

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Caravans demand: 'End US embargo against Cuba!'
— PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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'Workers in US, Puerto Rico face the same enemy'

The U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization held its annual hearing on the status of Puerto Rico June 18, after skipping the previous year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Puerto Rico has been under the boot of Washington as a U.S. colony since 1898.

Next week the Militant will report on the hearing, where 18 representatives of organizations from the U.S. and Puerto Rico spoke, all calling for an end to U.S. colonial rule. The following is the statement by Martín Koppel for the Socialist Workers Party. He was the first speaker.

Distinguished Chairperson and committee members:

Working people in both Puerto Rico and the U.S. face assaults on our conditions of work and life. These attacks have been magnified by the disastrous response to the pandemic by the capitalist rulers in Washington and San Juan, and they continue today. In both

Continued on page 7

Workers need to fight for jobs, wages to match all price hikes

BY TERRY EVANS

Workers face a triple whammy today — continued high unemployment, price hikes on basic necessities like gas and food, and efforts by the bosses to protect their dog-eat-dog competitive edge and profits on our backs. What millions confront shows the need to build and strengthen our unions to lead a struggle to get jobless workers back to work now and for automatic cost-of-living adjustments to defend our pay and benefits.

But these aren't the problems the well-remunerated pundits in the bosses' press see. "Ordinary people do not view prices like economists," wrote *Financial Times* columnist Gillian Tett, because workers are beset by "anxiety and anger." The trick for the government, she argues, is to keep "inflation expectations" low so price hikes don't translate "into higher demands for wages." Not surprisingly, government bureaucrats jump on that message, repeatedly claiming today's punishing price hikes are only "transi-

Continued on page 6

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign! Help spread the word



Militant/Lea Sherman

In Woodland Park June 13, Richard Beinabel and Yamilka Mendez told Joanne Kuniansky, right, Walmart worker running as SWP candidate for N.J. governor, they liked that she is independent of Democrats and Republicans. They got *Militant*, books on working-class politics.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The Socialist Workers Party is on the ballot in New Jersey! The June 14 deadline passed with no challenge to the 1,500 signatures SWP campaign supporters collected for Joanne Kuniansky, the party's candidate for New Jersey governor. The party plans to celebrate with a barbecue July 4.

Helping get out the word about the ticket of 19 SWP candidates across

the country and the party's working-class program is one of the key goals of the international drive to sell 1,400 *Militant* subscriptions, the same number of books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionaries and to raise \$145,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. The *Militant* urges its readers to join in the drive's final week and take each one of the

Continued on page 3

Back Warrior Met miners out on strike in Alabama!

Solidarity crucial in months-long battle



UMWA

Striking miners at expanded picket at entrance to Warrior Met Coal No. 7 mine June 15 where company is using scabs. This is first union contract strike battle in Alabama mine since 1980s.

BY SUSAN LAMONT

MCCALLA, Ala.—Striking United Mine Workers of America members, backed by their families, retirees and other union supporters, gathered for a solidarity rally at Tannehill State Park here June 16, marking 2½ months on strike against Warrior Met Coal.

The rallies have been a weekly show of support for the strike since mid-April, often drawing other unionists from Alabama and beyond. Strikers can pick up their strike pay there and miners' families get food and other supplies from the

food bank organized by the UMWA Auxiliary, run by miners' spouses, family members and retirees.

The 1,100 coal miners have been on strike since April 1, picketing around the clock at two underground mines (No. 4 and No. 7), a coal-preparation plant, central shops and various railroad crossings at Warrior Met operations in nearby Brookwood.

This is the first UMWA contract strike in Alabama since the early 1980s.

The miners are fighting to regain

Continued on page 4

'New York Times,' liberal press act as propaganda agents for Hamas

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Hamas group, which rules Gaza, mounted an incendiary balloon attack against civilian areas in Israel June 16, which caused at least 20 fires inside the country. This was meant to provoke a military response from the new Israeli administration, and it did with two jet strikes on Hamas military compounds. The "woke" liberal media in the U.S. and in Europe jumped in to act as the propaganda department for the Islamist group.

The Associated Press ran a story headlined "Israeli Airstrikes Target Gaza Sites, First Since Cease-Fire," falsely blaming the Israeli government for starting the fighting. The *New York Times*, NPR and other liberal media ran similar stories.

Hamas calls for the destruction of Israel and driving all Jews out "from the river to the sea." Its short-term goal is to undermine progress over the last year where several governments in the region established relations with Israel.

This slanted and dishonest coverage is part of a broader pattern. The *Times* ran a feature article in its May 28 issue that began with front-page pictures of 64 of the 67 children killed in Gaza during

Continued on page 9

Inside

South Carolina pushes for execution by firing squad 2

Beijing control over family size is attack on women 2

'Domestic terrorism' plan is threat to workers' rights 6

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Ukraine miners strike, demand back pay, safe work conditions

British Columbia hotels carry out mass firings, layoffs, lockouts

South Carolina pushes for execution by firing squad

BY JANET POST

Hoping to jump start resumption of the death penalty, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster signed a bill May 14 legalizing firing squads and making killings with the state’s 109-year-old electric chair the default method of execution.

No one has been put to death in South Carolina for 10 years because lethal injection was the method used. It hasn’t been able to carry out this legalized murder since over 25 pharmaceutical companies refuse to sell their products for use in capital punishment.

There are 39 prisoners on death row in South Carolina, 21 of them African Americans.

So far, the new law has backfired. The South Carolina Supreme Court ruled June 16 that the impending executions of Brad Sigmon and Freddie Owen could not proceed until the prisoners have the ability to “choose” between two methods of execution.

Since the South Carolina Department of Corrections has not yet come up with a procedure for using a firing squad, the judge said, Sigmon and Owen don’t have a choice.

The state is “looking to other states for guidance,” a Corrections official told the *Greenville News*, including Mississippi, Oklahoma and Utah, the only state to use firing squads since 1976.

In Utah, according to the Death Penalty Information Center, a prisoner sent to the firing squad is bound with leather straps across his waist and head. A black hood is put over his head and a white cloth target is pinned over his heart. Sandbags surround the chair to

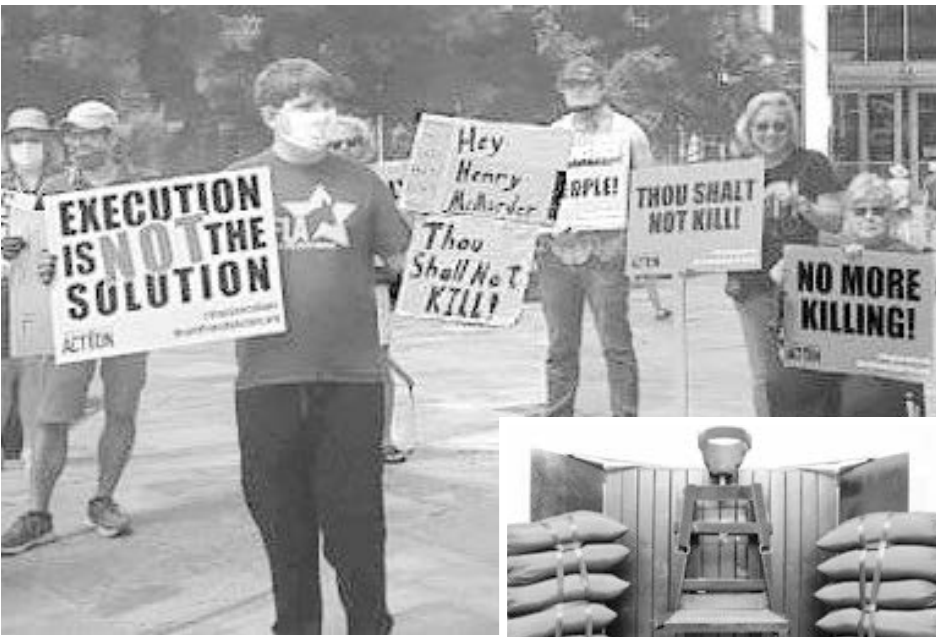
absorb blood. Standing 20 feet away, five sharpshooters take aim with .30 caliber rifles, one firing blanks.

Only 9% of people polled in the U.S. today think that a firing squad is humane, reported *USA Today*.

In the U.S. there are about 2,550 death row inmates, including 55 federal prisoners at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana, and four military prisoners at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

There is growing opposition to the death penalty among working people in the U.S. and more state governments have abolished it. The American Board of Anesthesiologists voted in 2010 to revoke certification of any doctor who participates in executions.

The death penalty is a weapon of terror the ruling class wants to have at the ready to cow the working class in the years ahead as resistance grows to its rule. To do that, the capitalist rulers highlight the most horrendous crimes to win public opinion to their side.



Picket May 29 in Greenville, South Carolina, protesting two scheduled executions and forcing prisoners to “choose” between electric chair and firing squad. Right, firing squad execution chamber at Utah State Prison in Draper.



Trent Nelson/Salt Lake Tribune via AP

On June 14 the Department of Justice filed a Supreme Court brief seeking to proceed with executing Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, now 27 years old, who was convicted in 2013 of detonating bombs at the Boston Marathon that killed three people and injured over 260.

President Joseph Biden, who claims he now opposes the death penalty after decades of supporting it, refuses to intervene. A June 16 statement by the White House website says the Department of Justice has “independence regarding such decisions.”

Beijing control over family size is attack on women

BY SETH GALINSKY

Worried that its population is aging and there won’t be enough young workers to exploit to maximize state profits, the Chinese government announced last month that it was raising the limit on the number of children a family is allowed to three and began a propaganda campaign to encourage more childbirth. Now Beijing officials are considering dropping all restrictions on larger families.

The Chinese rulers fear that hav-

ing a shrinking and aging population is a barrier to challenging Washington for greater economic and political influence.

Government interference in the personal decisions of when, if and how many children a woman has is reactionary. These decisions should be in her hands alone in conjunction with her family. To make that possible it is necessary to fight for access to family planning, including aid in conceiving a child if needed and the right to safe and secure abortion.

At the beginning of the 1970s the Maoist regime in Beijing pressured women to have fewer children. In 1979 government bureaucrats imposed a general cap of one child per woman. Those who violated the law had to pay huge fines or were forced to have abortions.

At the end of 2015, with Chinese women averaging only 1.05 children, the second lowest in the world, Beijing raised the cap to two. That did little to increase the birthrate. In China,

just like in the U.S., the U.K., France and other countries, birthrates have been declining for years.

The decline in workers’ real wages, the rise in the cost of living and lack of child care, a result of the bosses foisting the capitalist crisis on the backs of working people, are also key to the decline in family formation worldwide. Even in the United States, the strongest imperialist power, many young workers today can’t earn enough to live on their own, so they put off having children.

An affordable family is even harder to establish in China with low wages, sky-high rents and mortgages, and meager pensions. Child care as well as nursing homes and other facilities for seniors are further out of reach for working people there than in the U.S. And it’s women who face the biggest burden, with the responsibility for children and the elderly falling almost entirely on the family.

When Xinhua News in China published the results of a poll that asked

Continued on page 9

THE MILITANT

Defend family planning, right to abortion!

The right to abortion is fundamental to a woman’s control of her own life and to winning full social, economic and political equality. The ‘Militant’ supports working people as they mobilize to defend family planning, including abortion, in the U.S. and around the world.



Madelyn Morneault
Rally of over 1,000 in Austin, Texas, May 29, against new harsh restrictions on abortion.

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Join the SWP campaign!

Continued from front page
goals over the top.
SWP campaigners found interest in the party’s candidates at Juneteenth commemorations around the country. The events mark June 19, 1865, after the victory of the North in the Second American Revolution, when Union soldiers rode to Galveston, Texas, and told slaves there they were free — two years after President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.
“How are you different from Mayor [Jacob] Frey?” retired steelworker Robert Johnson asked Doug Nelson, SWP candidate for Minneapolis mayor at a Juneteenth event there.
“I’m not going to lie and tell you

Strikers at ATI steel hold rallies, expanded pickets, win more support

BY TONY LANE
WASHINGTON, Pa. — “We want to let ATI know we are not going anywhere,” Randy Denman Jr., unit chair of United Steelworkers Local 7139-5 at the Allegheny Technologies Inc. plant here, told the press June 22 as pickets and their supporters chanted, “Fair contract now!”
Well over 100 strikers, other unionists and family members joined the lively rally and expanded picket line. USW members present included striking ATI workers from Local 1046 from Louisville, Ohio. Mike Baumgardner, Local 1046 grievance chair, said ATI bosses were refusing to sit down and discuss a contract. Two retired United Mine Workers members came in camo T-shirts. The rally was covered by the
Continued on page 9

someone in office can solve the problems workers face today,” Nelson replied. “Workers need to join together to build solidarity with each other’s struggles, like the locked-out oil refinery workers defending safety on the job at Marathon Petroleum in St. Paul Park.”
“I hope you win,” Johnson said, signing the petition to put Nelson on the ballot.
One participant was circulating in the crowd with a portable speaker. He invited Nelson to address the crowd.
“The bosses have their two parties,” Nelson said. “We need a labor party of our own.” The SWP campaign explains that working people need to take political power into our own hands.
After he spoke a number of workers came to the booth the SWP had set up to discuss the challenges facing unionists today. Supporters collected 58 signatures to get Nelson on the ballot and four people subscribed to the *Militant*. Five books were sold.
Campaign supporters are making a special push June 26-27 to get enough signatures to secure Nelson’s place on the ballot. Contact the SWP branch in Twin Cities, listed in the page 8 directory.
“They don’t teach us in school about people like this,” Elijah Glover remarked as his eye caught the title *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, at an SWP campaign table at the East Point Juneteenth festival near Atlanta. The book describes the popular revolution in Burkina Faso led by Sankara that held power 1983-87.
Glover picked up *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Che Guevara, one of the leaders of the Cuban Revolution. “Che explains how working people transformed themselves,” Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for mayor of Atlanta, told Glover, “as they took control of their own destiny and through a socialist revolution built a society based on solidarity and not the dog-eat-dog mentality of capitalism.”



Militant/Kevin Dwire
Doug Nelson, SWP candidate for mayor of Minneapolis, speaking at Juneteenth event June 19. His supporters are organizing a stepped-up petitioning effort to secure place on the ballot.

Glover bought the book and a subscription to the *Militant*. Nine subscriptions and 15 books were picked up by visitors to the SWP table.
Grenada Revolution
Supporters of Dennis Richter, SWP candidate for governor of California, set up a table at a Juneteenth event in Los Angeles.
“I’m doing a paper for school on Maurice Bishop,” high school student Kimathi Talton told campaigner Deborah Liatos.
Bishop was the central leader of the New Jewel Movement that led working people in Grenada to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Eric Gairy in 1979 and establish a workers and farmers government. Bishop was assassinated in 1983 as part of a counterrevolutionary coup by New Jewel Movement member Bernard Coard, paving the way for a U.S. invasion of the island.
Talton told Liatos he thought “vanguard parties have had problems” and this contributed to the overthrow of the revolution in Gre-

nada. Liatos explained that wasn’t the cause. She pointed to Bishop’s record and that of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement he led “who base their program and actions on their confidence in the masses of workers and farmers.”
Acting as a vanguard of millions, the leadership of the Cuban Revolution showed “it is possible and necessary for working people to make a revolution in their interests.”
Talton, who said he wants to visit Cuba, signed up for a subscription to the *Militant*. He also wants to get a copy of *Maurice Bishop Speaks* as soon as possible.
If you want to join SWP candidates campaigning and help advance a working-class road forward, or to subscribe to the *Militant*, get books on revolutionary working-class politics, or contribute to the Militant Fighting Fund, check the directory on page 8. Or visit themilitant.com.

Int’l Active Workers Conference in Ohio July 22-24

BY ROY LANDERSEN
The 2021 Active Workers Conference at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, July 22-24, is fast approaching. It is the first Socialist Workers Party-sponsored international gathering in nearly two years due to government pandemic lockdowns and travel restrictions. The party is asking all those who want to attend to make sure they are fully vaccinated.
The conference will feature talks by Socialist Workers Party leaders Jack Barnes, Dave Prince and Mary-Alice Waters on world politics and key questions facing working people today. There will also be classes on lessons from the history of the labor and communist movement, including the class-struggle road to Black liberation and the fight for the unconditional recognition of Israel and against Jew-hatred, and the still living example the deepening socialist revolution in Cuba and its Marxist leadership set six decades ago.
A panel on plans to step up campaigning for the SWP and Communist Leagues, featuring candidates and campaign supporters, will conclude the conference. The

schedule includes time for informal discussion with conference participants and evening social events.
On July 25 there will be a meeting of SWP supporters to discuss efforts to advance production of Pathfinder literature and raise funds for the party’s work.
The conference takes place as more workers are back to work as hiring increases and government shutdowns lifted. Across North America some important strikes and union-organizing drives have broken out, a sign that growing numbers are looking for a way to resist attacks by the bosses. Out of the conference, volunteer teams are being organized to go out across the country to introduce the party’s campaign in cities and towns and to bring solidarity to striking workers.
If you are interested in building a revolutionary working-class party and would like to discuss attending the conference, contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you listed page 8.



Militant/Carole Lesnick
Joel Britton, SWP candidate for California State Assembly, and campaign supporter John Chandler talk to Nakeisha Williams in Oakland as she subscribes to *Militant*, June 11. Chandler will be attending his first SWP-sponsored Active Workers Conference.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund						
April 24 - June 29 (week eight)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	received
UNITED STATES						
Albany	80	68	80	70	\$8,000	\$5,707
Atlanta	80	80	80	80	\$11,000	\$10,076
Chicago*	115	103	115	100	\$13,600	\$12,563
Dallas*	45	45	40	37	\$3,000	\$2,590
Lincoln	15	12	15	10	\$400	\$401
Los Angeles*	105	100	115	120	\$13,250	\$10,260
Louisville	90	78	90	73	\$5,000	\$4,519
Miami	35	30	35	29	\$4,000	\$4,667
N. New Jersey	80	73	80	77	\$6,250	\$5,020
New York*	100	92	120	120	\$16,000	\$12,945
Oakland	90	79	90	90	\$13,000	\$12,892
Philadelphia	30	26	30	29	\$3,500	\$4,270
Pittsburgh	50	42	50	45	\$3,000	\$2,725
Seattle	95	81	95	91	\$12,500	\$10,279
Twin Cities	50	45	50	51	\$4,500	\$3,779
Washington DC	65	57	65	63	\$6,000	\$5,722
Other						\$1,300
Total U.S.	1125	1011	1150	1085	\$123,000	\$109,714
Prisoners	25	42				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	46	45	60	\$4,000	\$4,400
Manchester	40	39	40	38	\$2,000	\$1,930
Total U.K.	85	85	85	98	\$6,000	\$6,330
Canada*	95	85	115	106	\$12,200	\$11,823
New Zealand	30	32	30	29	\$3,500	\$3,450
Australia	30	26	30	24	\$2,000	\$2,140
Total	1,390	1,281	1,452	1,342	\$146,700	\$133,457
SHOULD BE	1,400	1,246	1,400	1,246	\$145,000	\$129,050
*Raised goal						

Locked-out refinery workers reject Marathon ‘final’ offer

BY HELEN MEYERS

ST. PAUL PARK, Minn. — Teamsters Local 120 members, locked out by Marathon Petroleum here for over five months, voted June 21 on what bosses say is their “last, best and final contract offer.”

“The contract was overwhelmingly rejected,” Teamsters business agent Scott Kroona told the *Militant*.

Kroona reported most workers say they aren’t going back until the company hires back workers who were fired when they went on a one-day strike Jan. 21, the day before the company locked them out.

On June 14 the union had presented a new offer to the company that the bosses summarily rejected.

Some 200 Teamster members have been fighting for safer working conditions and against job combinations and company demands to bring in more nonunion contract workers. Marathon Petroleum is the largest oil refinery company in the country.

The strikers have been getting widespread solidarity and interest in their fight for safety for themselves and the surrounding community. At the American Legion hall here, an organizing center for the strikers, they made up a display, above, of support messages received.

The union’s new proposal to Marathon Petroleum included agreement to some company demands without compromising on safety, Kroona said. The next day the company rejected the pro-

posal and said it would only agree to its March 1 “last and final offer.”

In response to a union request, Kroona said, the company handed over a 20,000-page document that “was impossible to read.” Upon further request for clarification on blacked-out sections of the document, “the company said it was confidential.”

Meanwhile, Marathon has posted job ads on the Indeed.com website that says, “Marathon Petroleum’s St. Paul Park Refinery has immediate openings for hourly Refinery Operators. ... This is a position to permanently replace workers who are currently striking at the St. Paul Park Refinery.”

In recent months workers have been reaching out with informational pick-



Militant

Display of solidarity messages to Teamsters Local 120 strikers against Marathon Petroleum at American Legion hall in St. Paul Park, Minnesota, an organizing center for union members.

ets at Speedway gas stations throughout the region as they’ve faced increasingly onerous restrictions on pickets outside the refinery.

Let these fighting workers know you support them! Send messages of solidarity to Teamsters Local 120, 9422 Ulysses St. NE, Blaine, MN 55434.

Back Warrior Met miners on strike in Alabama!

Continued from front page

ground lost in 2016 when they took major concessions in wages, benefits and working conditions after the previous owner, Jim Walter Resources, went bankrupt. The mine’s new owners, Warrior Met Coal, used the bankruptcy hearings and threats to close the mines to demand miners give up gains they had fought for over decades, promising the givebacks were only temporary.

The metallurgical coal mined by Warrior Met is in high demand worldwide, used for making steel by bosses in Europe, South America and Asia. Al-

though the company reported a decline in revenue during the coronavirus pandemic when steel production fell worldwide, the company has made millions in profits since taking over. They reported net income of \$302 million in 2019.

“The company has exhausted its [coal] reserves” because of the strike, UMWA International District 20 Vice President Larry Spencer told the rally. “We expect some positive discussions with the company for the first time.”

The day before the rally, several hundred miners blocked vehicles from coming in and out of the No. 7 mine for sev-

eral hours, miners told the *Militant*. The picketing ended without arrests.

The company has been busing scabs into No. 7 since the strike started, in an effort to keep up production to meet orders and to undermine the strike. Three separate incidents of vehicular assault on strikers by persons working for Warrior Met have occurred on the picket lines over three days, a June 7 UMWA news release reported. A union drone videoed the incidents. Police reports were filed by union members, but strikers say that local police have shown little interest.

Meanwhile, several strikers who were hit were sent to the hospital. One miner, Greg Pilkington, was injured when a truck drove through the picket line, hitting a burn barrel, which then struck him. “I’m not going to give up, because that’s what they want,” he said. “That’s part of their agenda, to scare us off or physically and mentally take us to where we don’t want to fight anymore.”

Donations to the miners’ strike fund are growing, UMWA President Cecil Roberts told the rally. Tens of thousands of dollars have been contributed by unions, from the Boilermakers to the Seafarers International Union, and many UMWA districts and locals have made donations. Contributions have been received from Walmart workers, churches and many individual supporters.

Support and solidarity are needed. All donation checks should be made out to UMWA 2021 Strike Aid Fund and sent to UMWA Strike Fund, P.O. Box 513, Dumfries, VA 22026.

Messages of support can also be sent to UMWA District 20, email: umwadistrict20@bellsouth.net.

Maurice Williams from Birmingham contributed to this article.

Caravans demand: ‘End US embargo against Cuba!’

BY JANET POST

Opponents of Washington’s decadeslong bipartisan economic war against Cuba organized caravans and rallies around the world June 20 demanding “End the U.S. embargo against Cuba! U.S. out of Guantánamo now! End U.S. travel restrictions against Cuba!”

The protests were the latest of the monthly caravans initiated at the end of last year by the National Network on Cuba, Puentes de Amor (Bridges of Love) and local Cuba coalitions.

The June 20 demonstrations were held just prior to the vote June 23 by the United Nations General Assembly where it adopted an annual resolution 184-2 demanding the U.S. government lift the embargo and end its economic war against Cuba.

“We have been resisting the attacks on Cuba for more than 60 years and we are going to keep on resisting,” Cuban-born Fidel Gómez told the rally in New York City, held in Harlem.

“They tried to bring the revolution down through hunger and starvation. The cruel policy has continued under every U.S. president,” said Jaime Mendieta from Casa de Las Américas. “But despite the embargo, Cuba has done amazing things,” he said, pointing to Cuba’s volunteer medical brigades that have provided health care around the world, as well as the gains of the revolution itself.

To find out more about the monthly caravans, visit the National Network on Cuba at www.nnoc.info or see page 8.



Top, Periódico Ahora/Heidi Calderón; Bottom, Militant/Nelson Gonzalez

Caravans and rallies protesting U.S. government’s economic war against people of Cuba took place around the world June 20, three days before U.N. voted to demand end to Washington’s embargo on Cuba. Top, caravan through Holguín, Cuba. Bottom, rally during Miami caravan.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA
Oakland

The Working-Class Road Forward in Tackling Crime and Cop Violence. Speaker: Jeff Powers, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., July 2, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Ukraine miners strike, demand back pay, safe work conditions

Uranium miners at the Eastern Mining and Processing Plant in the Kirovograd region of Ukraine refused to work starting June 15. They're demanding payment of back wages for April and May. The next day the workers, members of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine (NPGU), called an "open-ended protest."

Some 5,000 miners and processing workers toil at the state-owned complex, the largest iron ore facility in the country. The uranium is made into nuclear fuel by the TVEL fuel company of Russia for use in Ukraine's nuclear reactors.

Miners protested near the parliament building, the Cabinet of Ministers and the office of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv. They organized a roadblock near the village of Berezhenke.

"The issue of payment of salary arrears and ensuring the stable operation of the Eastern Mining and Processing Plant is a matter of the future of miners and their families," Mikhaïlo Volynets, chairman of the NPGU, told the media.

The workers are also demanding safe working conditions, a say in how the mine is run, and wage raises. Some 80 miners and their supporters remained

overnight outside Zelenskyy's office.

Following the demonstrations, the government transferred \$4.7 million to pay the back wages, and the minister of energy and coal industry and other government officials met with a delegation of miners. They agreed to hold further sessions over the miners' demand for changes in how the mines are run.

Dmytro Bondariev, chairman of the union at the mine complex, announced June 17 that they were suspending their protest pending the results of the next round of talks, planned to begin June 22. Miners said they're ready to resume protests if they don't get satisfactory results.

—Janet Post

British Columbia hotels carry out mass firings, layoffs, lockouts

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — As the pandemic begins to wind down here, hotel bosses are moving to reopen or expand service and hitting some 50,000 hotel workers across British Columbia with layoffs, mass firings, and demands for wage cuts. These attacks aim to "strip away gains made by women who are the backbone of this industry and set them back to an earlier era," said the UNITE HERE Local 40 website.

Workers at the Pacific Gateway Ho-



Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine

Uranium miners in Ukraine protest in Kyiv, the capital city, June 16, demanding back pay owed for April and May and safe working conditions. Following action, government paid the wages.

tel next to Vancouver International Airport have been on strike since May 3. One hundred three workers had been fired, 42 of them the weekend before the strike began.

The Canadian federal government has been using this facility as a quarantine hotel and is using the Red Cross to do the work of the fired workers. "While Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promises a 'feminist recovery,' a hotel taken over

by his government is destroying living-wage jobs," Stephanie Fung said in a UNITE HERE press release.

Workers at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown hotel were locked out in mid-April when 97 long-term employees were fired, just hours after the workers had staged a one-day protest strike. Bosses have been using government pandemic funds to pay managers while laying off workers.

Spirited picket lines up at both hotels are greeted with honks from passing cars and buses. "I walked out because my co-workers were fired. My manager looks at us like we're a disease," Marina Grkinic, a food-and-beverage worker, told the *Militant*. "They want to cut medical, dental benefits — everything."

Surinder Sekhon, a cook for 41 years, said, "Unions are very important these days because without them people can get fired anytime. A union can stand up for you."

"We will continue the fight until we win," Fung said. "Solidarity from other unions is very important!" Support rallies are held every Thursday at 5 p.m.

The union has set up a Hilton Metrotown workers hardship fund at <https://ca.gofundme.com/f/hilton-metrotown-workers-hardship-fund>. Messages of solidarity can be sent to updates@local40union.com.

—Fred Nelson

Anti-labor outfit demands workers quit their unions

BY JANET POST

Thousands of members of the United Steelworkers, United Mine Workers, United Auto Workers and Teamsters unions are on picket lines across the U.S. and in Canada, the beginnings of stirrings in the labor movement. They're fighting against attacks by the bosses and setting an example for working people everywhere.

Striking miners at Warrior Met Coal, ATI steel, Volvo Truck, Vale mining in Ontario, and more need and deserve as much solidarity as we can mobilize. Union locals and fellow workers have sent messages of support and donations and joined picket lines. Further efforts to get out the word and mobilize solidarity is needed to make a difference.

At the same time, the strikers and their unions face a concerted anti-labor campaign by an organization calling itself the Socialist Equality Party, which runs a well-funded website misleadingly named the "World Socialist Web Site."

In the midst of these labor battles, instead of solidarity, this reactionary outfit strives to pull strikers aside and badger workers to quit their unions — echoing the bosses in calling them treacherous and corrupt. As an alternative, it dangles a call for the formation of "International Workers Alliance of Rank-and-File Committees."

The anti-union Socialist Equality Party has a long record trying to divide and demoralize workers involved in labor struggles. It takes advantage of real difficulties striking workers face from boss attacks and defaults by union officials flowing from decades of reliance on the Democratic Party.

On June 14, the WSWS printed a so-called *Autoworker Newsletter* by a "rank-and-file committee" quoting one unnamed worker saying, "The first obstacle for all of us, Volvo and the Detroit auto companies, is the UAW." That's exactly what the Volvo bosses say!

Writing about the Vale miners' strike in Ontario, the Socialist Equal-

ity Party says, "The USW is working night and day to isolate the striking miners' struggle." It claims the same thing about the ATI strike: "The United Steelworkers has signaled its intent to isolate and wear down the strike." It urges striking coal miners at Warrior Met Coal to quit their union, the United Mine Workers, in the midst of their battle. And the outfit calls a May 26 USW solidarity rally with locked-out ExxonMobil workers at corporate headquarters "a stunt protest."

This is the opposite of what is needed to advance workers' struggles. We need our unions. We need them to be stronger and to fight harder. Workers need to discuss how to do that effectively as we work to expand the labor movement, organize solidarity with struggles today

and work to make our unions more effective instruments of class combat.

Workers at unorganized jobs, like at Walmart, food delivery, Amazon, construction and others, are watching the battles unfolding on these picket lines, and respect and cheer on union members standing up to the bosses. But the Socialist Equality Party's anti-labor actions and rhetoric try to undercut this and discourage union organizing.

Part of the goal of this anti-working-class outfit is to make the name socialist unpopular, to dissuade workers from looking to find out more about the Socialist Workers Party and the real history of the union movement.

There is nothing more important today than to fight to build and strengthen our unions!

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 1, 1996

The following statement was released June 19 by James Harris and Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidates for president and vice president of the United States.

Responsibility for the escalating racist burnings of Black churches throughout the South weighs squarely on the shoulders of the federal government. Two more Black churches were torched in Mississippi June 17, bringing the total number of churches burned to 37 — at least four in the last week.

Our campaign is calling on defenders of democratic rights, Black rights activists, and the labor movement to demand the Clinton administration send federal troops to defend Black churches throughout the South. At the same time speak-outs, picket lines, and other protests are needed to condemn these racist assaults and press the government to apprehend and jail those responsible.



July 9, 1971

FORT GREELY, Alaska — The GI antiwar movement here is deepening and shaking up the brass. A second issue of the *Arctic Arsenal* has been distributed on post and greeted with an even more favorable reaction than the first issue.

The June edition focuses on the defense of GIs' rights and an explanation of why the brass has become so persistent in attempting to deny them. In addition to the distribution of the *Arsenal*, meetings have taken place on post to formally establish a staff to ensure the paper's continued existence.

The real culprits are not GIs standing up for their rights, but the brass and lifers who try to deny those rights. The *Arsenal* has received dozens of letters of support from individual citizens, congresspeople and antiwar organizations. GIs at Ft. Greely intend to wage a public, political and legal defense.



July 6, 1946

The sinister news that has periodically shocked the world working class once again comes from Moscow: Another purge is on. Like its predecessors, the new purge strikes at every sphere of Soviet life. The first Moscow report discloses that involved are branches of industry from the still-devastated areas in the Ukraine, through Leningrad to the distant Urals and beyond.

The "peacetime" purge comes on the heels of new military regulations which surpass in harshness the wartime code.

These developments prove how hollow were the boasts that the Kremlin regime had been greatly strengthened by the victorious end of the war. Stalin's rule remains the regime of crisis it has been from its inception. To survive Stalin is compelled to resort to the same methods of rule — terror and repression — by which he has maintained himself up to now.

Fight for jobs

Continued from front page
tory." Today's "transition" has already lasted at least five months, hitting workers' incomes.

When she was a governor at the Federal Reserve in 1996, Janet Yellen, now Joe Biden's treasury secretary, had argued that inflation has some positives because it "allowed firms to cut real wages without upsetting workers."

Even as spreading vaccination has meant more hiring, average hourly earnings still dropped 2.8% in May from the previous year. Today's job openings have already meant workers have more confidence to fight for raises and better jobs. "How Do They Say Economic Recovery? 'I Quit'" was the headline in the June 20 New York Times. The paper reports nearly 4 million workers quit their jobs in April looking for better wages and working conditions, with more than 740,000 in hotels, restaurants and other food services.



pathfinderpress.com

'Domestic terrorism' plan is threat to workers' rights

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The President Joseph Biden administration released its new "National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism" June 15, setting the stage for increased attacks on free speech and the political rights of working people.

The 30-page report issued by the National Security Council points to the Jan. 6 disruption of Congress — conducted by a few hundred conspiracy theorists, wannabe paramilitaries and a small minority of Donald Trump supporters rallying in Washington that day — as a "resurgence" of "domestic terrorism."

"In the FBI's view," said U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland in a speech the day the new "strategy" was released, "the top domestic violent extremist threat comes from racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists, specifically those who advocated for the superiority of the white race."

Six months into Biden's presidency, the Democrats and their boosters in liberal editorial offices continue to charge former President Donald Trump, and the 74 million people who voted for him in 2020, as "white supremacists." This is part of a broader effort to get him "canceled," pursue criminal charges of all kinds against him, his family and political associates, in hopes of preventing them from playing any role in politics again. More fundamentally, their real fire is aimed at pushing back working people — the ones Hillary Clinton famously described as the "deplorables."

The White House document elaborates on Washington's strategy to coordinate more spying by federal, state and local cop agencies, expand use of



United Steelworkers union members on strike against Allegheny Technologies Inc. and their supporters rally at plant in Washington, Pennsylvania, June 22. Workers are fighting against company attacks on union, cuts in retirement benefits, demand workers pay more for health insurance.

And there are a number of strikes and lockouts — at Volvo Truck, ExxonMobil's Texas refinery, ATI steel, Warrior Met coal mine, and more — where workers are fighting against boss demands for more concessions or to get back past givebacks. All these fights deserve support and set an example.

For sliding scale of hours and wages

"The fact that capitalist governments are unwilling and unable to hold down prices doesn't mean workers must accept the ravages of unbridled inflation," Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for California governor, told the Militant. "Workers and our unions need to fight for a sliding scale of hours and wages. For a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to spread the jobs around to all who need them," Richter said, pointing to the fact the government says

some 7.6 million more workers are out of work today than before the pandemic. "And for escalator clauses in all union contracts and government benefits so when prices go up the wage of every working person is protected 100%."

There have been many times where workers fought for and won escalator clauses in labor battles.

In 1970 some 350,000 United Auto Workers members at General Motors struck for 67 days for higher wages, pensions and guaranteed cost-of-living wage increases tied to the rate of inflation — with no ceiling.

Their fight aimed to reverse what had been conceded three years earlier when the auto bosses pressed the union to limit cost-of-living adjustment payments. As prices subsequently soared, fueled by government spending on the U.S. rulers' war in Vietnam, the

reduction in COLA payments saw GM bosses pocket millions and each worker lose an estimated \$1,000 over the course of that contract.

The 1970 strike won gains. The new contract restored COLA payments to earlier levels, to be adjusted every three months, with no cap.

Other unionists also went on strike, including postal workers, fighting for cost-of-living adjustment protection in 1970.

Like any other wage raise, COLA increases come out of bosses' profits. Eliminating them became a key target of employers' stepped-up offensive against workers and our unions in the decades since.

"In addition to strengthening the labor movement, workers need to fight for forming price committees of our unions, farmers organizations, housewives and other consumers to force open the books of the bosses, and take control over setting prices," Richter said. "Doing so is the best way to convince farmers and other small businesspeople that it's the bosses' profiteering, not workers' wage demands, that cause inflation."

"I also campaign for workers to get vaccinated. Our unions should organize vaccination programs, explain why it's in the interests of all workers and urge them to do so. That's the only way to destroy the virus for good," he added.

by liberal pundits, some say it doesn't go far enough. "One Big Thing Missing From Biden's Strategy on Domestic Extremism," headlines the Washington Post June 16. The column says the administration needs to introduce new legislation making "domestic terrorism" a federal crime. The Justice Department says it's looking into this.

But the U.S. government already has way too many laws on its books ostensibly aimed at "extremists." History shows they always end up being used by the capitalist rulers to target the working-class movement, fighters for Black rights and the Socialist Workers Party.

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

The real "crime" of these working-class fighters was to build a trade union campaign against President Franklin Roosevelt's moves to join the war to enable the U.S. ruling capitalist families to seize new markets and political domination. They served jail terms up to 16 months.

In 1973 the Socialist Workers Party filed a landmark federal lawsuit challenging decades of FBI spying, harassment and disruption and waged a 13-year political campaign to force out the truth about the scope of the FBI's assault on political rights. The campaign helped push back the rulers' political police and the party won a decision upholding the SWP's right to its revolutionary views.

Independent truckers in Puerto Rico on strike for rate raise

BY SETH GALINSKY

"We often have to choose between buying a tire for our trucks and shopping for the basic needs of our families," truck driver Carlos Schettini told the Militant by phone from San Juan June 14. "Fuel is going up, the price of tires, taxes, tolls keep rising, but not what we get paid."

Schettini is a leader of Camioneros Unidos (United Truckers), which organizes nearly 80 drivers contracted by V. Suárez Group. Since June 8 truckers have been refusing to make deliveries until they get a rate increase.

"Keep your keys in your pocket," reads one of their banners at an encampment they set up outside the company's warehouse. Puerto Rican owned V. Suárez is one of the U.S. colony's largest distributors of food, beverages and household goods.

There are some 40,000 independent truckers in Puerto Rico, Schettini says. Their fight is not just about the money. "Many companies push drivers to violate the federal law of the maximum driving hours in a day. And they overload the trucks."

Taxi drivers, Coca-Cola bottling workers and other working people have been bringing food and other solidarity to the encampment.

In December the Puerto Rico transportation bureau increased the minimum rates for mileage and tonnage 35%, the first increase in nearly 30 years — with the exception of a small cost-of-living adjustment in 2005.

"A lot of companies don't even comply with the old rates," Schettini says.

But the U.S. government's Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico objected to the rate increase. Appointed by then-President Barack Obama, the board has the power to override decisions of the Puerto Rican government.

With imperial arrogance the board sent a letter to the Puerto Rican government Jan. 29 demanding that it "immediately desist from adjusting



Camioneros Unidos encampment outside V. Suárez Group warehouse in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Since June 8, truckers have been refusing to make deliveries until they get a rate increase.

the rates." That's just a euphemism for squeezing everything possible out of the U.S. colony's workers and farmers to pay some of the Puerto Rican government's debt of \$74 billion to capitalist bondholders.

In April, a court in Puerto Rico ruled in favor of a lawsuit brought by the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce challenging the rate increase.

The U.S. rulers and the local capitalist class underestimated the determination of truck owners. The Frente Amplio de Camioneros, an umbrella association of truckers across the island, Camioneros Unidos and others

called for a "permanent assembly" — a work stoppage — if the rate hikes are reversed.

Carlos Rodríguez, organization secretary of the Frente Amplio, said by phone that this is not an idle threat. "We shut down the country in 1972, 1974, 1979 and 2005." Worried about an island-wide action, the board agreed to "temporarily" allow the new rates to take effect, while the court decision is appealed and negotiations with the truckers continue.

While many of the independent drivers own just one truck, some own 10, 20 or more, Rodríguez said. Big manufac-

'Workers in US, Puerto Rico face the same enemy'

Continued from front page

countries, our class is seeking ways to fight back. And that is where the road forward lies.

In Puerto Rico, workers and farmers face unending attacks by the U.S.-imposed Financial Oversight and Management Board and the colonial government, whose priority is to pay the wealthy U.S. bondholders on the \$74 billion debt at the expense of the vast majority. They have slashed jobs, pensions, and hard-won protections. But working people in Puerto Rico are not helpless victims — they are responding.

Protests are being held across the island against the privatization of the public electric company — a frontal attack on the electrical workers union UTIER that will also lead to higher electrical rates while enriching the owners of Luma Energy and the bondholders. Workers at the Swiss Dairy plant in Ponce won a strike for better wages and conditions. Independent truck drivers have taken to the streets for pay raises and against brutal job conditions. We urge working people in the U.S. and worldwide to support these struggles — they are an example to us all. We demand Washington cancel Puerto Rico's debt. It's not workers' debt, it's the bondholders' debt!

A successful fight for Puerto Rico's independence from Washington's rule will also strengthen working people in the U.S. We face a common enemy: the U.S. ruling capitalist class, their government, and their parties, Democrats and Republicans alike.

Here too, the employers in the U.S.

are attacking our jobs, wages, health care, pensions, and unions. Millions remain jobless even after the lifting of lockdowns. Many today face eviction from their homes. Rising prices for food, fuel, and other necessities are cutting into our living standards. The profit-driven medical system has wreaked havoc on the lives of millions.

In response to these conditions, 1,100 members of the United Mine Workers union in Alabama are on strike today for pay and benefit increases, and have won support from rail workers and others. Our party has backed strikes by Volvo workers, steelworkers, and hospital employees, as well as fights by ExxonMobil and Marathon refinery workers against company lockouts. We've joined protests against police brutality and the death penalty, to defend a woman's right to choose abortion, and to demand the unconditional lifting of Washington's criminal economic sanctions against Cuba.

All these are examples of dignity, solidarity, and fighting capacity. They shatter the bosses' propaganda that dismisses workers and farmers in the U.S. as backward and helpless.

Through our own experiences, working people in the U.S. can identify with the resistance in Puerto Rico to the U.S. junta's brutal cutbacks. More become convinced that workers in the U.S. cannot be free as long as Washington maintains its colonial bondage over Puerto Rico. Fighting together we can win.

There is a powerful living example for us today. In Cuba, working people

turers and distributors find it more profitable to push all the costs of the truck onto the independent operators instead of buying their own fleet of trucks and hiring drivers. "The big companies tell the independent drivers, 'take it or leave it,'" Rodríguez says. "But we are the backbone of Puerto Rico. Nothing moves without us."

There have been other actions by truckers over the last several weeks demanding higher pay and opposing any moves toward "deregulating" trucking rates that would open the door to further attacks on drivers' incomes.

Selling the island 'piece by piece'

"The government has been selling the island piece by piece," Schettini says, pointing to the decision of Gov. Pedro Pierluisi to award a contract to Luma Energy to take over management of the public electric company on June 1, a move pushed by the U.S. financial board. They aim to weaken the union and pave the way for more assaults on workers' wages and conditions.

After just two days on strike at the Peruvian-owned Swiss Dairy in Ponce, some 50 workers won a union contract June 2. "We won a wage increase of 35 cents an hour the first two years and 40 cents the third, an increase in medical coverage and more vacation and sick days," José Adrián López, president of the CGT union federation, said by phone.

in their millions carried out a socialist revolution and broke free from imperialist rule. They show that it's possible to take state power from the capitalist class and begin to transform society in the interests of the vast majority. For six decades Cuba has shown us how a workers and farmers government can be used as a weapon to begin to uproot all forms of oppression — and to extend solidarity to others around the world fighting to be free from imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation.

Cuba's revolutionary example shows the road to genuine freedom and independence for Puerto Rico, which we know will never be granted — it must be taken. Cuba's example points the road forward for working people both in Puerto Rico and the U.S.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to speak here today, and I urge its continued condemnation of U.S. colonial rule over Puerto Rico.

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Capital rules through its two parties: Democrats and Republicans

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for July is *Letters from Prison* by James P. Cannon, a founding leader of the Socialist Workers Party. He and 17 other leaders of the SWP and the Minneapolis Teamsters union were framed up under the thought-control Smith Act and jailed in 1944 for opposing Washington's imperialist aims and entry into the Second World War. Cannon's letters take up questions of program and perspectives key to preparing a communist party for the explosive labor battles that would erupt after the war. The excerpt is from Letter 82, written from the federal prison in Sandstone, Minnesota, on Aug. 9, 1944. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

Who is the "J.M." who writes from Chicago about the two-party system? Just judging by his lack of manners alone I would take him to be an over-educated college boy who "majored" in "iconoclasm."

There are differences in the Republican and Democratic parties, in my opinion, though not in the sense that J.M. takes as his point of departure — that the Republicans are more "reactionary" than the Democrats. This is an illusion entertained by many workers and fos-

tered by the bulk of the labor bureaucracy, the Social-Democrats, and the Stalinists. *The Militant* does well to center its fire on this illusion; this is the main point, and should be the burden of our agitation. Big capital rules through the mechanism of the two parties as far as fundamental issues are concerned, but not always directly in response to their unanimous commands.

There are deep conflicts of interest as well as differences of opinion in the ranks of the capitalists. The two parties, which are in reality two big factions of a unique two-party system united on fundamentals, and the numerous factions and cross-currents within them, reflect these conflicts and differences. The big capitalists on the whole are more class conscious than the workers, but they are by no means omniscient in judging their own political interests. They don't always know what is best for them; and as *The Militant* correctly observes, they are not notably grateful to politicians who have served them best in a given situation.

These Oliver Twists always cry for more with an animal instinct. And they are not a bit squeamish about their methods of getting it. Their ruthless criticism, obstruction and sabotage of the Roosevelt administration — undeterred by the plaintive bleats of the "liberals" and labor fakers that they were hurting the "war effort" — have to be understood as methods of pressure to compel Roosevelt & Co. to do things their way.

It is not an unreasoning "opposition," as the labor fakers represent it. Results have shown that their brutal "opposition," which put Roosevelt in his place as their servant, has been far more effective than the lackey-like support of the labor leaders offered to Roos-



Laura Gray cartoon in *Militant*, July 29, 1944, of bosses cracking whip over Republicans, Democrats, as they rush to do bidding of capitalist rulers.

evelt as the master. Why should he pay for support that he can get for nothing?

The classes are not homogeneous, and neither are the two big class parties. There are differences of origin — this ought to be the starting point in the analysis of every organism — differences of tradition, composition, sectional interests, political machines with their own special interests to serve, different techniques and methods of demagogu-

to hold various strata of the population in line. These are important factors worthy of notice by the political analyst. But one can lose his bearing entirely if he does not recognize their secondary character.

They complicate the political situation in which the big capitalists have to manipulate the masses in order to assure their firm rule. But in the absence of an independent class opposition on the political field they will continue, as in the past, to solve the problem without too much difficulty.

What is their fundamental method? It is the *two-party system*. Which party do they support? They support *both*. And what is even more important, both parties support them in all *fundamental* questions. It could not be otherwise under the present political scheme.

The petty bourgeoisie (including the farmers) *cannot* play an independent role in politics; and the workers — under the Murray-Green policy — have *renounced* it. In this situation the presidential election becomes a diversion and a safety valve, not a class fight. I would like to see this question treated in an *FI* [Fourth International magazine] article.



Nov. 12, 1938, *Socialist Appeal*, as *Militant* was called then, campaigned for a labor party as road forward from 1930s industrial union strike wave. James P. Cannon, right, Socialist Workers Party national secretary and one of 18 SWP members and Minneapolis Teamsters framed up and jailed for organizing labor opposition to U.S. rulers' drive to enter second imperialist world war. They were sentenced day Washington declared war. Top, Cannon, second left, leads defendants to courthouse, Dec. 31, 1943, to serve prison terms.



Militant

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JULY

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—SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT—

Join Socialist Workers Party campaign!

Statement by Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey governor, June 22.

As workers face bosses demanding speedup, givebacks in wages and attacks on safety, more of my fellow workers ask why is this happening? What can we do?

My campaign, and the national ticket of Socialist Workers Party candidates, invites you to join us on the frontline of labor battles and strikes, organizing to support them and presenting a road forward that can end the root cause of the problems working people face.

Between now and November we are offering a fighting perspective to unite and strengthen working people in our skirmishes on the job and the picket line, and to join in building a working-class political alternative to the bosses' Democratic and Republican parties. The wealthy owners of the factories, the land and the banks can only profit and accumulate obscene wealth off our backs. That is how their capitalist system works. We need our own party that acts in the interests workers share in common — here and around the world.

We find widespread interest in our campaigns among workers outraged at persistent unemployment, rising prices, cop brutality, rising crime in our communities, which the rulers don't care about, and at the efforts of "woke" employers to tell us what we can and can't say.

We need our own party to organize all those oppressed and exploited by capital to fight to take power into our own hands. The working class would set out "to govern, expropriate the exploiters and oppressors, and lead a great social movement to reorganize society to eliminate oppression and lay the foundations of a socialist society — changing ourselves utterly in the process," wrote Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP, in *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party*.

Malcolm X explained this transformation, Barnes writes, "with exemplary clarity only a few weeks before his assassination in February 1965. A reporter asked him: Was his goal to 'wake [African Americans] up to their exploitation?' Malcolm replied, 'No to their humanity, to their own worth.'"

SWP candidates act on the demonstrated capacities of working people to organize disciplined and united actions in our own interests and to transform ourselves in so doing. Examples abound — from the breathtakingly rapid rise of the industrial union movement in the 1930s to the mighty Black-led mobilizations that overthrew Jim Crow segregation and changed social relations forever.

We can join in the fights taking place today at the Warrior Met coal mine, ATI steel, Marathon Petroleum and more, and at protests against the U.S. rulers' wars abroad, in defense of a woman's right to choose to have an abortion, against the barbaric death penalty, and for science and culture. We see in action how the working class is capable of carrying the fight against capitalist rule through to the end.

That is what working people did in Cuba in 1959. Under the leadership of Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, workers and farmers made a revolution and established their own government. They organized massive mobilizations to support nationalizations of capitalist companies and began to run these enterprises for human need not private profit. Millions of acres of land were expropriated, eliminating the capitalist rents and mortgages system, providing land for all who wanted to till it. In the course of these giant class battles working people saw their true capacities, recognized the socialist character of their accomplishments and the Marxist character of their leadership.

That powerful example is what SWP campaigners are organizing to emulate. Join us in building a party to do that here!

ATI strike picket, rally

Continued from page 3

Washington Observer-Reporter, WJPA radio and the Pittsburgh Business Times.

The company has been shuttering union-organized mills and shifting production to unorganized operations in North Carolina. Some 1,300 USW members have been on strike at nine ATI locations in five states since March 30.

On June 21 Westmoreland County Labor Council joined strikers on the picket line at ATI's Latrobe plant amid heavy storms. The union has been organizing expanded pickets for the last couple weeks, seeking to press the bosses and win broader support.

"The company has offered to give the employees a raise, but only if they give up their profit-sharing plan and pay health care premiums," Denman told the *Observer-Reporter*. He said he has had to pay thousands of dollars in co-pays and deductibles in recent years, and hasn't had a raise to offset it. Workers haven't had a pay increase since 2014.

"Since our last bargaining session, the union has sent multiple communications and offers to the company, and they have NOT responded," the USW reported in a June 14 strike bulletin.

Help win solidarity for the strike! Join the picket lines. Send your support or contributions to USW Local 7139 at 1505 Jefferson Ave., Washington, PA 15301, or USW Local 1046, 925 W. St. Louis Ct., Louisville, OH 44641.

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‘New York Times,’ liberal press act as propaganda agents for Hamas

Continued from front page

earlier fighting May 10-21, also initiated by Hamas. There were many more photos inside. "They Were Just Children" was the headline.

"Nearly all of the children killed were Palestinian," the *Times* wrote. The message was clear — the Jewish state is deliberately massacring innocents. This kind of coverage is a sharp shift from years past, when the *Times* considered itself "pro-Israel."

After the *Times* article was published, it was exposed that a number of the children they listed were in fact combatants, including 17-year-old Khaled al-Qanou and 15-year-old Mohammed Suleiman.

Khaled's older brother, Osama, told the *Times* that his family opposed him joining. "They exploited him," he said. When Mujahideen members tried to pay their respects in a mourners' tent set up for Khaled, "we kicked them out in front of everyone."

That's a bold move in Gaza, where torture and jailing of opponents of Hamas' rule are common.

It's not until two-thirds of the way through that the *Times* article mentions, "Hamas and other militant groups fired more than 4,000 rockets at Israeli towns and cities, also indiscriminately." Leave aside that some of those killed in Gaza were killed by Hamas missiles that fell short. And that the *Times* can't bring itself to say that if not for Israel's Iron Dome air defense, which intercepted some 90% of Hamas' missiles, there's no doubt that the total death toll of 12 in Israel — which included children, migrant workers and Arab citizens — would have been far higher.

"Israel blames Hamas for the high civilian death toll in Gaza because the group fires rockets and conducts military operations from civilian areas," the *Times* does report. But they quickly add, "Israel's critics cite the death toll as evidence that Israel's strikes were indiscriminate and disproportionate."

It's no secret that Hamas deliberately operates from densely populated civilian areas. Many videos capture the launching of rockets from sites next to houses, hospitals and schools. Gaza is riddled with tunnels that

Hamas military forces have built through residential neighborhoods. The Islamist group uses civilian casualties that result from this cynical practice precisely to get coverage like the *Times* editors delivered.

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency — no friend of the Israeli government — reported June 11 that an Israeli rocket that struck the courtyard of the Zaitoun Preparatory Boys' School it runs in Gaza City had exposed one of these tunnels underneath the school.

Hamas, Tehran want 'martyrs'

The Hamas leadership — encouraged by the reactionary clerical regime in Iran, which also trains and "advises" Hamas on its missile program — deliberately uses Gaza residents as human shields. They know that the Israeli government will not stand by while thousands of missiles are fired at its civilian population. The Hamas leaders wanted and intended the deadly consequences.

They use the deaths of children and other civilian "martyrs" to pull at the heart strings of world bourgeois public opinion and put pressure on imperialist regimes and institutions to aid Hamas in destroying Israel.

But as a haven for Jews in the face of anti-Semitic attacks in the world today, Israel deserves recognition from Arab governments in the region and everywhere.

One of Hamas' central goals is to derail the "Abraham Accords," the establishment last year of diplomatic relations between the Israeli government and the governments of the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Morocco, Bahrain and Kosova, with more to come.

In a speech in Qatar May 15, Ismail Haniyeh, head of the Hamas Political Bureau, claimed they had accomplished another major goal by provoking the fighting. "The theory of coexistence between the two peoples [Jews and Arabs] within the 1948 borders — a theory they have been cultivating for 70 years — is being trampled underfoot," he said.

The opposition by Hamas and its Islamic Jihad and Mujahideen allies to the accords and "coexistence" is

less popular than the *Times* and other liberal media would have your believe, including in Gaza.

Despite the best efforts of Hamas, ties between the Israeli government and neighboring Arab regimes are improving. Just days after the Israel-Hamas ceasefire began, the United Arab Emirates opened an exhibit on the Holocaust, the first ever in the Middle East outside of Israel, at the Crossroads of Civilizations Museum.

Six million Jews were slaughtered by the Nazis in the Holocaust, while the imperialist rulers in Washington and London turned away Jews fleeing the Nazi onslaught and concentration camps. The exhibit highlights examples of Muslims and Arabs who protected Jews during the war.

Inside Israel itself after Hamas began its missile attacks, many Jewish and Arab workers and their unions organized to defend each other and end any attacks by either rightist Israelis or Arab gangs.

Beijing family control

Continued from page 2

22,000 people, "Are you ready for the three-child policy?" Twenty thousand chose, "I won't consider it at all." The poll was quickly deleted from the agency's website.

Working-age couples in China often have to take care of "two sets of parents who don't have much income for savings or pension plans if any, plus any kids they already have," reports Al Jazeera.

While the rulers in Beijing are trying to get women from the majority Han population to have more babies, they subject women among the mostly Muslim Uighur people in the Northwest to strict birth control policies. Long discriminated against and persecuted by Beijing, Uighurs often face forced sterilization and abortions, reports The Associated Press.

This goes hand in hand with Beijing's systematic detention of hundreds of thousands of Uighurs in forced labor camps.