

# THE MILITANT

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**UK forum discusses prospects to build Communist League**  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 87/NO. 37 OCTOBER 9, 2023

## SWP campaigns with 'Militant,' books, working class program

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif. — “When the working class starts to stand up, as they’re doing today, everything changes. More workers start to think, what can I do?” Laura Garza, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from California, said at a Sept. 22 Militant Labor Forum here. “Opportunities to strengthen the unions and build the Socialist Workers Party open up.”

A day later, supporters of Garza and Margaret Trowe, SWP candidate for Congress in District 12, fanned out around Oakland, distributing the party’s program, petitioning to put Garza on the ballot and urging support for striking United Auto Workers members.

The effort was also part of an eight-week international campaign by the SWP and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. to expand circulation of the *Militant* and books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries. The SWP has also launched its annual party-building fund to raise

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## All out to back UAW strike! Bring labor’s power to bear!



Over 400 UAW Local 862 members, supporters rallied in Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 21, chanting: “Who’s got the power? We’ve got the power! What kind of power? Union power!”

BY KAITLIN ESTILL

TOLEDO, Ohio — United Auto Workers at the Stellantis Assembly Center here have been on strike since Sept. 15, along with autoworkers at the Ford plant in Wayne, Michigan, and General Motors in Wentzville, Missouri. They’ve been joined by walkouts at 38 parts distribution

centers since Sept. 22, bringing the number of Big Three autoworkers on strike to 18,300.

“This isn’t just about us, it’s about the entire working class,” striker Antonio Schutz told the *Militant* here

### COUNTRYWIDE COVERAGE INSIDE

Sept. 18. “The steelworkers, the coal miners, everyone. We are uniting for the new generation coming up.”

As the strike expands, opportunities to spread the word and build solidarity are increasing in the labor movement. The AFL-CIO and unions of rail and bakery workers, UNITE

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## March in Jersey City protests cop killing of Drew Washington

BY JOANNE KUNIANSKY

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Chanting “Say his name: Drew Washington!” 100 people marched and rallied at City Hall here Sept. 20 protesting the Aug. 27 police killing of Andrew Jerome Washington.

He suffered from bipolar disorder. Handwritten signs included “Schizophrenia is not a crime! Bipolar disorder is not a crime! Justice 4 Drew!”

“A simple medical assistance call turned into a SWAT team killing,” Washington’s aunt, Lisa Mendez, told the Hudson Daily Voice. “He was in his apartment causing no harm to no one. The Jersey City police forced entry and shot him like a criminal after

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## Writers Guild discusses new contract, actors continue strike

BY NORTON SANDLER

LOS ANGELES — A tentative settlement in the nearly five-month-long Writers Guild of America strike against the bosses’ Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers was announced Sept. 24 after several days of talks between the union negotiating committee and the major Hollywood studios and streaming producers. The 11,500 writers were joined on the picket lines in mid-July by striking members of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

The *Los Angeles Times* reports the agreement includes higher pay rates for writers, improved pay for residuals and new guidelines restricting the use of “artificial intelligence.”

“What we have won in this contract,” the WGA negotiating committee said in a statement sent to union members, “is due to the willingness of this membership to exercise its power, to demonstrate its solidarity,

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## Cuban president speaks in Harlem on Malcolm X-Fidel Castro meeting



Courtesy Bruno Rodríguez

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel speaks at Malcolm X Center in Harlem, New York, Sept. 18.

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel spoke about the impact Malcolm X had on a generation of youth and revolutionaries in Cuba during a visit to the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center here Sept. 18. The center is located in what was the Audubon Ballroom, where Malcolm X frequently spoke and where he was assassinated in February 1965.

Díaz-Canel told the crowd that when he was in 10th grade in high school

in Cuba, a Spanish-language edition of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* was published. “Those of us who were young at the time ran to the bookstores

### DÍAZ-CANEL AT UN: END US ECONOMIC WAR ON CUBA— p. 4

to get a copy. It became a reference for young people of those rebellious ages.”

The event at the Malcolm X Center was attended by 120 people. About half

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## Older workers face economic crisis, insecurity, growing homelessness

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Despite self-congratulatory reports in the liberal capitalist media that the U.S. economy is doing great, working people increasingly face a growing social crisis today. More and more older workers are losing their lodging, consigned to a shelter or onto the streets.

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, older adults are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. Workers 55 and older made up nearly 20% of those living in homeless shelters in 2021, and

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Airport workers protest at American Airlines headquarters

Facing court order, New Jersey nurses vote to continue strike

# UK forum discusses prospects to build the Communist League

BY OLIVER JONES

LONDON — The end of a decades-long retreat of the labor movement presents new opportunities for the Communist League, Jonathan Silberman told 40 people at a special Militant Labour Forum here Sept. 2. Silberman was speaking on behalf of the Central Committee elected at the CL's 11th Constitutional Congress, held the previous weekend.

Also on the forum panel were leaders of the Communist Leagues of Australia and Canada, and of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. Participants came from across the U.K. and Europe.

These new openings to build a revolutionary proletarian party were at the center of the Congress. Delegates discussed the work of party branches in London and Manchester responding to mounting union resistance to assaults by the bosses; reaching out to the toilers in the countryside; joining fights against Jew-hatred; for amnesty for undocumented immigrants; defending the Cuban Revolution; and participating in efforts to expand the circulation of the *Militant* and the sale of books by communist leaders.

The Congress set a course for party members to continue making progress to get jobs in unions where they can more effectively advance the communist program from within working-class resistance.

"A proletarian revolution aimed at changing which class is in power is inconceivable without organizing our class to fight to build unions," Silberman said, "and to use union power to advance the interests of working people

here and around the world."

This involves fighting for employment and wages that allow families to live, rather than be torn apart. "Communists join with others to advance demands for cost-of-living clauses to protect wages against inflation; for cutting hours with no loss of pay in response to job cuts; for a program of government-funded public works at union-scale pay to provide jobs and the schools, hospitals, homes and infrastructure workers need; and for a basic income floor for all families."

That course opens the road to the emancipation of women, Silberman said. "Especially so given the responsibilities women shoulder for family members and as bearers of new life." He pointed to the place of women in the leadership of a number of union struggles taking place in the United Kingdom.

Just three days before the forum members of the Communist League joined hundreds of rail union members and their supporters protesting the bosses' closure of 1,000 ticket offices across the country, eliminating over 2,000 jobs. This was one of many such protests against the bosses' assaults being organized by rail workers across the country.

## War danger

"The global order imposed by the victors of the imperialist slaughter of World War II is shattering with huge ramifications for working people, Silberman said, "including the danger of war."

He cited the recent deployment of British, Danish and Dutch fighter jets in response to Russian bombers nearing their airspace. This was taking place a



Militant photos: above, Jonathan Silberman; inset, Marnie Kennedy

Over the past year 1,000 workers at Amazon sites in U.K., above, have taken 26 days of strike action fighting long hours, low pay. Inset, Communist League leader Jonathan Silberman speaks at Sept. 2 London Militant Labour Forum. CL had met week before, discussed new openings to build revolutionary working-class party.



week after Washington sent destroyers to follow a Russian-Chinese flotilla of warships near Alaska in August.

"These incidents come in the context of the Ukraine war," he said, and sharpening conflicts worldwide.

Linda Harris, a leader of the Communist League in Australia, described how the government there is building up its armed forces, stepping up military exercises and boosting its alliances as part of the long-term conflicts between its ally, Washington, and Beijing. In these fights there are no common interests between Australia's capitalist rulers and working people, she said.

"The rulers are not heading imminently for armed clashes," Silberman said. "But the war threat is built into capitalism's DNA in the imperialist epoch."

"Workers will have our chance to stop the march to war — by wresting political power from the capitalist rulers," he added. CL leader Pete Clifford will present that course in next year's general election in his campaign in the Manchester Central constituency.

The Cuban Revolution showed what is possible, Silberman said. "Fidel Castro recognized that making a revolution requires leading millions of the exploited and oppressed to take their destinies into their own hands through establishing their own class rule."

"The campaign by U.S. President Joseph Biden to prosecute Donald Trump

for a crime, any crime, is a witch hunt," Paul Mailhot, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, told the forum. "This is the answer of the Democratic Party — and many in the Republican Party — to having no solutions to the crises of the capitalist system other than to place its burdens squarely on the back of the working class at home and abroad.

"What dominates the debate in U.S. politics today has nothing to do with crimes committed by Donald Trump — before, during, or after his presidency. Every indictment against Trump is the opposite. They've decided he is the criminal and now the Democratic Party is trying to come up with some crime that will stick. All of these charges should be dropped.

"The ultimate target of the rulers' assaults on rights and freedoms is the working class," he said.

Michel Prairie, a leader of the Communist League in Canada, described how the rulers there have utilized sweeping repressive measures against working people's struggles. The federal government invoked the Emergencies Powers Act to break up last year's truckers' protest. But Ontario school workers won widespread support when they went on strike and defied a provincial government attempt to impose a no-strike law.

A participant from France pointed to the challenges the French rulers face in

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# THE MILITANT

**Fight for jobs, amnesty for immigrants in the US**

*Capitalist bosses use the threat of deportation, discrimination against undocumented workers to deepen divisions and drive down wages for all workers. The unions need to demand amnesty for immigrants here, no deportations and to fight for jobs to unite the working class.*



Militant/Naomi Craine  
May 1 march in Milwaukee protests attacks on immigrants, for uniting the working class.

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## The Militant

Vol. 87/No. 37

Closing news date: September 27, 2023

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in June, one week in August, two weeks in December.

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Website: [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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**New Zealand and the Pacific Islands:** Send A\$70 for one year to above address.

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# Socialist Workers Party campaign

Continued from front page

\$140,000. International goals for the fall propaganda campaign are 1,350 subscriptions to the *Militant*, and 1,350 books. The campaign runs from Sept. 23 to Nov. 21.

“What workers are experiencing here is the result of the crisis of capitalism that is worldwide,” Garza, a rail conductor and a SMART-TD union member, told forum participants. “The campaign will be an opportunity to discuss with workers what is the answer to capitalism’s wars and the threat of nuclear destruction. And to discuss the crisis at home that’s reflected in the growth of drug addition, the rise in maternal deaths and life expectancy going down.”

Alongside building support for union struggles, Trowe told participants she’d sent a letter of solidarity to rabbis at synagogues in Fremont and Los Altos Hills protesting bomb threats against their congregations. There have been 49 such threats in 13 states since mid-July.

“Jew-hatred will grow as the capitalist crisis deepens,” she said. “The rulers will give the green light to rightists who scapegoat Jews. This threat can only be ended by a revolutionary working-class struggle for power.”

Over the weekend 92 workers signed Garza’s petition, bringing the total to 150. Campaigners won 14 new subscribers to the *Militant* and sold 12 books.

SWP literature tables were set up at the Walmart parking lot in San Leandro. Dozens of workers stopped, responding to signs backing the UAW strike and defending constitutional freedoms. School maintenance worker Antonio Maravilla told Garza he is a registered Democrat, but there are problems with

both parties. “Everyone is trying to point fingers at each other,” he said.

“The fundamental division is the working class on one hand and the bosses on the other,” Garza said. “The task is to unite and organize workers to fight for our rights, but also to get to the point where we can take power out of the hands of the capitalists.”

In Hayward, SWP campaigners knocked on the door of Lizbeth Flores, a child care worker, and discussed the UAW strike. When they mentioned the union’s fight for wages to go up automatically as prices rise, she said, “that’s what we need. With the rents here, it’s hard to keep up.”

“I remember Occupy,” Flores added, referring to the Occupy Wall Street protests following the 2008 financial crisis. “But nothing came of it.”

“The forces leading Occupy put their energies into electing Democrats,” SWP campaigner Jim Altenberg said. “So nothing changed. Our power has to start with organizing workers inde-



Militant/Carole Lesnick  
Laura Garza, right, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in California, in San Leandro Sept. 24. She urged workers who signed for party’s right to be on ballot to support striking UAW members.

pendent of both capitalist parties. Our campaign is raising the need for a labor party, based on the unions.”

At a barbecue that wrapped up the weekend, Garza described the strike by

the Writers Guild and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. “Bosses had a strategy of starving out the writers, but they didn’t count on it being a summer of labor in Los Angeles,” she said. “Hotel workers joined the writers’ picket lines and Teamsters at UPS and nurses joined in. All these fights helped each other. Workers gained strength from the solidarity that was given.”

To join in campaigning with SWP candidates or get involved in the fall propaganda campaigns, contact party branches listed on page 8.

Deborah Liatos contributed to this article.



Militant/Brian Williams  
Ricardo Augusto, left, a janitor, member of Service Employees International Union 32BJ, told SWP member Martin Koppel he was fed up with Democrats and Republicans. He got *Militant* subscription, wants to know more about party’s proposal that workers organize a labor party.

## Forum in the UK

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their intervention in Africa. The weakening of French imperialism is not the product of revolutionary struggle, Prairie said. He pointed to the powerful example of the fight against imperialism set by Thomas Sankara, the leader of a revolutionary government in Burkina Faso between 1983 and 1987.

“Are there similar attacks on rights in the U.K. or elsewhere in Europe?” one participant asked.

The anti-Trump witch hunt is of worldwide importance, Silberman replied. “There is nothing on the same scale here, but the trend to criminalize political differences is international.” Silberman cited the move to expel former Prime Minister Boris Johnson from Parliament by Members of Parliament and the cop investigation into the finances of the Scottish National Party.

In response to a question about the CL’s perspective of forging a class party of labor, Silberman said, “Workers need to break from the illusion that the capitalist parties — Conservative or Labour, SNP or Liberal Democrat — can represent our interests.

“We are for unions establishing a party of labor. That will come out of working-class battles. Right now there is a party you can join: the Communist League.”

Over 3,700 pounds (\$4,520) was raised at the forum, kickstarting the CL’s 6,000-pound party-building fund. The following day, supporters of the communist movement in the U.K. and Europe met for further discussion and to plan their work.

## Pathfinder, ‘Militant’ sell well at Chicago Printers Row

BY ILONA GERSH

CHICAGO — Socialist Workers Party members and supporters sold 171 books and 42 introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*, along with 58 single copies, at the annual Printers Row book festival here Sept. 9-10. The booth was one of the busiest, jammed by people checking out our literature, two, sometimes three, deep. People were interested in the Socialist Workers Party alternative in the 2024 elections — Naomi Craine, running for U.S. Congress in the 4th District.

There was a lot of interest in the United Auto Workers strike, as well as labor struggles at UPS and elsewhere. A reflection of this was that five people got copies of *Teamster Rebellion*, about the rise of the class struggle in the Midwest in the 1930s, and one bought the entire four-volume *Teamster* series.

A campaign sign at the booth saying “Defend constitutional rights for all! Drop the charges against Trump!” attracted a lot of attention. After a discussion, many thanked us and said that we had given them something to think about. Democratic rights are needed by the working class to use the unions to fight the attacks by the bosses and their government, volunteers explained. Regardless of who they go after today, the

rights of working people are the central target of the capitalist rulers.

Several subscribers took advantage of special sales on titles that were discounted heavily with a *Militant* subscription, picking up 27 books. The top seller was 15 copies of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by SWP leaders Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark; followed by 12 copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation,*

and *the Road to Workers Power*; nine of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation*; and eight each of *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity* and *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*.

Several groups of Chinese students stopped and bought books on China as well as the labor movement and working-class politics in the U.S. The number of Chinese students at colleges in the area has grown recently.

### Class-action suit checks from Walmart donated to SWP

LOS ANGELES — Former Walmart workers in California recently opened their mail to find checks from settlement of a class-action lawsuit that had charged the retail giant with inaccurately reporting workers’ wages between 2016 and 2021.

“In August, I received an unsolicited check for \$172.93 as a part of the settlement against Walmart for ‘wage theft.’ I worked at Walmart for five years, always with an eye toward union organizing and advancing solidarity with other workers,” Bernie Senter wrote. “No surprise that the company inaccurately reported wages. I gladly turned the money over to the Socialist Workers Party to advance our political and union-building work.”

Senter was one of nine former workers now living in Los Angeles, Oakland, and Fort Worth, Texas, who sent checks from the settlement to the SWP. As of Sept. 24, \$1,481 has been received.

The suit charged that Walmart failed to include any “bonuses” in calculating hourly and overtime wages, failed to transparently report how hourly wages and vacation pay were calculated and failed to pay all final wages on time.

— NORTON SANDLER

# Díaz-Canel at UN: 'End the US economic war on Cuba!'

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel spoke at the United Nations and a wide range of meetings during a week-long visit here starting Sept. 17. He called for ending the U.S. economic war on Cuba and for Cuba's removal from the State Department's list of "State Sponsors of Terrorism."

"For more than 60 years Cuba has suffered from a suffocating economic blockade, conceived to depress its income and standard of living, to make it endure continued shortages of food, medicine and other basic goods and restrict its possibilities of development," Díaz-Canel told the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 19.

The U.S. rulers have never forgiven the Cuban people for overthrowing the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship and, under the leadership of Fidel Castro, carrying out the first socialist revolution in the Americas. Since then every U.S. president — Democrat and Republican alike — has tried to strangle the revolution.

It's "a cruel, silent, extraterritorial economic war," Díaz-Canel said. "It's accompanied by a powerful machine of political destabilization, with multi-million-dollar funds approved by the U.S. Congress with the aim of capitalizing on the shortages caused by the blockade to undermine the constitutional order of the country."

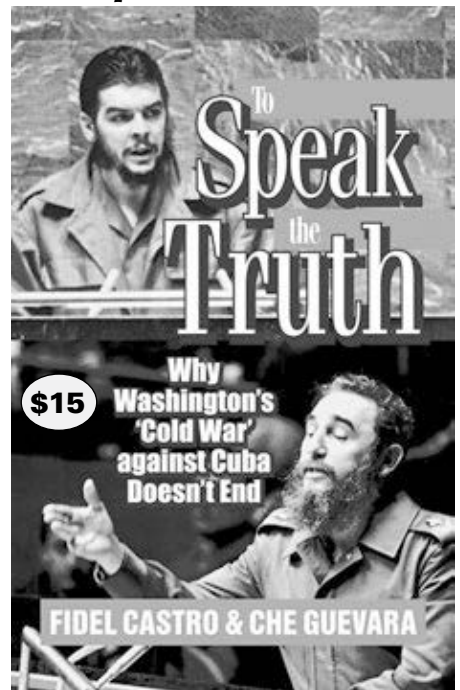
Washington "has tried to block supplies of fuel and lubricants to our country," he said, and prohibits "access to goods and technology, including medical equipment, that has more than 10% U.S. components."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington kept tightening the screws. "The U.S. government pressured companies to not supply medicinal oxygen and pulmonary ventilators that Cuba needed" to combat the disease.

In face of that challenge, "our Cuban scientists created vaccines and developed pulmonary ventilators," he said, "and we put those at the disposition of other countries around the world!"

Cuba has thousands of health care workers who volunteer as part of Cuba's internationalist medical missions, a conquest of the socialist revolution. But Washington "openly threatens sovereign governments who request this aid to meet the public health needs of their people," Díaz-Canel said.

## Read speeches of Fidel, Che



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"Based on this arbitrary and fraudulent accusation" that Cuba sponsors terrorism, he said, Washington "extorts hundreds of banks and financial institutions all over the world and forces them to choose between maintaining relations with the U.S. or their ties with Cuba."

## 800 million hungry people on planet

"Almost 800 million people suffer from hunger on a planet that produces enough to feed everyone," the Cuban president said. "More than 760 million people, two-thirds of them women, don't know how to read or write."

Wall Street, the IMF and the rest of "the international financial architecture perpetuates a system of domination that increases underdevelopment and reproduces a model of modern colonialism."

Díaz-Canel also spoke at the U.N. Summit on Sustainable Development Goals, representing the Group of 77 plus China, which Cuba currently chairs, and held a series of meetings with people active with science and technology; representatives of a number of religious denominations; and with artists, writers and academic figures. He also met with philanthropists, business owners, and lawyers to promote more ties between the people of Cuba and the U.S.

At a Sept. 22 meeting with Cubans who live in the U.S., Díaz-Canel gave a sober description of the economic challenges confronting Cuba.

We face "a very tense economic situation," he said, partly a result of factors outside the government's control. This

## Cuban president speaks in Harlem

Continued from front page

were from the Cuban diplomatic corps and reporters here to cover Díaz-Canel's U.N. speeches and related meetings, and half from U.S. political organizations, groups opposed to Washington's economic war against Cuba and individuals active in the Black struggle.

The Cuban president was welcomed by representatives of the center and introduced by Rosemari Mealy, author of a book about the Sept. 19, 1960, meeting between Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro and Malcolm X.

Díaz-Canel said that revolutionists in Cuba "will never forget the role of Malcolm X in the invitation for the rebel leader and his delegation to stay at the Hotel Theresa, in the heart of the Black neighborhood of Harlem." The Midtown hotel where they had been lodged gave them difficulty. Sept. 19 would be the 63rd anniversary of the meeting between Castro and Malcolm X, he added.

Thousands of residents of Harlem and Cubans from New York gathered outside the Theresa to welcome Castro. They listened to Fidel on the radio. *Militant* correspondent Harry Ring reported that when Cuban supporters of the revolution chanted "Venceremos," Harlemites asked "What does that mean?" People said, "We will win." The Harlem crowd shouted back, "Venceremos!"

After the meeting Malcolm X told the press, "Premier Castro has come out against lynching, which is more than President Eisenhower has done. Castro has also taken a more open stand for civil rights for Black Cubans."

The relationship between Fidel and Malcolm X was "based on solidarity,"

## Protest hits Molotov cocktail attack on Cuban Embassy



WASHINGTON — Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at the Cuban Embassy here Sept. 24, hitting the front wall. There were no injuries to embassy personnel. The terrorist attack came on the heels of Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel's trip to New York, where he spoke before the U.N. General Assembly and other groups. "Anti-Cuban groups turn to terrorism when they feel impunity," Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez told the press. This was the second attack on the embassy in recent years. On April 30, 2020, 30 rounds were fired at the embassy.

Over 100 people joined a picket line at the embassy Sept. 25, called by the National Network on Cuba. The spirited protest demanded the U.S. government apprehend and prosecute those who launched the attack and take Cuba off its "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list. Participants included IFCO-Pastors for Peace, D.C. Metro Coalition in Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution, the FMLN of Washington, D.C., Young Communist League, Party for Socialism and Liberation, and the Socialist Workers Party.

— ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

includes the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, "the international economic crisis and the effect of the war in Europe," referring to the war in Ukraine.

There are also "internal problems of our economy, the socio-economic structure of the country and the necessary transformations that need to be made even within the context of the current difficulties." The Cuban

leadership is working to resolve these challenges, he said.

At the same time, Díaz-Canel said, no nation "has been subjected to such a broad, multifaceted and persistent hostile policy like that applied by the U.S. government against Cubans."

"Our message is one of unity, patriotism and openness toward all who wish to contribute" to defending Cuba's sovereignty, he said. "We will listen to everyone with respect, even if we have disagreements of various kinds."

On his last full day in New York, Díaz-Canel spoke to a meeting of over 700, many who came from around the country to participate, initiated by the People's Forum. Yván Gil Pinto, the foreign minister of Venezuela, also spoke.

Despite the "tightening of the blockade" and all the economic problems that causes for Cuba, Díaz-Canel said, "we remain committed to protecting the socialist system for which so many generations of Cubans have sacrificed."

"We will never abandon the principle of solidarity, not even at the moments of the greatest material limitations," he said. "We will continue sharing, not what's left over, but what we have."

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

### NEW YORK CITY

**Maurice Bishop and the Grenada Revolution, 40 Years Later: An Example and Lessons for Workers Everywhere.** Speakers: Terry Marryshow, Maurice Bishop October 19 Martyrs Foundation, Grenada-Cuba Friendship Association; Steve Clark, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, editor, *Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution and Its Overthrow, 1979-1983*. Sun., Oct. 29. Reception, 3 p.m.; program, 4 p.m. Donation: \$10. Sponsored by Militant Labor Forum in New York and in Northern New Jersey. 307 West 36<sup>th</sup> St., 13<sup>th</sup> floor. Tel.: (646) 434-8117.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Manchester

"It's Not Who You Are Against, But What You Are For." Speaker: Peter Clifford, Communist League parliamentary candidate for Manchester Central. Fri., Oct. 6, 6 p.m. Donation: £2.50 329 Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. M2 7PE. Tel.: 0161-312-8119.

# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

## UAW members strike Dometic plant in Pennsylvania

ROYERSFORD, Pa. — Over 100 union members and supporters joined a solidarity rally Sept. 22 to back United Auto Workers Local 644, on strike against the Dometic Group plant here.

Members of the Teamsters, Carpenters, Electrical Workers and other UAW Region 9 locals joined the action.

The 100 members of Local 644 — assemblers, mechanics and others who make steering, shift and throttle systems for recreational vehicles and trucks — walked off the job Sept. 11.

On the picket line, Jason Piechota told the *Militant*, “It was easy to go on strike when you make less than workers” in the area. Workers rejected the company’s first offer 78-1.

The union is demanding an end to divisive two-tier wages, a cost-of-living clause to offset inflation, and to maintain a no-mandatory-overtime policy.

Dometic — which had record sales in 2022 — made an initial three-year offer of a 10.1% wage increase and a health care plan with costs that go up 5% over the life of the contract.

— Osborne Hart

## Airport workers protest at American Airlines headquarters

FORT WORTH, Texas — The SEIU Airport Workers United union held a rally Sept. 19, marching past the American Airlines corporate headquarters here. Airport workers from the Dallas-Fort Worth airport were joined by 40 airport workers who came by bus from Houston. Some 200 people, a majority Latinos, joined the action. Many were cabin cleaners, wheelchair agents, janitors and other inside workers.

The workers are demanding better wages and benefits for contract workers at the airline.

The march was joined midway by 30 members of Communications Workers of America Local 6001 who work in airline reservations, scheduling and ticketing. All together they chanted, “From curb to cabin — we’re fired up and we won’t take it no more!”

The rally was held across from the Fort Worth regional air traffic control center. “I am a diabetic. Because of the

wages I receive I am sometimes forced to choose between paying for the insulin I need and getting food,” Travan Watts, a cabin cleaner, told the crowd. Saleem, a worker born in Sudan, spoke in both English and Arabic. “I work as a wheelchair agent for \$12 an hour. Many days I must work two shifts together in order to survive,” he said. “Our fight is for good jobs that allow us to live life with dignity and respect.”

Jeff Peterson, a member of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants at DFW International Airport, also addressed the rally. “Airport workers fight is a fight for all of labor,” he said. “Flight attendants have not had a pay increase since 2019.”

— Dennis Richter and Josefina Otero

## Facing court order, New Jersey nurses vote to continue strike

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — “We have the right to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly,” Judy Danella, president of United Steelworkers Local 4-200, told the press after bosses at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital got Superior Court Judge Thomas Daniel McCloskey to issue a restraining order placing limits on striking nurses’ pickets Sept. 18.

The following day some 1,700 USW members, who have been on strike since Aug. 4, voted by 89% to continue their fight for safer nurse/patient ratios, higher pay and better conditions.

# Writers Guild discusses new contract, actors still on strike

**Continued from front page**  
to walk side-by-side, to endure the pain and uncertainty of the past 146 days.” The deal contains “meaningful gains, and protections for writers in every section of the membership.”

The union leadership said the picket lines will come down, but that no one should return to work until the union goes through ratification procedures that will culminate in a vote by the membership.

While WGA picketing will end, the union leadership strongly encouraged members to join the ongoing SAG-AFTRA picket lines.



Militant/Dennis Richter

Members of SEIU Airport Workers United rally by Dallas-Fort Worth airport Sept. 19 in fight for improved wages and benefits for contract workers who work for American Airlines.

Hospital bosses say “we were blocking things,” Danella said, but “nobody’s been hurt. Every time there was an ambulance, pickets let the ambulance through.” The hospital’s claims are “very fabricated.”

On the picket line a few days earlier, nurse Ryan Siegel told the *Militant* hospital bosses “only offer guidelines for staffing levels. We want some concrete language — figures that are enforceable — like a maximum of two intensive care unit patients per nurse. And similar limits in other departments, depending on the acuity of the patient’s condition.”

The bosses’ latest offer “is no different to the one we’ve already rejected,” he said.

Before the contract vote the union held hourly meetings all through the day Sept. 17 at a church near the picket line.

“Now we can only picket with 15 in any one location,” Danella said Sept. 23. “We can chant, but not make any amplified noise, no megaphones. But nurses are staying strong because what we’re fighting for is right. It’s right for us, for patients, and the community.”

“We’ve had a lot of support from nurses at Clara Maass and elsewhere, from the Communications Workers Union and from the AFL-CIO,” she said. To offer solidarity, contact USW Local 4-200 at <https://usw4200.org>.

— Terry Evans

## — 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



October 12, 1998

WORTHINGTON, Minnesota — More than 700 farmers and their supporters gathered here Sept. 19 to demand guaranteed prices for farm commodities and relief for farmers this year.

Farmers that spoke at the rally described the reality facing working farm families, and stressed the importance of immediate action. Linus Solberg, from Cylinder, Iowa, pointed out that the prices farmers are getting today are falling dramatically. “Wheat, corn, cotton, and soy beans are at a 20-year low.”

Tom Fiske, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minnesota governor, addressed the rally. “I work for Eaton, we make hydraulic motors for farm tractors. We need committees of workers and farmers to monitor and publicize the prices charged by the agriculture monopolies.”



October 12, 1973

Long Island Rail Road will stop at almost nothing to keep women from working on their trains. That’s what Carol Wagner, a 29-year-old teacher, found out when she tried to get a job there. “I always wanted to work on the railroad,” she told the *Militant*. She also wants the job because it would pay far better than the job she holds now.

Last year she applied with LIRR to be a trainman, and they said that she was “too short,” they don’t hire anyone under 5 feet 7. Height has never been a requirement before. LIRR announced their new height rules the day after Carol had a hearing on her case.

Carol pointed out that many of the workers support her. “The men are up in arms about conditions on the railroad,” she said, adding workers have encouraged her.



October 11, 1948

Every capitalist ruling class — including the Wall Street barons — represents itself as the defender of “law and order” and “constitutional means” against working-class organizations, who allegedly “advocate force and violence” and “seek to alter the form of government by unconstitutional means.”

This propaganda is designed to conceal the fact that they resort to the most bloody and illegal means when their rule is challenged, as witness the recent history of Germany, Italy and Spain.

In France today, Gen. Charles De Gaulle is mobilizing armed storm troopers to seize power. De Gaulle stated Oct. 1: “Under democracy, power is obtained by an appeal to the people, but if law and order breaks down I reserve the right to take whatever action I regard as advisable.”

and the labor movement in general.”

WGA picket captain Brenden Gallagher, a television drama writer, said, “I’ve been optimistic about the outcome the entire five months of this strike. We’ve been prepared to negotiate since the beginning, but we will be out here as long as it takes to win our demands.”

The writers have been fighting for a minimum level of staffing as production bosses have cut the number and work time for writers, slashing their pay. The studios have pushed writers to produce scripts for shows that haven’t been sold yet, eliminating the past norm of making pilot episodes to win contracts before starting regular production.

Traditionally writers received what are called residuals, modest regular pay for movies, television programs and commercials whenever they are rerun. However, with streaming, where programs are available online, the studios have balked at paying writers based on the number of viewings.

Writers also want protection on the use of artificial intelligence, where producers take and manipulate images and script work products to use in future shows without paying the author.

Even if Writers Guild members vote up the tentative contract, production of movies, television or streaming on any significant scale will still depend on the bosses reaching an agreement with the 160,000 actors in SAG-AFTRA, who face many similar issues.

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# All out to support United Auto Workers strike! Bring labor's full power to bear!

Continued from front page

HERE and more have urged members to join UAW picket lines. Support from fellow unionists is key to a union victory.

The UAW is demanding the elimination of divisive tiers — including long-term temp workers with rock bottom wages and no benefits — a 40% wage increase, restoration of cost-of-living adjustments, a pension for all workers, an increase in retiree pay, and more paid time off to spend with families.

"I'm not even making \$18 an hour yet," temp worker Tanya Nikolakos, who started three years ago, said. "I work next to people making \$32 an hour."

"Temporary workers barely get any time off. We're fighting for them and for the retirees," said striker Ashlee Baxter. "They expect your life to revolve around Jeep. One week you work 10 or 12 hours a day for six days, the next week only two or three days. You can't get a second job because you can't plan."

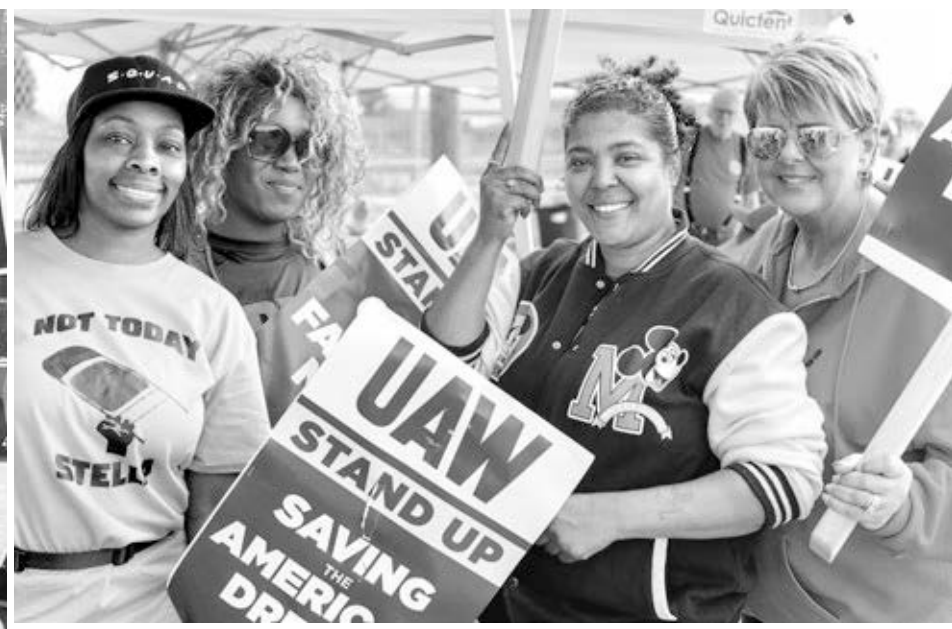
"I don't care how long you've been here, you deserve everything we get," Shannon Hickle-Wyatt, a full-time worker, added. "We all do the same work."

He pointed out the UAW is asking for conditions the bosses took back from the union during the 2008 financial crisis. "We used to have cost-of-living adjustments. They made us cut all that to 'save the company.' This is a hard job, people get divorced because of the stress. A lot of times we work so much our children don't know where we are. This strike isn't what we wanted to do, it's what we had to do."

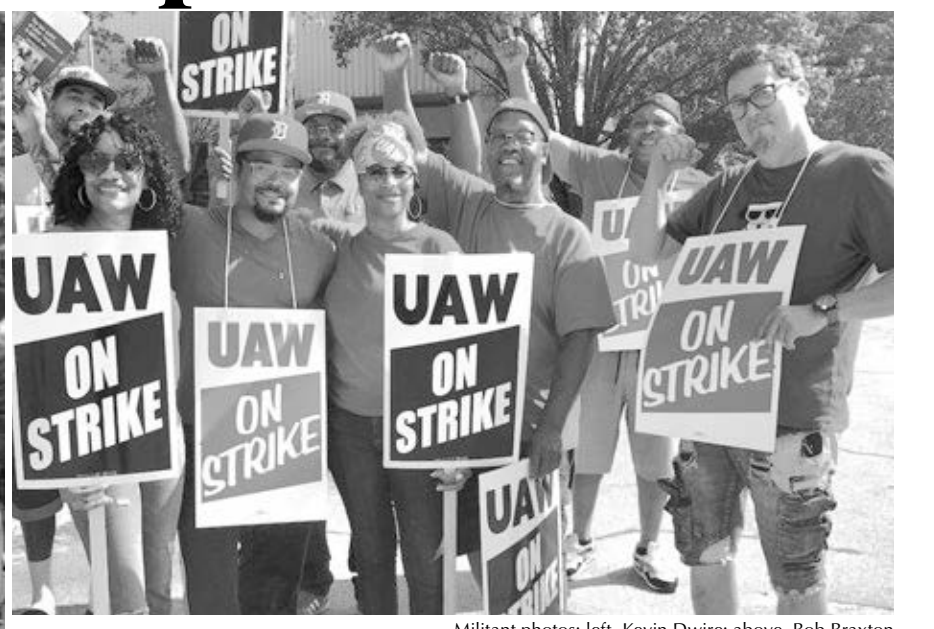
Angie McLaughlin, with 10 years at Jeep, was the picket captain. "They blame workers for on-the-job injuries. I was written up when my finger was smashed because of faulty equipment."

"Safety is a union issue," Hickle-Wyatt said. "They try to retaliate against people and we have to stick up for each other. Especially for temp workers who can sometimes feel more intimidated. That's really why we have to fight to end the tiers."

"Stellantis now has a leasing program for its workers because they know it's the only way most workers today can afford their cars," Brian Sims, vice president of Local 12, told the *Militant*.



Left, UAW Local 230 strikers in Ontario, California, were buoyed in their Sept. 23 march and rally by solidarity from contingent of Writers Guild of America members who have reached a tentative agreement to end their nearly five-month strike. Above, four striking members of UAW Local 12 in Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 18, who all work stocking the line at Stellantis Jeep plant.



Militant photos: left, Kevin Dwire; above, Bob Braxton. Left, UAW Local 722 strikers at GM distribution facility in Hudson, Wisconsin, Sept. 23. "The company won't give anything without a struggle by the workers," said Steve Frisque, the local's president. Above, UAW picket line at Stellantis parts plant in Morrow, Georgia, Sept. 22. Teamster official told strikers there that UPS drivers would honor their strike.

Strikers at the plant are organizing car caravans to join picket lines at other plants where workers are on strike. One union member was going from gate to gate to sign up volunteers to help with child care, give rides to fellow unionists and to cook meals.

## Temps get less pay, no sick pay or vacation

WENTZVILLE, Mo. — "I've been here for a year and don't know when I'll get on permanent," Katrina Donelson, a member of UAW Local 2250 picketing outside the sprawling GM assembly plant here, told the *Militant* Sept. 20. "We work as hard as everyone else, but we don't get sick days or vacation. We don't get vision or dental insurance."

Donelson said she's paid \$16.67 — barely half of the full pay of \$32.32 an hour. And after you become permanent, you start what's currently an eight-year wage progression to reach full pay.

"We need to get fair treatment for everyone," Jim Moran, with 28 years seniority, told the *Militant*. "They treat the new people like garbage. When I started, it only took 90 days to become permanent, and three years to reach full scale. We gave up all kinds of benefits for their bankruptcy in 2009, and now they're making money hand over fist."

"We need cost-of-living raises," said Monica Jones, who's worked at Wentzville for eight years. "It's not right we have to wait for the contract to get a raise."

The UAW hall down the street from the plant is bustling with strikers and supporters coming by to donate supplies. Shuttle vans run around the clock taking pickets to and from the five plant entrances.

## Shifts and overtime make it 'impossible to plan anything'

LANGHORNE, Pa. — "We work six days a week, 10 to 12 hours a shift, and occasionally Sunday," Alicia Gertsler, financial secretary of UAW Local 2177 told the *Militant* at the picket line at GM's parts distribution center here. "But we don't know ahead of time when we start work. They only let us know the day before. On night shift, they don't tell us how long we will be staying until we get to work. It makes it impossible to plan anything!"

The unionists had set up a large tent and a campfire to keep dry while they picketed in the rain Sept. 24. Striking members of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists had visited the picket line earlier.

"We used to have 200 workers at this facility, but now it's around 80, and we do the exact same amount of production," striker Danny Mendoza said. "We run up and down the lines picking parts like crazy. I count from 15,000 to 20,000 steps a day. And that's on bare concrete!"

Mendoza said a key issue is eliminating the pay tiers. Workers start at \$17 an hour, and after 10 years they max out at \$25. But senior workers are making \$28. This is the first strike for many workers here. "They are so excited about this!" said Gertsler.

— Janet Post

## Calif. parts workers fight to end tiers and outsourcing

ONTARIO, Calif. — "Prior to the pandemic, workers here got full hours, including overtime. Now, many workers get less than 40 hours and are sent home early," striking UAW Local 230 President Jesse Ramirez told the *Militant* outside Stellantis' Mopar parts facility Sept. 23.

Local 230 has extended its picketing to a nearby operation called Cross-Dock. The company uses this facility, staffed mainly by temp workers at

minimal pay, to try to circumvent the unionized Mopar plant, Ramirez said. So the unionized workforce there has been slashed.

Some 25 members of UAW locals 2865 and 5810, representing graduate teaching assistants at nearby campuses, joined the picket line.

— Norton Sandler

## 'I began at \$15.74 an hour 29 years ago, today it's \$15.78!'

TAPPAN, N.Y. — Pouring rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of striking UAW members on the picket line at the Stellantis parts distribution center here Sept. 24. "Everything is going up except our wages," Celeste Miller, chair of UAW Local 3039, told the *Militant* as passing drivers honked in support.

Miller is a parts picker who started at the center 29 years ago. "I began at \$15.74 an hour. Nearly 30 years later the starting wage is only \$15.78!" she said. "Two-tier wages mean workers are living paycheck-to-paycheck. Some workers have second jobs at Uber, DoorDash and Amazon just to survive.

Others work overtime every day."

"Prices have gone through the roof," said Jeffrey Purcell, a parts picker and Local 3039's president. "The working class is being made to pick up the tab by the employers."

The 65 UAW members here picket 24/7. "People are dropping off food, snacks and water for us all the time," Miller said.

— Terry Evans

## Texas: 'We prepared for two years for this strike'

ROANOKE, Texas — "When we walked out of the plant we all had red UAW T-shirts on, blowing air horns and whistles," Adam Martinez, chair of UAW Local 816 at the GM parts center here, told the *Militant*. "About 45 walked in a group. The main reason we are striking is the two-tier system. Traditional employees make \$32 and the new employees doing the exact same work make \$17 an hour."

"For two years workers here were putting money away," he said. "When we struck GM in 2019 a lot of the younger workers had never been on

strike and weren't prepared. This time is different."

— Alyson Kennedy

## UAW strikers in Nevada: 'We're going to win!'

RENO, Nev. — "We are going to win!" said Michael Marszalek, picket captain and second shift committee man at the General Motors parts distribution center here Sept. 23.

Workers from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, railroad workers and representatives from the Reno Federation of Labor had come to support the strike that day.

"There's a big turnover because many workers quit," Marszalek said. "The company can force you to work 10 hours a day. Some weeks are seven days long. You have no time for your family."

"We know that our strike isn't just

for us," he added. "When we win it will benefit the entire labor movement."

— Jeff Powers

## Autoworkers 'can't afford to start a family'

HUDSON, Wis. — "These new kids just starting here can't afford a car, to start a family, to pay rent. Working in the auto industry used to be a gold standard, I was able to raise two kids," said Rob Dolney, a striker at the GM distribution facility here.

"The company says it's all about 'equity,' but not when it comes to their workers. A good paying job should be here for the next generation," Dolney said.

Steve Frisque, president of UAW Local 722, described the concessions the union has taken. The starting wage at the plant was \$19 an hour in 2007. Today it's \$17. "We have to fight

to get what we need," Frisque said. "The company won't give anything without a struggle by the workers."

"Solidarity is important to increase the confidence of the workers," he said.

— Gabrielle Prosser

## 'Workers need to come together, fight for what's needed.'

MORROW, Ga. — "The time is critical, not just for the UAW, but for workers all over the world to come together and fight for what is owed us," Fidel Williams, a second shift order picker, said at the Stellantis parts distribution plant here Sept. 22.

"Now is the time to get rid of the two-tier setup that created divisions and a grotesque hierarchy among our union brothers and sisters."

An official from the Teamsters union came to tell strikers UPS drivers would be honoring their picket line.

— Janice Lynn

# Turkish-backed Azerbaijan seizes Nagorno-Karabakh

BY ROY LANDERSEN

After months of economic blockade, Turkish-backed Azerbaijani forces attacked and seized the ethnic Armenian-controlled enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, inside Azerbaijan, Sept. 19. Russian troops, which Moscow had promised would defend the enclave's sovereignty, made no move to do so. The rout of the separatists under Moscow's nose reveals the further weakening of its dominance in the Caucasus and elsewhere in its self-proclaimed "near abroad."

At least 200 ethnic Armenian fighters and civilians, dozens of Azerbaijani troops and six of the 2,000 Russian soldiers stationed there were

killed. Having disarmed the outgunned Armenian separatists, Azerbaijani forces promised to respect the rights of the 120,000 civilians there. However many Karabakhis fear being absorbed by a hostile state.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan warned of "the danger of ethnic cleansing." Thousands of ethnic Armenians have either fled Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia or moved to Russian military bases seeking aid.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan congratulated the Azerbaijani rulers Sept. 25 for their "historic success." Erdogan made a point of meeting with President Ilham Aliyev in Azerbaijan's autonomous Nakhchivan

exclave, which is separated from the rest of Azerbaijan by Armenia.

In 2001, Tigran, 47, joined the almost 1 million Armenians now living in Russia. He told Al Jazeera he blamed Russian President Vladimir Putin for "doing nothing" as Azerbaijani forces seized Nagorno-Karabakh.

After the humiliating surrender, protests erupted outside the Russian Embassy in Yerevan, the Armenian capital. In the heart of the city thousands led by Karabakhis denounced the Armenian government. Many called for Pashinyan's resignation.

The Armenian prime minister himself blasted the country's security al-

Continued on page 9

## Unifor autoworkers at Ford Canada vote up new contract by narrow margin

TORONTO — Some 5,600 Unifor members at Ford voted up a three-year contract negotiated by the union just hours before a strike deadline. The Sept. 24 vote was by the narrowest of margins — 54% to approve — despite bosses including a raise of 10% in the first year. Workers get a 2% and 3% raise in the next two years.

Most of the workers are based at plants in Oakville and Windsor, Ontario. The contract reinstates quarterly cost-of-living adjustments that were suspended in 2008. Divisive two tiers remain, but new hires will reach the top pay in four years rather than eight. "I think the biggest thing that people were disappointed with was the pension monies," Darby McCloskey, financial secretary for Unifor Local 200, told the *Windsor Star*. The contract includes a raise in pension payments, the first since 2005.

"We settled too early; we should have stuck together," one worker at Oakville told CBC radio Sept. 25.

The union begins talks with General Motors Sept. 26.

— BEVERLY BERNARDO

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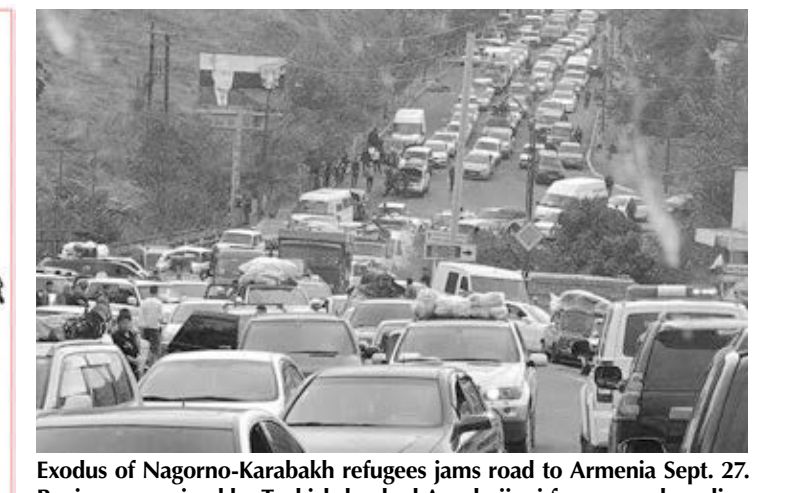


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Exodus of Nagorno-Karabakh refugees jams road to Armenia Sept. 27. Region was seized by Turkish-backed Azerbaijani forces week earlier.

# James P. Cannon built the SWP as an internationalist party

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September is James P. Cannon As We Knew Him by Farrell Dobbs, Joseph Hansen, George Novack, Jean Tussey, Harry Braverman and 28 other contributors who knew and worked with him. The introduction is by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. From a traveling organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World, Cannon rose as a leader of the working-class left wing of the Socialist Party who was inspired by the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. Joining with other revolutionists to found the Communist Party in the United States in 1919, he served on the executive committee of the Communist International in 1922. Expelled from the CP in 1928 for leading the fight to maintain Lenin's proletarian internationalist course, he was a founding leader of the SWP. Copyright © 1976 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Henepin County Library Special Collection  
Farrell Dobbs, left, and James P. Cannon, center, in Minneapolis, 1941. They were among 18 leaders of Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Teamsters facing government frame-up charges as U.S. rulers prepared to drag working people into the second imperialist world war.

In the ILD there were certain ground rules established. For example, the rule that there be no factionalism in defense. Because what you're defending — in addition to the individual defendant or defendants — is the democratic rights of the working class and its allies. From this derives that famous labor slogan "An injury to one is an injury to all."

The principles of the ILD were, first, to defend all victims of capitalist oppression on our side of the class line. Second, not to take factional advantage of a defense case. That is, not to try to use it to push your own line and thereby alienate others who might otherwise join in the defense. Because the cardinal need is to defeat the capitalist frame-up.

Jim set these ground rules very well. After 1928, when those who went with [Joseph] Stalin took over in the CP, the ILD was turned into its opposite and violated every one of these rules. But the ground rules were set there. And they were picked up and improved and applied by the Trotskyist movement after Jim and his co-workers were expelled from the CP in 1928. ...

Jim was one of the top leaders of the Communist Party. He had a big following. He was the head of the ILD. He was a member of the Political Committee of the party. And the CP was a big movement that had great promise, affiliated with the Third International and identified with the Russian revolution in the popular mind.

What did it cost to walk away from that? How dear was the truth at that point?

Jim was a delegate to the Sixth Congress of the Comintern in Moscow in 1928. By pure accident he got on the commission that handled the distribution of documents that had been translated.

[Leon] Trotsky's criticism of the draft program that the Stalinists were submitting to the Sixth Congress came into this commission and was routinely translated. The Stalinist bureaucrats hadn't quite tightened up all the holes yet. They had no intention of Trotsky's document getting before the congress, but Jim got a copy of it.

He read it, and in essence two things came through to him. First, here were the answers to things that were beginning to puzzle him. As Jim described it to me — we had quite a conversation about this once — he said, "I make no pretense that I knew all the verities of the situation. I just had an instinct that not everything was the way it ought to be. But at the same time, who was I to challenge these guys who made a revolution? For all I, here in the United States knew, Stalin was still completely a Leninist. Who was I to challenge that?"

And he read the document and it began to give him some answers about some of the things that had made him uneasy. Having attained that, the second

thing that came through to him was that he had better keep this in his pocket until he got out of Russia.

He knew instinctively that this was the way he had to go, because this was the direction in which the truth went — that is, the analysis and the programmatic projections set forth in Trotsky's criticism of the draft program at the Sixth Congress.

That meant he had to turn his back on his chance to play a bigger and bigger role in the large and thriving Communist movement. And he was experienced enough to know doing that meant going into isolation.

And he made the break. ...

That was the criterion that Jim Cannon set for himself when he came back from Moscow in 1928. He had found the truth about the profound developments taking place in the Soviet Union and hence in the Third International. And he had to serve that truth at all hazards. ...

The Socialist Workers Party, under Jim's central leadership, played a key role in backing Trotsky in the work of building the Fourth International.

For example, there was Jim's trip to Europe in 1939. This was on the eve of World War II, when we had a big antiwar campaign going on. We were just getting ready to put the party's paper out twice a week, and we were preparing to set up new party branches in Flint and Detroit.

Trotsky asked Jim to make a trip to France to help try to straighten out a few people — some of these "independent thinker" types. ... He asked Jim to go because of his role as a central leader of the SWP, which had great standing in the world movement.

Despite all the things that were going on here, despite all the party-building opportunities facing us, Jim went to France, with the agreement of all of us.

This was the pattern that he set. The Socialist Workers Party is a thoroughgoing internationalist party — internationalist in its outlook; internationalist in the sense that we realize the necessity to collaborate in the closest possible way with revolutionaries throughout the world; and internationalist in the sense that we also realize that one of the prime criteria of internationalism is to build a revolutionary combat party in your own country.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

A great contribution Jim made was the key role he played in founding the International Labor Defense in the 1920s. Two of the outstanding cases that were handled by the International Labor Defense under the leadership of Jim Cannon were the Mooney-Billings case and the case of Sacco and Vanzetti.

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## Workers here can emulate Cuba's revolution

Statement by Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey General Assembly, released Sept. 27.

There is no better example of what workers are capable of accomplishing than Cuba's socialist revolution. The power of that example for workers here and worldwide is the reason the U.S. rulers have pursued their six-decade-long economic, trade, financial and political war against the people of Cuba. This has been the policy of every Democratic and Republican administration.

The fight to end Washington's brutal embargo is a key demand for the working class, especially in the U.S. We need to press for more unions to join this fight, to tell Washington, Hands off Cuba!

Led by Fidel Castro, Cuba's Rebel Army organized the exploited and oppressed toilers to overthrow the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista in 1959. Then they ousted all capitalist ministers from the government and established their own class rule.

The leadership of the Cuban Revolution mobilized the toiling population to seize the factories, the land and banks from Cuban and U.S. property owners, and began running them in their own interests. They organized the peasants to carry out a far-reaching land reform. They mobilized tens of thousands of youth to go all over Cuba and wipe out illiteracy. They expanded the unions into every enterprise in Cuba. They built child care centers, medical centers and schools. They

outlawed racial discrimination and organized the Federation of Cuban Women. They built a new army, starting with veterans of the revolutionary struggle.

In short, they established a workers state.

"The Cuban Revolution — that's a real revolution," Malcolm X said in 1963. "They overturned the system."

This historic accomplishment lives today. It was made possible because of the caliber of the leadership forged by Castro. Through their actions, millions understood they were carrying out a socialist revolution. And they successfully defended it from the U.S.-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

On these foundations the Cuban government has offered unstinting solidarity with struggles against imperialism in Africa, Latin America and worldwide. Tens of thousands of Cuban toilers fought in Angola to defend its independence against apartheid South Africa.

The Cuban Revolution opened the door to the renewal of communist leadership in the U.S. and around the world. By embracing the revolution and fighting to defend it, the Socialist Workers Party was transformed into what it is today.

The SWP exists to emulate Cuba's example in the U.S. It is building a party to lead millions to overturn the dictatorship of capital we live under; to establish workers power; to uproot exploitation and oppression; and to join the worldwide struggle for socialism.

Join the fight!

## Older workers face crisis, insecurity, homelessness

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thousands more live in their car or on the street. In Miami-Dade County those over 55 make up nearly 33% of the homeless; in Denver it's 28%.

"The fact that we are seeing elderly homelessness is something that we have not seen since the Great Depression," Dennis Culhane, a University of Pennsylvania professor, told the *New York Times*.

"These are people who worked their whole lives. They had typical lives, often working physically demanding jobs, and never made enough to put money away," Margot Kushel, a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, told the paper.

About half of the older homeless workers in Oakland, California; New York; and elsewhere lost their homes or apartments after their 50th birthday. Monthly Social Security payments, which many older workers depend on, are inadequate to cover workers' rising rents. In Naples, Florida, for example, the average cost for renting an apartment was \$2,833 in July, while the average Social Security payment for retired workers and their dependents that month was \$1,791.

"Rent for me through the years has always been 50% to currently 76% of my monthly income," Yvonne Tyno, 69, who ended up living in her Jeep Grand Cherokee, told the *Times*. "Even with a perfect rental history, perfect credit score and some savings, that was not enough."

In Manhattan, even though the population has declined, the average monthly rent this July was \$5,588, up 30% from 2019. That figure was the fourth time in the last five months a new record was set. While studio apartment rents have jumped 19%, apartments with enough room for a family have soared over 36%.

With the lifting of federal, state and local rent moratoriums put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, evictions have risen by over 50% in some cities, like Houston and Minneapolis. Rents nationwide are 30% higher than in 2019, with inflation making it increasingly difficult to cover rent, food and energy expenses. Government statistics show landlords file to evict some 3.6 million people every year.

Low-income housing, so desperately needed by

millions of workers, is not being built by the billionaire developers because it doesn't generate sufficient profits for them. The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates there is a 7.3 million shortfall of such apartments nationwide. In New York state this means 656,000 workers and their families have been priced out of the housing market; in Florida it's 400,000.

Accentuating the crisis is the fact that the "baby boomer" generation, born after the second imperialist world war, also face a scarcity of affordable assisted-living facilities. Where is the profit in that?

The general attitude among the bankers and bosses is if you can no longer work and generate income for them, your life is over. Those who run assisted-living facilities look to milk their residents of every penny they have left, and then push them out the door.

Growing numbers of people in their 70s and 80s today find themselves with no choice but to try to keep working — they desperately need the money.

### Capitalist social crisis deepens

Since December 2020 workers' real wages have declined by 3.2%. Inflation-adjusted median household income dropped by \$1,750 between 2021 and 2022. And parts of the economy are already in a downturn. Manufacturing in August contracted for the 10th consecutive month.

High interest rates make it increasingly difficult for many working people to cover rising credit-card debts, auto payments and spiraling rents and home mortgages. In fact, credit-card debt in the U.S. this year surpassed \$1 trillion for the first time ever.

Another expense for working families that's soaring is the cost of child care. In New York the average family spends over a quarter of its income for child care, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Governments facing their own budget crises are looking for ways to cut social programs. Through budget cuts, New York Mayor Eric Adams is reducing funds for free preschool programs for 3-year-olds. And his administration consistently delays paying city-funded day care providers their wages.

"A society that doesn't cherish their young and their old is in crisis. This is the reality of capitalist exploitation and oppression today," Sara Lobman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council in New York, told the *Militant*. "Workers need their own political party, a labor party based on the unions, that can fight to take political power and reorganize society to meet human needs, not profits."

## March in Jersey City

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we begged and advised everyone at the scene he had a mental disorder."

Police did not tell family members that Washington had been shot and would not allow them to ride with him in the ambulance, his cousin, Jasper Massey, told the *Militant*. He was pronounced dead within an hour of being shot.

Nia Mendez, another cousin, told the *Militant* that Washington had survived a police shooting 12 years ago. She had gone to find him at the hospital and took a picture of him on her phone. When cops demanded she turn over her phone she refused, was arrested, and spent the night in jail.

Within 24 hours of Washington's death, Jersey City authorities attempted a cover-up. Mayor Stephen Fulop and Public Safety Director James Shea claimed the shooting was justified based on one of the cop's body-camera footage, which had not then been released to the family.

New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin stated that responding Officer Felix DeJesus fired his stun gun at Washington. Officer Stephen Gigante said after Washington came toward both cops with a knife, he fired his service weapon, hitting Washington twice.

"We have been dealing with Drew's mental health issues for many years," another of Washington's aunts, Doris "Toni" Ervin, told the rally. "We want to take the shame away from those with mental health problems and make sure that Drew did not die in vain. Jersey City failed to act on state mental health laws. So many families have had loved ones with mental health problems die at the hands of the police. We couldn't be quiet, sit back, and let this happen."

The City Council in Jersey City refused to fund a mental health response program it had approved last year.

The march was attended by family members and supporters; the Black rights group, People's Organization for Progress; and Lea Sherman and this *Militant* reporter, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for New Jersey State General Assembly and State Senate. Sherman and I called for indictment of the cops who killed Washington.

## Nagorno-Karabakh

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liances with Moscow as "ineffective." He warned that Yerevan might join the International Criminal Court, which has an arrest warrant out for Putin over his invasion of Ukraine.

Earlier this year, Yerevan refused to host military drills held by the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a Moscow-led alliance of post-Soviet regimes.

Washington is seeking to exploit these cracks in Moscow's traditional "sphere of influence." It held a small 10-day military exercise with Armenian troops that ended as Azerbaijani forces seized Nagorno-Karabakh. A few days later, senior U.S. officials arrived in Yerevan for more talks.

While Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan's internationally recognized borders, the two nations have been intertwined for centuries, with villages of one or other nationality scattered throughout the region. For much of their history, czarist Russia often warred with Ottoman Turkey there, backing ethnic Armenians and other Christian groups against Turkish-backed Muslim forces.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan fought a long, bloody war over Nagorno-Karabakh, with Yerevan's forces and local Armenians taking control.

A war in 2020 saw the Azerbaijan military reclaim much territory, with its demands for total control of the region backed by the Turkish rulers.

Developments in the region reflect the political and military instability and conflicts that have deepened since Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Capitalist rulers around the world are looking to build new alliances and bulk up their arsenals to protect their national interests. This worldwide jockeying feeds the dangers of new wars.

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