

THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 75/NO. 34 SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

Stop execution of Troy Davis!

Framed up by cops, scheduled to die on September 21

BY RACHELE FRUIT

ATLANTA—September 16 has been set as a Global Day of Solidarity for Troy Davis, who faces execution September 21. Davis was framed up, convicted, and sentenced to death for the murder of a Savannah policeman in 1989.

There was no physical evidence against Davis. No murder weapon was ever found. Seven of nine nonpolice eyewitnesses recanted or changed their testimony, saying they were pressured by police to finger Davis, who is Black.

Witness Dorothy Ferrell revealed in a sworn affidavit the intimidating meth-

'U.S. JUSTICE' FROM
ATTICA TO TROY DAVIS
 —Editorial p. 9

ods cops used to collect their "evidence." Ferrell said she felt she had to cooperate since she was on parole. "I told the detective that Troy Davis was the shooter, even though the truth was that I didn't see who shot the officer," Ferrell said.

Despite mounting evidence of a frame-up, Georgia courts turned down every appeal Davis filed. They used the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, enacted by President William Clinton, to justify their refusal to reopen the case.

Three times the state of Georgia or-
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Supporters of framed-up death-row inmate Troy Davis at April 4 labor rally in Atlanta.

Cuban 5 prisoner presses for return to Cuba after release

BY MICHEL POITRAS

At a September 12 press conference, conducted by telephone hookup, attorneys for three of the five Cuban revolutionaries held in U.S. jails for 13 years provided new information

and answered questions about the upcoming October 7 release of René González and habeas corpus motions filed in federal court by the other four.

Internationally known as the Cuban Five, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, Ramón Labañino, and René González were living and working in Florida in order to keep the Cuban government

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Standing up for right to choose in Kansas



Militant/Ellen Brickley

TOPEKA, Kan.—Supporters of a woman's right to choose abortion rallied at the state capitol here September 7. The rally took place as state officials held a hearing on new restrictions designed to curb clinics providing the procedure.

The Kansas Legislature recently passed a bill requiring abortion providers to meet arbitrary and onerous requirements. The regulations require a specified size for janitorial space, for instance. At the hearing, abortion providers testified that these requirements are medically unnecessary and would force them to close. A federal judge blocked the rules until he decides on a lawsuit brought by Kansas abortion clinics.

"We decided to put up a fight for the right to make choices about our bodies," said Kaylyn Wright, one of the organizers. "Without access to abortion services there is no choice."

—DAVID ROSENFELD

Fires expose safety hazard in Midwest sugar lockout

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

EAST GRAND FORKS, Minn.—As the lockout of 1,300 sugar beet workers enters its sixth week, safety in American Crystal Sugar's plants has become a major issue. In a 48-hour period September 9-10, fires broke out at three factories—here in East Grand Forks and in Crookston, as well as in Drayton, N.D.

"They tried to make the fires look routine, but they're not," Michael Hallick, a locked-out worker with 14 years in the East Grand Forks plant, told the *Militant*. "Someone's going to get killed, and the risks are higher now with the scabs working inside."

The most serious blaze was here in East Grand Forks, where firemen were on the scene for three hours. Jeff Schweitzer, a spokesman for American Crystal, downplayed the fires. "It's not a high frequency," he told the *Grand Forks Herald*, "but it is an occasional incident."

Just one day before the fires, company Vice President Brian Ingulsrud said the harvest was going well and there were "no issues" with replacement workers.

"These fires show the company was seriously mistaken," replied John Risky, president of Local 167G of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union. "It's time to stop play-

Continued on page 4

CIA and Pentagon join forces in 'hunter-killer' operations

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Gen. David Petraeus's swearing in as CIA director September 6, after a 37-year military career, highlights the agency's growing collaboration with the U.S. armed forces in combined spying and "hunter-killer" operations. The CIA is expanding its use of armed aerial drones and deploying ground forces that work closely with the Pentagon's Joint Special Operations Command.

"You've taken an agency that was chugging along and turned it into one hell of a killing machine," an unnamed former CIA official told the *Washington Post*. "Blanching at his choice of words he quickly offered a revision," the paper noted. "Instead, say 'one hell of an operational tool,'" he requested.

Since Barack Obama took office in January 2009, drone attacks in Pakistan have killed more than 2,000 people, including hundreds of civilians.

Last year the CIA launched 118 drone assaults, double those in 2009 and more than all prior years combined.

The CIA is expanding drone killings in Yemen, building a secret base in a nearby unnamed country in the Arabian Peninsula. Unlike the Pen-

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Does credit guarantee or destabilize capitalist rule? 8

California rally opposes anti-immigrant program

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif.—More than 200 people from throughout Northern California held a rally here August 27 to protest the Secure Communities program. Under that federal program, fingerprints of anyone picked up by local cops are sent to Immigration and Customs Enforcement authorities to see if the person should be deported.

Angela Chan, an attorney with the Asian Law Caucus, pointed out that more than 46,000 people in California have been deported under the program since 2008. Most were arrested for minor offenses. Some hadn't been convicted of anything, she added.

Lily Haskell of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center underscored the threat to political rights posed by the database being amassed under Secure Communities. "We'll see more cases of them entrapping people, infiltrating mosques and terrorizing people," she said.

Chan and other speakers urged participants to support Assembly Bill 1081, which is under debate in the state legislature. The bill stipulates that the state and counties should be allowed to opt out of the Secure Communities program.

After several states moved to withdraw from Secure Communities, Immigration and Customs Enforcement director John Morton announced that the agency will proceed to expand the program nationwide, whether or not state and local officials agree.

AB 1081 argues that Secure Communities undermines local police and makes people less likely to trust or co-

operate with the cops. Sheriff Michael Hennessey of San Francisco and other government officials and cop agencies oppose Secure Communities on that basis, not because of the danger it poses to political rights.

Thirty people stayed after the forum to discuss further action. "We should oppose Secure Communities and fight for legalization of all immigrants because this is the just thing to do," Gerardo Sánchez, Socialist Workers candidate for sheriff of San Francisco, pointed out in the discussion.

"Legalization is a necessity, not only for immigrants but for all working people, so we can unify against the attacks coming down on us."

Court hearing held on settlement for Black farmers

BY GLOVA SCOTT

WASHINGTON—More than 200 people attended a hearing September 1 at the U.S. District Court here on a \$1.25 billion settlement for African-American farmers who were denied farm loans and other benefits by the U.S. Department of Agriculture between 1981 and 1996.

The settlement is for those farmers who filed late claims under a 1999 decision known as *Pigford v Glickman*. The judge at that time ordered the government to give \$50,000 to farmers who faced discrimination, and to grant them debt forgiveness and preferential treatment in future loan applications. Of the 22,547 claims filed, 41 percent were denied. Many farmers did not learn about the settlement



Forum in Oakland, Calif., August 27 condemned the Secure Communities program, which turns over fingerprints of anyone arrested by local police to federal immigration cops.

until after the initial Oct. 12, 1999, deadline, resulting in some 75,000 claims being filed late.

It has taken years of pressure from Black farmers, through rallies, marches, and hearings, to try to win a measure of justice for the remaining farmers. It was not until 2010 that Congress finally approved funding. Twenty-three similar lawsuits filed on behalf of the farmers were consolidated.

If this final settlement wins court approval, as many as 68,000 farmers who filed racial discrimination claims against the USDA between 1999 and 2008 will have 180 days to file new claims.

"I want those eligible Black farmers who've been discriminated against to get some type of financial justice so they can move on with their lives," John Boyd, president of the National Black Farmers Association, told the media before the hearing began.

Thomas Burrell, president of the Black Farmers and Agriculturalist Association, asked Judge Paul Friedman for the option of filing an independent claim on the money in order to bypass lawyers' fees. The settlement pays out fees ranging from \$51 million to \$92.5 million to attorneys representing the farmers.

More than 30 farmers with the NBFA attended the hearing, many from Virginia.

Hog farmer Lester Bonner, from Dinwiddie County, Va., told the *Militant* that even though he received payment under the original *Pigford* settlement, he still had to apply for bankruptcy because of complications stemming from a claim he co-signed on behalf of his father. He also noted that the promised preferential treatment for Black farmers asking for loans from local USDA offices was not forthcoming. "Nothing has changed," he said.

The government is "never going to do it right, Bonner continued. "This fight has gone on too long. I just want them to go ahead so I can move on. I am going to leave this in the lawyers' hands."

Claimants in the case can apply for one of two forms of relief. Track A could lead to a payout of \$50,000 after taxes. Andrew Marks, one of the lawyers representing the farmers, pointed out that the USDA cannot contest Track A claims as it did under the original *Pigford* settlement.

Those who file a Track B claim could possibly get a \$250,000 payment if the claim is substantiated by documents detailing actual economic damages, including evidence that "a white farmer under similar circumstances" received more favorable treatment from the USDA.

Judge Friedman said he will issue an opinion soon.

THE MILITANT

Solidarity with American Crystal workers!

Some 1,300 employees of American Crystal Sugar have been locked out by the company in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Iowa since August 1. The *'Militant'* keeps you informed every week on how you can support their fight against the lockout.

Militant/Frank Forrestal

September 2 rally in East Grand Forks, Minn.

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The Militant

Vol. 75/No. 34
Closing news date: September 14, 2011
Editor: Steve Clark
Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Harry D'Agostino, Seth Galinsky, John Hawkins, Cindy Jaquith, Doug Nelson, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.
Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in June, and two weeks in August.
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.
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E-mail: themilitant@mac.com
Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.
Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Cuban 5 fighter to be released

Continued from front page
informed of the activities of counter-revolutionary groups organizing harassment, sabotage, and sometimes murderous operations against Cuba. Those groups function with Washington's tacit knowledge and backing.

The news conference was held on the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 12, 1998, arrests of the five in highly publicized FBI raids. In 2001 they were convicted of frame-up "conspiracy" charges—among others, conspiracy to commit espionage and, in the case of Hernández, conspiracy to commit murder. They are serving sentences from 15 years for René González to double-life plus 15 years for Hernández. Since they were jailed, an international defense campaign has demanded their freedom.

Phil Horowitz, attorney for René González, reported that when González walks out of prison in Marianna, Florida, October 7, he will have to serve another three years of "supervised release" overseen by the federal court's probation office. U.S. authorities have not yet said where he will be required to live or announced other details of his release.

Horowitz said that in February he filed a motion in federal court on behalf of René González requesting he be allowed to return to Cuba to serve his probation there unsupervised. González has no close family in Florida, and Olga Salanueva, his wife, has been barred by Washington from entering the U.S.

Non-U.S. citizens released from prison, Horowitz said, "are usually deported." But federal prosecutors insist that González, who holds both Cuban and U.S. citizenship, serve his "supervised release" in the United States. The matter is in front of District Court Judge Joan Lenard, who presided over the 2001 trial. Horowitz said Lenard can rule any time she chooses, before or after González's release.

"René is willing to renounce his U.S. citizenship," said Horowitz, "if that's what it takes to return to Cuba." But were he to renounce U.S. citizenship before October 7, he would not be released; his imprisonment would be extended pending deportation proceedings. "René will only give up his U.S. citizenship," Horowitz said, "if that means he will be back home with his wife and family for dinner in Havana the same day."

William Norris, attorney for Ramón Labañino, and Richard Klugh, cocounsel for Gerardo Hernández, reported on pending affidavits and responses filed since October 2010 by Hernán-

dez, Guerrero, and Labañino in support of motions to vacate their convictions and sentences. These are often referred to as habeas corpus ("you should have the body") motions, open to defendants after all regular appeals have been exhausted.

Norris said that on September 16 Fernando González will file his habeas motion.

In June 2009 the Supreme Court refused to hear all appeals by the five. What's new in the habeas corpus motions, said Norris and Klugh, is evidence that has come to light since the convictions that Washington paid tens of thousands of dollars to so-called independent journalists who wrote biased and inflammatory articles against the five and the Cuban government during the trial. That's "the antithesis of the concept of a fair trial," Norris said.

In Hernández's case, Klugh said, there are important additional grounds for the motion to set aside his conviction and sentence.

Hernández's trial lawyer, Paul McKenna, has submitted an affidavit explaining that he did not "present an effective defense of Gerardo." In an interview with Radio Havana journalist Bernie Dwyer in late August, Klugh said McKenna's affidavit is "a striking testament to his honesty and integrity in coming forward" with this information, which shows Hernández was blocked from presenting essential evidence and requesting a separate trial on the trumped-up charge of conspiracy to commit murder.

The attorneys are requesting an evidentiary hearing to present the new facts. If the facts are in dispute, it is

Hyatt hotel workers fight for contract



Militant/Betsy Farley

CHICAGO—Workers at six Hyatt hotels, in Honolulu, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago began a one-week strike September 8. Several thousand housekeepers, kitchen workers, and wait staff have had no union contract since August 2009. Nearly 100 members of UNITE HERE Local 1 rallied outside the Hyatt McCormick here September 10.

Jacqueline Gaddy, with 11 years in the housekeeping department, said when work gets slow and people are laid off, Hyatt management makes them reapply as new employees. "We're fighting for job security," she told the *Militant*.

"Management targets people who stand up for their rights," said Ladarryl King. "We have to let management know we're not afraid to swing."

—BETSY FARLEY

normal legal procedure for the court to grant such a hearing, Klugh explained. Federal prosecutors, however, have filed responses arguing the motions should be summarily dismissed and an evidentiary hearing denied.

The time frame for this new stage of the legal battle, Klugh said, is in the hands of the judge.

Mary-Alice Waters contributed to this article.

'Let René return to Cuba now,' says Alarcón

Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, spoke at the main event held in Cuba September 12 marking the 13th anniversary of the arrest and jailing of the Cuban Five. A central aspect of his remarks dealt with the upcoming release of René González, one of the imprisoned Cuban revolutionaries. That section of his presentation is printed below. Translation by the Militant.

BY RICARDO ALARCÓN

On October 7, René González Sehwert will leave prison after having completed the very last minute of his unjust incarceration.

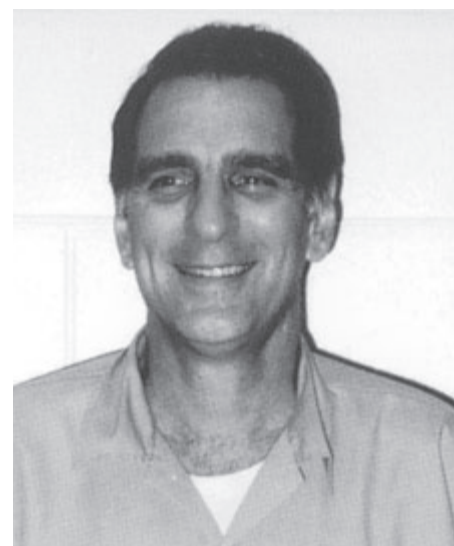
For René, this could open up a three-year period of so-called "supervised release," which constitutes a real risk for our compañero and an unjust additional punishment for him and his family. But it also signifies a challenge for the Obama administration, which one would hope

it will face with wisdom and common sense. From that day forward, we will see one of the most telling, and for that reason one of the most hushed up, aspects of the sordid process to which our compañeros have been subjected.

I've said before that the case of the Cuban Five is irrefutable proof of Washington's complicity with the terrorists. Believe me, I wasn't exaggerating. This is demonstrated by the record and other documents from the Miami trial. The prosecution urged that the harshest and most excessive sentences be imposed, but in addition, it insisted that for Washington there was something just as important as a maximum prison sentence. This something, what they called "incapacitation," consists of taking measures so that after finishing their prison terms, none of the defendants would be able to try to do anything against the terrorists or their plans.

In the sentence imposed on René, the restriction was expressed in these words: "As a further special condition of supervised release, the defendant is prohibited from associating with or visiting specific places where individuals or groups such as terrorists, members of organizations advocating violence, and organized crime figures are known to be or frequent."

This was proclaimed by a U.S. federal court in December of 2001, scarcely three months after the abominable terrorist act of September 11, and it was made at the formal and express request of the fakers who unleashed a so-called "war on terrorism," based on lies and illegality, that has caused the death and



René González, one of Cuban Five, in 2007.

suffering of countless innocent people all over the world.

While it threw itself into this effort—as cruel as it was hypocritical—the Bush regime admitted that in South Florida there are individuals and terrorist groups, and it [the U.S. government] knows where they are and where they go. But instead of capturing them and putting them on trial, which is its duty, it shamelessly protects them and demands that neither René nor anyone else bother them.

What will the current government do now? Asking that it rescind this sanction against René and dare to send its agents to arrest the known terrorists in the places where they are "known to be or frequent" might be asking too much. However, it does have the option of avoiding the problem by letting René return to Cuba now, to his home and his family.

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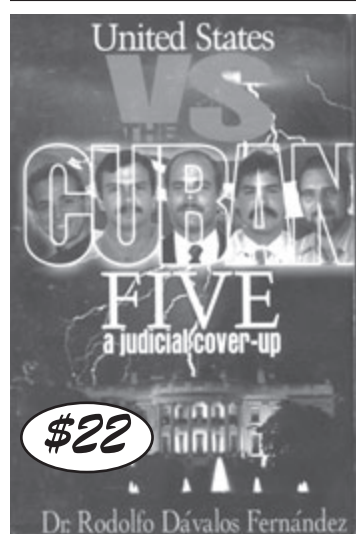
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Fires and sugar lockout

Continued from front page

ing this dangerous game, end this lockout, and get back to the negotiating table.”

Locked-out workers know firsthand that sugar refineries—with constant steam, hot liquids, chemicals, dust, long hours, and rotating shifts—can be dangerous places to work. Several workers pointed to the 2008 explosions and fire at the Imperial Sugar plant near Savannah, Ga., which resulted in 14 deaths and dozens of injuries. A massive accumulation of sugar dust fueled that blast.

The recent fires are another black eye for Strom Engineering, the agency providing most of the scabs for American Crystal. In 2006 one of Strom’s replacement workers was crushed to death at an AK Steel Corp. factory in Ohio, according to the *Dayton Daily News*. AK Steel had locked out its workers in a battle that lasted nearly 13 months.

This reporter visited the picket line in Drayton September 6, the first day of the harvest. As several van loads of scabs entered the plant, trucks hauling sugar beets crossed the picket line. “There goes another truck from Gudajtes,” said Paul Woinarwicz, a locked-out worker in Drayton. “He’s one of the big farmers in the Red River Valley. He’s got thousands of acres of sugar beets.” Workers said trucks crossed the lines at the other four plants too.

On September 6 about 60 union supporters protested in front of the offices of Express Employment Professionals, a temp agency hiring replacement workers in Grand Forks, N.D. “Hey don’t take jobs at American Crystal, those are our jobs,” picketers yelled. “We’re locked out. What you are doing is scabbing on us.”

“What’s a scab?” asked one of the workers who showed up there looking for work.

“A person who takes our jobs,” replied Chuck Hughes, a locked-out worker from East Grand Forks.

At that point, the police intervened, saying the picketers couldn’t engage people going into the agency.

Another appeal for workers not to cross picket lines appeared in a letter in *AgWeek* from Cindy Kolling, a locked-out worker from Crookston: “We are locked out and cannot work in what appears to be a long-planned management strategy to break the union. You need to choose and take a stand. Make the right decision and do it with pride.”

On September 10 more than 60 motorcycles and cars took part in a “Support Ride” to all five factories in the valley. Most riders were locked-out workers, but other unionists joined from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the International Association of Machinists.

Becki Jacobsen, a locked-out worker from Moorhead, came up with the idea after participating in a motorcycle rally in Sturgis, S.D. in August. “A lot of my coworkers ride motorcycles,” Jacobsen said, “so we decided to get them involved and organize a solidarity ride.”

At each plant riders joined the picket lines. They raised \$727 for the locked-out workers in North Dakota, where state officials have denied them unemployment benefits.

This week United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1189 in South St. Paul voted to send \$1,000 to the locked-out workers. Local 12 of the Office and Professional Employees International Union sent \$500, and Local 3800 of AF-SCME contributed \$250.

The union is organizing weekly rallies on the Sorlie Bridge in East Grand Forks. “I like the rallies,” Sandy Driscoll said, as she picketed in East Grand Forks. “They pick up our spirits.”

Donations can be sent to the Sugar Beet Workers Fund, 175 Aurora Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103. Write checks to Minnesota AFL-CIO with “BCTGM Lockout 2011” in the memo line.

Locked-out sugar workers win solidarity in Iowa



Militant/Ellen Brickley

KEOKUK, Iowa—The Labor Day parade float September 5 of Local 48G of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union here called for solidarity with sugar workers locked out by American Crystal Sugar in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Iowa. Local 48G members returned to work in July after a 10-month lockout by Roquette America. Their float was the now-retired picket shack, dubbed “Club 48G.” The Keokuk local has given \$500 to the locked-out sugar workers, who are also BCTGM members.

—DAVID ROSENFELD

CIA, Pentagon ‘hunter-killer’ operations

Continued from front page

tagon command, which has flown drones over Yemen for the past year with its government’s “acquiescence,” noted the *Post*, the “CIA is in a better position to keep flying even if that cooperation stops.” The military also carries out drone attacks in Somalia and Libya.

According to the *Post*, 20 percent of “CIA analysts” now work as “targeters.” The CIA has greatly expanded its Counterterrorism Center, which

directs drone assassination hits. The agency’s Pakistan-Afghanistan Department (and there is now one for Yemen and Somalia) “serves as the anchor of an operational triangle that stretches from South Asia to the American Southwest,” says the *Post*. “The CIA has about 30 Predator and Reaper drones all flown by Air Force pilots from a U.S. military base” in the U.S.

The agency deploys its own special forces in Pakistan and Afghani-

stan and maintains secret bases there. It worked closely with U.S. Navy SEALs who killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in May. “The assault was the most high-profile example of an expanding collaboration between the CIA and the U.S. Joint Special Operations Command,” noted the *Post*.

In Afghanistan the Special Activities Division, the agency’s paramilitary branch, trains Afghan special forces units with the objective of “more kill-capture” than capture-kill, an unnamed U.S. military official told the paper.

When the appointments of former CIA director Leon Panetta to secretary of defense and Petraeus to the CIA were first announced, *Atlantic* magazine noted that this means “an ever-closer joint military and intelligence force that is increasingly secretive and assertive.”

During Petraeus’s retirement ceremony from the U.S. Army August 31, he emphasized that the U.S. government “will need to maintain the full-spectrum capability that we have developed over this last decade of conflict in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere.” This includes the U.S. troop “surge” in 2007 that helped consolidate the current imperialist-backed regime in Iraq.

As for Afghanistan, a report issued by the CIA in July said the war is heading toward a stalemate, a view Petraeus and Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Adm. Michael Mullen disagree with, writes *Post* columnist David Ignatius. “Petraeus has his own strong views about the war and has made clear that he will continue to say what he thinks,” says Ignatius. “But if the analysts are taking a different view from the boss, there’s bound to be tension.”

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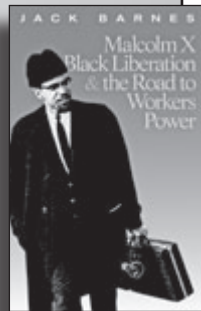
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ON THE PICKET LINE

Teachers strike Catholic high schools in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA—Striking members and supporters of Association of Catholic Teachers Local 1776 rallied at the main offices of the Archdiocese here September 8.

Two days earlier 711 teachers at 17 Catholic high schools voted 589 to 60 to strike. They have been picketing schools where students have begun semester orientation.

“I teach social justice in a morality class, but it needs to be practiced as workers’ rights,” Mike Sabatino, a teacher for 10 years at Roman Catholic High, told the *Militant*. “The vote shows how vehemently we believe this. The new contract says that any article can be repealed—that’s not a contract.”

Issues in the dispute include wages, health premiums, and seniority.

“The archdiocese wants to do away with seniority,” said Theresa Lazorko, a senior union delegate (shop steward) who has taught at Roman Catholic High for 14 years. She said that a performance-based point system is being proposed to replace seniority.

“If someone’s outspoken, how do you think that would effect his or her evaluation?” asked Sabatino.

—Janet Post and Osborne Hart

Country club ‘underestimated us,’ say locked-out California workers

PLEASANTON, Calif.—“We’ll be back! We’ll be back!” chanted dozens of locked-out workers and their supporters here as they wrapped up a Labor Day picket at the Castlewood Country Club.

Food service and janitorial workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 2850, were locked out in February 2010, after rejecting management’s demand that they start paying for health insurance. The company’s plan would cost some \$740 a month for family coverage.

“The company underestimated us,” Sergio Gonzalez, a food service worker, told the *Militant*. “They thought we’d go away crying, asking for forgiveness. But we’re still here!”

“What they did was unfair,” banquet server Peggy Duffie said. “I showed up on time in uniform for 25 years, and then without warning they put us out!”

“The company wants to get rid of seniority,” emphasized Teresa Wu. “We can’t accept that. Because then they’ll play favorites and get rid of any worker they want to.”

On August 16, the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board ruled that the club is maintaining “an unlawful lockout.” A hearing on the case is scheduled for November 7.

—Betsey Stone

Texas: Strike by flour mill workers is firm after four months

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—“We have been on this picket line every day the mill has been running since we went on strike four months ago,” Ernest Herrera said while walking the line September 2. Herrera has been a forklift driver for 18 years at C.H. Guenther & Son’s Pioneer flour mill. “We are here to stand up for what is right.”

Some 90 members of Teamsters Local 657 walked off the job April 25 after the company reopened a three-year contract and announced they were raising health care costs. The union contract covers 140 workers at the mill.

The company has tried to maintain production with replacement workers,

managers, office personnel, and other nonunion workers in the plant.

“Even with the 50 cent raise already agreed upon over a year ago, with the higher insurance costs we would be taking a cut of at least \$4 a week,” explained Encarnacion Rodriguez, a mixer operator with 12 years in the mill.

“The cost of living keeps going up—everything from gasoline to food, but our wages don’t,” added Victor Sandoval, an operator for more than six years.

Retired workers Eladio Alvarado and Alex Garcia are among those reporting for picket duty. “As you know these days have been very hot!” Alvarado said. “But we have been here every day because we have to. This is about human dignity.”

Socialist Workers candidates Amanda Ulman and Jacquie Henderson, who are running for Houston mayor and city council at-large, position 1 respectively, drove from Houston to join the picket line September 2. The strikers appreciated their solidarity and the *Militant*’s coverage of their strike and workers’ struggles around the world.

“You are the first candidates who have come here in four months,” Garcia said.

—Jacquie Henderson

Central Park restaurant workers fight for union and dignity

NEW YORK—Since early August, a boisterous and determined group of workers has picketed outside the picturesque Boathouse restaurant—on the lake in the middle of Central Park—encouraging diners to eat someplace else.

Fighting for better conditions and to win a union, some 60 cooks, waiters, and other staff walked off the job August 9. They were joined by 37 others who, according to strikers, were fired for supporting the effort to join Hotel Trades Council Local 6. Altogether, about two-thirds of the workers are now on strike.

Pickets are handing out a “Boycott the Boathouse” brochure in 19 languages, with a map of the Central Park area listing 100 other places to eat. During the hour this reporter was on the picket line, about half those coming to the restaurant were dissuaded from eating there.

“The issues are wages and job secu-



Diego Manjarrez (above)

Workers at Boathouse restaurant in Manhattan’s Central Park have been on strike since August 9 in fight for union.



ry,” Diego Manjarrez told the *Militant*. He says he worked as a line cook for nine months until he was fired for supporting the union. Some workers make as little as \$7.60 per hour, the *Daily News* reports.

After an organizing drive in which 70 percent of workers signed cards, the union petitioned the National Labor Relations Board in January to conduct an election. According to the union, restaurant operator Dean Poll retaliated with threats, intimidation, and firings. Union supporters faced denial of vacations, cancelled benefits, and work schedules either too demanding or insufficient to make a living. The NLRB says it will seek a court order requiring it to negotiate with the union.

According to Local 6, the biggest levy of firings took place the week the union filed for the election. Manjarrez says that in announcing the dismissals, Executive Chef Anthony Walton told 14 banquet servers they “were being replaced like you replace old chairs.”

“That’s why there’s an old chair over there,” Manjarrez said, pointing to a second picket line across the street.

Even the owner’s cousin Chrissy Makris, a cocktail waitress, was fired a day before the union voted to strike.

She told the *Daily News* she was let go for supporting the union. “He refuses to pay us overtime. He refused to give us health insurance,” Makris said. Workers rarely had any breaks, she said.

“In January we asked for health benefits,” said Manjarrez. “They offered us a plan that cost \$400 per month for one person and \$1,000 to cover two children and a wife.

“We’re also fighting for respect and dignity,” he said. “There’s only one bathroom for all the workers. He has the money, but he won’t provide another bathroom. Now he’s hired private security just to intimidate and provoke us.”

Most of the workers are immigrants. In March, Poll enrolled in the government’s E-Verify program, used to identify workers for termination whom immigration official say don’t have work permits. The union says Poll used it selectively to get rid of certain employees.

Management has hired replacement workers from an outside contractor. Many are parolees recently released from a halfway house. According to the union, managers falsely told them they would violate their parole if they went on strike. But a number have joined the union fight anyway.

—Doug Nelson

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



September 26, 1986

Under the pretext of conducting a “national crusade” against drugs, the Reagan administration and Congress have launched a gigantic attack on the Bill of Rights. On September 11 the House of Representatives passed the Omnibus Drug Enforcement, Education, and Control Act of 1986.

The act will increase penalties for a wide range of drug-related offenses and provide more funds for various police agencies and for prison construction.

The most serious attacks on the Constitution are contained in the amendments. These include: Provision for the death penalty in drug-related murder cases. Use of the military to provide “continuous aerial radar coverage of the southern border of the United States.” A modification of the exclusionary rule against illegal search and seizure.



September 25, 1961

The press is trying to make out that the conflict between the Cuban government and the Roman Catholic hierarchy is religious persecution. This is simply not so. No one in Cuba—Catholic, Protestant or Jew—has been, or is being, persecuted by the Castro regime for religious beliefs.

The regime is deporting prelates and priests because of their counter-revolutionary political activities. Those priests who have not joined or collaborated with the counter-revolutionary, often terrorist, networks of opponents of workers’ Cuba are not being molested. Indeed, some have the affection and trust of the revolutionary masses and their government.

The role of the Roman Catholic hierarchy as the bulwark of counter-revolution is an old story in Latin America.



December 26, 1936

The agreement between the San Diego County Vegetable Growers’ Ass’n and the local American, Mexican and Filipino Agricultural Workers’ Unions, the result of last season’s militant Celery Strike, ended in August of this year. The demands put forward by the Unions are based on 40¢ per hour minimum wage, 90 percent Union Labor in the industry, and the eight-hour day.

Several weeks ago over 3,000 bankrupt farmers from the drought areas of Oklahoma, Arkansas, etc., and their families were shipped into the Imperial Valley to provide cheap labor for the pea harvest. However, a killing frost has put about 2,000 of these out of work and many of them are being shipped to the San Diego area. The growers are lodging them in camps designed to be inaccessible to union organizers.

Australian gov't hits snag in overseas refugee 'solution'

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY, Australia—The Australian High Court struck down the Labor government's plan to deport asylum-seekers to Malaysia August 31. In a 6-1 decision judges ruled that asylum-seekers cannot be sent to a country that has not signed the United Nations treaty on treatment of refugees.

Australian Immigration Minister Christopher Bowen signed an agreement with the Malaysian government July 25 to send the next 800 boat-traveling asylum-seekers to Malaysia while their cases are reviewed by UN officials. In return, over the next four years the Australian government would accept 4,000 refugees currently in Malaysia who are approved by the UN.

Most immigrants coming to Australia by boat are asylum-seekers from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard said the purpose of the swap with Malaysia was to deter refugees from coming to Australia by boat and send "the toughest possible message to people smugglers: you can't ply your evil trade anymore."

The capitalist parties and media here have waged a campaign against those who help refugees cross by boat from Indonesia to Christmas Island, the clos-

est piece of Australian territory. The island is about 200 miles off the coast of Indonesia and 1,000 miles from the Australian mainland.

Some 500 Indonesian fishermen who work as crews on the boats carrying asylum-seekers are in jails across Australia, accused of smuggling (see accompanying article).

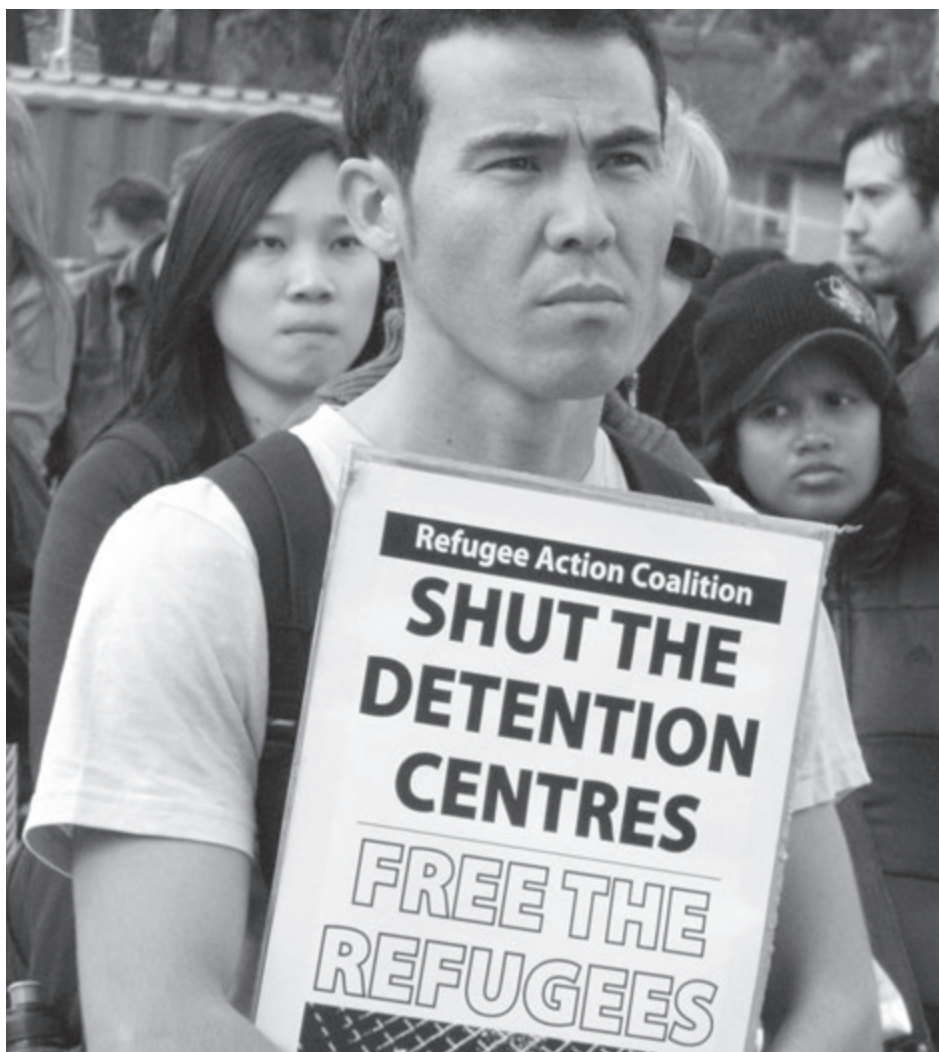
The ruling followed an injunction granted to 41 asylum-seekers who protested their forced transfer from Christmas Island to Malaysia and demanded the right to hearings in Australia.

Only a small number of those who are eventually granted refugee status in Australia come by boat. They are held for long periods at the Christmas Island detention center and other prisons in Australia.

While seeking to stem boat arrivals, the Australian government is encouraging immigrants to come to Australia on temporary work visas to meet the demand for labor in mining and agriculture.

Both Liberal and Labor governments have tightened the border, from the introduction of mandatory detention for asylum-seekers in 1992 to stepped-up naval patrols in 2001.

Under the previous Liberal government's "Pacific Solution," refugees picked up in Australian waters were sent to detention centers on Nauru in the South Pacific or Manus Island in Papua New Guinea.



Protest in Sydney July 24 against Australian government's plan to send refugees to Malaysia.

These centers were closed after Labor's election in 2007. But Bowen said the government may consider using Nauru again. The government of Papua New Guinea has agreed "in principle" to reopen the detention center on Manus Island.

There is rising discontent at the detention centers over long delays in processing asylum requests. A 17-year-old woman due to be deported attempted

suicide at the Christmas Island facility in August.

More than 200 people demonstrated at the Villawood detention center in Sydney July 24 and more than 100 in the city center August 26 in opposition to the government's "Malaysian solution." On July 25 during the signing ceremony for the refugee swap, demonstrators in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, protested the treatment of refugees.

Indonesian workers jailed for 'people smuggling'

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia—More than 500 Indonesian fishermen are being held in jail in Australia as "people smugglers."

"We hear every day in this country about 'people smugglers,' but who are they?" said Eko Waluyo from Indonesian Solidarity at an August 26 rally here in support of refugee rights. Coming mainly from impoverished villages in eastern Indonesia they are paid a few hundred dollars to work as deckhands and cooks on boats that bring asylum-seekers to the remote Australian territories of Christmas Island and Ashmore Reef.

Australian authorities often use wrist X-rays to estimate age. As a result some 70 are being held in adult prisons despite insisting they are under 18 years old, Waluyo said. Some have been held for up to nine months before being charged and almost all have been refused bail.

Over the last three years, 292 Indonesian workers have been charged and another 138 convicted for people-smuggling offenses, according to the *Australian*.

Speaking at a forum organized by Indonesian Solidarity August 15, lawyer Edwina Lloyd said her 15-year-old client has been refused bail and is being held in a maximum security prison.

There is a minimum five-year prison term, with the possibility of parole after three, for first-time "people smuggling."

NZ gov't neglects workers' areas hit by quakes

BY JANET ROTH
AND BASKARAN APPU

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand—"All the focus has been on the central city. What about the eastern suburbs, where people have lost homes and been without power and sewerage?" said Anita Jessett. She was referring to the government's priorities of rebuilding the central business district in this earthquake-damaged city ahead of working-class neighborhoods.

Since September last year there have been three major earthquakes and more than 8,300 aftershocks. A quake in February resulted in 181 deaths and widespread damage to infrastructure and

buildings, including 100,000 houses.

Jessett, who used to work cleaning buildings, was talking to members and supporters of the Communist League who were going door to door with the *Militant* August 13 in the working-class suburb of Aranui. Among those they spoke with were residents who subscribed during a trip to the area in May.

Jessett and her young children live without heat because quake damage has made her fireplace unusable. "I am on an invalid benefit. I can't afford electric heaters or carpets," she said.

Thousands have been living for months in such conditions. Those in Aranui, just east of the city, are among

the hardest hit. Today there are still intermittent power outages and some 1,600 households in the eastern suburbs without flushable toilets.

Metarina Kinihe-Kuruwaka, a retired clerical worker, described the government's response as "being seen to be doing things and not doing the deeds."

Ana Martin, who works as a caregiver for disabled people, expressed a different but commonly held view that "the government is doing the best it can."

Disruption to schooling, medical services, food supplies, and transportation continues. Thousands of the city's 350,000 inhabitants have left. Most of the central city is still cordoned off and many roads are damaged. The federal government has said it will not cover all the necessary costs to repair schools.

"Rents have gone up, which workers who lost their jobs can't afford," said garment worker Mary Scarrott. According to official figures, 26,000 private-sector jobs have been lost here since the quakes. At the same time, rents have increased by as much as 150 percent.

More than 6,000 houses will be demolished in unstable areas. The government is offering a cash buyout for these residents, but it doesn't cover the cost of replacing their houses given rising prices.

The government's Earthquake Commission helps cover damages up to 100,000 New Zealand dollars (\$82,100) for those with private insurance, but the vast majority are still waiting for their claims to be processed. Those without insurance receive nothing.



At her home in earthquake devastated city of Aranui, New Zealand, Metarina Kinihe-Kuruwaka (left), a recent *Militant* subscriber, talks with worker-correspondent Baskaran Appu.

Socialist candidate in NY answers Obama's 'jobs act'

Campaign offers fighting course for working class

BY DAN FEIN
AND RÓGER CALERO

QUEENS, New York—"I was disappointed in Obama's speech," said Bonnie Udell, a laid-off employee of an advertising company, referring to the president's September 8 address to Congress promoting his American Jobs Act.

Udell was talking with Chris Hoeppner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, who was in Forest Hills with campaign supporters Saturday afternoon, three days before the September 13 special election in the 9th Congressional District.

"We need to fight for jobs for the millions of unemployed," replied Hoeppner, who had met Udell at the busy intersection of 71st Avenue and Queens Boulevard.

"What we need is a massive government jobs program, *now*, to build affordable housing, transportation, hospitals, schools, infrastructure, and other projects that benefit working people," said Hoeppner, who works at an electronics factory in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn.

"Like repairing damage from Hurricane Irene," the socialist candidate added. "Obama's plan is not about jobs for workers. It's about providing bosses with means to shore up their profits."

The Socialist Workers Party platform Hoeppner is campaigning on stands in sharp contrast to those of the other two 9th District candidates, Democratic State Assemblyman David Weprin and Republican businessman Robert Turner, who won the election with 54 percent of the vote.

Hoeppner's campaign calls on working people to look to their own collective power to resist the consequences of capitalist rule on their lives and livelihoods—and to chart a revolutionary course toward wresting political power from the propertied ruling families.

Hoeppner puts forward the fight for a jobs program as a way to strengthen the solidarity, the confidence, and the fighting capacity of working people in face of the competition and disorientation fostered by high unemployment.

As Hoeppner and other socialists distributed campaign flyers and sold *Militant* subscriptions and books on working-class politics, they ran into Stewart

Hawer, a retired post office worker.

Hawer talked with Hoeppner about the U.S. Postal Service's plans to lay off workers, close down offices, and cut pensions. "The postal workers should go on strike now," Hawer said. "That's what we did decades ago, and we won."

"What do you think about the unions?" asked Joyce Yamenfeld, a retired meat packer who stopped to listen.

"The unions need to champion struggles of all workers, employed and unemployed," said Hoeppner. "We need to defend ourselves from what the capitalist crisis is doing to us today, as part of the fight to overturn the capitalist system and establish workers' power."

On September 8 the socialist candidate debated Weprin and Turner at an event sponsored by the Rockaway Civic Association in Queens.

Weprin said he opposed Turner's proposal to raise the Social Security retirement age and make other cuts to the program. The Democrat called for raising taxes on millionaires.

But the capitalist rulers' various proposed cuts to Social Security have nothing to do with the government's budget deficit, Hoeppner replied. In fact, he added, it was in the middle of the deep depression of the 1930s that "struggles by working people forced the government to concede to a social security program."

"Working people have different values than those of the capitalist class and their political parties," said Hoeppner in his closing remarks at the debate.

"This can be seen in the approach by the Democrats and Republicans to Social Security, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and how they treated working people during Hurricane Irene. Workers start with human needs. The capitalist parties start with profits."

The *Queens Chronicle* and *Forum* Newsgroup sponsored an earlier debate in Howard Beach September 6. But Hoeppner, one of three congressional candidates on the ballot, was not allowed to participate.

"My exclusion prevents a real discussion on issues facing working people," Hoeppner told reporters at the event. "It prevents the presentation of a working-class alternative."



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Chris Hoeppner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, talks with Bonnie Udell while campaigning September 10 in Forest Hills neighborhood of Queens, New York.

Especially during the final weeks of the campaign, the capitalist press gave a lot of play to prospects that Republican Turner would win a seat that has been held by Democrats since 1922.

On election day *Daily News* columnist Bill Hammond's piece was headlined, "In NY-9, Voters Are the Losers: Weprin and Turner, Two Lame Candidates, Have Run Lousy Campaigns." In fact, what Hammond describes is much broader than New York's 9th District and isn't limited to "lame candidates" and "lousy campaigns"—hardly a novelty in U.S. capitalist elections.

Instead, the outcome of the 9th C.D. race was one registration of a shakeup in bourgeois politics and the two main parties of the U.S. ruling families as a

result of the deepening world crisis of capitalism.

Hammond said voters "have to schlep to the polling place, hold their noses and try to pick the guy that will embarrass them marginally less." He concludes, "Suddenly the Socialist Workers candidate doesn't seem like such an unthinkable option."

After the debate in Rockaway Park, Hoeppner stayed around to talk with participants at the school cafeteria where it was held. He told several of them that after the election, the SWP will keep on reaching out to workers interested in the campaign's fighting course.

That seemed to strike a chord with Tom Hannan, 74. "Why stop campaigning?" he told Hoeppner. "Why stop struggling?"

ILWU longshoremen in Wash. resist union busting at terminal

BY MARY MARTIN

LONGVIEW, Wash.—Some 400 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union blocked a grain train from entering the new export terminal at the port here for four hours September 7. The terminal's owner, EGT Development Corp., refuses to honor an agreement by the Port of Longview to hire ILWU labor.

The unionists allowed the train to pass, reported the Longview *Daily News*, after cops formed a line "donning riot helmets and brandishing rifles with rubber bullets." ILWU members were clubbed and sprayed with pepper gas, the paper said. Sixteen were arrested.

"On September 7 we were having a peaceful protest at the port when the police attacked ILWU International President Robert McEllrath. Three policemen threw him to the ground," Dan Coffman, ILWU Local 21 president, told the *Militant*. "Our union had to respond to protect our international president."

"What happened afterwards, as far as we are concerned, was a situation incited by the cops. They wore riot gear. They had helmets and batons and shotguns with rubber bullets and Tasers. Eight of our brothers were hit with tear gas."

More than 1,000 members of the ILWU in Washington did not report for work the next day, closing ports in Seattle, Tacoma, Anacortes, and Everett.

That day, September 8, hundreds of ILWU members returned to the Port of Longview. According to the *Seattle Times*, Longview Police Chief Jim Duscha alleged the unionists damaged property and dumped grain as they "held six guards captive."

By the end of September 8 a total of 19 longshoremen had been arrested for misdemeanor criminal trespass.

EGT has taken great pains to snub the port's agreement with the ILWU and evade a union contract. According to The Stand, a labor blog here in Washington, EGT built the Longview terminal using workers paid below union wages. Then, when the terminal

Continued on page 9



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Candidates in U.S. congressional election in New York's 9th District at debate in Rockaway Park September 8. From left: Robert Turner (R); Chris Hoeppner (SWP); David Weprin (D).

Join Sept. 27 actions by postal workers

Four postal workers unions are calling a September 27 day of action in response to cuts in mail service currently under consideration by Congress and the Postal Service management. The proposed attacks could lead to the closure of thousands of post offices, many in rural areas; layoffs of 120,000 workers; and cuts in wages and health and pension benefits. Rallies are planned from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for every U.S. congressional district. Details will be posted and updated starting September 16 on a union web site: saveamericaspostalservice.org.

Does credit guarantee or destabilize capitalist rule?

Below is an excerpt from Rosa Luxemburg Speaks, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. The book is a collection of some of Luxemburg's major writings—from her early years of activity in the underground revolutionary movement in Poland in the late 1880s until her murder in Berlin in 1919 as a central leader of the newly created German Communist Party. The piece below is taken from an 1898 article aimed at those in the German socialist movement—led by Eduard Bernstein—who were increasingly arguing that it was possible to reform capitalism in the interests of working people. The book has an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ROSA LUXEMBURG

According to Bernstein, the credit system, the perfected means of communication and the new capitalist combines are the important factors that forward the adaptation of capitalist economy.

Credit has diverse applications in capitalism. Its two most important functions are to extend production and to facilitate exchange. When the inner tendency of capitalist production to extend boundlessly strikes against the restricted dimensions of private property,



Rosa Luxemburg (1871-1919) explained that capitalism can't be made to work for working people. It has to be overthrown. Above, addressing a mass meeting in Germany in 1907.

credit appears as a means of surmounting these limits in a particular capitalist manner. Credit, through shareholding, combines in one magnitude of capital a large number of individual capitals. It makes available to each capitalist the use of other capitalists' money—in the form of industrial credit. As commercial credit it accelerates the exchange of commodities and therefore the return of capital into production, and thus aids the entire cycle of the process of production. The manner in which these two principal functions of credit influence the formation of crises is quite obvious. If it is true that crises appear as a result of the contradiction existing between the capacity of extension, the tendency of production to increase, and the restricted consumption capacity of the market, credit is precisely, in view of what was stated above, the specific means that makes this contradiction break out as often as possible.

To begin with, it increases disproportionately the capacity of the extension of production and thus constitutes an inner motive force that is constantly pushing production to exceed the limits of the market. But credit strikes from two sides. After having (as a factor of the process of production) provoked overproduction, credit (as a factor of exchange) destroys, during the crisis, the very productive forces it itself created.

At the first symptom of the crisis, credit melts away. It abandons exchange where it would still be found indispensable, and appearing instead ineffective and useless, there where some exchange still continues, it reduces to a minimum the consumption capacity of the market.

Besides having these two principal results, credit also influences the formation of crises in the following ways. It constitutes the technical means of making available to an entrepreneur the capital of other owners. It stimulates at the same time the bold and unscrupulous utilization of the property of others. That is, it leads to speculation. Credit not only aggravates the crisis in its capacity as a dissembled means of exchange, it also helps to bring and extend the crisis by transforming all exchange into an extremely complex and artificial mechanism that, having a minimum of metallic money as a real base, is easily disarranged at the slightest occasion.

We see that credit, instead of being an instrument for the suppression or the attenuation of crises, is on the contrary a particularly mighty instrument for the formation of crises. It cannot be anything else. Credit eliminates the remaining rigidity of capitalist relationships. It introduces everywhere the greatest elasticity possible. It renders all capitalist forces extensible, relative, and mutually sensitive to the

highest degree. Doing this, it facilitates and aggravates crises, which are nothing more or less than the periodic collisions of the contradictory forces of capitalist economy.

That leads us to another question. Why does credit generally have the appearance of a "means of adaptation" of capitalism? No matter what the relation or form in which this "adaptation" is represented by certain people, it can obviously consist only of the power to suppress one of the several antagonistic relations of capitalist economy, that is, of the power to suppress or weaken one of these contradictions, and allow liberty of movement, at one point or another, to the otherwise fettered productive forces. In fact, it is precisely credit that aggravates these contradictions to the highest degree.

It aggravates the antagonism between the mode of production and the mode of exchange by stretching production to the limit and at the same time paralyzing exchange at the smallest pretext. It aggravates the antagonism between the mode of production and the mode of appropriation by separating production from ownership, that is, by transforming the capital employed in production into "social" capital and at the same time transforming a part of the profit, in the form of interest on capital, into a simple title of ownership. It aggravates the antagonism existing between the property relations (ownership) and the relations of production by putting into a small number of hands immense productive forces and expropriating a large number of small capitalists. Lastly, it aggravates the antagonism existing between the social character of production and private capitalist ownership by rendering necessary the intervention of the state in production.

In short, credit reproduces all the fundamental antagonisms of the capitalist world. It accentuates them. It precipitates their development and thus pushes the capitalist world forward to its own destruction. The prime act of capitalist adaptation, as far as credit is concerned, should really consist in breaking and suppressing credit. In fact, credit is far from being a means of capitalist adaptation. It is, on the contrary, a means of destruction of the most extreme revolutionary significance.

September

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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8 The Militant September 26, 2011

Attica to Troy Davis – ‘US justice’

Troy Davis has become a symbol of the brutality and anti-working-class character of “American justice,” whose courts, cops, and prisons protect the property and power of a tiny minority of capitalist families who live off exploitation of the producing majority. We urge readers to join the international actions called to demand a halt to Davis’s execution, set for September 21 in Georgia.

An African-American worker, Davis was sentenced to death 20 years ago on charges of killing a policeman. There was no physical evidence linking Davis to the killing. All but two of nine nonpolice witnesses later said they had been pressured by cops to implicate Davis. At every turn, however, courts rejected his request for a new trial.

The case reached the Supreme Court in 2009, but the justices instructed a lower court to review the facts and rule whether there was enough new evidence that could prove his innocence—despite the fact that the burden is on the *state* to prove a defendant *guilty* beyond a reasonable doubt.

There could scarcely be a purer example of the aim of the death penalty under capitalism. It is a weapon of the propertied rulers to terrorize working people in face of a system of class exploitation, racism, war, and inequality—a weapon the capitalist rulers can and will use as resistance grows

to their assault on workers’ living standards, job conditions, and rights.

Davis’s planned execution coincides with the 40th anniversary of the Attica prison rebellion in New York state. More than 1,200 prisoners rose up against the brutal conditions they faced. They liberated parts of the prison and broadcast to the world their demands for decent food, medical care, adequate legal assistance, and freedom to organize politically and read what they chose.

“We are men. . . not beasts, and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such,” they declared.

The Attica rebellion was crushed in a massacre ordered by New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, with the blessing of President Richard Nixon. On Sept. 13, 1971, 1,000 cops, guards, and National Guardsmen invaded the prison, shooting to kill. Not only did they mow down 29 inmates but also 10 guards and civilian hostages. State officials initially charged prison rebels with “throat-slittings” “castration,” and other “atrocities.” Following autopsy reports, however, they admitted that all 10 hostages died of gunshot wounds inflicted by Rockefeller’s state police.

Now the state of Georgia is planning to carry out yet another “legal murder,” this time against Troy Davis. All out to stop his execution!

Stop the execution of Troy Davis!

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dered Davis’s execution but had to back down in face of a public outcry. In 2009 the Supreme Court reviewed the case and ordered a lower court to reexamine the facts and rule whether there was enough new evidence that could prove his innocence.

Justice Antonin Scalia dissented, arguing Davis should be executed even if it turned out he was innocent. “This Court has *never* held that the Constitution forbids the execution of a convicted defendant who had a full and fair trial but is later able to convince a habeas court that he is ‘actually’ innocent,” Scalia wrote.

The U.S. district judge who reviewed the case in 2010 upheld Davis’s conviction, giving the green light to the state of Georgia to proceed with his legal murder.

In Atlanta there will be a September 16 march from Woodruff Park to the Ebenezer Baptist Church. An evening service

there will hear Amnesty International Executive Director Larry Cox; NAACP President Ben Jealous; Rev. Raphael Warnock of Ebenezer Baptist Church; Martina Correia, Davis’s sister; former death row prisoners who were later exonerated; and others. Other September 16 actions have been set for cities from New York and Oakland, Calif., to Berlin, London, and beyond.



Troy Davis

Tens of thousands of letters and petitions will be delivered to the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles September 15. The parole board will hold a clemency hearing September 19. A vigil will take place outside the hearing at the James H. Floyd Building at 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. To send a letter to the board, go to www.justicefortroy.org or fax your message to the parole board at (404) 651-8502.

For more information, see www.justicefortroy.org; www.iamtroy.com; www.gfadp.org; or email troy@aiusa.org.

LETTERS

Real journalism

Great articles! I bought the paper at a Saveway supermarket and both myself and my wife welcomed the truthful, valued form of real journalism. We are both Cubans and share the views and ideas of your writers. Keep up the good work.

F.S.
Stockbridge, Georgia

Prison wages

I am writing to thank you for the gift subscription that you have provided to me with the inmate funding that is donated. Myself and other inmates are able to keep up to date on news from around the world.

One topic that I am curious about is if you have written about the wages that Federal inmates make. I thought this might be a good topic because, being inmates, it’s pretty much out of our hands. The public may not even know that we only make about

\$5 to \$20 per month.

A prisoner
Florida

First time buys book

Mike Cameron, an over-the-road truck driver from Monroe, North Carolina, bought a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes from me. I saw him a month later and asked him what he thought.

Mike told me he had been talk-

ing with people from Monroe about the book and the details it has about Robert F. Williams, armed self-defense of the Black community there in the 1960s, and the frame-up of Williams. A friend of his immediately ordered four copies from Amazon.

“I’ve been driving 22 years,” Mike told me. “This is the first time I ever actually bought and read a book. This book is not just history, it’s about today. Capitalism does not work.”

Stu Singer
New York, New York

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Wash. longshore

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opened, it hired only nonunion workers. More than 1,000 ILWU members and supporters protested the union-busting move outside EGT headquarters in Portland, Ore., June 3.

In response, EGT hired subcontractor General Construction, which employed members of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701. The local does not have a collective bargaining agreement with EGT.

“Local 701 and General Construction have enjoyed a good working relationship for over 90 years,” says an Operating Engineers Local 701 statement. “General Construction has no agreements with ILWU anywhere.”

According to the *Seattle Times*, the Port of Longview leased land to EGT with the understanding that the use of ILWU labor would continue under the 30-year-agreement the union has with the port. EGT did not return calls from the *Militant*.

Coffman said EGT is attempting to roll back many gains in working conditions the ILWU has won at the Port of Longview. The port “will use 30 to 40 percent less staffing,” he said. “They will run 12-hour shifts.

“EGT tried to get the working agreement with the ILWU removed from the lease in their negotiations with the Port of Longview,” said Coffman. “They didn’t want to pay overtime after eight hours, the industry standard. They complained about ILWU pensions. Yet they made \$2.5 billion in profit in 2010.”

The National Labor Relations Board has weighed in on the side of the EGT bosses. The NLRB filed a complaint against the ILWU in July when the union tried to block another trainload of grain. The NLRB claimed the protesters “physically assaulted EGT employees,” damaged property, and trespassed. A federal judge has ordered the union to move further away from the terminal entrance.

An ILWU open letter to members of Operating Engineers Local 701 noted that the ILWU honored the local’s picket lines in 2006 in a strike in Portland. “Today a multinational corporation called EGT Development is trying to use Local 701 to undermine the ILWU,” the letter said. “It’s not worth it to sell your union’s credibility and support from other unions forever just for a handful of jobs today. Remember solidarity goes both ways! . . . An injury to one is an injury to all.”

Local 701 replied that both “701 and the ILWU are members of the National AFL-CIO where issues of jurisdiction and union to union disputes should be privately resolved. . . . Our international representatives have filed charges against the ILWU seeking damages for defamation . . . before other trade unions and the public.”

Betsy Shedd, a heavy equipment operator and a member of Operating Engineers Local 302 in Seattle, told the *Militant* that the economic crisis and competition for jobs are at the root of the dispute at the port. “Not all Operating Engineers members are willing to form an alliance with multinational companies in the race to the bottom,” she said.

A team of *Militant* reporters went door to door in a largely working-class neighborhood of Longview September 10 and got a mix of opinions.

“I think the company needs to honor pre-existing agreements with the union,” said college student Tyler Stockton.

Nicholas Campbell recently lost both his job as a motel manager and his housing there when the bank foreclosed on the motel. “The government is going to have to step in because the unions will never settle this,” he said. “For sure the company lied to the union. But I also feel like the security guards at the port, which are not very well paid, got caught in the middle of the union protest actions.”

Susan Wood said the company she works for as a manager used to ship products out of the Longview Port. “Not now—we don’t want to cross picket lines. I don’t think the workers should lose their jobs,” she said. “But I don’t agree with the way they are handling their protests.”

Linda Falk, a retired custodian, said she strongly supports the ILWU workers. “The company shouldn’t bring in other people. EGT lied to them.”

Clay Dennison and John Naubert contributed to this article.