SWP fights for right to be on the ballot in Pennsylvania

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — Pennsylvania state authorities are laying the groundwork to deny ballot status for Chris Hoepner, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Philadelphia’s 3rd District. A national effort is being launched by the SWP to prepare for this fight.

‘Militant’ renewal drive goes over the top

— See article on page 3

drive, Hoepner, a freight rail conductor and member of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers Union (SMART), and SWP campaign supporters gathered 2,422 signatures to put him on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. This is more than double the 1,000 signatures state election officials said were required, and posted on their election website, when new districts were approved earlier this year.

Continued on page 3

New York event celebrates opening battle for Cuba’s socialist revolution

BY SATI SAVIAN

NEW YORK — Cuba’s ambassador to the United Nations, Yuri Gala Lopéz, and Socialist Workers Party National Committee member Steve Clark were the featured speakers at a July 30 meeting here to celebrate the 69th anniversary of the attack led by Fidel Castro on the Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes garrison in Bayamo. The July 26, 1953, assault was a response to the military coup by U.S.-backed tyrant Fulgencio Batista the previous year.

While the assault failed to capture the garrisons and arm the insurgent working people of Santiago — 56 of 160 combatants were murdered in cold blood by the regime, five died in battle and 32 were imprisoned — it proved to be the opening battle for Cuba’s socialist revolution.

What Cubans now call National Rebellion Day “marked the beginning of the battle for Cuba’s socialist revolution. While Moscow’s troops had made some modest gains in eastern and southern Ukraine, at great sacrifice and demoralization in their ranks, they’re now stalled, save for deadly artillery and missile attacks on civilian areas across the country.

Some Russian troops are moving out of the Donetsk region hoping to shore up Moscow’s occupation in the southern regions of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia and stop a pending Ukrainian counteroffensive there.

Continued on page 7

Rail workers protest for jobs, pay, right to strike

Unions organize rally in Illinois, more planned

BY NAOMI CRAINE

GALESBURG, Ill. — More than 150 railroad workers, family members and their supporters joined in the “Galesburg Rally for Rail Labor” here July 30, one of a series of protests being organized by rail workers across the Midwest as part of their fight to win a new contract. This western Illinois town is a major hub for BNSE Railway, with freight lines spreading out in all directions.

The action brought together track maintenance workers, conductors, engineers and workers from other rail crafts. Eleven different unions are currently in contract negotiations together with the seven national Class 1 freight carriers, which includes BNSF, the second largest in the country. Participants marched around Central Park, a large downtown traffic circle, and listened to speakers.

Issues include pay, which has been frozen since 2019, boss demands for increased health insurance costs; job cuts; and the right to strike. The freight rail bosses have slashed their workforce by 160 combatants.

Some 150 union members and supporters rally July 30 in Galesburg, Illinois, to protest drive by major U.S. rail bosses to impose contract to increase profits off workers’ backs.

Continued on page 9

Support Ukraine independence! Russian troops get out now!

BY ROY LANDERSEN

It is now more than five months since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent tens of thousands of troops storming into Ukraine to overthrow the elected government, seize the country and obliterate Ukraine as a nation.

Ukrainian forces have resisted courageously and, despite Moscow’s overwhelming advantage in population and firepower, have fought the Russian forces to a standstill. And driven them back from Kyiv and other major targets.

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Continued on page 7

Join fight to end ban on ‘Militant’ at federal prison in Arizona!

BY SETH GALINSKY

In the first attempt since 2018 by federal prison authorities to suppress the Militant, the warden at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix rejected an issue of the paper June 29 that had been sent to an inmate subscriber there.

The warden gave no reason for banning the socialist newswEEKLY, issue no. 23, other than the false claim that it contains “political extremism and is detrimental to the security, good order.

Continued on page 9

Inside

No to nuclear weapons! Emulate Cuba’s socialist revolution!

1969 ‘Cordobazo’ in Argentina posed workers taking power

— On the picket line, p. 5—

Teamsters make gains in strike at Republic in Indiana

Rail workers strike in UK for pay raise, against job cuts
Italian gov’t falls in Europe crisis

Continued from front page

is the second-most indebted and fac-
es the lowest growth forecast of any
country in the bloc.

For years the rulers in Germany have used their economic and politi-
cal domination of the EU to squeeze
their rivals and the working classes in
the weaker capitalist countries that
make up southern Europe. Workers in
Greece especially, but also in Italy and
Spain, were subject to massive job cuts
and the slashing of social services fol-
lowing the 2008 financial crisis.

Youth unemployment still stands at
more than 20% in Italy. New manufactur-
ing orders across the EU dropped last
month, with Italy hit hardest. Or-
ders there plunged at the steepest rate
since the beginning of the pandemic
in April 2020.

Alongside this, inflation in Italy hit
8.5% on an annual basis in June. Costs
for necessities that working people de-
pend on rose much higher. Utility bills
soared 28.1% and transportation costs
increased 13.3%. Cabin crews, air traf-
cic controllers and pilots at several
airlines struck for the third time in a
month July 17, demanding bosses re-
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A former European Central Bank
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Fantasy of a European superstate

Now a bloc of 27 states, the EU was
established out of the carnage of the
second imperialist war with
hopes of ridding Washington, which
had emerged as the world’s dominant
imperialist power. But prospects for
forming a common European super-
state were always a fantasy given
the intractable conflicts underlying
capitalist nations and their inevitable
competition for markets, resources
and profits. The current worldwide
economic slowdown sharpens the fi-
sures tearing at the bloc’s seams.

For the first time since 2011 the
European Central Bank raised inter-
est rates in an attempt to rein in in-
flation. This makes it more expensive
for the rulers in the most indebted
governments in the bloc to repay
loans. Across the 19 countries using
the euro, inflation varies widely, from
6.8% in France to 22.7% in Estonia.

All the capitalist rulers adopting the
“common currency” of the euro aban-
don the power held by their central
central banks to set interest rates or to print
money. Most capitalist governments try
to buffer the impact of economic crises
get ahead of rivals by devaluing

Their own currencies to fuel exports and
production, but this is closed to euro-
zone members, who have no national
currency. From its birth in 1999 the euro’s
stability has been undermined by the con-
flicts among the rival powers that it
pretends to join together, to the
advantage of the German rulers.

At recent acrimonious EU summits,
officials have fought over whether the
strongest capitalist states — Germany
and France — will extend their domi-
nation, or be saddled with the mount-
ing debts of their weaker adversaries.

The European Commission threat-
ened to sanction the Italian govern-
ment in 2018 when it adopted a budget
that broke with EU rules.

Last year the liberal editors of the
Economist castigated Italian workers for
the country’s yearlong crisis, blaming
them for electing politicians like Berlus-
coni who prioritized what they saw as
Italy’s special interests, and who needed
to be told to “shut up and behave.”

Russian invasion boosts EU tensions

The war in Ukraine is the largest in
Europe since World War II. It has led
to shifts in the U.S.-dominated “world
order,” causing rival capitalist ruling
classes to reassess how best to protect
their national interests.

Exacerbating conflicts within the
eurozone will deepen, as will the assaults
on working people at home.

Moscow limits gas supplies to Europe,
pressing governments to acquiesce to
its drive to conquer Ukraine and de-
stroy its national sovereignty.

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on working people at home.
Continued from front page year. Petitioning was set to run from March 16 to Aug. 1. Earlier filed petitions stemming from nominating petitions July 27 at the secretary of state’s office in Harrisburg.

When state officials reviewed Hoeppner’s petitions, he and campaign attorney and others were informed the party had filed enough signatures for ballot status, barring an outside challenge. But they also said the required figure had been raised to 2,300 — more than double the official figure on their website.

When asked how and when this challenge had been made and publicized, an official said he didn’t know for sure, but was told it had been posted on Twitter in mid-July. An exhaustive search by campaign supporters uncovered a Twitter posting from July 14 by the Pennsylvania Department of State — four months after petitioning opened in the state, and just two weeks before the deadline for filing signatures — saying the requirements had been “corrected.” The Twitter posting listed a people to a totally new election website.

SWP National Campaign Director John Studer affirmed that on July 29, two days after the SWP submitted its petitions and elsewhere, introducing thousands of new voters. The petitioning effort 59 people who signed for the SWP got subscriptions to the Militant along with 46 books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries. While most campaign teams took place in Philadelphia, where Hoeppner’s district is based, several went to small towns and rural areas around Lebanon County, Her- shock, Allentown and West Chester.

An article by reporter Bill Retlew, who went door-to-door with Hoeppner and Wagner, appeared Aug. 1 in the West Chester Daily Local News. At the end, Retlew said, “He likes the idea of having more than two choices.”

To send a message of protest or for more information, contact: The 2022 Pennsylvania Socialist Workers Party Campaign, 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16, Philadelphia, PA 19149, Email: philswp@verizon.net. Tele- phone: (215) 708-1270.

Chris Hoeppner, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from Pennsylvania, with Thdaq Ramen, left, and Sedia All at farmers market July 16, two of the 2,422 who signed petition to put him on ballot. SWP is preparing to fight any effort by the state to deny SWP ballot status.

SWP fights for right to ballot!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Militant’s summer drive to expand our local SWP campaigns and other working-class candidate who should decide to break from the Democrats and Republicans, all those who support our campaign and the working class. The WP fights the right to chip away at the rule of those who are not neutral. We have a viewpoint that want diversity in points of view.”

Most university programs claim they want diversity, but “they mean differ- ent skin colors, but they don’t really want diversity in points of view.”

“What we’re for is more debate and discussion,” said Galinsky, “not closing down opposing viewpoints. Working people need this. But we’re not neutral. We have a viewpoint that we fight to win fellow workers of all races and nationalities to participate in our meetings to replace capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government.”

Fasukin renewed her subscription for a year and bought three books: Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?, The Turn to Industry: Forging a Pro- letariat Party, both by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes; and Capitalis- m and the Transformation of Africa.

At the July 22-24 conference of the National Organization for Women in Chicago, SWP members engaged in lively discussion with many participants about why the fight for women’s rights is integral to the struggle to defend workers and our families from attack by the bosses and their governments, including fights for wages that match price hikes, access to child care, health care, family planning and safe and secure abortion.

An SWP literature table set up in the exhibit area attracted a lot of attention.

Discounted books for prisoners

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Friends and family members can order for them online. For more info: www.pathfinderpress.com

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‘Militant’ drive to win long-term readers goes over top!

The Militant’s ‘Militant’ drive to win long-term readers goes over top!

Militant: “I want diversity, but “they mean different skin colors, but they don’t really want diversity in points of view.”

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An SWP literature table set up in the exhibit area attracted a lot of attention. Mary Bennett, a member of the SWP in Chicago now chapter, renewed her subscription for a year. She was waiting the next morning to talk with SWP

The Militant August 15, 2022

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Most university programs claim they want diversity, but “they mean differ- en}
How to advance women’s rights is debated at NOW conference

BY MAGGIE TROVE

CHICAGO — Some 250 women and men gathered for the National Organization for Women conference here July 22-24 to discuss how to advance the fight for women’s equality at a time when soaring prices and a deepening capitalist crisis are wreaking havoc on working people, our families and our unions.

The conference took place in the wake of the June 24 U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning the landmark Women’s Health Organization that overturned the court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, ruling that it had no basis in the Constitution. The court then had acted as if it were a legislative body, not a court, to create a way to decriminalize abortion across the country. Their ruling cut short the public fight needed to win support for women’s rights. The Dobbs ruling neither approves nor bans abortion, but returns that decision to the people and their elected representatives.

A number of Socialist Workers Party members participated, taking part in wide-ranging discussions in workshops, over meals and at busy information tables outside the conference hall, including one staffed by party members.

The conference theme — “Save our democracy, defend our rights” — expressed the view of the NOW leadership that a rising rightist threat — led by former President Donald Trump and an “illegalimate” Supreme Court — is a direct threat to the labor movement and other hard-fought conquests. Many make the false claim that the Dobbs ruling makes abortion illegal.

The 600 UAW Local 180 members presented to the conference, is to subordinate every- thing to electing Democrats. “We cannot lose the Senate or House,” El- eanor Smal, president of the Feminist Majority and former NOW presi- dent, told the conference.

Opportunities for discussion

At the same time, many participants were open to discussing a working-class perspective. Some are active in the labor movement, fights against police brutality, and the struggle to create a world in which working people’s capacities to defend their rights will be actualized in defense of women’s rights.

Stephanie Jutras, a mental health counselor in Dallas, joined SWP members Karlin Estill and Naomi Craine for lunch. Craine is the SWP candidate for Illinois governor.

“We can’t start with abortion in the fight,” she declared. “We can start with presidential candidates.” Estill said, “We have to start from the broader assaults on working people, and our fight against attacks by bosses and their government on our jobs, wages, social conditions like child care and health care, and our rights that are tearing apart our families and lives.”

“Every person can’t imagine hav- ing children if you can’t even get a place of your own,” Craine added. “And for working-class families who want to adopt children, the process is tied up in red tape, waiting lists, and high fees.”

“A democrat can’t imagine hav- ing children if you can’t even get a place of your own,” Craine added. “And for working-class families who want to adopt children, the process is tied up in red tape, waiting lists, and high fees.”

“A lot of the strikers recently have been over irregular schedules and forced overtime,” said Craine, a rail- road conductor and member of the SMART-TD union.

“In the old days, the thinking was eight hours of work, eight hours of sleep, and eight hours to spend how you liked,” Jutras responded.

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UAW strikers at Case demand better pay, conditions

BY DAN FEIN AND JOHN HAWKINS

STURTEVANT, Wis. — As negoti- ations are set to reopen between Case New Holland bosses and the United Auto Workers, whose members struck May 2, few on the union side of the table are ready to give in.

“We’re not going to take anything back to our membership that we don’t think meets their needs. That’s our starting point,” said negotiator UAW Local 180 President Yasin Mah- di told the Militant July 31.

“The earnings reports that just came out say that they’re making a profit. But production is down and they’re not shipping product,” Mahdi said. “In fact, it wouldn’t surprise me if they’re getting pressure from the dealers because it wasn’t as- semblied properly in the first place.”

The 600 UAW Local 180 members here and 430 members of UAW Lo- cal 807 in Burlington, Iowa, voted by over 98% to strike when their old con- tract ran out at the end of April.

“Minnesota River is like an international conglomerate that manufactures agri- cultural implements and earthmoving equipment. It’s the third largest producer of earthmoving equipment in the world behind Caterpillar and Komatsu.”

“This company has built a two-tier wage structure years ago. If you do the same job, you should receive the same pay. Tiers divide the workforce. It creates animosity among workers,” said Karl Rogall, who’s worked at Case New Holland for 50 years.

“We need more vacation time to spend with our families,” Vivian Judson said. “Mandatory overtime is also an issue. The company wants us to work three Saturdays per month — we’ve already forced to work two Saturdays per month.”

“The solidarity we have received has been tremendous and it really helps us keep going. It even comes from work- ers outside North America,” Mahdi said.

“We recently received a message of soli- darity from our sister plant in Basildon, England, where the corporate interna- tional headquarters is located.”

Help get the word out about the strike and win solidarity! Contribu- tions and messages of support can be sent to UAW Local 180, 3323 Kearney Ave., Mount Pleasant, WI 53403, and UAW Local 807, 9313 Koestner St., Burlington, IA 52601.

Naomi Craine, Dean Hazelwood, and Leroy Watson contributed to this article.
Rail workers strike in U.K. for pay, against job cuts

MANCHESTER, England Tens of thousands of rail and telecommunications workers struck across the U.K. at the end of July, refusing to accept below inflation pay and attacks on their conditions. Retail inflation here is running at 11.8%, its highest in 40 years.

Five thousand train drivers, members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, struck for a day at seven rail companies July 30. Further strike action is scheduled for Aug. 13 involving drivers from nine companies. Some 40,000 rail workers, members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, struck for better pay and against job cuts July 27 and plan further strike days Aug. 18 and 20. Latest to join the actions were some 40,000 engineers and call center workers at British Telecom, organized by the Communication Workers Union. They struck July 29 and Aug. 1. Some 11,000 Royal Mail postal workers, also members of the CWU, have voted 97.6% in favor of strike action.

“Don’t start a strike, but we can’t afford not to strike,” Mark Gray, chair of Scotland No. 1 CWU branch, told the Militant at the picket line at Portlethen, near Aberdeen, Scotland, July 29. “Why should we pay for inflation?” Ian Tomlinson, a striking British Telecom worker, told this correspondent when I visited the picket line.

Workers joined union actions. Elinor Tinklenberg, one of the leaders of the CWU’s picket line at Portlethen, near Aberdeen, Scotland, July 29, said: “We have pickets up at 17 locations all over Manchester. We’re solid.”

“We need safety. When we heard about the union organizing Starbucks in Bufalo, New York, a lot of us thought let’s do this here.”

David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Minnesota’s 5th C.D. here, joined the picket line and said: “Organizing about the support the workers were receiving. “I know things are not going to change overnight but support, including from you, is awesome,” she said.

— Edwin Fruit

Minneapolis Starbucks workers strike for hiring, union contract

MINNEAPOLIS — Some 25 workers in a south Minneapolis Starbucks went on strike, picketing on Cedar Avenue South here for two days starting July 31. The bosses were forced to close the store for both days as all the workers honored the picketed line.

Jade Schmeling, 23, told the Militant that due to the low wages and lack of hours she has to work two other jobs to make ends meet. She said this was her first experience in union organizing. “We came together to push for what we deserve.”

Emily Mahoney, another member of the organizing committee, said, “We need more pay. We need health care. We need safety. When we heard about the union organizing Starbucks in Bufalo, New York, a lot of us thought let’s do this here.”

— Pete Clifford

Workers picket Starbucks at Cedar Avenue South in Minneapolis Aug. 1, second day of two-day strike over low wages andunderworking. Workers had recently voted to unionize the store.

Teamsters make gains in strike at FireKing in Indiana

BY AMY HUSK
NEW ALBANY, Ind. — Teamsters Local 699 members at FireKing have unanimously to ratify a five-year contract, July 29 after a hard-fought 12-week strike. The new contract, described in a statement by the union, includes “sturdily overhauled, low deductible insurance plan that will provide significant savings” to the local’s 83 members; a 22% increase in wages over the five years, with 3% annual raises thereafter; and an additional paid holiday.

The Militant checks out online! TheMilitant.com

August 25, 1977, Supplement

In the face of an all-out assault by United Parcel Service, 185,000 striking Teamster members are standing firm, risking their lives to deliver company. Railies in support of the striking Teamsters have been taking place across the country.

Each day the stakes in this battle rise. The central issues — the fight for better pay and conditions for part-time workers, the company’s attempt to gut the pension plans, the union’s demand that UPS hire more workers full-time, and health and safety issues have touched a nerve in workplaces across the country.

“Most unions have allowed our wages and working conditions to slip,” said Eugene Phillips, a 43-year-old feeder driver in Northbrook, Illinois. “Now we are looking at the damage. Unions have to get a lot stronger because the next fight will be larger and more difficult.”

August 11, 1972
On the morning of July 31, 13,000 British troops mounted the largest military operation yet undertaken in Northern Ireland, smashing through the concrete and steel barricades that have ringed many Catholic areas for more than a year.

In preparation for the operation, 4,000 more troops were brought. This raises the total strength of the British garrison to 21,000. The main target was “Free Derry,” the Bogside area of the city of Derry, which has a population of 35,000. Free Derry, the largest of the areas declared off limits to the British, was home to the 10,000 British soldiers and 300 armored vehicles.

Although the army is attempting to avoid some of the excesses it has been guilty of in the past, its occupation of the Catholic ghettos will soon result in increasing conflict with the people living there.

August 18, 1947
A labor party could mobilize into its ranks a possible 37 million members. This is the frank admission of Daniel Tobin, president of the 900,000-member AFL Teamsters to the union’s convention. Tobin is one of the most conservative union officials, a loyal servant of the Democratic Party. He boasted to the convention that he has fought the labor party idea for 41 years.

A labor party, based on the unions, would rally to its support the millions and most powerful political mass movement this country has ever known.

Such an admission from Tobin reflects the enormous growth of rank-and-file labor sentiment for a party of their own to smash the political monopoly of Wall Street and wipe out the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. Let labor’s ranks rise up in their wrath and repudiate such craven and treacherous leaders. The labor party must be built — NOW!
How Cuban Revolution began

Continued from front page

a new stage in our nation’s struggle to achieve our true independence,” Am- bassador Gala said. It had been cel- ebrated earlier that week in Cuba with participation by Army General Raúl Castro and Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

The 1953 action “meant the solidi- fication of a revolutionary movement that never wavered in its struggle un- til achieving the final victory on Jan. 1, 1959,” Gala said. The Cuban Revo- lution “remains strong because our people inherited throughout its his- tory solid concepts and revolutionary principles from men and women who gave everything.”

Clark highlighted the class compo- sition of the young combatants — in- cluding bricklayers, masonry work- ers, carpenters, peasants and farm- workers, and factory workers. “The social nature of the key events of the Cuban Revolution and the Marxist character of its leadership are what make it so decisively im- portant for working people the world over,” Clark said.

Sixty-five people attended the spe- cial Militant Labor Forum, sponsored by the New York and Northern New Jersey branches of the SWP. A drawing by a Cuban artist of Fi- del Castro delivering closing remarks to the court that convicted him in Oc- tober 1953 was among the displays around the room. Those remarks, known ever since as History Will Ab- solve Me, were printed clandestinely and used widely to publicize the program of the Cuban Revolution, carried out by the end of the revolutionary move- ment led by Fidel Castro.

Those in the audience recognized from the podium were Iván Casal and Yoangel Valido, second and third secretaries to Cuba’s U.N. Mission; members of the SWP’s New Jer- sey Cuba Si coalition; Wilma Paster from Acción Revolución, an Ecua- doran group; Alegna Cruz from the Puerto Rican Socialist Party; and Juanita Young, whose son Malcolm Ferguson was killed by New York po- lice in 2000. Young led a delegation of Mothers against Police Brutality to Cuba in May 2021.

A reception before and after the pro- gram gave participants an opportunity to meet the speakers and talk informally.

‘Inhumane U.S. blockade’

Gala pointed to Washington’s more than six-decades-long economic war against Cuba, carried out by every U.S. president since Dwight Eisenhower.

“During the Trump administra- tion 240 unilateral coercive measures were adopted against Cuba,” Gala said, and “remain in force under the current U.S. administration. No Cub- an family is spared the effects of this inhumane policy.”

For 29 years, Gala said, the U.N. General Assembly “has adopted a res- olution on the necessity of ending the blockade imposed by the U.S. against Cuba, carried out by every U.S. president since Dwight Eisenhower. The number of member states voting for the resolution has been in- creasing, with a tally of 184 to 2 in June 2021. “So, Cuba is on the right side of history.”

The next General Assembly vote is coming up this fall.

Solidarity and internationalism

Gala praised Cuba’s foreign policy, Gala said. Cuba has developed three COVID-19 vaccines, whose benefits are “not lim- ited to our borders.” During the pan- demic, Cuba sent 84 brigades to 40 countries to help fight the virus.

The ambassador ended his remarks by quoting Fidel Castro. “If we had given up after Moncada … we would have been… ‘cindy defeated,’” Castro said at a July 26 celebration in 1967. “That should always be our attitude, and the great lesson of our history.”

Affirming the pledge made by Raúl Castro at the 2018 Moncada celebra- tion, Gala concluded with a standing ov- amination “no matter how difficult the cir- cumstances, no matter how great the challenges, our people will forever de- fend our socialist revolution.”

How are WE doing? Across the spectrum of bourgeois politics, Steve Clark pointed out, ev- eryone keeps asking the question, “How are we doing in advancing the program of victorious 1959 struggle for Cuba’s true independence and socialist revolution?”

You hear it from right-wing op- ponents of the revolution,” Clark said. “You hear it from liberals and the middle-class left. How are we doing in face of shortages and blackouts? Or on ‘the race question’? Or ‘winning the war at home’? Or ‘they’re fighting. And they need our support.’”

Yes, of course, those are issues for Cuban working people and their leadership, Clark said. “But they’re the wrong question to stow over for revolutionary-minded workers and youth here who support the Cuban Revolution.”

“How are WE doing?” That’s the question the SWP is interested in, Clark said.

How are we doing in building the kind of working-class party that can organize and lead workers and farmers to emulate what Cuba’s toilers showed is not only necessary but possible? How are we doing in advancing prospects for a socialist revolution in the U.S.? And asking the never-ending question: ‘Can we replace the imperialist economic and military pressure off Cuba working people?’

The Cuban Revolution, Clark said, “didn’t just transform the lives, con- ditions, and political consciousness of workers and farmers in Cuba. It marked a renewal of communist leader- ship worldwide.”

The Socialist Workers Party wouldn’t exist as the proletarian party pre- sence in the U.S. if it weren’t for the Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro and the Rebel Army leadership,” Clark said.

In 1960 Jack Barnes, now the SWP’s national secretary, visited Cuba for the summer. Clark urged participants to read about that experience in Barnes’ book Cuba and the Coming American Revolution, which describes the pro- found impact of the Cuban Revolu- tion on politicizing workers and youth in the U.S. After returning, Barnes helped launch a Fair Play for Cuba Committee chapter at the Minnesota college he was attending and soon after- ward joined the SWP.

In the book, Clark said, Barnes recalls a last lesson he learned at the time of the U.S. government- or- ganized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in April 1961. Barnes wrote that he had “said something slightly ultraleft and self-serving over the phone to Ray Dunne about feeling guilty” that he wasn’t in Cuba with young revo- lutionists he’d become friends with during his 1960 trip.

Dunne was a veteran SWP leader who’d been a founding member of the communist movement in the U.S. and leader of the Teamsters organizing drives that brought hundreds of thou- sands of over-the-road truckers into the union in the 1930s.

“Ray was comradely but unsym- pathetic,” Barnes wrote. “You have no doubts about what the people you were closest to in Cuba are doing, he told me. ‘They’re fighting. And you assume they’re doing the same thing, wherever you are. So you better get with it and stop pandering to your emotions.’”

That lesson, Clark said, is central to the SWP’s program and course: Prac- tical internationalism in the fight with building a communist party to advance the socialist revolution right where you are.

“Like our pledge to comrades in Cuba,” Clark said. “That’s why when SWP members speak at events there and talk informally with Cubans, our number one job is to explain what we’re doing to live up to that pledge.”

“Cuban workers and farmers and their lead- ers have done their part for 69 years and counting.” Clark said. “The Socialist Workers Party puts to ourselves — and to working people and youth we talk with and join in battles alongside — Fi- del’s programmatic and action guide in History Will Absolve Me: ‘Not ‘We promise to give you this or that.’

‘But, ‘Organize and fight for ev- erything you have.’”

End U.S. economic war on Cuba!

Other speakers at the event were Susen Gazzol, active in the July 26 Co- alition in Boston, and Chris Hoeppner, the party’s candidate in Pennsylvania’s 3rd Congressional District.

Gazal described her February trip to Cuba. What she experi- enced there, she said, convinced her that “nothing outside Cuba.”

Hoeppner also reported on the suc- cessful effort to collect more than 2,000 signatures to put his name on the ballot as the SWP candidate for Congress in Philadelphia (see article on front page).

The program ended with a toast led by Clark and Gala to the 160 combat- ants who opened the fight for Cuba’s true independence and socialist revo- lution in 1953, as well as for an end to Washington’s economic war and travel restrictions against the Cuban Revolution.
Support Ukraine independence! Russian troops get out now!

Continued from front page

Since acquiring longer-range weaponry over the last few weeks, Ukrainian forces have liberated 44 villages and towns in the Kherson region. Posters in Russian-occupied Kherson continue to appear on city walls demanding, “Ocupar, leave now!”

The bodies of 53 Ukrainian prisoners of war were found incinerated and another 75 badly injured after an explosion in the Olenivka prison in the Russian-occupied Donetsk region July 29. There were no casualties among prison guards or Russian forces.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called the attack “a deliberate mass murder of Ukrainian prisoners of war” by Moscow-backed forces. The Kremlin claims the blast was caused by a Ukrainian rocket attack that it says was aimed at preventing the prisoners from testifying against their own government.

The captured soldiers were mainly from the Azov Regiment. They had laid down their arms in mid-May under orders from Kyiv after defending themselves and their comrades in the fortified basement of a huge steel mill during Moscow’s murderous siege of Mariupol. They are regarded as national heroes in Ukraine.

Kyiv officials had arranged a prisoner swap for some of them and were trying to liberate more.

Rightist politicians in Moscow have called for charging the Azov Regiment members as “neo-Nazis,” and demand they face death sentences.

For what faces them.

Putin is pursuing his war of attrition, anticipating that energy shortages and the deepening economic disruption will convince Washington and other imperialist powers to press Kyiv’s leaders to convince Washington and other imperialist powers to press Kyiv’s leaders to make territorial concessions to Moscow. They had up for weeks. These actions against Ukrainians, including some rail workers, carried out dozens of actions to make railroads stop and repelled Moscow’s incursions.

Since March, Lukashenko’s regime has stopped and repelled Moscow’s attacks under “foreign influence.”

The regime’s prosecutors have extended accusations of “terrorist activities” to 870 people already incarcerated. It moved April 27 to expand the death penalty law to try to deter further opposition to Moscow’s assault.

Armed special forces in plain clothes are “trying to liberate more,” said a statement from the Lukashenko secret police, the KGB, which has arrested about 60 people for railroad disruptions. At least 11 face similar charges to the first three. The Community of Belarusian Railway Workers has been branded an “extremist group.”

The regime’s prosecutors have extended accusations of “terrorist activities” to 870 people already incarcerated. It moved April 27 to expand the death penalty law to try to deter further opposition to Moscow’s assault. Armed special forces in plain clothes have begun to patrol the rail lines.

In videos posted on a pro-Moscow Telegram channel mid-April, reminiscent of the Stalinist Moscow show trials of the 1930s, 38 rail workers “admitted” to having committed acts of sabotage under “foreign influence.”

As part of backing Russian President Vladimir Putin’s war effort, Lukashenko held a sham referendum Feb. 27 to allow Russian nuclear missiles on Belarusian territory. The day of the poll, mass protests erupted in the streets of Minsk, the capital, and elsewhere. Carrying Ukrainian flags, people chanted, “No to war!” “Glory to Ukraine!” and “Long live Belarus!” The police rapidly cracked down, making more than 500 arrests in over a dozen cities.

Putin’s invasion of Ukraine is opposed by millions across Belarus. Polls show less than one in 20 support Belarusian soldiers being sent into Ukraine to fight alongside Russian forces. Even within the Belarusian military brass there is opposition to joining the invasion.

The July annual conference of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union in the U.K. currently waging a strike battle of its own over jobs, wages and conditions, called for the release of the jailed and framed-up Belarusian unions.

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BY ROY LANDERSEN

Three Belarusian rail workers who could face the death penalty are going to trial facing government charges of “terrorism,” and “treason.” This is part of a broader assault on the trade union movement of Belarus as the dictatorial regime of President Alexander Lukashenko tries to clamp down on opposition to Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine. The actual crime that Dzimitry Raviich, Dzyanis Dikun and Aleh Malchchanau, known as the Svetlahorsk Partisans, are accused of is setting fire to a railway signal control cabinet in the Gomel region March 1.

This was four days after Russian forces, backed by the Belarus regime, used the country as one of their staging grounds for invading Ukraine. The three were arrested days afterward.

From March into April, Belarus partisans, including some rail workers, carried out dozens of actions to make tracks unusable, doing so in ways that assured no danger to train workers or others. Some drivers refused to run trains carrying Russian military equipment.

Online attacks by a group of “cyberpartisans” crippled the computerized control of the country’s rail network, creating more delays. Trainloads of arms, troops and supplies were held up for weeks. These actions by the “rail partisans” aided the valiant Ukrainian resistance that stopped and repelled Moscow’s planned assault on Kyiv.

In addition to these partisans, the Lukashenko regime has detained several leaders of Belarus’ unions, including officers of the Belarusian Congress of Trade Unions, the Free Trade Union of Belarus and others.

Since March, Lukashenko’s secret police, the KGB, has arrested several people who displayed signs reading, “No to the war!” or “Peace to Ukraine!” or “Putin, resign!” — from St. Petersburg to Moscow and from the North Caucasus to Siberia. Some were detained by police and charged with “discrediting” the Russian army and fined, and most of them quickly released.

Marina Ovyanikova, a former Channel One TV editor, left the country after being briefly detained when she interrupted Russia’s most-watched evening news broadcast in March to hold up an anti-war sign. She returned to Russia last month and was again detained briefly after a solo protest outside the Kremlin. Russian authorities “are trying to denigrate me,” she told the Moscow Times.

“Since I’m back in Russia I’m using it as an opportunity to express my anti-war position, but we’ll see what happens next. Anyway I’m not going to leave the country,” she said.

Despite local police charging Dmytry Skurikhin several times, his village shop in northwest Russia remains emblazoned with “Peace to Ukraine! Freedom to Russia!” In blood-red letters it lists numerous Ukrainian cities.

“I want to draw society’s attention to the towns and cities of Ukraine that are suffering today,” he was quoted in the Kharkiv Human Rights group’s newsletter July 19, “to show how many of them there are.”

“My neighbors fully support me.”

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What’s the Socialist Workers Party doing to emulate Cuba’s socialist revolution?

Read the Militant’s coverage of the SWP’s International Active Workers Conference — “Taking the Socialist Workers Party’s program to the toilers: Conference discusses working-class response to capitalist crises, sets party convention” — by Steve Clark and Terry Rezis (July 4 issue in English, July 11 in Spanish, and coming in French)

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The Militant August 15, 2022 7
1969 ‘Cordobazo’ in Argentina posed working class taking power

This special feature is from The Leninist Strategy of Party Building: The Debate on Guerrilla Warfare in Latin America by Joseph Hansen, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, cited in last week’s article, “Argentine military officer found guilty for 1972 Trelew massacre.” As prerevolutionary conditions and struggles developed in Latin America, Hansen helped lead the international fight to build communist parties rooted in the struggles of the working class and its allies to take power. This excerpt is from “The Lesson of Argentina” in the chapter “Argentina and Bolivia — the Balance Sheet.” Copyright © 1979 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

workers’ uprising in Córdoba, Argentina, May 1969. Agustín Tosco, left in front, a leader of the “Cordobazo,” was a class-struggle-minded worker and secretary of energy workers union UTA (Tareas) (Light and Power). What was missing was a revolutionary party and leadership.

The use of the term semi-insurrection rather than spontaneous rebellion or uprising is deliberate. It accurately indicates the nature of the struggle — in the streets, with masses confronting the army and police; and the larger the masses had in mind — the national government. What gave it the character of a semi-insurrection was the clear political aim of the mobilizations and confrontations — to bring down the government.

That is the profound difference from the uprisings in the Black ghettos in the United States, which were spontaneous rebellions, with no specific political demands either explicit or implicit. But even the Argentine explosions were not revolutions. For that, a revolutionary leadership applying a clear program for the conquest of power was required. None of the mobilizations of the working class in Argentina has had this feature.

We have characterized the situation in Argentina since May 1969 as “pre-revolutionary” for various reasons.

1. The confusion in government circles, and the bourgeois forces generally, has grown more and more intense as time went on about trying to find a way out of the critical economic situation and to deal or to break the back of the rising mass movement.

2. The petty bourgeoisie is losing all confidence in the capitalist system, and significant sectors are inclining toward the working class in Argentina has had this feature.

3. The working class wants a revolutionary change in the government. It has lost all confidence in the government as the various regimes have succeeded each other, without ameliorating but only worsening the crisis racking the country.

It is true that the bulk of the working class still has confidence in Peronism politically. But that is because they believe, mistakenly, that through Peronism a means can be found to change the system. In other words, they are still not aware that the Peronist party is bourgeois. This is one of the consequences of the denial of Peron’s democratic rights and his exile from the country for seventeen years.

The main obstacles blocking the workers from moving toward state power in the present situation consist of the bureaucratic leadership of the trade unions, the only existing mass organizations of the proletariat, and General Peron, the unquestioned leader of the trillions masses.

The great problem facing the Argentine revolutionary movement is how to transform the prerevolutionary situation into revolutionary one, that is, into a direct struggle for power. …

The uprisings in Rosario and Córdoba altered the relationship of class forces. The retreat of the working class came to an end. Already significant efforts had been made to fight back, but these had been defeated. Now the working class began to take the offensive. The masses, in various stages, dealt a series of blows to successive bourgeois regimes, gaining victories.

The ruling class has oscillated between repression and concessions. This maneuvering, however, has necessarily been accompanied with the manifest signs of the general crisis that has raked Argentina. The country’s semi-colonial standing has not enabled the bourgeoisie to gain control of the situation, except for the period immediately following World War II. The concessions that have been granted, whether of a minimal econom­ic type or more deeply felt, have not changed the fact that the great majority of the working class did not wish to be under the rule in Argentina, in which a series of...
No to nuclear arms! Emulate Cuba’s example

On Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, the U.S. capitalist rulers unleashed a nuclear inferno on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians were instantly incinerated or died agonizing death from burns and radiation poisoning. To the U.S. proper ruling class this was necessary to move forward to completion of the Pacific War, and to “guarantee” the U.S. imperialist “world order” that came out of its victory in the World War II.

While Washington cynically claimed this slaughter as “necessary for victory in the war against Japan,” the majority of the American people had never wanted war and nuclear annihilation. The stakes for working people was clearer for workers to see — a march toward fascism, militarism and nuclear armaments to prepare for future conflicts. The vast military might wielded in every corner of the globe by the U.S. ruling class is the counterpart to the bosses’ assault on the jobs, wages, families, social conditions and political rights workers face here at home.

Today the logic of imperialist competition and its wars, whether from Korea to Vietnam, Afghanistan to Iraq, is clearer for workers to see — a march toward fascism, war and nuclear annihilation. The stakes for working people in organizing to prevent this are enormous. But beneath the rulers’ rhetoric can inflict the horrors of a third world war, we will have our chance to overturn the rule of the capitalist war makers and take political power into our own hands. Through our battles on the picket lines and in the factories, mines and mills, we can forge ties with the working-class party and Marxist leadership we need to keep up with the rate of inflation, but claim that it does keep “pace with the broader labor market.”

Continued from front page

The SWP calls on all governments that hold nuclear weapons to get rid of them, and any others that are planning to acquire them to renounce doing so. “We have never considered producing nuclear weapons,” Fidel Castro, the central leader of Cuba’s socialist revolution, wrote in Havana in 2005. “We possess a weapon as powerful as nuclear power and it is the immense justice for which we are struggling. Our nuclear weapon is the invincible power of moral weapons.” This is the line of march of the working people.

Cuba’s socialist revolution is a powerful example of what working people are capable of and what we can and must do here. This is the only road to assure once and for all that for the capitalist rulers — or any of its equally bloodthirsty rivals — will never use nuclear weapons again.

Editorial

No to nuclear arms! Emulate Cuba’s example

The decision in Iraq did not lead to the dawn of a new world order. The Gulf war held a mirror to the world, exposing the capitalistic war machine and its contradictions.

The Militant currently has nearly 200 inmate subscribers across the country, a dozen or so in federal facilities. Many of those subscribers have been reeds of the paper for years, for the most part without problems. The Militant has also stood up, with overwhelming success, to numerous attempts over the last decade by state prison authorities in Florida and other states to destroy this unconstitutional ban. Stated, “Get your union, church groups, community organizations and prominent individuals you know to write to the Federal Bureau of Prisons calling on them to reverse the ban. Circulate petitions among your co-workers that can be sent in.”

PDF files of the two rejected issues can be viewed and downloaded on the Militant’s website.

Send letters and petitions to Melissa Rios, Western Regional Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 7338 Sphere Drive, Stockton, CA 95219, or via email to WXRO-ExeAssistant@bop.gov. Send requests to

LETTERS

Need more Militants!

Thank you so much for the free subscription to the Militant. It was well read, with at least six men reading it thoroughly and many others perusing it. It certainly provoked political conversations in here, a place where politics is the least of their troubles. Unfortunately, on a wage of 60 cents an hour, we are unable to subscribe. We would be extremely grateful for more Militants! A prisoner

New Zealand

Editor’s note: We provide discounted subscriptions for readers behind bars: $6 for 6 months or complimentary- ry for those who can’t afford that. See ad on this page.