

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday marks fight for Irish freedom

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 86/NO. 7 FEBRUARY 21, 2022

Truckers in Ontario show road to fight boss attacks

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTREAL — Long-haul truckers in Canada — both owner-operators and company drivers — face a series of attacks today from shippers, truck bosses, federal and provincial government agencies and from skyrocketing fuel costs.

They've filed more than 4,800 complaints with Employment and Social Development Canada for unpaid wages and other employment abuses over the past three years. Yet the federal labor department, which acts to defend the interests of bosses, not workers, hasn't issued a single fine to truck companies for these abuses.

Truckers in Brampton, Ontario, are waging a fight against this kind of wage theft. Trucking company bosses falsely classify them as self-employed contrac-

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Moscow pushes rulers in Berlin to advance its aims in Europe

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Moscow is using the German capitalist rulers' deepening dependence on Russian natural gas to squeeze them to stand aside as Moscow advances its interests in Europe and against Ukraine. The Russian rulers' military encirclement of Ukraine threatens Ukrainian independence and a war that would fall overwhelmingly on the working people of Ukraine, Russia and elsewhere in Europe.

Moscow's massive buildup on Ukraine's borders has sparked preparations to resist inside Ukraine, and also protests in Russia against President Vladimir Putin's military moves.

Some 130,000 combat troops along Ukraine's eastern, northern and southern flanks increase the possibil-

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Drivers, delivery workers rally for union, higher pay

NY workers form alliance to advance fight



Militant/Seth Galinsky

"We need a union," speakers said at Feb. 1 rally of Uber and Lyft drivers and food delivery workers in New York. They are fighting for higher wages, job protection and better conditions.

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — More than 100 Uber, Lyft and other app-based ride and food-delivery workers and their supporters from New York City and Long Island rallied here Feb. 1 demanding higher pay, better working conditions, an end to arbitrary employer deactivations and for access to bathrooms and the right to form a union.

The rally was called to announce the formation of Justice for App Workers, a coalition of mainly local groups of drivers and delivery workers. Speakers addressed the rally in

English, Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, Tibetan and Uzbek, reflecting the heavily immigrant workforce.

There are 100,000 or more food-delivery workers and app-based drivers

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Socialist Workers Party campaign offers working-class road forward

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif. — More than 300 people, way over the 65 required, have signed the petition to put Eleanor Gar-

cía, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, on the California ballot. In addition, over \$5,000 has been raised to pay the filing fee.

Over the weekend of Feb. 5-6, campaigners fanned out to cities in the Bay Area and southern California, knocking on doors and setting up tables at supermarkets, introducing the party's program and the *Militant*. Supporters of the campaign from Seattle, Los Angeles, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, traveled here to participate.

"I like what you are doing," Jose Cabrera told García when she and fellow campaigners stopped by his home in Antioch. "The capitalist class and the two parties that govern on its behalf are in deep crisis," the SWP candidate told him. "The root cause is their economic crisis, worldwide stagnation and now inflation. They respond by attacking workers' wages, our conditions of work and life, our ability to raise a family. Our party says workers need to get organized independently of these parties. We need our own party, a labor party."

Cabrera, a retired chef and proud member of the UNITE HERE hotel workers union, worked for many years at an exclusive ruling-class club. "They wouldn't let women into their club as members," he said. "Our union fought to give women the right to work at the club and we won that. I like what you said about workers getting together. We are the soldiers!"

Cabrera signed the petition, subscribed to the *Militant*, and purchased a copy of *Are They Rich Because They're*

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Capitalist rulers' 'climate change' policies threat to working people

BY TERRY EVANS

Exacerbating the political crisis gripping the U.S. rulers today is their broad belief that governments need to take extraordinary measures to slash the use of fossil fuels or the world will face a "climate catastrophe." This comes on top of the spreading influence of other "woke" views.

This hysteria is matched by Washington's imperialist rivals in Europe. None of these powers consider, much less address, the unmet needs of millions worldwide who live without electrical power, nor the effects on working people of the growing capitalist crisis.

In many imperialist countries this is deepened by liberal-minded capitalist rulers who are convinced that nuclear power, even though it produces no cor-

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Hundreds protest cop killing of Amir Locke in 'no-knock' raid in Minneapolis

BY KEVIN DWIRE AND GABRIELLE PROSSER

MINNEAPOLIS — A crowd of hundreds rallied outside Hennepin County Government Center here Feb. 5 to protest the cop killing of a young Black man, 22-year-old Amir Locke.

In the early morning Feb. 2 a Minneapolis Police Department SWAT team broke into a downtown apartment using a key to the front door and

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'Militant' Renewal Drive		
Jan. 1 - Feb. 15, 1 week to go!!		
Country	Quota	Sold
UNITED STATES		
Albany*	20	13
Atlanta	16	13
Chicago	25	25
Cincinnati	10	8
Dallas-Fort Worth*	15	15
Lincoln*	4	4
Los Angeles	17	17
Miami	7	7
Minneapolis	12	12
N. New Jersey	16	14
New York	25	21
Oakland	18	21
Philadelphia	10	10
Pittsburgh	12	11
Seattle	13	11
Washington, DC	11	13
Total U.S.	231	215
Prisoners*	20	29
UNITED KINGDOM		
London	10	13
Manchester	8	10
Total U.K.	18	23
Canada	30	28
New Zealand	5	7
Australia	10	8
Total	314	310
SHOULD BE	300	250
*Raised Goal		

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- Scaffolders in UK step up pay fight, win support

Teachers across Iran strike over higher pay, pensions

BY SETH GALINSKY

Thousands of teachers, many of them women, held protests and strikes across Iran Jan. 31 — including outside the parliament in Tehran — calling for higher pay and pensions and opposing increasing moves to charge for public education. The semiofficial Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA) carried reports and photos from a half dozen of the actions, the third day of teacher protests in recent weeks.

After the earlier protests, parliament approved a complicated “Teachers Ranking Plan” Dec. 15 that was supposed to raise pay based on “expertise,” “experience,” seniority, the completion of further university study and other criteria. But the protests continued. “I am a teacher. I have come to teach my students that rights have to be fought for” read one protester’s sign.

Among popular chants at the Jan. 31 actions were “Free education for the children of Iran is a right” and “Implement the [pay] plan without any tricks.” Protesters also carried signs demanding “Free the imprisoned teachers,” referring to union leaders and other teachers who have been detained over the last few weeks, including at least four Jan. 31.

While free public education is guaranteed in the Iranian constitution, many schools are trying to get parents to pay tuition because government funding is inadequate.

“The demands for the rights of teachers and educators have not been implemented after 15 years. It’s just promises

and promises” from the government, a teacher told the rally in Markazi province, the ILNA reported.

Iran’s workers and farmers are facing the impact of the worldwide capitalist economic crisis, exacerbated by the cost of the regime’s military interventions to extend its counter-revolutionary reach in Syria, Lebanon and elsewhere in the region, as well as by the economic sanctions imposed by Washington and other imperialist powers. Inflation is estimated to be running at 30% a year, and pensions and wages have not kept up.

“We cannot afford our living expenses,” a high school teacher told an ILNA reporter at a protest at the Ministry of Education in Yazdi, just outside Tehran. Even teachers with a doctorate, he said, only make 4.5 million tomans, about \$160 a month.

NY drivers, delivery workers rally for union, higher pay

Continued from front page

here. Drivers and delivery workers are paid a base rate plus mileage and tips. Both Uber and Lyft claim the drivers are “independent contractors” and are barred from union representation.

“We are fighting for the chance to not just scrape by, but to live,” Dachuan Nie, a food-delivery worker with Chowbus and president of the International Alliance of Delivery Workers, told the rally. “How can we live if we have to work 12, 14, 16 hours a day? How can we take care of our families?”

“Gas goes up, tolls go up, everything goes up except the drivers’ pay,”



Teachers’ protest in Marivan in Iranian Kurdistan, Dec. 23. Banner on left says, “Free education is right of children.” Thousands held strikes and rallies across Iran in December and January for better pay, pensions and against pressure for workers to have to pay for public education.

“People are inciting teachers to not go to the classroom,” Minister of Education Yousef Nouri alleged in face of the widespread protests, trying to smear the teachers as agents of mys-

terious anti-Iran forces.

Undeterred, the Iranian Teachers Trade Association says it is planning further actions if their demands are not met.

said Raúl Rivera from NYC Drivers Unite. Drivers have to provide their own car and delivery workers their own vehicle or bicycle.

“We are workers. We need a union,” Jahongir Ibadov, a leader of UzBER, a group of drivers from Uzbekistan and Russia, said to cheers.

“Uber says they take 30% of each fare. But I can show you, they take much more,” Ibadov told the *Militant*.

“We move this city and we deserve respect,” said Nigeria-born Naomi Ogotu, a leader of NYC Rideshare Club, who chaired the rally. She demanded the city government ensure there are public bathrooms that drivers can access, not a small question in New York.

“Construction workers have a union. Hospital workers have a union. Hotel workers have a union,” Sonam Ghising Lama, from the Independent Drivers Guild, told the crowd. “We need a union and union protection.”

Speakers reported how the companies arbitrarily “deactivate” workers, blocking them from using the apps to pick up passengers or food to deliver, and providing no way for drivers to appeal.

Imran Sayed, a 39-year-old driver

originally from Mumbai, India, told the *Militant* he is fighting deactivation by both Uber and Lyft.

Uber deactivated Sayed three years ago a few hours after a passenger complained when Sayed wouldn’t drop him off in a zone reserved for yellow taxis. Sayed explained that he risked a fine from police. “Of 50 emails I sent to Uber protesting my deactivation, they answered maybe one,” he said.

“I pay \$1,600 a month on my car in loan payments and insurance, but I can’t get work because I’m deactivated.”

A representative for Justice for App Workers told the press that the coalition’s next steps to press their demands will be announced soon. The Independent Drivers Guild, affiliated with the International Association of Machinists, is the only national organization that is part of the coalition. It is lobbying state lawmakers for “Right to Bargain” reforms that include union recognition for drivers and delivery workers in order to negotiate for better wages, benefits and working conditions.

Neither Uber nor Lyft responded to requests for an interview from the *Militant*.

THE MILITANT

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The ‘Militant’ says, “End U.S. rulers’ economic war against Cuba!” For over 60 years Washington has tried to strangle Cuba’s socialist revolution. Cuba’s workers and peasants remain unbowed. Their proletarian internationalism sets an example for working people worldwide.



Puentes de Amor
Nearly 100 protest in Miami Jan. 30, part of int’l actions for “End U.S. embargo of Cuba.”

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

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

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

With one week left, ‘Militant’ renewal drive is over the top

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As we go into the final week of the international drive to expand the long-term readership of the *Militant*, supporters worldwide are poised to meet and exceed their goals. Overall, we’re already over the top, winning 310 renewals, 10 over the goal! One big help is the Socialist Workers Party 2022 election campaign, with the party’s national ticket being announced across the country. (See article on front page.)

In Washington, D.C., Socialist Workers Party members Omari Musa and Arlene Rubinstein met up with public school teacher Ayanna Flowers, who renewed her subscription for six months. “I don’t want to worry that it’s running out again,” she said.

Flowers also picked up the recently published *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*, which includes articles by Frederick Engels, Karl Marx, George Novack and SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters. “This title interests me. I’ve been thinking that we are pitted against our own progression as working people,” she said.

“Our progress is undermined by capitalism,” said Musa. “This book gives us a long view, so we’re not trapped in the moment we live in and think it’s permanent.”

“Workers and women don’t have power. So this book goes back explaining how that happened over a few thousand years?” asked Flowers.

“Further than that,” responded Rubinstein. “It goes back to the development of human history and the part played by labor, which transformed society at every turn. It helps us understand why it’s only workers and farmers who can emancipate ourselves through class struggle. Look at how the capitalist crisis wrecks havoc on the lives of working people today, what we confront just to raise our families.”

“I’m an early childhood teacher so I know about that,” said Flowers. “Families that really need child care can’t get it because they can’t afford it. They have to make a special application and win a spot through a child care lottery.”

“We have to reach out and win class solidarity from the unions and the working-class public,” said Musa, “and point to the need for working people to organize our own political party, a labor party, to chart a course for working people to take political power.”

‘Unions need to stick together’

Train car repairman William Robinson renewed his *Militant* subscription

when Dan Fein and Leroy Watson visited his house in Broadview, Illinois, Feb. 6. He had been in and out of the hospital for back surgery. “Now I have some time to read while I am home recovering from my back injury,” Robinson said.

He works for Metra, the regional passenger rail line in the Chicago area, and is a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen. It has been four years since the union contract expired, said Robinson.

Fein pointed to the *Militant* article on the United Steelworkers strike in West Virginia against Special Metals where rail workers joined the picket line in

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Militant/Dan Fein

SWP campaigner Leroy Watson, left, spoke to train car repairman William Robinson in Broadview, Illinois, Feb. 6. He renewed *Militant* subscription, looks for further discussions.

SWP campaign offers working-class road forward

Continued from front page

Smart? by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes.

García also met with Leilani Williams, a medical assistant who subscribed to the *Militant* while picketing at the Oakland Kaiser hospital in November in support of striking members of the Stationary Engineers union.

“I’m against the mandates on vaccinations,” Williams told her. “I took the first two, but I’m not sure about the booster.” García responded that the Socialist Workers Party supports vaccination, but opposes government mandates, which reinforce the capitalist rulers’ power to interfere with our rights and our struggles. “The vaccines are effective,” she said. “Unions should take the lead in educating about this and organizing to get workers vaccinated. But the bosses shouldn’t have the power to fire you because you are hesitant to get vaccinated.”

García said Cuba is an example of what happens when medical care is not a business, based on what is profitable. “They have produced their own vaccine and people there are getting vaccinated because they trust their government, unlike here. The workers and farmers in Cuba made a socialist revolution, replacing domination of the island by the U.S. and the Cuban capitalists.”

Williams signed the petition, decided to renew her subscription to the *Militant* and got *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor, spoke with Rose Cruz at her home in Vallejo. Cruz, a hospital worker and member of the Service Employees International Union, was a staunch supporter of the engi-

neers’ strike and a regular on the picket line outside the Vallejo Kaiser hospital.

Cruz signed the petition and purchased *Teamster Rebellion*, a book that describes how workers built the unions into class-struggle organizations in the 1930s.

While in Vallejo, campaigners visited with Clista Hammond, a *Militant* subscriber, retired teacher and former shipyard worker. She said that in the 1950s, Blacks were prevented from buying homes in Vallejo. The KKK carried out terrorist attacks. As a result of the deep-going changes brought about by the Black struggles of the 1960s and ’70s that overthrew Jim Crow segregation, Vallejo is now home to Blacks, Latinos, Caucasians and others.

Campaign supporter Vincent Auger told Hammond, “I started reading the *Militant* about a year ago. The campaign program is consistent and clear. It’s about what working people ourselves can do, not rely on others. This resonates with people.”

Auger said he recently joined picket lines of striking workers at the King Soopers groceries in Colorado. “They were fighting for higher wages and against the company consolidating jobs, overworking employees so the bosses can make more profits.”

“And if they don’t give them a 40-hour workweek, the company doesn’t have to pay benefits,” Hammond added.

Capitalist rulers face a deep crisis

As part of the campaign weekend, García and Britton were featured speakers at an SWP forum in Oakland Feb. 5. “I want you to go away from this meeting recognizing two things,” García said. “The first is the depth of the political crisis faced by the capitalist ruling families and the parties that represent them. The root cause is their profit-driven system, the stagnation of production and trade, along with soaring prices. It’s a worldwide crisis.

“They respond by protecting their markets and profits, making the workers pay for their crisis. Internationally the imperialist rulers are demanding debt repayment from regimes in the semicolonial world. This means governments there will squeeze our fellow workers and farmers. This adds to crushing conditions they already face, made worse by the continued spread of the coronavirus and hoarding of the vaccines by the imperialist powers.

“The second thing is the ruling-class parties are incapable of putting together

a stable majority to effectively govern on behalf of their class,” she said. “Neither party has solutions. They are locked in never-ending battles for control, both torn by internal dissent.

“It’s harder and harder for young workers to move from their parents’ homes, to start families,” García added. “This is a big question for strikers who make ice cream cakes at Jon Donaire in Los Angeles, the majority women. No family time is one of the reasons they went on strike, because of unscheduled, last-minute overtime. For these women it’s not only children but also elderly relatives they are responsible for.

“The Socialist Workers Party champions the battle for the emancipation of women, key to strengthening the fighting capacity of the working class.

“Workers need a government-funded public works program to provide jobs at union-scale wages to build affordable housing, child care centers, hospitals and other things working-class families need to survive,” she said. “And we need to conquer workers control over production.”

The socialist campaign will address the plight of farmers, including the working farmers in the San Joaquin Valley who can’t get access to water, as well as debt-ridden ranchers losing their land, García said. “We look to examples from the 1980s, when fighting alliances were formed between Black and Caucasian farmers, and with the unions.”

Britton said that supporters of the campaign have recently participated in protests by refinery workers against the contract the oil bosses look to impose on their union, the United Steelworkers. “Short staffing and excessive overtime, these are key issues they are fighting about,” he said.

Readers of the *Militant* are urged to join the SWP campaign, in California and across the country! For information on how to do this, contact the Socialist Workers Party campaign center nearest you, listed on page 8.

Deborah Liatos contributed to this article.

Socialist Workers Party 2022 candidates

California

Eleanor García, US Senate
Joel Britton, Governor

Florida

Rachele Fruit, Governor

Georgia

Lisa Potash, US Senate
Sam Manuel, Governor

Illinois

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SWP: 'Combat Jew-hatred wherever it raises its head'

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

UNION CITY, N.J. — “The Socialist Workers Party and its candidates join working-class struggles against attacks by bosses and their parties, and present a course to lead workers to take power into our own hands,” Joanne Kuniansky, the SWP’s candidate for U.S. Congress, told a Militant Labor Forum here Feb. 5.

“That is the only way to stop the brutalities of capital, and the catastrophes for humanity that will unfold. As part of that we must combat Jew-hatred wherever it raises its head.”

“The increasing attacks against Jews today are not one-off events,” she said. “They reflect the crisis of capitalism. Jew-hatred is an integral part of the imperialist epoch. This includes antisemitic demagoguery of a growing number of bourgeois liberals in the Democratic Party and the middle-class left.”

Kuniansky pointed to Whoopi Goldberg’s comments on the TV show “The View” Jan. 31. Goldberg said the Holocaust was “not about race,” adding it just involved “two white groups of people.”

On the “Late Show with Stephen Colbert,” she stood by her remarks. But when ABC suspended her for two weeks, Goldberg issued an apology.

“But Goldberg’s ‘facts’ fly in the face of reality,” Kuniansky said. “In 1935 the Nuremberg race laws declared Jews, Romas and blacks enemies of the race-based state and stripped them of German citizenship. These laws prohibited mixing with these ‘subhuman races.’ Under Nazi rule 6 million Jews of all ages were exterminated.”

Jonathan Greenblatt, the Anti Defamation League’s chief executive, also blasted Goldberg for this reason, Kuniansky said.

But the ADL had changed its own definition of racism in 2020. It branded all Caucasians regardless of class or conviction as “privileged.” It says racism is “based on a socially constructed racial hierarchy that privileges white people.” But after Goldberg’s remarks the ADL is backtracking. It has replaced this “woke” definition with a statement that says racism is a “more favorable evaluation or treatment of an individual or group based on race or ethnicity.” Greenblatt went on “The View” to help Goldberg with damage control.

“Greenblatt and Goldberg share the same liberal bourgeois politics,” Kuniansky said. “Neither believes fascism will raise its head in the U.S., let alone do they have a course for fighting it.”

She urged participants to read the recently published new edition of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon. “It explains that at times of sharp capitalist dislocation,

insecure layers of the middle classes — facing loss of income, jobs, homes, farms, small businesses — look for someone to blame. They fear the abyss and being thrown down among the deplorables. Big business makes use of antisemitism of the petty-bourgeois masses to deflect blame for their crisis onto Jews.”

“You have to be transparent about what’s at stake,” Kuniansky said. “At a New York protest in 2020, after the murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and at the Kosher deli in Jersey City, the official banner called for a march against hate and fear. SWP campaigners carried placards that read, ‘It’s not hate, it’s Jew-hatred.’”

Kuniansky described several antisemitic attacks this year, including the hostage taking at Temple Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas. “The FBI in Dallas initially refused to call the Texas attack antisemitic. State officials did the same thing after the deadly attack on the New Jersey Kosher deli. Bourgeois Jewish organizations today turn to the FBI or other police agencies for protection against Jew-hating violence.”

“But the only real help can come from the working class and our unions,” Kuniansky said. She pointed to the example set by the leadership of the Teamsters union in the 1930s, after a wave of strikes and organizing drives made Minneapolis a union town. “Bosses invited the Silver Shirts, a fascist outfit, to start an organizing drive. The Silver Shirts immediately called for a vigilante attack on the union headquarters of Teamsters Local 544.”

“A local rabbi alerted the Teamsters to this threat,” she said. “He saw in the union a force that had the power to deal with the fascists. Teamsters Local 544 then initiated a union defense guard to protect union picket lines, its headquarters and members against anti-labor violence.” When the guard mobilized to make clear the fascists weren’t going to operate without a serious fight, the Silver Shirts left town.

Kuniansky also took up a recent report by Amnesty International called “Israel’s Apartheid Against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and



Militant/Roy Landersen

Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for US Congress in New Jersey, carries party placard: “It’s not ‘hate,’ it’s Jew-hatred!” in 2020 New York “No Hate, No Fear” rally that drew 25,000.

Crime Against Humanity.” The report says Israel has always been, “an institutionalized regime of oppression and domination of the Palestinian population for the benefit of Jewish Israelis.”

The report erases what apartheid was, as well as the revolutionary democratic struggle carried out to end it and form a South African nation for all who live there, black and white.

“Establishment of the state of Israel was made inevitable with the Holocaust,” Kuniansky said, “and by the refusal by the rulers in Washington and elsewhere to open their borders to Jews fleeing Nazi persecution before and during the second imperialist world war.” If the possibility of successful socialist revolutions in France, Spain and elsewhere in the 1930s hadn’t been betrayed by Stalinism, the march to war and the Nazi’s “final solution” could have been prevented.

“The necessity of the state of Israel as a refuge was settled by the gruesome history of capitalism and Jew-hatred in the 20th century. The SWP calls for the unconditional recognition of the state of Israel as a refuge for Jews.”

The Palestinian people are nationally oppressed, Kuniansky said, not only by Israel’s capitalist government but also by the rulers of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the West Bank and Gaza, as well as by rival imperialist powers. Hamas and the Palestinian Authority hinder the work of educating and organizing the Palestinian masses in a revolutionary spirit.

“We are not friends of the state of

Israel,” Kuniansky said. “And the SWP unequivocally condemns rightist thugs who attack Palestinians. But any serious effort to win Jewish workers in Israel to back Palestinian rights will remain a pipe dream without revolutionary organizations that stand for the unconditional recognition of Israel’s right to exist. Most Jews in Israel would rather live in peace with their Arab neighbors. But the rain of rockets from Hamas throws them into the arms of the Israeli government.”

A lively discussion followed Kuniansky’s presentation.

“The real discussion the working-class needs is hurt by accepting prerogatives of the state and institutions to censor people and demands for public self-censorship,” SWP leader Dave Prince said in remarks during the discussion. “But Goldberg’s comments are what she thinks. She’s part of a petty-bourgeois layer that advances reactionary and backward views. She’s not misguided. Take people for what they say, and answer them on that.”

“The biggest illusion is not that antisemitism will disappear. It won’t. It is that bourgeois democracy, the major capitalist parties, or any party seeking to reform capitalism can or will prevent coming assaults by rightist forces, or defend you,” Prince said.

The SWP and the SWP 2022 campaigns nationwide will continue to speak out and join protests against Jew-hatred.

Palestinians, Israelis unite against settler attack on West Bank

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Over a dozen masked unsanctioned settlers in the West Bank attacked a group of Palestinian farmers and their supporters from Israel Jan. 21 as they were planting trees by the village of Burin, south of Nablus. The attackers used clubs and threw rocks at the group, and poured gasoline on a nearby car and set it on fire. At least seven people were injured, the most serious hospitalized in Israel. The assailants came from Givat Ronen, an outpost not authorized by the Israeli regime.

Organized by Rabbis for Human Rights and the Olive Harvest Coalition, the Israeli groups drove to Burin to join with Palestinian residents to plant trees in areas that had been damaged or vandalized by thugs. They were there as part of celebrating the Jewish holiday of Tu Bishvat, a tree-planting festival day in honor of loved ones and friends.

Israeli Defense Forces in the area did nothing to stop the assault.

“Burin has been the scene of a number of attacks by settlers and Jewish extremists,” wrote the *Jerusalem Post* Jan. 21, which “have been caught on video, including incidents in which settlers can be seen throwing stones at homes.”

The Yesha Council, a group representing Israeli settlers on the West Bank, condemned the attack. This “contradicts the values of the people of Israel and harms settlement efforts,” the organization said in a statement.

The editors of the *Post* condemned the failure of leading Israeli government officials to respond to this attack Jan. 24. “Defense Minister Benny Gantz who is in charge of the IDF and the West Bank? Silence,” they admonished. “Prime Minister Naftali Bennett? Quiet. The same deafening silence was heard from Justice Minister Gideon Saar, Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked and more.”

Attacks by settlers have been on the rise over the past several years, aimed at destroying local Palestinians’ live-

lihoods or driving them off the land. According to the United Nations, there were 496 attacks last year, with 126 of them resulting in physical harm. This is a 39% increase from 2020.

In spite of growing violence, more Palestinians and Israeli settlers on the West Bank have stepped up contact and established closer social and cultural ties. The fight for recognition of Israel as a Jewish state by Arab states in the region and by Palestinian organizations, and for an independent Palestine state by Israel, would open up more political space for workers on both sides of the borders to collaborate and fight together against attacks coming down on them by all of the capitalist rulers.

On Feb. 4 some 400 Israelis returned to Burin to help Palestinian farmers plant olive trees. “Returning to the scene of the attack, two weeks after it occurred, represents a significant victory,” Avi Dabush, executive director of Rabbis for Human Rights, told the media.

—MILITANT
LABOR
FORUMS—

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Capitalist Rulers’ Response to COVID-19 Shows How U.S. Health ‘Care’ System Is a Disaster for Working People. Speaker: Marklyn Wilson, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Feb. 20, 5 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

Striking bakery workers win support in hard-fought battle

BY LAURA GARZA

LOS ANGELES — “We’ve been on the picket line rain and shine,” striker Elvia Castillo told a rally here outside a Baskin-Robbins store in Boyle Heights Feb. 3. “When you have to wake up early to be on the line, you see ladies with 10, 20 years on the job there, fighting. Sometimes when you get stressed, just seeing them on the line makes you strong. We’re here to get justice!”

Some 175 members of Local 37 of the BCTGM — the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union — have been on strike since Nov. 3 at the Rich’s Jon Donaire Desserts factory in nearby Santa Fe Springs. They were joined at the rally by dozens of other union members, including rideshare drivers organized in the Mobile Workers Alliance, members of the Teamsters, Service Employees International Union, International Alliance of Stage Employees, Writers Guild, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and others.

The Jon Donaire bosses profit off producing ice cream cakes that are sold at major retailers, including Baskin-Robbins, Walmart, Costco and Cold Stone Creamery. Workers presented a letter to Baskin-Robbins asking them to contact Rich’s, Donaire’s parent company, demanding they treat their employees better and agree to a contract. Rallies at several sites around the region are planned. The union is demanding \$1 an hour raise per year over a three-year contract. Rich Products rakes in some \$4 billion in sales annually, and the company’s chairman, Bob Rich Jr., has an estimated net worth of \$4.6 billion.

Rodolfo Pinales, who has worked at the plant for four years, said they are also fighting for “respect for the workers, proper health care and a decent pension.” He said they’ve been subjected to a brutal speedup. Pinales places molds under a hose spurting ice cream, “and the ice cream never stops.” His production line has been sped up from 13 to 28 cakes a minute. On some lines it’s up to 38 a minute.

“Our hands and shoulders hurt. There are a lot of injuries,” he said. Workers have to work up to 12 hours a day.

Martha Montes said her hands are hurting, even though she hasn’t worked for three months because of being on strike. “I’m making the same as people with 15 or 20 years working there,” she said, adding if she didn’t fight it would be the same years from now. The workers make \$17 to \$18 an hour, and inflation is eating away at what they can buy.

“Thanks to the help we’ve gotten we’re still here, alone we couldn’t do it,” Montes said. She said the bosses are always pushing you, making it hard to do simple things, like going to the bathroom or actually taking the full 15 minute break you are entitled to.

Management has been calling people asking them to return, Miguel Perez said. “They say, ‘Just worry about yourself.’” Because of the length of the strike, workers are now beginning to receive unemployment, and that will be a help, he said. “The company said they would raise the cost of insurance for a family to \$760 a month,” more than three times what they pay now. The workers are demanding insurance costs remain the same.

Perez also said the company has an onerous point system, where you



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Striking members of BCTGM Local 37 in Los Angeles County have been on strike against Jon Donaire since Nov. 3. Unionists, supporters joined them Feb. 3 for rally in Boyle Heights.

can be fired after accumulating seven points. “It’s a punishment system,” he said. “Most of the people in the plant are women, and since women are the ones who usually take care of a child who gets sick or a family member, then if they get sick they have to come to work because they already took a day to take care of someone else.”

A Lyft driver said he joined the protest “to show support for co-workers. I see how unions give support. Without support from others we’re weaker, and with support we’re stronger.”

Word is getting around about the

strike, with one local news station covering the rally at Baskin-Robbins, and the *Los Angeles Times* business section running a feature story on the fight titled, “At a subsidiary of a \$4-billion corporation, these low-wage workers are striking for better pay.”

More workers are making a point to drop by the lines to show solidarity, like a group of International Alliance of Stage Employees who joined the pickets Jan. 29. They need support for their fight! Join the picket line, which is up 24/7 at 12805 Busch Place in Santa Fe Springs.

—ON THE PICKET LINE

Scaffolders in U.K. step up pay fight, win support

SCUNTHORPE, England — “Support has been great, from all over the U.K. and Ireland,” Unite union steward Dave Birchall told the *Militant* outside the British Steel plant that dominates this town Jan. 28. He is one of 60 striking scaffolders working for contractor Actavo, now four months into a pay fight.

Early that morning as steelworkers were arriving to work, strikers blocked the entrance for an hour and a half to press their demand for 17 pounds an hour (\$23), the nationally agreed rate

— a raise of about 2 pounds.

Following advice from union officials, scaffolders had suspended their strike in January. But bosses at British Steel hired four other contracting companies and locked the strikers out. In response, the union stepped up picketing, targeting sites where those contractors operate.

On Jan. 31 strikers picketed the Lindsey Oil Refinery in Immingham. “Scaffolders who work for Altrad and other workers refused to cross,” Birchall said in a phone interview. Then Altrad pulled out from their strikebreaking operation at British Steel in Scunthorpe.

Scaffolders held demonstrations at three Actavo offices around the country and one in Ireland Jan. 24.

Days earlier, a group of Celtic Football Club supporters held up a banner at a match condemning Actavo owner Denis O’Brien, who also owns a minority stake in the club. Their action prompted an article in *The Times* of London, which rarely covers strikes.

— Pete Clifford and Ögmundur Jónsson

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



February 24, 1997

For the past 25 years the Socialist Workers Party has waged a fight to function in politics free from harassment by government and right-wing organizations and individuals.

A Federal Elections Commission ruling exempting the party from reporting the names of contributors expired at the end of 1996. Constitutional law attorney Michael Krinsky has filed a request to extend the ruling for another eight years.

The SWP has been running candidates for public office since 1938 and has fielded a candidate for U.S. president in every election since 1948. The party fields candidates in local, state, and federal elections across the country.

At the heart of the submission is documentation of 72 incidents since 1990 of harassment and intimidation against party candidates, socialist campaign supporters, and offices of the party’s election campaigns.



February 25, 1972

The strike of Britain’s 280,000 miners has entered its sixth week. It is Britain’s largest industrial crisis since World War II, and some say, since the general strike of 1926.

The miners walked off their jobs Jan. 9 demanding a wage increase. Their demand is for 25 percent, while the Coal Board offers only 12 percent. On Feb. 8 the Tory government invoked a “state of emergency,” which empowers the government to counter the effectiveness of the miners’ strike by cutting off electric power supplies. It also permits the use of British troops to disperse pickets so that scabs may transport coal.

Feb. 15 the *New York Times* quoted a 25-year-old miner, James Traynor, as saying: “The workers know that if the government and the bosses break us today, they’ll break someone else tomorrow. If we lose, the union movement loses.”

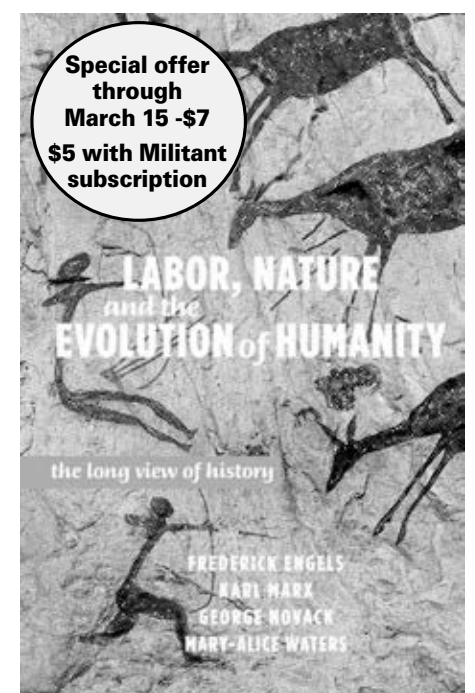


February 22, 1947

The tramp of marching feet in the streets of a Southern state capital on Feb. 13 sounded a clarion call for white and Negro labor unity in common struggle against the capitalist exploiters of all workers.

In Nashville, Tennessee, some 2,500 white and Negro workers, representing every union affiliation from all parts of the state, united in a march on the state capitol building to fight against a threatened open shop bill.

Tennessee unionists have given an example to the whole labor movement. From the South, with its traditions of anti-unionism and racial bigotry, has come a demonstration of labor militancy and solidarity that points the way for labor nationally. The march is a sign that a new progressive force is emerging right inside the strongest citadel of American reaction, the South. That force is the awakening Southern working class.



Where did humanity come from? How did we arrive where we are today? Why is that even important? Because without understanding how human society, since our remotest ancestors, has been created through social labor, working people remain prisoners of the capitalist epoch in which we live.

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Moscow pushes aims in Europe

Continued from front page

ity of war. Even without an all-out invasion, Moscow may be emboldened to seize Ukrainian territory or launch attacks aimed at bolstering pro-Russian separatists fighting the government in eastern parts of the country.

The Kremlin demands that Washington promise to never admit Ukraine into its NATO military alliance and to remove NATO forces from Eastern Europe.

"It is in the interests of workers and farmers, here and around the world, to demand 'Russia hands off Ukraine!' and to back the fight by Ukrainian working people to defend their independence against Moscow's threats," Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party 2022 candidate for governor of California, told a rally kicking off its ballot drive Feb. 5. "We also say the U.S. rulers are no friend of the Ukrainian people. The working class needs its own foreign policy, to join alongside fellow workers worldwide. We call for U.S. and NATO forces out of Eastern Europe."

Moscow seeks domination

Putin's moves are aimed at exploiting weaknesses and divisions among the imperialist powers in Europe, and especially to draw the German rulers

closer to Moscow's orbit.

He also seeks to reclaim Moscow's control over Eastern European countries, formerly dominated by the Soviet Union before its disintegration in 1991. To justify Moscow's threats, Putin claims Russians and Ukrainians are "one people."

Putin gained support from Chinese President Xi Jinping when they met in Beijing Feb. 4. Both regimes seek to expand their reach at the expense of Washington, while keeping a close eye on each other at the same time. They issued a joint statement demanding Washington provide "security guarantees" against "the further enlargement of NATO" in Eastern Europe and condemning the U.S. rulers' military links with the Australian government.

President Joseph Biden seeks to protect Washington's imperialist interests by sending additional U.S. troops to augment the tens of thousands already stationed across Europe. But the U.S. rulers have no plans to send NATO forces into Ukraine. Instead, the White House threatens Moscow with "severe sanctions" if Russian troops move against Kyiv.

Washington and Berlin are "in lockstep," Biden claimed after meeting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in the U.S.

Communist continuity backing Ukraine independence

BY JANET POST

As President Vladimir Putin demands Ukraine submit to Russian domination, Ukrainian workers and farmers are mobilizing to defend their independence. Putin rails against V.I. Lenin and the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution he led for its support to self-determination for those fighting to break free from the tyranny they suffered under the czarist "prison house of nations."

This makes it crucial to study the continuity of communism on this question.

The best place to start is the Pathfinder book, *Lenin's Final Fight: Speeches and Writings, 1922-23*. Here Lenin discusses the rights of oppressed nationalities and the need to combat Great Russian chauvinism. It is the record of his battle to defend the Bolsheviks' policies on the rights of oppressed nations against an intensifying attack from Joseph Stalin and the growing bureaucratic caste he spoke for.

Putin insists Stalin was right against Lenin.

Prior to the 1917 revolution, under czarist rule, Ukrainians, Jews, Tatars, and millions in Central Asia and the Caucasus region were oppressed, denied the basic right to read or use their native language, practice their religion or exercise control over cultural, economic and political affairs.

With the victory of the Bolshevik Revolution, the new workers and peasants government championed the right to self-determination of oppressed nationalities, within what had been the Russian Empire, and worldwide. The Ukrainian people established an autonomous republic and voluntarily joined the new Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. National pride grew. Use of the Ukrainian language, literature and the arts flourished.

In a 1922 memo to the Communist Party's Political Bureau, Lenin de-

clared "war to the death on dominant nation chauvinism."

"Internationalism on the part of oppressors or 'great' nations," he wrote to a party congress that same year, "must consist not only in the observance of the formal equality of nations but even as an inequality, through which the oppressor nation, the great nation, would compensate for the inequality which obtains in real life. Anybody who does not understand this has not grasped the real proletarian attitude to the national question."

After Lenin's death, Stalin led a thoroughgoing political counterrevolution against the policies that marked the Bolshevik Revolution and the first four congresses of the Communist International. He instigated the reimposition of Great Russian chauvinism over Ukraine and the other oppressed nations within the Soviet Union, which continued through its collapse in 1991 and has been the approach of the capitalist regime that grew up in Russia, and of the Putin government today.

The Stalinist regime took special vengeance against the workers and farmers of Ukraine. They arrested and had put to death thousands of Ukrainian writers, artists, intellectuals and political officials who had been put in place in Lenin's time.

Under what is known there as the Holodomor, which literally means killing by hunger, the forced collectivization and onerous grain confiscation by Moscow led some 3.9 million workers and peasants to die of starvation in 1932 and 1933.

Exiled by Stalin, Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky, who dedicated his life to defending Lenin's political course, wrote in 1939 from Mexico: "Have Stalin and his Ukrainian satraps succeeded in convincing the Ukrainian masses of the superiority of Moscow's



Over 5,000 protesters carry Ukrainian national colors in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, Feb. 5. Behind a banner saying, "Kharkiv is Ukraine," they demanded an end to Russian threat of aggression only 25 miles from border where tens of thousands of Russian troops with tanks are deployed.

capital Feb. 7. But the only thing they're in "lockstep" on is refusal to send troops to Ukraine. Otherwise, their conflicting interests take priority. And there is little agreement on a course of action among the 27 competing capitalist governments in the European Union.

That same day French President Emmanuel Macron held talks in Moscow and later in Kyiv looking to make French capital a bigger player in the region. He briefed Putin on his plans for establishing a Europe-wide mili-

tary alliance independent of NATO.

Over 5,000 people protested Feb. 5 with banners saying "Kharkiv is Ukraine" and "Stop Russian aggression." Kharkiv, near the Russian border, is Ukraine's second-largest city. Many of its residents are Russian-speakers.

"I was born in Crimea. That's enough, they've already taken a homeland from me," Iryna Gayeva told Agence France-Presse at the protest. "I live here, my parents are from Russia, but I don't want to see any occupiers."

In Kyiv and other cities in Ukraine, thousands of civilian volunteers are training alongside military reservists to resist any Russian invasion.

In 2014 a monthlong popular uprising in Kyiv's Maidan Square spread across the country as hundreds of thousands mobilized to topple the hated pro-Moscow president.

When Moscow responded by seizing the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine, and Moscow-backed separatist fighters seized parts of the Donbas in the east of the country, 50,000 people came out to protest in Moscow. Since then Putin has moved systematically to silence or imprison his political opponents.

Despite this, a Jan. 30 open letter from the Russian Congress of Intellectuals condemned the "party of war" in the Russian leadership. It is gaining thousands of signatures online.

The Russian people are "hostages of a reckless adventurism that has come to typify Russia's foreign policy," it says. The signatories pledge to build "a mass anti-war movement in Russia" if a war takes place.

centralism over Ukrainian independence or have they failed?

"The very genesis of the totalitarian regime and its ever more brutal intensification, especially in the Ukraine, are proof that the real will of the Ukrainian masses is irreconcilably hostile to the Soviet bureaucracy. There is no lack of evidence that one of the primary sources of this hostility is the suppression of Ukrainian independence."

Standing on this revolutionary continuity, the Socialist Workers Party hailed the mass popular 2014 anti-Moscow uprising in Ukraine known as the Maidan. The *Militant* organized a series of reporting trips to Ukraine in 2014 and 2015 — from Sokol in the west to Chernobyl, the iron and coal mining regions of Kryvyi Rih and Pavlograd in the east, Kharkiv and elsewhere — to get out the truth about the working-class battles taking place and widespread support for Ukrainian sovereignty.

Capitalist rulers' 'climate change' policies threat to working people

Continued from front page

rosive carbon emissions, must also be done away with.

Governments in the EU have committed to cut carbon emissions by a mammoth 55% compared with 1990 in eight years time, but none has any serious plan for how to meet that goal while keeping industry running, or even keeping the heat or the lights on.

After a 2011 tsunami hit a nuclear plant in Fukushima, Japan, killing nearly 20,000 people and generating a worldwide panic, the German government opted to shut down all that country's nuclear plants. They're well on their way, with the last German reactors set to be shuttered this year. As a result, they have been forced to ramp up coal production for energy needs, increasing carbon pollution.

This course has left Germany's ruling families utterly dependent on the Russian government piping in huge quantities of natural gas to keep their economy running. The effects of this deepening dependency is plain to all as their feigned support for Ukrainian sovereignty evaporates in the face of Moscow's threats.

Berlin's close ties to Moscow

The pipeline deal has led to deeper interconnections between the German rulers and Moscow. Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder is currently chairman of Nord Stream 2, the Russian-owned pipeline company. He was nominated to serve on the board of Kremlin-controlled energy giant Gazprom Feb. 4. Schroeder has condemned the Ukrainian government for "saber-rattling" when it requested arms.

Moscow feels there's room to push their interests all across Europe harder.

The hysterical anti-nuclear power campaign that followed the Fukushima meltdown was based on lies. No one died from nuclear radiation at Fukushima, despite the indefensible disregard of basic safety by bosses at the nuclear plant. The thousands that did die were killed because so many Japanese workers, farmers and fishermen are forced to live on low-lying, tsunami-prone coastal areas and the government refused to provide an early warning system. Bosses at the nuclear plant deliberately delayed vital action to cool down overheating reactors in the hope they could save their investment.

Last year a U.N. report confirmed Fukushima residents face no increasing risk of cancer 10 years after the disaster. What happened there bears out the fact that there is nothing inherently dangerous about nuclear power. Dangers that do arise are a result of which class runs them, as bosses drive to maximize profits at workers' expense. That's why the Socialist Workers Party says our unions need to fight for workers control of production.

'Woke' U.S. rulers not far behind

While Germany's capitalist rulers are the most extreme example today, most imperialist governments are increasingly pressing green energy policies, including in Washington.

President Joseph Biden says the threat of climate change is "existential" and emergency steps are needed. A growing majority of the Democratic Party also oppose nuclear power.



Crystal River nuclear power plant in Florida, above, is being decommissioned by 2027, nearly 50 years earlier than planned. As of 2019, there were 23 shuttered nuclear plants in the U.S.

Biden says his administration will halt all new oil and gas drilling on public land. It plans to lavish billions in handouts to the owners of companies making electric vehicles that most workers cannot afford.

Many big capitalists champion the liberals' climate crusade. BlackRock, which sits on \$10 trillion in assets and is the second largest investor in oil giant ExxonMobil, pressed the oil bosses to scrap plans for a 25% increase in oil and gas production, despite widespread fuel shortages.

Some 759 million people worldwide had no access to electricity in 2019, mostly in semicolonial countries. The

policies of the imperialist rulers offer no road forward for them.

Nuclear power plants in the U.S. generate some 20% of the country's power. But only one has been commissioned in the last 26 years. The average nuclear facility in the U.S. is 39 years old. As of November 2019, there were 23 shuttered nuclear plants in the U.S. in various stages of being decommissioned.

This "climate change" march toward chaos may seem like a form of suicide for the bloodthirsty U.S. imperialist ruling class that has been dominant worldwide for decades. The U.S. government today looks nothing like the

confident, expanding capitalist ruling class of 30 to 40 years ago. The rulers in Moscow and Beijing are heartened at the extent of this weakness.

Future depends on the working class

More and more the future for humanity depends on working people taking power into our own hands, and establishing a workers and farmers government that will rule as stewards of nature and human life. Only the working class today is capable of taking advantage of scientific improvements and unleashing the capacities of human labor for the benefit of all. Workers need to strengthen our struggles today for jobs, better wages and conditions, for workers control of production and to safeguard the earth's natural resources from the impact of burning fossil fuels.

There is no way to expand energy production, and to reduce the poisoning of the atmosphere from carbon emissions, without increasing the use of nuclear power. Worldwide, 450 nuclear reactors generate 10% of the total electricity consumed today, a drop of 15% from 2005. Beijing aims to surpass Washington as the largest generator of nuclear power in five years.

Operating reactors to prevent nuclear meltdowns, constructing secure containment vessels and disposing of radioactive waste can and must be done safely — but only if workers and our unions fight to take control of production from the bosses on the road to taking political power.

Bloody Sunday anniversary marks fight for Irish freedom

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — In a bloody assault against the struggle for civil rights and Irish independence, the British Army's paratroop regiment on Jan. 30, 1972, gunned down protesters in Derry, Northern Ireland. Fourteen were killed and many more injured. Fifty years later the Bloody Sunday massacre was marked with a remembrance walk by many hundreds along the same route as the original march.

Family members of the victims, who have tirelessly campaigned to get out the truth about the slaughter, were prominent in the commemoration. For the first time the Irish government was represented. Prime Minister Micheal Martin attended.

"It's important for the rest of the world to see what they done to us," Charlie Nash, cousin of William Nash, one of those killed in 1972, told the media.

The 1972 march was organized by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association to protest the British government's imposition of internment without trial. It was part of a rising movement for equal rights for Northern Ireland Catholics, who faced discrimination in housing, education, employment and voting. The 1972 Derry protest was banned by authorities, but demonstrators went ahead anyway.

The fight against the caste-like conditions foisted on the Catholic population was a dagger pointed at the heart of policies aimed at entrenching British domination. Bosses' divide and rule, pitting Catholic and Protestant workers against each other there and elsewhere in the U.K., had been central to undermining

working-class solidarity and deepening capitalist exploitation for decades.

Fearful that the fight for civil rights would fuel support for British withdrawal and a united Ireland, London intensified its efforts to crush the movement. The British rulers have clung onto the northern six counties of Ireland since 1921, when a war for independence drove them out of the rest of the country, establishing the Irish Republic in the South.

In 1969 the Labour government sent troops to quell the threat to London's rule. Over the next three decades, some 250,000 soldiers were deployed — the mainstay of a bipartisan assault that included the paramilitary Royal Ulster Constabulary, nonjury courts, state collusion with pro-British Loyalist death squads, frame-ups and a heavily fortified border with the South.

In August 1971, the introduction of internment without trial fueled resistance to British rule, rather than quash it as the government hoped.

Following the killings, the British state did everything in its power to justify the slaughter. A tribunal under the U.K.'s top judge, Lord Chief Justice Widgery, was rapidly convened to lead the cover-up. He exonerated the killers, blamed the "illegal march" and backed the army's claim that soldiers had been fired on first.

But the struggle to get out the truth went on, spearheaded by the families who denounced Widgery's whitewash. Demands for a new inquiry became part of the fight for what had then become a struggle for British withdrawal. The families won support from millions

— in the Irish Republic and around the world — but the British rulers resisted their demands for years.

Under growing pressure, then Prime Minister Anthony Blair in 1998 established a new inquiry into the massacre — part of moves that led to the Belfast Agreement between London, Dublin and political parties in Northern Ireland later that year. That deal signaled an end to a military conflict that claimed the lives of over 3,500 people. This was a blow to anti-Catholic discrimination.

The new inquiry by British judge Mark Saville dragged on for years, publishing its findings in 2010. It acknowledged troops had fired without warning and killed protesters who were unarmed, contrary to the lies peddled by the rulers. No one has been charged with the killings.

In a letter to the Bloody Sunday Trust on the 50th anniversary commemoration, Communist League leader Peter Clifford wrote: "Your efforts shone a spotlight on the deadly violence London used to maintain its rule."

Clifford had been arrested under so-called anti-terror laws and interrogated in Northern Ireland in 1988 after traveling there to visit Irish republican prisoners and to distribute books by revolutionary working-class leaders.

"We were proud" to be part of the families' struggles, Clifford wrote. It "put working people in a stronger position to face the inevitable class battles, less divided, more conscious of the brutality of London's capitalist rulers, but above all more aware that through struggle we can change the course of history."

Books workers need to build a party worthy of the name 'revolutionary'

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'Our war is war of the working class against the capitalist order'

The Socialist Workers Party in World War II: Writings and Speeches, 1940-43 by James P. Cannon, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February. Cannon, a founding leader of the SWP, was framed up in 1941 and imprisoned along with 17 other SWP and Minneapolis Teamsters union members for opposing Washington's imperialist war aims. The excerpt below, written a year before Washington entered the war, is from Cannon's Nov. 30, 1940, Socialist Appeal article, "Militarism and workers' rights." Copyright © 1975 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

[D]espite our opposition, we have the militarism and tomorrow we will have the war in full scope. That does not change our principle, but it imposes upon us a certain line of tactics since we do not want to remain aloof as mere oppositionists. We do not rest content with general opposition to capitalism and general advocacy of the socialist revolution and simply repeat our ultimate aims as a set of soul-saving formulas. ... The problem of the hour is to find a realistic basis for our irreconcilable class agitation in the arena of war and militarism which now, and for a whole epoch, will dominate the world. This is the aim of our resolution on military policy.

Our military program is intended as a program of agitation. In order to be effective such a program must take into account not only the objective circumstance (the epoch of militarism), but also the present consciousness and mood of the workers. The American workers are against war, they are fearful of war, yet they are convinced in their bones that it is unavoidable and that the millions of young men who are being drafted and sent up for military training are destined to be cannon fodder. ...

The workers like to hear the promises of Roosevelt and Willkie that American boys will not be sent into foreign wars, but the great mass of them do not believe a word of it. Neither do they believe the isolationist and pacifist liars who say it is possible under capitalism to "keep America out of war."

The workers are profoundly impressed by the fate of the European countries which have been overrun by Hitler's army. They hate and fear fascism. So far they see it incarnated only in the foreign foe, and they are ready if necessary to go to war against it, especially if the war is presented to them, as it surely will be, in the guise of "defense" against a "foreign" attack. Facing the prospect of war it is obvious to the serious-minded workers that military training is needed. That is why they submitted universally to conscription; without enthusiasm, it is true, but also without any serious opposition. This attitude of the rank and file of the American working class is a thousand times more practical and realistic than that of the pacifist muddleheads who proclaim



Leaders of the SWP and Minneapolis Teamsters, including James P. Cannon, second from right, ready to begin their jail terms in December 1943. In 1941, the 18 were sentenced under Smith "Gag" Act for organizing labor opposition to the U.S. rulers' imperialist war drive.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

Our resolution on military policy ... says: "The imperialist war is not our war and the militarism of the capitalist state is not our militarism. ... We are against the war as a whole just as we are against the rule of the class that conducts it, and never under any circumstances vote to give them any confidence in their conduct of the war or preparations for it — not a man, not a cent, not a gun with our support. Our war is the war of the working class against the capitalist order." ...

the necessity of socialism and yet oppose compulsory military training — in a world gone mad with militarism.

Our military resolution takes the foregoing circumstances, objective and subjective, as its point of departure and attempts to show the workers how to carry on their daily struggle against the bosses over into the new field of militarism.

The American workers have made great advances in the last six years. Millions of new recruits have been drawn into the trade union movement for the first time. They have had to fight every inch of the way to gain the smallest concessions, and then to fight all over again, and continuously, to keep them. In the course of these fights the workers have developed a fervent devotion to their unions. They have learned to hate and distrust the bosses who directly exploit them and the police and local authorities who help the bosses.

In strike after strike the militant American workers have demonstrated that they have no fear of direct clashes with these local authorities and police. But in their overwhelming majority, the workers still think of the national government as something different. They respect it and at the same time they fear it as a remote power, which cannot be combatted. ...

"You can't strike against the government" — this is not only the dictum of Roosevelt, but also the feeling of the great majority of workers at the present time. ... These illusions of the workers are the ace card up the sleeve of the American imperialists. ...

[T]he workers express the mistaken

opinion that the class struggle ends when they leave the arena of the union and the factory and enter the new arena of war and militarism. They do not anticipate in advance the tremendous new experiences which are destined to make such a powerful impression on their minds, and that in a comparatively short time. ... War and militarism will uproot the workers from the old environment in which their present convictions were formed, impose new and terrible experiences upon them, and compel them to think in new terms.

The workers have yet to learn that the government, which now appears as a sacrosanct institution standing above the classes, is in reality the executive committee of all the bosses. Experience under the conditions of militarism and war, aided by our agitation, will teach this necessary lesson in the coming period. In the course of these developments our program, if we present it with simplicity and clarity, will not only have success in an "agitational sense"; the awakening workers will pass over its extremely modest and elementary demands as advancing troops pass over a bridge to a new point of vantage. ...

In the army of conscription the situation will be radically changed. It will consist of millions of young workers — the proletariat in arms! They are accustomed to certain rights. Their mighty numbers will confer a sense of power upon them. It will not be possible to treat them like cattle for any length of time without creating a profound discontent in their ranks.

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Truckers in Ontario show road to fight boss attacks

Continued from front page

tors who own their own trucks, rather than as employees. They do this in order to evade having to meet basic worker protections, such as minimum wage, overtime and holiday pay or injury compensation.

The fight is being led by the Naujawan Support Network, made up of Brampton area workers and students, primarily from Punjab in India. They've been organizing protests outside the homes of trucking company bosses who refuse to pay truckers what they're owed.

Close to 20% of the over 324,000 truckers in Canada are South Asians, including over half of those in the Toronto and Vancouver areas.

Another group of truckers, who take loads back and forth across the U.S. border, are fighting against vaccine mandates imposed by the Canadian government Jan. 15 that bar them from getting this work. They initiated a series of "Freedom Convoys" in different cities, including in Ottawa, the capital. These actions have attracted other participants, including some right-wing politicians, and have received widespread media publicity. And they've been targeted with hysterical vitriol by the government and Canadian Trucking Alliance bosses.

Arshdeep Singh Kang, a 30-year-old long-haul trucker based in Brampton and one of the protest organizers there, reports he is owed more than 3,000 Canadian dollars (\$2,360) by Gill World Logistics. As a result, "I didn't have money to pay my rent, my car insurance, my groceries," he explained. While he has never owned his truck, he was classified by Gill World as an independent contractor.

The *Toronto Star* spoke to 10 drivers who say they are owed more than CA\$200,000 by 10 trucking companies. They reported the rate of violations of safety regulations by these companies was six times higher than the average Ontario trucking company.

Rommel Navarra, a driver originally from the Philippines who works hauling televisions to eastern Canada and the U.S., spoke to the *Militant* at a truck stop about the unsafe working conditions truckers often face.

"Sometimes when the dispatcher tells me to do things I refuse because it isn't safe, like climbing up on a flatbed to secure something without personal safety equipment," he said. Like Kang, and many other wage-earning Canadian truckers, Navarra is not in a union.

Discussion on the convoy

There's a lively discussion among truckers and other working people on whether the convoy advances their interests.

Dave Ridell, a 59-year-old farmer from Alliston, Ontario, who drives his own grains to market, joined the convoy to Ottawa along with his wife in the hope it will lead to all vaccine mandates being lifted. "The amount of people who are unemployed because it's their personal choice whether they want to be vaccinated or not, it's not fair, just totally unfair," he told the press.

However, Kang says that the convoy doesn't "stand for the issues that they should be standing for."

"Wage theft is a major issue across the trucking industry, not just in Brampton. Inflation is hitting us hard," he said. "The cost of trucking is increasing every day, but truckers are still expected to work at rates they were paid back in the 1980s."

"Ask any trucker who drives through Western Canada or Northern Ontario how dangerous those roads are," Kang added. "There are hardly any rest stops."

"These are the real issues we should all be uniting over, not vaccine mandates," he said.

Government threats, attack on rights

The convoy is being used by a wing of Canada's capitalist politicians to advance their anti-working-class course. Its two main spokespeople aren't truckers, but Tamara Lich, secretary of the western separatist, pro-capitalist Maverick Party, and B.J. Dichter, a Conservative Party candidate in the 2015 federal election. Both are known for their anti-Islamic views.

Most of the signs at the "Freedom Convoy" today aren't focused on issues truckers face, but on opposition to "tyranny" and calls for "freedom"

and "liberty."

Justin Trudeau, the Liberal Party prime minister of Canada, and dozens of other government officials and media pundits have excoriated the hundreds of truckers and others who took part in the convoy. At a Jan. 26 press conference he accused them of being a "small fringe minority" with "unacceptable views" and refused to meet with them. He claimed "Canadians" were "disgusted" by their behavior.

The language Trudeau and other officials use is similar to the campaign of the liberals in the U.S. against Donald Trump and the group of his supporters and some others who rioted at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6, 2021. "It was an insurrection!" they scream, and the Democrats have launched endless congressional investigations, while the FBI and Justice Department had filed hundreds of criminal cases.

In both countries, the real target of the venom is working people, who the ruling capitalist families and their meritocratic hangers-on fear.

Even though the Canadian police and media admit the convoy protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson imposed a state of emergency there Feb. 6. Police Chief Peter Sloly said, "This is a threat to democracy, this is a nationwide insurrection, this is madness."

Catherine McKenna, a former Liberal cabinet minister, responded to the Ottawa protest by tweeting, "Time for Canada to regulate social media companies so they stop promoting violence and hate."

Hundreds protest cop killing of Amir Locke

Continued from front page

a "no-knock" warrant. Locke was fast asleep on a couch when the officers burst in, shouting.

One kicked the couch Locke was asleep on, and Locke, under a blanket, moved and showed a gun in his hand. Released police body camera footage showed the gun was pointed down and Locke's trigger finger was along the barrel, not on the trigger. Cops immediately fired, killing him. It was only nine seconds from the time police entered the apartment to when Locke was killed.

Little has been released about what led the police to that apartment, except that the warrant, originating in St. Paul, sought evidence about a homicide there. Locke was not a resident of the apartment, wasn't the subject of the search warrant, nor was there any warrant for his arrest. He was a Door-Dash driver, and his parents explained he got the pistol and a permit to carry because of the rise in carjackings and robberies of delivery drivers.

The body camera video released the following night raised an immediate outcry in a city that has seen widespread protests in response to the killing of George Floyd here in May 2020.

"We didn't ask for this," Amir's father, Andre Locke, said at the rally. "We don't have to cover up anything, the truth needs no support. I watched the footage to make sure he didn't do what they said."

Week to go, 'Militant' renewal drive over the top

Continued from page 3

solidarity. "We need more of that — unions sticking together," Robinson said. He asked Fein and Watson to come back later in the week so he can purchase *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes and *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*.

They plan to bring information on the SWP campaign in Illinois — John Hawkins for U.S. Senate and Naomi Craine for governor.

Over a cup of tea in her home in South Ockenden, near London, Jan. 30, Communist League members Dag and Catharina Tirsén met with Beverly Khanye. She had renewed her subscription a week earlier to follow the fights by working people in the U.K. and U.S.

"It's hard for working people now, but wouldn't Labour be better than the Conservatives?" Khanye asked, referring to the main capitalist parties in England. "None of these parties are working-class parties," responded Dag Tirsén. "That is why we need to build our own political party, a party of

The Communist Party of Canada called the convoy "a dangerous movement" and called for the government to pass new laws restricting political rights, including "the designation of hate groups as criminal organisations."

"All of this feeds into government moves to restrict the political rights of the working class and our ability to protest," Philippe Tessier, the Communist League's candidate in the Quebec provincial by-election in the Marie-Victorin riding in Longueuil, told the *Militant*. He is a conductor on the Canadian National Railway and a member of the Teamsters union. "Moves by the government and the cops to attack the convoy should be opposed by working people."

"The labor movement needs to campaign for all workers to get vaccinated, and our unions should open their halls to make vaccination available widely, to members and others," he said. "This will help put and keep workers on the job, putting us in the best position to fight the bosses' attacks, organize workers into unions and build solidarity with union struggles."

"My party opposes government vaccine mandates, because it is against the interests of the working class to give the capitalist rulers the arbitrary power to impose binding restrictions on us," Tessier said. "Once gotten, they'll use these powers to attack social protests and union battles."

"The fight by the truckers in Brampton against wage theft points the way forward," Tessier said. "They deserve the support of the entire labor movement."

We prepare our children to survive on the streets. How do you prepare them to stay alive at home?"

On Feb. 4 Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey issued a moratorium temporarily banning "no-knock" warrants. He had said in 2020 the city would limit the use of these warrants, but the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* reported at least 20 had been issued so far this year. St. Paul police said they had not asked for a "no-knock" warrant, but that the Minneapolis police demanded one.

Isaac Bowie, a construction worker from St. Paul, told the *Militant* at the protest, "We have a responsibility to our community to better and change where we live. Everyone deserves to live without execution from the state."

Gabrielle Prosser, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minnesota governor, said, "Police brutality has existed as long as capitalism has, and disproportionately affects Black communities. What is needed is a broad, popular and disciplined movement, one focused on calling for the prosecution and trial of cops who kill, and punishment for those found guilty after a fair trial."

Minneapolis officer Mark Hanneman has been identified by police as the cop who shot Locke. He has been put on administrative leave while the killing is under investigation. No one has been charged for Locke's death.

labor that would help build and strengthen unions and point a road forward for the working class."

Khanye said she could see this. "Labour candidates only show up when there is an election, then you don't hear from them until the next one," said Khanye.

"We discuss with workers on their doorsteps and go to picket lines," Catharina Tirsén said, "because that is where real change will come from, through the struggles waged by working people themselves."

Pointing to a recent issue of the *Militant*, Khanye expressed interest in articles taking up the fight against Jew-hatred. "I'm very glad the paper is writing about this attack on the synagogue in Texas," she said.

The final scoreboard on the drive will appear in next week's issue of the paper.

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