

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Fidel Castro on Grenada leader:
‘Bishop was a true revolutionary’
— PAGE 8

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 87/NO. 41 NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Solidarity with UAW strike is in the interests of all workers

BY BETSY FARLEY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Members of the United Auto Workers on strike against Ford, General Motors and Stellantis, the Big Three auto companies, expanded their walkout to over 45,000 strikers on Oct. 24, with some 5,000 UAW members walking off the job at GM’s assembly plant in Arlington, Texas. The plant makes highly profitable full-size SUVs.

The day before, 6,800 workers at Stellantis’ Ram pickup truck plant in Sterling Heights, Michigan, another one that makes a big profit, also walked out off the job. It’s the company’s largest assembly plant in the country.

The strike, nearing its sixth week, includes workers on the picket line outside auto-assembly plants, as well as at warehouses and distribution centers in over 20 states.

After years of making concessions, the union is fighting for a substantial pay raise, a 32-hour workweek for 40 hours pay, an end to the hated two-tier wage and benefits setup, to reinstate

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Fight Jew-hatred! Support the right of Israel to exist!



Militant/Paul Mailhot

Protest demands “End Jew-hatred on campus” at Columbia University, New York, Oct. 25. A Jewish student was physically assaulted there Oct. 11 by someone tearing down posters demanding Hamas release hostages seized during its Oct. 7 pogrom killing 1,400 in Israel.

Why does Israel exist?

BY JANET POST

Israel has existed as a refuge for Jews for 75 years. Its existence was made inevitable by three key historical facts: the betrayal by counterrevolutionary Stalinist parties of ripe prospects for workers to take political power in Europe; the re-

Continued on page 6

Battle against Jew-hatred is a working-class question

BY SETH GALINSKY

More videos, Hamas instructions and other information keeps coming to light on the brutality unleashed by the reactionary Islamist group’s anti-Jewish slaughter in Israel that began Oct. 7. Financed, armed and directed by Tehran in alliance with Lebanon-based Hezbollah and its other proxy forces in the Middle East, the Hamas death squads murdered over 1,400 people, wounded more than 5,400, and seized 220 hostages to Gaza.

Like the czarist-organized pogroms

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Political freedoms are a key issue in US politics today

BY TERRY EVANS

Even before Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, Democrats, the liberal media and middle-class left did everything in their power to bring him down. From the moment they set the FBI to spy on his campaign, to the multitude of legal cases filed against him and his candidacy today, they’ve trampled on constitutional freedoms that are crucial to protecting labor and political activity from government interference.

These rights were won in struggle by working people and will be needed more than ever as our class fights to defend ourselves from the impact of today’s deepening capitalist crisis.

The Joseph Biden administration and a lot of Democratic Party prosecutors have cooked up charges against the former president that strike blows at the right to free speech. He faces trial for violating thought-control conspiracy

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Vote SWP! Working class needs to take political power

Statement released Oct. 25 by John Studer, Socialist Workers Party national campaign director.

Workers should cast their vote for the Socialist Workers Party Nov. 7. More importantly, they should look to the SWP’s program for a working-

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY CAMPAIGN

class road to defeat the assaults by the capitalist rulers.

The 2023 election takes place as working people worldwide have seen the worst slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust, as well as a bloody invasion and assault on the sovereignty of the courageous people of Ukraine.

The bosses and their array of middle-

Continued on page 9

Back the people of Ukraine in war for independence

BY ROY LANDERSEN

As Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine goes into its 20th month, he continues to insist the Ukrainian people don’t really exist as a nation and are just Russians. At the same time, he also claims Ukrainians are riddled with Nazis. Moscow’s airstrikes aimed at urban areas and designed to kill as many Ukrainians as possible have taken some 10,000 civilian lives.

Courageous Ukrainian working people fighting to defend their national independence have met this assault. Kyiv is inflicting heavy, demoralizing losses on Russian forces, fueling anti-war sentiment in Russia.

The murderous Oct. 7 antisemitic attack on Jews in Israel by Hamas — backed to the hilt by the bourgeois clerical regime in Iran, the biggest reaction-

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SWP campaign advances fight against Jew-hatred, support for UAW strikers



Militant/Bernie Senter

Laura Garza, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from California, campaigning Oct. 22 in El Centro, Imperial County, talks to Jonathan Espinoza, left, seasonal worker at Spreckels Sugar plant, and Alfredo Fernández, who used to work in the fields. They got a copy of the *Militant*.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Ever since the Oct. 7 murderous massacre of over a 1,400 Jews in Israel by Tehran-backed Hamas, candidates of the Socialist Workers Party and members of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. have been campaigning to get out the truth about the deadliest pogrom since the Nazi Ho-

locust in World War II. They explain the rise of lethal antisemitic violence is dangerous not only for Jews but for the entire working class and the union movement worldwide.

The SWP candidates are running in the November 7 elections across the country.

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Detroit casino workers strike over wages, health benefits 5

—On the picket line, p. 5—

St. Lawrence Seaway unionists strike for wage increases

Mercedes parts workers win end to wage tiers

Colorado cop convicted in the 2019 killing of Elijah McClain

BY JANET POST

More than four years since Elijah McClain died after being brutalized by police in Aurora, Colorado, a jury Oct. 12 unanimously found police officer Randy Roedema guilty of criminally negligent homicide and third-degree assault. He will be sentenced Jan. 5.

Cop Jason Rosenblatt, on trial with Roedema, was found not guilty. The trial of a third officer, Nathan Woodyard, charged with reckless manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide began Oct. 17.

Two Aurora Fire Rescue paramedics, Peter Cichuniec and Jeremy Cooper, will have separate trials in November on the same charges as Woodyard.

A cover-up of the facts in the death of McClain was organized by authorities immediately after his brutalization. It was only through a fight by his family and protests by working people and youth in Aurora and other cities that indictments were brought.

Elijah McClain, a 23-year-old African American, was a massage therapist and musician. He often played his violin for the animals at local shelters to help soothe them.

On Aug. 24, 2019, McClain was walking home after buying iced tea — listening to music and wearing a balaclava to keep warm, as he suffered from anemia.

After receiving a complaint about a young Black man who “looked sketchy,” the three cops stopped him.

Rosenblatt and Roedema threw McClain, who was unarmed, to the ground, pinned him down, and Roedema put his arm in a hammerlock. Rosenblatt and

Woodyard both applied carotid control holds, which deprive the brain of oxygen, all the while kneeling or sitting on him as they handcuffed him.

The body camera video shows McClain desperately, and seemingly apologetic, telling them he couldn’t breathe. Without examining him, paramedics Cichuniec and Cooper gave him a shot of the sedative ketamine, even though McClain hadn’t moved for a minute. The dose they gave him was meant for a person 50 pounds heavier.

McClain had a heart attack and died in the hospital three days later.

The Adams County district attorney announced three months later no criminal charges would be filed and that an autopsy concluded McClain died by “undetermined” causes.

But McClain’s mother, Sheneen McClain, and father, LaWayne Mosley, continued to fight. “Elijah believed in humanity,” McClain said. “The Aurora police and medics who murdered my son must be held accountable,” declared Mosley.

On June 27, 2020, thousands turned out to press for those responsible to be charged. They included a number of violinists, who came from all around the country to play to honor Elijah McClain. Even when police confronted and pepper-sprayed them, they continued to play. Violin concerts were organized all across the U.S. to focus attention on the case.

Amid the outcry, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis appointed a special prosecutor and in September 2021 a grand jury returned a 32-count indictment against



Above, Paul Becker/Becker1999; inset, family photo
Violinists from around country played at march of thousands in Columbus, Ohio, July 4, 2020, demanding justice for Elijah McClain, killed by cops in Aurora, Colorado, in 2019. Concerts elsewhere honored McClain, inset, who played his violin to soothe animals at local shelters.

the three officers and two paramedics. The next month McClain’s family was awarded a \$15 million settlement from the city of Aurora.

In Roedema’s and Rosenblatt’s trial, an independent autopsy was introduced

that showed McClain’s death was caused by “complications following acute ketamine administration during violent subdual and restraint by law enforcement, emergency response personnel.” It said his death was a homicide.

Help make the SWP Party-Building Fund a success!

The Party-Building Fund, part of the campaign to reach out with the *Militant* and books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionaries, runs for eight weeks, from Sept. 23 through Nov. 21. It is at the heart of covering the basic operating expenses of the SWP — from its national headquarters, to increased travel to work with party members and others to advance a revolutionary road forward, and to meet increased opportunities for international collaboration.

The SWP and its candidates explain that the central question is a class-against-class battle to advance the interests of working people against the capitalist rulers. The party seeks to build a Marxist leadership capable of organizing millions to break with the bosses’ Democratic and Republican parties and take political power, and use it to reach out to fellow toilers worldwide to build a socialist future.

Party members are unionists in the thick of today’s battles. We work to bring clarity to all the important issues facing workers today, from the central place of the fight to defend constitutional freedoms to the need to take on Jew-hatred and defend Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.

At workers’ doorsteps, on union picket lines, in activities to win support for Cuba’s socialist revolution and other social struggles, we meet workers who want to learn more about the SWP and will make a generous contribution to ensure the party has the funds needed to carry out its work. The SWP is 100% financed by working people.


Join in! Help get the fund on schedule now so we can go over the top of our goal of \$140,000 on time. Contact the SWP branch nearest you listed on page 8.

— ILONA GERSH

THE MILITANT

Mexico workers seek way forward amid crisis

Working people in Mexico have faced decades of capitalist exploitation, corruption, and drug cartel and police violence. The López Obrador government doesn’t offer a way forward to solve deepening capitalist crisis. Only independent working-class struggle can do so.



Reuters/Henry Romero
July 26 Mexico City marchers say, “The army knows” of missing 43 Ayotzinapa students.

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

SWP: Fight against Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

Party members and supporters have taken the *Militant* and a campaign statement by Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, to working people on their doorsteps, protests defending Israel's right to exist as a refuge for the Jews, and to unionists on strike picket lines. Most workers, shocked and horrified by the slaughter of innocents they saw on the news that day, are open to a communist explanation of the roots of Jew-hatred and why the working class must organize to fight it.

A lively debate took place at the Militant Labor Forum in Montreal Oct. 21 featuring Steve Penner, organizer of the Communist League in Canada. The topic was, "Massacre of more than 1,400 Jews in Israel along with Moscow's invasion of Ukraine: A turning point in world politics."

Penner explained why communists are for both the victory of Ukraine in the war against Moscow's invasion, and for Israel in the war against Hamas. "The fight against Jew-hatred is completely interconnected with the fight against imperialism's march toward fascism and war," he said.

The CL leader urged the 35 forum participants to read and circulate the series of *New Internationalist* magazines on Marxist politics and theory. These explain the roots of the deepening worldwide capitalist economic, social and moral crisis, and why the questions of war and Jew-hatred are central in world politics today. They outline why the working class needs to build revolutionary working-class parties to take political power.

Others expressed a different point of view. "There are two massacres," forumgoer Grant Hargrave argued in the discussion period. "Hamas' massacre of Jews on Oct. 7, and the subsequent bombing of Gaza by Israeli forces." Another participant said, "Hamas is terrorist. But Israeli bomb-

ing of Gaza closes space for working people to act. Why not call on Israel not to use its air force?"

"Neither speaker," replied Penner, "said anything about how to prevent both the massacre of more Jews and destruction of the state of Israel as a refuge." This, he said, "is the stated goal of Hamas, Hezbollah and their backer, the bourgeois clerical regime in Iran." He said, "Tehran is racing to develop nuclear weapons with the goal of annihilating the state of Israel."

Israel as refuge for Jews

"While we give no support to Israel's capitalist government, we unreservedly support Israel's right to defend itself. A victory by Hamas would be catastrophic for Jews in Israel and elsewhere and give a huge boost to the forces of reaction.

"There are enormous stakes for the world's oppressed and exploited. You have to decide which side you are on," Penner said.

SWP campaigners find many workers want to understand more deeply what is behind Hamas' antisemitic assaults, as well as the wider political turmoil and military conflicts in the world today.

Lynda Little, a member of the Communist League in Canada, reports that a co-worker of hers at Walmart wanted to get the French edition of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon before he travels back home to Morocco for several weeks. He organized to have a friend get the money to Little and bring it to him before he leaves.

In London Oct. 22, "Bring them home!" was the repeated chant at a solidarity rally in Trafalgar Square. Protesters were calling for the release of more than 200 hostages seized by Hamas and taken to Gaza during the Islamist group's Oct. 7 anti-Jewish slaughter in Israel.

Called by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and United Jewish Israel Appeal, the rally drew 15,000 participants — the largest gathering of Jews in Britain in recent years. Signs with photographs of the faces of the hostages were held by 203 volunteers, while many in the crowd did likewise.

Survivors of the Hamas attacks and relatives of hostages spoke at the rally. Other speakers included prominent rabbis and politicians from both the Conservative and Labour Parties.

Members of the Communist League were joined there by a couple of other participants from a Militant Labor Forum held the previous evening. The meeting protested Hamas' pogrom, defended Israel's right to exist and discussed the road forward in the fight against Jew-hatred. The CL contingent was welcomed and thanked for their solidarity.

"Working people cannot rely on London, Washington or other 'democratic' imperialist governments to protect



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

Steve Penner, organizer of the Communist League in Canada, speaks at Oct. 21 Militant Labor Forum in Montreal. He said Moscow's murderous war on the Ukrainian people and Hamas' Oct. 7 Jew-hating pogrom in Israel marked "a turning point in world politics."

the Jews," said a statement by Pamela Holmes, organizer of the London branch of the League, that was distributed. "London closed the door on Jewish immigration before, during and after World War II. That, and the betrayal of revolutionary opportunities by the Stalinists in Moscow and elsewhere, led to Hitler's 'Final Solution.' That's why Israel had to be, and has to be, a refuge for the Jews.

"But as long as we live under decaying capitalism, there will be no safe haven for Jews — in Israel, the U.K. or elsewhere," Holmes said. "Only the working class and its unions, acting decisively with class-conscious leadership, can take on and defeat the forces of reaction." It is only the struggle for workers to take power and make a socialist revolution that can end Jew-hatred once and for all.

One subscription to the *Militant* and 18 single copies were sold at the action, along with four copies of *The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon and one copy of Leon Trotsky's *On the Jewish Question*.

Henry Ford's antisemitism

At Ford's Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville Oct. 23, SWP campaigners Amy Husk and Betsy Farley joined the strike picket line of UAW Local 862. The *Militant's* headline, "Fighting Jew-hatred is a union issue" caught the eye of striker David Straughn and he got a copy. "Why is there so much feeling against the Jews, and for such a long time?" Straughn asked.

Farley said, "Wealthy ruling classes like the capitalists today, and even before capitalism, have tried to trick workers into blaming our problems on someone else, like the Jewish people, when really it's the fault of the rulers' system."

"That sounds like Ford," said Straughn.

In fact, Henry Ford, the company's founder, had been a prominent Jew-hater, writing and distributing antisemitic newspapers and books worldwide.

Nazi leader Adolph Hitler put up a picture of Ford in his Munich office in 1931. "I regard Ford as my inspiration," Hitler told the *Detroit News*.

SWP and Communist League members are campaigning to expand the readership of the *Militant* and books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries. They're extending the reach of the communist movement, by clearly addressing the historical origins and class roots of antisemitism and boldly presenting a working-class course to combat and overcome it, on the road to taking political power.

By the end of the fourth week, this political campaign over the fall to win 1,350 subscribers to the paper and sell the same number of books has got a good response by working people. It is ahead of schedule, with 797 subscriptions and 1,065 books sold.

SWP members are also winning contributions to the party's annual Party-Building Fund of \$140,000.

To join SWP or CL members campaigning, contact the nearest branch listed on page 8.

Campaign to expand reach of *Militant*, books, SWP fund Sept. 23 - November 21 (week four)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	50	36	50	33	\$9,500	\$3,227
Chicago	100	58	100	57	\$14,000	\$3,466
Cincinnati	70	45	70	31	\$6,000	
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	26	60	27	\$5,250	\$640
Lincoln	15	9	15	9	\$500	\$250
Los Angeles	110	57	110	66	\$15,000	\$3,067
Miami	45	19	45	25	\$5,500	\$1,505
Minneapolis	70	43	70	38	\$5,500	
N. New Jersey	75	42	75	37	\$7,500	\$2,805
New York	100	50	125	62	\$20,500	\$9,037
Oakland	90	63	90	66	\$15,500	\$4,329
Philadelphia	55	28	55	26	\$6,000	\$920
Pittsburgh	50	32	50	15	\$6,250	\$1,005
Seattle	75	35	75	28	\$14,500	\$3,942
Washington	50	30	50	19	\$4,500	\$880
Other		40		380		\$20
Total U.S.	1015	613	1040	919	\$136,000	\$35,093
Prisoners		60				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	30	45	27		
Manchester	30	19	30	21		
Total U.K.	75	49	75	48		
Canada	95	60	120	89		
Australia	30	15	30	9		
Total	1,215	797	1,265	1,065	\$136,000	\$35,093
SHOULD BE	1,350	675	1,350	675	\$140,000	\$70,000

Join Socialist Workers Party 2023-2024 campaigns

Fight in the interests of the working class
Solidarity with union battles today

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Rebecca Williamson, City Council
Vincent Auger, City Council
Henry Dennison, King County Council

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, U.S. Senate

Solidarity with UAW auto strike

Continued from front page

cost-of-living adjustment to fight the effects of inflation, and for improvements to retiree pensions and health care plans.

Workers on the picket line here at the Ford Kentucky Truck Plant Oct. 23 celebrated the news that their brothers and sisters in UAW Local 1700 at Stellantis' Michigan plant had joined the strike.

"It's a workers' revolt," UAW Local 1700 member Randy Harvard told CNBC News. "It's not just us now. Everybody's on strike now — from the actors all the way to the casino workers."

On the picket line at the Kentucky Truck Plant, Trish Randolph, a 12-year worker and member of UAW Local 862, told the *Militant* that one of the key issues in the strike was the fight for health care and a secure retirement. "I was hired in 2012 at 40 years old. The tools we work with do damage to our bodies and Ford does not want to take responsibility. Before 2010 we had both a pension and health care. Now it's just a 401(k)."

She pointed to the importance of union solidarity. "I went on a bus with autoworkers and others to a rally in Brookwood, Alabama, to support the United Mine Workers coal strike in 2021." They were in a fight with Warrior Met bosses.

Justin Heitz just hired into the plant in February. "We only get four personal days a year that we can take off," he said. "That goes for anything — sickness, family, you name it. After that you face write-up, suspension and firing."

Trim-line worker Codey Stevens, 32, said that he's worked at the plant for nine years "and it took eight years to get up to full pay. That's what we're trying to stop."

Stephanie Green agreed. "New workers hire in at just \$700 per week," she said. "We're breaking our bodies down building these trucks. We can't afford to buy the vehicles we make. The cost of living keeps going up and we fall behind."

"It's not just about us," she continued, "we need to organize workers at companies like Toyota into the union too. I'm so glad our union is standing up!"

"We went 11 years without a raise," said David Straughn, a worker with 28 years at the plant. "Then in the last contract we got 6% over four years and lump-sum payments. We're saying we don't want lump-sum bonuses, but pay increases, so we can live. Another key strike issue is the long working hours."

For schedules with time for family

"I have a 2-year-old at home and when I get off work I'm too tired to do anything," said Brianna Hopkins, who started at the plant in 2016. She works a 12-hour shift on the Super Duty box-truck line. "There's no time for your family with this schedule, and day care is too expensive. I get help from family, but these companies should help with child care."

At the Local 862 union hall on Chamberlain Lane, volunteers staff a strike kitchen to provide hot meals to everyone during their picket shifts. "We take care of our own," Trish Randolph said. That day the cooks included Todd Dunn, president of UAW Local 862, and several young volunteers, serving white bean chili

with chicken, and hot dogs.

"Some of the food comes through donations from other unions and small businesses," Randolph said. "Just Saturday members of Teamsters Local 89 from FireKing came by and joined us on the picket line." FireKing workers in New Albany, Indiana, fought and won a 12-week strike last year.

"We welcome everyone to join us in solidarity on the picket line, friends, families, it's becoming a movement," she said.

Memphis rally brings solidarity to BCTGM and UAW strikers

"Long before the UAW went on strike, they always came out and supported our rallies and supported us on the line," Cornelius Moore, member of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 390G, told a rally he was chairing in Overton Park in Memphis, Tennessee, Oct. 22. "We're going to continue to support these guys. Blue shirts, red shirts we're all together." The UAW union shirts are red and the BCTGM shirts are blue.

The action was held to support members of Local 390G on strike against International Flavors and Fragrances and United Auto Workers Local 2406 on strike against General Motors ACDelco Parts Distribution Center. Close to 200 workers have walked out at each facility. The Memphis Central Labor Council helped organize the rally.

"Today we're here to support you," Jeffrey Thomas, president of UAW Local 2406, told the rally. "Be confident in what you do. Memphis is an important place for civil rights and union fights." Local 2406 is part of the national UAW strike against the Big Three automakers.

Cedric Wilson, president of BCTGM Local 390G, had just returned from a rally in New York City Oct. 18 in front of International Flavors and Fragrances headquarters. He had written to the CEO of IFF requesting a meeting over a week before his trip, but "they waited until the 17th to tell us they couldn't meet," he said.

"They continue to say they've given their 'last, best, and final offer,'" he said. "We've got people who are sick, who don't have any insurance, who are running through their savings. We're still fighting though! We're going to work this out!"



Kimberly Houston, left, financial secretary of strike committee of United Auto Workers Local 276 in Arlington, Texas, speaks with Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, who brought solidarity to the union hall Oct. 24, first day of walkout by 5,000 workers there.



Militant/Betsy Farley

UAW Local 862 members on picket line at Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville, Oct. 23. They welcomed expansion of strike to Stellantis plant in Michigan and GM plant in Texas.

Local 390G has been on strike since June 4 after working for almost a year under an expired contract. The workers make soy protein products bought by other companies to manufacture baby formula, pet foods, nutritional powders and other goods.

The IFF bosses want to end paid lunch breaks, stop paying overtime after eight hours and cut contributions to workers' 401(k) retirement plans. Health insurance costs have gone up dramatically since the company changed insurers two years ago after merging with Dupont.

Other speakers at the rally included Kermit Moore, president of the Memphis NAACP and the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and Vicky Terry, NAACP executive director.

— Amy Husk

Texas GM worker: 'We're finally going out! It's about time.'

ARLINGTON, Texas — Members of United Auto Workers Local 276 reported to their union hall here Oct. 24 to sign up for picket duty. The local's 5,000 members joined thousands of other UAW members on strike against the Big Three auto bosses across the country. The hall is just blocks from the GM SUV assembly plant where they work.

"This is fun," said Shelley Geraths, who has worked for GM for 23 years. "I was off today and when I got a text that the strike had begun, I said, 'We're finally going out. OK! It's about time.'"

"I'm fed up. I want everything we gave up — COLA, pay raises, pen-

sions," Geraths, who works in the GM body shop feeding corner panels and parts for seat belts into a robotic machine, told the *Militant*.

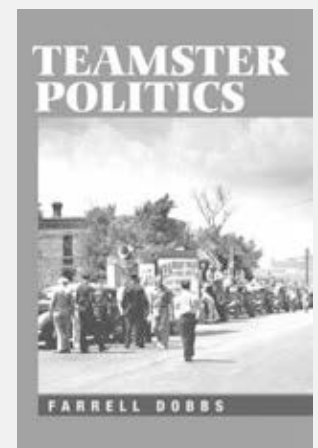
Kimberly Houston, who is financial secretary of the strike committee, was at large tables with other union members signing pickets up. She said, "Our committee organizes the strike kitchen, the vans that take everyone to the picket line, and many other things." A huge grill was outside the union hall where food was being prepared.

Lawrence "LB" Brown, sergeant-at-arms for Local 276, works in the stamping plant. "This company has made millions. We want our fair share," he said. Workers there haven't had a raise since the government bailout of GM in 2008.

"We have been preparing for this strike for a month," he said. "We've been buying generators, porta-potties, lights, and getting signs made for the pickets and lawn signs for strikers and supporters to put in their yards. We also organized getting moving vans to be able to take the strikers from the union hall to the picket line. And we still need more vans."

— Alyson Kennedy

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Detroit casino workers strike over wages, health benefits

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

DETROIT — “Strike City! Detroit is Strike City!” The chant echoed through Hart Plaza here as hundreds of strikers from Detroit’s three big casinos, their family members and other unionists rallied Oct. 19, the third day of their walkout. The casino workers were joining ongoing strikes at the Big Three automakers, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and three nursing homes in the metro area.

Two spirited marches, one beginning at the MGM Grand Detroit Casino and the other at Blue Cross Blue Shield, made their way through city streets to converge in the city center on a rainy, windy afternoon.

Some 3,700 workers are on strike at MGM Grand Casino, MotorCity Casino and Hollywood Casino at Greektown. Strikers sported United Auto Workers rain ponchos they had gotten and wrapped their picket signs in clear plastic bags to protect them. One of the picket leaders shouted through her megaphone, “No rain is gonna slow us down!”

The striking casino workers are represented by the Detroit Casino Council, which is made up of the five unions representing the casino workers: UNITE HERE Local 24, Teamsters Local 1038, the United Auto Workers, Operating Engineers Local 324 and the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters. The UAW also represents the more than 1,000 Blue Cross Blue Shield workers who walked off the job more than a month ago statewide.

Casino workers are fighting for higher wages, protection of health care benefits and job security.

“I am a two-time survivor of breast cancer,” Terri Sykes told the rally. She has worked at MotorCity Casino for 24 years as a dealer. “Health insurance was necessary to get through my battle with breast cancer. Now the company wants to take some of our health care away.”

Many workers say that wages are not keeping up with inflation. In September 2020 the unions agreed to a

three-year contract extension with a minimal wage increase. Officials said this was to help get the casinos back on their feet after COVID-19 shutdowns. Now the casinos are profitable, but the workforce has been cut by 1,500 workers, leading to dangerous speedup on the job. Some recently hired workers said they make only \$16.50 per hour.

“I have not had a raise in eight years,” Kalesia Savage, a VIP server, said. “For me, this strike is about fair wages and everyone sticking together.”

Margaret Mock, the international secretary-treasurer of the UAW and lead negotiator in the Blue Cross Blue Shield strike, said a big issue in their strike is tiered wages and benefits. “The company wants to get us to agree to taking 20 years to get to top pay!” she said.

The rally was addressed by AFL-CIO National President Liz Shuler, other national union officials, and Detroit and Michigan politicians.

The casino bosses are keeping the casinos open during the strike, using



Militant/David Rosenfeld

Hundreds of strikers from Detroit’s three big casinos march through the city Oct. 19. The 3,700 workers on strike are demanding higher wages, protection of health care benefits.

management and other scab labor. “Don’t stay! Don’t play!” pickets can be heard chanting outside the casinos, calling on fellow working people to not cross their picket lines.

The UNITE HERE Culinary Workers Union Local 226 in Las Vegas voted 95% to authorize a strike against 18

hotels, part of MGM Resorts International, Caesars Entertainment Corporation and Wynn Resorts. The union represents 53,000 workers in Las Vegas. They haven’t gone on strike yet because they’re still negotiating.

The union announced plans for a large protest Oct. 25.

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

St. Lawrence Seaway unionists strike for wage increases

MONTREAL — Workers for the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, members of the Unifor union, walked off the job just before midnight Oct. 21. The 361 workers ensure passage of ships through the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes, operating the locks and coordinating the ships.

Unifor locals 4211, 4212 and 4323 in Ontario, as well as locals 4319 and 4320 in Quebec are involved. The supervising and engineering staff had rejected a tentative agreement Aug. 1, then coordinated with maintenance, operations and administration workers to walk out together.

Workers on the picket line told the *Militant* the biggest question is winning wage increases that match inflation. The union reports they are “1,000 nau-

tical miles apart” from the company.

“All of society is fed up,” said Stéphane Beaudry, an electrician at the Saint-Lambert lock. “I remember just three or four years ago, butter used to be \$4, now I’ve just seen it at \$9.”

Canadian bosses are already screaming for the federal government to step in. “We urge the Government of Canada to use all the tools in its tool box to solve this strike immediately,” the Canadian Chamber of Commerce said. The Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses complained that this strike comes on the heels of the 13-day strike at the ports in British Columbia. “The last thing the economy needs now is another busy trade route being blocked,” it said.

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation had filed for the Canada Industrial Relations Board to force the passage of grain regardless

of the strike, in accordance with the Canada Labour Code.

Support the strike! Oppose government strikebreaking! Send messages of solidarity to Unifor at 10100-565, boul. Cremazie Est, Montreal, QC, H2M 2W1, Canada, or visit the picket line at the Saint-Lambert lock.

— Félix Vincent Ardea

Mercedes parts workers win end to wage tiers

ATLANTA — After 29 days on strike, workers in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, members of United Auto Workers Local 2083, ratified a four-year agreement Oct. 19 that will eliminate the hated tier system at the auto parts plant where they work.

“At the end of four years we’ll be at an equal pay for the job because we’re all essentially doing the same job,” shop steward Kenneth McKay told WBRC Fox 6 News.

Every two hours the roughly 190 union workers rotate to a different production station, McKay told *Militant* worker-correspondents who brought solidarity Sept. 29.

The workers, employed by ZF Chassis Systems, make axles for German automaker Mercedes-Benz’s nearby assembly plant.

Depending on their previously assigned tier, the workers will receive a pay raise of either 22% or 13% over the course of four years, bringing rates up to \$23 an hour. This is an increase from today’s \$20.30-an-hour top wage.

Workers also won access to preferred-provider health plans and a paid holiday for Juneteenth.

“We didn’t get everything we wanted, but then the company didn’t get everything they wanted,” McKay said. The four-year contract was approved by 98%.

McKay said he has been following what is going on with the United Auto Workers and other unions on strike across the country “that have been doing their walkouts and they’re starting to get their voices heard.”

— Janice Lynn

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



November 9, 1998

YAKIMA, Washington — Chanting “Work, Yes! Raids, No!” and “What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!” about 300 people marched Oct. 18 protesting Immigration and Naturalization Service raids.

The protesters came from up and down the Yakima Valley, home to a large number of immigrant workers from Mexico. They have come to this area to pick the apples, pears, and other fruits; tend the orchards, vineyards, and the vegetable fields; and work in the fruit warehouses that are the economic backbone here.

The Yakima Valley has become the center of union organizing drives by farm workers in the fields and by workers in the fruit packing warehouses. Under the impact of these drives, the employers have turned to the INS to try to intimidate the predominantly Latino workforce.



November 9, 1973

The Political Rights Defense Fund is building support and raising money for a lawsuit aimed at bringing a halt to government spying and harassment. Plaintiffs are the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance.

The suit seeks a court injunction against wiretapping, bugging, burglary, and infiltration of political groups. Syd Stapleton, national secretary of the PRDF, told the *Militant* that media is extremely interested. “People realize that we’re talking about the basic civil liberties of the American people. With a little effort we can get on every radio and TV station in a city we visit.”

The PRDF is soliciting sponsorship from individuals and groups. Support has come from unions, civil libertarians, leaders of the Black movement, activists in the women’s movement, representatives of the academic community, and many others.



November 8, 1948

United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis’s appeal for support to the striking French miners has sounded a clarion call for international labor solidarity. For the first time in years a top-ranking union leader has voiced the identity of class interests between the American workers and those of another land.

Lewis wrote AFL President William Green on Oct. 27 asking Green, as a supporter of Truman and his foreign policies, “why do you not have him stop the shooting of French coal miners who are hungry?”

Green said that the AFL could not support a strike seeking “to establish a Communist dictatorship.” The argument that a strike is “politically inspired” is taken directly from the arsenal of the capitalists. They attack all strikes that threaten their profits and privilege as “red,” “subversive,” and “communist.”

Battle against Jew-hatred is a working-class question

Continued from front page
in Russia near the turn of the 19th century — mass attacks on Jewish neighborhoods to kill or drive out as many Jews as possible — Hamas thugs tortured some of their victims before they killed them, raped women, murdered children in their beds, burned entire families to death and posted videos of their acts for the whole world to see.

The assault marks a turning point that highlights the necessity of working people standing up to Jew-hatred as today's capitalist crisis deepens. This was the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust.

Israel Defense Forces are preparing for a land offensive to destroy Hamas, to prevent it from carrying out further anti-Jewish massacres, which it promises to do. As of Oct. 23 the IDF had carried out strikes against 10,000 military targets in Gaza. Unlike Hamas — whose goal is to maximize civilian deaths, including of Palestinians, whose misery it uses to try and win sympathy for its Jew-hatred — Israeli forces try to minimize civilian casualties.

The Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry claims that more than 5,700 Gazans have died from Israeli attacks, but no figure given by Hamas can be trusted. Supporters of Hamas even claim the slaughter in Israel was carried out by the Jews themselves!

The IDF has repeatedly called on



Blood-stained child's bed in Israeli kibbutz Kfar Aza. Hamas killed babies and children during Oct. 7 massacre. Their instructions called for killing large numbers of Jews, seizing hostages.

civilians to take refuge in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, before the ground war begins in the north. Some 700,000 have done so, despite Hamas instructing them to stay. Still, hundreds of thousands remain in the north.

After imposing a total blockade of the Strip for several days, the Israeli government has allowed convoys of food, water and medicine to enter through the Gaza-Egypt border crossing on condition this aid goes only to civilians.

A land offensive will not be easy. Hamas and Islamic Jihad have built a network of 1,300 tunnels totaling some 300 miles, some as deep as 225 feet.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah in Lebanon has threatened to launch an offensive if Israel invades Gaza. Unlike the more primitive missiles Hamas and its allies have in Gaza, Hezbollah has at least 150,000 more advanced rockets, hundreds of them equipped with GPS navigation, along with anti-aircraft and

anti-tank missiles. Tehran — which is determined to develop nuclear weapons for use against the Jews in Israel — has also been sending weapons to the West Bank, hoping to convert it into another Gaza.

Some 200,000 Israelis have evacuated from more than 105 communities near the Gaza and Lebanon borders in advance of any escalation in the war.

"We have faced rocket fire from Gaza for the last 20 years, but this has been the worst," Nili Yehieli, an official of the Histadrut trade union federation in Ashkelon, just 8 miles from the Gaza border, told the *Militant* by phone Oct. 24. "One quarter of all the missiles they fire at Israel are targeted at Ashkelon." When the warning siren sounds, "we only have 30 seconds to reach a shelter."

"There has been a lot of solidarity by workers across Israel," Yehieli said. "The Histadrut initiated a program to invite people from Ashkelon" and other areas near the border "to come live in their homes" during the conflict.

Hamas 'proud' of killing Jews

During an Oct. 24 interview by Sky News reporter Dominic Waghorn, Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal avoided answering questions about the massacre and hostages.

But when Waghorn asked if Mashaal felt "ashamed" that Hamas gunmen had slaughtered 260 unarmed

civilians at a dance party Oct. 7 and went door to door killing men, women and children in kibbutz farm communities near the Gaza border, the Hamas leader did not challenge the facts.

"No. I feel proud that our Palestinian people did not surrender, did not raise the white flag and are still fighting Israel," he said.

When Waghorn called the men, women and children captured by the group "hostages," the Hamas leader cynically claimed they're "our guests."

Supporters of Hamas around the world have initiated demonstrations, centered on demanding an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, which would leave Hamas free to launch future pogroms against Jews.

A pro-Hamas march of several thousand took place in Bay Ridge, home to a large Arab and Palestinian population in New York Oct. 21. One sign showed an Israeli flag in a trash can with the slogan "Keep the world clean," an antisemitic slogan that echoes the Nazi's goal of eliminating all the Jews.

Some of the largest demonstrations took place after Hamas claimed an Israeli airstrike had killed over 500 people and destroyed the Al Ahli hospital in Gaza City Oct. 17.

The *New York Times* featured an article about it under the headline "Israeli strike kills hundreds in hospital, Palestinians say." There was just one problem. It wasn't true.

The Israeli government rapidly released evidence — confirmed by numerous other sources — that it was an Islamic Jihad missile that fell short and blew up next to the hospital.

Five days after its original article the *Times* finally published an "Editor's note" — not even a correction — saying it had "relied too heavily on claims by Hamas." In fact, the *Times* editors, like other liberal papers and politicians, wished the account was true.

Despite the pro-Hamas propaganda barrage, a new Al-Monitor poll showed that 27% of Americans it interviewed said that their support for Israel has increased since Oct. 7 and only 10% said it had decreased.

But once again, workers in those countries were betrayed by Stalinist parties. They hewed to Moscow's line of subordinating workers' interests to seeking long-term alliances with Washington and other imperialist governments in the name of "peaceful coexistence."

Jews also faced a postwar wave of antisemitic attacks in Stalinist Russia, a thinly veiled drive against Jews under the banner of a war on "cosmopolitanism."

Why does Israel exist? Stalinist betrayals, US shut borders, the Holocaust

Continued from front page
fusal by the imperialist rulers in Washington and London to open their borders to Jews seeking to flee Nazi persecution before, during and after World War II; and the horror of the Holocaust, the slaughter of 6 million Jews — 40% of the Jews worldwide.

Coming out of Germany's defeat in the first imperialist world war, the German economy was devastated. The victorious imperialist powers — especially Britain, as well as France and the rising capitalist rulers in the U.S. — saddled the German rulers with massive reparations. By October 1923 a 1 trillion German mark note was worth only \$15. The runaway economic crisis devastated the middle class.

The fascist German National Socialist Party, led by Adolf Hitler, emerged in this crisis, drawing on crushed petty bourgeois layers and demoralized workers. It launched physical assaults against Jews, unions and others. "The brown-shirted monsters do not even bother to conceal their aim: the physical extermination of every Jew in Great Germany," the Socialist Workers Party National Committee explained in 1938.

To preserve their crippled economic and political rule, the German capitalist class swung behind the Nazis. The sizable German Communist Party, under Stalinist leadership, refused to close ranks with the Social Democratic Party to form a united front to mobilize the working class to take power. The CP campaigned on the slogan, "After Hitler comes us."

This betrayal demobilized and demoralized millions of workers who had been looking for a call to action. It destroyed the possibility of a socialist

revolution that could have prevented the second imperialist world war.

After Hitler came to power, Nazi storm troopers busted up union meetings, smashed the CP and SDP and launched an escalating campaign of assaults on the Jews.

With the signing of the Stalin-Hitler pact in 1939, the Stalinist Communist Party in the U.S. and elsewhere ended all opposition to the Nazi regime and the danger it posed to Jews.

Hitler made good on the promise to unleash the "Final Solution," the Holocaust. Some two-thirds of European Jews were slaughtered, some in pogroms like the 1941 massacre in Babyn Yar in Ukraine, others in Hitler's concentration camps. The chilling effects are still felt today. The world's Jewish population is 1 million less than it was in 1939.

Despite deep illusions among Jews that they could rely on "democratic" imperialist governments to protect them, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and capitalist rulers in the U.K., Canada, Australia and elsewhere shut their doors to Jewish refugees.

"Let refugees into the United States! Open the doors to victims of Hitler's Nazi terror!" the Socialist Workers Party demanded in a call to action in 1938. The SWP brought a class-struggle course against Jew-hatred into the unions. It organized a demonstration of 50,000 outside New York City's Madison Square Garden in 1939 against the pro-Hitler German American Bund rallying inside. The class-collaborationist popular front line of the Communist Party demanded loyalty to Roosevelt.

A wave of working-class revolutionary struggles broke out after the war in France, Greece and Italy.

Fight for refuge

The borders of the U.S., U.K. and elsewhere remained closed to Jews. The result was that by 1947, a quarter of a million Jews who had survived Nazi concentration camps were held in "displaced person camps" set up by the Allies in Germany, Austria and Italy. Many were former concentration camps or German army barracks, surrounded by barbed wire, where Jews suffered from shortages of food, clothing and medicine.

These conditions created a deep thirst for refuge. More Jews, including those who had opposed Zionism, began to look to Israel as a homeland where they could seek shelter. Some 4,500 refugees from the camps fled for Palestine on the Exodus ship in 1947, but the British, who then held Palestine in colonial bondage, forced them back to Europe.

Although Jews had lived in Palestine for thousands of years, in 1931 there were only 175,000 living there. By 1948, when Israel was formally recognized as a state, there were 650,000. Today, the Jewish population there is over 7 million and Jews continue to emigrate to Israel, seeking shelter from Jew-hatred and discrimination.

"Israel had to be and has to be a ref-

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Jewish women and children being transported to Auschwitz death camp in 1944. Nazi Holocaust murder machine killed over 6 million Jews, two out of three Jews living in Europe.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Oct. 24 condemned the massacre of Jews, but then claimed "the Hamas attack did not happen in a vacuum." He spent the rest of his remarks denouncing the Israeli response to the pogrom, demanding an end to the humanitarian crisis he blames it for. Israeli officials called on Guterres to resign.

The U.N. chief repeated Hamas' claim its supply of fuel for Gaza hospitals will soon run out. But the IDF then released aerial photos of 12 full gas tanks in southern Gaza where Hamas is hoarding fuel for military purposes.

Hamas was built to kill Jews, with disdain for Palestinians

BY SETH GALINSKY

The cold-blooded massacre of over 1,400 people, overwhelmingly Jews, in Israel Oct. 7 by Tehran-backed Hamas was consistent with the Islamist group's reactionary course since it was established decades ago. Several dozen Thai and Nepalese farmworkers and Bedouin Arabs were also killed. The pogrom was the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust.

Hamas' founding covenant openly says its central goal is the creation of an Islamic state by killing the Jews. That is part of its continuity with the Egyptian-based Muslim Brotherhood. Established in 1928, the Brotherhood seeks to create a pro-capitalist Islamist political movement. Its founder, Hasan al-Banna, openly collaborated with Adolf Hitler and the Nazis in the Second World War.

The first Muslim Brotherhood branch in then Egyptian-ruled Gaza was set up in 1946. It championed the 1948 war launched by five Arab nations to drive out Jews and destroy Israel after it was declared a state. Thousands of Arabs fled, often at the urging of reactionary Arab leaders, or were evicted from their homes in the course of the war. The population in Gaza increased and Palestinians, mostly in refugee camps, soon outnumbered the earlier inhabitants nearly three to one.

The Israeli government occupied the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan Heights after its defeat of the rulers of Egypt, Syria and Jordan during and after the 1967 Six-Day War.

Sheik Ahmad Yasin became the central figure in the Brotherhood in Gaza and the West Bank in the early 1970s. Like Islamist groups from al-Qaeda to Islamic State, Hamas calls for a theocracy under Sharia Law and the sharp curtailment of the rights of women,

"Hamas is accountable for the suffering in Gaza, not Israel," IDF spokesperson Jonathan Cornicus said.

The "democratic" imperialist powers — from Washington to Paris — have stopped pointing to Hamas and its slaughter of Jews as the problem, instead focusing on calls for a cease-fire.

Opponents of Israel's existence worldwide have joined in the liberal chorus for a "humanitarian pause."

Israel's irrefutable re-

and other reactionary measures.

At first the group mostly avoided confrontation with Israeli authorities. In deeply impoverished Gaza it gained support by setting up social clubs, nursery schools, kindergartens and schools. It extended loans to Palestinian university students. Through its domination of mosques and other Islamic institutions it recruited new members.

In 1987 tensions between Israel and Palestinians exploded, and protests swept the West Bank and Gaza. Yasin saw an opportunity to push his Jew-hating program. He established Hamas as an armed branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, seeking to push aside Fatah and other groups and to target Israel more openly.

Hamas became infamous in the 1990s for taking advantage of despair among a layer of Palestinians to recruit suicide bombers who targeted Jewish civilians in Israel.

By 2005 Israel's rulers decided to pull out Israeli settlements, soldiers and police from Gaza.

No working-class leadership

But there was no working-class Palestinian leadership there. Neither Fatah, Hamas, nor any of the organizations claiming to speak for the Palestinians advanced a course to fight for what was needed — land and water rights for small farmers; industrial development, public works and jobs for workers; and women's and democratic rights. Instead they promoted resentment of Israel and Jews.

In the first Gaza elections in 2006 Hamas defeated Fatah, a reflection of the rejection of Fatah's widespread corruption. It has allowed no other elections since. The next year Hamas went further, smashing Fatah in a brief but bloody civil war, and has ruled the terri-

ty with an iron fist every since.

All along Hamas has expanded its anti-working-class oppression. When teachers went on strike over nonpayment of wages in September 2006, Hamas had them all fired and replaced with Hamas loyalists.

It soon passed laws banning women from riding on motorbikes or traveling without a male guardian. The "mingling" of men and women who are not relatives is banned and can end up with the men beaten.

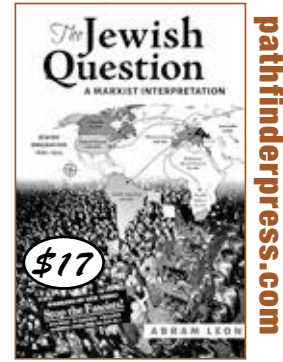
Opposition to this reactionary bourgeois regime is ruthlessly suppressed. Protests against the rising cost of living in 2009 and in July this year were broken up by Hamas. Torture of political prisoners in Hamas' jails is routine.

Killing Jews "from the river to the sea" remains at the heart of Hamas' program.

To further its aims, the Hamas leadership — in alliance with the counter-revolutionary regime in Iran — cynically sacrifices the lives of working people in Gaza. It launches rockets at Israel from densely populated residential neighborhoods and places its command posts, ammunition dumps and network of underground tunnels — where Israeli and other hostages from its Oct. 7 pogrom are held — underneath schools, apartment buildings and mosques. It hopes Israeli forces will strike them and create civilian "martyrs." It then uses the loss of life to lobby the United Nations, the Qatari government and others for more funds.

Khaled Mashaal, the central leader of Hamas, admitted on Saudi Arabian TV Oct. 20 that the Oct. 7 attack "was a calculated move." Mashaal, with no concern for Palestinian lives, said he was "fully aware of the consequences."

Hamas is the biggest obstacle in the way of working people in Gaza today.



Fidel Castro on Grenada leader: 'Bishop was a true revolutionary'

Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution and Its Overthrow, 1979-83 is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. Inspired by the Cuban Revolution, Bishop mobilized working people to take political power in a popular revolution in 1979 on this small Caribbean island, a majority Black and English-speaking. Four years later, a Stalinist-inspired coup led by Bernard Coard murdered Bishop and other leaders of the revolution, and turned its guns on the people. The overthrow of the revolution opened the way for the U.S. rulers to invade a week later. The loss of the workers and farmers government under Bishop's leadership was a heavy blow to Cuba's socialist revolution. Excerpted is Fidel Castro's speech to a million people in Havana, Nov. 14, 1983, honoring 24 Cuban workers killed during the U.S. attack. Copyright © 1983 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Maurice Bishop and Fidel Castro at 1980 May Day rally in Cuba. Castro said Grenada Revolution was "a true symbol of independence and progress in the Caribbean" worthy of support.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FIDEL CASTRO

In Grenada, we followed the same principle we apply to all revolutionary nations and movements, full respect for their policies, criteria, and decisions, expressing our views on any matter only when asked to do so. Imperialism is incapable of understanding that the secret of our excellent relations with revolu-

tionary countries and movements in the world lies precisely in this respect.

The U.S. government looked down on Grenada and hated Bishop. It wanted to destroy Grenada's process and obliterate its example. It had even prepared military plans for invading the island — as Bishop had charged nearly two years ago — but it lacked a pretext. ...

Bishop was not an extremist; rather, he was a true revolutionary — conscientious and honest. Far from disagreeing with his intelligent and realistic policy, we fully sympathized with it, since it was rigorously adapted to his country's specific conditions and possibilities.

Grenada had become a true symbol of independence and progress in the Caribbean. No one could have foreseen the tragedy that was drawing near. ...

Unfortunately, the Grenadian revolutionaries themselves unleashed the events that opened the door to imperialist aggression. Hyenas emerged from the revolutionary ranks. ...

[A]llegedly revolutionary arguments were used, invoking the purest principles of Marxism-Leninism and charging Bishop with practicing a cult of personality and with drawing away from the Leninist norms and methods of leadership.

In our view, nothing could be more absurd than to attribute such tendencies to Bishop. It was impossible to imagine anyone more noble, modest, and unselfish. He could never have been guilty of

being authoritarian. If he had any defect, it was his excessive tolerance and trust.

Were those who conspired against him within the Grenadian party, army, and security forces by any chance a group of extremists drunk on political theory? ...

In our view, Coard's group objectively destroyed the revolution and opened the door to imperialist aggression. Whatever their intentions, the brutal assassination of Bishop and his most loyal, closest comrades is a fact that can never be justified in that or any other revolution. As the October 20 statement by the Cuban party and government put it, "no crime must be committed in the name of the revolution and freedom."

In spite of his very close and affectionate links with our party's leadership, Bishop never said anything about the internal dissensions that were developing. On the contrary, in his last conversation with us he was self-critical about his work regarding attention to the armed forces and the mass organizations. Nearly all of our party and state leaders spent many friendly, fraternal hours with him on the evening of October 7, before his return trip to Grenada.

Coard's group never had such relations nor such intimacy and trust with us. Actually, we did not even know that this group existed.

It is to our revolution's credit that, in spite of our profound indignation

over Bishop's removal from office and arrest, we fully refrained from interfering in Grenada's internal affairs. We refrained even though our construction workers and all our other cooperation personnel in Grenada — who did not hesitate to confront the Yankee soldiers with the weapons Bishop himself had given them for their defense in case of an attack from abroad — could have been a decisive factor in those internal events. Those weapons were never meant to be used in an internal conflict in Grenada and we would never have allowed them to be so used. We would never have been willing to use them to shed a single drop of Grenadian blood.

On October 12, Bishop was removed from office by the Central Committee, on which the conspirators had attained a majority. On the thirteenth, he was placed under house arrest. On the nineteenth, the people took to the streets and freed Bishop. On the same day, Coard's group ordered the army to fire on the people and Bishop, [Unison] Whiteman, Jacqueline Creft, and other excellent revolutionary leaders were murdered.

As soon as the internal dissensions, which came to light on October 12, became known, the Yankee imperialists decided to invade. ...

Under those circumstances, we couldn't possibly leave the country. If the imperialists really intended to attack Grenada, it was our duty to stay there. ...

In Grenada, however, the government was morally indefensible. And, since the party, the government, and the army had divorced themselves from the people, it was also impossible to defend the nation militarily, because a revolutionary war is only feasible and justifiable when united with the people. We could only fight, therefore, if we were directly attacked. There was no alternative.

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MILITANT LABOR FORUM

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 36th St., 13th floor. Tel.: (646) 434-8117.

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Vote SWP! Workers need to take power

Continued from front page

class apparatchiks use elections to try to get workers to look to their twin major parties, the Democrats and Republicans, for scraps off their table to lessen the miserable conditions we face. They look at us with disdain. They're determined to prevent us from seeing our own worth and organizing as a class to fight against their relentless attacks. To keep us from recognizing we are part of a mighty international class with the same interests, and a common enemy — dog-eat-dog capitalism.

Under capitalism, every political question turns on the differences between two classes — working people vs. the domination of the ruling capitalist families. We need to build a party of our own that can lead our class to overturn capitalist rule and use workers power to rebuild society from top to bottom in the interests of the vast majority. A party that starts from the capacities of workers to uproot capitalist exploitation and all oppression and transform ourselves as we do so.

Making a socialist revolution is why the Socialist Workers Party exists.

The SWP explains why the fight against Jew-hatred and the forces that promote it is a burning question for all workers and the unions. Jew-hatred is inherent to capitalism. Only the working class can prevent the rise of new Hitlers out of the deepening capitalist crisis.

We are part of the fight to aid working people in Ukraine to drive Moscow's forces out of *all* Ukraine, and put an end to the utterly reactionary attempt to eradicate the country and its people.

In the U.S. and worldwide the bankers and bosses

are determined to push the burden of their deepening crisis onto workers' backs. We face falling real wages and increasingly intolerable conditions. Organizing solidarity with today's union struggles, like the United Auto Workers strike against the Big Three, is crucial.

But gains we win will inevitable be driven back if we fail to chart an independent political course. Workers need our own political party!

Whenever workers stand up to the employers we need hard-won constitutional freedoms for protection from government interference and attack. The Democrats' drive to bring down Donald Trump deals blows to freedom of speech, assembly and much more. This is a key question in the class struggle today.

We fight to put an end to Washington's six decades-long economic war aimed at crushing the Cuban people and destroying their socialist revolution.

The leadership forged by Fidel Castro that led Cuba's working people to take power and carry out the first socialist revolution in the Americas is an example for us to follow here. The SWP's course is based on continuity with the leaderships of the world's two great socialist revolutions — the Bolsheviks in Russia in 1917 and Fidel Castro in Cuba.

The world's imperialist ruling classes are marching humanity toward deeper crises, including the threat of fascism and a third world war. Whether that be can be prevented rests on forging a combat party of the working-class with a leadership capable of organizing tens of millions to replace the class dictatorship of the imperialist rulers with workers power. That is not only necessary, it is possible. Join the SWP!

Back people of Ukraine in war for independence

Continued from front page

ary power in the Middle East — has deepened the moves by capitalist regimes there and worldwide to find new alliances and expand their militaries to defend their national interests.

Tehran backs proxy militias and armies across the region, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza, and is driving to develop nuclear weapons intent on annihilating the Jews in Israel.

Moscow has become increasingly reliant on drones and other armaments from Tehran as its stores of missiles shrink with its losses in Ukraine.

Hamas and its allies in Tehran and Lebanon look to deepen their efforts to kill all Jews "from the river to the sea" in Israel. But the Kremlin, bogged down and losing ground to the Ukrainians, is less capable of intervening on their behalf. And just like Moscow, Tehran faces growing opposition to its military adventures abroad among the country's working people and oppressed nationalities.

The difficulties facing Moscow in Ukraine and the depth of the determination of Ukrainian working people to defend their country's sovereignty were admitted Oct. 5 by Pavel Gubarev, a pro-Moscow leader of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic. To win the war, he declared, the Russian military would have to "kill as many people as necessary."

But since Moscow is incapable of exterminating the Ukrainians or suppressing their resistance, he said Russian forces may have to set up concentration camps to "reeducate" the Ukrainian people.

Moscow's forces suffer heavy losses

Since Oct. 10 Moscow has mounted sustained assaults against Ukrainian positions in and around the town of Avdiivka, nine miles north of the city of Donetsk, the Russian-occupied capital of the Donetsk province. Putin's goal is to achieve some kind of victory — whatever the cost — and to force Ukraine to divert troops from its advances in the south. Despite extremely heavy losses, the Kremlin continues to mount wave after wave of failed attacks on Avdiivka.

Hundreds of Russian tanks and other armored vehicles with 10,000 soldiers were thrown against the heavily fortified town. In two weeks Moscow's forces suffered horrific losses for little gain. According to the *Kyiv Post*, they lost over 200 tanks and armored ve-

hicles, with some 3,000 troops killed. This has deepened demoralization among surviving conscripts.

In one intercepted phone call, a Russian soldier, weakened by hunger and thirst, tells his wife his unit hasn't had food delivered for three weeks or water for seven days.

"The assault failed," he said. "Everything that we occupied, they [Ukrainians] have already recaptured."

He complains about the army high command's utter disdain for Russian troops. He describes losing 100 men "in a few days."

"That's the whole war," he said. "The army resembles the country," where Putin's war and his efforts to put the cost of it on the backs of Russian working people make conditions worse and stir dissent.

And the disproportionate losses among nonethnic Russians at the front fuel anger against the war and against Moscow's oppressive domination.

Ukrainian commander Dmytro Lysyuk told the *Guardian* these human-wave Russian tactics have repeatedly failed. By contrast, he said, Kyiv tries to minimize casualties in its counteroffensive in the south. Its forces shifted from armored assaults to carrying out slow advances by small units making their way through heavy minefields and surprising dug-in Russian forces.

"Humans are our most precious resource," Lysyuk said. He added, "We are fighting a strong enemy. There will be no quick victory. We shouldn't be under any illusions."

In the single worst day of the war for the Russian air force, Kyiv's forces fired newly supplied long-range missiles, hitting two crucial airfields near the Russian-occupied cities of Berdyansk and Luhansk Oct. 17. Up to 20 military helicopters were damaged beyond repair and as many again put out of action. This weakens Russian air attacks on Ukrainian advances in the south.

Moscow was also forced to withdraw 10 warships — most of its Black Sea Fleet — from the port of Sevastopol in occupied Crimea. Ukrainian missile, drone and commando strikes had severely damaged several Russian warships, the docks and the fleet headquarters, as well as radar installations. This is a serious setback for Putin, whose military seizure of Crimea in 2014 marked the opening shots in his drive to seize and subjugate Ukraine.

Political rights are key

Continued from front page

laws and racketeering and espionage statutes. The liberals' target today is a rival capitalist politician, but these type of laws have been used first and foremost to frame up militant workers, opponents of Washington's wars and communists like the Socialist Workers Party. They will be again.

Today in Georgia, Democratic Party District Attorney Fani Willis is mixing threats of jail time with offers of plea deals to Trump's co-defendants, hoping to try to get them to roll over on him. He and 18 others are accused of racketeering by conspiring to "defraud the state." In fact they were exercising their right to question the 2020 election result.

Three of the accused, all lawyers who worked with Trump, have pled guilty to lesser charges, avoiding jail time, and pledging to "truthfully testify" about the former president at his trial.

Millions of workers know from their own experience with cops, courts and prosecutors how threats of years in prison are used to coerce plea deals, undermining the constitutionally guaranteed right to a trial. The Democrats' goal is to bar Trump from running in 2024, disenfranchising the tens of millions who want to vote for him, who they consider "deplorables."

On Oct. 6 Hillary Clinton showed her disdain for people who don't vote the way she thinks they should. She told CNN that "there needs to be a formal deprogramming of the cult members" who support Trump.

Rulers' fear of working people

The roots of the liberal-led assault on rights goes back long before Trump was elected. It lies in the rulers' contempt for working people and, at the same time, their mounting fear we will challenge the deteriorating living and job conditions that result from their profit-driven assaults.

From the mid-1970s, employers sought to reverse declining profit rates by slashing wages, speeding up production, combining jobs and imposing unlivable work schedules and multitier contracts. On top of this, today's rising prices have meant millions of workers have been forced deeper into debt or to hold down two or more jobs. Between 1979 and 2021 the productivity the employers squeeze from the working class rose 64.6%, but wages went up by only 17.3%. The difference was gleefully pocketed by the bosses.

The capitalist system is built on immense wealth for the propertied few while the most basic human needs of millions go unmet. Just one example is the opening of parking lots recently where workers who can't afford to meet today's soaring rents can pay to sleep in their cars, along with their families and pets.

Among wide layers of the working class there's growing recognition that the Democratic and Republican parties don't exist to deal with our problems.

In 2016 Trump, a well-heeled real estate tycoon, presented himself as an "outsider" and demagogically promised to take on the political establishment, end the carnage workers face and keep the U.S. out of war. Many workers who had voted for Barack Obama in 2012 voted for Trump, seeking some change.

Democrats, Never-Trump Republicans and the middle-class left responded by going to war against him, determined to prevent Trump from ever holding office again, assaulting rights workers need along the way.

More workers today are using unions to fight for what we need to be able to live and sustain our families. And more workers want to discuss the root causes of the problems we face — dog-eat-dog capitalism — and what it will take to build a different kind of world. They get interested in the Socialist Workers Party's revolutionary class-against-class perspective.

Amid union battles and discussions about a road forward, the importance of the working class safeguarding constitutional freedoms grows. These rights protect us from the capitalist state and the exploiting class it serves. Defending these protections will remain at the center of politics through the 2024 campaign.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the 'Militant' and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com