

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Embracing Mao, Chinese rulers
continue assault on working people**
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 85/NO. 38 OCTOBER 18, 2021

'Best start to Militant, book, SWP fund drive in years'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The drive to reach out broadly with the *Militant* and books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionaries and to raise money to finance the work of the party got off to a great start over the opening weekend Oct. 2-3. Participants at demonstrations defending a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion got dozens of *Militant* subscriptions and books, and some kicked in to the SWP party-building fund.

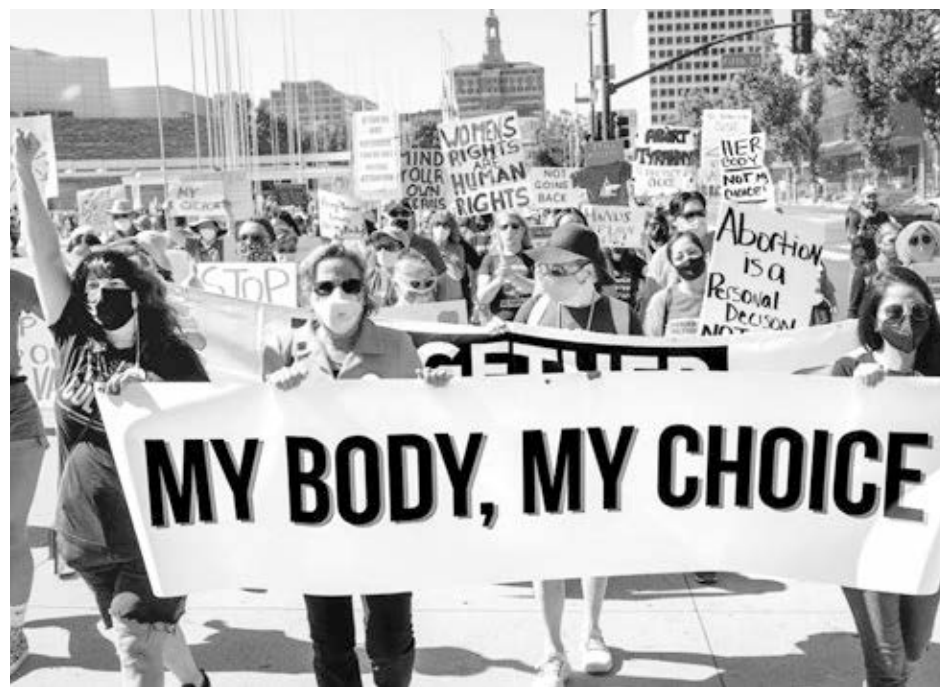
In New York City, SWP candidates and campaign supporters joined the abortion rights marches, participated in the Brooklyn Book Fair and campaigned door to door in working-class neighborhoods. In just two days 40 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 60 books were sold, one of the best starts to a communist propaganda campaign in the city for many years.

"There was wide-ranging discussion on everything of interest to the working class," SWP campaigner Seth Galinsky told the *Militant*, "from why backing the

Continued on page 3

Thousands rally to defend women's right to abortion

Continuing fight needed to win decisive support



Bay Area News Group/Karl Mondon

San Jose march, one of 660 actions Oct. 2 against attacks on women's right to abortion. "We have to be more willing to debate, express our opinion and stand up for it," said Jessica Hoag at Philadelphia march.

BY JANET POST

Tens of thousands marched for women's right to choose abortion Oct. 2 in some 660 demonstrations in cities and towns, large and small, across the U.S. and some internationally. The rallies were called by Women's

March, and coordinated with more than 100 organizations, including Planned Parenthood, NOW and the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice.

They took place on the eve of the fall term of the U.S. Supreme Court, when it will hear arguments on cases challenging the constitutionality of abortion. *Roe v. Wade*, passed by the high court in 1973, legalized abortion until fetal viability, then considered around the 24th week of pregnancy.

Thousands attended the protest at
Continued on page 2

Conference in Iraq calls for recognition of the state of Israel

BY SETH GALINSKY

Over 300 participants attended a Sept. 24 meeting in Iraq that called on Baghdad to establish full diplomatic relations with the state of Israel. Because Iraqi law bans calling for normalization with Israel, the meeting took place in Erbil, the capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdish Regional Government in northern Iraq. The government in Baghdad denounced the meeting.

"We demand full diplomatic relations with the State of Israel," Wisam al-Hardan told the conference, "and a new policy of normalization based on people-to-people relations with the citizens of that country." He commanded Sunni militias in the fight against al-Qaeda in 2005 and is a leader of the Sons of Iraq Awakening movement.

Among the participants from six Iraqi governorates were Sunni and Shiite leaders and former Iraqi military
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Back Heaven Hill distillery workers strike in Kentucky!

BY AMY HUSK

BARDSTOWN, Ky. — Some 420 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 23D members are going into a fourth week of a strike against Heaven Hill Brands distillery bosses. Kentucky is the heart of the U.S. bourbon industry, and Heaven Hill is a \$500 million operation, one of the top whiskey distilleries

As we go to press . . . Kellogg workers on strike

Over 1,400 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union struck all U.S. Kellogg cereal plants Oct. 5.

— see article page 3

in the country.

The union and company met briefly Sept. 27 at the urging of a federal mediator. After just a few hours the company broke off the negotiations, Matt Aubrey, president of UFCW Local 23D, told the *Militant* Oct. 4. "They never said why and we haven't heard from them since."

"The company wants to run the
Continued on page 4

NY cop who killed Deborah Danner faces discipline — five years later

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Five years after New York Police Sgt. Hugh Barry shot and killed 66-year-old Deborah Danner, who suffered from schizophrenia, the police department finally began an internal disciplinary trial Oct. 5 that could result in his firing. It is structured to stretch on for weeks.

Danner's killing was so outrageous
Continued on page 3

80th anniversary of Nazi slaughter at Babyn Yar marked in Ukraine



Reuters/Anastasia Vlasova

Oct. 3 March of Remembrance to new memorial in commemoration of 80th anniversary of Nazi massacre of over 30,000 Jews at Babyn Yar ravine near Kyiv, Ukraine, in 1941.

BY TERRY EVANS

The 80th anniversary of the 1941 massacre of over 30,000 Jews by Nazi troops at Babyn Yar on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, was commemorated at the site of the slaughter Sept. 29. Over 100,000 others, mostly Jews, but also Roma, Soviet prisoners and Ukrainian partisans were butchered at the same spot over the next two years, part of the Nazi German government's genocidal

Holocaust in which 6 million Jews were slaughtered across Europe.

For decades afterwards, the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union covered up the killings at Babyn Yar. But it ultimately failed to wipe out the memory of what the Nazis perpetrated with the backing of rightist Ukrainian collaborators.

In Germany in the early 1930s the Communist and Socialist parties failed
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Kellogg strike! 9**

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Lac-Mégantic disaster, deaths 4

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made a socialist revolution 6

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Striking stationary engineers
protest Kaiser hospital bosses

App taxi drivers' union grows,
organizes protests across UK

Defend women’s right to choose

Continued from front page
the Supreme Court Building in Wash-
ington, carrying homemade signs and
chanting, “Abortion is health care!”
Then they marched down Pennsyl-
vania Avenue chanting, “My body!
My choice!” In New York protesters
marched across the Brooklyn Bridge
joining an action of thousands in
Manhattan, and many more rallied in
Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chi-
cago.

In Texas where a new so-called heart-
beat anti-abortion law came into effect
Sept. 1 that restricts abortion to the
sixth week of pregnancy, before many
women even know they are pregnant,
large demonstrations were organized
in Houston, Dallas and Austin, and in
smaller towns around the state. March-
ers spanned generations. In Dallas,
74-year-old Vivi Sooy, who came with
her friends, said, “We are so happy to
see so many young people here, really.”

“There were over 100 abortion clin-
ics in Pennsylvania when Roe became
the law. We have less than 20 now
across the entire state,” Signe Espi-
noza, interim director for Planned Par-
enthood Pennsylvania, told a rally of
over 1,000 in Philadelphia.

Patricia Khan, a registered nurse,
talked about working in a hospital
emergency room before abortion be-
came legal and treating women who
died from botched procedures. “I’m
here today because this should never,
ever, ever happen again,” she said.

Lori Hoag and her daughter Jessica
came from Berks County. “We have to
be more willing to debate, to express our
opinion and stand up for it,” said Jessica.
Lori told the *Militant*, “There is a lack
of leadership in the fight for abortion

rights,” noting she didn’t see any trade
union banners at the event.

‘We need more actions like this’

At City Hall in Jersey City, New Jer-
sey, 16-year-old student Aleyna Kilic
and her classmates at McNair Academy
organized a rally of 150. “We need more
actions like this. The more people who
are in the streets, the more we show
the support that exists for choice,” said
Kilic. “Of course, some classmates dis-
agree. They remain to be convinced
that it’s about the right to choose, about
women’s safety.”

Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Work-
ers Party candidate for governor of
New Jersey, spoke at the rally. “A
woman’s decision about when or if to
have children must be a private, per-
sonal decision — not the decision of a
legislature or court!” she said. “This
right is fundamental to winning full
social, economic and political equal-
ity, uniting the working class and
building our unions.”

Signs carried by some demonstra-
tors at protests around the country, and
speakers at the rallies, said the road for-
ward for abortion rights supporters is to
vote for Democratic Party candidates.

“Our rights were chipped away no
matter which of the bosses’ parties —
Democrats or Republicans — were in
the White House,” Kuniansky said.
“Without the fight for women’s equal-
ity the solidarity the working class
needs to fight the bosses and to wage a
revolutionary struggle to take political
power out of the hands of the capitalist
class is impossible.”

After decades of protests that changed
the outlook of working people, in 2018
in Ireland a referendum victory ended

Latin America: Thousands march for abortion rights



Colectiva Feminista

Carrying banners reading “Legal abortion now” and “Our right to
decide” in a sea of green shirts and bandanas, thousands of women and
their supporters demonstrated for women’s right to decide whether to
have an abortion Sept. 28 in Ecuador, El Salvador (above), Chile, Colom-
bia, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela. Organizers called the rallies “Interna-
tional Safe Abortion Day in Latin America.”

Abortion is banned in El Salvador, where women can face up to eight years
in prison and 17 women are imprisoned for exercising that right. Last Decem-
ber the Argentine government legalized abortion up to the 14th week of preg-
nancy. A similar bill is being debated in the congress of neighboring Chile.
Thousands rallied in the capital Santiago Sept. 28, including members of Co-
ordinadora Feministas en Lucha and Mesa Acción por el Aborto en Chile.

On Sept. 7 Mexico’s supreme court voted to decriminalize abortion in
Coahuila state, which borders Texas. The ruling is supposed to be binding
on other states in Mexico as well, and any woman now imprisoned for
having an abortion was ordered to be released immediately. “We’re very
happy that abortion has been decriminalized and now we want it to be
legal,” protestor Karla Cihuatl, a member of Frente Feminista, said at a
protest in Saltillo, the capital of Coahuila, after the ruling.

Abortion, with some restrictions, is allowed in Argentina, French Guiana,
Guyana, Uruguay, three states in Mexico and in Mexico City. Legal, safe and
free abortion became available to all women in Cuba as an integral part of
public health care following the victory of the Cuban Revolution.

— JANET POST

the longstanding ban on abortions. Pro-
tests took place Oct. 2 in both Dublin
and Belfast, as well as in London.

In Dublin, demonstrators carried
signs reading, “Dublin to Dallas.”
Ailbhe Smyth, one of the leaders of
the 2018 abortion rights campaign
there, told the crowd, “We understand
your struggle. We know your fight.
We are here to do whatever we can.
We have been through it and we do
not want it to happen again.”

The nonstop and all too often unan-
swered propaganda campaign against
women’s right to choose has had an
impact on the consciousness of work-
ing people. Millions of workers today

are convinced life begins at concep-
tion, even if they do not support all
restrictions on abortion.

“We need to fight for the right of all
women to family planning services,
including safe and secure birth control
and abortion, essential for winning
women’s emancipation,” Kuniansky
told the New Jersey action. “The only
way to stop the assaults on our right to
choose whether or not to have an abor-
tion is to fight to win the support of the
vast majority of working people.”

The latest Pew poll shows 58%
favor a woman’s right to abortion,
among both women and men, across
all age groups.

THE MILITANT

Champion the legacy of Thomas Sankara

*On Oct. 11 the trial will be-
gin of counterrevolutionaries
who killed Thomas Sankara
in 1987. Sankara was the
central leader of the mass
uprising that established
a democratic revolution-
ary government in Burkina
Faso in 1983. The ‘Militant’
championed the revolution.*



Workers in Burkina Faso carry photo of rev-
olutionary leader Thomas Sankara in 2013.

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These are expressed in editorials.

‘Best start to drive in years’

Continued from front page

Democratic and Republican parties is a dead end; to today’s union struggles; the origin’s of women’s oppression and how to end it; and the example set by Cuba’s socialist revolution.”

“At the abortion rights protest Alison Morpurgo told me, ‘We thought with the election of Trump, the Republican Party was in crisis. But it turns out the party in crisis is the Democrats.’ Both parties are in crisis, I said, because neither party — including the socialist wing of the Democrats — has any answers except to make working people pay. Morpurgo said that while she aligns with ‘progressive positions’ of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, she was concerned that ‘elements of anti-Semitism are taking cover in that movement.’

“I told her the SWP unconditionally supports the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state. She subscribed to the *Militant*. I also told her about the book *The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon.” The book describes the class roots of anti-Semitism and explains why there is no solution to the Jewish question under capitalism. “She picked up a copy of the book at the SWP table,” said Galinsky.

Willie Cotton, SWP candidate for New York City public advocate, sold a subscription and books to a woman at the Brooklyn Book Fair and then asked her if she wanted to kick in for the Party-Building Fund. “Sure,” she said, and handed him \$5. The seven-week drive to sell 1,300 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 1,300 books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders and raise \$130,000 for the work of the party ends Nov. 23. Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are also participating.

One feature is building the SWP election campaigns. In New Jersey the Patch online newspaper ran an article on the campaign of Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for governor, entitled “Joanne Kuniansky, a deli worker with a history of labor activism, says she’s trying to help ‘build a political party of our own.’”

Working-class road forward

SWP candidates and campaign supporters are discussing a working-class road forward with working people.

In Dallas, over 3,000 people marched and rallied against the Texas “heartbeat”

law banning abortions in the state. “We spoke to many young people on a range of political issues,” said Alyson Kennedy, SWP campaign chair in Texas. “And we’ve already sold one-third of our goals of subscriptions and books.”

Tina Robinson, a machine operator in a threading company in Euless, Texas, attended the action. “I agree it’s a woman’s choice to have an abortion. Personally I wouldn’t do it,” she told the *Militant*, “but if a woman decides to do it, I am with her.” Robinson bought *Is Biology Woman’s Destiny?* by Evelyn Reed and *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels.

Amanda Riddle came over to the SWP table at the protest in Minneapolis, and told David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for City Council Ward 12, that she wanted her friend Wendy to get a subscription to the *Militant*. “I subscribed at George Floyd Square some time back. It’s the only paper worth reading,” she said. “It shows that it is possible for us to change things, the opposite of what we’re always taught.” Riddle’s friend subscribed on the spot.

At a protest of 200 in Lynwood, Washington, retired researcher Margo Clark told Rebecca Williamson, SWP candidate for City Council Position 9, that she wanted to read something by Leon Trotsky, a leader of the Bolshevik party that led workers and farmers to take power in Russia in October 1917. Wil-



Militant/Brian Williams

At Brooklyn Book Fair Oct. 3, Róger Calero, SWP candidate for New York mayor, discusses party program. Volunteers sold 25 *Militant* subscriptions, 50 books, got donations to SWP fund.

liamson pointed to the book *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*. “This is a book about experiences in building a fighting trade union movement and also a revolutionary working-class party,” she said. Clark purchased it along with *Is Socialist Revolution Possible in the US?* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters and a *Militant* subscription. She contributed to the SWP Party-Building Fund.

Veterinarian Amanda McNabb also joined the action. She told Williamson about the conditions workers face where she works. “Mars candy has been buying up dog food brands like Pedigree for years and moved on from there toward buying clinics,” she said, as she signed

up for a *Militant* subscription. “Last year workers at Blue Pearl clinic in Seattle organized a union,” which won support from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union,” she said. “Then the bosses at Mars closed the clinic down.”

Next week’s issue of the paper will print the quotas adopted by party branches for the propaganda campaign and the first week’s results. Let the *Militant* know about the discussions you’re having.

To get more information on how you can help make the drive a success, see page 8 for the Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branch nearest you.

Cop who killed Deborah Danner faces hearing

Continued from front page

that both Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner James O’Neill took their distance from the cop’s actions, hoping to defuse protests that had already broken out. They say Barry ignored existing “protocols” on how to deal with mental health situations.

A security guard at the Bronx housing complex where Danner lived had called for an ambulance Oct. 18, 2016, after neighbors complained that she was screaming in the hallway, as she had during previous outbursts.

Six cops and two emergency medical technicians entered Danner’s unlocked apartment, where she was half dressed, cutting paper with a scissors. Danner

demanded the cops leave and she be allowed to speak with an EMT. Barry told her she had to first put down the scissors.

When she did so, instead of letting Danner speak with the EMT, Barry tried to grab her. She got away and picked up a baseball bat. Barry shot her at least twice, with hollow-point bullets that cause maximum internal damage.

Barry went on trial for murder, manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide in 2018, but was acquitted on all counts by a judge in a nonjury trial. In New York and other states, any cop who says he feared for his life walks free.

Jennifer Danner, Deborah’s sister, settled a civil suit in the killing in 2018 after the city government agreed to pay her \$2 million.

Danner’s death wasn’t the first time New York cops killed people with mental health issues, treating them as criminal elements instead of as someone who is ill and needs help. It wasn’t the last.

Danner herself, in an eloquent article she wrote about the curse of schizophrenia in 2012, spoke about the case of Eleanor Bumpurs, like Danner a Black woman in her late 60s with mental health issues. When cops came to evict Bumpurs from her apartment in a public housing project in 1984 for being late on her rent, they killed her with shotguns, claiming she was a threat because she was waving a kitchen knife.

In 2012 cops shot to death 28-year-old taxi driver and student Mohamed Bah in his own apartment. His mother, Hawa Bah, had called for help after he began acting strangely. “I called 911 to get an ambulance to take him to the hospital,” Bah said in 2017. “The police came instead. Instead of helping him, they treated him like a criminal.”

At least 12 people having a mental health crisis were killed by New York City cops since Danner’s death. One of the most recent was George Zapanitis, who died after being stunned with a Taser gun seven times by cops in June 2020, even though he was unarmed.

“The cops’ role in capitalist society, like their entire criminal ‘justice’ system, is to keep workers in our place,” Willie Cotton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for public advocate, told the *Militant* Oct. 5. “As long as the propertied capitalist families hold power, workers will be viewed as a criminal class. Police ‘reform,’ promoted by the Democrats and Republicans alike, won’t change this essential class reality. That’s why working people need our own party, a labor party, so we can organize in our millions to take political power into our own hands.”

Kellogg workers strike against 2-tier contract, boss attacks

BY TERRY EVANS

Over 1,400 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union struck four Kellogg Company cereal plants Oct. 5. They are determined to fight bosses’ demands for a two-tier contract that would deepen divisions among workers, as well as cuts to cost-of-living-adjustments, which offer some protection from inflation, limits to holiday pay and reduced vacations.

Workers set up picket lines at plants in Battle Creek, Michigan; Memphis, Tennessee; Omaha, Nebraska; and Lancaster, Pennsylvania the day after their old contract expired.

The company plans to pay new hires up to \$13-an-hour less, Rob Eafen, president of Local 252G in Memphis, told the press. “Do not deprive these people of what is rightfully theirs,” he said. “It’s not getting any cheaper to live, so why should they accept lower wages and higher costs of benefits?”

“It’s ridiculous the difference between



Militant/Osborne Hart

Kellogg strikers in East Hempfield Township, Pa., Oct. 6.

the full pay and the person working beside them making a lot less,” Jason Lenz, a mechanic in the Omaha plant and vice president of Local 50G, told WWT-TV. “They’re doing the same work.”

“We’re here to support one for all and all for one,” striker Kerry Hall said.

Many workers said they put in exhausting 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, during the pandemic, when the company pressed them to cover for sick workers. “The level we were working at is unsustainable,” Daniel Osborn, president of Local 50G, told the press.

“They just don’t really treat us like people,” Trevor Bidelman, president of Local 3G in Battle Creek, told WWT-TV. “They have no issue telling us that we can’t go to funerals of aunts and uncles and friends. No issue at all with treating us like we are just owed to this place. And that’s how they’ve been treating us for at least a decade.”

The union says, “The company would like to remove the Union logo from its products. This would make it easier to move product to non-union locations.”

CP Rail put on trial over 2013 Lac-Megantic disaster, deaths

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Driven by the thirst for profits, Canadian Pacific Railway bosses bear major responsibility for the July 2013 Lac-Megantic oil-train derailment and explosion that killed 47 people. This is the charge at the heart of a class-action lawsuit whose trial began Sept. 21 in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

The suit is on behalf of 5,000 people and businesses affected by the disaster that burned out most of the small town's downtown area. Other plaintiffs include the Quebec provincial government and several insurance companies.

"While we are waiting for an independent public inquiry into the tragedy of Lac-Megantic, the current trial of CP will surely teach us more about the causes and the real persons responsible for this modern capitalist crime," Robert Bellefleur, spokesperson for the Citizens and Groups Coalition for Rail Safety in Lac-Megantic, told the *Militant*.

The coalition, formed by Lac-Megantic residents following the disaster, has organized demonstrations and circulated petitions demanding the Canadian federal government carry out its promise to build a rail bypass of the town. It calls on Ottawa to repair decrepit and dangerous tracks that still crisscross the community and is fighting to prevent CP Rail restarting oil-tanker traffic on a rebuilt line through the town center.

CP bosses have never accepted responsibility for the death and destruction in Lac-Megantic. They say before the train reached the town they had handed it over to Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway, now a defunct company.

The rail executives choreographed a media campaign to scapegoat locomotive engineer Tom Harding, the one-person "crew" on the runaway train, accusing him of not setting enough hand brakes before he left the train for a mandated sleep break.

Harding, a member of United Steelworkers Local 1976, was framed-up by the government and Quebec cops on criminal negligence charges, along with Richard Labrie, another member of the USW local, and a low-level former Montreal, Maine and Atlantic manager. In a victory for working people, all three were acquitted by a jury in January 2018 after a three-and-a-half month trial.

Testimony convinced the jury that Harding had left the train for the night with the lead locomotive running to

keep the air brakes engaged and had set a number of hand brakes, in accordance with company procedures and as he had done on numerous other occasions. During the night, firefighters unknowingly turned off the air brakes when they shut down the engine to extinguish a fire that had broken out due to bosses' lack of train maintenance.

With the air pressure turned off, the brakes bled out and the train rolled down a seven-mile grade into the center of Lac-Megantic, derailed and exploded. Both the Teamsters, which organizes most freight rail workers in Canada, and the United Steelworkers, which organized workers at Montreal, Maine and Atlantic, issued statements welcoming the defeat of the frame-up.

In the current trial against Canadian Pacific, Harding was the first witness called to testify for the plaintiffs. He described what he had done to secure the train before he left it running on the night of July 5-6, 2013.

"I don't blame him," Jean Clusiaux, one of the plaintiffs in the suit whose daughter died in the conflagration, told the media after attending the first days of the trial. The Montreal, Maine and Atlantic "was a poor company — that's the reason why."

CP bosses' profit drive

The suit against Canadian Pacific charges that the rail bosses handed the oil train over to the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic to cut costs and maximize profits. "The evidence will show that the price and the volume were the only CP considerations in its relations with the MMA," not safety, suit lawyer Joel Rochon told the media.

The oil trains that ran through Lac-Megantic were "moving bombs," Richard Labrie testified on the third day of the trial, because of the dangerous state of the company's equipment and tracks. Labrie was the traffic controller on duty the night of the derailment.

"When there were minor breakdowns, it always took an eternity to get repairs done," testified Labrie, pointing to the defective locomotive engine being used as the lead engine that evening. Bosses had ignored requests by MMA workers, including Harding, to have it

India: Farmer protests spread after marchers killed



Associated News of India

Indian farmers pledged to step up monthslong protests against laws threatening their livelihoods in response to the killing of eight people during clashes between protesters and officials in the Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh state Oct. 3. Above, protest in Karnal, Haryana state, the day before.

For over 10 months farmers have organized protest encampments involving hundreds of thousands on the roads leading into India's capital, New Delhi. They are demanding the repeal of federal laws that would eliminate government-guaranteed prices farmers got for some staple grains and deepen their exploitation by big capitalist traders. Government efforts to discredit their actions by portraying protesters as rich farmers or as Sikh separatists have failed to demoralize the farmers or end their struggle.

Four farmers were killed when the driver of a car owned by the son of Indian Deputy Home Office Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra ran them over, farm leaders say. Mishra denies this. The unidentified driver of the car and three passengers, all members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, were then beaten to death by protesters, Mishra claims. The state government says they will organize an investigation.

Mishra has claimed protests in Lakhimpur Kheri involve very few people and threatened "it would take just two minutes to make them fall in line."

Authorities used the killings to ban meetings, suspend the internet and deploy more security forces to the region. They have prevented leaders of the Congress party and other opposition parties from visiting the families of the slain farmers, detaining some of them.

Farmers' leaders have called for nationwide protests against the killings.
— TERRY EVANS

taken out of service and sent to the shop.

"The information that has already come out in the court underlines the need for workers to use our unions to fight for workers control of production and safety on the job," Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate for mayor of the Montreal borough of Ville Saint-Laurent and a Canadian National rail conductor, told the *Militant*.

"You can't rely on capitalist corporations whose goal is to maximize profits, or governments that act in their interests, to protect the safety of working people.

"Since the Lac-Megantic disaster the profit drive of the railway bosses has intensified. Unsafe conditions facing rail

workers and working people living near the tracks have become worse," said Tessier, a Teamsters union member.

"Our 10-day 'strike for safety' in 2019 successfully pushed back some of the unsafe conditions CN bosses wanted us to accept," he said. "But they have since announced a new 'productivity' drive that includes layoffs and the use of 'longer and faster trains' — a recipe for another, inevitable Lac-Megantic somewhere, sometime. The only way that can be prevented is by using union power.

"No worker has to die on the job," Tessier added. "Trains should be limited to 50 cars in length, with a four-person crew, two on either end of the train."

Back Heaven Hill distillery workers strike in Kentucky!

Continued from front page

plant seven days a week, with no overtime pay for Saturdays, Sundays, or over eight hours," Aubrey said. "This will take away time from our families."

Heaven Hill is trying to implement a contract with language that allows them to force workers to work "nontraditional" schedules, including weekend work with no overtime pay. "We made an offer to consider allowing them to put new hires on the nontraditional schedule," he said, but not those who already work there. "They didn't accept that. They want to be able to schedule everyone for those hours."

Strikers on the picket line say they're ready for a fight. "I think we're stronger than we've ever been now," said Paula Clark, who has worked 29 years at Heaven Hill. "We're getting all kinds of support from the community, other unionists and area businesses."

Aubrey said the Teamsters, United Auto Workers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the Central Labor Council from Louisville have all come out to show their support and bring food, water and other material support. "We have so much water we had to rent a storage facility to put it in," he said.

Many local bars and restaurants have taken Heaven Hill products off their shelves in support of the strikers.

Heaven Hill cut off medical insurance for all workers — including retirees — a week after the strike began. Medical bills are starting to pile up. Clark pointed to a young worker on the picket line with six months on the job. "His wife is about to have a baby and he has no insurance."

Some striking workers, including one young woman who is pregnant, have gotten COVID, Aubrey said. "People are very upset about losing their insurance."

The company has been running some production with temporary workers. Aubrey said one of the warehouse workers recently had an accident and lost three fingers. "They didn't give them enough training and just threw them into these jobs."

The fight is important for all workers in the industry. "Contracts are coming up for Four Roses, Barton's and Jim Beam over the next couple years," Aubrey said. "They are all watching this strike."

The union picket lines are up 24/7 and strikers welcome all who want to join them or drive by and honk to show support. In the union tent near the distillery main gate on Loretto Road, you can pick up yard signs supporting the strikers, as well as T-shirts. Contributions to the strike fund can be sent electronically via Venmo to @ufcwlocal23d and messages of support can be emailed to mat-taubrey.ufcw23d@yahoo.com

— CALENDAR —

NEW YORK

Albany
Celebrate the Life of Tim Craine: Five Decades of Building the Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 10. Reception, 2 p.m.; program, 3 p.m. *Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 3 Mount Hope Way. Tel.:(518) 810-1586.*

— MILITANT LABOR FORUMS —

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia
The Stakes for the Working Class in Mobilizing for a Woman's Right to Choose Abortion. Speaker: Janet Post, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. *2824 Cottman Ave. Suite 16. Tel.:(215) 708-1270.*

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Striking stationary engineers protest Kaiser hospital bosses

OAKLAND, Calif. — Chants of “What do we want? Contract!” echoed in the downtown here Sept. 30, as hundreds of stationary engineers on strike against Kaiser Permanente hospitals marched to the company’s headquarters.

They came from Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose, Vallejo, Dublin and other Northern California cities where 700 workers, members of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 39, are on strike at 24 hospitals.

Also joining in were apprentices in the union’s training program, as well as Local 39 members who work for other employers. “Our contract is running out and what happens at Kaiser will impact us,” Joseph Adamo, assistant chief engineer at El Camino Hospital, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent.

“Kaiser is coming after these workers. Their wage offer doesn’t even keep up with inflation,” Adamo said. “And the nurses are taking a strike vote in Southern California as well. We have to stick together.”

Like nurses and other medical workers, stationary engineers have been on the front lines in the fight against COVID. They maintain heating, cooling and water systems in the hospitals. Biomedical engineers, also striking members of Local 39, maintain equipment, including ventilators.

Strikers were especially incensed when Kaiser refused to make a wage and benefits offer until the day the contract ran out.

“They waited until the last minute, and then they offered us a substandard contract,” strike captain Stanley Golik told the media while picketing outside the Kaiser facility in South Sacramento. “It was like a kick in the gut.”

—Betsey Stone

Staffing, bad conditions key in Buffalo Mercy hospital strike

About 2,000 nurses, X-ray technicians and medical support workers who belong to Communications Workers of America Local 1133 went on strike

at Mercy Hospital in Buffalo, New York, Oct. 1. Hundreds massed outside cheered as fellow workers on duty streamed out of the hospital at 6 a.m.

“We’ve made it very clear that staffing and bad working conditions are concern No. 1,” CWA Area Director Debra Hayes told the press. Just before the strike deadline, Catholic Health, which owns the hospital, presented a new staffing proposal, but it was “too little, too late,” Hayes said.

On the first morning of the strike, chanting pickets surrounded vans with scabs from Huffmaster, which boasts that it provides “single-source strike staffing solutions.” Huffmaster recently provided scabs used by bosses in the Nabisco bakery workers strike.

“The working conditions inside the hospital are the worst we’ve ever seen and this whistle has been blown to them before COVID. COVID only heightened it,” Peg Campbell, a nurse for 30 years at Mercy, told Spectrum News.

“Our patients don’t deserve the treatment that they’re getting,” said medical assistant Rhonda Pierce. “We take an oath to care for people, and we need to, and our administrator needs to know that our patients come first.”

The strike is winning widespread solidarity. Many unions — including the Teachers Federation, United Auto Workers, Workers United, Letter Carriers, Teamsters and firefighters — small business owners and other working people and students have been joining picket lines and bringing food and water for the strikers.

Send donations and messages of support to CWA Local 1133, 821 Elk St., Buffalo, NY 14210.

—Seth Galinsky

App taxi drivers’ union grows, organizes protests across UK

MANCHESTER, England — “We need protection from the way Uber treats us. We need to stand together, it’s the only way,” Nasir Khan, one of about 25 Uber taxi drivers enthusiastically protesting outside its Manchester hub Sept. 29, told the *Militant*. The action



Buffalo News/Sharon Cantillon

Strikers at Mercy Hospital in Buffalo, New York, face off against van carrying strikebreakers. Some 2,000 union members struck Oct. 1 over staffing shortages, unsafe working conditions.

was called by the App Drivers and Couriers Union, along with similar protests in eight other cities, the first time there have been a number of the union’s actions outside of London.

“I joined the union two weeks ago, the moment I heard about it,” Mudasar Siddique said. Khan added, “We have more than 100 members now in Manchester. We’re going to set up a branch.”

Despite a U.K. Supreme Court ruling in February that Uber should treat the drivers as workers and pay them the minimum wage, bosses have found ways around the decision. Instead of paying workers for the time they are logged onto the app and available to drive, Uber only pays for actual time driving a fare. The App Drivers and Couriers Union says this means they are not paid for 40% of their time on the job.

Speaking to 40 drivers at the London protest, James Farrar, who filed the court action against Uber and has been building the union, said, “We want Uber to comply and pay all the working time from log on to log off.”

“After five years of driving for Uber with good ratings, they just deactivated my account. They don’t even call you to hear evidence against you. There is no procedure. They are ruining people’s lives.” The union says there have been

over 1,000 arbitrary sackings since 2018.

Here in Manchester, Iqbal Ahmed said, “We want 2 pounds [\$2.72] a mile, a cut in the commission Uber takes from us, and an end to unfair sackings.” Drivers said they were getting 1.40 pounds a mile, but Uber bosses cut the rate to 1 pound and ramped up the company’s commission to 25% of every fare.

Siddique said many drivers are angered by the fixed price Uber sells the rides for on its app before the trip even starts. “We get stung by this,” he said, “when the ride changes and gets longer due to traffic problems or when passengers change their route.”

—Pete Clifford

Delivery workers score victory over temp contracts, ‘freelancing’

ATHENS, Greece — Delivery workers for the company efood, a subsidiary here of the international company Delivery Hero, won permanent contracts after strike action and a large protest.

The two unions at the app-based company — the Rank-and-File Assembly of Delivery Riders and Trade Union of Workers in Food, Tourism and Hotels — organized a four-hour work stoppage of delivery workers Sept. 22. More than 1,000 workers assembled on their motorbikes and bicycles, wearing their bright red efood uniforms, and flooded the streets of central Athens, to applause and cheers of bystanders.

The work stoppage turned into a 24-hour strike, which paralyzed deliveries here. Workers held similar rallies and demonstrations in several other cities.

The actions protested the company’s sending text messages to 115 workers Sept. 15 informing them their contracts weren’t being renewed. They were told they could continue working if they became “freelancers.”

Thousands of users of the efood app deleted it from their phones in support of the workers. Under pressure the bosses began to backtrack, saying the text message was “wrongly worded” and that participation in the “freelance” scheme was voluntary.

Instead of calling off their action, the unions demanded open-ended contracts for all. They pressed for scrapping the system of two- and three-month temporary contracts that had been imposed on most of the 3,000 workers countrywide.

The company agreed to provide permanent contracts to over 2,016 workers, and to acknowledge their seniority rights. It also agreed to stop hiring temp workers from the ManpowerGroup.

—Natasha Terlexi and Bobbis Misailides

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 21, 1996

TORONTO — The last of the 26,000 General Motors Corp. unionized workers in Canada walked off their jobs the evening of October 9. With Canadian Auto Workers members now walking the picket lines at plants in Woodstock, London, and Windsor, Ontario, all of the carmaker’s assembly and parts plants in Canada are at a standstill.

The key issue is outsourcing — cutting jobs by sending work to outside suppliers that pay lower wages and often are nonunion. GM also has plans to sell or shut down a number of plants, which would result in cutting an additional 5,500 jobs.

Most picketers agreed that the strike may be long. Many workers sense that the company is ready for a major confrontation. Charlie Gregoric summed up the sentiment on the picket line. “This strike is not just for us,” he said, “it’s for our kids and the next generation.”



October 22, 1971

NEW YORK — Lawyers for the Attica inmates continue to try to wrest from the courts injunctions and decisions that would help end the reign of terror now prevailing at the Attica state prison. In Buffalo federal court Oct. 6, several leaders of the rebellion were able to speak out on the guard brutality and violence against the inmates. Notwithstanding these accounts, Judge John T. Curtin, a Kennedy liberal, said there was no evidence that this abuse was continuing and therefore denied a request to issue an injunction against it.

In other developments, there seems to be no end to the blue-ribbon committees and “impartial” bodies appointed by [Gov. Nelson] Rockefeller and his cohorts to “study” the rebellion.

The purpose of all of these committees is to get the state off the hook and put the onus for the rebellion and massacre on the prisoners.



October 19, 1946

Attacks upon “reds” and “communists” in the labor movement are becoming more insolent and unbridled. This drive is spearheaded by the highest government officials. J. Edgar Hoover, anti-labor chief of the F.B.I., gave clear warning that the Department of Justice is preparing to hound and prosecute “communists” regardless of civil liberties, and that even liberals are to be labeled “communist.”

Big Business felt the colossal power of organized labor in the recent strike struggles. Unable to defeat the unions by direct assault, the capitalists are seeking to split the ranks of the workers. Along with their red-baiting the capitalist interests are also spreading anti-Jewish poison.

Wherever red-baiters raise their ugly heads, they must be answered with uncompromising opposition. Nothing less than the future of the labor movement is at stake.

How Cuba’s working people made a socialist revolution

Below is an excerpt from a March 26, 1962, speech by Fidel Castro, the central leader of the Cuban Revolution. In it Castro discusses how Cuba’s workers and peasants were won through the series of revolutionary mobilizations and struggles to consciousness they were making a socialist revolution led by a Marxist leadership, as well as willingness to fight to the death to defend it. The speech is entitled “Against Bureaucracy and Sectarianism.” Copyright ©1983 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted with permission.

BY FIDEL CASTRO

The revolution became a powerful ideological movement. Revolutionary ideas slowly won the masses over. The Cuban people, in great numbers, began to accept revolutionary ideas, to uphold revolutionary ideas. That ardor, that rebelliousness, that sense of indignant protest against tyranny, against abuse, against injustice, was slowly converted into the firm revolutionary consciousness of our people.

Revolutionary ideas did not become the consciousness of a minority, of a group. They became the consciousness of the great masses of our people. Whoever doubts it, let him recall the Declaration of Havana, the Second Declaration of Havana, the presence there of a million Cubans; the enthusiasm with which those one million Cubans supported the revolutionary ideas, radical ideas, truly advanced ideas, contained in that Second Declaration of Havana; the enthusiasm with which they supported them, the evidence of political judgment they displayed as they hailed the value of each sentence.¹

What did this show? That the masses had become revolutionary; that the masses had embraced Marxist ideology; that the masses had embraced Marxism-Leninism. That was an un-

questionable fact. The camps had been defined; the enemies had declared themselves as such; the laboring masses, the peasant, the student masses, the masses of the poor, the underprivileged masses of our nation, significant portions of the middle class, sections of the petty bourgeoisie, intellectual workers — made Marxist-Leninist ideas their own, made their own the struggle against imperialism, made their own the struggle for the socialist revolution.

That was not the product of a whim; that was not something which was imposed upon the masses. The revolutionary laws themselves, the very accomplishments of the revolution, began to win the masses over to the revolution. They began to convert the masses into revolutionary masses. There were a whole series of accomplishments which began with a series of laws that benefited the people. All the laws benefited: the reduction in telephone rates, the cancellation of the corrupt contracts which the companies had obtained under the protection of the tyranny; the urban reform laws, the rent laws, beginning with the laws reducing rent and then the reduction of the price of building plots, then the urban reform law; then there were the agrarian reform laws; then the laws nationalizing foreign businesses and later the laws nationalizing large businesses. These became milestones marking the course of the revolution, marking the advance of the revolution, of the people.

The people developed rapidly — the people became more revolutionary by the day. When the danger of invasion began to threaten our country, when it even was thought possible that an attack would be made by the powerful forces of imperialism, when we became aware of that danger — because we will have to consider the possibility of such an attack for a long time to come — the people were mobilized.²



Rally in Havana in 1960 backs revolutionary government’s nationalization of imperialist-owned properties in Cuba. Workers mobilized to “intervene” to gain control of factories, part of Cuban toilers acquiring class consciousness, making socialist revolution their own.

They became members of the militia. Thousands upon thousands of young men became antiaircraft artillerymen; thousands upon thousands of workers, of poor people, became antitank gunners and artillerymen of various types; hundreds and thousands of men and women enrolled in the battalions. They enrolled in the combat units and they prepared to fight, if necessary, one of the greatest battles, one of the most heroic which any people could engage in.

This means that our people were prepared to take all the risks, to suffer all the consequences of their revolutionary stand, to oppose imperialism resolutely, without wavering. They were all willing to die, if necessary, in defense of the revolution and in defense of the homeland. Who will deny the enthusiasm with which the masses carried out many tasks, such as volunteering for work? They responded to every call that was made to them, to every mass meeting, to every patriotic gathering, to every revolutionary gathering.

So that when the cowardly attack of April 17 — or of April 15 came, when airplanes, which came from foreign bases attacked various places in our country; when we went to bury those comrades who had died that day, as we had gone before to bury other comrades, as we had done a few months before to bury the victims of the steamer *La Coubre*,³ other victims of reaction, of imperialism, of the reactionaries, of the exploiters; on the eve of the battle with the imperialists — for it was not done after the battle — the socialist character of the revolution was announced; we proclaimed what was already a fact.

And who can deny it — the overwhelming enthusiasm with which the masses of workers assembled there and formed into militia battalions,

raised their rifles and resolved to fight, resolved to give combat? Who can deny the heroism with which the soldiers, members of the militia, men and women, fought? Who can deny the heroism with which the people fought the mercenaries at Playa Girón? Who can deny the self-consciousness, the disregard for their lives, which the men showed when they threw themselves against tanks, against enemy machine guns, as they advanced steadily across open terrain, in the face of danger from enemy bombers, advancing steadily in the face of the enemy’s air attacks, despite casualties and deaths caused in their ranks by the enemy’s aircraft and the enemy’s shells? Who can deny this? A look at the number on the casualty list will suffice to make us understand the enthusiasm and selflessness with which the masses threw themselves into the fight. There they were, filled with enthusiasm, fighting consciously for the socialist revolution.

What does this mean? This means that a great qualitative change had taken place in the masses: they had become revolutionary masses. That is a positive fact, an undeniable fact. Whoever doesn’t see it that way is nearsighted. Whoever doesn’t see it that way is blind. Whoever doesn’t see it that way is simply an idiot.

Texas ExxonMobil strikers are fighting for all oil workers

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

DALLAS — Members of United Steelworkers Local 13-243 have maintained their picket lines at the Exxon-Mobil Refinery and Lubricant Blending and Packaging Plant in Beaumont, Texas, since being locked out over five months ago. After the 650 union members refused to accept a “last, best and final” contract offer that would give up long-standing seniority rights and create separate contracts for the refinery and lubricant plant, bosses marched them out of the facilities May 1.

“We met with the company last Monday,” USW staff representative Bryan Gross told the *Militant*. “For the first time since the lockout began they made an amendment to their contract proposal. They’re trying to make it out that these are big moves toward an agreement. These were sent to the membership.

“Exxon still wants separate seniority lists for the refinery and the lube

Embracing Mao, Chinese rulers continue assault on working people

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Over the past year the Chinese regime of President Xi Jinping has launched a drive to curb the financial clout of some private capitalists and tighten its grip over the state capitalist economy. Xi increasingly presents his policies as the continuation of those of Mao Zedong, the Stalinist leader of the Chinese Communist Party that stood at the head of the 1949 Chinese Revolution and ran the new state for 27 years.

Wearing a tunic reminiscent of Mao, Xi told participants at July’s centenary celebrations of the CCP that “only socialism can save China.” In fact Mao’s policies were always a self-serving justification for the interests of bureaucrats who treated working people as objects to be administered and ruthlessly repressed. The disastrous consequences of Mao’s course included the deaths of millions from famine and the bloody repression of working people and Mao’s opponents in the CCP during the lurches of the so-called Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution.

This is the opposite of the working-class trajectory of the Marxist leadership of Cuba’s socialist revolution. Under Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, workers and farmers were led to take political power into their own hands and to take on ever-greater control over all aspects of economic and social life, transforming themselves in the process. Working people became conscious actors in history, extending their hand to anti-imperialist struggles around the world.

Today Xi and like-minded party officials fear sharp inequalities in China will spur working-class struggles.

Xi has said that in China “capital serves the people.” A leading CCP financial committee instructed the government “to regulate excessively high incomes” this summer. The government then cracked down on wealthy individuals it accuses of dodging taxes.

It declared “illegal” the grueling 72-hour workweek that bosses subject millions of workers to, and capped rent increases at 5%.

Xi has recently imposed hundreds of regulations aimed at curbing some



Red Guards, instigated by Mao Zedong, in poster on right, publicly humiliate official during 1966-76 anti-working-class Cultural Revolution in China. Fidel Castro said Mao and the Chinese Communist Party’s counterrevolutionary policies led Beijing to an alliance with U.S. imperialism and “brutal attacks” against the heroic peoples of Vietnam, Angola and Cuba.

of the profits of private high-tech companies. State-owned businesses are expanding investments in industries that private companies have dominated, including those related to national security. Xi intervened to prevent billionaire Jack Ma from launching what would have been the largest-ever public offering of shares in his company Ant Group last November.

Mao’s successor, Deng Xiaoping, had begun the expansion of capitalist market relations in the 1980s, leading to the rapid growth of industry, profiteering and a massive expansion of the industrial working class. New cities mushroomed in eastern China. Foreign and Chinese capitalists accumulated vast wealth wrung from the labor of hundreds of millions of workers drawn off the land into the mills and factories.

The parasitic bureaucratic caste running the Chinese state is organized through the ruling party, which has grown to some 90 million. This bloated privileged layer rests on the surplus value drawn from capitalist exploitation of working people.

Today real estate and construction employ nearly a fifth of the labor force. Much of the growth of the capitalist

economy in the last decade has been inflated by building apartment towers, in what are now “ghost cities,” sometimes completely vacant. Meanwhile, millions of workers live in substandard housing.

Beijing is trying to check some of the speculation involved in the debt-laden capitalist boom. This has threatened the collapse of the world’s most indebted property developer, Evergrande. Hundreds of Evergrande employees protested outside the company headquarters in Shenzhen last month when the company stopped repaying them the loans it had taken from their bonuses earlier in the year.

Evergrande bosses are being forced to sell off some of their strongest divisions to stay afloat, much of it to the government.

Nervous about these developments, some foreign investors counsel pulling back from their China investments. Others, like U.S. tycoon Elon Musk, have praised Beijing for trying to exert more control.

The rulers in Beijing have clamped down in Hong Kong, banning protests and imprisoning critics. They’ve threatened to invade and subdue Taiwan.

To defend its interests across the Pacific and Asia, the government is expanding its armed forces, sharpening tensions with Washington, which views the Pacific as its “prize” for coming out on top of the imperialist slaughter in World War II.

A key foreign policy initiated by Xi in 2013 is the massive Belt and Road scheme. Through state-bank loans, construction firms are building infrastructure needed by Chinese capitalists along global trading routes to increase their exports and imports.

Infrastructure projects costing \$843 billion are spread across 165 countries. AidData says that unreported debts to China from regional governments who contracted with Belt and Road projects amount to another \$385 billion.

The government of Laos had to hand over part-ownership of its energy grid worth \$600 million to Beijing for loan relief from China-based creditors.

Cuba: example for working people

Beijing’s conduct is in sharp contrast to the selfless internationalism that marks the Cuban government’s foreign policies. In fact, there is a long record of sharp conflicts between the leadership of Cuba’s socialist revolution and Mao and his Stalinist followers who have aligned themselves with counterrevolutionary regimes from apartheid South Africa to Pinochet’s Chile.

The Cuban government mobilized 425,000 volunteers to join the struggle waged by Angolan and Namibian fighters and helped defeat the South African forces, changing the course of African history. Mao and Beijing backed South Africa.

“The repugnant betrayal of the cause of internationalism perpetrated by the Chinese leadership,” Castro said in 1978, “its insane political conduct, and its shameful alliance with the imperialist powers, have been a harsh blow to the progressive forces of the world.

“Vietnam, Angola and Cuba — small countries that won solid, recognized prestige in the world with their acts of heroism, past and present, in their resolute, firm, unwavering struggle against imperialism — are now victims of brutal attacks, hostility and slander from the traitorous Chinese leadership.”

“Sooner or later,” Castro concluded, “the hard-working, militant, self-sacrificing, heroic and revolutionary Chinese people will settle accounts with the traitors who have dropped their beautiful internationalist banners at the feet of imperialism.”

Fear of coming working-class struggles today drives the glorification of Mao and other policies of the Xi regime.

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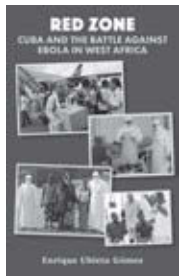
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Imprisoned revolutionaries fight Stalinist rule in USSR in 1950s

Samizdat, Voices of the Soviet Opposition, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. It contains clandestine writings circulated in the Soviet Union, from the late 1920s to the 1970s, challenging the anti-working-class Stalinist regime and its repression. The excerpt below is from "Vorkuta (1950-53): Oppositional Currents and the Mine Strikes" by Brigitte Gerland, describing her opposition to Stalinism in Eastern Europe after World War II. She joined the Communist Party in East Germany but quickly became disillusioned. She was arrested by Moscow's secret political police and framed up as a "British spy." She spent eight years in Stalin's prison camps, six in the Arctic Circle. The Militant serialized her account in 1955. Copyright © 1974 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY BRIGITTE GERLAND

I begin this article with a quotation from the first manifesto issued by the Communist resistance group which calls itself by the significant name of "Istinny Trud Lenina" (ITL, or Lenin's True Works). My purpose is to demonstrate by means of this document how this group aspires to continue the line of Bolshevism.

"What are the aims of the Communist resistance movement in the



1928 protest at exile colony in Siberia, Russia. Center banner with portraits of V.I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky says, "Long live dictatorship of proletariat." Fight against Stalinist bureaucracy was to reestablish proletarian internationalism of 1917 Bolshevik Revolution under Lenin.

USSR? They are:

"To wage a struggle against the system of government which rests on the bureaucracy and the army and which can be eliminated only by a political revolution.

"To install full democracy in the shape of a workers' and peasants' soviet government, the first stage toward the classless society.

"The foundations of a socialist soviet republic are necessarily constituted by the soviets of industrial plants and of collective farms, which exercise legislative, executive, and judicial powers; and which are elected by all the toilers, workers and peasants, through universal suffrage and the secret ballot. In cases of proven incompetence, any member of the soviet is subject to recall through the same electoral procedure; and the term in office is not fixed in advance by a given legislative period.

"Each industrial plant belongs to the union of its particular branch of industry, which is headed by the union soviet. It is elected by the soviets of all the plants in that union. The union soviets together then elect the supreme workers' soviet in which the highest legislative and executive authority resides.

"The collective farms, on the other hand, are joined together by districts; and the peasant soviets, elected by each cooperative, elect district soviets, which, in turn, elect the supreme peasants' soviet in which, jointly with the supreme workers' soviet, the

highest powers reside.

"Professional bureaucrats must be replaced by workers' and peasants' committees which carry out all the administrative, economic, and social tasks required for the maintenance and growth of the collective society.

"The permanent standing army with its corps of career officers must make way for a workers' and peasants' militia, whose only superiors shall be soldiers' soviets elected by the armed forces.

"To attain these objectives, it is necessary to sweep away the monstrous oligarchy of all-powerful bureaucrats and ambitious militarists whose sole interest is to exploit the Soviet people and expropriate them of all political rights in order thus to remain in power. Only their overthrow will clear the road to communism."

This manifesto was drawn up in 1948 by a dozen Moscow students, and then reproduced and circulated secretly at the university. The young Leninists had no contact of any kind with the old Opposition because all of the old Oppositionists had been liquidated by Stalin and his henchmen. The theses of these young Leninists attracted so many students to them that in a few months the ITL already counted hundreds of members and had adherents not only in Moscow but also in the universities of Leningrad, Kiev, and Odessa.

Despite the jeopardy to their lives and livelihoods at so early an age and so definitively, the youth who rallied to

this underground organization saw their main enemy not in Stalin, as a personality, but in the bureaucratic, totalitarian system he incarnated. When the dictator, after his long reign, finally died, an event no one regretted, they likewise harbored no illusions concerning his possible successors. They expected nothing from the much ballyhooed "liberalization," since it could not, in the existing circumstances, signify anything else but a move to the right and a further aggravation of the already intolerable social contradictions. ...

[T]he Communist students made it clear that broad layers of the ruling bureaucracy would work, might and main, to consolidate their political power on the economic plane; that is to say they would readily promote private capitalist tendencies, in order, with their aid, to transform themselves from more or less dependent, state-employed persons into independent proprietors; and in this way, convert the unstable layer of exploiters to which they belonged into a ruling class resting economically upon private property relations.

From this standpoint ... liberalization and reform meant a threat to the socialist economy and to the Soviet proletariat bound up with this economy, rather than any improvement in the lot of the Soviet toilers as a whole.

No member of the resistance movement would entertain even for a moment the illusion that the new ruling clique would go so far in its "liberalization" as to allow the opposition a chance to express itself, because any such tolerance would spell suicide for the ruling layer; that was something even the most extreme optimist had to discount.

Among the basic tenets held by the Leninist students is this, that the transition to communism can be achieved only by the working classes of all countries, acting in common, in a revolution embracing the whole world. That is why they categorically condemned the Stalinist policy of nationalistic expansion.

Opposition members condemned all the annexations by the Soviet Union perpetrated after the war, because these annexations run counter to the principle of national self-determination so passionately defended by Lenin. They criticized Soviet policy in the buffer countries and East Germany as incompatible with Marxist perspectives.

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Build solidarity with Kellogg strike!

Statement by Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City mayor, Oct. 6.

Join me in getting out the word about, and building solidarity with, Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union members on strike at Kellogg’s four cereal plants! Workers there join United Mine Workers members at Warrior Met Coal in Alabama; Massachusetts Nurses Association members at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester; and United Food and Commercial Workers members at Heaven Hill distillery in Bardstown, Kentucky; and others walking picket lines today.

Bosses are pressing to wipe out gains won in previous struggles, cut jobs, speed up work and lower wages — to maximize their profits. Our answer is to build and use our unions to fight back.

For months, bosses and their media told workers we were “essential” during the pandemic and demanded we work harder and longer. We *are* essential to them — their profits depend entirely on our labor — but only if we are kept in our place. Bosses promised conditions would improve as the epidemic ebbed, but in fact they’re pushing for more.

The Democratic and Republican parties exist to defend the capitalist class’s power. They consider work-

ing people to be “deplorables,” as Hillary Clinton said, seeking to regulate and control our lives, including with their cops — who dog every union picket — and the criminal “justice” system.

Central issues in recent union fights are two-tier contracts that deepen divisions among workers, extended work schedules that wreak havoc with family life, and wages that lag behind rising prices. Workers refuse to accept these assaults, using our unions and reaching out for crucially needed support. This creates openings for all workers to build the fighting, disciplined and effective labor movement we need. That prepares the road for a fight to take control of production out of the bosses’ grasp and into workers’ hands.

Breaking with the Democratic and Republican parties and building our own party, a labor party, is crucial. We need a party that speaks as a tribune of the people, acts to overcome divisions promoted by the capitalist class, and fights uncompromisingly against every injustice inflicted on us.

Capitalist rule rests on two things — the exploitation of the toiling majority and their state apparatus. Everything they and their government do is to defend their system. We must organize to defend the interests of our class and its allies, at home and abroad.

Solidarity with the Kellogg strikers!

80th anniversary of Babyn Yar slaughter marked

Continued from front page

to seize the opportunity to lead workers to take power during a severe crisis and rising working-class struggles. Growing sections of the capitalist class turned to Adolph Hitler’s fascists to smash these struggles and preserve their rule. Nazis scapegoated Jews for the economic and social crisis, launching murderous assaults on them, and on the unions, militant workers and communists.

Under Nazi rule Berlin prepared for the coming world war, fought to seize markets and territory from the German rulers’ rivals in the U.K. and U.S., and against the Soviet Union.

German forces swept into Poland and then invaded the Soviet Union, occupying Kyiv in 1941. They ordered all Jews in the city to go to the train station, spreading rumors they would be sent to Palestine. They were marched to the ravine at Babyn Yar, stripped and shot dead by the thousands over Sept. 28-29. Only 29 survived. In 1939, prior to the German invasion, the Jewish population of Kyiv was 175,000. Today there are only 48,000 Jews in the entire country.

This year’s commemoration of Babyn Yar included a march retracing the steps of those killed at the ravine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attended. Schools held special programs about what had happened that day. A further commemoration in Kyiv on Oct. 6 was attended by Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

Stalinists perpetuate Nazi cover-up

To erase all evidence of the massacre, Nazi units brought Jews from nearby concentration camps to exhume and burn the bodies at Babyn Yar in 1943.

After the defeat of the Nazis, the Stalinist bureaucracy in Moscow reestablished power over Ukraine, and continued to cover up the slaughter of the Jews. Stalin had led a counterrevolution in the 1920s against the program of the Bolshevik-led 1917 socialist revolution, which brought workers and farmers to power.

The Bolshevik government, led by V.I. Lenin, put an end to pogroms targeting Jews under the rule of the czars. It guaranteed Jews political rights and encouraged a revival of Jewish culture. It also granted self-determination and autonomy to nations like Ukraine, which had long been oppressed by Moscow.

A vital part of the Stalin-led counterrevolution was a reign of terror against workers and revolutionaries in Ukraine. Policies under Lenin granting Ukrainian self-determination were overturned. A revival of Jew-hatred was another consequence. “The leading cadre of the bureaucracy at the center and in the provinces strives to divert the indignation of the working masses from itself to the Jews,” Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky said from exile in 1937.

From 1948 the Soviet bureaucracy increased its Jew-hating attacks. It arrested Jewish writers and intellectuals. Just prior to Stalin’s death in 1953 it fabricated the slanderous “Doctors Plot,” framing-up Jewish doctors for alleged plans to poison government officials.

To end persistent pressure for a memorial at Babyn Yar, the Stalinist rulers planned to fill the ravine and turn it into a sports stadium in 1957. But pressure to tell the truth would not go away.

In 1961 poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko visited the ravine and wrote the poem, “Babyn Yar.” It begins “No monument stands over Babyn Yar.” When Yevtushenko met Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in 1962, he read him the last lines of his poem:

“In my blood there is no Jewish blood.

But all anti-Semites hate me with

Encrusted spite as if I were a Jew.

And because of that — I’m a true Russian.”

“Comrade Yevtushenko, this poem has no place here,” Khrushchev scolded him. Earlier that year, Khrushchev had claimed, “There is no Jewish question in our country.” When Yevtushenko visited revolutionary Cuba and wrote a poem extolling its internationalism the Stalinist regime revoked his passport.

In 1966, on the 25th anniversary of the massacre, thousands gathered at the ravine for an unauthorized rally. Among those who spoke there was Ivan Dzyuba, a communist from Ukraine.

“Babyn Yar is a tragedy of the whole of mankind,” Dzyuba told the gathering. “But it happened on Ukrainian soil. And therefore a Ukrainian must not forget it any more than a Jew.

“We, the Ukrainians, should combat in our midst any manifestation of anti-Semitism, or disrespect to a Jew, and the incomprehension of the Jewish problem.”

Dzyuba wrote *Internationalism or Russification?* in defense of Lenin’s policies in the 1920s that were overthrown by Stalin.

By 1976 officials erected a monument at Babyn Yar, but it made no mention of the fact that a huge majority of the victims were killed because they were Jewish. It was only with the fall of the Stalinist regime in Moscow in 1991 and Ukrainian independence that authorities finally erected a monument recognizing what the Nazis did was in fact part of the Holocaust.

The commemoration is important for working people. It is a reminder of the price humanity pays if a party isn’t built that can lead millions of workers and farmers to take political power from the capitalist class when that becomes possible. Only by doing so can we prevent fascists from unleashing genocidal assaults on Jews, like that at Babyn Yar, and stop them from crushing the labor movement as they drive to salvage and perpetuate capitalist exploitation.

Conference in Iraq

Continued from front page

commanders. There were also young activists who have been involved in recent protests against Iranian interference in Iraq and the Iraqi government’s anti-working-class policies. Iranian-backed militias and government forces have attacked the protests and assassinated protest leaders.

The meeting, organized by the Center for Peace Communications, a New York-based group that pushes for improving ties between Israel and Arab countries, marked growing support in the region to recognize the Jewish state.

In an opinion piece in the *Wall Street Journal* run the same day as the conference, al-Hardan wrote that “we oppose all extremists, whether Sunni jihadists or Iran-backed Shiite militias.” The Iraqi people, he said, need to work together in “a spirit of partnership across ethnic and sectarian lines.”

Al-Hardan noted the tragedy of the “mass exodus and dispossession of the majority of our Iraqi Jewish population, a community with 2,600 years of history, in the mid-20th century.” A 1941 pogrom and then stepped-up persecution after the formation of the state of Israel in 1948, spurred almost the entire Jewish population of Iraq to flee. Before the assaults, one-third of the population of Baghdad was Jewish.

The Sunni leader said that the Iraqi government should follow in the steps of the governments of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kosova, Sudan and Morocco that recently cemented diplomatic and economic ties with Israel. These agreements, known as the “Abraham Accords,” were brokered by the administration of President Donald Trump during his last year in office.

Sahar al-Ta’i, a high-ranking official of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture, gave the closing speech. “Iraq today must change its policy,” she said. “For the sake of peace in the region, it has become imperative to recognize Israel as a friendly country.”

Like al-Hardan, she referred to the some half-million Israeli Jews of Iraqi descent. “Their eyes are still turned toward Iraq, like a mother longing for her children,” she said.

‘Don’t abandon Israelis, Palestinians’

Iraq “will not abandon the Israelis, just as it will not abandon the Palestinians,” al-Ta’i said to applause from the crowd. She said that peace and establishing relations with the Israeli government was in the interest of the Palestinian people, because it would enable them “to build state institutions and to provide opportunity for a better life for future generations.”

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi issued a statement the next day calling the conference an “illegal meeting.” He ordered the arrest of al-Ta’i, al-Hardan and Iraqi politician Mithal al-Alousi, who has long advocated for normalization and previously visited Israel, even though he says he wasn’t at the meeting. The arrest warrants have yet to be carried out.

The Iraqi education ministry fired Mahdi Ali Abdullah Al Kabalan, the dean of the Department of Elementary Education at Tal Afar University, for attending the conference.

The Iraqi government justified the repressive measures as a defense of the right of the Palestinian people to an “independent state.” In fact, the Iraqi government is defending the interests of the dominant wing of the Iraqi ruling class and its ties to the reactionary capitalist regime in Iran.

To avoid a clash with Baghdad, the Kurdish Regional Government claimed it did not know the meeting was taking place and that it was done “without our approval.” The KRG has many informal ties with the Israeli government, which has bought oil from the KRG and backed the 2017 referendum it organized that called for independence from Iraq.

Some Tehran-backed militias in Iraq have made death threats against conference participants. Sons of Iraq removed al-Hardan from his post in the group.

Under this pressure, al-Hardan now claims that he didn’t realize the speech he was reading called for diplomatic ties with Israel. He says he just wanted to promote ties with Iraq’s Jewish diaspora.

Whatever the outcome of this particular initiative, it’s a telling reflection of the growing sentiment by working people and others in the Middle East for an end to sectarian fighting and recognition of the state of Israel and of its right to exist.