carried banners saying, "I think, I feel, I decide."

Some marchers wore green bandanas, the symbol for the movement in Argentina that recently won legalization.

"The anti-abortion law was published late in the evening, so we had little time to prepare and protests were organized only in a few places," Aleksandra Musil told CBS News Jan. 28. "Today, they take place all over the country. I am organizing one myself in my town."

The government claimed the protests were illegal, in violation of coronavirus restrictions on public gatherings. There was a heavy police presence and arrests were made, but the protests continued.

Attempts by the ruling Law and Justice Party to pass extreme anti-

they claim to be on behalf of the interests of "the people."

This liberal meritocracy seeks to promote greater dependency among working people on the government and its administrative agencies. But the opposite is what workers need.

We need to advance our own struggles through which we gain confidence in ourselves and the capacities of our class. The working-class movement as it unites and fights for political power will overthrow and dismantle this repressive and administrative bureaucracy.

Oppose 'big government'

Contrary to what the government and its apologists tell us, communists are opposed to "big government." Our goal is to put the power directly into the hands of workers and farmers, not some gargantuan bureaucracy.

Writing on the lessons of the Paris Commune in 1871, where the working class took political power into its own hands for the first time, Karl Marx said, "The Commune made that catchword of bourgeois revolutions, cheap government, a reality by destroying the two greatest sources of expenditure — the standing army and the state functionarism."

V.I. Lenin's last fight before his death in 1924 was against growing bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, which culminated in a counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin that overturned the Bolshevik revolutionary program.

As we fight in our millions to take power, transforming ourselves as we do so, we will confront the social crises humanity faces together.

abortion legislation in parliament had failed in 2016 and 2018 after similar mass protests. To get around the pressure of these public mobilizations, the government placed the decision in the hands of the Constitutional Court, the highest judicial body in the country, which adopted the ban in October.

Even though polls show a majority oppose the new restrictions, the latest round of demonstrations have yet to approach the size of actions last fall, when some 400,000 took to the streets.

The implementation leaves few legal options for abortion. The ruling bans the procedure in the case "of a severe and irreversible fetal defect or incurable illness that threatens the fetus's life," which was the grounds for 98% of all legal abortions in Poland in 2019. The only legal openings now are cases of rape or incest, or if the woman's health or life is in danger.

For now, women are left with either paying for an illegal abortion inside the country or traveling abroad for a legal one. Some 150,000 women a year have done so over the past period. With coronavirus travel restrictions in place, this option is closed for now. One banner in a demonstration in the city of Rzeszow captured the class content of the Polish abortion restriction, "Abortion ban is discrimination against the poorest."

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"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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How SWP, Teamster leaders fought gov't frame-up in 1940s

Socialism on Trial: Testimony at Minneapolis Sedition Trial by James P. Cannon is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February. Cannon was the lead defendant among 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Teamsters union framed up in 1941. They were jailed for up to 16 months under the thought-control Smith Act. The U.S. government targeted them for organizing labor opposition to Washington's drive to enter World War II. Cannon was a founding member of the communist movement in North America in 1919, dedicating his life to the fight to emulate the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution led by V.I. Lenin. He fought against Joseph Stalin's efforts to bury Lenin's revolutionary course, and became the central leader of the Socialist Workers Party. The excerpt is from the introduction by Joseph Hansen. Copyright © 2014 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JOSEPH HANSEN

[T]he eighteen defendants in the famous Minneapolis "sedition" trial have been imprisoned. Fourteen are now at Sandstone penitentiary in Minnesota, three at Danbury, Connecticut, and one at the federal prison for women, Alderson, West Virginia. Prison gates closed on these socialists and trade unionists in



Eighteen SWP and Teamster leaders on their way to federal prison, Dec. 31, 1943. They were framed up for leading labor opposition to U.S. rulers' war drive. James P. Cannon, third from right, partly obscured. Defendants were first victims of thought-control Smith Act.

"democratic" America despite the fact they were guilty of no crime other than exercising their right to free speech.

They were incarcerated because they opposed imperialist war, and because they advocated building a socialist society as the only means of ending such wars and all the other evils of capitalism in its death agony. The views for which they now sit behind bars are presented in this book, which is a reprint of the official court record of the testimony of James P. Cannon, America's No. 1 Socialist and principal defendant at the trial.

Although the Minneapolis case was the first peacetime federal prosecution for sedition in the history of the United States, it was clearly engineered by the Roosevelt administration as part of its war program. The facts prove this beyond honest dispute. ...

In addition to granting [Teamsters President Daniel] Tobin a personal favor, Roosevelt had a much weightier political reason for initiating prosecution. The administration, expecting momentarily to plunge the United States into the catastrophe of World War II, wished to isolate and silence the advocates of socialism so that their ideas might be prevented from gaining a hearing among the masses driven into the slaughter.

Swift action followed the White House assurance to Tobin. Just thirteen days later, on June 27, 1941, FBI agents raided the branch headquar-

ters of the Socialist Workers Party in St. Paul and Minneapolis, carting off large quantities of Marxist literature, much of which could have been obtained in any public library.

On July 15, 1941, less than a month later, an indictment drawn up by the Department of Justice was handed down by a federal grand jury against twenty-nine men and women.

Count one of the indictment, based on an 1861 statute passed during the Civil War against the Southern slaveholders, charged a "conspiracy to overthrow the government by force and violence."

Count two of the indictment charged: (1) Advocating overthrow of the government by force; (2) Publishing and circulating literature advocating this; (3) Forming organizations "to teach, advocate and encourage" such overthrow; (4) Becoming members of such organizations; (5) Distributing publications which "advised, counseled and urged" insubordination in the armed forces. This count was based wholly on the Smith "Omnibus Gag" Act, invoked for the first time in the Minneapolis case.

Like the infamous Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 the Smith Act makes the mere advocacy of ideas a federal crime. Its constitutionality has been challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, and numerous others. The sponsor of this ultrareactionary law is poll-tax Representative Howard W.

Smith, leader of the antilabor bloc in Congress and coauthor of the vicious Smith-Connally antistrike law.

On October 27, 1941, the trial began in the Federal District Court at Minneapolis. The principal government "evidence" consisted of innumerable quotations from articles in the American Trotskyist press going back to 1929. Public writings, public addresses of the defendants, radio speeches, leaflets distributed by tens of thousands — these were the main government proofs of "conspiracy."

The government further introduced as evidence photographs of the great teachers of Marxism (including a portrait of Daniel DeLeon). It introduced such leaflets as the one advertising Vincent Raymond Dunne as speaker at a public forum on the action of the Trotskyists in combatting "20,000 Fascists in Madison Square." In the indictment and in the prosecution arguments, the government flatly characterized as criminal the doctrines of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky.

This infamous attack was met unflinchingly by the proletarian defense. Never before in a labor trial in this country have defendants so unswervingly, so consciously and so systematically defended their revolutionary program, utilizing the courtroom as a forum from which to proclaim it. The conduct of the defendants at the trial and throughout all the subsequent stages of the case belongs to the best traditions of international Marxism. ...

This decision will undoubtedly go down as historic. Here is a peacetime law, manifestly unconstitutional, a law directly abrogating the right of free speech. The case is the first to be tried under this law. The President who appointed the judges is waging a war ostensibly to make the world free for democracy. The law has been universally denounced — even in the halls of Congress — as "enough to make Thomas Jefferson turn over in his grave" and as "without precedent in the history of labor legislation." Yet the last court of appeal denies — without a word of explanation — the petition of eighteen defendants to hear their case! ...

[Eugene V.] Debs spoke prophetically when he said: "They may put those men in jail — and some of the rest of us in jail — but they cannot put the socialist movement in jail."

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Fight gov't attacks on constitutional rights

Continued from front page

defend the political rights we have wrested from the capitalist rulers over decades of struggle so we can come together to fight to protect ourselves and debate how best to chart a class-struggle road forward. We face a frontal assault on our rights being led by the Democrats, the liberal media and the middle-class left.

Whipping up a hysteria over a purported “fascist coup” or “insurrection” that Democrats claim was organized by Donald Trump at the Capitol Jan. 6, liberals are moving to strengthen conspiracy and “domestic terrorism” laws and the powers of the FBI — the capitalist rulers’ political police. They do so by spouting American patriotism and the need to protect our “sacred” government institutions.

What they are attempting to shore up is the mailed fist of capitalist exploitation and oppression at a time when their economic and social system is in crisis. “America” is class divided, and the rulers increasingly *fear* that working people more and more see that they and their political parties have no “solutions” that don’t further load the costs of the crisis of *their* system on *us*. Politics today is increasingly class against class.

Biden’s “Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act” would unleash more spying by Washington’s cop agencies and use of undercover agents against workers, Black rights fighters and other political opponents.

Some bosses are firing anyone they can connect to the Jan. 6 actions — whether at the mass, pro-Trump rally outside the Capitol or the short-lived foray inside. Meanwhile, cops pursue thought-control “conspiracy” charges to frame up whoever they can get away with.

Bosses at internet companies are more and more shutting down the accounts of those whose political views they disagree with.

Liberals are trying to use the hysteria and disregard for the Constitution to deal blows to their main bourgeois opponent, Donald Trump, and his alleged “accomplices” in the Republican Party.

The show-trial impeachment of Trump on “incitement to insurrection” passed the House with no witnesses, no evidence and no defense permitted.

All restrictions on political rights by the capitalist class and its government, regardless of who is initially targeted, will always end up being used against militant workers, to deal blows to working-class struggles, our unions and political parties.

Workers’ use of rights to free speech and to organize have been crucial to advancing our struggles, from the mass battles that built the industrial unions in the 1930s to the Black-led working-class movement that tore down Jim Crow segregation.

Working people and our unions need to speak out against every attack on rights we use and need, regardless of who is in the White House.

Last year the Socialist Workers Party successfully fought attempts by Washington state authorities to disclose personal details of the party’s electors. Disclosure laws are tools the rulers use to expose anyone backing working-class parties to retaliatory attacks by the government, cops, rightist thugs and “thought police” on the right and left.

In 1973, my party launched a political campaign and lawsuit that exposed decades of FBI spying and “dirty tricks” against the SWP, the labor movement, fighters for Black rights and others. The party’s victory in that case dealt a blow to the rulers’ political police, including a decision that stands today that the party’s revolutionary program and activities were protected by the Constitution. It set an example and provided gains that could be used by all fighters for workers’ rights, opponents of Washington’s wars and our unions.

Building a working-class movement capable of defending all those exploited and oppressed by capital and leading millions to overthrow capitalist rule and establish a workers and farmers government necessitates resolute defense of constitutional rights.

US rulers fuel economic crisis in Honduras

Continued from front page

in Mexico” policy. This requires those requesting asylum to wait outside the U.S. until they are given a hearing. “Be patient” was the message from Biden aide Roberta Jacobson Jan. 29, as thousands still in Mexico wait for appointments with asylum officials.

The capitalist class in the United States depends on drawing immigrant workers into the workforce to superexploit them, pushing down the wages of all workers and weakening unions. Its goal is not to seal the border, but to manage the flow of immigrant labor depending on the ups and downs of production.

In the midst of many anti-immigrant measures, the Trump administration increased the number of yearly “guest” visas for farmworkers, as previous administrations did, to guarantee a supply of cheap labor for big capitalist farmers. In 2006 the Department of Labor issued less than 50,000 H-2A visas. By the end of the Trump administration that number was 275,000.

Crisis facing Honduran toilers

Despite being an important center for industrial and farm production, Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America.

More than 300 foreign-owned factories in Honduran free-trade zones employ 185,000 workers. Among the major companies with factories there are Ford, Fruit of the Loom, Cargill, Lear Corporation and GM. Chiquita Brands International and Dole Company dominate banana production, the country’s second-largest export crop after coffee.

But the inflow of foreign capital has done nothing to improve the conditions of workers and farmers. The minimum wage in the largest factories is \$2 an hour and many farmworkers make less than \$177 a month.

On top of these conditions, working people in Honduras were left to fend for themselves following two hurricanes in November. Some 35,000 homes were destroyed in the storms.

Any Ortega, one of those on the caravan heading to the U.S., told the *Los Angeles Times* that after hur-

ricane floodwaters receded she couldn’t return home. “Houses are still full of mud,” she said. “There has been no help from the government, only from other people.” Her family is still camped out under a bridge.

Many workers are fleeing violence by criminal gangs. And paramilitary groups have killed dozens of peasants who have fought for access to land.

In addition to profits directly extracted from exploiting workers in the factories and fields, the capitalist classes of the U.S. and other imperialist powers also enrich themselves by squeezing interest payments from the Honduran government for their loans. In the last few years the country’s foreign debt has mushroomed to \$10.8 billion. Biden’s promise to send \$4 billion in aid to Central America will just end up increasing that debt burden.

Until working people find a way to deepen resistance to these conditions, more will try to escape the impact of the capitalist crisis by heading north.

Amnesty for the undocumented

“As long as the U.S. imperialist rulers siphon off the wealth of the semicolonial world,” Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City mayor, told the *Militant*, “workers and farmers in Honduras and elsewhere will face the consequences.”

The SWP calls for amnesty for the 11 million undocumented immigrants, living and working in the United States, Calero said, to strengthen workers’ unity. And the party demands cancellation of the foreign debt of Honduras and other semicolonial countries.

“Workers in Honduras — just like workers in the U.S. — need to rebuild a fighting labor movement and they need their own party, a labor party, that can lead millions to fight to replace capitalist rule with a government of workers and farmers,” Calero said. “A disciplined, fighting, working-class movement in Honduras that stands up to the bosses, their government and to Washington would give inspiration to many more working people to join the struggle to take political power into their own hands.”

Poultry plant deaths

Continued from front page

never expected something like this would happen and we are all affected by this.”

Caudillo said she makes \$11.60 an hour and works long hours. She hasn’t heard anything from her bosses since the incident.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board reported that major portions of the plant’s liquid nitrogen system were installed in just the past four to six weeks.

Foundation Food Group was formed out of a merger between Prime Pak Foods and Victory Processing on Jan. 1. Prime Pak has a long history of citations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for serious health and safety violations.

“Workers should be able to have a safe environment,” Pedro López, a maintenance mechanic for six years at a poultry plant years ago, told this worker-correspondent, who was going door to door in the area talking with workers. “If you see it is not safe, you should be able to say no, and everybody should stick together and say when something isn’t safe,” said López.

The workers who were killed were José DeJesús Elías-Cabrera, Corey Alan Murphy, Nelly Perez-Rafael, Saulo Suárez-Bernal, Víctor Véllez and Édgar Vera-García.

There are some 45,000 poultry workers in Georgia, many in the Gainesville area, 50 miles north of Atlanta.

“I know a lot of those who work at Pilgrim’s Pride and they describe the tough work and the refrigerated conditions,” Ronald Araújo, who works in his family’s pupusería as a baker and server, told the *Militant*, adding that one of those killed was a regular customer. “Many don’t have ‘correct papers’ and the companies take advantage of this — thinking they won’t stand up to them.”

“Had simple safety protocols been followed today workers’ lives wouldn’t have been on the line,” Stuart Appelbaum, president of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, said in a statement released Jan. 28 by the union. The RWDSU represents more than 15,000 poultry workers in plants across the South. “The egregious lack of standards at non-union facilities like the one in Gainesville cost essential workers their lives today,” said Appelbaum.

The United Food and Commercial Workers union is calling for an immediate investigation and for the company to be prosecuted if corners were cut on safety, Mark Lauritsen, director of the food processing, packing and manufacturing division of the UFCW, told the press.

Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta, who works as a cashier at Walmart and is a former meatpacker, attended a Jan. 30 vigil and talked to workers door to door in Gainesville.

“We say no worker has to die,” she told workers. “When we unite and fight for a union in our workplace we can have a say over our wages and working conditions. Work can be organized safely if workers take control over production. The bosses cut corners and speed up the line to maximize their profits.

“Amnesty for all undocumented immigrants is a crucial question here in order to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages,” she said. “Our unions need to break from the two parties of the bosses — the Democrats and Republicans. Workers need our own party, a labor party.”

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