

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Federation of Cuban Women:
'For us socialism means dignity'
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 13 APRIL 4, 2016

SWP: Workers need to organize independent of bosses' parties



Militant/Don Mackle

"No capitalist party has solution to world economic crisis," Mary Martin, left, SWP candidate for Washington governor, told Keith Fiorino and Ashlynn Kolidakis at Seattle Sanders rally.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Socialist Workers Party candidates across the country are joining protests against police brutality, walking picket lines with fellow workers, campaigning door to door, and engaging in discussions with workers about the need to organize independently of the capitalist class. Those who agree with that perspective should join the Socialist Workers Party.

Mary Martin, SWP candidate for governor of Washington, campaigned with supporters among thousands of people at a March 20 rally for Bernie

Sanders in Seattle.

Many of those she spoke with were interested in her view that working people need to learn from the example of the Cuban Revolution and of the need to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class.

"A lot of what you say is true but I don't think the American people are ready for real socialism," said Keith Fiorino, 28, a musician. "Don't you think that Sanders is basically going in the right direction?"

"None of the capitalist politicians
Continued on page 3

Imperialists use Belgium terror attack to target workers' rights

BY MAGGIE TROWE

From Washington to capitals across Europe, imperialist governments are using the murderous attacks carried out by Islamic State terrorists in Brussels March 22 to step up police deployments and target workers' rights.

The reactionary jihadist group is acting from weakness, having lost ground in Syria and Iraq.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for bombings at the airport and a subway station in Brussels that killed more than 30 civilians. The suicide attacks took place four days after the capture there of Salah Abdeslam, believed to be the sole survivor of the Islamic State-organized group of 10 who carried out terrorist attacks in Paris Nov. 13 that killed 130 people.

The Belgian government imposed a lockdown in Brussels after the bombings and shut down public transportation. Authorities closed the border between France and Belgium, and heavily armed cops and troops are patrolling airports and city centers from London to Amsterdam and Rome. National Guard troops and local "anti-terrorism" cops were immediately deployed at New York transit stations and airports, including with sniffer dogs checking out commuters.

French Interior Min-
Continued on page 4

US out of Guantánamo! End Cuba embargo now!

As Obama visits, Cuban people defend revolution

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"No one should think that the Cuban people will renounce their freedom and sovereignty that have been gained through great sacrifices," Cuban President Raúl Castro said at a joint news conference following a meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama in Havana March 21.

Obama's March 20-22 trip to Cuba, the first by a sitting U.S. president in 88 years, was the first "to a Cuba in full possession of its sovereignty and with a revolution in power," an editorial in *Granma*, the newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, noted before his arrival. It registered the increasing consensus in the U.S. ruling class that their attempt to overturn Cuba's socialist revolution through economic warfare has failed. And it reflected

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The following statement was released March 23 by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president and Osborne Hart for vice president.

Socialist Workers Party campaign statement

We call on working people in the U.S. and around the world to stand with the Cuban people and demand: End the U.S. embargo! Guantánamo belongs to Cuba — return it now! Stop meddling in Cuba's internal affairs!

The presence of the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo — occupying an area about twice the size of Manhattan — is an outrageous violation of Cuban sovereignty. Washington seized Cuba's best harbor in 1903 and imposed a "treaty" at gunpoint granting the imperialist masters a "perpetual
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Calif. marchers denounce brutal cops in 'deadliest county' in US



Militant/Bill Arth

Relatives of numerous victims of police brutality led March 19 protest in Bakersfield, California. More people were killed by cops in that county last year than in New York City.

BY LAURA GARZA

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — Family members carried banners and placards with pictures of the many workers and youth killed by Bakersfield police and Kern County Sheriff's deputies at the 2nd Annual March for Justice here March 19. One sign said, "No judge, no jury, but his life is over."

More than 150 protesters chanted, "Hands up, don't shoot," as they marched to four different sites in East Bakersfield where people had been shot or beaten by the cops. "This could happen to any of us. We are all Mexican. We are all white. We are all Black. We are united," said a relative of Ronnie Ledesma Jr., when the
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In New International magazine #12

Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun

by Jack Barnes

Government spying, "preventive detention" of U.S. citizens, curtailments of the right to appeal deportations, and other measures taken under the pretext of fighting terrorism are aimed primarily not at suspect "foreigners" but at the working class.

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\$16

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At NY rally for \$15, workers discuss need for union 4

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Calif. Walmart protest demands home care for worker hurt on job

Montreal furniture warehouse workers fight company lockout

UK fight wins limits on 'guilt by association' frame-ups

BY CATHARINA TIRSEN

MANCHESTER, England — In a victory for working people, the U.K. Supreme Court ruled Feb. 18 that the controversial "joint enterprise" law had been "wrongly interpreted" for the last 30 years. In the name of fighting "gang violence," the 300-year-old legal doctrine has been increasingly used over the last decade to prosecute individuals for homicide just for being present or being associated with the killer.

Since 2010 the group Joint Enterprise Not Guilty by Association has held meetings, protests outside Parliament and political conventions and given countless interviews. JENGBA is in contact with families of more than 600 people convicted under this law.

"My son Jordan's case will be even stronger with this ruling, when the Criminal Cases Review Commission decides whether he is entitled to an ap-

peal," said Janet Cunliffe, a founder of JENGBA, at a Militant Labour Forum here March 5. Jordan Cunliffe was convicted of murder at the age of 15 and sentenced to life, with a minimum of 12 years in prison followed by lifelong parole. He was with a group of friends in 2007 when a street altercation led to one person being killed.

"I could not understand how my son, who was legally blind, could have had 'foresight' that someone else would kill the victim, or even that such 'foresight' would be enough to condemn anyone for murder," she said.

Under the Supreme Court decision, to convict a person under joint enterprise the prosecution now must prove they had "intention to assist or encourage the crime."

Despite crime going down, there are more people in prison convicted of murder, noted Janet Cunliffe. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism estimates that between 1,800 and 4,590 people were prosecuted for murder using the joint enterprise law between 2005 and 2013.

"I want to pay tribute to what Janet and JENGBA have achieved," said Peter Clifford, Communist League candidate for Manchester City Council, who joined her on the platform. "It took a lot of courage to stand up against the media that painted the youths as a 'gang of murderers.'"

Clifford pointed to the newly published book *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class: "It's the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US 'Justice' System."* As the title says, the courts and prisons

Prince Edward Island: Defend women's right to abortion



Some 60 supporters of women's right to choose abortion marched through the streets of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, March 8 in an International Women's Day protest against the lack of abortion services. Many wore red pig-tails like those of the island's famed fictional character Anne of Green Gables. Prince Edward Island is the only province in Canada that does not provide surgical abortions. The island's health system covers abortions at hospitals in neighboring New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, forcing many women to pay travel expenses. Some doctors on the island provide chemical abortions, but only in the first two months of pregnancy.

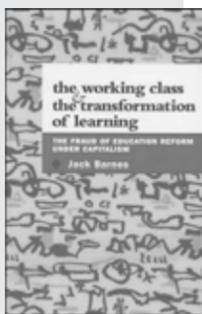
"It is time for our equality rights to matter. PEI's discriminatory and unlawful abortion policy must end," said Dr. Colleen MacQuarrie, co-chair of Abortion Access Now PEI, in a Jan. 5 statement giving 90 days' notice of her group's intent to challenge the policy in court.

— FRANÇOIS BRADETTE

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

by Jack Barnes

"Until society is reorganized so that education is a human activity from the time we are very young until the time we die, there will be no education worthy of working, creating humanity." \$3



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THE MILITANT

Fight for rail safety, against Quebec frame-up

The 'Militant' covers rail union efforts to defend safety on the job in face of bosses' attempts to boost profits at the expense of life and limb, backs the fight against the government frame-up of rail unionists Thomas Harding and Richard Labrie for 2013 Lac-Mégantic disaster.



Framed-up rail engineer Thomas Harding.

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"are not about justice or fighting crime, they're about pushing working people back," he said. Clifford noted how Janet Cunliffe and other JENGBA campaigners have offered solidarity to other fights against police killings and unfair convictions, including the case of the Cuban Five, revolutionaries who spent up to 16 years in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges.

"My son has been protected inside by other prisoners because they thought the verdict was so unfair," Cunliffe said. "And Jordan has received so many good letters from all over the world, from Texas to Australia."

"I have learnt about a different world through this campaign," she continued. "I used to believe the system was just. But I see now how people can end up in prison. And they are workers!" Like in the United States, "prisoners work here too, but they earn only about £9 (\$13) a week. It is really a system of slave labor!

I know they make DFS sofas and parts for 'Boris' Bikes," she said, referring to rental bikes named after London Mayor Boris Johnson.

Clifford pointed to how the case of Stephen Lawrence, a Black youth who was killed by a racist gang in 1993, has been used to justify the use of joint enterprise and undermine other legal protections. Two people accused of being gang members were initially acquitted, but tried a second time and convicted 19 years later. That was an attack on rights of all working people," he said.

"Now we need to campaign so people who have been wrongfully convicted get the hearings so the convictions can be overturned," said Janet Cunliffe. "It is almost impossible to get any compensation if you have been the victim of a miscarriage of justice, and the process takes time. I expect Jordan will serve his 12 years. But I want him and others to come out with their names cleared."

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Socialist Workers campaign

Continued from front page

have solutions to the grinding effects of the world economic crisis on working people,” Martin replied. “The working class is the only force that is capable of fighting for our own interests. That’s why we need a labor party based on the unions for workers to have an independent voice.”

Dave, a railroad worker and union member who didn’t want to give his last name, said he knows about engineer Tom Harding, who is facing frame-up charges for the 2013 oil car train crash in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. “They say he didn’t set enough brakes, but once the fire crew cut out the brake lines, the cars were going to roll,” Dave said. “I don’t think it was his fault.”

“Workers need to have control of safety on the job,” said Martin. “We need to use union power to stand up against frame-ups of Harding and others.”

Shavon Hayes, a public transit bus driver and member of the Amalgamated Transit Union, was glad to hear Martin had joined some of the bus drivers’ informational picket lines protesting split shifts and lack of breaks.

In an indication of the interest in the communist alternative, 15 people bought copies of the *Militant*, two subscribed and two got copies of *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class: “It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System,”* one of several books campaign supporters are using in discussing what way forward for working people.

Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Georgia, joined Felicia Thomas, Delisa Davis and dozens of others at the Smyrna, Georgia, City Council meeting March 21 to protest cop brutality and the promotion of officer Kenneth Owens to lieutenant.

Owens fatally shot Thomas’ son Nicholas in the back while the 23-year-old was at work at a tire shop a year ago. Davis’ brother Kevin died Dec. 31, 2015, two days after being shot by a DeKalb County cop in his apartment after calling 911.

“For Owens to be promoted is like spitting in my face, rewarding him for killing my child,” Thomas told Manuel.

“The Socialist Workers campaign in Georgia and nationally will be a voice for all those fighting to oppose killings

by cops,” said Manuel.

Supporters of Eleanor García, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, joined a March 19 protest in Bakersfield, California, against killings by the police.

“García has been a part of the fight against police brutality, as well as standing up against deportations,” SWP campaign supporter Laura Garza told the crowd. “She will be discussing the fights here as she joins the nurses striking at Kaiser in Los Angeles, the port truckers and workers demanding a raise in the minimum wage. We can strengthen our fights by joining others standing up.”

California’s Secretary of State informed García March 17 that she will be on the ballot for the June primary.

Janice Lynn in Smyrna, Georgia, and Bill Arth in Bakersfield, California, contributed to this article.



Militant/Janice Lynn
Sam Manuel, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, joins fighters against police brutality Felicia Thomas, center, and Delisa Davis, left, protesting at Smyrna, Georgia, City Council March 21.

NY forum: Shutting down Trump sets back workers

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — “We didn’t go to the March 11 rally to try to shut it down, but to talk to the people who went to hear Trump,” Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, told the Militant Labor Forum here March 18. “It’s not who you’re against. It’s what you’re for that matters.”

“The working class all over the world is feeling the impact of the capitalist economic crisis,” Kennedy said. “There were a lot of workers at the rally who are fed up with the Democrats and Republicans, who see nothing being done about high unemployment, and who don’t like what the U.S. government is doing in the Middle East.”

“We talked about why we need to break from the capitalist parties, emulate the Cuban Revolution and reorganize society to meet the interests of working people. The discussions were a lot like those with my co-workers when I worked in coal mines in Alabama, Colorado, Utah and West Virginia,” noted Kennedy, who is currently on leave from her job at Walmart. “It was a lot of fun.”

“Not everyone at the Trump rally was willing to talk, but most were,” she said. “One young woman said she didn’t agree that fast-food workers should get

\$15 an hour, saying ‘shouldn’t we be creating good jobs?’ I said yes, we need to fight for a federally funded public works program and for a union,” Kennedy said. “At the same time wages are set from the bottom up, not the top down.”

These discussions, she said, highlight why those who organized to prevent Trump from speaking did a grave disservice to the young people who joined them, mistakenly believing this advances the fight against attacks on immigrants, police brutality and anti-Muslim discrimination.

A capitalist politician, not a fascist

“Trump’s not a fascist, he’s a demagogic bourgeois politician,” said Naomi Craine, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party here, who spoke along with Kennedy. “He uses crude anti-Mexican and anti-Muslim rhetoric, and there’s a real edge to his comments on women.”

What he proposes to do is not much different from the other capitalist politicians, however. The U.S. government should build a wall on the Mexican border, Trump says. In fact there already is a wall, much of it built during the administration of President Bill Clinton. Trump talks about keeping out Muslims “temporarily,” but the current administration “has already been denying visas to many Muslims,” Craine noted.

Yet virtually every petty-bourgeois radical group in the United States that calls itself socialist backed the March 11 attack on free speech and the right to assembly, under the guise of stopping the “fascist” Trump. Among the main organizers of the disruption was Moveon.org, which functions as a wing of the Democratic Party, and there was prominent participation from the Workers World Party, the Party for Socialism and Liberation and the International Socialist Organization.

A false view of working class

All these groups write off workers who are Caucasian, slandering them as reactionary, nativist and racist.

“For oppressed people, confronting Trump and his fascist movement is a matter of basic self-defense,” wrote the Party for Socialism and Liberation on their website.

Workers World boasted that “sections of the protest were able to block the parking garage that Trump supporters were vacating. ... Their bigotry and white supremacist rhetoric are not welcome in Chicago.”

Peoples World, a website of the Communist Party USA, echoes this view of pro-Trump workers as backward and nativist. “Americans are cash-strapped and fearful,” the site says. “They’re looking for someone to blame.”

Yet even the *New York Times*, which has abandoned almost any pretense of writing objectively about his campaign, has had to admit that what is fueling interest in Trump is not his anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric, but his claim to be the one who can do something about the economic crisis.

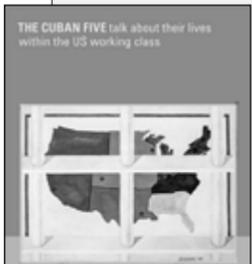
In a March 19 article, the *Times* interviews workers from Carrier, an air conditioner company that recently announced it is closing its Indianapolis factory and moving production to Mexico. Trump denounced the closing, as part of his America First nationalist opposition to “free trade” pacts.

Marke Weddle, 55, who has worked at Carrier for 24 years, told the *Times* he disagrees with Trump’s anti-immigrant stance. But when it comes to Carrier, “now they’re going to throw us under the bus? If Trump will kick Carrier’s ass, then I’ll vote for him.”

The International Socialist Organization portrays the call to shut down Trump as somehow a defense of free speech. “The protesters in Chicago

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BOOKS FOR WORKING-CLASS FIGHTERS ...



The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class

“It’s the poor who face the savagery of the US ‘justice’ system”
Five Cuban revolutionaries, framed up by the U.S. government in 1998, spent up to 16 years as part of the U.S. working class behind bars. Each reached out to fellow prisoners with respect, solidarity, and through their example won respect and support in return. \$15
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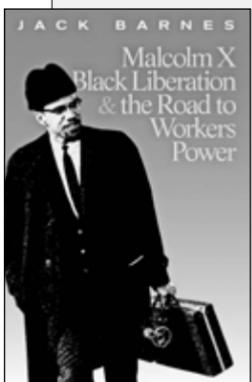
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Imperialists use Belgium attack

Continued from front page
 ister Bernard Cazeneuve declared the latest attack a reminder of “the high threat level we face,” justifying stepped-up police measures. In recent weeks trade unionists, immigrants and others have protested the French government’s “state of emergency” — declared in November and extended to May 26 — restricting the right to demonstrate and allowing cops to carry out house searches and arrests without a warrant.

Capitalist politicians who seek to scapegoat Muslims and immigrants have seized the opportunity to increase their calls for closing borders and turning away refugees across Europe, as well as in the United States. More than 44,000 refugees are already trapped in crisis-wracked Greece because neighboring Albania, Bulgaria and Macedonia have sealed the borders.

EU-Turkey immigrant agreement

The government of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan just completed an agreement with European Union officials for Ankara to receive migrants turned back when they try to land on the Greek islands. In return, the EU promised Turkey \$6.7 billion in aid and renewed consideration of its application for EU membership.

Another suicide bomber affiliated with Islamic State set off an explosion in Istanbul, Turkey, March 19 that killed three Israelis and an Iranian.

The monstrous attacks on civilians by Islamic State and the jihadists’ conduct in areas they control in Syria and Iraq, including beheading prisoners and making sex slaves of captured Yazidi women, are abhorrent to working people. This makes it easier for Washington and other capitalist rulers to justify their actions in the Mideast.

Washington’s increased collabora-

tion with the governments of Russia and Iran to try to stabilize the Mideast in the interests of U.S. imperialism has resulted in a reduction of hostilities in parts of war-torn Syria, the expansion of areas controlled by the repressive regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, gains by Kurds in consolidating territory in northern Syria and a stepped-up military effort to retake cities and territories controlled by Islamic State.

Washington is turning increased attention and resources to what the Pentagon calls “the second phase in Iraq and Syria to degrade and ultimately defeat” Islamic State — the fight to retake Mosul, a large city in northern Iraq held by the brutal Islamists. The day after a U.S. Marine was killed fighting Islamic State 45 miles southeast of Mosul, the Pentagon assigned a detachment of Marines to join forces on the ground from the Kurdish Regional Government there and troops sent by Baghdad.

After carrying out a partial drawdown of Russia’s military presence in Syria, Russian President Vladimir Putin said March 17 that Moscow would maintain air power to back up Assad and would continue to train and financially support Syrian troops.

Russian bombing of Syrian opposition strongholds is down from 60-80 sorties a day to 20-30, Putin said. Moscow is aiding Damascus in efforts to reclaim Palmyra and Raqqa, Syria, from Islamic State, causing heavy civilian casualties, according to the anti-IS group Raqqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently.

New alliances across Mideast

Meanwhile, the governments of Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Israel — longtime allies of Washington who see the U.S. partnership with Moscow and Tehran as a threat — are seeking to form new blocs to defend their national capitalist interests.

Thousands in London: ‘Stop Turkey’s war on Kurds!’



Militant/Hugo Wils

LONDON — Thousands marched here March 6 in the first national demonstration to demand “Stop Turkey’s war on Kurds! Break the silence!” Hundreds of people have died and several hundred thousand displaced as a result of the Turkish government’s military assault on the mainly Kurdish region of southeast Turkey since last summer.

Agit Kaya, co-chair of the Kurdish Society at the University of Westminster, said they built the demonstration through information tables on campus and brought a contingent of 20 people.

“The Turkish state attacking Kurds is not acceptable,” said Serpil Kilic, part of a contingent of about 50 from Manchester Kurdish Solidarity.

“Workers here have a stake in supporting the Kurds in their fight to advance their national struggle,” said Peter Clifford, right, Communist League candidate for Ancoats ward of Manchester City Council. “The same forces that are attacking living standards and rights of workers in the U.K. are undermining the Kurdish struggle for national rights. Gains by the Kurds would push back the capitalist rulers and give confidence to toilers throughout the region.”

— PAMELA HOLMES

Relations between Ankara and Moscow have been tense since Turkish forces shot down a Russian fighter jet that briefly entered Turkish airspace in November. In retaliation, Putin limited Russian travel to Turkey and the purchase of Turkish fruits and vegetables.

Ankara is strengthening ties with the Ukrainian government. It recently extended a low-interest \$50 million loan to Kiev and conducted joint naval exercises in the Black Sea.

The Israeli government is increas-

ing trade with Turkey and looking toward relations with the Saudi government as “an ally rather than an enemy,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told CNN Jan. 22, pointing to a shared interest in opposing greater Iranian control in the region.

When a truce and transition is reached in Syria, “it is critical from the Israeli standpoint that Syria does not emerge as an Iranian satellite,” Dore Gold, Israeli foreign ministry director general, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

It’s Not Who You Are Against, It’s What You Are For. Speaker: Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president. Fri., April 1. Buffet, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. For more information: (510) 686-1351.

CANADA

Montreal

Lift the Embargo! Return Guantánamo! Cuban Leadership to Obama: ‘Cubans Will Defend Our Sovereignty and Revolution.’ Speaker: Philippe Tessier, Communist League and participant in Havana book fair. Fri., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St. Denis, Suite 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Class Struggle in U.S., the Cuban Revolution Today: Focus of New Books on Cuban Five at Havana International Book Fair. Speaker: Patrick Brown, Communist League and volunteer at Pathfinder booth at Havana book fair. Fri., April 1, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Tel.: (09) 636-3231.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

How Workers Should Respond to Refugee Crisis in Europe. Speaker: Dag Tirsén. Sat., April 2, 6:30 p.m. 301 Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

At NY rally for \$15, workers discuss need for union

BY CANDACE WAGNER

ALBANY, N.Y. — Several thousand workers rallied March 15 at the state Capitol here to demand raising the state minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

The rally was organized to support Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s proposed budget plank declaring an increase in the state minimum wage to \$15 in New York City by the end of 2018 and for the rest of the state by mid-2021. He had previously used executive powers to enact this state minimum for fast-food workers and state employees.

The joint demand of “\$15 and a union” was absent from the publicity

for the event and from the signs and banners. This reflected the interests of the capitalist politicians who are attempting to channel fighters into support for electing “friends of labor.”

But the majority of the workers at the rally were members of unions and the sentiment was high that those who don’t have a union need them.

“We need unions,” Jason Sovie told the *Militant*, “even just for job security. Without a union, a person can work for three or five years some place part time, and then the boss can decide to hire his nephew full time.”

Sovie and Katie Cryderman came from Ogdensburg, a small city across the St. Lawrence River from Canada. Both are members of Service Employees International Union Local 1199. They work in patient registration at the Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center for \$11.56 an hour. Cryderman has a second job at Price Choppers supermarket earning \$9.85. Workers at that chain are in a unionizing effort.

In recent years good paying jobs have been scarce in the area, they told the *Militant*. The biggest employers are a prison and a psychiatric hospital that residents fought to keep open.

Cryderman said she has friends who work at nonunion Walmart. “They

complain about low wages, low hours and inconsistent schedules.”

Local 1199 member Curtis Anderson traveled to the rally from the Bronx. As a hospital patient care technician he makes more than \$15 an hour, but came in solidarity with those who don’t. Anderson is pro-union, but questions whether fast-food workers can organize unions. “People get hired and fired just like that. I don’t know how a union would work there.” He said he would seek out some fast-food workers at the rally to discuss it.

“I support the fight for \$15 for fast-food workers,” said Alvin Major, who works at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Brooklyn. “But everything can go up — rent, phone bill, bus fares, groceries. That can put us back to where we were or worse. So we must have a union to defend the demands that we obtain.”

Members of the Communications Workers of America, whose contract at Verizon expired last August, took part in the rally. Members of the New York State Nurses Association came in buses from New York City and other parts of the state.

Dean Hazlewood contributed to this article.

—CALENDAR—

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Cuba-U.S. Relations: Where It Stands Today. Speaker: Miguel Fraga, First Secretary of the Cuban Embassy. Sat., April 2, 7 p.m. David A. Clarke School of Law, University of the District of Columbia. 4340 Connecticut Ave. NW, Room 516. Tel.: (202) 986-5839.

UNITED KINGDOM

London

Hear the Communist League Candidate for Mayor. Speaker: Jonathan Silberman. Fri., April 1, 7 p.m., followed by social. 83 Kingsland High St., 2nd floor. Tel.: (020) 3583-3553.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

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

This column gives a voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including Steelworkers opposing concessions, construction workers demanding safe conditions and workers fighting for \$15 and a union. I invite those involved in workers' battles 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.

— Maggie Trowe

Calif. Walmart protest demands home care for worker hurt on job

UNION CITY, Calif. — Walmart workers, officials of the United Food and Commercial Workers union and others held a press conference and protest March 10 outside the Walmart here to demand the retail giant pay for home health care for Maria Umali, who was injured on the job nine months ago.

Umali, who worked for 16 years at Walmart, slipped in the back room of the store and lay on the floor for two hours before a manager called an ambulance. After surgery for a broken hip and over three weeks in the hospital, she is still in a wheelchair. The company has twice denied her the home health care she needs.

"I spent a lot of my life working for them," Umali said. "What they did is not right. I don't want this to happen to anyone else."

The protest was organized by Making Change at Walmart.

— Betsey Stone

Montreal furniture warehouse workers fight company lockout

MONTREAL — Some 220 members of UNIFOR Local 145, locked out by furniture retail chain Brault & Martineau at its east end Montreal distribution center, are fighting back. The company locked the unionists out Feb. 28, a few days after they voted down by a 97.5 percent margin a contract proposal gutting their pension plan.

Brault & Martineau bosses aim to impose a defined contribution pension plan for new workers in place of the defined benefit one current employees receive when they retire.

Employers save big money with defined contribution plans by shifting the financial burden onto individual workers to ensure they receive a pittance when they retire.

"This company reported profits of \$40 million [US\$30 million] last year. It's not like they're in the ditch," Local 145 President Stéphane Daigneault told the *Militant* March 4 on the picket line at the huge warehouse.

Picketers said they had set up a sec-

ond line that morning in front of a warehouse the company was trying to use to ship furniture to its stores.

Some 68 members of United Steelworkers Local 6658 are already striking over the same issue against Lafarge, a worldwide concrete producer, at its St. Constant plant near Montreal.

The Steelworkers have called an April 4 demonstration here to demand the Quebec government ban contracts gutting pension plans for new workers.

— Michel Prairie

UK junior doctors hold two-day strike against long hours, pay cut

MANCHESTER, England — A live-picket of some 20 junior doctors outside Salford Royal Hospital cheered as motorists honked in support here March 10. It was one of 147 picket lines at hospitals around England in the third strike by junior doctors and the first since the government vowed to impose a contract that cuts pay and extends hours.

The agreement that takes effect in August will reduce overtime pay and eliminate it altogether on Saturdays before 5 p.m. This is a 48-hour strike, longer than the previous ones, and two more are scheduled. Support for doctors is increasing, even though some 19,000 operations and treatments have been affected.

A recent poll showed 53 percent of those questioned believe the strike is justified, compared to 41 percent last October.

When Emily Sehmer spotted the *Militant*, she exclaimed, "The government calls us the militant doctors because we are fighting their unfair contract, so I think it is an appropriate name."

The government wants a seven-days-a-week National Health Service, but



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Union janitors march in Los Angeles March 8. Members of Service Employees International Union who clean office buildings face concession demands from bosses across California.

without increasing staff, she said. "An overworked, demoralized staff will undoubtedly have a negative impact on patient care."

— Dag Tirsén

Chicago bakery workers picket Nabisco CEO over layoffs

CHICAGO — About 50 Nabisco bakery workers held a picket line across from the Four Seasons Hotel here March 11, where Irene Rosenfeld — CEO of food giant Mondelez, Nabisco's parent company — was speaking. The workers are members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 300.

"Nabisco is laying off 600 workers and sending the work to Mexico," Johnnie Thomas, a mixer at the South Side plant, told the *Militant*. "For 223 workers who already got their layoff notice, March 21 is their last day. Another 323 workers will be laid off later. Our sweat built the plant and this is our payback."

"They are moving nine ovens to Mexico to try to bust the union," said James Walsh, a floor helper with 35 years' seniority. "They are doing it to pay lower wages, which satisfies the stockholders. Today they lay off the lower seniority workers, but we're next," he said.

The picket line included retirees and a few representatives of other unions.

"Fewer employees means a weaker

union," said Margo Artega. "We need decent wages."

— Dan Fein

California janitors hold Women's Day march in union contract fight

LOS ANGELES — Over 500 janitors, members of SEIU United Service Workers West, held a march and rally on International Women's Day here March 8. Actions also took place in Sacramento, San Diego and San Jose.

Thousands of janitors had marched downtown here Feb. 25, marking the opening of SEIU contract talks with property maintenance contractor companies that service businesses across California. They were also calling attention to abuse, including sexual harassment, faced by women janitors, who often work isolated and alone on night shift, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor newsletter reported.

"They want to take away our benefits and vacation days," Maria Castro, a janitor for 10 years, told the *Militant* at the rally. "We deserve respect. The work is very heavy and they are always increasing it. The supervisor says there are many people who will do this for less money. The union is strength. Six years ago we won the union where I work and it has benefited us a lot."

— Deborah Liatos

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 5, 1991

The United Nations report featured in the *International Socialist Review* supplement to this issue exposes in detail the widespread devastation caused by the seven-month war against Iraq. The criminal economic sanctions and the relentless bombing assaults have resulted in life-threatening shortages and a full-scale catastrophe for the Iraqi people.

The report shows the true face of imperialism and what it has in store for working people. The war against Iraq and the destruction resolved nothing for its crisis-racked capitalist system and only made things worse for working people everywhere. Far from being in a "post war" period, the ruling capitalist classes are and will continue to be driven toward more brutal imperialist wars.

Washington's embargo, backed by majority vote of the UN Security Council, was itself an act of war.



April 4, 1966

Senator Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.) expressed shock when the General Motors Corporation admitted it had hired a battery of snoopers to pry into the private life of Ralph Nader, critic of the auto industry's failure to promote safety standards.

Ribicoff said General Motors' action "was most unworthy of American business." GM President Roche said he agreed.

If Roche were feeling belligerent that day he might well have declared that what his firm had done was merely an integral part of the American Way of Life, with the federal government setting the example and pace in the field.

GM might well have pointed to the State Department spokesman who said that surveillance orders are considered routine in the Department and that the practice goes back at least two decades.



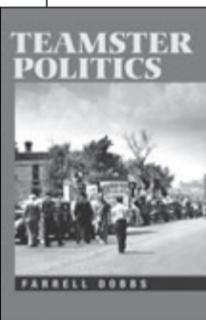
April 5, 1941

The most reliable and indispensable instrument to British capitalism in the war is the trade union bureaucracy. It is through leaders like Bevin, Morrison, Citrine, Alexander that British imperialism entraps the working class into fighting solely for the interests of capitalism.

Suppose Churchill had tried to force the total conscription of labor on the English proletariat by himself. Suppose an out-and-out Tory government had given to itself the totalitarian powers enacted into law in the Emergency Power Act. This act gives the government the right to arrest and detain in prison without any charges, without any trial, without any explanation of any kind, any person it sees fit — for the duration of the war! It gives Churchill the right to conscript all men and women, of whatever age, and to send them to work or to other duties anywhere in the land.

Teamster Politics

by Farrell Dobbs



Unionism and politics cannot be separated. Power generated at the trade-union level can be shattered by government blows. Workers must enter the political arena

as an independent class force, with their own party. \$19.

Also in Spanish

pathfinderpress.com

Cubans defend revolution

Continued from front page

the determination of the historic leadership and millions of working people in Cuba to defend their revolution.

Castro reiterated the Cuban government's demand for Washington to end its 55-year-long economic embargo, which is "the most important obstacle to our economic development and well-being of the Cuban people." Normalizing relations must also involve "the return of the territory illegally occupied by the U.S. Naval Base in Guantánamo," he added.

While recognizing Obama's position "against the blockade, and his repeated appeals to Congress to have it removed," Castro said, "the most recent measures adopted by his administration are positive but insufficient."

A March 15 executive order — the fourth since December 2014 when plans by the two presidents to re-establish diplomatic relations were announced — made slight modifications in U.S. trade and travel restrictions to Cuba.

The ban on U.S. citizens freely traveling to Cuba remains in place. But now individuals can go "provided that the traveler engages in a full-time schedule of educational exchange activities intended to enhance contact with the Cuban people, support civil society in Cuba, or promote the Cuban people's independence from Cuban authorities." The new U.S. Treasury Department regulations state, "The predominant portion of the activities engaged in by the traveler must not be with certain Government of Cuba or Cuban Com-

munist Party officials."

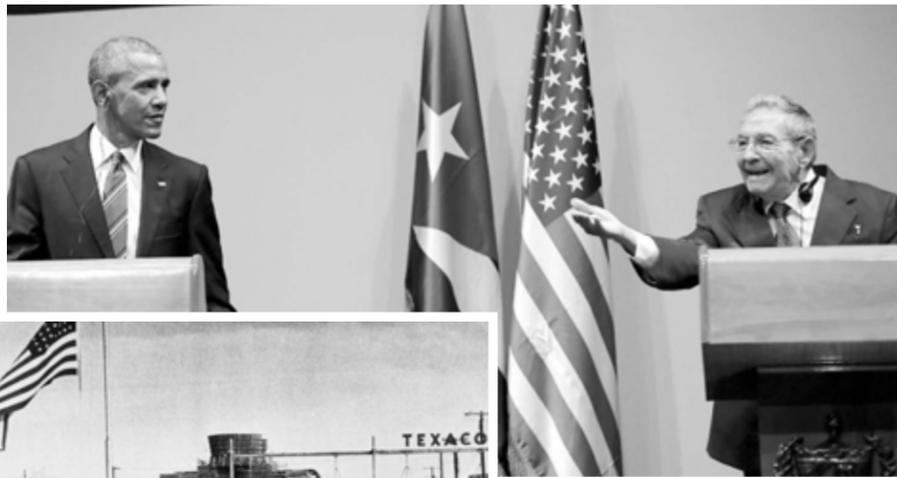
"The truth is that the blockade is still in force," said Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez at a March 17 news conference. "The U.S. ban on Cuban imports is still in force" and "current restrictions on U.S. exports to Cuba, which are limited and exclude key sectors of the Cuban economy, have not been modified. Ships carrying goods to Cuba are still not allowed to touch U.S. ports for a period of 180 days."

"Authorizing Cuba to use U.S. dollars does not mean that banking relations between Cuba and the United States have normalized," he added. "Cuban banks are still not allowed to open correspondent accounts in U.S. banks."

Accompanying Obama on his 48-hour visit are nearly 40 members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, and representatives from Xerox, AT&T, hotel chains and other businesses seeking investment opportunities on the Caribbean island.

At the joint news conference Obama acknowledged that "Cuba is sovereign," but urged the Cuban government "to show that it is ready to do more business, which includes allowing more joint ventures and allowing foreign companies to hire Cubans directly."

This is the central point of the trip — increasing pressure on the Cuban leadership to accept greater U.S. capitalist investment and widen the operation of market relations. In doing so, the U.S. propertied rulers seek to undermine the working-class confidence and social relations of solidarity that dominate in



Above, Reuters/Carlos Barria; Inset, Bohemia
Cuban President Raúl Castro and U.S. President Barack Obama at press conference in Havana March 21. Later Obama met with Cuban "entrepreneurs" not far from former Texaco oil refinery, taken over by workers and nationalized by revolutionary government in 1960, inset.

Cuba as a result of the revolution.

The "labor reality" workers have gained in Cuba is "characterized by the right to employment without discrimination of any kind, equal pay for women and men performing the same job, social security which includes among other benefits the protection of working mothers and pensioners," the Central Organization of Cuban Workers said in a statement issued March 18 leading up to Obama's visit.

Following the meeting with Castro, Obama attended a gathering between U.S. business representatives and Cuban "entrepreneurs" at a state-owned microbrewery along the waterfront of Havana Bay. The place is not far from the former Texaco oil refinery, taken over by the workers and nationalized by the revolutionary government in 1960, when its managers refused to process a

shipment of Soviet crude.

Obama in his remarks there pointed to U.S. companies "moving ahead with new commercial deals," including GE, Starwood Hotels, and CleBer, which will build a factory in Cuba to produce tractors. And another delegation of U.S. "business leaders" will be coming "to promote more entrepreneurship in Cuba," he said.

While it wasn't the central point of his remarks, Obama repeated at the news conference the standard U.S. government claims of a supposed lack of "democracy and human rights" in Cuba.

"The human rights issue should not be politicized," said Castro in response to a question from a U.S. reporter. "Do you think there's any more sacred right than the right to health, so that billions of children don't die just for the lack of a vaccine or a drug or a medication? Do you agree with the right to free education for all those born anywhere in the world or in any country?"

"In Cuba, all children are born in a hospital. ... It doesn't matter if they live in faraway places or in mountains or hills. We have many other rights — the right to health, the right to education," Castro said.

End embargo, says Cuban official in Bay Area tour

BY ERIC SIMPSON

RICHMOND, Calif. — "You can call this the Cuban campaign to end the embargo," Miguel Fraga, first secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, told the *Militant* before a community meeting here March 11. In the last month he has also spoken in Detroit, Seattle and Mobile, Alabama.

Fraga is taking advantage of the re-establishment last year of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuban governments, which were broken by Washington in 1961. Until recently, Cuban diplomats had to apply for special permission to travel outside the capital. Now they simply have to inform the State Department of their plans.

Fraga spoke to hundreds of students at five campuses during a March 7-12 Bay Area tour, as well as at meetings of 120 here and in San Francisco.

In each presentation Fraga cited facts about life in Cuba that were new to many students, including life expectancy of 79 years, near zero illiteracy, free education, and 50,281 health care workers providing services in 68 nations today. "For us, health care is not a business," he said. "This is what we call solidarity."

These accomplishments have been possible because of the 1959 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, despite the impact of the U.S. economic embargo and attempts to isolate Cuba.

Fraga showed audiences a U.S. Department of State memo from April 6, 1960, that explains the origin of the embargo. Citing majority support for the revolutionary government, the memo

calls for "denying money and supplies to Cuba, ... decreas[ing] monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government." That policy, which was deepened under Democratic and Republican administrations alike over the next five and a half decades, utterly failed to achieve its aim.

Fraga also explained how Washington has maintained a naval base on Cuban territory at Guantánamo, against the will of the Cuban people. So while relations between the two countries are increasingly diplomatic, he said, they are not normal.

At Merritt College in Oakland Siri Brown, chair of the African American Studies Department, introduced Fraga and spoke about the record of Cuba in supporting liberation struggles worldwide. "They fought against apartheid in South Africa," she said. "It is the one nation that has withstood imperialism for decades."

Brown said she had visited a facility in Cuba for juveniles charged with crimes. "There was no barbed wire fence. No guns. The whole point of the facility was to reorient the youth."

Fraga spoke to students at Chabot College, Sonoma State, San Francisco State and the College of Marin. The tour was organized by the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity.

The public meeting in Richmond was held in the City Council chambers. City Council member and former Mayor Gayle McLaughlin read a council resolution opposing the embargo.

Fraga spoke the next night at the ANSWER coalition headquarters in

San Francisco, where Supervisor John Avalos presented Fraga with a Board of Supervisors proclamation welcoming him and calling for an end to the trade embargo.

Letter: Cuba mobilizes against Zika virus

On March 4, the morning after I arrived in Havana, my landlady knocked sharply on my door and said, "Get ready quick, Matilde, the fumigators are here." She was ready with a large sheet to cover my bed, and her son was quickly putting things away in the kitchen. Friday was our scheduled day for the weekly indoor spraying designed to reach every room in every dwelling in Havana and other cities around the island.

Cuban President Raúl Castro has mobilized 9,000 regular army troops and 200 police officials to supplement the many thousands of members of the "Ejército Juvenil del Trabajo" [Youth Army of Labor], young men carrying out their mandatory military service doing mosquito control.

Every room has to be closed tight for 45 minutes after spraying, while residents and their pets wait outside. The spray is hard on those with asthma and other respiratory diseases, although the newspapers say that in such cases a nurse accompanies the fumigators and will take the affected person to a clinic if necessary. But the only complaints I have heard have to do with fumigators not showing up or not doing their job.

On March 10, the Public Health Ministry announced the fourth confirmed case of Zika in Cuba and stressed the importance of anyone with a fever or other symptoms reporting right away to a doctor. Cuba's policy is to hospitalize anyone with symptoms and treat them in a special facility with mosquito nets while waiting for results of the blood test for Zika. There have been no cases in Cuba of pregnant women infected with the virus.

The second phase of the anti-Zika war has just begun, in which the weekly spraying of homes and workplaces is being supplemented by the mobilization of medical students and public health workers to go house to house and community to community with an education and detection campaign.

I have been particularly struck by this all-out effort because I arrived in Cuba after a week in Puerto Rico, where I saw no evidence of any special efforts to confront the Zika crisis.

Matilde Zimmermann
Havana, Cuba

Cuban women's leaders speak on gains of revolution

BY NAOMI CRAINE

NEW YORK — “Obama says he’s coming to tell us how democracy should be. But the Cuban people decided what kind of democracy we wanted in 1959, and carried out profound changes that were needed,” said Teresa Amarelle Boué, general secretary of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), at a meeting here March 19.

Amarelle headed a delegation from the FMC and other Cuban organizations to the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, March 14-24. While here they spoke at the public meeting, held at the Service Employees International Union Local 1199 hall, as well as with students at the City College of New York and at other events. More than 150 people attended.

Gail Walker, executive director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace, and Soffiyah Elijah, executive director of the Correctional Association of New York, co-chaired. In welcoming the Cuban leaders, Walker noted that the meeting was taking place on the eve of President Barack Obama’s trip to Cuba. She urged participants to read the March 9 editorial from the Cuban daily *Granma*, which “explains in clear language how the Cuban people will respond to the president’s upcoming visit to Cuba ‘without renouncing a single one of our principles.’” (See last week’s issue.)

The editorial reiterates the Cuban people’s demand to lift the U.S. economic sanctions, return Guantánamo and to end other attacks on Cuba, Walker said, adding, “Your friends here in the United States are not afraid of confronting that challenge along with you.” She also pointed to an FMC statement avail-



Militant/Arnold Weissberg

Women’s gains are “result of winning right to a job, education, and their involvement in the revolution,” said Teresa Amarelle, general secretary of Federation of Cuban Women, standing, at March 19 meeting. Also on panel, from left, are FMC representative Yanira Kúper and Myrna Méndez and Yamila González from National Union of Jurists of Cuba.

able at the meeting (and printed below) on the “tremendous accomplishments of Cuban women” Obama will see in Cuba.

“Women have taken a lead in all of the educational efforts in Cuba,” Amarelle said in her opening remarks, including the 1961 literacy campaign in which a majority of the volunteers who taught and those who learned to read were women. Today, she said, women make up some 62 percent of the technical workforce, 68 percent of doctors, 48 percent of scientists, and 48.6 percent of the deputies in the National Assembly. Amarelle is a member of that body and of Cuba’s Council of State.

These figures are not a result of quotas, Amarelle said. They are “a reflec-

tion of the leadership taken by women as a result of winning the right to a job, to education and their involvement in the revolution.”

She was joined on the platform and answered questions with Maritzel González and Yanira Kúper of the FMC’s international relations department, Alicia Campos of the Women’s International Democratic Federation, and Yamila González and Myrna Méndez of the National Union of Jurists of Cuba.

Relations must be based on respect

In the discussion Yamila González pointed to the hypocrisy of press reports that Michelle Obama plans to bring her “Let Girls Learn” campaign to Cuba.

‘For us socialism means freedom, sovereignty, dignity’

Below is the statement issued by the Federation of Cuban Women March 15, several days before President Barack Obama’s visit to Cuba. Translation is by the Militant.

Cuban women, as a part of our people as a whole, will welcome U.S. President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle with the hospitality and dignity that characterizes us. We are aware that this visit is part of the complex process of normalizing relations between our two governments. It will, therefore, be an opportunity to show them what we have achieved in gender equality and the leading role that women play in the political, economic, cultural and social life of our country.

During their visit they will be able to see that we receive equal pay for equal work, that the governments in nine of the 15 Cuban provinces are headed by women, that the administration of justice is also largely in women’s hands. Everywhere they go they will witness the selfless efforts of women of all generations.

They will see firsthand how much we love our free and independent country, which we have defended from attacks of all kinds. For more than half a century we have resisted an economic, financial and commercial blockade with creativity and dedication. We have built a society where human beings are the most important factor, and have educated our children in these values of solidarity, an-

ti-imperialism and national sovereignty. We will never renounce these achievements.

The Federation of Cuban Women, a nongovernmental organization in civil society with consultative status in the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), brings together more than 4 million Cuban women — some 90 percent of women over 14. We carry out specific programs to develop a culture of full equality and social inclusion in our country. Many of the objectives in Goal 5 of the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, are today a reality in our country.

We know that Michelle Obama is promoting a major initiative called “Let Girls Learn,” with the aim of providing access to education to 62 million girls around the world. We offer our humble experience in this field, since 100 percent of our girls attend school regardless of where they live, the color of their skin, whether they have a disability or are hospitalized. A Cuban woman, Leonela Relys Díaz, created the “Yes I Can” method, through which millions of people worldwide have learned to read and write.

In addition, this will be an opportunity to reiterate our demand to end the inhumane blockade against our country, which has led to many hardships and prevented us from developing even more than we have.

The Federation of Cuban Women also supports the statements of our government demanding an end to the occupation of the territory of the Guantánamo naval base, the repeal of the Cuban Adjustment Act and the “wet-foot, dry-foot” policy, and the elimination of interventionist programs aimed at inciting internal destabilization. These policies threaten the security and tranquility of our families.

Today the words of Vilma Espín, forever the president of our organization, are more relevant than ever for all our members: “For Cuban women, socialism means freedom, independence, sovereignty, dignity, social justice, and security in the education and development of our children, as well as the right to equality, to life, to decide our own destiny, to work for the future we dream of and to defend it with all our strength.”



Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution
From Santiago de Cuba and the Rebel Army, to the Birth of the Federation of Cuban Women \$20

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution
by Jack Barnes

About struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary — it can be made. \$10



pathfinderpress.com

SWP victory over FBI gave tool to defend workers' rights

The excerpt below is from the introduction to *FBI on Trial: The Victory in the Socialist Workers Party Suit Against Government Spying* edited by Margaret Jayko, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month for March*. It chronicles the 15-year lawsuit, *Socialist Workers Party v. Attorney General*, carried to a successful conclusion by the SWP and the Political Rights Defense Fund. From day one of the lawsuit, the SWP sought to collaborate with all organizations and individuals with a stake in the fight to defend and extend democratic rights. Copyright © 1988 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Some 200,000 trade unionists and others march in Washington, April 25, 1987, opposing U.S. government's war in Central America and against racist apartheid regime in South Africa. FBI operation against Committee in Solidarity with People of El Salvador was exposed two months earlier.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MARGARET JAYKO

This book is about a historic victory for democratic rights. It contains the federal court decision that codifies the accomplishments of the successful fifteen-year legal battle waged by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) against decades of spying, harassment, and disruption by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The ruling in this case places a valuable new weapon in the hands of all working people fighting to defend their rights and living standards and all those struggling for progressive social change.

It can and should be used widely to win broader freedoms for everyone. The SWP and YSA filed the lawsuit July 18, 1973, in federal court in Manhattan. They charged government agencies with "illegal acts of blacklisting, harassment, electronic surveillance, burglary, mail tampering, and terrorism" against the socialist organizations. They demanded a court injunction to halt these illegal activities and that the government be ordered to pay damages.

The trial opened in New York April 2, 1981, and continued for three months. In eight years of pretrial proceedings the plaintiffs had managed to pry hundreds of thousands of pages out of the secret files of the FBI and other government police agencies, substantiating many of the allegations made in the original complaint. Many of these documents were submitted into evidence at the trial.

Five years after the trial, on August 25, 1986, U.S. District Judge Thomas Griesa ruled in favor of the plaintiffs. The judge found the FBI guilty of violations of the constitutional rights of the SWP and YSA and of their members and supporters.

On August 17, 1987, Judge Griesa issued an injunction barring any further government use of the FBI files on the SWP, YSA, and their members and supporters that had been compiled illegally.

On January 14, 1988, the government served notice that it would appeal Judge Griesa's rulings. Two months later, just days before the deadline for

submitting its appeal brief, the Justice Department withdrew its appeal. This ended the court case. An unprecedented victory for constitutional rights had been won. . . .

The court ruling provides a compelling summary of the government's illegal operations against the SWP and YSA as revealed in the case. Judge Griesa dealt extensively with the FBI's use of informers to spy on and seek to disrupt the SWP and YSA.

His decision details several of the fifty-seven disruption operations conducted by the FBI. These include poison-pen letters, malicious articles planted in the press, instances of harassment and victimization, covert attempts to get SWP members fired from their jobs, and efforts to disrupt collaboration between the SWP and Black rights and anti-Vietnam war groups.

It enumerates 20,000 days of wiretaps and 12,000 days of listening "bugs" between 1943 and 1963. It documents 208 FBI burglaries of offices and homes of the SWP and its members, resulting in the theft or photographing of 9,864 private documents.

Judge Griesa concluded that these government operations were illegal and a violation of the Bill of Rights. He ruled that appeals to "national security"—by the president or anyone else—cannot be used as an excuse to violate the Constitution. "The FBI exceeded any reasonable definition of its mandate and had no discretion to do so," the judge concluded.

Based on these findings, Judge Griesa

ordered the government to pay the SWP and YSA \$264,000 in damages. . . .

Shortly after Griesa's injunction was issued in 1987, the FBI's covert spying operation against the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) was uncovered. . . .

Commenting on the speed of the reaction to news of spying on CISPES, SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes told reporters at a March 17, 1988, press conference announcing the final victory in the SWP case, "I think that people in this country view the FBI and political rights differently than they did fifteen years ago when our case was filed.

"We helped show millions of people in this country that the FBI engaged in a criminal domestic contra operation and is capable of doing so again," said Barnes.

Coming when they did, the CISPES revelations and the sharp public reaction to them may also have helped tip the balance in a divided Justice Department and White House over whether or not to appeal the court ruling in the SWP case.

"Today's Contragate indictments, the revelations of FBI crimes against CISPES, evidence of illegal activity on the part of Attorney General Edwin Meese, growing and well deserved skepticism generally regarding the FBI, all have helped create a context in which the government decided it could ill afford another public fight over its unconstitutional operation against the SWP," commented Barnes.

The SWP leader went on to explain what was gained through this lawsuit: "We said fifteen years ago when we launched the case that the FBI's purpose was to discourage political activity, to lessen the space for it, to narrow the de facto use of the Bill of Rights, to shrink the confidence of working people and anyone who wants to use their democratic rights, in order to prepare for the war and repression they felt was necessary."

At a minimum we can say that our victory helps *encourage* people to engage in political activity, *increases* the space for politics, *expands* the de facto use of the Bill of Rights, *increases* the confidence of working people that you can be political and hold the deepest convictions against the government and it's your right to do so and act upon them, and *weakens* their ability to prepare secretly for war and repression."

March **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

FBI on Trial
The Victory in the Socialist Workers Party Suit Against Government Spying
Edited by Margaret Jayko
The 1987 victory in the SWP legal battle against the FBI increases the space for politics and expands the use of the Bill of Rights.
\$20. **Special price: \$15**

Woman's Evolution
From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family
by Evelyn Reed
\$32. **Special price: \$24**

The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State
by Frederick Engels
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Military Writings
by Leon Trotsky
The central organizer of the Red Army discusses the challenge of organizing an army of peasants and workers defending the young Soviet Republic.
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US out of Guantánamo! End embargo!

Continued from front page

lease.” Ever since the Cuban people overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959, the revolutionary government has demanded an end to this illegal occupation. What’s more, since 2002 Washington has maintained the infamous prison camp there that has turned the name “Guantánamo” into a symbol of torture and abuse.

The U.S. rulers have tried to destroy the Cuban Revolution for more than 56 years using everything from assassination attempts and invasion to sabotage and economic warfare. Having failed, they now hope to undermine the revolution by other methods.

In 1961 Fidel Castro boldly asserted, “There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba.” Amid the growing world crisis of capitalism, these words are even more timely.

What does U.S. capitalism and its parties — Democrats, Republicans, and others — offer humanity? More wars, unemployment, discrimination against women, attacks on constitutional rights, racism, police brutality, farm foreclosures.

In face of what at times seemed insurmountable odds, Cuba’s workers and farmers have shown their capacity to build a society based on human solidarity, not on profits of a tiny minority. What people sent the most doctors to West Africa to cure those ill with

Ebola? Who is setting the example of how to fight the Zika virus? What country sent hundreds of thousands of volunteers to help stop the racist South African regime in its tracks in Angola, asking nothing in return? The Cuban people and their revolutionary government.

As part of our campaign, the Socialist Workers Party candidates explain what the working class in the U.S. and elsewhere can learn from working people in Cuba — to make a socialist revolution in our own countries. Workers here have the same capacities as our brothers and sisters in Cuba.

We encourage workers and young people to read *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes; *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*; *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and other books that explain what Cuba’s socialist revolution has accomplished and what the Socialist Workers Party is for.

As we campaign we are often asked, “What can I do?” Help us win new readers to the *Militant* newspaper and books like these. Join picket lines by workers on strike. Participate in protests against police brutality and in defense of a woman’s right to choose abortion. Speak out against the U.S. embargo of Cuba. Join the Socialist Workers Party and be part of organizing to make a revolution right here in the United States.

Chicago event backs fight to free Oscar López

BY JOHN VOTAVA AND BETSY FARLEY

CHICAGO — “Every Puerto Rican who cares about the future of Puerto Rico and wants a better and fairer world must say NO to the payment of the debt.”

That statement is from a letter by Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera, who has been in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges for more than 34 years, that his daughter Clarisa López initially read on his 73rd birthday in January. She referred to it again at a March 12 forum celebrating International Women’s Day organized by the Chicago chapter of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women.

The event focused on the ongoing effort to free López and on the devastating economic crisis in Puerto Rico, including the \$73 billion government debt that capitalist bondholders are demanding payment to fill their bank accounts on the backs of working people in the U.S. colony. The meeting was held at the National Museum for Puerto Rican Arts and Culture and attended by 100 people.

Because of drastic cuts in social services, unemployment and the bankruptcy of the state institutions, a “forced exodus of 150,000 residents has taken place since 2010,” said Wilma Reverón from the American Civil Liberties Union in Puerto Rico. This situation cannot be reversed unless Puerto Rico “wins sovereignty” over its economy and laws.

Clarisa López and Jan Susler, Oscar López’s attorney, spoke about the growing efforts to win López’s freedom, from petitions to monthly 34-minute vigils — one minute for every year of his imprisonment — being held across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico.

Susler, who works for the People’s Law Office in Chicago, likened the broad support for López in Puerto Rico to the mass popular movement that forced the U.S. Navy to close its base and bombing range on the island of Vieques there in 2003. Trade unions in Puerto Rico and the U.S., every political party on the island and even some of López’s prison guards have supported the call for his release. Susler reiterated López’s demand, “Let’s not pay that debt.”

LETTERS

A correction

The quotation attributed to me in issue no. 12 on the article on Lac-Mégantic did not accurately reflect my views in response to the question asked me by your reporter about my reaction to the recent revelations in the *Globe and Mail* on the Lac-Mégantic disaster. It should have said that while the rail workers who are currently charged share some of the responsibility for the tragedy, it would have been necessary to go higher in the pyramid of all those who were responsible, like the former owners of the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway and the former Minister of Transport Denis Lebel, who should also be among those charged.

André Blais
Lac-Mégantic, Quebec

Trump is insider

The *Militant* is “spot on” regarding the thuggish antics of groups to disrupt Donald Trump’s campaign

meetings and their influences on setting back the working class. The same is true of the economic crisis and his non-fascist tag. However, Alyson Kennedy missed the chance to identify Trump as part of the 1 percent and very much of an insider. He is part of the ruling class that controls the very same insider politicians that he rails against.

Ken Morgan
Baltimore, Maryland

Rabbi fought Jim Crow

I appreciated Janice Lynn’s excellent article in the March

21 issue on the celebration of the life and political contributions of Lea Bockman. In relation to Bockman’s participation in the religiously mixed panel that spoke out in the early 1960s, one of those was Janice Rothschild. She was the wife of the late Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, whose synagogue, the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation, was bombed in 1958. He began speaking out publicly against Jim Crow segregation after moving to Atlanta after World War II and becoming the congregation’s rabbi.

Lisa Potash
Atlanta, Georgia

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.

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Calif. cop brutality

Continued from front page

march stopped at the corner where Ledesma was beaten by police in 2013. He died in custody nine days later.

According to a study by the *Guardian* newspaper, Kern County, which includes Bakersfield, has the highest per capita deaths at the hands of cops in the United States. Kern County has a population of just under 875,000. The cops killed 13 people here in 2015; in New York City with almost 10 times the population, the cops killed nine people.

“I’m here to represent my son who was killed Nov. 13, 2014,” said Leticia De La Rosa, mother of James De La Rosa, who was 22 years old when he was gunned down by the Bakersfield police. An oil field worker, he crashed his car during a police pursuit. Cops fatally shot De La Rosa when he got out of the car. Some witnesses said he put his hands up, but the police used the well-worn excuse that he was reaching for his waistband. He was unarmed.

The family of day laborer David Silva also joined the march. “These people will be held accountable,” said his mother Merri Silva, speaking at the corner where he was beaten to death by cops on May 7, 2013. “If I’m not vocal nothing is going to be solved.”

Silva had sought help at the Kern County Medical Center and fell asleep on the ground nearby. An officer with a police dog woke him up. Seven members of the Kern County Sheriff’s department and two California Highway Patrol Officers joined in using batons to beat and hog-tie him. Police dogs bit him 30 times. Videos taken by witnesses were confiscated by the cops.

Donny Youngblood, who is both the sheriff and the coroner, ruled that Silva’s death was an accident and that deputies acted appropriately, alleging that Silva was resisting arrest. Youngblood is notorious for his anti-immigrant stance.

Kern County is one of the top oil-producing counties in the U.S., as well as a major agricultural center at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, and has long been a center for farmworker organizers. With the drop in oil prices and a drought, unemployment in the area was officially at 10.9 percent in February, almost twice the rate in the state as a whole.

At a barbecue after the march, other family members spoke, including the mother and aunt of Jason Alderman. He was shot to death on Aug. 22, 2015, by cops who claimed they thought he was armed outside a shop they said he had burglarized. After first saying there was no video, the cops were forced to release one that shows Alderman was unarmed and was shot while trying to exit the shop through a hole in the bottom of the door.

Marchers expressed appreciation for protesters who joined them from southern California, including activists from the Young Survivors Legacy Support Network, a group of family members and friends of victims of police killings in Orange County and Los Angeles. Other speakers included Genevieve Huizar, whose son Manuel Diaz was killed by an Anaheim cop in July 2012; a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union; members of the Brown Berets; and the Socialist Workers Party.

New York forum

Continued from page 3

didn’t ask the state to interfere by the restricting of his speech,” the group says on their website. “Instead we drowned out his hate ourselves.”

All this does is make Trump look like he’s a defender of free speech. “History has shown that attacks on political expression always end up being used against the rights of the working class,” Craine said.

“Many workers don’t like it when someone tries to tell you what you can think and who you can listen to,” said Long Island Rail Road worker Craig Honts during the discussion period. “At some rail yards views on Trump are really polarized and become frozen. That’s why the Socialist Workers Party campaign statement on the need to defend free speech is so useful — to open up the discussion we need on what way forward for working people.”