Join SWP to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Militant and books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionaries are getting around among working people. Strikers on picket lines say they appreciate the paper’s accurate coverage of their struggles and the news it brings them of other labor battles. Readers of the paper have introduced the party to neighbors and friends they think would be interested. Workers behind bars show the paper to fellow prisoners and encourage them to subscribe. Many are also getting books and making contributions to the SWP Party-Building Fund.

With two weeks left in the international campaign, members of the communist movement are organizing to surpass the goals of 1,300 subscriptions and an equal number of books, and to collect $130,000 for the Party-Building Fund. (See chart on page 3.)

“We’re starting to see the pendulum swing toward more union strength,”

Continued on page 3

Deere strikers: End divisive two-tier, raise all our wages

BY EDWIN FRUIT

WATERLOO, Iowa — United Auto Workers members on strike at John Deere plants in Iowa, Illinois and Kansas, and distribution centers in Denver and Atlanta, rejected the bosses’ second contract proposal Nov. 2.

While it contained a higher wage offer and some other concessions, the bosses made no movement on what workers consider a key issue — divisive two-tier in wages and benefits. The majority of workers felt they could win more by continuing the strike.

This Militant worker-correspondent went along with Mark Severs, a member of Teamsters Local 638 in Minneapolis, and met with Kirk Drape, one of the vice presidents of UAW Local 838 here. Teamsters Locals 638 and 471 sent reps.

Continued on page 6

Solidarity with striking miners at Warrior Met!

Join fight against court ban on right to picket

Miners and supporters march in New York Nov. 4 to back seven-month strike at Warrior Met Coal in Brookwood, Alabama, protest court ban on all picketing within 300 yards of mines.

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Led by a contingent of miners from the more than seven-month-long strike at Warrior Met Coal in Brookwood, Alabama, over 400 people marched here Nov. 4 to support the strikers and to protest an Oct. 27 court injunction that bans picketing or other union activity of any kind within 300 yards of the mines.

“In Alabama we’ve got an injunction that says we can’t picket,” United Mine Workers of America President Cecil Roberts told the marchers. “We’ve got an injunction that says we can’t talk. We’ve got an injunction that says we can’t gather up.”

Continued on page 6

What do the 2021 election results mean for the US working class?

BY TERRY EVANS

The 2021 elections registered a sharp rejection of the anti-working-class politics of the liberal and middle-class socialist wing of the Democratic Party by workers and farmers across the country. From “defund the cops” referendums in Minneapolis and Seattle to the election results nationwide, candidates reflecting these views went down to defeat, taking other Democrats with them.

These results showed a deep opposition among millions of working people toward policies aimed at imposing controls over the way we think, talk and behave.

This was captured in a sharp warning to Democratic Party leaders issued by James Carville, a long-time party operative. “What went wrong is just stupid wokeness,” he said on PBS NewsHour. “Don’t just look at Vir-

Continued on page 4

Some NY taxi drivers win debt reduction, fight for all continues

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

Fifteen days after some two dozen New York City yellow-cab drivers began a well-publicized hunger strike, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer and Taxi and Limousine Commissioner Aloyssee Heredia Jarmoszuk announced Nov. 3 an agreement had been reached between the city, the New York Taxi and Limousine Commission and the drivers.

“Living in America and somewhere I’ve heard about the freedom of speech. I’ve heard something about the freedom of assembly, and, as Dr. King said, part of the greatness of America is the right to protest for rights. That’s what we’re doing now.”

Continued on page 2

Inside

EDITORIAL Workers need our own party, a labor party

Sudan protests continue, fight to overturn military coup

Guantánamo trial exposes brutality of CIA torture

“The on the picket line, p. 5—

Over 22,000 Canadian public workers strike for higher pay

Santa Fe bakery workers strike Jon Donaire over pay, conditions

Doug Nelson, SWP candidate for Minneapolis mayor, right, at rally against U.S. Cuba embargo
Solidarity with striking miners

Continued from front page

and that’s what we’ll do when we get back to Alabama.”

The union is organizing solidarity actions against the injunction across the country. Plans will be posted on the UMWA Facebook page.

A solidarity action was organized the same day by International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1410 in Mobile, Alabama.

The injunction, which was extended through at least Nov. 15 by the court, is one of the most draconian anti-strike measures taken in decades. The fight to overturn it is in the interests of all working people.

The miners are “not asking for something outrageous,” Roberts said. “They’re not wanting to be millionaires or anything like that. They’re basically wanting to get back to where they were five years ago.”

“I’m on strike for my family and for my mothers and sisters in the mines,” Warrior Met striker Brian Kelly, a 38-year-old retiree, told the Militant.

“They put out videos on us that said ‘scab’,” Kelly said. “They’re trying to break the union.”

Brian Sanson, UMWA secretary-treasurer, told the rally, “We have a right to picket.”

The union is appealing the unconstitutional injunction to the Alabama Supreme Court.

Retired miner Chris Lester, 64, told the Militant the injunction “means only the scabs have rights.”

Lester, like many of the retirees at Warrior Met, would restore wages and benefits once the company was running again.

“Warrior Met profits soar”

Warrior Met says that they have done so much hiring that 60% of the strikers weren’t even working there in 2016, as if that would be justification for maintaining the givebacks.

Two days before the protest, Warrior Met CEO Walter Scheller announced “our most profitable results since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.” The price of coal has more than doubled since the end of 2020.

Lester told the rally, “I was arrested for being part of the protests that were happening.”

“Cops protect scabs”

The union has complained to the courts about the raw numbers of scabs crossing the picket line.

“They put out videos on us that said ‘scab’,” Kelly said. “They’re trying to break the union.”

“Cops protect scabs out where their cars have been hitting the picket line.”

U.S. government mandates voluntary inoculations in Cuba.

U.S. government mandates voluntary inoculations in Cuba.

Militant...

“forces of BlackRock, one of the countries largest hedge funds, that holds a stake in Warrior Met. BlackRock was Jim Walter Resources, the company’s largest shareholder, owner, Jim Walter, who headed the company for nearly six years, who then sold the company to Oaktree Capital, a private equity fund, post-1984.”

“Tevita UHatafe, a fleet service clerk at American Airlines at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport and shop steward for Transport Workers Union Local 513, got up to give a brief account of the first day of the rally. “I’ve been going to every strike I can get to,” she said. “We have to keep pushing.”

“We had a community of union protest at the harbor in Mobile at the same time as the UMWA protest in New York City.”

“Canada, Can$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • Australia: $35 for 1 year

Susana Lafont contributed to this article.

The Militant

Vol. 85/No. 43

Closing news date: November 10, 2021

Editor: John Strader
Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Address: 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

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send $35 by check or international money order to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

LATIN AMERICA, CARIBBEAN: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to the Militant, 707 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

UNITED KINGDOM: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CLAM (International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1410), 22026. Send messages of support to District 20, 21922 Hwy. 216 (Miners’ Memorial Parkway), McCalla, AL 35111, Email umwdistrict20@bellsouth.net. Have connections with dockworkers all over the world and are in touch with them about this.

UNITED STATES: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to the Militant, 707 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

LATIN AMERICA, CARIBBEAN: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to the Militant, 707 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

UNITED KINGDOM: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL (International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1410), 22026. Send messages of support to District 20, 21922 Hwy. 216 (Miners’ Memorial Parkway), McCalla, AL 35111, Email umwdistrict20@bellsouth.net. Have connections with dockworkers all over the world and are in touch with them about this.

UNITED STATES: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to the Militant, 707 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

LATIN AMERICA, CARIBBEAN: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to the Militant, 707 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

UNITED KINGDOM: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL (International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1410), 22026. Send messages of support to District 20, 21922 Hwy. 216 (Miners’ Memorial Parkway), McCalla, AL 35111, Email umwdistrict20@bellsouth.net. Have connections with dockworkers all over the world and are in touch with them about this.

UNITED STATES: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to the Militant, 707 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

LATIN AMERICA, CARIBBEAN: For one year send $85 drawn on a U.S. bank to the Militant, 707 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.
Workers need our own party

The government represents the bosses. That’s why working people need to organize independently of it, Crainie said. “We need to build a labor party, based on a fighting union movement and break with both the democratic and Republican parties.”

Dearing said he thinks Democrats are better than Republicans. But he liked what the SWP campaigners said about why the labor movement needs to organize independently: “They and our unions to fight bosses’ attacks. And five strikers on the picket line subscribed to the Militant.”

Crainie and Husk met a couple of strikers who were having the reading of the paper since early in the bakery workers’ strike. One got a copy of Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Power Workers to Power by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, one of several books on special for the drive (see ad on page 6).

“I support [the strikers],” Wendi Taylor said when Crainie and Husk knocked on her door in Battle Creek, Michigan, Nov. 7, part of building solidarity for the strike. “My dad worked for Kellogg’s. When they started going up to them when they’re about to punch out, saying you have to stay another eight hours, that’s when he retired.”

Across the street an electrical worker subscribed. The members of his union local have been told to cross the picket line to do work in the plant.

Winning contributions to fund

SWP campaigners Willie Cotton and Róger Calero met with Luisa Ortiz, a retired health care worker, member of Service Employees International Union Local 1199 and longtime reader of the Militant, in Brookwood, Alabama. “That’s unconstitutional!” Dearing said.

“Militant,” books, fund drive

Continued from front page

Dearing said the awards the SWP campaigners told them a judge had banned United Steelworkers strikers from picketing or even being within 300 yards of the entrance to Warrior Met Coal mines in Brookwood, Alabama. “That’s unconstitutional!” Dearing said.

Workers need our own party

The government represents the bosses. That’s why working people need to organize independently of it, Crainie said. “We need to build a labor party, based on a fighting union movement and break with both the democratic and Republican parties.”

Dearing said he thinks Democrats are better than Republicans. But he liked what the SWP campaigners said about why the labor movement needs to organize independently: “They and our unions to fight bosses’ attacks. And five strikers on the picket line subscribed to the Militant.”

Crainie and Husk met a couple of strikers who were having the reading of the paper since early in the bakery workers’ strike. One got a copy of Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Power Workers to Power by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, one of several books on special for the drive (see ad on page 6).

“I support [the strikers],” Wendi Taylor said when Crainie and Husk knocked on her door in Battle Creek, Michigan, Nov. 7, part of building solidarity for the strike. “My dad worked for Kellogg’s. When they started going up to them when they’re about to punch out, saying you have to stay another eight hours, that’s when he retired.”

Across the street an electrical worker subscribed. The members of his union local have been told to cross the picket line to do work in the plant.

Winning contributions to fund

SWP campaigners Willie Cotton and Róger Calero met with Luisa Ortiz, a retired health care worker, member of Service Employees International Union Local 1199 and longtime reader of the Militant, in Brooklyn, Nov. 7. They discussed everything from the need to build support for the growing number of strikes today, to what working people in Cuba are doing to defend their socialist revolution. Ortiz renewed her subscription and contributed $10 to the Party-Building Fund.

Then ailing Cuba members of the SWP campaigners on a brief tour of her neighborhood, introducing them to small-store owners and workers. At a coffee shop one worker used his tip money to subscribe.

Getting back to workers who are already reading the paper is important for expanding the Militant’s reach. In addition, when they learn the Militant and the Socialist Workers Party are funded entirely by working people many want to contribute to the fund.

SWP members Candace Wagner and Tony Lane talked to a number of workers knocking on doors in Fairmont, West Virginia, Nov. 9. Workers in the town have been hard hit by the closure of the Mylan Pharmaceuticals plant near Morgantown where over 1,500 were laid off earlier this year, including 850 members of the United Steelworkers union.

Vaccine mandates?

Becky Friend worked there for 13 years. Now she opposes forcing workers to get vaccines by government mandate. “Look at these nurses, they put their lives on the line during the pandemic. Now you are going to fire them for not getting the vaccine?” she said.

Lane described the response of the Cuban government to the pandemic. “Some 90% of the population has had at least one shot, without government-enforced mandates, far higher than the percentage in the U.S. where the government has imposed them.”

“Health care is a big business,” Wagner pointed out. That will only change when workers and working farmers join together to take power out of the hands of the capitalist class like they did in Cuba.

“People need to read the paper since early in the bakery workers’ strike. One got a copy of Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Power...”

The Militant   November 22, 2021            3

The Communist Manifesto

“Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding movement of the workers.”

— Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Written in 1848, the Communist Manifesto explains why communism is the line of march of the working class toward power, “spriring us from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes.”

www.pathfinderpress.com

The Militant/Rachele Fruit

Chuck Guerra and Rachele Fruit in Miami, Nov. 8.
he explained. "Communists are for dispersing these protests, where warlords, gangs and vigilantes live under their rule of law than without. It is far better to aimed against us, but it is far better to make the rulers' cops and courts are designed to keep workers in line and to maintain their power and privileges. "Crime is defined by the capitalist rulers to defund the cops was sponsored by self-identified Marxists, particularly those who are Black or from other oppressed nationalities." The Militant's referendum defeated A ballot initiative in Minneapolis to defund the cops was sponsored by self-described "abolitionists," who sought to replace the police with a "Department of Public Safety" comprised largely of social workers with a "comprehensive public health approach to crime." A few cops would be kept to use only "if necessary." It would soundly rejected. "Because workers have to deal with the consequences of the real world and its contradictions on a daily basis, they can't afford to act as if they live in a 'woke' fantasy," Doug Nelson, the SWP-backed candidate for mayor there, told the Star Tribune. "Crime is defined by the capitalist rulers to maintain their power and privileges. Their laws and the way they're enforced are designed to keep workers in line and to brand substantial layers of us as criminals, particularly those who are Black or from other oppressed nationalities." "The Defund cops initiative is driven by people to many in 2020, when Minneapolis cops killed George Floyd, followed by national demonstrations that erupted in cities large and small across the country against police brutality. "What is of great concern to workers, however, is anti-social violence within workers. In addition to the immediate consequences for those affected, it saps workers' confidence and tears at social solidarity," Nelson said. "The rule of law is aimed against us, but it is far better to live under their rule of law than without it, where wardogs, gangs and vigilantes fill the streets. "Since the police must protect the profit-driven system that breeds crime, there is no 'policing policy' solution," he explained. "Communists are for dismantling the capitalist police, but only when the workers have taken political power and forged experienced class-conscious politics to replace them. In liberal Seattle, "abolitionist" candidates for both mayor and city attorney were defeated. Democrats lose in Virginia The defeat of former Democratic Party Gov. Terry McAuliffe in Virginia at the hands of a virtually unknown opponent, Glenn Youngkin, was a shock to liberal pandemics. McAuliffe's defeat came after he re- buked parents for "telling schools what they should teach. This follylegate about liberal school boards' moves to incorporate "critical race theory" into curriculum at every level, which claims Caucasian people are innately racist. This "theory" places the blame on working- for-the- racists oppression that is fomented and used by the capitalist rulers to prepare us. McAuliffe's attack on parents fol- lowed the arrest of Scott Smith at a June 22 Loudoun County School Board meeting. Smith had been charged for allegedly doing nothing when his daughter was raped by a boy who identified as a girl in the school's girls' restroom. Loudoun County permits students to use bathroom facilities that match their gender identity, a policy initiated federally by the Barack Obama White House. It is part of a broader assault on women's rights.

From increasing use of government agents to hunt down perpetrators of "domestic terrorism." It cited Smith's angry re- marks as an example. Attorney General Merrill Garland has now unleashed the FBI to hunt down perpetrators of this "threat." During the week before the election former President Obama campaigned for McAuliffe, repeating the Demo- cratic candidate's defense of school boards and condemning parents' complaints as "fake outrage." On Oct. 25 a family court judge found the boy accused of the restroom rape of Smith's daughter guilty. Days later McAuliffe was voted out. In New Jersey, incumbent liberal Democratic Phil Murphy was driven from office by a thin margin, and Steven Sweeney, the long-time Democratic president of the state Senate, was ousted by first-time candidate Republican Edward Durr. Liberals made fun of the winner, a truck driver whose entire campaign budget was less than $10,000. "It's hard to imagine a worker could run and win." But his cellphone recorded ads that resonated with working people whose family members and neighbors had born the brunt of the Democrats' poli- cies. In one he said he was running be- cause "Murphy forced nursing homes to take in COVID-19 patients, resulting in the deaths of over 8,000 of our seniors" during the pandemic. Such policies are rooted in the rulers' contempt for working people. They fear that more of us are coming to recognize that the bosses and their parties have no "solution" to the capitalist crisis other than offloading it onto our backs. This has hardened our resolve against all attacks, both the government and the economy. The association is resisting calls from Washington and Arab League governments to return to a coalition "towards" government with the same army generals who seized power.

The Sudanese people have rejected the military coup," Sudanese Profes- sional Association leaders said. They have vowed "no negotiation, no part- nership, no legitimacy" with the military chiefs, rejecting any control over both the government and the economy. They are convinced workers are too stu- pid to understand this. "The Sudanese people have rejected the military coup," Sudanese Professionals Association leaders said. They have vowed "no negotiation, no partnership, no legitimacy" with the military chiefs, rejecting any control over both the government and the economy. The association is resisting calls from Washington and Arab League governments to return to a coalition "towards" government with the same army generals who seized power. Sudanese security forces fired rubber bullets and arrested demonstra- tions against the military coup led by Gen. Abdel Fattah el-Burhan. Thousands had rallied in the capital, Khartoum, and its twin city of Omdur- man, as well as in Wad Medani to the south and in the northeastern town of Atbara. In several cities, protesters attempted to build street barricades in response to calls for civil disobedience by the Sudanese Professionals Association. Police fired tear gas at teachers who "were simply standing on the streets and carrying banners," Mohamed al-Amin, a geography teacher, told Agence France-Presse. Around the country a number of trade union leaders were de- tained. All media not controlled by the military was shut down. For at least 14 demonstrators have been killed and some 100 wounded in the crackdown on protests, like that shown above in Khartoum Oct. 30. Dozens of members of the two-year-old ruling council tasked with leading a transition to civilian rule have been detained. Ousted Prime Minister Abadilla Hamdok remains in custody.

The Sudanese people have rejected the military coup," Sudanese Profes- sional Association leaders said. They have vowed "no negotiation, no part- nership, no legitimacy" with the military chiefs, rejecting any control over both the government and the economy. The association is resisting calls from Washington and Arab League governments to return to a coalition "towards" government with the same army generals who seized power. Sudanese security forces fired rubber bullets and arrested demonstra- tions against the military coup led by Gen. Abdel Fattah el-Burhan. Thousands had rallied in the capital, Khartoum, and its twin city of Omdurman, as well as in Wad Medani to the south and in the northeastern town of Atbara. In several cities, protesters attempted to build street barricades in response to calls for civil disobedience by the Sudanese Professionals Association. Police fired tear gas at teachers who "were simply standing on the streets and carrying banners," Mohamed al-Amin, a geography teacher, told Agence France-Presse. Around the country a number of trade union leaders were detained. All media not controlled by the military was shut down. For at least 14 demonstrators have been killed and some 100 wounded in the crackdown on protests, like that shown above in Khartoum Oct. 30. Dozens of members of the two-year-old ruling council tasked with leading a transition to civilian rule have been detained. Ousted Prime Minister Abadilla Hamdok remains in custody.
IRONWORKERS STRIKE ERIE STRAYER OVER WAGES, ATTENDANCE POLICY

ERIE, Pa. — Forty-two members of Ironworkers Regional Shop Local 851 have been on strike at Erie Strayer for about a month. After six months of negotiations went nowhere, workers walked off the job Oct. 4, rejecting the company’s offer of 5-cent to 15-cent an hour raises over five years.

“That 5 cents offer is just like getting sand kicked in your face at the beach!” Tom Burdick, with 12 years in the plant, told the Militant on the picket line Nov. 5. It wouldn’t even come close to covering the rising prices today.

The union members are demanding a three-tier contract with raises of 60 cents the first year, retroactive to when the last contract ran out April 1, and 50 cents each of the next two years; a $600 signing bonus, and, for the first time, a dental plan. Tracy Cutright, vice president and business representative for the local, said, “It is compared back and said, ‘You’ve never had a dental plan, and you’re never going to get one.’”

The average wage in the plant is $19 an hour, even though the workers are highly skilled. Workers make mobile concrete batch production plants used on large construction sites. Workers have no pension, only a 401(k) stock plan.

“I don’t like being on strike,” Burdick said. “The first two weeks were very tough. Then we started receiving strike benefits from the international union, and help came in from other unions and the community. That’s when we realized we could put up a decent fight.”

Among the biggest supporters of the strike is United Electrical Workers Local 506 at the Wabtec locomotive plant in Erie, who were forced out in a bitter battle in 2019. They mobilized for a rally at the Erie Strayer plant gate Oct. 15 and UE members join the picket line regularly. Two Local 506 members carry signs for the two there.

Teamster drivers have refused to cross the picket line and have supported the strike, Cutright said, as well as members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union at Jon Donaire on strike here Nov. 3. Their chant is “Raise, respect and pensions.”

They make products under the Jon Donaire Dessert brand for the Rich Products-owned bakery in Los Angeles County. The plant employs about 200 workers, a majority women. Some 30 workers did not join the strike.

“We worked all the way through the pandemic because we like our jobs. We love what we do and we are here to do a good job. We make ice cream cakes that are sold worldwide. We want a dollar an hour, even though the work is highly repetitive and fast line speed.

The unionists maintain their picket line 24 hours a day and welcome other workers to visit and support them.

— Fredy Huala

OVER 22,000 CANADIAN PUBLIC WORKERS STRIKE FOR HIGHER PAY

BY PHILIPPE TESSIER
FREDERICTON, New Brunswick

— Over 22,000 members of 10 locals of the Canadian Union of Public Employment Workers in New Brunswick across the province since Oct. 29. They are demanding higher wages to reduce the gap with public sector workers in the rest of Canada and no concessions on the pensions of two of the CUPE locals.

“Some 20 years of Liberal and Conservative governments have put us in this position, and it is time to say enough. We have been giving on wage and losing because of inflation and now it is time to stand up,” Rob Burton, member of CUPE Local 5017 in Saint John, told the Militant.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

November 25, 1996

Class-conscious fighters around the world should loudly protest the imperialist domination in Central Africa. Using the pretext of a “humanitarian mission,” the imperialists and the fig leaf of the United Nations, are pushing to send thousands and thousands more soldiers to the other side of the world, to support what Washington is making increasingly more expensive adventures.

The truth is that the crisis affecting over one million refugees there is a direct result of U.S. and allied troops’ depredations in Zaire and the surrounding region.

The truth is that the crisis affecting over one million refugees there is a direct result of U.S. and allied troops’ depredations in Zaire and the surrounding region.

The truth is that the crisis affecting over one million refugees there is a direct result of U.S. and allied troops’ depredations in Zaire and the surrounding region.

The truth is that the crisis affecting over one million refugees there is a direct result of U.S. and allied troops’ depredations in Zaire and the surrounding region.

The truth is that the crisis affecting over one million refugees there is a direct result of U.S. and allied troops’ depredations in Zaire and the surrounding region.

November 26, 1971

Hundreds of thousands of Chilenos turned out to welcome Cuban Premier Fidel Castro when he arrived in Santiago Nov. 10. The trip is Castro’s first to Chile in over 11 years.

Castro’s trip is taking place at a time when Washington is making increasingly more expensive adventures.

The mounting economic pressure is reflected in the fact that during the past year private foreign companies have virtually ended any investment in Chile. The Sept. 28 announcement of the government’s decision not to pay compensation to Kennecott and Anaconda set off the loudest saber rattling in Washington.

November 23, 1946

The Militant November 22, 2021
Kellogg’s workers strike for ‘Equal pay for equal work!’

BY AMY HUSK
BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — The Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union negotiating committee handed down a Nov. 4 “last, best and final” set of contract demands from Kellogg’s bosses. Since Oct. 5, 1,400 union members have been striking Kellogg’s four plants in Omaha, Nebraska; Memphis, Tennessee; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and here.

The bosses’ offer “does not achieve what our members are asking for: a predictable pathway to fully vested, fully benefited employment for all employees with no concessions,” the union said. Many signs you see on the picket line say, “Equal pay for equal work.”

“The company won’t budge on the question of transitional employees and that’s our main issue,” Lisa Gregory, my Husk, an international representative for BCTGM, told the Militant. The 2015 contract allowed Kellogg’s to keep 30% of the workforce in “transitional” status, a status lasting as much as $12 an hour less than “legacy” employees. They get no pension and pay much higher medical premiums and deductibles.

“The company is supposed to ‘transition’ them into legacy status when someone retires or leaves, and they’re not doing it,” she said. “Now they want to get rid of the 30% cap on the number of transitional employees in a plant. We want to get rid of the two-tier altogether.”

Robert Clark, a maintenance worker with 15 years on the job, said they knew what the bosses say, their latest offer was just “part of negotiations. There’s no legal standing to it. It means we have no way to prepare meals. Kortney Clark has the money we lost in the past six years without that COLA.” And, like all workers, they face steep inflation today, especially in things like food and gas.

Millisa Thurmond, who has worked in tractor assembly for six months, also voted against the contract. She said the way the bosses mess up their schedules is a real problem. “They tell you on Wednesday that you have to work on Saturday, and then turn around on Friday and say that there is no weekend work. You can’t plan anything that way,” she said. “And I agree that we need to get back that money that we lost when we didn’t have the COLA.”

In an effort to put more pressure on the strikers after the vote, Deere told the media that this was their “best, last, and final offer,” and planned no further negotiations. They threatened to ramp up production without the union workers.

Steve Frisque, president of UAW Local 722 at the GM parts distribution center in Hudson, Wi., are proud of all of you and will have your backs. Local 838 and all the UAW members brought to the strikers:

“We want all of the membership of Local 838 and all the UAW members on strike against John Deere to know that your Brothers and Sisters from Local 722 in Hudson, Wi., are proud of all of you and will have your backs every step of the way! In solidarity!”

“Getting the word out here is building support and solidarity is critical in this fight! You can contact Local 838 at 2615 Washington St., Waterloo, IA 50702, Tel.: (319) 233-3049. Gabby Prosser contributed to this article.

Deere strikers: End divisive two-tiers, raise wages

Since Oct. 5, 5, 1,400 bakery workers have been on strike at Kellogg’s cereal plants. Chicago BCTGM Local 1 members and other supporters join in battle in Battle Creek, Mich., Nov. 4.

Kellogg’s workers strike for ‘Equal pay for equal work!’

Kellogg’s workers strike for ‘Equal pay for equal work!’

Kellogg’s workers strike for ‘Equal pay for equal work!’

Kellogg’s workers strike for ‘Equal pay for equal work!’
UN summit fakery shows workers must defend land and labor

BY SETH GALINSKY

Like previous climate conferences, this year’s United Nations Summit in Glasgow, Scotland, has been marked by panicked claims that “time is running out” and empty promises by heads of state to reduce greenhouse gases.

The end result? A hot air and little agreement to do anything about con- tamination of the environment.

Heads of state from 130 countries — but not Russia, China or Brazil — and nearly 40,000 other government and U.N. officials, reporters, members of nongovernmental organizations, and business lobbyists attended the Conference of Parties Climate Change summit 2021, which ends Nov. 12.

“We only have a brief window left” to avoid “catastrophe,” President Joseph Biden told the summit.

“Earth’s climate has changed through- out history,” notes NASA, which had a delegation at the conference. “Just in the 600 years before the Industrial Revolution, there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat, with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 11,700 years ago marking the beginning of the current interglacial period and of human civilization.” But the U.S. space agency then joins in the panic, claiming the current warming rate “is unprecedented.”

How fast the climate is changing, the extent and impact of these changes, and how much is caused by human activity and what can be done about it are issues that conference organizers never intended to address. Their alarmist predictions and anti-working-class bent covered up the reality of the largest environmental problems — the dog-eat-dog capitalist system that puts profits before all else.

The conference president, Alok Sharma, said the goal was to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) — beyond which doomsday looms.

Some prophets of catastrophe say mil- lions will die from climate change. But a recent study in Lancet, an online medical journal, found that while 166,000 people died by 2090 from more intense heat waves, they atributed to climate change each year, at the same time some 283,000 fewer people died from cold.

A lot of hot air

While there are real problems, a re- sult of the workings of capitalist produc- tion and exploitation, little serious was accomplished. Over 100 governments pledged to reduce methane emissions by a collective total of 30% from 2020 lev- els by the end of the decade, but acting on the promise is not binding.

More than 40 governments signed a pledge to quit coal in the 2030s or 2040s “or as soon as possible thereafter.” The Times notes that “there is little agreement on how to spend the money, who should receive it or how to make sure it is used effectively.”

A lot of hot air and little concrete action were the results of the conference. The Times notes that “the workers movement must take their emissions and adapt to climate change.” The Times notes that “there is little agreement on how to spend the money, who should receive it or how to make sure it is used effectively.”

More than 100 governments also signed a commitment to halt the de- struction of the world’s great forests. But like the other accords, it’s toothless.

It flies in the face of the needs of workers and peasants in the semi-de- nial world. Indonesian President Joko Widodo pointed out that a blanket ban on deforestation would affect “millions of Indonesians who depend for their livelihood on the forestry sector” as well as farmers who depend on clearing for- ests to grow crops.

While many people have our own governments, the earth’s natural patri- mony will be endangered by the opera- tion of the capitalist market system. “I thought I was going to die,” Khan said, describing the various torture tech- niques he was subjected to, including beatings, sexual assaults, being chained naked from a ceiling beam for long peri- ods, starved, doused repeatedly with ice water to keep him awake for days, and being nearly drowned with his head held underwater.

Khan’s statement “had a real impact,” Katya Jestin, one of his lawyers, told the Militant by phone Nov. 5. “He’s the first Guantánamo detainee to publicly de- scribe torture at the hands of the CIA,” she said. He is also represented by the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Military Commissions Defense Organization.

Khan told the military court, “The more I cooperated, the more I was tor- tured,” leading him to start lying in hopes of ending the abuse. In February 2012 he pleaded guilty to charges that included conspiracy, murder and pro- viding material support to “terrorists” in exchange for $500,000 of Guantánamo funds that was used to set up the 2003 bomb- ing of a Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indo- nesia, and planning other attacks.

Farmers plant rice in West Java, Indonesia. President Joko Widodo told climate change con- ference that blanket ban on deforestation would affect lives of “millions of Indonesians.”

Khan, 41, was born in Saudi Arabia and raised in Pakistan. He moved to the U.S. to join his family in Maryland at age 16. He graduated from high school in suburban Baltimore and was working for a telecommunications contractor that managed the Pentagon phone system at the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Shortly afterwards his mother died and he moved back to Pakistan.

After being arrested in Karachi in 2003, Khan was subjected to interroga- tion and torture at several CIA secret facilities over the next three years before being sent to Guantánamo.

He told the military commission, as well as the media present, that his in- tention was “to tell my story with the hope that you better understand who I was and who I have become. I want you to know what I did, what happened to me, and what I hope for the future.”

He added, “I’m not the young, impression- able, vulnerable kid I was 20 years ago. I want you to know what I did, what happened to me, and what I hope for the future.”

In response to Khan’s chilling tes- timony, seven of the eight military of- ficers on the jury signed a letter urging clemency for Khan. This is quite an un- usual occurrence, noted Jestin, who said she never heard of something like this happen- ing before.

“Mr. Khan was subjected to physical and psychological abuse,” the letter said, “closer to torture performed by the most abusive regimes in modern history.”

“Mr. Khan has been held without the basic due process of law under the U.S. Consti- tution,” it noted. “He was held without charge or legal representation for nine years until 2012, and held without final sentencing until October 2021.”

The author of the letter, Capt. Scott B. Curtis, the jury foreman, told the New York Times the CIA torture “was a stain on the moral fabric of America.”

“Stam- The conference president, Alok Sharma, said the goal was to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) — beyond which doomsday looms.

A lot of hot air

While there are real problems, a re- sult of the workings of capitalist produc- tion and exploitation, little serious was accomplished. Over 100 governments pledged to reduce methane emissions by a collective total of 30% from 2020 lev- els by the end of the decade, but acting on the promise is not binding.

More than 40 governments signed a pledge to quit coal in the 2030s or 2040s “or as soon as possible thereafter.” The Times notes that “there is little agreement on how to spend the money, who should receive it or how to make sure it is used effectively.”

More than 100 governments also signed a commitment to halt the de- struction of the world’s great forests. But like the other accords, it’s toothless.

It flies in the face of the needs of workers and peasants in the semi-de- nial world. Indonesian President Joko Widodo pointed out that a blanket ban on deforestation would affect “millions of Indonesians who depend for their livelihood on the forestry sector” as well as farmers who depend on clearing for- ests to grow crops.

While many people have our own governments, the earth’s natural patri- mony will be endangered by the opera- tion of the capitalist market system. “I thought I was going to die,” Khan said, describing the various torture tech- niques he was subjected to, including beatings, sexual assaults, being chained naked from a ceiling beam for long peri- ods, starved, doused repeatedly with ice water to keep him awake for days, and being nearly drowned with his head held underwater.

Khan’s statement “had a real impact,” Katya Jestin, one of his lawyers, told the Militant by phone Nov. 5. “He’s the first Guantánamo detainee to publicly de- scribe torture at the hands of the CIA,” she said. He is also represented by the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Military Commissions Defense Organization.

Khan told the military court, “The more I cooperated, the more I was tor- tured,” leading him to start lying in hopes of ending the abuse. In February 2012 he pleaded guilty to charges that included conspiracy, murder and pro- viding material support to “terrorists” in exchange for $500,000 of Guantánamo funds that was used to set up the 2003 bomb- ing of a Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indo- nesia, and planning other attacks.

Khan, 41, was born in Saudi Arabia and raised in Pakistan. He moved to the U.S. to join his family in Maryland at age 16. He graduated from high school in suburban Baltimore and was working for a telecommunications contractor that managed the Pentagon phone system at the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Shortly afterwards his mother died and he moved back to Pakistan.

After being arrested in Karachi in 2003, Khan was subjected to interroga- tion and torture at several CIA secret facilities over the next three years before being sent to Guantánamo.

He told the military commission, as well as the media present, that his in- tention was “to tell my story with the hope that you better understand who I was and who I have become. I want you to know what I did, what happened to me, and what I hope for the future.”

“In response to Khan’s chilling tes- timony, seven of the eight military of- ficers on the jury signed a letter urging clemency for Khan. This is quite an un- usual occurrence, noted Jestin, who said she never heard of something like this happen- ing before.

“Mr. Khan was subjected to physical and psychological abuse,” the letter said, “closer to torture performed by the most abusive regimes in modern history.”

“Mr. Khan has been held without the basic due process of law under the U.S. Consti- tution,” it noted. “He was held without charge or legal representation for nine years until 2012, and held without final sentencing until October 2021.”

The author of the letter, Capt. Scott B. Curtis, the jury foreman, told the New York Times the CIA torture “was a stain on the moral fabric of America.”

“Stam- The Militant November 22, 2021 7
Socialist revolution in Russia set out to emancipate women

Women and the Family by Leon Trotsky is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for November. Trotsky describes how under the leadership of Lenin and the Bolshevik Party workers and peasants fought to defend their revolution and to transform themselves and social relations. This included charting a course to liberate women from endless toil at home to be able to take part in the cultural and social life of the country, and to create an antithesis to the “socialism” of urban and rural women, “women of commerce,” “housewives, mother, and wife.”

The terrible force of being accustomed to the family slavery of woman! There is no point in even talking about the peasantry. The burden and hopelessness of the fate of the peasant woman, and not only from poor but even from middle families, can probably not be compared today even with the worst penal servitude. No rest, no holiday, no gleam of hope! Our revolution is only gradually reaching down to the familial foundations, mainly in the towns, for the moment, in the industrial regions, and only very slowly is it penetrating into the countryside. And the problems here are immeasurable.

To alter the position of woman at the root, it is necessary above all of the conditions of social, family, and domestic existence are altered. The depth of the question of the mother is expressed in the fact that she is, in essence, a living point where the decisive strands of economic and social work interlock. The question of motherhood is above all a question of an apartment, running water, a kitchen, a laundry room, a dining room. But it is just as much a question of a school, of books, of a place for recreation. Drunkenness beats down the mother exactly on the housewife and mother. Illiteracy and unemployment also. Running water and electricity in the apartment lighten the work of the mother, and that need be altered. Just as it is impossible to approach the construction of the Soviet state without freeing the peasantry from the tangles of serfdom, so it is impossible to move to socialism without freeing the peasant woman and the woman worker from the bondage of family and household. And if we used to determine the maturity of a revolutionary worker not only by his attitude to the capitalist but also by his attitude to the peasant, i.e., by his understanding of the necessity of freeing the peasant from bondage, now we can and must measure the social maturity of the worker and the progressive peasant by their attitude to woman and child, by their understanding of the necessity of freeing from bondage the mother in penal servitude, of giving her the possibility of straightening her back and involving herself as she should in social and cultural life. Motherhood is the hub of all problems. That is why each new measure, each law, each practical step in economic and social construction must also be checked against the question of how it will affect the family, whether it worsens or lightens the fate of the mother, whether it improves the position of the child.

The great number of homeless children in our towns bears most terrible witness to the fact that even more small children are caught up on all sides in the tangles of the old society, which manifests itself in the most vicious way in the epoch of its downfall. The position of mother and child was never so difficult as in the years of the transition from the old to the new, especially in the years of the civil war… [The] homelessness of the child is above all the fruit of maternal homelessness. Consideration for the mother is the truest and deepest way to the improvement of the children.

The general growth of the economy is creating the conditions for a gradual reconstruction of family and domestic life. This question, however, must be posed in their full magnitude. We are approaching from various directions the renewal of the basic capital of the family: the home, the land, the factory, the machines to replace the old ones; we are building new factories; we are renewing our railways; the peasant is acquiring more land. But the most basic “capital” is the people, i.e., its strength, its health, its cultural level. This capital requires renewal, both of the productivity of the factories or the peasant implementations. It must not be thought that the ages of slavery, hunger, and bondage, the years of the housewife and mother, are without a trace. No, they have left behind in the living organism of the people both wounds and scars. Tuberculosis, syphilis, leprosy, smallpox, and all these diseases and many others are spread widely among the masses of the population. The nation must be made healthy. Without that, socialism is unthinkable.

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: swpok@abcglobal.net Los Angeles: 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 900. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: spwlaan@att.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 1444 Biocane Blvd., Suite 215. Zip: 33132. Tel: (305) 928-8966. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

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

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 792-6005. Email: swpchicago@fastmail.com

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 2401 1/2 Central Ave NE, Unit B. Zip: 55418. Tel: (612) 271-1198. Email: swpmnnesota@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: P.O. Box 6811, Zip: 68501. Tel: (402) 217-4966. Email: swpullowinform@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY: 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205H. Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (201) 240-1215. Email: swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: New York: 306 W. 37th St., Suite 302. Zip: 10001. Tel: (212) 452-9117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com Atlanta: 285 Washington Ave. #1R. Zip: 30318. Tel: (404) 591-3506. Email: alba18swp@gmail.com

OHIO: Cincinnati: Email: swpcincinnati@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 2824 Coral Ave. Suite A. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 706-1270. Email: philawps@verizon.net Pittsburgh: 5907 Penn Ave. Suite 313. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

TENNESSEE: Dallas: 1005 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 207. Zip: 75238. Tel: (469) 513-0851. Email: dallascswp@gmail.com

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

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

australia

Sydney: Suite 103, 124-128 Brunswick St. Level 2. Postal Address: PO Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 8677 0108. Email: csquadral@optusnet.com.au

canada

quebec: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2R 2S3. Tel: (514) 722-8440. Email: cicalmontreal@fastmail.com

france

paris: 10 BP 1030, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

New Zealand

Auckland: Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: PO Box 13857, Auckland 1643. Tel: (09) 366-3231. Email: cicalmontreal@fastmail.com

united kingdom

england: London: 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N8 9PN. Tel: (020) 8322 8900. Email: cildonjo@fastmail.fm Manchester: 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 321-8192. Email: cilmanch@onslaught.org
The Militant November 22, 2021 9

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

We need our own party, a labor party

Statement by John Studer, Socialist Workers Party national campaign director, Nov. 10.

The only party that told the truth in the 2021 elections about how working people can fight back against mounting attacks we face today was the Socialist Workers Party. Our candidates explained the root cause of the crisis — the capitalist rulers, who put their profits above all the needs of land and labor — and how workers can chart a course to take political power into our own hands. The example by joining union struggles and building solidarity that is crucial to the outcome and to strengthen the entire labor movement.

Because of the crisis of their system and sharpening competition worldwide, the rulers are driven to carry out assaults on our jobs, wages and working conditions. They know they will meet growing resistance. That is why they attack our political rights and why they used their power to change the laws, by example by joining union struggles and building solidarity that is crucial to the outcome and to strengthen the entire labor movement.

The jury selection is “just another injustice that we are forced to live,” said Terrel West, executive director of the NAACP Branch in Savannah, Ga. “African Americans and other people of color have been segregated off the jury roll for a long time. It is a manifestation of white privilege and a denial of our constitutional right to equal representation.”

The NAACP branch said it is preparing a lawsuit to challenge the defense striking virtually all potential jurors who are Black from the jury pool. “This is not a new thing,” said West. “We are told by the Department of Justice that the NAACP and the ACLU have been working on this issue for a long time.”

The Militant calls on workers and farmers themselves to mount the uncompro mising fight to stop the defense and to strengthen the entire labor movement. Their example is one working people in the U.S. can emulate.

BY JAYNE JONES

Women in Benin win right to choose abortion

The World Health Organization estimates that only about 12% of women in Benin have access to, or use, modern contraception methods. In 2021, a law was passed that will allow women in Benin to have an abortion if the pregnancy is likely to “aggravate or cause material, educational, professional or moral distress incomparably greater than the well being of the child.”

The law is a victory for women’s rights groups in Benin, who have been campaigning for abortion rights for years. Women in Benin have long been fighting for the right to have an abortion, and this law is a significant step forward in their struggle.

However, the law has been met with resistance from some religious and political groups who oppose abortion. These groups have argued that the law is a violation of Benin’s cultural and religious values.

The law will come into effect in the coming weeks, and it is expected to provide a significant improvement in women’s health and rights in Benin. Women in Benin will now have the right to make decisions about their own bodies and reproductive health, which is a crucial step towards gender equality and women’s empowerment.

NFC taxi drivers fight

Continued from front page

Workers Alliance and Marblegate Asset Management, the largest buyer of medallion loans, are demanding that NYC taxi owners pay off all outstanding loans to begin to address the crushing debts faced by many medallion owner-drivers.

Under the agreement, the city pays $30,000 to Marblegate on the one hand. NYC taxi drivers fight

NYC taxi drivers fight

Correction

The photo caption on the Kaiser workers’ protest in issue no. 42 should have identified Jenny Swanson as a shop steward in the United Nurses Association of California/Union of Health Care Professionals.