

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Overturn of Texas anti-abortion stricture: 'A victory we can use'
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 27 JULY 25, 2016

SWP candidate in Baton Rouge: Capitalism is root of problem

BY RACHELE FRUIT

BATON ROUGE, La. — Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Osborne Hart and campaign supporters spent several days in Baton Rouge participating in protest activities against the July 5 police killing of Alton Sterling here and Philando Castile in Minnesota. (See accompanying article.)

At the demonstrations and on doorsteps they spoke with working people about why police brutality is intertwined with capitalism and why workers need to take political power to put an end to it. The SWP presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart will be filing for ballot status in the state of Louisiana later this month.

At the Triple S convenience store,
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Socialist Workers Party campaigns door to door

BY MAGGIE TROWE

SALT LAKE CITY — Socialist Workers Party members have been going door to door across the country introducing working people to the party. “Our party is your party,” they say. Members of the Communist Leagues around the world are doing the same.

They explain that the economic and social crisis working people are living through is caused by capitalism. The unraveling of the old imperialist order around the world continues. The capitalist parties have no solution.

A big aid in charting a road forward is the new book *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism*. “As we gain confidence and experi-
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Join fight against cop brutality and killings!



Militant/Seth Galinsky

New York march July 7. Protests have taken place across the country to protest police killings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Philando Castile near St. Paul, Minnesota.

Nationwide protests say 'prosecute the cops'

BY JANICE LYNN
AND RACHELE FRUIT

BATON ROUGE, La. — Protests have taken place coast to coast since cops killed Alton Sterling here July 5 and Philando Castile the next day in a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota. “Hands up, don’t shoot,” has once again become a rallying cry as protesters take to the streets.

“The police have to be accountable for what they do, they’ve been doing this for years,” maintenance worker Angelo Robinson, 53, said July 8 outside the Triple S convenience store.

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Socialist Workers Party campaign statement

The following statement was released July 8 by Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice president. Hart joined protests in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, against cop killing of Alton Sterling.

We demand the indictment and prosecution of the cops who killed Philando Castile in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, and Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana! We encourage all working people and youth to join protests in your area. Where none

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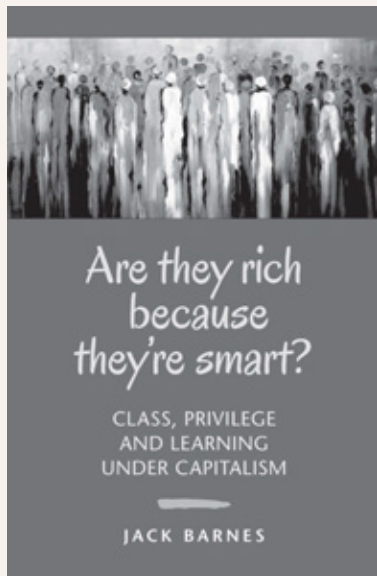


Militant/Janice Lynn

Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Osborne Hart, right, speaks with Abdullah Muflahi, owner of store Alton Sterling was shot outside of by Baton Rouge police.

Are they rich because they're smart? Class, privilege and learning under capitalism

by Jack Barnes



In the coming battles forced upon us by the capitalist rulers, says Barnes, workers will begin to transform ourselves and our attitudes toward life, work and each other. Only then will we discover our own worth and learn what we're capable of becoming.

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**See list on page 8 to join with
Socialist Workers Party or
Communist League nearest you to
campaign with this book.
Our party is your party!**

'Disrupted world' intrudes on US-led NATO's imperialist order

BY MARK THOMPSON

The U.S.-dominated NATO military alliance held a summit meeting in Warsaw, Poland, July 8-9. As expected, the gathering formalized plans to provocatively deploy NATO battalions along the Russian border in

the Baltics and to extend its intervention in Afghanistan.

The summit and recent statements by NATO officials highlight the fact that there is no military or diplomatic

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Florida prisons' censorship of 'Militant' violates free speech rights

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In response to the impoundment of two recent issues of the *Militant* by authorities in at least two Florida state prisons, the *Militant's* attorney David Goldstein filed an appeal July 7 requesting that the state Department of Corrections Literature Review Com-

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Biggest issue is health care in Atlantic City casino strike

Coal miners vote down contract at 5 W. Va. mines

Colombia: Gov’t, guerrillas sign peace accord in Havana

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MIAMI — The agreement to end hostilities between the government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia “places us closer than ever before to the end of the armed conflict that has been suffered for more than five decades by the brother people of Colombia,” Cuban President Raúl Castro said at the June 23 signing of the agreement in Havana. The government of revolutionary Cuba hosted and played a key role in facilitating the negotiations.

The war between the government and various guerrilla armies, as well as attacks by government-backed rightist paramilitary groups, has claimed more than 220,000 lives and displaced 5 million people since the conflict began.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces, known by its Spanish acronym as the FARC, launched its guerrilla struggle in response to massacres of peasants carried out by capitalist landowners in the 1960s. The FARC became the largest of several guerrilla groups.

Using the guerrilla war as a pre-text along with charges that guerrilla groups were involved in drug trafficking, Washington deepened its military involvement in Colombia and used Colombia as a base for intervening in the internal affairs of other Latin American nations.

The FARC, which took its political lead from the Colombian Communist Party, “never planned to conquer power through the armed struggle,” Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro has ex-

plained. “The *guerrilla* was a resistance front and not the essential instrument for conquering revolutionary power.”

This was the opposite of the course followed by the revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro in Cuba, who led working people there to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. From the time of the Cuban revolutionaries’ first encounter with the dictatorship’s troops in 1956, it took little more than two years for the revolutionary struggle to triumph.

Castro has also criticized the FARC’s taking of hostages, both civilian and military, during the war.

“Civilians should have never been kidnapped, nor should the soldiers have been kept as prisoners in jungle conditions,” he said in 2008. “These were objectively cruel actions. No revolutionary aim could justify them.”

“We won our revolutionary war in Cuba by immediately releasing every prisoner absolutely unconditionally,” Castro pointed out. “The soldiers and officers captured in every battle were released to the International Red Cross; we kept only their weapons.”

The agreement states that the FARC’s estimated 7,000 fighters will go to “concentration zones” in areas under FARC control to hand over their weapons to United Nations officials.

Under an earlier agreement, FARC soldiers who admit to “crimes” during the war will receive reduced sentences, often amounting to community service, the *New York Times* reported.

The agreement stipulates that paramilitary groups will not be tolerated,

Cuban Five begin UK tour at Miners’ Gala



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

DURHAM, England — Gerardo Hernández, right, and René González, two of five Cuban revolutionaries who spent a decade and a half in U.S. prisons, at the 132nd Durham Miners’ Gala July 9, along with Cuban Ambassador Teresita Vicente. The gala attracts tens of thousands of workers each year.

“That empire that used to apply terrorism against us, pretends to be our friend now. They tell us to forget our history, to forget the terrorism and the blockade that the U.S. has imposed on us for 50 years,” González told the crowd. “But when we come here and see your parade, we know we can never forget history.” González and Hernández are touring the U.K. to thank those who backed their fight for freedom.

The gala starts with a parade with brass bands and former miners from all over Britain marching with the colorful banners of their colliery. Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn was the main speaker.

“The fact that two of us are here today is your victory,” Hernández said. “It shows the power of unity, solidarity and struggle.

“People ask me, don’t you regret the time they robbed from you? To that we respond, we are robbing time from them now. I am robbing time from the two life sentences that I was supposed to serve.

“They may have been able to destroy your industry,” he said, referring to the closing down of all deep coal mines in the U.K., “but they have not destroyed your spirit. That spirit is an example to the Cuban people and to the world.”

— CATHARINA TIRSÉN AND JONATHAN SILBERMAN

nor will attacks on human rights organizations, demobilized FARC members, and their right to engage in legal political activity.

In April Nidia Quintero, general secretary of the farmworkers and peasants union FENSUAGRO in Colombia, spoke at meetings in the U.S.

The Colombian government has used the ongoing war as a cover for violence and repression aimed at workers fighting to organize into unions and small farmers resisting being driven off their land, she said at a meeting at the AFL-CIO hall in Miami.

Quintero explained how Plan Colombia — the name given to the U.S. program of assisting the Colombian government in combating “terrorism and the illicit narcotics trade” — was a disaster for workers and peasants, destroying their crops with herbicides and facilitating the theft of their land by the big landowners.

Ending the war will remove some obstacles to fighting for agrarian reform and organizing with less fear of paramilitary attack, she said.

Chuck Guerra contributed to this article.

THE MILITANT

Stop deportations! Organize! Unionize!

The bosses use the undocumented status of many immigrants to drive down wages and conditions on the job. The ‘Militant’ explains why workers should say, “Wherever you were born, whatever language you speak, with or without papers, let’s fight the bosses together.”



Casa de Maryland
Protest at White House against deportations, Dec. 30, 2015.

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Campaigning door to door

Continued from front page

ence fighting alongside each other,” the book explains, working people recognize that “we are capable of taking power and organizing society.”

Socialist Workers Party campaigners in the Salt Lake City area and other parts of Utah have found interest in the party and its program — in the explanation and course outlined in the new book. Many they meet end up getting a copy.

“I have no insurance and I paid a penalty last year for not having Obamacare,” said Mark Pace, 49, July 9. He was laid off after working 15 years at a printing plant and now works installing flooring and other odd jobs in construction. “I’m eating lunchmeat and hot dogs, and I’m not sure I can put together my mortgage payment. I like what you are saying about building a movement.”

Later that day campaigners participated in a rally of 300 in front of the Salt Lake City police headquarters against cop brutality and the killings of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Philando Castile in St. Paul, Minnesota.

One speaker was Heidi Keilbaugh, whose partner James Barker, a musician, was killed by Salt Lake City police while shoveling snow in January 2015. Keilbaugh first met SWP members at the May 2015 Million Mom’s March against police brutality in Washington.

Campaigners discussed the fight against police brutality with workers they met door to door. “They kill people, they don’t care what color they are, and they get a paid vacation,” said Ryan White at his door in Kearns July 11. White, 35, who is Caucasian, is just starting a job as a surveyor. He got the new book and a *Militant* subscription.

Campaigning in Magna, Kearns and other towns outside Salt Lake City, Socialist Workers Party members met active and retired copper miners.

Not everyone agreed with SWP campaigners. “I don’t like unions. There are plenty of jobs for people who want to work,” said one man in Kearns.

In Ogden Brian Klinger, 38, told campaigner Pete Brandli he opposes U.S. intervention in the Mideast. “Neither Donald Trump nor Hillary Clinton are worth supporting,” he said.

Hart in Baton Rouge: Capitalism is root of problem

Continued from front page

the site of Sterling’s killing, campaign supporters spoke with store owner Abdullah Muflahi and his cousin, Fahmi Al Mansoob from Bessemer, Alabama. Al Mansoob described several incidents where he had been followed and stopped by the police for no reason.

Muflahi told the *Militant* how he had faced anti-Muslim harassment while living in Dearborn, Michigan, following the 9/11 attacks and that he thought it is important for us to stick together.

“I see the problem today is not a racial one, but rather rich versus poor,” said Ashley Ferdinand, 32, who is Black and works at Whole Foods, and met Hart at a rally at City Hall July 8. She explained how her family in New Orleans lost everything during Hurricane Katrina and that she had worked overtime at Walmart to help those who had not received any assistance from the government.

Ferdinand told Hart about a protest meeting at Southern University and encouraged him to attend and meet people

EAST CARBON, Utah — A sign reading “Proud Union Family” is in the front window of retired miner Bobby Fivecoat’s house in this desert town of 1,200 in coal-rich Carbon County.

Campaigners visited Fivecoat, a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 9958, July 5 while knocking on the doors of other workers here. He was one of a number of retired miners who actively supported the 2003-2006 fight by Co-Op miners in nearby Huntington for union representation and better pay and work conditions.

“It was tough on those kids,” Fivecoat said, referring to the strikers, the majority of whom were Mexican-born workers in their 20s and 30s, “but we taught them about the union.” Fivecoat recalled how retired miners got the strikers a trailer for a picket shack when the weather got cold.

“They’re rich because they’re exploiters of workers,” Fivecoat said when he was shown the new book *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*

When Fivecoat learned that Alyson Kennedy, one of the leaders of the Co-Op strike, is the SWP candidate for U.S. president, he was elated. “Tell Alyson I’m voting for her,” he said.

Liz Merlen, a certified nurses assistant, agreed about the need to build a society based on solidarity that respects the dignity and humanity of every person. “Sometimes we have to turn away an older person because they don’t have the insurance or money to pay for nursing home care,” she said. “It tears me up.”

Over the last few weeks in Utah,

Workers’ attitudes no different in Sanders’ state

BY JOHN STUDER

BARRE, Vt. — Members of the Socialist Workers Party and other campaign supporters have been going door to door throughout Vermont talking with working people.

This is the state where Bernie Sanders has been a political figure for decades. He was elected Mayor of Burlington in 1981, to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990, and then

who would be interested in hearing what the party has to say.

“We don’t have a lot to choose from as far as the elections go. I think Trump scares me more than Clinton. His demeanor and inability to control his rage — you can’t do that as the leader of the free world. We need a Plan B,” Mia Webb, 58, a retired nurse practitioner who is Caucasian, told Hart.

“No matter which one wins the election, the crisis working people face will continue,” Hart replied. “Neither one of them has a solution. It’s working people coming together and joining in solidarity that is the only road forward.”

Many of those Hart and campaigners spoke to got copies of the new book *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism*. The book notes that tens of thousands have come into the streets to protest police killings and brutality and to demand the arrest and prosecution of the cops responsible over the last several years. This is just one indication of the growing confidence and open-



Inset: Militant/Bernie Senter

Socialist Workers Party campaigner Pete Brandli, right, discusses *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* with Brian Klinger in Ogden, Utah, July 10. Inset, SWP campaigners participated in July 9 rally in Salt Lake City protesting police killings in Minnesota and Louisiana.

campaigners for the Socialist Workers Party have sold 151 copies of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* along with 132 subscriptions and 237 single copies of the *Militant* and collected 1,304 signatures toward the goal of 1,800 to place the SWP presidential ticket on the ballot.

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party around the country are also using the new book as an aid to building the party.

Campaigners went door to door in South Bend, Indiana, and visited the United Auto Workers union hall where workers locked out by Honeywell are organizing solidarity.

to the Senate in 2006. Campaigners were curious. Are things better for workers in Vermont than elsewhere? Is there a different political situation here?

Not really.

Workers in Vermont face similar conditions to those across the country — official unemployment figures that undercount the real number of jobless, unsafe job conditions, cuts

ness among workers of all nationalities throughout the U.S. to discuss and debate the broadest social and political questions.

Webb was one of those. She liked the title. “That sounds exactly right,” Webb said. “They just paper shuffle and they’re not concerned about what we do every day.”

Campaigners also met Lawrence Mills at his home in Scotlandville in northwest Baton Rouge. Mills, 58, works at Ardent Mills, a flour mill at the port, and is a union steward for the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union. “What you’re saying sounds right,” Mills said. “I’ll support you all. It is a struggle for the working class. They need a voice. It’s the middle, the low class person getting hurt by the decisions being made. They don’t ask us. Those who make the decisions don’t have to live on what we get paid.”

Janice Lynn and Lisa Potash contributed to this article.



In Lincoln, Nebraska, supporters of the party went door to door July 10 and then joined a Black Lives Matter rally of 100 protesting the recent killings by police. Several people at the rally volunteered to help out on the Aug. 1-2 Nebraska tour of SWP vice-presidential candidate Osborne Hart.

Joel Britton and Mitchel Rosenberg in Utah, Laura Anderson in Chicago and Joe Swanson in Lincoln, Nebraska, contributed to this article.

Help campaign for the Socialist Workers Party!

Contact a branch listed on p. 8 or:

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course U.S. imperialism can take that will bring stability to the unraveling world imperialist order, from the Middle East to central Asia and Europe. This is the opposite of what the U.S. ruling class expected a quarter-century ago, when Washington mistakenly believed it had won the Cold War.

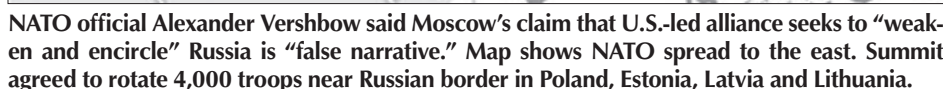
Vershow, a U.S. diplomat, was outlining Washington's perspective for the upcoming summit, which drew government and military leaders from the United States, Canada, most countries in Europe and Turkey. He called for an "enhanced forward presence" of NATO armed forces in eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Just a few days after Vershbow's address, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier criticized a NATO

Arriving in Warsaw July 8, French President Francois Hollande said, "NATO has no role at all to be saying what Europe's relations with Russia should be," adding that "for France, Russia is not an adversary."

Washington began taking steps to incorporate former Warsaw Pact countries into NATO membership in 1994. That same year the Bill Clinton administration pushed for NATO intervention in Yugoslavia, in what became the first combat operation in the reactionary alliance's history. Placing the U.S.-led occupation of Afghanistan under NATO command in 2003 was the first NATO operation beyond Europe.

NATO held its largest war games since the end of the Cold War in Poland in June, with 31,000 troops from 24 countries. In response the Russian mili-



In May, Washington inaugurated a ground-based anti-ballistic missile system in Romania, with another planned in Poland. Moscow then announced it would deploy nuclear-capable missiles in Kaliningrad, a Russian enclave on the Baltic coast between Poland and Lithuania.

Expanding role beyond Europe

The summit projected that NATO forces in Afghanistan will remain at

The NATO summit agreed to establish a military training mission in Iraq, provide air surveillance for the U.S.-led coalition there and in Syria, and help combat Islamic State and other Islamist groups in Jordan and Libya. A naval operation in the Mediterranean Sea is to be set up for “counterterrorism” and to stem the flow of migrants and refugees into Europe from North Africa.

In a further escalation of the U.S. intervention in Iraq, Obama announced July 11 that Washington will increase its troop deployment to Iraq by 560, bringing the official total to 4,647.

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Capitalist Politicians Have No Answers to the Crisis, the Working Class Must Look to Itself. Speaker: Tony Hunt, Communist League. Donation: £2.50. Sat., July 23, 6:30 p.m. 26-28 *Hilton House, Hilton St., M1 2EH.* Tel.: (0161) 478-2496.

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The price hikes are among the conditions the government of President Petro Poroshenko agreed to in exchange for new loans from the International Monetary Fund.

The effects in Ukraine of the worldwide slowdown in production and trade have been exacerbated by more than two years of a Russian-backed separatist war in the industrial southeastern region, and Moscow's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in March 2014. The bosses and government have sought to put the economic crisis on workers'

backs.

The march in Kiev under the slogan “European prices — European wages” stretched for several miles. It was sponsored both by the Federation of Trade Unions and the Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The action built on a series of recent worker protests against government cuts in pensions and jobs, the closure of mines and factories, and months of unpaid wages.

Workers at the state-owned coal mine #2 Novogrodivska in western Ukraine started a hunger strike outside Poroshenko's office June 23, demanding wages that haven't been paid for eight months.

Disabled miners from across the country held a sit-in and hunger strike June 14 at the Ministry of Social Policy. Among the 100 participants, who demanded increases in pay and pensions and guarantees of regular payment, were members of both the official miners' union and the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine.

“The health of these people has been undermined at work and they deserve a decent life and social protection,” said Mikhaïlo Volynets, head of the independent miners’ union. “But today they are forced to fight for their social and economic rights.”

In addition to making working people bear the brunt of the economic crisis, the government has attacked democrat-

ic rights, including banning the Communist Party and two smaller groups. Members of these and other organizations opposed to the government's course have suffered physical attacks and harassment.

This offensive against workers and farmers aimed at making production and trade more profitable has been reinforced by demands from the IMF, Washington and European imperialist governments as conditions for loans and backing. Ukraine's debt has more than doubled since 2014 after loans and bail-out packages from imperialist financial institutions. The IMF has repeatedly delayed scheduled payouts, claiming that Kiev is not doing enough to battle corruption, enhance "fiscal stability" and overhaul budgets and pensions.

Kiev signed an association agreement with the EU in January. The government had hoped that this would open up markets for Ukrainian exports, primarily of agricultural products, and lead to increased aid and investments.

None of this is on the horizon, though, as the fissures grow among the capitalist ruling classes grouped in the European Union over the smoldering economic depression, the massive influx of refugees from the Mideast and North Africa, and debt crises in Greece and other countries. A proposed agreement for

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world!

This column gives a voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including unionists striking US Foods, workers locked out by Honeywell, construction workers demanding safe conditions and workers fighting for \$15 an hour 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

Biggest issue is health care in Atlantic City casino strike

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Enthusiastic strikers are picketing 24 hours a day at entrances to the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort here. The nearly 1,000 members of UNITE HERE Local 54, including waitresses, porters, bellhops, custodial workers, bartenders, cooks, housekeepers and food servers, went on strike July 1.

"The biggest issue is health care which they eliminated when the company declared bankruptcy in 2014," said union organizer Felix Perez. A federal bankruptcy judge also allowed the company to end its pension contributions. The company ended paid breaks as well.

Workers agreed to a wage freeze in 2011 when casino owners claimed they were in financial distress. The current four-year company proposal is for two years of bonuses followed by two years of yet-to-be-determined raises, Perez said. "If you include the paid break time we lost and cost-of-living, that's nine years just to get wages back to where we were in 2011."

"They can't run the casino by themselves," Hany Racheb, a cook originally from Egypt, told the *Militant*. "They promised to return the health care, but they haven't. Now they know we're serious."

The casino hired housekeepers just before the strike, including Wanda, but she said she would not cross the picket line.

The hotel casino complex remains open with work being done by managers and nonunion workers, including gaming dealers and security guards.

The casino is no longer owned by Donald Trump, but by billionaire investor Carl Icahn.

— Janet Post and Ruth Robinett

Walmart workers in China strike over working hours

Workers launched strikes at several Walmart stores in China after the company imposed a new system for scheduling work hours.

On July 1, at least 130 workers at a Walmart store in the southern city of Nanchang began marching through the aisles, chanting, "Walmart Workers Stand Up!" and "No to the Comprehensive Working Hours System," reported the Hong-Kong based China Labour Bulletin.

The actions, described by the *Financial Times* as "an unprecedented bout of nationwide co-ordination by workers,"



Militant/Janet Post

Members of UNITE HERE Local 54 picket Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey, July 6. Workers are striking over health care, pensions and work breaks.

rapidly spread to a second store in Nanchang and stores in Chengdu in central China and Harbin in the northeast.

Workers are demanding a halt to a new system that allows managers to arbitrarily schedule an unlimited number of hours per day, totaling up to 174 hours per month, with no overtime pay. They're also calling for new trade union elections. The only officially recognized union in the country, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, signed an

agreement with Walmart in 2006 allowing the company to set up management-controlled unions.

One of the placards at a strike action in Chengdu read, "We support Walmart workers in the U.S. for the Fight for 15," reported the *Times*.

By July 8 the workers had returned to their jobs, reported Reuters, after the company said they would consider the issue.

— Brian Williams

Coal miners vote down contract at 5 W.Va mines

BY TONY LANE

Some 1,500 working miners organized by the United Mine Workers union at five Murray Energy-owned coal mines in northern West Virginia voted down a proposed contract June 28 despite union officials saying it was the best they could get. The current contract expires at the end of the year. Murray Energy Corp., one of the five largest coal companies in the United States, purchased the five mines from Consol Energy at the end of 2013.

The day after the rejection vote, Murray announced that it could slash 80 percent of its workforce nationwide in September. About half the workers at Murray mines are already laid off. The

UMW negotiates the contract with the Murray Energy-run Bituminous Coal Operators Association.

The price of coal used in steel production has dropped by 75 percent and the price of coal used in electric generation has halved since 2011. At the same time coal use has declined with the increased use of natural gas and as a result of new government regulations. According to the Mine Safety and Health Administration, since 2009 the number of working miners has dropped by more than 30,000.

"We're working hour to hour, not shift to shift," James Zackal, a miner at Murray's Ohio County mine, told the *Militant* by phone. "Barges full of coal are lined up on the Ohio River" waiting

for a buyer. Some of the Murray Energy mines are idled on weekends and many miners are not working a full 40-hour week.

The contract that was voted down had no wage increase and a small increase in payments for health insurance. It would eliminate overtime pay for hours worked over eight hours in a day, granting it only after 40 hours in a week, and takes away vacation and floater days off.

UMW President Cecil Roberts had encouraged miners to approve the contract, saying that "the rapidly deteriorating status of the American coal industry means that it is important to lock in the best terms and conditions we can before things get any worse."

A wave of bankruptcies and layoffs in the coal industry has included most of the largest coal companies. Among those that have declared bankruptcy in the last year are Arch Coal Inc., Alpha Natural Resources Inc., Walter Energy Inc., Patriot Coal Corp., and Peabody Energy Corp., the largest coal company in the U.S.

The coal bosses are using the bankruptcies against the miners and their union. In May, Alpha Natural Resources won the approval of a bankruptcy court judge to remove the collective bargaining agreement; Alpha had been a "me-too" signer to the BCOA agreement.

A Jan. 11 *Wall Street Journal* article said the coal industry's shakeout "will result in more small, unlisted mining companies, record numbers of mines for sale and lower wages for workers."

"There are a lot of good mines left," Jeff Keffer, an executive with Longview Power and Mepco Holdings, which owns a mine in West Virginia, told the *Journal*. "They just have to go through the bankruptcy process, and reduce their debt burden."

Coal bosses are worried about the rejection because this contract has been a model for other union contracts at mines east of the Mississippi River.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 19, 1991

DURBAN, South Africa — Fifty thousand people at King's Park Stadium here gave a tumultuous welcome July 7 to the newly elected leadership of the African National Congress.

The event came at the end of the ANC's five-day 48th National Conference, the first such meeting held in South Africa in more than 30 years.

Singing freedom songs and chanting slogans, the overwhelmingly young crowd cheered and saluted the leadership.

Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, elected president and chairperson of the ANC respectively, reported on the conference's decisions and introduced the liberation organization's National Executive Committee and the six national officers elected by the 2,200 delegates in a secret ballot.



July 25, 1966

CLEVELAND, July 17 — Disorderly assembly charges were dismissed last week against all 29 defendants arrested in a midnight raid by police and state liquor agents at the Eugene V. Debs Hall here last November. Another defendant was found not guilty of the charge that he was a keeper of an establishment for illegal sale of liquor.

On separate charges, two defendants were found guilty of minor liquor law violations.

Herman Kirsch, Chairman of the Socialist Workers Party of Ohio, testified that his organization maintains Debs Hall, where a benefit buffet for the *Militant* was held last Nov. 13. "The raid on Debs Hall was a new low in crude political harassment," Mr. Kirsch said. "They used an unnamed informant's tip as an excuse."



July 19, 1941

MINNEAPOLIS, July 15 — Acting on the demand of the Roosevelt Administration, a federal grand jury handed down indictments on "seditious conspiracy" charges against 29 CIO leaders and Socialist Workers Party members.

The leaders of Local 544-CIO — President Miles B. Dunne, Vice President George Frosig, Secretary-Treasurer Kelly Postal, Organizers V.R. Dunne, Ray Rainbolt, Harry De Boer, Emil Hansen and Walter Hagstrom — were among those indicted.

James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party; Farrell Dobbs, the party's Labor Secretary; Felix Morrow, editor of the *THE MILITANT*, were among the Socialist Workers Party members indicted. Albert Goldman, Trotsky's attorney in his lifetime and now attorney for the Socialist Workers Party, was likewise named.

Overturn of Texas anti-abortion stricture: ‘A victory we can use’

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

The June 27 U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down two provisions in a Texas law that sharply restricted access to abortion is a victory that supporters of a woman’s right to choose abortion can use.

The fact-based decision rejected the Texas government’s claim that it was protecting women’s health by requiring any doctor who performs abortions to have admitting privileges at a local hospital and demanding abortion clinics meet hospital-like standards.

The ruling in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* lays the basis for overturning laws in 26 other states that impose one or both of these restrictions. On June 28 the Supreme Court declined to review court orders blocking similar laws in Alabama, Mississippi and Wisconsin.

The court decision cites evidence that abortion was an extremely safe procedure in Texas before House Bill 2 was passed. With enforcement in October 2013 of that law’s requirement of hospital admitting privileges for doctors, one-half of the state’s 40 clinics closed. The ambulatory-surgical standard provisions have been on hold. If implemented they could have resulted in 750,000 women in Texas living more than 200 miles from any abortion provider.

When asked to prove a single instance when the new law “helped one woman obtain better treatment,” wrote Justice Stephen Breyer in the 5-3 majority opinion, “Texas admitted that there was no evidence in the record of such a case.” Not one.

In her concurring opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said that abortion is one of the safest medical procedures performed in the U.S., with complications “both rare and rarely dangerous.” Tonsillectomies, colonoscopies and in-office dental surgery are more dangerous, but not subject to the same requirements as abortions. It is “beyond rational belief,” she said, to argue that laws that “simply make it more difficult for [women] to obtain abortion” protect women’s health.

“Our clinics stay open!” Amy Hagstrom Miller, CEO of Whole Woman’s Health and a lead plaintiff in the case, told cheering supporters at the Supreme Court after the ruling.

“Hopefully, with this decision, new high-quality clinics will be able to open in Texas and throughout the U.S.,” said Vicki Saporta, president of the National Abortion Federation.

The ruling “was the most devastating defeat in decades” for opponents of legal abortion, Mary Ziegler said in a July 2 op-ed column in the *New York Times*. It “stopped cold the momentum of what

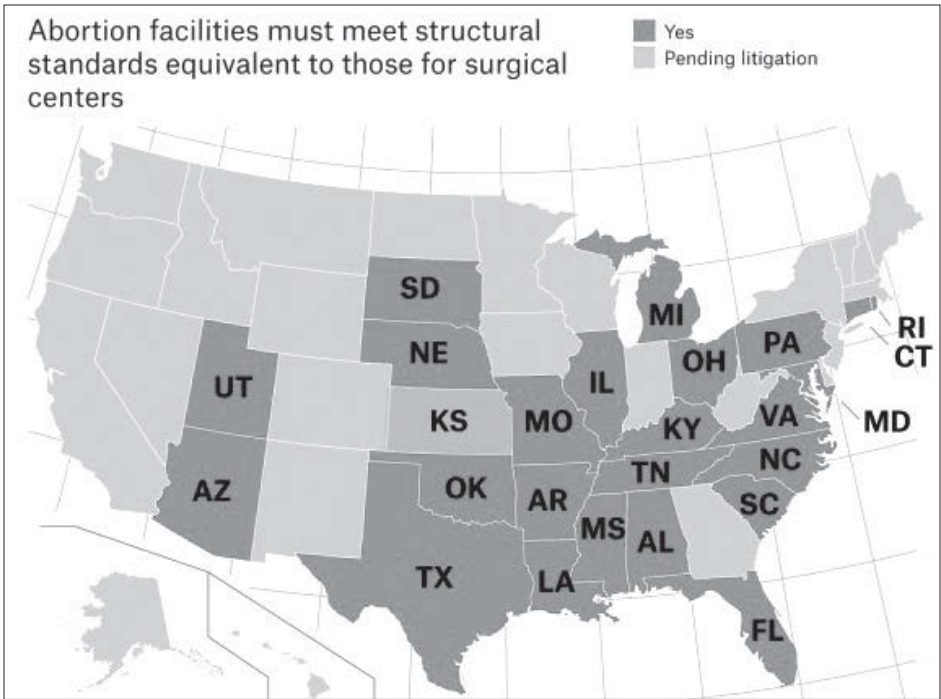
had seemed to be a promising strategy of focusing on women, and laws that legislators said protected women against dangerous conditions in abortion clinics.”

Offensive limits abortion access

The Supreme Court did not rule on other aspects of the Texas law — including a ban on most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, one of earliest limits nationwide, and imposing procedures on medical (pill) abortions that require women to make three or four trips to the doctor. These restrictions are among hundreds implemented around the country that make it much harder for working-class and rural women to obtain abortions.

The 1992 Supreme Court decision *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* ruled it unconstitutional to place “a substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion before viability,” but upheld regulations the court deemed were not an “undue burden.” These included a 24-hour waiting period and parental consent for a minor to obtain the procedure.

The chipping away at women’s right to choose, which began almost immediately after the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision decriminalizing abortion, accelerated. The mounting restrictions take advantage of the fact that *Roe v. Wade* was based on medical judgments, rather than women’s right to equal protection of the law under the 14th Amendment. This includes allowing states to ban most abortions after “viability,” described as



Guttmacher Institute

Court decision in Texas case strengthens fight against laws denying women access to abortion. Map above highlights states where clinics must meet hospital-like standards. Several of these states, plus North Dakota and Wisconsin, also require doctors to have hospital privileges.

the point at which a fetus is “potentially able to live outside the mother’s womb” — a definition that changes based on medical advances.

The ruling is “a big step forward, among many obstacles,” Lexie Cooper, convener of the Austin, Texas, chapter of the National Organization for Women, told the *Militant* July 11. “There’s still a booklet here, ‘A Woman’s Right to Know,’ that doctors have to give to abortion patients. It claims abortion can lead to depression, alcoholism and breast cancer.”

Supporters of women’s rights should “refer to this straightforward decision, and use it,” said Loretta Ross, co-founder of Sistersong in Atlanta, in a phone interview.

The increase in recent months of actions in defense of women’s right to choose abortion, from the statewide

“Fight Back Texas Truth Tour” to the March 2 rally in Washington, D.C., of more than a 1,000, overwhelmingly young people, shows the potential to advance this fight.

Further Reading

Abortion is a Woman’s Right!

by Pat Grogan

Why abortion rights are central not only to the fight for the full emancipation of women, but to forging a united and fighting labor movement. Also in Spanish. \$6

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Florida prison censorship attack on free speech

Continued from front page
mittee reverse these decisions and deliver the papers to the subscribers.

Goldstein is from the law firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, which is well-known for handling civil rights and liberties cases.

Prison officials claim the paper is “a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system.” At issue, says the appeal, is “the First Amendment rights of *The Militant* and its subscribers, and the federal and state due process clauses.”

On June 15, authorities at Northwest Florida Reception Center denied a subscriber the May 30 issue with an article titled, “Prisoners Strike to Protest Abuse and Little or No Pay in Alabama,” a topic covered by many other news media.

At the end of June a subscriber at the state’s Santa Rosa Correctional Institute informed the *Militant* that authorities there impounded that issue, as well as the one dated June 13. Prison authorities claimed that the page with an article and photo on a sizable peaceful public protest in Puerto Rico demanding U.S. authorities free Oscar López contained “hang/gang signs.” López has been incarcerated in the U.S. for 35 years for his support of independence for Puerto Rico. “There is no possible basis” to find the article and photo on López a threat to the “good order” of the prison, Goldstein wrote. And the charge of “hang/gang signs” he notes “has no possible basis in fact.”

The *Militant* has received no notice from Santa Rosa authorities of either impoundment, though prison regulations require them to do so.

In 2013 officials at Santa Rosa and other Florida prisons impounded issues of the *Militant* with articles covering a hunger strike by thousands of prisoners in California. But under pressure from a well-publicized challenge by the *Militant* represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, the prison’s Literature Review Committee reversed this ruling.

“The decision to impound this issue was also arbitrary and capricious,” the appeal says, “and inconsistent with the prior decision of the Committee that reporting on the California prison strikes cannot be a ground for banning *The Militant*. The decision is also unreasonable and arbitrary in that no other federal or state prison to *The Militant*’s knowledge has banned this issue or article.”

Benjamin Stevenson of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida wrote to the Florida Department of Corrections, July 12 about the recent impoundments. The *Militant*’s article about the Alabama prisoners strike “was written for a general audience and for wide distribution,” he noted, “and nowhere does the writer ‘encourage’ anyone to do anything, including inmates to engage in strikes. It simply reports a current events story.”

“Rejection of these issues violates the free speech rights of both the author and the inmate recipients. No penologi-

cal reason justifies excluding prison inmates from reading about prisoners’ responses to their displeasure with conditions of confinement in other prisons. This issue is hardly novel and is of public interest and general conversation,” Stevenson added.

The *Militant* gets around in 63 prisons in the U.S., both state and federal, 21 of them in Florida. To date every attempt by authorities to prevent subscribers behind bars from receiving the paper has been defeated.

The recent impounding of the *Militants* “is another example of the Florida prison system using its armed state power to censor and try to silence news about prisoners’ struggle for justice,” Paul Wright, editor of *Prison Legal News*, told the *Militant*. *Prison Legal News* magazine has also been involved in fights defending the rights of prisoners to receive it.

United Mine Workers Rally at the U.S. Capitol

The UMW is calling a national rally to pressure Congress to pass the Miners’ Protection Act to prevent the cutting off of health-care and pension benefits for 22,000 retired union members, spouses and dependents.

Thurs., Sept. 8, 11 a.m. Washington, D.C.

For more info visit: www.umwa.org

Fight prison censorship

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

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

Send a check or money order to The Militant, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Prisoners Rights Fight.”

Philando Castile's mom: 'Could be your son tomorrow'

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

ST. PAUL, Minn. — “No justice, no peace! Prosecute the police!” rang out at numerous demonstrations throughout the Twin Cities area in the days following the July 6 killing of Philando Castile at the hands of a police officer in the St. Paul suburb of Falcon Heights. Castile, 32, was a supervisor at a school cafeteria and member of the Teamsters union.

Many participants had never been to a protest before. They had witnessed the live streaming video by Castile's girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, of the immediate aftermath of the shooting. Castile is seen next to her in the car, covered with blood. As his life slips away, the cop who shot him, Jeronimo Yanez, continues to point his gun at Castile. “We got pulled over for a busted tail light,” Reynolds says in the video. “He's licensed to carry [a gun]. He was trying to get out his ID and his wallet out his pocket and he let the officer know that he had a firearm and he was reaching for his wallet and the officer just shot him in his arm.”

Since being posted to the internet, millions of people have viewed the video. Reynolds was handcuffed and imprisoned for hours after the incident. She was separated from her four-year-old daughter, who was in the backseat of the car when the shooting happened.

On the day after the killing, thousands held a vigil at the J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School where Castile worked. “It was my son today. It could be your son tomorrow,” his mother, Valerie, told the multiracial crowd.

Some 300 people gathered in Minneapolis's Loring Park July 9 answering a call from the Minneapolis NAACP. After hearing from several organizers of the march, people lined up to speak at the open microphone. Some shared their own experiences of harassment by the police and “racial profiling,” like what Castile had experienced prior to his death.

Since 2002 Castile had been pulled over at least 52 times while driving in the area, Associated Press reported, mostly for minor offenses, including speeding and driving without a muffler or not wearing a seat belt.

One participant at the open microphone said he was frustrated with years of police killings. He said that protests had not worked and the people needed to get guns and follow the example of the Dallas sniper who killed five police

officers two days before. He was met with emphatic shouts of “No! No!” from the crowd. An organizer of the rally stopped him from speaking further. Nekima Levy-Pounds, president of the Minneapolis NAACP then told the crowd that “we do not agree with that. We can't answer violence with violence.”

That night hundreds of people marched in front of the governor's mansion. Protest organizers then led the march to interstate highway I-94. Many followed them onto the roadway to block traffic. Marchers were joined by residents of the nearby Rondo neighborhood, a historically Black community in St. Paul. Hundreds of people lined the streets overlooking the highway and a pedestrian bridge that crossed over it. The interstate was shut down for five hours.

Some protesters threw rocks, bottles, firecrackers, rebar and pieces of concrete at the police. Police set off smoke bombs and used tear gas in efforts to clear the highway. Some protesters tried to stop others from provoking the police. This went on for several hours as protesters retreated



Above, July 7 protest against cop killings in front of Minnesota Governor's Mansion in St. Paul. Inset, protest in Oakland, California, the same day.

and regrouped. More than 100 people were arrested and charged with misdemeanors and one with a felony.

Diana Newberry contributed to this article.



Nationwide protests say 'prosecute the cops'

Continued from front page

Daily and nightly protests in front of a memorial at the store were taking place when *Militant* worker correspondents arrived here three days after Sterling, 37, was killed in front of Triple S. Drivers of passing cars honk their horns protesting the killing and supporting the fight to indict the cops.

Sterling, who was Black, was selling CDs outside the store as he had done for some three years when cops Blane Salamoni and Howie Lake II, who are Caucasian, approached, reportedly responding to a 911 call. They wrestled him to the ground and shot him point blank. The cops claim he had a gun, but no weapon is seen in the videos.

The owner of the Triple S store, Abdullah Muflahi, 28, who is originally from Yemen, recorded the whole incident. After the killing, Muflahi was placed in a hot cop car for four hours because he was told he was

a witness. “I didn't tell them about the video,” he told the *Militant*. He later released the video to the media and federal investigators. “They should be arresting the cops,” he said, adding that they often come into the store to harass customers.

“I wanted to stand for Alton,” Muflahi told the July 8 *Baton Rouge Advocate*. “We just need to stick together — no matter what race we are, no matter where we are from.” The paper reported that Sandra Sterling, Alton's aunt, told Muflahi that she wanted him to speak at the funeral.

Soon after Alton Sterling died, the police and media began a slander campaign, reporting that he had a 46-page-long rap sheet, implying that he must have been doing something wrong that justified the cops gunning him down.

“Some may know Alton sold CDs, and was doing just that. Not bothering anyone. I will not allow him to be swept in the dirt,” Quinyetta McMillon, 31, mother of Sterling's 15-year-old son, told a rally of some 200 people outside City Hall hours after the shooting.

A July 8 noon rally organized by the NAACP at the state Capitol attracted nearly 200 people. Among the speakers were representatives of the Nation of Islam, the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

“I'm here because without unity there will be no justice,” Virgin Powell, 61, a retired chef, told the *Militant*.

“Anyone with any heart should be out here,” said Ashley Ferdinand, 32, a retail worker at Whole Foods. “We have to be unified. We can't trust the government.”

The Sterling family lawyer has called on the police to release the cop car dashcam and body camera footage. Baton Rouge police Lt. Jonny Dun-

nam claims that during the altercation, the body cameras became dislodged. The Justice Department opened a civil rights investigation on July 6.



In the midst of the nationwide protests against the killings of Sterling and Castile five Dallas cops were gunned down July 7 near the end of a march there.

Dallas police say that Micah Johnson, 25, a U.S. military veteran of the war in Afghanistan, was the lone gunman. Police Chief David Brown said that Johnson stated “he wanted to kill white people, especially white officers.”

The Dallas cops used a robot to place a bomb and kill Johnson after he was holed up in a building.

“I do blame former Black Lives Matter protests,” Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick told the press, attempting to link peaceful protests to the killing of the Dallas cops.

“There are some who would use these events to stifle a movement for change and quicken the demise of a vibrant discourse on the human rights of Black Americans,” the Black Lives Matter Network responded in a statement. “We should reject all of this.”

The attack on the cops in Dallas “has nothing to do with the fight against police brutality and gives a handle to government authorities to slander and attack it,” noted Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice president Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart in a statement the next day.

But the attempts to slander those protesting police brutality for the death of the Dallas cops have fallen flat. Protests against the killing of Sterling and Castile have continued, including protests of thousands in New York City along with actions in Atlanta, Phoenix, Miami and many other cities and towns.

Books for working-class fighters

“It's the strength and resilience of workers who are Black, not the oppression, that bowls you over.”

— Jack Barnes in “*Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*” \$20

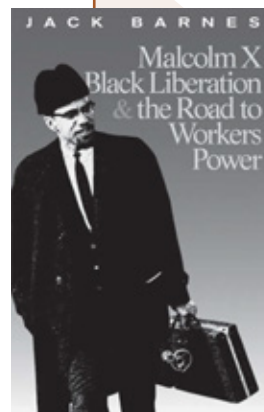
“Political clarity, organization, discipline and the caliber of proletarian leadership is decisive.”

— Mary-Alice Waters in “*Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?*” \$7

The U.S. justice system “is an enormous machine for grinding people up.”

— Ramón Labañino in “*It's the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US 'Justice' System*” \$15

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Can capitalism overcome its internal contradictions?

Reform or Revolution, one of July's Books of the Month, was Rosa Luxemburg's first major political work. Luxemburg was one of the outstanding proletarian revolutionaries in pre-World War I Europe and until her assassination in 1919. Her revolutionary accomplishments were even more outstanding, given the prejudices of the time: still in her 20s, a foreigner (a Pole living in Germany), a Jew and a woman.

The two articles by Luxemburg in this book were first published in 1898 and 1899 in answer to writings by Eduard Bernstein, a well-known figure in the German Social Democratic Party, a revolutionary workers party that had grown rapidly despite being outlawed by the government in 1878. After anti-socialist laws were repealed in 1890, it emerged as an important political



Rosa Luxemburg speaks at German Social Democratic Party mass meeting in 1907. While still in her 20s, Luxemburg answered arguments of Eduard Bernstein, a well-known figure in the party, who began arguing that revolution was unnecessary.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

force and its candidates were elected to the federal Reichstag and some provincial governments.

Bernstein had begun disputing some of the theoretical conquests of scientific socialism that had been explained by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. He argued that revolution was unnecessary and that socialism could be achieved by gradual reform of the

capitalist system, through mechanisms like consumers' and production cooperatives, trade unions and the gradual extension of political democracy.

Luxemburg pointed out that what was at stake in answering Bernstein was "the very existence of the social democratic movement" and its goal "the conquest of political power." Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



BY ROSA LUXEMBURG

Bernstein's socialism offers to the workers the prospect of sharing in the wealth of society. The poor are to become rich. How will this socialism be brought about? His articles in *Neue Zeit* "Problems of Socialism" contain only vague allusions to this question. Adequate information, however, can be found in his book.

Bernstein's socialism is to be realized with the aid of these two instruments: labor unions — or as Bernstein himself characterizes them, economic democracy — and cooperatives. The first will suppress industrial profit; the second will do away with commercial profit.

Cooperatives, especially cooperatives in the field of production, constitute a hybrid form in the midst of capitalism. They can be described as small units of socialized production within capitalist exchange.

But in capitalist economy exchange dominates production (that is, pro-

duction depends to a large extent on market possibilities). As a result of competition, the complete domination of the process of production by the interests of capital — that is, pitiless exploitation — becomes a condition for the survival of each enterprise. The domination of capital over the process of production expresses itself in the following ways. Labor is intensified. The work day is lengthened or shortened, according to the situation of the market. And, depending on the requirements of the market, labor is either employed or thrown back into the street. In other words, use is made of all methods that enable an enterprise to stand up against its competitors in the market. The workers forming a cooperative in the field of production are thus faced with the contradictory necessity of governing themselves with the utmost absolutism. They are obliged to take toward themselves the role of the capitalist entrepreneur — a contradiction that accounts for the failure of production cooperatives, which either become pure capitalist enterprises or, if the workers' interests continue to predominate, end by dissolving. ...

Within the framework of present society, producers' cooperatives are limited to the role of simple annexes to consumers' cooperatives. It appears, therefore, that the latter must be the beginning of the proposed social change. But this way the expected reform of society by means of cooperatives ceases to be an offensive

against capitalist production. That is, it ceases to be an attack against the principal bases of capitalist economy. It becomes, instead, a struggle against commercial capital, especially small and middle-sized commercial capital. It becomes an attack made on the twigs of the capitalist tree. ...

No law in the world can give to the proletariat the means of production while it remains in the framework of bourgeois society, for not laws but economic development have torn the means of production from the producers' possession.

And neither is the exploitation inside the system of wage labor based on laws. The level of wages is not fixed by legislation, but by economic factors. The phenomenon of capitalist exploitation does not rest on a legal disposition, but on the purely economic fact that labor power plays in this exploitation the role of merchandise possessing, among other characteristics, the agreeable quality of producing value — *more* than the value it consumes in the form of the laborer's means of subsistence. In short, the fundamental relations of the domination of the capitalist class cannot be transformed by means of legislative reforms, on the basis of capitalist society, because these relations have not been introduced by bourgeois laws, nor have they received the form of such laws. Apparently Bernstein is not aware of this, for he speaks of "socialist reforms." On the other hand, he seems to express implicit recognition of this when he writes, on page 10 of his book, that "the economic motive acts freely today, while formerly it was masked by all kinds of relations of domination, by all sorts of ideology."

It is one of the peculiarities of the capitalist order that within it all the elements of the future society first assume, in their development, a form not approaching socialism but, on the contrary, a form moving more and more away from socialism. Production takes on a progressively increasing social character. But under what form is the social character of capitalist production expressed? It is expressed in the form of the large enterprise, in the form of the shareholding concern, the cartel, within which the capitalist antagonisms, capitalist exploitation, the oppression of labor-power, are augmented to the extreme.

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July

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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The Militant July 25, 2016

— SWP CAMPAIGN STATEMENT —

Join fight against cop brutality

Continued from front page
are scheduled, call one. Get your union involved. This is a working-class and a union issue.
Castile, a cafeteria worker and a member of the Teamsters union, was driving near St. Paul, Minnesota, with his fiancé Diamond Reynolds and her daughter, when they were stopped by cops Jeronimo Yanez and Joseph Kauser on grounds he had a broken tail light. The cops shot and killed him as he sat in the stopped car.
Sterling was selling CDs outside the Triple S Food Mart in Baton Rouge when cops Blane Salamoni and Howie Lake came and wrestled him to the ground. Videos show one of the cops shoot Sterling in the chest multiple times.
Like every aspect of the so-called justice system, cop brutality is an essential part of how the propertied families who rule this country protect their interests.
This is a question that confronts the working class from one end of the country to the other. According to the *Washington Post*, 1,499 people have been killed by the cops since Jan. 1, 2015. About half are Caucasian, most of the rest are African-American or Latino.
Blacks are killed disproportionately, a product of the racist discrimination and violence the rulers have carried out in an effort to divide the working class.
Since the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in New York nearly two years ago, protests from coast to coast have inspired

working people to speak out.
Workers have won new confidence to stand up and protest cop violence. It’s not just in big cities. Protests have taken place in small towns like Council, Idaho, where cops killed rancher Jack Yantis, and Seneca, South Carolina, where cops killed Zachary Hammond.
As a protest march against the killings of Sterling and Castile took place in Dallas, a sniper shot and killed five police officers and wounded seven. This action has nothing to do with the fight against police brutality and gives a handle to government authorities to slander and attack it. The fight for Black liberation paid a heavy price for similar actions directed against the cops in the late 1960s and early 1970s.
All this unfolds in the midst of the worldwide capitalist economic crisis, for which there is no end in sight and as Washington’s wars continue from Afghanistan to Syria and beyond.
Police brutality and killings are part of the rulers’ efforts to put us in our place. The rulers’ greatest fear is the working class — men and women of different skin hues and nationalities — rising up for the greatest of all battles in the years ahead: to recognize that we are capable of organizing and mobilizing by the millions to put an end to the dictatorship of capital by taking political power out of their hands and rebuild society based on human solidarity to meet human needs, not private profits.

Workers’ attitudes no different in Vermont

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a worldwide fight to meet human needs, not private profit,” Perasso said. “We face growing economic calamity and spreading wars. The working class needs a revolutionary party.”
Schider asked Perasso how the SWP was different from Sanders. “When people say Sanders is a socialist, they mean he advocates reforms within the framework of continuing capitalist rule, like Denmark or Sweden,” Perasso said. “It’s an obstacle to building the kind of party we need.”
“Fidel Castro and the July 26th Movement in Cuba led workers and peasants to power there against a dictatorship backed by U.S. imperialism,” Perasso said. “As working people joined the battle, they gained self-confidence, they gained the capacity to make a revolution and run society themselves. We want to do the same thing here.”
“That makes sense,” Schider said “Let’s keep in touch.”
Some workers have come to their own conclusion that Sanders is no different than other bourgeois politicians. “I don’t like the way he turned out,” Margaret Boyce-Bachelor told Val Johnson in Barre. “Now that he’s gotten to the top, he’s forgotten about ordinary people and the elderly.”
After discussing why the SWP should be their par-

ty, Schider, Boyce-Bachelor and LaFrance all got copies of the new book *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism* and signed to put the presidential ticket — Alyson Kennedy for president and Osborne Hart for vice president — on the Vermont ballot, as did a number of supporters of Trump.
So far 206 people have gotten copies of the book, 124 have subscribed to the *Militant* and 1,818 signed the party’s nominating papers.
Ballot fight
Under an undemocratic election law, town clerks across the state validate their signatures against a government-maintained checklist. The Socialist Workers Party has turned in 969 signatures so far, but town officials say less than half are valid.
“This just isn’t credible,” Chris Hoeppner, who is organizing the SWP campaigning here, told the *Militant*. “They say 70 percent of the people in the state are registered to vote. We are going door to door, talking to workers on their doorsteps about politics, the SWP and signing them up.
“And we’re asking people to join us in saying the SWP should be on the ballot,” Hoeppner said.
“I believe the Socialist Workers Party has the right to have their own candidates, same as the Republican and Democratic parties,” Kevin Heinrichs, one of those who signed for the SWP, wrote to James Condos, Vermont’s Secretary of State, July 9. “Please allow us to vote for whom we want, not whom you tell us to.”

— LETTERS —

Spreading the word
Once I can contribute to the *Militant* I will. I have spread the word about your paper to others whom may be able to contribute now. They all see the world how we see it.
*A prisoner
Pennsylvania*

Prisons exploit labor
It has been my focus for a while now to take a stand against oppression. The prison is basically kept in orderly operation by exploited labor. Prisoners do all maintenance work,

laundry, food service and cleaning, all under overseers’ supervision. If this isn’t modern-day, legal slavery, I don’t know what is. And the

‘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.

Thirteenth Amendment of the Constitution permits slavery for those convicted of a crime as part of their punishment.
*A prisoner
Pennsylvania*

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.

Papua New Guinea gov’t attacks student protests

BY RON POULSEN
SYDNEY — In a move to end ongoing student protests, administrators announced July 5 that they were closing the University of Papua New Guinea for the remainder of 2016 and dissolving the Student Representative Council. The council had organized rallies and a boycott of classes since May 2 demanding the resignation of PNG Prime Minister Peter O’Neill over corruption allegations. The actions spread after police fired on demonstrators June 8, wounding eight.
The 5,000 students at the campus in Port Moresby, the capital, come from throughout the country and many will now have to return to their home provinces.
Some 1,000 students at the university planned to demonstrate at parliament June 8, but armed riot police blocked them. When they refused to allow the president of the student council to be arrested, cops opened fire with tear gas and live ammunition and then assaulted fleeing protesters.
As word of the cop violence spread, unrest developed across the city and nationally, including in the second-largest city, Lae. In the highlands, roadblocks cut the main highway in several places.
Eighty percent of PNG’s almost 8 million people live in remote mountain villages. A majority rely on subsistence farming. More than half the population is illiterate and a third of children do not attend school. There is only one doctor per 17,000 people compared to one per 300 in neighboring Australia.
A colony of Australia for seven decades, Papua New Guinea gained independence in 1975. Since then its vast mineral resources have been plundered, mainly by Australian-based mining companies.
At the end of June, in the wake of a slump in world mineral prices, the Australian conglomerate Rio Tinto shed its holding in its open pit mine on the PNG island of Bougainville. The copper mine, one of the world’s richest, has been closed since a rebellion broke out on the island in 1989. PNG troops fought a nine-year war to suppress the independence struggle, in which up to 20,000 were killed, 10 percent of the population.
There is tension between the Papua New Guinea government and Canberra over the Australian-run refugee detention center on PNG’s Manus Island. The camp was built in 2001 in return for promised “aid” from Canberra. It imprisons asylum-seekers from the Middle East and Asia while the Australian government processes their refugee claims.
On April 26 this year, the full bench of the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court ruled that the detention regime there was “unconstitutional and illegal.” Since then conditions for the more than 850 men being held there are said to have grown worse.
O’Neill said the Manus Island detention center was a “problem” that “damaged” PNG’s reputation. He said the onus was on Australia to resettle the men held there. Canberra has tried to claim the detainees are now PNG’s responsibility.

Correction
The article “Protest Denial of ‘Militant’ to Subscribers in Florida Prisons” in the July 18 issue incorrectly referred to the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. The name of the paper that covers prisoners’ rights is the *San Francisco Bay View*.

Ukraine price protests

Continued from page 4
visa-free travel from Ukraine, Georgia and Kosovo to countries in the EU was postponed in early June because of opposition from the governments of Germany, France and Italy.
The Kiev government also faces growing pressures from the imperialist powers using Ukraine as a bargaining chip in relations with Moscow. According to the July 9 *Wall Street Journal*, President Barack Obama met with Poroshenko at the July 8-9 NATO summit in Warsaw, Poland to discuss the continuing separatist war Moscow is backing in eastern Ukraine. Washington and its European allies have “called for Ukraine to move ahead with political concessions” to Russia, “such as further autonomy for eastern Ukraine,” the paper reported.
Ukraine’s trade with Russia has declined substantially over the last two years. It is now tied to the Russian economy principally through fuel and energy imports.