

‘We’ll stay in touch with our new readers!’

BY STEVE CLARK

In the weeks and months ahead, members of the Socialist Workers Party and communist organizations in other countries will be getting back in touch with as many as possible of the 2,800 workers, farmers, and young people who’ve gotten introductory subscriptions to the *Militant* since early February.

We’ll be joining with our new subscribers in political and union struggles they’re engaged in, large and small; talking with them about a revolutionary working-class response to today’s worldwide crisis of capitalist rule; and urging them to renew and become regular readers, worker-correspondents, and distributors of a “newsweekly published in the interests of working people.”

As shown on the scoreboard below, supporters of the *Militant* shot well over the international goal of our six-week spring campaign to win 2,000 new subscribers to the paper. At the

Continued on page 6

Spring ‘Militant’
subscription campaign
Spring 2011 Final chart

Country	quota	sold	%	2,191
UNITED STATES				2,000 Int'l goal
Miami*	85	93	109%	
Los Angeles*	160	171	107%	
Twin Cities*	150	159	106%	
Chicago*	150	157	105%	
Houston*	65	68	105%	
Seattle*	160	163	102%	
San Francisco**	175	178	102%	
Des Moines*	160	161	101%	
Atlanta*	165	165	100%	
Philadelphia*	100	100	100%	
Boston*	60	50	83%	
Washington	110	88	80%	
New York	330	247	75%	
Total U.S.	1,870	1,800	96%	
Canada*				
	70	75	107%	
New Zealand*				
	65	78	120%	
Australia*				
	60	65	108%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
Manchester**				
	45	48	107%	
London**				
	120	125	104%	
Total UK				
	165	173	105%	
Total				2,230 2,191 110%
Should be				2,000 2,000 100%
*Raised goal ** more than once				

Coal contract gives up pension for new hires

For ranks, there’s no peace with mine bosses



AP Photo/Wade Payne

Rescue workers outside flooded Jellico Mine No. 1 in Middlesboro, Kentucky, June 20, a few days after United Mine Workers approved contract with Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA). Three miners were trapped underground for 14 hours in nonunion Jellico mine. Miners and other workers face deteriorating safety conditions as bosses press to maximize “productivity” amid deepening crisis of capitalism and continuing decline of unions.

BY PAUL MAILHOT
AND ALYSON KENNEDY

CHARLESTON, West Virginia—Members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) union voted by 70 percent to approve a new contract with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) June 17. The agreement includes wage increases of \$6 an hour over the next five and a half years. A major change from previous agreements is the elimination

of union pensions for workers hired after Jan. 1, 2012.

Since only one coal company—Pittsburgh-based Consol Energy—is today a member of the BCOA, the agreement technically applies only to the 3,000 miners who work for Consol. Contract provisions on company payments into the union pension fund affect all coal companies who have union retirees, however. UMWA

Continued on page 5

Transforming the party as it goes more broadly to the working class

BY STEVE CLARK
AND CINDY JAQUITH

OBERLIN, Ohio—With a giant scoreboard for the spring *Militant* campaign hanging from the rafters, 350 workers, farmers, and young people opened the Active Workers and Socialist Education Conference here June 9, sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party. In addition to participants from the United States, work-

On their way to the conference, workers and youth stopped in Midwest towns and cities to go door to door in working-class neighborhoods, introducing people to the *Militant* and to books and pamphlets on revolution-

Continued on page 6

Conference message to Cuban Five prisoners —p. 7

ers attended from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Greece, France, and Sweden.

The three-day conference registered the beginning of a transformation of the party and world communist movement in response to the openness of millions of workers and farmers to discuss what today’s crisis-ridden dictatorship of capital means for us and what we can and must do in order to end it.

Rulers push devastation on workers in Greece

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece—For the second year in a row, Greek capitalists and their European counterparts are demanding working people accept deep wage cuts, widespread layoffs, and further assaults on pensions in order to prevent a default on the Greek debt and guarantee that the Greek and foreign banks get their interest payments.

Last year Athens obtained a loan of 110 billion euros (1 euro = US\$1.43) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Central Bank to avoid an imminent default on its debt. It was scheduled to obtain the last 12 billion euro installment by July of this year.

The new loans were initially blocked when German chancellor Angela Merkel insisted that banks holding Greek bonds take a loss and reschedule Greek debt payments. She later dropped that demand, but a meeting of Eurozone finance ministers announced June 20 that the 12 billion euros will be held up until the Greek parliament approves a new round of cuts.

Athens will also require further loans from the European Union and IMF about equal to last year’s bailout package to avoid defaulting in 2012–13. Already, Athens’s public debt to Greek and foreign institutions is at 153 percent of the country’s gross domestic product (GDP). Greece’s credit rating was reduced to CCC, the lowest in the world, by Standard & Poor’s.

The austerity measures already taken by Athens have resulted in a deep contraction in the country’s economy. The GDP is predicted to decline by 4 percent in 2011. Cement production

Continued on page 9

U.S. government, FBI tighten squeeze on rights of workers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The FBI is revising its procedures manual to further broaden the powers of its 14,000 agents to spy on individuals and organizations, according to a recent article in the *New York Times*. The move comes on the heels of President Barack Obama’s decision in May to renew provisions of the Patriot Act, which give the FBI wide latitude to wiretap and spy on individuals, gaining access to their bank records, medical histories, and personal papers such as diaries and letters.

The soon-to-be released new edi-

Continued on page 9

Also Inside:

- Havana: Int’l youth meeting backs effort to ‘Free the Five!’ 2
- Canada gov’t locks out postal workers in contract fight 4
- ‘Workers need to get together and stand up’ 5
- Washington escalates covert drone assassinations in Yemen 9

Havana: int’l youth meeting backs effort to ‘Free the 5!’

BY ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ
AND REBECCA WILLIAMSON

HAVANA—“We must break down the wall of silence built around the case of our five comrades unjustly imprisoned in the United States,” said Ricardo Alarcón, president of the National Assembly of People’s Power of Cuba, at the inauguration of the Third International Youth Conference in Solidarity with the Cuban Five held here June 11–13.

The five—Gerardo Hernández, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and Ramón Labañino—are Cuban revolutionaries who were framed up by the U.S. government and jailed since 1998. What was their “crime”? They accepted assignments to keep the government of Cuba informed about activities of counter-revolutionary organizations based in southern Florida. Tacitly backed by the U.S. government, these groups have a long history of assaults and acts of sabotage against Cuba.

The five were convicted in 2001 on trumped-up “conspiracy” charges, including conspiracy to commit espionage and, in the case of Hernández, conspiracy to commit murder. They are serving sentences ranging from 15 years, for René González, to a draconian double-life plus 15 years for Hernández. Supporters of an international defense effort are campaigning for their freedom.

René González, a U.S. citizen, is scheduled to be let out of prison in October this year on “special conditions of supervised release.”

The conference, hosted by the Union of Young Communists (UJC), included panel presentations, discussions, and

workshops. It drew some 180 young people, including 140 from outside Cuba. Participants came from 33 countries, from as far as Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and North America. The majority came from South and Central America. Also participating were students from other countries who study medicine and other subjects in Cuba.

“We need to strengthen the solidarity movement,” Leira Sánchez, member of the National Bureau of the UJC, told the *Militant*.

“We have no confidence in the courts of the U.S. because of 13 years of deception and lies,” said Rosa Aurora Freijanes, wife of Fernando González, in a panel discussion featuring the families of the five. “We have to make this a political fight.” The U.S. government trampled on constitutional rights from the very beginning, she noted.

The FBI repeatedly broke into the homes of the five, tapped their phones, and took computer data, family photos, personal correspondence, and other belongings as it prepared the frame-up. Denied their request for a change of venue, the five were tried in Miami, where they faced an atmosphere of bias against the Cuban Revolution. The trial itself was marked by the use of secret “evidence” and other violations of basic democratic rights. As part of the U.S. government’s efforts to break the five, they were subjected to long periods of solitary confinement, up to 17 months at a stretch. And Washington has denied visas for Olga Salanueva and Adriana Pérez, wives of René González and Hernández, respectively, to visit their husbands in prison.



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Discussion during International Youth Conference in Solidarity with the Cuban Five, Havana.

“We know what it’s like to have political prisoners,” said Alberto Rodríguez Rivera, a Puerto Rican medical student in Cuba and part of the Hostosian Movement for National Independence of Puerto Rico, during discussion at the conference. He pointed out that a political defense campaign won the release of Puerto Rican independence fighter Carlos Alberto Torres last year after 30 years in prison. “We link our cause with that of the five,” he said.

“The frame-up of the five represents part of the deepening assault on the rights of working people in the U.S.,” said Harry D’Agostino from the Young Socialists in the United States. “The same methods will increasingly be wielded against other working-class militants as the crisis of capitalism deepens.”

‘The five are example for workers’

“The five’s strength of character is an example for workers and students alike,” said Julián Gutiérrez Alonso, of the José Antonio Echeverría Polytechnical Institute (CUJAE), at a workshop on using the Internet to campaign for their release. Gutiérrez pointed to the courage and moral integrity the five have demonstrated both in undertaking their mission to defend the Cuban Revolution and in their conduct since their arrest. The U.S. authorities have failed to break them, he noted.

Also speaking at that workshop was Carlos Serpa Maceira, who, as an undercover agent for Cuba’s State Security, infiltrated counterrevolutionary groups operating in Cuba by posing as an “independent” journalist who wrote

fake stories to tarnish Cuba’s image. “The U.S. keeps the five locked up to punish Cuba for having made a revolution,” he stated.

“The five sacrificed their lives in prison helping Cuba fight imperialism,” said Mohamed Abu Srou, a Palestinian medical student in Cuba. “They did their mission. Our mission is to help win their freedom. It’s a circle of solidarity. Like you in the UK, U.S., Cuba, and around the world support us in Palestine, we also need to help others.” Abu Srou was one of dozens of participants who bought copies of the *Militant* or books on revolutionary working-class politics.

A number of participants expressed illusions or hopes that President Barack Obama can be morally convinced to use his executive power to release the five.

Members of the communist movement from the United States and United Kingdom spoke at the conference about the increasing opportunities to win a hearing for the case among working people in those countries, whose lives are being shaken by the crisis of capitalism. Many are becoming more open to consider the need for a revolutionary struggle for workers power, of which the Cuban Revolution provides a living example.

The final declaration of the conference called for days of action on the fifth of every month and an international month of action from September 12 to October 6.

Jacob Perasso and Harry D’Agostino contributed to this article.

THE MILITANT

Defend immigrant rights!

From Georgia to Arizona, workers have been protesting government assaults on the rights of immigrants. The ‘Militant’ explains that fighting for legalization for undocumented workers is a crucial part of forging the unity and fighting capacity of the entire working class.



Militant/Alex Huinil

Restaurant workers in Atlanta protest Georgia anti-immigrant bill March 24.

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Socialists respond to suit attacking workers' rights

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK—Attorneys for the Socialist Workers Party and Róger Calero, the party's presidential candidate in 2004 and 2008, filed a motion with the Supreme Court of New York in Brooklyn June 7 calling for dismissal of a legal assault against Calero's right to stand for office and the party's right to run the nominee of its choice.

Filed by Christopher Klatell and Daniel Reich of the firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, the motion argues that the complaint filed against Calero, the SWP, and others lacks "any merit whatsoever." The lawsuit, filed by an individual named Christopher-Earl Strunk, targets Calero and two other 2008 presidential candidates—Barack Obama and John McCain—as well as their campaign committees and others.

Strunk claims that none of the three candidates is a "natural-born citizen" and thus should not have been on the ballot in New York. The suit echoes charges from so-called birthers and others that Obama is not a U.S. citizen. It alleges that since McCain was born on a U.S. military base in the Panama Canal Zone, he too doesn't meet Strunk's definition of a "natural-born" citizen.

"When I've run for president as the Socialist Workers Party candidate, our campaign literature has made clear I was born in Nicaragua," Calero told the *Militant*. "The SWP never asks anyone we're fighting alongside to produce a birth certificate, an ID card, or a diploma. The only 'qualification' any class-conscious worker needs to know is how well and how selflessly you fight."

The motion filed on behalf of the SWP and Calero explains that regardless of whether he "would have been eligible to be President, SWP and its members are entitled to their choice of a nominee under the First and Fourteenth Amendments. . . . As the U.S. Constitution prevents courts from disregarding and undermining a political party's decision to nominate a candidate, the Court cannot impose damages on Calero or SWP" for exercising these rights. Strunk is demanding \$36 million in damages.

The motion notes that Strunk "has not alleged that Calero or SWP made any false representations." Given the lack of any basis for the complaint, the legal papers ask "that Strunk not be granted leave to replead as such an exercise would be futile."

The attorneys for the party and Calero also call attention to "the long and

documented history of persecution of SWP" by government cop agencies. In 1973 the party filed a lawsuit in federal court against the FBI and other political police, documenting decades of government spying and disruption. The campaign waged by the party and supporters of political rights forced the government to reveal thousands of instances of the use of informers, wiretaps, "trash covers," burglaries, and the unleashing of an "SWP Disruption Program."

In 1986 the party won a federal court ruling declaring this spying and disruption illegal. On that basis, as well as evidence of ongoing attacks on the party by cops and rightists, the government since the late 1970s has been forced to grant the SWP an exemption from releasing the names of contributors to its election campaigns.

Given the lack of any factual basis for Strunk's charges, Calero says, it would be easy not to take them seriously. But the SWP has had too much experience with harassing lawsuits dismissed by liberals as trivial but—once in bourgeois courts—become a weapon to deal blows to the workers movement. Working-class parties can be forced to spend substantial resources and leadership time responding to demands to turn over documents, submit to multiday interrogation, and prepare for repeated court hearings.

'Militant' fund over the top with 111 new contributors

This year's Militant Fighting Fund was a great success, raising \$123,572 for the paper during the eight-week drive. That's substantially more than the \$116,000 international goal, as well as the \$117,200 collected last year.

An additional \$615 has arrived since the June 6 deadline for the scoreboard, bringing the total collected to more than \$124,000.

Partisans of the paper from six areas outside the United States exceeded their combined quotes by \$3,571! Members of the communist movement in Houston, San Francisco, Se-



Militant/Dan Fein
Róger Calero, left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president in 2004 and 2008, campaigning in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, New York, January 2008. "The SWP never asks anyone we're fighting alongside to produce a birth certificate, ID card, or diploma," he said.

In 1979, for example, Alan Gelfand, a lawyer in California, filed suit demanding that federal courts expel the SWP leadership, claiming they were FBI agents. Federal judge Marianna Pfaelzer let Gelfand carry out this attack for 10 years before finally ruling when the case went to trial in 1989 that the suit "is groundless and always was."

Nor should anyone make light of the harm to the workers movement as sections of the U.S. rulers take advantage of "America firstism" peddled by "birthers." Bills have recently been in-

troduced in more than 10 states to require presidential candidates to produce a U.S. birth certificate in order to be certified for the ballot.

In states such as New York, where Calero was on the ballot in 2004 and 2008, there is currently no requirement that a candidate be eligible to serve in elected office in order to have ballot status. This makes it easier for working-class candidates to run for office and gain a hearing for a course to fight the bosses' attacks and advance a road to workers political power.

The bill introduced in Maine minces no words about its intended political targets. It requires only "independent" candidates to produce a birth certificate, not those of the two main capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans.

"Our attorneys have submitted the motion to have Strunk's suit thrown out," Calero told the *Militant*, "and we hope it will be. But we are ready for whatever comes our way."

attle, and Montreal, Canada, all raised their goals during the drive.

In four cities, supporters of the paper did not meet their quota—by just a few hundred dollars in three areas.

This year 111 readers of the paper gave to the fund for the first-time, well more than double the new contributors from last year! This advance marked the effort in nearly every area—a result both of increased receptivity to the paper among working people and greater political attention by organizers of local drives.

For example, last year supporters of the fund in Houston had one first-time contributor. This year they had seven, plus six others who dropped modest donations into cans on communist literature tables.

Among the new contributors were a number of workers and students who've been reading the *Militant* for some time but hadn't yet decided to help support it financially. Others included locked-out workers who see the paper as a political weapon in their struggle, coworkers of *Militant* supporters, readers who attended public fund-raising forums, and people who first subscribed after *Militant* supporters knocked on their doors.

A thank you to all who have contributed and to those who led the successful effort around the world. You can be sure these funds will be put to good use maintaining and strengthening the *Militant*, a paper that for more than 80 years has served to advance the interests of the workers of the world.

Doug Nelson
Militant Fighting Fund Director

<i>'Militant' Fighting Fund</i>			
Spring 2011 Final Chart			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Miami	\$3,000	\$3,509	117%
Houston*	\$4,000	\$4,196	105%
Atlanta	\$7,800	\$8,110	104%
San Francisco*	\$15,000	\$15,496	103%
Des Moines	\$3,400	\$3,445	101%
Philadelphia	\$4,000	\$4,036	101%
Seattle*	\$8,800	\$8,836	100%
Boston	\$4,000	\$4,005	100%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
New York	\$21,000	\$20,613	98%
Washington	\$8,500	\$8,322	98%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$8,315	98%
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$6,319	90%
Other		\$600	
Total U.S.	\$105,000	\$105,802	101%
Canada*	\$7,000	\$7,933	113%
New Zealand	\$3,500	\$4,513	129%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$1,600	\$2,500	156%
Manchester	\$300	\$435	145%
UK Total	\$1,900	\$2,935	154%
Australia	\$1,500	\$2,012	134%
France	\$300	\$378	126%
Total	\$119,200	\$123,572	107%
Should be	\$116,000	\$116,000	100%
* Raised goal			

Further reading



Order from a distributor on page 8 or from pathfinderpress.com

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Threatening Minnesota Government Shutdown: An Assault on Working People. Speaker: Tony Lane, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., July 1, 8 p.m. 1311 1/2 E Lake St. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Fight for Women's Liberation and the Road to Workers Power. Why There Can Be No Compromise On a Woman's Right to Choose. Fri., July 1, 7:30 p.m. 307 W 36th St., 10th floor Tel.: (212) 736-2540.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Capitalism's World Disorder and a Sea Change in the Working Class. Speaker: Mary Martin, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 5418 Rainier Ave S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Canada gov't locks out postal workers in contract fight

MONTREAL—At picket lines and demonstrations across the country, Canada's 48,000 postal workers are appealing for public support after Canada Post bosses ended 12 days of rotating strikes by locking them out June 15. The federal government is now preparing back-to-work, strike-breaking legislation.

The workers, members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), have been without a contract since January. Canada Post, a government-run corporation, is demanding massive concessions, saying they are necessary to make the company profitable in face of a decline in the use of the postal service. The postal bosses are demanding a two-tier wage structure with an 18 percent cut in pay for new hires, an increase in the retirement age, and an end to cost-of-living adjustments in pensions.

On June 17 drivers continuously honked in support as they passed by 50 CUPW strikers and their supporters at a demonstration here. Strikers explain that a major issue in the fight is the introduction of new machinery into the huge sorting plants across the country, which workers say will cause more injuries on the job due to speedup. New work rules demanded by the bosses will mean heavier loads for fewer letter carriers.

"Instead of respecting our rights, the government is intent on imposing a law which may permit an arbitrator to impose a whole new set of rules designed to reduce labour costs at the expense of our health and safety," said a CUPW media release.

At the picket line at the St. Laurent sorting plant just outside Montreal, mail courier Gary Dinan told the *Militant*, "Canada Post disrespects all its workers, from retirees, to those now working, to new hires. That's why so many signs demand 'Respect.'"

Under the threat of similar strike-breaking legislation 3,800 Air Canada ticket agents and call center workers ended a four-day walkout June 16 after Canadian Auto Workers union officials reached a tentative agreement with the airline bosses.

The central issue was pensions, with the company demanding an inferior,

insecure investment-based pension for new hires. The agreement announced June 16 referred the pension question to arbitration. Voting on the new airline contract will take place over the next two weeks.

—John Steele and Beverly Bernardo

Coal miners go on strike in Queensland, Australia

SYDNEY, Australia—Coal miners went on strike at BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) mines in the Bowen Basin in Queensland June 14.

Some 3,500 workers—members of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, and the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union—are taking part in six-hour rolling strikes at six mines. This is the first strike in a decade at the BMA mines, two of which are underground mines and the others open-cut.

The main demands of the unions are for equal pay for contract workers and company employees and a say in hiring by union representatives. Many members are also opposed to the proposed introduction of a seven-day-on, seven-day-off roster.

BMA is the largest exporter of coking coal in the world, more of which is mined in the Bowen Basin than anywhere else. Operations were halted at the Bowen Basin mines last year by floods, and coal output dropped by 30 percent. Coal prices rose due to the shortage and BMA profits swelled.

—Linda Harris

Texas flour mill workers strike over health care

SAN ANTONIO—Workers at the C.H. Guenther & Son Pioneer Flour Mill here have been on strike for two months. Members of Teamsters Local 657 walked off the job April 25 over health-care costs and retirement benefits.

"When we signed our three-year contract last year we thought we would get a raise of 50 cents about now," said Stephen Prieto, a warehouse worker with 33 years at the mill. "But then the company reopened the whole thing around health care. They want us to



Militant/Bev Bernardo

Postal workers picket in Montreal, Quebec, June 6 in fight against bosses' demands for concessions in new contract. Canadian government locked out workers June 15.

pay \$35 a week, not the \$11 we have been paying."

"The raise we are due will be wiped out by our health-care payments," added Mario Villarrial, who has 25 years on the job.

"We can't live on less money," said George Gonzalez, a machine operator who has worked at the plant for 32 years. "We need a raise, not a cut."

The strikers say Guenther is using office and other nonunion workers to run the mill, which produces gravy, pancake mixes, and many other flour products for Pioneer and White Wings brands.

Jerry Hernandez, a miller, told the *Militant* that a highly vocal contingent of nurses from the Rio Grande Valley spent an hour walking the picket line before heading to El Paso for contract negotiations. UPS workers have also joined the picket line in solidarity and rail workers have refused to cross it.

Supporters of the *Militant* went door to door in a nearby working-class neighborhood and sold two subscriptions to women very interested in the developments at the mill. Six strikers signed up to get the paper.

—David Creed
and Jacquie Henderson

Philadelphia rail car workers walk out due to heat conditions

PHILADELPHIA—Some 60 production workers at the Hyundai-Rotem rail car manufacturing plant in South Philadelphia walked off the job June 9, protesting the refusal of the company to provide break room air conditioning and access to cold drinking water. Temperatures neared 100 degrees.

The next day, the company provided water and told workers the air conditioning was being repaired.

About 100 production workers are employed here by Hyundai-Rotem, a subsidiary of the Korea-based auto company Hyundai Motor Group. The rail cars are being built for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, which runs the region's subways and rail lines.

The workers voted last year to join the Transport Workers Union and have since been fighting to get a contract.

Nine workers bought copies of the *Militant*. One later bought a subscription and took three more papers and some promotional literature to show coworkers in the plant.

—Mitchel Rosenberg

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 4, 1986

White House and Pentagon officials are pushing legislation that would make it impossible for governors to keep National Guard units from their states out of military maneuvers in Central America. The controversy over the use of the Guard units surfaced in April when governors from Arizona, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, and Washington said that they were opposed to troops from their states being used in Honduras.

Since 1983 the Pentagon has staged constant military exercises in that country and practiced mock invasions of Nicaragua during the exercises.

Governors who expressed opposition to use of the Guard troops were responding to the deep-seated opposition of the majority of U.S. working people to another Vietnam-type war.



July 3, 1961

On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. Seven years after the decision only 6.9% of the South's Negro students attend elementary and high schools along with white children. Public schools remain completely segregated by race in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Less than one percent of Negro students in Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia attend integrated schools.

Negro students and their allies are determined to end discrimination not only in schools but at lunch counters, recreational facilities, public libraries, etc. And "unlikely to be undone" is this courageous fight of the new generation of Southern youth.



November 28, 1936

The maritime strike of the Pacific Coast, now four weeks old, is still stalemated and is clearly becoming a test of strength and endurance. A good deal is said about strike "strategy"—and that has its uses within certain clearly defined limits—but this strike, like every other strike, is simply a bull-headed struggle between two forces whose interests are in constant and irreconcilable conflict. The partnership of capital and labor is a lie. The immediate issue in every case is decided by the relative strength of the opposing forces at the moment.

The problem of the strikers consists in estimating what their strength is, and then mobilizing it in full force and pressing against the enemy until something cracks and a settlement is achieved. That's all there is to strike strategy.

Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay

by Leon Trotsky

Also includes:
"Trade Unions:
Their Past, Present
and Future"
by Karl Marx

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‘Workers need to get together and stand up’

In mid-June members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in several countries sold subscriptions to the *Militant* in coalfield areas of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Alabama, Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado. Going door to door and visiting mine portals, they talked with hundreds of miners and other workers.

Selling the ‘Militant’ in the coalfields

As of June 21 they had signed up 88 subscribers to the paper and sold 139 single copies. In addition, workers in these areas bought 19 books on revolutionary politics: 5 each of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes and *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs; 4 copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, both by Barnes; and *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* by Mary-Alice Waters.

Below are reports from three teams.

BY BETSY FARLEY

BROOKWOOD, Alabama—Working people here face rising unemployment, now up to 9.6 percent. State officials blame the April tornados, which killed more than 200 people and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses. But workers we met also pointed to layoffs of 40 percent of bankrupt Jefferson County’s workforce.

“Many people invited us into their homes,” said team member Laura Anderson. John Burt, a retired miner in Graysville, said he’d been fighting discrimination in the mines against Black and female miners all his life. “You’re working to unite people,” he said after subscribing. “The harder the bosses push, the more they get. And then they push harder.”

We had several discussions of Ala-

bama’s new anti-immigrant law, which takes effect September 1. Some workers agreed with the *Militant* headline calling for legalization of undocumented workers. Others said the undocumented are partly responsible for unemployment. A Bessemer woman said her husband, a construction worker originally from Mexico, has taken a big wage cut due to attacks on immigrants. “I’ll do anything to fight this discrimination,” she said as she signed up for a subscription.

A young woman in Brookwood, the wife of a miner at a Jim Walters mine, subscribed and got *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*. She said she’s appalled by restrictions on a woman’s right to abortion. “We’re the ones who give birth and raise a child, we should be the ones to decide,” she said.

Twenty-four workers in Alabama bought subscriptions and 35 picked up single issues.

BY SETH GALINSKY

WAYNESBURG, Pennsylvania—“I’m living paycheck to paycheck,” said Gary Sine, a water company worker here. “We need to get together and stand up, but not everybody’s ready to do that yet.”

Sine bought a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*. Pointing to photos in the book of protesting coal miners and auto workers in the 1980s and ’90s, he said, “That could be me.”

“Some of my current coworkers would be interested in this paper,” Sine said and took some subscription blanks to give them.

The team sold 20 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 32 single copies here and in other towns in Greene County.

A truck driver told us at first he wasn’t interested. But he changed his mind when we said the *Militant* is a working-class paper that explains the need to take power out of the hands of the rich. At the company where he works, 10-hour days and longer are routine, he said, “but the company



Militant/Laura Anderson

Betsy Farley discusses the paper with John Burt, a retired miner living in Graysville, Alabama. “You’re working to unite people,” he said, after subscribing. “The harder the bosses push, the more they get. And then they push harder.”

doesn’t pay time and a half for overtime. They say trucking companies are exempt.” He bought a single.

A Vietnam veteran who worked 17 years at the Cumberland coal mine, and is now a transit worker, subscribed after telling team members he opposes the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jessica Bellish, whose father was a miner who died from black lung disease, also got a subscription. She said she was glad to see a newspaper that defends a woman’s right to choose abortion and covers workers struggles and the fight against police brutality.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

CHARLESTON, West Virginia—Shelley Moore, who lives near the town of Van here in the southern part of the state, told *Militant* team members she had participated in a recent march of several hundred to Blair Mountain to save the historic site and stop the coal bosses’ plans to begin mountaintop removal. In 1921 an

armed battle took place on the mountain pitting 10,000 coal miners fighting to organize the mines against the U.S. Army.

Moore said her father had been a coal miner for 30 years and she supports the United Mine Workers union “100 percent.” But the coal companies should not be able to blow up Blair Mountain with no regard for the dangers it causes to working people in the area. (In the name of saving jobs, top UMW officials have joined with coal companies in backing mountaintop removal, despite the resulting flooding, pollution, and other devastation.) After subscribing, Moore asked if the *Militant* had an office in this part of West Virginia—“We need you here.”

Other workers we met supported coal company plans, saying it means more mining jobs. But these workers gave a hearing to supporters of the *Militant* when we explained that working people have to fight the capitalist system that tells us we have to

Continued on page 9

Coal contract gives up pensions

Continued from front page

members at other major coal companies voted on the proposed pact, which continues to serve as a basis for union negotiations with these coal bosses.

Some miners in this region told the *Militant* that the new agreement would deepen divisions among miners. “The companies dangled a lot of money in front of us, which is why this passed,” said one miner who works at the Hobet coal operation near here. “But I don’t like that new miners will not receive a pension. It makes you wonder whether there will be pensions for any of us in the future.”

UMWA officials have stressed that the union’s pension fund is headed toward insolvency, having lost 22 percent of its value in 2008–2009. Union officials are instead encouraging workers to invest in company 401(k) plans. The average pension for a retired miner is \$590 a month and for a surviving spouse about \$300 a month. More than 40 percent of miners receiving pensions are over 75.

This area of West Virginia is also the site of the last major coal mine disaster, which took the lives of 29 miners at the Upper Big Branch Mine south of Charleston last year. The Massey Energy mine owners refuse to take respon-

sibility for the mine explosion there in spite of numerous reports about unsafe practices that directly contributed to the disaster.

The new contract goes into effect as mine operators are ramping up production—and jeopardizing safety, many miners point out—to maximize profit while there is a strong market for coal.

Workers, not just in the coalfields, are paying the price for years of business unionism that placed obtaining “fringe benefits,” such as pensions and health insurance, from a particular company or industry ahead of leading a fight for the needs of the working class as a whole. These fringes are good in good times—for a shrinking number of workers who have them—but they fall apart as the capitalist system goes into crisis.

While there is some hiring today for experienced miners, there are few jobs for new workers in the mines or other industries. West Virginia mining businesses added only 375 jobs in the last year.

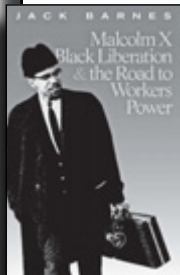
“I’ve never seen it so hard to get a job as it has been the last two years,” said Casey Harmon, from Madison, West Virginia. Harmon left a coal-mining job with Massey Energy after the company “realigned” the job he was working and called him back to work at \$5 less an hour.

Special offers with Militant subscription

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes ~~\$20~~ \$10 with subscription

This book helps us understand why it is the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class that will make possible the final battle for Black freedom—and open the way to a world based not on exploitation, violence, and racism, but human solidarity. A socialist world.



Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Unions
by Jack Barnes ~~\$24~~ \$10 with subscription

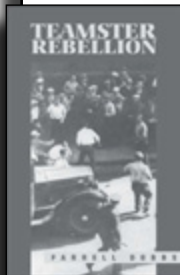
A handbook for those seeking the road toward effective action to overturn the exploitative system of capitalism and join in reconstructing the world on new, socialist foundations.



Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs ~~\$19~~ \$10 with subscription

The story of the strikes and union organizing drive the men and women of Teamsters Local 574 carried out in Minnesota in 1934, paving the way for the continent-wide rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations as a fighting social movement.



Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters ~~\$7~~ \$5 with subscription

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

by Jack Barnes ~~\$3~~ \$2 with subscription

Contact distributors on page 8—subscription rates on page 2

Pathfinder Press

Transforming party

Continued from front page
ary working-class politics.

“We had a great time driving here and once again saw that you can go anywhere today in a working-class community and sell the paper, explain that the problem is the capitalist system, and have a discussion,” said Helen Meyers, a worker from Des Moines, Iowa, in a note read to the opening session. Four cars “pulled off the turnpike in South Bend [Indiana], a town none of us had ever been to, started driving, and said this neighborhood looks good.” In an hour they sold seven subscriptions.

As team members and leaders of party branches shouted out final subscription totals, the results were written on the banner-sized scoreboard. Paul Mailhot, a member of the SWP National Committee, reported to participants that 76 had been sold en route. That brought the total for the six-week circulation effort to 2,191 new readers of the *Militant*.

Mailhot issued a call for volunteers to participate in sales teams coming out of the gathering to coalfield areas in southwestern Pennsylvania, West Virginia, southern Illinois, and Alabama, as well as to western mining regions in Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado. More than 30 people signed up.

More broadly into working class

In a report to the conference the first day, SWP national secretary Jack Barnes said the measure of success of the door-to-door sales of *Militant* subscriptions was not just numbers but, above all, what the effort registers and helps advance in politically leading and transforming the ongoing, weekly activity of party branches.

The party’s members were “transformed by and began transforming others in the conscious layers of the working class,” Barnes said. What was accomplished registered the response by growing numbers of working people to the accumulating consequences of crisis-wracked capitalist rule—from rising joblessness, to brutal imperialist wars in which the sons and daughters of workers and farmers are sent to fight and die.

“Big turning points for the party come

when we recognize broad shifts such as this in our class, anticipate what’s coming, and begin to organize and act accordingly—with no guarantees, no IOUs, no due dates,” Barnes said. “It’s an act of imagination about the political changes as workers fight through the horrors capitalism is bringing—horrors that have already begun.

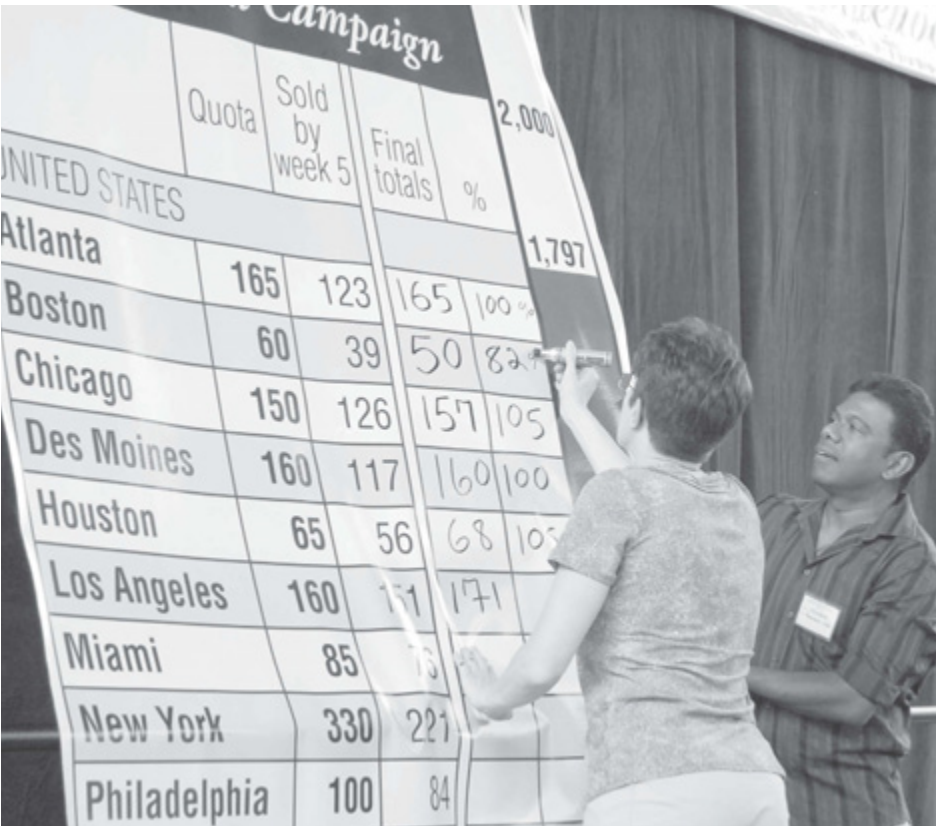
“And the political conclusion is always the same,” Barnes said. “Go more broadly into the working class, with confidence that we have no monopoly on imagination among workers, no monopoly on recognizing our own worth. And with the knowledge that as we fight alongside other working people, the party will begin to shake off the effects of a long political retreat of our class.”

Testing this increased responsiveness to the party’s course, Barnes said, means taking the *Militant* and books more broadly into the working class than the party has been doing in recent years, including to rural areas and to neighborhoods where there are concentrations of workers who are Caucasian as well as Black, Latino, and immigrant.

It requires overcoming a “union bias,” recognizing that as a result of the pro-capitalist course of the labor officialdom, a large and still growing majority of workers are unorganized today. It means understanding that resistance to the bosses’ assaults will begin in the working class—among both the unorganized and the organized—and, as that happens, pose the need and opportunities to rebuild and politically transform the unions.

On the second day of the conference, members of a panel reported on their experiences carrying out this political course—in regions extending from Los Angeles, Chicago, New York City, Des Moines, and Lincoln, Nebraska, to Auckland in New Zealand and Montreal in Quebec.

At the closing conference rally, Gerald Sanderson from the Communist League in the United Kingdom described the sale of 25 subscriptions to workers in Dagenham, a working-class area of East London, who are contemptuously written-off by middle-class radicals as a hotbed of anti-immigrant sentiment



Militant/Leah Morrison
Laura Anderson (left) of Chicago Socialist Workers Party and Basir Ambok of New Zealand Communist League fill in results for international *Militant* subscription campaign on opening day of June 9–11 Active Workers and Socialist Education Conference in Oberlin, Ohio. A total of 2,191 readers signed up during six-week campaign.

and votes for Conservative, not Labour Party candidates.

Selling the *Militant* in working-class communities “helped me get a better understanding of the paper” and “breaks down stereotypes,” Sergio Zambrana told the *Militant*. A 21-year-old student at the University of Maryland in College Park, Zambrana was part of a team that sold 13 papers outside the Emerald Mine in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Hunger for books

In the course of such discussions, SWP members are finding interest among workers not only in a newsweekly “published in the interests of working people,” but in books and pamphlets too. Top sellers are *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, both by Jack Barnes.

“These books, from different angles, are about the same thing,” Barnes said. Both are “about the dictatorship of capital and the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat,” he said, quoting the opening line of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. The party’s use of these two books, and

the interest in them among workers, are converging.

Teamster Rebellion by Farrell Dobbs needs to be part of the mix, Barnes added. The first in a four-book series, it’s an account by one of the class-struggle leaders of strikes and organizing drives in the 1930s that transformed the Teamsters union across much of the Midwest into a fighting social movement.

“This is not a ‘union book,’” Barnes said. “It’s a book about working-class battles. Farrell’s account doesn’t open at the time of a powerful union movement—although not with unions as weak (and getting weaker) as they’ve become today, either. Farrell shows what work-

Continued on page 7

Stay in touch

Continued from front page

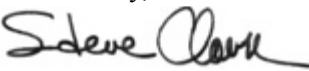
close of the drive, 2,191 subscriptions had been sold—10 percent over the top!

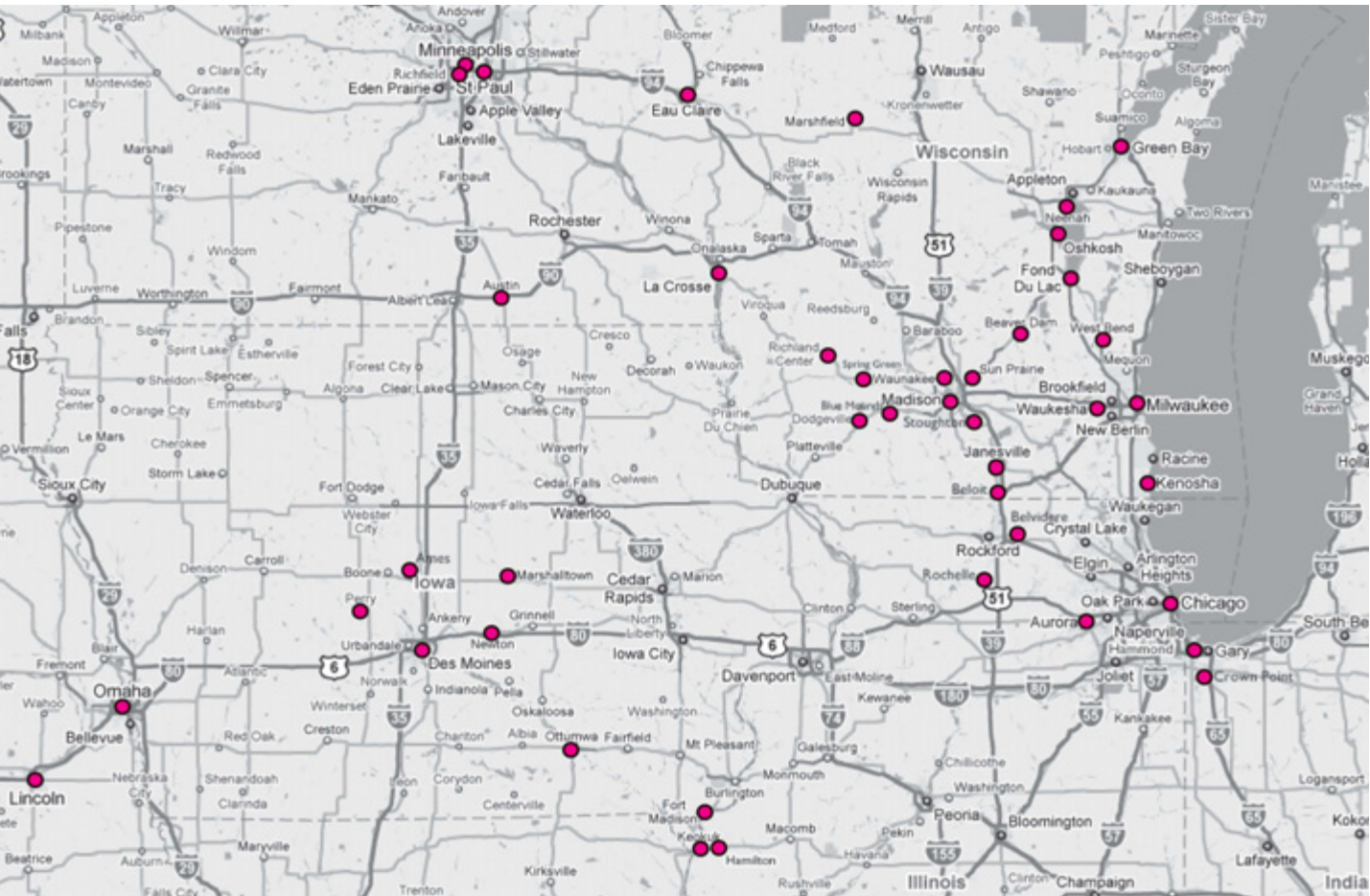
That’s in addition to the more than 1,000 subscriptions sold prior to the opening of the drive—as socialist workers responded to union-busting assaults against public employees in Wisconsin and other states, as well as fights by workers resisting employer lockouts and other attacks, popular uprisings across North Africa and the Middle East, and developments in the class struggle of importance to workers and farmers the world over.

How we met the subscription goal, and what it shows about decisive political changes among millions of working people in small towns and large cities across the United States, are explained in the front-page article on the June 9–11 active workers conference in Ohio and a message by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes to five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and held in U.S. prisons (see page 7).

Send us your comments and opinions about what you’re reading each week in the *Militant*. And get in touch with the workers nearest you who write for the paper and help distribute it, listed in the directory on page 8.

In solidarity,


Steve Clark
Editor



Circles on map show towns visited by *Militant* sales teams in Midwest where working people subscribed to the paper

‘Need to fight for workers power is inescapable’

Message to framed-up Cuban Five revolutionaries held 12 years in U.S. prisons

The following greetings were sent to each of the Cuban Five by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, on behalf of participants in the party’s Active Workers and Socialist Education Conference held in Oberlin, Ohio, June 9–11.

The Cuban Five are Gerardo Hernández, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and Ramón Labañino. They are Cuban revolutionaries who were framed up and convicted by the U.S. government in 2001 on “conspiracy” charges for monitoring the activities of armed counterrevolutionary Cuban American groups with a long history of assaults and acts of sabotage against Cuba, in collusion with Washington.

The five are serving sentences ranging from 15 years to double-life plus 15 years, the term handed down to Hernández, who was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder. Below is the letter Barnes sent Hernández.

June 16, 2011

Dear Gerardo,

Proletarian greetings from the 350 participants in the Active Workers and Socialist Education Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, June 9–11.

Our conference this year was deeply marked by the experiences members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party, together with young socialists, have had as we went door to door in towns and cities across the country talking with a wide cross-section of fellow working people, urban and rural, about the devastating impact of the last three years of crisis-ridden capitalist rule and the need for an uncompromising working-class response to it.

We won more than 3,000 new subscribers to the *Militant* with an ease that surprised us all. Even more striking was the hunger among these new readers for books on revolutionary politics, and the number of books purchased together with the *Militant* in these straitened times. The breadth of this is unprecedented.

We were able to measure the cumulative consequences of high and long-term joblessness, with no end in sight, loss of homes and medical coverage, rising food and oil prices, crushing levels of debt, and the toll of Washington’s brutal wars. Above all, the insult to human dignity that has become the daily fact of working-class life under capitalism.

Our discussions stretched from jobs and foreclosures, to racism, defense of immigrant workers, a woman’s right



The Cuban Five, from left: Gerardo Hernández, René González, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and Ramón Labañino. “Your unbreakable revolutionary determination remains a source of strength to fighting workers and farmers the world over,” SWP national secretary Jack Barnes said.

to choose abortion and the battle for women’s equality, opposition to government intrusions on our privacy and our rights, and imperialism’s murderous wars. Most importantly, our experiences registered something new: a growing openness among working people to consider—and invite us into their homes to discuss—that the problem is the capitalist system itself, and that the necessity of taking a revolutionary course toward the fight for workers power is inescapable.

Even a year ago, what we are describing would not have been the fact.

What is occurring among working people in the United States today increases the openings to demonstrate why we need to emulate what workers

and farmers in Cuba did more than fifty years ago—to end the dictatorship of capital and its state, and replace its bloated and brutal government with the power of workers and farmers. These shifts increase the possibility to win a hearing for the truth about the trumped-up conspiracy and murder charges against you, why the Cuban Five are being held hostage to punish the Cuban people for their refusal to surrender to Washington’s imperial demands that they “change.” And how this assault by the U.S. rulers threatens the rights, space, and very humanity of all of us.

On the second day of our conference, four young workers from the United States and United Kingdom left for Ha-

vana to represent the Young Socialists as they took part in the Third International Youth Conference in Solidarity with the Cuban Five. We go out from this conference with renewed confidence in the possibilities to expand the ranks of the worldwide fight to win your freedom and that of Ramón, Antonio, Fernando, and René.

Your steadfast integrity and unbreakable revolutionary determination remain a source of strength to fighting workers and farmers here and the world over. May we return this in kind.

Comradely,
/s/ Jack Barnes
National Secretary
Socialist Workers Party

...going more broadly to the working class

Continued from page 6

ers did, and will find ways to do again, to build a fighting union movement.” Dobbs was a central leader of the SWP for decades.

These and other books vital to the work of the SWP, Barnes said, are kept in print by the efforts of some 250 supporters of the communist movement, organized in the Print Project. The work to produce these books takes on added importance for the party given what’s happening in the working class, he said.

Capitalist crisis

Barnes described the grinding effects on workers of today’s capitalist crisis, the deepest since before World War II. Private employment today is 2 percent below where it was a decade ago—the first time there has been a loss of jobs over a 10-year period since the 1890s.

The Federal Reserve’s “quantitative easing”—fancy words for printing money in massive amounts—won’t stem their crisis, Barnes said, since the capitalists aren’t spending on capacity-expanding plant and equipment to draw labor on a large scale into increased production. And banks and other institutions still hold massive “assets” from the financial meltdown of 2007–2008 that are worth a fraction of what the owners claim.

What’s been the upshot of Washington’s much-hyped “financial reform”? As of late last year, Barnes said, four banks hold some 40 percent of all outstanding loans, and three of the four accounted for 56 percent of all mortgages last year.

In face of the deepening crisis facing workers, the union officialdom collaborates more and more closely with the bosses. They create bigger and bigger obstacles to workers fighting effectively against our class enemy, the capitalist class.

Barnes pointed to the example of United Auto Workers (UAW) officials, who announced June 9 that they will propose to the auto barons in upcoming negotiations wider use of profit-sharing instead of fixed wage increases. This is necessary, UAW president Bob King told the *Wall Street Journal*, so these companies “remain competitive.”

The foreign and military policy of the Barack Obama administration is increasingly reckless, Barnes said. It seeks to keep “the shooters” in place in Afghanistan while pledging to draw down U.S. troop levels. When the administration’s plans go awry, as in Libya earlier this year, its tendency is to lash out militarily under pressure with dangerous consequences for working people the world over.

A movement, not a doctrine

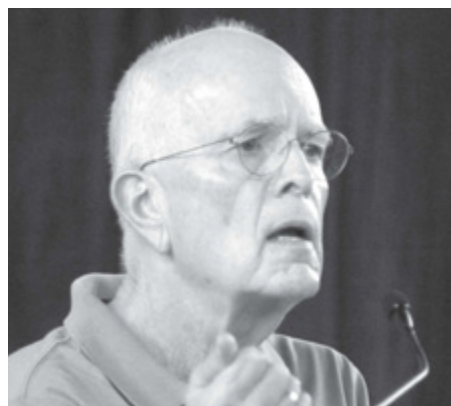
In responding to openings to discuss politics with more workers, Barnes said, there is no program the party can “apply” in order to know what to do next. Communism, as Marx and Engels dem-

onstrated, is not a doctrine but a movement. It draws on the political generalization of lessons learned by the vanguard of the working class along the line of march toward workers power.

If class-conscious workers don’t participate in the class struggle with this in mind, Barnes said, they veer off in a reformist or “left socialist” direction. Communist workers join with other working people to fight for all sorts of immediate and democratic demands in the interests of the working class. But concessions we win will be by-products of revolutionary struggle, along the road to power, not of a class-collaborationist course to “reform” capitalist rule.

What’s decisive for the working class, said Barnes, is fought out and settled *in the streets*, not by the passage of laws in bourgeois legislatures. Whether it’s immigration rights, a woman’s right to choose abortion, or other political questions, what counts are not laws but the relationship of class forces established in struggle. The adoption of reaction-

Continued on page 8



Militant/Eric Simpson

“What is occurring among working people in the United States today increases the openings to demonstrate why we need to emulate what workers and farmers in Cuba did more than fifty years ago,” said Barnes (above).



Militant/Leah Morrison

Conference participants view displays, ranging from success of reaching new layers of workers with *Militant* to work by supporters of communist movement to keep Pathfinder titles in print.

Party goes more broadly into the working class

Continued from page 7

ary legislation in and of itself doesn't register anything new in class politics; it shines a spotlight on the cumulative results of obstacles to effective struggle erected by misleaders of working people and the oppressed.

Barnes said workers in the United States today have a living example of men and women who transformed themselves in the course of class battles into the kind of human beings capable of organizing and leading a victorious proletarian revolution. Their stories are recounted, he said, in the series of book-length interviews with Cuban revolutionary leaders published by Pathfinder Press, such as *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution: From the Cane Fields of Oriente to General of the Revolutionary Armed Forces* by Luis Alfonso Zayas; *Marianas in Combat* by Teté Puebla; and others.

These points were amplified in a class by *Militant* editor Steve Clark on "How Workers Can Join Together to Transform Social Relations: Lessons from the Bolshevik-led Soviet State to Che Guevara and Cuba's Socialist Revolution." Among the other classes organized during the conference were "The 2011 Arab Uprisings, Israel, and the Road to Workers Power," "The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning," and "Abortion Rights: Precondition to Women's Equality."

Defending women's right to choose

Mary-Alice Waters, an SWP National Committee member and editor of *New International* magazine, presented a talk the second day of the gathering on "Women and Socialist Revolution."

As party members and supporters have gone door to door with the *Militant*, she said, "We're relearning how to talk with broader layers of our class not simply about things we think they might agree on, or things that sometimes seem more comfortable to discuss. We're learning not to back off from discussions of social and political questions that are central to advancing the solidarity and fighting capacity of the working class."

Among the most important of such questions—along with organization of immigrant workers as part of the working class and its unions—is defending a woman's right to decide whether or not to bear a child.

"There will be no victorious socialist revolution in the United States or anywhere else without the organization and mobilization of women as part of the fighting ranks and leadership of that historic battle," Waters said. "That means organizing women *and* men as part of an uncompromising struggle to eliminate the second class status of women, which is impossible so long as the capitalist rulers hold state power.

"And the right of a woman to control her own body—of a woman *alone*, not a woman and her husband, a woman and her parents, a woman and her doctor—is a fundamental precondition of equal participation in economic, social, and political life. That's why defense of a woman's right to choose is such a decisive question for a revolutionary workers party. It is a class question," Waters said.

The big change in social attitudes toward abortion rights in the United States, she said, can be found in the accelerated incorporation of women into the labor force, especially during and



Militant/Leah Morrison

On way to conference, volunteers participated in coal team to southwestern Pennsylvania. At opening session of gathering team members (standing) report on *Militant* subscriptions sold.

after World War II. Scientific advances over those years made possible, for the first time, safe and effective contraception, while decreasing dangers of medical procedures, including abortions.

These changes, coupled with the impact of the mass proletarian-based struggle for Black rights in the United States, deeply affected the consciousness of both women and men on the fight for women's equality. By 1973, partly in response to rising support for a woman's right to choose, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state laws criminalizing abortions.

Since that time, Waters said, moves by sections of the capitalist rulers to push back this right have had the biggest impact on women from the working class and rural areas. Today some 87 percent of U.S. counties have no clinics or hospitals performing this medical procedure, placing substantial burdens on women who can't afford the costs of transportation and lodging involved in traveling to find a safe abortion provider.

Luther Allen, a 34-year-old laid-off supermarket worker, came to the conference from Providence, Rhode Island. He went to Waters's talk and to a class on the right to choose. He said he was taught at an early age that abortion was wrong. It was when doctors and others

providing this procedure began getting killed by rightists in the 1990s that he began to reassess that view. "People were risking their lives to provide abortions to women," he said. "I had to look at the question in a whole new light."

The example of the Cuban Revolution and its communist leadership in the fight for women's rights on every front of social and political life—not only since the 1959 victory, but during the revolutionary struggle itself—is "one of the clearest measures of the profoundly proletarian character of that revolution," Waters said. Waters announced that she is editing a new Pathfinder book to be published later this year containing interviews with Vilma Espín and Acela de los Santos, leaders of the revolutionary struggle in Cuba since the 1950s and central leaders of the Federation of Cuban Women after the triumph. Espín died in 2007.

Windup event

A windup rally the last evening was chaired by party leaders Alyson Kennedy and Róger Calero. *Militant* editor Steve Clark was the final speaker.

At the rally, several participants spoke about their experiences selling *Militant* subscriptions to working people this year. These included Randy Jasper, a

farmer and leader of the Family Farm Defenders in Wisconsin; Zach Liddle, formerly a college student in the San Francisco Bay Area, now working an industrial job, who recently joined the Socialist Workers Party; Fredy Huinil, a grocery store worker from Atlanta who also recently became an SWP member; and leaders of Communist Leagues in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Also speaking was Holly Harkness, a party supporter who organizes the distribution center for Pathfinder books in Atlanta, and Jeff Powers, a leader of the Print Project, whose volunteers keep more than 300 Pathfinder titles in print. This spring, these supporters of the SWP and world communist movement organized to get the Arabic translation of *Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun* by Jack Barnes printed and shipped in one week in order to be sold at the Tahrir Square Book Fair in Cairo at the end of March.

The supporters held a day of meetings and workshops on the Sunday after the conference, where they discussed bold new steps to accelerate the breadth of leadership in the project and increase the number of volunteers taking on responsibilities.

Powers announced that the Supporters Monthly Appeal, which organizes monthly donations to the SWP by supporters and others, was collecting \$692,000 a year, well on the way to surpass \$700,000 annually in July. These contributions make a decisive difference to the SWP's week-in, week-out activity in the class struggle.

Conference participants also received daily reports on the SWP Capital Fund, which receives contributions of \$1,000 or more, as well as blood-money "bonuses" paid by bosses as bribes to try to get workers to accept dangers on the job, speedup, and wage cuts instead of fighting for our class interests. The Capital Fund makes possible long-term projects of the party. Twenty-two people made new donations during the conference, for a total of \$297,200.

A special one-time Socialist Workers Party 2011 Summer Appeal at the closing rally raised more than \$25,000 in donations and pledges to help support the party's work.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

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Washington escalates campaign of assassinations by drones in Yemen

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington is stepping up its use of armed aerial drones to assassinate members of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula as a key component of its escalating covert war in Yemen. U.S. military operations there are modeled after the Barack Obama administration's campaign of drone bombing and use of special forces in Pakistan, under which more than 200 drone strikes have killed roughly 2,000 people, including hundreds of civilians.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the plan for expanding airstrikes in Yemen was "secretly approved" by the Obama administration last year. Over the past several months the CIA and U.S. special forces on the ground in Yemen, working together with spies of the neighboring Saudi monarchy, have been gathering information on targets.

The CIA is also building a secret air base in some unnamed country in the Middle East to conduct these assaults, according to the *New York Times*. The CIA coordinates its military operations with the Pentagon's Joint Special Operations Command, which over the past two years has been launching air assaults against Yemen. This includes sea-launched cruise missiles—one of which killed 40 civilians last year—and munitions fired from Ma-

rine Harrier jets.

In early June, a U.S. airstrike in Yemen killed Abu Ali al-Harithi, an al-Qaeda member, several other "militant suspects," and at least four civilians, reported the *Times*. Several weeks earlier, a drone missile strike was launched in southern Yemen aimed at killing New Mexico-born Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S. citizen.

These moves come amidst ongoing protests demanding the ouster of Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh, a key U.S. ally in the region who has ruled with dictatorial powers since 1978. In early June an attack by rebels on the president's palace severely injured Saleh, forcing him to depart for medical treatment in Saudi Arabia. Tens of thousands have taken to the streets opposing his return and demanding his sons, one of whom commands the Yemeni Presidential Guard, also leave the country.

Bosses have responded to the protests with massive layoffs of workers. Nearly 60 percent employed in the private sector have lost their jobs. Some workers have been forced to take indefinite unpaid "vacations." Many state workers are not being paid on time and some have had wage raises suspended, reported the *Yemen Post*.

Saudi women defy ban on driving cars

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Dozens of Saudi women drove cars in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, and other Saudi cities June 17 to protest the ban on women driving.

It was the first major protest against the Saudi monarchy's reactionary ban since November 1990, when 47 women drove 14 cars in a convoy on a Riyadh highway. That action came after U.S. women soldiers were stationed in Saudi Arabia prior to the start of the U.S. war against Iraq and freely drove military vehicles.

The 47 women were arrested, lost their passports for a year, and were fired from their jobs. A religious

order prohibiting women from driving was handed down and quickly embraced by the Interior Ministry.

The ruling Saudi family, a close ally of Washington, has historically invoked Islamic law to justify tight restrictions on political space, not only for women but all working people in the kingdom.

Women are allowed to drive in some rural villages, where they have traditionally taken produce to market, hauled water, and transported people.

In addition to the prohibition on driving, Saudi women cannot vote. They require a male guardian's permission to take a job or travel.



Saudi women get into back seat of car in capital city of Riyadh. Inset: sticker issued to promote June 17 as day to challenge ban on women driving, one of many ways U.S.-backed monarchy restricts space for working people.

Greece: rulers push devastation on workers

Continued from front page

is down 60 percent since 2006. Steel production has declined by more than 80 percent over the past two years. The official unemployment rate hit 16 percent in the first part of 2011. Youth unemployment is 40 percent.

The Greek cabinet submitted a five-year austerity plan to the parliament June 9 that included laying off 150,000 workers; changes to work rules, hours, and wages; and cutting pensions and unemployment compensation.

"My parents are both public-sector workers," explained Martha Pissanou, a 24-year-old laboratory technician, in an interview with the *Militant*. "My mother is a surgery nurse and my father makes fire extinguishers at a state firm." Last year their yearly combined income was slashed from 39,000 euros to 34,000 euros. Now with the new austerity measures it will drop to 29,000 euros. "How is our family supposed to make ends meet?" she asked. "They have been participating in the protests. It is

not fair to blame public-sector workers like my parents for the crisis."

On June 15, tens of thousands of workers, many from various state-owned enterprises, marched on the Greek parliament at Syntagma Square as part of a 24-hour general strike called by the union federations.

Thousands were also in the square from the "protest of the indignant citizens." These mainly middle-class demonstrators, including many unemployed youth, have held daily rallies of up to 40,000 at the square since May 25, with slogans such as, "It is the theft and corruption of those in power that is to blame," "The government and all the parties have stolen our money," and "No to the sellout to the IMF." Some in the "indignant" protests have been openly hostile to the trade unions and public-sector workers in particular. Public Power Corporation strikers were booed by the "indignant" protesters when they marched to the square May 26.

FBI expands powers

Continued from front page

tion of the FBI's Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide builds on earlier revisions made in 2008, which authorized agents to "proactively" begin investigations—euphemistically referred to as "assessments"—without even the pretense of evidence beforehand. More than 11,600 of these assessments were initiated by the FBI in a four-month period beginning in late 2008, according to the U.S. Justice Department. The 2008 manual also allowed agents to maintain information on individuals without any alleged justification and loosened restrictions on infiltrating groups and use of informants.

Aspects of the new guidelines—referred to by FBI general counsel Valerie Caproni as just some "fine-tuning"—were summarized in a meeting between officials and selected "privacy advocates," the *Times* reported.

According to the *Times*, FBI agents are no longer required to record when they conduct an "assessment" using the massive network of databases at their disposal, leaving no trail. Spies can also now search the trash and use "lie detector" tests on anyone without even the most flimsy evidence of any wrongdoing, as long as they state such snooping could turn up information that could be useful in pressuring that person to become an informant.

Under the 2008 rules "surveillance squads" were to be used only once during the "assessment" phase. Agents will now be able to conduct physical spy operations repeatedly without any evidence of alleged criminal activity. The new rules also say FBI spies and provocateurs can attend up to five meetings of an organization without revealing their identity before special, secret rules governing that activity go into effect.

Wider latitude for FBI snoops is being put in place as the agency steps up probes and disruption operations against individuals and groups who oppose government policy. Last September FBI agents raided the homes of 14 antiwar activists in Chicago and Minnesota. The 14, along with nine other activists subpoenaed in North Carolina and California, have refused to testify before a grand jury.

"The Obama administration has long been bumbling along in the footsteps of its predecessors when it comes to sacrificing Americans' basic rights and liberties under the false flag of fighting terrorism," stated a June 19 *New York Times* editorial. "Now the Obama team seems ready to lurch even farther down that dismal road than George W. Bush did."

'Militant' in coalfields

Continued from page 5

"choose" between jobs and the conditions in which we live and work.

Socialist workers sold 38 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 70 single copies, and 7 books in coalfield towns in this area.

Entering West Dunbar and Nitro—"chemical valley," as it is often called—the smells from the plants were strong. Many outfits like Monsanto and Union Carbide have closed down or laid off workers in recent years, leaving working people in the area facing tough times. "Many workers told us about the impact of the economic crisis on their lives," said team member Osborne Hart.

"A mother and daughter in West Dunbar who got a subscription invited two of us to sit on the porch and talk," Hart said. "The daughter and her family just moved back in with her mother because she couldn't make ends meet.

"After we said these conditions face millions and that's why the working class needs to take political power, the mother commented, 'Yes, we need a revolution in this country.'"

Correction

The article "Obama disclosure order is attack on political rights" in the June 6 *Militant* stated that ballot initiative Proposition 8, passed by California voters in 2008, would have legalized same-sex marriage. The proposition opposed gay marriage. Individuals backing this proposition were subjected to intimidation and threats after their names were made public under state campaign finance disclosure laws.