

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Alabama coal miners rally,
win solidarity in strike battle
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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SWP: 'Workers need a fighting class-struggle road forward'

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Socialist Workers Party candidates and campaigners are finding growing receptivity to their perspective for a class-struggle road forward against the attacks of the bosses and their government, and for workers to form their own party, a labor party.

This is true on workers' doorsteps in cities, towns and rural areas; at union picket lines; protests against cop brutality; and car caravans opposing the U.S. economic war against Cuba. Communist League campaigners find the same response in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

They are reaching out as part of the nine-week drive to sell 1,400 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 1,400 books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders, and to raise \$145,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. The socialist newsweekly relies on contributions by workers

Continued on page 3

Iranian rulers seek to tighten grip, advance Mideast clout

BY TERRY EVANS

Volatile conflicts within Iran's cleric-led capitalist regime flared up this month after the Guardian Council barred candidates from President Hassan Rouhani's reformist forces from running in the June 18 presidential elections. Since the last election in 2017, authorities have faced waves of protests by working people propelled by mounting opposition to the deadly consequences of their expansionist foreign policy and resulting economic crisis.

Only seven of more than 590 presidential candidates that registered are being permitted to run. The Guardian Council is led by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Among those excluded are prominent figures within the regime, including Es-haq Jahangiri, Rouhani's first vice president; Ali Larjani, a former parliament speaker; as well as former President

Continued on page 7

Refinery workers fight ExxonMobil lockout

Back union fight for safety, job security, seniority!



United Steelworkers

Steelworkers locked out by ExxonMobil protest outside corporate headquarters in Irving, Texas, May 26. "The company is trying to bust the union," Local President Darrell Kyle said.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

BEAUMONT, Texas — Over 650 members of United Steelworkers Local 13-243 are picketing 24/7 at the ExxonMobil Refinery and Lubricant Blending and Packaging plant here since they were locked out by the bosses May 1. They're standing up to the oil bosses' drive to make union-gutting changes to their contract. They were locked out after the company rejected a union proposal to extend the 2015 contract for another year to facilitate negotiations.

"The company is trying to bust the union. I don't think they have any other objective," Darrell Kyle, president

of USW Local 13-243, told the *Militant* May 26. Kyle has worked at the refinery for 26 years and is an A-operator. "The biggest issues are safety, job security and seniority.

"The A-operator is the experienced

Continued on page 4

Worldwide caravans demand: End US embargo against Cuba!



Militant/Roy Landersen

Cuban Revolution shows an alternative to "capitalist society we are living in," Rev. Luis Barrios told participants in May 30 New York caravan, one of 70 worldwide protesting U.S. economic war on Cuba. Next caravans are set for June 20, three days before U.N. vote on U.S. embargo.

Opponents of Washington's economic war against Cuba held protest caravans in 70 cities around the world from Africa to Europe and the Americas — including 17 in the U.S. — May 29-30, the largest number since the monthly caravans began last fall.

The actions took place just days after the Joseph Biden administration announced it had renewed Cuba's placement on the list of governments it claims aren't "cooperating fully" with U.S. anti-terrorism efforts.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno

Rodríguez called the charge false and "slandorous," noting that the new Democratic Party administration has maintained all 243 measures imposed by the Donald Trump White House aimed at increasing the squeeze on Cuba.

Every president, Democrat and Republican alike, has enforced U.S. imperialism's sanctions, which began being imposed not long after Cuba's workers and farmers, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement,

Continued on page 6

Victory! Florida prisons lift ban on 'Militant,' Indiana fight continues

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Another victory! On May 27 the *Militant* was informed by Charles Huber, the new chair of the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee, that the ban on five consecutive *Militant* issues from March imposed by the Century Correctional Institution there was overturned.

"The LRC met 5/24," Charles Huber wrote *Militant* attorney David Goldstein. "All of the *Militants* you mentioned were approved. They will be released to the inmates."

These impoundments, which the *Militant* first learned about in early May, involved a far-reaching attack

Continued on page 9

Biden \$6 trillion budget won't end jobs crisis, will push up prices

BY TERRY EVANS

President Joseph Biden presented a budget to Congress May 28 with \$6 trillion in government spending to be "paid" for by a massive expansion of government debt. This is the highest amount since the U.S. rulers ramped up military spending to defend their imperialist interests in the Second World War.

Continued on page 4

Inside

SWP statement: Workers need our own party, a labor party 9

Liberals claim teaching math reinforces white supremacy 2

SWP attacked in Louisville for call to recognize Israel, Palestine 3

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Striking Quebec meatpackers march for wages, respect

Manchester bus drivers strike pushed back bosses' attack

Liberals claim teaching math reinforces white supremacy

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Claiming they're taking steps to root out white supremacy, California's State Board of Education and similar authorities in other states are considering a new curriculum that would upend how mathematics is taught in public schools. It's outlined in a document titled, "A Pathway to Equitable Math Instruction: Dismantling Racism in Mathematics Instruction."

The document says it offers "exercises for educators to reflect on their own biases to transform their instructional practice" by "making visible the toxic characteristics of white supremacy culture."

The manual asserts that these "characteristics" involve a focus on "getting the right answer," teaching math in a "linear fashion," and requiring students to "show their work."

"The concept of mathematics being purely objective is unequivocally false," the manual asserts. "Upholding the idea that there are always right and wrong answers perpetuates 'objectivity,'" and this promotes racism.

If this anti-scientific proposition — part of a broader social agenda that says race is the determining factor in history and everything else — were seriously pursued, no home could be built, no plane could fly, and much of what working people require to live would disappear.

"White supremacy culture infiltrates math classrooms in everyday teacher actions," the course description says. "Coupled with the beliefs that underlie these actions, they perpetuate educa-

tional harm on Black, Latinx, and multilingual students, denying them full access to the world of mathematics."

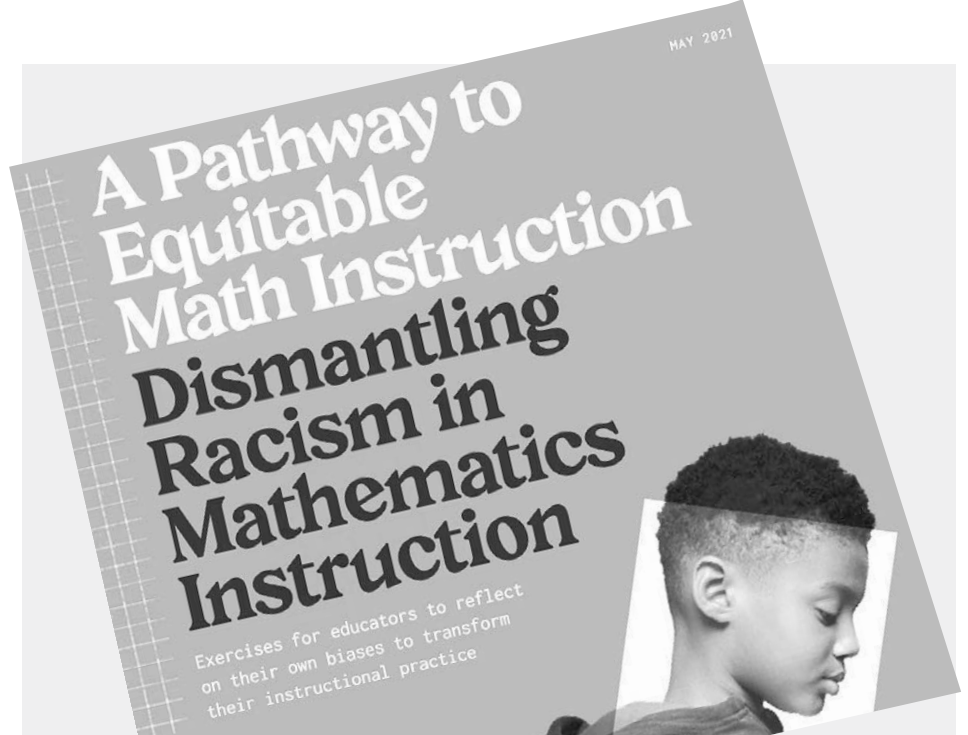
To counter this, the document asserts "antiracist" math educators must "deconstruct the ways they have been taught math to learn and teach math differently."

This would include a priority on ethnomathematics. "Identify and challenge the ways that math is used to uphold capitalist, imperialist, and racist views," the curriculum says.

In response to a May 19 *Wall Street Journal* article about this math curriculum, a number of letters were printed several days later under the headline, "In California, 2+2=4 May Be Thought Racist."

"The 'woke' seem to live a dream world of their creation that has little grounding in the world they live in," wrote Mike Walker from Meridian, Idaho. "Taking away the ability to do mathematics means students cannot become engineers or doctors. They can't become computer scientists. They can't become a plumber or electrician or carpenter. Consider architecture and accounting. The 'can't' list goes on and on."

The ultimate target of "critical race theory" is the working class, the only class that can defend and advance human culture. This "theory" aims to cover over the fact that all gains won by working people have been the result of the struggle of class versus class, not race against race. It says all U.S. history is based on white supremacy, and all Caucasians are inherently racist.



New math curriculum promoted for California schools says "old math" that focuses on "objectivity" and "getting the right answer" shows "toxic characteristics of white supremacy culture."

If this "woke" scheme is implemented, it will cut across students' ability to learn math and put it to use. The newly proposed California curriculum, for example, rejects preparing students to take Algebra I in the 8th grade. But this is something students in California were making important progress

on — going from 16% of students prepared to do so in 1999 to 67% by 2013.

"The biggest beneficiaries were ethnic minority and low-income students," noted the *Journal*. "African-American students' success rate jumped by a factor of five, and Latinos' and low-income students' by a factor of six."

Thanks to all! SWP 'stimulus' fund will help build the party

The enthusiastic response to the SWP "stimulus" appeal has made a big addition to the resources for the ongoing work of the SWP! Over the last two and a half months 148 people have contributed \$177,920! This column extends a thanks to all.

The special appeal was launched at the initiative of a number of supporters of the Socialist Workers Party, who welcomed the opportunity to make contributions to build the party from the latest U.S. government "stimulus" checks. Their initiative hit the nail on the head. It captured political confidence in the working class and commitment to building a revolutionary working-class party.

Recent notes from contributors register the élan that marked the appeal from the start. "We finally received our government 'stimulus' checks today! Happy to send our contributions!" write Bob Braxton and Marla Puziss from Atlanta. George Chalmers from Dallas: "Enclosed is my check for the 'stimulus' fund, but a different stimulus than Biden intended." "What a pleasure!" from Pat O'Reilly in Seattle.

The U.S. government reports the overwhelming majority of the \$1,400 payments are sent out. However, a certain number will still show up in the coming weeks and, of course, further contributions from the "stimulus" are welcome.

Each contribution has made a difference toward expanding the ability of the party to bring its program to many thousands of workers and exploited toilers, and to join with other fighters in labor and social struggles. To build on a course toward the working class taking political power in the U.S. and joining with toilers worldwide to end social relations based on exploitation and its brutal consequences, once and for all, and build a socialist society based on human solidarity.

Future contributions can continue to be made out to the Socialist Workers Party and sent to SWP, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

For recognition of a Palestinian state and Israel

The 'Militant' reports how joint actions by Jewish and Arab workers in Israel point the way forward. Talks are needed for recognition of a contiguous state for the dispossessed Palestinian people and for recognition of Israel, a refuge for Jews in the face of enduring antisemitism.



Rambam Health Care Campus
"Jews and Arabs refuse to be enemies" read signs at May 16 action in Haifa, Israel.

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'We need class-struggle road'

Continued from front page
and farmers who appreciate its working-class coverage.

Supporters of Socialist Workers Party candidate Dennis Richter, running for governor of California, campaigned in Fresno May 28-29 in California's Central Valley, Betsey Stone reported.

A severe drought has hit hard there, where much of the country's vegetables, fruits and nuts are grown. The water comes from reservoirs and canals fed by rivers from the mountains. With this year's rain and snow melt far below normal, farmers face water rationing.

"I worry about the small farmers not making it," Robert Hernandez, a mechanic laid off because of government pandemic shut downs, told campaign supporters Carole Lesnick and Stone.

"As long as the wealthy agricultural and other capitalists are in control, everything will be decided for their profits, with little regard for family farmers and farm workers, or fishermen and Native American tribes who depend on the salmon, or the environment," Lesnick said. "To solve the water crisis, like everything else, we need to build our own party, a labor party, to fight to take the political power out of the hands of the ruling capitalist families."

Hernandez subscribed to the *Militant*. "I've always voted Democrat. But last election I didn't vote. They all make promises, but nothing gets solved."

Joel Britton, SWP candidate for state

assembly in the 18th district in Northern California's Alameda County, and campaign supporter Deborah Liatos met motorcycle mechanic Quenton Hilton, 22, at his door. To make ends meet he and his wife also deliver food.

"I'm a laborer and I work really hard. I disagree with socialism and communism," Hilton said, skeptical at first. "We need to work, not get handouts."

"We need a massive public works program to give people productive work at union wages to build the things we need, not more 'stimulus' handouts," Britton said. Hilton agreed, "Yes!"

"Only on the job can workers fight together for higher wages, safer working conditions and for unions."

"Coal miners and others are on strike today because they have no other option. We are urging support for their struggles," Britton said.

"You never hear this from CNN or Fox News," Hilton said. He subscribed to the *Militant*, saying, "I really got a lot out of talking with you."

Black family farmers in Georgia

Rachele Fruit reports that she and Sam Manuel, SWP candidates for mayor of Atlanta and City Council president, joined several dozen Black farmers at a meeting in Fort Valley, Georgia, May 22. The farmers came to hear Joseph Biden administration representatives tout a \$5 billion "rescue" package aimed at "socially disadvantaged" farmers.

SWP attacked at Louisville rally over call to recognize both Israel, Palestine

BY ELLEN BRICKLEY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — When Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Louisville, and supporters took part in a "March for Palestine" May 23 organized by Students for Justice in Palestine, they set up a table with campaign literature, books and the statement "For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel" by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. Walmart co-workers Samir Hazboun, Carol Warren and I campaigned with Trowe.

Many other participants opposed recognition of Israel and some echoed the call by the reactionary Hamas leadership in Gaza for the destruction of Israel.

We engaged in discussions and some civil debates, including on why we oppose the "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" campaign. It aims to prevent Israelis — musicians, writers, athletes and others — from speaking on college campuses and elsewhere and calls for the boycott of businesses owned by Jews or that do business in Israel, like Sabra (hummus), Ben & Jerry's and Coca-Cola.

Soon, two women who said they were organizers told us we couldn't have the table or the *Militant* there. The women, who wouldn't identify themselves, said the media would see the *Militant* and say that Palestinians are terrorists.

"We explained what the word 'militant' means — a term used proudly in the labor movement to describe a person who stands up with others to defend their rights," Trowe told the *Militant*. "We said we are part of the movement for a sovereign, contiguous Palestine, and we are for the recognition of Israel."

"We start with the interests of the workers and farmers of the Mideast and

worldwide," Trowe said. "We don't support the Israeli government or Hamas or Fatah, but we call for them to meet together and negotiate mutual recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel."

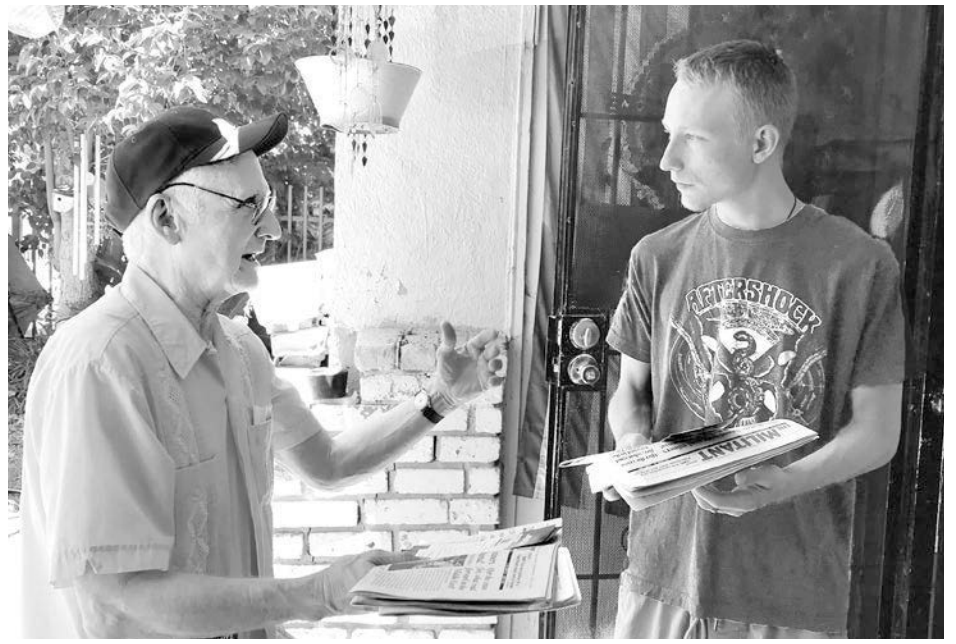
They told us to move to the corner, which we did. A few people came by, curious after hearing the exchange. One woman bought a *Militant* subscription and the books *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, both by Barnes.

"People who told us to move came back with reinforcements to order us to leave. They said we don't support the Palestinian struggle," Trowe said.

"I told them my supporters and I knock on doors in working-class neighborhoods across the region campaigning for a sovereign Palestine with ample territory to make it a viable, contiguous state. We explained why violent and uncivil conduct destroys the possibility of building a working-class movement."

They kept shouting in our faces. The march was about to start, so we packed up our literature, and got two placards ready that read, "For recognition of a Palestinian state and Israel/Socialist Workers Party/Margaret Trowe for mayor." Two men grabbed the placards and tore them up.

A Jewish couple in their 20s who were at the rally and march came to talk with us. They had liked our placards. They got a subscription and *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon. The book explains the origins of Jew-hatred and why the only way to defeat it is for working people to overthrow capitalism and establish their own government in the interests of all the exploited and oppressed.



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Joel Britton, left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for California State Assembly District 18, talks with Quenton Hilton, a mechanic, in Fresno May 29. "Only on the job can workers fight together for higher wages, safer working conditions," Britton said. "Yes!" Hilton agreed.

What they found out was that farmers who took out loans to avoid defaulting on advances from the Department of Agriculture won't be covered.

"How can you say you are here to help the farmer but then put conditions on who gets help," Thomas Gosier, a family farmer and former truck driver, told Manuel. "It sounds good but turns out to be smoke."

"There is a long history of these kinds of promises from the capitalist parties," Manuel said. "We need to organize broadly enough to fight to win." Gosier signed up for a subscription, saying, "Working people need to stick together."

Fruit talked with Clarence Hicks, a student in plant science and biotechnology at Fort Valley State University. His family farms five acres in Reynolds growing blueberries, kale, cabbage, corn and peas. He subscribed to the *Militant* and got a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Locked-out oil workers

George Chalmers reports that members of United Steelworkers Local 13-243, locked out by ExxonMobil at their refinery in Beaumont, Texas, were joined by unionists from the nearby Baytown Exxon facility May 26 going by bus to a rally in front of Exxon's headquarters in Irving.

Dallas-area union supporters, including Socialist Workers Party campaigners Gerardo Sánchez and Hilda Cuzco, joined the protest. The district director of the Steelworkers in Baytown and two other Exxon refinery workers got *Militant* subscriptions. One also bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

When the bus arrived back in Beaumont to a warm welcome at the union hall, SWP campaigners Alyson Kennedy, George Chalmers and Jose Alvarado were there. Two more unionists subscribed to the *Militant* and got books, including *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* also by Barnes, as well as a four-volume series on the lessons of class-struggle Teamster battles across the

Midwest in the 1930s. A subscription to the paper was purchased for the union hall. The *Militant* is unsurpassed in its coverage and support for strikes and other labor struggles, here and around the world.

Militant Fighting Fund

Dan Fein reports that during lunch break in the Walmart store where he works outside Chicago May 27, Barbara Merchant, a co-worker and subscriber to the paper, handed him \$20 for the Militant Fighting Fund.

"I like the *Militant* because it sticks up for those of us who don't get the breaks in life," she told Fein. She pointed to the way the paper covers strikes and "encourages solidarity."

To subscribe to the *Militant* and get books on revolutionary working-class politics, and to contribute to the Militant Fighting Fund, see the directory on page 8 for the distributor nearest you. Or visit themilitant.com to purchase a subscription and contribute online.

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, fund April 24 - June 29 (week five)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Albany	80	42	80	37	\$8,000	\$2,550
Atlanta	80	46	80	40	\$11,000	\$6,442
Chicago	115	69	115	65	\$13,200	\$7,899
Dallas	40	39	35	27	\$3,000	\$1,540
Lincoln	15	7	15	6	\$400	\$100
Los Angeles	105	72	105	82	\$13,250	\$6,105
Louisville	90	51	90	51	\$5,000	\$3,124
Miami	35	9	35	13	\$4,000	\$3,731
N. New Jersey	80	52	80	45	\$6,250	\$2,670
New York	100	65	100	100	\$16,000	\$9,705
Oakland	90	50	90	54	\$13,000	\$4,557
Philadelphia	30	20	30	21	\$3,500	\$3,135
Pittsburgh	50	27	50	30	\$3,000	\$1,325
Seattle	95	46	95	40	\$12,500	\$5,490
Twin Cities	50	28	50	38	\$4,500	\$3,099
Washington	65	35	65	40	\$6,000	\$1,557
Other						
Total U.S.	1120	658	1115	689	\$122,600	\$63,029
Prisoners	25	27				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	31	45	38	\$4,000	\$880
Manchester	40	25	40	20	\$2,000	\$1,550
Total U.K.	85	56	85	58	\$6,000	\$2,430
Canada*	95	51	115	70	\$12,200	\$7,605
New Zealand	30	26	30	18	\$3,500	\$3,150
Australia	30	18	30	15	\$2,000	\$1,400
Total	1,385	836	1,402	850	\$146,300	\$77,614
SHOULD BE	1,400	770	1,400	770	\$145,000	\$79,750
*Raised goal						

Budget won't end jobs crisis

Continued from front page

Such bouts of government money printing frequently drive a sharp rise in inflation, coming on top of the mounting uncertainty working people face from persistent joblessness and recent price rises already biting into the living standard of working people.

Biden says this budget is necessary to fix broken infrastructure, end racist inequality, and curb greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining the U.S. rulers' vast, worldwide military arsenal. Under this plan government debt as a percentage of gross domestic product will soar to 117% by 2031.

These budget priorities are liberal reforms aimed at giving the dog-eat-dog capitalist system a more human face — to try to convince workers to rely on government do-gooders to solve problems as opposed to organizing ourselves to use our class-struggle strength against the attacks and indignities of capitalist rule.

Biden's plan includes big spending on continued growth of the government bureaucracy, agencies to "nudge" workers to behave as meritocratic regulators think we ought to. The so-called Health and Human Services agency would get a 23% increase, while spending at the Department of Commerce will go up 27%. And Biden's plan doles out another round of generous largesse to the country's bosses, who he promises will use it to hire some workers sometime in the future.

Republicans have countered with a \$928 billion budget, which relies more heavily on incentives for private capital to drive the economy. Neither proposal offers working people any serious plan to provide jobs for the millions of unemployed workers today.

Deficit-spending policies led to double-digit inflation in the mid-1970s when the government ran larger and larger budgets to finance the U.S. rulers' war in Vietnam. The government filled the gap by printing more money. This fueled inflationary pressures here and around the world. Under these kind of conditions workers face both shortages of basic necessities and see the real value of protections we've won like Social Security and whatever savings we've managed to scrimp together get slashed as prices skyrocket.

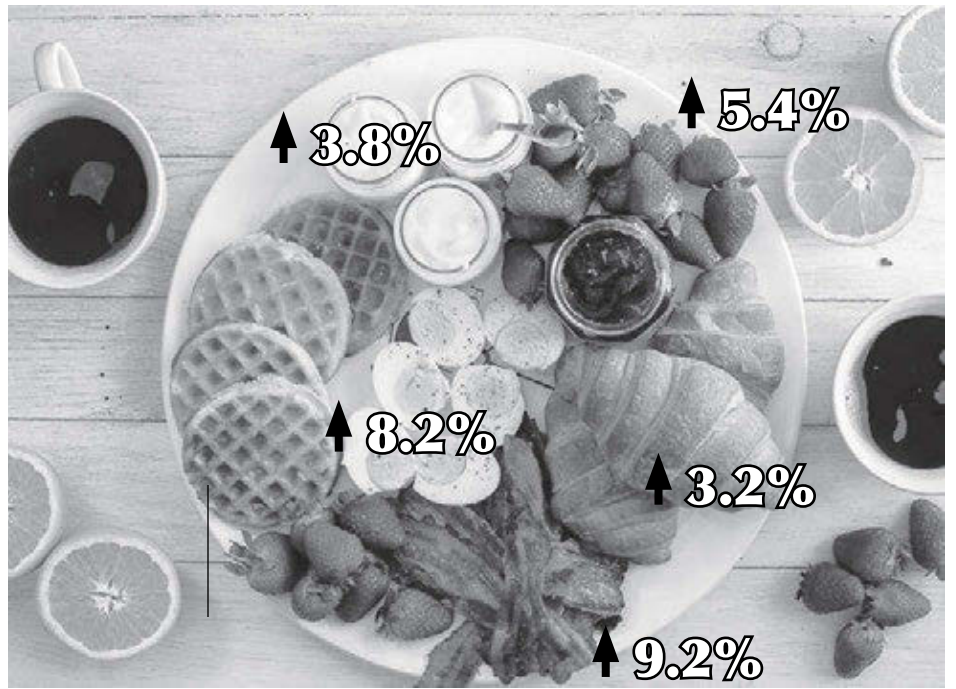
The scourge of rising prices

Prices for food items are surging already. This time last year bone-in ham cost \$1.79 a pound, today it's \$7.67, the Department of Agriculture reports. Over the same period a dozen organic eggs rose from \$3.10 to \$4.99.

Janet Yellen, treasury secretary and former chair of the Federal Reserve Board, dismissed concerns that Biden's budget would drive inflation. *New York Times* columnist and Nobel Prize winner Paul Krugman claimed the "burden of federal debt properly measured is minimal." They and other liberals believe despite the evidence of past experience that the government can print money and spend whatever it wishes without any consequences. They claim today's price rises are a result of lockdown-induced shortages and will soon disappear.

These officials have no sense of how even modest price hikes devastate workers, especially after millions of us have been subjected to wage and job cuts and demands for more at the hands of profit-hungry bosses.

At least 8 million more people are unemployed today than before the



Average prices on necessities, like breakfast food, rose over past year. Bacon prices jumped by 9.2%, eggs by 8.2%, milk and other dairy products by 3.8%, fruit by 5.4%, bread by 3.2%.

pandemic, while official inflation for the first quarter of this year rose at an annual rate of 5%. Even that measure hides the vastly different impact of rising prices on different classes. For example, the spiraling costs of food and gas are deemed "volatile" and not considered when the government describes "core inflation."

Fight for jobs, counter price rises

"Without a fight by workers and our unions to put millions back to work, the working class will increasingly get torn apart," Malcolm Jarrett, SWP candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, told the *Militant* June 1. "We need to be on the job where we can fight against boss assaults on our wages and working conditions as well as the impact of rising prices."

"The Socialist Workers Party urges a fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions back to work at union-scale wages to build the hospitals, houses, schools and other

things we need," he said.

Capitalist pundits frequently claim wage raises are the cause of inflation in an effort to deter working people from joining together and using union power to defend ourselves.

"Higher wages don't lead to increased prices, they come out of the bosses' profits," Jarrett said. "Fighting for cost-of-living clauses in every union contract and in government benefit payments provides crucial protection for our wages whenever prices go up."

Biden says his proposed huge expansion of government debt will eventually be paid for by revenue from tax hikes on the wealthy and their corporations. But capitalist bosses and bankers hire armies of accountants to ensure they pay as little tax as possible. If their taxes still rise after that, they'll look for ways to foist those extra costs onto workers' backs. They'll try to impose more life-threatening speedup on the job and attack our wages.

While inflation ruins working people, some predatory investors on the stock market are anticipating they can take advantage of price hikes to get rich. Harley Bassman runs a hedge fund based on gambling that the Federal Reserve will eventually be forced to raise interest rates in an effort to try to lessen inflation, making investments in Treasury bonds especially lucrative.

"Working people need to rely on ourselves and build our own party, a labor party," Jarrett said.

"Doing so would be a key step in organizing independently of the bosses and their parties — the parties of unemployment, inflation and war. A labor party would provide us with the fighting tool we need to lead millions in struggle to overturn the rule of the capitalist class and take political power into our own hands."

Texas refinery workers fight ExxonMobil lockout

Continued from front page

one on the crew who knows how to bring down and start up the units during a shutdown. Now Exxon wants to eliminate these jobs and let any operator do it," he said. "They want to do away with 100% of the bids. Before 1996, all the jobs were bids, then it was cut to 25%. Now they want to take this away altogether."

The first thing you see when you walk into the USW union hall here is a huge room full of shelves of canned nonperishable food items, laundry detergent, diapers and other baby gear, and a big freezer full of meats and poultry. "We just opened up this food bank," Kyle explained. "All of this is donated from union locals at the other refineries and plants in this area." The Houston area is a center for the oil industry in the U.S.

"The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are letting us use their union hall to process payments from the USW international union for mortgages, rents and bills for the locked-out unionists," he said.

Protest at ExxonMobil headquarters

On May 26 members of the local took a bus to picket the ExxonMobil headquarters in Irving. They were joined by union supporters from the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Carlos Soto, one of the locked-out workers, told the *Dallas Morning News* that while he wasn't at work when the company locked the workers out of the refinery, he heard all about it. "They walked them out to the gate like criminals, you know, like they didn't even trust us to walk ourselves out," he said.

"They are trying to separate the blending and packaging plant from the refinery," John Porter told us as he got back to Beaumont after the Irving protest. He and his wife Christy had gone together.

Porter has worked at the blending and packaging plant for 23 years, a contractor for six and an Exxon employee the last 17. "Exxon wants to take away company-wide seniority bidding on jobs. I'm an A operator. We blend the oils like Mobil One, then another department packages it."

"I've been walking the picket lines 10 to 12 hours a day with my husband," Christy Porter said. "This is the first time I've been to a rally."

"The first days of the lockout, the company made the supervisors stay in the plants. They wouldn't let them leave. Their wives showed up on the picket line asking us where their husbands are," she said. "We said we don't know, ask them, pointing to Exxon."

"I worked as a contractor for 10 years at the refinery. Then I got hired at the blending and packaging plant by Exxon, starting my seniority all over," Markus Malone said while we were walking the picket line in front of the plant. "We work 12-hour shifts. It gets very hot in the plant but Exxon doesn't allow mandatory heat-stress breaks that the refinery workers get because they say we work inside."

The 2,700-acre Beaumont complex is Exxon's third-largest U.S. refinery. The bosses are running the facility, using managers and scab replacement workers.

Donations and letters of support can be sent to USW Local 13-243, 2490 South 11th St., Beaumont, TX 77701. Tel.: (409) 842-3952.

CALENDAR

PENNSYLVANIA

Vandergrift

Solidarity Rally to Support Steelworkers on Strike at Allegheny Technologies Inc. Wed., June 9, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at picket line. 130 Lincoln Street. Sponsored by USW Local 1138. For information, (724) 842-2091.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

GEORGIA

Atlanta

What Is Road Forward? Working People Face Fight for Jobs, and Steepest Price Hikes in Years. Speaker: Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers Party Georgia campaign state chairperson. Fri., June 11, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

TEXAS

Dallas

Socialist Workers Campaign: "Solidarity with Workers' Struggles!" Speaker: Alyson Kennedy, Texas SWP 2021 campaign chairperson. Sat., June 12, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 105 Jefferson Blvd. Suite 207. Tel.: (469) 513 1051.

10

New International
A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY

\$14

What the 1987 stock market crash foretold

JACK BARNES
Imperialism's march toward fascism and war

Defending Cuba, defending Cuba's socialist revolution
MARY-ALICE WATERS

pathfinderpress.com

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Striking Quebec meatpackers march for wages, respect

VALLEE-JONCTION, Quebec — Over 250 striking meatpackers, members of the Union of Olymel Workers at Vallee-Jonction, marched here May 24 protesting their treatment by the bosses. Some 1,000 union meatpackers walked out when the employers refused to show up for contract talks April 28. The previous agreement expired March 30.

The workers received another slap in the face May 18 when the bosses demanded workers agree to major concessions on health, safety, vacations and contracting out the sanitation shift. The Olymel chain is the biggest pork producer in Canada.

“For us, it is another insult, another flagrant lack of respect which shows that Olymel has no intention at all of resolving this conflict,” responded union President Martin Maurice that day.

Also on May 18, the government of Quebec publicly showed its support for the bosses, announcing it was investing 150 million Canadian dollars (\$125 million) in the company.

The union is demanding to get back a 38% wage cut imposed in 2007 when Olymel threatened to close the plant.

“I support the strikers because I know what the conditions are like,” Marc Lamoureux, a retired mechanic at the Vachon pastry factory in nearby St-Marie, told the *Militant* on his doorstep. The meatpacking plant bosses are notorious for the number of injuries caused by the high line speed.

Solidarity messages and contributions can be sent to Syndicat des Travailleurs d’Olymel, Vallee-Jonction, 243 Rue Principle, Vallee-Jonction, QC G0S 3J0.

— Joe Young

Coffee workers in UK win international solidarity

BANBURY, England — Workers at the Jacobs Douwe Egberts coffee factory here held a three-day strike starting May 26, one of a series of stoppages to oppose wage and pension cuts, worse job conditions and the imposition of inhumane shift schedules. The bosses

have threatened mass firings if the 291 Unite union members don’t agree to the new terms.

The workers recently got a solidarity boost from unionists in Germany at another of the company’s coffee factories. “We have had confirmed from Dieter Nickel of the German Food, Beverages and Catering Union that workers at the Hemelingen plant in Bremen are refusing to work overtime,” union convenor Chris Moon told the *Militant* on the picket line.

“This adds to the local support we’ve been getting,” said Denise Canning, who has worked here for 36 years. Like many of her co-workers, Canning has a sister working at the plant “as did our mum and stepdad.” Canning is one of four women working in processing, the best paid section of the factory.

It was hard to hear Canning over the sound of car horns blasting when workers from the nearby Magna car bumper factory drove by after work in support.

Elaine Reading, with 27-years’ employment and who also works in process, says that she would lose 9,000 pounds a year (\$13,000) and six holidays if company attacks go through. “Everything we have got is a result of what the union action has won.” she said.

Manchester bus drivers strike pushed back bosses’ attack

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

MANCHESTER, England — Bosses at Go North West “wanted to take a lot, but we’ve clawed a lot back and have got a stronger union that they have to deal with,” Carl Walmsley, one of hundreds of striking bus drivers, told the *Militant*. They had voted to return to work and end their 11-week strike. The strike “was most definitely an achievement.”

The drivers, members of the Unite union at the Queens Road Depot here, beat back an attempt by the company, Go North West, to deal a blow to their union and erode working conditions. Their action won support from working people facing similar assaults in Manchester and beyond.

Some 400 drivers went on strike Feb.



Jessy Pouliot

Over 250 striking meatpackers, members of Union of Olymel Workers at Vallee-Jonction in Quebec, marched May 24 against bosses’ demands for concessions on health, safety and jobs.

“That includes toilets for women in processing when we got work there,” adds Canning. “We’re not just fighting for ourselves but for the younger and future generations.”

“I stand to lose my job,” said maintenance engineer Kevin Stavely. “I’m 63 and have a 100-mile round trip to work. I simply can’t do the 12-hour day and night shifts they’re demanding.”

Robert Pringle and Lisa Cattell, a

couple who work alternating “earlies” and late shift in the packing section, also oppose the shift changes. “Not only will we lose 6,000 pounds a year between us, we couldn’t countenance what they were proposing — for child care and family life.” They said that their two children have joined the picket lines, proud that their parents are standing up to the boss.

— Jonathan Silberman and Pamela Holmes

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 17, 1996

The statement below was released June 5 by James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, and SWP vice-presidential candidate Laura Garza.

Our campaign calls on the labor movement and every democratic-minded human being to organize protests demanding an immediate end to the raids by la migra in New York garment shops, Midwest packinghouses, and other factories across the country.

The goal of the raids by the INS cops is not to stop “illegal” immigration but to create a pariah layer of workers who are forced to accept poverty wages and inhuman working conditions. The bosses seek to use these attacks as a way to drive down the value of labor power of the working class as a whole.

As always when the bosses attempt to deepen divisions among our class they go after those they think will get the least support and solidarity.



June 18, 1971

Every state in the U.S. has laws on the books limiting or denying a woman’s right to abort an unwanted pregnancy. And every day countless women face the terror and the frequently deadly consequences of illegal abortions.

Under the pressure of the burgeoning women’s struggle for the right to abortion, legislatures and courts around the country have recently had to reconsider, and in some cases modify, these statutes.

Most state abortion laws have been on the books since the 1850s. They vary widely in their provisions and prescribed punishments. During the last four years, legislatures in 15 states have liberalized their laws.

While women have begun to win some victories, the battle is far from over. Our struggle for our rights has shown itself to be a powerful one, but our adversaries have shown themselves to be stubborn.



June 15, 1946

Bread — the proverbial staff of life and mainstay in the diet of the poor — this week virtually disappeared from groceries and bakeries. Grain speculators, big flour mill operators and baking corporations, with the aid of the government, imposed a bread famine upon the working people in order to extort still greater profits.

There were breadlines last week in major cities of the richest capitalist nation in the world. Grain speculators and flour monopolists are hoarding huge stocks of wheat and flour in anticipation of rising [government-controlled] prices. A black market in bread has begun to flourish.

Even the pretense that this victimization of the American workers has meant food for the hungry abroad has disappeared. To the misery of hundreds of millions of famine-stricken people around the globe, has been added the imposition of a bread famine at home.

workers from many parts of northwest England would bring workplace collections and messages of encouragement.

Two solidarity demonstrations were organized, drawing hundreds from across the region. A local Asian family regularly cooked curries for the strikers’ kitchen, and a teacher at a local Jewish school brought their class to the picket line to learn about the strike.

The drivers twice sent delegations to join striking gas workers facing a similar threat from British Gas bosses: that they would be fired if they didn’t sign onto worse conditions.

In response to the strike, bosses deepened their union-busting course, organizing with other transport companies and some 80 strikebreakers to run buses, firing two strikers and filing disciplinary charges against 36 others.

When talks broke down in early April the strikers continued to hold their ground.

In the face of the strikers’ refusal to pull back, the bosses began to crumble. By the end of April they agreed to talks, promising to reinstate drivers they sacked, to withdraw the threat to fire others who didn’t sign the individual contracts bosses wanted, and to drop all disciplinary moves.

“The company had wanted total control of our job rosters,” Walmsley said, “so they could do what they want. Bosses have now agreed that they have to consult and negotiate with the union. They can’t just impose a roster.”

The company also pulled back on moves to cut sick pay to 60% of wages and will put it at 90%. The contract included a 2% pay raise. Strikers say some concessions were agreed to on breaks, and walking and clocking-in times.

Following a May 17 mass meeting, strikers voted by 78% to return to work. “The deal is considerably distant from what we had faced,” Colin Hayden told the *Militant*. “There are some issues we did not manage to get back, but they now

Continued on page 7

End US embargo of Cuba!

Continued from front page
overthrew the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in 1959. The sanctions are aimed at punishing the Cuban people for replacing capitalist exploitation and oppression with a revolutionary workers and farmers government, transforming the country and themselves, and carrying out the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

Next month's caravans will take place June 20, prior to the June 23 vote at the United Nations General Assembly on an annual resolution calling on Washington to lift the embargo.

In Cuba, some 2,000 people in cars and trucks and on skates, motorcycles, bicycles and horseback caravanned through Ciego de Ávila in the center of the island May 30, with signs demanding an end to the embargo and waving Cuban flags, the largest of many actions there. *Juventud Rebelde* noted that despite anti-COVID-19 measures that discourage large crowds, there are times "when a country has to demonstrate that it will not surrender."

Below are reports on some of the May actions.



Miami action demands 'Lift the sanctions'

MIAMI — "President Biden — Keep your promises to the Cuban people: Restore family reunification, remittances, travel. End the blockade!" read the banner on the lead truck in the May 30 caravan here of more than 130 people in 100 cars and on 13 bicycles. Cars displayed signs saying: "No to the embargo! End the Cold War against Cuba," "The Cuban family is sacred!" and "No to the travel ban!" The caravan was welcomed by many passersby.

Meeting at a Coral Gables park, the mostly Cuban American participants heard brief remarks by Carlos Lazo and Jorge Medina, leaders of Puentes de Amor (Bridges of Love), the group that initiated the worldwide caravans.

Donations were collected for the campaign to send hundreds of thousands of syringes to Cuba to aid in delivering vaccines developed there to protect people against COVID-19.

About 25 right-wing opponents of

the Cuban Revolution protested across the street, but the disciplined caravan participants simply drowned out their provocative taunts. Before taking off on the route, Lazos led the caravanistas in singing *La Bayamesa*, the Cuban national anthem.

Another caravan was held in Tampa's Cuban American neighborhood, drawing a dozen carloads of protesters.

— Steve Warshell

Embargo causes lack of medical supplies

CHICAGO — Some 50 people in over 30 cars wove their way through the Albany Park neighborhood here May 30 after a sidewalk rally at a nearby transportation hub. Many workers on the streets gave them a thumbs-up.

"The U.S. does not allow business relations and restricts travel to Cuba," Carelia Drake, a Cuban American and leader of the Chicago Coalition in Solidarity with Latin America, told the rally. "The U.S. government fines other countries for doing business with Cuba. That has led to a need for syringes, masks and other materials to treat patients."

Despite the embargo, Cuban volunteers provide medical aid in some 60 countries around the world, including helping combat COVID-19, Drake noted.

Washington carries out its economic attacks on Cuba, "because the Cuban people reject the capitalist system of the United States," said Luis Carchi, a representative of the Ecuadoran group *Patria Grande de Chicago*.

— Dan Fein

Our message is 'Cuba is not alone'

NEW YORK — Some 35 people joined a seven-car caravan through the predominantly Dominican Washington Heights neighborhood here.

"We want to send out the message that Cuba is not alone," Rev. Luis Barrios told participants inside the Holyrood Episcopal Church-Iglesia Santa Cruz before the caravan headed out into a heavy rain.

In opposing the U.S. embargo, participants are not just defending Cuba,



Above, from top to bottom: Havana, caravan of 2,000 against U.S. economic war on Cuba included participants on horseback, skates, bicycles and in motor vehicles; in Miami; and in New Zealand.

Barrios said. There is no better example of an alternative "to the capitalist society we are living in," than the Cuban Revolution.

When the caravan arrived at Duarte Square the rain had eased and participants joined in a spirited rally with other protesters who had been waiting for the caravan.

"Enough already. Cuba has been confronting the U.S. empire for more than 60 years," Bélgica González, from the *Movimiento Patria Para Todos*, a Dominican political party, told the crowd. "End the blockade of Cuba. And leave Venezuela alone as well."

— Seth Galinsky

Stop the embargo's harsh impact on Cuba's people

SAN FRANCISCO — Twenty vehicles joined a caravan through the Mission District and other neighborhoods here, carrying signs that said: "End the U.S. economic war against Cuba," "U.S. out of Guantánamo" and "End travel restrictions to Cuba."

Representatives from the *Venceremos* Brigade, *Saving Lives Campaign*, *Party for Socialism and Liberation*, *Code Pink* and the *Socialist Workers Party* spoke at a brief rally. Cuban journalist Arlene Rodríguez spoke via telephone from Havana, describing the harsh impact of the U.S. economic war.

— Jeff Powers

New Zealand: 'Solidarity needed more than ever'

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Seventeen people in 11 cars joined the first caravan to take place here. With loudspeakers mounted in the lead car, the caravan wound through three shopping centers, passing out fact sheets and explaining the need to oppose the U.S. economic war on Cuba.

"The situation in Cuba is difficult today," Luis Casares, originally from Cuba, told participants. "Solidarity is needed more than ever."

— Janet Roth



Some 50 people in 30 cars joined the caravan in Montreal, including a worker at a Cargill meatpacking plant who was at his first caravan. In Los Angeles, participants ended the caravan with a march around a busy intersection in the Inglewood suburb. The 30 participants in the caravan in Minneapolis were received with cheers and waves by working people at bus stops along the way. In Atlanta, 17 people in 10 cars joined the caravan. Nine cars took to the road in Albany, New York.

To find out more about the June 20 caravans, visit the National Network on Cuba at www.nnoc.info or see page 8 to contact the branch of the Socialist Workers Party or Communist League nearest you.

Belarus dictator forces plane down, seizes protester

In a brazen state skyjacking of a Ryanair passenger plane May 23, Alexander Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus with an iron fist for 27 years, seized dissident journalist Raman Protasevich and his companion, Russian student Sofia Sapega. A MiG-29 fighter forced the airliner, en route to Lithuania, to divert to Minsk, the capital of Belarus. The arrests are part of the regime's tightening suppression of a powerful opposition protest movement.

"I was supposed to fly home" to Belarus that same day but "all the flights got canceled," Lana Hulevich wrote the *Militant* May 28. All flights to or over Belarus have been banned by EU governments to protest the skyjacking. The Russian Embassy in Washington told Hulevich she couldn't go to Belarus from the U.S. via Russia either.

Last year hundreds of thousands mobilized in protests and strikes calling for Lukashenko's ouster after he stole the presidential elections. He responded with police-state methods. Some 35,000 people were arrested, with many tortured and some killed or disappeared. Others, like Protasevich, went into exile.

Protasevich, an editor for *Nexta*, an online media channel based in Poland with more than a million subscribers, helped mobilize street protests. He faces spurious charges of "terrorism" — which carries the death sentence — after the regime accused him of fighting on behalf of Ukraine against breakaway Moscow-backed forces in the Donbass region in 2014. Protasevich insists he was there as a reporter.

— ROY LANDERSEN

Iranian rulers seek to tighten grip, advance Mideast clout

Continued from front page

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a frequent critic of the government. Rouhani has been in office since 2013 and by law cannot seek a third term.

“What the Guardian Council did ... has made elections meaningless,” Azar Mansouri, a spokesperson for the Iran Reformists Front, told the *Financial Times*. Khamenei condemned calls made by capitalist opposition groups for a boycott of the vote.

The decision ensures that a conservative candidate closely aligned with Khamenei and his Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps allies will win the election. Ebrahim Raisi is the front-runner. Backed by both Khamenei and the Revolutionary Guard, he ran in the 2017 election, but was soundly defeated by Rouhani.

Decision-making on key questions, including foreign policy, remains in the hands of Supreme Leader Khamenei, not the president.

In addition to being a military and repressive force, the Revolutionary Guard runs many of the largest, most profitable industries in the country.

All wings of the regime, including disqualified presidential candidates, back the Iranian rulers’ assaults on working people at home and their interventionist foreign policy abroad. Tehran seeks to export its counter-revolutionary policies throughout the region. That course has brought it into sharper conflict with working people in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, as well as in Israel. Moreover, the human and financial toll of these conflicts is borne at home by workers and farmers and has eroded any moral legitimacy



Office of the President of Iran
Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani, in car, surrounded by protesting coal miners in Azadshahr, Iran, May 2017. His reformist forces have been barred from running in June 18 presidential election. For years workers have fought to end rulers’ wars abroad, economic crisis at home.

claimed by Iran’s rulers and their state.

The Iranian rulers have intervened in bloody conflicts across the Middle East, entrenching militias and weapons bases to extend their power. This included supplying weapons-making material to Hamas in the Gaza Strip that it used in the thousands of recent rocket attacks launched on Israel.

The 1979 Iranian Revolution

Iran’s workers and farmers carried out a popular revolution that overthrew the dictatorial rule of the U.S.-backed shah. Workers councils were set up in factories and oil refineries across the country, gains were made in the fight for the national rights of the Kurds and other oppressed peoples, and in the fight

for the emancipation of women.

The Iranian rulers’ expansionist course was part of their moves to drive through a far-reaching counterrevolution against these advances. Capitalist politicians of all stripes in the U.S. present the Tehran regime’s counterrevolution as if it is the revolution itself.

In 2019 up to 1,500 people were shot and killed by Iranian security forces and paramilitary squads during country-wide protests against the regime. Widespread demonstrations had begun in 2017 as working people took advantage of widening divisions within the regime. For factional reasons, Rouhani had released some of the facts about the authorities’ vast spending on the Revolutionary Guard and other

military forces, hoping to deflect anger away from his administration’s cuts to subsidies on basic necessities that millions depend upon.

This year’s election takes place after years of U.S. sanctions have sharply exacerbated the impact of the economic crisis bearing down on working people in Iran, widening class inequalities. On May 23 the semiofficial government news agency ISNA reported the prices of six basic food items had increased 70% since the end of March.

President Joseph Biden’s administration and Iran’s rulers have begun talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal Washington struck with Tehran, in exchange for cutbacks in sanctions.

As part of its negotiating tactics, Tehran announced last month it was enriching uranium to levels far above those agreed to in the 2015 deal. Since that pact was reached Tehran has also expanded its deployment of precision missiles, rockets and drones to allies across the region.

The clerical regime aims to use the elections to push back the ongoing popular opposition, to continue to extend its reach abroad, and to strengthen its hand in its conflict with Washington.

Alabama miners rally, win solidarity in strike battle

BY SUSAN LAMONT

MCCALLA, Ala. — Heading into their third month on strike, some 1,100 United Mine Workers of America members at Warrior Met Coal are maintaining round-the-clock picket lines at more than a dozen mine portals, railroad crossings, a coal preparation plant and other company sites in Brookwood.

Some 600 miners, family members and supporters took part in the union’s weekly unity rally May 26 at Tannehill State Park here. In addition to UMWA President Cecil Roberts, speakers included AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler and American Federation of Government Employees President Everett Kelley.

UK drivers win

Continued from page 5

become an issue inside the workplace.”

“This victory for union power sets an example,” said Pete Clifford, a rail worker who joined the picket line with co-workers from Manchester Piccadilly station, and a leader of the Communist League.

“For the last year, bosses have used lockdown conditions and fear of job losses to deal blows to the unions and assault workers’ pay and conditions.

“The sustained character of the bus drivers strike and the solidarity it generated shows it is possible to fight and strengthen the unions,” Clifford said.

The miners are fighting to regain ground lost in 2016, when major concessions in wages, benefits and working conditions were forced on the union when the mines’ previous owner, Jim Walter Resources, filed for bankruptcy and its major creditors and other investors set up a “reorganized” company.

A message of solidarity from Pete Gushwa, president of SMART-Transportation Division Local 324 in the Seattle area, was read to the rally by UMWA International District 20 Vice President Larry Spencer. “We wanted to reach out to say how proud we are of you all for taking a stand against the tyranny of corporate America and the oppression of the working class,” wrote Gushwa. “An injury to one is an injury to all’ is a motto we believe strongly in, and we stand in support of your fight.”

The UMWA had organized a march of hundreds of miners and family members to a No. 7 mine portal the day before the rally. Eleven UMWA members, including Roberts, were arrested for trespassing on company property. They were loaded onto a Tuscaloosa County sheriff’s van and held until 5 a.m. the following morning. Several videos of the demonstration and arrests are posted on the www.umwa.org website.

Support and solidarity are needed. A food bank has been set up by the UMWA locals at Warrior Met to aid strikers and their families. Checks should be made out to UMWA 2021 Strike Aid Fund and mailed to UMWA Strike Aid Fund,

P.O. Box 513, Dumfries, VA 22026. Messages of support can be sent to District 20, 21922 Hwy. 216 (Miners’ Memorial Parkway), McCalla, AL 35111. Email: umwadistrict20@bellsouth.net.

Revolution, Counterrevolution and War in Iran
by Steve Clark

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Mighty rise of unions in 1930s posed need for a labor party

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June is *Teamster Politics* by Farrell Dobbs. It tells how Teamsters Local 574 members in Minneapolis in 1934 during the Great Depression learned to wield their union power to win strikes. With class-struggle leadership, the Teamsters extended their union throughout the Midwest, helped organize other unions and the unemployed, and strove for political independence. The book is the third in a four-volume series by Dobbs, who emerged from the ranks to become the central organizer of the Teamsters' 11-state campaign to unionize over-the-road truckers. He served as national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party from 1953 to 1972. The first excerpt is from chapter 3, "Mentality of a Union Bureaucrat," the second from chapter 9, "Changes in National Trends." Copyright © 2015 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Sit-down strike by autoworkers in 1937 at General Motors in Flint, Michigan, was part of strike wave during 1930s Depression that built Congress of Industrial Organizations and posed need, and potential, for a party of labor to advance the class struggle onto the political plane.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

If political action is left to the capitalists and their servitors within the labor movement, power generated at the trade-union level can be blunted, and even shattered, through blows from a government under ruling-class control.

Conversely, if the workers enter the

political arena as an independent class force, with their own party, they have the strength to wrest state power from the hands of the capitalists. That step could put an end to governmental assaults on trade unions, like the one that struck the Teamsters. A labor government could qualitatively increase the workers' power, elevating it to a high plane on which all their basic problems as a class could be solved through the necessary transformations in the nation's social structure.



Even though reformist illusions could be expected to predominate when a national labor party first appeared, the very existence of such a movement would in itself represent an implicitly anticapitalist development. For one thing, the latter characteristic would be a natural consequence of the party's working-class composition. In addition, organized labor would begin to act in a more unified manner and on a higher plane. The workers would start to generalize their needs in a systematic way and direct their demands in political form at the capitalist class as a whole. That step would not only constitute a meaningful advance beyond pure-and-simple trade unionism; it would also create receptivity to revolutionary policies, which would be oriented toward a working-class struggle for governmental control in order to reorganize society on a socialist basis.

For those reasons, the SWP concluded that questions of program should not be made a decisive criterion for support of a labor party during its formative phase. The main thing at the start was to promote a trade-union break with the capitalist political machine. Therefore, it was decided that the minimum requisites for support of labor candidates on the electoral arena would be that they represent a significant part of the working class and that their campaigns in no way be tied in with capitalist politics. Given the fulfillment of those requirements, labor representatives running for public office would be backed, as against their Democratic and Republican opponents.

In shaping this policy, note was taken of the conditional aspects of such support where matters of program were concerned. Reformist shortcomings in the platforms of labor candidates had to be openly criticized in a fraternal tone, and it was necessary to counterpose a programmatic line based on a class-struggle outlook.

Objectives of this nature could be achieved during the formative period through critical support of labor candidates. But once a labor party was established, new complications had to be expected. These could range from reformist blocs with capitalist politicians to right-wing attacks on revolutionary supporters of the new mass party. Such developments were bound to produce internal polarizations. In that case revo-

lutionaries would back the more progressive tendencies within the party. In doing so, however, the half-way character of the progressives' political development would be criticized in an effort to help them advance toward a rounded class-struggle outlook.

Close attention would have to be paid to the problem of maintaining trade-union hegemony within the labor party. Otherwise the reformist bureaucrats would gang up with liberal politicians to usurp dictatorial control over the movement, so as to use it in ways that harmed the working class. If that happened, the organization would remain a labor party in composition only. In practice, it would come to act more and more like a capitalist party with respect to policies the bureaucrats sought to carry out.

In combating these possible trends to the right, the revolutionary party would most likely have to enter the electoral arena in its own name and for its own purposes on some occasions. It followed that, once a labor party had become a living reality, need for changes in the policy of critical support would arise. Situations could be expected to develop in which the SWP would run either a partial or full slate of candidates for public office despite the existence of a labor ticket. In that way questions of program could be more effectively stressed, and matters related to the issue of workers' democracy could be brought out into the open.

On a related point, concerning direct revolutionary activity within a labor party, it was decided that SWP members could join such a movement as individuals wherever the step appeared to be in order. ...

During that unfolding process an organized left wing, polarized initially around immediate issues in the class struggle, could grow quite rapidly. Under the impact of experiences in class conflicts, members of that broad left wing could in numerous instances evolve toward understanding and accepting the full socialist program. Finally, in one or another organizational form, determined by the specific circumstances, a mass revolutionary party could be built. Then, and only then, would the insurgent millions have developed a leadership formation capable of guiding them into decisive revolutionary action to abolish the outlived capitalist system.

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Workers need our own party, a labor party

Statement by Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Philadelphia district attorney, June 1.

As millions remain jobless today, driven out of the workforce by government-ordered coronavirus shut downs and the sharp contraction in capitalist production and trade, workers and farmers need to organize to fight to get everyone back on the job. Left to themselves, the bosses only increase hiring when they can make more profits. Otherwise they squeeze the number of workers to the bone and push relentlessly to speed up the pace of our labor.

Workers, whose labor produces all wealth, need to find the way to use our power in numbers and strategic position in production and distribution to force change. As growing numbers get vaccinated, our leverage increases.

Some bosses claim they can't fill vacancies because unemployed workers live too high off the hog on overly generous government benefits. Their efforts to blame workers who don't rush to take any job, no matter how little it pays, turn the victim into the criminal.

Regardless of the ups and downs in unemployment, capitalism cannot function without a reserve army of labor, striving to pit workers with jobs against those without. The pressure this reserve army exerts on those of us at work "forces them to submit to overwork and subjects them to the dictates of capital," Karl Marx, a founder of the revolutionary working-class movement, explained. "The condemnation of one part of the working class to enforced idleness by the overwork of the other part, and *vice versa* becomes a means for enriching the individual capitalists."

Workers need to build and use our unions to wage an unwavering fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions thrown out of work into jobs at union-scale pay to build the houses, hospitals, schools, irrigation projects and many other things working people need. We should fight on the job for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to share the work

available to all. This is the road to defeat the bosses' efforts to pit us against each other and unify our ranks for struggle against the dog-eat-dog capitalist class.

Getting back to work puts workers in the one place where we can join together to fight for better wages and working conditions, as striking miners in Alabama, ATI steelworkers, and others locked in labor conflicts today show is possible. We can win widespread solidarity in our battles — each one is in the interests of the entire working class.

In a world in which millions more people face hunger and malnutrition, forging a fighting alliance with farmers is also crucial for our class.

Before the pandemic, farm bankruptcies in the U.S. were at the highest level in a decade. Big food processing companies and monopoly supermarket chains dictate what farmers receive for what they produce. These rock bottom prices farmers get have nothing to do with the sky-high costs workers confront at the store.

Workers and our unions must champion the interests of farmers — our fellow producers — and demand the government guarantee to fully cover their costs of production, including living expenses. To ensure that those who want to till the land and provide food for the growing numbers without, we need to fight for nationalization of the land, to prevent its seizure by banks, landowners and corporate agricultural capitalists.

Forging a fighting alliance between workers and farmers is necessary for the working class to lead in struggle all those exploited and oppressed to overturn capitalist rule, take political power and establish a workers and farmers government.

Wielding that power we can take into our own hands control over the factories, land, and banks, and reorganize them to meet human needs, not private profit. Then we can ensure that all who want to work can lead productive lives. We will throw our lot in with fellow toilers worldwide to create a new social order in the interests of all, transforming the world and ourselves. Join with us in this fight. Join the SWP.

Back iron ore workers strike in north Quebec

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — More than 2,500 iron ore miners and processing, rail and office workers in Port-Cartier and Fermont, Quebec, members of the United Steelworkers union, have been on strike against ArcelorMittal since May 10. The strike has important implications for miners and steelworkers across Canada and North America.

Mont-Wright and Fire Lake, the company's two mines in that area, are located near Fermont, a town of less than 3,000 created for the mineworkers in Quebec's far north. They operate around the clock all year long, employing over 1,000 workers.

In 1957 Quebec Cartier bosses established the town of Gagnon to the south of Fire Lake to mine iron ore. When the price of iron ore collapsed during the recession of the early 1980s, and it became more difficult to extract ore there, the company closed the town, forcing 3,500 workers, family and other residents to leave. ArcelorMittal bought Quebec Cartier in 2006 and started up the mine in Fire Lake again.

Since the strike began there have been three marches through the streets in Fermont, the latest May 27, to show the miners' spirit and to build solidarity. Several hundred marched to Beausejour Park May 18, where Local 5778 President Karine Sénéchal described the main question in the strike. "Yes, the question of money is involved," she said, "but equally there is also the question of respect."

ArcelorMittal is the largest steel company in the world and biggest private employer on Quebec's North Shore. In addition to respect, the key issues are wage increases, improved pensions, higher premiums paid to workers in remote locations like Fermont, and better working conditions. The union says the bosses reneged on promises they made to workers in 2017, particularly on health, cleanliness and issues related to work camps and food services. This has made workers more determined.

United Steelworkers Local 6887, which represents 359 copper refinery workers at Glencore in Montreal's east end, announced May 27 that it will send a donation of 1,000 Canadian dollars (\$830) every month to the North Shore strikers. "We also work for a multinational in the resources sector. It takes courage and solidarity to stand up to them," Local 6887 President Stephane Coté told the media. "That makes it even more important to support our brothers and sisters in that context."

A number of other Steelworkers locals in Quebec are giving similar support.

The North Shore Steelworkers have also gotten support from fellow unionists in Brazil and France. The General Confederation of Labor (CGT) in France, with more than a million and a half members, sent solidarity. There are more than 71,000 workers at ArcelorMittal in Europe, including in France.

"The company has made profits, but it wants to negotiate downwards. This is unacceptable," Christophe Latrasse, secretary general of CGT Local Romilly Nogent told Trait d'Union, Fermont's online newspaper. "We give our support to the comrades in the Steelworkers union in their fight which we hope will be victorious."

To join in supporting the ArcelorMittal strikers, send messages and checks to Syndicat des Metallos, 737 Boulevard Laure, Bureau 200, Sept-Iles, QC G4R 1Y2, Canada.

Victory! Florida prisons lift ban on 'Militant'

Continued from front page

on the right of the paper to present its political point of view, targeting 11 articles prison authorities deemed "inadmissible."

These articles covered important struggles by working people, from the union-organizing drive at Amazon in Alabama to the strike being waged by steelworkers against Allegheny Technologies Inc. They also objected to the paper's reports on the readers contributing all or part of their government "stimulus" checks to the *Militant* and Socialist Workers Party.

Each article, the rejection notices from Century prison officials claimed, "encourages, riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison, disruption of the institution."

"The victory in rolling back this ban is a victory for the rights of our readers behind bars and of the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and of the press," said *Militant* editor John Studer. "We will fight against all impoundments. And most of the time, as here, we're successful."

'Militant' fights ban in Indiana

In Indiana, Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, incarcerated at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Carlisle, has been denied two *Militant* issues that report on gains made by workers and farmers in Cuba through making and defending their socialist revolution in the early 1960s. Authorities said they didn't like a photo run in both issues — it accompanied an article in English in one, and the same article in Spanish the follow-

ing issue — because it showed "images of guns."

At issue is a well-known historical photo of Cuban militia members celebrating after the defeat of the U.S.-organized attempted mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961.

Johnson is a leader of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party. He informed the *Militant* that while prison officials claim they bar photos of guns, they show and rent television movies that depict guns and gun violence, for example "The Courier" and "Monster Hunter." The *Militant* fought successfully to reverse impoundments of his paper last year and in 2019.

"I'm very surprised to hear that Johnson is not being given his paper," said George Blue, a former prisoner who lives in Michigan City, Indiana, in a phone interview May 29. "I'm sending a letter to protest this."

Blue was first introduced to the *Militant* while incarcerated at the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas, in the late 1950s, and has been reading the paper ever since.

After being transferred to a prison in Atlanta in the early '70s, "I got a couple issues of the paper and no more," Blue said. "Then one day a guy told me, 'George, in the library there are *Militants* with your name on it.'"

Blue got in touch with the American Civil Liberties Union to challenge why he wasn't getting the papers. Prison officials "didn't know what to say so they gave them to me," he said.

"I've learned a lot from the *Militant*," Blue said. "Prisoners in the federal system all respected the *Militant*, which is what upsets the officials."

Join the fight! Send letters urging that the Indiana prison ban be reversed. Write to Chief Counsel Jon Ferguson, Indiana Department of Correction, 302 W. Washington St., Room E-334, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or email jFerguson1@idoc.IN.gov. Please send a copy to themilitant@mac.com.

Correction

The article "Working People Face Fight for Jobs, Steepest Price Hikes in Many Years" in issue no. 22 incorrectly said Whole Foods' "365" brand was introduced two years ago. It has had a version of this brand available for many years. As the article said, the company has been substantially expanding its generic brand.

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'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the 'Militant' and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com