

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

As vote nears, Democrats push attacks on constitutional rights
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 88/NO. 39 OCTOBER 21, 2024

Working people unite to take on social disaster from hurricane

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Under capitalism, major storms like Hurricane Helene become social catastrophes. Over 225 people have been killed across six states, with the biggest toll in western North Carolina. And it's unclear how many are still missing in isolated communities there.

EDITORIAL:
The power of working-class solidarity
— see page 12

The Federal Emergency Management Agency won't send people in if they see a "road closed" sign, regardless of whether they can get through or not. High winds and flash flooding wiped out homes, businesses, roads and bridges. Cities like Asheville, North Carolina, population 93,000, and rural towns in mountainous areas like Bat Cave, population 180, alike have been cut off from water, electricity and cellphone service.

Little to nothing was done by gov-
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Socialist Workers Party campaign says:

'The working class needs to fight to take political power'



Militant/Mary Martin

Rachele Fruit, right, SWP candidate for U.S. president, speaks to Kate McKinney, a Boeing structural mechanic, Oct. 5 on picket line in Everett, Washington. "Jewish people have been persecuted forever," McKinney said, pointing to attacks on Jewish students at U.S. campuses.

Working people need our own party, a party of labor

BY BETSEY STONE

ANTIOCH, Calif. — "I'll be getting out the word about your fight," Socialist Workers Party vice presidential candidate Dennis Richter told Sheetrock workers on strike against Georgia Pa-

Continued on page 4

Fruit joins Boeing picket, builds support for strike

BY REBECCA WILLIAMSON

SEATTLE — "We're out here, not for me, but for my son" and other younger hires, Tom Brown, a striking Boeing worker told Rachele Fruit, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, when she walked the picket line Oct. 5 at the company's plant in Everett. She was accompanied by campaign supporter Roger Bland, another striker.

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Boeing strikers solid in fight to improve wages, work conditions

BY HENRY DENNISON AND VINCENT AUGER

SEATTLE — Now in the fourth week of their strike against Boeing, one of the two major producers of commercial airplanes worldwide, picket lines by members of International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 751 remain up at the company's facilities, here and elsewhere. The fight addresses the 33,000 workers' needs for significantly improved wages, control over schedules and working conditions.

The union and company resumed negotiations Oct. 7, accompanied by a federal mediator.

"The first offer we got didn't cut it. That's why we are out on the picket lines today," Jon Holden, president of District 751, told the *Militant*. "We've already gotten a better offer than the first, but workers want more, so we are going to keep pushing."

On Sept. 30 Boeing cut the company-paid health care benefits for those on strike.

The workers are demanding a 40% wage raise over a four-year contract, as well as less time to reach full pay. Another key demand is the return of their pensions that they gave up earlier

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Showdown looms in Middle East Israel's right and need to defend the safety of a refuge for Jews



Liron Moldovan/Flash90

School in Gedera, central Israel, was hit in Iranian missile barrage Oct. 1. Tehran orchestrated Hamas massacre of Jews one year ago on Oct. 7, the deadliest pogrom since the Nazi Holocaust.

BY SETH GALINSKY

As Israeli forces continue to deal significant blows to Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, tens of thousands gathered around the world to commemorate those murdered or taken hostage during the Tehran-

backed Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom in Israel. They are determined to defend Israel's existence as a refuge for Jews and to speak out against Jew-hatred. (See article on page 9.)

Survivors of the Oct. 7 pogrom
Continued on page 9

Prison authorities uphold ban on 'Militant' issue in Florida

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After being forced to wait over a month, the *Militant* finally learned that the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee had once again upheld the ban on

Militant issue no. 17 at Jackson Correctional Institution in Malone at its Aug. 29 meeting. But they gave no reason for their decision.

"On July 18, 2024, the LRC reviewed and affirmed the impoundment," Melvin Herring, assistant chief of education for the Florida Department of Corrections and LRC member, wrote to *Militant* attorney David Goldstein in a Sept. 30 letter. "On August 29, 2024, the LRC held

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Dockworkers win 62% raise, pause strike till Jan. 15 for talks on jobs

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Large picket lines set up by thousands of striking dockworkers solidly shut down East and Gulf coast ports for three days, showing the power of organized labor in action. The United States Maritime Alliance, representing bosses at shipping lines and terminal operations, was forced to significantly increase its wage offer to the 45,000 members of the Inter-

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Inside

Contract rail workers in UK win fight for union recognition 2

US rulers push Ukraine to back off fight for national sovereignty 8

— On the picket line, p. 6 —

Michigan aerospace workers strike over pensions, wages

Monogram UAW workers hang tough in California strike

Contract rail workers in UK win fight for union recognition

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England — “We’ve won a major victory,” said David Lawrence, one of the leaders of the many-years-long fight to win union recognition by more than 150 rail workers employed by contractor Carlisle Support Services. They won recognition of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union. Under Carlisle’s auspices, they work on Northern Trains as gateline ticket checkers across the north of England.

“As well as union recognition for the gateline workers here,” RMT union regional organizer Steve Shaw said, “this will be extended, where it doesn’t yet exist, on all 14 of Carlisle’s contracts with rail companies around the country. This involves some 2,400 workers.”

Originally Carlisle told the workers there was no chance of the RMT being recognized, Shaw said. But “we got large turnouts for the strike picket lines, and some activists came forward among the strikers who dug in and helped make this all happen.” Carlisle issued a self-congratulatory statement Sept. 9 claiming the result was due to their “pioneering” role in recognizing the union.

Gary Corrigan, another of the leaders organizing the gateline workers, described the two-tier conditions they work under. “As outsourced workers, for years we’ve faced worse conditions than those faced by workers directly employed by Northern, not just on wages, but sick pay, pensions and holidays.”

Over decades the number of outsourced workers on the railway here has massively expanded, as rail companies take advantage of the second-

class conditions workers are forced to toil under, often with no union protection. Gateline workers’ confidence in the union to take this on was bolstered by the 33 days of strike action those directly employed by rail companies carried out in 2022-23.

“We said don’t be afraid, stand up and by moving together as a union we can win,” Lawrence explained. “Often everything seemed stacked against us, but we had perseverance and cool heads.” Over the last year they held five one-day strikes and numerous protests outside Carlisle’s offices here.

The bosses “thought they had broken us when they brought in more than 20 new starts in the Manchester area to cover our jobs on the strike days, but we were determined,” Corrigan said.

“We spent time talking to all the union members, keeping everyone on board,” Lawrence added. When they



Militant/Pete Clifford

Manchester Carlisle Support Services rail workers, who check tickets on Northern Trains, in strike protest Jan. 27, one of many over years. They won broad support from other rail workers.

went on strike, they held well-attended meetings to review their fight.

“The focus is now on the pay and conditions we face,” Corrigan said. “It’s not going to be easy. It never is. The company is not just going to sit back and agree, but we’re stronger now.” He said their

union-organizing efforts are expanding because of the gains they’ve won.

“Some who didn’t join the union action in the Manchester area have now signed up,” he said, and gateline workers and union organizers have been to rail stations in Yorkshire to recruit them too.

Striking food workers say wage proposal is an ‘insult’

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN AND PAMELA HOLMES

SPALDING, England — Some 700 workers at the Bakkavor food factory here, members of the Unite trade union, walked out Sept. 27 over demands for higher pay.

When two *Militant* worker-correspondents visited their lively picket lines Oct. 2, we found some 200 pickets were covering three shift changes. They chanted, blew trumpets and responded with an enthusiastic welcome as passing car drivers sounded their horns in support.

The union members reported that area workers had visited the picket, some bringing food. “They fully deserve a serious pay rise,” three gardeners, who work at a council-run site in the town center, told us.

“There are a number of large food factories in the area and the bulk of workers get the national minimum wage, or thereabouts, just like us,” they said. “You’re not living, just surviving.” This East Midlands region has the second-highest concentration of low-paid workers in the U.K.

Like the Bakkavor workers, the gardeners didn’t want to give their names for fear of retaliation from their bosses. Bakkavor bars workers from speaking to the press.

The multinational, which describes itself as “the” leading provider of fresh-prepared food, employs 18,000 workers in 43 factories internationally, including five in the U.S. It also runs farmland from Spain to China. The company has 21 factories in the U.K. and its customers include Tesco and other major supermarkets. Last month it announced the closure of a factory

in Wigan, near Manchester, because of “low margins,” putting some 750 workers in danger of losing their jobs. In an attempt to undermine the Spalding strike, the company is trying to bus in workers from other plants.

Sadie Woodhouse, general manager of the Spalding plant, told the media they had offered a 7.8% raise to the lowest-paid workers, an increase “well above inflation and national living wage.”

The union called the deal an “insult.” “Our members are rightly angry after years of below-inflation pay rises,” Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said.

The “national living wage” is what the government calls the minimum wage for employees aged 21 and over. It currently stands at 11.44 pounds an hour (\$15) and is set to increase to 12.10 pounds next April. The company’s offer would raise the lowest-paid workers to 11.60 pounds, just 16 pence (21 cents) above the national minimum.

Most workers on higher grades get one pound an hour more. When the union was offered a 6.4% raise, they voted it down by 95%. After that, the

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THE MILITANT

Working people face crippling costs for necessities

Neither the capitalist rulers nor their parties, the Democrats and Republicans, have answers for the high prices faced by workers and farmers. The ‘Militant’ advances the fight for a working-class movement and a party of labor that can confront the economic crisis we face.



Jake King/The Idaho Press

Child care in Idaho in 2023. Since 1990, day care costs nationwide rose over 220%.

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

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Boeing strikers battle solid

Continued from front page

under threats by the bosses to move the company out of the area.

Support for the Boeing strikers is strong and visible across the Puget Sound region where most of Boeing's operations are based. One *Militant* reader reported that when she went to a Vietnamese restaurant in Seattle for lunch, signs in the window read, "Support IAM Boeing workers." The restaurant owner proudly explained that her daughter was a Boeing worker on strike.

Gains won by Boeing workers will help other workers in the area in struggles with their bosses.

Strikers on the picket line readily explain the stakes in the strike. There is a significant layer of young workers going through their first union battle, who say that they feel they're a part of a good cause fighting for something better.

"Going on strike is a sacrifice, but it's worth it," one striker said. The union asks strikers not to identify themselves to avoid future boss retaliation. "No one forced us to go on the picket line. We decided this. We made the choice to walk out because we know it's the only way we can get the contract we want." He said that he's getting to know his co-workers better and getting closer with them. "Without going through this fight, that wouldn't have been possible."

"Boeing has been trying to squeeze more and more out of its workers," Holden explained. Compared to the 2014 negotiations, he said, "we are in a better position this time around. This is our time to fight for what we want."

In June, Machinists at Spirit AeroSystems won improvements in overtime rules. "Workers saw that was possible," Holden said, "and we use that win by the workers at Spirit as a motivator to fight against the mandatory overtime and have a better work-life balance for Boeing workers here." Spirit AeroSystems makes components for Boeing, and Boeing is in the process of buying it.

Richie Johnsen, general vice president of IAM Air Transport Territory, which represents some 100,000 workers at airlines across the country, told the *Militant*, "I came to the picket line today to make sure our union brothers and sisters working at Boeing know they have the support of the Machinists working on the airlines."

"On our days off, air transport workers have been taking the time to join the 751 picket lines," he said. "If the Boeing workers get a good contract, we win too!"

UK food workers

Continued from page 2

company offered a one-off cash payment of 50 pounds. Unite Regional Secretary Prakash Patel said the offer was just a "pittance," adding the company "has walked away from negotiations."

Talk on the picket line wasn't just about wages. Workers work 12-hour shifts, many in near freezing conditions. They spoke about the challenges of raising a family with those shifts. Others commented on how bosses "bully" the workers. Unite regional officer Sam Hennessy said Bakkavor's regime is "my way, or the highway."

"Regardless of who you are in labor, you want to support one another. You see Boeing workers on strike, UPS workers, longshore workers on the East Coast, autoworkers," he said. "You see these fights building on each other and it's infectious."

"Everyone is welcome on these picket lines," Holden told the *Militant*. "Join them. Learn and grow from them. This is an opportunity to use our rights and to fight. When you come to the picket line, you get to see the common interests we all have in supporting this fight."

"Anyone can drop off food or contributions to any of the Machinist union halls in the region," he said. "You can send messages of support through the IAM 751 website."



AP Photo/Lindsey Wasson

"Going on strike is a sacrifice, but it's worth it," one Machinist told the *Militant*. Strikers greet other union members on picket line near Boeing factory in Everett, Washington, Sept. 15.

Dockworkers win 62% pay raise, continue fight for jobs

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national Longshoremen's Association Oct. 3.

Strikers had pointed out the bosses had been lining their pockets with billions in profits while the union members worked during the pandemic, and soaring prices made their paychecks worth less and less.

The union accepted the 62% wage raise over six years and agreed to have members return to work, extending the current contract until a new strike deadline of Jan. 15. During that time, negotiations will continue on other key issues, most notably the drive of the bosses for increased use of automation to cut jobs and speed up work on the docks, threatening workers' safety.

Dockworkers face haphazard schedules, shifts that stretch for 15- or 20-plus hours when ships are in port, loading and unloading thousands of containers, and no work or pay when there are no ships. These wreak havoc with workers' family lives, as well as time for political and union activity.

And workers on the docks are saddled with a divisive multitiered system of jobs and pay that makes life far harder for newer workers.

Winning a substantial wage increase was a central demand of the union. Inflation cut down the buying power of dockworkers' paychecks by 20% since the last contract was signed in 2018. This victory over wages bodes well for their fight over the other issues.

Kenneth Riley, an ILA vice president based in Charleston, South Caro-

lina, told the *Washington Post* the wage increase over six years was the largest wage gain the union has ever won before.

He also said they were ready to shut the docks down again if needed. "We're not playing around. If we say we're going out, we're going out."

The question posed by the bosses' drive to step up automation, the issue that brought negotiations to a halt before the strike, remains unresolved. The bosses look to far-reaching use of driverless trucks, automated cranes and computerized gate checkpoints to speed up work and boost profits. The question isn't the use of technology, but the protection of jobs, paychecks and safety. The union will now take on negotiations over whether and how new technology is deployed and how to defend the workers.

Slander campaign against the union

Business interests, the boss press and their allies lined up to attack the ILA, slandering the union as a Mafia puppet, even claiming the union was selfishly interfering with aid reaching working people hit hard by Hurricane Helene.

President Joseph Biden, with an eye to the fast-approaching elections, said his administration wouldn't interfere in the strike, while pressing for an agreement.

"At my direction, the Florida National Guard and the Florida State Guard will be deployed to critical ports affected by the strike to main-

tain order, and where possible, resume operations," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared before the strike ended, vowing to respond swiftly to "any disruptions."

The *New York Sun* applauded DeSantis' assault on the dockworkers: "Mr. DeSantis's stand calls to mind the mettle shown by the 10 governors who, in 1877, sent in troops to reopen the railroads amid a destructive strike." They were talking about the great rail strike, the first nationwide labor upheaval in the U.S., a watershed in the development of the labor movement.

The *Wall Street Journal* had to acknowledge that when the Justice Department brought civil and criminal charges against (ILA President Harold) Daggett in 2005, claiming he was conspiring with mob bosses, "he won both cases." Still, they proclaimed, "The ILA's port stranglehold is a racket."

The bosses have used such slanders over decades to attack the longshore and other unions. To carry this out, they promoted the creation of the New York-New Jersey Waterfront Commission, which worked with the FBI to police the docks and all hiring. In a 2018 report, the commission claimed nearly one in five applicants seeking jobs on the docks were denied because of supposed mob connections.

What did that mean? "Job applicants with an Italian-sounding name, they were automatically suspect," John Nardi, president of the New York Shipping Association, had to admit. "Is there still organized crime at the port? If there is, I haven't seen it personally."

The commission was finally crippled this year when the state government in New Jersey, where most dock work in the metropolitan area is now done, pulled out, saying they'd rely on the State Police going forward.

This union battle on the docks is far from over. "The longshoremen's fight for a fair contract is the entire labor movement's fight," AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler wrote Oct. 3. "The AFL-CIO and our nearly 13 million members from 60 unions are proud to stand in strong solidarity with them."

For the millions of working people who glimpsed the potential power of our unions from the dockworkers' spirited mass picket lines, solidarity with the International Longshoremen's Association remains crucial.



Militant/Josefina Otero

International Longshoremen's Association members on picket line in Seabrook, Texas, Oct. 2. After wage increase was won, the union extended old contract until Jan. 15, and workers returned to work while other key issues, including jobs and automation, are negotiated.

Workers need a party of labor



Militant

Dennis Richter, SWP candidate for vice president, right, joins in solidarity with Georgia Pacific strikers, members of ILWU Local 6, Oct. 7. From left: Raymond Domingue, Steve Moffett, Jimmie Arnold III and Jose Rivera. “We need our own party, a party of labor,” said Richter.

Continued from front page

cific here when he joined their picket line Oct. 7. The workers, members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 6 and International Association of Machinists Local 1584, were going into their fourth week on strike.

Jimmie Arnold III, 26, told Richter and campaign supporters accompanying him what they are fighting for is a wage increase, safe working conditions and livable schedules.

“While campaigning I’ve traveled, including to other countries, and I’ve seen workers fighting for these same things,” Richter said. “Workers fight for enough to live on and then rising prices take away what we’ve gained.”

“That’s what’s happening!” said Steve Moffett, an operator of stacking machinery who has worked at the plant for three years. “We need to put cost-of-living raises in every contract, for wages to go up every time the cost of living goes up,” Richter said.

“Georgia Pacific is owned by the Koch brothers, who take in around \$125 billion a year,” Arnold said. “There are chemicals we have to deal with that are not safe. There is fiber-

glass in the air and all they give us is a regular mask. The company could pay for better ventilation equipment but they don’t want to spend the money.”

“All workers need proper equipment. It is all about what the union can fight for and win,” Richter said. “The bosses have signs everywhere in all the factories saying ‘safety first,’ but it doesn’t mean anything.

“Whether it’s the conservative Koch brothers or the liberal Warren Buffet, all of the billionaires exploit the workers. They attack our conditions to make more profits. We need to fight for workers control of condi-

Join drive to get word out on SWP campaign, ‘Militant’

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

Expanding the reach of the Socialist Workers Party campaign — Rachelle Fruit for president, Dennis Richter for vice president and local candidates across the country — and winning endorsers for the ticket is at the center of an eight-week international party-building campaign organized by the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the U.K.

The goal is to win 1,300 *Militant* readers, get out the same number of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries on key questions in the class struggle and in the U.S. raise \$140,000 for the SWP Party-Building Fund.

SWP members Gerardo Sánchez and Hilda Cuzco report that six of their co-workers at the Bimbo bakery in Grand Prairie, Texas, have signed up for subscriptions, and five have renewed. Several of them are endorsers of the Fruit campaign.

Machine operator Maria Cuadros told Sánchez, “It’s a good paper. You can see what workers here and around the world are doing to defend themselves and get better working conditions and wages. It explains what is going on in the world, like in Ukraine and the Middle East.”

With Oct. 7 marking the one-year anniversary of the Hamas pogrom against Israel, campaigners have gotten a good response in working-class neighbor-



Militant/Betsy Stone

At commemoration marking one year since the Oct. 7 Hamas pogrom in Israel, Richter joined more than 100 people at Temple Sinai in Oakland. “The fight against Jew-hatred and defending Israel as a refuge for Jews are crucial questions for workers,” he told fellow participants.

tions, training and safety on the job.

“Workers need to take political power away from the billionaires. That seems like a big task now, but through struggles the working class and our unions will grow stronger. A labor party, based on the unions, can attract working people of all kinds to fight to establish a qualitatively different kind of government.”

They also discussed the question of immigration and what it means for the working class, as well as other political questions — from the fight against Jew-hatred to defense of the Ukrainian people’s fight to defend their national sovereignty.

Richter said the SWP supports amnesty for immigrant workers in the U.S., and solidarity with those fighting for the right of Israel to exist, as well as with working people grappling with the disastrous effects of the recent hurricane in the Southeast.

Striker Steve Moffett told Richter about a recent victory when a group of strikers stationed their fishing boat at the Golden Gate Bridge with huge signs about the strike to get the attention of the pilot of a ship about to deliver a load of gypsum to the struck plant. The pilot turned the ship around. A great example of the power of solidarity!

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, SWP fund Sept. 23 - November 21 (week two)

| Country | Sub quota | Subs sold | Books quota | Books sold | Fund quota | Fund received |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------------|-----------------|
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | |
| Atlanta | 55 | 28 | 55 | 19 | \$10,000 | \$0 |
| Chicago | 90 | 39 | 90 | 36 | \$14,000 | \$1,350 |
| Cincinnati | 50 | 11 | 50 | 20 | \$5,000 | \$0 |
| Dallas-Ft. Worth* | 55 | 25 | 50 | 15 | \$5,000 | \$680 |
| Los Angeles | 115 | 54 | 115 | 47 | \$15,000 | \$0 |
| Miami | 35 | 11 | 35 | 6 | \$5,000 | \$0 |
| Minneapolis | 65 | 13 | 65 | 15 | \$5,500 | \$0 |
| N. New Jersey | 70 | 26 | 70 | 16 | \$7,500 | \$1,110 |
| New York | 100 | 35 | 115 | 64 | \$20,000 | \$2,477 |
| Oakland | 85 | 36 | 85 | 13 | \$15,000 | \$4,505 |
| Philadelphia | 60 | 8 | 60 | 11 | \$6,500 | \$0 |
| Pittsburgh | 40 | 13 | 40 | 13 | \$6,000 | \$0 |
| Seattle | 60 | 12 | 60 | 6 | \$14,500 | \$0 |
| Washington | 50 | 15 | 50 | 10 | \$4,500 | \$760 |
| Other | | 8 | | 65 | | \$250 |
| Total U.S. | 930 | 334 | 940 | 356 | \$133,500 | \$11,132 |
| Prisoners | | 56 | | | | |
| UNITED KINGDOM | | | | | | |
| London | 45 | 21 | 45 | 20 | | |
| Manchester | 40 | 28 | 40 | 21 | | |
| Total U.K. | 85 | 49 | 85 | 41 | | |
| Canada | 90 | 36 | 90 | 39 | | |
| Australia | 30 | 14 | 30 | 18 | | |
| Total | 1,135 | 489 | 1,145 | 454 | \$133,500 | \$11,132 |
| SHOULD BE | 1,300 | 325 | 1,300 | 325 | \$140,000 | \$35,000 |
| *Raised goal | | | | | | |

hoods, at strike picket lines and at events commemorating the massacre.

A construction worker on his doorstep in Fort Worth told SWP campaigner George Chalmers that some of his co-workers had been killed on the job. Chalmers explained that the *Militant* reports every week about strikes and other labor struggles, including against conditions like those that the construction worker faces. He got a subscription.

Lynda Little and Katy LeRougetel, members of the Communist League in Montreal, met Jai-Mansouri Abdelhamid, originally from Morocco, over coffee in Gatineau, Quebec, Oct. 3. He told them he bred sheep for five years on his 106-acre farm northeast of Ottawa, “but I had no vacation, the winters were hard — the water would sometimes freeze. It’s difficult to birth lambs in those conditions, so I changed to driving a taxi.

“In Morocco we lived side by side with Jews,” he said. “My school principal was a Jew, and so were many of my teachers. There was a Jewish butcher who would encourage my son to come to his home. The government of Iran is against all that.” He got a *Militant* subscription and the French edition of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* and two other titles.

CL members report a good response from calls to subscribers. Ed Baker, a retired factory worker in Halifax, Nova Scotia, renewed his subscription for six months. “The government should not have stepped in on the rail workers strike,” he said, pointing to the decision of Canada’s Industrial Relations Board to order 10,000 freight rail workers back to work in August.

Baker said, “The *Militant* explains exactly what’s going on. I give it to a buddy of mine and we talk about it.”

“After the Holocaust, the Jews have

been through more than enough,” retired factory worker Margaret McIlmunn told Communist League members Andrés Mendoza and Pete Clifford when they knocked on her door in Manchester, England, Oct. 5. “You only have four cheeks to turn before you have to stand up for yourself and fight back. But you will never get peace,” she said.

“You can establish peace and end Jew-hatred, but only through a socialist revolution,” Clifford replied. “That requires building a party with unshakable confidence in the capacities of the working class.”

McIlmunn told the CL campaigners she’d lost her job at a bakery when she refused to cross a picket line. Clifford pointed to the coverage of labor resistance in the *Militant*. “There are more openings today with renewed labor resistance,” he said. She got a subscription.

At the picket line of striking Bakka-vor workers in Spalding, Lincolnshire, in the U.K., three workers, members of the Unite union, got subscriptions to the paper when CL members Jonathan Silberman and Pamela Holmes brought solidarity to their picket line.

Members of the CL in London found serious interest in *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch* at two events over the weekend of Oct. 5-6 commemorating Hamas’ massacre. They sold 32 copies of the book, five other titles and eight subscriptions to the *Militant*.

Seventeen people picked up the French edition of the same book from a literature table set up by supporters of the communist movement in Paris at a similar event held there Oct. 7.

To help get word out about the SWP campaign, and get out the *Militant* and books by revolutionary working-class leaders, or to contribute to the SWP fund, contact the party branch nearest you listed on page 11.

Fruit joins Boeing strike picket

Continued from front page

“We’re fighting for better wages, benefits, to get our pension back,” Brown said.

Ken Longanecker, who has been working there since 1997, explained to Fruit how workers lost their pension. “Our pension was frozen as of 2014,” he said.

“So, if you worked there seven years by 2014 and then kept working there it’s as if you only worked there seven years?” Fruit asked.

“Yes,” Brown said.

Fruit described the reaction of working people she’s met on the campaign trail. “There’s tremendous support for your strike.” She explained how workers’ attitudes have shifted and they’re looking for ways to fight today. She said she had the opportunity to talk with longshore workers at East Coast ports, with Amazon workers fighting for a union in the U.K., with workers at International Flavors and Fragrances in Tennessee and more.

Along with building solidarity with today’s union struggles, “the SWP takes up key political and international questions of deep interest to working people. My campaign defends Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.”

“Absolutely,” Longanecker replied.

“Jewish people have been persecuted forever,” Kate McKinney, a structural mechanic at the plant, told the SWP candidate. McKinney pointed to attacks on Jewish students on U.S. campuses. “It kills me to see this happening,” she said.

Campaign rally

The fight against Jew-hatred was one of the central political questions Fruit addressed at an Oct. 5 rally here. She pointed to the SWP’s continuity with V.I. Lenin and the Bolsheviks, who led the 1917 Russian Revolution and brought an end to pogroms that reactionary forces there had repeatedly carried out.

“The Holocaust took place because Washington and other imperialist democracies cared nothing for Jews and closed their borders to them, and because of the betrayals of workers’ revolutions by the Stalinists that led to Hitler’s rise to power. That’s why Israel had to be and why it has to be today.

“As we campaign, we explain that

Jew-hatred — a reflection of the crisis of capitalism — is a life-and-death question for the working class. We have to act against every move to slander, scapegoat and attack Jews.”

She pointed to the book, “*The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*,” saying, “It’s a great aid in making the history of this fight known to a wider audience.”

The U.S. government’s goal is to defend its own imperialist interests in the region, Fruit said. “It wants an end to Israel’s war to eliminate Hamas. It wants more stability in its relations with the Iranian regime. Fighting Jew-hatred is not the U.S. rulers’ concern and never has been.

“Hezbollah is the Iranian rulers’ most powerful proxy, with reportedly 150,000 missiles,” Fruit said. “Its top leadership is gone, but the organization is not destroyed. Israel is trying to degrade Hezbollah further.

“The showdown between Israel and the Iranian rulers is not only coming. It’s virtually here. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the U.N. that Israel will do what it has to do to prevent them from gaining a nuclear weapon. Tehran wants it for one main reason — the annihilation of Israel. We must be prepared for what Israel has to do to prevent this.

“Don’t be confused by what Washington is calling Israel’s ‘escalation,’” she said. “Every time Israel



Militant/Mary Martin

While in Seattle, Rachele Fruit, right, SWP candidate for president, participated in Oct. 6 rally and commemoration against Hamas pogrom killing Jews in Israel one year ago.

takes action to defend itself, it’s not just for themselves.

“Over the last six years, hundreds of thousands of Iranian working people have repeatedly expressed their disapproval of the repressive policies and expansionist anti-Israel course of the government,” Fruit said.

“The most important obstacle to the course of the regime in Iran is the country’s working people. They have protested in massive numbers in cities, villages and rural areas in 2018, 2019 and 2022. In defiance of the regime today there are strikes by oil contract workers and nurses. She pointed to a statement by the Coordinating Council of Nurses’ Protests: “Stop Warmon-

gering, Think About Us!”

“The class struggle in Iran is central to overcoming the national divisions and uniting the toilers of the Middle East,” Fruit said.

“We are for Israel’s defeat of Hamas and Hezbollah and of Iran’s nuclear capability. These confrontations reflect the weaknesses and breakdowns of the imperialist order and the danger of spreading wars, including the use of nuclear weapons.”

The only way to prevent that from becoming a reality, Fruit said, is by working people organizing in our millions to take political power into our own hands, in the Middle East, in the U.S. and worldwide.

‘Is the fight for workers to take political power realistic?’

BY EDWIN FRUIT AND GABRIELLE PROSSER

MINNEAPOLIS — “I know you! I already voted for you,” Timothy Frankland called out to Rachele Fruit, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, after seeing her walking the picket line Oct. 1 in support of his union, the American Postal Workers.

“The Socialist Workers Party, you’re the only ones who put forward a program for workers,” Frankland said. Since then he mailed in his endorsement of the campaign and a contribution.

They were part of some 50 workers from around the state gathered outside the post office in Eagan, Minnesota, to push their demands for more staffing and a new contract, one of 90 rallies

around the country that day.

Chris Pennock and Tim Bash of the National Association of Letter Carriers came to show support to fellow APWU postal workers. NALC members have been working without a contract for over 500 days. Both unions are barred from striking by the federal government.

“Neither of the two parties that have access to power stands for the working class,” Bash told Fruit. “I wish there was a working-class alternative.” The SWP campaign explains that workers need to build a party of labor based on the unions, to organize all working people in their millions.

Fruit also spoke at a well-attended rally Oct. 1. She described the devastation wrought by Hurricane Helene and how its consequences are turned into a catastrophe for working people as a result of the profit system. “Over 225 deaths and rising, neighborhoods flattened, millions lost power,” Fruit said.

“This is not a ‘here today, gone tomorrow’ event,” she said. “This social catastrophe will last for years.”

Fruit addressed the broader devastation confronting working people worldwide as a result of the capitalist crisis and the growing threat of more wars.

The U.S. rulers “seek to expand their economic, military and political control throughout the world, just like their competitors do,” she said. “For decades they’ve deployed tens of thousands of troops, warships and jet fighters across the Middle East to protect their own imperialist interests,” Fruit said.

In Congress, she continued, “both Democrats and Republicans are discussing how much to raise the military budget. It’s now at \$883.7 billion and bigger than the war budgets of the next nine largest countries combined.

“The drive toward war and plunder

is inherent to imperialism,” she said. “No new capitalist world order is possible that would make the world any safer or more peaceful.” But the fight for workers power will open the door “to ending the exploitative and oppressive conditions that are the source of the capitalists’ wealth.”

Many workers ask, “Is this a realistic perspective in the U.S.?” Fruit said.

She pointed to the hundreds of thousands of workers who have walked picket lines in the last couple of years. “They’re fighting the skyrocketing costs of food, shelter, medical care, child care and elder care, as well as deadly working conditions.

“They see each other for the first time in a new light. They see their capacity for solidarity,” she said. “Many say they’re not fighting primarily for themselves but for future generations. Through union battles we learn there are no individual solutions. This is the beginning of our consciousness as a class.”

Fight for constitutional freedoms

Fruit pointed to the proud record of the toiling classes in the U.S., from the War of Independence, to the Second American Revolution that abolished slavery, “to the working-class uprisings that led to the organization of the industrial unions in the 1930s and that brought down Jim Crow segregation” decades later. These accomplishments show what the U.S. working class is capable of and bode well for future struggles, she said.

“All workers’ struggles are political struggles,” Fruit said. “What’s needed is a political party to mobilize and unite working people. It must be based on the unions and organize the whole working class to fight together to replace capital-

Continued on page 7

Endorse Socialist Workers Party 2024 campaign!

Rachele Fruit for president & Dennis Richter vice president

Campaign for what you are for, not who you’re against!

I endorse Rachele Fruit for president.

Here is my contribution of \$_____ to help spread the word. (Make checks to Socialist Workers National Campaign)

Send me a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, the paper of the SWP campaign. (\$5 enclosed, checks payable to the *Militant*.)

Signature _____

Print name _____

Address/City/State _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Org./Union _____

Socialist Workers Party 2024 Campaign, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282 & Email: socialistworkers2024@gmail.com

—ON THE PICKET LINE

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world!

This column is dedicated to spreading the truth about workers' struggles for a union movement in every workplace today. It gives a voice to those engaged in battle and helps build solidarity. We need your help to make it a success. If you are involved in a skirmish or strike or know other workers who are, please contact us at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story gets told.

Michigan aerospace workers strike over pensions, wages

JACKSON, Mich. — "17 Days of Solidarity" read the handwritten sign at the United Auto Workers Local 475 strike tent where workers are picketing 24/7. Treat-filled tables and honks of encouragement showed the support some 525 strikers against Eaton Aerospace have been getting since they went out Sept. 16. The company manufactures hydraulic equipment for civil, commercial and military aircraft. Jackson, a city of 30,000, is located 75 miles west of Detroit.

The central strike demand is to keep in place workers' defined benefit pension plan. The company wants to "modernize" retirement by freezing the current pension plan and replacing it with a 401(k) for all new hires, a two-tier take-away workers reject. They are also fighting to maintain their health care coverage and for higher wages.

Workers on the picket line told the *Militant* the wage increase offered by the company is offset by higher health care costs. In 2023 Eaton's net income was \$3.2 billion, after raking in \$2.5 billion the previous year.

"Eaton's managers said they thought that we wouldn't last the week. They didn't understand the solidarity workers have with each other," Donnie Huffman, president of UAW Local 475 told the media.

Bring your solidarity! Visit the picket line at 300 S. East Ave. in Jackson.

— Lisa Rottach

Endeavor flight attendants protest for equal pay in Atlanta

HAPEVILLE, Ga. — Marching behind a big red banner that read "Same work, poverty pay. End the Delta disparity difference," some 50 Endeavor Air flight attendants, backed by pilots and other supporters, held a spirited protest at Delta Air Lines headquarters here Oct. 3. They pressed their demands for equal pay and improved working conditions from the industry giant. Endeavor, a wholly owned subsidiary of Delta, operates flights as one of Delta Connection's contract carriers.

The 1,000 flight attendants at Endeavor are members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, which organized the action.

A contingent of Service Employees

International Union members, as well as several Delta employees, joined in to show support for AFA's fight.

"We're really in this fight together and we're getting more support," said flight attendant Kirk Leacock, who has been working at Endeavor since 2019. "Delta owns Endeavor, but we're paid much less than Delta employees. Our working conditions are worse and our benefits lower."

"Starting pay for flight attendants at this carrier amounts to about \$27,000 a year," Tim Kipka, president of the AFA at Endeavor, told the *Militant*. He has worked for Endeavor for 20 years and has reached top pay, nearly \$42,000 a year.

If Delta flight attendants worked the same number of hours at top pay, they would make nearly \$72,000 a year, Kipka said, adding he is not the only flight attendant who has to work a second job to make ends meet. "Unequal pay is our biggest problem, but also we get no boarding pay and no overtime. We don't have the right to strike. The Railway Labor Act needs to go."

— Marklyn Wilson

Monogram UAW workers hang tough in California strike

COMMERCE, Calif. — With over two months on strike against the bosses at Monogram Aerospace Fasteners here, United Auto Workers Local 509 members are determined to come out on top. "The one exciting thing that's come out of this is now we understand what the union is and we won't be pushed around anymore," striker Robert Gomez told the *Militant* on the picket line Oct. 7. "We were weak before."

The company, which manufactures parts used by Boeing and Airbus, refuses to offer more than a paltry 2% wage increase. The bosses are also



Militant

Endeavor Air flight attendants and supporters protest at Delta Air Lines headquarters in Hapeville, Georgia, Oct. 3, demanding equal pay with Delta flight attendants, improved conditions.

seeking to jack up health care costs, which are already sky high, and to retain Article 21 from the current contract, which gives them the right to demote workers into lower-paid labor grades.

Over 200 workers on strike have received a steady stream of solidarity from other unions and workers stopping by the picket line and honking as they drive by.

Join in! Walk with them on their picket line outside the plant at 3423 S. Garfield Ave. To contribute to Local 509's hardship fund, go to their Facebook page and click on photo of Monogram strikers.

— Bernie Senter

Hotel workers strike at two Boston-area Hilton hotels

BOSTON — A spirited picket line of striking hotel workers marched around the Hilton Boston Park Plaza, chanting, dancing and drumming on Home Depot buckets Oct. 8. Over 600 workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 26, have been on strike here and at the Hilton Boston Logan Airport since Oct. 6. This is second time since early September workers have put up picket lines, but this time the strike is open-ended.

The workforce is very multinational,

many with decades working here. Devis Medina is a cook in the employee cafeteria, with 20 years at the hotel. The high cost of housing in the area means some co-workers need to have two jobs, he said, and "they live paycheck to paycheck. This strike puts pressure on the company. The solidarity from people driving by has been good."

Jacques and Paul, both culinary workers originally from Haiti with 30 and 24 years here, talked about the cost of living having gone way up. "We're not asking for anything special, it's what we need," Jacques said. "If you don't fight, who's going to do that for you? We need a new contract that shows respect."

Several housekeeping workers told me how the nonunion Hiltons require room attendants to clean up to 26 rooms in a shift, compared to 15 where there's a union. "They'd like us to go backward to those conditions," said Berny Miranda. She had previously worked at the nonunion Hyatt hotel in Cambridge.

Others described getting assigned to additional rooms if guests choose to forego daily cleaning. However, they're still responsible for filling requests for coffee, towels and toiletries for these "no service" rooms.

— Emily Fitzsimmons

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 25, 1999

MONTREAL — Owner-operator truck drivers began taking actions across Quebec the week of Oct. 2 in support of their right to unionize and negotiate their working conditions collectively. They voted Oct. 10 to defy an injunction ordering them to put an end to any "picket lines, assemblies, demonstrations or any roadblocks . . . that limit or prevent the free circulation of goods and services."

The strikers' main demand is for a decent hourly rate as opposed to being paid by the mile. Other demands include eight hours sleeping time per day when on long hauls, a maximum 10-hour working day, paid statutory holidays, and one month of vacation per year.

In Montreal, the truckers have parked their vehicles at the port and at two railway yards. They are working with the longshoremen's union and the railway unions to prevent the transportation of goods.



October 25, 1974

BOSTON — "The Socialist Workers Party is unconditionally for the right of Black students to attend any school they choose. This includes the right to utilize busing," declared Donald Gurewitz, SWP candidate for governor of Massachusetts, in a statement aired over Channel 2 TV.

"We demand the immediate implementation of the court desegregation order and we demand that President Ford immediately dispatch federal troops to Boston to protect the rights of Black students."

The Massachusetts SWP campaign has launched a drive to publicize the truth about the racist offensive here and to defend the rights and safety of Black students. Socialist campaign supporters around the country are also stepping up distribution of *The Militant* to help expose the real extent of the racist onslaught in Boston and the inaction of federal and state officials.



October 24, 1949

Friday, Oct. 14, 1949, will go down as a black-letter day for civil rights in America. The conviction of 11 Communist Party leaders struck a hammer-blow against the democratic liberties of the whole working-class and gives a green light to the government witch-hunters, the book-burners, all the storm troops of reaction.

The entire case was based on the Smith Act of 1940, which is a brazen violation of the Bill of Rights, and particularly of the First Amendment which forbids Congress to make any laws abridging freedom of speech or press. This law was first used against the Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis CIO Teamsters Local 544 in 1941.

We call for a nation-wide fight for repeal of the Smith Act and all other anti-democratic laws. Demand the revocation of the presidential order establishing the "subversive" list and the "loyalty" purge.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW YORK

New York

The Deepening Showdown in the Middle East: Israel's Right and Need to Defend the Safety of a Refuge for Jews; Pogroms Part of Social Convulsions and Wars of Imperialist Epoch; Fight Against Jew-Hatred Essential for the Working Class; What the Oct. 7 Pogrom Announced. Speaker: Dave Prince, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 307 W. 36th St., 13th floor. Tel.: (646) 434-8117.

As vote nears, Democrats push attacks on constitutional rights

BY TERRY EVANS

The fight for the White House between the bosses' two major parties — the Democrats and Republicans — has entered its final month, with Kamala Harris, the liberal media and the Joseph Biden Justice Department escalating their frenetic claims that Donald Trump is an unconscionable “threat to democracy.” Washington, D.C., District Judge Tanya Chutkan has now hopped on the bandwagon.

Just 35 days before the election, Chutkan unsealed a 165-page brief filed by Justice Department-appointed special counsel Jack Smith Oct. 2. It says Trump broke the law during the Jan. 6, 2021, melee at the Capitol. Smith charges the Republican presidential candidate with “conspiracy to defraud the United States” for his challenges to the outcome of the 2020 election.

Smith's filing so close to the Nov. 5 election is a clear and conscious violation of long-standing Justice Department policy under both Republicans and Democrats not to take any steps that “could impact an election” within 60 days of the vote.

Writing in a *New York Times* op-ed Oct. 9, former Assistant Attorney General Jack Goldsmith said that Trump's opponents seem to believe “his unique horribleness justifies every conceivable aggressive step to keep him from becoming president. This sort of thinking reflects a tragic eight-year pattern of breaking rules and standards.”

Since before Trump won the presidency in 2016, the Democrats have used the FBI, partisan impeachment efforts, a series of legal actions and massive poundage of propaganda to further their efforts.

In doing so, the Democrats, never-Trump Republicans and the middle-class left have taken aim at constitutional protections won in struggle by generations of working-class fighters.

They claim a second Trump term will usher in nothing less than fascist rule. He's “a threat unlike any we have faced before,” former Republican Congresswoman Elizabeth Cheney told a rally alongside Harris in Ripon, Wisconsin, Oct. 3.

In July, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that all those who occupy the presidency have immunity from prosecution for actions related to their official duties. It sent Smith's charges back to Chutkan for her to determine if they should be thrown out or cut down. Before the judge could rule, Smith submitted a new, shorter indictment in an effort to keep the case running throughout the election campaign. And he urged her to make most of it public.

The editors of the *Washington Post* wrote that Smith's brief provides more ammunition so “Americans have more case materials available to them shortly before they vote” showing that Trump is a “criminal.”

Charges Trump led an ‘insurrection’

Harris, a former San Francisco district attorney, spent a big hunk of her speech at the Oct. 3 Ripon rally acting as a prosecutor, seeking to put Trump away. She claimed, “He sent an armed mob to the United States Capitol, where they assaulted law enforcement” Jan. 6, and “he threatened the life of his own vice president and refused to engage in the peaceful transfer of power.”

Biden told an Oct. 4 press briefing that Trump will threaten a peaceful transfer of power again this coming January.

But in fact, on Jan. 6, 2021, Trump urged supporters to march and “peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard” at a rally at the Capitol. In his new court brief Smith tries to twist this clear statement into criminal conduct, saying Trump was “directing an angry crowd of supporters to the United States Capitol to obstruct the congressional certification.”

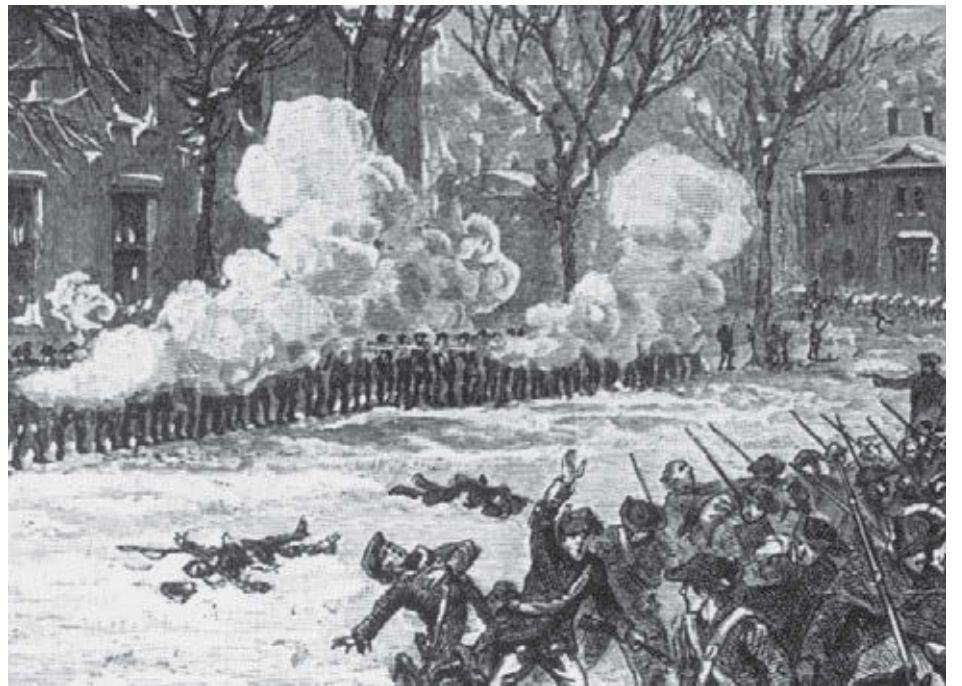
At the time, Twitter took down a video Trump had posted there as his supporters were entering the building. “We had an election that was stolen from us,” Trump told them, “but you have to go home now. We have to have peace.”

Smith's case and the Democrats' campaign is a frontal assault on free speech and assembly, protections that are vital for workers and our unions today. If the rulers can get away with doing this to Trump, a capitalist politician, they'll try the same and far worse against working people.

The notion that it's illegal to argue an election has been “stolen” is dangerous. Every election under capitalist rule is rigged for the Democratic and Republican parties, and against working-class parties like the Socialist Workers Party.

Daunting petitioning requirements are aimed at limiting ballot access. Armies of Democratic and Republican lawyers are readied to try to disqualify any party they fear might take votes from their candidates, and they're aggressively doing so today. The media — owned by the ruling capitalist families — works tirelessly to convince workers our only choice is to pick the “lesser evil.”

Hillary Clinton demands the press hew the line. “I don't understand why it's so difficult for the press to have a consistent narrative,” she complained Sept. 16. The press must “stick with



Daniel Shays' rebels are fired on by Massachusetts militiamen in 1787. Struggles by farmers and artisans coming out of First American Revolution and by working people of all skin colors during Civil War, Reconstruction, won constitutional protections that workers need today.

it,” she said, trumpeting Trump's “danger to our country.”

In a Sept. 30 editorial, the *Times* editors insisted Trump organized nothing less than “an insurrection” in 2021 and the election of Harris is essential to preserve “democracy.”

Rulers fear and loathing for workers

Behind the Democrats' drive to vilify Trump is their hatred and growing fear of tens of millions of working people. More are willing to fight against boss attacks today and to consider new political roads forward.

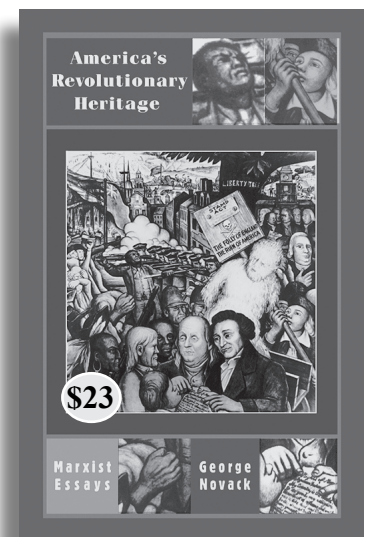
“There is nothing you can say or do along the way to convince Donald Trump's MAGA disciples that he is unfit to be president,” Colbert I. King writes in the *Washington Post*. He advises liberals to forget about those attracted to Trump and focus on getting enlightened people “whose lives are linked with yours to the polls.”

A Sept. 17 *Vanity Fair* article, “Timothy Snyder Explains How Americans Might Adapt to Fascism Under Trump,” quoted this Yale academic on the “20% or so of Americans who really, I think, authentically do want an authoritarian regime.”

The Democrats' scare campaign reflects the fact they can't run on the re-

cord of the Biden-Harris administration. Like Republicans, they have no proposals to hold off the dire impact of today's capitalist crisis on workers' lives.

Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Rachele Fruit and her running mate, Dennis Richter, are getting a widespread hearing. The SWP candidates are building support for strikes and other union struggles fighting for higher wages, safer working conditions and livable schedules for workers. They call for a break with the bosses' parties, for workers to build a party of labor on the road to taking political power into our own hands.



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‘Workers need to take political power’

Continued from page 5

ist political power with a workers government.”

In the course of that struggle, Fruit pointed to the importance of defending constitutional protections. Both Democratic and Republican parties “are engaged in dangerous attacks on rights that working people need today,” she said. They target their opponents in capitalist politics. “If they use the entire state apparatus, they will surely find something they can prosecute you for. The frame-up is the stock-in-trade method for going after working-class fighters.”

She pointed to the number of indictments and FBI probes by Joseph Biden's Justice Department, which claims political opponents are “agents” of foreign governments.

“So, the stakes for us are high. We seek ways to defend freedom of speech, assembly, worship, the right to bear arms and the right to due process. They will be critical to future battles. It is the working class that will have to fight to defend these protections — and defend them for everyone, including our political opponents

and enemies — against infringements by the federal government.”

Fruit returned to the question of how revolutionary leadership of the working class will be forged. “There is only one way for working people to be exposed to the lessons of the international working-class movement. That is through the *Militant* and the books by Socialist Workers Party leaders that SWP campaigners distribute,” and as they use their unions to take on attacks by the bosses and their government and get to meet and know party members.

She pointed to the party's continuity going back to the Bolshevik-led revolution in Russia in 1917 and Cuba's socialist revolution. “In both cases working people defied the most powerful forces on earth and won,” she said. The Cuban Revolution shows “how social relations get changed and how people change. And we fight like hell to defend it.

“Working-class political power is the way we can begin to take our future into our own hands, to begin to solve all national oppression and to open the road to women's emancipation,” Fruit said. “We hope you will endorse our campaign and join us.”

50 Years of Covert Operations in the US

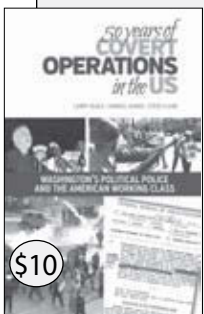
Washington's Political Police and the American Working Class

Decades of spying by FBI targeting working-class organizations and opponents of government policies. How expansion of “national security” state used to protect capitalist rule had bipartisan backing.

FBI on Trial

The victory in the Socialist Workers Party lawsuit against government spying

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US rulers push Ukraine to back off fight for national sovereignty

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The U.S. rulers are pressing the Ukrainian government to back off from conquering the full restoration of its sovereign borders, after more than two and a half years of Moscow's invasion and war. Washington's goal is to advance its own imperialist interests in the region, not defend Ukraine's sovereignty.

President Joseph Biden's administration is Kyiv's main military supplier. But it gives just enough so Ukrainian forces avoid defeat, but not enough to decisively repel Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion. Washington and its allies hope that Kyiv, outmanned and outgunned, will be forced into making concessions.

While in the U.S. to speak at the United Nations, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky lobbied Biden Sept. 26. He requested more and speedier supplies of U.S. weapons without limits on their use on military targets inside Russia. The White House promised some more military aid but with firm constraints on its use.

U.S. rulers press Kyiv to compromise

Zelensky also met with both U.S. presidential contenders, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. The former president said he was confident he could broker a positive deal between Zelensky and Putin "quite quickly."

Harris claims Trump's plan is to force Ukraine to "surrender." But in fact whether a Democrat or Republican is in the White House, the U.S. ruling families' plans for the region remain broadly the same.

Washington's overriding aim is to sta-

bilize the region to further its own political, economic and military interests. The U.S. rulers have utilized the war to expand the reach of their own military forces across Europe and the reach of the U.S.-led NATO alliance. They are reasserting their place as the dominant military power on the continent in preparation for more bloody wars to come.

Their goals are aided by the liberal press. A *New York Times* headline claimed "As War Gets Bleaker, More Ukrainians Appear Open to a Peace Deal." In fact, working people in Ukraine have fought and continue to fight with far more courage and determination than any capitalist politician or commentator in the U.S. thought possible when the invasion began.

Capitalist powers in Europe are also pressing Ukraine to make concessions. "We need an end to this war," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock bluntly said at the U.N. Sept. 25. Berlin has slashed its 2025 military aid to Ukraine and joins in imposing limits on the use of the long-range weapons it provides Kyiv.

At the cost of massive losses in suicidal human-wave attacks, Moscow is now making small advances on the eastern front. Almost all the 5,000 troops of Russia's 155th Naval Infantry Brigade were killed, badly injured or captured during the yearslong battle for Vuhledar. Russian forces took the hilltop mining town Oct. 1 after Ukrainian units retreated to avoid encirclement.

A 31-year-old Russian private who surrendered to Ukrainian forces Aug. 29 told the *Wall Street Journal*, "There is no morale. Everyone is afraid. Com-



Apartment buildings hit by Moscow's bombardment in Vuhledar, Donetsk region of Ukraine. After most residents of the mining town, which has been fought over for much of the war, were evacuated, Ukrainian forces retreated Oct. 1. Russian troops have suffered heavy losses there.

manders say: 'Faster, faster, faster.'"

"Their commanders show them no pity whatsoever," Vodolii, a Ukrainian company captain, told the *Journal*. "Our morale is much higher. But there are more of them."

Kyiv reported Oct. 4 that over 2,000 Russian soldiers had recently contacted its "I want to live" hotline, seeking a way to surrender. Over a million people, including soldiers' relatives, have sought information from the project's website, which Moscow tries to block.

Russian workers are natural allies

Growing opposition to the war among working people in Russia — in and out of uniform — underscores the fact that they are the allies the Ukrainian people need in their struggle to defeat Putin's assault, not Washington and the other imperialist powers. The solidarity of working people around the world, including in the U.S., is also important.

Two months after Ukrainian forces launched their incursion in the Kursk region of Russia they have not been pushed back. In the first invasion of Russian territory since World War II, hundreds of Russian conscripts have surrendered.

Ukrainian strikes have reached deeper into Russia with drones and mis-

siles hitting military targets hundreds of miles from the front. Dozens of oil facilities, from Moscow to the occupied Crimean Peninsula, have been hit. Unlike Moscow's strikes, they are not directed against civilian targets. New jet-powered drones are being built in Ukraine that are faster, with more explosive power. They're hitting bases in Russia and occupied Crimea without Kyiv having to ask anyone's permission.

On Sept. 21 huge munitions stores were hit in Tikhoretsk, in southern Russia, and in Toropets, in western Russia. At Tikhoretsk, one of Russia's largest ammunition caches, 2,000 tons of high explosives erupted in a massive fireball. These losses to Moscow's stockpiles have reduced its artillery advantage.

Moscow's missile strikes keep targeting civilian areas as well as Ukraine's energy infrastructure. By knocking out half the country's power grid, Putin plans to extend the power outages and intensify the pressure on Ukrainian toilers to submit.

Putin is increasingly nervous about his position in Russia and his vulnerability to attacks by Ukraine. He has now abandoned use of his plush estate in Sochi on the Black Sea, fearing it will become a target.

Showdown looms in Middle East

Continued from front page

— which left 1,200 dead, thousands wounded and some 250 people seized and held hostage in Gaza — are increasingly speaking out about the sadistic actions carried out by Hamas thugs that day. It was the largest massacre of Jews since the Nazi-organized Holocaust during World War II.

Hamas assassins filmed their carnage to maximize the impact of their attacks, which were aimed at terrorizing and dehumanizing Jews and anyone who dares to work with Jews.

Not only did they post videos on Hamas internet sites, they used their victims' phones to broadcast their brutality live for relatives and friends to see, including the murder of 74-year-old Bracha Levinson, the daughter of Holocaust survivors. Levinson's family learned of her death when they opened Facebook and saw a video posted by Hamas of their grandmother lying in a pool of blood.

At least 364 of the murders on Oct. 7 took place at the Nova music festival. "We saw murder, kidnappings, but the hardest of them all was rape," pogrom survivor Yuval Sharvit Trabelsi told a commemoration in Tel Aviv. "I have never heard screams for help like the ones I heard" from one of the women being raped, she said. Trabelsi survived the massacre by smearing her husband's blood on herself and playing dead.

The Israeli government has been making public previously unreleased footage of Oct. 7. New movies such as "We Will Dance Again," released by Paramount, include both testimonies of survivors of the pogrom and videos taken by the Hamas thugs themselves.

Tehran: Oct. 7 is legitimate

Tehran and its so-called axis of resistance — including Hamas, Hezbollah, militias in Iraq and Syria and the Houthis — claim Oct. 7 was a "prison break" of the people of Gaza and that anything and everything Hamas did is "legitimate." In fact it is Hamas, backed by Tehran, that has its boot on the neck of the people of Gaza, threatening anyone who stands up to them. They are the biggest obstacle that working people there face to being able to organize and work with other workers to advance their own interests.

Most of Hamas' combat brigades have been dismantled, along with many of its tunnels. The best it could muster to honor what it still calls its "victory" Oct. 7, was five rockets fired from one of its last remaining strongholds in Gaza. Two women in the center of Israel were injured.

Thousands of Israeli troops are advancing in southern Lebanon, pummeling Hezbollah, with the goal of pushing the Jew-hating group back to at least 8 to 10 miles from the Israeli border, to allow more than 60,000 people evacuated from northern Israel to return home.

On top of blows dealt to Hamas, the leadership of Hezbollah has been decimated by the Israeli offensive over the last several weeks. This has advanced the fight to defend Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews and the fight against Jew-hatred worldwide. Hezbollah was founded in 1982, trained,

financed and armed by the reactionary capitalist regime in Tehran.

But a decisive victory against Hezbollah will take time. It has over 100,000 missiles in its arsenal and its members have combat experience, defending the Bashar al-Assad dictatorship in Syria as it fought to crush the 2011 popular uprising there.

Israeli advances in Gaza and Lebanon have come at a cost. On top of the 380 Israel Defense Forces soldiers killed Oct. 7, more than 346 have died since the start of the ground operations against Hamas Oct. 27. More than 4,500 have been wounded.

Threat to Jews from Tehran

The challenge facing Israelis is the bourgeois clerical regime in Iran, which is committed to the destruction of Israel and the expulsion or death of Jews there.

Most of the some 180 ballistic missiles Tehran fired at Israel Oct. 1, 2024, were intercepted and caused relatively little damage — this time. But even if Israel is able to shoot down 90% of future missiles they might not be so lucky next time.

And Tehran is driving to acquire nuclear weapons.

An editorial in the pro-regime *Kayan* newspaper in Iran threatened that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard



Some 4,000 people marched in Manchester, England, Oct. 7 to protest Jew-hatred and defend Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews. Similar actions took place all over the world.

Corps air force commander "still has his finger on the trigger" and its aim is to destroy "the Zionist regime."

U.S. officials estimate that it could take Tehran less than two weeks to convert its current nuclear-fuel stockpile into enough weapons-grade material for four nuclear weapons.

Workers in Iran oppose regime

The regime's military adventures and its attempts to extend its counterrevolutionary influence by arming

proxy forces across the Middle East are not popular among Iranian working people. The biggest obstacle to Tehran's expansionist foreign policy and its deadly assaults on Israel are working people in Iran — Persian, Kurdish, Azerbaijani, Baluch, Arab and others — who are standing up to the regime's anti-working-class actions.

The Progressive Student Association at Isfahan University noted Oct. 8 that "the shadow of war has been cast over Iranian society.

"The main war is the war between the people and the government, and protest and strikes are the strongest weapons of the people in this battle, which should never be put down," their statement said. Protest actions by retirees, oil workers and others for better wages, pensions and working conditions are not slowing down.

The U.S. government continues to advance the U.S. rulers' class interests by pressing the government of Israel to agree to back off its decisive fight to defang Tehran, Hamas, et al. U.S. imperialism does not start from defending Jews from pogroms or Israel's right to exist as an all-too-necessary refuge to Jews.

It's only concern is the stability the U.S. capitalist class requires for its own profit-driven interests, including the Biden administration's efforts to reach an accommodation with the regime in Tehran.

After Oct. 7 the White House warned Israel not to go into Rafah on the Gaza-Egypt border. It complained when an Israeli bombing raid killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. And now the Joseph Biden administration is telling Israel not to try to destroy Iran's nuclear development facilities. But Israel's capitalist government is not willing to put Israel's existence and the lives of millions of Jews on the line by caving in to the U.S. rulers' demands.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 27 that Israel will do everything it must to prevent Tehran from getting nuclear weapons.

The Times of Israel noted Oct. 7, 2024, that on Sept. 30, Biden had begun the day by calling for a "ceasefire now" between Israel and Hezbollah. "Hours later, the IDF announced that it had begun a series of raids aimed at dismantling Hezbollah posts on the Lebanese side of the border."

Fidel Castro: Che Guevara is example for revolutionaries everywhere to follow

To mark the anniversary of the death of Ernesto Che Guevara, a central leader of Cuba's socialist revolution, in combat in Bolivia in 1967, we are featuring an excerpt from "Che's ideas are absolutely relevant today" by Fidel Castro. Castro gave the speech on Oct. 8, 1987. He pointed to Che as an example for all revolutionary-minded youth to emulate. Reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press.

[T]here can be no superior symbol, no better image, there cannot be a more fitting idea, when searching for the model revolutionary man, for the model communist. I say this with the deepest conviction — I always have had and I still have today, just the same or more so than when I spoke on that October 18 [10 days after Che was killed by CIA and Bolivian forces] and asked how we wanted our fighters, our revolutionaries, our party members, our children to be, and I said that we wanted them to be like Che.

Because Che is the personification, the image of that new man, the image of that human being if we want to talk about a communist society. [Applause] If our real objective is to build, not just socialism but the higher stages of socialism, if humanity is not going to renounce the lofty and extraordinary idea of living in a communist society one day,

If we need a paradigm, a model, an example to follow to attain these elevated ideas, then men like Che are essential. ...

Che believed in man. And if we don't believe in man, if we think that man is an incorrigible little animal, capable of advancing only if you feed him grass or tempt him with a carrot or whip him with a stick — anybody who believes this, anybody convinced of this will never be a revolutionary. Anybody who believes this, anybody convinced of this will never be a socialist. Anybody who believes this, anybody convinced of this will never be a communist. [Applause]

Our revolution is an example of what faith in man means because our revolution started from scratch, from nothing. We did not have a single weapon, we did not have a penny, even the men who started the struggle were unknown, and yet we confronted all that might, we confronted their hundreds of millions of pesos, we confronted the thousands of soldiers, and the revolution triumphed because we believed in man. Not only was victory made possible, but so was confronting the empire and getting this far, only a short way off from celebrating the twenty-ninth anniversary of the triumph of the revolution. How could we have done all this if we had not had faith in man?

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Social disaster from hurricane

Continued from front page

ernment authorities to help evacuate those living in the path of the storm, or provide assistance afterward. Their message was, “You’re on your own. Fend for yourself.”

In stark contrast, “As soon as the storm’s destruction became apparent, ordinary people from all over began a massive aid effort,” subscriber Diane Shur wrote to the *Militant* from Greensboro, North Carolina. “Small-plane pilots from the Greensboro area rapidly organized themselves to collect and fly aid into the remote areas. A mountain ranch that has pack mules and horses organized to get aid to some of the most hard-to-reach areas. Here in Greensboro, store shelves that are usually full of water and paper goods are empty, as they have been bought up by shoppers making donations.”

Black Mountain, located east of Asheville, is a town devastated by the flooding of the Swannanoa River. A government alert sent out there read, “Stay in the house. Stay away from the window,” Kimberly Moody, a 53-year-old UPS worker, told the *New York Times*. “No one said to leave.”

Many never heard any warnings because of damaged or out-of-range cell-phone service, nor on landline phones because they don’t receive them. In some areas like Haywood Country north of Asheville, siren systems that authorities purchased after the last storm had never been installed.

In Clinton, a town of 4,400, officials sent out an alert advising residents to take the storm seriously, but no aid was organized to help people evacuate. Some just didn’t want to risk it and couldn’t afford the travel and hotel expenses.

Denia Zuniga, 44, originally from Honduras and who now lives in Swannanoa, one of the hardest-hit areas, worked back-to-back shifts cleaning homes Sept. 26 and didn’t know anything about the approaching storm. “We lost everything,” she told the *Asheville Citizen-Times*. “Everything we owned was in that house. We would’ve evacuated, knowing what was coming.”

Plastics factory workers swept away

Eleven workers employed at the Impact Plastics factory in the rural town of Erwin, Tennessee, were swept away after bosses kept them working while flooding from the nearby Nolichucky River reached dangerous levels. Three of them died, five were rescued and the others are still missing.

“We asked them if we should evacuate, and they told us not yet, it wasn’t bad enough,” Jacob Ingram, a mold changer at the factory, told News 5 WCYB. A guy in a 4x4 truck stopped to pick up the workers. Ingram said he survived by grabbing onto plastic pipes on the truck. Four others floated away.

The hurricane severely damaged a Baxter International plant in North Cove, North Carolina, that makes much of the country’s supply of sterile intravenous, or IV, fluid. The company closed the factory, throwing more than 2,500 people out of work.

Fewer than one in 100 households in the worst-flooded inland counties of North Carolina have flood coverage, the Insurance Information Institute reports. Insurance profiteers have raised rates and deductibles and limited what their policies cover. Typical home insurance

doesn’t cover flooding.

Stephanie Buchanan, who lives in Bakersville, learned this the hard way after her belongings were swept away in rising creek waters and she was informed her home insurance company wouldn’t cover it. In Mitchell County, where Bakersville is located, just 31 homes have flood insurance out of more than 8,600 housing units.

Volunteers organize assistance

Local aid from the federal and state governments has been slow and for many, nonexistent. “We’ve never depended on them before,” Amber Capps, president of the Cruso Community Center west of Asheville, told the *Times*. Volunteers there and in other towns were driving excavators and tractors to clear debris from roads. Restaurants dispatched food deliveries to homes.

Local airports like the City of Statesville Regional Airport and Hickory Regional Airport have become centers for carload and truckload donations of food, medicine and fuel that private pilots deliver.

“FEMA called me and told me they wanted to inspect my house,” Chelsea Atkins in Bat Cave told *New York Post* reporters, “then called me back to say they couldn’t drive around the ‘Road Closed’ sign. They weren’t allowed.” The *Post* reporters had made it there fine.

“It’s been a civilian-run operation since day one,” she said. Volunteers



Gerard Albert III/BPR

In Swannanoa, North Carolina, neighbors come together to set up distribution center after Hurricane Helene. The First Baptist Church also handled aid. “It’s tough to see people you know personally who have lost their homes,” Melody Dowdy, the pastor’s wife, said.

who came included apple orchard workers with chainsaws who worked with a local grading contractor to clear the road.

Volunteer pilots from the United Cajun Navy based in Louisiana flew at least 30 different aircraft, from helicopters to fixed-wing planes, to Black Mountain delivering supplies and doing search and rescue Oct. 2.

That same day Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced that FEMA doesn’t have funds for the rest of the hurricane season. “We need help but I have not seen anyone from FEMA. I don’t even

know where to begin,” Nelson Cruz told the *Times*. His trailer, like those of most residents living in a trailer park in Swannanoa, was swept away.

To add insult to injury, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg Oct. 2 ordered private drone flights suspended in North Carolina’s Hurricane Helene flood zone. Volunteer operators have been instrumental in delivering vital items like insulin and baby formula to isolated areas.

These examples show the capacities of the working people and the potential of what could be done if they held political power in their own hands.

‘Workers and farmers had no power or water for days’

BY JANICE LYNN

VALDOSTA, Ga. — “Trees are down everywhere. People have been without power for days. Many haven’t had water,” Willie Head, who has a small farm near here, told *Militant* correspondents Sam Manuel and me Oct. 6. We were driving through neighborhoods in this south Georgia city near the Florida state line and the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene was evident block after block, as well as along roads in nearby rural areas.

Head took us to one of the hardest-hit areas in Valdosta to talk with several people in a predominantly Black working-class area of small houses built in the 1950s. Ten days after being battered by heavy rains and wind gusts of over 100 mph, working people still face the task of cutting up and removing the felled trees, many of

which are still on their roofs. Looking down the streets, huge tree trunks are piled up in front of houses.

Val Delaney and others who talked to us said that Georgia Power told them they wouldn’t come out to restore service until the trees are cut up. And it’s “on you to figure out how.”

“Some guys came from Mississippi and elsewhere to help cut the massive trees,” Delaney said. “They said, ‘We gotta help these people.’ Many of the Latinos went around helping neighbors,” two examples of working-class solidarity in the face of government inaction and disdain.

People who could afford it paid up to \$1,000 for generators to get light and power in their homes, and had to spend hours trying to find gas to keep them running. The news reported 1,000 transformers in areas hit by the

hurricane were still down.

Delaney showed us the house where one of her neighbors was killed during the storm when a big tree fell through the roof while she was asleep. The tree is still there. A teenage neighbor was killed when he stepped on a downed power line as he ran out of his house in fear of falling trees. So far, a reported 33 people have died in Georgia.

Head, along with other farmers in south Georgia, is dealing with toppled trees and damage to his home, fences and other farm structures. While Head didn’t suffer any crop loss, many other family farmers there suffered irreparable damage to their crops and their livelihood.

A representative of FEMA came to Head’s farm in Pavo, some 30 miles west of here. He told Head they only cover damage to his home, that they need documentation of the damage, and they would need to send out another agent to document the documentation — another example of the obstacles workers and farmers face from government bureaucracy. FEMA told Head he would have to contact a different agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to deal with damage to his farm.

Fields and fields of cotton and peanuts dot the roads between Pavo and Valdosta. Many cotton vines were damaged by the storm. When peanut vines get wet, a farmer’s harvester won’t work. Up to 30% of the peanut crop is ruined.

Delaney and others told us they got little warning the storm was headed their way. “There needs to be a way to get the information out when a storm is coming,” Head said. Nothing was done to evacuate people.



Militant/Janice Lynn

“Trees are down everywhere,” Willie Head, who has a small farm near Valdosta, Georgia, told the *Militant* Oct. 6. Like other farmers, Head is dealing with damage to home and his farm.

SWP's founding program points road for workers to win power

The Transitional Program for Socialist Revolution by Leon Trotsky is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. The excerpt below is from "The death agony of capitalism and the tasks of the Fourth International," the program adopted in 1938 on the eve of World War II by the Socialist Workers Party and the international communist movement. It generalizes from decades of class-struggle experiences, especially that of the October Revolution in Russia led by the Bolsheviks. It is based on the revolutionary strategy developed in the Communist International under the leadership of V.I. Lenin. The program put forward by the SWP presidential campaign in 2024 is based on it. Copyright © 1977 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Sit-down strikers, new members of United Auto Workers union, in Ford assembly plant in Kansas City, Missouri, April 1937. Transitional program was discussed, adopted by SWP on heels of these stormy events.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

Under the conditions of disintegrating capitalism, the masses continue to live the impoverished life of the oppressed, threatened now more than at any other time with the danger of being cast into the pit of pauperism. They must defend their mouthful of bread, if they cannot increase or better it.

There is neither the need nor the opportunity to enumerate here those

separate, partial demands which time and again arise on the basis of concrete circumstances — national, local, trade union. But two basic economic afflictions, in which is summarized the increasing absurdity of the capitalist system — that is, *unemployment* and *high prices* — demand generalized slogans and methods of struggle.

The Fourth International declares uncompromising war on the politics of the capitalists, which to a considerable degree, like the politics of their agents, the reformists, aims to place the whole burden of militarism, the crises, the disorganization of the monetary system, and all other scourges stemming from capitalism's death agony upon the backs of the toilers. The Fourth International demands *employment* and *decent living conditions* for all.

Neither monetary inflation nor stabilization can serve as slogans for the proletariat, because these are but two ends of the same stick. Against a bounding rise in prices, which with the approach of war will assume an ever more unbridled character, one can fight only under the slogan of a *sliding scale of wages*. This means that collective agreements should assure an automatic rise in wages in relation to the increase in price of consumer goods.

Under the menace of its own disintegration, the proletariat cannot permit the transformation of an increasing section of the workers into chronically unemployed paupers, living off the crumbs of a disintegrating society. *The*

right to employment is the only serious right left to the worker in a society based upon exploitation. This right today is being shorn from him at every step. Against unemployment, "structural" as well as "conjunctural," the time is ripe to advance, along with the slogan of public works, the slogan of a *sliding scale of working hours*.

Trade unions and other mass organizations should bind the workers and the unemployed together in the solidarity of mutual responsibility. On this basis all the work on hand would then be divided among all existing workers in accordance with how the extent of the working week is defined. The average wage of every worker remains the same as it was under the old working week. Wages, with a strictly guaranteed *minimum*, would follow the movement of prices. It is impossible to accept any other program for the present catastrophic period.

Property owners and their lawyers will prove the "unrealizability" of these demands. Smaller, especially ruined capitalists in addition will refer to their account ledgers. The workers categorically denounce such conclusions and references. The question is not one of a "normal" collision between opposing material interests. The question is one of guarding the proletariat from decay, demoralization, and ruin. The question is one of life or death of the only creative and progressive class, and by that token of the future of mankind. ...

The petty-bourgeois democrats — in-

cluding Social Democrats, Stalinists, and Anarchists — yell louder about the struggle against fascism the more cravenly they capitulate to it in actuality. Only armed workers' detachments, who feel the support of tens of millions of toilers behind them, can successfully prevail against the fascist bands. The struggle against fascism does not start in the liberal editorial office but in the factory — and ends in the street. Scabs and private gunmen in factory plants are the basic nuclei of the fascist army.

Strike pickets are the basic nuclei of the proletarian army. This is our point of departure. In connection with every strike and street demonstration, it is imperative to propagate the necessity of creating *workers' groups for self-defense*. ... It is imperative wherever possible, beginning with the youth groups, to organize groups for self-defense, to drill and acquaint them with the use of arms.

A new upsurge of the mass movement should serve not only to increase the number of these units but also to unite them according to neighborhoods, cities, regions. It is necessary to give organized expression to the valid hatred of the workers toward scabs and bands of gangsters and fascists. It is necessary to advance the slogan of a *workers' militia* as the one serious guarantee for the inviolability of workers' organizations, meetings, and press. ...

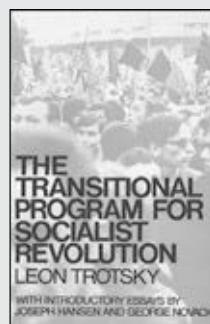
The strategic task of the next period — a prerevolutionary period of agitation, propaganda, and organization — consists in overcoming the contradiction between the maturity of the objective revolutionary conditions and the immaturity of the proletariat and its vanguard (the confusion and disappointment of the older generation, the inexperience of the younger generation).

It is necessary to help the masses in the process of the daily struggle to find the bridge between present demands and the socialist program of the revolution. This bridge should include a system of *transitional demands*, stemming from today's conditions and from today's consciousness of wide layers of the working class and unalterably leading to one final conclusion: the conquest of power by the proletariat.

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The power of working-class solidarity

Hurricane Helene made landfall at Keaton Beach in Florida at 11:10 p.m. Sept. 26, then traveled north, drenching Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee. This devastating storm, with over 225 dead, an unknown number still missing and substantial damage to homes, farms and small businesses, shows nature's potentially destructive power.

Similar catastrophes from past deadly hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters have wreaked havoc in the continental U.S., Hawaii, the Caribbean and elsewhere.

But the thing they share in common is not the power of nature. They were all *social* catastrophes, whose damage and deaths were the product of the priorities of the capitalist rulers and their governments.

Profit-driven construction bosses build working-class housing on low-lying land, prone to flooding. Governments at all levels use their armed forces, cops, courts and budgets to defend the banks and factories, not workers and our homes. Agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency have proven over and over — from Puerto Rico to North Carolina — that they are incapable of coping with these disasters and their aftermath.

As Helene's destructive wind and rain worked its way across the Southeast, working people selflessly stepped forward in large numbers to help one another. Their solidarity is what you could rely on.

To defend their wealth and prerogatives, the ruling rich tell us working people aren't capable or "smart enough" to take charge of society. Recent events prove the exact opposite.

Similar lessons are being drawn by workers at Boeing, on the docks and in other union battles today. Out of experience, they're learning the power of united working-class action.

This potential class power is decisive. Workers, small farmers and others exploited by capital have, can and will again change the world.

The social consequences of every serious development today — whether from a deadly storm, a strike battle or a pandemic — poses the class struggle and a political challenge.

The solidarity shown during Helene, and in today's strike battles, points the road for working people to build our own party, a party of labor, to organize workers in their millions to fight to take political power into our own hands. To join with working people worldwide to eliminate exploitation and oppression once and for all. A socialist revolution.

This is what the Socialist Workers Party has to offer.



Unfilteredwithkiran
Volunteers from Cajun Navy in Louisiana have traveled to hard-hit areas of North Carolina to join recovery efforts after Hurricane Helene.

The fight against Jew-hatred and pogroms

Below are excerpts from the opening chapter of The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class by Socialist Workers Party leader Dave Prince. Copyright © 2024 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

Hundreds of millions are being drawn into world politics by the unfolding crisis of the imperialist system and its ramifications in every corner of the globe. The rise in Jew-hatred and violence that has marked the opening decades of the twenty-first century — from the Middle East to North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific — is deeply rooted in this global crisis.

Jew-hatred is a *world* question. The fight against it is decisive to every working-class battle today against the brutal consequences for humanity of imperialism and its convulsions.

This book presents the political foundations and continuity of the Marxist program and course — in history and in action — on these questions. Jew-hatred is not eternal; it is rooted in class-divided society and the class struggle. And the authors answer the all-important question: *What is to be done to end it* — for all time. ...

So long as the dictatorship of capital remains — based on class exploitation and capitalist control of production and exchange — there is no solution to imperialism's recurring march toward fascism and war. Modern capitalism's international domination, and the fight among the main imperialist powers and their ruling families to partition the world, makes recurring social crises and wars inevitable. And it also makes inevitable resistance and revolutionary upsurges by the working class and all the exploited.

The Jewish question itself is a class question.

As we are seeing again today, Jew-hatred has a permanent place and function for the propertied ruling families in the imperialist epoch.

The way forward for the international working class is through building revolutionary proletarian parties, communist parties, in the countries where we live. Revolutionary leaderships that have unshakeable confidence in the working class and oppressed to take their destiny in their own hands. To organize along

the working-class line of march toward engaging the propertied ruling classes worldwide, taking state power, and transforming society. ...

The October 7 [Tehran-championed Hamas] slaughter was the worst single act of violence against Jews since the Holocaust carried out by the Nazis. It has irrevocably shaken hopes and illusions of Jews and others that escalating acts of Jew-hatred are a historical aberration, a thing of the past. That they are exceptions to the rule. That they will die down. Or that Washington and other "democratic" imperialist governments can be counted on to defend Jews at home or anywhere in the world. ...

A victorious socialist revolution in the United States is both necessary and possible. What's needed, what must be built, is a revolutionary working-class party politically armed with a communist program and a battle-tested proletarian leadership.

That is what the Socialist Workers Party is fighting to build. The party of the American socialist revolution. A revolutionary transformation — part of an expanding *world* socialist revolution — that opens the road to rebuilding society on foundations of human solidarity.

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'Militant' prison ban

Continued from front page

an independent review of the publication" and "affirmed the decision from July 18, 2024. The publication remains rejected and inadmissible with the Department's institutions."

There are over 100 *Militant* subscribers in Florida state prisons.

What were prison authorities objecting to? The *Militant* was informed May 17 that prison officials at Jackson Correctional Institution had banned issue no. 17 on April 29. They claimed a widely circulated Associated Press photo showing the body of a Jewish man murdered by Hamas being driven around Gaza City to cheers by Islamist thugs during the Nazi-like group's Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom, "depict hatred toward a specific race."

The picture was included as part of a feature article reprinting the opening chapter of Pathfinder's latest book, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

Prison authorities claimed that the photo and, by extension, the whole issue, needed to be seized because they violated three additional justifications given by the Department of Corrections for impoundments. One bars literature that is "dangerously inflammatory," encouraging "riot, insurrection, rebellion" and "organized prison protest."

Other justifications itemized are for material that "promotes the gang culture or lifestyle" or that "presents a threat to the security, order, or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system."

Violation of constitutional rights

The fight against Jew-hatred and Hamas' murderous pogrom is a key question for workers everywhere, including behind bars. To bar access to material that discusses this violates prisoners' constitutional rights to read political literature of their choice. It also violates freedom of the press, for the *Militant* and all other publications debating these crucial questions.

The importance of the issues at stake in the *Militant's* fight against the impoundment is underscored by the dozens of organizations and individuals that wrote to the Literature Review Committee urging prison authorities to lift the ban. They include Amnesty International USA, Florida American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU National Prison Project, Florida Press Association, PEN America, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and the Southern Center for Human Rights.

Goldstein wrote Herring Oct. 7, explaining, "The Sept. 30 Letter does not identify" which specific prison provisions "were violated by the identified photo. Nor does that Letter otherwise explain the reasons for affirming the impoundment."

"In order for the publication to better understand the reasoning behind the censorship and affirmation, we respectfully request that the LRC identify which of the provisions" were "violated by the identified photo" and "explain why."

The yearslong fight against prison impoundments — which the *Militant* has won more times than it has lost — continues.

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