Use ‘Militant’ to get truth out about miners’ fight, oppose Moscow’s war

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“When we see union teachers, steelworkers and miners on strike it sends a message,” Dakota Dearry, 29, told Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Texas, at an April 6 rally in McCalla, Alabama. The United Mine Workers of America rally was called to support 1,100 members of the union on strike against Warrior Met Coal nearby.

“We stepped out because we are the lowest-paid union miners,” he said. Dearry worked at Warrior Met with his father, James, until the strike began. Both now work at the Shoal Creek Mine. “At Shoal Creek we have better benefits and higher pay,” James said. “I get 35 more as a laborer. Warrior Met is greedy. They are making money!”

Dakota subscribed to the Militant, along with 18 other miners and other unionists attending the action. Participants in the rally also picked up 12 books on lessons of past working-class struggles by SWP and other revolutionary leaders.

Joshua Brewer from the Midwest Council of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union got a copy of Teamster Rebellion by SWP leader Daniel Harriss and Brandon Caserta. They were found not guilty by a Grand Rapids jury April 8. Jury members were unable to reach a verdict on charges against Adam Fox and Barry Croft, who remain jailed pending prosecution against Adam Fox and Barry Croft, unable to reach a verdict on charges were found not guilty by a Grand Rapids jury April 8. Jury members were unable to reach a verdict on charges against Adam Fox and Barry Croft, who remain jailed pending prosecution.

Inspired by Ontario truckers’ victory, dump truck drivers press their strike

BY STEVE PENNER

and DAVID OLSON

BRAMPTON, Ontario — A successful two-week strike in March by some 1,000 aggregate truck drivers in the Greater Toronto area, who haul the sand and gravel needed to produce ready-mix concrete, shut down quarries and much of the construction industry. They won a 20% rate increase from trucking company bosses.

Inspired by their fight, 1,500 members of the Ontario Dump Truck Association decided to go out on strike March 21. They’re fighting for higher rates, greater safety measures, workers’ rights and respect from the bosses. The large majority are of South Asian descent. Recognition of the truckers’ right to negotiate an agreement with the bosses has become a key issue in the fight. Our driver, David Rumble, head of the Associated Earth Movers of Ontario, the main bosses’ organization, claims that the Ontario Dump Truck Association isn’t a “recognized association” and doesn’t have the right to negotiate.

“We can’t sign a contract with you,” Rumble said, rejecting a list of demands.

Opposition to Putin’s war continues inside Russia

By Susan Lamont

McCalla, Ala. — Over 1,500 United Mine Workers of America members, retirees, family members, other unionists, and community supporters rallied in Tannehill State Park here April 6 to back UMWA members on strike at Warrior Met Coal in nearby Brookwood.

The rally was marked by the miners’ determination to fight as long as needed to emerge victorious. They chanted of “One day stronger, one day longer!”

Some 1,100 UMWA members walked out on April 1, 2021. Their fight to win a better contract after living with five years of lowered wages and benefits and attacks on their working conditions and dignity is winning widespread union solidarity.

“Yes, this is a great turnout today to support the miners. It means a lot to us,” striker Ossim Sims told the Militant. Sims has worked at the mine for 43 years and was a longwall operator when the walk-out began last year. “My dad, granddad, and great-granddad were all miners,” he said. “I could retire any time now, but I’m out here and on the picket line every week. I don’t want to retire until we see this through.”

The rally drew hundreds of UMWA members and retirees from West Virginia, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and elsewhere in Alabama, along with members of many other unions.

“The strike has taken a long time,” the striker at the microphone continued.

For the miner

We’re fighting to keep the mine open, he said.

Back Ukraine independence! Moscow’s troops out now!

Opposition to Putin’s war continues inside Russia

By ROY LANDERSEN

Seven weeks into Moscow’s war against independent Ukraine, the determined resistance of that country’s armed forces and its population in general — as well as demoralization wreaking the Russian troops and ineptness behind a trail of death and destruction.

Moscow’s artillery continues to pound Kharkiv and Putin has regrouped his forces for a new, murderous offensive in the east. He claims their goal now is to expand and hold the entire Ukrainian provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Continued on page 5

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Build support for striking Warrior Met coal miners!

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Ottawa uses Ukraine war to grow its military, attack workers’ rights

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — The Canadian government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is responding to Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine by boosting military forces. The rulers demand working people “sacrifice” for the war as they step up attacks on wages, conditions and rights at home.

Trudeau joined NATO and other meetings with governments officials, held in Europe in late March. They announced a boost to troop deployments from the Washington-led military alliance across Eastern Europe and imposed harsher sanctions against Russia, measures that hit workers and farmers there the hardest.

Canadian Procurement Minister Filomena Tassi announced March 28 that the government is locking down the purchase of Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter jets to replace its aging fleet. Defense Minister Anita Anand pointed to Moscow’s war as the reason.

The government also announced an 8 billion Canadian dollar increase ($6.3 billion) in military spending for the next five years in its April 7 budget. Wednesday, Ottawa uses Ukraine war to grow its military, attack workers’ rights — $6.3 billion in military spending for the next five years. The rulers are responding to Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine by boosting military forces. The government is locking down the purchase of Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter jets to replace its aging fleet. Defense Minister Anita Anand pointed to Moscow’s war as the reason.

The government also announced an 8 billion Canadian dollar increase ($6.3 billion) in military spending for the next five years in its April 7 budget. The Canadian government has 1,300 troops as part of NATO forces in Central and Eastern Europe, Ottawa’s largest current international deployment.

“The Communist League champions the fight of Ukrainian people to overcome the invasion of their country by Moscow,” said Philippe Tessier, Communist League candidate in the Quebec National Assembly by-election in the Marie-Victorin district in Longueuil, south of here. “While Ottawa and Washington cry crocodile tears over Ukraine, their aim is to strengthen their ability to defend their own predatory interests. Not one cent and not one person for Canadian imperialist intervention anywhere should be the watchword of workers and our allies.”

Canada’s rulers join U.S. wars

The rulers of Canada, a weaker imperialist power, seek to advance their own national interests by linking their foreign policy to Washington’s. In 1949 they made Canada a founding member of NATO, set up under the domination of U.S. imperialism as it emerged as top dog out of World War II. Since then NATO, like the United Nations, has always served as a tool to crush rebellions by workers and farmers, and police the world in the interest of U.S. imperialism. The Canadian government sent nearly 30,000 military personnel to fight in the U.S. rulers’ 1950-53 ground war and carpet bombing against the people of Korea. Canadian forces joined the U.S.-led wars against Iraq in 1990-91, and Afghanistan in 2001-2014.

In Yugoslavia in 1999, the U.S. rulers imposed a no-fly zone in a war that resulted in the breakup of that country and imposed a no-fly zone in a war that resulted in the breakup of that country and imposed a no-fly zone in a war that resulted in the breakup of that country and imposed a no-fly zone in a war that resulted in the breakup of that country and imposed a no-fly zone in a war that resulted in the breakup of that country and imposed a no-fly zone in a war that resulted in the breakup of that country and imposed a no-fly zone in a war that resulted in the breakup of that country.

The Canadian government has used the Ukrainian war to justify backing bosses’ assaults on workers’ struggles. In March it claimed a strike by rail workers at Canadian Pacific would exacerbate grain shortages caused by Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine — a blatant attempt to foster opposition among farmers to rail workers’ fight over pensions, schedules and safety.

“In times of war, working-class struggle doesn’t disappear,” Tessier said.

“The response of the communist movement is to deepen our participation in unifying the bosses’ attacks on pensions and wages. Out of such struggles workers “increase their self-confidence, fighting spirit and class consciousness.”

The Militant

Summary

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

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The government also announced an 8 billion Canadian dollar increase ($6.3 billion) in military spending for the next five years in its April 7 budget. While in Europe, Trudeau issued a joint statement March 23 with European Union President Ursula von der Leyen. It pledged “to defend our shared values,” and pointed to a food crisis they said is “caused by President Putin’s war.” The Canadian government has used the Ukrainian war to justify backing bosses’ assaults on workers’ struggles. In March it claimed a strike by rail workers at Canadian Pacific would exacerbate grain shortages caused by Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine — a blatant attempt to foster opposition among farmers to rail workers’ fight over pensions, schedules and safety.

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The Militant

Vol. 86/No. 16

Closing news date: April 13, 2022

Editor: John Studer
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Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in August, one week in September.

Business Manager: Valerie Johnson

The Militant (ISSN 0002-3858). 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

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

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

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Use 'Militant' to get truth out

Continued from front page

for the union. “When the company or-
ganized anti-union meetings, workers would challenge what they said,”
Brewer said.

Samir Hazboun, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Ohio, and some campaign supporters joined a “caravan
bus” of unionists organized from Louisville by the Kentucky AFL-CIO to attend the miners rally. During the six-minute trip, six unionists signed up for subscriptions and the same number of books was purchased.

On April 10 Hazboun knocked on the door of Conrie McElhinney, a trucker in Georgetown, Kentucky. She had worked at the Toyota auto plant there. Mowery pointed to the impact of rising prices. “When child care costs $250 a week and you take home $300, what’s the point?”

“That’s why we have to fight for what’s in our interest,” Hazboun said, “and ultimately change which class is in power.” Mowery subscribed to the Militant and purchased $165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund.

“Discussions with fellow workers like
Hakim Gurey spoke with fellow work-
ers and Communist League members
who built the Militant and to the victory by Amazon workers at
the paper’s coverage of union struggles
and to the victory by Amazon workers at
the Militant and to the victory by Amazon workers at

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Stakes for workers in Moscow’s war

Angela Shufeldt, a truck driver for
years ago he worked as a railroad
Connie McElhinney, a care worker Ranginui Baltes said.

“We needed a labor party for a long
time,” Baker agreed. He signed up for a Militant subscription and got cop-
ties of Teamster Rebellion and Tribunes
of the People and the Trade Unions.

on the job, Baker made a suggestion to
hold off on making deliveries that
night so she could attend.

“Fatigue paid off,” he said.

Mowery agreed: “It’s important to be here to show
support,” she told SWP member Jose-
olina Otero. “This could be the start of World War III.”

In Manchester, England, rail worker
Mamta, who hosted the Militant alleged that a boss about improving walking condi-
tions in the yard. “The boss responded,
“You can’t do it. I’m just telling you that it’s not working out the way he
planned,” said Gurey, pointing to Mos-
Ayrton, who organized for the Militant
in the Yard,” Gurey said. “That’s why the
Militant and these books are so important.” Gurey
bought a subscription to the Mili-
tant along with four books, including Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the

Havana International Book Fair opens April 20

BY JANET POST

Ten thousands of Cuban workers and youth will attend the 30th Havana Interna-
tional Book Fair April 20-30, looking for literature and discussion on the ties of Cuba with Latin
America, science, literature of the world, children’s books and more. Since 1995, when the first workers and</p><p>DISCOUNT ON BOOKS FOR PRISONERS</p><p>Discount on books for prisoners. Pathfinder offers books and pamphlets at a 50% discount off the cover price. There is a flat rate of $2.75 for shipping and handling for all orders. Mail their prepaid orders to Pathfinder Press, PO Box 162757, Atlanta GA 30321-2767. Link at pathfinderpress.com</p>
Build support for miners strike

Continued from front page

said Charles Foster, who works with Sims. “But when you’re fighting for a better future, for something that’s important and worth fighting for, it’s going to take some time.” Foster had been a contract worker taking care of train dependents before working at Warrior Met. “I thought being a miner would be a more stable schedule,” he said with a laugh. “This rally is progress. It gives us hope to build all the support from other union members.”

Rally speakers included UMWA President Cecil Roberts, who thanked the many unionists using the strike weapon to confront assaults by Kellogg’s, Nabisco, FroYo-Lay, John Deece and other employers, and helped strengthen Warrior Met strikers’ resolve.

There have been solidarity rallies nearly every week since the strike started. Contingents of striking Warrior Met workers have also joined protests outside the offices of Black Rock, the company’s largest investor, Food and New York and other cities, with backing from local union members.

BY JANET POST

BY JANET POST

In religious freedom fight, court backs death row prisoner

The court ruled 8 to 1 in favor of Texas death row prisoner John Henry Ramirez. He had appealed a decision by a state court upholding prison rules that would require his Baptist pastor to pray silently and away from him as he is put to death. Ramirez argued that this was a violation of his First Amendment freedom to worship.

The state claimed that allowing the pastor to pray out loud or touch Ramirez was a threat to the “safety, security, and solemnity” of the execution. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the pastor, who will have the “compelling need” for this policy. The court had stayed Ramirez’s execution three hours before it was to be carried out last September to consider the case.

The court’s new ruling allows states to set some limits on what religious advisers may or may not do. “If the adviser is to touch the prisoner, the state might also specify where and for how long,” wrote Chief Justice John Roberts.

Judge Clarence Thomas dissented, arguing Ramirez was being rewarded for gamesmanship to delay his execution. The decision “stresses the importance of religious liberty and religious practice for everyone,” Judge Thomas’s pastor, Dana Moore, told the press. Since Moore has been

Continued on page 9

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

SWP plans Minnesota campaigning May 17-31 to win spot on 2022 ballot

The Socialist Workers Party in Minnesota is making plans for two weeks of special campaigning May 17-31 to take candidates Gabrielle Prosser for governor, Kevin Dwire for lieutenant governor and David Rosenfeld for U.S. Congress from one end of the state to the other. They’ll introduce the party, the Militant and sign up people to put Prosser and Dwire on the ballot.

State authorities, in an effort to limit the ballot as much as possible to the Democrats and Republicans, set this short period for independent parties to gather at least 2,000 signatures of eligible voters to qualify.

The SWP looks to campaigning in the Red River Valley, home of a bitter fight by members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union against a lockout by American Crystal Sugar in 2011-12, to the Iron Range near the Canadian border; to Austin near Iowa; and elsewhere.

“We’ll be building support for ending Moscow’s assault on Ukraine’s independence, for the striking coal miners at Warrior Met in Alabama, and other struggles by workers and farmers,” said Prosser the Militant. “And we’ll explain that workers need their own political party, a labor party.”

Anyone interested in this effort should contact the Socialist Workers Party Minnesota campaign, 2401 1/2 Central Ave., NE, Unit B, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Tel. (612) 271-3983. Or, email: swpmnneapolis@gmail.com. Donations to help with the campaign are welcome.

Unions mobilize support

A spirited contingent of 43 workers and union officials from the UNITE HERE union came to the rally from New York, Atlanta, and Biloxi, Mississippi. “We wanted a big outpouring today for the miners,” UNITE HERE member Shaun Mills, who works at casinos in New Orleans, told the Militant. “We come here to stay for a just contract,” Roberts said. “We practice solidarity. Come and walk the picket line with us!” Messages said. “We practice solidarity. Come and walk the picket line with us!” Messages said. “We practice solidarity. Come and walk the picket line with us!” Messages said. “We practice solidarity. Come and walk the picket line with us!” Messages said. “We practice solidarity. Come and walk the picket line with us!” Messages said. “We practice solidarity. Come and walk the picket line with us!” Messages said. “We practice solidarity. Come and walk the picket line with us!” Messages said. “We practice solidarity. 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people.

“Truckers need to unite”

“This fight is a turning point,” said owner-operatorinder Singh. “The companies’ strategy is divide and conquer. They try to split the union and make the drivers race faster.” They play truckers off against each other to keep rates low and “give the trucking business a bad name.”

“We demand respect,” he insisted. “We’ve verbally abused, and immigrants are badly treated” and face racist treatment from construction bosses.

He said that the dump truck drivers are fighting for an increase in rates, as well as for a standard rate and union benefits.

“Rates now vary enormously. Some truckers can be paid as low as 65 Canadian dollars an hour ($51).”

“Many companies don’t pay on time, even though it’s the company that loads the trucks, the drivers don’t make proper ramps on an excavation site.” Trucks are particularly unsafe if they’re overloaded and some have tipped over.

“Truckers need to unite”

“Militant” April 25, 2022            5

“AAN Truckers

Continued from front page

submitted by the association. The boss-

even if you are the best in the indus-

try,” that is, better for the companies.

“We are a recognized, established

and respected association with author-

ity to represent our members,” ODTA

representatives explained, who as some are saying. “Our trucks aren’t moving until we have” a collective agreement that in- cludes truckers’ “basic rights.”

“We must have a union to unifi-

the union in favor of the union, Amazon filed 25 objections with the National Labor Re-

lations Board demanding the election be thrown out. Amazon claims NLRB officials in Region 29 “abandoned the appearance of neutrality” and favored the union. In fact, Amazon lost despite spending millions of dollars to defeat the union and requiring all workers to attend boss-run anti-union meetings.

At the same time, a union recognition vote is scheduled for the smaller LDJ5 warehouse workers across the street from JFK8 being held April 21. Rod-

celine Wesley, the union’s treasurer, who works at LDJ5, said that Amazon is “re-

ally fighting us. All the union busters are in our little building of 1,500. They’re fighting really dirty. It’s a war in there.”

Amazon Labor Union President Chris Smalls said union fighters know this is going to be “an intense battle,” using the resources Amazon, the second largest employer in the country, can marshal.

The union isn’t affiliated with any nat-

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In addition, he said, “There are no minimum hours paid. Sometimes they will pay you but you are getting paid nothing!”

Many companies don’t pay on time, some paid can be as low as 65 Canadian dollars an hour ($31).

“Many workers are paid $25 an hour base rate,” that’s what’s needed to cover rapidly ris-

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April 26, 1947

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Duck truck drivers in Ontario press their strike

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By Vikhn Sainker

Tens of thousands of protesters in Sri Lanka, from the mostly Tamil north to the largely Sinhalese south, marched on April 9 demanding President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resign. The country, which has just 22 million citizens, is suffering from a financial meltdown, soaring inflation, spreading power outages and shortages of food and fuel.

“Our future is uncertain,” Rasika Sathiajothi told the press at a demonstration in the capital April 4. “But at least we are fighting.” The protests might be triggered by the participation of people from all faiths in a country where Sinhala Buddhists are the majority.

Government lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic gutted the country’s tourist trade, and today’s fuel price hikes, exacerbated by Russia’s war against Ukraine, have added to mounting problems. Conditions on working people are worsened by growing pressure for “flexible employment” from the International Monetary Fund.

A wave of emergency was put in place April 2 after thousands of people protested March 31 in Colombo. Security forces turned tear gas and water cannons on demonstrators.

It’s not a surprise that people are notorious for unleashing violent assaults to allegiance problems. Rajapaksa was de facto dictator, but he died in 2001 on his political rights.

As the protest grew, early on April 3, under pressure, Rajapaksa dropped the state of emergency and restricted opposition party members to join his attack and arrest them. The protest went on.

By 12:30 April 9 government announced it was suspending interest payments on its debts to the International Monetary Fund. Any type of default comes at a high price. In 2021, after the government couldn’t even reach $15 billion and failed to begin its $17 billion debt restructuring, global markets were not able to provide the quantity of funding that it needs.

This February Lukashenko approved constitutional changes that allowed the government to invite the Putin regime to station troops currently in Belarus to “help” invasion, and invited Moscow to place its nuclear weapons on Russian soil.

As the invading army, Russian President Vladimir Putin commits atrocities of war, hundreds of workers and farmers protest, in response to military actions, continue to write the political economy of the Russian states. There is another Baltic regime, Palais, along with Belarusian units in Ukraine’s territorial defense forces in Odessa and Lutsk. In Belarus more than 800 were arrested Feb. 27 from among the thousands demonstrating against Putin’s invasion launched three days earlier. Over the past year and a half, Belarusian cops have arrested more than 35,000 in the wake of the mass movement against Lukashenko. In 2020 hundreds of Ukrainians joined the protests in solidarity. 2021 saw a big increase in the struggle tooust Lukashenko and his regime.

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Fight for right to self-determination of nations oppressed by czarism

V.I. Lenin, leader of 1917 Russian Revolution, addresses Third Congress of Communist International, July 5, 1921. Lenin’s final fight was against Stalin over the national question.

At stake was nothing less than whether the party would continue advancing along the political course that had brought the Bolsheviki-led workers and peasants of the former tsarist empire to power some five years earlier. That victory had opened the door to the first socialist revolution and ushered in a new historical era with prospects for proletarian-led popular revolution not only in Europe but across Asia and beyond.

There was nothing hypothetical about this battle. Lenin fought to win the party’s leadership to implement concrete proposals on matters affecting the lives of tens of millions of human beings from the Soviet republic’s import and export trade; structural changes to facilitate improving the class composition of state and party bodies; a transformation of the organization of agricultural production and exchange; special steps to guarantee equality of rights and self-determination for nations and nationalities formerly oppressed by the tsarist empire; increased political priority and funding of literacy programs and schools as part of broader efforts to open education and culture to the toilers and to party cadres working in government bodies; civil treatment of party members and workers as an unqualified pre-condition for leadership … It was a political fight over the class trajectory of the Soviet republic and Communist imperialism.

The Bolsheviki-led government sought from the outset to establish a union of proletarian Russia and the oppressed peoples long enshrined within the old tsarist prison house of nations across Europe and Asia. But that goal could only be achieved by the voluntary action of those peoples, whose unconditional right to national self-determination was recognized by the new government.

The Soviet congress in January 1918 established the Russian Federation of Socialist Soviet Republics (RSFSR) “leaving it to the workers and peasants of each nation to decide independently at their own authoritative congress of soviets whether they wish to participate in the federal government and on what terms.”

By late 1922, twenty-one autonomous republics and regions had been established within the RSFSR itself, and the nationalities formerly oppressed by czarist “prison house of nations” to bring workers and peasants to power in October 1917. After his death, a counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin overturned Lenin’s legacy. The March 28 issue of the Militant featured an excerpt from Lenin defending his view. Copyright © 2010 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.
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**EDITORIAL**

Back miners, Ukraine independence fight!

The breadth of union support shown for striking Alabama coal miners against Warrior Met bosses at their pre-pandemic 19 million-ton mine is a sign of workers to throw support behind this fight. Inspired by the miners' determination, more solidarity can be won. The militancy of the miners is a sign of workers everywhere to stand for their own interests and those of their fellow workers. This is a struggle the well-meaning reformists in the United Mine Workers picket lines in Brookwood. Invite miners to come to your union in your area. Win contributions to their strike fund.

A victory in this struggle would show what workers can accomplish when we use our unions. It would advance the confidence of workers elsewhere to stand up to the bosses. It would show we can defend our state power, and their two parties — the Democrats and Republicans — to try and corral us. We saw this in the draconian court-ordered ban on all picketing at Warrior Met's Brookwood mine. When bosses talk about “our company's interests,” they mean their profits, not our wages, safety on the job or salaries that allow for a family life. When their government says “we” need to unite to keep the miners from striking, that means the interests of the capitalist rulers, not the toiling majority, who they enlist as the cannon fodder in their wars.

Every government their own people.