Biden says the economy’s great, workers face a different reality

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

President Joseph Biden and his liberal media “spin doctors,” desperate for ways to boost his laggard reelection campaign, are working overtime to pitch the U.S. economy in the most positive light. They insist inflation is falling, and job openings increasing and all across the board everyone is doing better. But millions of working people know this isn’t true for our class and our families.

An uptick in the U.S. capitalist economy is good in that it gives workers confidence that jobs are available and they can feel free to use their unions, or organize one, to fight the bosses to boost wages, provide livable schedules and improve working conditions.

Building on gains United Auto Workers members made in their strike at the Big Three auto plants last year, the union is making gains in organizing plants in the South. Hotel workers in Southern California are using the UNITE HERE union to win wage and other gains.

However, the effects of inflation are class-divided. Grocery prices — a big part of workers’ budgets — have surged.

Continued on page 6

Socialist Workers Party campaign – Rachele Fruit for US president – The working-class alternative to Biden-Trump

SWP campaign joined opponents of Jew-hatred in rally at University of California in Berkeley March 11 in defense of free speech, against shutdown of Jewish student meeting there Feb. 26.

SWP takes Fruit campaign to workers across the US

BY VIVIAN SAINER AND JANET POST

Supporters of Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, are taking the party’s campaign to workers on their doorsteps, at union meetings.

Continued on page 5

SWP candidates join debates, protests against Jew-hatred

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

PASADENA, Calif. — As supporters of Hamas and many liberals press to impose a cease-fire, putting a stop to Israel’s determined efforts to destroy the fighting capacity of the Jew-hating Islamist group, confrontations and debates have multiplied. So have acts of Jew-hatred across the U.S. Socialist Workers Party candidates and supporters are in the middle of these confrontations.

Continued on page 4

Beijing clamps down in Hong Kong amid shifts in capitalist ‘world order’

BY ROY LANDERSEN

China’s rulers have extended their repressive grip over Hong Kong after the territories’ Legislative Council adopted a stringent new national security bill, Article 23, March 19. A previous attempt to pass the bill was scrapped after half a million people protested in 2003.

The new law allows for Beijing-dominated authorities to hold closed-door trials and widens police powers to detain suspects for 16 days without charge or legal representation. It expands a sedition law imposed by the former British colonial rulers to include new crimes of treason, insurrection and a catchall offense of inciting hatred against the Chinese rulers. Anyone convicted can be imprisoned for life.

Continued on page 9

Amazon warehouse workers in UK strike, rally for union recognition

BY DAG TIRSEN

COVENTRY, England — Hundreds of Amazon workers picketed outside the large Amazon BHM4 warehouse here March 19, the first of two days of strike action organized by the General Maritime, Building and Boilermakers union in their fight for union recognition. They also set up a table for more information on the union as well as gable roofs where workers could join the union.

“The work conditions are terrible. It could be up to 50 degrees Celsius [122 F] when we load and unload the trailers,” Max Smith who works at the plant told the Militant. “But our main demand is 15 pounds an hour [$19].” A number of strikes’ cars parked nearby sported Uber logos, a sign that many have to

Continued on page 2

Hamas plans more murderous pogroms against Jews, Israel

BY SETH GALINSKY

Hamas still holds some 100 hostages captive in Gaza, while it uses hospitals to base its fighters and weapons, disrupts the distribution of humanitarian aid and proclaims it will continue to carry out anti-Jewish pogroms like Oct. 7 “again and again.” Its actions show why Israel is determined to fight to the end to dismantle the reactionary group.

The Joseph Biden White House is ratcheting up pressure on Israel to

Continued on page 6

Moscow steps up attacks on Ukraine after IS terror attack

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Four terror attacking, acting for an Islamic State group offshoot, sprayed gunfire on concertgoers and hit a massive blaze that brought down the roof of a Moscow entertainment complex hosting a rock concert March 22. In the assault, the deadliest in Russia in over two decades, at least 139 people were killed and 60 others critically wounded.

There is a history of Islamist attacks in Russia, tied to Moscow’s suppression of Muslim-speaking minorities and its wars in Afghanistan and Chechnya.

Shortly after, an outfit calling itself Islamic State Kazakhstan claimed responsibility for the attack. The reactionary group released graphic body-camera footage of its combatants and the slaughter they unleashed. It had carried out an attack on the Russian Embassy in Kabul in 2022. Two days later, four captives appeared in a Russian courtroom showing signs of severe torture. All are from Tajikistan, aged 19 to 32. One had had his ear severed and shoved in his mouth. Another was unconscious and in a hospital bed. He was charged with acts of terrorism.

A total of 11 suspects are being

Continued on page 9
Quebec lead workers united against company lockout

“The clear the company is out to try to bust our union,” Steve Nault, president of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) local at Terrapure, here, told the Militant on their picket line March 20. “They locked us out a short time after we voted at our union meeting against their latest contract proposal.”

“They won’t succeed because 100% voted against their demands to take back what we have won over the years. We are united and have solidarity from other unions. When we go back to work it will be with our heads held high,” he said.

The 150 workers, who recycle lead and plastic from used car batteries for use in new ones, were locked out March 11. Negotiations for a new contract began last Sept. 21. The plant is southwest of Montreal.

The workers have set up pickets at plant entrances, along with a heated Arbitration Committee. In response, the company staff doesn’t have the skills to do the work adequately and safely. “The members of this union have shown exemplary patience,” Louis Begin, president of the CSN manufacturing and industrial division, told the media. “But Terrapure, operating like a thuggish employer, seems only concerned with profits. It’s unacceptable.”

The workers welcome solidarity on the picket line. Send support messages to the CSN, 1601, avenue De Lorimier, Montreal, Quebec, H2K 4M5.

--John Steele and Philippe Tessier

34 contracts won at LA-area hotels, 28 left to go

Sàn PEDRO, Calif. — “This is our third-day strike at this hotel since July,” Maria Gurrula told the Militant on the picket line at the DoubleTree here March 16. “We’re fighting for higher pay and better conditions.”

“Even if we get the $5-an-hour raise, we’ll be below the pay at hotels in downtown Los Angeles and Santa Monica,” she said. Gurrula is a cook with 11 years of experience here and a volunteer union organizer.

“The staff was cut during COVID and never built up again,” she added. “Housekeepers are expected to clean rooms in 20 minutes and complete between 12 and 14 rooms a day.”

Since UNITE HERE Local 11’s fight for contracts at hotels began last July, 34 Los Angeles-area hotels have signed contracts with the union. It is looking to win contracts at another 28.

--Norton Sandler

Amazon workers strike in UK

Workers picket DoubleTree Hotel in San Pedro, California, March 16 during three-day strike.

Continued from front page

work two jobs to make ends meet.

Smith described how the fight for the union started in August 2022: “We had 2 pounds extra pay when we worked during the lockdown. And then they took it away. Now they give us a paltry 50 pence. It’s an insult!”

Following the pay cut, workers held sit-down strikes and other protests at the warehouse and several other Amazon sites in the U.K.

The union has submitted an application for union recognition to the Central Arbitration Committee. In response, the “company is flooding the site with newly hired workers,” said Celerina Floressa. “But we continue to recruit and we’re sure we are going to win the vote.”

Darren Westwood said that during the 2022 job actions he helped organize a meeting of workers attended by a GMB representative. They began recruiting to the union. They held their first official strike in January 2023, followed by more. Every strike action has resulted in hundreds of new union members.

Westwood says that the fight is about more than the Coventry plant. “Our fight has a worldwide importance for organizing at Amazon.”

Last year workers here traveled to other warehouses in Nuneaton, Cardiff and Cardiff to leaflet about the fight for a union.

Workers at Amazon in Birmingham will have a two-day stoppage March 27-28, right before the busy Easter weekend holiday.
The Militant
April 8, 2024

The fight against Jew-hatred is a key question for the unions

BY ILONA GERISH

CHICAGO — A concerted effort is underway by supporters of Hamas to take advantage of widespread liberal coverage of the destruction from Gaza to get union officials to sign on to calls for Israel to agree to a cease-fire. This would short circuit efforts by activists to disarm Hamas’ ability to launch new pogroms against Jews like it did on Oct. 7.

A group of seven international unions has called the National Labor Network for Ceasefire, which they say has the support of 200 local unions and labor organizations. They include the American Postal Workers Union, Association of Flight Attendants, National Nurses United, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, National Education Association, United Auto Workers, and United Electrical Workers.

One resolution was passed at a meeting of UAW Local 551 at the Ford Chicago plant March 20. None had heard of the union’s resolution. “I think it’s important for unions to take a position on what’s happening,” said one. The rich want to keep hold of their control over everything, including us.”

He agreed when I said I thought fighting Jew-hatred is a decisive question for unions. When the rulers fear that working-class struggles threaten their rule, they turn to fascist forces to crush the movement and destroy working-class political parties. Jew-hatred was the banner of the Nazis in Germany and of fascists in the U.S. and other countries in the 1930s as they sought to crush the labor movement.

“War demands an immediate end to the bombing and siege of Gaza, all Israeli hostilities and military actions, and all forms of settler colonialism and racial violence perpetrated on the Palestinian people. We call for a permanent peace deal that respects the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and all of their national aspirations.”

I spoke with workers outside Ford’s Chicago plant March 20. None had heard of the union’s resolution. “I think it’s important for unions to take a position on what’s happening,” said one. The rich want to keep hold of their control over everything, including us.”

Angela Neal, another assembly-line worker, had a different approach. “I think that these wars are union questions,” she said. “Working people are always the victims. We should support the Jews who are under attack. But what about the innocent Palestinians? Israel should cease fire and stop killing the Palestinians.”

I told her that Hamas has ruled Gaza for nearly two decades, busting unions, arresting and torturing political opponents, and denying women equal rights. It has run the state, in its own words, as “cover” to prepare its assaults on Jews in Israel.

I pointed out that Hamas organizes its massive web of tunnels through-out Gaza and elsewhere to launch attacks on Israeli housing projects, deliberately putting civilians in harm’s way to create “ martyrs” in order to win sympathy and funding from imperialist governments abroad. Hamas does not represent the aspirations of Palestinians, but is the main obstacle to their being able to join in the class struggle alongside Jews and others in Israel, the only road to liberation. Workers in the U.S., Israel, Gaza and everywhere have a vital stake in its defeat. Demanding that Israel cease fire against Hamas leaves it intact to perpetrate more massacres against Jews.

Gaza farmer and former Hamas chief Oct. 7 pogrom “is just the first time, and there will be a second, a third, a fourth.” Asked about the cost to civilians in Gaza, he said, “We are proud to sacri-fice martyrs.”

Neal and I talked for a few minutes in the parking lot. She said she wouldn’t have voted for Israel and bought a copy of the Militant.

Wars in the imperialist epoch are an inevitable product of the natural workings of a system founded on exploitation and oppression. The death, destruction and suffering are hated by the working class, which always bears the brunt of the conflicts.

Union officials justify calls for a cease-fire by playing on antipathy to the effects of the growing numbers of Jews coming to Israel, the “refugees,” and “settlers.” United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain said, “The only way forward to build peace and social justice is a cease-fire. … What happens to us next,” Carl Hall, an assembly-line worker at Ford’s Chicago plant March 25, said, “We stand with the Palestinian people. We call for a permanent cease-fire and supporting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.”

Mike Zilles, president of the Newton Teachers Association in Massachusetts, speaks at strike rally Jan. 18. The union is upholding the strikers’ right to support Hamas on Oct. 7 and the trauma, pain, suffering of the Palestinians. “There is no ‘we’,” said Newton Teachers Association President Mike Zilles. “There is no ‘we’.”

The Militant April 8, 2024

By Ilona Gerish

The Militant April 8, 2024

April 12, 1999

BY GERHARD GERSH

— Cuban youth leaders from the Union of Young Communists, Nearly a dozen farmers in Pavo had to leave their land behind. They had to leave because they were working with cooperative members’ farms. They had to leave because they were buying vegetables. “We produce more than we can sell,” he said. “Cuba has the opposite problem. We can’t produce enough vegetables. “We produce more than we can sell,” he said. “Cuba has the opposite problem. We can’t produce enough vegetables. “We produce more than we can sell,” he said.

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Continued from front page

“I oppose any resolution calling for a cease-fire in Israel’s war against Hamas. Hamas committed a pogrom, the murder of 7,500 miles away. You won’t stop the innocent children dying or bring an end to the suffering,” he testified. “But, I can tell with 100% certainty that your decision could have dire consequences on the Jewish community, particularly Jewish children, right here in Pasadena.”

Moss, the executive director of the Jewish Federation of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, said he has been grappling with growing verbal and physical threats since the Oct. 7 pogrom. “Jews are seen as Israel’s proxies, so people are taking their anger and frustration toward Israel out on us,” he testified.

After Garza spoke, several of those who had also spoken against the cease-fire resolution came over to thank her. One young woman, a student at a nearby college, looked over Garza’s campaign literature, and said, “You were on the ballot, you voted for peace. I don’t believe that it’s accurate what many are claiming here that they represent the majority. Most working people condemn the actions of Hamas and believe Israel has the right to defend itself,” Garza said. “Any long-term cease-fire would allow Hamas, with the help of the Iranian regime, particularly Jewish and do what they did on Oct. 7 again and again, which they have stated is their goal.”

Hundreds rally against Jew-hatred at UC Berkeley

BY BETSEY STONE

SACRAMENTO—DOUG MARTIN — Several hundred students, faculty, area residents, supporters of Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Rachele Fruit and other openers of all political persuasions gathered at the University of California here March 11 for a rally and march to protest Jew-hatred. They were united in supporting freedom of speech and against the vio- lent shutdown of a Feb. 26 meeting sponsored by Jewish student groups. A mob, including masked thugs, broke up the meeting where Ran Bar-Yoshafat, the speaker whose speech was shut down, is an Israeli attorney and reserve officer in the Israel Defense Forces, was scheduled to speak.

“I’m here to support the Jewish people,” Likhin Khoo told the Militant. Khoo, who is originally from Malaysia, said Chinese people there have been attacked just for being Chinese. “No people should be targeted,” she said. “I support free speech. When they broke down the glass at the front door, when they shut down the meeting, they crossed the line.”

Emmy Apryan, a student in her junior year, said she was there in support of Jewish friends. “I’m not for shutting down or shutting down speakers you don’t agree with,” she said. “If people have a difference, they need to debate it out.”

Apryan said she believes a lot of students at the school are in denial about the facts. “People are already de- nying the seriousness of what was done here,” she said, “saying it didn’t hap- pen.” She said she believed the consequences of what happened when Hamas killed 1,200 people in Israel Oct. 7.

Participants marched in rows to Sather Gate, the main entrance to the campus, in protest against Students for Palestine and others who have blocked the gate for weeks, falsely charging Israel with genocide. The protest ended with a rally where organizers vowed to keep up the fight and condemned the univer- sity administration for its failure to defend freedom of speech and ensure the safety of Jewish students.

On March 18, a victory for free speech was registered when close to 200 people attended a meeting on campus to hear Ran Bar-Yoshafat, the speaker whose meeting was shut down Feb. 26.

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SWP kicks off ballot drive in New Jersey

BY LEA SHERMAN

UNION CITY, N.J. — The Socialist Workers Party campaign will kick off a drive to put the party’s presidential candidate Rachele Fruit on the New Jersey ballot, along with her running mate, vice presidential candidate Margaret Trome. The SWP campaign is the working-class alternative to Biden and Trump in the 2024 elections. The goal is to get over 1,700 signatures — more than double the 800 required to be on the ballot.

They will also be sign- ing up a similar number of working people to get the SWP’s candidate for U.S. Senate, Joanne Kumiakiany, on the ballot.

Campaigners will travel to cities, small towns and rural areas, including to Hammonton, Bridgeton and Vineland, where large numbers of agricultural workers live.

They will present the SWP’s working-class program on workers’ doorsteps, at plant gates and truck stops, and elsewhere. They will join in actions and debates against Jew-hatred, protests against Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, and union strike picket lines and rallies to express their support and introduce the SWP’s program.

“Like workers all across the country, workers in New Jersey face a profligate offensive against us by the bosses, their political parties and their gov- ernment,” Kumiakiany said March 25. “We’re increasingly using the unions to fight back, to defend ourselves. We need to do the same thing in the political arena — to break with the Democrats and Republicans and set up our own party, a labor party, based on the unions.

“All they can do is chart a course toward taking political power into our own hands,” she said, “and join hands with workers worldwide to do away with the capitalist rulers’ wars, exploita- tion and oppression.”

While petitioning to get Fruit and Kumiakiany on the ballot, campaign sup- porters will also expand the circulation of the Militant, the socialist weekly that is the voice of the SWP campaign, and discuss and sell books by party leaders and other revolutionaries.

The goal is to get the required sig- natures in a concerted three-week period from April 1-21, including a full- time team April 1-7. If you are inter- ested in joining the campaign, email njswpcampaign@gmail.com.

Lea Sherman is the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from New Jersey.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUM—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland Challenges and Opportunities Before the Labor Movement and Working People in 2024. Speaker: Eric Simpson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 12th District, Sun., April 7, Redwood City, 8 to 10 p.m., $2 donation. Donation: $5. 675 Hagenberger Road, Ste. 250. Tel.: (510) 866-1351.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester Malcolm X and the Working-Class Answer to the Capitalist Crisis Today. Speaker: Amin Mohammad, Communist League, Sat., April 6, 6 p.m. Donation: £3. 329 Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Tel.: (0608) 65-249.
Union protests worker’s death in Australian gold mine

BOY BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY — A roof collapse at the Ballarat Gold Mine, owned by Victory Minerals, in central Victoria March 13 killed miner Kurt Hourigan and critically injured 21-year-old Connor Smith. Hourigan lived in Bruthen, a small town near Maryborough, Victoria, owned by Victory Minerals, in central Victoria March 13 killed miner Kurt Hourigan and critically injured 21-year-old Connor Smith. Hourigan lived in Bruthen, a small town near Maryborough, Victoria, owned by Victory Minerals, in central Victoria March 13 killed miner Kurt Hourigan and critically injured 21-year-old Connor Smith. Hourigan lived in Bruthen, a small town near Maryborough, Victoria, owned by Victory Minerals, in central Victoria. The two contract workers had been working underground for 10 years more than 1,850 workers have been killed on the job across Australia in the last 10 years and 1,850 workers have been killed on the job. The company had only taken control of the mine last December. The two miners were working 1,640 feet underground. Hayden said "air-legging" is typically used to put anchors into the rock to hold it back. In this case, he said, it was being used to create a tunnel. He said this method hadn’t been used at the Ballarat mine for years, and most mine companies had stopped using it because it is unsafe.

"Our members are angry. They’ve raised concerns about this style of mining. It seems to have fallen on deaf ears," he said. "It’s devastating because we’ve lost another worker and no workercould be injured or die at work."

This was just “a quick, cheap and easy way to chase gold," he said.

The company and the owners and staff, after the rescue, set up a literature table.

Send in along with your name, address, phone # and e-mail address to:

Militant

April 8, 2024            5

Sisterhood in Solidarity

70-71

Attention: Socialist Workers Party

1300 P St., NW

Washington, D.C. 20005

The Militant

April 8, 2024

Rachele Fruit for US president

Continued from front page

rally for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and bought the Arabic-language version of Malcolm X, Black Liberation and the Road to Workers Power and Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun, which is available in English in New International no. 12. Both titles are by Barnes.

To join campaigning for Rachele Fruit and other SWP candidates, contact the campaign office nearest you listed on page 8.

Socialist Workers Party in 2024

Working-class alternative to Biden- Trump

Rachele Fruit for president

Margaret Trowe for vice president

California

Laura Garza, U.S. Senate

Eric Simpson, U.S. Congress

Florida

Georgia

Lisa Potash, U.S. Congress

Tina Nance, U.S. Congress

Minnesota

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Gabrielle Prosser, U.S. Congress

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Lea Sherman, U.S. Congress

Sara Lotman, U.S. Senate

Willie Cotton, U.S. Congress

John Hawkins, U.S. Senate

Ned Meehl, U.S. Congress

Ved Dookhran, U.S. Senate

Candace Wagner, U.S. Congress

Alison Kennedy, U.S. Senate

James Harris, delegate to Congress

hours and actions called to fight Jew-hatred. The campaign gets a hearing as working people face economic and social attacks.

SWP campaigner Vincent Auger discussed Fruit’s campaign with painter Jessie Olvera at a United Farm Workers solidarity rally in Sunnyvale, Washington, March 24, where SWP campaigners set up a literature table.

“When presidential candidate is more labor friendly, Biden or Trump?” Olvera asked.

“Neither,” Auger replied. “Biden showed that when he and Congress forced the contract on rail workers that they had voted down. The SWP’s campaign says that unions need to break away from the two-party shell game to make advances in our wages and conditions, and to fight against all their policies, domestic and international, that aim to divide workers and weaken us."

Fruit wrote in the Militant, “The labor movement is made up of representatives of millions of workers today, and unions need to ‘build a labor party capable of fighting for class interests in the political as well as economic arena.’”

Olvera told Auger he also thought that neither the Democrats nor Republicans were for workers’ rights. As news about the attack got out there was an emptiness in the restaurant as customers came to show support, while neighbors joined in scrubbing off the graffiti-laden walls.

The Militant, which is available in English and other SWP candidates, contact the campaign office nearest you listed on page 8.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2024! Campaign for what you are for, not who you’re against!

Bob Aiken is the Communist League candidate for mayor of Liverpool in southwest Sydney.

We have to prepare for the future by building a revolutionary party, being part of union battles, standing up for democratic rights,” LeRougetel said. “And if we don’t fight Jew-hatred, we will never build working-class unity.”

To continue the discussion, Mutilak sent LeRougetel a video on British intervention in the Israel-Palestine conflict and bought the Arabic-language versions of Malcolm X, Black Liberation and the Road to Workers Power and Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun, which is available in English in New International no. 12. Both titles are by Barnes.

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Rachele Fruit for president

& Solidarity with cafe after attack

As news about the attack got out there was an emptiness in the restaurant as customers came to show support, while neighbors joined in scrubbing off the Jew-hating graffiti.

“The vandalism of Eddy’s Cafe, an Israeli-owned eatery in Manhattan, must be condemned,” Lobman wrote in a press statement the SWP candidates brought to the restaurant. “Hamas’s slaughter of Jews, the rape of Jewish women, and kidnapping of infants and the elderly have nothing to do with defending Palestinians.”

“Vandalism, thuggery, ‘shut em down’ actions targeting Jews and Israel’s right to exist are not about social justice. They remind us more of Hitler’s jack-booted fascists, who began by smashing Jewish shop windows, and then progressed to physically crush the German trade unions and working-class political parties,” she said. “The labor movement must stand against Jew-hatred.”

In Montreal, Katy LeRougetel, the Communist League candidate for parliament in the city’s LaSalle-Emirand-Vaudreuil riding, was doorknocking in a coffee shop on March 23 with Mohammed Mutilak, a co-worker and fellow member of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Work-

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Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2024! Campaign for what you are for, not who you’re against!

Bob Aiken is the Communist League candidate for mayor of Liverpool in southwest Sydney.

Volunteers remove “form line here to support genocide” graffiti from sidewalk in front of Eddy’s Cafe after Jew-hating attack on Israeli-owned restaurant in New York City March 16. 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282. Email: socialistsworkers2024@gmail.com

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Rachele Fruit for US president

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Georgia

Lisa Potash, U.S. Congress

Tina Nance, U.S. Congress

Minnesota

Kevin Devere, U.S. Senate

Gabrielle Prosser, U.S. Congress

New Jersey

Joanne Kulinansky, U.S. Senate

Lea Sherman, U.S. Congress

Sara Lotman, U.S. Senate

Willie Cotton, U.S. Congress

John Hawkins, U.S. Senate

Ned Meehl, U.S. Congress

Ved Dookhran, U.S. Senate

Candace Wagner, U.S. Congress

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C.

James Harris, delegate to Congress

We have to prepare for the future by building a revolutionary party, being part of union battles, standing up for democratic rights,” LeRougetel said. “And if we don’t fight Jew-hatred, we will never build working-class unity.”

To continue the discussion, Mutilak sent LeRougetel a video on British intervention in the Israel-Palestine conflict and bought the Arabic-language versions of Malcolm X, Black Liberation and the Road to Workers Power and Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun, which is available in English in New International no. 12. Both titles are by Barnes.

To join campaigning for Rachele Fruit and other SWP candidates, contact the campaign office nearest you listed on page 8.
Biden says ‘the economy’s great,’ but workers face a different reality

I nflation figures released by the U.S. Labor Department on Thursday suggest that the economy is still growing strongly, with the consumer price index rising by 8.5% in the year ended in March. But at the same time, the cost of living is rising at a much faster pace than the median salary, which is falling. The result is that workers are feeling the squeeze, and the gap between the two is widening. This is evident in the data, which shows that the real value of the dollar has fallen by more than 5% in the past year. This is partly due to the strong dollar, which is making it more expensive for Americans to buy goods and services. But it is also due to the fact that wages are rising at a slower pace than prices. The result is that workers are getting a smaller share of the economic pie, and this is causing frustration and anxiety. This is evident in the responses of workers, who are saying that they are not seeing the benefits of the economy. They are saying that they are working harder than ever, but their wages are not keeping up with the cost of living. This is causing them to feel that they are not getting their fair share of the economic pie. This is evident in the data, which shows that the share of income going to the bottom 20% of workers has fallen by more than 5% in the past year. This is causing them to feel that they are not getting their fair share of the economic pie. This is evident in the data, which shows that the share of income going to the bottom 20% of workers has fallen by more than 5% in the past year. This is causing them to feel that they are not getting their fair share of the economic pie. This is evident in the data, which shows that the share of income going to the bottom 20% of workers has fallen by more than 5% in the past year. This is causing them to feel that they are not getting their fair share of the economic pie. This is evident in the data, which shows that the share of income going to the bottom 20% of workers has fallen by more than 5% in the past year. This is causing them to feel that they are not getting their fair share of the economic pie. This is evident in the data, which shows that the share of income going to the bottom 20% of workers has fallen by more than 5% in the past year. This is causing them to feel that they are not getting their fair share of the economic pie.
The name of Karl Liebknecht, famous even earlier, acquired immediate worldwide significance from the first months of the terrible tsarist reign. It sounded like a name of revolutionary honor, like a promise of future victory. …

But he and with him from the first day of the war was the courageous, unhesitating, heroic Rosa Luxemburg. Arbitrary German bourgeois parliamentarism denied her the opportunity of sounding her protest from the parliamentary platform, as Liebknecht had done — thus was heard from her. But her share in arousing the best elements of the German working class was no less than the share of her comrade in the struggle and death, Karl Liebknecht. These two fighters, so different in nature and yet so alike, complemented each other, strove unyieldingly for the common goal, met death at the same time, and will go down together in history. …

Liebknecht was not a theoretician. He was a man of direct action. Impulsive and passionate by nature, he possessed exceptional political intuition, a sense of the masses and of circumstance, and finally, an incomparably courageous revolutionary initiative.

An analysis of the internal and international situation in which Germany found herself after November 9, 1918, and also a revolutionary prognosis, one could have, indeed should have, expected first of all from Rosa Luxemburg. A summons to direct action, and at a certain moment to armed uprising, would probably have come first from Liebknecht. These two fighters complemented each other in a way that could not be bettered. Luxemburg and Liebknecht were scarcely out of prison when they took each other’s hand, that indefatigable revolutionary man and that unyielding revolutionary woman, and went together, at the head of the best elements of the German working class — to meet the new battles and trials of the proletarian revolution. And on the first steps of this path a treacherous blow has cut them down on one and the same day.

Indeed, revolution could have chosen no better vice-regent. What a well-aimed blow! And no wonder: reaction and revolution knew each other well, for reaction this time was embodied in the persons of the former leaders of the form:er party of the working class, Scheidemann and Ebert, whose names will forever be inscribed in the black book of history as two of the worst leaders of the organizers responsible for this treacherous murder. …

[You and I know only too well how these “spontaneous” onslaughts against revolutionary leaders are arranged by reaction; we well remember the July days, experienced by us here, within the walls of Petrograd; we remember only too well how the Black Hundreds, summoned by Kerensky and Tsereteli to act against the Bolsheviks, sent to us a systemically annihilated the workers and slaughtered their leaders, making short work of individual workers in the streets. The name of the Russian assassin, murdered by way of a “misunderstanding,” is remembered by most of us.

We managed to save Lenin then, but only because he happened to be in the hands of the unarmed Black Hundreds. There were at that time among the Mensheviks and the SRs some pious people indeed, with the result that the Bolsheviks, who had been accused of being German spies, were not going to appear in court to refute the slander. They were easily expected and reproached for this. What about the court? A court, on the road to which they would have arranged for Lenin to “fly,” as Liebknecht did? And that party that betrayed the interests of the official communication of Kerensky and Tsereteli would have said that the Bolshevik leader had been killed by the Germans in Estonia. Now, after the terrible Berlin experience, we have tenfold ground for being pleased that Lenin did not then appear in that kangaroo court, and, still more, that he did not risk prison ever.

But Rosa and Karl did not go into hiding. The enemy hand held them firm. And this hand strangled them! What a blow! What a misfortune! And what treachery! The best leaders of the German Communist Party are no more — our great comrades are no more among us. Their murders stand under the banner of the Social Democratic Party, and have the effrontery to trace their descent from none other than Kerensky! What a system of muckety-mucks! Just think of it, comrades: this “Marxist” Social Democracy, leader of the Second International, is the same organization that betrayed the interests of the working class from the first days of the war, that supported unbridled German militarism during the rout of Belgium and the seizure of the northern provinces; that preached the war, that supported unbridled German militarism, that gave the Second International, is the same organization that betrayed the interests of the working class from the first days of the war, that supported unbridled German militarism during the rout of Belgium and the seizure of the northern provinces — are now organizing gangs of thugs to murder the heroes of the International, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg!

The name of Liebknecht’s murder was a blow to the Russian Revolution led by V.I. Lenin and the party that betrayed the interests of the working class from the first days of the war, that supported unbridled German militarism during the rout of Belgium and the seizure of the northern provinces — are now organizing gangs of thugs to murder the heroes of the International, Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg! — at a certain moment — to armed uprising, would probably have come first from Liebknecht. These two fighters complemented each other in a way that could not be bettered.
For workers’ solidarity, amnesty for immigrants!

The news is full of clashes over immigration policy between capitalist presidential candidates Joseph Biden and Donald Trump, and Robert Kennedy Jr. These conflicts obscure the fact that the fundamental division on this question is between the two contending classes, the bosses and the working class. Intensifying competition between workers is key to the capitalists’ drive to profit off our backs. The political struggle to overcome anti-immigrant prejudice and other divisions the rulers foster is crucial to unifying the working class and building a powerful union movement. It’s inseparable from fighting the decline in real wages and deteriorating conditions of life and work workers face.

This means encouraging large numbers of workers abroad to cross the border in hopes of finding the jobs the uptick in the economy offers today. This is why net immigration rose last year to 3.3 million, compared to under a million yearly in the 2010s.

The scapegoating of immigrants is one of the biggest weapons the ruling class and all their parties use to try to divide and weaken us. The ranting against immigrants has been so intense.

Fear of immigrants is used to divide workers. Cooperation among workers to sell our labor power is inevitable under capitalism. Bosses then appeal to resentment to try to pit workers against one another. Building unions that can defend the working class is the answer.

For unions, fighting to defend immigrant workers is a clear working-class road forward. Rachel Ruef, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, presents a clear working-class road forward.

To the capitalists and their ilk in the Democratic, Republican and “independent” candidacies, the same message applies: Organize workers to defend their interests and build a strong, militant union movement.

Every worker in the U.S. deserves a job, says the SWP calls for a government-funded program of public works to create millions of union-scale jobs to build housing, child care centers, hospitals and other things working people need.

The Militant editorial of March 23 said, “For workers of my generation who know what happened back when the U.S. and China were negotiating about the future of Hong Kong, Article 23 is ominous,” Daniel Chan wrote the Militant.

Hong Kong has been a British colony since 1842 when the U.K. and China signed the Treaty of Nanking. The U.S. and China signed the Youngstown Square protests by workers and students for political rights in China. Any reference to the massacre is banned on the mainland, but commemorations were held for many years in Hong Kong.

**Movement for political freedom**

The 2019 actions were part of a broader movement for political freedoms and opposition to Beijing’s interference. For months demonstrations engulfed the city, twice reaching over a million. They forced the Beijing-backed Hong Kong legislature to scrap a hated extradition bill that would have given Chinese authorities the power to abduct political dissidents in courts on the mainland, where they have far fewer rights to defend themselves.

“Today’s Xinjiang is tomorrow’s Hong Kong!” predicted opposition leader and former pro-independence activist Ken Tsang in 2019, in response to Beijing’s repression in China’s western province of Xinjiang. Chinese President Xi Jinping’s regime forced a million Uighurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities to leave their homes in a brutal program of forced labor and forced sterilization. The他说 they turn away to the Russian-Ukrainian border. This contradicts Putin’s claims the assailants planned to seek refuge in Ukraine, by showing Moscow’s increasingly assertive foreign policy.

More than 60 organizations have been forced to disband, including trade unions, media outlets and opposition parties. Dozens, from students and journal-ists, to pro-democracy government officials have been arrested and tried. Over 1,000 are imprisoned.

Hong Kong’s close links to mainland China — the city’s main attraction for capitalist investors — are now becoming more of a liability, as the growth of China’s state-capitalist economy slows. Hong Kong’s stock market has lost nearly half its value in three years. Dozens of mainland real estate developers have defaulted on bonds issued in Hong Kong, creating huge losses for Hong Kong residents who have emigrated. Many more say they plan to.

Interest rates have soared in Hong Kong, roughly in line with those in the U.S. The city’s currency is still tightlypegged to the dollar, a policy undermining its role as a global financial center. But higher U.S. interest rates have impacted Hong Kong’s huge real estate sector, already hit by the collapse of China’s specula-tive real estate market that was propped up by the Chinese government.

The Hong Kong government said March 8 that Article 23 is needed because “geopolitics have become increasingly complex, and national security risks remain imminent.”

As Beijing’s economic and military weight has expanded over decades, its rivalry has intensified with Washington, the world’s dominant, if declining, imperialist power. That conflict is sharpening today as the effects of Moscow’s war in Ukraine, Israel’s war in Gaza and the continued threat of a Middle East conflict? he asked March 25.

Russia has suffered at least 15 terrorist attacks since Putin’s rise to power, beginning in 1998 when he became head of the political-police FSB agency. When few were as deadly as this most recent one, the Russian president claimed the attacker was a radical Islamist.” Putin said the Kremlin was also targeting those “who ordered the attack, asking people to consider, “Who benefits from this?”

The Russian president claimed the assailants were caught trying to flee to Ukraine, where “a window for crossing the border was prepared for them.” Kyiv officials have vehemently denied any involvement in the attack.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said March 26 that the attackers tried fleeing to his country first, but “there was no way they could enter Belarus.” So, they turned away to the Russian-Ukrainian border. This contradicts Putin’s claims the assailants planned to seek refuge in Ukraine, the Russian state television dismissed the Islamic State group’s claims of responsibility, suggesting it was a “false flag” operation by Ukraine. The head of the Federal Security Service (FSB), the Russian spy agency, claimed the terror act by “radical Islamists” was “facilitated by Western special services and Ukraine’s special services.”

Putin’s cozy relations with Hamas

Putin hopes he can buy protection from Islamic State’s hostility by showing Moscow’s increasingly close ties with Hamas, and opposition to Israel’s war in Gaza in response to Hamas’ Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel.

“Are radical and even terrorist Islamic organi-zations really interested in striking Russia, which today stands for a fair solution to the escalating Middle East conflict?” he asked March 25.

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