

THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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SWP files for ballot in race for governor of California

BY NORTON SANDLER

LOS ANGELES — “Dennis Richter is for the workers,” said Latrice Mitchell. “I told my co-workers I’d rather vote for him than anybody else,” when asking them to sign the petition to put Richter, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, on the ballot.

Mitchell works at Walmart in Torrance. She and Barbara Bowman worked together to get two dozen workers at the store to sign Richter’s petitions for the special recall election Sept. 14.

Another 27 customers heading into that store also signed up in the parking lot July 3.

Richter worked at the Torrance store before transferring to another area Walmart earlier this year.

“My co-workers really liked that a working person is running for office,” Bowman said. “Dennis was well known here and highly respected.

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Build support for the UMW strike at Warrior Met mine!

1,100 miners have been on picket line since April 1



UMWA/Jill Palomo

Members of United Auto Workers, other unions, join June 30 strike solidarity rally in McCalla, Alabama. Warrior Met Coal strikers demand bosses restore wages and benefits slashed in 2016.

BY SUSAN LAMONT

MCCALLA, Ala. — “This strike is so important,” retired United Mine Workers of America member Shirley Hyche said June 30 at the UMW’s weekly solidarity rally here. She joined several hundred striking min-

ers, family members, retired miners and other unionists to back the 1,100 UMW members who have been on strike at Warrior Met Coal in nearby Brookwood since April 1.

Hyche, who retired in 2008, worked underground for 27 years at Jim Walter’s No. 5 and No. 7 mines. She was among the pioneering women who got hired in the mines in the late 1970s and early ’80s. She was a leader of the Coal Employment Project, which aided women getting and keeping jobs in the mines.

“These miners gave up so much,” Hyche told the *Militant*. “It’s time for the company to do right by them. They were promised that when the company got back on its feet, Warrior Met would restore what they gave up.

“Prices for everything now are so
Continued on page 4

Capitalist greed, gov’t collusion at root of Florida building collapse

BY STEVE WARSHALL

NORTH MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — In the two weeks since the 13-story Champlain Towers South collapsed in nearby Surfside and pancaked to the ground, more has come out about shoddy construction and condo board and repair company inaction, accompanied by government cover-up. And much more has been revealed about how this has been the pattern in construction and building management in the Miami area.

A total of 46 residents are dead and 94 still missing as of July 7.

“As more comes to light, the col-
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More graves of Indigenous children found, fueling protests

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Tens of thousands marched nationwide July 1 to protest longstanding government-imposed racist discrimination and oppression of Canada’s 1.6 million Indigenous peoples. July 1, an official holiday, marks the consolidation of capitalist rule with the founding of the Canadian federation in 1867.

The massive, angry outpouring of protest is fueled by recent discoveries of the remains of more than 1,000 Indigenous children in mass, unmarked graves on the grounds of three of the former 139 Indian Residential Schools. More are being unearthed every week. These so-called schools were established and funded by successive Ottawa governments from 1883 to 1996 as part of a brutal program to seize Indigenous youth from their families with the stated goal of “killing the Indian in the child.”

Up to 150,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children were taken from their homes and forced to live in these prison-

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Marchers head from Miami to DC, say ‘End US embargo on Cuba!’



Puentes de Amor

Carlos Lazo, center, in Miami on first day of march to Washington, D.C. Join protesters at rally near White House July 25, or at caravans at cities across the United States.

BY SETH GALINSKY

An RV-load of protesters against the U.S. economic war on Cuba are walking more than 1,000 miles over the next month to win support for ending Washington’s embargo.

Carlos Lazo, a Cuban American high school teacher from Seattle and founder of Puentes de Amor (Bridges of Love), which seeks to knock down barriers between working people in Cuba and the U.S., kicked off the trip

in Coral Gables, in suburban Miami, June 27. The protest will end with a July 25 rally in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House, in Washington, D.C. The group plans to hand over petitions with more than 25,000 signatures calling for an end to the U.S. embargo.

Lazo has also helped sponsor monthly caravans against the U.S. sanctions in cities across the coun-

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Marathon refinery workers return to work proud after 5-month lockout

BY GABBY PROSSER

MINNEAPOLIS — After a long and bitter lockout by Marathon Petroleum bosses at the St. Paul Park refinery, members of Teamsters Local 120 voted to approve a revised contract offer from the company. The workers returned to work July 6 after over five months on the picket line.

“This new contract addresses some
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SWP files for California ballot

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Discussions about the campaign along with the distribution of campaign literature before and after work sparked a debate especially on how to fight rising prices and why our pay should go up when costs of goods, rents and the necessities of life increase.”

Some of these discussions, she said, included “how we can push back against the deteriorating working conditions in this store.”

The special election was required after nearly 2 million people signed petitions demanding Democratic Party Gov. Gavin Newsom be recalled. Many were angry at the results of his lockdown orders. For months small businesses were devastated, students were kept at home and out of school and group worship was prevented.

Once the election was set after the certification of the recall petitions, the Democratic Party-dominated state legislature voted to change the rules so the election could be held as soon as possible. This was based on their judgment that Newsom’s approval ratings have increased.

‘Hunger for discussion’

The election date was announced July 1. The next morning petitions were available at county election offices. Only five days were allowed, including the July 4 holiday weekend, to collect 7,000 signatures to avoid paying the filing fee.

Otherwise candidates had to submit 65 to 100 signatures and pay a \$4,194.94 filing fee. This is what Richter’s campaign has been organizing to do.

Campaign supporters in the Bay Area and Los Angeles hit the streets with petitions as soon as they were available.

Outside a busy supermarket here July 3, Richter and campaign sup-

porter Josefina Otero collected 32 signatures. “Not everybody would sign,” Richter said. “What stood out to me is the hunger of working people to discuss a way to confront the problems they face.”

Richter is part of a national slate of SWP candidates who campaigned to build support for union strikes and other working-class struggles. They explain what can be done to build a movement to lead millions to take power from the exploiting capitalist class and establish a workers and farmers government.

Supporters of Richter’s campaign submitted 224 signatures to county officials July 6. The state has 48 hours to verify the results.



Militant/Bernie Senter
Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for California governor, talks to Stella Useda while campaigning at Food4Less parking lot in Los Angeles July 5. Useda signed SWP petition.

ATI workers debate contract proposal after 3-month strike

BY MALCOLM JARRETT

BRACKENRIDGE, Pa. — The United Steelworkers union is organizing meetings of striking unionists at Allegheny Technologies Inc. to discuss a tentative four-year agreement reached by union representatives with the company, prior to strikers voting whether to ratify the deal. Some 1,300 workers at nine plants across five states have been on strike for a new contract since March 30.

According to the union, the deal provides workers with lump-sum payments and wage increases, and maintains a premium-free health insurance plan without a lower tier of benefits for new hires. Bosses had demanded workers pay health care premiums and insisted new hires would have to pay more for health insurance than workers already at the company.

No further details of the agreement have been released. Workers have not had a pay raise for seven years.

On the picket line here workers react-

ed to the agreement with cautious optimism. The strike was not only about health care and wages, Tim Reedy, who has worked in shipping for 15 years, told the *Militant*. “They were out to break the union.”

Reedy said he was looking forward to getting back to work.

As a result of closing down Steelworkers-organized plants, ATI now has a large nonunion operation in North Carolina. The company says it has over 4,500 employees in the Charlotte area alone. Less than 10% of ATI workers are union members today.

ATI “relented on the health care,” Joe Clark, another Brackenridge striker, said. “Something had to break soon. I think it was the fact that United Airlines bought 250 planes. Boeing gets a lot of material from ATI.”

‘Now is a good time to fight’

Karl Brendle, a striker at the Louisville, Ohio, plant, also said he thought new orders for materials to build planes had made bosses move to settle the strike. They have tried to run production at some of the struck plants with supervisors and replacement workers.

“If we don’t stand up, we’re going to get run over,” Brendle told the *Militant* by phone. “More people who aren’t union need to stand up. See the labor shortage at the moment? People are not interested in making \$8 to \$15. It’s a good time to get moving now. Bring everyone up with us.”

“Despite management’s repeated attempts to divide and conquer its workers, we showed once again that our solidarity is a tremendously powerful force,” said Steelworkers International Vice President David McCall.

The striking workers received widespread solidarity from members of the United Mine Workers, American Postal Workers Union, Greater Westmoreland County Labor Council, Beaver-Lawrence Central Labor Council, from workers at two Pittsburgh-area Walgreens, and other unionists.

ATI issued a statement welcoming the tentative deal.

No announcement has been made on the future of three plants ATI bosses say they plan to close.

Malcolm Jarrett is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh mayor.

SWP candidates blast thuggery at Minneapolis protest

Below is a statement sent to the Minneapolis Star Tribune July 1 by Doug Nelson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Minneapolis, and David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for City Council Ward 12. They speak out against an act of intimidation and political thuggery carried out by some participants at a Taking Back Pride event June 27 sponsored by Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar, a group initially set up in response to the police killing of Jamar Clark in 2015. For roughly two hours City Council Vice President Andrea Jenkins, who is a Black, transgendered woman, was prevented from driving away by members of this group until she signed a statement listing their demands, some of which she says she disagrees with.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign in Minneapolis condemns the intimidation and harassment of City Council Vice President Andrea Jenkins at the June 27 Taking Back Pride event by a small group of “activists.” Jenkins was detained, berated and coerced by individuals who demanded that she sign her name to their list of demands, which included the resignation of the current mayor and not opening the streets at George Floyd Square.

After the councilperson signed her name under duress, she was allowed to leave. An organizer of the group, Donald Hooker Jr., declared a “people’s victory.” But such political thuggery is rightly abhorred by the overwhelming majority of working people. Far from a victory, this act of intimidation sets back building the broadest possible support for protests against killings and brutality at the hands of police. In this sense, it is of a piece with race-baiting, demagoguery and giving political support to vandalism and looting that have been the calling card of many radical, left and woke political groups and individuals.

The working class must defend the space to discuss, debate and act if we are to build a powerful, disciplined, and independent movement to defend all who are exploited and oppressed. Those who would shut down space and replace civil discussion and debate with intimidation and demagoguery are an obstacle to building such a movement.

Doug Nelson, SWP candidate for mayor of Minneapolis
David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for City Council, Ward 12

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

Albany, New York

Ved Dookhun, mayor
Kathie Fitzgerald, Common Council president

Atlanta

Rachele Fruit, mayor
Sam Manuel, City Council president

California

Dennis Richter, governor
Joel Britton, State Assembly, District 18

Louisville, Kentucky

Maggie Trowe, mayor

Miami

Anthony Dutrow, mayor

Minneapolis

Doug Nelson, mayor
David Rosenfeld, City Council, Ward 12

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, governor

New York City

Róger Calero, mayor
Willie Cotton, public advocate
Sara Lobman, Manhattan Borough president

Philadelphia

Osborne Hart, district attorney

Pittsburgh

Malcolm Jarrett, mayor

Seattle

Henry Dennison, mayor
Rebecca Williamson, City Council at-large

2021 Communist League candidates

CANADA

Beverly Bernardo, Montreal mayor
Philippe Tessier, borough of Saint-Laurent mayor, Montreal

AUSTRALIA

Linda Harris, Canterbury-Bankstown City Council, Sydney
Bob Aiken, Hurstville Ward, Georges River Council, Sydney

See directory on page 11 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

Tribunal: Forstater's stand for women's rights was free speech

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

Maya Forstater won a victory at London's Employment Appeal Tribunal June 10 when it upheld her freedom of expression after she was dismissed from her job at the Center for Global Development for her defense of women's rights.

Bosses at this "think tank" had refused to renew Forstater's contract as a tax researcher in December 2018 after she posted comments critical of U.K. government plans to let people declare whatever gender they choose.

The tribunal overturned a December 2019 ruling by a lower court that upheld her dismissal, claiming Forstater's opinions were "not worthy of respect in a democratic society."

What were those "unworthy" opinions? Forstater had expressed a scientific view shared by millions that biological sex is "real, important, immutable, and not to be conflated with gender identity."

The recent verdict, written by High Court Justice Akhlaq Choudhury, was limited, finding that Forstater had the right to express those views.

"Being free to hold a belief means the freedom from being harassed, discriminated against or having your livelihood taken away from you," Forstater said in response to the decision.

The court didn't order the Center for Global Development bosses to reinstate Forstater or award damages, or express any view about whether they had the right to fire her for what she wrote.

"I believe that it is impossible to change sex or to lose your sex," Forstater told the tribunal. "No change of clothes or hairstyle, no plastic surgery, no accident or illness, no course of hormones, no force of will or social conditioning, no declaration can turn a female person into a male, or a male person into a female."

Forstater was congratulated by J.K. Rowling, author of the *Harry Potter* series, who has backed her fight.

The Center for Global Development

said the ruling was "a step backwards for inclusivity and equality for all." For woke capitalists, like those who own the organization, "inclusivity" means *excluding* those who dare express an opinion that goes against their credo. Rather than appealing, the owners say they will go back to the original tribunal to "dispute Maya Forstater's version of events," to try to prove that her comments amount to actual harassment of transgender people.

Student investigated for views

Other conflicts have posed the same issues. At Abertay University in Dundee, Scotland, law student Lisa Keogh faced an investigation from the college's disciplinary board after she said during an online class that women are born with vaginas and "the difference in physical strength of men versus women is a fact." Keogh said men who identify as women shouldn't compete against women in martial arts. It took the university administration two months to determine that she had not harassed or discriminated against anyone. Keogh won backing from the Free Speech Union of which she is a member.

"It was a modern-day witch hunt," Keogh told the press when she was cleared. "No woman should face discrimination in the way I have because she believes in sex-based rights."

"When I worked in a garage, men would help me because I wasn't physically as able as them," Keogh told online magazine Spiked. "I have equal rights to them and to men in general, but I cannot be a man."

Accepting the reality of biological



Maya Forstater, inset, won victory June 10 at London's Employment Appeal Tribunal after being dismissed from job for stating that biological sex is "real, important, immutable." This is a precondition for battle to win women's emancipation. Above, major women's rights march in 1979 in London.



difference between sexes is a precondition to advancing working-class solidarity against bosses who seek to pit men against women.

The opposite class view is widely promoted by companies and state bodies that sign on to the "Diversity Champions" program put forward by the British group Stonewall. The list includes the Scottish government. Some 500 organizations fork out the 2,500 pounds (\$3,500) annual membership fee to be graded by the group for their "diversity." Measures used to determine this include whether companies lobby for legal changes to let people "self-identify" their sex.

Anti-scientific notions that "men" and "women" are merely subjective categories to be changed at will are frontal assaults on conquests won by the movement for women's rights.

"Women and girls lose out on privacy, safety and fairness if males are allowed into changing rooms, dormitories, prisons, sports teams," Forstater has pointed out.

In a related matter, a man who says he is now a woman has been admitted to compete on a woman's team at the Olympics for the first time. Despite the obvious advantages of having gone through puberty with male testosterone levels, 43-year-old Laurel Hubbard will be competing against women in weightlifting for New Zealand this summer. Hubbard did not make the grade as a senior international competitor until announcing he was transitioning to become a woman, at the age of 35.

This is a blow to women's sports, which depend on separate competitions for men and women, and a blow to hard-fought gains for women's rights.

Striking coal miners in Alabama win support

Continued from front page

high and the miners aren't making the money they need to support their families," she said. "Many of the strikers are young miners, with families and small kids. The company isn't doing what they promised, so the workers had to do something. That's why they went on strike."

In 2016 the mines' previous owner, Jim Walter Resources, filed for bankruptcy. The company's biggest creditors, hedge funds like BlackRock from New York, organized Warrior Met Coal, and told miners they would only keep the mines running if they got concessions. They promised to make them up later.

Along with being forced to take a \$6-an-hour pay cut, miners' health care costs were increased from a \$12 co-pay to a \$1,500 deductible. And the union had to negotiate a \$25 million Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association plan to continue retirees' health care. Extra overtime pay for Sundays and holidays was eliminated; 13 annual paid holidays were cut to three; a draconian attendance policy was instituted, along with no cap on forced overtime, among other concessions. The cuts amounted to losses for the workers of \$1.1 billion over the last five years, the union calculated.

Meanwhile, the new owners raked in big profits.

Instead of restoring the cuts when the 2016 contract expired this spring, Warrior Met offered union members

a \$1.50 an hour raise *over five years*, an offer rejected overwhelmingly by union members.

After walking out April 1, union members have staffed picket lines 24/7 at the No. 4 and No. 7 mines, the preparation plant, central shops and at several railroad crossings.

The company has been using scabs and management personnel to mine coal at the No. 7 mine.

Strikers win solidarity

UMWA International District 20 Vice President Larry Spencer welcomed everyone to the rally, pointing to representatives of the United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, Communications Workers of America and other unionists who came to bring solidarity to the strike. He and UMWA President Cecil Roberts also thanked the unions and other organizations for their generous contributions to the union's strike fund. The local community group Hometown Action, together with the Sierra Club, recently contributed \$10,000 to the strike fund. The growing list of contributing unions and individuals is available on the UMWA.org website. Some \$4.3 million has been paid out to striking miners so far, Roberts told the rally.

He reiterated his call for the company to sit down and negotiate seriously with the union.

"Respect and dignity don't come from money," Clayola Brown, AFL-CIO director of Civil, Human and

Women's Rights, told the rally. "Pride and dignity is what we get by not crossing the picket line.

"People try to separate us by color," Brown said. "Here in the UMWA, you have workers of all colors. That's what unions look like, it's what fighters look like."

There have also been three incidents of miners being hit on the picket line by scabs' vehicles, with several causing injuries to strikers. The company has also reported three incidents of damage to electrical transmission and distribution equipment on company property since May. "We have to be careful on the picket lines," Spencer said. "The company is pointing at the union for this." The Alabama Mining Association is offering a cash reward of \$10,000 for information about these incidents.

The union "does not condone or believe in destruction of property in any form, or violence of any kind," said UMWA staff member Phil Smith.

Support and solidarity are needed and well deserved. Help to spread the word about the strike! All donation checks should be made out to UMWA 2021 Strike Fund and sent to UMWA Strike Fund, P.O. Box 513, Dumfries, VA 22026.

Messages of support can also be sent to District 20, 21922 Hwy. 216 (Miners' Memorial Parkway), McCalla, AL 35111. Email: umwadistrict20@bellsouth.net.

Lisa Potash contributed to this article.

Woman's Evolution

From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family

by Evelyn Reed



An examination of prehistory from cannibalism to culture that uncovers the world of the ancient matriarchy. Reed reveals women's leading and still largely unknown contributions to the development of civilization, and offers fresh insights on the struggle against women's oppression and for the liberation of humanity. \$25

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women

by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed and Mary-Alice Waters



Why do ever-changing standards of beauty, as well as moral values, always reflect those of the ruling class? How do the wealthy owners of the cosmetics and fashions "industries" play on women's insecurities to sell products and rake in profits? \$12

pathfinderpress.com

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Chicago hospital workers strike for higher pay, increased staffing

CHICAGO — Some 2,000 Cook County Health hospital workers went on strike here June 25 in a fight for higher pay. The workers, including custodians, technicians, health care professionals and clerks, are members of Service Employees International Union Local 73. The old contract expired Nov. 30.

Many of those on strike work at Stroger Hospital. Others are at Provident, Cermak Health Services and clinics.

On June 29 over 400 strikers rallied downtown outside Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle's office. "We are on strike for better pay," Tashica Grant, a medical assistant at Stroger, told this *Militant* reporter. "And we are being overcharged for medical benefits."

Two days later lead union negotiator Larry Alcott reported the union turned down the county's offer of a 8.5% wage increase over the next four years.

More than 900 nurses, members of National Nurses Organizing Committee/National Nurses United, carried out a one-day strike at the same facilities June 24. "Our main issue is staffing," nurse Faith Djirackor said. "We don't have enough nurses to properly take care of our patients."

The nurses approved a new contract July 1-2. The agreement boosts nurses' wages across the board by 8.5% over the four-year contract, the *Chicago Tribune* reported. Cook County Health bosses also agreed to fill 300 nurse vacancies.

—Dan Fein

Kansas Frito-Lay workers strike over pay, forced overtime

Some 800 workers at the PepsiCo-owned Frito-Lay plant in Topeka, Kansas, went on strike July 5. Members of Local 218 of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union are fighting for a pay raise, better conditions and against forced overtime. They've been joined by other area unionists in three monthly pickets outside the plant since March.

The unionists June 26 voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike. Several days later the workers voted to reject a tentative contract reached by the

company and union officials.

In previous contracts workers got one-time bonuses instead of a wage raise. "The cost of living keeps going up and our pay isn't going up," Brent Hall, who makes chips at the plant, told KSNT-TV.

"You have to wait until the end of the day to find out if you can get days off or if you're working four hours over or having to come in four hours earlier," Cody Linam, a packaging machine operator, told the *Topeka Capital-Journal*. "I don't think that's right."

"Suicide shift" is the name workers give a schedule with only an eight-hour break between 12-hour shifts. If workers turn down an overtime shift they are docked attendance points. Some have slept in their cars between shifts rather than go home, Linam said.

Frito-Lay bosses are notorious across the country for their anti-union stance. Less than 20% of the company is union-organized today. The strike is the first walkout since workers organized a union at the plant in 1973.

—Terry Evans

Quebec poultry workers make gains, defend right to strike

MONTREAL — Some 550 poultry workers at the Exceldor packinghouse, who went on strike May 23, made gains in a new contract and defended their right to strike. The plant is in Saint-Anselme, south of Quebec City.

By a vote of 66% in favor, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1991-P members adopted a six-year contract. They went out to fight for a significant wage increase and improvements in working conditions in the plant.

"What we did is big, go out for one month. We are capable of standing up," Noel Rouillard, who has worked in the plant for 36 years, told the *Militant* by phone June 30. "We had the new immigrants with us." The company hires workers from abroad to work in the plant on two-year contracts.

Wages will increase right away to 23.85 Canadian dollars (\$19.35), and to CA\$25 by 2025, along with additional cost-of-living increases. The company had offered CA\$22.51.

"Many weren't happy but the majority



Militant/Ilona Gersh

Over 400 hospital workers on strike in Chicago area rally June 29 outside Cook County president's office in fight for more pay and against high cost of health care coverage.

was," Paulin Komlan Aboly, who works in sanitation, said June 28. "They didn't give everything we wanted in wages, but we got more than the company offered." Both workers said the union has been strengthened by their fight.

Another major issue was the bosses' refusal to give vacation pay to workers who had gone out on disability, as well as overcharging them on insurance contributions. The workers, like Aboly, who has been off work a couple of times since 2013, will now get compensated.

The Quebec government tried to strong-arm the union to end its strike and accept compulsory arbitration. Trying to pressure the workers to agree, Quebec Premier Francois Legault charged that the strikers were responsible for the "indecent waste" of a million chickens who were slaughtered because they couldn't be processed at the struck plant.

This anti-union campaign was promoted by big businesses, like the St-Hubert rotisserie chain, but the union stood its ground. "If we go that way, it will take away our power of negotiation," UFCW shop steward Jacques Roy said, defending their right to strike. "That takes away our right to demonstrate and our means of applying pressure."

Over 1,000 fellow packinghouse workers, members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions, have been on strike at the Olymel pork plant in Vallee-Jonction, 30 minutes away from Saint-Anselme, since April 28. Olymel strikers have backed the workers at Exceldor, sending busloads to join picketing there.

Send messages and contributions to Syndicat des Travailleurs d'Olymel, Vallee-Jonction, 243 Rue Principale, Vallee-Jonction, QC G0S 3J0.

—Joe Young

Tamil refugees seek asylum in Australia

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY — When immigration police arrested the Murugappan family, including two infant daughters, in a pre-dawn raid March 5, 2018, in Biloela, working people in the small central Queensland country town started a fight for their right to stay. Supporters organized protest rallies and an online

petition signed by over 550,000 people.

Nades and Priya, Tamils who arrived here in 2012 and 2013, met and married in Australia. They were refugees fleeing the war in Sri Lanka between the government and Tamil independence fighters. They settled in Biloela where the father, Nades, worked in the local meat works. Although granted temporary visas, their refugee status was rejected by immigration authorities.

Successive Australian governments have tried to discourage asylum-seekers arriving on boats by "closing the door" to any permanent settlement in Australia. The two Murugappan daughters, Kopika and Tharunicaa, are designated as "illegal maritime arrivals" like their parents, though both were born in Biloela. Unlike in the U.S., being born in Australia doesn't confer citizenship.

Following their arrest the family was held thousands of miles away, first in Melbourne then, for almost two years, at the remote Christmas Island immigration detention center in the Indian Ocean. Finally, an injunction was won against the family's deportation.

After a public outcry, Tharunicaa, now 4 years old, was belatedly evacuated to Perth for urgent medical treatment. Nades, Priya, and Kopika, now 6 years old, were given three-month "bridging visas" allowing them to work and study in Perth, some 2,700 miles from Biloela. Angela Fredericks, a leader of their supporters in Biloela, welcomed the government retreat, but said "There is still no certain pathway home" for the family. Their fight continues.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 22, 1996

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa —The bill of rights in South Africa's new constitution lays the groundwork for an amendment in existing legislation that could legalize the right to abortion.

The Parliamentary Ad Hoc Select Committee on Abortion recommended that the apartheid-era Abortion and Sterilization Act of 1975 be repealed. New legislation would provide for abortion on demand up to the fourteenth week of pregnancy, and under specified conditions will also legalize abortion between 14 and 24 weeks.

"There will be a debate as to whether it will be integrated into the free public health service. But it is likely that it will be," said Michelle O'Sullivan, a leader of the Reproductive Rights Alliance, a coalition of 22 organizations. Primary health care is now free to all South Africans.



July 23, 1971

SAN FRANCISCO, July 13 — The West Coast longshoremen's strike, now in its second week, was unavoidable. The rank-and-file longshoremen and ship clerks have seen their job conditions and economic security deteriorate to the point where the situation is unacceptable.

Under the contract that has been in effect since 1961, the shipowners and stevedoring companies, comprising the Pacific Coast Maritime Association, has virtually eliminated union job control and other formerly union prerogatives.

Leaves of younger men brought into the industry are the basis of the opposition to further knuckling under to the PMA. There are now open discussions on the picket lines regarding the necessity of shoving the old leadership aside if the strike is to be won. The militants know that only the policy of a "tight strike" — stop everything — can win.



July 20, 1946

Two weeks ago the *Militant* in an editorial outlined a program to safeguard the workers' living standards in the face of rising prices. We insist on telling workers the truth — which is that they can depend only on themselves and their allies, the poor farmers, the small shopkeepers, etc., to control, fix and police prices in the interests of the consumers.

What should the unions themselves do about the degradation of living standards through skyrocketing prices?

Insert a sliding scale of wages clause into every union contract; establish a fixed minimum wage, and then every time prices go up, automatically adjust wages upward to compensate for the increased cost of living. This sliding scale of wages, of course, would not be based on the government's false price index, but on a reliable index worked out by the trade unions themselves.

Kazakhstan delivery workers unite, look to organize a union

BY JANET POST

Food-delivery workers in Kazakhstan — similar to those whose numbers are growing worldwide — are fighting to organize the first couriers’ union in the country. Some 200 workers are finalizing a charter, Zhenis Orynaliyev, the union chairperson, told openDemocracy June 30.

During the May 9 holiday weekend, which celebrates the Soviet Union’s defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II and honors Kazakh veterans, the food-delivery company Wolt cut delivery workers pay 30% to 50%. About 100 workers protested outside company offices in Almaty May 18 and went on strike the next day.

Alibek Yesov, who heads Wolt operations in Kazakhstan, blamed the pay cuts on a drop in deliveries during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. “Unimpressed by this explanation, couriers again picketed,” Eurasianet reported.

“Everyday life becomes more expensive, yet our employers have the guts to cut our wages or fire us without hesitation. What is left for us to do?” one courier told openDemocracy, asking his name not be used for fear of retaliation. “We are all very nervous, and that’s why we had to go on strike.”

“Just like most others, I also owe money to the bank,” Azamat, a courier for app-based Glovo, said. “We all took out loans to pay for our cars and bikes, so we work like robots from dawn to dusk to pay back our debts.”

Finnish-owned Wolt operates in more than 30 countries across Europe, the Middle East and Asia. They set up shop in Kazakhstan in 2019. Profits there in 2020 were over two times higher than the previous year, even though the country’s gross domestic product shrank by 2.6% during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to delivery workers’ pay demands, “they complained that around four dozen workers had been blocked out of the system,” Eurasianet reported, denying them the ability to log on for work. “Our protests hit the company’s reputation, that’s why they suspended us,” one worker said.

The Kazakhstan government requires some delivery companies to deduct taxes, pension payments and health insurance from workers’ wages, driver Yerzhan told openDemocracy. “They pay taxes out of the employee’s paycheck but at the same time do not bear any social responsibility for us.”

Other drivers must sign “civil contracts” with the delivery companies, which don’t cover social security. Called a “partnership,” writes openDemocracy, this “turns couriers into entrepreneurs: they take home as much revenue as they can deliver on any given day and then pay taxes, pension contributions and more out of their earnings.”

So delivery drivers for different companies — including Wolt, Glovo and Chocofood — face different conditions, which make fighting to be

a company employee or remaining an independent contractor better for some and not others.

Almaz, who works as a courier for Wolt, said they are limited in getting other jobs. Unemployment has risen by eight times to levels not seen for 20 years in Kazakhstan.

After the protests at Wolt, for now, previous pay rates have been restored and suspended workers were allowed back. Union organizers are working to open up spaces where drivers can meet and rest.

Similar protests have been organized by couriers in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi and in Kyiv, Ukraine.



Food delivery workers in Almaty, Kazakhstan, protest working conditions, pay cut and suspensions imposed by Wolt bosses in May. Workers from different app companies acted together. openDemocracy.net/Dmitriy Mazorenko

Supreme Court overturns California disclosure law

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

An important victory for political rights was won July 1 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 to overturn a California regulation requiring tens of thousands of charities there to hand over lists of donors to state officials.

The decision strengthens the right to freedom of association and privacy without interference by the state, as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. The ruling also opens up possibilities for striking down financial disclosure laws in other arenas, regulations aimed foremost at the union movement and working-class political parties like the Socialist Workers Party.

“California’s disclosure requirement imposes a widespread burden on donors’ associational rights,” writes Chief Justice John Roberts for the majority of the court, “and this burden cannot be justified on the ground that the regime is narrowly tailored to investigating charitable wrongdoing, or that the State’s interest in administrative convenience is sufficiently important.”

“Each governmental demand for disclosure brings with it an additional risk of chill,” Roberts adds.

The case was filed by the Americans for Prosperity Foundation — set up and financed by conservative political activists Charles and David Koch — and the Thomas More Law Center. A decade ago the state demanded that these charities, along with many others, hand over to the attorney general their top donors’ names, addresses and the amounts they contributed.

Kamala Harris, who served as California’s attorney general in 2014, insisted they would protect this information from public disclosure. But despite such promises, over 1,800 contributor lists were posted on the attorney general’s website.

After a federal district court in California ruled against disclosing donors’ names in 2016, California’s Democratic Party officials appealed. The decision was reversed two years later by the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court has now overruled this.

Nearly 300 organizations, with a wide variety of political views, signed friend-of-the-court briefs in support of the plaintiffs’ fight to defend constitutional rights. They included the American Civil Liberties Union, NAACP Legal Defense and

Education Fund, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Cato Institute, National Association of Manufacturers and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

The NAACP set a landmark legal precedent against disclosure laws being used to target political groups. During the rise of the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s, the Jim Crow state government in Alabama passed a law ordering the NAACP to hand over the names and addresses of all its members. The NAACP refused, saying it would subject them to attack, and fought this all the way to the Supreme Court. It won.

This victory set a precedent for the SWP to fight and win protection from having to turn over the names of contributors to its election campaigns. Unions like the Washington State Federation of Teachers and its affiliates have fought state laws there that demand union membership lists and make them available to anti-union forces that request them.

In a concurring opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas said he’s skeptical that *any* disclosure regulations are constitutional. “Laws directly burdening the right to associate anonymously, including compelled disclosure laws, should be subject to the same scrutiny as laws directly burdening other First Amendment rights.”

Liberals raise a hue and cry

The ruling elicited a cry of outrage from liberals on the Supreme Court and in the media. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who wrote the minority

opinion, slandered the plaintiffs and others like the NAACP and the SWP who challenge forced disclosure laws. She said the decision “marks reporting and disclosure requirements with a bull’s-eye. Regulated entities who wish to avoid their obligations can do so by vaguely waving toward First Amendment ‘privacy concerns.’”

NPR’s Nina Totenberg complained, “Even more important could be the effect on federal and state laws that require public disclosure of the names of campaign contributors.”

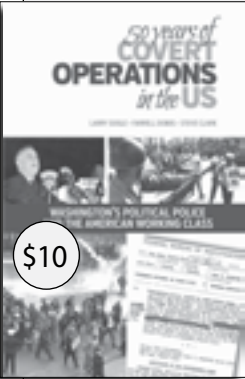
‘Decision creates openings’

“This court decision is an important new defense of freedom of speech and association and the right to privacy,” said John Studer, Socialist Workers Party national campaign director. “It creates openings for — as the liberals fear — stepping up the fight to eliminate election campaign finance and other disclosure laws, which target unions and those seeking to chart a course toward independent working-class political action like the Socialist Workers Party.”

For decades SWP candidates have waged a fight for exemption from having to turn over contributors’ names to the government. In 1973 the party launched a political campaign and court suit that over 15 years exposed decades of FBI spying and disruption, winning a court ruling ordering the FBI to cease and desist. Using evidence exposed through this fight, the party won exemption from campaign finance disclosure requirements that held from 1974 to 2017.

50 Years of Covert Operations in the US

Washington’s Political Police and the American Working Class



Decades of spying and disruption by FBI targeting working-class organizations and other opponents of government policies. How expansion of “national security” state used to protect capitalist rule had bipartisan backing.

FBI on Trial:

The victory in the Socialist Workers Party suit against government spying \$17

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Forum discusses SWP campaigns, recognition of state of Israel

BY JANICE LYNN

ATLANTA — “The Socialist Workers Party met the test of the capitalist crisis and pandemic over the past 15 months — in program and action,” SWP National Committee member Steve Clark told 50 people at a Militant Labor Forum here June 26. “We kept going more broadly among working people with our program, our election campaigns and solidarity with the working-class struggles today. And we’re continuing to do so.”

Participants in the forum came from Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and elsewhere. It was held in conjunction with a leadership meeting of SWP supporters, who produce books used in party activity and help raise funds for the work of the party.

The event was chaired by Atlanta SWP mayoral candidate Rachele Fruit, who introduced her running mate, Sam Manuel, SWP candidate for Atlanta City Council president. The forum opened with remarks by Anthony Dutrow, SWP mayoral candidate from Miami. Dutrow described how the catastrophic building collapse in Florida two days earlier was a product of the capitalist system that puts profits above human safety and well-being.

Clark noted important labor fights taking place today, including the United Mine Workers strike at Warrior Met Coal in Alabama, Teamsters fighting a company lockout at Marathon Petroleum in Minnesota, United Auto Workers on strike at Volvo Truck in Virginia, Steelworkers on the picket line at several ATI plants, and more.

“Through keeping our fire on the bosses and mobilizing union and working-class solidarity, we can begin scoring some victories and rebuild and strengthen our unions as fighting instruments,” Clark said.

Socialist Workers Party campaigns

Clark called attention to political lessons of the Cuban Revolution for the SWP 2021 election campaigns. The national ticket of SWP candidates will be on the ballot in seven states and are running in five other cities.

Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and others, Clark said, led workers and farmers in Cuba to take power, deepen inroads against capitalist exploitation and property, and recognize both the socialist character of the revolution they were making and the Marxist politics of those leading that revolution.

“That revolutionary working-class course is what our SWP election campaigns are about,” Clark said. “We popularize our program and build solidarity with workers’ struggles today. Most importantly we point to the working-class struggle for a socialist revolution that’s



US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Hundreds of Jewish passengers fleeing Nazi persecution aboard St. Louis ocean liner, above, in 1939 were forced back to Europe after Washington and Ottawa denied them entry. Many died in Holocaust. Israel was founded after imperialist powers barred postwar Jewish refugees.

needed here and the Marxist leadership necessary to lead workers and our allies in such a revolution.”

He urged participants to join SWP candidates and supporters to campaign in workers’ neighborhoods, on picket lines and elsewhere to see for themselves how these discussions unfold.

Unconditional recognition of Israel

Clark also addressed the fight against Jew-hatred and the SWP’s call for unconditional recognition of Israel. “The state of Israel is a product of the Holocaust and slaughter of some 6 million Jews,” he said, “as well as the treachery of the world Stalinist movement and parties in blocking extension of the socialist revolution in France, Italy, Greece, and elsewhere in the 1930s and after World War II.” Both before and after the imperialist carnage, Washington and London rejected opening their doors to Jewish refugees.

Clark pointed to Cuban President Fidel Castro’s unequivocal defense of Israel’s right to exist in a 2010 interview with U.S. journalist Jeffrey Goldberg in *Atlantic* magazine. “There is nothing that compares to the Holocaust,” Fidel said, calling on political figures in the Middle East to acknowledge “the ‘unique’ history of anti-Semitism and trying to understand why Israelis fear for their existence.”

Clark noted the rise in Jew-hating violence and vandalism the world over. So-called Free Palestine demonstrations across the country aren’t ones the working-class movement should join. “We don’t belong there,” he said. They have nothing to do with freedom or national liberation of any kind.

“Hamas’ slogan, ‘From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,’ means

free of Jews. The founding document of Hamas says, ‘Kill the Jews,’ and that Israel has no right to exist. The Israeli government will take defensive military action when its civilian areas are targeted by thousands of missiles launched by Hamas. Jews in Israel are determined, correctly so, that there will never be a second ‘Final Solution.’”

The aim of the Israeli government and Israel Defense Forces is not to kill civilians in Gaza. Israeli airstrikes weren’t aimed at civilian targets, Clark said. But what *was* exposed during the recent fighting was Hamas’ massive network of tunnels and rocket launchers under schools and in neighborhoods.

“Now let’s imagine that I were Netanyahu,” Castro told Goldberg in the 2010 interview. “I would remember that 6 million Jewish men and women, of all ages were exterminated in the concentration camps.”

Clark urged everyone to read Abram

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

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The Socialist Workers Party-hosted International Active Workers Conference at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, July 22-24, is fast approaching. This will be the first opportunity in two years to join together nationally with so many fellow working-class fighters over three intensive days of discussions about the road forward.

The gathering will celebrate how the party refused to miss a beat in campaigning boldly far and wide among working people in the face of government lockdowns and travel restrictions throughout the pandemic. To ensure a safe, relaxed environment, organizers are asking all those who attend to make sure they’re fully vaccinated against COVID.

At the center of the conference will be three talks by Socialist Workers Party leaders Jack Barnes, Dave Prince and Mary-Alice Waters on key questions of world politics, history, culture and the labor movement facing working people today.

A series of classes will supplement the talks, covering lessons from the history of the labor and communist movement, the class-struggle road to Black liberation and the fight for the unconditional recognition of Israel and against rising Jew-hatred. Another will address

Leon’s book *The Jewish Question*, published by Pathfinder. It describes the social and economic place of Jews from antiquity through the Middle Ages and into the 20th century. And how, with the rise of capitalism, the propertied ruling classes, at times of deepening crisis, twist that history to single out Jews as scapegoats to divert hatred away from themselves for the conditions ruined middle classes and layers of toilers face due to the rule of capital.

“Communist parties don’t tolerate Jew-hatred in any form as we help lead the working class to fight for state power against the imperialist rulers here or anywhere,” Clark said. SWP candidates explain that only the extension of the world socialist revolution opens the door to the fight to end Jew-hatred and all forms of capitalist oppression and exploitation once and for all.

Clark addressed a number of other themes in his talk and the lively discussion afterwards. These included the blows to working-class unity and clarity dealt by rising “wokery” promoted by privileged meritocratic class layers of all skin colors and radicals and the left who follow their political lead; the place of Malcolm X as a revolutionary leader of the working class; and the course of the SWP campaign in defending political rights crucial for workers to organize and act independent of the imperialist state and the bosses’ Democratic and Republican parties.

That’s why, Clark said, the Socialist Workers Party is boldly taking its program and campaigns to working people, joining in today’s fights, and recruiting to the party.

Some \$2,000 was raised in a fund appeal for the work of the 2021 SWP election campaigns and to ensure a place on the ballot for Sam Manuel, the SWP’s candidate for Atlanta City Council president.

the example that working people with a Marxist leadership set in Cuba, making a socialist revolution six decades ago.

There will be plenty of time for informal discussions on the talks and classes, and to share political experiences, including at evening social events. To conclude the conference, a panel by some of the slates of candidates from the SWP and Communist Leagues will describe their experiences as well as plans to step up campaigning.

The next day, SWP supporters will meet to discuss their efforts to advance production and promotion of Pathfinder literature and raise funds for the party’s work.

The gathering takes place as some important strikes, lockouts and union-organizing drives are taking place across North America, indicating more workers are seeking ways to resist the bosses’ attacks. Volunteer teams will be organized from the conference to fan out around the country to introduce the party’s campaign to working people and to bring solidarity to striking workers.

If you are interested in helping to build a revolutionary working-class party and would like to discuss attending the conference, contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you listed on page 11.



Militant photos/Dave Wulp

Steve Clark, SWP leader, speaks at Atlanta forum June 26 on how party met test of capitalist crisis, pandemic by campaigning widely among working people. Inset, SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters speaks during the discussion period.

End US embargo of Cuba!

Continued from front page
try and around the world. If you can't make it to Washington, D.C., there are car caravans scheduled in Seattle, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Dallas and a number of other cities.

Coral Gables Mayor Vicente Lago falsely called the group a bunch of communists and paid agents of Cuba. He told the press "anyone who wants to peacefully oppose these opportunists is welcome." But his call fell flat.

"We outnumbered the few dozen supporters of the sanctions who turned up," Lazo told the *Militant* by phone. "There were 300 of us, dancing and singing.

"The Cuban Americans and others who participate are a diverse group with different religious beliefs and ideologies. Some are anti-communist but they say 'enough already' of the embargo. Others are leftists," Lazo added. "But everyone believes that the sanctions against Cuba should be lifted."

While once portrayed as monolithic supporters of the embargo, it's been true for many years that most Cuban Americans in Florida oppose the U.S. sanctions.

The June 27 car caravan that kicked off the "pilgrimage," as Lazo calls it, drove down Calle Ocho, a commercial center and gathering place in the heart of Miami's Cuban community. They got a good response from passersby, Lazo said. "Some people yelled out to us to keep up the fight."

Later that day, Lazo said, they rallied at the Toussaint L'Ouverture monument in Miami where they were welcomed by Haitian American residents. "We have a lot in common," Lazo said. After the revolt by slaves in Haiti won independence from French colonial rule in 1804, the French government forced Haiti to pay "reparations."

The U.S. government won't accept that the Cuban people overthrew the Batista dictatorship in 1959 and "refuse to get down on their knees," Lazo said. The U.S. sanctions have been aimed from the start at "causing hunger to try to get people to rebel against the government."

Lazo and six young Cuban Americans are taking turns walking 20 miles at a time, and then riding in the RV. Local opponents of the embargo join them as they pass through cities and towns on the way north. They are also holding

meetings and building support for their efforts along the way. In St. Augustine and Jacksonville, Florida, they met with activists in the fight against police brutality and other social struggles.

Many who see the marchers and the RV, stop and ask what it's about. "We tell them that as a result of measures taken by President Donald Trump, there's no Western Union service so we can't send money to our families in the middle of a pandemic," Lazo said. "Our family members in Cuba can't come visit here, even if we have a family member who is dying of cancer because the U.S. Embassy isn't handling visa applications."

During the 2020 election campaign, "President Biden promised he would reverse the measures that Trump imposed," Lazo said. "But so far he has done nothing."

The crippling sanctions have been kept in place by every U.S. administration since 1960.

Not only can't Cuba get medicines and equipment it needs, "Cuba's medical advances, like its vaccine against COVID and a vaccine it developed against lung cancer, are not accessible to Americans because of the sanctions," Lazo said. "A lot of people are surprised to hear all this."

Among the group's demands are — reopen the U.S. Embassy in Havana to allow the normal issuing of visas, restore the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program, remove all limits on remittances to families in Cuba, allow free travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens, permit and encourage financial and commercial relations between the U.S. and Cuba as well as scientific and cultural exchanges.

Meeting with Black farmer

The group was invited to visit the farm of Willie Head, a Black farmer who lives in Pavo, Georgia, and has been to Cuba. Their GPS directed them to what they thought was Head's house July 5.

Lazo explained they were going to Washington to demand the U.S. government end the sanctions against the Cuban people. They were invited in and offered lunch.

When Lazo asked the man he thought was Head about his trip to Cuba, the man replied, "Actually I've

US military quits Afghanistan in haste and defeat



An Afghan soldier on guard after U.S. departure from giant Bagram air base July 2. It had been the hub of Washington's military operations in its 20-year-long war in Afghanistan. Most forces flew out overnight, turning off power and water without notifying the new Afghan commander when they were leaving. The hasty withdrawal, including the flight of Washington's allies, reflects the U.S. rulers' defeat in their longest war ever.

Washington's grinding "forever war" cost the lives of almost 50,000 Afghan civilians and tens of thousands of Afghan soldiers. And 2,400 U.S. troops killed and 20,000 wounded.

The Joseph Biden administration has ordered a total withdrawal, building on a drawdown initiated under the previous Donald Trump administration, to be completed by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the al-Qaeda terror attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Those attacks provided Washington with a pretext for its invasion.

The reactionary Islamist forces of the Taliban have already taken control of almost a third of Afghanistan, and are advancing on Bagram. Many Afghan army units are in retreat or have surrendered. A new disaster faces the Afghan people, the latest in more than two centuries of intervention and oppression by foreign powers.

Washington's pullout mirrors the withdrawal of Soviet troops after Moscow's occupation from 1979 to 1988 was defeated by U.S.-backed Islamist forces, some of whom evolved into the leadership of al-Qaeda.

— ROY LANDERSEN

never been there, but I'd like to go." That's when they realized they were at the wrong house!

Head found them and took Lazo and Roberto Martinez to his farm. He told them that visiting Cuba and seeing what the revolution made possible for farmers there changed his life. "I'm a different person," Head said. "I'm confident and hopeful because of the revolution."

They learned from Head about the denial of credit to Black farmers over decades. "He is denied credit by the U.S. and we are denied credit by the U.S. He is blockaded in his own country!" Martinez said.

"The visit with Willie Head was one of the most extraordinary experiences of our journey," said Lazo.

The next day Lazo was interviewed by Kweku Lumumba, host of a weekly program, "What Good is a Song?" on WRFG radio in Atlanta. The interview took place at Havana Cigars, a shop owned by Cuban Americans Heather and Rafa Ramirez, who have been active in the monthly car caravans against the embargo.

The group from Puentes de Amor also met with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives in East Point, Georgia, July 7.

Then their itinerary includes Greenville, South Carolina; Charlotte and Greensboro, North Carolina; and Norfolk, Virginia.

Lazo said the group is willing to make more side trips to anywhere opponents of the embargo can set up meetings with church groups and community organizations and anywhere they can speak to win more support for ending the embargo. If you would

like to organize an event for Lazo and Puentes de Amor, write him at porcubal@yahoo.com.

To join the protest in Washington, D.C., contact the DC Metro Committee in Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution at dcmetrocoalitionforcuba@gmail.com or (202) 503-9465.

Rachele Fruit in Atlanta contributed to this article.

History of the Chinese CP: From revolutionary party to Stalinist betrayal to anti-working-class regime today

BY TERRY EVANS

Accompanied by well-orchestrated hoopla, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his regime has been putting on a self-serving celebration touting their version of the 100-year anniversary of the country's ruling Communist Party.

Studying the history of the Chinese Communist Party is valuable for revolutionary-minded workers and youth, but you won't learn anything truthful from Xi's extravaganza. Absent in the flurry of rallies and concerts marking the July 1 centenary, was any reference to the party's transformation — from an organization formed to lead working people to make a socialist revolution — into its opposite. For most of its history the CCP has been communist in name only. Today it serves as a dictatorial machine to defend and advance state capitalist interests against workers and farmers at home and abroad.

Leading up to the celebrations, authorities deleted some 2 million internet posts for failing to correctly echo the party's version of its history. Officials rewrote their "Short History of the Chinese Communist Party" to eliminate all criticism of previous party leaders.

The new version published this February got rid of anything even slightly critical of former leader Mao Zedong. For instance, Mao's policies led to famines between 1959 and 1961 in which 30 million people lost their lives. The party's official history now refers to this catastrophe as "the three-year difficult time."

All discussion about Mao's subsequent so-called Cultural Revolution — a bloody purge of his opponents in the party and broader repression aimed at working people — was also eliminated.

Members of Peking University's Marxist Society got a real taste of the class loyalties of the CCP in 2018. They had studied the writings of Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin and Mao Zedong,



University of Bristol Historical Photographs of China/©2014 Robert Johnson

Workers militia marches through parts of Shanghai, part of revolution led by Chinese Communist Party, March 1927. Under orders from Joseph Stalin, CCP leaders instructed members to lay down their arms, paving way for defeat of revolution by capitalist and landlord forces led by Chiang Kai-shek. Stalin tossed aside proletarian internationalist course of Communist International under Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin.

as they thought party leaders wanted them to. They decided to put what they read into action, joining workers in Huizhou in southeastern China protesting wretched working conditions and fighting to organize an independent trade union. Authorities had 50 of the young activists arrested.

Origins, counterrevolution in CCP

The CCP was founded by participants in protests against the Japanese occupation of parts of China after the First World War. They were students and workers who wanted to emulate the Bolshevik-led 1917 Russian Revolution. The conquest of power by workers and farmers in Russia gave impetus to revolutionary sentiment across China against the Japanese rulers and the local warlords who aided them.

Armed with the Bolshevik's revolutionary program, CCP members became deeply involved in student and labor actions and in peasant struggles for land.

A powerful revolutionary upsurge in 1925 opened prospects to advance a fight to establish a workers and farmers government. But over two years that struggle was crushed by the Nationalist Party led by Chiang Kai-shek and the capitalist and landlord classes he represented.

The central reason for the defeat was the course imposed by Joseph Stalin, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and the bureaucracy he epitomized that was carrying out a counterrevolution against the policies and party of Lenin, the central leader of the Russian Revolution. Stalin and his allies in China insisted a revolution there could only be carried out in a subservient coalition with capitalist forces. That meant putting a brake on strikes, land seizures and other independent action by working people.

Under Stalin's orders, the majority of CCP leaders forced party members to put down their weapons in areas where the revolution held power and welcome Chiang Kai-shek's forces as "liberators." Chiang then organized the massacre of thousands of workers, including CCP members in Shanghai, Canton and elsewhere.

Stalin moved to consolidate his political counterrevolution in the Russian

CCP, and to back up like-minded allies in the CCP, led by Mao. He refused to allow debate over the disastrous outcome of the 1925-27 Chinese Revolution, and expelled those, like Leon Trotsky, a leader of the Soviet Communist Party who spoke out against Stalin's betrayal of the revolution.

CCP and the 1949 Revolution

Since the late 1920s, the Stalinized Chinese Communist Party has been an obstacle to advancing a working-class line of march to making a socialist revolution.

After the fall of Japan at the end of the second imperialist world war, the Mao-led CCP faced growing attacks from U.S.-backed forces led by Chiang Kai-shek, and took steps to overthrow him in 1947. Washington had intended to send its armed forces, still based in the Far East, into China to crush Mao and take China as part of its war booty. But U.S. workers in uniform demonstrated by the tens of thousands demanding to go home. When the Mao-led People's Liberation Army did enter cities to oust Chiang's forces, it organized to prevent and suppress workers strikes.

As the U.S. rulers moved to crush revolutionary uprisings across the Korean Peninsula, Mao took steps to defend his rule, nationalizing much of China's industry and its banks. The CCP felt compelled to take steps to end the tyrannical rule of the big landowners and warlords and laid the basis for expropriating the capitalist class in 1949.

The Chinese Revolution freed one-fifth of humanity from imperialism, but the CCP established a dictatorial anti-working-class regime. It remained a Stalinist party. The workers state that came into existence in China was bureaucratically deformed at birth.

China today

After Mao's death, and a new round of purges, Deng Xiaoping emerged as CCP leader and charted a course to expand capitalist market relations in the 1980s. This led to a rapid expansion of Chinese industry, a huge growth of the working class and mounting conflicts between Beijing and Washington for markets and trade.



Opponents of U.S. economic war against Cuba at statue of Haitian independence fighter Toussaint L'Ouverture in Miami, part of send-off rally June 27 for participants in more than 1,000-mile walk to Washington, D.C., organized by Carlos Lazo and Puentes de Amor.

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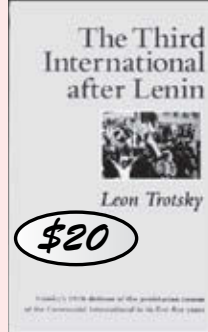
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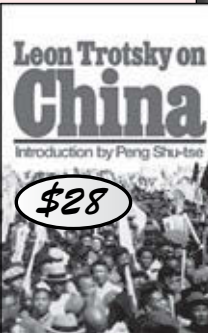
"To a much larger extent than in the past, the national orientation of the proletariat must and can flow only from a world orientation and not vice versa."



Leon Trotsky on China

by Leon Trotsky

Articles and letters on the Chinese Revolution of the 1920s, recording the fight to reverse Stalin's disastrous course.



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Capitalist greed, gov't collusion

Continued from front page

lusion between builders, management and the government is being laid bare,” Anthony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, told the *Militant*. “We get a real hearing when we explain that these deaths are the product of the workings of capitalism and its profit-driven rents-and-mortgages system. Working people need to come together and fight for workers control of construction and inspection.”

After the collapse of Champlain Towers, local governments in the area felt compelled to see whether similar catastrophes were lurking in their jurisdictions. Officials here in the city of North Miami Beach turned to review the 10-story Crestview Towers Condominium. For years they had tried and failed to get the management to conduct a mandatory 40-year recertification. When the building’s condo association finally submitted its paperwork last week, it said the 156-unit building was structurally and electrically unsafe for continued habitation. Officials ordered the building evacuated July 2.

“No one knows how many buildings in this area are in danger,” Aracely Colon, a worker at a nearby Walmart store, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent. “The news that someone has to leave their home after only a few hours’ notice is jarring, but nobody here should really be surprised. While the landlords charge a lot of money here, these places were not well built and are not maintained.”

When Dutrow and campaign supporters knocked on doors here to discuss what working people face, they found many wanted to talk. “I was told by my friend who used to live at Crestview that they were given two hours to take what they could carry and leave forever,” said social worker Rosa Vargas. Her neighbor told the Socialist Workers candidate that he was just glad not to be living there.

The *New York Times* reports similar problems are widespread. An article, “Lax Enforcement Let South Florida Towers Skirt Inspections for Years,” run July 4, exposes the extent of the crisis. In one city, Key Biscayne, the *Times* reports, the government decided to call for no extra inspections at all.

The article describes how corners were cut everywhere in a big building boom that saw 57 high-rise buildings go up on barrier islands around Miami between 1970 and 1979, and some 30 more into the late 1980s. Champlain Towers was completed in 1981.

It reports that when the towers were being built, some area developers criticized Surfside city officials for accepting campaign contributions from the owner in exchange for “helping it along.” That owner, Nathan Reiber, had left Canada and later pled guilty to tax evasion there.

Only half the amount of rebar required in the building’s design appears to have been used in the structural columns at its base, reported engineers who visited the site since the collapse.

An inspection report last year at the 19-story Bal Harbour 101 building, less than 2 miles north of where Champlain Towers stood, found serious repairs were needed on the concrete and waterproofing of its pool deck — one of the same key problems in the Surfside building.

The report, which had been due in 2018, also noted significant structural repairs were needed. Then, also as at Champlain Towers, it claimed the overall building structure was in good condition.

Delays, crises and cover-up

Residents at Champlain Towers complained often to friends and family about how the building was run. The condo board was rife with dissension, almost all of its members quitting in the year before the collapse, as needed repairs were continuously put off. While nothing was being done, the building continued to tout its benefits and make sales. Seven units closed in 2021 before the collapse, fetching record prices. Penthouse A sold in May for \$2.88 million.

Meanwhile, Surfside government officials helped condo bosses cover up problems and put off critical repairs. When engineers told the Champlain board they had key structural problems on their hands and the building needed a \$9.1 million repair, the city’s building official, Rosendo Prieto, told them not to worry, the tower was “in very good shape.”

Then residents felt the building beginning to shake as a new high-rise, called Eighty Seven Park Miami, was going up right next door. “When they were drilling for the piles, Champlain Towers was trembling,” renter Spiros Dimiropoulos said.

Concerned residents contacted Prieto, asking for the town to do something. “There is nothing for me to check,” Prieto responded, suggesting they hire someone else.

“The building is falling apart,” con-



AP/Lynne Sladky

Partly collapsed Surfside building brought down by controlled demolition, July 4. Government officials, building owners knew about structural problems for years, did nothing to fix them.

do board member Marcelo Pena wrote in an Oct. 23 letter of resignation. “Someone can seriously be injured or killed with the state of the concrete.”

The board finally hired Morabito Consultants, which had given them a report outlining the serious problems with the building in 2018, to do the repairs, now estimated to cost \$15 million. Morabito’s bid was the most expensive of any they had received.

After even more delays, by both the board and the city, the board finally submitted documents indicating the scope of needed repairs June 21, three days before the building collapsed.

Working-class solidarity

After the collapse, working-class solidarity came fast. “Neighbors brought blankets and robes. A case of water appeared; over the course of the day, dozens more were dropped off,” the *Washington Post* reported.

“Workers from a local bakery walked around with boxes of Kosher croissants, offering them to worried and exhausted people sitting on benches and curbs. A woman with a basket of fruit handed out bananas and apples to anybody who wanted one. Later in the day, local pizzerias delivered dozens of pies. Staff from nearby restaurants passed around sacks full of arepas and croquetas.

“Neighbors loaded up strollers with toys and coloring books from their homes and walked them over to keep the few children there occupied.”

“The only ones who acted in a timely way were those who brought solidarity,” Dutrow said. “This is the future — a mass working-class movements to fight to get rid of the capitalist ruling families and their government at every level and to build a new kind of society. That requires a socialist revolution.”

Marathon refinery workers return to work proud

Continued from front page

concerns, it does not address all of them,” Scott Kroona, business agent of Teamsters Local 120, told the press. Teamsters Chief Steward Dean Benson told the *Militant* that all 11 workers fired in the course of the strike were reinstated. Maintenance workers received some new job protection, while the contract did include some job combinations.

The workers voted on this revised offer after rejecting an earlier proposal June 21. Seven strikers had crossed the line after that vote.

“This has been a long battle with many twists and turns, but we’re immensely proud of our members who put their livelihood on the line to demand better working conditions and protect their community,” Kroona said.

Teamsters Local 120 members had walked out of the refinery Jan. 21 in a 24-hour strike. However, the next day they found themselves locked out by the company. They organized pickets at refinery gates. Later, after injunctions limited their picketing, they fanned out throughout the area, setting up informa-

tional pickets at Speedway gas stations, which are owned by Marathon, explaining their fight and winning solidarity.

Union members explained the refinery uses volatile chemicals, that if not handled right could explode and wreak havoc in the plant and the community. They were fighting to prevent the bosses from replacing them with less-experienced contract workers.

Scott Kroona extended thanks to all those who stepped up to support the locked-out workers. Solidarity came from the United Steelworkers, United Food and Commercial Workers, Roofers, Laborers International Union, National Association of Letter Carriers, Minnesota Nurses Union, Amalgamated Transit Union, United Auto Workers and other Teamster locals. Local 120 received donations, solidarity cards, and joined in a 70-car caravan of labor supporters and other activists.

Solidarity came from Trajabadores Unidos por la Justicia, a union of fruit packers in Washington state, that had recently won its first contract. Money and solidarity were sent from workers at several different Walmart stores.

Lance Anton, a BNSF Railway conductor, his friend Diane Dormer and retired rail worker Joe Swanson drove up from Lincoln, Nebraska, to join strikers on the picket line. They brought a letter with over 100 signatures from rail workers and others. It said, “Marathon Oil, like all bosses, tries to keep workers divided and isolated. But your fight is our fight. Working people must stick together! Stay strong!”



Militant/Kevin Dwire

Teamsters Local 120 members and their families picket Marathon Petroleum-owned gas station January 30 in St. Paul Park, Minnesota, after company locked out workers. By standing up to bosses’ concession demands and fighting for safety they won solidarity.

Capitalist rulers aim to solve gov't deficit on workers' backs

Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium by Jack Barnes is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for July. Barnes is the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. The excerpt is from the section "Bondholders and the 'National Debt'" in Chapter 4. It contrasts how workers see debt as a crushing burden while the ruling rich see owning debt as a profitable asset. Copyright © 1999 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

Yes, the U.S. rulers are worried about the budget deficit. When a government deficit remains very large as a percentage of overall production, one of two things (or some combination of the two) has to happen: either taxation will increase, or the national currency is devalued. The capitalist class does not like either one to happen.

The propertied families do not like to raise taxes — especially income or wealth-related taxes — because taxation is a deduction from surplus value, so that puts further downward pressure on their profit rates. To most workers, it seems strange to say that taxes come out of surplus value. When we look at our paystubs, it seems like a lot of



Protest in Philadelphia by retired workers against Social Security cuts in late 1980s. Rich bondholders demand government cut social wage, not profitable interest payments on government bonds, to cover rising state debts. This attack hits what working people see as a social right.

taxes come out of our wages. And that perception reflects the social reality of regressive taxation under capitalism, whereby the *form* of all sorts of levies is a very real burden on workers. Socialists are for lifting all taxes from the shoulders of working people. From the origins of the modern communist workers movement, we have advocated a steeply graduated income tax that falls only on the capitalists and better-off professional and middle classes.

Scientifically, however, most of what are usually called taxes ultimately comes out of the capitalists' surplus value. Under a given relationship of class forces between capital and labor, if the government squeezes too much from our paychecks in the form of taxes, then the capitalists simply end up over time having to raise wages in order to compensate. So, the rulers do not like to see taxation go up more than absolutely necessary to maintain a government that can act to defend the interests of their class.

The capitalists do not like to devalue the currency either. That makes it much more difficult and expensive for them to attract funds into the country that they can use as capital to make more profits for themselves and compete with their rivals.

The great bulk of the wealth of the imperialist ruling classes today is held in debt. It is hard for workers to get

comfortable with this idea, since it is so far-removed from our own experience with debt. Workers associate debt with economic pressure, not wealth. We say to ourselves: "I've got some debts. I owe MasterCard a couple of thousand dollars and my brother-in-law a few hundred bucks. What does that have to do with being wealthy?"

But alas! That is the difference between classes. That is the difference between those who live off surplus value and those whose labor produces it.

Interest-bearing bonds is the form in which the capitalists hold most of this debt. And what the bondholders fear above all is that the value of their bonds will be driven down by currency devaluation. At about the same time Abraham Lincoln was getting ready to announce the Emancipation Proclamation some 130 years ago, he started pumping out "greenbacks" — the first nationwide paper currency in U.S. history — to finance the Northern war effort. At that time, Lincoln won the agreement of northern capitalists to do so by agreeing that government bonds would be paid off in gold specie, not in devalued slips of paper. For most of the time since then, however, the coupon-clippers have had to tally their capital gains or losses in dollars, so they view currency devaluation as a theft of wealth just short of outright expropriation!

That is why farmers and small businessmen — always deep in debt — support inflationary policies and fall for the populist demagoguery of those who rail against "the cross of gold" and offer "cheap money" as the solution to the ills of the common man. Because there are two ways to get rid of debt: either pay it back, or inflate it away. If the currency is debased enough, the value of the debt dwindles to little or nothing. ...

So, the capitalist rulers are worried about the deficit and the national debt. What is of interest to the working class, however, is how they try to solve it. One of the biggest causes of the growing deficit, of course, is interest payments to the holders of U.S. Treasury bonds. The big capitalists in this country and abroad who hold that government debt are paid some \$200 billion each year, some 15 percent of the federal budget — more than all government spending on education, transportation, food stamps, housing, and aid to families with dependent children combined. But those payments will not be touched.

Instead, the capitalist parties clamp down harder and harder on the working class and increase exploitation. Above all, they are taking aim today at the social rights working people have won. As a by-product of the mass social movement that built the industrial unions in the 1930s, and then of the civil rights battles of the 1950s and 1960s, working people in the United States won the right to a minimum level of lifetime income security.

What became known as the Social Security system in the United States was the opposite of any kind of charity, which is all that most workers previously had to rely on once meager family resources were spent. It was the opposite of what is called "welfare" today — paltry sums doled out to working people on the basis of degrading means tests and invasion of privacy by so-called social workers. Social Security was something different. It was a social wage paid out over a worker's entire lifetime in the form of jobless benefits, disability pay, and a pension. ...

[T]his social wage is among the capitalists' central targets. But the rulers find it politically difficult to attack these gains head-on, since tens of millions of working people, and many in the middle classes, now consider these gains to be universal social rights.

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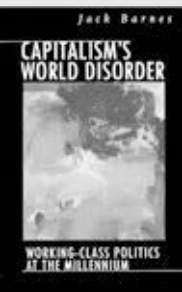
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Join the SWP campaigning for a future truly worth living

Statement by Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh mayor, July 7.

Striking steelworkers at Allegheny Technologies Inc. and autoworkers at Volvo Trucks in Virginia are discussing tentative deals reached by their unions. Oil refinery workers locked out by bosses at Marathon in Minnesota just returned to work, after standing their ground in defense of their safety and for the communities surrounding the plant. Each of the fights waged by these workers sets an example to millions of working people looking for ways to take on employers' attacks.

With a virtual news blackout by the bosses' press, spreading the word about the strike by coal miners at Warrior Met in Alabama is crucial for winning solidarity and turning up the pressure on the mine bosses.

Whatever immediate gains workers register in our struggles, the real fruit is the confidence we gain in ourselves and our fellow workers. Class-struggle experience teaches our interests are irreconcilable with those of the bosses and the Democratic and Republican parties that serve them. In a system based on exploitation, it is through revolutionary struggle that workers can extract some concessions and gain more confidence and class consciousness.

It will take more extensive workplace battles and organizing drives — struggles the crisis of capitalism is preparing — to end the retreat of our unions and forge the fighting social movement workers need.

Employers have the bit in their mouth today, taking advantage of every division among us to drive down wages and put the crisis of their capitalist system onto our backs. Central to this is fueling competition among workers for jobs. It is imperative for our unions to advance a program to counter unemployment.

That's why the Socialist Workers Party urges unions to organize all workers to get vaccinated. This is crucial for our safety, for ending COVID-19 and for getting workers together in every mine, mill, factory, warehouse and retail outlet, where we can join together in action to defend our interests.

Our unions need to fight for a government-funded national public works program to put millions back to work now, at union-scale pay, to build houses, hospitals, schools and other essentials working people use. Our unions should fight for 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to spread the work around, with no cut in pay.

Rising prices are eroding the value of our wages. Protection from capitalism's periodic bouts of inflation can be won by fighting for regular cost-of-living

adjustments in every contract and for all benefits, including government programs like Social Security, so that every time prices go up, our wages rise to cover it.

A fighting union movement will draw together with it farmers, shopkeepers, housewives and other consumers into price committees, to demand the bosses open their books, to show all that the cause of inflation is not workers' wage demands but the capitalists' drive to maximize profits. These committees would fight to wrest control over the fixing of all prices.

Workers and farmers can organize to defend ourselves today, like the strikers we support are doing. This way we lay the foundation for future struggles and for building a movement of millions to overturn capitalist rule and establish a workers and farmers government. This is the most powerful tool we can wield to take control of the factories, land and banks out of the hands of the capitalists and into our own. In the course of the struggle, as Malcolm X explained, we see our own self-worth, clean ourselves up and become different people, capable of changing the world.

Making a socialist revolution opens the road to ending exploitation and oppression once and for all. Join the SWP in campaigning for a future truly worth living.

More graves of Indigenous children found in Canada, fueling protests

Continued from front page

like institutions, administered for the government by the Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and United churches. Behind their walls, the children were prevented from speaking their Native language, suffered malnutrition, disease, forced labor, and physical and sexual abuse. Previous estimates that more than 4,000 of these "students" died or disappeared will almost certainly turn out to be conservative. There are about 80,000 living survivors.

At a demonstration of 10,000 in London, Ontario, Delbert Riley, a member of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, said he was sent to the Mohawk Institute, the residential school of the Six Nations of the Grand River, when he was 5 or 6 years old. "It was horrific. I was lucky to get out alive," he told the *London Free Press*.

In the Montreal protest, Dennis Saganash, a Cree from Waswanipi and a residential school survivor, wore an orange shirt with the words "Bring Uncle John home" written on it. His uncle had never returned from his first year at a residential school in Ontario.

Ottawa to blame, not 'all Canadians'

Campaigning door to door in London July 2, Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal, distributed a statement by her running mate, Philippe Tessier, a Canadian National Railway conductor and CL candidate for mayor of the Montreal borough of Ville Saint-Laurent. It is headlined: "Reject Trudeau's attempt to blame 'all Canadians' for Canada's rulers' crimes. Ottawa: Act now to provide the jobs and services Indigenous people need!"

"Following the discovery of the graves, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called for 'reconciliation' between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people," and blamed "all Canadians" for the killings, Tessier said. The government tried to shift the blame solely onto the churches that administered the schools, demanding an apology from the pope. This "is designed to cover up the reality that it is the capitalist system and its governments, including Trudeau's that are the root cause."

Trudeau's campaign has helped generate a wave of arson and other diversionary attacks on churches across the country. As of July 1, at least 14 Catholic churches had been set on fire or vandalized.

"The rulers seek to profit by fostering divisions among working people and undermining working-



Thousands joined annual protest for Indigenous rights July 1 in Montreal. Protest grew from outrage over discovery of mass graves of children.

one-quarter of Indigenous people who live in urban centers live below the government's poverty line, double the figure for the rest of the population. Some 53% of First Nations children on reserves live below the poverty line, triple the national average.

The suicide rate for Indigenous people is three times that of the general population and even higher for Indigenous youth between 15 and 24 years of age.

Dozens of First Nations communities haven't had access to safe drinking and bathing water for at least a year. While 5% of Canada's population of 38 million, Indigenous people make up about one-third of the federal prison population.

Emergency gov't measures needed

"The fact that thousands of people came out into the streets yesterday to support the struggles of Indigenous people shows that working people increasingly oppose racism in all its forms," Bernardo told Farooq Chishti, when she knocked on his door to introduce the Communist League campaign. "The residential schools were part of the drive by Canada's capitalist rulers to forcibly assimilate the Indigenous population. It is in the interests of all working people to support Indigenous people fighting for their rights."

class solidarity," says the Communist League statement. "The oppression of Native people is not something that just happened in the past; it remains the reality they face today."

According to the 2016 census, despite being 7% of the youth population, 52% of children in foster care today are Indigenous. "Children are still being separated from their communities. Foster care is the new residential school system. The suicide epidemic [among Native youth] is the new form of Indigenous genocide," Mumilaaq Qaqqaq, the Inuit Member of Parliament for the territory of Nunavut, said June 4.

Prior to the pandemic the unemployment rate of the off-reserve Indigenous population was 10%, nearly double the Canadian average. Today,

"I was shocked to see the killing of children," Chishti said. "These schools were doing the government's job."

In May there were 1.96 million officially unemployed. "Workers and our unions need to fight for a government-funded public works program to generate jobs — building houses and hospitals and providing services working people badly need," the Communist League statement says.

"As part of this effort," Tessier says, "We also need to fight for affirmative action measures and training for Indigenous people to ensure they have access to union-scale jobs. These are crucial steps toward working-class unity and the building of a labor party that can fight for a workers and farmers government, a powerful tool working people can use to end all forms of racism, oppression and exploitation."

Thank you to contributors to Militant Fighting Fund

July 7, 2021

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all our readers who generously contributed to the Militant Fighting Fund. This was run in conjunction with the 2021 spring circulation campaigns for the *Militant* newspaper and books by revolutionary leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and other working-class authors. Thanks to numerous donations like yours, the Militant Fighting Fund collected \$157,895, well over the goal of \$145,000.

The only source of revenue to put out this unique working-class weekly is from the political and financial support from working people like yourself.

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