

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Preface to 'The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us' — PAGES 6-7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Help 'Militant' win renewals, get new book out to workers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom are reaching out to the more than 1,300 persons who subscribed to the *Militant* last fall. They will discuss the party's program and activities and win them to become long-term readers.

And getting to know better the workers who are reading the paper and discuss how we can work together to defend the interests of all working people.

Part of this effort is introducing readers to Pathfinder's titles, including the newest book, *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*. It's available for \$5 with a subscription or renewal, or at the special price of \$7 (see ad on page 6).

"I found that the *Militant's* information about workers in other parts of the country and other parts of the world is important," Jorge Aguayo

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Iran unrest fueled by attacks on labor, women, nationalities

Protests: 'No death penalty! Free political prisoners!'



At Tehran court Jan. 16 families of those facing execution on drug charges, part of wider protests across Iran against death penalty, chanted, "Let authorities answer! No to executions!"

BY SETH GALINSKY

Dozens demonstrated outside Rajai Shahr jail near Tehran Jan. 8 and 9 to demand an end to the death penalty, including the mother of Mohammad Ghobadlou, one of several anti-government protesters convicted of "enmity to God" and sentenced to death.

The protest began the day after the Iranian government executed political prisoners Mohammad Mehdi Karami and Mohammad Hosseini Jan. 7, bringing to four the number of recent protesters executed since Dec. 8. The courts have since put several executions on hold or ordered new trials.

The bourgeois-clerical regime hoped the executions would push back the movement across Iran that was sparked by the Sept. 16 death of Zhina Amini, a young Kurdish woman visiting Tehran, after she was arrested by the "morality" police for not properly wearing her hijab.

More than 500 people have been killed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, paramilitary Basij thugs

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Defend Ukraine independence! Moscow troops get out now!

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Moscow's larger and better armed military continues to fail to make any substantial gains against determined and motivated Ukrainian workers and soldiers defending their country's independence.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has turned to a protracted war of attrition, seeking a way to restart his drive to reassert Moscow's domination over this for-

EDIT: NEW 'PEACE' MOVEMENT BACKS PUTIN'S WAR AIMS p. 9

mer part of the czarist Russian empire. Russian workers-in-uniform drafted as cannon fodder are bearing the brunt of Putin's new strategy, especially in Moscow's relentless siege on Bakhmut and nearby Soledar in the Donetsk region.

Sending wave after wave of new Russian conscripts and former prisoners to be mowed down has led to growing numbers of casualties, whose bodies are left lying on the ground.

Putin also continues bombing civilian areas in Ukraine's cities. A Russian missile strike, the deadliest single attack

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New York nurses strike, solidarity, force more hiring and higher pay



Militant/Sara Lobman

Over 7,000 nurses in New York from Mount Sinai, Montefiore hospitals ended three-day strike Jan. 12 after reaching tentative agreement with bosses for increased staffing levels, salaries.

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — More than 7,000 nurses at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan and Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx returned to work Jan. 12 after a successful three-day strike. The members of the New York State Nurses Association will now vote on the tentative agreement. According to the union website, hospital bosses agreed to "increase staffing levels and enforcement, increase salaries by approximately 19%

over the three-year contract, [and] protect health-care benefits."

The key issue in the strike was enforceable patient-to-nurse ratio staffing levels that give nurses the capacity to responsibly care for patients. Hundreds and hundreds of nurses and their supporters joined the picket lines in front of the two hospital centers, as passing bus, truck and taxi drivers, and other motorists, honked in support. A band made up

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2022 elections yield political gridlock, heighten conflicts in capitalist parties

BY TERRY EVANS

Congress opened in 2023 with a slim Republican majority in the House and a Democratic Senate and conflicts between and within both of the capitalist rulers' parties. Neither looks to do much to pass legislation. Both have their eyes on using their thin majorities — and the Democrats' hold on the presidency — to strengthen their hand in capturing the White House in 2024 and finding ways to go after their political opponents. As they do so, they're dealing blows to constitutional freedoms working people need as we fight to defend the interests of our class and all those oppressed by capital.

The sharp divisions in the Republican

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Protests, strikes in Latin America reflect deepening crisis of capitalism

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

On Jan. 8, some 5,000 people stormed Brazil's Congress, the Supreme Court and presidential offices. Many were supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro. This drew immediate comparison in the liberal press to the Jan. 6, 2021, melee at the U.S. Capitol. According to the *New York Times*, the largely working-class and small-proprietor protesters

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San Francisco Bay cargo ship fuelers demand 'No pay cuts!'

Chicago health care workers strike over layoffs, contract

Protests across Latin America

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were partisans of “far-right extremism, inspired by antidemocratic leaders and fed by conspiracy theories.”

Many protesters demanded the military remove President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who was sworn into office a week earlier. Lula called the protesters “vandals, neo-fascists and fanatics.” Government forces rounded up some 1,500 people, releasing almost 600 the next day.

Bolsonaro condemned the attack on the Congress. He has not conceded he lost the October election, the closest in Brazil’s history.

Despite claims by the liberal press and leftist governments in Latin America, the actions in Brazil were not driven by a rise of “neo-fascists.” It will take much deeper resistance by workers, farmers and the oppressed before a section of the capitalist rulers turns to fascist outfits to try to crush protests by workers, peasants and indigenous peoples. The turmoil sweeping Brazil — and protests taking place across Latin America — occur as more working people recognize that the bosses and their parties have no solution that doesn’t put today’s economic and social crisis of capitalism on our backs.

The sharp polarization in Brazil is part of a trend in bourgeois politics in Latin America that has grown over the last decade: the criminalization of political differences in which more and more bourgeois rivals resort to impeachments, jailing of opponents, and dissolution of government branches.

The number of Brazilians who can’t get enough to eat jumped almost 75% to 33 million over the last two years.

In Argentina the inflation rate has hit

94%. “There’s many people who work and they don’t have the money to pay for a kilo of meat,” Noemeí Colque, who runs a soup kitchen in Buenos Aires, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Battered by economic crisis and soaring prices, working people see the capitalist rulers and their governments as intertwined with corruption, gang violence and disdain for the vast majority.

The crisis has propelled growing numbers of workers to head to the U.S., hoping to find work.

Peru’s president, Dina Boluarte, declared a 30-day state of emergency on Jan. 15 for Lima and three other regions. Weeks of mass protests broke out in December when then-President Pedro Castillo was ousted from office after attempting to dissolve Congress. Forty-two people have lost their lives. Boluarte, who was then vice president, says she will ignore calls for her resignation from “violent and radical factions.”

Boluarte’s decree suspends constitutional rights, including freedom of travel, freedom of assembly and the right to privacy in one’s home.

In November, farmers and truck drivers organized more than a dozen



Claudio Reis/Agencia Enquadrar/Folhapress

Federal workers demand wage increases in Brasília, Brazil, March 16, 2022. Brazilians who say they can’t afford enough to eat jumped almost 75% to 33 million in the last two years.

roadblocks to protest high gas prices and fertilizer shortages.

More than half of Peru’s population now find themselves without regular access to enough food. Wheat, rice, and cooking oil have more than doubled in price. Imported chemical fertilizers cost up to four times what they did a year ago, forcing farmers to reduce their use. The official poverty rate stands at 25%.

These are the real reasons behind the political upheaval and protests, problems that can only be solved by building a working-class movement with a revolutionary leadership to fight to take political power, as the toilers did in Cuba.

This is why rights like freedom of speech and assembly — under assault in Brazil and Peru — are of key importance today.

End forced sterilization of Native women in Canada!

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — Two recent reports document the longstanding practice of the capitalist rulers in Canada to promote forcibly sterilizing Indigenous women. And the numbers reported are just the tip of the iceberg. This is part of the long history of oppression against Native people by the Canadian state.

An inquiry last November by the

First Nations of Quebec and the Labrador Health and Social Services Commission, documents 22 cases since 1980 where Indigenous women were sterilized without their consent, most recently in 2019. Many of the women had gone to the hospital to give birth. There were three cases of forced abortions.

One woman informed the inquiry that her doctor told her, “It would be better if you had a tubal ligation. You wouldn’t have any more children. You’ve had two, and that’s enough.” Another reported what had happened to her sister in the hospital. “We were told she was going down for a tonsillectomy, and when she came back, we found out she had a tubal ligation.” The report demands the College of Physicians of Quebec immediately end the practice of forced sterilizations.

There are 1.8 million Indigenous people in Canada, 5% of the population. They face discrimination across

the board. Joblessness is higher than in the rest of the population. They are 29% of the homeless and one-third of federal prisoners. Life expectancy is 15 years lower than the population as a whole.

In another report, issued in 2021 by the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, 16 Indigenous women spoke of being coerced into sterilization. Most of these women were sterilized between 2005 and 2010, but at least one was in 2019. The government report says 1,150 Indigenous women were sterilized over a 10-year period up to early 1970 in federally run “Indian hospitals.”

“Away from their family and communities to give birth, many Indigenous women experience language and cultural barriers,” the report said. “Many women are not given adequate information or support to understand and to be informed of their rights, including their sexual and reproductive rights.”

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THE MILITANT

Back fight to defend women’s rights in Scotland

Hundreds protested outside the Scottish Parliament Dec. 21 against bill that claims one’s gender can be changed at will, which undercuts the fight for women’s rights. The ‘Militant’ explains that unity of working people is strengthened by gains for women.



The Scotsman/Lisa Ferguson
Demonstration in support of women’s rights at Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh Oct. 6

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'Militant' renewals, new book

Continued from front page

told Ilona Gersh, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Chicago mayor, who is one of his co-workers. "The problems they face are identical to the problems that my fellow workers experience. If an employer gets away with violating an employee's right here or anywhere else, other employers will try to get away with it."

Gersh had introduced Aguayo to the *Militant*, showing him an article about the strike by bakery workers at Ingridion in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. "Aguayo is a Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers shop steward at the Alpha Baking Company where I work and helped lead a solidarity collection the union organized in the plant, raising hundreds of dollars for the strikers," she wrote.

While working together to win contributions from fellow unionists, Aguayo got a subscription to the paper and purchased *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs and *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions* by Dobbs, Jack Barnes, Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky. He decided to renew his subscription for a year.

In Grand Prairie, Texas, Arelly Davalos, a member of BCTGM Local 111, renewed her subscription. "I like the *Militant* because it makes the

effort to get the opinion of regular working families," she told co-worker and SWP member Gerardo Sánchez. "Getting the *Militant* out in Spanish and English is very useful it keeps you discussing working-class politics in both languages and allows you to talk politics with anybody."

In Quebec City, Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in the Quebec by-election in Montreal's riding of Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne, joined the picket line of longshore workers Jan. 14. They have been locked out by the bosses at the Port of Quebec since September.

"I have 35 years of service and still have to call in every day to find out my shift for the next day," Richard Hodgson told Bernardo. "I want a life. It's not the money. It's the hours. I've worked 60 to 70 days in a row."

"I'm a member of the Bakery Workers union and I'm building solidarity with your fight with fellow union members," Bernardo said.

"If we don't fight, all the other port workers will pay the price," Hodgson told her.

To join the effort to spread the reach of the *Militant* and to get out the new book, contact the branches of the SWP and Communist League listed on page 8.

SWP candidates file for the ballot in Texas



Militant/Hilda Cuzco

FORT WORTH — Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, and Gerardo Sánchez, running for City Council in the 5th District, filed for the ballot for the May 6 election in the city secretary's office here Jan. 18. "We will take our campaign program to working people in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and to the rural areas throughout Texas," Kennedy said. "We will talk about the growing examples of unions that are standing up and fighting for wages, hours of work and safety that enables us to live and have families." The SWP campaign will explain that out of these growing union struggles, a labor party based on our unions can be organized. "Our campaign supports the massive struggles in Iran against the repressive government and the battle by Ukrainian working people to defend their country's sovereignty against the Russian government's invasion," Sánchez, a member of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 111, told the press.

— GEORGE CHALMERS

Iran unrest fueled by attacks on labor, women, oppressed nationalities

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or police since daily protests swept the country over three months ago.

But even as the protests have declined — for now — the government's trampling on the rights of oppressed nationalities, women, workers and students continues to provoke a response. Also underlying the protests is opposition to the capitalist government's use of working people as cannon fodder for its military adventures in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen.

The Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company Workers' Union reported Jan. 12 that union activists Reza Shahabi and Hassan Saeedi were given six-year prison sentences, falsely accused of "propaganda activity against the Islamic Republic." They were arrested after having attended a May Day rally last year against the rising cost of living and in defense of independent unions.

All "labor activists, teachers, students, activists of the women's movement, arrested protesters and political prisoners should be released," the union said.

Despite the arrest of 30 workers at a Dec. 24 rally in Asaluyeh, hundreds of oil workers joined protests at more than a dozen refineries, gas complexes and company offices Jan. 17. They are demanding wage increases and improvements in health insurance and pensions. "We won't drop the flag of demanding our rights," said their flyer for the actions.

Defense of Baha'i

The oppressed Baluch nationality in Sistan-Baluchistan province has been at the forefront of the fight against the regime's repressive measures, along with the Kurdish nationality. Baluchistan-based Maulana Abdul-Hamid, Iran's most prominent Sunni cleric, has come under fire from the government for condemning the arrests of women who don't wear the hijab and his calls for freeing political prisoners and an end to discrimination against members of the Baha'i religious minority, a rare public position in Iran.

While the Shiite-based capitalist rul-

ers of Iran treat the mostly Sunni oppressed nationalities like the Baluch and Kurds as second-class citizens, they view members of the Baha'i religion as "infidels." Their faith is not recognized and they are denied identity cards. Many have been sentenced to death or imprisoned because of their religious beliefs.

Bring back the shah?

While anger by workers and youth against the regime's repression continues in Iran, bourgeois-minded opponents of the Islamic Republic in Europe and the U.S. look to the imperialist ruling classes outside Iran to topple the regime.

Reza Pahlavi, son of the shah of Iran overthrown in the 1979 revolution; journalist Masih Alinejad; former soccer star Ali Karimi; and other exiles issued a joint statement Jan. 15 calling on "the international community" to put the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps "on the terrorist list."

As part of their campaign they want opponents of the reactionary bourgeois-

clerical regime to believe that "things were better" under the monarchy.

But Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was imposed on the people of Iran by a 1953 coup organized by the CIA. During his rule, thousands of workers and political opponents were arrested and tortured by the notorious Savak secret police.

All wings of the bourgeois-clerical regime today claim the mantle of the massive, popular 1979 revolution that overthrew the shah. The opposite is true. They consolidated a counterrevolution in 1982 to 1983, giving new life to the repressive measures carried out by the monarchy, including the systematic denial of democratic rights and the trampling of the rights of women and oppressed peoples, from Kurds and Arabs to the Baluch.

Working people in Iran today have no intention of going back to the days of the shah. At a Jan. 13 demonstration in Zahedan, Baluch women chanted, "No to monarchy. No Supreme Leader. Democracy! Equality!"

Meeting to celebrate political life of Mary Lou Montauk

Mary Lou Montauk, a lifelong member and supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, died Jan. 5, a few days before turning 93.

A meeting to celebrate her life and political contributions will be held Jan. 21 at 8400 Enterprise Way in Oakland, California, with a buffet at 6 p.m. and program at 7. Speakers will include Socialist Workers Party leaders Norton Sander, Betsey Stone and Osborne Hart.

Montauk joined the SWP's youth section in 1944 just before the giant strike wave that swept the country after World War II. In the 1950s she was active in the Chicago branch when the party was deeply involved in early civil rights struggles, including support for the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott

and fights against racist terror.

As a member of the Oakland branch in the 1960s and '70s, she helped win to the party a new generation of youth who were inspired by the Cuban Revolution, the Black struggle, the movement against the Vietnam War and the fight for women's rights.

In her later years, Montauk joined the team of party supporters who organize the production of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries.

The political work of the generations she was part of helped lay the basis for the party being able to move forward today.

For further information about the meeting, contact (510) 686-1351 or email swpoak@sbcglobal.net.



Montauk in 1968 Bay Area protest against jailing of members of sister party in France.

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Capitalist rulers in Europe mask depth of rising prices

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The big-business media is hailing the slight drop in inflation rates in Europe last month as a sign that the capitalist rulers are getting price rises under control. But this masks the intolerable impact that decades-high levels continue to have on the living standards of working people there and worldwide, as well as clear indications the scourge of inflation will continue.

“Falling French inflation sparks hope of end to Europe’s price surge,” predicted a Jan. 4 *Financial Times* article. “Eurozone inflation returns to single figures in sharper than expected fall,” the paper said two days later, reporting that consumer prices rose at a 9.2% annual rate in December, a drop from 10.1% the previous month. But at 9.2%, workers’ real wages are still being eaten up, making it ever harder to make ends meet.

Accounting for this drop was a nine percentage point decline in eurozone energy prices to 25.7% for December over the past year. It declined largely because of governments’ subsidized payments for steeply rising energy bills affecting working people, hoping to curtail protests against these conditions. But such stimulus programs themselves exacerbate inflation, with the printing of more money to fund them leading to higher prices down the road.

In Germany, for example, the government paid most of workers’ gas bills for December. Similar such programs have been implemented in Spain, France and other countries in Europe.

This data, admits the *Times*, indicates that “while falling energy prices have reduced overall inflation, underlying price pressures for other goods and services have remained largely unchanged.”

Periodic bouts of inflation are integral to the long-term crisis of capitalism. “In the face of plummeting profit rates, increasing unemployment, and a rise in working-class resistance, the bourgeoisie will divide over how to attempt to weather the crisis,” writes Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, in the article “Imperialism’s March Toward Fascism and War” in *New International* no. 10. “Some capitalist governments will panic and simply begin pumping out money in hopes of buffering the shocks.” In these conditions the supply of money outstrips the commodities that can be purchased and prices are pushed up.

Today working people are begin-

ning to face a period of “stagflation” — a combination of increased prices and falling capitalist production and jobs. Bosses and their governments seek to solve this by demanding greater “sacrifices” from workers, targeting jobs, wages and benefits.

Prices rise; jobs, production decline

In Germany, with Europe’s largest and strongest capitalist economy, manufacturing output continues to fall. In France, tens of thousands have demonstrated in recent weeks demanding higher wages to cover rising prices. French President Emmanuel Macron has announced plans once again to increase the age of retirement from 62 years old by two or three years. A similar proposal in 2019 was defeated as transport workers and fellow unionists organized strikes to oppose it.

Price hikes have hit working people the hardest in countries in Eastern and Central Europe, already vulnerable, and where Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine has had the biggest impact. Inflation is over 16% in Bulgaria, Poland and the Czech Republic; and 31.4% in Moldova. In all these countries working people have taken to the streets to demand wage raises and im-

Gridlock, heightened conflicts in capitalist parties

Continued from front page

Party exploded on the very first day in a rancorous and protracted fight over the election of Rep. Kevin McCarthy as House Speaker. But Democrats are united over very little themselves, except using the FBI, Justice Department and courts to stop Donald Trump from ever holding office again. They’re also united in barring rail workers from striking to defend themselves from bosses’ assaults on working conditions, jobs, pay and life-sucking schedules, with bipartisan support from many Republicans.

After unleashing the FBI in a widely televised armed raid on Trump’s Mar-a-Lago home to cart off boxes of documents stored there, Attorney General Merrick Garland authorized an investigation into President Joseph Biden when he was found to have kept classified government files from when he was vice president. Such material turned up in his Delaware home, his office and in his garage. The papers concern Iran, Ukraine — where his son Hunter had financial interests — and the U.K. Determined to minimize the damage to Biden, Garland generously permitted him to have his own attorneys “search” his premises, keeping the FBI out of it.

Last August’s FBI break-in at Mar-a-Lago was part of the Democrats’ yearslong drive to turn Trump into a criminal. It was accompanied by Biden’s smear of tens of millions of so-called MAGA Republicans as a “clear and present danger.” Garland appointed a “special counsel” to investigate Trump’s possession of the documents.

After jumping to sic a special counsel on Trump, Garland felt compelled to appoint one to probe Biden as well. Now both candidates for president in 2024 are under investigation.

Regardless of who is targeted, so-called special counsels like this deal a



Sipa via AP/Florian Poitout

Thousands demonstrate in Paris Jan. 7 demanding higher wages to cover soaring prices and to protest President Emmanuel Macron’s plan to increase retirement age beyond 62 years.

proved conditions in recent months.

Like the Federal Reserve Bank in the U.S., the European Central Bank has been raising interest rates in an attempt to rein in prices. Utterly indifferent to the consequences these policies will have on workers’ lives, the editors of the *Financial Times* hailed moves that make job cuts likely as an “opportunity” for some “creative destruction.”

The Central Bank’s decisions are also heightening conflicts among capitalist powers that comprise the EU. It makes it more difficult for the most indebted governments, such as Italy, Greece and Spain, to repay their loans.

The capitalist rulers in Italy face the biggest challenges. The country’s debt is over 145% of its gross domestic product. Rising rates increase the amount of debts to be paid, which the rulers seek to resolve by deepening their attacks on the working class.

What’s needed in the face of these conditions is a fight by the labor movement for cost-of-living escalator clauses in union contracts to ensure wages, Social Security and all other benefits automatically rise to cover inflation, and a union-led fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, to prevent layoffs and loss of wages.

blow to the presumption of innocence and set a precedent to be used against the labor movement and opponents of capitalist rule.

These probes are granted far-reaching powers to compel anyone they choose to face questioning, armed with contempt citations and the threat of jail if anyone tries to avoid testimony. They utilize plea bargaining to force “cooperation” and confessions. Facing seven felony charges in 2018, former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort agreed to “cooperate” with the Democratic-appointed special counsel Robert Mueller, a former FBI director, after prosecutors said they would reduce the charges against Manafort and limit the jail time he faced.

Revelations that Biden and Trump kept government papers, classified or not, is of little concern for working people. Both presidents already had years of access to them — and much more about the capitalist rulers’ plans for wars abroad and attacks on workers at home.

But the scandal is a reminder that the U.S. imperialist rulers are less and less able to openly proclaim the means they use to advance their interests. Classifying government papers aims at ensuring that what they want hidden stays that way.

Republicans have pointed to the draconian treatment meted out by the Justice Department to Trump, and its light touch in dealing with Biden. His possession of classified material was uncovered before the midterm elections, but authorities made sure it was kept secret until well after the vote.

Push to refurbish political police

House Leader McCarthy announced the Republicans had used their majority to set up a committee to investigate “the weaponization” of the government. Aimed at scrutiniz-

ing the FBI and its years of doing the bidding of the Democrats, McCarthy says the committee will get out the truth and take steps to ensure “we can now trust our law enforcement.”

Both of the twin parties of capitalist rule — the Democrats and Republicans — seek to refurbish the FBI, their central political police agency.

Ever since its founding over 100 years ago, the political police has led the rulers’ spying, disruption and harassment operations. During the notorious Palmer Raids after the first imperialist world war, the unions, newly formed Communist Party and immigrant workers were targeted 1919-20.

Since the onset of World War II, the FBI has played a key role in assaulting free speech and assembly, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure and other critical constitutional liberties. The true class character of the FBI was clearly revealed through the Socialist Workers Party’s historic lawsuit launched in 1973 and won in 1986. That record can be found in Pathfinder’s *50 Years of Covert Operations in the US and FBI on Trial*.

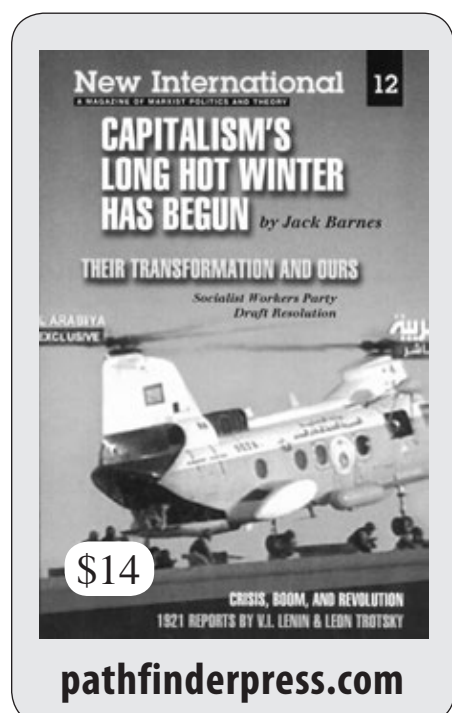
The fight against government attacks on constitutional freedoms needed and used by workers, our unions and political organizations remains at the center of politics today.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

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The Impact of the Drought and Flooding on Farmers and Rural Workers. Speaker: Bernie Senter, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Jan. 29, 5 p.m. Donation: \$5. 2826 S. Vermont Ave., Suite 1. Tel.: (323) 643-4968.



—ON THE PICKET LINE—

San Francisco Bay cargo ship fuelers demand 'No pay cuts!'

ALAMEDA, Calif. — “Leo Marine workers responsible for all cargo ship fueling in the San Francisco Bay voted to join IBU-ILWU last year,” read the call for a Jan. 11 rally here in support of the 30 workers fighting for their first contract. The Inlandboatmen’s Union is affiliated to the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

“We have met with Leo Marine managers 13 times,” ILWU organizer Evan McLaughlin told the nearly three dozen unionists and other workers who joined Leo Marine fuelers on their lunch-break rally.

The company is offering a 3% wage hike, but cutting overtime, resulting in “a 3% wage cut” overall, said McLaughlin. “No pay cuts!” and other chants rang out as we marched along Leo Marine’s dock in a light rain.

Melvin Mackay, a leader of ILWU Local 10, explained to some new members of his local and others that organizing solidarity with fuelers, nurses and other fighting workers is crucial. And, he noted, the 22,000 West Coast-wide longshore workers’ contract is still in negotiations.

— Joel Britton

Chicago health care workers strike over layoffs, contract

CHICAGO — Some 440 health care workers, members of the Illinois Nurses Association at Howard Brown

Health, carried out a three-day strike Jan. 3-5, protesting the layoff of 61 union workers. Strikers include therapists, health educators and greeters, among others, who work at Howard Brown’s 11 medical centers, retail stores and a youth center. The nurses at the clinics have a different Illinois Nurses Association contract. Howard Brown Health uses federal funds to specialize in treatment of gay and lesbian patients.

Clinic bosses say they face a \$12 million shortfall due to losses in pandemic and other federal funds.

Striker Shakia Flowers was picketing at the Englewood clinic on the South Side here Jan. 4, one of those hardest hit by the layoffs. “I am one of the 61 illegally laid-off workers, that is 15% of the workforce,” she said. “They are divesting at the South Side clinics and the layoffs are disproportionately affecting the South Side.”

Striker Maya Allen said, “They carried out the layoffs on Dec. 30 and they cut off our access to workplace email and communication with our patients even before we knew we were laid off.”

“We won the union in August with 98% voting for the union,” John Matz, with three years seniority, said. “This is our first attempt to get a contract and we’re already on strike.”

— Dan Fein

Port of Quebec workers fight for livable schedules



Stuart Edwards

QUEBEC CITY — Eighty-one longshoremen, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2614 at the Port of Quebec here, have been on the picket line since bosses locked them out Sept. 15.

While visiting the picket line Dec. 30, workers had a lot to say about the key issues in their fight, especially quality-of-life issues. The bosses are demanding workers be scheduled for 12-hour shifts, claiming this is the only answer to their chronic shortage of workers.

“There are groups of workers who aren’t entitled to any leave,” Sylvain Michaud, vice president of the longshoremen’s local, said. “They can request it but there is no guarantee.” To find out if he is working the next day, a longshoreman must call his employer at the end of the day. “It means that we can learn at 4 p.m. that we work at midnight,” said Yvon Lavoie.

Currently, the company offers better conditions to subcontracted longshoremen than to regular employees, Michaud said. This is another way the bosses seek to undermine the union.

— DAVID JOHNSON

New York nurses strike, force gains in hiring, pay

Continued from front page

of union members played in the crowd.

The strike came on top of threatened actions during the previous week by thousands more nurses at six additional medical centers who were able to secure new contracts boosting staffing and pay. That included 4,000 nurses at New York-Presbyterian hospitals.

Twelve hundred nurses at four more hospitals — Interfaith and Kingsbrook Jewish medical centers, the Brooklyn hospital center and Wyckoff Heights — have threatened to strike as well.

“It’s not about the money,” Lisette Kimbere, an oncological nurse prac-

itioner and a member of the contract action team, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent on the picket line. “If we get paid better, but the conditions don’t improve, we won’t stay. That’s the problem.”

“I’m happy we went on strike,” Sonia David, an intensive care unit nurse who has worked at Mount Sinai Hospital for more than 16 years, said after two days back on the job. “Conditions and pay are so bad that new nurses don’t stay. When we negotiated the last contract the hospital promised more nurses per patient, but it never happened. It just got worse.

“One day they’re short housekeeping

staff. So they tell you to clean the room and make up the bed. You do it once, because there’s a sick person who needs the bed,” she said. “Next thing you know, the hospital expects you to do it all the time.

“We would meet with the managers and they would say, ‘Yes, yes,’ but nothing changed,” David said. “That’s why the strike was so important.

“We’re the lowest-paid nurses of the major hospitals in the city, including others that are part of the Mount Sinai Health System,” she added. “Even the nurses at other hospitals owned by Mount Sinai make more. The workers had been asking for equal pay. We won the same raise, but that didn’t close the gap.

“I used to assume that hospitals were ‘not-for-profit,’ but now I realize it’s all a business to them,” she said.

“The strike was definitely worth it,” said Kathryn, another ICU nurse, who asked that her last name not be used because she’s only been working for a couple of months. “They say they’re establishing 170 new positions. But there’s already hundreds of existing positions that haven’t been filled. It was a good feeling being out together.”

This strike battle was one of dozens of strikes and protests by nurses and other workers — including rail workers across the country last fall — over onerous staffing shortages and schedules, as well as wages that don’t keep pace with soaring prices.

Two days after the strike ended, the New York State Nurses Association announced the 800 nurses at Mount Sinai South Nassau voted to join the union. This Oceanside hospital on Long Island was the last nonunion facility in the Mount Sinai Health System.

Read about the battles that forged the US labor movement



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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



February 2, 1998

LOS ANGELES — The crisis growing out of the merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railroads sparked a picket line of 45 spouses and children of Union Pacific employees at the Colton Yard in southern California Dec. 20, protesting long hours and unsafe conditions. Picket signs read: “UP Management: License to Kill” and “Sleep Deprivation Kills.”

Diane Houchen, the wife of an engineer, said, “We want our husbands back. They leave and they’re on a train for 16 or 18 hours at a time. They come home and they’re exhausted — but have to go out again in 10 hours. My husband worked on a train for 12 hours and then had to wait for a crew to come out and relieve them. After waiting for five hours he got out and hitchhiked home with the conductor agreeing to stay and watch the train. No one should have to go through this.”



February 2, 1973

The agreement by the U.S. to halt the bombing and withdraw its remaining troops from South Vietnam is a long-sought-for victory for the Vietnamese people. It is also a victory for the anti-war movement here and throughout the world. But imperialist intervention in Vietnam is far from ended. The accords do nothing to resolve the social, economic and political problems at the root of the war.

The imperialists recognize the fact of two armies and two governmental forces in South Vietnam, each representing basically opposed class forces. On the one side is the Saigon regime of the landlords and capitalists, backed by U.S. imperialism. On the other are the revolutionary forces based on the workers and peasants. This is an inherently unstable situation. One side or the other will eventually have to predominate, and that can only be determined in struggle.



February 2, 1948

The government witch hunt to intimidate the labor movement has hit new heights in a deportation delirium.

One of the slimiest tricks was against Charles Doyle, vice president of the CIO United Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers. Born in Scotland, Doyle has lived in this country for 23 years. He was leading a strike in Niagara when he visited Canada to attend a union board meeting. At the border he was issued a re-entry permit. While he was in Canada his permit was secretly cancelled. When he attempted to re-enter he was sent back to Canada.

The current proceedings are aimed chiefly against the Stalinists and their fellow travelers. The labor movement must understand, however, that if these are successful, the campaign will be broadened to include every foreign-born union official with left-wing opinions and every opponent of the system.

The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us

The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward is the product of trade union and broader political work over the last year by SWP members responding to deepening cracks in the world order established by the victors of the inter-imperialist slaughter known in the United States as World War II.

PREFACE TO NEW BOOK

This activity by party members, shoulder to shoulder with other working people and youth, is being carried out amid mounting global conflicts among rival capitalist powers, with explosive ramifications for workers and farmers in the Americas, Europe, the Mideast, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

Above all, the articles and documents here highlight the opportunities ahead for class-conscious workers, as a decades-long retreat by the working class and trade unions comes to an end. The intensified speedup, longer and longer hours, attacks on job safety, declining real wages, lack of steady employment, and spiraling social and moral blight — conditions produced by the ruling class families in the United States and capitalism's dog-eat-dog social relations — are pressing more and more working people to say, "Enough is enough." Workers have begun using our collective economic power and class solidarity in response.

The material compiled in these pages has been written and prepared for publication by the Editing Commission of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee: Jack Barnes, Steve Clark, Dave Prince, and Mary-Alice Waters. It opens with an article from the *Militant* newsweekly, "published in the interests of working people," as

its masthead proudly proclaims. The article reports on the June 9–12, 2022 International Active Workers Conference organized by the SWP, with some 350 participants from eleven countries.

The contents include two SWP National Committee policy statements.

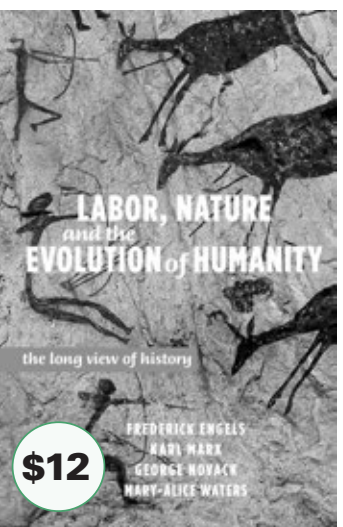
One, in defense of Ukraine's independence and sovereignty, was released March 3, 2022, in the opening days of Moscow's invasion, launched with the avowed aim of erasing the very existence of its neighbor.

The other was issued on October 11, 2022, in the wake of Hurricane Ian's devastating path across western Cuba. Consistent with the SWP's history the statement, like many before it, demands an immediate end to the US government's six-decades-long murderous attempt to crush Cuban working people for their audacity in making a socialist revolution in what Washington considers its own backyard.

The heart of the book, from which the title is taken, is the political resolution adopted December 12, 2022, by the 49th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party. It sets forth the course of action that has guided the party's work and will continue to do so — the course necessary today to forge mass proletarian parties and an international communist movement able to lead the struggle to end capitalist rule.

As the opening lines of the SWP Constitution state, the purpose of the party is to advance the education and organization of the working class "in order to establish a workers and farmers government which will abolish capitalism in the United States and join in the worldwide struggle for socialism."

The resolution is written in the form of twenty-seven numbered sections,



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Rail workers rally July 2022 in Galesburg, Illinois, against carrier bosses' refusal to address inhumane work schedules, working conditions, and crew sizes. President Joseph Biden and bipartisan Congress barred right to strike.

yet none of the questions engaged here stand alone. They can be understood only as part of the line of march of the working class to state power, the political line of the resolution as a whole.

Among the questions addressed are:

- Why the fight to prevent erosion by the capitalist government — both in Washington, as well as in the fifty states — of freedoms protected by the US Constitution is central to the US class struggle today. Freedom from government *intervention* and constraints on worship, on speech, on the press, on due process, on a trial by a jury of one's peers (not forced confessions in the form of "plea bargains"), and more. This includes opposing the US rulers' expanding use of Washington's political police, the FBI above all.
- Why the tenacious maintenance of the US Supreme Court and judiciary as courts of *written law*, not de facto legislative bodies, is essential to defense of the liberties of working people under the Constitution.
- Why socialist revolution is impossible without a fight to build the trade unions and transform them into independent instruments of class struggle, wielded by class-conscious, battle-tested members.
- Why the working class needs a labor party based on the unions, a labor party that could present a complete break from the illusion that the parties or candidates of the imperialist rulers can represent us. A party that speaks and acts in the interests of the working class and oppressed as a whole. A party that rejects demagogic appeals to the politics of resentment, used by both the capitalist Democratic and Republican parties to appeal to and pit against each other insecure layers of the middle class and sections of the toilers.
- Why there is no road to African American liberation — no end to racist discrimination and the legacy of centuries of slavery and then Jim Crow terror and oppression — separate and apart from the working-class course toward a victorious socialist revolution.
- Why the fight against Jew-hatred,

on the rise across the world today, must be integral to the program and strategy of the revolutionary workers movement, and of all organizations of the exploited and oppressed.

• Why the fight for women's emancipation is inextricably intertwined with addressing the capitalist-caused crises of joblessness and inflation; the lack of affordable medical care, childcare, and housing; as well as drug addiction and domestic violence — all of which bear down on the families of working people, and on women especially. Why there should be no federal, state, or municipal laws restricting the safe medical availability of abortions.

- Why a revolutionary party must be proletarian in composition as well as program and leadership.
- Why the positions reaffirmed by SWP convention delegates trace their continuity from the founders in 1847 of the modern revolutionary workers movement, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, and the world's first communist party they led. To the opening years of the first victorious socialist revolution, the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 under the leadership of V.I. Lenin. To the example of Cuba's socialist revolution under the leadership of Fidel Castro



Socialist Workers Party candidates Ellie García and Joel Britton, left, visit California farmer near Fresno in 2022 to discuss water access, other challenges facing small producers, need to forge a farmer-farmer alliance.



FBI commandos break into offices of African People's Socialist Party in St. Louis in July 2022 (above) and in St. Petersburg, Florida — just a week before raiding Donald Trump's Florida estate — alleging leaders of the group were "agents" of Moscow. Defending and extending freedoms protected by the U.S. Constitution is at the center of the class struggle today.

and the leading cadres of the Rebel Army. And to the SWP's class-struggle experience from the founding of the first communist party in the US in 1919 down to today.

• Why the Transitional Program, the 1938 founding resolution of the Socialist Workers Party and of our world movement, remains at the center of our program to this day.

❖
Asserting that "the low point of labor resistance is behind us" is not a prediction about coming struggles. Nor is it a promise about when or where new and more powerful class battles will break out. Instead, that assessment is based on the increased confidence and combativity, as well as the anger demonstrated by working people confronting very different conditions around the world.

We've seen it during the post-COVID economic "recovery" with strikes, organizing efforts, and other union fights in the United States by bakery workers, rail freight workers, coal miners, and other unionists, as well as by others organizing to establish unions where they work.

We've seen it in fights by public education workers and truckers in Canada, by rail workers and nurses in the United Kingdom, and by workers and unionists from Australia, South Korea, and Russia to Israel, South Africa, and Puerto Rico.

We've seen it in the mass revolt in China against the brutal, anti-working-class COVID policies of the Stalinist regime in Beijing.

In the hundreds of thousands of

youth and working people who've taken to the streets across Iran in response to the death of Zhina Amini at the hands of the hated "morality" police.

In the determination of the toilers of Ukraine to roll back Moscow's attempt to wipe them off the map.

In the steadfastness of Cuban working people in defending their socialist revolution in face of the mounting human and material hardships inflicted by Washington's brutal, decades-long economic, trade, financial, and diplomatic drive to crush the revolution.

❖
The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward is a companion to two other Pathfinder books, one published in late 2021, the other forthcoming in 2023. Both develop central aspects of the SWP's program and activity addressed here in the party's 2022 convention resolution.

Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History is a defense of Marxism — a defense of the proletarian line of march toward

Solidarity key to strengthening union actions in UK

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England — "On our 16th day of action fighting for a pay rise I want to extend support to all the other unions that are in this fight," train conductor Clayton Clive told a Jan. 7 solidarity rally of 300 in the city center here. Clive is secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union at Manchester Piccadilly train station.

For months the RMT has held one-day strikes across the country. Rail workers have been joined on picket lines by fellow trade unionists over many days, including a delegation from the Fire Brigade Union who are planning strike action. During their last four strike days, more than 100 rail workers signed a message of support to nurses and health workers. Members of the Royal College of Nurses struck for the first time in their union's history last month and again, with ambulance workers, on Jan. 18.

Eight rail workers from France, members of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), joined the RMT picket at London's Euston train station Jan. 7, bringing a donation of 2,000 euros (\$2,160) collected from co-workers.

"We're telling the RMT members they're not alone," CGT member Martin Bolle-Reddat told the *Militant*.

Solidarity is key for sustaining the



There's no road to Black freedom or women's emancipation separate from struggle to confront capitalist social crisis bearing down on working people and our families. Above, child care providers turn in signatures in Sacramento, California, February 2020 in fight for union recognition.

power, historical materialism, and basic physical and biological science — against what the resolution calls the "anti-working-class race-baiting, wokery, and 'cancel culture' on the bourgeois and petty bourgeois left."

The second book, coming later this year, brings back into print the 1960 booklet *Too Many Babies? The Myth of the Population Explosion* by SWP leader Joseph Hansen, along with Lenin's writings on the working-class road to women's emancipation. The Bolshevik leader intransigently condemns capitalist population control notions, pointing to their "completely reactionary nature and ugliness."

"Anti-working-class 'overpopulation' demagoguery," the SWP resolution notes, "is still rife among bourgeois and middle-class 'environmentalists,' climate doomsayers, scientists, and organizations claiming to champion women's rights. This includes 'counseling' working-class women and

their spouses, often misrepresented as family planning, to bring fewer children into the world."

As the document explains, Lenin contrasted "such an outlook to that of 'the class-conscious worker,' who is confident in 'the working-class movement and its aims' and who says instead: 'We are already laying the foundation of a new edifice and our children will complete its construction' — and their children, and their children!"

Together, these three books underline the more and more pressing reality that the working-class forces capable of forging that "new edifice" are being born and will be born in the class battles of the world-in-becoming.

The proletarian internationalist party-building course presented in these pages is the only one that can lead to victory. It's the only one worth fighting for. The future of humanity is in the balance.

January 2, 2023



Hundreds of trade unionists join protest against government anti-strike bill Jan. 16, Downing Street, London. Action was called by the Rail, Maritime and Transport union.

work stoppages that continue throughout the U.K. in the face of a bosses' drive to deepen attacks on workers. The government is preparing a bill that would make many of the recent union actions illegal in the future. "No amount of laws will stop us striking," Clive told the Manchester rally.

Health Secretary Steven Barclay says the government will only agree to raise nurses' pay if their union agrees to "efficiencies," a code word for speedup and job cuts. Rail bosses are also demanding unions accept changes to conditions,

including an end to the union's veto over train drivers' work schedules.

An important extension of union action came when 1,000 contract cleaners organized by the RMT struck Dec. 31. They demanded a raise to 15 pounds an hour (\$18), sick pay and other measures against the divisive two-tier conditions facing many rail workers. "Contractors make up about a third of our union branch membership," Clive said.

Jonathan Silberman in London contributed to this article.

1934 Teamsters strike showed the way for workers everywhere

The Communist League of America 1932-34 by James P. Cannon is one of Pathfinder's January Books of the Month. Under the inspiration of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, Cannon helped found the Communist Party in the U.S. in 1919. He was a central leader of the Communist League of America founded in 1928 and the Socialist Workers Party a decade later. He led the international movement spearheaded by Leon Trotsky fighting to continue the proletarian internationalist course of V.I. Lenin after a bureaucratic counterrevolution was carried out under Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union and Communist International. This 1934 excerpt is from "Minneapolis and Its Meaning," on the historic battle won there by Teamster unionists. Copyright © 1985 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Minnesota Historical Society
Minneapolis Teamsters defeat attacks by police, bosses' thugs in "Battle of Deputies Run," May 21, 1934. Class-struggle leadership mobilized union, support, ensuring strike was victorious.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

Standing by itself, the magnificent strike of the Minneapolis truck drivers would merit recognition as an extraordinary event in modern American labor history. Its connection with the second wave of labor struggles to sweep the country since the inception of the NRA [National Recovery Administration], however, and its indubitable place as the high point of the pres-

ent strike wave, invest the Minneapolis demonstration with an exceptional importance. ...The best approach to the trade union question, the key question of revolutionary politics in the United States, is through the study and discussion of concrete examples.

The second strike wave under the NRA rises higher than the first and marks a big forward stride of the American working class. The enormous potentialities of future developments are clearly written in this advance. The native militancy of the workers, so impressively demonstrated on every strike front in recent months, needs only to be fused with an authentic leadership which brings organization, consciousness, and the spirit of determined struggle into the movement. Minneapolis was an example of such a fusion. That is what lifted the drivers' strike out above the general run. Therein lies its great significance — as an anticipation, if only on a comparatively small, local scale, of future developments in the labor movement of the country. ...

The messianic faith in the Roosevelt administration which characterized the strike movement of a year ago and which, to a certain extent, provided the initial impulse for the movement, has largely disappeared and given place to skeptical distrust. ...

[T]he striking workers now depend primarily on their own organization and fighting capacity and expect little

or nothing from the source to which, a short year ago, they looked for everything. ...

In these great struggles the American workers, in all parts of the country, are displaying the unrestrained militancy of a class that is just beginning to awaken. This is a new generation of a class that has not been defeated. On the contrary, it is only now beginning to find itself and to feel its strength. And in these first, tentative conflicts the proletarian giant gives a glorious promise for the future. ...

[T]he organization drives and the strikes, barring incidental exceptions, are conducted within the framework of the AFL unions. The exceptions are important and should not be disregarded. At any rate, the movement begins there. Only those who foresaw this trend and synchronized their activities with it have been able to play a part in the recent strikes and to influence them from within.

The central aim and aspiration of the workers, that is, of the newly organized workers who are pressing the fight on every front, is to establish their organizations firmly. The first and foremost demand in every struggle is: *recognition of the union*. With unerring instinct the workers seek first of all the protection of an organization. ...

[T]he Minneapolis strike was marked by certain different and distinct aspects which are of fundamental importance.

In other places, as a rule, the strike militancy surged from below and was checked and restrained by the leaders. In Minneapolis it was organized and directed by the leaders. In most of the other strikes the leaders blunted the edge of the fight — where they could not head it off altogether, as in the case of the auto workers — and preached reliance on the NRA, on General [Hugh] Johnson, or the president. In Minneapolis the leaders taught the workers to fight for their rights and fought with them. ...

The strike wave of last year was only a prelude to the surging movement we witness today. And just as the present movement goes deeper and strikes harder than the first, so does it prepare the way for a third movement which will surpass it in scope, aggressiveness, and militancy. Frustrated in their aspirations for organization by misplaced faith in the Roosevelt administration, and by the black treachery of the official labor bureaucracy, the workers will take the road of struggle again with firmer determination and clearer aims. And they will seek for better leaders.

Then the new left wing of the labor movement can have its day. The revolutionary militants can bound forward in mighty leaps and come to the head of large sections of the movement if they know how to grasp their opportunities and understand their tasks. For this they must be politically organized and work together as a disciplined body. ... They must get inside the developing movement, regardless of its initial form, stay inside, and shape its course from within.

They must demonstrate a capacity for organization as well as agitation, for responsibility as well as for militancy. They must convince the workers of their ability not only to organize and lead strikes aggressively, but also to settle them advantageously at the right time and consolidate the gains. ...

On this condition the new left wing of the trade unions can take shape and grow with rapid strides. And the left wing, in turn, will be the foundation of the new party, the genuine communist party. On a local scale, in a small sector of the labor movement, the Minneapolis comrades have set an example which shows the way. The International Communists have every right to be proud of this example and hold it up as a model to study and follow.

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BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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‘Peace’ movement backs Putin’s war aims

As he openly explained, Russian President Vladimir Putin launched Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine last February to destroy its government, subjugate its people, obliterate their national identity, and incorporate it into a rebuilt greater Russian empire. With working people in the lead, Ukrainians have fought back courageously, determined to defend their country’s independence. This struggle is in the interests of working people everywhere and deserves our solidarity and aid.

The imperialist rulers in Washington, as well as in Berlin and Paris, are looking for the realities of battlefield losses to force the two sides to the negotiating table. Bourgeois politicians here, especially in the left wing of the Democrats and right wing of the Republicans, seek to pressure the capitalist government in Kyiv to cede territory occupied by Moscow in return for “peace talks.”

A bogus “new peace movement,” a coalition of Stalinist and middle-class radicals, is trying to gather forces to act as shills for Putin’s war, calling rallies and “teach-ins.” Some of these forces, such as Medea Benjamin of Code Pink, are also joining a “Rage against the War Machine” rally in Washington, D.C., Feb. 19 organized by currents both right and left, including the Libertarian Party and People’s Party. Demands center on calling for Washington to cut off funding and arms shipments to Ukraine and press Kyiv to make concessions to end the war.

Behind the slogans, “NATO Expansion, No! Peace in Ukraine, Yes!” a Jan. 14 rally in New York drew over 100 people, organized by the ANSWER coalition, People’s Forum and others. This self-proclaimed “new peace movement” is determined to give aid and succor to Putin’s war.

All these forces peddle the slanderous canard pushed by Putin that the massive, popular Maidan uprising in 2014 that overthrew the dictatorial pro-Moscow regime of Victor Yanukovich was in reality a fascist coup engineered by Washington.

The idea that the millions of Ukrainian working people who fought to take control of the destiny of their nation were nothing but a band of neo-Nazis is absurd.

Militant editor John Studer helped lead a series of reporting and solidarity teams to the Maidan in Kyiv — and to dozens of Ukrainian cities and towns, including Sokol, Chernobyl, Kharkiv, Pavlograd, Kryvyi Rih and Enerhodar. They met with coal miners, rail and

nuclear workers, Jewish leaders, supporters of Cuba’s socialist revolution and others — all of whom backed the Maidan and continue to fight to defend Ukrainian independence. You can find lively reports from those trips on our website.

Putin’s claim — echoed by the new “peace” forces — that he was forced to launch his murderous invasion because of moves by Washington and other NATO governments is utterly false and cynical. A sovereign and independent Ukraine poses no military threat to Russia of any kind.

These petty-bourgeois apologists for the Kremlin claim Moscow’s invasion and destruction is in fact a “proxy war” with Washington. This cynically attempts to bury the unrelenting fight for national sovereignty being waged by the Ukrainian people, as well as the growing opposition to Putin’s war among Russian soldiers and working people.

These so-called peace forces are determined to strangle support for Ukraine’s fight for sovereignty. In March the International Longshore and Warehouse Union adopted a strong statement condemning the Russian invasion as “an act of aggression that endangers a population of more than 40 million people.” A number of retired union officials and others signed a letter run in the Dec. 26 *Workers World* demanding the ILWU reverse its positions and “oppose the U.S./NATO-provoked war!” They called for “dockworkers around the world” to take action to block military cargo being shipped to Ukraine for its defense.

Working people do need to oppose the economic and financial embargo imposed on Russia by Washington and its allies, as well as military maneuvers by these governments. Those sanctions fall most harshly on workers and farmers in Russia and are obstacles to building solidarity between toilers in Ukraine and Russia.

Class-conscious workers place no political confidence in the capitalist government in Kyiv, which upholds the system of exploitation of working people by Ukraine’s wealthy rulers and uses the war to justify attacks on workers’ wages, working conditions and political rights.

The struggle by the Ukrainian people for self-determination — which was championed by V.I. Lenin and the Bolshevik Revolution — deserves the support of working people everywhere. That is why it is important to campaign for Moscow’s invading forces to get out of Ukraine, *all of Ukraine!*

Havana Int’l Book Fair set for February

BY SETH GALINSKY

The 31st Havana International Book Fair, with the theme “To read is to grow,” will take place Feb. 9-19. This year’s country of honor is Colombia.

This year’s fair also honors Cuban poet and essayist Fina García Marruz, who died last year; Antonio Núñez Jiménez, who became a captain in the Rebel Army during the revolutionary war and wrote over 190 books, ranging from works on the revolution to geography and the study of caves, before his death in 1998; Julio Travieso Serrano, who won the National Literature Award in 2021; and bibliographer Araceli García Carranza.

Despite the impact of the stepped-up U.S. economic war on Cuba — which makes it difficult for Cuba to purchase paper as well as many other essentials — Cuban publishers will offer more than 4 million copies of some 4,200 titles for purchase by the tens of thousands of people who attend the fair. Because of the socialist revolution there, Cuba has one of the highest rates of literacy worldwide. The fair spends 10 days in Havana and then travels around the country.

Like every fair since 1984, Pathfinder Press will be among the international publishers there. Pathfinder publishes and distributes books and pamphlets by

leaders of the Socialist Workers Party, on the Cuban Revolution, and by other working-class fighters.

Pathfinder’s latest book, *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*, will be launched in English and Spanish with public presentations at the fair.

End forced sterilization

Continued from page two

One woman referred to by the initials S.A.T. told the Senate committee that she had just given birth to her sixth child in Saskatoon when she was presented with a consent form for her sterilization. “She tried to wheel herself away from the operating room, but the doctor wheeled her right back in the direction of the same operating room. When she was in the operating room, she kept asking the doctor if she was done yet. Finally he said, ‘Yes. Cut, tied and burnt. There is nothing getting through that.’”

“Championing the fights by Indigenous people for their rights is a key issue for working people and our unions,” Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in the provincial by-election in Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne district of Montreal, told the *Militant* Jan. 18. “Forced sterilization must end immediately. Anyone involved in practicing such procedures without consent must be prosecuted with the full force of the law. Reproductive and maternal health care must be made available to Indigenous women in their language and in their communities.”

Ukraine independence

Continued from front page

on a civilian target in months, hit an apartment building in Dnipro Jan. 15, killing at least 44 and injuring scores.

Over 550 volunteers joined the dayslong rescue operation, scrambling to reach survivors, often removing rubble with their bare hands. Emergency crews worked through the frigid night and all day at the building, where some 1,700 people had lived. Tents were set up and city residents donated food and warm clothes for those who had lost their homes.

Workers used a crane to rescue people trapped on the upper floors. Some signaled for help turning on lights on their mobile phones. Scores were rescued but many remain missing.

Reports keep surfacing about the vital role played by working people in stopping Moscow’s initial blitzkrieg assault to try to take Kyiv, the capital, and occupy the country. The Russian soldiers were told they’d be welcomed as saviors, but instead met fierce, effective resistance.

In Ukraine’s northeast, 20 miles from the Russian border the city of Sumy was defended by volunteers. For weeks they succeeded in disrupting supply lines for the invaders, helping block them from reaching Kyiv.

Serhiy and Ihor, both 29, were City Council workers who told the *Guardian* they immediately grabbed weapons to resist the invaders. Of the 400 Sumy residents who organized themselves to fight the first day, only about 20 had previous military training. Soon thousands of working people joined the battle.

People got “arms from an army warehouse” and organized groups, Ihor said, armed with rifles and homemade bombs, using their cars to set up ambushes.

“Everyone started working for the victory,” Serhiy said, describing how his “girlfriends from the university were bringing us boxes of Molotov cocktails.” Even grandmothers texted or phoned to tell them of any Russian incursions. “Because of this, the city was able to withstand the invasion.”

Anger grows in Russia over losses

Anger is simmering among Russian families from the Volga region of Samara faced with burying sons who died in one of the most deadly incidents of the Ukraine war. Scores if not hundreds of Russian soldiers, mostly men drafted from Samara, were killed — the Kremlin admits 89 fatalities — when Ukrainian rockets hit a temporary barracks in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian city of Makiivka New Year’s Day.

Among those killed was Andrei Yumadilov, a father of two who was an oil-and-gas field welder. He was a churchgoer who was against the war, a friend told the *Wall Street Journal*. The two last spoke two weeks before the strike, when Yumadilov grimly and dejectedly described life on the front lines. “A lot of people don’t understand why all these men are being sent to die,” the friend said. “Because in reality, no one attacked us, no matter what they try to tell us.”

“We have no morale, just fear and constant stress,” a 27-year-old electrician draftee told independent Russian media outlet Versta, describing how he and other conscripts were ordered to sift through the rubble searching for bodies. “This isn’t our war. We’re just trying to survive. Many of the guys don’t want to be here at all.”

The Russian village of Mirny, population 7,000, has had five funerals from the Makiivka strike. “When will it end?” area resident Natalia Kostyukhina said Jan. 9 on social media Vkontakte, telling the government, “Stop sending our men to the meat grinder.”



Militant/Roy Landersen
Ukraine protest in New York Times Square Feb. 26, 2022.

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