

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Solitary confinement: Supporters of prisoners' fight speak out in Calif.
 — PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 77/NO. 38 OCTOBER 28, 2013

Talk of 'peace' summit masks US warships off Syria coast

BY JOHN STUDER

The reality of the imperialist war threat against Syria remains buried in big-business press underneath heaps of talk about "peace negotiations." Meanwhile, the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad continues its military assaults and bombardments on working-class areas of Damascus and Aleppo, the country's largest city, and rebel-held areas in the west and north. "The U.S. military remains poised, ready and in position to strike the Assad regime in Syria," *Militant.com*, a news site edited by former Navy Commander Ward Carroll, reported Oct. 10.

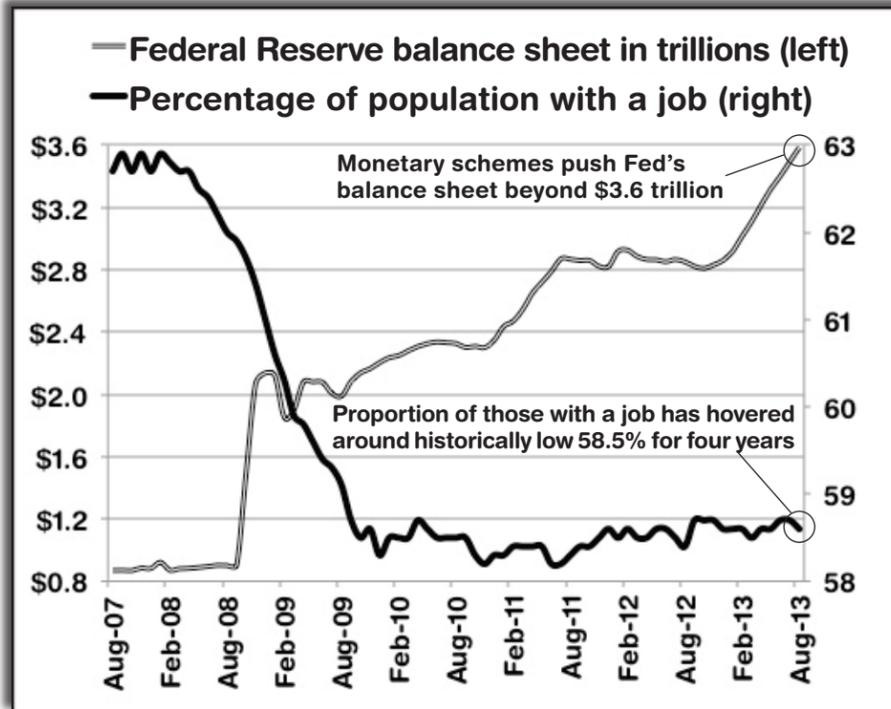
Four U.S. destroyers — the USS Barry, USS Ramage, USS Gravelly and USS Stout — are deployed off Syria's Mediterranean coast, and the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier strike group is nearby in the Red Sea. Each destroyer harbors up to 96 Tomahawk missiles and the carrier group has Osprey and Harrier fighter planes as well as H-60 helicopters.

The two-and-a-half-year civil war was touched off with the regime's

Continued on page 4

Zero jobs created by government 'stimulus'

New Fed bank head to continue schemes



Percentage of population with job plunged during 2008-2009 recession to around 58.5 percent, where it remains today. At same time, explosion of central bank's balance shows massive scope of Federal Reserve's money-printing scheme, promoted as crucial to "stimulate" hiring.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

President Barack Obama's Oct. 9 nomination of Federal Reserve Vice Chair Janet Yellen to replace Ben Bernanke as head of the central bank signals the administration's intention

to sustain the Fed's massive money-printing "stimulus" schemes to supposedly promote "jobs growth."

Yet all evidence points to the conclusion that the monetary fiddling has no effect on bosses' hiring. The world crisis of capitalism is rooted in a slow-down of production and trade, which is not affected by government poli-

Continued on page 9

'Militant' wins victory against prison censorship

BY JOHN STUDER

"We have won an important victory that puts wind in the sails of the fight to push back censorship moves by prison authorities to deny prisoners the right to read the news they want," begins an Oct. 12 mailing from the *Militant* to groups and individuals who have backed the paper's fight to defend the rights of workers behind

SUPPORT RIGHTS OF WORKERS BEHIND BARS!
 Join the fight, see appeal p. 9

bars and freedom of the press.

On Oct. 11 Benjamin Stevenson, the Florida American Civil Liberties Union attorney representing the *Militant*, got the news from LaDawna Fleckenstein, assistant general counsel for the Florida Department of Corrections. Previously, prison authorities had informed Stevenson that they had decided in an Oct. 1 meeting to uphold their Sept. 5 decision to impound an issue of the paper reporting on initiation of a hunger strike in California prisons.

"The literature review committee met and held a rehearing of the appeal regarding the decision to impound an

Continued on page 9

'Militant' subscription drive off and running — Join in!



Militant/Betsy Farley

Participants in Oct. 12 "Immigrant Dignity and Respect March" in Chicago find what they are looking for at table with *Militant* and Pathfinder books on first day of subscription campaign.

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Militant supporters around the world kicked off the fall subscription and book campaign Oct. 12. The eight-week drive runs through Dec. 10 and the goal is to get 2,500 new or renewing subscribers.

The bulk of the 164 new subscribers won over the first four days were

from campaigning door to door in working-class neighborhoods. Supporters also found a good response to the paper among fellow protesters as they joined in a variety of political actions.

John Ryan, a seaman and member

Continued on page 3

Socialist candidates discuss need to fight for gov't-funded jobs program

BY HELEN MEYERS

DES MOINES, Iowa — David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council in Ward 3 here, debated his two opponents Oct. 11, incumbent Christine Hensley and realtor

and former TV reporter Cal Woods, responding to questions from a panel of staff reporters at the *Des Moines Register*.

One of the questions concerned steps taken by the city to eliminate hundreds of city workers and contract out jobs to private companies paying less for custodians, lawn care and other jobs.

"I think the heart of the solution is

Continued on page 4

No worker has to die!
 Only a fighting working class can enforce job safety!
 —editorial page 9

Coal bosses' drive for profit kills 3 miners in 3 days

BY EMMA JOHNSON

As coal bosses press to maximize "productivity," three coal miners were killed on the job on three consecutive days in early October — Roger King, 62; Robert Smith, 47; and Mark Stassinis, 44.

The three deaths, which occurred at

Continued on page 4

Also Inside:

- Australia Labor Party loses elections as crisis sets in 2
- Montreal exhibit builds support for Cuban Five 6
- Protests to answer attack on rights of Haitian-Dominicans 6
- Bangladesh: Seven more sacrificed on altar of profit 7

March slams Miami cops' Taser killing of graffiti artist in August

BY DEAN HAZLEWOOD

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Chanting “Arrest Mercado!” and “Israel Presente!” 250 people marched through the busy Lincoln Road shopping mall in the heart of the South Beach tourist district Oct. 6, exactly two months after officer Jorge Mercado killed 18-year-old Israel Hernández-Llach after cops caught the young artist painting graffiti. Some participants handed out information to customers and workers in the restaurants and stores along the route.

On Aug. 6 the Miami Beach police caught Hernández tagging the wall of an abandoned McDonald's restaurant. After a brief chase officer Jorge Mercado shot him in the chest with a Taser. Shortly afterwards he was pronounced dead at Mount Sinai Medical Center. No results of either the autopsy or an internal police investigation have been released.

When the march reached Miami Beach City Hall, the crowd heard several speakers, including Hernández's mother, father and sister.

“My son was not a criminal or a delinquent,” said his father, Israel Hernández. “But they surrounded him, beat him and killed him. This was a vile and cowardly act.” He added, “What does it say when they value a wall more than a human life?”

Chris Clark, a Federal Express worker was riding his bicycle when he noticed the crowd. “The kid was killed for spray painting,” he told the *Militant*. “I think the police often overreact. Like what happened with the woman in

Washington, D.C., last week,” he said, referring to the Oct. 3 killing of Miriam Carey by a hail of bullets as she was driving in Capitol Hill with her infant daughter.

Many of the participants knew Hernández personally, either through art, school or skateboarding. “Reefa and I were best friends at school,” said 16-year-old Jeremy Chavez, referring to Hernández by his graffiti tag. “This was totally unnecessary force. This cop should get punished.”

“I want justice and peace for the family,” said another school friend, David Alexis.

After the rally at City Hall, the march continued to the Miami Beach Police Department for another round of speeches. José Javier Rodríguez, a lawyer representing the family in a civil suit against the police, said that supporters of the fight planned to deliver a letter that week to the state attorney in Miami demanding indict-



Rally at Miami Beach Police Station Oct. 6 against Aug. 6 killing of Israel Hernández. Speaking is sister Offir Hernández. In sunglasses are father Israel Hernández, mother Jacqueline Llach.

ment of those responsible.

“We want that officer arrested,” Offir Hernández, the young artist's sister, told the *Militant*. “But not just him. All those officers who saw what happened and stayed silent. They are part of the crime as well.”

Leading up to the march there were

a series of cultural activities around the Miami region to mark the two-month anniversary, including a poetry slam, art gallery displays featuring work by Hernández and others, and a skating demonstration. Other events were scheduled in Colombia where Hernández was born.

Australia Labor Party loses elections as capitalist crisis sets in

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY — The Sept. 7 federal elections in Australia reflect the political impact of an increasing economic and social crisis in a country that until recently had appeared to be one of the few untouched by the worldwide slowdown of capitalist production and trade.

In its worst result in decades, the incumbent Labor Party lost heavily to a coalition of conservative parties, which took seats in a number of predominantly

working-class electorates. The vote follows a similar pattern in previously social democratic governments from the U.K. to Portugal and Sweden.

The results showed a loss of support for the social democratic party as the crisis began to affect the lives of millions. And it also signaled plans by the bosses and their parliamentary representatives to deepen the assault on the living standards and rights of working people.

With close links to the union officialdom, Labor has presided over the government since 2007. In recent years, both Labor and the unions have had steadily declining memberships.

Labor has also lost its luster among the section of the propertied rulers who had supported it as the best choice for maintaining capitalist social stability.

Reflecting a broad consensus among the rulers, the *Australian Financial Review* editorial Sept. 6 backed the conservatives to “restore normality after more than three years of directionless

minority government and leadership upheavals.”

Less than three months before the elections, Labor leaders had tried to stem the loss of working-class support by replacing Prime Minister Julia Gillard with Kevin Rudd, who was identified with the defeat in 2007 of the previous conservative government after the introduction of anti-working-class laws dubbed “WorkChoices.”

“This political instability has undermined the business confidence that ... is critical as the mining boom recedes,” the *Australian Financial Review* said.

The mineral export boom, focused on coal and iron ore to China, is fading with a slowdown of production across Asia. More than 10,000 coal miners have been laid off in recent months. And a manufacturing downturn here has led to a string of layoffs and factory closures. General Motors Holden is cutting hundreds of jobs and Ford has flagged

Continued on page 5

THE MILITANT

Discuss politics at Militant Labor Forums

Militant Labor Forums, sponsored by supporters of the socialist newsweekly, provide a place to discuss developments in world politics from a working-class point of view. See weekly listings in the 'Militant.' Find a forum hall in your area listed on page 8 and check it out.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

\$10 for 12 weeks

\$20 for 6 months

\$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$8 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £10 • France, 12 euros • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)



At Omaha, Neb., forum Oct. 5, SWP leader Frank Forrester discusses FBI assault on workers rights in targeting of Somalis.

The Militant

Vol. 77/No. 38

Closing news date: October 16, 2013

Editor: Doug Nelson

Editorial volunteers: Tom Baumann, Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Seth Galinsky, Eleanor García, Emma Johnson, Jacob Perasso, John Studer, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in July, one week in August and two weeks in September.

Business manager: Lea Sherman
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947
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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above

address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.
Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

Subscription campaign

Continued from front page of the Maritime Union of Australia, sent in a one-year subscription for a friend who is in prison in Queensland. This is the first *Militant* subscriber behind bars in Australia, Ron Poulsen reported from Sydney.

The *Militant* has a growing number of subscribers in prisons around the world who see the paper as a link to the broader struggles of working people and as a political organizing tool. The Militant Prisoners Fund offers prisoners reduced subscription rates.

Ryan has subscribed for a year and gets his paper around, including leaving it for others at his barbershop.

Caroline Bellamy wrote from Manchester, England, that supporters there have decided to use Saturdays and Sundays to campaign widely in the working-class area of Wythenshawe in the city's south.

"You've come to the right house," Lee Boldsworth said when he bought a subscription there. "When I was in prison I earned \$23 a week making clothes

for prisoners eight hours a day, five days a week," he said, discussing how the bosses foster competition among workers in an effort to drive down wages. "Now I'm fighting to get the disability money I'm due after wrecking my back stacking supermarket shelves."

Nils Johansson, an IT worker, joined the door to door effort for the first time and Peter Griffith, a maintenance engineer in a warehouse, did so for the second time. "I liked that it was about listening and not repeating slogans," Griffith said. "There is a respect for working people. I would definitely like to join the sales again."

Mary Martin, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Seattle mayor, and Sydney Coe, a member of Teamsters Local 117 in Kent, Wash., signed up Miaga Son Nelson Oct. 13 as they campaigned in his neighborhood in Tacoma, Wash. Nelson lost his job as an electrician when he got hurt working in housing construction.

"I think that sounds great," he said when Martin explained how the SWP campaigns for a fight for a massive, federally funded public works program to put millions to work. "Look at everything that's taken away from us and everything that is being cut. People like me who got hurt on the job could do something useful in the field we know. Or we could get retrained for other jobs."

Coe and Martin also spoke to Doreen X Ferguson, who works at Boeing in Auburn, Wash. She has read the *Militant* for a few years and decided to renew.

"I'm very busy everyday after work," she said. "But when the *Militant* is delivered, I stop everything, sit down and read every article. The news in the *Militant* lets me know there are others who



Miaga Son Nelson, right, an electrician in Tacoma, Wash., checks out *Militant* and signs up for introductory subscription when Sydney Coe campaigns in his neighborhood Oct. 13.

think like me. There's a lot of us!"

Ferguson also bought three of the nine Pathfinder titles on special offer: *Women and Revolution: The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution*; *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*; and *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*. (See ad below.)

Janet Roth from Auckland, New Zealand, described a discussion with Madeline Manahan, one of her co-workers at the food-processing plant where she works, about how the company picks and chooses which workers to lay off. "She emailed me after work and said she wanted a subscription to the *Militant*," Roth wrote. "She said she'd checked the website and found 'it really interesting and informative.'"

Fernando Molina from Aurora, Ill., renewed his subscription at the Oct. 12 march in Chicago for immigrant re-

form, Betsy Farley reported. (See article on page 6.) He also picked up *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, another book on special offer, as well as *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*. He had previously bought *The Cuban Five*.

"The struggle for justice is not only in this country, it is international," he said. "But the capitalists just want you to see their side. The *Militant* gives the working-class view."

We call on readers to join in the effort. The first weekly scoreboard reporting progress in the drive will appear in the next issue. You can order a bundle and get subscription blanks from the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018 or call (212) 244-4899.

Please send in reports and photos by 9 a.m. New York time on Mondays about your experiences selling the *Militant*. These are the backbone of the weekly column on the campaign.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

The Fraud of Obamacare: Workers Need Free Universal Health Care for All. Speaker: Betsy Stone, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

FLORIDA

Miami

Workers Pay Price for Government "Shutdown": Why Working People Have No Stake in Capitalist Government Budgets. Speaker: Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 7100 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 306A. Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Health Care Insurance Reform vs Health Care for All. Speaker: Joanne Murphy, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. 416 E. Hennepin, Suite 214. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Free Oscar López, Puerto Rican Independence Fighter in U.S. Jailed for 32 years! Program with former political prisoners Luis Rosa, Ricardo Jiménez, Elizam Escobar and Adolfo Matos Antongiorgi; Lourdes Lugo, niece of Oscar López; Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 25. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m.
Defend the Rights of Workers Behind Bars. Speakers: Doug Nelson, *Militant* editor; Ralph Poynter, Lynne Stewart Defense Committee; Dayann Molina McDonough, campaign leader Justice for Kyam Livingston. Fri., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. Both events at 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor (use north set of elevators). Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

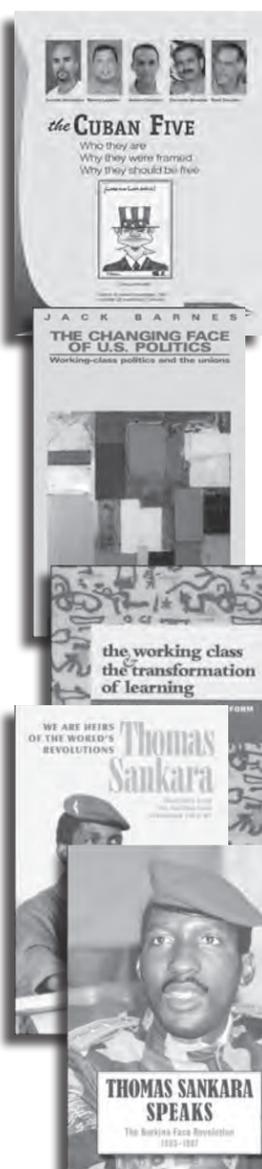
The Capitalist Crisis and the Road to Workers Power. Speakers: David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines City Council; representative of Nebraska Socialist Workers campaign. Sat., Oct. 26. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 3302 Q St. (Upstairs). Tel.: (402) 779-7697.

CANADA

Montreal

Pipelines, Shale Gas, Wind Power, Nuclear Energy: Why Working People Need Their Own Energy Policy. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League candidate for Montreal mayor. Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

Special offers with 'Militant' subscription



The Cuban Five

Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free
from pages of the 'Militant'
\$3 with subscription (regular \$5)

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions
by Jack Barnes
\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes
\$2 with subscription (regular \$3)

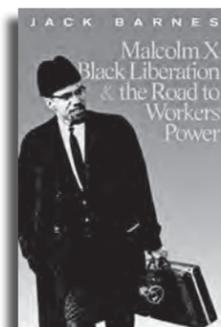
We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions

by Thomas Sankara
Speeches from the Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87
\$5 with subscription (regular \$10)

Thomas Sankara Speaks

The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-1987
\$10 with subscription (regular \$24)

See distributors on page 8

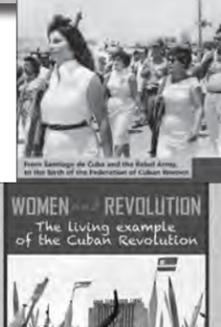


Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power
by Jack Barnes
\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)



Cuba and Angola

Fighting for Africa's Freedom and Our Own
by Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro; Cuban generals and combatants; Gabriel García Márquez
\$6 with subscription (regular \$12)



Women in Cuba

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer
\$10 with subscription (regular \$20)



Women and Revolution

The Living Example of the Cuban Revolution
by Asela de los Santos, Mary-Alice Waters and others
\$3 with subscription (regular \$7)

Socialist Workers candidates

Continued from front page

fighting for a massive government jobs program that puts millions of people to work and builds and services the kinds of things we need,” Rosenfeld said, “as opposed to throwing money and tax breaks at businesses so they can so-called create jobs but in fact use that as an advantage to employ workers at very low-paying jobs.” The practice, known as outsourcing, has reduced city government annual expenses by \$1.8 million, according to the *Register*.

“Outsourcing has saved us significant dollars and allowed us to keep an additional police officer or firefighter on the payrolls,” said Hensley, a self-described moderate Republican.”

“We need to stop this nonsense of thinking we’re going to save money by outsourcing,” challenger Woods said. “It drags the entire economy down.” He said lower-paid workers would qualify for food stamps, housing assistance and other government programs, so it is really “a cost-shift to the other taxpayers.” Woods has been endorsed by the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor.

Rosenfeld said when the city outsources, the point is to drive the union out of those jobs and lower workers’ wages. That’s why, he said, opposing outsourcing should be combined with a fight to “unionize workers and raise the minimum wage. This is part of knitting solidarity among workers.”

He pointed to the example of fast-food workers across the country who have taken to the streets demanding \$15 an hour and a union. “This grabs workers’ imagination,” he said.

Capitalism pits workers against each other in dog-eat-dog competition, Rosenfeld said. Gains like this would build solidarity among workers. Our class interest is to fight for jobs for all, not jobs for me and the hell with others.

“I would use the city council to help build a movement along these lines,” Rosenfeld said.

The program is available on the paper’s website, desmoinesregister.com.

* * *

BRONX, N.Y. — “Our struggle did not start with the campaign and it doesn’t end with the campaign,” Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Bronx borough president in New York City, told the Sunday *Daily News* Oct. 6 in an article titled “They Mean Business.” The paper said Calero admits that “getting the borough’s workers motivated to start a movement was his party’s ultimate goal.”

“Calero — whose main aims are eradicating unemployment, stopping the deportation of immigrants and raising the minimum wage — says his campaign has already been a success,” the paper wrote, after attempting to dismiss his campaign by pointing out that Calero does not have his own website, raised less than \$10,000 in contributions, is not a natural-born citizen and faced deportation in 2002. (The government failed in its effort to deport Calero in face of a strong political defense campaign.)

“The leftist continues to push on,



David Rosenfeld, center, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines City Council in Ward 3, debates his opponents incumbent Christine Hensley, left, and realtor Cal Woods, Oct. 11 during question and answer session with *Des Moines Register* reporters.

fighting for what he believes is right.”

“The expectations are the same,” Calero said. “That goal to build a movement is the same.”

— John Studer

* * *

ATLANTA — Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council president here, joined school bus drivers, members of American Federation of State, County and Municipal

Employees Local 1644, at the city’s school board meeting Oct. 7 demanding compensation for unpaid work and for safer working conditions.

“My campaign stands in solidarity with the APS [Atlanta Public School] bus drivers who dare to demand the right to be paid for the work they did,” Fruit said to applause. “The collective action of these workers is an example.”

— Janice Lynn

Talk of ‘peace’ masks US warships off Syria

Continued from front page

bloody crackdown on anti-government demonstrations in 2011 made up of working people, youth and others, pressing for political rights and against decades of dictatorial rule. Thousands of Syrian army troops defected in solidarity with the demonstrators, forming the backbone of what became the armed forces of the bourgeois opposition.

Over the course of the unfolding conflict, elite Syrian air force and tank unit forces have been reinforced by thousands of Iranian-backed Hezbollah fighters from Lebanon, Iraqi militia volunteers and tens of thousands of paramilitary National Defense Force troops organized and led by counterinsurgency officers from Iran’s Quds Force.

On Oct. 9 pro-government forces overran Sheikh Omar, a southern suburb of Damascus, killing dozens in an effort to maintain military supply lines.

At the same time, Washington and Moscow — with opposing interests — are working to bring the government and parts of the opposition to a U.N.-brokered “peace” conference in November.

The governments of Russia and Iran are looking to keep the Assad regime in power. Washington, backed by London and Paris, wants a regime that is more pliable to its interests, while keeping a lid on the struggles of workers and farmers.

“We had been living under 40 years of Baathist dictatorship,” Omar Al-

Ismail said in a phone interview Oct. 8, explaining what led to the explosion of protests two years ago. Al-Ismail had been a student and anti-Assad activist in Aleppo before he was forced in 2005 to flee to Greece where he worked as a carpenter before making his way to Sweden via Turkey.

“The role of the Iranian and Russian regimes helped deepen the violence against the people,” Al-Ismail said, commenting on the government’s swift repression against the budding protests in 2011. “This corresponded with the aims of many Arab countries to block the extension of the Arab Spring,” he said, referring to the mass anti-government protests that began in Tunisia in December 2011 and soon spread to Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East.

There are still some protests in Syria today, Al-Ismail said. “But these kinds of actions are not widespread right now.”

Al-Ismail described some of the efforts to reorganize in areas where Assad’s troops have been forced out. “School teachers have been trying to organize, in particular to reopen schools,” he said. “But the bombings cut across this work. In fact, the regime has targeted reopened schools for shelling.”

“The U.S. and Russia do not want a victorious revolution in Syria,” he said. “They are joined by other foreign powers and Arab regimes. They both fear the impact of such a victory.”

Imperialist embargo eases

The government of France and other countries have eased imperialist-led economic and financial sanctions designed to increase hardship on working people in Syria as a means to put further pressure on the regime.

The easing has opened up the import of wheat, which the government has wielded as a weapon, offering free or subsidized bread in the areas under its control and blocking distribution to areas where the opposition is strong.

Bread supplies some 40 percent of Syrians’ caloric intake. Because of the civil war, the wheat harvest this year is expected to be the worst in decades.

Drive for profit kills 3 coal miners in 3 days

Continued from front page

mines in West Virginia, Illinois and Wyoming, bring the total number of coal miners killed on the job in the U.S. this year to 17.

This takes place in the context of declining demand and employment in the coal industry as a result of a contraction of industrial production

worldwide and a shift toward use of natural gas in the U.S. As part of efforts to shore up their profits, coal bosses have targeted unions and their safety committees. The offensive has been met with little resistance as workers’ confidence has been sapped by layoffs and a union movement hamstrung by decades of seeking common ground with the employers.

In response to the string of deaths, top officials of the United Mine Workers have pointed above all to the U.S. government “shutdown” resulting from factional disagreements between Democratic and Republican party legislators over the government budget and Affordable Care Act.

“It is extremely troubling that within a week after the federal government shutdown caused the normal system of mine safety inspection and enforcement to come to a halt, three miners are dead,” said United Mine Workers President Cecil Roberts in a statement Oct. 8. “Call your members of Congress and Senators and tell them while they’re squabbling, miners are dying.”

Roger King worked at Consol Energy’s McElroy Mine in Marshall County, W.Va. He was killed Oct. 4 when a conveyor chain broke and hit

him in the head during the move of a longwall machine. McElroy is the biggest mine in the state with nearly 1,000 workers and organized by the United Mine Workers. Two miners employed by Consol were killed in Marion County in February and last November.

Robert Smith was killed on the job Oct. 5 when a vehicle he was driving overturned. He worked at the Pattiki Mine in White County, Ill., operated by Alliance Resource Partners.

Mark Stassinis, 44, was operating a bulldozer that plunged off a 160-foot-high wall Oct. 6. He was ejected from the cab and killed instantly. Stassinis worked at the Jim Bridger Mine in Sweetwater County, Wyo.

Bridger Coal, which operates the mine, was cited for 25 separate violations of safety regulations in 2012. The company is a joint venture between PacifiCorp and Idaho Power. The UMWA has been involved in a fight with PacifiCorp at the Deer Creek mine in Utah over attempts to gut the union’s safety committee.

According to the United Mine Workers, one-third of coal miners today are members of a union. Of the 17 miners killed in 2013 to date, 13 worked in nonunion mines.

— CALENDAR —

NEW YORK

Bronx

Cantata Pa (for) Oscar López Rivera.

Special appearances by former Puerto Rican political prisoners Luis Rosa, Felix Rosa, Ricardo Jiménez, Adolfo Matos Antongiorgi, Alicia Rodríguez and Elizam Escobar. Music/poetry by numerous artists and musicians. Sat., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20. *Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture*. 450 Grand Concourse at 149th St. Sponsored by NYC Coordinator to Free Oscar López Rivera. Tel: (646) 299-6507 or (646) 229-5133.

UNITED KINGDOM

London

No More Deaths in Police Custody!

March with us in solidarity for an end to deaths in police custody. Sat., Oct. 26. Assemble 12:30 p.m. Trafalgar Square, march to Downing Street. Sponsored by *United Friends and Family Campaign*.

ON THE PICKET LINE

School bus drivers strike 1 day in Boston over work conditions

BOSTON — School buses here sat idle Oct. 8 as drivers protested work conditions and contract violations by school bus contractor Veolia Transportation. The 700 members of United Steelworkers Local 8751 normally transport 33,000 public school students daily.

Drivers ended the walkout the following day after the company agreed to meet with the union. Steelworkers District 4 officials had said the walkout was illegal and told the drivers to go back to work.

“They treat us like dogs. We want respect,” bus driver Cecil Payne told the *Militant* at the Dorchester yard Oct. 9.

A union flyer distributed at an Oct. 10 rally had 15 demands, including that the company withdraw threats of discipline against drivers who walked out, end new work rules imposed without consulting the union, provide adequate restrooms, and end the use of GPS devices to track them during the workday.

Two union officials were suspended by Veolia Oct. 9 for their role in the walkout — Grievance Committee Chairman Steve Kirschbaum and Local Vice President Steve Gillis.

“We are 100 percent behind those guys. We are one!” chief union steward Jean-Claude Toussaint said at the rally of 150 drivers at the Readville bus yard.

Mayor Thomas Menino called the drivers “selfish people who only want to cause disruption in our city.” The day after the walkout he charged it “was led by a rogue element of the union and we’re going to deal with that rogue element.”

Public reaction was mixed. Newspapers and TV media were rife with comments from parents upset there was no advance notice.

Payne and fellow driver David Dawkins said they heard a different point of view from parents. “You did the right thing,” one parent told Payne. “They don’t miss you until you go on strike,” another told Dawkins.

The two Democratic Party candidates in the Boston mayoral race condemned the strikers. State Rep. Martin Walsh said in a statement that the drivers need to “understand that future illegal actions like this will be dealt with swiftly with real and permanent repercussions for those taking part.” Walsh is a former official with Laborers Local 223 and headed the Building and Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District.

“If the school bus drivers will not go back to work immediately then the city and the school department needs to take every action at their disposal to get re-

placement drivers in place as soon as possible,” said City Councilor and mayoral candidate John Connolly.

Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor Kevin Dwire backed the workers. “They are afraid that other workers will look at what you did and do the same thing,” Dwire told drivers at the Dorchester yard Oct. 9.

— Ted Leonard

Atlanta school bus workers demand pay for training days

ATLANTA — For the third time in a row, dozens of public school bus drivers here came to the school board’s monthly meeting Oct. 7. The workers have been demanding payment for five extra training days they had to work in July and expressed concern about safety conditions on the buses and problems with the payroll system.

“We have a union,” driver Quentin Hutchins, 41, told the board. “We deserve respect, a real voice, and accurate pay.”

The workers, represented by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1644, say they have not received a raise in five years.

Australia Labor Party loses elections as crisis sets in

Continued from page 2

the complete closure of its carmaking in Australia.

Official unemployment, which has been climbing since last November, hit 5.8 per cent in August. Youth unemployment has risen to 17.3 percent, its highest level in three years.

Anthony Abbott, leader of the conservative Liberal Party, repeated his campaign theme to cut the “waste,” end the carbon and mining taxes and “stop the boats,” as he took office Sept. 18. The “waste” refers to plans to cut government expenses, with services workers have come to depend on as primary targets. The unpopular new carbon and mining taxes introduced by the de facto coalition Labor/Greens government are seen by many as contributing to rising household



Militant/Kevin Dwire

Boston school bus drivers rally Oct. 10, two days after one-day strike over work conditions and contract violations. With microphone is union steward Jean-Claude Toussaint.

Bus driver Jeremy Smith said workers were being shorted hours and pointed to the board’s failure to address safety concerns. The door on his bus fell off its hinges after there was no response to his repeated reports about the door’s deteriorating condition.

Erika Tetens said problems with time clocks result in erroneous charges for unexcused absences and docked pay.

“We show up every day to make sure

our precious cargo gets to school safely, but we have faulty cameras that never get fixed, problems with radios and not enough bus monitors,” said driver Stephanie McDade.

Atlanta Public School administrators say workers will get five days off during the year to make up for the early start and that other issues are an issue between labor and management.

—Janice Lynn

energy bills and declining production. And the “boats” remark refers to the rulers’ campaign to scapegoat immigrants, many of whom arrive by boat seeking asylum, for the problems workers face.

There was little enthusiasm for the elections here, where voting is compulsory and voters number their priorities among candidates. One in five voters did not vote directly for any of the main bourgeois parties. Labor received only a third of direct votes, the worst showing since the 1930s Great Depression. Several state Labor governments were also heavily defeated in recent elections. Almost 6 percent cast spoiled ballots.

A new development was the Palmer United Party, whose anti-establishment populist appeal claimed 5.5 per-

cent of the vote. PUP is the creation of mining magnate Clive Palmer.

During the campaign, the Liberals kept a low profile on their plans to deepen the assault on working people. But the big-business press has been calling on the Liberal government to be more “ambitious” in enacting “far-reaching economic reform” to “lift productivity.”

The Sept. 7 *Age* reported that business groups would “renew their push to reduce penalty rates for workers on Sundays and public holidays — particularly in retail, tourism and hospitality — if Tony Abbott becomes prime minister.”

Ron Poulsen was the Communist League candidate for Senate from New South Wales in the federal elections.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 28, 1988

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thousands of people from across the country came to Washington the weekend of October 7-11 to mark the first anniversary of the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and to participate in actions demanding the government release more drugs for use by people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

The largest action was a rally and civil disobedience action on October 11 at the Food and Drug Administration office in Rockville, Md. More than 1,500 demonstrators blocked the entrance to the FDA building for more than nine hours.

Chanting “Shame, shame, shame” and “No more deaths,” protesters hung signs from flagpoles, burned Reagan in effigy, and lay down in the streets holding mock tombstones.

More than 350 police officers — in riot gear and many wearing rubber gloves — arrested 176 demonstrators.



October 28, 1963

Fidel Castro reported to the Cuban people over radio and TV Oct. 21 on the effects in Cuba of Hurricane Flora. It was a sober, but fighting and inspiring report. Describing the storm as the worst natural disaster ever to hit the island, the prime minister said Cuba had received “generous aid” from “socialist countries, and aid from capitalist countries as well.” Cuba had refused official aid, he said, from only “one single government, that of the United States, which the whole world knows is trying to destroy us.”

“What we demand is not aid from the United States,” said Castro, “what we demand is that they cease the blockade against our country. And we put the government of the United States on trial before world public opinion, to cease the criminal blockade which they maintain over our country, which has suffered a natural disaster.”



October 29, 1938

Under Kuomintang leadership more than 1,000,000 Chinese lives have been sacrificed. All the principal cities, railways and waterways of the country have been given up to the invader [Japan]. The defeatist tactics of the Chiang Kai-shek regime reached their logical conclusion at Canton. There through obvious and outright treachery, the most vital remaining center of Chinese communications was surrendered without a struggle.

Chiang’s tactic has been to hurl masses of ill-armed, unsupported soldiery in the path of the invaders. The sheer weight and courage of these unsung heroes and the magnitude of the operations themselves have lengthened the struggle for 15 months. But the treachery and ineptitude of the Kuomintang command, the refusal to mobilize the masses of the people, have finally borne their bitter fruit. Worse betrayals are yet to come.

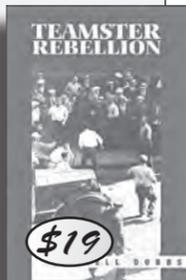
Teamster Rebellion by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle.

First in a four-volume series. The other books are *Teamster Power*, *Teamster Politics* and *Teamster Bureaucracy*.

Also in Spanish, Swedish, Farsi, French.

PathfinderPress.com



Protesters demand 'reform' and an end to deportations

US gov't steps up criminalization of immigrants

BY SETH GALINSKY

Thousands of protesters in more than 40 states turned out for demonstrations demanding that Congress pass immigration "reform" legislation and calling for an end to deportations. The Oct. 5 through 12 actions took place as the administration of President Barack Obama is stepping up measures that make it increasingly difficult for those the government has denied "proper" papers to live and work in the U.S.

The marches for "Immigrant Dignity and Respect" — including more than 2,000 in New York; some 2,000 in Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C.; and about 3,000 in Chicago — were backed by a wide range of labor unions and immigrant advocacy groups.

"I don't really know much about the actual law they're discussing," Marval Rouse, a laid-off member of Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ, which had a large contingent at the New York march, told the *Militant*. "But I have a lot of friends who are forced to live in the shadows. They need to be able to stay here and get work."

"We deserve basic rights," Gloria Ponce, a home-care worker, said at the Atlanta demonstration. "We're not criminals."

"Things are only getting worse for

us," factory worker Rafael Jiménez said at the Chicago action. "I have marched in Los Angeles and Chicago and I'll never stop until things change."

The immigration bill approved by the Senate June 27 would grant a provisional work permit to those who pass a background check along with other onerous requirements, including paying thousands of dollars, and holds out the possibility of permanent residency after 10 years.

The "road to legalization" would not be completed until what the bill calls the Comprehensive Southern Border Security Strategy is fully deployed. This includes 700 miles of fencing on the Mexican border, doubling the number of border patrol agents to more than 38,000, and making the E-Verify program that bosses use to find out the legal status of potential workers mandatory for all businesses.

The bill would mandate stepped-up prosecution of immigrants for "illegal" entry and initiate steps toward a national ID card for all workers.

It would also increase the number of "guest workers" with temporary work visas who can be deported if they quit or are fired. Berry pickers at Sakuma Farms in Washington state fighting for a union, higher wages and improved

working conditions have seen firsthand why the bosses want this program expanded in farms and factories. The company brought in guest workers last month and then made them keep picking berries when union supporters went on strike.

In 2006, immigrant workers organized massive mobilizations against the Sensenbrenner bill, passed by the House of Representatives, branding all work-



Sign at Oct. 5 Atlanta rally says, "Not one more deportation." Militant/Sam Manuel

Montreal exhibit builds support for Cuban Five



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

MONTREAL — Some 45 people turned out at the Simon Bolivar Cultural Center here Oct. 4 for the opening of "Humor from My Pen," an exhibit of political cartoons by Gerardo Hernández — one of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and imprisoned in the U.S. for more than 15 years.

The exhibit was organized by the Cuban Consulate General and the Fabio DiCelmo Committee for the Cuban 5. Sean O'Donohue from the Cuban 5 Committee, Consul General Alain González, and Venezuelan First Consul Mary Flores, spoke and musicians Mirelia Martín García and Lorenzo Márquez Gringas from Cubamanos, a group based in Manzanillo, Cuba, performed.

"I came because I learned about the case of the Cuban Five a month ago at a day camp organized by the YMCA and wanted to learn more," Linda Soares, a student at College Vieux Montréal, told the *Militant*.

— BEVERLY BERNARDO

ers without "proper" papers as felons. On May 1, some 2 million protested, shutting down scores of factories in what amounted to a nationwide political strike. This fight against criminalizing undocumented workers won broad sympathy among working people throughout the country and the bill went down to defeat.

As the immigration reform bill has stalled in the House of Representatives, opponents of deportations have debated what strategy is needed to advance the fight. A handful of groups have withdrawn their support to the bill, considering parts of it too onerous. Others have called for changes.

Elvira Arellano, a well-known immigration activist who was deported from the U.S. to Mexico in 2007, noted in an Oct. 9 column in New York's *El Diario* that relying on Democratic Party politicians to pass a "reform" bill has weakened the fight against deportations.

There are now only "a handful of organizations that continue, in an ongoing way, to demand the immediate end to deportations," she said. Arellano has remained active in defense of immigrant workers both in Mexico and the U.S.

"The majority of pro-immigrant rights, Latino and union organizations have become tools of the Democratic Party," she said.

"They tell us we should not challenge the president on his record of deportations," Arellano notes. "They tell us we should be more 'politically sophisticated.' ... This kind of 'political sophistication' has made us impotent."

A movement needs to be built in the streets to demand "ending deportations and the militarization of our borders and the passage of legalization," she wrote.

Sara Lobman in New York, Laura Anderson in Chicago and Janice Lynn in Atlanta contributed to this article.

Who are the Cuban Five?



Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino and René González are Cuban revolutionaries who during the 1990s accepted assignments from the Cuban government to gather information on the operations and plans of Cuban-American paramilitary groups based in southern Florida. These rightist outfits, organizing on U.S. soil with virtual impunity, have a long record of carrying out bombings, assassinations and other deadly attacks, both against targets in Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution in the United States, Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

On Sept. 12, 1998, the five were arrested by the FBI. They were framed up and convicted on a variety of charges, which included acting as unregistered agents of the Cuban government and possession of false identity documents. Without a shred of evidence, three were charged with "conspiracy to gather and transmit national defense information."

Hernández was also convicted of conspiracy to commit murder, based on the pretext that he bore responsibility for the Cuban government's 1996 shoot-down of two Brothers to the Rescue aircraft that had invaded Cuban airspace in disregard of Havana's repeated warnings. He is serving two life terms plus 15 years. His wife Adriana Pérez is barred from entering the United States.

All but René González remain in prison. He was allowed to return to Cuba in May this year, halfway through a three-year term of supervised release.

Protests to answer attack on rights of Haitians in Dominican Republic

BY SETH GALINSKY

A Sept. 23 ruling by the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic could strip citizenship from as many as 300,000 Dominicans of Haitian descent born after 1929.

In a 11-2 vote the court took advantage of a case filed by Dominican-born Juliana Deguis Pierre, 29, whose parents are Haitian, to issue a sweeping ruling denying "Dominican nationality" to anyone whose parents were not "legal" residents. Pierre had challenged the Central Electoral Board for withholding her identity card. The board is in charge of the country's civil registry, including issuing IDs and birth certificate copies.

"This is a racist, anti-Haitian ruling that violates the constitution," Antonio Pol Emil, president of the Dominican-Haitian Cultural Center in Santo Domingo, told the *Militant* by phone

Oct. 15.

The ruling could leave several generations of Dominicans of Haitian descent, who have no ties to Haiti and don't speak French or Creole, without citizenship in any country.

For decades hundreds of thousands of Haitians have crossed the border to work in factories and fields in the Dominican Republic.

"Thousands of Dominicans will find themselves blocked from exercising their fundamental rights, they will daily face the risk of massive deportations," notes an Oct. 1 statement by 14 human rights, democratic rights and community groups in the Dominican Republic.

A broad coalition has called for a protest in Santo Domingo Oct. 27, Paola Pelletier, a spokesperson for Centro Bonó, said by phone. "People will be coming from all over the country," she said.

Supporters of prisoner's fight in Calif. speak out against solitary

BY BETSEY STONE

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Supporters of the prisoners who carried out a 60-day hunger strike in California this summer spoke out at a public hearing here Oct. 9 in support of the prisoners' demands, including ending long-term solitary confinement.

The hearing, organized by California Senate and Assembly Public Safety Committee chairpersons Loni Hancock and Tom Ammiano, was called in response to the hunger strike after the governor and prison authorities refused to negotiate with the prisoners.

At the hearing, representatives of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation denied that the thousands of inmates in the Security Housing Units, commonly referred to as the "SHU," are held in conditions of solitary confinement.

"There is no 'solitary confinement' in California," asserted a CDCR fact-sheet handed out to the more than 200 people attending the hearing, "and the SHU is not 'solitary confinement.'" Prison Inspector General Robert Barton argued that SHU prisoners are allowed visitors, showers, TVs, access to a law library, exercise, medical visits, correspondence classes and can find ways to communicate with other prisoners.

Family members, ex-prisoners and others answered by describing the extreme isolation imposed in the SHU, where prisoners, often for years, see only the inside of a windowless 8 x 10 foot solitary cell and for very brief periods a slightly larger concrete solitary exercise pen. No phone calls. Visits are allowed through a glass barrier with no physical contact. After what is usually a long trip, it's not uncommon for family members hoping to visit their loved ones to find the prison on lockdown and be turned away.

'A torture chamber'

"The SHU is a torture chamber," said former prisoner Steven Czifra, who was one of the panelists at the hearing. He said during the first of his 12 years in prison he was a "model prisoner," but was put in the SHU after getting in a fistfight with another prisoner and then spitting on a guard who was taunting him, which was regarded as assault and battery against a guard. "They did everything to take my life, to break me and to annihilate my spirit," he said.

At the hearing Michael Stainer, CDCR director of Division of Adult

Institutions, characterized the hunger strike as a "mass disturbance." He admitted that hunger strikers were disciplined for their participation. The action involved some 30,000 prisoners when it began July 8 and some 100 determined inmates when prisoners' leaders decided to suspend it Sept. 4.

Inspector General Barton testified that 984 prisoners have been in the SHU for more than five years, some for decades. He said about 60 percent are put there for an indeterminate period because they have been "validated" as gang members or members of a group prison authorities consider disruptive. Others are placed there for a specified period as punishment for an offense.

One of the prisoners' demands is for an end to a practice called "debriefing" — a system that keeps inmates accused of gang affiliation in long-term isolation until they finger others.

Dolores Canales, whose son is in the Pelican Bay SHU, pointed out that thousands of prisoners continue to be in the SHU on the basis of another prisoner's statement, or "evidence" such as artwork deemed gang-related.

Connie Pedroza, whose son has been in the Pelican Bay SHU for 15 years, said he was put there on the basis of exchanging a birthday card with his cousin, who was "validated."

Panelist Margaret Winter, associate director of the National Prison Project



Militant/Betsy Stone

Former inmate Steven Czifra speaks at rally against solitary confinement Oct. 9 outside Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., before participants enter hearing there on its widespread practice.

for the American Civil Liberties Union, said that it's estimated that on any given day there are 80,000 prisoners in the U.S. held in solitary confinement.

She described litigation by the ACLU in Mississippi that preceded a reduction in the numbers in solitary by 85 percent, with many of those released needing mental health treatment. In some states cutbacks in solitary confinement have been fueled in part by budget crises, she said, given the higher cost of keeping a person in solitary.

"Beyond the pale," was how Assemblyman Ammiano, who chaired the hearing, characterized the policies related to long-term solitary confinement. He and Senator Hancock both said they hoped to develop legislation related to the issues raised by the pris-

oners. Hancock and other legislators are asking CDCR officials for more data on the effects of solitary confinement.

"I would suggest that we stop asking the California Department of Corrections to govern themselves," said former prisoner Czifra in response to questioning from the legislators. "We don't need to research anything. We already know without a doubt that long-term solitary confinement is torture."

Before entering the hearing room, opponents of solitary confinement held a rally on the state Capitol steps.

"They made a milestone," said Marie Levin, sister of a hunger striker, who chaired the rally. "They were able to unite and to win international support against the torture of solitary confinement."

Bangladesh: Another 7 workers sacrificed on altar of profit

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Another seven garment workers were recently sacrificed on the altar of profit in the fastest growing center of world garment production, Bangladesh, where rapid and blood-soaked capitalist development has swelled the industrial working class, shaken age-old social roles of women and placed the struggle between capital and labor on a higher foundation.

The seven workers were killed Oct. 8 in a fire at the Aswad Composite Mills factory in Gazipur, some 25 miles north of Dhaka, the capital.

"The fire started in the knitting department on the second floor, which is also a warehouse, and then spread upward," Kalpona Akter, executive director of the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity, who visited the burned site, said in a phone interview from Dhaka Oct. 14. "The top floor was badly burnt. Yarn and chemicals stored there made the fire spread very fast and

workers were unable to put it down."

Some 50 workers have been reported injured, some with severe burns.

It could have been a lot worse, Akter said. Most of the 3,000 workers employed at Aswad Composite had left for the day, leaving some 170 working overtime inside.

On Oct. 11 workers in Gazipur held a meeting to protest the needless deaths and injuries and an attack on a demonstration they staged the previous day. They also demanded payment of their Oct. 15 Eid al-Adha holiday bonus and wages. Protesters clashed with cops, who fired rubber bullets and tear gas, injuring at least 30 people.

Garment workers have organized some of their biggest actions in recent months, with rallies, strikes and demonstrations. Central demands have been safer workplaces and a raise in the monthly minimum wage from \$38 to \$103. They have also intensified efforts to organize unions in the plants, which have been met by bosses with stiff resistance.

"There is a holiday here now, so there aren't many demonstrations," Akter said. "But we will resume our actions for a raise in the minimum wage and safety when work starts again."

In April the shoddy Rana Plaza, with five garment factories, collapsed, killing more than 1,100 workers. This followed a fire at Tazreen Fashions in November last year where more than 120 perished.

A recent study of Next Collections Ltd., which produces for Gap and Old Navy and employs 3,750 workers, shows bosses keep two sets of books, a public one and a real one. The company is part

of the Ha-Meem Group, Bangladesh's second largest garment exporter with more than 25 factories and some 30,000 employees.

The real book shows that workers put in 17-hour shifts, seven days a week, sometimes not ending until 5 a.m.

Current and former employees say bosses often short wages, regularly fire workers illegally, force pregnant women to resign, deny maternity leaves and holiday pay, and physically abuse and harass workers who try to form unions.

The outcry by liberal nongovernmental organizations and politicians from the U.S. to Europe over the mass deaths at Rana Plaza and Tazreen Fashions has included calls for imperialist governments to impose investment and trade restrictions to ostensibly "help" workers there. Meanwhile, the brutal but progressive economic and social development continues apace. Garment exports climbed 24 percent from July through September compared to last year. These important changes are taking place amidst increased combativity and initial moves toward organization by the growing working class — the one force capable of imposing safer conditions.

Many companies are moving their operations from China, the world's biggest garment producer, where workers have won substantial wage increases.

Bangladesh has 4 million garment workers and exports \$20 billion in clothes annually. Vietnam employs 1.5 million with \$13 billion in exports and Cambodia has 615,000 with about \$5 billion in exports. Capitalists have begun to eye Myanmar and Ethiopia as possible new, more profitable options.

For further reading ...

"Better sex offenders programs, better substance abuse programs, better job training programs for prisoners — these reforms are all designed to do the same thing as gangs in the prison yard and corruption in the cell blocks. Everything is organized to turn cons against one another, to reinforce the worst dog-eat-dog values of bourgeois society, to differentiate the incarcerated. The fight of the working class is the opposite."

— Jack Barnes from *Capitalism's World Disorder*



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

Fidel Castro: US imperialists fear power of Che's example

Below is an excerpt from "A Necessary Introduction," written in June 1968 by Fidel Castro for The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara. It is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. The diary tells the story of the 1966-67 guerrilla campaign Guevara led in Bolivia to forge a continent-wide revolutionary movement of workers and peasants and open the road to socialist revolution in South America. Copyright © 1994 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FIDEL CASTRO

It was Che's custom during his days as a guerrilla to carefully record his daily observations in a personal diary. During long marches over rugged and difficult terrain, in the midst of damp woods, when the lines of men, always hunched over from the weight of their packs, ammunition, and weapons, would stop for a moment to rest, or when the column would receive orders to halt and make camp at the end of an exhausting day's march, one would see Che — as he was from the beginning affectionately nicknamed by the Cubans — take out a small notebook and, with his tiny and nearly illegible doctor's handwriting, write his notes.

What he was able to save from these notes he later used in writing his magnificent historical narratives of the revo-



Rally in Santa Clara, Cuba, October 1997 welcomes back remains of Ernesto Che Guevara, who was executed Oct. 9, 1967, by Bolivian government after consulting Washington.

lutionary war in Cuba — accounts full of revolutionary, educational, and human content.

This time, thanks to his invariable habit of jotting down the main events of each day, we have at our disposal detailed, rigorously exact, and priceless information on the heroic final months of his life in Bolivia.

These notes, not written for publication, served as a tool in the constant evaluation of events, situations, and men. They also served as an outlet for the expression of his keenly observant and analytic spirit, often laced with a sharp sense of humor. They are soberly written and form a coherent whole from beginning to end.

It should be kept in mind that they were written during rare moments of rest in the midst of a heroic and superhuman physical effort. Also to be remembered are his exhausting obligations as leader of a guerrilla detachment in the difficult first stages of a struggle of this nature, which unfolded under incredibly harsh material conditions. This reveals once more his habits of work and his will of steel. ...

The Cuban revolution and its relation to the guerrilla movement are repeatedly referred to in the diary. Some may interpret our decision to publish it as an act of provocation that will give the enemies of the revolution — the U.S. imperial-

ists and their allies, the Latin American oligarchs — ammunition for redoubling their efforts to blockade, isolate, and attack Cuba.

Those who judge the facts this way should remember that U.S. imperialism has never needed a pretext to carry out its crimes anywhere in the world, and that its efforts to crush the Cuban revolution began as soon as our country passed its first revolutionary law. This course stems from the obvious and well-known fact that imperialism is the policeman of world reaction, the systematic promoter of counterrevolution, and the protector of the most backward and inhuman social structures that remain in the world.

Cuba's solidarity with the revolutionary movement may be the pretext, but it will never be the real cause of U.S. aggression. To refuse solidarity in order to avoid providing a pretext is a ridiculous, ostrich-like policy that has nothing to do with the internationalist character of the social revolutions of today. To refuse solidarity to the revolutionary movement not only does not avoid providing a pretext; it is in effect a show of solidarity with U.S. imperialism and its policy of dominating and enslaving the world. ...

The U.S. imperialists fear the power of this example and everything that may help to spread it. The diary is the living expression of an extraordinary

personality; a lesson in guerrilla warfare written in the heat and tension of daily events, as flammable as gunpowder; a demonstration in life that Latin Americans are not powerless in face of the enslavers of entire peoples and of their mercenary armies. That is the diary's intrinsic value, and that is what has kept them from publishing it up until now.

Also among those who may be interested in keeping the diary unpublished are the pseudorevolutionaries, opportunists, and charlatans of every stripe. These people call themselves Marxists, Communists, and other such titles. They have not hesitated, however, to call Che a mistaken adventurer or, when they speak more benignly, an idealist whose death marked the swan song of revolutionary armed struggle in Latin America. "If Che himself," they exclaim, "the greatest exponent of these ideas and an experienced guerrilla fighter, died in the guerrilla struggle and his movement failed to liberate Bolivia, it only shows how mistaken he was!" How many of these miserable creatures were happy at Che's death, not even blushing at the thought that their positions and line of reasoning coincide completely with those of imperialism and the most reactionary oligarchs!

That is how they justify themselves. That is how they justify their treacherous leaders who, at a given moment, did not hesitate to play at armed struggle, with the true aim — as could be seen later — of destroying the guerrilla detachments, putting the brakes on revolutionary action, and imposing their own shameful and ridiculous political schemes, because they were absolutely incapable of carrying out any other line. That is how they justify those who do not want to fight, who will never fight for the people and their liberation. That is how they justify those who have made a caricature of revolutionary ideas, turning them into an opium-like dogma with neither content nor message for the masses; those who have converted the organizations of popular struggle into instruments of conciliation with domestic and foreign exploiters; and those who advocate policies that have nothing to do with the genuine interests of the exploited peoples of this continent.

October BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25%
DISCOUNT

The Bolivian Diary of Che Guevara
by Ernesto Che Guevara
Provides a day-by-day chronicle of 11-month guerrilla campaign carried out in Bolivia 1966-67. Offers insight into practical activity, leadership capacity and strategic thinking of outstanding communist leader of 20th century. \$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

Maurice Bishop Speaks
by Maurice Bishop
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

The Revolution Betrayed
by Leon Trotsky
\$20. **Special price: \$15**

By Any Means Necessary
by Malcolm X
Speeches and interviews from the last year of Malcolm's life. \$16. **Special price: \$12**

The Challenge of the Left Opposition (1928-29)
by Leon Trotsky
\$30. **Special price: \$22.50**

¡Qué lejos hemos llegado los esclavos!
(How Far We Slaves Have Come!)
by Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro
\$10. **Special price: \$7.50**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL OCTOBER 31

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4025 S. Western Ave. Zip: 90062. Tel: (323) 295-2600. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net
San Francisco: 5482 Mission St. Zip: 94112-1015. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 7100 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 306A. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 757-8869. E-mail: swpmiami@att.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 806 W. Washington Blvd. Suite 202. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 455-0111. E-mail: Chicagoswp@att.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 707-1779. E-mail: swpdesmoines@fastmail.fm

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 416 E. Hennepin Ave., Suite 214. Zip: 55414. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

NEBRASKA, Lincoln: Tel: (402) 217-4906. E-mail: swplincn@windstream.net
Omaha: 3302 Q St. (Upstairs) P.O. Box 7908. Zip: 68107. Tel: (402) 779-7697. E-mail: swpomaha@fastmail.net

NEW YORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 3701 Pulaski Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 225-1270. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-50L. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 476-0733. E-mail: houstonswp@att.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 143 Kennedy St. NW, Suite 15. Zip: 20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@qwestoffice.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail: clc_can@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 4/125 Grafton Rd., Grafton. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140. Tel: (09) 369-1223. E-mail: clauack@xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: (020) 7613-2466. E-mail: clondon@fastmail.fm
Manchester: Room 301, 3rd floor, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. Postal code: M1 2EH. Tel: (016) 1478-2496. E-mail: clmanchr@gmail.com

Only working class can enforce safety

No worker has to die or be maimed on the job!

But our lives and limbs *are* sacrificed day in and day out as the capitalists cut every corner they can in cutthroat competition for profits and market share.

Bosses in Bangladesh have created workplace death traps as they capture a big share of world garment production. The workers, whose ranks are rapidly expanding, are beginning to organize and resist, while factory owners are fighting tooth and nail to keep unions out.

U.S. coal mining bosses, whose production and profits have been contracting, are also looking to shore up their profits on the backs of miners.

The recent mine deaths in the U.S. have taken place during the government “shutdown,” top union officials are quick to point out. And it’s no surprise that the government doesn’t consider workplace safety inspections among the “essential” services kept running — as it does the functions of cops, prison guards, court officers, secret police agents and military personnel. But it’s dead wrong and disorienting to point

to the lack of government inspections as the problem. Seventeen coal miners have been sacrificed on the altar of profit so far this year — and not one had to die.

After hundreds died in Bangladeshi garment factories, several international clothing chains in the U.S. and Europe cried crocodile tears and promised to change their ways. The government ordered more inspections. Audits were carried out by “pro-worker” nongovernmental organizations based in the wealthy and “civilized” nations. And imperialist powers bluffed and threatened to impose trade restrictions to enforce safety. But workers keep getting killed.

Only workers have an interest in safe working conditions. Only organization and use of union power — including the ability to shut down production — can enforce it. In the absence of workers’ struggle inspectors end up serving as cover for the bosses. That’s why the bosses are not afraid of inspectors or audits. They *do* fear workers organizing and bringing our collective power to bear.

‘Militant’ victory against prison censorship

Continued from front page

issue of *The Militant*,” Fleckenstein wrote. “The literature review committee decided to overturn their previous decision. The issue of *The Militant* will be allowed in.”

“We are pleased the Literature Review Committee saw the error in its ways and on its own decided to reconsider and allow the *Militant* to be distributed to inmates in Florida prisons,” Stevenson told the paper.

The issue was impounded by prison authorities Sept. 5 on the basis that a front page news article in the July 22 issue “encourages hunger strikes.”

Since the fight started, the *Militant* has been told by inmates in another Florida prison and in Washington state that they also have been denied their subscriptions.

The Florida prisoner, a long-time subscriber, said he hasn’t gotten an issue in over six weeks. The Washington inmate said three issues of the *Militant* were seized by prison authorities, the one dated July 22 and the next two issues with follow-up articles on the hunger strike.

“We intend to press this fight,” *Militant* editor Doug Nelson said after hearing about the Florida Corrections Department decision to reverse itself and let the paper into state prisons there. “We are going to challenge efforts by prison authorities to censor the socialist press. We have just started to reach out and win support for this fight, which is a fight in the interests of all working people, inside and outside prison walls, as well as all defenders of basic constitutional rights.”

Censorship of news from prisoners

The *Militant* has begun to learn about censorship of publications advocating prisoners’ rights or for running articles by prisoners.

One of these, the *San Francisco Bay View*, a nationally-circulated Black newspaper that has printed articles about and by inmates fighting solitary confinement, had a March issue censored at the Pelican Bay State Prison in California — where the hunger strike was initiated — for running an article headlined “Prisoners’ peaceful protest to resume July 8 if demands are not met.”

Before being printed in the *Bay View*, the article, written by four inmates, was circulated to Gov. Jerry Brown, the state Department of Corrections, the Pelican Bay warden, and forwarded to newspapers throughout the state. The article was covered by numerous television stations, including those broadcast inside the prison. And the authors — Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa, Arturo Castellanos, Todd Ashker and Antonio Guillen — were allowed to circulate the article among each other, which was the only way it could have been written from solitary confinement.

Nonetheless, prison authorities decided to prevent other prisoners from reading the article because it “plans to disrupt the order, or breach the security of any institution.”

In May, the paper ran an article by five inmates — Sondai Dumisani, Abasi Ganda, Mutope Duguma, Abdul O. Shakur and Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa — who formed the Pelican Bay Human Rights Movement First Amendment Campaign to fight the censorship.

“I asked one officer how many times have the *L.A. Times*, *USA Today*, *Sacramento Bee* or *Triplicate* been mail-stopped?” the First Amendment committee members wrote. “He initially said he didn’t know, but once I pressed him, he said, admittedly, ‘Never.’”

The *Bay View* was barred, the May article said, because prison authorities “hate the fact that someone would even provide a platform for prisoners to express themselves.”

“The *Militant*, like our paper, the *San Francisco Bay View*, has been censored for its coverage of the recent California hunger strike,” Mary Ratcliff, editor of the *Bay View*, wrote to the *Militant*. “Because the strike involved 30,000 prisoners at its peak, making it the largest in U.S. history, and lasted 60 days — 40 prisoners having starved themselves that entire time — it is unarguably newsworthy. In California, the press is prohibited by law from visiting prisoners to hear their side of the story, so coverage is limited to statements from prison authorities. Mainstream press coverage, therefore, is not challenged; those newspapers are distributed to prisoner subscribers. Newspapers like the *Militant* and the *Bay View*, however, that report from the perspective of peacefully protesting prisoners and their families and supporters are challenged. Our readers, both inside and outside of prison, are entitled to the whole story. Constitutional rights do not stop at the prison gate.”

“We offer our solidarity with the *Bay View*,” Nelson said. “We are fighting the censorship of our paper to help beat back efforts to deprive any inmate of the news they want. It is an important part of breaking down barriers between prison life and life outside those walls.”

JOIN THE FIGHT

Help get out the word. Print out copies of this article and get them around.

Get statements of support for the *Militant’s* appeal from defenders of workers rights and free speech.

Send a check or money order to The *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Prisoners Rights Fight.”

If you are a prisoner let the *Militant* know if you haven’t been receiving your subscription.



Contribute to the Militant Prisoners’ Fund. Send a check or money order to the *Militant* earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund.”

Zero jobs created

Continued from front page

cies. Over the past year through mid-2013, world trade volume “has lost its mojo,” remaining virtually stagnant, reported the *Financial Times*.

Since December 2008 the Fed has maintained interest rates at near zero and through its “quantitative easing” program purchased hundreds of billions of mortgage-backed securities from U.S. banks as well as their own government bonds. As of October it holds \$3.7 trillion in its coffers — a 300 percent increase in its balance sheet over the past five years — based on the hope that bosses will borrow the easy money, boost production and hire workers.

But with the slowdown, it’s not profitable for the great majority of bosses to invest in equipment and labor to expand production. Instead, they mostly tend to sit on hoards of cash reserves or seek higher returns through investing it in stocks or other forms of speculative bets, such as on the rise or fall of various kinds of commercial paper.

The one thing the Fed policies could be credited with is postponing some *financial* crises at the cost of setting up bigger crises down the road. For example, the self-fulfilling superstition that the Fed’s policies increase stock prices have likely promoted stock speculation, propping up those markets further beyond their real value and increasing financial instability. “Collective belief that Fed actions simply make stocks go up, and so they have,” financial analyst John Hussman wrote in August.

Persistently high unemployment

Meanwhile, working people bear the brunt of the economic slowdown, which is still in its initial stages. Lacking control over the root causes of the crisis, bosses are reacting by going after our living standards, working conditions and unions. And they are aided in this endeavor by persistently high unemployment, which they use to foster competition among working people.

With the government “shutdown,” the Labor Department has not released its unemployment figures for September. Meanwhile, other polls provide a picture more in tune with workers’ experiences than those cooked up by government-paid statisticians.

“We’ve Got Your Jobless Report,” headlined an Oct. 7 *Investor’s Business Daily* article. “Unlike the numbers released each month by the Labor Department,” it said, “ours haven’t been crunched, tweaked, twisted, seasonably adjusted or otherwise tortured to tell a comforting story.”

An IBD/TIPP Poll conducted in early October asking, “how many members of your household are currently unemployed and are looking for employment,” reported the numbers unemployed is 47.9 million.

“Out of a workforce of 154 million, that yields a gross unemployment rate of 31%. Among all households, 26% have at least one member looking for work,” reported *Investor’s Business Daily*.

As the front page chart shows, the disparity between the Federal Reserve’s money-printing programs carried out under the rubric of “jobs creation” and the actual employment situation couldn’t be more stark.

On one hand, the percentage of the population with a job plummeted during the 2008-2009 recession by nearly 5 percentage points to around 58.5 percent, where it has remained for four years — an unprecedented amount of time without any postrecession jobs recovery. On the other hand is an equally unprecedented explosion in the Federal Reserve’s asset balance as a result of its massive money-printing scheme — to the tune of more than \$3.7 trillion!

We are reassured the government is going to keep the pedal to the metal with its job-creating monetary policies. Meanwhile, not a single Democratic or Republican party politician has even suggested implementing an actual government jobs program of any kind, as the U.S. rulers did in response to rising workers’ struggles during the later part of the Great Depression. This, unlike monetary and fiscal tweaking, would actually put millions to work building and repairing things workers need — at the expense of capitalists’ profits.

Only the Socialist Workers Party today is raising the need for working people to wage a fight for a government-funded public works program — to help break down the competition between workers and boost the confidence and fighting spirit of the working class.