

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

1970: When postal workers said 'enough!' and went on strike  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 88/NO. 40 OCTOBER 28, 2024

## Mideast showdown: Israelis fight to defend a refuge from Jew-hatred

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Israeli government has released documents its forces captured in Gaza that provide further proof Iran's capitalist rulers and the leadership of Hezbollah in Lebanon — despite their denials — were centrally involved in the yearslong preparations for Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, murderous pogrom against Jews in Israel.

As Israeli forces strike more blows against Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel is heading to a showdown with the reactionary capitalist regime in Iran. Tehran's training and financing of Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis — and its moves to acquire nuclear weapons — threaten the existence of Israel, the only unconditional refuge for Jews anywhere in a world where Jew-hatred continues to raise its ugly head.

Hamas thugs killed 1,200 people in its pogrom a year ago, wounded thousands, took 251 hostages and raped and mutilated dozens of women. It was the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust in World War II.

Israeli forces have pushed Hezbol-  
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## Seattle union support grows for machinists Boeing strike

BY JEANNE FITZMAURICE

SEATTLE — Over 500 workers on strike at Boeing packed the International Association of Machinists Local 751 hall here Oct. 15, chanting, "One day longer, one day stronger" and "Pension! Pension!" Hundreds more spilled outside the hall, where supporters from area unions joined in solidarity. It was the largest rally since the 33,000 Machinists walked off the job Sept. 13, after rejecting an inadequate tentative agreement and voting in favor of a strike by 96%.

Strikers are furious about Boeing bosses' attempt to go around their union to try and pressure workers to agree to a second inadequate contract offer. The 30% wage offer — which Boeing later withdrew — was well below the union's demand for a 40% increase. The Machinists' pay has only risen 4% over the past eight years, while prices have increased more than 21% in the last four years. Boeing cut off company-backed health insurance for strikers at the end of September.

Boeing broke off negotiations  
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Join the SWP 2024 campaign!

## 'Working class needs to take political power'



Militant photos: above, Norton Sandler; inset, Leslie Dork  
Dennis Richter, left, SWP candidate for U.S. vice president, joined picket of 200 Service Employees International Union members at Los Angeles airport Oct. 11 for higher wages.

## SWP Vice Presidential candidate Richter: 'Defending Israel's right to exist is in the interests of the world working class'

BY NORTON SANDLER

LOS ANGELES — "Hamas' so-called Al-Aqsa Flood — their name for the deadly pogrom they carried out in Israel a little over a year ago — was a declaration of war," Socialist Workers Party vice presidential candidate Dennis Richter told a public meeting here Oct. 13.

"This is a war with the intended goal of destroying Israel and the Jews, orchestrated by the bourgeois clerical regime in Iran," Richter said. Hezbollah in Lebanon and the other Iranian government-sponsored groups are attacking Israel from seven different directions. They share the goal of  
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## Cuba: 'End Washington's economic, trade war against our revolution!'



Militant/Sara Lobman  
March against Washington's embargo of Cuba, Aug. 27, 2022, in East Harlem, New York. U.S. rulers' decades of economic aggression are aimed at strangling the socialist revolution in Cuba.

Below are excerpts from "Drop the Blockade!" a powerful report prepared by the Cuban government detailing the punishing effects of the U.S. rulers' decadeslong economic, financial and trade embargo against Cuba's people and socialist revolution. The report was submitted to the U.N. General Assembly, which is scheduled to vote on Cuba's resolution against the embargo Oct. 30. It was released Sept. 12 by Cu-

ba's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodríguez, in Havana. The report in its entirety in English, Spanish and French can be downloaded from the website of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, cubaminrex.cu.

From March 2023 to February 2024, the government of the United States maintained a maximum pressure policy  
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## Socialist Workers Party campaign: 'Amnesty for immigrant workers!'

BY TERRY EVANS

Confronting the U.S. rulers' profit-driven approach to immigration is a key issue for the working class, one in which neither of the bosses' candidates for

president — Kamala Harris and Donald Trump — point any road forward.

The bosses turn immigration on and off depending on their need for cheap labor, and carry this out in ways that are aimed at dividing and weakening the labor movement. Both Harris and Trump seek to perpetuate this system. For a working-class alternative, you have to turn to the Socialist Workers Party's  
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## 'Washington Post' says US economy is just 'great!' — Not for workers!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"This is a great economy," Heather Long gushed in a feature *Washington Post* op-ed column Oct. 10. "We are living through one of the best economic years of many people's lifetimes," she insisted. It's a "miracle."

Really? This isn't the world millions of working people have been living in, struggling to make ends meet in the face of persistently high prices for groceries,  
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— On the picket line, p. 3 —

California Sheetrock workers win wage raise, strengthen union

UK food workers strike at Bakkavor enters fourth week



# 'End US economic war on Cuba!'

Continued from front page

against Cuba and continued to fully implement the economic, commercial and financial blockade, which is the fundamental pillar of that policy. Unilateral measures remained unchanged, with a stronger impact on Cuba's economy and people. Such measures have continued to replicate and aggravate the demolishing effects of this unilateral coercive system, the most wide-ranging and longest-lasting in history. ...

In the course of last year, the US government has upheld the laws and provisions related to the blockade against Cuba as well as the traditional actions to ensure their implementation, aimed at pursuing the historical goal of depressing the Cuban economy and workers' salaries; generate material scarcities and damage public services; provoke dissatisfaction and desperation among the population and subvert the legally established constitutional order. This kind of behavior has been described in several official documents of the US government which have been declassified, such as the internal Memorandum drafted by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Lester Mallory on April 6, 1960, which stated as follows:

"Every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba ... a line of action which, while as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government." ...

All the difficulties faced by the Cuban society are not exclusively due to

the blockade, but it would be untrue for anyone not to recognize the blockade as the main obstacle to our development. No country in this world, not even those whose economies are much more prosperous and robust than the Cuban economy, would be able to cope with such a ruthless, asymmetric and protracted aggression without a high cost on the living standards of their peoples, their stability and social justice.

That cost is being evidenced today in the shortages suffered by Cuban men and women, which include foodstuffs, medicines, fuels, means of transportation; as well as the deterioration of other basic services.

The US government cleared any doubt that might exist regarding the cruel and genocidal nature of the blockade when it chose the worst moment of the COVID-19 pandemic to impose additional coercive measures on all Cubans. It strengthened the ban on Cuban imports of several commodities, including ventilators; applied measures that affected the scaling-up of the Cuban vaccines against the virus and managed to prevent the import of oxygen from third countries. It refused to lift, even temporarily, the measures against Cuba so that the country could cope with the pandemic, as it did to other nations.

From March 1st, 2023 to February 29, 2024 the blockade caused material damages to Cuba estimated at USD 5,056,800,000, which represents an increase of USD 189,800,000 as compared to the figure that appears in the previous Report.

All of the above reflect the strengthened impact of the blockade on Cuban exports, particularly in the tourism



Fidel Castro, center, waving, led Liberty Caravan into Havana Jan. 8, 1959, after Rebel Army ousted U.S.-backed dictator Batista a week earlier. As Castro led Cuban workers, peasants in making a socialist revolution, U.S. rulers launched a decadeslong economic war against Cuba.

sector; the ruthless persecution of the country's financial and banking operations; as well as the comprehensive damages caused to Cuba's entrepreneurial system, production and the services provided to the population. ...

Between March 2023 and February 2024, the US government continued its pursuit of fuel supplies to Cuba, the possibility of filing lawsuits in US courts under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, and the smear campaign against the medical cooperation programs that the island carries out in numerous countries. Furthermore, it set out to curtail the recovery of the Cuban tourism sector hardest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures aim at dealing a mortal blow to the country's main sources of income.

The financial persecution has been further reinforced by the arbitrary inclusion of Cuba in the State Department's unilateral list of alleged countries sponsoring terrorism. It was a measure imposed, with no justification or evidence, by the Republican administration of President Donald Trump, just nine days before leaving the White House. The current President could reverse it with just a signature. The fact that the US government recently acknowledged that Cuba fully cooperates in the fight on terrorism, makes keeping Cuba in this spurious list even more absurd and unjustifiable. ...

Cuba maintains its willingness to build a civilized and respectful relationship with the government of the United States, despite our differences. We will remain open to exchange and collaboration with all counterparts and partners in US society who wish to work with Cuba for better relations.

As President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez has expressed, Cuba is prepared to continue facing the blockade and resist with creativity to overcome the injustice imposed upon us.

We will not stop denouncing the blockade, with the hope that this criminal policy will be eliminated once and for all. Present and future generations of Cubans have the right to live and prosper in a Cuba with no blockade.

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## THE MILITANT

*Defense of Ukraine sovereignty in interest of all workers*

*Washington is pressing the Ukrainian government to back off in its fight to push Moscow's forces out of all of Ukraine, hoping to stabilize the region to further the U.S. rulers' interests. The 'Militant' calls for support for the courageous and determined working people of Ukraine.*



National Police of Ukraine  
Apartments hit by Moscow bombardment in Vuhledar, in Donetsk region of Ukraine.

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



# —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.

### California Sheetrock workers win wage raise, strengthen union

ANTIOCH, Calif. — After more than three weeks on the picket line, workers at the Georgia-Pacific Sheetrock plant here go back to work with a wage increase of 6% in the first year of a four-year contract, and 3% in each of the other three. The workers will get retroactive pay with the raise dating back to July when their contract expired.

This was the first time these workers, members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 6 and International Association of Machinists Local 1584, have been on strike. All the workers stayed out together and will go back in together.

The strikers got support from rail crews who refused to run trains to the plant. They were also successful in getting the crew of a ship carrying gypsum supplies to abort their delivery.

"My uncle and I are on strike against Georgia-Pacific, and we are also fish-

ermen," Yousaf Pasha told the *Militant* at the picket line Oct. 7. After learning the ship was scheduled to enter the San Francisco Bay, Pasha and his uncle decorated their fishing boat with "On Strike" picket signs and banners reading "ILWU Warehouse Local 6, An Injury to One is an Injury to All." Joined by other strikers, they went out to meet the ship. When the ship's crew saw the fishing boat, they turned the ship around and never entered the Golden Gate.

The decision to go back to work was not an easy one. The strikers had been demanding a bigger raise. And, workers said, they'll need to take on unsafe conditions in the plant.

They're now discussing how to strengthen the union in preparation for the next contract fight. "We've never had a strike fund and now it's clear why we need to build one," striker Darnell Webb said on the picket line Oct. 7. "That's what I'll be raising with other workers."

— *Betsey Stone*



Yousaf Pasha, standing on right, and fellow ILWU members who were on strike against Georgia-Pacific in Antioch, California, used their fishing boat to discourage delivery ship crew from bringing supplies to company. When ship's crew saw the signs, they turned ship around.

### UK food workers strike at Bakkavor enters fourth week

SPALDING, England — Morale on the picket line of strikers at food giant Bakkavor has been buoyed by 38 additional workers joining the strike and signing up for the union during the last week. Over 700 Unite members are entering their fourth week of strike action here for higher pay.

The bosses have attempted to undermine the strike by busing in workers from nearby plants. But they've jettisoned these efforts because of low participation.

The union has called a demonstration for strikers, their families, supporters and fellow trade unionists marching from the picket line to the town center at 10 a.m., Oct. 22.

Send messages of solidarity to: Unite East Midlands, 5 Kesteven Street, Lincoln, LN5 7LH or email: education.eastmids@unitetheunion.org. Send strike fund donations to Unite East Midlands Region, Account 20173975; Sort Code 60-83-01.

— *Jonathan Silberman*

### Fired for joining a union, Dallas Black Dancers hold protest

DALLAS — "Tear up your ticket, join our picket!" and "Dallas Black, bring them back!" were two of the

spirited chants by 50 pickets backing the fired Dallas Black Dancers here Oct. 11. They were protesting at the Dallas Black Dance Theatre's "DanceAfrica" performance, put on Oct. 11 but with nonunion replacement performers.

The theater had just announced its new season, so the dancers' union, the American Guild of Musical Artists, is doing the same. The union's "Season of Solidarity" gave the fired dancers the opportunity to speak out about their fight.

In May the dancers had voted to join the union and theater bosses then fired them. "Auditions usually happen in the spring, so right now it is midseason and hiring is slow," Gillian Clifford, one of those fired, told the *Militant*. "But the Dallas Opera has hired some of the fired dancers."

"We will be picketing at the Dallas Black Dance Theatre's other performances this weekend," Griff Braun, national organizing director for the American Guild of Musical Artists, told the rally.

Sean Smith, a member of the Dallas Black Dancers for 14 seasons, told the *Militant* they are "seeking reinstatement." He encouraged people to "check-out the Dallas Black Dancers Theatre Instagram to keep up with what is going on with our fight."

A number of other unions participated, including the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, Dallas AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, the musical artists union at Dallas Opera, Actors' Equity, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 100 and more.

"We are standing in solidarity with them," Christopher Harrison, a singer at the Dallas Opera, said.

Several fired dancers spoke at the rally. "Don't let the pressure down," dancer Sharon Smith told the protest. "Companies are watching in California, Phoenix and Denver because the Black dancers are setting an example."

— *Josefina Otero*



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Unite union members picket Oct. 15 demanding higher wages at Bakkavor in Spalding, England. Strikers have called solidarity march from the picket line to the town center for Oct. 22.

## —25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO—



### November 1, 1999

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "No deportations"; "Amnesty now"; "No more arrests on the job." These were among the most common signs as 5,000 people marched through the capital to demand full rights for undocumented workers and to oppose raids by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The Clinton administration has led the bipartisan drive to limit the rights of residents born outside the U.S., beefing up the immigration cops and giving them greater powers to deport immigrants. Factory raids have become increasingly common.

The action was called as a "March for Dignity and Amnesty." Many of the speakers promoted lobbying Congress for a "general amnesty" law under which undocumented workers who are currently in the United States could apply for legal status. This action had a much larger trade union presence than a similar protest in 1996.



### November 1, 1974

The issues in the Nov. 5 elections are of burning urgency: runaway inflation, growing unemployment, the danger of a world depression, shortages, hunger, rotten schools, the threat of nuclear war, and racist mobs on the offensive in Boston.

Millions recognize that the Democratic and Republican politicians offer no solutions to our problems. Only the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party are telling the truth about the crisis facing working people, and pointing a way forward.

The candidates explain that the stepped-up attacks are not the fault of just one administration or one party, but of a system — the capitalist system, which puts the profits of a tiny, rich minority above the human needs of the vast majority. A vote for the SWP is the only way to cast a clear vote in support of independent political struggle by working people.



### October 31, 1949

The exact manner in which Stalin will attempt to forcibly overthrow the Yugoslav regime cannot be foretold by anyone. But this is Stalin's aim. Tito and his colleagues have little doubts on this score as their entire recent course in the diplomatic arena, especially in the UN, clearly shows.

No Marxist would deny the Yugoslavs the right to maneuver between the imperialists, on the one side, and the Kremlin, on the other. But no maneuvers can save Yugoslavia. Her fate will be ultimately settled on the field of the international class struggle.

It is dangerous to paint up the UN as "an indispensable instrument for peace and international collaboration." The imperialists would not hesitate for a moment to leave Yugoslavia at the mercy of Stalin, provided he met their price. They await only a favorable opportunity to rape Yugoslavia themselves.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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# Richter joins strike pickets in LA, builds labor solidarity

BY BERNIE SENTER

LOS ANGELES — As part of his national campaign tour Dennis Richter, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president, joined campaign supporters bringing solidarity to a number of labor struggles here.

Richter joined the picket line of workers striking Monogram Aerospace Fasteners Oct. 10. Later that day the 200-plus members of the United Auto Workers discussed a contract proposal, voted to accept it and ended their strike.

“It’s impressive that after a two-month strike the company hasn’t tore you up,” Richter told the workers. “It’s difficult to strike. The bosses try to sow divisions among you.”

“In the last few union contracts they gave us peanuts while their profits were skyrocketing,” one Monogram worker told Richter. “Inflation has gone up 23% since the last contract.” In the new contract “we got 5% the first year, then 5% and 3%. Health care costs are frozen.”

“To defend the working class against the ravages of capitalism our campaign raises the need to fight for automatic cost-of-living increases for all workers,” Richter said. “Every union contract should assure an automatic raise in wages to offset all increases in the prices. And we need these raises for Social Security, unemployment benefits and the minimum wage, too.

“We live in a class-divided society,” Richter said. “The things billionaires worry about are not what working people have to worry about.”

## Shorter workweek with no pay cut

“The right to employment is the only serious right left to workers in a society based on exploitation,” said Richter. “We need to fight for a sliding scale of working hours. Shorten

the workweek to 30 hours for 40 hours pay to prevent layoffs and spread the available work around.

“What our campaign is talking about can’t be given to us. It has to be fought for,” he said. “Workers change as we fight. We get a better appreciation of our worth.”

“We weren’t united before,” the striker said. “It was everyone for themselves. But we’re coming back stronger.”

Richter also joined a loud, spirited rally of 200 Service Employees International Union airport workers who rallied Oct. 11, then marched through terminals at the Los Angeles airport in their fight for higher wages and improved working conditions. He spoke with several of them.

Javon Houston, a passenger service representative, told the *Militant* the workers are fighting to get the minimum airport wage raised to \$25 an hour. It is currently \$18.75 and “we work under terrible conditions,” she



Militant/Ray Parsons

Dennis Richter, left, SWP candidate for vice president, and campaign supporter Gabriel Calderon, a bakery worker, center, join UAW strike picket line at Monogram Aerospace Oct. 10.

said. “We breath toxic air all day long.”

Richter also visited the Nova Exhibition now showing in Los Angeles. The installation graphically presents the Jew-hating slaughter carried out by Hamas last Oct. 7, at the Nova music

festival in southern Israel. It helps to answer the lies of those who claim Hamas’ pogrom had anything to do with advancing the rights of the Palestinian people. The exhibition, visited by thousands, has extended its stay until Nov. 3.

## Join drive to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ SWP campaign

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

In the final weeks of the U.S. election campaign, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Rachele Fruit for president and Dennis Richter for vice president are finding widespread interest among working people who are drawn into politics by the unfolding worldwide crisis of the capitalist system.

From actions marking the one-year anniversary of Hamas’ Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel, to building support for workers on strike, SWP campaigners and members of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are making progress toward the fall goal of winning 1,300 *Militant* subscribers and

selling the same number of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries, and raising \$140,000 for the SWP Party-Building Fund. The campaign runs through Nov. 19.

South Georgia farmer Willie Head took SWP members Sam Manuel and Janice Lynn to Valdosta to talk with several people he knew who were affected when Hurricane Helene hit the predominantly African American community. The SWP campaigners walked around the neighborhood to learn about the devastation. (See article in *Militant* no. 39.)

Head explained the *Militant* is a paper he gets each week that covers the struggles of workers and farmers. Two people the SWP campaigners met were familiar with the paper from its support for a fight against police brutality in the area in the early 2000s.

Manuel pointed to the *Militant*’s coverage of the response of the Cuban government and working people there to the hurricanes that hit the island. No one is left to fend for

themselves, he said, in stark contrast to what working people face here. Three people decided to subscribe to the paper and Head renewed his subscription for another year.

In Canada, Steve Penner reports that he and Joe Young campaigned in Brampton, Ontario. The two Communist League members visited Ben Baby, an information technology worker, who renewed his subscription to the *Militant*.

Baby told them he “was surprised that some people celebrated Hamas’ attack on Israel” on the anniversary of the Oct. 7 pogrom.

“The capitalist media is full of anti-Israel propaganda,” Penner said. “The *Militant* explains the true character of Hamas and its goal to kill Jews. It explains why fighting Jew-hatred is a life-and-death question for the working class.

## Need to build revolutionary parties

“Working people throughout the Middle East, just as here, need to build revolutionary parties that fight against Jew-hatred and unite working people of all nationalities in a common struggle to take political power into our own hands,” he said. Baby bought a copy of the book, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

SWP campaigners also found a good reception to the *Militant* at a protest organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers union in Chicago Oct. 14. The letter carriers are involved in an important labor battle for wage increases and better working conditions. They have been without a contract for over 500 days. At the rally, Naomi Craine, the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Illinois, spoke to V. Williams.

“We need fair pay,” Williams said. She signed up for a subscription to the *Militant* to learn more about other workers’ struggles, and got a copy of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*, by SWP leaders Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark.

One of the challenges, Williams told Craine, is “we live in an instant society,

people think everything happens on the phone,” and “the younger generation doesn’t want to work.”

Craine pointed out that in many jobs bosses have imposed two-tier wages, temporary contracts and irregular schedules. This makes it harder for young workers to get a place of their own and start a family.

“These questions have been an issue in many recent strikes, including the autoworkers last year. The labor movement needs to fight to bring generations of workers together,” Craine said. “That’s the road to fight against demoralization and dependency.”

“The SWP calls for a government-funded program of public works, to put millions to work building things we need,” SWP member Lisa Rottach added. “Fighting unemployment is part of uniting the working class, to get strong enough to take political power into our own hands.” Williams said she thought that made sense.

Earlier in the week, Rottach was part of a campaign team that visited Kankakee, Illinois.

“A woman who works at a local vegetable packing plant was wearing a knee brace. She explained how bosses refused to honor her doctor’s note for work restrictions,” Rottach said. “She got the Spanish edition of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch* and *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us*. She sent us off with two bottles of water on the warm afternoon.”

To endorse the SWP campaign, join in getting the word out about the SWP candidates and distribute the party’s literature, or to contribute to the SWP fund, contact the party branch nearest you listed on page 11.

## Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, SWP fund

Sept. 21 - November 19 (week three)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	55	29	55	20	\$10,000	\$0
Chicago	90	50	90	44	\$14,000	\$2,730
Cincinnati	50	15	50	20	\$5,000	\$0
Fort Worth*	55	31	50	22	\$5,000	\$680
Los Angeles	115	57	115	50	\$15,000	\$0
Miami	35	11	35	6	\$5,000	\$0
Minneapolis	65	22	65	21	\$5,500	\$276
N. New Jersey	70	30	70	30	\$7,500	\$2,285
New York	100	42	115	69	\$20,000	\$2,477
Oakland	85	41	85	29	\$15,000	\$8,855
Philadelphia	60	12	60	14	\$6,500	\$0
Pittsburgh	40	15	40	13	\$6,000	\$957
Seattle	60	19	60	12	\$14,500	\$3,320
Washington	50	20	50	21	\$4,500	\$760
Other		8		65		\$250
Total U.S.	930	402	940	436	\$133,500	\$22,590
Prisoners		60				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London*	45	33	70	55		
Manchester	40	32	40	25		
Total U.K.	85	65	110	80		
Canada	90	44	90	45		
Australia	30	17	30	22		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>\$133,500</b>	<b>\$22,590</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$52,500</b>
*Raised goal						

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# Join SWP 2024 campaign! ‘Working class needs to take power’

Continued from front page

killing and expelling Jews from the region.

Richter and SWP presidential candidate Rachele Fruit explain that the state of Israel was established in 1948 after imperialist rulers in the U.S., U.K. and elsewhere following World War II barred their doors to Jews who had survived the Holocaust. He also detailed the Nazi roots of the political forces that founded Hamas.

He described the blows Israel has made against Hamas in Gaza and more recently against Hezbollah. In response to this progress, the Iranian government launched 180 ballistic missiles into Israel Oct. 1. Not all of them were shot down, showing the danger to Jews there from the reactionary rulers in Tehran, Richter said. He also pointed to reports that the Iranian government is close to having enough enriched material to prepare four nuclear bombs.

“Israel is the only country in the world that provides a refuge for Jews and will defend that refuge arms in hands,” the socialist candidate said. “Defeat of Israel’s right to exist would be a brutal setback for Jews, Palestinians, toilers across the Middle East and workers of the world.”

He said the fight against Jew-hatred can only be resolved as working people of all religions and nationalities join in the struggle to end capitalist rule. And there will be no progress toward working people taking political power without a fight against all expressions of Jew-hatred.

The Biden administration tells Israel not to attempt to destroy Iran’s nuclear sites, nor its oil-producing capacity. The U.S. imperialist rulers only care about defending their own economic and political interests. They want “stability — for their oil profits in the region and protection of their maritime shipping,” Richter said.

The 2024 election, like all elections under capitalism, is designed to mask the class nature of bourgeois society. They tell workers, who they look down on, you have no choice but to pick the lesser evil of their candidates. And that workers can’t do anything about the blows that are, and will be, struck against them by the bosses and their government as the rulers face stiffening international competition

for markets and resources, and declining profit rates.

Richter said Donald Trump and Kamala Harris try to appeal to the working class for votes. Trump now claims the Republican Party is a party of the working class. He picked James David Vance as his vice presidential candidate, who emphasizes his roots growing up in poverty in Ohio and Kentucky. Vance says less about the millions he’s made since as a Yale Law graduate and venture capitalist.

“Harris’ running mate, Timothy Walz, paints himself as a regular guy who likes to hunt. He went out on the first day of pheasant season for a photo op,” Richter said. “But videos show he didn’t know how to load a shotgun.”

Richter noted the pitch both presidential campaigns are making to workers who are Black. He said former President Barack Obama has berated Black men for their allegedly backward views about women.

“I’m speaking to men directly,” Obama scolded an audience Oct. 10. “You just aren’t feeling the idea of having a woman as president.” That condescending attitude toward working people is common to the upper-middle-class meritocratic layers that Obama and Harris are part of.

## Union struggles: a sign of the times

Richter gave examples of union struggles he has participated in as he’s toured across the country and internationally, the solidarity he’s seen being extended by workers to one another, and the self-confidence that workers acquire in the course of these fights. This is a sign of the times, he said, different from a few years ago.

The SWP candidates “are campaigning on a straightforward and realistic program,” Richter said, “for workers and our allies to defend ourselves and to advance toward taking political power into our own hands.

“The working class has the strength necessary to become the class that rules America. What’s necessary is to understand our power and to use it.”



Militant/Mary Martin

Rachele Fruit, right, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, speaks with Boeing striker Howard Allen on picket line in Everett, Washington, Oct. 5. The SWP campaign builds solidarity with strikes and political struggles by the working class and the oppressed throughout the world.

Cuba’s socialist revolution “showed the capacities of working people. It stands as a powerful example for us today.”

Richter said he and Fruit explain that workers and our unions need to build a party of labor, so we can “go into politics on our own account — class against class — not simply on election day, but to lead a social movement 365 days a year.”

In the discussion that followed his talk, one participant asked about the International Longshoremen’s Association’s battle with the shipping companies over automation. “The problem is not automation or artificial intelligence,” Richter said. “We are not opposed to making work easier. We don’t want to go back to using hooks to unload ships.

“The question is how to protect the working class in the face of capital’s assault on jobs, wages and working conditions,” he said. “Everyone should have a right to a job.”

Another participant said it seems that young workers today don’t understand what a union is.

“For years the unions were shrinking and there were fewer big labor battles. But this is changing today,” Richter said. “Young workers in union situ-

ations are increasing being pushed to fight and seeing that ‘an injury to one is injury to all.’ This will accelerate as working-class struggles expand.”

During his presentation the socialist candidate described how revolutionary leadership emerges from class struggle battles in the U.S., pointing to the example of Farrell Dobbs. He was a young worker in a Minneapolis coal yard in the early 1930s.

“He was part of the ‘people from nowhere,’” Richter said. And he became “the central organizer of the strikes and organizing drives that brought hundreds of thousands into the Teamsters union in the Midwest. He went on to become the Socialist Workers Party national secretary.”

More like Farrell Dobbs will emerge as the class struggle deepens, he said.

## New International

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## Socialist Workers Party in 2024

The working-class alternative

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### Washington state

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Vincent Auger, Governor



# Hurricanes' one-two punch causes social crisis in Florida

BY STEVE WARSHHELL

MIAMI — Working people in the southeastern part of the United States have been hit by two devastating hurricanes in less than two weeks. The first, Hurricane Helene, cut a swath of destruction from landfall near Tampa Bay into the Carolinas, Tennessee and Kentucky. Over 250 people lost their lives, at least half in North Carolina. Some areas are still without power.

Hurricane Milton followed on Oct. 9, hitting just south of Tampa, laying waste to this densely populated and economically developed area of Florida. Following along Interstate Highway 4, it crossed the state, spawning deadly tornados, until it moved into the Atlantic Ocean just south of Jacksonville. The two storms caused billions of dollars of losses to farmers and other producers in the region.

Hurricane Milton caused at least \$160 billion in damage, according to a preliminary estimate from AccuWeather. Total losses could grow to \$180 billion, making it one of the most damaging storms in Florida history.

Milton's destructive winds led to millions of homes and businesses losing power. As of Oct. 11, over 2.4 million customers were without power.

Karl Butts has farmed in an area just east of Tampa for decades. He was affected by Hurricane Helene, but he and his neighbors faced catastrophic losses during Milton.

"We started preparing for the storm three days before it hit," Butts told the *Militant*. "We picked as much fruit as possible and had quite a bit of eggplant in the cooler when the power went down Wednesday as Milton moved through."

"When winds and rain subsided Thursday night, what it left behind was unprecedented flooding, wind damage and a flattened landscape strewn with debris and wide swaths of power outages."

The lifelong vegetable farmer described the disaster facing producers on the land. "The main farm damage was caused by water saturating the fields, weakening crop roots and then high winds flattening them."

Butts described the intensive labor he and other fruit and vegetable farmers put in trying to save the plants that can still stand. "We had to reset the stakes, putting on a new string and initiate whatever was necessary to allow the plants to recover and resume growth."

Butts described how modern agriculture can't be done by just single farm families operating in isolation. "My fate is intertwined with that of a neighboring farmer, who is Chinese, and a small wholesale produce vender who buys what I grow. They, in turn, are dependent on the local grocery store, produce vendors and restaurants who they sell to. All of them were shut down by the storm and its aftereffects."

Farmers throughout the area had to take emergency measures to salvage as much of their crops as possible, including recently set strawberry plants, as well as fields that had been prepared for fall planting.

## Fields completely flooded

"It's safe to say all 10,000 acres of strawberry fields were adversely impacted, a good portion being unrecoverable," Butts said. "Many fields were completely flooded and those saturated for long periods collapsed the beds and were lost. Recently planted fields exposed to prolonged saturated conditions favor root rot outbreaks. High winds blew recently set plants right out of their holes."

"Coolers where produce and boxes of strawberry plants for the fruiting fields lost power, resulting in losses."

"Strawberries and vegetables are la-



Militant/Karl Butts

Crops on Karl Butts' farm destroyed by flooding after wind, 15 inches of rain from Hurricane Milton. Densely populated parts of Central Florida were hit by deadly tornados spun off from storm Oct. 9. Billions of dollars in losses were caused to farmers and other producers in region.

bor- and capital-intensive crops with production costs in the thousands, if not tens of thousands, of dollars per acre."

At the same time, Butts described how the producers came together to support each other and work cooperatively to begin recovering from the effects of the storm. "Acts of human solidarity were on display everywhere. Being awakened to how vulnerable we all are in the face of such powerful natural phenomena, people instinctively begin not to just look out for themselves but also for each other," he said.

"Passersby frequently stopped to ask if everyone is OK and if you need any-

thing," he said. "Our neighbor who had a generator ran a hose to another neighbor's home so they had water."

"While farmers are absorbed with salvaging their particular situations, they do take time to call on other farmers they've known over the years to see how they are doing. We learn from their experiences what works and what doesn't," he said.

While these producers — like tens of thousands of others across the Southeast — got little help from government officials, their own collaboration shows the power of the solidarity of working people.

## 'Post' says US economy is just 'great!' Not for workers

### Continued from front page

rent or mortgages, electric bills, gas, health care, credit card debts and much more.

This real-world reality is rooted in the deepening economic, social and moral crisis of capitalism.

The consumer price index rose 2.4% from a year earlier in September, the Labor Department reported Oct. 10. While the monthly pace of price increases has slowed over the past year, the prices of just about everything essential to workers remain much higher than they were four years ago. And they're not coming down.

"Politicians and economists crow about reducing inflation to two to 3%," Gerald Kaminski, 69, a retiree in Palatine, Illinois, told the *Wall Street Journal*, "but that's on top of 20% inflation over the prior years. They think that's good and it's not."

Neither Democrat Kamala Harris nor Republican Donald Trump offer any answers to the way the capitalist economic crisis is battering workers and their families. Like Heather Long, Harris claims "we've" turned the corner. But there is no "we." The capitalist rulers and their meritocratic hangers-on may be doing swell, but working people aren't. Trump offers only vague promises that if he's in the White House, things will get better.

While those seeking to buoy the sagging Democratic election chances insist inflation is no longer an issue, their statistics are based on averages of all purchases — from Rice Krispies and pamperers to yachts and private jets.

The capitalist ruling families don't worry much about prices. For instance, two of the feature ads in the Oct. 13 *New York Times* magazine offer Oyster Perpetual Day-Date 36 Rolex watches — which go for \$149,999 a pop new, \$54,999 used, at jaztime.com — and

a nice bottle of Lagavulin Islay single malt Scotch, just \$145 at Bottle Buzz.

But workers face more serious problems. In September food prices — which government economists don't count in their favored "core" inflation statistics — posted their biggest monthly gain so far this year. Eggs rose 8.4%, up nearly 40%. Prices for clothing, car insurance, furniture and airfares also went higher.

"The [Biden] administration's policies have caused more harm to the people we serve in terms of the number of people coming in," Ken Estelle, president of Feeding America in west Michigan, told the *Financial Times*. Visits to his food pantries rose by more 20% over the past year, after a nearly 30% increase the year before, he said. "It is hard to overcome the prior three years of really disabling prices."

It's "sticky inflation," writes *New York Sun* columnist Lawrence Kudlow, because prices that have soared are not going down. "There are big soft spots in the economy, particularly manufacturing and housing, which are both in recession," he adds.

Brutal high prices are a major issue for working people worldwide. In September food prices around the globe rose at their fastest rate in 18 months, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations said. The biggest jump was for sugar, up 10.4%. Cereal prices rose 3%, reflecting jumps in wheat and corn export prices.

### Well-paid full-time jobs hard to get

Despite the government's announcement that 254,000 jobs were created in September, which it says shows the capitalist economy is doing great, millions of workers know all too well that decent well-paid jobs are hard to come by. The Labor Department says there are 5.7 million people who want a job, but

aren't counted as part of the labor force because they've given up looking. There are also 4.6 million workers who want full-time jobs but have only been able to find part-time hours, with less pay, benefits or union representation.

The number of workers forced to take on a second job to cover family expenses is also rising. It's up to 8.6 million, 5.3% of the workforce.

For the first week in October the number of workers who filed unemployment claims rose to the highest level in more than a year. And the number of workers unemployed for 15 weeks or longer is also up.

Health care costs continue to rise, as insurance companies, hospitals and the entire medical for-profit industry focus on how to maximize their take. Average family insurance premiums cost \$6,296 last year, said the KFF health research group.

A Mercer survey reported the cost of employer-provided health insurance rose by 7% in 2024 for the second straight year and will go up an average of 5.8% in 2025.

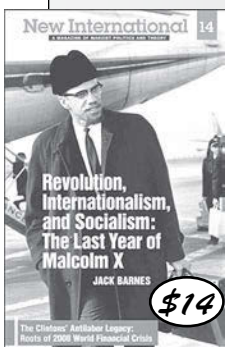
Workers face higher medical deductibles, in some cases thousands of dollars for both themselves and their families. The average deductible for single coverage has grown "faster than workers' wages in the past decade," KFF says.

The government announced Oct. 10 that Social Security payments will increase by only 2.5% in 2025, the smallest cost-of-living adjustment in four years. This is way below the higher costs all workers face, and much higher costs seniors face for health care, drugs, food and rent. Some 40% of older workers rely on Social Security for half or more of their income.

And this paltry increase will be immediately reduced by the government boosting the monthly cost for Medicare.

### The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class:

#### In Defense of Land and Labor



"Human hardship from natural occurrences, including calamitous 'acts of god,' falls in starkly different ways on different social classes under capitalism."

Socialist Workers Party statement

New International no. 14.

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# 1970: When postal workers said 'enough' and went on strike

Over the past two weeks, postal workers — members of the American Postal Workers Union, National Association of Letter Carriers and National Rural Letter Carriers' Association — have organized protest actions across the country against the government, which has refused to negotiate a living wage and working conditions. These workers have gone up to 500 days without a new contract. An article about the latest protests appears below.

The government says postal workers cannot be permitted to strike to back up their just demands. They've said this for decades.

But in 1970 over 200,000 postal workers decided enough was enough. Starting in New York City on March 18 and then spreading across the country, they walked out.

The bosses, their government and press screamed bloody murder. Then President Richard Nixon threatened to use the U.S. Army to deliver the mail.

The *Militant* responded by putting out a special four-page issue of the paper explaining the reason for the strike, what it foretold about the U.S. working class, and calling for solidarity from all working people.

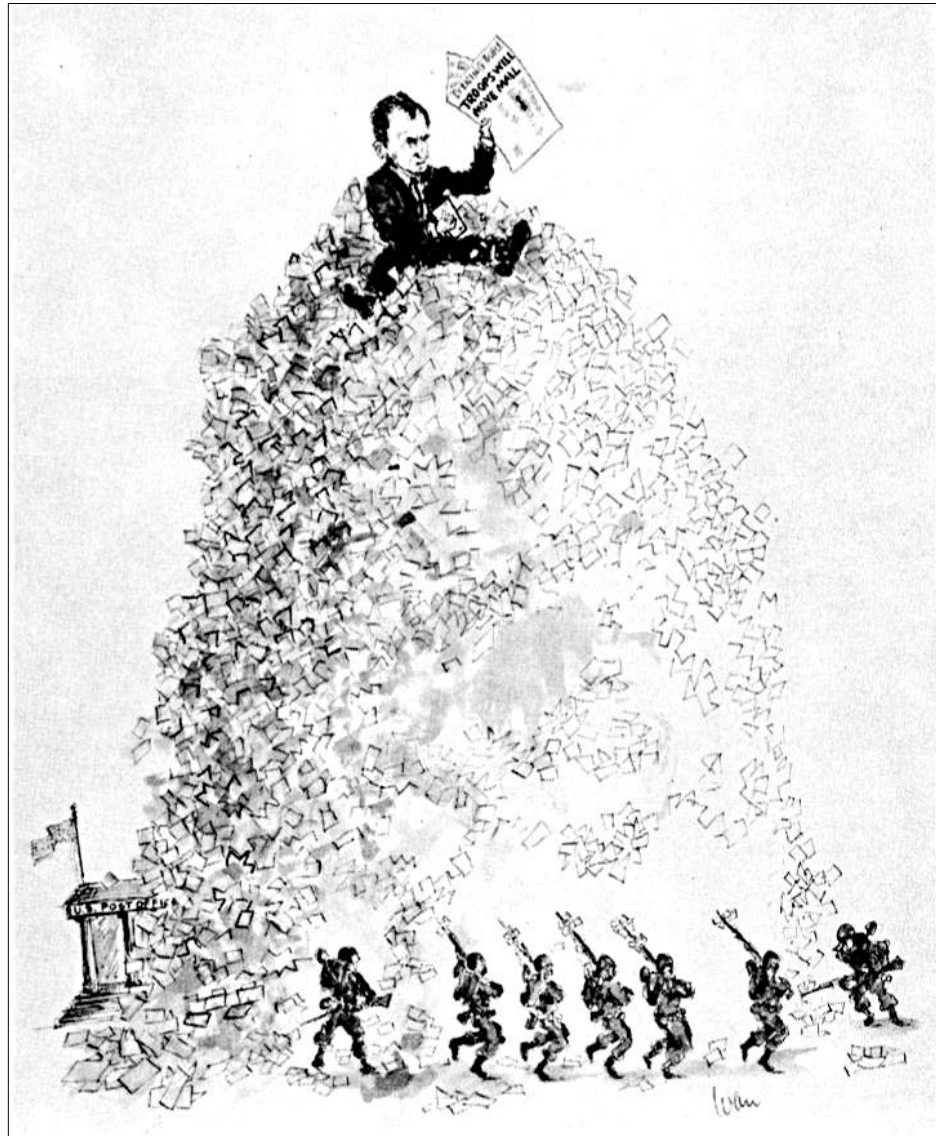
The strike was quickly settled, with workers winning a raise and establishing their unions' right to negotiate wages, benefits and working conditions.

Below are excerpts from a feature, "A demonstration of labor's power," in that issue. Workers today confront similar pressures and are looking for ways to fight ever more effectively.



**BY FRANK LOVELL**

**MARCH 24** — The strike of New York City letter carriers on March 18, which spread rapidly across the nation, paralyzing the postal service and causing panic in the international



Cartoon from March 1970 special *Militant* issue backing postal strike. At the time President Richard Nixon, on top of pile of letters, threatened to order the U.S. Army to deliver the mail.

business world, reveals a new mood in the ranks and demonstrates the power of the working class.

It should come as no surprise that the workers' mood, their general attitude toward the government of this country, their judgment of the employing class, and their view of their assigned position in this society show signs of radical change. This change of feeling and general outlook on the part of broad sectors

of the working class is brought on by the daily deteriorating conditions of life, which accompany the unraveling of the whole tangled skein of dubious moral and social values of capitalist society.

The immediate cause of this change in attitude of millions of workers and the new mood of defiance, is the sharp downturn in real wages resulting from inflation and the consequent decline in the standard of living. But the general

feeling has been growing for the past four years — since 1966 — that something is wrong and that the employers, the greedy price-gougers, their political servitors in the Republican and Democratic parties, and maybe even the government itself, are to blame.

The loss in real wages, which has just begun to affect most industrial workers, has already become a catastrophe for the postal workers. They are employees of the government, denied the right to strike for higher wages. And the result is that their pay is so far below the national standard that seven percent of letter carriers in New York City receive welfare to augment their wages.

Thousands more work a second job. They must because their starting pay is only \$6,176 a year, and if they stay 21 years they can make top scale of \$8,442. This explains why the letter carriers stopped making their appointed rounds.

This strike, perhaps more dramatically than any other in the history of this country, demonstrated the power of the working class.



The striking postmen have exposed the myth of "impartial" government. Simply by insisting that their employers pay them living wages, they have revealed the truth for all to see that this government is part of, belongs to, and serves the employing class.

They have demonstrated once again that everything depends upon the workers. Without the skilled labor of the postal workers the internal functioning of the greatest military power in the world is paralyzed in a few days. During World War II the miners taught the Roosevelt administration that you can't dig coal with bayonets. It may yet be necessary for the mail sorters to teach Nixon that you can't deliver mail with bayonets.

This does not mean that this postal strike is the beginning of the final showdown between capital and labor.

What it does reveal is that the working class is disenchanted with the status quo. As the lords of the press have so eloquently described it, "The unthinkable has happened." This would not have occurred if the postal workers had not sensed the complete sympathy of all workers, and this sympathy has been universally expressed on every hand by the rank and file of labor throughout the course of the strike.

Workers everywhere have come to feel that if they only do something, act together, they can in fact change the conditions of their lives. The youngest and least experienced in union ways are learning from this strike and from the strikes of state and municipal workers all over the country that preceded it (especially the January 1966 New York subway strike, in which the union president, Michael Quill, was jailed), that the union is the immediate instrument — the tool to hand — to begin the fight for a better life.

They will learn quickly what it takes to win: a firm program expressing the needs of the working class and a leadership with the know-how and the courage to carry through against all obstacles. This means, in short, an anti-capitalist program and a leadership willing to challenge the capitalist government and change it.

## Letter carriers rallies mark over 500 days without contract

**BY EDWIN FRUIT**

**MINNEAPOLIS** — Close to 100 members of National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 9 and their supporters rallied in front of the main post office here Oct. 14. The action was part of a series of coordinated protests mounted by the union across the country.

The Letter Carriers are one of the three major postal unions, along with the American Postal Workers Union and National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, fighting for new, improved contracts from the government agency. Because they're designated by the government as "essential workers," they're legally barred from going on strike.

Jorge Quintero, who has worked for the United States Postal Service for four years, described some of the key demands the union is fighting for. "We don't have enough workers and are forced to work mandatory overtime," he said.

"It has been 512 days since our contract ran out and we need cost-of-living increases that make up for inflation. It takes 13 years to get to top pay scale and we want this cut to six years. Many casuals quit because they don't want to work 10- to 12-hour days at \$17.25 an hour."

Ben Noble, a long-time postal worker, described how management uses scan-

ners to monitor letter carriers during their shifts. He also said union grievances can take up to a year to resolve.

Catina Taylor, the president of the Educational Support Professionals of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, offered her union's solidarity with the postal workers' fight.

At a rally the same day outside

the post office in Moline, Illinois, Ross Thorpe, a member of NALC Branch 318, told Our Quad Cities News the long delay in winning a new contract has been really hard on the workers. "Under the old contract, the pay raises and the COLAs and all of that stopped 512 days ago," he said. COLA wage increases help make up for the ravages of inflation. "I think our last of any kind of COLA was in January of 2023 and then our last general wage increase was like November of 2022."

"We've got carriers across the country that qualify for food stamps because they've got kids. They have to shower at a Y because they don't have a house, or they're living in a car."

"Imagine living in New York, where the cost of living is outrageous, and you're living on the same pay scale that you had two years ago," Thorpe said. "I mean, it just doesn't work."

Susan Becker, another postal worker at the Minneapolis rally, pointed to the gains they had made when the postal unions went on strike in 1970. "Even though it was then and still is today illegal for postal workers to strike," she said, "we did strike then and got wage gains and the right to collectively bargain. And we showed the power of what we can do if we stick together."



*Militant*/Edwin Fruit

Postal workers rally, one of many in U.S., in Minneapolis Oct. 14.



# Baker defends free speech, right to worship, as ‘worth fighting for’

BY SETH GALINSKY

When the Colorado Supreme Court dismissed the third harassment lawsuit filed against him Oct. 8, Jack Phillips, the owner of the Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, felt vindicated after 12 years of defending his right to refuse to design cakes with messages that ran counter to his religious convictions. The decision is an important victory for the First Amendment right to freedom of speech and freedom of worship.

But there is no guarantee that aggressive “woke” advocates determined to use the courts to try and impose their views and morality on everyone else will back off their harassment of Phillips.

A devout Christian as well as a cake decorating artist, Phillips first became a target of harassment in 2012 when he refused to design a wedding cake for Charlie Craig and David Mullins, a gay couple.

“I’ll make your birthday cakes, shower cakes, sell you cookies and brownies,” Phillips had politely told them. “I just don’t make cakes for same sex weddings.” That, he explained, goes against his religious beliefs. He doesn’t want to be seen as endorsing gay marriage.

Phillips has also refused to design cakes with messages that demean gay people, express racism, celebrate Halloween or Satan, or promote use of marijuana.

Nonetheless, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a complaint on behalf of the couple with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, alleg-

ing Phillips had discriminated against them on the basis of sexual orientation. The commission pushed aside Phillips’ constitutional rights, backed the couple, and threatened to take action against Phillips if he continued to refuse to make cakes for gay weddings.

Phillips appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where he won in a 7-2 decision in June 2018. But the court ruling didn’t clearly address Phillips’ right to free speech. It ruled he wasn’t given “neutral and respectful consideration” of his religious beliefs.

The court noted that the commission on at least three other occasions ruled that bakers who refused to create cakes with messages against gay marriage had acted lawfully because the words were “derogatory.”

One commissioner had attacked religious views more broadly. Freedom of religion “has been used to justify all kinds of discrimination through out history, whether it be slavery, whether it be the holocaust. ... To me it is one of the most despicable pieces of rhetoric that people can use to — to use their religion to hurt others.” Not one of the other commission members answered this broadside attack.

## Harassment of Phillips

Even before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, lawyer Autumn Scardina contacted Masterpiece and asked Phillips to bake a custom cake — blue on the outside, pink on the inside — to celebrate the seventh anniversary of Scardina’s gender “transition.” Phillips declined. Later Scardina requested a cake depicting Satan smoking mari-



Jack Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colorado, decorates one of his creations. In an important victory for First Amendment right to freedom of speech and freedom of worship, he won right not to design cakes with messages counter to his religious convictions.

juana, which Phillips also wouldn’t make. Scardina then filed a complaint with the commission.

Just weeks after the 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision, the commission ruled that Phillips had discriminated against Scardina on the basis of gender identity. But after Phillips sued, and more instances of the anti-religion biases of the commission came to light, it dropped the case against him in March 2019.

Scardina then filed a lawsuit against Phillips in June 2019. At first a state court ruled against the baker, imposing a \$500 fine for allegedly violating the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. That’s the case the Colorado Supreme Court dismissed Oct. 8, in a narrow ruling holding Scardina had not filed the suit properly.

The American Bar Association also intervened in the dispute, claiming the issue is whether “a business’s freedom to choose its customers” is

“more important than the government interest in stopping sexual orientation discrimination.”

But that’s simply false. Phillips was exercising his right to consider his religious beliefs in deciding what cakes he makes, not based on who was ordering them, but on what the cakes would say.

The U.S. Supreme Court took this up in a June 2023 decision in a related case. It ruled that state agencies cannot use the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act to force businesses such as graphic designers to create messages they don’t agree with because this violates the “Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment.”

Graphic designer Lorie Smith had filed the suit. Both sides stipulated to the facts in the case, including that Smith is “willing to work with all people regardless of classifications such as race, creed, sexual orientation, and gender.” She, however, will not produce content that “contradicts” what she views as “biblical truth.”

This ruling supports Phillips’ position. He told *USA Today* after his Oct. 8 victory, “These rights not only protect me, but they protect the people who are suing me. And they’re worth fighting for because if I lose my rights, we all lose these rights.”

wages and more staffing. According to the union, more than 4,300 hotel workers are currently on strike at Hilton, Hyatt, and Marriott hotels in Seattle, Boston, San Francisco and Honolulu.

“We want Boeing management to know that we’re strong and united, and their scare tactics aren’t going to work,” Matthew Wright, a 52-year-old electrician at the company, told the media outside the rally. “We’re not afraid of them.”

“If you don’t fight, you don’t win anything,” Dennis Elder, a Boeing worker at its Seattle Delivery Center, told the *Militant*.

Throughout the five-week strike IAM members have maintained spirited picket lines. People driving by the Renton plant, including some in a cleverly decorated Halloween truck, honk in support of the strikers.

“We’re just trying to get our fair share of what they make on the planes,” striker Nathan Wheeling said. He explained the union is also fighting to reduce the time it takes to get to maximum pay. He said there’s very little division among strikers. “We’ve banded together.”

Machinist Roger Bland told the *Militant* that workers are not wavering on the picket lines in spite of the company’s scare tactics. “The newer workers might be concerned about the layoff announcement, but they still support the strike.”

“I’m glad we’re on strike. I have to  
**Continued on page 12**

# Defend a refuge from Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

lah away from Israel’s northern border, finding weapons stores and tunnels throughout southern Lebanon that the reactionary Islamist outfit had prepared for carrying out its own pogrom.

Israeli officials showed the *New York Times* minutes from 10 Hamas planning meetings that include details of the group’s consultations with Iranian and Hezbollah officials.

The documents make clear that a central aim of Hamas’ assaults on Israeli military bases near the Gaza border a year ago was to remove any obstacle to it brutalizing and killing as many civilians as possible. Among the files reviewed by the *Washington Post* was a 36-page computer slide presentation created in 2022, laying out other possible targets, including shopping malls, a skyscraper in Tel Aviv and passenger rail stations.

The documents include letters to Tehran asking for \$500 million on top of what the Iranian regime had already given Hamas, along with more training and equipment. “We promise you that we will not waste a minute or a penny unless it takes us toward achieving this sacred goal” of destroying Israel, a June 2021 letter to Iran Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei signed by Hamas officials says.

Central to Hamas’ plan was fooling the Israeli government into believing that Hamas had changed and now “wants life and economic growth” for Gazans.

To create that false impression, Hamas scaled down attacks and asked the Israeli government to grant more permits for Gazans to work inside Israel. Hamas knew that the people of Gaza would pay a deadly price from an Israeli counterattack, but that was a key component of its strategy — the creation of a new levy of “martyrs.”

## Hamas’ goal: Kill the Jews

Improving the life of Gazans has never been part of Hamas’ program. Its founding covenant states that “the

Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight the Jews (killing the Jews).” Hamas’ political continuity goes back to the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin al-Husseini, in the 1930s and ‘40s. Al-Husseini, a close collaborator with Adolf Hitler’s Nazi regime in Germany, helped to set up a Muslim unit of the SS. He asked Nazi officials to prevent Jewish children in Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria from going to Palestine, demanding they be deported to Poland, where the Nazis had set up death camps.

Facts described in a new book by *Ha’aretz* reporter Lee Yaron, *10/7: 100 Human Stories* help to answer those who still harbor illusions that Israel should negotiate with Hamas and its backers to find a “diplomatic” solution. While she says the Israeli government shares responsibility for today’s conflict, the facts she presents are telling.

## Hamas targeted ‘peace activists’

Before Oct. 7, Yaron notes, Kibbutz Be’eri members routinely “volunteered to transport Palestinian patients to Israeli hospitals and annually donated thousands of dollars to families in Gaza.” Many of its residents were “peace activists” and opponents of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Hamas deliberately targeted them. One in 10 residents of Be’eri was murdered or kidnapped Oct. 7. That includes the killing of 74-year-old Vivian Silver, a leader of Women Wage Peace.

One of the key reasons Tehran orchestrated Hamas’ Oct. 7 pogrom was to disrupt the “Abraham Accords,” the establishment of diplomatic and economic relations with Israel by the governments of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan and Kosovo in 2020 and 2021. Tehran and Hamas feared that Saudi Arabia was about to join the accords and recognize Israel.

The accords increased the possibilities from different countries and nationalities to travel, meet each other, and act together to defend their common class interests. This is anathema to Tehran and Hamas.

The documents released by the Israel Defense Forces show that Hamas urged Tehran and Hezbollah to directly join the attack on Israel. But they held back.

What really concerned Tehran is the growing opposition among working people in Iran — among Persians, as well as oppressed nationalities, including Kurds, Baluch, Azerbaijani and Arabs — to the bourgeois clerical regime and its attempts to extend its reactionary influence and military positions throughout the region. That’s the biggest brake on the regime.

Despite pressure to support Tehran’s war moves, retirees, teachers, miners, oil workers, nurses and others have been taking to the streets to demand higher wages and pensions and better job conditions. Some recent actions have included slogans denouncing the regime’s “war mongering.”

Tehran “fired 181 ballistic missiles on Israel” on Oct. 1, the *Wall Street Journal* noted, “and a day later President [Joseph] Biden was already telling Israel what it shouldn’t do in response.” While Israel shot down most of the missiles, some penetrated the



As it threatens to destroy Israel, the reactionary bourgeois regime in Tehran is worried about growing opposition among working people in Iran to its military adventures in the region. Above, teachers and retirees protest for higher wages, pensions in Tehran Oct. 13.

country’s missile defense systems, damaging hundreds of homes and businesses and demonstrating the Iranian rulers’ ability to inflict death and destruction on the Jewish people.

From the start of the war in Gaza, the U.S. government has pressed Israel to agree to a cease-fire — without dismantling Hamas to prevent future pogroms — and to back off from pushing Hezbollah away from the Israeli border.

The U.S. rulers’ concern is not the survival of Jews in Israel, but “stability” for U.S. imperialism’s own economic and political interests, including the push by the Biden administration to advance its relations with the rulers in Iran.

The White House claimed Oct. 15 that Netanyahu has agreed not to target

Iran’s oil industry or nuclear sites — for now. According to press reports, in exchange Washington is sending a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile system — THAAD — to bolster Israel’s defenses from Tehran’s airstrikes.

But Netanyahu also issued a statement saying, “We listen to the American government’s thoughts, but will make our final decisions based on Israel’s national security needs.” This is especially true concerning the regime in Tehran, which threatens Israel’s existence.

That same day Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken threatened to cut off some military aid to Israel unless it reverses what they called the “deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza.”

# ‘NY Post’ supplement is useful tool to fight Jew-hatred, pogroms

NEW YORK — The *New York Post*, the paper with the largest daily circulation in the city, printed a special 12-page supplement wrapped around its Oct. 7 edition marking one year since Hamas’ Jew-hating pogrom in Israel.

This powerful supplement can be used to help explain why working people need to support Israel’s right — and need — to defend the safety of a refuge for Jews. Together with the Pathfinder book *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* it can help explain why this is a central question for the working class everywhere.

The front and back cover of the supplement has the pictures of 91 of the remaining 101 hostages (including four kidnapped a decade ago) still being held by Hamas in atrocious conditions. Less than 70 are believed still alive today.

The supplement describes how if the reactionary regime in Tehran — which is the dominant force behind Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis and the so-called axis of resistance — is successful, it would lead to a modern-day Ho-

locast and the destruction of Israel.

The *Post* supplement accurately depicts how the White House keeps putting pressure on Israel to try to prevent it from taking the decisive action needed to dismantle Hamas and Hezbollah and prevent Tehran from getting nuclear weapons.

It includes interviews with former hostages, family members of those still being held, and an article about Hamas head Yahya Sinwar titled “Mastermind’s only goal: Kill all Jews.”

Copies of the Oct. 7 issue of the *Post* are available for \$8 by calling the paper at (888) 208-4157.

—S.G.

# Seattle union support grows for Boeing strike

Continued from front page

Oct. 9, filing an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board, accusing the union of negotiating in bad faith. Two days later the company announced it will lay off 10% of its workforce and in 2027 end production of its 767 planes, a year earlier than they had previously said.

“It’s time for Boeing to pay back the workers who sacrificed so much over the last decade,” Jon Holden, president of IAM District 751, told the rally. The Machinists have not had a new contract in 16 years.

“They’re sending offers to the media,” he said. “We call on Boeing to do the hard work to come to a resolution, Do what it takes. Bargaining in the press is not the answer.”

“Every single worker has your back,” April Sims, president of the Washington State Labor Council, told the rally.

“One day longer, one day stronger is when you feel tired, that you can’t go on, when the bills pile up,” Sean Bagsby, business manager for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 46, told the crowd. “That’s when it counts.”

Hundreds of electricians in Local 46 had gone out on strike against Limited Energy in April after rejecting a proposed contract. After 10 weeks on strike, union members won a contract June 19 that included \$12.50 in raises, and returned to work. A number of IBEW members joined the crowd outside the rally to show support.

A big delegation from UNITE HERE Local 8 came to offer solidarity and talk about their union battle. Some 400 hotel workers at the DoubleTree Seattle Airport and Seattle Airport Hilton and Conference Center went out on a one-week strike Oct. 12 demanding higher

## Deepening Showdown in the Middle East

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- Pogroms part of social convulsions and wars of imperialist epoch
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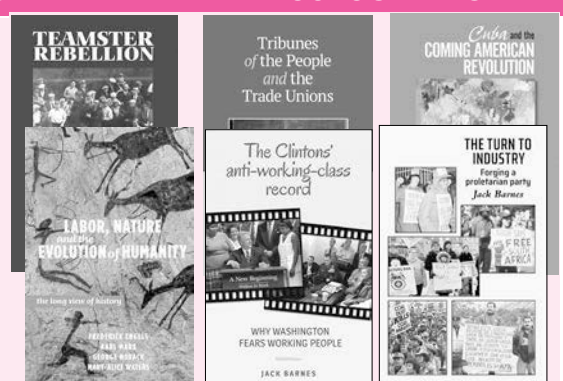
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# Bosses push automation to slash jobs and safety, and boost profits

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

After three days on the picket line, the International Longshoremen's Association suspended its strike at East and Gulf coast ports, extending the current contract to Jan. 15 after winning a 62% wage increase over six years. But the sharpest point at issue in the dockworkers' fight remains unresolved — the push by bosses to increase their use of job-killing technology in order to speed up work, increasing the danger to workers' lives and limbs.

"We are asking for more money, but money makes no difference if there are no jobs," Tim Harris, ILA vice president of the South Gulf Coast District, told the *Militant* during the strike.

"Safety is a big concern," Mark Bass, president of ILA Local 1410 at the Port of Mobile in Alabama, said. "The USMX [United States Maritime Alliance] is installing more and more automation, without regard for safety factors, without care for the human beings who work there."

The bosses slander workers and our unions, claiming we're opposed to technology. But the fact is workers know exactly how bosses use it, and *that's* the problem. In their hands, technology is brought in for only one reason — to increase profits by boosting productivity, cutting the workforce and speeding up production.

In industries across the country "labor-saving" technology has resulted in a brutal labor-intensifying reorganization of work in meatpacking plants, Amazon warehouses and elsewhere. The bosses take no account of the devastating toll on workers' health and safety unless they're forced to in response to action by workers and our unions.

The employers' ceaseless "productivity drives" — speed-up, job combinations and other "cost cutting" measures — increasingly lead to injuries and deaths in factories, mines, and farm fields, and on the rail lines.

Automation was a central question during ILA strikes in 1964 and 1977. As the use of containers became widespread, the need for large crews to load

sacks of coffee, nets full of cotton and other cargo was eliminated and turnaround times for ships in port was cut from weeks to days, qualitatively boosting profit margins.

By 1987 membership in the ILA was reduced from its peak of 165,000 down to less than 60,000, despite the union making some important gains during this period, most importantly winning a single master contract to cover all the ports on the East and Gulf coasts instead of port-by-port negotiations.

Today dockworkers face greater uncertainty. It's not unusual to work a shift of 15-20 hours when a ship is in port and then have no work — or pay — the next week.

## Shorter workweek with no cut in pay

At issue is not "automation" per se, but jobs and safety.

Across industry, workers and our unions should respond to bosses' demands for technology-driven job cuts by demanding a shorter workweek without *any* cut in take-home pay, to protect all our jobs.

This would ease the competition among workers for jobs and help unify the working class. It would strengthen the fight against forced overtime, "suicide shifts" and bosses' demands to extend the workday.

No one knows better than dockworkers what the safety issues are at ports and what it will take to fix them.



Automated straddle carriers have replaced drivers on Los Angeles docks. Bosses seek automation to boost output, profits by eliminating jobs. With working class in power, benefits of technology would flow broadly to working people, with jobs, pay and safety protected.

That's true on every job. No worker has to be injured or die on the job. But to make that a reality, workers and our unions need to fight for workers control over safety, work speed and all aspects of production.

It's only by the working class taking on these questions that they will be addressed in our interests.

Hundreds of thousands of workers — autoworkers, hotel workers, Machinists at Boeing and more — have gone on strike for better wages, schedules and working conditions. Many of these struggles are tied to the same issues facing longshore workers. Nurses at several hospitals have gone on strike to demand more hiring to

cut workloads and ensure patients get the care they need.

In the long run, the capitalist system that organizes everything solely with the aim of making bigger profits must be reckoned with. The wealthy ruling-class families view workers as expendable beasts of burden. The employers operate with no regard for our lives or those of future generations as they pollute the land and seas, and threaten humankind's very existence with more wars to defend their wealth against all rivals.

Only through the fight for independent working-class political action and the conquest of power by workers and farmers, will the solutions to those issues be found.

# Memphis cops convicted in deadly beating of Tyre Nichols

BY AMY HUSK

Three former Memphis, Tennessee, police officers, Demetrius Haley, Tadarrius Bean and Justin Smith, were found guilty Oct. 3 on charges of federal witness tampering in the brutal beating death of Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old FedEx worker. Haley was convicted of several other charges, including violating Nichols' civil rights by causing bodily harm.

All three were acquitted of the more serious charge of violating his civil rights by causing his death.

Two other cops, Emmitt Martin III and Desmond Mills Jr., had pleaded guilty and testified against the others.

"All of them have been convicted of something and they're going to jail," said RowVaughn Wells, Nichols' mother, after the trial. "We're happy that they have all been convicted."

"What they did to my brother was wrong," said Kenya Dixon, his older sister. "To see them be held accountable was anything and everything that my family could ask for."

Haley is being held without bail and Bean and Smith are on supervised release until sentencing Jan. 22. All three could face up to 20 years in prison. Bean and Smith have filed motions to reverse their convictions, claiming there wasn't sufficient evidence.

Memphis is 64% African American and both Nichols and the cops who beat him to death are Black.

The five cops also face state charges of second-degree murder and other felonies. Charges were brought after a video from a security camera on a nearby streetlight pole and audio from the cops' body cameras were publicly released.

Working people in Memphis and

around the world were angered by the brutality and callous disregard for life that was shown in the video. Protests took place in a number of cities following its release. In a move to prevent larger protests, the authorities moved quickly to fire and charge the five cops. A sixth cop, Preston Hemphill, who is Caucasian and was part of the initial traffic stop, was suspended.

The video and testimony at the trial give a stark picture of the culture of brutality inside the Memphis, and other, police forces.

Nichols was driving home from work on Jan. 7, 2023, when he was stopped by members of the Memphis cops' Scorpion unit, a specialized "crime suppression" outfit that has since been disbanded. With no explanation, he was dragged out of his car by one cop who yelled, "Get the f--k out!" Over the next 13 minutes cops shouted confusing and contradictory commands at him while they shocked him with a Taser, pepper sprayed, kicked and punched him. Later the cops claimed Nichols was stopped for "reckless driving."

He didn't resist. At one point during the cops' brutal attack he managed to break free and run, in fear for his life.

## Second beating a 'run tax'

After chasing him down, the cops exacted what they refer to as the "run tax," a special beating while in custody that no one would report.

After the second beating, the cops handcuffed Nichols, dragged him to the side of a squad car and sat him up. They left him there for nearly half an hour, showing no concern for any injuries. Instead, one of them complained of having hurt his knee during the chase. Another

blamed Nichols for getting pepper spray in the cops' eyes.

Haley took a couple pictures of Nichols and sent them to at least five people, including his ex-girlfriend, police officer Brittany Leake. She responded with a text saying, "Oh my God, he needs to go to the Med." Leake testified that Haley had sent her similar pictures after brutalizing others.

Emergency medical technicians arrived but didn't provide any aid to Nichols. In the video you can see him writhing on the ground in pain while eight to 10 cops and medical personnel casually walk around talking to each other. Three EMTs have been fired for failure to provide aid to Nichols.

Jesse James Guy III, a former paramedic, testified that no one told him Nichols had been punched, kicked or struck in the head. Instead, the cops claimed Nichols was on drugs. Guy said, "It felt like he was lifeless." Nichols died three days later in a hospital. His death was ruled a homicide due to blunt-force injuries to the head.

"Most of the community is as satisfied as it can be with a conviction," Kermit Moore, Memphis NAACP branch president and a longtime union member, told the *Militant*, "We all saw the video. I saw more than obstruction. I saw civil rights violations. I saw human rights violations.

"We are standing with the family. The family is happy to have a conviction. They don't want to see an uproar or unrest. We respect the family."

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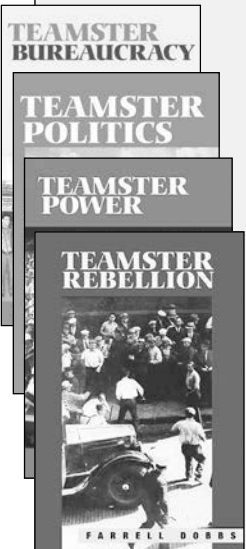
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# 'Social solidarity is moral basis of Cuba's socialist revolution'

The Spanish edition of Marianas in Combat: Teté Puebla and the Mariana Grajales Women's Platoon in Cuba's Revolutionary War, 1956-58 is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. Puebla was an officer in the first all-women platoon in the victorious Rebel Army, founded by Fidel Castro, the central leader of Cuba's socialist revolution. In a reflection of how the revolution transformed the social and economic status of women, she rose to become a brigadier general, the highest-ranking woman in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. The excerpt is from the chapter "Social solidarity: the moral foundation of the revolution," part of an interview she had with Mary-Alice Waters, the book's editor. Copyright © 2003 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Alicia Imperatori/Federation of Cuban Women  
Peasant women learn to read, write at Ana Betancourt school in Havana in 1960. Under Fidel Castro's leadership, all widows and children — whether those of rebel combatants or soldiers of former Batista dictatorship — were schooled, treated equally. The moral foundation of the socialist revolution was equality for all.

from attack by the U.S. ruling class and its government.

What new tasks did you find yourself responsible for after the revolution's triumph?

TETÉ PUEBLA: On January 8, 1959, as we were heading to our homes, thinking of catching a few days' rest, the commander said to me: "You're going to tend to Oriente province," to head up the Department of Assistance to War Victims and Their Families, which was led by the Rebel Army in the area. We had to deal with all those affected by all the dictatorship's crimes, the burned-down houses, the destruction from the offensives waged in the eastern region. The new department's slogan was, "In the face of pain, the homeland makes no distinction. To save a child is to build the homeland."

So in early 1959 I went to Oriente province, to see to the victims of the war and their families. We worked very closely with Celia [Sánchez] and Fidel on this. The work began on February 4 that year.

This was very satisfying work. Of all the things I've done in my life, this is one I'm proudest of: helping all these people.

Taking care of the victims of war was a tradition of ours going back to the days of the Sierra Maestra.

An example is the case of Eutimio Guerra, a peasant who joined the struggle and helped in the early days. But he turned traitor and sold out to the dictatorship's army for money. His as-

signment was to kill Fidel, but he was discovered and executed. Afterward we took care of his family. They were given 50 pesos a month, even though our guerrilla column had no money. And we gave them a cow, so his children would be fed. His widow and four children became fully incorporated into the revolutionary process.

So in Oriente our starting point was to take care of all the victims of the war. We addressed everything the Batista government had destroyed.

Sometimes you'd care for a peasant child whose mother and father had been murdered, whose house had been burned down. And since our army is an army of the people, we rebuilt all those houses that Batista's army had burned down. We took in all these families because they'd had their land taken away, they'd lost their jobs, they'd suffered every kind of abuse.

The Masferreristas — the ones I referred to earlier who would put people in a sack, pour gasoline on them, and burn them alive — those perverted assassins were in all the eastern zones, and they devastated towns.

But the families of these murderers were provided for. Their children were provided for the same as the children of the rebels. That's why with all truthfulness we can say our revolution is so great and humane. Although we had no money, we provided their children with the same care and the same schools that we provided to the rebels' children. The children, the mothers, the widows

weren't to blame for the murders the army of the dictatorship committed. So we looked after them in the same way. Batista soldiers' widows along with rebel fighters' widows attended schools for adults. ...

We all accepted these instructions. We said: "If the commander says this is how a real revolution acts, that's how it must be."

One of the things we did in Oriente was build schools for the orphans, as well as foster homes. We named these after martyrs of our revolution, those who had fallen in battle. This was a tradition of ours going back to the Sierra Maestra. In the village of Santo Domingo where I was during the war, for example, we named our little school after Pastor Palomares, a compañero who had been killed in combat.

Among the people there was a great deal of hatred for the murderers of Batista's army, and everyone knew who the killers were. So whenever we set up a school with a group of children, we didn't say who their parents were. Only those of us in charge of them knew. We protected these children in this way. At present those boys and girls are doctors, engineers, university graduates. They're part of the revolution. There are eighteen war orphans that are like my own children to me, and their children are like my grandchildren.

The widows and mothers of members of the Batista army collect a pension, and that's been true throughout the 43 years of our revolutionary process.

This is a characteristic of the revolution. It's called humanity. Love for one's fellow human being. Love for the family, for the people, for countries that suffer injustice. We identify with all peoples of the world who fight against misery and hunger. We feel the same way for the hundreds of millions of abandoned children in the world who live in the streets looking for the means to subsist on. There are no such children here in Cuba. Because even back then in those penniless times, this revolution was capable of sheltering everyone, of taking these children off the streets. If the revolution didn't have these qualities, it would no longer exist. This began with Fidel. These principles of the revolution are the moral foundation of our struggle.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

MARY-ALICE WATERS: Fidel [Castro] has often said that as difficult as it was to overthrow the Batista regime, the much bigger challenges began after January 1, 1959. The Rebel Army and July 26 Movement had to lead working people to take the political power they had won, to transform social relations from top to bottom, and to defend the revolution

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# Endorse, build the SWP's 2024 campaign!

For the growing number of workers repelled by the Democratic and Republican parties and seeking ways to strengthen working-class interests and our unions, there is an alternative in 2024. The Socialist Workers Party is running Rachele Fruit for president, Dennis Richter for vice president and candidates for U.S. Congress and Senate around the country.

Endorse the SWP ticket and use the remaining days of the election to introduce the party's candidates and working-class program to your family, friends, co-workers and fellow unionists. That's the best way to prepare for the class and political struggles that will inevitably unfold after Nov. 5.

The SWP candidates explain there are two social classes that confront each other in politics today — the capitalist ruling families and the tens of millions of working people. Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are vying to govern for the ruling capitalist class, to help aid their drive to profit off workers' backs. They'll use the state and its cops, courts and the Pentagon to uphold the U.S. rulers' weakened but still dominant place in today's crisis-wracked world order. Not to curb the intensifying drive toward more and deadlier wars, but to defend their own imperialist interests against allies and enemies alike throughout the world.

The SWP candidates explain the working class has the power and strategic location in industry to take on the bosses, and that class consciousness will grow as we do so. Workers must build our own party, a party of labor, with a battle-hardened leadership, to lead millions to replace the rule of the capitalist warmakers

with a government of our own. We can put an end to the sharpening bouts of joblessness and soaring prices that mark the death agony of capitalism, by taking power and instituting workers control of production to meet the needs of humanity.

Every class struggle today is a political struggle. And every political question is a class question. The SWP program — which is not a set of ideas, but a guide to action — is built on this.

Through strikes and other working-class struggles today, workers begin to see each other in a new light. We learn in practice about building solidarity and forging working-class unity. We learn there are no individual solutions to the crisis coming down on our class. We become better prepared for decisive struggles against the bosses, their parties and governments.

The SWP's unshakable confidence in the working class is a product of the party's political continuity going back to the two mighty socialist revolutions of the last century, led by V.I. Lenin and the Bolsheviks in Russia in 1917 and by Fidel Castro in Cuba in 1959. The class struggle in the U.S. will forge revolutionary leaders of the highest caliber, like Malcolm X and Farrell Dobbs.

The SWP campaign offers workers the opportunity to vote for what you're *for*, not who you're against. Your endorsement and activity with the SWP campaign will contribute to expanding its reach.

And it can lay the groundwork for continued collaboration with the SWP in battles to come. Join the fight for workers power and a socialist world!

## Support for Boeing strike

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work overtime to pay our mortgage. You shouldn't have to spend your whole life at work just to pay the bills," David Gates told the *Militant* on the line in Everett. He also said he thought a real pension was more reliable than the 401(k) the workers have now. Many workers, he said, would like to see the pension restored.

"I'm only here for a couple more years, but I want to see the younger people get what they need, like having a home, without having to work two jobs," another striker said.

As the strike has continued solid, the Joseph Biden administration and big-business interests have increased pressure on the workers to get a deal done. On Oct. 14 U.S. Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su flew to Seattle to meet with Boeing and union representatives.

A *Wall Street Journal* editorial Oct. 13 joined in attacking the workers, complaining the strike has "consequences for national security. The strike is delaying production of military jets." They threatened the workers, saying Boeing could "lower costs and avoid future work disruptions by shifting more production to its plant in South Carolina." That plant is nonunion.

The rally and labor support show the strikers are in good shape to continue their fight. Unionists everywhere should show their solidarity.

To send messages of support or make a donation, go to [www.iam751.org](http://www.iam751.org) and click on "Contract 2024."

*Rebecca Williamson contributed to this article.*

# Socialist Workers Party calls for an amnesty for immigrant workers in the US

Continued from front page

program and its candidates, Rachele Fruit for president and Dennis Richter for vice president.

The pace of immigration — both legal and not — is determined by the ups and downs of the bosses' demands for a layer of workers with second-class status who they can superexploit. And it is fueled by the economic crisis and political turmoil facing hundreds of millions of working people in less developed capitalist countries whose economies are dominated by U.S. and other imperialist powers.

When the capitalist economy expands, the bosses seek workers without papers by the millions. They pay these workers less and force them to work longer, harder and in more dangerous conditions. This is one of the strongest weapons the U.S. rulers have to attack the wages and conditions of *all* workers.

Taking on the bosses' attempts to set workers with and without papers against each other is decisive for working people. It's key to strengthening our unions and organizing the unorganized.

The consequences of not doing so can be seen in the construction industry in New York, which was close to 100% union a few decades ago. Today the bosses' Associated Builders and Contractors gloats that with an influx of immigrants 80% of New York construction workers in private industry do not belong to a union. And accidents and deaths have mushroomed.

There have been a number of examples of native-born and foreign-born workers standing together in recent union struggles. In strikes by hotel workers in California last year, the unionists succeeded in forcing hotel bosses to stop using the government's E-Verify system to target immigrant workers.

In the course of union struggles, workers begin to recognize we're bound together by our common class interests.

### Amnesty for immigrant workers

Contrary to the demonization of immigrants as "criminals" and "moochers" advanced by many capitalist politicians, the vast majority of immigrants are working people looking to escape poverty and violence to make a living and raise a family.

The Socialist Workers Party candidates explain that a political fight by the labor movement for an amnesty for all undocumented workers in the U.S. is vital. It's needed to end the pariah status that millions live under and to open the door to drawing more workers into the

unions and the class struggle.

At the same time, the SWP opposes an open border under capitalism, which would only worsen the competition the working class faces.

Immigration has risen in recent years, as bosses have sought more workers. The estimated number of undocumented immigrants in the labor force rose from 7.4 million in 2019 to 8.3 million in 2022, the Pew Research Center reports. After the pandemic President Joseph Biden obliged employers by lifting a number of restrictions on immigration and backing off on deportations of those seeking refugee status.

Bosses at food manufacturer Fourth Street Foods in Charleroi, a town of a little over 4,000 in Pennsylvania, couldn't get enough new hires after COVID-19 struck. But when the government granted Temporary Protected Status to Haitian immigrants, some 2,000 moved to the town. Bosses filled jobs at the factory on wages that start at \$12 an hour.

Governments at all levels do next to nothing to address the needs of these newly arrived workers for housing, health care, child care and schools, exacerbating the shortage of essential services that all workers face.

In Springfield, Ohio, a community health clinic reported a 13-fold increase in Haitian patients between 2021 and 2023 after the local government and bosses looked for cheap labor to fill factory and warehouse jobs in the city, attracting Haitian immigrants.

Trump seizes on the competition among workers for jobs, housing and health care to vilify immigrants and to scapegoat them for a crisis that is actually created by the bosses' drive for profit. He says newly arrived immigrants are a special danger to the jobs of Black and Latino workers.

He smears immigrants as "criminals," pushes reactionary myths that they're "poisoning the blood of our country" and calls for "the largest deportation in American history." He says he will deny the right to a hearing for immigrants accused of being gang members.

At the same time, he calls for a big expansion of legal immigration to meet the bosses' needs.

Harris poses as more humane. But she increasingly tries to vie with Trump as a hard-line opponent of immigration. She says she'll draw on her experience as a prosecutor to deal with undocumented workers. In a campaign photo-op at the U.S.-Mexico border Sept. 27, she said under her presidency, workers without pa-

pers "will be apprehended and removed and barred from reentering for five years."

Harris says she'll expand restrictions adopted by Biden on asylum claims, hire more border guards and immigration judges, and pass laws so that anyone without papers can be charged with a felony. Just like Trump, her proposals would reinforce the second-class status of undocumented workers, deepening divisions in the working class.

### A road to unify working people

Competition for jobs, housing and essential services is a permanent condition for working people under capitalism. Bosses try to intensify every antagonism between workers, including by fostering anti-immigrant prejudice. Without a fight by the unions to defend *all* working people, including those without papers, the scapegoating of undocumented immigrants gets an echo among some workers.

The Democratic and Republican candidates seek to assure the bosses get the cheap labor they need and simultaneously threaten workers without papers. This underscores the pressing need for unions to organize independently of the bosses' two main parties and establish a party of labor to organize *all* working people.

Far from turning on fellow workers from abroad, the working class needs a program to unite workers in the U.S. That starts from fighting for protection from the twin scourges of joblessness and high prices. When the next economic downturn hits, competition for jobs will intensify and the anti-immigrant demagoguery of capitalist politicians will sharpen.

The SWP calls for a union-led fight for a government-funded public works program to provide millions of jobs — at union-scale wages — building the houses, hospitals, schools and other things we sorely need. This would be coupled with fighting to shorten the workday — with no cut in pay — to spread jobs around and prevent layoffs.

And we need to win cost-of-living adjustments in all union contracts, and social programs like Social Security, to ensure that when prices rise, our wages go up to match.

These demands would encroach on the profits and prerogatives of the employing class who would fight hard to prevent them from being won. Their resolve to stop workers getting what is needed to sustain ourselves and families points to the necessity of working people taking political power into our own hands.