

THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 89/NO. 13 APRIL 7, 2025

New secret US gov't files show CIA was used to attack Cuba

BY JANET POST

The role of the CIA and FBI under the capitalist system is shown clearly in the activities they carried out documented in thousands of pages filed under the heading of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy released March 18 by the Donald Trump administration. In particular, it has helped fill in the lengths they went — and still do today — to try to bring down Cuba's socialist revolution.

In the coming days, a total of some 80,000 pages will have been posted on the public website of the National Archives Records Administration.

Congress passed the "John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collections Act" in 1992, leading to the declassification of 5 million pages of government records, but many of them blacked out much of the files. The act mandated those sections must be posted unredacted by Oct. 26, 2017. However, claiming "national security interests," under Democratic and Republican administrations alike, the

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Postal workers rally for new contracts and defense of jobs

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

"My son doesn't understand why I came to the rally today," Marsha Outly, a letter carrier in Chicago who retired after 32 years, told the *Militant* March 23. "I explained that I'm here for the farmers, for the elderly. They deserve door-to-door postal service. If service there is dismantled, many won't be able to drive long distances to get their mail. Mail service should be for everybody!"

Outly was part of the several hundred National Association of Letter Carriers members and their supporters who gathered in downtown Chicago to say "Hell No!" to any attempt to downsize or privatize the postal service and to demand higher wages and safer conditions.

They were part of the thousands who turned out across the country in two sets of rallies — one set was organized by NALC and others three days earlier by the American Postal Workers Union, which organizes mail sorters and other workers in post offices across the country.

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Thousands march in Gaza: ' Hamas out!'

Protests call for freedom for Israeli hostages, end to war



AP/Jehad Alshrafi

"Out, out, out, Hamas out!" angry Palestinian demonstrators in Beit Lahiya, northern Gaza, chanted for second day March 26. Protests spread elsewhere across the war-torn enclave with thousands marching to oppose Hamas' rule, hold them responsible for deaths, destruction.

BY NAOMI CRAINE AND SETH GALINSKY

Thousands of Palestinians took to the streets in Gaza March 25 and 26 to demand an end to Tehran-backed Hamas' dictatorial rule. They are the largest protests there in years, signaling a renewed struggle by the toilers for their own in-

terests. Gazans marched in Beit Lahiya, Jabaliya, Khan Younis, Gaza City and other towns.

Protesters carried signs saying, "Stop War," "The blood of our children is not cheap," and "We refuse to die." Confident and determined, they chant-

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Socialist Workers Party candidates: 'Workers must take political power'



Militant/Josefina Otero

Hilda Cuzco, SWP candidate for Fort Worth City Council, discusses road forward for working class with Cesar Medina, left, NALC Local 2309 union steward and a 22-year letter carrier, and Zack Vita, package handler and Teamsters Local 767 member, at union rally March 23.

BY TERRY EVANS

"No, they're not rich because they're smart," Montague Wheeler, a laborer for the city of Fort Worth, Texas, told Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, on his doorstep in the Village Creek neighborhood March 23. Kennedy had just shown him the book *Are They Rich Because They're*

Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

"The capitalist class gets their immense profits from exploiting our labor," Kennedy said.

"Yes, without the work we do they wouldn't be rich," Wheeler agreed.

Socialist Workers Party candidates

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As ceasefire talks continue, Ukrainian workers battle to defend sovereignty

BY ROY LANDERSEN

President Donald Trump's efforts to broker a ceasefire three years into Moscow's invasion of Ukraine is driven by Washington's need to impose stabil-

Democrats try to win workers back as millions fed up with bosses' parties

BY TERRY EVANS

Conflicts between the self-proclaimed socialist and centrist wings of the Democratic Party are becoming sharper, as both digest the defeat their party suffered in the 2024 election, especially their loss of support among working people.

Each seeks to adjust as they respond to the opening months of the Donald Trump presidency and aims to exert greater control over the party's direction.

Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez embarked on a "Fighting Oligarchy" tour March 20, beginning in Las Vegas. Their hope is to

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ity to protect and advance its own economic and political interests, including normalizing its relations with Moscow. But Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime continues pressing forward its assaults on civilian targets, aiming to dismantle Ukraine. Its forces are being met with implacable resistance by working people there.

The Ukrainian government supports a comprehensive ceasefire without preconditions, as proposed by the White House. Putin rejects this. He agreed to a 30-day bar on strikes against energy infrastructure after a March 18 phone call with Trump, and on March 25 to a ceasefire in the Black Sea in exchange

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CIA was used to attack Cuba

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government delayed compliance, with few exceptions, until now.

While many liberals and conspiracy theorists had hoped for revelations of a wide sweep of forces involved in the assassination, or evidence Fidel Castro was somehow involved, they were disappointed.

“The final revelations in the documents turn out to be the CIA’s most guarded of secrets: sources and methods, agent identities and global targets,” writes Peter Kornbluh in the *Nation* magazine. He is a senior analyst at the National Security Archive and editor of *Bay of Pigs Declassified*. “The unredacted documents name names — of officials, operatives, assets, informants and collaborators.

“Those operations include how the CIA manipulated elections in numerous nations, sabotaged economies, plotted to kill foreign leaders and overthrow undesirable governments abroad — while also busily conducting illegal operations at home.”

Attacks on Cuban Revolution

Havana has long pointed to acts of aggression by Washington and its secret police agencies against the Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro. The U.S. rulers will never forgive the Cuban people for overthrowing the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in 1959, and nationalizing industry, land and other businesses to be run by working people.

While the fact these attacks took place has been known for decades, the newly released documents confirm, in the CIA’s and Kennedy administration’s own words, how some of these opera-

tions were planned and carried out.

For example, documents “detail a yearslong campaign of CIA-sponsored sabotage and assassination attempts targeting Castro,” with the help of the “American Mafia,” a *Wall Street Journal* reporter who studied them says.

An Aug. 18, 1964, document reads: “Prices allegedly agreed upon were \$100,000 to assassinate Fidel CASTRO; \$20,000 for Raul CASTRO; and \$20,000 for ‘Che’ GUEVARA.”

Another document, dated Nov. 12, 1963, says the CIA planned to plant bombs in Havana’s sewage system set to explode during a speech by Fidel Castro to the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

In 1961 the Kennedy administration launched “Operation Mongoose,” plans for sabotage, subversion and preparation for U.S. military intervention.

“William King Harvey was the CIA’s point man for Operation Mongoose, an assassination plot to remove Fidel Castro,” writes James Robenalt in *Vanity Fair*. “The plan traces back to the Eisenhower administration and eventually involved Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.”

A 1962 memo on one CIA plan to assassinate Fidel Castro using poison pills reads, “Harvey passes the pills to ROSELLI [a member of Chicago mafia] in Florida. Roselli was to give the pills to Varona [Cuban counter-revolutionary Tony Varona in Miami], who had an asset in Cuba with access to Castro’s restaurant.”

Another memo on July 1, 1963, says that “two leaders of the Cuban Exile Group” were coming to Washington, D.C., to “confer with CIA and other Government officials, including prob-



Granma

Fidel Castro speaks to workers, peasants preparing to defend their socialist revolution, April 16, 1961. Days later, they defeated U.S.-backed CIA-organized Cuban mercenary invasion at Bay of Pigs. CIA tried to assassinate the Cuban revolutionary leader hundreds of times.

ably Robert F. Kennedy, the Attorney General, concerning the ‘new program’ i.e., further efforts at invasion or other attacks, ‘for the exiles.’”

According to Kornbluh, the records show evidence that intelligence agencies in several countries — Canada, Britain, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Italy, Israel, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile — assisted CIA operations aimed at overthrowing the Cuban government.

The Cubans were aware of these campaigns. In the autobiographical interview with Fidel Castro by journalist Ignacio Ramonet, published in English as *My Life*, Castro said, “From November 1961, after Playa Girón to January 1963, that is, in fourteen months, there were a total of 5,780 terrorist actions against Cuba, and of those, 717 were serious attacks against our industrial facilities.

“As a result of this activity, 234 people in Cuba died. That terrorism, in total, produced more than 3,500 victims, more than 2,000 people mutilated. Cuba has had to face more terrorism than practically any other country on earth.”

To the chagrin of conspiracy theorists, there is no evidence in any of the documents that Castro or the Cuban government had any connection with Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy in 1963. A multi-year CIA investigation found “no definitive proof that the Castro regime was implicated.”

In *My Life*, Castro says, “Thank goodness we didn’t give that guy permission to visit Cuba. That would have been a tremendous manipulation, a tremendous provocation, because they could have used that to implicate Cuba.

“Actually, when the investigation was being carried out,” Castro said, “we gave them all the information we had.”

In addition to information related to Cuba, a memorandum by an aide to Kennedy stated that nearly half of the political officials in American embassies worldwide were working for the CIA. Unredacted documents were released showing CIA operations against other governments.

“The documents also expose how the CIA financed and orchestrated the 1966 election of its chosen coup-plotting military man, Gen. René Barrientos in Bolivia,” Kornbluh writes.

“They record in greater detail than previously understood how agency operatives financed — at \$10,000 a day — street protests in British Guiana that pushed the liberal government of Cheddi Jagan from power in late 1964.”

THE MILITANT

Unionists fight Quebec bill to gut right to strike

In Montreal March 14, unionists protested Quebec Bill 89, which would allow the government to force striking workers back to work, impose arbitration. The *Militant* supports and builds solidarity with workers’ struggles against attacks by bosses and their government.



Militant

Unionists rally in Montreal March 14 against government attack on unions’ right to strike.

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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—

Cleaners at British Airways fight for better pay

LONDON — “Low pay, no way!” chanted over 30 cleaners and supporters outside the offices of British Airways’ contractor OCS, near Heathrow Airport March 19. The workers, members of the Unite union, were on the third day of a weeklong strike for higher pay.

The union says the workers, who mostly come from the Indian subcontinent, get the minimum wage of 11.44 pounds an hour (\$14.75), and “are amongst the lowest paid at Heathrow.” They get no shift premiums for working 12-hour nights and no sick pay.

The strikers clean offices at the main British Airways terminal at Heathrow. OCS is a large outsourced facilities management company. Passing motorists honked in support, including drivers for the OCS laundry located at the same site.

Unite organizer Jeff Fernandes had tried to speak to the laundry workers as they came off shift. “Like many immigrant workers they think they’ll be punished for talking to or joining the union,” he told the *Militant*. “That’s why the cleaners are such a shining example. We’re going to fight for what’s decent and what is right.”

— Ólöf Andra Proppé

Hotel workers win longest strike in Canadian history

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — After a strike battle that lasted 1,411 days — nearly four years — members of UNITE HERE Local 40 registered an important victory ratifying a new contract.

“Being brave paid off for workers at the Radisson Blu Vancouver Airport [Hotel]. During the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, 70% of the hotel’s unionized staff were terminated. Instead of giving up, the workers stood strong through rain, snow, heat and other extremes to fight back,” Zailda Chan, president of UNITE HERE Local 40, said in a union statement. “They made history by striking longer than any worker in Canada has before.” Not only did the strikers win back their jobs, “but they also showed that if you dare to

fight and never give up, you will win.”

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Canadian government used the hotel, then known as the Pacific Gateway, as a quarantine location for international travelers. They replaced the fired workers with Red Cross personnel.

The hotel bosses raked in millions of dollars from the federal government for 400 rooms always fully booked during the pandemic.

When the pandemic wound down and the government deal was rescinded, the hotel returned to regular business, bringing in “replacement” workers in hopes of breaking the union.

The workers went on strike in May 2021, demanding workers terminated during the pandemic be reinstated. They won support from customers and the labor movement.

The new contract provides for the recall of all fired workers based on seniority, with “no rollbacks on wages, benefits and working conditions,” the union reported. Other gains include medical benefit improvements, new personal days and sick days that may be carried over. Returning room attendants will earn up to 28.25 Canadian dollars an hour (\$19.75); returning cooks will earn up to CA\$32.50 an hour.

“I feel great about our new contract,” said Jillan Louie, a server. “My co-workers have been a second family to me. I am so proud that we stuck together.”

— Fred Nelson

6,600 Alberta school workers win strike, make wage gains

MONTREAL — School workers in Alberta, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, made major wage gains in a series of strikes that began in Fort McMurray last November. There were nine groups of workers and 6,600 workers on strike at the height of the strike, the biggest in their history.

The workers in the Edmonton Public Schools will see hourly pay increases from CA\$4.03 an hour to CA\$5.92 in a contract that runs through 2028. That is 16% to 20.87%. The gains are similar elsewhere. Their contract had expired in 2020 and they went on strike Jan. 13.

“I think we were very determined,”

San Jose transit workers reject contract, continue strike



Militant/Margaret Trowe

SAN JOSE, Calif. — As they entered the third week of their strike here, members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265 voted by 83% to reject the latest offer by the Valley Transportation Authority March 24. The vote reflects widespread disagreement with the terms of the offer, as well as deep anger at the disrespect being shown to them by the bosses.

The strikers shown above, Rafael Arguello, left, and Guadalupe Zavala, are at the sign-in table at one of the many picket sites throughout the county. The sign, “Beware! Uneducated Worker at Work!” is mocking a statement by VTA Assistant General Manager Greg Richardson, who called the union members “uneducated.” Arguello, who is a driver as well as trainer for new drivers, told the *Militant* this disrespect made him angry, given the many challenges bus drivers face.

The strikers — bus drivers, light-rail operators, mechanics and office workers — had been slated to vote on an earlier contract offer March 22. But when it became clear workers might vote it down, the VTA had the vote postponed. Then, while offering a tiny wage increase, they introduced new takeaways on overtime pay and attendance.

Strikers on the picket line March 24 after voting told this *Militant* worker-correspondent that they are determined to maintain strong picket lines as long as it takes.

— BETSEY STONE

Rachael Schmidt, an education assistant and a communicator on the picket line at the Ross Sheppard High School in Edmonton, told the *Militant*. “There was pushback by families and teachers who realized how important we really are. There was lots of union support.

“I think it brought everybody to-

gether,” she said. “At the ratification vote you could just feel the energy in the room. There were 3,000 of us and we voted 94% in favor.”

Danielle Danis, president of the CUPE local for workers in the Fort McMurray Catholic School Division, said, “This is something everyone will learn from. We will move forward and support each other and all education workers across the province. We think this is just the start.”

— Joe Young

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

April 3, 2000

CHICAGO — The AFL-CIO women’s conference here drew 4,000 women. The conference was stamped by women who are in the middle of union battles. The large turnout registers the deepening resistance of working people to the employers’ continuing grinding offensive on working conditions, wages, and safety on the job. Statistics released by the conference organizers show two-thirds of all new union members in the United States are women.

Dolores Huerta of the United Farm Workers union spoke on the continuing fight of farm workers to organize and defend their rights. Several invited international guests and immigrant workers spoke at the main plenary sessions.

Workshops included organizing drives, sexual harassment, welfare reform, and gays in the workplace. Many conference participants were concerned about health and safety on the job.

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 4, 1975

With its positions collapsing in one province after another, and Saigon itself facing the possibility of attack, the Thieu dictatorship and its backers in Washington have been dealt a staggering defeat.

The capitalist landlord regime in Saigon offers nothing to the great mass of Vietnamese except brutal repression and continued exploitation. The aspirations of the workers and peasants are for reunification of Vietnam, free from imperialist domination, the distribution of the land to those who work it, and the economic development of the country for the benefit of all, which can only be achieved through a socialized economy.

In the face of Washington’s continuing efforts to halt this process, the American people must let their voices be heard:

Not one more cent for the dictators in Saigon and Phnom Penh!

U.S. out of Southeast Asia now!

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 3, 1950

President Truman’s “Welfare State” is displaying in ever more acute form one of the chief symptoms of diseased capitalism — mass unemployment. One of the gravest features of the present unemployment is the number of workers who are being cast off into permanent disemployment and who have used up all their unemployment compensation allowances.

It is time to mobilize organized labor for a full-scale drive for the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay. It is time to force the government to initiate large-scale public works on socially beneficial projects — housing, hospitals, schools, etc. — to give jobs to the unemployed at union pay. It is time for a demand for unemployment insurance equal to union wages for the duration of joblessness.

This is the program that is needed and which the American capitalist “Welfare State” must be forced to provide.

Airline kitchen workers protest in Los Angeles, other cities

LOS ANGELES — Workers at LSG Sky Chefs, members of UNITE HERE Local 11, marched and chanted at the airport demanding the bosses agree to a union contract that includes higher wages, better benefits, pensions, as well as dignity and respect.

They distributed a flyer to passersby explaining the union is carrying out similar actions at airports across the country.

Ramon Mendoza, who has worked at Sky Chefs in Los Angeles for 10 years, told the *Militant* that they face increasing pressure on the job. “There is more work and fewer workers,” he said.

Ana Sheron, an organizer for UNITE HERE at Sky Chefs, said, “There are more than 10,000 Sky Chefs workers all over the country. Los Angeles is the third largest kitchen, with more than 700 workers.”

— Deborah Liatos

Communist League launches election campaign in Australia

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — “The capitalist rulers have no solution to their unfolding world crisis except to place the burden onto working people, as they prepare for more wars over markets and resources,” Robert Aiken, the Communist League candidate for Australia’s Senate, told a Militant Labor Forum here March 22. The election is set for May.

Australia’s rulers have been unsettled by the course of the new U.S. administration of Donald Trump, fearing it may weaken their military alliance with Washington. Liberal commentators claim a multibillion-dollar deal to buy nuclear-powered submarines from Washington — an important part of Canberra’s plans to expand its military power versus Beijing — may be called into question.

Earlier this month the U.S. government imposed a 25% tariff on Australian steel and aluminum exports, drawing condemnation from the Labor Party government. While it ruled out retaliatory tariffs for the moment, it is promoting a reactionary “Buy Australia” campaign.

“Workers should reject the nationalism of the Australian rulers,” Aiken said. “We have the same interests with workers in other countries, whether it’s the U.S. or China.” In answer to the rulers’ war drive, “workers should champion our own foreign policy based on international working-class solidarity, and not one

penny for the government’s military spending.”

Sharpening competition among capitalist powers is fueling government and boss attacks on working people and our unions, he said. Last year the federal government took over the construction division of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union, placing it under the control of a government administrator. At the same time, working people are being squeezed by big hikes in food prices, electricity and rents.

The CL candidate pointed to the social crisis in Lismore, a town on the east coast that was almost destroyed by floods three years ago, wiping away most of the less expensive rental houses and hitting working people the hardest. Some residents are still squatting in houses slated for demolition.

In the face of these social catastrophes, Aiken said, “the Communist League explains the need for workers to act independently of the bosses’ parties and fight for our own class interests. We need to fight to change which class rules, to take power into our own hands and to end the exploitation and oppression inherent in capitalism.”

Since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas pogrom in Israel, there has been a rise in antisemitic attacks across Australia, Aiken said.

Cops in Sydney recently dismissed attacks on synagogues and Jewish homes and businesses, claiming they were carried out by criminals for monetary gain and not to target Jews.

The liberal media has seized on this to claim that initial accusations of antisemitism were false. But the attacks were aimed at Jews, and the alleged perpetrator touts his hatred of Jews and admiration for Adolf Hitler online.

“This shows that the cops can’t be relied on,” Aiken said. “Workers and

Workers in Dominican Republic fight for pensions



Militant/Philippe Tessier

LOS BAJOS DE HAINA, Dominican Republic — Some 100 workers came to a March 22 meeting here organized by Jesús Nuñez, at right, national coordinator of the Sugarcane Workers Union. The weekly meetings began at the end of January as a way to bring together the cane cutters from the sugarcane fields — mostly Haitian-born or of Haitian descent — and the largely Dominican-born sugar workers from the sugar refineries and other industries in a common fight for pensions and medical care. Most of the participants at the meeting were of Dominican descent, former sugar mill workers or from the free-trade zone near this heavily industrial town.

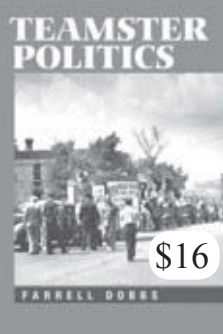
Workers here can retire when they turn 60. “The laws are written, but we need to take to the streets to get our rights. Everything else is deception,” Nuñez told the meeting.

For the Haitian cane cutters the fight for pensions is even more difficult than for workers who are Dominican citizens, because the government often refuses to recognize their documents, Nuñez explained, pointing to a group of cane cutters at the meeting.

But many workers who are Dominican citizens also face obstacles. Hector Germán Guantes, 64, retired in 2021, but hasn’t been able to collect. “They say I’m 15 deductions short,” he told the *Militant*. According to government rules, you can’t collect until your monthly social security deductions have been taken out of your pay 360 times.

— PHILIPPE TESSIER AND GERARDO SÁNCHEZ

Teamster Politics



“Unionism and politics cannot be separated. Power generated at the trade-union level can be shattered by government

blows. Workers must enter the political arena as an independent class force, with their own party.”

— Farrell Dobbs

pathfinderpress.com

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Tariffs and the March Toward War. Bosses’ Trade Conflicts Aim to Pit Workers Against Each Other. Speaker: Bernie Senter, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., April 6, 5 p.m. Donation: \$5. 2826 S. Vermont Ave., Suite 1. Tel.: (323) 643-4968.

Oakland

Hear Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for Governor of California. Sun., April 6, 5 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. (510) 686-1351.

The real reason Florida prisons banned the ‘Militant’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Militant* won an important victory in the fight for prisoners’ constitutional rights to follow the news and read papers with the viewport they support, as well as the freedom of the press, when the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee overturned the impoundment of *Militant* issue no. 2 at its March 6 meeting. The victory was a product of the actions of supporters of political rights and the *Militant*. The LRC informed *Militant* attorney David Goldstein of its decision March 19.

But throughout the two-month fight, the *Militant* never received the notice of impoundment from authorities at the prison that banned the *Militant*, nor their reasons for doing so — until after the ban was lifted.

The *Militant* first learned about the impoundment when two subscribers to the paper at the Santa Rosa Correctional Institution in Milton, Florida, notified the *Militant* in February that prison authorities there had banned that issue. They each mailed the *Militant* copies of the impoundment notice they were given.

This notice said the ban was im-

posed in Santa Rosa because “another institution” — which was not identified — “believes the publication contains subject matter that is inadmissible.” Florida Department of Corrections policy is when one prison bars a publication, it is impounded at all of the state’s 134 facilities.

The notice cited only one reason for the ban, a generic catchall charge that the paper “presents a threat to the security, order or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system or the safety of any person.” Authorities pointed to two articles as the criteria for impoundment — a front-page article “Israel fights for right to exist as a refuge from Jew-hatred,” and one on page 7, “Jew-hatred, ‘racial purity’ at heart of Hamas program.”

On March 20, after learning the ban had been overturned, Goldstein requested the Literature Review Committee provide the *Militant* with a copy of the impoundment notice from the prison that actually first banned it. It was sent the same day.

This original impoundment notice came from the Florida State Prison in Raiford, one of the largest prison facilities in the state and home to the state’s execution chamber. Unlike

our unions must organize to defend against Jew-hating violence and to champion and lead the fight against Jew-hatred.”

The rising attacks on Jews are a reflection of the deepening crisis of world capitalism, as imperialism marches towards fascism and a third world war. But the most important thing to register is that the working class can prevent this, Aiken said. “The future of humanity depends on the tens of millions in the working class worldwide who, with a communist leadership, are capable of changing the world.”

the notice from Santa Rosa, this one shows authorities there claimed that issue no. 2 “is dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law, or Department rules.”

Neither officials at the Literature Review Committee nor at Florida State Prison had provided this broad sweep of charges to Goldstein as he was preparing the *Militant*’s appeal of the ban, so he wasn’t able to address them, a clear violation of constitutional rights and procedures.

There are 13 *Militant* subscribers at Florida State Prison and over 100 at prison facilities throughout the state. The Literature Review Committee says each of them will now be able to get this issue of the paper.

This victory was won thanks to the efforts of numerous groups and individuals, including the Florida Press Association, American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, Amnesty International USA, unionists and others across the country who joined in urging prison authorities to reverse the ban.

‘We must take political power’

Continued from front page

across the country explain that to chart a course forward working people need to start with the deepening effects of today’s crisis of the imperialist world order.

The deteriorating conditions workers face today, Kennedy said, “confront working people throughout the world.”

She said the trade conflicts unfolding worldwide show the sharpening rivalry between the capitalist powers. “The rulers are heading toward another world war and the increasingly likely use of nuclear weapons. The SWP says working people need to take power into our own hands to prevent the destruction of humanity.”

Wheeler decided to get the book, as well as *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, also by Barnes, and a subscription to the *Militant*.

The books are two of several titles on special offer (see list on page 6) throughout the eight-week campaign launched by the SWP and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. Their goal is to win 1,300 people to subscribe to the *Militant*, get out the same number of titles on revolutionary working-class politics, and to raise \$165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. The campaign runs from March 22 to May 20.

The effort will help advance the SWP’s efforts to use its candidates and their campaigns to expand the party’s reach.

At the same time, the SWP will be carrying out a concerted effort to gather 3,200 signatures to put Joanne Kuniansky on the ballot for governor of New Jersey. And the Communist Leagues in Canada and Australia will be campaigning to get their candidates on the ballot as well.

Workers discover our capacities

Tony Lane, the SWP’s candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, discussed a road to unify working people March 22 with Debra Paez, a stay-at-home mom. Paez told Lane she remembered her school classes being canceled in 2006 when millions of workers took to the streets across the U.S. on May Day to defend the rights of immigrants.

What happened in 2006 is an example, Lane said. “Workers need to stick together. We can’t rely on the bosses’ Democratic and Republican parties. The SWP says there needs to be an amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S. without papers. That can unify the working class and strengthen our unions.”

“I like that you’re running candidates,” Paez said, as she subscribed

to the *Militant*.

Many workers the party meets are angry about the growing difficulties workers face trying to raise a family. Saida, a child care worker in Minneapolis, told Kevin Dwire, the SWP candidate for mayor, that she has four kids and child care is too expensive. Dwire said the unions need to take on the fight for affordable child care, one part of the broader fight the working class must lead against women’s oppression and capitalist exploitation. She said she wanted to learn more and got a subscription.

Political questions are class questions

Eric Simpson, the party’s candidate for mayor of Oakland, California, discussed the party’s program and activity with a retired postal worker on her doorstep there March 22. She told Simpson she’d already decided to vote for another candidate, but discussed with him the economic and social crisis workers face today. She said her father had told her, “Always vote for the lesser evil.”

She asked Simpson if he thought he could win. “Unless workers break from the bosses’ Democratic and Republican parties, we’re guaranteed to lose,” he said. But workers make progress when we recognize “every political question we face is a class question.”

She said she thought he used too much rhetoric, but took two issues of the *Militant* to see if she wanted to subscribe. The next day she met SWP campaign supporters at a rally organized by the American Postal Workers Union in San Francisco. She contributed \$5 for the papers she had gotten.

SWP candidates are also taking ad-



Militant/Vincent Auger

Debra Paez, told Tony Lane, SWP candidate for mayor in Pittsburgh, she remembered 2006 protests for immigrant rights, to unify working class. She subscribed to *Militant* March 22.

vantage of the openings to present the party’s program and course at candidates debates and in the media.

“The bosses’ attacks on working people — on our wages and working conditions, the high prices, unemployment and the decay in the cities — are rooted in the crisis of the capitalist system,” Simpson said in an interview with KQED, the Bay Area National Public Radio affiliate, posted on its candidate guide website.

Simpson told KQED, “When workers begin to build movements based on solidarity, we see the truth — that we are the force that can solve society’s problems, not victims or passive recipients of charity. We are the solution.

“The Socialist Workers Party that I have been a long-time member of is part of building a working-class

movement that will grow to millions and take power in the U.S.,” Simpson said. “A movement that stands in solidarity with working people in other countries. The two great revolutions in the 20th century — the Russian Revolution and the Cuban Revolution — showed that with leadership the working majority can take power.”

To learn more about the SWP and to join campaigning for its candidates, contact the party branch nearest you listed on page 8. You can contribute to the Militant Fighting Fund at www.themilitant.com.

Joel Britton and Maggie Trowe in Oakland, Vincent Auger in Pittsburgh and Gabrielle Prosser in Minneapolis contributed to this article.

Postal workers rally for new contract, in defense of jobs

Continued from front page

In February NALC members overwhelmingly voted down a proposed three-year contract that offered only 1.3% a year in wage increases. Postal workers are legally considered an “essential service” and denied the right to strike by an anti-labor federal law, so contract negotiations were moved into binding arbitration.

On March 24 a new contract was imposed on the workers. It gave only the slightest improvement in wages — 1.3% the first year, 1.4% the second, 1.5% the third. None of these come close to meeting today’s costs for basic necessities like food, child care and rent.

“This is a union-busting procedure,” Jim McNutt, a retired letter carrier with 23 years on job, told the *Militant*. “They want to split us into many different companies, and then go after

our unions. We need to fight to defend what was won in the 1970 strike.”

In Springfield, New Jersey, some 150 members of NALC Branch 38 and supporters turned out. “Letter carriers’ jobs are getting harder,” branch President Joe Rutkoski told the *Militant*. “Some are working 60 hours a week and still struggling to make ends meet. We have a cost-of-living adjustment in our contract, but we still need more.”

Clint Colie, a branch trustee and part-time area representative, addressed the rally. “Letter carriers owe everything we have to the union’s strike in 1970,” he said. “Our brothers and sisters risked everything, including the threat of jail time.”

Despite the anti-strike legislation, thousands of postal workers walked out in 1970. President Richard Nixon threatened to use troops to break the strike, but the postal workers held firm. They won a substantial raise and for the first time established the union’s right to negotiate over wages, benefits and working conditions. “We have to spread the word about what we face today,” Colie said.

Some 55 postal workers, members of NALC Capital Branch 142, gathered in the northeast section of Washington, D.C. “I’ve been a postal worker for 31 years. We walk 5 to 10 miles a day on our routes,” Karen Nance, vice president of the local, told the *Militant*. “Lots of our members have shoulder injuries, knee injuries, you name it. The post office has one of the highest injury rates of any job.”

“We work all year round, in all weath-

er,” Andrea Morgan, a postal worker for eight years, added. “If it’s eight hours of work, we do eight hours, if its more than eight we work till it’s finished.”

Many postal workers spoke on how the threat of cuts in postal service affects fellow workers and farmers in the countryside and rural communities. “In some rural areas people have to drive two hours to get their mail,” letter carrier Jenny Naca said. “I have a lot of elderly people on my route. It would be crazy to expect an 80-year-old disabled person to have to drive to get their medication.”

More than 100 members of NALC Branch 43 and supporters rallied in front of the Federal Building in downtown Cincinnati March 23. They chanted, “Rain or sleet or dark of night, we are here to win this fight!”

Over 500 workers from all over Los Angeles County joined the NALC protest at the Federal Building there. The majority were letter carriers, many attending their first labor rally.

Some 75 members and supporters of the American Postal Workers Union rallied in south central Los Angeles March 20. “They’ve mastered the art of dividing us. If we go along with it we will crumble,” Cesar Zelaya, a postal worker for 24 years, told the *Militant* at the rally. “I’m glad I stepped up because I feel like we have a new labor movement today.”

Lisa Rottach in Chicago, Terry Evans in northern New Jersey, Deborah Liatos in Los Angeles, Betsy Farley in Cincinnati and Samir Hazboun in Washington, D.C., contributed to this article.

Socialist Workers Party Campaign Join in building the working-class alternative

California

Eric Simpson, mayor of Oakland

Florida

Laura Anderson, mayor of Miami

Georgia

Susan LaMont, mayor of Atlanta

Minnesota

Kevin Dwire, mayor of Minneapolis
Edwin Fruit, Minneapolis City Council

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, governor
Craig Honts, lieutenant governor

New York

Paul Mailhot, mayor of New York City

Ohio

John Hawkins, mayor of Cincinnati
Ned Measel, Cincinnati City Council

Pennsylvania

Tony Lane, mayor of Pittsburgh

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, mayor of Fort Worth
Hilda Cuzco, Fort Worth City Council

'Decisive battles for future of humanity will be fought in the US'

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for March is *The Struggle for Socialism in the "American Century": Writings and Speeches, 1945-47* by James P. Cannon, then national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. The U.S. rulers, after a bloody victory in the second imperialist world war, boasted of an "American Century" of global domination. But that wasn't to be, Cannon said. He outlined the prospects for working-class revolutionary struggle, confident of victory. That is even more true today, when Washington, the world's last empire, is in decline, dragging the whole imperialist world disorder down with it. The excerpt is from the SWP's 1946 convention resolution, "Theses on the American Revolution." Copyright © 1977 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Some 20,000 GIs meeting in Manila, Philippines, Jan. 15, 1946, demand they be demobilized and sent home. Protests prevented U.S. rulers, who emerged as victors out of the imperialist slaughter, from plan to send troops against revolutions unfolding in China, elsewhere in Asia.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

The United States, the most powerful capitalist country in history, is a component part of the world capitalist system and is subject to the same general laws. It suffers from the same incurable diseases and is destined to share the same fate. The overwhelming preponderance of American imperialism does not exempt it from the decay of world capitalism, but on the contrary acts to involve it ever more deeply, inextricably,

and hopelessly. U.S. capitalism can no more escape from the revolutionary consequences of world capitalist decay than the older European capitalist powers. ... The dominant world position of American imperialism now accentuates and aggravates the death agony of capitalism as a whole.

American imperialism emerged victorious from the Second World War, not merely over its German and Japanese rivals, but also over its "democratic" allies, especially Great Britain. Today Wall Street unquestionably is the dominant world imperialist center. Precisely because it has issued from the war vastly strengthened in relation to all its capitalist rivals, U.S. imperialism seems indomitable. So overpowering in all fields — diplomatic, military, commercial, financial, and industrial — is Wall Street's preponderance that consolidation of its world hegemony seems to be within easy reach. Wall Street hopes to inaugurate the so-called American Century.

In reality, the American ruling class faces more insurmountable obstacles in "organizing the world" than confronted the German bourgeoisie in its repeated and abortive attempts to attain a much more modest goal, namely: "organizing Europe."

The meteoric rise of U.S. imperialism to world supremacy comes too late. Moreover, American imperialism

rests increasingly on the foundations of world economy. ... But the world foundation is today shot through with insoluble contradictions; it suffers from chronic dislocations and is mined with revolutionary powder kegs.

American capitalism, hitherto only partially involved in the death agony of capitalism as a world system, is henceforth subject to the full and direct impact of all the forces and contradictions that have debilitated the old capitalist countries of Europe.

The economic prerequisites for the socialist revolution are fully matured in the U.S. The political premises are likewise far more advanced than might appear on the surface. ...

While appearing and functioning in the role of stabilizers of capitalism, the American imperialists were thus its greatest disrupters both at home and abroad. The U.S. turned out to be the main source of world instability, the prime aggravator of imperialist contradictions.

In the interim between the two wars this manifested itself most graphically in the fact that all economic convulsions began in the Republic of the Dollar, the home of "rugged individualism." This was the case with the first postwar crisis of 1920-21; this was repeated eight years later. ... The Great American Boom exploded in a crisis which shattered the economic founda-

tions of all capitalist countries.

The economic crisis of 1929 was not a cyclical crisis. ... It was a major historical crisis of capitalism in decay, which could not be overcome through the "normal" channels; that is to say, through the blind interplay of the laws governing the market. ...

The bourgeoisie saw no way out of the crisis. They had no way out. They and their regime remained the main obstacle in the way not only of domestic but of world recovery. In its downward plunge, the American bourgeoisie dragged the rest of the capitalist world with it, and kept it down. ...

American capitalism was incapable of solving the crisis. The partial upswing of 1934-37 proved to be temporary and passing in character. The precipitous drop that occurred in 1937 revealed the abyss facing American capitalism. The threatening new downward plunge was cut off only by the huge expenditures made in preparation for the Second World War. ...

[T]he 1929 crisis found the working class helpless and impotent. For three years the masses remained stunned and disoriented by the disaster. Their resistance was extremely limited and sporadic. But their anger and resentment accumulated. The next five years (1933-37), coincident with a partial revival of industry, witnessed a series of gigantic clashes, street fights, and sit-down strikes — an embryonic civil war — the end result of which was a leap, a giant leap, for millions of workers from nonexistence as an organized force to trade union consciousness and organization. Once fairly started, the movement for unionism snowballed, embracing today almost 15 million in all the basic industries.

In one leap — in a brief decade — the American workers attained trade union consciousness on a higher plane and with mightier organizations than in any other advanced country. ...

The issue of socialism or capitalism will not be finally decided until it is decided in the U.S. Another retardation of the proletarian revolution in one country or another, or even one continent or another, will not save American imperialism from its proletarian nemesis at home. The decisive battles for the communist future of mankind will be fought in the U.S.

March
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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The road to unify the working class

As the capitalist crisis deepens today, workers increasingly confront how can we come together to use the full strength of the working class and our unions to stand up to the employers' assaults on our wages and working conditions and advance our class interests on all political questions.

The capitalist rulers have a sharply opposed class standpoint. They're driven by the lash of the market to intensify competition among workers, to turn us against one another, to convince us to subordinate our own class interests to theirs. One part of this is fostering divisions between workers with and without papers.

As on all key class questions, there is no serious difference between the policies of the two main capitalist parties — the Democrats and Republicans. They're for looser immigration when bosses need workers and for clamping down when they don't.

The Democratic Party administration of former President Joseph Biden deported an average of 57,000 immigrants every month last year. Today President Donald Trump blames workers without papers for the competition of workers over jobs, housing and services, for violent crimes and other serious social problems. But the fact is his administration has been deporting less immigrant workers than his predecessor. He's ratcheting up the anti-immigrant rhetoric and moved to expand facilities to incarcerate them in the future, in the U.S., Guantánamo and El Salvador's notorious CECOT prison. This is aimed at intimidating the millions of workers in the U.S. who have no papers, reinforce their second-class status and create conditions to intensify their exploitation.

The bosses and their government look to profit from dividing the working class. In the construction

industry in New York City, for instance, the bosses have increased the hiring of immigrant workers — who today make up over half of the workers — and driven down the number in unions to 20% or less.

The rulers try to convince workers the answer to this is to deport workers without papers. But that's dead wrong. They used the same argument to try and convince Caucasian workers it was in their interest to keep Black workers out of industry, which was exploded by the mighty Black-led movement that overthrew Jim Crow segregation.

The only way our class makes any gains is when we join together and fight, regardless of color, nationality, sex or legal status. What's needed today is an amnesty for workers without papers in the U.S., ending their second-class status, so fewer workers live in fear. This can tear down the barrier to our class fighting side by side against the bosses and their government.

Taking on and politically answering the scapegoating of immigrants is a life-or-death political question for the labor movement. It has to explain that workers — whatever their status — are the working class in the U.S. The union must organize *all* workers.

There is an action today that sets an example. Join the March 31 action to defend immigrants, called by the United Farm Workers and the California Federation of Labor Unions in Delano. Look for similar actions in your area. Bring your family, friends and co-workers.

This is the road to bring workers together. It helps prepare workers for the political struggles that lie ahead — the fight to break from the bosses' parties and to chart a course to take political power into our own hands, the only way to end the power of capitalist exploitation and oppression once and for all.

Crackdown in Turkey



Reuters/Umit Bektas

University students protest in Istanbul, Turkey, March 20.

Continued from page 7

for decades. There are 30 million Kurds spread across Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria — the largest oppressed nationality without their own state in the world.

For months the government has carried out negotiations with Abdullah Ocalan, the decadeslong imprisoned leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), on ending the armed conflict that has killed some 40,000 people over the last four decades. On March 1 the PKK agreed to an immediate ceasefire, and said Ocalan's prison conditions must be eased. The government's response was to demand the immediate and unconditional dissolution of the Kurdish party. The Turkish army continues to carry out attacks in Kurdish areas.

They are also intervening in Syria, seeking to deepen relations with the new Islamist government while stepping up attacks on the semi-autonomous Kurdish region there on the border with Turkey.

Democrats try to win workers back as millions are fed up with bosses' parties

Continued from front page

draw a substantial layer of disaffected workers, along with the frustrated middle-class left and liberal forces, back into the capitalist party. Days earlier, Sanders told the *New York Times* that the tour's purpose was to encourage people "to get engaged in the political process and run as independents outside of the Democratic Party."

The party is "run by consultants who are way out of touch with reality," he told Fox News March 18, and have "virtually no grassroots support."

But Sanders' and Ocasio-Cortez's appeal for "independent" candidates has nothing to do with a break from the capitalist two-party system. They hope to reverse workers' growing disgust with both parties and attract them back to the Democrats. They have no intention of carrying out a split. "So, what we are trying to do is, in one way or another, maybe create a party within the party," Sanders told Fox News.

Ocasio-Cortez was more explicit, telling the crowd in Las Vegas, "We need a Democratic Party that fights harder for us."

The socialist Sanders caucuses with the Democrats and for decades has been integrated into its role in the capitalist government. He chaired the Senate Budget Committee for the Democrats dur-

ing the first two years of the Joseph Biden administration, when prices for basic necessities soared.

He and others of his ilk, like Ocasio-Cortez, refuse to speak in class terms. He blames Trump and a new "oligarchy" for workers' problems, not the dog-eat-dog workings of the capitalist system. Nothing can qualitatively change for working people as long as the capitalist families rule.

What's needed, Sanders says, is to get more "independent" Democrats like him into office. Like all Democrats and Republicans, he sees the working class as the object of government policy, not a force capable of breaking with capitalist politics and fighting in our own class interests. He presents a course to preserve the state and power of the U.S. imperialist rulers.

After their embarrassing loss in 2024, some more mainstream Democrats now say they have to work with the new Trump administration until it reveals its real face. Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer voted for a Republican-sponsored funding bill to prevent a new government shutdown.

Ocasio-Cortez attacked him, calling it "a tremendous mistake."

Carville: Democrats must get out of the way

Longtime Democratic strategist James Carville is one of those who shares Schumer's approach. The party should "play possum. Just let it go. Don't get in the way," he told MSNBC Feb. 17, "until it's time to not be nice. And that time is coming."

Centrist Democrats, organized by the Third Way, met in February to chart their plan for the party's comeback. They too aim at winning back working-class support, saying the party today is too closely tied to "academia, media, government bureaucracy." Their plan is to lower the influence of its left wing, and "move away from identity politics," which defines everyone by their race, skin color or "gender-choice."

While Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez kick out against "billionaires," and "oligarchs," the Third Way says the party must stop "demonizing wealth and corporations." It can present itself as being "pro-capitalism in a smart way."

Reflecting how they see workers, their plan tells the party that to "reconnect" with the working

class, it must "Embrace Moderation, Individualism and Masculinity."

Sanders gave the *New York Times* an example of the kind of "independent" government he liked. "My hope is the Democrats can regain the kind of worldview that they had in the '30s and '40s under Roosevelt and Truman," he said.

Franklin Roosevelt led the U.S. into the second imperialist world war, looking to crush the rulers' rivals and allies alike. He imposed no-strike rules on the unions and unleashed the FBI on the Socialist Workers Party, the anti-war party. Harry Truman expanded the witch hunt after the war, used the Taft-Hartley law against the unions and presided over the Korean War.

Today the Democrats are increasingly dominated by a woke upper-middle-class layer whose comfortable lives are utterly alien to the conditions of workers, and who think they should scold and administer workers on behalf of the capitalist rulers. This makes what they call a "reconnection" with the working class difficult, to say the least, for either of the party's competing wings.

In a March 6 *Wall Street Journal* column headlined "Snap Out Of It," Peggy Noonan said that the Democrats need to find a way back. "Two strong and healthy parties vying for popular support is good for the country." The capitalists' two-party shell game doesn't work without it.

For decades the U.S. capitalist rulers have governed through both their main parties, competing for workers' support, each claiming to be the lesser of the two evils. For working people, the challenge is the opposite. We need to break with the capitalist rulers and their parties, not to try and take on the impossible task of "repairing" them.

In the 2025 elections the working class *does* have a voice. Socialist Workers Party candidates are running for office. They explain that the deepening crisis of the capitalist world order is inexorably leading the rulers toward new and more disastrous wars. At the same time, the bosses are driving to put the costs of their growing competition on workers' backs.

SWP candidates point to what can be done today to build a party that can lead millions in the struggles that lie ahead to change which class rules.

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