

Join Socialist Workers Party subscription, fund drives!

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Halfway through the Socialist Workers Party subscription drive, we've fallen a little behind in the effort to sign up 2,300 new and renewing readers to the *Militant*. But the response to the paper — from steelworkers locked out by ATI and fighting concessions at ArcelorMittal who've written about their fights, to enthusiasm about the paper's working-class perspective on world and labor politics from those who've gotten subscriptions and books on their doorstep — shows that by organizing a thought-out and sustained campaign we can reach and surpass our goal.

A team from Washington, D.C., went to Steelton, Pennsylvania, just

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Socialist Workers Party drive for new readers!

Help win 2,300 subscribers
Sept. 5 - Nov. 3 (week 4)

Country	quota	sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Omaha	40	39	98%
Lincoln	12	8	67%
Washington, D.C.	110	56	51%
Oakland	180	90	50%
Chicago*	175	86	49%
Atlanta	160	78	49%
Seattle	125	58	46%
Philadelphia	120	52	43%
Los Angeles	140	53	38%
Twin Cities	65	24	37%
New York	380	135	36%
Boston	70	24	34%
Miami	120	27	23%
Total U.S.	1697	730	43%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Manchester	100	73	73%
London	100	55	55%
Total U.K.	200	128	64%
CANADA			
Calgary	65	29	45%
Montreal	80	35	44%
Total Canada	145	64	44%
AUSTRALIA	75	37	49%
NEW ZEALAND	65	40	62%
PRISONERS*	20	14	70%
Total	2202	1013	44%
Should be	2300	1150	50%

*Raised quota

Lac-Mégantic rail safety fight is 'needed now more than ever'

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — “The Oct. 11 march for rail safety will be successful and it's needed more than ever,” André Lachapelle, an activist in the Sécu-Rail Committee in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, told the *Militant* in a phone interview Oct. 5.

Sécu-Rail is part of the Citizens'

FIGHT FRAME-UP OF QUEBEC RAIL WORKERS! — Editorial, page 9

Coalition and Groups Committed to Rail Safety that's organizing the march demanding the Lac-Mégantic City Council seek a court injunction to bar the Central Maine and Quebec Railway from transporting dangerous goods through the town until it repairs its unsafe tracks. Sécu-Rail activists have provided photographic documentation of the dangerous conditions on the tracks.

In 2013 Lac-Mégantic was the scene of a catastrophic Montreal,

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Moscow's bombs shore up brutal Assad gov't in Syria

Consequence of Washington's 'reset' deals



Above, Qasioun News via AP video; inset, Reuters Moscow, under guise of stopping Islamic State, has attacked opponents of Assad dictatorship in western Syria. Above, damage in Dair al-Asafeer village, outside Damascus, after Russian bombing raid. Inset, mass demonstration against Assad in Idlib in Dec. 2011.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The consequences of the Obama administration's accord with the Iranian government and “reset” with Moscow are unfolding in the expansion of Russian military intervention in Syria. Daily airstrikes by Russian warplanes since Sept. 30, ostensibly directed against Islamic State, have mainly targeted other opponents of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's

brutal regime.

At the same time, the U.S. “mistake” in bombing a Doctors Without Borders hospital in northern Afghanistan underlined the unintended but deadly repercussions of Washington's increased use of bombs and drones to defend its imperialist

Continued on page 4

Fiat Chrysler workers vote down contract to protest two-tier wages



Deep hostility to two-tier wages and benefits took auto bosses and union officials by surprise. Above, workers campaign against contract outside union meeting in Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 27.

BY ILONA GERSH

CHICAGO — In a vote that surprised both the auto bosses and top officials of the United Auto Workers, 36,000 union members at Fiat Chrysler rejected a proposed contract by a two-to-one margin. This is the first time a national contract negotiated between the UAW officials and a major carmaker has been voted down in

more than 30 years.

Company bosses and UAW officials thought that a \$3,000 signing bonus and some pay raises would sell the contract. But they were out of touch with the level of deep hostility to the two-tier deal, especially among younger workers.

“The vote represented our rejection

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Protest IRS attack on IFCO for its solidarity with Cuba

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — The Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization is asking that people send letters to the Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew to demand the government halt its plan to revoke IFCO's tax-exempt status.

“The agent who contacted us said

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

CUNY faculty, workers protest years of no wage hike, contract
New Zealand hardware store workers fight ‘flexible’ rosters

Arson at Planned Parenthood clinics targets women’s rights

BY BILL ARTH

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Arson attacks at two Planned Parenthood clinics on the West Coast — in Pullman, Washington, Sept. 4 and in this suburb northwest of Los Angeles Sept. 30 — are aimed at intimidating supporters of a woman’s right to choose abortion.

The firebombing here occurred the day after Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards testified at a hearing of the House Oversight Committee in Washington, D.C., organized by Rep. Jason Chaffetz, an opponent of women’s right to choose who wants to cut off all federal funding to the group.

The hearing was called to take advantage of videos released since July by David Daleiden, from the so-called Center for Medical Progress, an anti-abortion organization. Actors hired by Daleiden posed as representatives of a fake company trying to buy fetal tissue for medical research and secretly recorded the discussions, including about money, with Planned Parenthood doctors.

“Planned Parenthood helps patients who want to donate tissue for fetal tissue research, following clear guidance that goes well above and beyond the legal requirements in this area,” said Planned Parenthood spokesman Eric Ferrero. “This work is not about ‘harvesting’ or ‘selling’ or ‘profiting.’”

“Despite Mr. Daleiden’s nearly three-year effort to entrap Planned Parenthood, he failed to succeed in convincing even a single affiliate to enter into a procurement contract with his fake company,” said Richards in a written statement to the congressional hearing.

“Doctors who provide abortion, as

well as their families, often face harassment,” she noted in her testimony. “And after this recent smear campaign it’s only gotten worse.”

The arson attack in eastern Washington left the Pullman clinic, which provides a variety of health services but does not perform abortions, almost totally destroyed, forcing Planned Parenthood to look for a new location.

In an Oct. 2 visit to the Thousand Oaks clinic, a broken window was boarded up and crews were working to repair the damage and install more security equipment. A group of four anti-abortion protesters held signs near the driveway to the clinic.

Much of the damage was the result of water from the sprinkler system, which rapidly contained the fire.

About six weeks earlier, windows at the center were broken by rocks. “We’re no strangers to harassment,” Jenna Tosh, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties, told the *Los Angeles Daily News* Oct. 1. “The attack that happened last night is unacceptable and will not be successful.”

The Thousand Oaks clinic, which provides cancer screenings, birth control, abortions and testing for sexually transmitted diseases, reopened Oct. 5.

In response to the attempt to cut federal funding, thousands rallied in cities across the country Sept. 29. “I am proud to say I stand with Planned Parenthood,” Lisette, 18, a student who works with the group but did not want her last name made public, told the rally of 300 in Los Angeles. “I’m going to fight just like everyone is fighting today.”

‘As long as ATI doesn’t budge, we’ll be out here’



Regina Stinson

WASHINGTON, Pa. — Locked-out workers at the Allegheny Technologies Inc. plant here held a “friends and family” night on the picket line Sept. 23. We put it out to everyone to bring spouses and kids. The 84-year-old mother of one steelworker was one of 200 at shift change yelling at the scabs and demanding a fair contract at ATI.

We were out from 5:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. Locked-out steelworkers cooked hot dogs for everyone. Using a “bat-light” we projected “Solidarity in Steel” and “Fair Contract Now” over the buildings in the plant.

Now, we are in the beginning stages of either trying to get a shed built or renting an office trailer to prepare for winter. We were locked out Aug. 15. As long as ATI doesn’t budge from its last and final offer, we’ll be out here. Teachers, coal miners and steelworkers from other locals stop by and support us.

— SKIP LONGDON

Skip Longdon is president of USW Local 7139-5 in Washington, Pennsylvania

Rail safety fight in Lac-Mégantic

Continued from front page

Maine and Atlantic oil train derailment, explosion and fire that killed 47 people and wiped out the downtown. Federal prosecutors have tried to pin the blame on Tom Harding, the locomotive engineer and only “crew” on the train, and train controller Richard Labrie. Both workers, who are members of Local 1976 of the United Steelworkers union, face possible life in prison on 47 counts of criminal negligence causing death, as does former company official Jean Demaître.

The government and rail bosses claim Harding didn’t set enough handbrakes. But, as was company policy, he left the engine running and the air brakes en-

gaged. Because of poor company maintenance a fire broke out on the engine. The fire crew and a Montreal, Maine and Atlantic representative, who was sent to the scene, then shut the engine down. When Harding was called by the railroad and told of the fire, he volunteered to return to the train, but was told he shouldn’t worry about it, they had someone else there. Later, when the air brakes bled out, the train rolled into Lac-Mégantic and derailed.

“It was not the fault of the workers,” said Lachapelle. “It was the fault of the government and the company. In fact, the federal government was most responsible. It let the MMA run its trains

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THE MILITANT

Fight against cop brutality, killings

Ongoing protests against cop abuse and killings are having an impact, forcing the propertied rulers to take steps to rein in their police. The ‘Militant’ covers these struggles as well as discussions on the role of the cops in propping up capitalist rule and how to end it.



Protest in Chicago Aug. 20 demanding cop who killed Rekia Boyd be fired.

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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.

SWP subscription drive

Continued from front page
outside Harrisburg, where there’s an old Bethlehem Steel mill now owned by ArcelorMittal. “We went door to door on three different streets and sold five subscriptions,” reports Ned Measel. “We didn’t run into any steelworkers, but sold a paper to the wife and daughter of a worker from the mill.”

“One of the new subscribers is a retired paperworker who is Puerto Rican,” Measel said. “He also took some flyers to show his pastor for the Nov. 7 meeting with Kenia Serrano in Washington.” (See details on the upcoming visit to the U.S. by Serrano, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, on page 7.)

On Oct. 10 SWP members and others from around the East Coast will take part in the “Justice or Else” march in Washington. Called by the Nation of Islam on the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March, the event has been broadly built among those involved in struggles against police brutality, frame-ups and incarceration. It will be a good opportunity to meet young fighters who will be interested in the revolutionary program of the party, presented in the *Militant* and books from Pathfinder.

Several of these books are on special for those who subscribe. Nicholas Romak, a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Morris, Illinois, took advantage of this to get *Teamster Politics* along with a subscription. The book is the third in a four-book series by Farrell Dobbs, a central leader of the labor battles that forged the Teamsters as a fighting union in Minneapolis and the Upper Midwest in the 1930s. It describes the fight to carry out an independent

working-class political course, including the need for workers to break politically from the bosses and organize our own labor party — a timely question for today.

Alyson Kennedy talked to Romak on his doorstep. She said he identified with the campaign against the Canadian government’s frame-up of railroad workers for the Lac-Mégantic oil train disaster.

“The companies blame labor when they are the ones who do everything to increase their profits,” Romak said. “I was working as a contractor at ExxonMobil when the company told us we have to take a pay cut or they would get rid of us. I brought the issue to the union but nothing was done.” He quit, and was out of work for more than a month.

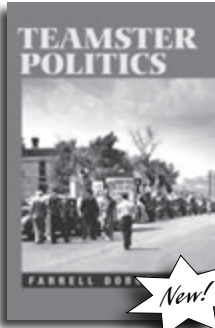
“Morris is a rural town west of Chicago, where there are a lot of gigantic warehouses owned by Walmart, Costco and others,” Kennedy said. “We plan to go back to that area next weekend.”

We’ve had to raise the goal for subscriptions from prisoners; in just four weeks we’ve gotten two new readers and 12 renewals from workers behind bars. The newspaper often gets passed around once it gets within prison walls. Many of those renewing include a note. “*Militant* newspaper is very informative to population here at this institution,” says one reader from Pennsylvania. “Please keep up the great reporting.”

“I would like an article on Florida not having parole for its prisoners, when a majority of other states offer parole,” says a subscriber incarcerated there.

To join in the subscription effort, contact the party organization nearest you (see list on page 8).

Special book offers for *Militant* subscribers



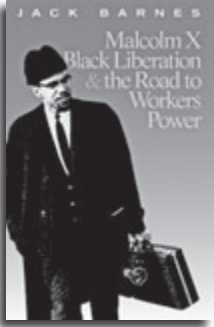
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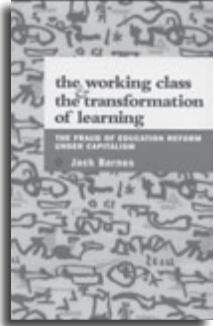
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Also in Spanish, French, Icelandic, Swedish, Farsi, Greek

If you subscribe or renew, these special offers are for you.
Contact a distributor listed on page 8.

Canada: ‘Workers need to organize a labor party’



Militant photos by François Bradette

CALGARY, Alberta — “Workers need to organize a labor party based on the unions to fight for the needs of working people and take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers,” said Joseph Young, Communist League candidate in the federal parliamentary elections, at a

candidates forum here Sept. 29. “The Cuban Revolution is the outstanding example of what workers are capable of.”

More than 200 residents of Calgary Skyview riding attended the event, where six candidates spoke. The Conservative Party incumbent did not attend. The sharpest debate was around the call, supported by the New Democratic Party, for increasing the minimum wage to \$15. Liberal Party candidate Darshan Kang spoke against, saying, “It would hurt the small businessmen who are the backbone of the Canadian economy” and that “anyway this measure would touch only 1 percent of the population.” Stephen Garvey of Democratic Advancement said higher wages “would make the Canadian economy less competitive.”

“We need \$15 an hour now and not in three years as the NDP proposes and we need to organize all workers into the unions,” said Young. “It’s through our own activity — in the streets, through strikes and other united actions — that workers can defend our interests.”

— MICHEL DUGRÉ

SWP fund enables party to reach youth, fighting workers

BY JOHN STUDER

Halfway into the Socialist Workers Party’s \$100,000 fund drive, we are making up some ground toward goals and collections that would meet our quota — but we have a ways to go.

The annual fund underwrites the party’s participation in politics — from international trips to collaborate with fellow supporters of the Cuban Revolution to work with opponents of the frame-up against rail workers Tom Harding and Richard Labrie in Quebec to helping build protests against police brutality.

“We’re sending a check for \$2,330 for week four,” Chicago fund organizer

John Hawkins wrote. “We’re getting closer to being on time. If we continue along these lines we should be able to surpass our increased goal of \$11,000.”

Chicago is one of four areas that have raised their goals. More are needed.

“We raised an additional \$750 in pledges,” Ruth Robinett wrote from Omaha, Nebraska. “This will take us substantially over our quota.”

From Fiat Chrysler and the other Big Three auto companies pressing to keep two-tier wages that divide and weaken workers to ATI, U.S. Steel and ArcelorMittal demanding concessions from steelworkers, attacks by the bosses and their government are radicalizing workers. The fund helps the SWP to reach them. Join us in getting new pledges and contributions!

John Studer is the 2015 fund director.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA Oakland

The Deepening Crisis in Syria and the Mideast. Speaker: Willie Cotton, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

GEORGIA Atlanta

The 1915 Lynching of Leo Frank: Capitalism’s World Crisis and the Fight Against Jew-Hatred Today. Speaker: Lisa Potash, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

CANADA Montreal

Growing Capitalist World Disorder. Build a Labor Party Based on Our Unions. Vote Communist League. Speaker: Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate in Montreal Papineau. Sat., Oct. 17. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St. Denis #204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

Party-Building Fund Week 4

Area	Quota	Collected	%
Oakland*	\$14,500	\$7,635	53%
Atlanta	\$8,600	\$4,230	49%
Omaha*	\$1,400	\$686	49%
Twin Cities*	\$3,400	\$1,150	34%
Philadelphia	\$3,200	\$1,070	33%
Boston	\$3,250	\$1,035	32%
Los Angeles	\$8,000	\$2,468	31%
Lincoln	\$175	\$50	29%
Washington, DC	\$7,700	\$2,210	29%
New York	\$20,000	\$5,555	28%
Miami	\$3,000	\$750	25%
Chicago*	\$11,000	\$2,120	19%
Seattle	\$8,300	0%	
Other	\$1,200	0%	
Total	\$93,725	\$28,959	29%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$50,000	50%
* Raised goal			

Moscow’s bombs back Assad



Continued from front page
interests in the region, while aiming to minimize U.S. “boots on the ground.”

Alongside its airstrikes, Moscow is reinforcing its naval base in Tartus on Syria’s Mediterranean coast, where it has operated since the early 1970s, and deploying dozens of high-precision jet-fighters, tanks, artillery and large transport aircraft. According to Russian and Syrian news reports, airborne troops, special forces and military “volunteers,” along with amphibious landing craft, are also on their way.

Moscow intervened as Assad’s regime was losing ground. It controls only 25 percent of the country. Opposition forces, including some funded by Washington, captured key areas of northwestern Syria earlier this year. Most of the Russian bombings have focused on these areas in Idlib province and around the cities of Hama and Homs. The nearest Islamic State-controlled territory is more than 100 miles away.

Russian airstrikes in the village of Telbiseh near Homs Sept. 30 hit Free Syrian Army sites, killing dozens of civilians, many of the Turkmen minority, said a statement issued by the Syrian Turkmen Assembly. The group’s armed wing has been battling both Assad’s forces and the Islamic State.

Russian officials say they are coordinating their offensive with the governments of Iran and Iraq from a newly established center in Baghdad. In an Oct. 1 interview with France 24 TV, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said he would “welcome” the extension of Russian airstrikes to Iraq.

The Iranian government, which also backs Assad’s regime, has recently sent hundreds of troops to Syria. There are reports in Reuters and elsewhere that Tehran intends for them to join a ground offensive with thousands of Lebanese-based Hezbollah troops under cover of Russian airstrikes.

Roots of Syrian civil war

The civil war in Syria has killed about 250,000 people while displacing more than half the country’s prewar population of 23 million.

The struggle began in March 2011 with widespread protests demanding political rights and an end to Assad’s dictatorial rule. The actions, many led by youth, cut across religious lines, involving Shia, Sunnis, Kurds, Druze, Alawites and others. In one of the largest protests, about half a million people

rallied in Hama. Assad responded with bombings, arrests and killings.

Opposition forces sought to meet the onslaught by organizing the Free Syrian Army, which took control of parts of northern Syria, including areas around the country’s largest city Aleppo. As government assaults escalated, the FSA fractured. Shifting coalitions of Islamist as well as secular groups have been competing for territory and fighting government forces since then. In the chaos, the reactionary Islamic State was able to seize swaths of territory in Syria and Iraq.

The Assad regime has relied on use of shrapnel-filled barrel bombs, which maximize civilian casualties. In 2013 the Obama administration backed off threats to intervene, after Russian President Vladimir Putin brokered a deal to supposedly stop Moscow’s ally from using chemical weapons.

From January to August this year Assad’s forces were responsible for 9,107 civilian deaths, according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, more than seven times greater than those killed by Islamic State over the same period.

Among those spearheading the fight against both the Syrian government and Islamic State are the Kurds. They ended the Assad regime’s control of Kurdish areas in northeastern Syria in 2012. And they’ve beaten back Islamic State over hundreds of miles of territory near the Turkish border.

Obama, Putin meeting

Washington and Moscow agree on “some fundamental principles” for Syria, Secretary of State John Kerry told the media Sept. 29 after a meeting between Obama and Putin.

“There was agreement that Syria should be a unified country, united, that it needs to be secular, that ISIL [Islamic State] needs to be taken on, and that

Vigil for slain youth demands release of cop video



Independent-Mail via AP/Ken Ruinard

Marking two months since Zachary Hammond, 19, was shot and killed by Seneca, South Carolina, cop Mark Tiller in a Hardee’s restaurant parking lot, a few dozen supporters held a vigil there Sept. 26 and demanded video of the killing be released.

“We have to demand justice,” Traci Fant from Greenville-based Think2xT-wice.org, above, between Angie and Paul Hammond, Zachary’s parents, told the vigil. “All lives matter. Zach may have made some mistakes in his life, but who hasn’t made mistakes? Everyone deserves justice.”

Tiller claims he fired twice because Hammond, who is Caucasian, was trying to run him over while fleeing a drug sting. But an independent autopsy shows Hammond was shot “from back to front.” The official autopsy has not been released and police and local prosecutors have refused repeated requests to release the cop’s dashboard video. A civil lawsuit filed by the teen’s parents says that Tiller shouted, “I’ll blow your f-----g head off” before he fired.

Hammond was on a date with Tori Morton, 23, the alleged target of the sting. She has been charged with misdemeanor marijuana possession.

His parents have held press conferences, organized several protests and reached out to Black activists.

“The answers we have gotten about Zach’s death, we have gotten through our own efforts,” Angie Hammond said at the vigil. “It means so much to know that people are standing with us.”

— SETH GALINSKY

there needs to be a managed transition,” Kerry told MSNBC, adding that differences remain on what the outcome of such a transition would be.

But the rapidity and force with which Moscow’s forces have moved, and their focus on non-IS opponents of Assad, has taken Washington and its allies by surprise.

U.S. forces continue daily bombings against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. The White House acknowledges that every attempt to put together a Syrian ground fighting force it can rely on has failed. When Syrian fighters are told

they will be restricted to fight IS, far away from Assad’s troops in the west where Moscow’s bombs are falling, they take off.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials have been scrambling to explain why a U.S. gunship targeted a hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan, Oct. 3 while supporting Afghan troops fighting to retake the city from Taliban forces. The bombardment continued for 30 minutes, despite repeated pleas to stop by Doctors Without Borders. At least 12 staff and seven patients were killed and dozens injured in the attack.

Rail safety fight ‘needed now more than ever’

Continued from page 2

with a crew of one on unsafe tracks.”

A year before the disaster, Transport Canada approved the request of Montreal, Maine and Atlantic bosses to slash train crews to one person as a cost-cutting measure to boost profits.

“The companies and the government overlook safety for profits,” a Canadian Pacific Railway locomotive engineer and officer of the Teamsters Rail Conference who declined to use his name told the *Militant* Oct. 1. “I know what it’s like. I could have been in the same situation as Tom Harding. We need to put up a fight against the rail companies and the government for safety.”

The Citizens’ Coalition is now locked in a fight not only with Transport Canada and the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, but also with Lac-Mégantic Mayor Colette Roy-Laroche and the City Council, who have buckled to pressure from local businesses, like the giant Tafisa Canada Inc. particle board plant in town, Lachapelle said. The railway is vital for forest industry bosses in Quebec and Maine.

Central Maine and Quebec, which is run by a U.S. hedge fund that bought out bankrupt Montreal, Maine and Atlantic, may start running oil trains through the town again as early as January. Oil trains were the most profitable cargo the railway carried, subsidizing its lumber and other traffic.

On Sept. 26 the convention of the Union of Quebec Municipalities, representing 300 Quebec towns and cities, endorsed a resolution submitted by the City Council in Nantes placing blame for the disaster on the government and railway bosses. The town is located seven miles uphill from Lac-Mégantic where the train was parked before it rolled and exploded.

“Mayor Roy-Laroche, who is not running in the next municipal election and was attending her final council meeting, rejected all the demands of the coalition before a large audience of her supporters,” Lachapelle said. “She said she had seen a confidential letter from Transport Canada to CMQR President John Giles declaring the tracks safe and argued it was an ‘economic imperative’ to reject

the demands of the Citizens’ Coalition for the immediate repair of the tracks and for independent studies of their condition and weight-bearing capacity. She argued that there is no emergency and that instead the city should concentrate on a longer-range effort to get the federal government to build a rail bypass around Lac-Mégantic.”

Broad support for the fight

Word has been getting out about the Oct. 11 demonstration and the fight against the frame-up of Harding and Labrie. On Oct. 2 the Montreal daily *La Presse* published a three-quarter page article pointing to the responsibility of Ottawa in the disaster, the issue of the one “crew” member, the Oct. 11 demonstration and how the situation in Lac-Mégantic has become an issue in the Oct. 19 federal election campaign.

Join the Oct. 11 demonstration at the Lac-Mégantic Sports Centre at 12:30 p.m. Afterwards, protesters plan to participate in an all-candidates federal election meeting at the Sports Centre to continue to press their demands.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles across the country!

This column is dedicated to giving voice to those engaged in battle and helping build solidarity. ATI Steelworkers are locked out; major contracts in rail, auto, basic steel and East Coast Verizon have expired or are approaching expiration. I invite those involved in fights against concessions to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

—Emma Johnson

CUNY faculty, workers protest years of no wage hike, contract

NEW YORK — Hundreds of professors and teaching assistants, some holding ringing alarm clocks, picketed Oct. 1 at 7:30 a.m. in a “contract protest wake-up call” outside the apartment building here where City University of New York Chancellor James Milliken lives.

They were joined by other area workers, including hotel workers fighting for a union and participants in the campaign for \$15 and a union, and many students.

“Everything else is going up. Rent. Food. But we haven’t had a wage increase,” said library worker Geng Lin, 32. “There are no serious negotiations going on.”

The protest was organized by the Professional Staff Congress/Local 2334 of the American Federation of Teachers. The union represents some 25,000 faculty and staff at the City University system’s 24 campuses. The teachers and 10,000 members of American Federation of State, Country and Municipal Employees District Council 37, which organizes maintenance workers, drivers and others at the university, have been without a contract for five years and have had no wage increase in six. At the same time, tuition has increased 38 percent.

The Professional Staff Congress is planning more actions, including a mass protest Nov. 4.

—Seth Galinsky

Quebec teachers strike against concessions and education cuts

MONTREAL — After picketing French-language public schools here, in Laval and other regions of Quebec, several thousand striking teachers and students supporting them marched and rallied here Sept. 30. Some 34,000 unionists organized by the Fédération autonome de l’enseignement (Autonomous Teachers Federation) held the first of three planned one-day strikes protesting the concession contract and school budget cuts pushed by the Quebec government.

“We’ve had more than 60 negotiating sessions with the government, but they refuse to budge,” Badiâa Sekfâli, who teaches French to adults, told the *Militant*. “They want to freeze our salaries for two years and give only a 1 percent increase each of the following three years.”

“The government subsidizes the private schools by 60 percent and cuts the budget for public education,” said teacher Carole Kucherski at the picket line in front of Ste-Cécile elementary school. “And they are attacking our union contract, increasing hours from 32 to 40 a week without a pay raise.”

The next day parents active in the campaign “I protect my public school” organized human chains around more than 350 French- and English-language schools with 35,000 participat-

ing across the province.

—Beverly Bernardo

New Zealand hardware store workers fight ‘flexible’ rosters

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Hundreds of workers at Bunnings hardware chain, members of the FIRST union, are organizing strikes at stores across New Zealand after rejecting company demands for more “flexible” rosters.

Workers at the Manukau store here walked off the job for two hours at peak shopping time Sept. 26, joining supporters and workers from several other stores in a lively 50-strong protest on the busy street in front. Similar actions took place at 16 other stores the same day.

The national contract between Bunnings and FIRST expired in June. The



Militant/Patrick Brown

Members of FIRST union picket Bunnings hardware store in Auckland, New Zealand, and 16 others, during one-day strike Sept. 26, protesting boss demand to impose “flexible” schedules.

proposed new contract would change workers’ current fixed rosters to a fortnightly schedule of between 10 and 80 hours, which could be changed with two weeks’ notice. Under the previous contract the company had to seek workers’ agreement before making any changes.

“Now we would have no say,” Cheryl, a worker at the Manukau store, who asked that her last name not be used, told the *Militant*. She joined the union after

she and two other workers realized that for months they had missed out on paid days off in lieu of public holidays they had worked. “I’ve never been in a union before, but I’m happy we’re standing up for our rights,” she said.

“About half of the workers at the store are now in the union. It has grown a lot over the last few months,” shop steward Lina Manu said.

—Felicity Coggan

Fast-food workers lead fight for \$15 in Chicago suburbs

BY JOHN HAWKINS

OAK PARK, Ill. — More than 100 fast-food workers and their supporters marched and rallied here Sept. 28 before attending a meeting of the Village Board to demand legislation raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. The minimum in Chicago is now \$10 and scheduled to rise to \$13 in the coming years. Workers here and in other suburbs are covered by the state minimum of \$8.25.

Participants included Walmart workers, members of the Chicago Teachers Union and United Steelworkers, and a contingent of high school students.

Anthony Kemp moderated the rally outside a McDonald’s restaurant across the street from the municipal building. He is a cook at Kentucky Fried Chicken and a member of Fight for 15, the group that called the action.

“We have marched with Fight for 15 for three years now,” Rev. C.J. Hawking, executive director of Arise Chicago, told the rally. “And we’re going to keep marching until we win a \$15-an-hour minimum wage in Chicago and its suburbs. On Nov. 10 we’re going to march again.” There will be strikes across the city and a mobilization in downtown Chicago that day.

“The billionaire owners of McDonald’s and Walmart live a comfortable life. Why can’t we smile now and then too?” said Ray Scott, a member of OUR Walmart. “At Walmart, where I work, we owe a debt to you. You were there for us when we struck on Black Friday. On Nov. 10 we will be there for you.”

“I live in the suburbs, but I work in Chicago because I can’t transfer and take a wage cut,” Douglas Hunter, 54, told the *Militant*. “What we need is \$15

and a union. And I stress the union because without it we can’t defend whatever we gain, whether it’s wages, safety, health care, vacation time, sick pay or pension.” When the pay rose to \$10 at the McDonald’s where he works, the bosses cut his hours, Hunter said.

Kemp was one of several workers who addressed the Village Board later in the day. “It is imperative that we receive a living wage in order to care for our families, afford transportation to and from work, pay for health care and afford other necessities,” he said.

“Burger King in Chicago raised its wages to \$10, but not here in the suburbs,” said Alba Trujillo. “It’s not fair.”

The next day hundreds of workers at O’Hare Airport rallied to add their voices to the Fight for 15 movement and bring attention to the poverty wages they are paid.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 19, 1990

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — After 18 months working under an expired contract, 650 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 576 went out on strike September 22, against Wilson Foods Corp. in Marshall, Missouri.

The 367-6 strike vote came after the company refused to negotiate and posted a notice in the plant declaring that the company’s final proposal would go into effect the following week. The union had proposed a wage freeze and retention of current benefits. “It’s time that either we take a stand or we don’t,” said Ray Arnett, a union steward at the hog-slaughtering plant.

The company’s proposal included cutting the base wage from \$9.24 an hour to \$7.50 and the new-hire rate from \$7.50 to \$6.00.



October 18, 1965

Fidel Castro spoke in Havana Oct. 3 on the occasion of the installation of the newly established central committee of Cuba’s revolutionary party. He discussed the question of Cuban emigration to the U.S.; read “Che” Guevara’s letter announcing his decision to leave Cuba; and reiterated Cuba’s ideological independence of both Moscow and Peking.

Saluting Guevara as a revolutionary and comrade-in-arms, he declared that when “Che” proposed to go abroad to participate in the struggle against imperialism, “it was our duty to resign ourselves to it” because “we have a responsibility for helping the revolutionary movement to the best of our ability.” He added: “That is true liberty ... those who leave to wield a rifle against the shackles of imperialism.”



October 19, 1940

A Negro committee this week declared it “repudiated and denounced” a statement from the White House which implied that the committee had approved Roosevelt’s policy of segregation of Negro units in the armed forces.

The committee of three — A. Phillip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, T. Arnold Hill, and Walter White, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People — characterized the White House statement as a “trick.”

The telegram also declared:

“Many enlisted men in these segregated units have made repeated protests at being forced to serve as hostlers and servants to white army officers. We further question that Jim Crow policy of the army ‘has been proven satisfactory.’”

Timeliness, resistance, politics: road for Socialist Workers Party

Youth seek action, ‘mind-stretching’ discussion

BY JOHN STUDER

As resistance grows among working people to the slow-burning capitalist depression, there are expanding opportunities for the Socialist Workers Party to join with other workers in fights against economic, social and political assaults by the bosses and their government. The SWP can expand the reach of its press, books and election campaigns and draw fighters toward the party and its revolutionary working-class program. That was the central conclusion of the Sept. 19-22 meeting of the party’s National Committee and an expanded meeting of the Political Committee the next day joined by leaders of Communist Leagues from several countries.

The worldwide crisis of capital has no end in sight, and the propertied rulers are stepping up their assault on the working classes. The percentage of the working class with a job has fallen to a decades-long low; temporary, part-time and agency work is everywhere; and wages are stagnant, Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary, said in his political report.

Decades of refusal by the trade union officialdom to organize workers, and to use union power against attacks by the bosses and government and in support of other social struggles, have led to defeats and sinking membership. The labor bureaucracy’s dependence on the political parties of the employing class has shut workers off from developing an independent working-class political road forward.

Actions against bosses, cop brutality

A new wind is blowing today. Young fast-food workers, and those working for airport contractors, in home health care, for Walmart and in other minimum-wage jobs are striking and marching, demanding \$15 an hour, regular work schedules and a union. They are having an impact, forcing bourgeois politicians in city and state governments across the country to raise the minimum wage. And they are inspiring others to stand up and fight.

Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution

by Vilma Espín,
Asela de los Santos,
Yolanda Ferrer

A book about the millions of men and women who made Cuba’s socialist revolution, and how their actions transformed them as they fought to transform their world.

\$20. Also in Spanish

The Changing Face of US Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

by Jack Barnes

Building the kind of party working people need to prepare for coming class battles through which they will revolutionize themselves, their unions and all society.

\$24. Also in Spanish, French, Farsi, Swedish

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Two-thirds of autoworkers at Fiat Chrysler rejected a proposed deal Oct. 1 that would have left standing two-tier wage divisions that are a blow to the unity of the 36,000 workers there. An overwhelming majority of workers at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway voted down a proposal last year promoted by officials in the SMART union’s Transportation Division that would have allowed the bosses to reduce train operating crews to one person.

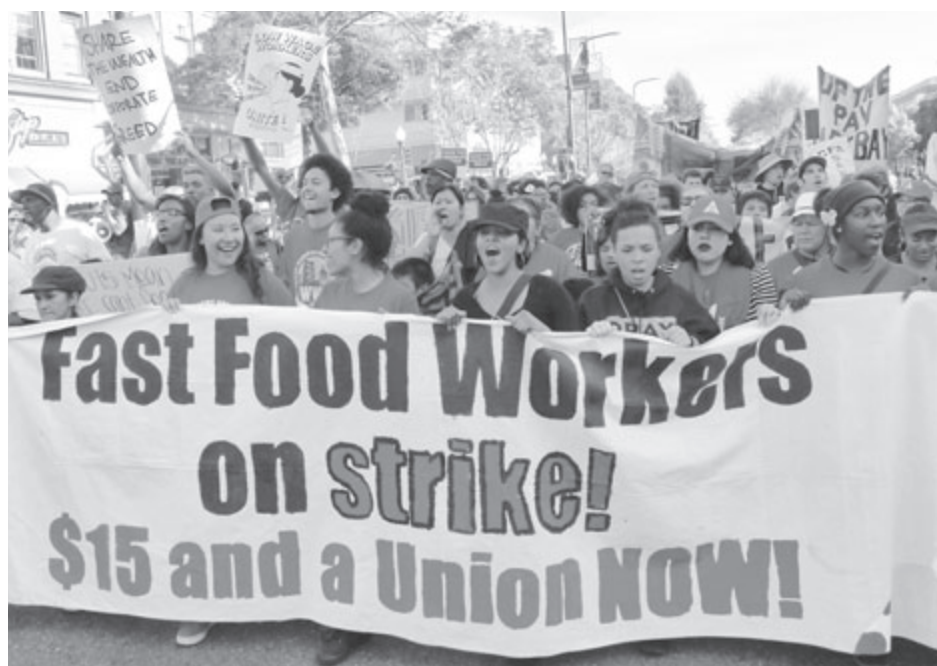
Derailments and deaths — from Lac-Mégantic in Quebec to Amtrak in Philadelphia — are the result of the rail bosses’ offensive. Management tries to shift the blame onto the backs of the very workers they are attacking. The party, including through use of the *Militant*, can help lead in winning support for the defense of Tom Harding and Richard Labrie, Steelworkers union members who face frame-up charges for the 47 deaths in the Canada derailment.

Many of these developments were outlined in a report on party members’ work in the unions and labor battles given to the meeting by SWP trade union director Norton Sandler.

Because of the refusal of labor misleaders to organize, many working-class fights are finding new forms, like the growing number of battles for \$15 and a union. In New Mexico, immigrant workers at car washes and other low-paying jobs, who have been ignored or brushed aside by union officials there, have formed worker associations to fight superexploitation, wage robbery and abuse. They have won a number of victories, including rulings by the National Labor Relations Board that their organizing activity is protected by the law.

Young people, led by youth who are African-American, are leading fights against cop murders and brutality. These battles and mini-rebellions have pushed the rulers back. They are taking steps to rein in their police. Cops like those who killed Freddie Gray in Baltimore and Walter Scott in North Charleston, South Carolina, have been fired, jailed and indicted across the country.

Outrage over the refusal of grand juries in several areas to file charges against the cops, including in the killing of Eric Garner in Staten Island, New



Militant/Eric Simpson

March of 2,000 in Berkeley, California, for \$15 and a union led by fast-food workers in region, part of national day of action April 15. Growing fights by young workers are forcing city and state governments to raise minimum wages and inspiring others to stand up.

York, forced Gov. Andrew Cuomo to grant special powers to the state attorney general to step in and take charge of cases where cops kill unarmed people.

Some in the Black Lives Matter movement and many middle-class radicals close their eyes to these developments or argue they aren’t happening. Telling the truth, they believe, will undercut the fight against police abuse. But recognizing the real impact the movement is having is necessary to get a hearing and fight effectively.

That was shown this summer by the revulsion and dignified response among working people of all skin colors to the political assassination of nine African-Americans in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, by a Nazi-minded individual named Dylann Storm Roof. That overwhelming response forced the rulers to take down the flag of terror against the Black-led movement that overthrew Jim Crow from the state Capitol, and to remove that hated emblem from items on store shelves across the country.

These social struggles and the developing labor battles reinforce and strengthen one another, the National Committee concluded. They provide growing opportunities for workers — Black and Caucasian, immigrant and native-born, employed and jobless — to come together.

The *Washington Post* tried to paint an opposite picture of Caucasian workers in the South in a Sept. 12 article headlined “An American Void,” focusing on youth in South Carolina who knew Dylann Storm Roof. The feature-length smear

job painted the youth and their families as white trash, whose lives center on playing violent video games, smoking tobacco and marijuana nonstop (complete with a close-up photo of an ashtray), constantly buried in electronic devices, who don’t read and take no interest in anything outside their trailer park.

Their biggest crime, the *Post* seems to suggest, is that they offer a place to crash for friends or acquaintances who need one, Black or white, including Roof for a few days. For doing so, Joey Meek, one of those highlighted in the article, has been arrested by the FBI on frame-up charges that he lied and didn’t give them information about Roof.

Capitalist ‘world order’ unravels

These developments take place as the capitalist “world order” put in place under U.S. hegemony following World War II is coming apart. Countries in the Middle East patched together by the imperialist powers are shattering under war and social conflict. China is posing a political and military challenge to Washington’s domination in Asia, as its economic strength grows. Relations are straining in the European Union, and powers from Germany to the U.K. are slashing their militaries.

In response, the U.S. rulers have sought a new line-up of alliances and trade pacts, seeking to shore up their declining power. These efforts include “resets” with Moscow and Tehran, agreement with these regimes on efforts to achieve some stability in Syria and Iraq (as well as in Ukraine and Russia’s “near abroad” in eastern Europe), and the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership and plans for a similar trade deal with European rulers.

Each of these steps contain unpredictable but inevitable threats of friction and conflict. The first fruit of the “resets” has been decisions by Moscow and Tehran to send bombers, tanks and troops into Syria. The rapidity with which the Vladimir Putin government in Russia has moved to shore up the murderous government of Bashar al-Assad in Syria — bombing opponents of the regime and violating Turkish airspace — shows the deals engineered by the Obama administration have unforeseen and dangerous consequences for working people there and the world over. And they spur countermoves by Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other regimes that can cause new conflicts to emerge.

One consequence of the carnage unfolding in Syria is the displacement
Continued on page 7



Courtesy of Gerardo Hernández

Cuban Revolution is example of what workers and farmers can accomplish when they take political power. Above, Cuban and Angolan combatants in Cabinda, Angola, during Cuban internationalist mission that defeated invasion by South African apartheid government. At right is Gerardo Hernández, one of Cuban Five freed last year after 16 years in U.S. prisons.

‘The Cuban government belongs to the workers’

Cuban delegation, including Cuban 5, speaks in Ecuador

BY SETH GALINSKY

“The fact that we have signed a paper officially re-establishing diplomatic relations with the United States does not mean that imperialism has stopped being imperialist,” Gerardo Hernández, one of the Cuban Five, said in Ecuador at the end of September.

“We know there are many people of good will in the United States who would like normal relations with Cuba,” he added. “But there are powerful interests who see this as an opportunity to achieve what they have failed to do in more than 50 years of blockade and aggression,” referring to Washington’s economic war, and at times military action, aimed at destroying the 1959 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

The five Cuban revolutionaries — Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González — who each spent from 13 to 16 years imprisoned in the U.S. on frame-up charges, including “conspiracy to commit espionage,” were in Ecuador to thank the people of that country for supporting the fight to win their freedom.

They noted that Ecuador’s President Rafael Correa was one of the first heads of state to denounce the frame-up and call for their release. The announcements that the remaining three who were in jail were freed and the reopening of relations between Havana and Washington were made simultaneously last December.

Since then, the Five have helped lead the effort to build on that victory, campaigning to end Washington’s economic war and in defense of the Cuban toilers’ socialist revolution.

The Cuban delegation also included internationalist fighter Orlando Cardoso Villavicencio, who spent nearly 11 years imprisoned in Somalia after his capture in 1978 while helping to defend Ethiopia from a U.S.-promoted Somali invasion, and José Ramón Balaguer, a member of the Central Committee of the Commu-

nist Party of Cuba. They participated in the second Latin American Progressive Conference, which took place in Quito Sept. 28-30.

“The Cuban Revolution is living through a decisive moment,” Balaguer, one of the featured speakers, told the more than 300 participants from 70 political parties at the conference. “Its essential characteristic is our determination to continue building socialism.”

“The Cuban government belongs to the workers,” he said. “Everything that we have done and will do is on behalf of the great majorities.”

Balaguer reiterated that while diplomatic relations have been re-established, there can be no normal relations between Cuba and the United States until the U.S. economic, trade and financial embargo of Cuba is ended; the territory of the Guantánamo military base is returned to Cuba; the U.S. government compensates Cuba for damage caused



Prensa Latina/Néstor Marín

“The Cuban government belongs to the workers,” said Cuban leader José Ramón Balaguer (inset) at Latin American Progressive Conference in Quito, Ecuador. “Everything we do is on behalf of the great majorities.” The Cuban Five also participated, as part of Ecuador tour, seated in third row with Orlando Cardoso, who spent nearly 11 years in prison in Somalia.

by its aggression against the island; and clandestine U.S. operations and radio broadcasts aimed at overthrowing the revolution are suspended.

“The hostility remains, the blockade is intact, as are the plans to knock us off the socialist road, but their plans will be more subtle,” Balaguer said. “We’re prepared and base ourselves on principled politics and the culture of resistance that

brought us this far.”

The Cuban Five and Cardoso also participated in a ceremony in Quito at the statue of José Martí, a key figure in the fight to free Cuba from Spanish colonialism.

Paraphrasing Martí, Antonio Guerrero said, “Don’t think about where you can live better, think about where your duty lies.”

Protest IRS attack on IFCO for solidarity with Cuba

Continued from front page

the decision was based on IFCO’s aid to the Cuban people, claiming it violates the U.S. embargo of Cuba and the Trading With the Enemy Act,” attorney Martin Stolar of IFCO’s legal team told the *Militant*. The organization’s council in Washington recently received verbal notice from the IRS that a decision is imminent rejecting the group’s appeals and revoking its status as a nonprofit organization.

IFCO was founded in 1966. Since 1992 it has been best known for its yearly “Friendshipment caravans” to bring humanitarian aid to the people of Cuba.

The IRS initiated its probe in 2011 based on IFCO’s backing of a project called Viva Palestina. Tax officials claimed the group, which organizes convoys to bring food and medical supplies to people in the Gaza Strip, has ties to Hamas and terrorism. Viva Palestina is not on any government “terrorist” list, and is recognized as a legitimate charity

by the official Charity Commission in the United Kingdom, where it is based.

In 2013, the IRS issued a report recommending that IFCO be stripped of its tax-exempt status retroactive to 2009, potentially making it liable for years of back taxes. The report cited not only IFCO’s backing of Viva Palestina and the Cuba caravans, but also its support for U.S. students attending the Latin American School of Medicine in Cuba and for fights against police frame-ups and incarceration.

In addition to asking people to protest this attack on political rights, IFCO has filed a request that the IRS decision be delayed until a ruling is made on whether the agency even has the power to determine if IFCO violated any laws. “The government agency that is responsible, the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control, has never taken any action or imposed any penalties against IFCO” in the more than 20 years the caravans have operated, Stolar said.

IRS’ impending decision is particularly outrageous said IFCO Executive Director Gail Walker “given the recent decisions by the U.S. and Cuban governments to re-establish diplomatic relations, the decision by Washington to remove Cuba from its list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations, the visit by Pope Francis to both Cuba and the U.S. and his call for the nations of the world to work together, and President Obama’s announcement at the United Nations that he intends to propose lifting the embargo.”

Protests can be sent to:

IRS Commissioner John Koskinen, Large Business and International Division, Attn: SE:LB, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20224. Phone: (202) 515-4400. Fax: (202) 622-5756. Email: irs.commissioner@irs.gov.

Secretary of Treasury Jacob J. Lew, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20220. Phone: (202) 622-2000. Fax: (202) 622-6415.

Timeliness, resistance, politics: road for SWP

Continued from page 6

of more than half its population, with millions forced into camps and towns in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Thousands with greater means are seeking refuge in Europe. Wherever they end up, they are confronted by riot police, razor wire fences and abuse from the capitalist rulers.

For decades, labor’s misleaders have refused to fight for working-class unity; to combat discrimination, deportations, and attempts to criminalize immigrants; and to organize working people into unions, whatever their origins. This fight is key for the working class, to draw immigrant workers together with native-born in the growing class struggle in the U.S. and elsewhere.

The grinding capitalist economic, political and moral crisis, the weakening of Washington’s imperialist dominance, spreading conflicts and growing

workers’ resistance tear at the fabric of the Democratic and Republican parties, spawning campaigns like those of Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.

At the same time, the Socialist Workers Party finds greater interest in its working-class program, from demands to meet the immediate needs of working people to support for revolutionary Cuba to the need to break with the bosses’ parties and construct a labor party based on the trade unions. These and other pressing questions for working people will be at the center of the 2016 SWP presidential election campaign.

Cuban Revolution stronger

The Dec. 17, 2014, announcement by Washington that it was opening the door to diplomatic relations with Cuba reflects the attraction and staying power of the socialist revolution made by workers and farmers there, National Com-

mittee member Mary-Alice Waters said in a report on party-building work and defense of the Cuban Revolution. In face of the failure of its 55-year-long course to overturn the revolution through armed violence, diplomatic quarantine and economic strangulation, Washington needed to shift tactics in its efforts to achieve this goal. The U.S. rulers and their course toward Cuba faced increasing isolation in Latin America, as well.

The Cuban Revolution is a living example of what workers and farmers can accomplish when they fight to take political power, transforming themselves in the process, and act to advance the interests of working people both at home and worldwide, as Cuban revolutionists have done.

This political attraction of the Cuban Revolution today has been shown, among other ways, in the response of

Continued on page 9

The Cuban Revolution in Today’s World

HearKenia Serrano, president, and Leima Martínez, representative, North American division, of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples

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US border cop indicted for killing teenager in Mexico

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.S. Border Patrol cop who killed 16-year-old José Antonio Elena Rodríguez was indicted by a federal grand jury for second degree murder Sept. 23 — nearly three years after the teen was shot 10 times, all but once in the back, while walking on a road in Nogales, Mexico, near the U.S. border.

Border Patrol agents and Customs officers have killed at least 52 people since 2005. But this is only the third time a cop has been indicted in any of those deaths, and the first to face federal charges. In one of the earlier cases the charges were dismissed; the other ended with a hung jury.

The Border Patrol claims the Oct. 10, 2012, shooting was justified, alleging that Elena was throwing rocks across the border. But eyewitnesses say he was simply walking home from a basketball game. The youth's mother and grandmother refused to keep quiet and spoke out at numerous protests demanding the names of the cops involved, their indictment and to see the video from a Border Patrol camera.

The Border Patrol still refuses to release the video of the shooting. It was not until November 2013 that the name of the officer, Lonnie Swartz, was made public.

According to the *Arizona Republic*, Swartz emptied his .40-caliber pistol and then reloaded and continued firing through the metal slats of the border fence.

Swartz was standing on the U.S. side of the roughly 20-foot-high fence, which itself is on a 25-foot embankment. "It would be all but impossible for a rock thrown from Mexico to hit someone near the fence on the U.S. side," the *Republic* notes.

"The U.S. Border Patrol agents who killed my son in a senseless act of violence are still out there and they need to be brought to justice," said Araceli Rodríguez, his mother, when the American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal civil rights lawsuit in her name in July 2014.



Araceli Rodríguez, center, holds sign reading "Border Patrol murderers" during October 2012 protest in Nogales, Mexico. Three years later border cop who killed her son has been indicted.

In July this year the U.S. District Court in Arizona rejected the attempt by Swartz to have the civil suit dismissed. The cop argued that since the death occurred in Mexico, U.S. constitutional protections don't apply and that Border Patrol agents are immune from prosecution for actions carried out while on duty. Judge Raner Collins ruled that the case could continue under the protections of

the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures.

The judge noted that "U.S. Border Patrol agents not only control the U.S. side of the fence, but through the use of force and assertion of authority, also exert control over the immediate area on the Mexican side," including where Elena was killed.

The federal criminal charges are the result of "three years of work by us, the family, the lawyers, and reporters, of all the people who have helped us," Taide Elena, José Antonio's grandmother, told the *Republic*. "We are aware that we still have a long way to go but this is a very big step."

Catholic Church tries to reverse decline in Cuba, US

BY SETH GALINSKY

Pope Francis took advantage of his trip to Cuba and the United States to continue to breathe new life into the Catholic Church. He was named pope by the church hierarchy in 2013 in the hope of reversing the decline of a capitalist institution that has been out of step with the changing social attitudes of hundreds of millions around the world.

Francis is the third pope to visit Cuba. On his arrival Sept. 19 he quoted the words of Pope John Paul II when he visited the island in 1998: "May Cuba, with all its magnificent potential, open itself up to the world, and may the world open itself up to Cuba." Pope Benedict XVI also traveled to Cuba, in 2012.

Francis played a role in the discussions that led to the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington, a reflection of the failure of U.S. attempts to destroy the revolution over the last 55 years.

Right-wing opponents of the Cuban Revolution in the U.S. criticized Francis for refusing to meet with the so-called dissidents in Cuba. But the stance of the church hierarchy for several decades has been to avoid direct confrontation with the government. Instead, it has sought to exert greater influence through expanding church-based social institutions.

The pope spent three days in Cuba, where he was welcomed by President Raúl Castro and the Cuban people. He also met briefly with Fidel Castro, who presented him with the book *Fidel and Religion*.

Not a 'communist pope'

On the plane from Cuba to Washington, D.C., a reporter asked Francis about charges that he is "a communist pope."

"I haven't said anything more than what's written in the social doctrine of the church," he replied, adding that perhaps his explanations "gave an impression of being a little 'to the left,' but it would be an error of explanation."

An Aug. 1 article in the *Washington Post* by reporter Nick Miroff, titled "You Can't Understand Pope Francis Without Juan Perón — and Evita," offers a useful look at where the Argentine

cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who became Pope Francis, comes from.

Gen. Juan Perón ruled Argentina from 1946 to 1955. He came to power in a period of relative prosperity. His anti-imperialist rhetoric and an extensive program of social welfare benefits, closely associated with his wife Eva Perón, were immensely popular among working people. By appearing to stand above class divisions Peronism tied a powerful, combative labor movement to the Peronist party and the capitalist state, and was an obstacle to working people understanding their own power, capacities and need to organize independently of the capitalist parties.

Julio Barbaro, a former Argentine congressman who studied at a Jesuit college with Bergoglio in the 1960s, told the *Post* that Peronism appealed to the future pope because it rejected both Marxism and laissez-faire capitalism. "It was a way to the poor that doesn't believe in class struggle," Barbaro said. "It believes in capitalism but with limits."

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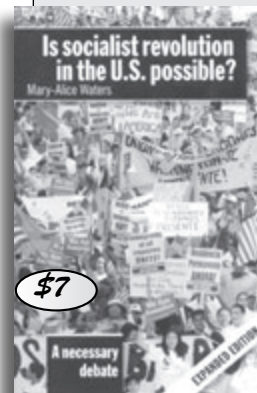
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Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters



Explains why a socialist revolution is not only possible, but why revolutionary struggles by working people are inevitable, forced on us by the employers' crisis-driven assaults on our very humanity.

pathfinderpress.com

Fight frame-up of Quebec rail workers!

The Socialist Workers Party and Communist League of Canada are campaigning to fight the frame-up of Thomas Harding and Richard Labrie. The two rail workers are threatened with life in prison as scapegoats for the 2013 oil train disaster in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

But it's the profit-hungry owners of the railroad and Canadian government officials who should be in the dock. They OK'd the deadly "cost-saving" measures, from cuts in maintenance to imposing the one-man "crew." The *Militant* pledges to continue to offer a voice for this key labor defense battle.

If you can, join the Oct. 11 rally for rail safety in Lac-Mégantic, demanding the railroad fix its tracks before more deadly hazardous cargo is hauled through the area.

Help get out the facts about what happened in Lac-Mégantic and the fight to defeat the frame-up of the two rail workers. Raise it in your union.

In their drive to squeeze more profits out of fewer workers, the rail bosses have imposed conditions that guarantee more disasters: cuts in crew size, brutally long hours and irregular schedules, skimping

on track maintenance and equipment, excessively long and heavy trains. Workers in other industries face similar attacks. Safety was the key issue in the national oil workers strike earlier this year. Questions of hours, schedules and relentless pressure to do more, faster, with fewer workers are key issues in the fights of nurses, fast-food workers and many others today.

To address these conditions, we need to fight for workers control of safety on the job. We need to build unions that are strong enough to stop production until unsafe conditions are fixed.

There are immediate safety measures we should fight for to reduce the risks to life and limb for rail workers and the communities the trains pass through: make it illegal for the railroads to operate without a minimum crew of four; restore the caboose at the end of every train; mandate a maximum train length of 50 cars; and immediate use of double-hulled cars to haul oil and other hazardous materials.

It's a fight in the interest of all workers and those who live near the railroad tracks. Help defeat frame-up charges against Tom Harding and Richard Labrie!

Timeliness, resistance, politics: road for SWP

Continued from page 7

workers and farmers in France, South Africa, Venezuela and elsewhere to visits by the Cuban Five, five revolutionaries imprisoned for a decade and a half in the U.S. for their actions in defense of the Cuban Revolution.

Waters had just returned from participating in a conference in Vietnam on building support in Asia and the Pacific for the Cuban Revolution and the fight against Washington's embargo. She laid out plans to step up party work to press for an end to the embargo and for return to Cuba of the Guantánamo naval base, which has been transformed by the U.S. rulers into a torture camp and blot on humanity. Waters discussed the importance of increasing circulation of Pathfinder Press books that explain the gains won in revolutionary struggle by workers and farmers in Cuba.

She also pointed to new opportunities to step up the fight to win freedom for Oscar López, who has spent over 34 years in U.S. prisons for his unbending support of independence for Puerto Rico.

Implementing meeting's decisions

Based on the political conclusions of the National Committee, Barnes outlined steps at the expanded Political Committee meeting for the Socialist Workers Party to increase its involvement in labor and social struggles, joining with young workers who are in the vanguard of these battles and winning youth to the party.

Youth are attracted to two things, Barnes said, to action and to high level political discussion — "stretching their brains."

Party members who work at Walmart and elsewhere will step up efforts to advance the broader fight for \$15 an hour, regular schedules and a union. This explosive movement is already having an impact and can begin to reshape and advance the labor movement.

Unlike every other group that claims to speak for working people, most of which have either stopped publishing newspapers or reduced how often they print, the SWP is campaigning to expand the circulation of the *Militant*, and of Pathfinder Press books that contain the history and continuity of the party and the revolutionary working class movement. Party members and supporters take these weapons to share with workers on strike picket lines, social protests and political activities, in big cities and small towns and rural areas.

Books like *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*; *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*; *Teamster Politics*; *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*; and issues of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory edited by party leaders, are crucial for party members and others looking to understand how the class struggle is unfolding. Reading and studying these books make it possible for workers to bring to life the party's program — hammered out in struggle over decades — in order to fight for demands in the interests of working people grounded in the lessons of past battles.

Increased party participation in workers' struggles today tied to widening circulation of the party press and literature will help expand a Marxist current in the labor movement, strengthening it. Carrying out this course will help the party grow.

Fiat Chrysler vote

Continued from front page

of the tier system of wages," said Alan Epstein, who has worked at the Toledo Jeep plant since the 1980s, in a phone interview Oct. 3. Production workers there voted 87 percent against the deal. "In 2007 the auto companies cried poverty and the UAW let them set up a two-tier wage system. They've hired thousands of workers since then. The Big Three are making big profits now. But the proposed contract sets up many more tiers."

Presently, new hires start at just over half the pay of workers hired before 2007. The 40-page summary of the defeated contract groups workers hired since then in wage tiers based on how many years they have been employed. They would top out at between \$22 to \$25.35 an hour, but never reach the \$29.76 promised to "legacy" production workers by the end of the contract.

Workers were told in 2007 and 2011 that the second tier would be capped at 25 percent of the workforce, but that was never written into the contract.

"Forty-three percent of the workers at Fiat Chrysler are in the second tier," said Epstein. "They just don't buy the proposal. Some of them got together and printed T-shirts with the union logo and a cobra that said 'Ready to strike.'"

Chrysler, the smallest of the "Big Three" Detroit automakers, was hit hardest by the opening of the capitalist economic crisis in 2008, spiraling into bankruptcy. As part of a government-brokered bailout, the union retiree health trust fund bought 55 percent of the company. The U.S. and Canadian governments bought 10 percent. Fiat got the rest, though it paid no money. Fiat bought out the others, taking complete ownership earlier this year.

Chrysler has increased sales for 44 straight months.

The UAW uses pattern bargaining to negotiate contracts with the Big Three auto companies. Once the first contract is achieved, the idea is that the other two will follow suit.

UAW President Dennis Williams issued a statement Oct. 1 saying the union would notify Fiat Chrysler "that further discussions are needed."

The vote followed a September UAW organizing victory at the Commercial Vehicle Group in Piedmont, Alabama. The 210 workers there make truck seats. Alan Amos, a welder and 10-year veteran of CVG who helped spearhead the organizing effort, told the *New York Times* that the breaking point came this spring. "There were conversations around the break room about how things kept getting worse and worse," Amos said, citing high temperatures inside the plant, worsening benefits and the extensive use of temporary workers who earn \$9.70 an hour and have no insurance.

The growing militancy by workers at fast-food outlets, Walmart and others at the low end of the wage scale has boosted the fighting spirit of workers in the auto industry.

"The Fight for \$15 shows that some of the lowest-paid workers have decided to put up a fight," Aradia Clark, a member of UAW Local 551 in the paint shop at Ford's plant here, told the *Militant*, adding that she is hopeful about the auto contract fights.

"Opposition to the contract here is across the board," she said. "The legacy workers have been waiting for a decade to get back what we gave up. And the workers in the second tier, who voted for the contract in 2011 because they thought they would be promoted out of it, don't have confidence that will happen anymore."

"The profits of the auto companies are being made because of our cheap labor," Clark said. "If a contract like that is ratified, eventually we'll have nothing but second, third and fourth tier workers because all the older workers will have retired."

Labor now accounts for \$1,771 of the cost of each vehicle Fiat Chrysler makes in the U.S., according to Sean McAlinden, chief economist at the Center for Automotive Research. That's down from \$4,167 per vehicle in 2007.

In July, Ford posted its largest-ever North American quarterly profit and its best automotive profit since 2000, as net income rose 44 percent in the second quarter.

"The company and the union officers were surprised by the Chrysler vote," Clark said. "They bank on the ignorance of the young workers and expected them to walk mindlessly into the vote."

LETTERS

Prisoners treated like animals

I have a son in the state prison in Beeville, Texas. He was sent there in July this year. Not only is there no air conditioning — not even a fan — in the cells, sometimes there's no lights and they keep them locked up with an unbearable temperature that can exceed 120 degrees.

The food they serve has very little nutrition and what they sell them is the same; in many cases they can't even buy canned vegetables, juices or essential food items.

The good products are few and they run out quickly. I think there should be an investigation and news report about this. They are treated like animals without any

basic human rights.

I want to help all the men and women who are locked up and denied their constitutional and human rights.

Isabel Antonio
Houston, Texas

Enjoys reading 'Militant'

I enjoy reading the *Militant* and all the subjects it touches

on. Thank you for notifying me that my subscription was about to expire and offering a six-month complimentary subscription for those of us who can't afford to pay. Please send me information about your rates so I can mail it to my cousin and see if she will sign me up for a year subscription as a Christmas gift.

A prisoner
Illinois

'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., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

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.