

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

The fight to end oppression of Indigenous peoples in Canada
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 85/NO. 31 AUGUST 23, 2021

California fire catastrophe is a product of capitalist greed

BY JEFF POWERS

PARADISE, Calif. — High winds and extremely dry vegetation are fueling the Dixie Fire that has grown to burn over 450,000 acres — twice the size of New York City and the second-largest fire in California history. The historic town of Greenville has been completely incinerated and several other towns in the area are threatened. Cal Fire says the blaze is only 21% contained, down from 35% a few days ago, as it continues to grow. Unhealthy, smoky haze from the fire has poisoned skies from Denver to Philadelphia.

“PG&E is culpable,” Julie Whited, who now lives in the nearby town of Live Oak, told the *Militant* by phone Aug. 7. Utility officials admit that employees saw sparks from their equipment set a tree on fire near here, the likely cause of the Dixie Fire.

In 2018 Whited lost everything she owned. Her home here, along with almost all of the town, was burned to the ground in the Camp Fire, the deadliest

Continued on page 9

‘Workers need to build a party to lead fight for political power’

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Socialist Workers Party candidates and campaign supporters are taking the party’s working-class politics far and wide, exchanging views and experiences with working people on their doorsteps, at strike picket lines and social protests.

Workers and farmers are seeking ways we can get together to defend ourselves and overcome divisions bosses try to use to weaken us. SWP campaigners explain why it is necessary, above all, to build a revolutionary party that can lead millions to overturn capitalist rule, establish our own workers and farmers government, and carry through a socialist revolution.

Miners “work too hard to get out the coal,” Kenny Hyche, a retired auto mechanic, told Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey, and campaigner Susan LaMont when they knocked on his door in a mobile home

Continued on page 3

Back labor battles by miners, oil workers!



Reuters/Dustin Chambers

Striking Warrior Met miners and supporters at Aug. 4 rally in Brookwood, Alabama. “Strike isn’t mostly about money,” miner told the *Militant*. It’s about time with our families and dignity.

Texas refinery workers fight ExxonMobil bosses’ lockout

BY ALYSON KENNEDY AND GEORGE CHALMERS

DALLAS — Some 650 oil workers, members of United Steelworkers Local 13-243, have been locked out of their jobs at the ExxonMobil Refinery and Lubricant Blending and Packaging plant in Beaumont, Texas, for over three months. They’ve maintained picket lines 24/7 since they refused to accept a contract that would give up long-standing seniority rights and divide workers by creating different contracts covering the refinery and the lubricant plant.

The lockout began May 1, when the bosses escorted workers out of the com-

Continued on page 5

Rally backs miners strike against Warrior Met Coal

BY SUSAN LAMONT

BROOKWOOD, Ala. — Shouts of “No contract, no coal!” and “One day longer, one day stronger!” rang out from the Brookwood Ball Park Aug. 4 as striking miners and union supporters from surrounding states — more than 1,500 in all — rallied to show support for the 1,100 miners on strike against Warrior Met Coal here.

“The rally today was great,” striking

Continued on page 5

Working people, youth mobilize to defend socialist revolution in Cuba



Juventud Rebelde/Roberto Suárez

Students, workers, farmers discuss road forward with Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel in Havana Aug. 5. Gov’t is organizing to take on economic challenges, impact of U.S. embargo.

BY SETH GALINSKY

President Joseph Biden announced July 30 that Washington plans to “increase pressure” on Cuba. Since Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement led Cuban workers and farmers to make a socialist revolution over 60 years ago, every U.S. president, Democrat and Republican alike, has carried on a relentless economic and political war against the Cuban people.

To justify his threats, Biden and the liberal media are pushing the lie that the Cuban government responded with “violence and repression” to July 11 protests there.

In fact, those actions — which in some cases included looting and violent attacks on supporters of the revolution — were orchestrated by counterrevolutionaries in collaboration

Continued on page 6

‘Fight new Texas law that restricts women’s right to choose abortion!’

BY JANET POST

Unless it is overturned, legislation that would ban almost all abortions in Texas after six weeks of pregnancy will go into effect Sept. 1. Unlike similar “heartbeat laws” adopted in other states — which have been challenged and ruled unconstitutional — the Texas law authorizes any individual who chooses, as well as the state, to take far-reaching steps to enforce it.

It allows any person to go after doctors, nurses, clinic volunteers and counselors, family members or anyone who helps a woman obtain an abortion or raise funds to cover the procedure. Those found “guilty” would face a fine of at least \$10,000.

Continued on page 9

On anniversary of port explosion, workers protest crisis in Lebanon

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Tens of thousands of protesters rallied against the Lebanese government in central Beirut Aug. 4 on the first anniversary of a huge explosion that killed over 200 people, injured 7,000 and forced a quarter of a million from their homes. They demanded those

Continued on page 3

Inside

Woolworth sit-ins opened new stage in ‘60s civil rights fight 2

Cecelia Moriarity, 45 years as an SWP cadre 4

Gen. Armando Choy, lifelong Chinese Cuban revolutionary 6

—On the picket line, p. 4—

Puerto Rican truckers win gains in two-day strike

Woolworth sit-ins opened new stage in 1960s civil rights fight

BY TERRY EVANS

"The best feeling of my life was sitting on that dumb stool," Frank McCain said, describing the moment he and three other Black students sat down at a "whites-only" lunch counter at a Woolworth's in Greensboro, North Carolina, Feb. 1, 1960. "Nothing has ever happened to me since then that topped that good feeling of being clean and fully accepted and feeling proud of me," he told a meeting celebrating the sit-ins 50th anniversary.

Their action launched a powerful social movement that was to sweep the country over the next year, lead to desegregation of lunch counters at Woolworth's and other establishments, and marked the entry of a new generation into the fight to overthrow Jim Crow.

McCain described how any initial anxiety he had vanished and the four men, all studying at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College, refused to move from their seats. The night before McCain, Ezell Blair, Joseph McNeil and David Richmond finished planning their protest, propelled by "that little bit of courage that each of us instilled in each other."

Some customers racially abused the four students. Sitting a few stools down was an older Caucasian woman who eyed them with what McCain took to be a "suspicious look." But when she walked behind McCain and McNeil, she put her hands on their shoulders and said, "Boys, I am so proud of you. I only regret you didn't do this 10 years ago."

"What I learned from that little incident," McCain said, is "don't you ever, ever stereotype anybody in this

life until you at least experience them and have the opportunity to talk to them. I'm even more cognizant of that today," he told NPR in 2008.

The next day, the four men returned with 15 other students. Within five days 1,000 were trying to squeeze into the store to demand desegregation.

Across the country young people, Black and Caucasian, seized on the example set by the students. By April lunch counter sit-ins had spread all across the South and support actions all across the North.

Sensing the widespread support they could win, the young people who joined sit-ins refused to back down when the cops, courts and Ku Klux Klan attacked their fight. "You don't ask permission to make a revolution," McCain told several hundred people at the Greensboro event marking the 50th anniversary of the sit-ins. It also marked the opening of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum on the site of what had been the Woolworth's store.

When 35 students at Alabama State College in Montgomery were arrested after sitting in at the lunch counter of the county courthouse, Gov. John Patterson ordered their expulsion from college and banned students from demonstrating there. The next day a rally of 300 at the college adopted a resolution saying, "If one student is expelled the entire student body will resign," reported the March 7, 1960, *Militant*.

Cops arrested over 80 students at a sit-in at a McClellan's store in Nashville, Tennessee, in February. Over 3,000 students turned up at their trial to protest the arrests. Two months later rightist



Inset, Jack Moebes April 1960 *Young Socialist* campaigns to build mass protest movement that won desegregation at Woolworth's. Inset, Frank McCain in February 1960, who with three fellow Black students began sit-in movement in North Carolina.



gangs attacked students joining sit-ins in the same city, but the protests continued.

By the summer, 100,000 Black and Caucasian students in the South alone had joined sit-ins demanding to be served. In July Woolworth's owners announced it would desegregate.

The *Militant*, Socialist Workers Party and newly founded Young Socialist Alliance joined the protests and campaigned for support nationwide.

To build on the success of the sit-ins, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was founded in Raleigh, North Carolina, in the fall of 1960. It played a leading role in the Freedom Rides the following year, the

Freedom Summer in 1964 and struggles all over the South.

Malcolm X explained that the key to awakening Blacks and other revolutionary-minded fighters was not to stress their oppression, but to help them recognize their self-worth. You could see this in the sanitation workers strike in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968, where strikers wore signs saying "I Am a Man," a strike that helped galvanize the final consolidation of the defeat of Jim Crow.

McCain explained how this happened to him. "I felt as though I had gained my manhood, so to speak. And not only gained it, but had developed quite a lot of respect for it."

THE MILITANT

Iran protests shake counterrevolutionary regime

Hundreds joined protests in Iran in July, which spread to Tehran by end of the month, against water and power shortages and Iran's clerical rulers. The *'Militant'* covers popular protests against regime's military expansion in the region, an extension of counterrevolution at home.



Protests in Arab Khuzestan province in Iran in mid-July hit regime's water, power cuts.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

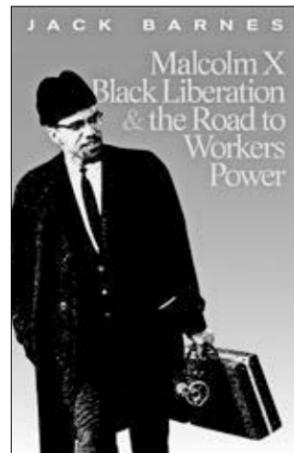
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018. OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT: WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)



Malcolm X, Black Liberation, & the Road to Workers Power

"This is a book about the dictatorship of capital and the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat. A book about the last century and a half of class struggle in the United States ... and the unimpeachable evidence it offers that workers who are Black will comprise a disproportionately weighty part of the ranks and leadership of the mass social movement that will make a proletarian revolution." — Jack Barnes

\$20. Also in Spanish, French, Greek, Farsi, Arabic

See list of distributors on page 8 or visit www.pathfinderpress.com

The Militant

Vol. 85/No. 31

Closing news date: August 11, 2021

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Martin Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January.

Business Manager: Valerie Johnson

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194 Australia.

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

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

'Workers need to build a party'

Continued from front page

park in Cottondale, Alabama, Aug. 3.

He agreed with Kuniansky when she said workers need to fight for control over production and safety. Hyche is a supporter of the strike by members of the United Mine Workers at nearby Warrior Met Coal. He knew about the strikers' solidarity rally that LaMont and Kuniansky were going to join the next day.

"My son-in-law was killed at the No. 5 mine when the explosion happened

in 2001," Hyche said. Thirteen miners were killed. "Miners and other workers must be able to refuse to work if conditions are unsafe," Kuniansky said.

"It's important for workers to get vaccinated and our unions should organize to encourage and help workers to do so," the SWP candidate added. "We need to get back to work, so we can organize together and fight to improve our conditions."

"That's right," Hyche said with a smile. "It feels good to go to work, instead of just sitting at home alone, worrying about how to pay your bills."

Kuniansky showed Hyche the statement she recently released, "For unconditional recognition of Israel! Protest every time Jew-hatred raises its head!" which is available on the *Militant's* website. "The Jews have been going through a lot for years and years," he said. He decided to subscribe to the *Militant*.

Profits from pandemic

"We could have prevented the spread of the virus if we had vaccinated everyone earlier and given the vaccine to poor countries around the world," high school student Marcus Connelly told Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, as Richter campaigned Aug. 5 near the entrance of a Los Angeles Walmart where he used to work.

"Those in power don't think like you and me," Richter said. "They have different



Militant/Josefina Otero

Dennis Richter, right, SWP candidate for governor of California, talks with high school student Marcus Connelly at L.A. Walmart Aug. 5. Connelly said U.S. government should have made sure everyone could get vaccinated and jabs were given "to poor countries around the world."

morals. They prioritize making a profit out of everything, including a pandemic. The opposite is the case in revolutionary Cuba, where the government has produced effective vaccines and offered to share them with other countries."

Connelly told Richter his brother had been fired from a fast-food restaurant after breaking his arm on the job. "We need to rebuild the union movement," Richter said. "A union with its members involved in the fight to work safely can make the slogan 'No worker has to be injured or killed on the job' a reality."

"And we can fight together to raise wages," the SWP candidate said, "and win cost-of-living raises," so that our wages automatically go up to match every price increase.

James Jones, a member of Carpenters Union Local 213, talked with Richter about the need for workers to build and strengthen our unions.

Standing nearby was Michael Reed, a retired mechanic. "I liked what I heard you say to those fellows about unions," he told Richter. SWP candidates don't

say, "I'll take care of everything," Richter told him. "The only time we win anything is when we rely on our own strength. The trade unions have great power, if we organize to use them, and act independently of the capitalists' parties."

Many, including two former Walmart co-workers of Richter signed cards to endorse the SWP campaign and eight people got copies of the *Militant*.

Richter is the only working-class candidate among 46 certified for the ballot in the Sept. 14 election. By luck of the draw, Richter's picture and biography come first in the candidates guide printed by the state.

David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council in Minneapolis' Ward 12, reports that he and Doug Nelson, SWP candidate for mayor, have been placed on the ballot.

The party is opening a new storefront campaign headquarters in Northeast Minneapolis.

To find out more or to join the SWP campaigns, contact the party branch nearest you. See directory on page 8.



Front page of online edition of NJTODAY Aug. 11 covers Socialist Workers Party campaign of Joanne Kuniansky, at right, for governor. She joined rally in Brookwood, Alabama, of Warrior Met miners on strike Aug. 4. Article explains what the miners' strike, now in its fifth month, is about, quoting from interviews with miners taken from the United Mine Workers union website.

On anniversary of port explosion, workers protest social crisis in Lebanon

Continued from front page

responsible be held to account.

Security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets as protesters tried to enter the heavily barricaded downtown area.

The massive detonation occurred after 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate caught fire. Authorities stored the highly flammable material in a port warehouse near densely populated areas for six years. No evacuation warnings were issued when the fire started.

"We don't want any politician who is responsible for this blast to be in the government," Tatiana Hasrouly, whose father was killed in the explosion, told Al Jazeera.

"Until now, we have nothing because they are not lifting immunity" from prosecution, she said. "All we can do is protest, let them fear us more."

Reflecting demonstrators' anger toward the government, a huge banner hung over five floors of a nearby high-rise. It read, "Here starts your end and our beginning."

Shortly after the blast the government resigned. The Lebanese rulers have been unable to overcome differences to put together anything more than caretaker administrations since.

Hezbollah, with a powerful militia backed by the rulers of Iran, is part of the Lebanese government. It has used Beirut's port to store weapons it receives from its sponsors in Tehran. The Iranian rulers have intervened across the Middle East to extend their counterrevolutionary influence, targeting rival Arab regimes and threatening to destroy Israel.

Working people and youth in Lebanon have joined mass anti-government protests since October 2019, demanding jobs, a halt to government corruption and an end to Tehran's interference. They also called for the elimination of

the sectarian political system in which parties claiming to speak for the largest religious denominations — Shiites, Sunnis and Maronite Christians — divide the top government posts among themselves. Protests have been organized across the country, including in predominantly Shiite southern Lebanon where Hezbollah is based.

Working people hardest hit by crisis

Working people have joined anti-government actions as hyperinflation has topped 400% for food and the Lebanese pound crashed to less than 10% of its former value. The price of meat is out of reach of many workers while there are severe shortages of fuel, medicines and food. Electricity blackouts are lengthening, leaving just one hour of power in most areas. The monthly minimum wage has plunged from \$450 to \$35.

Some from the middle classes escape the crisis by emigrating. An exodus of doctors, nurses and teachers has hit hospitals and schools. Already overwhelmed by the pandemic, hospitals now face shutdowns from extended power blackouts.

A one-day work stoppage, called by the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers with backing of some of the country's capitalist parties, was held June 17. Union officials demanded the caretaker government halt plans

to cut subsidies on essential goods.

Hezbollah launched 19 rockets at Israel Aug. 6. Three fell back into Lebanon, 10 were shot down by Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile defense system and the rest landed on open ground in Israel's north.

In a meeting with Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Naim Qassem, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi welcomed the assault on Israel.

The Israeli military retaliated with a round of artillery fire and airstrikes directed at rocket launch sites in uninhabited areas of Lebanon, the first such air attack there since 2014. There were no injuries on either side.

Corrections

In the Aug. 16 *Militant*, the On the Picket Line article "Aluminum Workers Strike Rio Tinto in Canada" should have said the union is demanding that younger workers be put into more secure defined benefit pension plans instead of the defined contribution plan that's less costly for the bosses.

The article "D.C. Protest: End US Gov't Economic War Against Cuba!" in the same issue should have said that Omari Musa spoke to the rally as a representative of the DC Metro Coalition in Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution.

**New York march/caravan
Decolonization for
Puerto Rico
No to Statehood
Sun. Aug. 15, 1 p.m.**

from 149th St. & 3rd Ave. Bronx to People's Church, 111th St. & Lexington Ave, El Barrio
For more info: elfrentep.org/blog

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

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

Cecelia Moriarity, 45 years as a Socialist Workers Party cadre

BY EDWIN FRUIT

SEATTLE — Over 40 people attended a meeting here Aug. 1 to celebrate the rich political life of Socialist Workers Party member Cecelia Moriarity. A 45-year cadre of the communist movement, Moriarity died July 23 at age 74.

Over 30 messages from comrades and friends in the U.S. and around the world were sent to the meeting, including letters from the leaderships of Communist Leagues in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

“Cecelia was an excellent SWP candidate for public office. She ran for governor in Utah and Pennsylvania, and was a local candidate in Washington state,” explained Mary Martin, organizer of the branch here over many years. “She was effective in presenting the program of the party to working people, and she never hesitated taking on the attacks by the state against the SWP campaign.”

This included the “successful fight last fall to prevent the state, prodded by liberal forces, from disclosing the personal information of electors who had signed up to put the SWP presidential slate on the ballot in Washington state,” she said. A fight that won the support of the state teachers’ union, which is under attack by anti-union forces using similar “disclosure” laws to force out personal information on union members.

Martin also worked with Moriarity in Charleston, West Virginia, in the late 1980s. She said Moriarity always drew together workers’ experiences and struggles in this country with the fight of workers abroad. “Cecelia gave a forum on the Bhopal chemical plant disaster in India where hundreds of people died as a result of Union Carbide bosses’ criminal neglect,” she said. “Cecelia carefully studied what led up to the disaster in order to be able to explain in detail what had happened and draw the parallels with the fight for safety and workers control of production on the job in this country.”

There were attractive displays prepared for the meeting on the activities of the Socialist Workers Party and Moriarity defending the Cuban Revolution; mobilizing solidarity with the toilers in Nicaragua, Grenada and Iran from 1979 through the 1980s; and on involvement in labor battles and social movements like the fight for women’s rights. These events in the class struggle profoundly influenced Moriarity in her decision to join the SWP. The last 20 years of Moriarity’s political activity was in the Seattle branch of the party. She participated in many battles by working people and was well-known by longshore workers, farm hands and packinghouse workers because of her long record building solidarity for labor struggles.

Confidence in the working class

“Cecelia Moriarity had an unshakable confidence in the working class,” said Paul Mailhot, who spoke at the meeting on behalf of the Political Committee of the SWP. “To be a communist you have to be inspired by the capacities and potential of the working class — the only class that has no material interest in the exploitation of others; the only class that is capable of leading the struggle of all toilers to overthrow the exploitative system we live under and take power into our own hands.”

Moriarity joined the SWP as the party was turning to developments in the labor movement and among the oppressed around the world that opened new possibilities to build a communist party in the United States deeply rooted in the working class.

She went to work as an aircraft machinist and helped get her union, the International Association of Machinists, to educate its members on affirmative action, especially around the Weber case. Brian Weber was a Caucasian worker in Louisiana who challenged the United Steelworkers union in court to try and stop programs it had fought for to open up jobs to Black and women workers that had previously been denied them. The SWP championed the union’s actions, explaining they helped unify working people.

In the early 1980s Moriarity moved to Price, Utah, to help set up a branch there and get a job in coal mining. As part of the Coal Employment Project, a trailblazing organization that helped women to break into the coal industry, Moriarity was part of strengthening the United Mine Workers of America union.

Wilberg coal mine disaster in Utah

In a message to the meeting, Joel Britton from Oakland, California, who helped lead the party’s work in the unions at the time, wrote, “Members of the Socialist Workers Party aspire to be ‘blood and bone’ with fellow working people in struggle. I know of no better example of this than that of Cecelia Moriarity when faced with the disastrous fire in 1984 at the Wilberg mine in Utah where she was employed.

“Cecelia joined with members of her UMWA local and other miners in the rescue and relief efforts as the deadly fire raged.

Puerto Rican truckers win gains in two-day strike

BY SETH GALINSKY

Thousands of independent owner operator truck drivers and some trucking companies ended a two-day work stoppage July 22 after the Puerto Rican government agreed to extend for at least a year a 35% increase in mileage and hauling rates temporarily approved in December. This is the first major rate increase drivers have won in at least 15 years.

With no freight railroads on the island almost all merchandise, fuel and raw materials are delivered by truck. By the second day of the stoppage, more than 200 gas stations had run out of fuel.

“Now the challenge is to enforce the rates,” Félix Narváez, president of Camiones Unidos (United Trucks), an association of independent owner operators, told the *Militant*. The association is a member of the Broad Front of Truckers of Puerto Rico, which called the stoppage.

While some companies increased their rates, “they are still not paying the rates agreed to,” he said.

It will be easier for the owners of semi tractor-trailers, which haul bigger loads from the docks to the warehouses, to enforce the new rates. It’s the owners of the smaller “box trucks,” which make deliveries to markets, hospitals and small businesses, who will have the hardest time getting the bosses to pay



Militant/Mary Martin

Cecelia Moriarity showing *Militant*, books by Socialist Workers Party leaders, other revolutionaries to Darralita Taylor in Seattle in 2013. She explained *Militant* was uncompromising.

“Along with another miner, she wrote articles for the *Militant* that have stood the test of time, having been reprinted several times as part of insisting, ‘No miner has to die’ as a result of mine bosses’ criminal disregard for safety.”

Mailhot said the SWP recently held a national conference in Ohio under a banner that read “Leading the Working Class to Take Power,” and urging workers to “Join the Socialist Workers Party!” and “Build the Communist Vanguard!” This is the only way forward for humanity, he said.

“The Wilberg mine disaster is one of the consequences of capitalist rule. An unrelenting drive for profits cost the lives of 27 people in that fire,” said Mailhot. “Capitalism is an entire system built on that same life-destroying course.

“It is a system that sent more than 100,000 miners to their deaths in coal-mining accidents over the past century. It is a system that sent millions to be slaughtered in the first and second imperialist World Wars; it is the system responsible for the annihilation of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust.”

“I remember listening when Ce-

celia was selling the *Militant* to someone who questioned the paper’s name,” wrote Charlene Adamson to the meeting. “She said that we call it the *Militant* because ‘being militant simply means being uncompromising in your principles, and that she was.

“She lived with strength, grace and conviction.”

Meeting organizers asked participants to contribute generously to the Socialist Workers Party in Moriarity’s honor. It had been a matter of pride for Moriarity that she was able to contribute a government “stimulus” check of \$600 to the *Militant* in February. Her note with the check said, “I am so happy to be sending this donation, to help make sure nothing stands in the way of the *Militant*’s unparalleled coverage of the working class.”

Party supporters organized to lay out some delicious main course dishes, desserts and refreshments, which contributed to the success of the meeting. Over \$2,200 was raised in the collection, a testament to Moriarity and the Socialist Workers Party, the party she dedicated herself to build to the end of her life.

the agreed minimum, Narváez said.

“Many companies have never paid the legal rates. We are paid so little sometimes we say, ‘Fixing that tire can wait a week. I have to buy food for my family.’” Narváez owns three box trucks. “I’ve had to take out loans just to keep the trucks running,” he said.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Merchandise, Industry and Food Distribution denounced the rate increase.

There are over 40,000 “independent” trucks registered with the Puerto Rican government. The overwhelming majority, Narváez said, are owned by independent owner operators who have from one to five trucks. Some of the truckers in the Broad Front own 100 trucks.

The agreement won by the drivers was a slap in the face to the Financial Oversight and Management Board — imposed on the people of Puerto Rico by then-President Barack Obama in 2016 and continued by every president since. On the eve of the stoppage, Board General Counsel Jaime El Koury warned the Transport Bureau of Puerto Rico that the rate increase is “not in compliance” with the board’s fiscal plan, demanding the government put it on hold.

The board was created with dictatorial power over the fiscal affairs of the Puerto Rican government to ensure maximum payment to bondholders by

slashing government programs and making working people pay for the economic crisis — making it even clearer that Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony.

“Our fight has exposed that the board is defending the interests of the big companies,” Carlos Rodríguez, organization secretary of the Broad Front, said by phone Aug. 6.

“The union movement here needs a boost,” he said. “We hope that what we are doing can motivate other compañeros.”

More than 90% of workers in Puerto Rico do not belong to a union, especially at the large pharmaceutical factories that dot the island. Many of those workers only get the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

Meanwhile, members of International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1740 ended their strike against Luis Ayala Colón company at the San Juan Port Aug. 5. That strike began July 17. The company handles 80% of maritime freight in Puerto Rico that comes from countries outside the U.S.

The strike began when the company tried to force forklift operators to keep track of their loads on computer tablets, giving bosses a tool to speed up work. The company agreed to assign that work to a unionized checker for 45 days while negotiations continue. The strike caused a backlog of some 9,500 containers.

Rally backs miners strike

Continued from front page

United Mine Workers of America member Kenneth Hoobler told the *Militant*. “We really needed it! This strike isn’t mainly about money. It’s about your life, your days off, being able to be with your family.” An underground electrician at the No. 4 mine, Hoobler and his fellow miners have been on strike since April 1. They maintain round-the-clock picket lines at two mines, No. 4 and No. 7, and a preparation plant and central shops.

“It’s about the younger generation of miners too,” added Hoobler’s wife, Deborah. “If the company gets away with this, conditions will be much worse for the younger miners coming up.”

Hundreds of other unionists, including retired UMWA members, came from Alabama, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee and Texas to back strikers’ fight to improve wages, benefits, working conditions and dignity on the job.

Many unions were represented at the rally, including the United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, Teamsters, American Federation of Teachers, Communications Workers of America, government worker unions AFSCME and AFGE, the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, and others.

“This is not just a fight for the coal miners,” said International Longshoremen’s Association leader Mark Bass, speaking to the *Militant* at the ILA’s big canopy. “This is a fight for unions and workers throughout the country.” Bass, president of ILA Local 1410 in Mobile, was one of some 60 longshore workers who came from Charleston, South Carolina; Jacksonville, Florida; and Mobile to support the Warrior Met miners.

“We’re committed to you,” Ken Riley, ILA Local 1422 president in Charleston, South Carolina, told rally participants from the stage. “We are committed to winning this strike.” ILA members lined up in front of the stage as Riley spoke, wearing beautiful blue and white T-shirts they had made for the rally, reading “United in struggle.”

UMWA President Cecil Roberts was the featured speaker, joined on the platform by labor officials from other

unions. Applause and cheers greeted Roberts’ praise of the auxiliary organized by miners’ wives that provides food, diapers, cleaning supplies and other necessities to strikers’ families.

Spread the word about this strike!

“When you go back to Kentucky or wherever you came here from,” Roberts told the crowd, “we ask you to spread the word about this strike!”

The mood of the crowd was upbeat, as workers from different unions mixed it up throughout the day, talking with Brookwood strikers and participants from other unions and states.

“When we read Warrior Met’s contract offer after we’d been on strike a few days, we were outraged,” UMWA striker Bryan Butler told Allen Lang, a retired Ford worker and UAW member from Louisville, Kentucky. “The company offered a \$1.50 an hour wage increase over five years, only five paid holidays, a terrible attendance policy! We walked out of the meeting. Now Warrior Met is giving scabs a \$1,500 hiring bonus and weekends off!”

“They’re giving the scabs what you should be getting!” replied Lang.

Union members had been working since 2016 under a concession contract forced on the union, after the mines’ previous owner, Jim Walter Resources, went bankrupt.

With the aid of a capitalist bankruptcy court, BlackRock and other billionaire creditors set up Warrior Met Coal and took over mine operations, promising they would give miners back what they gave up to make the company profitable.

Along with a \$6-an-hour pay cut, miners’ health care costs were increased from a \$12 co-pay to a \$1,500 deductible. Extra overtime pay for Sundays and holidays was eliminated; 13 annual paid holidays were cut to three; a harsh attendance policy was instituted, along with no cap on forced overtime; and other concessions. The cuts add up \$1.1 billion in losses for the workers over the last five years, the union calculates.

Warrior Met is a top U.S. producer of metallurgical coal for the global steel industry. They reported profits in both quarters of 2021, as the COVID pan-



Militant/Susan LaMont

Members of International Longshoremen’s Association from three East Coast ports join miners’ rally in Alabama Aug. 4, pledge to spread word, build support for hard-fought strike.

demically eased and coal prices have risen.

Support for the strike is growing, as news of this union battle spreads and the stakes become clearer to more working people, especially union members.

“The outcome of this strike is important and not just for miners,” said Alyson Kennedy, who used to work as an underground coal miner in the Brookwood mines. Kennedy, who came to the rally from Dallas, was the Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate in 2020. “There are only two other unionized mines left in Alabama, besides Warrior Met. The mine bosses there are watching carefully what happens in Brookwood. Steelworkers in this area also have contracts coming up.”

The union has organized weekly solidarity rallies at Tannehill State Park in nearby McCalla since shortly after the strike began. These draw strikers and their families, UMWA retirees, community groups backing the strike, national union leaders and others.

The union’s strike fund grows by the day, winning contributions from many UMWA locals and districts, other unions, and AFL-CIO affiliates, as well as from individuals and Walmart workers in several locations. New contributions were announced from the stage at the Aug. 4 rally. The union is paying benefits to the strikers and covering some health insurance costs.

The UMWA has also organized two

picket lines at the offices of BlackRock in New York City in recent weeks. The latest protest on July 28 drew hundreds of UMWA members, including strikers from Alabama, and unionists from New York and New Jersey. BlackRock is Warrior Met’s largest shareholder.

Tension on the picket lines has been growing, as the company continues to bus in scabs and management personnel to mine coal at the No. 7 mine. Some miners report a small number of union members have crossed the line. On several occasions, miners or supporters have been hit by scabs’ vehicles driven in a way to deliberately hurt pickets.

Support and solidarity are needed. 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, McCalla, AL 35111. Email: umwadistrict20@bellsouth.net.

Maggie Trowe from Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this article.

Refinery lockout

Continued from front page
pany’s third-largest U.S. refinery. The company is trying to keep operations going, using managers and replacement workers. The complex produces gasoline and Mobil 1 motor oil.

On June 25 company officials reported they had suffered an “operation upset” that required them to release 1,600 pounds of emissions into the air, more than half of which cause “irritation and breathing issues.”

The company “wants to eliminate seniority and the A-operator job, which carries a lot of responsibility,” Ruben Garza, USW District Council 13 director, told the *Militant*. “The A-operator can stop the line when safety is involved.” ExxonMobil wants to eliminate these jobs. With seniority under attack, safety is a major issue.

The company says it needs the contract changes to “give it the flexibility to be profitable in low-margin environments,” reports Reuters. The fact is ExxonMobil has reported \$7.4 billion in profits for the first half of 2021.

On June 21 the USW filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board saying that ExxonMobil is “locking employees out based on anti-Union animus, for the purpose of decertifying the Union.”

Donations and letters of support can be sent to USW Local 13-243 at 2490 South 11th St., Beaumont, TX 77701.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 19, 1996

SANTIAGO DE CUBA — “We will continue fighting each time with more efficiency, more consciousness, more responsibility,” said Cuban president Fidel Castro in his speech on July 26 in Holguín, on the 43rd anniversary of the assault on the Moncada barracks, which initiated the revolutionary war to overthrow the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista.

“The capitalist system is creating a world where there is increasing poverty,” Castro stated. “It’s a world with growing illiteracy, where people have less security, a world with more drugs and more violence.... This is the world the U.S. empire is offering us.”

Despite an escalating economic war by Washington, the Cuban people are succeeding to reverse the country’s economic decline. “The country is recovering slowly,” Castro said. “I say we are on a good path.... I say we can resist.”



September 3, 1971

The following statement was made by Linda Jenness, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, in New York on Aug. 24.

President Nixon’s imposition of a freeze on wages for at least a 90-day period, coupled with his attempt to abrogate the right to strike, is a direct assault on the rights and living standards of working people. To answer this attack, the labor movement needs to call its own congress of labor to draft a program of action to fight the wage freeze.

The wage freeze means that workers covered by escalator clauses and due cost-of-living increases will be denied them. Contracts already signed giving workers needed pay raises during the wage freeze have likewise been overruled by the capitalist government.

A 24-hour general strike during the next 90 days would demonstrate the power of organized labor.



August 24, 1946

[President] Truman told the press August 16 that he “might” ask “Congress” to admit a “designated number” of European displaced persons, “including Jews.” What does this weasel-worded statement mean?

The *Militant* has long advocated the immediate opening of the gates of America to the refugees in Europe. The lives of the remnants of the Jewish people who survived the Nazi terror are in danger. That is why they want to get out.

Emergency measures must be taken to save them. Truman’s declaration, however, shows that Washington is giving nothing but hypocritical lip service to the entry of these hounded refugees. Only tremendous pressure from the American people can hope to force a concession from the administration.

Put the heat on Washington! Save the survivors of Hitler’s terror from the living hell of Allied concentration camps!

Cuban workers, youth mobilize

Continued from front page

with the U.S. government. Aided by the capitalist media worldwide, they are creating the image of an “out of control” spiraling emergency, which they are doing their best to foster.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel has noted that some who support the government took part, frustrated or confused in the midst of the economic crisis on the island. Thousands more working people and youth responded by taking to the streets that day and since, in public mobilizations to show their support for the revolution.

Far from mounting “repression,” Díaz-Canel and other government officials have continued going out to working-class neighborhoods and campuses to discuss what steps the government is taking and to seek their opinions.

The revolutionary government and Cuba’s mass organizations are explaining what’s at stake and leading to involve more workers, farmers and youth in taking initiatives to combat the difficulties they face, a result of Washington’s embargo, the worldwide capitalist economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tightening of the embargo by the Biden administration, on top of decades of attacks and sanctions, is increasing the hardships in Cuba. There are serious shortages of food, medicine and personal hygiene items. Scarcity of fuel, pesticides and fertilizer have caused drops in industrial and agricultural production. And despite having one of the lowest death rates in the world from COVID-19, and a steadily increasing rate of vaccination — with vaccines created and manufactured by Cuba — a rise in cases has taxed the island’s health facilities.

The U.S. ruling capitalist families, as they have since 1959, hope that causing even greater hardships will demoralize the workers and farmers of Cuba and provide an opening to crush the socialist revolution.

Washington grooms ‘dissidents’

Biden said he is already expanding “assistance” to “dissidents” — euphemisms for grooming and financing counterrevolutionaries — and planning to increase staffing at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, clearly with an eye to stepped-up meddling in Cuban affairs.

Meanwhile, Cuban revolutionaries and their government continue doing

what they always have done — relying on the discipline, perseverance, enthusiasm and confidence of working people. On July 26, the anniversary of Castro’s 1953 attack on the Batista dictatorship’s Moncada garrison, young people turned out for voluntary labor at farms across the island. Increasing food production and lessening reliance on imports is a key part of standing up to the U.S. economic war.

Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero joined young volunteers at the Havana Agricultural Enterprise, planting peppers, beans and chives. After a morning of work, Marrero sat and exchanged views with the youth, encouraging them to have a critical attitude, to say what they think and to express their opinions.

“We’re not going to wait for them to lift the blockade some day,” Marrero said. “We have to — with our own efforts — resolve our problems, our shortcomings, to change everything that needs to be changed.”

On Aug. 5, President Díaz-Canel discussed the challenges Cubans face for four hours with 100 young people in Havana, including students, artists, farmers, production workers, health care and self-employed workers.

“Even though we know that we don’t have all the inputs we need to work,” Lázaro Daniel Cruz Álvarez, a veterinarian at a dairy and beef co-



Roberto Suárez

Volunteer labor by 300 workers in La Lisa, on the outskirts of Havana, July 26 set up homes for families who needed them and cleaned up the neighborhood. “Voluntary work was the brainstorm of Che and one of the best things he left us,” Fidel Castro said Oct. 8, 1987.

operative, told Díaz-Canel, “we are playing a key role in food production, looking for alternatives.”

The Cuban press is filled with reports on similar meetings and visits by revolutionary leaders to farms, factories and working-class neighborhoods. Challenges on everything from increasing the pace of vaccination to dealing with the housing shortage and lack of paved roads in some neighborhoods are discussed out in *Granma*, *Juventud Rebelde* and other media.

In the face of the tightening of the U.S. embargo, the Cuban government has received new aid from the govern-

ments of China, Vietnam, Venezuela, Russia, Angola, Qatar, Italy and others. In many cases this is a sign of the respect and appreciation for Cuba’s selfless internationalism for decades.

The donations of syringes to Cuba is helping health institutions broaden their vaccination efforts among the population.

Mexico’s government sent two ships filled with food, medical supplies and fuel. “The truth is that if one wanted to help Cuba,” Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said of Washington, “the first thing that should be done is to suspend the blockade.”

Gen. Armando Choy, lifelong Chinese Cuban revolutionary

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Armando Choy Rodríguez, a brigadier general in the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, died July 26 in Havana at age 87.

Anyone who had the chance to meet Choy was struck by his pride and satisfaction of having devoted his whole life as a disciplined, conscious cadre in the revolutionary struggle to transform society in the interests of the exploited and oppressed.

His record as a revolutionary fighter is told in the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*, published by Pathfinder Press (see excerpts below).

Choy would often tell young people he spoke with that he — like most workers, peasants, and students who fought against the Batista dictatorship — didn’t get involved in order to make a socialist revolution. They fought for a land reform, to eradicate illiteracy, to uproot institutionalized racist discrimination, to provide jobs for all. But they had communist leaders of the caliber of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara who helped them learn from their own experiences as they in fact carried out a socialist revolution.

Choy was among the 425,000 Cubans who served as internationalist volunteers in Angola between 1975 and 1991, successfully defending that newly independent nation from multiple invasions by the white supremacist South African regime. Cuba’s contribution was decisive in also winning the independence of Namibia and in the fall of the apartheid regime itself — a turning point for Africa and the world.

Choy always pointed to how their participation in the Angola mission

strengthened the Cuban Revolution. It helped deepen his proletarian internationalist consciousness and that of millions of other Cubans.

Choy was a founding member of the Communist Party of Cuba and of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution. In the 1990s and first decade of the 21st century he also carried central responsibilities as president of the State Working Group to clean up Havana Bay — a major environmental project.

In *Our History Is Still Being Written* the three Chinese Cuban generals — Choy, Moisés Sío Wong, and Gustavo Chui — describe the history of the 140,000 Chinese brought to Cuba as indentured workers on Spanish- and Cuban-owned sugar plantations, and their important role in Cuba’s 19th century wars of independence from Spanish rule and to abolish slavery and bonded servitude.

And they point to how in Cuba today, unlike any other country where large numbers of Chinese settled overseas, discrimination against Chinese Cubans has been eradicated as a result of the socialist revolution.

Copyright © 2005 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



[I got involved in the revolutionary struggle] as a student in Santa Clara. On the very day of Batista’s coup d’état, March 10, 1952, I opposed the coup and soon joined an anti-Batista organization.

I always say I’m a Fidelista going back to July 26, 1953. Because on that day, when the radio announced that Dr. Fidel Castro was the leader of the attack on the Moncada barracks, I said, “That’s the man we

need to fight the dictatorship.”

I participated in student struggles and took part in street demonstrations, strikes, and other actions. I was jailed six times. At the beginning of 1958 I was named head of the July 26 Movement’s Student Front in Las Villas province. ...

I went up to the mountains. ... We had six combat engagements before being integrated into the column led by Commander Che Guevara in October 1958.

In December Che promoted me to captain and assigned me a platoon. I participated in a number of battles that contributed to the Rebel Army’s liberation of Las Villas province. That offensive culminated in the battle for Santa Clara, which ended on January 1, 1959, when Batista fled. ...

The war to free Angola

In December 1986 [Cuba’s] Council of State named me ambassador to Cape Verde, a position I held until 1992. During that time, on Sal Island, which is part of the Cape Verde Islands, the agreement with the South Africans was reached following their defeat in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale. The essence of the 1988 agreement was that the South Africans would pull out of Angola for good, provided that Cuban armored units halted our advance before reaching the Namibian border and pulled back to a line north of the Cunene River, in southern Angola.

On the very day the Sal Island proposal was reached, the vanguard of General Enrique Acevedo’s tank brigade was practically at the Namibian border. The South Africans were in shock.

There was a second meeting at Sal Island a year or so later to review the im-

Continued on page 9

Our History Is Still Being Written

The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution

By Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sío Wong

Three young rebels of Chinese Cuban ancestry threw themselves into the great proletarian battle that defined their generation. They became combatants in the 1956–58 revolutionary war that brought down a US-backed dictatorship and opened the door to socialist revolution in the Americas.

Our History Is Still Being Written

THE STORY OF THREE CHINESE CUBAN GENERALS IN THE CUBAN REVOLUTION



\$15

pathfinderpress.com

The fight to end oppression of Indigenous peoples in Canada

BY JAMES STANLEY

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — A series of classes were part of the Socialist Workers Party International Conference in Springfield, Ohio, July 22-24, most expanding on the central political reports at the gathering. (See article in the Aug. 16 *Militant*, available at themilitant.com.) An additional class, covered here, was “The Communist Fight to End the Oppression of Native People in Canada.”

Just weeks earlier, tens of thousands marched across Canada to protest the treatment of the country’s Indigenous people following recent discoveries of the remains of more than 1,000 children in unmarked graves. They had been taken from their families by the government in Ottawa and placed in repressive Indian Residential Schools.

“Outrage at Ottawa’s crimes has exposed the bankruptcy of the capitalist rulers,” said Stan Peters, who presented the class along with Pierre Tremblay, leaders of the Communist League in Canada. “The crisis of the ruling rich is not only economic and social, it is also a moral crisis.”

“Joining the fight for the liberation of Canada’s 2 million Indigenous people is an essential part of building a mass proletarian revolutionary party capable of leading the working class and its allies to win political power,” Peters said.

“It’s not a separate fight from that of the working class as a whole,” he



March in Chemainus, British Columbia, Aug. 2 after discovery of unmarked graves of Indigenous children at former residential schools. Joining fight for liberation of Indigenous peoples is “part of working-class fight for power,” Communist League leader Stan Peters told July SWP international conference in Ohio.

Reuters/Kevin Light

added. “They are interconnected and will reinforce one another.”

The destruction of Indian land, which was held in common without private ownership, took place in Canada later than it did in the U.S., and had a different history, Peters said.

A bourgeois democratic revolution against British colonial rule in 1837-38 was defeated. Fought primarily by workers, farmers and small artisans from both French and English descent

against the British crown, it included demands for equal rights for Natives.

Following that defeat major sectors of the emerging Canadian capitalist class allied with the British rulers to lead the creation of a capitalist state in 1867. Ottawa brutally imposed its dominance over the Indian lands and peoples from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast and institutionalized the oppression of French-speaking Quebecois and Acadians.

In 1876, Tremblay explained, Ottawa established the Indian Act, which still governs relations between the Canadian state and Native peoples. Its goal was to break the resistance of the Indigenous people and enforce the denial of their rights.

“This was essential to Canada’s rulers as they imposed capitalist property and social relations and extended their state from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast,” Peters said. It was a clash between social systems, emerging capitalist rule and an earlier historical form of communal democracy.

In Manitoba the Metis, a mixed Native and Caucasian people, led by Louis Riel, joined by Cree Indians, fought the Canadian army to keep their land. They fought heroically, but were outgunned and their struggle was crushed in 1885. Some 50,000 demonstrated in Montreal against the execution of Riel and other leaders. Ottawa created a system of reserves — small, inhospitable plots of land that Indian First Nations were forced to live on; Native children were seized and forced to attend residential “schools,” whose goal was forced assimilation; and Natives were denied the right to vote.

“The Canadian rulers were never able to destroy the Indigenous people’s spirit of independence, their resistance and their consciousness of their history and culture,” Tremblay said.

To this day, Ottawa maintains the Indian Act and the reserve system. It determines who is and who isn’t an Indian, and can revoke decisions taken by local councils on the reserves.

The act is “a denial of the Indigenous people’s right to self-determination and sovereignty,” Tremblay said. “The Communist League demands its repeal.”

Demands for recognition of Indigenous people’s land claims and treaty rights have been at the center of many hard-fought battles by Native peoples.

The Communist League unconditionally supports these struggles.

Today, two-thirds of First Nations people in Canada do not live on reserves. Like most of the Metis and Inuit, a growing majority live in cities and towns and are part of the working class, including a significant number of industrial and construction workers. At the same time, a class differentiation is taking place as a small but growing layer of chiefs become owners of capitalist businesses, exploiting Native and other workers.

Jobs, preferential hiring

Key issues facing Indigenous people today include a high level of unemployment, low wages, discrimination, police brutality and standard health care and housing.

The Communist League urges our unions to fight for “jobs and preferential hiring for Indigenous people,” Tremblay said, “to strengthen the unity of working people, our unions and their fighting capacity.” The CL ties this to demands for a government-funded public works program to put millions of workers, including Natives, to work at union-scale pay, building the houses, hospitals and infrastructure all working people need.

Native people waged a number of battles — under the impact of the Black-led proletarian fight against Jim Crow segregation in the U.S., the victory of the Cuban Revolution, the Quebecois struggle for national rights and anti-colonial struggles worldwide. They overturned many of the most regressive policies in the Indian Act, Tremblay said, including eventually the abolition of the much-hated residential schools.

Winning the unions to support and lead fights of Native people against their oppression, as well as struggles for women’s rights and battles against all forms of racism, will be a key part of the battle to transform the unions into effective tools to unite the working class and advance our struggles.

Middle-class meritocratic layers, including some who are Indigenous, present an opposite course. Echoing the views of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, they claim the source of the oppression of Natives is “white settlers,” especially workers and other exploited producers.

“To the contrary,” Peters said, “It is Canada’s capitalist rulers and their government that profit from and maintain this oppression.”

“Communists in Canada advance a proletarian perspective in the fight of Indigenous people against their oppression and exploitation,” Peters concluded, “as we build a party capable of leading the working class and its allies in the revolutionary struggle to overthrow capitalist rule.”

He pointed to the example of the Cuban Revolution, where, with the Marxist leadership of Fidel Castro and other revolutionaries, workers and farmers took power and established their own government. This provided the most powerful tool possible for them to wage the fight to end all forms of oppression and exploitation.

Hundreds rally in Quebec to protest cop killing



Militant/John Steele

REPENTIGNY, Quebec — Some 400 people rallied at City Hall here Aug. 4, just east of Montreal, to protest the police killing of Jean René Olivier.

Olivier was shot three times in the stomach three days earlier by cops responding to a 911 call from his mother, Marie-Mireille Bence, asking for help getting him to a hospital. He was having a mental breakdown, she told the dispatcher, and had a dinner knife. But, family members say, Olivier, who was black, put it down before he was shot.

“Instead of helping me, they assassinated my son,” Bence, above, told the rally. “When the police act like that they are criminals.” Olivier’s son Kayshawn also spoke, demanding the police release the names of the cops who killed his father.

Several area residents took the microphone to testify to harassment they have suffered at the hands of the police because of their skin color. The mood of the participants was angry. The crowd was majority black, but many Caucasians and people of other nationalities took part.

Yvelie Kernizan, who said she had organized a rally a year ago protesting the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, carried a sign reading, “Who do you call when the police kill us?”

A representative of Lakay Media, a nonprofit organization promoting multiculturalism that organized the protest, read a series of demands toward the end of the rally. They included calls for greater control over and more training of the police and mandatory use of body cameras.

Members of the Communist League joined in the rally. The day before, Beverly Bernardo, CL candidate for mayor of Montreal, visited Bence to express sympathy and support in the family’s fight for justice.

“We join in demanding the cops who killed your son be charged and prosecuted,” Bernardo said.

— JOE YOUNG

Farrell Dobbs: 'The law of the jungle prevails under capitalism'

This excerpt is from *Teamster Power* by Farrell Dobbs. The Spanish edition is one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* for August. The book tells how members of *Teamsters Local 574* learned to wield union power through three 1934 strike victories in Minneapolis. Under class-struggle leadership, the *Teamsters* extended their union throughout the Upper Midwest, helped organize other unions and the unemployed, forged alliances with farmers and owner-operators, and strove for working-class political independence. The book is the second in a four-part series by Dobbs, who emerged from the ranks to become organizer of the *Teamsters' 11-state* campaign to unionize over-the-road truckers in the Midwest. Dobbs went on to serve as national secretary of the *Socialist Workers Party* from 1953 to 1972. The excerpt is from the chapter "Class-Struggle Policy." Copyright © 2008 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Minnesota Historical Society

Striking *Teamsters* rout attack by cops and bosses' thugs at Minneapolis market district May 21-22, 1934, known as "Battle of Deputies Run." Led by a class-struggle leadership, workers learned to rely on themselves and their allies against the bosses and their government.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

Workers who have no radical background enter the trade unions steeped in misconceptions and prejudices that the capitalist rulers have inculcated into them since childhood. This was wholly true of *Local 574* members. They began to learn class lessons only in the course

of struggle against the employers.

Their strike experiences had taught them a good deal. Notions that workers have anything in common with bosses were undermined by harsh reality. Illusions about the police being "protectors of the people" began to be dispelled. Eyes were opened to the role of the capitalist government, as revealed in its methods of rule through deception and brutality. At the same time the workers were gaining confidence in their class power, having emerged victorious from their organized confrontation with the employers. ...

These endeavors stood in marked contrast to the policies of bureaucratic union officials. Bureaucrats don't look upon the labor movement as a fighting instrument dedicated solely to the workers' interests; they tend rather to view trade unions as a base upon which to build personal careers as "labor statesmen."

Such ambitions cause them to seek collaborative relations with the ruling class. Toward that end the bureaucrats argue that, employers being the providers of jobs, labor and capital have common interests. They contend that exploiters of labor must make "fair" profits if they are to pay "fair" wages. Workers are told that they must take a "responsible" attitude so as to make the bosses feel that unions are a necessary

part of their businesses. On every count the ruling class is given a big edge over the union rank and file.

In carrying out their class-collaborationist line, the union bureaucrats exercise tight control over negotiations with employers. They try to avoid strikes over working agreements if at all possible. When a walkout does take place, they usually leap at the first chance for a settlement.

Once a contract has been signed with an employer they consider all hostilities terminated. Membership attempts to take direct action where necessary to enforce the agreement are declared "unauthorized" and a violation of "solemn covenants." In fact the bureaucrats often gang up with the bosses to victimize rebel workers.

Local 574's leadership flatly repudiated the bankrupt line of the class collaborationists. There can be no such thing as an equitable class peace, the membership was taught. The law of the jungle prevails under capitalism. If the workers don't fight as a class to defend their interests, the bosses will gouge them. Reflecting these concepts, the preamble to the new by-laws adopted by the local stated:

"The working class whose life depends on the sale of labor and the employing class who live upon the labor of others, confront each other on the in-

dustrial field contending for the wealth created by those who toil. The drive for profit dominates the bosses' life. Low wages, long hours, the speed-up are weapons in the hands of the employer under the wage system. Striving always for a greater share of the wealth created by his labor, the worker must depend upon his organized strength. A militant policy backed by united action must be opposed to the program of the boss.

"The trade unions in the past have failed to fulfill their historic obligation. The masses of the workers are unorganized. The craft form has long been outmoded by gigantic capitalist expansion. Industrial unions are the order of the day.

"It is the natural right of all labor to own and enjoy the wealth created by it. Organized by industry and prepared for the gruelling daily struggle is the way in which lasting gains can be won by the workers as a class." ...

If a union is poorly led, the bosses will violate their promises, undermine the contract in daily practice, and put the workers on the defensive. Conversely, a properly led union will strive to enforce the contract to the letter. ...

Another matter related to these basic considerations is the length of time working agreements are to remain in effect. Class-collaborationist union officials, who yearn for stable worker-employer relations, favor long term agreements. They want to keep the membership locked up in a given status-quo situation for the longest possible time. Militant union leaders, on the other hand, prefer relatively short term contracts, so that gains for the membership can be registered more frequently.

In *Local 574's* case the general practice was to limit agreements to a period of one year. This applied both to the negotiation of renewal terms when the August 1934 strike settlement expired later on and to the signing of contracts with companies whose employees were newly organized. ...

Retention of the unqualified right to strike and readiness to use the weapon were central to the local's enforcement of the 1934 settlement with the trucking firms. Employer attempts to impose arbitration of workers' grievances were brushed aside. There had to be full and immediate compliance with the settlement terms — or else.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Oakland: 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont, Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 1444 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 215. Zip: 33132. Tel: (305) 929-8966. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 792-6160. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

KENTUCKY: Louisville: 1939 Goldsmith Lane, Suite 134. Zip: 40218. Tel: (502) 882-1041. Email: louisvilleswp@gmail.com

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 1821 University Ave. W Suite S-324A. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 271-1930. Email: twincities.swp@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: P.O. Box 6811. Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincoln@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY: 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 240-1512. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: New York: 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** 285 Washington Ave. #1R. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 810-1586. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 313. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

TEXAS: Dallas: 1005 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 207. Zip: 75208. Tel: (469) 513-1051. Email: dallasswp@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 650 S. Orcas St., #120. Zip: 98108. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 103, 124-128 Beamish St. Campsie. Postal Address: P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 8677 0108. Email: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: cllcmontreal@fastmail.com

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643. Tel: (09) 636-3231. Email: clauack@xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 312-8119. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

AUGUST BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder Readers Club Specials

30%

DISCOUNT

Poder Teamster
(Teamster Power)
FARRELL DOBBS

How the men and women of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 574, after victorious strikes in 1934 under class-struggle leadership, extended union power across 11 states. \$16. **Special price \$11**

Mother Jones Speaks
Speeches and Writings of a Working-Class Fighter \$30. **Special price \$21**

The Stalin School of Falsification
LEON TROTSKY \$20. **Special price \$14**

Pragmatism Versus Marxism
An Appraisal of John Dewey's Philosophy
GEORGE NOVACK \$20. **Special price \$14**

John Coltrane and the Jazz Revolution of the 1960s
FRANK KOFSKY \$23. **Special price \$16**

Workers of the World and Oppressed Peoples, Unite!
Proceedings and Documents of the Second Congress of the Communist International, 1920 (Volume 2) \$25 **Special price \$17.50**

Join the Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL AUGUST 31

Defend Cuba's socialist revolution!

Statement by Vivian Sahner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey lieutenant governor, Aug. 11.

Working people are not only capable of waging mighty revolutionary struggles, we have proven we can win. That is the lesson of the two great socialist revolutions of the imperialist epoch — the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and Cuba's socialist revolution. Decisive to both was forging a Marxist vanguard party to lead workers and farmers to take power.

Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and the July 26 Movement led working people in Cuba to overturn the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship and replace capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government. They uprooted capitalist exploitation by seizing the factories, land and banks from the propertied owners; organized production to meet human needs; and drew working people into taking ever more control over their lives. As they transformed themselves, workers and farmers understood the socialist character of the revolution they were making and determined to defeat all attempts by the U.S. imperialists to crush them.

Cuba's socialist revolution opened the possibility of using state power, the most powerful instrument fighting toilers can ever wield, to carry through to the end the struggle to eradicate racial and national oppression, the subjugation of women and all other forms of exploitation and human degradation from millennia of class-divided society. These politically class-con-

scious and organized fighters and their government offered fellow workers worldwide selfless internationalism. Cuba provides the most powerful example of what working people can and must do as we face the rulers' attempts to put the economic and moral crisis of their dog-eat-dog system on our backs.

Only by taking — and wielding — state power, can the working class prevent deeper capitalist crises and, with them, the rulers' inevitable march toward fascism and war. Before fascist forces can grow, we will have our chance. We will have the opportunity to forge a leadership to emulate what Castro led workers and farmers to do.

The powerful example of a living socialist revolution is the reason the Democratic Party administration of President Joseph Biden — like every Democrat and Republican since Cuban workers and farmers took power — is ratcheting up the U.S. rulers' brutal economic war against Cuba, financing counterrevolutionary agents and interfering in Cuban affairs. That is why it is stepping up the U.S. rulers' six-decades-long drive to try to starve working people in Cuba into submission.

We will tell the truth about Cuba's socialist revolution, the example it sets, and mobilize opposition against Washington's attacks. And above all build a party capable of uniting working people to win the massive battles the crisis of capitalism is preparing. Join the Socialist Workers Party!

California fire is product of capitalist greed

Continued from front page

blaze in California history. That fire killed at least 85 people, destroyed close to 19,000 structures and incinerated 150,000 acres.

In 2020 Pacific Gas & Electric bosses pled guilty to 84 counts of manslaughter, acknowledging that their equipment — a failed 100-year-old power line — was responsible for the deaths and destruction.

The dog-eat-dog profit drive at the heart of the capitalist system shapes the morals and practices of the utility bosses, like all employers and the politicians they control, while workers pay the price.

On Aug. 7, Socialist Workers Party campaigners from Oakland returned to Paradise and knocked on doors in a newly constructed apartment complex. We introduced the SWP campaign of Dennis Richter for California governor in the Sept. 14 recall election and asked workers for their opinions.

The day we arrived the air was full of smoke from the Dixie Fire, which had started 10 miles away. If the wind had been blowing in a different direction, it's likely nothing would still exist here. As it is, very little of Paradise has been rebuilt. It was the home to 26,000 people before it was destroyed in 2018.

"I lost everything that I valued in the Camp Fire," Richard Reed, a checker at the local Save Mart grocery store, told us. "My next-door neighbor told me I had to leave. It was really frightening. Flames were on both sides of the road. I drove to Chico.

"I'm a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union and I was able to get a job at one of the Save Marts in Chico. I had to live in cheap hotels for four months and decided to move to Sacramento," he

said. "The union found work there for me too and gave \$1,500 to help me out.

"PG&E pays fines and then they raise the bills of their customers," Reed added. "My daughter lives in Yuba City and pays rent of \$1,200 a month. Her monthly PG&E bill was \$600."

"Our unions need to lead a fight to nationalize PG&E and run it under workers control. We should demand open the books on all utilities' transactions," Joel Britton, SWP candidate in the 18th California State Assembly District, said. "That is the only way workers can enforce safety on the job and join with others to defend our communities and prevent PG&E from causing more disasters."

A few apartments away team members met Blaine Gibson, a supervisor at Big 5 Sporting Goods. Gibson said that he and his sister, a veterinarian, had been determined to return to Paradise after the Camp Fire destroyed their rental home. "There is a sense of community here that we missed after we were forced to leave," he said.

"It's amazing the amount of human solidarity we saw after the Camp Fire," SWP campaigner Carole Lesnick said. "People donated tents and sleeping bags and brought them to the Walmart parking lot where folks from Paradise ended up staying. Booths were set up to distribute food and clothing.

"This shows we need to organize in our millions to take power out the hands of the ruling capitalist families," she said, "and replace them with a workers and farmers government so we can run things ourselves in the interests of the vast majority. That's what the Socialist Workers Party is fighting for."

Armando Choy, Chinese Cuban revolutionary

Continued from page 6

plementation of the agreement. ... At one point in the meeting, the head of our delegation, Carlos Aldana, turned to General Cintra Frías and said, "General, please tell [South African Deputy Foreign Minister] Mr. Van Heerden how much weaponry we've withdrawn."

Polo gave the number of men, artillery pieces, and tanks — 800 of them. Van Heerden's mouth dropped. He knew that even after that withdrawal, thousands of artillery pieces, tanks, other motorized vehicles, and men still remained with our forces in southern Angola. Clearly the South Africans would have been unable to stand up to that force. ...

In 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, stressed the urgent need for taking measures to restore and protect the environment and thereby save humanity. ...

The creation of the State Working Group for the Cleanup, Preservation and Development of Havana Bay is simply living proof that as we have conquered we've continued to develop.

This is possible because our system is socialist in character and commitment, and because the revolution's top leadership acts in the interests of the majority of humanity inhabiting planet Earth — not on behalf of narrow individual interests, or even simply Cuba's national interests.

Texas abortion law

Continued from front page

The only exceptions are in cases of life-threatening medical emergencies, but not in cases of rape or incest.

"The state has put a bounty on the head of any person or entity who so much as gives a patient money for an abortion after six weeks of pregnancy, before most people know they are pregnant," Nancy Northrup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights, told the press last month.

Some 1,000 people protested against the law days after its passage, gathering at the state Capitol in Austin May 29. "More actions are needed," Socialist Workers Party campaign chair Alyson Kennedy told the *Militant*.

Over 56,000 abortions were performed in Texas in 2019, most in the first 13 weeks of pregnancy. Some 90% of the women who went to four clinics run by Whole Women's Health in the state were more than six weeks into their pregnancy, said director Amy Hagstrom Miller. Nationally, in 2018 around 60% of abortions were obtained by women more than six weeks pregnant.

"Socialist Workers Party candidates across the country defend clinics that provide family planning, including the right to safe and secure abortion," Kennedy said. "Defending this right is fundamental to a woman's control of her own life and to the fight for full social, economic and political equality."

A lawsuit to block the new law's implementation has been filed by the Center for Reproductive Rights, Planned Parenthood and others, arguing it is an "unconstitutional ban."

Any "abusive partner, controlling parent or disapproving neighbor" could go after the patient's doctor in court, the legal challenge says. It asks a federal judge to prevent Texas trial court judges from enforcing the law and to block clerks from accepting any punitive anti-abortion lawsuits from individuals.

The lawsuit names Mark Lee Dickson, the director of Right to Life of East Texas, as a defendant. His "sanctuary for the unborn" campaign has resulted in almost 30 Texas towns adopting ordinances banning abortion. For example, Planned Parenthood in Lubbock had to close its abortion services in June after a judge ruled he did not have any legal grounds to stop a so-called sanctuary ordinance there.

In 1973 the Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade* decriminalized abortion up to the point where a fetus can sustain life outside the womb, then considered to be 24 weeks. But since the moment the law was passed, capitalist politicians and state governments have relentlessly sought ruling after ruling restricting that right, closing family care clinics, harassing health care providers and enacting more and more limits on women's access to exercise her right to choose.

More abortion restrictions have been enacted this year than any other since *Roe v. Wade* was decided, the Guttmacher Institute, which tracks reproduction statistics, reports.

These restrictions were made easier because of the character and content of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. It was based on medical criteria centered on "fetal viability," and required a "doctor's consent." This limited abortion to a "health issue" — not a fundamental right based on women's "equal protection of the law" guaranteed by the Constitution's 14th Amendment.

About 90% of U.S. counties had no abortion provider at all as of 2017, and since then several other clinics have been forced to close. The sharp drop in the number of clinics hits working-class women and women in rural areas especially hard.

In the fall the Supreme Court will hear *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which could decide whether state laws that ban pre-viability abortions are unconstitutional. The Jackson Women's Health Organization is the only remaining licensed abortion provider in Mississippi and it is challenging the "Gestational Age Act," passed in 2018, which bans most abortions after 15 weeks. Mississippi's attorney general filed an additional motion in the case in July, urging the Supreme Court to void its previous rulings legalizing abortion. Texas Gov. Gregory Abbott signed a law a few days later that would ban all abortions in the state "the moment *Roe v. Wade* is overturned."