

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Introduction: The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 42 NOVEMBER 7, 2016

## Obamacare costs soar, workers face health crisis

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Going into its fourth enrollment season, President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act is increasingly proving to be an unaffordable noncare act for millions of working people. Insurance premiums for 2017 will rocket in many states, and at least 1.4 million people will lose the plans they're currently buying through the Obamacare "exchange" markets.

For the 150 million workers who have insurance through their employers, the situation is also dire. Deductibles — sums that must be paid out of pocket before the insurance kicks in — have risen nearly six times faster than wages since 2011. Millions more are paying a fine for *not* having insurance.

While Obamacare made some changes workers don't want to lose, such as forbidding health insurance companies to refuse an individual coverage because of a pre-existing health condition, millions are being

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## Join SWP in 10-day effort to deepen reach to workers

BY PAUL MAILHOT

The Socialist Workers Party National Committee has launched a 10-day political campaign, Nov. 3-12, to introduce working people to the just-published book *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by Jack Barnes, the party's national secretary. The SWP is urging workers and young people who've met party members at their doors or at political actions in recent months, and who've become interested in the SWP's working-class response to the capitalist crisis, to join in.

This 10-day campaign is a special, concentrated effort that will help strengthen the political campaigning on porches and doorsteps in working-class neighborhoods that's at the center of the activity of Socialist Workers Party members day in and day out in cities, small towns and rural areas across the U.S.

Whichever candidate — Demo-  
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## Vote for and build the Socialist Workers Party!

Join party to challenge capitalist exploiters



Militant/Eric Simpson

Restaurant worker Stephanie Vasquez speaks with SWP vice-presidential candidate Osborne Hart, right, and party member Joel Britton from Oakland Oct. 6 in Turlock, California.

Vote for the Socialist Workers Party, the working class party, *your* party on Nov. 8. Join with the party to discuss with other workers a way

### EDITORIAL

forward for our class, before and after the election.

And join us Nov. 3-12 as party members along with workers and youth we've met in recent months use the new book *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* to present this course in discussions on porches and in kitchens, in labor and social struggles. This political work is at the heart

of the SWP's activity today.

Alyson Kennedy, the party's candidate for president, was a coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers for many years. She has helped lead union battles, built the fight against police brutality and defended a woman's right to choose abortion. Vice-presidential candidate Osborne Hart, who has worked in meatpacking, on the railroad and at Walmart, has opposed imperialist wars and fought for Black rights for decades. Both champion the Cuban Revolution, pointing to the revolutionary internationalist accomplishments of workers and farmers there as an example for working-class

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## NY police killing of mentally ill Deborah Danner sparks outrage



Above, Scott Heins for Gothamist

Protest in Bronx, New York, Oct. 19, near where cop killed Deborah Danner. "As far as I know" schizophrenia "is not a fatal disease," she wrote. But when cops were called while she was in distress, they shot her. Inset, Deborah Danner.

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK — "We're hurt, we're neighbors," protesters chanted as they marched through the streets of the Castle Hill neighborhood in the Bronx Oct. 19 against the killing of 66-year-old Deborah Danner by New York Police Department cop Hugh Barry. Danner was shot after neighbors called for help when she began acting erratically the night before.

Danner suffered from schizophrenia. "Its only 'saving grace,' if you

will," she wrote four years earlier in a poignant essay, "is that as far as I know it's not a fatal disease."

But the cops who answered the distress call were fatal. Claiming Danner was brandishing a bat while naked in her bedroom, Barry shot her twice, killing her.

Jennifer Danner was outside the apartment waiting to help when her sister was gunned down. She had been there before when authorities

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## Toilers in Mideast pay price for war moves by Washington and Moscow

BY MARK THOMPSON

Iraqi government troops and Kurdish peshmerga forces advanced towards the eastern outskirts of the city of Mosul, capturing towns and villages, in the first week of a U.S.-backed offensive to wrest control of the city from Islamic State. The battle, which began Oct. 17, is sharpening conflicts between capitalist rivals in the region.

Some 30,000 Iraqi and Kurdish forces, backed by U.S. airstrikes and special operations troops, are battling some 5,000 Islamic State fighters. Up to 1.5 million civilians are estimated to be in Mosul.

At the same time, a Russian aircraft carrier headed to the Syrian coast, increasing Moscow's airstrike capacity in support of the regime of Bashar al-Assad as it battles anti-Assad forces in eastern Aleppo.

As these military moves unfold, workers and farmers in the region pay the price. In Syria alone half the

prewar population has been killed or driven from their homes. Almost 5 million have left the country.

While the regimes and other bourgeois forces in the region jockey for position, seeking to gain backing

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Montreal demonstrators: 'Raise minimum wage to \$15 an hour'

# Oregon trial exposes gov't frame-up of land protesters

BY EDWIN FRUIT  
AND MARY MARTIN

PORTLAND, Ore. — After five weeks of testimony, the trial of brothers Ammon and Ryan Bundy and five others who joined the protest occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge last January drew to a close. The jury began its deliberations Oct. 20. Ammon Bundy organized the civil disobedience action to draw attention to the jailing for the second time of Dwight and Steven Hammond, father and son cattle ranchers in Harney County, on the same frame-up arson charges and to protest government policies that drive ranchers off the land.

Despite no evidence that the protesters carried out a single violent act, the prosecution painted the occupation as a violent conspiracy. The government's case centered around the charge that protesters conspired to "impede" federal employees in the discharge of their duties. "These defendants took over a wildlife refuge and it wasn't theirs," prosecutor Ethan Knight said in his closing statement.

The most serious charge, "Use and Carry of a Firearm in Relation to a Crime of Violence," was dismissed in June. But numerous other rulings by U.S. District Judge Anna Brown hampered the defense. She prohibited the showing of videos of conversations the Bundys had with Oregon ranchers that confirmed the character and demands of the protest.

Brown, with few exceptions, barred defense lawyers and witnesses from mentioning the Jan. 26 police killing

of protest leader Robert "LaVoy" Finicum. The Bundys, Finicum and others had been on the way to a community meeting to discuss the protest when they were ambushed by the FBI and Oregon state police.

The judge also refused to allow the defendants to explain why they thought the doctrine of "adverse possession" gave them the legal right to occupy the refuge as a way of demonstrating that the land should not be under federal control.

Despite the deck being stacked against them, the defendants showed that FBI informants and agent provocateurs had infiltrated the occupation and that those involved in the protest never told federal employees to stop working. It was officials from various government agencies who instructed employees not to go to the refuge.

## Frame-up of the Oregon ranchers

The occupation began Jan. 2, just two days before the Hammonds were to return to federal prison after already serving time for the same alleged offense. A federal appeals court had ruled that the judge in their case did not have the authority to sentence them to less than the mandatory five-year sentences in the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act.

The Hammonds — who for decades had been fighting U.S. government restrictions on their ability to ranch and attempts to force them to sell their land — had been convicted on frame-up charges of arson. They had set controlled burns, a common practice by



Police helicopter video shows Robert "LaVoy" Finicum with hands up moments before cops shot and killed him Jan. 26. Finicum, Ammon Bundy and other participants in protest at Malheur refuge were headed to community meeting when FBI and state police ambushed them. Trial judge prohibited most questions and testimony about killing of Finicum.

both ranchers and government agencies to protect land from wildfires and to clear out invasive plants.

The Bundys and their supporters also saw the occupation as a way to protest what many ranchers call "federal overreach" — rules, regulations, fees and other bureaucratic obstacles to their use of federal land for grazing and watering livestock.

A thousand ranchers and others visited the refuge during the occupation. Even ranchers who did not agree with the action frequently told the press that it brought needed attention to the frame-up of the Hammonds and the U.S. government's anti-rancher policies.

Much of the prosecution's case centered on the weapons that some protesters carried during the occupation. Knight played a video of up to 10 men at the refuge boat launch firing assault rifles. "This is not a firing range," he said. "This is inherently intimidating."

But it was FBI informant Fabio Minoggio — alias John Killman — who organized the target practice, noted Marcus Mumford, Ammon Bundy's lawyer. "There were more FBI confidential informants at the refuge than there are defendants in this room," Mumford said. The government admits to having at least nine informants at the refuge.

FBI agents even infiltrated a Mormon Church service that Ryan Bundy

was attending. And FBI informant Mark McConnell was the driver for Ammon Bundy the day he was arrested and Finicum was gunned down.

## Indian artifacts not disturbed

The defense was also able to answer a slander that the refuge occupation was an attack on Native Americans and that the protesters had damaged Indian artifacts stored there. Sheila Warren, an elder with the Siletz tribe in Oregon, testified that she went to the refuge to find out if accusations were true. She said she was welcomed and saw the artifacts were not disturbed.

A handful of supporters of the defendants held a daily vigil near the courthouse during the trial. "We are trying to educate people that the Bundys did not steal land and the Hammonds did not intentionally burn federal land," said John Lamb, a chicken farmer from Bozeman, Montana. "I don't know how to run the subway in New York City and the federal government has no business telling me how to run a farm."

Talking to workers on their doorsteps in northeast Portland, Socialist Workers Party members who attended part of the trial found a range of views about the occupation and charges. "That whole thing was a little too radical for me," said Ken Anderson, 49, a printing press operator. "But no one should get shot for protesting like happened there."

## THE MILITANT

### End US embargo of Cuba!

On Oct. 26, the United Nations General Assembly once again voted overwhelmingly to condemn Washington's embargo against Cuba.

The 'Militant' tells the truth about Cuba's socialist revolution and fight to end the embargo and demand U.S. out of Guantánamo.



Juventud Rebelde/Roberto Suárez Students opposing U.S. embargo of Cuba rally at University of Havana Oct. 17.

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# SWP: 'We need to change class in power, build a new society'

BY SERGIO ZAMBRANA AND MAGGIE TROWE

NEW YORK — Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy campaigned with supporters in working-class neighborhoods in New York and northern New Jersey during her Oct. 15-18 visit here. She also spoke with rail workers at Penn Station and across the Hudson River at the North Bergen, New Jersey, CSX yard.

Jacob Perasso, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, who is a freight rail conductor, joined her.

"Some companies think short-term," engineer Mike Crump, 35, told Kennedy. "It makes the numbers look good for a while, but costs them more in the long-term. You can't run a freight train with a one-man crew."

"The bosses are doing this in all industries because of the crisis of the capitalist system," Kennedy responded. "They're trying to increase their rate of profit, which has fallen since the 1970s. In coal mining they cut corners on safety, increase production with fewer workers and use the bankruptcy courts to get out of health care coverage for retirees."

"We need to change the class in power. We could use the wealth workers and farmers produce to address many of the needs around the world. You never hear Clinton or Trump say that capitalism is the problem."

Before he left Crump signed up for a *Militant* subscription and set up a time to talk more and get the book *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Amtrak conductor Sean Carter told Kennedy a co-worker signed him up for a subscription to the *Militant*, which he likes. "Workers are more open to taking the paper because of what is happening in the world," Kennedy said.

"In this system everyone tries to push everyone else out of the way," Carter said. "We need to reform everything, including how politics is now. Lots of people don't trust the government."

Going door to door in Ozone Park, Queens, Kennedy met John Charlie, 21, a union construction worker who said he is leaning toward Trump, but with little enthusiasm.

"Neither Trump nor Clinton has any answers for working people," Kennedy told him. "Trump raises the problems workers face, like joblessness, while he talks demagogically against the government and blames immigrant workers for the economic crisis. Clinton says that workers are 'deplorable' and 'racist.'"

"I'm not a racist!" Charlie said. "I work with workers from Mexico. They get \$8 an hour, while I get \$20 for the same work because I'm in a union and they aren't. I feel bad about that. When they get sent to work 20 floors up without a safety harness, they do it. I can refuse to do unsafe work. It's getting worse all the time."

"Whoever is elected Nov. 8, nothing will change. Clinton and Trump will do what the billionaire families want them to do," she continued. "Workers have to organize a movement of millions to take political power from them and begin to build a society based on human solidarity, not the vicious values of capitalism."

Perasso met Frank Vega while campaigning in part of Staten Island that was flooded when Hurricane Sandy hit in 2012. "The first floor of all the houses on this block were flooded," Vega said. "It took three years to get the insurance company to cover rebuilding it."

Vega, a retired carpenter who is Puerto Rican, is angry about the impact of the capitalist crisis on the island. "I tried to retire there," he said, "but the cost of living is too high."

Perasso told Vega about the solidarity trip he and Kennedy recently took to Puerto Rico, including to the Ponce



Militant/Clay Dennison

Pat Scott, center, and SWP candidate for governor Mary Martin discuss with retired postal worker Jim Kirwan why workers need own party while campaigning in Federal Way, Wash., Oct. 22.

## Alyson Kennedy addresses oil workers union



Militant/Mitchel Rosenberg

PHILADELPHIA — Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, addressed some 30 members of United Steelworkers Local 10-1 here after their Oct. 20 union meeting. She expressed solidarity with the local against concessions demanded by CEO Philip Rinaldi on behalf of the owners of the Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery. Rinaldi sent a letter to Steelworkers members and nonunion employees Sept. 7 announcing a 50 percent increase in health care costs and the freezing of pensions, both violations of the USW contract.

Kennedy talked about her experiences as a coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America, and some of the lessons she learned fighting off attacks by the coal operators. "The capitalist candidates have no solution to the deepening crisis stemming from their falling rate of profit," she said. "So they attempt to squeeze more from workers and conduct their wars to control markets around the world."

Following her talk, Kennedy and campaign supporters joined USW members for pizza. Three workers got copies of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* to learn more about the party's program.

— MITCHEL ROSENBERG

Mitchel Rosenberg is a member of USW Local 10-1.

area he hails from. "I wish more people knew about Alyson Kennedy and that she had been part of the debates," Vega said. "I don't like Trump or Clinton. I'm going to vote for Kennedy."



BY EDWIN FRUIT

SNOHOMISH, Wash. — When Socialist Workers Party gubernatorial candidate Mary Martin spoke at Snohomish

High School Sept. 27, Tabitha Osborne-Rich signed up to campaign for Martin and the SWP presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart.

Osborne-Rich joined Martin knocking on doors here Oct. 24. A Boeing aerospace worker named Doug told them rent increases are gouging working people in his neighborhood. He blamed Republicans for the worsening

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## Party-building fund: 'Going door to door, workers ask to contribute'

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The political effort to raise \$100,000 for the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund made progress last week. The sum collected more than doubled.

"We already have pledges exceeding our goal," reported Rachele Fruit from Atlanta, the area that took the lead last week. "From Texas to Alabama to North Carolina, workers and other supporters of the SWP's perspective have responded quickly and with enthusiasm."

Along with weekly voluntary sustainers from members, the party-building fund is a cornerstone in meeting the party's budget. Many who value the long-term stability and integrity of a communist party financed by working people regularly contribute to the annual effort. The fund is also an excellent opportunity to explain why workers need the SWP in face of an ever-deepening capitalist crisis and the necessary fight-back by working people.

"As we go door to door, a number of workers have asked us if they could give contributions — some kick in a few bucks," Fruit said. "We have also received \$12 and \$15 donations. As we learn to ask people, we'll get even more."

Virginia O'Riley in Charlotte, North Carolina, where Keith Scott was shot

and killed by the cops, sent a note with her contribution. "Under capitalism a ruling elite decides daily and ruthlessly whose lives matter and whose do not," she wrote, expressing support for the SWP presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart.

To join the effort and make a contribution, contact the SWP in your area, listed on page 4.

Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund			
Sept. 24 - Dec. 7 - Week 4			
Area	Quota	Collected	%
Atlanta	\$11,000	\$4,986	45%
Chicago	\$11,500	\$2,445	21%
Lincoln	\$300	\$0	0%
Los Angeles	\$9,000	\$1,129	13%
Miami	\$3,500	\$400	11%
New York	\$22,500	\$6,440	29%
Oakland	\$15,000	\$4,730	32%
Philadelphia	\$4,500	\$500	11%
Seattle	\$8,000	\$1,764	22%
Twin Cities	\$4,500	\$962	21%
Wash., DC	\$8,500	\$450	5%
Other			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$98,300</b>	<b>\$23,806</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Should be</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>40%</b>

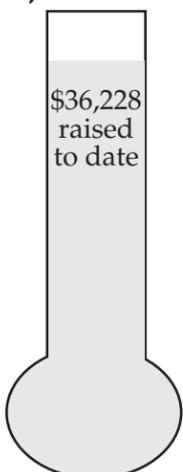
### Join SWP campaigning! Make a donation!

Campaigners for the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart are discussing with workers door to door the world crisis of capitalist production and trade, joining protests against cop brutality and against boss attacks, and asking people to join the SWP.

You can join in these efforts — just get in touch with the party in your area, listed on page 4.

You can also contribute to the \$40,000 Campaign Fund that makes this work possible. Contributions can be made out to Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee and sent to 227 W. 29th St., 6th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

\$40,000 needed



# Health crisis for workers

Continued from front page

adversely affected by the program's deepening crisis.

Former President Bill Clinton made headlines Oct. 3 when he described Obamacare as a "crazy system" where more people have insurance, but many "wind up with their premiums doubled and their coverage cut in half." By acknowledging what so many workers already know, he gave Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton an opportunity to stress that she'll "fix what's broken" with the scheme she supports.

Republican Donald Trump says he will scrap Obamacare, and claims he'll increase competition and lower costs by lifting regulation on companies selling insurance across state lines.

Both are committed to maintaining medical care as a private business.

"Working people need health care, not health insurance," Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy told the *Militant* Oct. 25. "The working class and the union movement need to fight for lifetime, universal, government-funded health care for all. The so-called Affordable Care Act guarantees superprofits for the insurance, hospital and pharmaceutical capitalists.

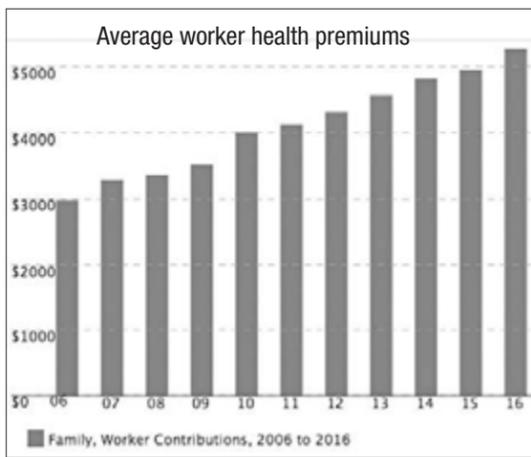
"Through our labor, the working class, in this country and worldwide, produces more than enough wealth to provide education, health care, housing, and retirement to every human being on earth, for a lifetime," Kennedy continued. "Workers and farmers in Cuba set an example when they took power, pulled medical care out of the capitalist market and rebuilt it on values of human solidarity."

Workers who have bought insurance on the Obamacare exchanges can expect

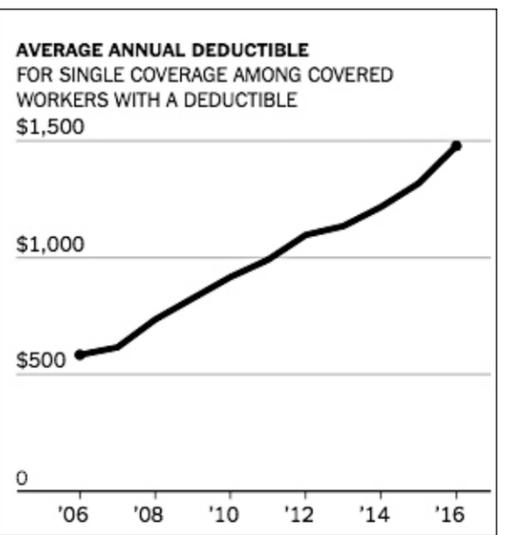
an average 25 percent rate increase next year. Some state officials, including in Minnesota, Tennessee and Montana, have approved hikes more in the range of 50 percent. While many people should see the increase offset by government subsidies, some 6 million won't.

Since Obamacare was enacted in 2010 the number of people without health insurance has dropped from 48.6 million to 28.6, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. More than 80 percent of those eligible who have incomes below 150 percent of the federal poverty level have bought insurance on the exchanges. Only 17 percent of eligible workers with incomes from three to four times the poverty level have enrolled.

For insurance tycoons this is a problem: too many people are too poor and too sick to make profits on. Insurance giants United Health, Humana and Aetna quit some exchanges because they "contain too many sick customers who make claims, and not enough younger, healthy ones. This has winnowed profits and in some cases pushed the insurers into losses," the *Financial Times* reported Aug. 30. United Health, the country's



Above, increase in average premium payments since 2006. Right, rise in deductible for health insurance. Health insurance costs will skyrocket further next year.



largest insurer, pulled out of Obamacare in 27 states after losing \$475 million on that business last year.

Of the 23 Obamacare co-ops organized by state governments, 17 have closed down. Tennessee's insurance commissioner warns that her state's exchange market is "very near collapse."

Next year Alabama, Alaska, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Wyoming will have only one insurer, as will one-third of all counties nationwide, primarily those in rural areas. Pinal County in Arizona may end up with none.

The federal government will impose a plan on those who have lost their insurer, unless they opt out or select plans on their own.

Four out of five workers who get health insurance through employers pay

deductibles, which rose four times faster than the premiums this year to an average of \$1,500. Workers are also paying a greater share of the premiums, averaging \$5,277 a year toward a family plan.

A growing number of companies are limiting the choices and services, making it more expensive or impossible to see a doctor outside the plan's network.

Various proposals have been floated in the election debates and capitalist media on how to "fix" the system. They include a public insurance option to compete on the exchanges, further limits on what the plans cover, increasing subsidies for the poorest and higher penalties for not buying insurance. But none of these change the fundamental problem that health care is a profit-making commodity under capitalism.

## NY cop killing of Deborah Danner sparks outrage

Continued from front page

were called to take her sister to the hospital.

Danner's neighbor Harold Deamues saw her shortly before the cops arrived. "I knew they were here for her," he told the *Gothamist*. "They've come up at least 20 times." Deamues, his wife and their baby daughter were among those who joined the protest the next night.

The case echoes the cop killing of Eleanor Bumpurs, another emotionally disturbed woman, in 1984. The cops were called by the New York City Housing Authority, which was trying to evict Bumpurs because she was behind on her rent. Officers stormed her Bronx apartment, said she had a knife, and shot her.

Bumpurs "was killed by police with a shotgun," Danner wrote in her 2012 essay, "because they were not trained sufficiently in how to engage the mentally ill in crisis."

Shantel Bumpurs, Eleanor's granddaughter, was one of those who spoke out against the killing of Danner. "My family went through the same troubles but nothing has changed," she told the *New York Daily News*.

Seeking to defuse protests, both Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner James O'Neill took their distance from the killing. "Our officers are supposed to use deadly force only when faced with a dire situation," de Blasio said. "It's very hard for any of us to see that that standard was met."

"What is clear in this one instance, we failed," O'Neill said.

Barry, who was sued twice for police brutality in the last four years, has been placed on "modified duty." The Bronx district attorney said he will investigate.

The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association and other cop groups have campaigned for Barry to be exonerated and

praised, including putting a full-page ad in the *Daily News*.

"The cops who shot Deborah Danner should be charged and prosecuted," Jacob Perasso, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, told fellow protesters he spoke with at a rally in Newark, New Jersey, against police killings Oct. 24. "Protests against killings like this across the country have forced authorities to take some steps to rein in their cops. Working people need to keep joining together to demand action."

Sheila Reid, whose son Jerame was killed by Bridgeton, New Jersey, cops in 2014, and Hawa Bah, whose son Mohamed was shot dead by NYPD cops in 2012 after she called for help when he was depressed, plan to join Perasso at a speakout against the killing of Danner at the New York Militant Labor Forum Fri., Oct. 28.

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney**  
From the U.S. to Australia: Is Socialist Revolution Possible? Speaker: Linda Harris, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 4, 7 p.m. Donation: \$4/\$2(unwaged). *Upstairs, 281-7 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718-9698.*

### CANADA

**Calgary**  
Deaths in Haiti and the U.S. From Hurricane Matthew: A Capitalist Social Disaster. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. *Dragon City Mall, 328 Centre St. SE, Unit 246. Tel.: (403) 457-9044.*

**Montreal:**  
Bombardier Lays off Thousands Worldwide: Slow-Burning World Capitalist Depression Continues to Ravage Lives of Working People. Speaker: Beverly Bernardo, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. *7107 St. Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.*

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland**  
Celebrate 60th Anniversary of Hungarian Revolution. Watch 'Freedom's Fury.' Fri., Nov. 4, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. *188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Tel.: (09) 636-3231.*

### UNITED KINGDOM

**Manchester**  
Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible? Speaker: Hugo Wils, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 4, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. *Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St., M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.*

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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 workers locked out by Honeywell, United Gas Workers Union members fighting concession demands by Dominion Gas and construction workers demanding safe conditions. 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

### Montreal demonstrators: 'Raise minimum wage to \$15 an hour'

MONTREAL — Several thousand people marched here Oct. 15 demanding the provincial minimum wage be raised to 15 Canadian dollars (\$11.26) an hour from its present level of CA\$10.75. Quebec's union federations — including the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ), the Council of National Trade Unions (CSN), and the Quebec Council of Unions (CSQ) — supported the action and had contingents. The value of the Canadian dollar has fallen from \$1 to 75 cents since October 2013.

Leading the march were workers from the Old Port Workers Union — Local 10333 of the Public Service Alliance of Canada — on strike since May 27. On Oct. 5 the unionists narrowly rejected a contract offer recommended by their negotiating committee. "Nearly half the Old Port workers earn less than CA\$15 an hour," union representative Jacques Fontaine told the *Militant*. He said workers in Canada were inspired by the gains of the fight for \$15 in the U.S.

Student organizations and other groups joined the demonstration. Many carried placards for the "5-10-15" campaign promoted by the CSQ that demanded bosses give workers five days advance notice on schedules, 10 paid days for sickness or family responsibilities, as well as CA\$15 an hour minimum wage.

"I heard about this demonstration this morning on the radio and decided to come," a teacher told the *Militant*. Passersby also joined the march.

Bosses organizations are publicly campaigning against the CA\$15 mini-

imum wage. The Canadian Federation of Independent Enterprises and the Quebec Employers Council argue that the increase undermines the profitability of their members and could lead to higher unemployment.

—Beverly Bernardo

## Calif. cop convicted in death of Andrew Thomas

BY BETSEY STONE

OROVILLE, Calif. — Fighters against police brutality won a victory here Oct. 18 when a jury found former Paradise cop Patrick Feaster guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the killing of 26-year-old Andrew Thomas. Sentencing will be in December.

Feaster shot Thomas last Nov. 26 af-



Militant/Jim Upton

Montreal Old Port workers, members of Public Service Alliance of Canada, on strike since May 27, lead march in Montreal Oct. 15 demanding \$15 an hour provincial minimum wage.

ter the vehicle he was driving crashed while Feaster pursued in a patrol car. Passenger Darien Ehorn, 23, was thrown from the car and died at the scene.

Thomas' family, friends and opponents of police brutality were in the courtroom on the final day of the trial. "This cop needs to do some seri-

ous time," said Gordon Dise, a retired heavy equipment operator, explaining why he was there. "If Feaster is not convicted, it will impact everyone in the county."

Also present was Lucy Garcia, a former telephone worker now in her '80s, who participated last winter in protests calling for Feaster to be fired and arrested. "I'm so happy about this," she told the *Militant* upon hearing the guilty verdict.

Footage from the cop car's dashboard camera was shown during the trial. It shows Feaster jumping out of his patrol car at the scene of the crash and immediately drawing his gun and shooting Thomas as he tries to exit the flipped vehicle.

Then, instead of calling an ambulance or giving Thomas or Ehorn medical aid, Feaster pulls out his flashlight and begins looking for the spent bullet casing. Finally, 11 minutes after the shooting and after other cops arrive, Feaster tells them he might have "accidentally" shot Thomas.

In the wake of the shooting, friends of Thomas and others protested almost daily at an intersection in Paradise near where Thomas was shot. A memorial set up at the site of the crash carried the sign, "Stop police brutality. Arrest Feaster."

Some protesters called for the removal of Butte County District Attorney Michael Ramsey, who initially said no charges would be filed against Feaster. Instead, he threatened to charge Thomas with drunk driving and vehicular manslaughter in the death of Ehorn. Thomas died of his injuries about three weeks after the shooting.

Under the pressure of the protests, Feaster was fired in February and charged with involuntary manslaughter. "Ramsey did this to get out from all that heat," said Cameron Ponce, a friend of Thomas who had worked with him on construction sites and attended the trial.

For most of those picketing and planning the actions, it was their first involvement in any kind of protest.

"Paradise is a small town, with a population of around 26,000, over 90 percent who are Caucasian," said Jeff Powers, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Oakland, who joined some of the protests. "These young working people, many of them friends of Thomas, told us they were inspired by the demonstrations against cop killings across the country. It shows the impact of this fight."



Militant/Eric Simpson

January protest in Paradise, California, against killing of Andrew Thomas by cop Patrick Feaster. In February Feaster was fired. He was convicted of involuntary manslaughter Oct. 18.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 8, 1991

Hundreds of thousands of auto workers, nurses, farmers, and other working people in France have gone on strike, demonstrated, or taken other actions during the past weeks to protest the effects of the economic crisis there.

Most of the giant Renault auto production operations remain shut down. The Renault workers' actions come in response to years of attrition on the work force. The state-owned auto manufacturer has cut back the numbers employed from 214,000 in 1983 to 160,000 by the end of 1989. During this period speedup has meant that fewer workers produce the same number of cars.

In September Renault announced a new plan to cut the number of workers by a further 40 percent over the next seven years. This has led to a movement throughout the Renault plants, coupled with demands for higher wages.



November 7, 1966

The Manila Conference of [U.S. President Lyndon] Johnson and his Asian puppets has set the stage for a new escalation of the Vietnam war. This was made crystal clear by Johnson's "peace" offer.

Stripped of its double-speak verbiage, the Johnson "offer" boiled down to this. The U.S. says it will pull out six months after it is satisfied the following conditions have been met: All forces of the "other side" have been withdrawn from the south. All north Vietnamese aid to the guerrilla fights has been halted. All "violence" in the south has subsided. The south Vietnamese dictatorship agrees that the U.S. should leave.

In short, the U.S. will consider leaving only after the complete capitulation or crushing of the liberation movement. Such aims can only mean further escalation of the war.



November 8, 1941

The Roosevelt administration and the steel corporations have failed to force the United Mine Workers of America, CIO, to accept compulsory arbitration as a basis for settlement of the strike of 53,000 workers for the union shop in the "captive" coal mines.

Called on midnight, October 25, by UMW President John L. Lewis, in spite of Roosevelt's demand that the miners stay on the job and continue to work without a contract, the strike was temporarily halted on October 30 under terms of a 15-day truce.

The refusal of the NDMB [National Defense Mediation Board] to take a position on the union-shop issue was in line with the demands of the steel corporations, which are determined to establish a precedent for continuing the open shop in steel plants employing over 600,000 workers.

# Standing Rock Sioux defend their water, win solidarity

BY HELEN MEYERS

O CETI SAKOWIN CAMP near STANDING ROCK SIOUX INDIAN RESERVATION — Some 300 flags of Native tribes from around the world fly over this camp along the Cannonball River, testimony to the continuing support for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's fight against the construction of an oil pipeline that threatens their water supply. Since the protests began in April, many thousands have come to stand in support of protection of the water and treaty rights.

The route for the Dakota Access Pipeline passes just north of the border of the reservation. But the Sioux never agreed to relinquish that land and they still consider it theirs, JR American Horse, a camp leader from the Standing Rock Sioux, said during a discussion with Osborne Hart and David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. vice president and U.S. Senate from Minnesota, and others at the camp Oct. 15. The pipeline will pass under the Missouri River at Lake Oahe, which provides water for Standing Rock, and through sacred and burial sites.

"Farmers in the area have contributed produce," American Horse said. "They have been forced by eminent domain to let the pipeline be built on their land. They often have tears in their eyes and they tell us to fight the pipeline because they can't."

Oceti Sakowin is the largest of several solidarity camps. It has hundreds of tents and tepees and is well organized.

Brenda Guachena, from the Luiseño tribe in the San Diego area, came with a trailer full of food and money donated from four tribes in her region. "It is heartwarming to see all the tribes who have come together," she said.

Helping her was Rose Little-Butler from Winnemucca, Nevada, whose husband is a member of the Blackfeet tribe and was in the military. "My son has served four tours of duty in Afghanistan," Little-Butler said, "and

no one is going to tell me where I can pray or protect the water."

Kelsey Robertson, who is Eskimo, came from Fairbanks, Alaska, to support the fight. "We had a big oil spill in Valdez" in 1989, she said. "I don't want it to happen again here. We have to look at more eco-friendly sources of power."

In September the Sioux won a temporary administrative injunction halting work on the pipeline within 20 miles of Lake Oahe. A federal appeals court lifted the injunction Oct. 9. Since then Energy Transfer Partners, the builder of the pipeline, has resumed construction on private land, though permits by the Army Corps of Engineers to cross under the Missouri River are still pending.

Thirty-five law enforcement agencies across North Dakota and Wisconsin have sent cops to confront the daily protests. On Oct. 15, after police blocked a caravan of protesters from reaching one of the construction sites, about 150 hiked the last four miles. They were confronted by 100 cops with a helicopter overhead and armored vehicles. The construction workers were evacuated. The protesters sang and beat drums for an hour and left with no arrests.

## Women in Saudi Arabia challenge male guardianship

BY EMMA JOHNSON

In recent months women in Saudi Arabia have conducted a campaign to abolish male guardianship, under which women remain legal minors for their entire lives. More than 14,500 people signed a petition with this demand that was submitted to the royal court Sept. 26. This fight is rooted in gains by women in entering the workforce.

Segregation along sex lines is a mainstay of how the Saudi absolute monarchy maintains its rule, imposing a draconian version of sharia law. Men and women mixing freely in public and in private outside the family is prohibited and monitored by the religious police.

around the world need access to electricity. Instead of supporting rapacious capitalists — like Energy Transfer Partners — our unions, together with Native Americans and other workers, should be fighting for a massive public works program to create millions of jobs at union scale wages.

Ensuring safe conditions in the production and transportation of oil, gas and coal can only be achieved by working people wresting control over safety and working conditions out of the hands of the bosses as we fight to strengthen our unions. Then we can provide protection to workers and communities. We can prevent profit-driven capitalists from contaminating the land, air and water.

As we fight to transform the twisted social relations of the dog-eat-dog world of capitalism, we will change ourselves into a working class capable of reorganizing society on the basis of human solidarity. In that spirit, we say, stand with Standing Rock!



Dave Stucke, Dakotas UMC

Some 300 Native tribes have brought flags in support of Standing Rock Sioux fighting to protect water and treaty rights. Above, Oceti Sakowin Camp near Cannon Ball, N.D., Sept. 10.

Fourteen protesters were arrested by police at another construction site.

Much activity in the camp now is preparing for the winter months. Among those here are students from the Inter-Tribal Student Council at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. They've done fundraising on campus and held protests at the Army Corps of Engineers office in Omaha. "We bring new people here every time," said Jordan Matula, who is Oglala. "This is not just a native issue."

Chauncey Peltier, the son of Leonard

Peltier, was collecting postcards requesting presidential clemency for his father, who has been in prison for over 40 years on frame-up charges for his participation in the fight for Native American rights. There are several Free Leonard Peltier banners on the main road into the camp.

National Nurses United issued a statement of solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux, and volunteer members of the labor union are helping to provide medical care at the camps.

Many public buildings and stores have separate entrances, departments and checkout counters for men and women. Arranged marriages are still the norm. Adultery can be punished by death, and there are strict rules for how women are allowed to appear in public. Men can have up to four wives.

All women are required to have a guardian — usually their father or husband, in some cases a brother or even a son. Women cannot travel abroad or marry without the guardian's agreement, and they can be required to provide his consent to work or receive medical care. They are banned from driving.

Saudi Arabia's most senior cleric, Grand Mufti Adbulaziz Al Sheikh, denounced the call to repeal the guardianship system as "a crime against the religion of Islam" and said it would pose "an existential threat to Saudi society."

Over the past decade, struggles by toilers throughout the region have sharpened the contradictions for Saudi Arabia's reactionary rulers, including in ways that strengthen the fight against women's oppression. After the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Bahrain, the monarchy, anxious to forestall any similar developments in Saudi Arabia, eased some restrictions, including on women's employment.

About 20 percent of women in Saudi Arabia are employed — an eightfold increase over five years, according to *Der Spiegel*.

Five years ago nearly all retail clerks were men, many from the Philippines, Bangladesh and Malaysia. Migrant workers account for one-third of the population in Saudi Arabia.

The changes started in the lingerie departments. Wasn't it a contradiction that women had to mix with men to buy underwear? In 2012 it was decreed that only females could work in lingerie stores. In the following years women got the right to sell clothes, make-up and children's toys, and have started breaking into other jobs, including a small

number working in factories.

As more women get jobs, they gain confidence and challenge more restrictions. How are women to get to work if they can't drive in a country with no public transport? Who will look after the children? Last year the labor law was amended to require 10 weeks of paid maternity leave. Companies employing 50 or more women are by law obligated to provide staffed child care facilities, though many bosses ignore this.

As women start working and have the means to support themselves, they are less likely to put up with abusive husbands or submit to arranged marriages. According to official figures, 45 percent of women over 30 are single and 40 percent of marriages end in divorce.

With lower oil prices cutting into the Saudi rulers' revenue, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced in April a plan dubbed "Saudi Vision 2030" to diversify the economy. One of its goals is increasing women's participation in the workforce. This will further strengthen the ranks of the working class worldwide, and the problems that creates for the rulers.

### SWP candidate: 'Defend Sioux tribe's treaty rights'

David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Minneapolis, visited the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation as part of a solidarity delegation Oct. 14-16. Below are excerpts of a message he released.

The Socialist Workers Party supports the fight of the Standing Rock Sioux to defend their sovereign treaty rights against the U.S. government. The support of hundreds of tribes and First Nations for the Standing Rock Sioux is a response to the assaults and degradation suffered by indigenous peoples throughout the Americas.

The bosses and some union officials say that union workers should support the pipeline and oppose the treaty rights of Native Americans because the project creates jobs. This argument is false to the core. We must fight for jobs, but not in a way that strikes a dagger into the heart of working-class unity. Workers need housing, schools, health care. Billions of people

### Join fight against censorship of 'Militant' at Attica prison

The *Militant* is appealing the impoundment of its Oct. 3 issue by New York State prison authorities at the Attica Correctional Facility who falsely claim that articles on the 1971 Attica rebellion and current actions by prisoners "incite rebellion against government authorities." You can help.

Get statements of support for the *Militant's* appeal from defenders of workers rights and free speech. Send to themilitant@mac.com

# Course of FARC was obstacle to working class in Colombia

BY MARK THOMPSON

The evolution of the class struggle in Colombia poses crucial questions for working people about what kind of leadership is needed to advance the fights of workers and farmers against the bosses, landlords and their governments, in Latin America and beyond. An article in the Oct. 24 *Militant* on the narrow defeat of a referendum to approve a peace accord between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed

the armed conflict, and taken important initiatives to bring it about.

Far from advancing struggles by workers or farmers, the actions of the FARC have damaged the ability of working people to organize and gain confidence on a road to taking political power. Fidel Castro, drawing on the experience of the leadership of the Cuban Revolution, sharply criticized the FARC's methods in his 2008 book *La paz en Colombia* (Peace in Colombia).

## COMMENTARY

Forces of Colombia (FARC) didn't help clarify these questions.

Working people in Colombia have been hard hit by the world capitalist crisis. As the economy contracts for a second year, they face stepped-up attacks by the bosses and government of President Juan Manuel Santos. The minimum wage is less than \$1 an hour, one of the lowest in Latin America. Official unemployment is 9 percent.

When over 50,000 truck drivers struck in June and July, the government used soldiers and cops to help break the strike, killing one strike supporter.

Some 63 percent of farmland in Colombia is owned by 0.4 percent of landowners, while 60 percent of farmers have no title to their farms. Income inequality is among the highest in the world. Economic life is further distorted by imperialist domination. The foreign debt tops \$100 billion.

Workers and farmers also confront the legacy of five decades of war by the Washington-backed government and paramilitaries and the FARC and other leftist guerrilla groups. Working people have borne the brunt of the conflict. At least 220,000 people have been killed, over 80 percent of them civilians, and another 7 million displaced, mainly peasants fleeing the countryside.

Ending the war can help open space for workers and farmers to organize. For more than 30 years, Cuba's revolutionary leadership has advocated an end to

### Damaging course of FARC

The FARC began in the 1960s as a rural guerrilla group linked to the Stalinist Communist Party of Colombia. Its perspective was to exert pressure and win concessions from the landlords and government through bombings, assassinations and kidnappings as part of a "prolonged war." At best, this relegated working people to the role of spectators.

This course gave the government and landlords a pretext for assaults on unionists and farmers and to clamp down on political rights. The regime mobilized thousands of paramilitaries to terrorize the population. As the FARC gained territory in the 1990s, Washington sent Bogotá troops, arms and funds, claiming to wage war on drugs and terrorism. Plan Colombia, signed by President Bill Clinton in 2000, allocated \$10 billion to this.

Following the election of President Álvaro Uribe in 2002, a military offensive dealt major blows to the FARC and its leadership. Faced with these setbacks, and growing international discussion, including Castro's contributions, on what way forward for working people in Colombia, the FARC entered peace talks with the Santos government, which took office in 2010.

The Cuban government was instrumental in facilitating the negotiations, which opened in Havana in 2012. A peace accord was signed in September and put to a referendum Oct. 2. Polls had projected it would pass with a big majority, but 50.2 percent voted against.

An Oct. 4 statement by the Communist Youth of Colombia reflected a common response on the left. It described the vote as a victory for "ultra-right, conservative and religious sectors," saying the "voter population" had been "confused with the lying and hatred of the far right campaign." Similar explanations appeared in much of the capitalist media.

The Oct. 24 *Militant* article "Colombia 'No' Vote Reflects Discontent with Gov't, FARC," didn't answer this line. It referred to classless "discontent" and stressed the "vote no" campaign led by Uribe and the low 37 percent turnout, suggesting the vote showed a shift to the right and working-class apathy.

But the reason many working people voted "no" or abstained was because of deep hostility toward the FARC. Many felt the terms were too generous toward FARC leaders responsible for death and destruction, including guaranteed seats in Congress and amnesty for leaders accused of major crimes.

In the territories it occupied, the FARC used violence to impose its rule over working people. It extorted taxes, including on the production and transport of illegal drugs, and carried out thousands of kidnappings for ransom. It imposed curfews and strict social controls on residents, expelling violators

## NY protest says no to US missiles in SKorea



stopthaad.org

NEW YORK — Farmers in South Korea are opposing the deployment of a U.S. anti-missile defense system there, and "it's important that we also protest," Hyun Lee told nearly 100 people demonstrating here Oct. 21. Similar actions took place in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., the same day.

Washington claims the government of North Korea is a threat to peace, noted Lee, a leader of Nodutdol for Korean Community Development. "But who holds mass military maneuvers, increasing tensions? Who says they have a plan to 'decapitate' the leadership of North Korea? Who sends strategic bombers to the region with the capacity to drop nuclear weapons?" she asked, referring to aggressive actions and statements by U.S. and South Korean governments.

In July Seoul and Washington announced plans to install a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system in Seongju, South Korea. The high-powered radar and interceptor missile battery is scheduled to be in operation by the end of 2017. Working farmers in Seongju have been leading protests against it.

While Washington claims the missile system is aimed only at North Korea, it fortifies U.S. imperialism's offensive military footing against China and Russia.

— SETH GALINSKY

from their homes and land. Thousands of peasants were killed or maimed by land mines laid by the FARC.

### Opposite of Cuban Revolution

When a raid by the Colombian military in 2008 freed 15 hostages held by the FARC, Fidel Castro took the opportunity to speak out. Those released included Ingrid Betancourt, who had been kidnapped six years earlier while campaigning for president, 11 soldiers and three U.S. citizens.

"We rejoiced at the news" that the "captives had been released," Castro said. "The civilians should have never been kidnapped, nor should the soldiers have been kept as prisoners in jungle conditions. These were objectively cruel actions. No revolutionary aim could justify them."

From its very beginning, Castro said, the course followed by the FARC was the opposite of that followed by the revolutionary movement that led workers and farmers to power in Cuba. The Communist Party of Colombia "was un-

der the influence of the Communist Party of the USSR, not of Cuba," he said. It "never planned to conquer power."

In Cuba the Rebel Army led by Castro looked to the working class and exploited farmers as the agents of revolutionary change. They organized land reform, literacy campaigns and other revolutionary measures in areas under rebel control.

When they fought battles with the dictatorship's troops, they sought to keep civilians from harms way. Soldiers they captured were treated with dignity and released at the first opportunity. This course and conduct reflected the working-class morality of Cuba's revolutionary leaders.

Havana is now hosting a new round of talks between Colombian officials and the FARC leadership. A cease-fire has been extended through the end of the year. The Cuban and Ecuadoran governments are also facilitating peace talks between Bogotá and the National Liberation Army (ELN), a smaller Colombian guerrilla organization.

## SWP: 'Change class in power'

Continued from page 3

conditions the working class faces and said he plans to vote for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

When Doug told Osborne-Rich it was good to see a young person involved in the issues, she replied, "It's real for me. I work at a fast-food restaurant after school and the wages are low. I see how hard my father works to make a living. We have relatives living with us so we can help each other. I like very much what the SWP stands for and says about what regular citizens can do."

After campaigning, Osborne-Rich decided to subscribe to the *Militant* and pick up a copy of *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?*

Pat Scott, an SWP supporter who designed the new Kennedy-Hart campaign

button, joined Martin going door to door Oct. 22 in Federal Way near Seattle. Several people recognized Scott, who has cashiered at Walmart for 16 years.

Jim Kirwan, a retired postal worker and unionist, told them he's leaning toward voting for Trump because he thinks Clinton is corrupt, "but I don't really like what Trump says either."

Martin and Scott explained workers need their own party, and that only mobilizations independent of the capitalists will put working people in power.

"I agree with what you are saying," Kirwan said. "I didn't know there were any alternatives in the elections. Keep up the good work!" He subscribed to the *Militant*, picked up two books, contributed \$5 to the Socialist Workers Party and got a campaign button.

## — CALENDAR —

### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago

**End Washington's Continued Blockade! Return Guantánamo! An Evening in Solidarity with Cuba.** Presentation of 17-Piece 'Fidel' Photo Exhibit. Speakers: Sandra Ramirez, North American director, Cuban Institute for Friendship With the Peoples; Miguel Fraga, first secretary, Cuban Embassy, Washington D.C.; José López, executive director, Puerto Rican Cultural Center, brother of Oscar López. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. *Student Center East, Room 302, 750 S. Halsted.* Tel.: (312) 952-2618. Sponsors: Chicago Cuba Coalition, National Network on Cuba, Int'l Committee for Peace Justice and Dignity.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Thomas Sankara's Legacy, Democracy in the Global South, and Black Lives.** Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters, Socialist Workers Party; Heather Benno, ANSWER Coalition; Msia Clark, Howard University professor; Aline Piva, Brazilian political analyst. Sat., Nov. 5, 3:30 p.m. *Festival Center, 1640 Columbia Rd. NW.* Endorsers: Institute for Policy Studies; Friends of the Congo; ANSWER Coalition; Socialist Workers Party; Pan-African Community Action; All-African People's Revolutionary Party (GC); Party for Socialism and Liberation; Revival of Pan-Africanism Forum. Tel.: (202) 320-6017.

# The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record

New book by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes explains why US capitalist rulers fear the working class

The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People is off the presses! This timely new book features three chapters based on talks and reports from 2001 and 2008 by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party:

- "Ending Welfare As We Know It"
- Roots of the 2008 World Financial Crisis
- How the Clintons Cooked the Books

Below is the introduction by Steve Clark, a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party. Copyright © 2016 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY STEVE CLARK

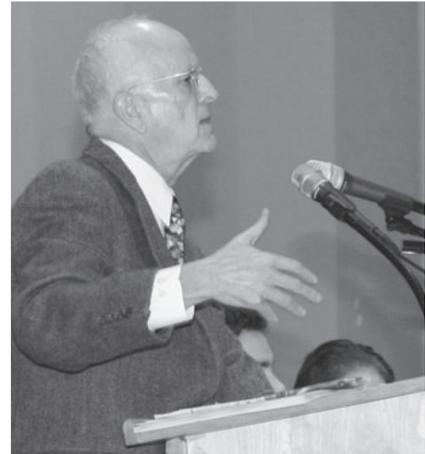
"Deplorable." "Irredeemable." Those are Hillary Clinton's contemptuous labels for millions of working people in the United States living and trying to work amid capitalism's grinding decline.

This book is about those millions and others like us the world over. It is about

## INTRODUCTION

why we are at the center of politics today, and will become more so in the months and years after the new US administration is sworn in on January 20, 2017.

Clinton's deeply held attitudes, blurred out in a rare unscripted moment to wealthy supporters during a Manhattan fund-raising event, revealed what millions of working people already know all too well. Workers and our families



Militant/Dave Wulp

Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes speaking at November 2008 public meeting in New Jersey.

have lived for more than two decades with the consequences of the Clintons' first occupancy of the White House, from 1993 to 2001, when they made the brutal drive to end "welfare as we know it" their hallmark. And when they pushed through legislation such as the grotesquely named "Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act," which has had a devastating impact on working-class families, especially those who are African American.

The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Work-

ing People by Jack Barnes, the National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, brings together in one place these and other chapters of the last twenty-five years of the profit-driven course of the Clintons and their fellow political servants of the US capitalist rulers.

Barnes describes the human toll on working people in the United States, including the gutting of the meager "social safety net" won in hard-fought battles by the US working class over decades. He explains what growing numbers of workers already sense is happening to us, no matter how vehemently the wealthy and powerful deny it. We are living through a slow-burning economic contraction and financial crisis — a global capitalist crisis like none of us have ever seen before.

And it's working people the world over who are carrying the burdens of that deepening social calamity.

As Clinton's words reveal, for the first time in decades, the US rulers and their government have begun to fear the working class. Not because there are yet massive workers' struggles like those that forged the industrial unions in the 1930s, or the proletarian-based battles for Black rights in the 1950s and '60s that defeated Jim Crow segregation and terror. There is as yet no broad working-class politicalization in the United States.

They fear us because they recognize that more and more working people are beginning to see that the bosses and their political parties have no "solutions" that don't further load the costs — monetary and human — of the crisis of their system on us. Since the 2008–09 financial crash and economic contraction, more and more workers and farmers are already engaged in a wide-ranging and angry discussion of this capitalist reality. Although no one can foresee the timing, the financial capitalists and well-paid professionals who serve them sense that mounting struggle — class struggle — lies ahead.

Neither Washington nor Wall Street has any course that can contain the explosive international ramifications of capitalism's banking and financial contradictions. Nor do any of their capitalist allies and competitors, from London to Berlin to Tokyo.

None of them is pursuing policies that can reverse the slump of capitalist production, trade, and hiring that is ravaging the lives and livelihoods of workers, working farmers, and our families. None can turn around today's shrinking of the active working class, the increasing age at which young people start independent productive lives, and the slowdown in the formation of families able to keep a



Militant/Jacob Perasso

"More and more workers and farmers are already engaged in a wide-ranging and angry discussion" of the impact of the capitalist crisis on themselves and their families. Socialist Workers Party members are part of these discussions as they campaign year round in workers' neighborhoods, using books like this new one and the Militant. Above, party member Diana Newberry, left, campaigns in May in Owatonna, Minnesota, talking with Patty Gonzalez at her front door.

roof overhead and food on the table.

Why? Because there are no such policies. What's happening in today's world is not the result of policy "failures" by

**"Never before have the presidential candidates of both major capitalist parties evoked such political distrust, disgust, and aversion among working people . . ."**

the White House, Congress, Federal Reserve, or the more and more wretchedly politicized and self-important Supreme Court. It is the result of the workings of capitalism itself. And that's where we must aim our fire, not at scapegoats singled out by reactionary demagogues to divert our energies.

Pressing interest rates near zero (or below). Buying up huge quantities of government securities (and, down the road, corporate stocks and bonds). New "regulations" aimed at curbing banks and industries. A big increase in government deficit spending. Even giant outlays for war, such as the \$5 trillion already poured into US military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere just since 2001. Such policies may be able to postpone or temporarily buffer the effects of the next breakdown, but they cannot and will not prevent it. Let alone "kick-start" economic growth and employment.

Capitalism long ago became a global system. The US ruling families and their rivals in Europe and the Pacific engage in ceaseless efforts to maximize their own profits the world over. Growing carnage and the dispossession of millions of human beings is the result. From Afghanistan through Iraq, Syria, and Yemen; from Somalia and Sudan, across large swathes of Africa and beyond. The earth has become a sea of refugees, whose numbers and deprivations have not been seen since the end of World War II.

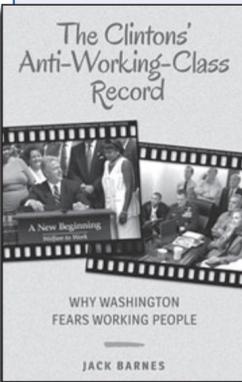
It's a world in which imperialist superexploitation breeds and perpetuates

not only illiteracy and crushing levels of infant and maternal mortality but also terrifying epidemics of preventable disease. The Ebola crisis in West Africa in 2014, cholera in Haiti in 2010 and again in 2015 and 2016, the Zika virus across Latin America and the Caribbean, including the debt-enslaved US colony of Puerto Rico — these are but the most recent. Imperialism leaves hundreds of millions without potable water, sanitation, electricity, and food, from Guatemala to Bangladesh, from Nigeria to the Philippines.

Amid this growing domestic and international nightmare, politicians of both major capitalist parties, as well as the big-business media, work overtime to spread the smear campaign that working people in the United States in massive numbers are "racist, sexist, ho-

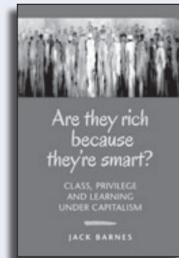
## It's their system that's deplorable, not us!

Three books for today's deepening debate among working people looking for a way forward in face of capitalism's global economic crisis, social calamity and spreading wars.

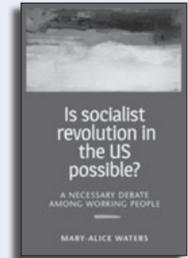


Contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League nearest you. See directory on page 4.

## SPECIAL OFFER: The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record — just \$5!



Are They Rich Because They're Smart? and Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible? \$7 each or \$5 each with a subscription to the Militant.



AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite

President Bill Clinton signs 1996 "workfare reform," one of most anti-working-class measures in last 25 years. It slashed number of families under poverty line who received government cash benefits, a cruel move defended by Hillary Clinton to this day. Clinton years were also marked by largest jump in prison population under any two-term president and most annual deportations in U.S. history.

mophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic, you name it," as Hillary Clinton put it during that September 2016 fund-raising speech. They are not only "deplorable," she said. Most importantly, "They are irredeemable."

But what has been registered by the 2016 election campaign — in partial and distorted ways, as with all bourgeois electoral phenomena — has little to do with Donald Trump's crude demeaning of women, immigrants, Muslims, and others. That's not why substantial numbers of those Hillary Clinton considers "irredeemable" have voted for him. The truth is that even more have refused to vote either for her or for him.

What has been registered is something different: the bourgeois two-party system has, for so long, delivered nothing but crushed expectations. In 2016 millions are casting votes for what they hope may be a change. Many others have already decided in disgust to simply sit this one out, at least the top of the ballot.

Whether it's Trump's billions, or the hundreds of millions accumulated by

the Clintons themselves and by their foundation in the fifteen years since they paused in their occupancy of the White House, the wealth of both bourgeois party candidates depends on the capitalist social relations they proudly promote. And the profits they take depend on competition and division among workers. Layoffs and unemployment. Multi-tier contracts and job combinations. Racist discrimination. Women's second-class status. The ever-present fear of cop brutality. Pariah conditions of immigrant labor and refugees. Bloody wars and

**"Although no one can foresee the timing, the financial capitalists and well-paid professionals who serve them sense that mounting class struggle lies ahead . . ."**

military operations to protect US imperialist interests overseas. Without the cutthroat class relations inherent in capitalism, billions of dollars in superprofits pocketed by the employing class, year in and year out, would evaporate.

They grow wealthy by exploiting our labor and keeping us divided. It's the lawful workings of capitalist production and distribution — and the state power that defends exploitation and oppression — that corrode working-class solidarity. That's what's deplorable.



Whatever the outcome of the 2016 presidential and congressional elections, an unprecedented blow has been dealt to the stability of the capitalist party system in the United States. Since the consolidation more than a century ago of the Democratic and Republican parties' domination of bourgeois politics in the new rising imperialist power, there has been nothing comparable.

In order for the two-party system to function effectively for the rulers, there needs to be a "lesser evil." And the lesser evils need to alternate — a Democrat for a few terms, then a Republican, and to fro. That's how it has worked for decades as an effective pressure valve to let off anger among "the electorate."

But that's not what happened in 2016. Never before have the presidential candidates of both major capitalist parties evoked such political distrust, disgust, and aversion among working peo-



Above, AP Photo/Boris Gradanoski; Inset, White House

"U.S. rulers and their rivals in Europe and Pacific engage in ceaseless efforts to maximize their own profits. Growing carnage and the dispossession of millions is the result. The earth has become a sea of refugees." Above, Afghan refugees in Macedonia in February. Inset, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in White House war room May 1, 2011, during assault in which U.S. special forces murdered Osama bin Laden.



ple, youth, and broad layers of the lower middle class. A recent cartoon says it all. It shows neighboring front yards, one with a sign saying "She's worse," the other with a sign saying "He's worse." Both are dead right! There is no lesser evil.

And the crisis conditions that have produced this shakeup in the bourgeois two-party setup aren't going away. They are worsening.

What has been unprecedented in 2016 is the exposure of something the US ruling class has largely succeeded in obscuring for decades. It has shown in life that the bourgeois electoral system in the United States is rigged — yes, rigged on behalf of the propertied owners and their large rent-collecting meritocracy. The big majority of

the ruling families — often mistakenly labeled the "establishment," or "political elite," by those hoping to obscure their class character — made clear a few months before the November elections that they intended to use television, newspapers, and any stick they could get their hands on to ensure Trump's defeat.

The squashing of Bernie Sanders's strong primary challenge to Hillary Clinton had already given new genera-

tions of workers and youth a display of what powerful bourgeois forces can and will do when they've decided the result of a nomination or election beforehand.

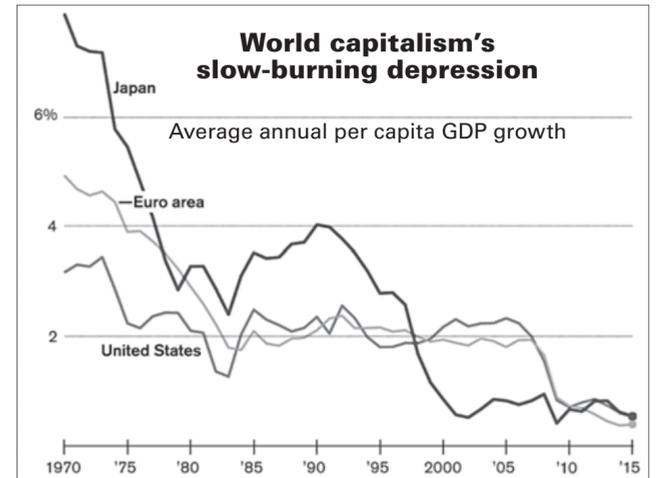
The ruling layers and top rungs of those who do their bidding live by different rules and moral standards. "Lyin' Hillary" is wrong only in the many, many others that description lets off the hook, in both capitalist parties. Sanders and Trump alike decried the "rigged" system, whose game they themselves have contentedly played and profited from for years, and will continue to do so. But the eyes of millions of working people have been opened not to shadowy conspiracies, but to the everyday functioning of bourgeois politics in the United States and, in one form or another, the world over.

The former stability of the two-party shell game will not be restored.



The Clintons' first eight years in the White House, from 1993 to 2001, initiated the anti-working-class course that was continued over the subsequent two-term Republican and Democratic administrations of George W. Bush and

Continued on page 10



The slump of capitalist production, trade and hiring that is ravaging workers and working farmers is not the result of "policy failures" by the White House, politicians or the Federal Reserve, but of the workings of capitalism itself. "That's where we must aim our fire, not at scapegoats singled out by reactionary demagogues to divert our energies."

# Clintons' anti-worker record

Continued from page 9

Barack Obama. The record foreshadows what's in store for working people during what the Clintons hope will be their second eight-year ascendancy.

The starkest example of this course was the Clinton administration's 1996 "welfare reform," which has slashed the percentage of families below the official US poverty line receiving government cash benefits from nearly 70 percent at that time to 23 percent in 2015. Hillary Clinton, who says "advocating for children and families has been the cause of my life," continues to this day to defend that cruel legislation.

The Clintons and their supporters promised jobs in place of welfare. But the jobs have trickled away, and the "safety net" is gone.

Former US senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan said twenty years ago that the Clinton administration would "go down in history as [the one] that abandoned, eagerly abandoned, the national commitment to dependent children." He couldn't have been more correct.

Health insurance rates under the Obama administration's *un*-Affordable Care Act will rocket between 30 and 60 percent in many states in 2017, and some 1.5 million working people will lose the plans they're currently covered by. Yet both Clinton and

Trump continue to oppose government-funded universal health care. Trump says he will scrap "Obamacare" altogether, thereby greatly increasing the some 30 million people who still have no medical coverage of any kind, while Clinton promises to "fix what's broken." But it was the Clintons' own 1993 "Health Security Act," defeated in the Democratic-controlled Congress at the time, that cast the mold, holding workers' health care hostage to the profits of giant pharmaceutical corporations and increasingly interlocked insurance and hospital companies, as well as sharply rising charges for every aspect of medical attention.

The Clinton years were marked, among other things, by the largest jump in the federal and state prison population under any two-term president (up 60 percent between 1993 and 2001). Their administration presided over the highest annual number of deportations in US history (1.8 million). Legislation the Clinton White House supported and signed vastly expanded the number of federal crimes subject to capital punishment, whose use both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump defend.

No one who watched the Clinton machine organize delegates at the 2016 Democratic convention to scream "USA! USA!" in an attempt to silence delegates chanting "No more war!" would be surprised that it was the Clinton White House that coined the jingoistic description of the imperialist USA as "the indispensable nation." (Nor that the first Clinton administration figure to broadcast that lie in the 1990s was its secretary of state Madeleine Albright, who during the 2016 primaries warned "there's a special place in hell" for women who don't support Hillary Clinton.)

Clinton has repeatedly called for a "no fly zone" over Syria, a policy that could only be enforced by a readiness to shoot down Moscow's warplanes, a direct military conflict with Russia. This stance is in line with her support

for a quarter-century-long chain of US-initiated wars and military operations extending from Libya and Iraq, to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Including the Clintons' US-organized bombing campaigns and "special operations" in Iraq, Yugoslavia, and Somalia between 1993 and 2001, hundreds of thousands on all sides have already been killed or sustained life-crippling injuries as these conflicts spread. With further expansion in sight.



It was during the Clintons' first two terms in the White House that some of the harshest measures were taken to ratchet up the decades-long attempts by the US imperialist rulers to overturn Cuba's socialist revolution. That course also is enumerated in *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record*.

With the passage of bills known as the Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts, Washington's brutal economic war against Cuban working people was intensified. This came just as Cuba's decades-long trade relations with the USSR and Eastern Europe disappeared overnight, and the Cuban Revolution faced — and surmounted — the greatest test yet in its history.

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**"We discuss how the working class can carry out a course of political action based on our class interests, not those of capitalists. To all we say, our party is your party . . ."**

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The Clinton administration turned a blind eye to provocations by Florida-based Cuban counterrevolutionaries who staged overflights of the island's airspace in hopes of prompting defensive action by Havana that could become a pretext for US retaliation, even military action. While Washington did nothing to halt these repeated assaults on Cuba's sovereignty, the Clintons' Justice Department framed up and railroaded to federal prison five Cuban revolutionaries living in Florida who were working for the Cuban government to prevent such provocations and violence against the Cuban people. Three of them were condemned to prison for life.

The US rulers fear the record of Cuba's socialist revolution for the same reason they fear the US working class. They sow lies and slanders about Cuba for the same reason they do about us. Above all, they fear the workers and farmers who made and defend Cuba's socialist revolution and its communist leadership *because of the example they've set*. The example that we *can* overcome the divisions they sow among us, that we *can* make a socialist revolution and establish a government that acts in our class in-



Cuban volunteers in Haiti provide medical care after devastation of Hurricane Matthew, October 2016. U.S. rulers fear example Cuban Revolution shows: that working people can become different human beings through uprooting capitalism's dog-eat-dog social relations.

terests. That we *can* extend active solidarity to struggles by working people the world over. That working people *can* and will transform ourselves and what we're capable of as we take power and transform society.

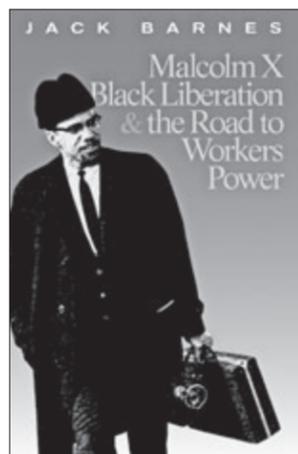
It's not just the *provision* of medical treatment that will change — to take one of the Cuban Revolution's best-known conquests — providing access for all to clinics, hospitals, and medicines. More importantly, the *providers* of that care — those trained as doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel — will become different human beings, as we uproot capitalism's dog-eat-dog social relations, the exploitation of one human being by another. Only that will make the transformation of medical care possible.

That example is what the US rulers fear most about the Cuban Revolution.



During the 2016 US elections, the Socialist Workers Party has run a working-class campaign presenting Alyson Kennedy for president and Osborne Hart for vice president, as well as candidates for governor and the US Senate across the country, from California and Washington to New York and Florida. Unlike Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders, and other capitalist candidates — all of whom address working people as *objects* of government policy, not *the makers* of revolutionary political change — Kennedy, Hart, and their supporters have campaigned alongside fellow workers. They've done so in marches and actions against killer cops, on picket lines and other labor actions, and above all — day in and day out, region after region — on porches and doorsteps in working-class neighborhoods across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Campaigning in an indiscriminating way in the working class isn't something socialist workers do primarily



## Malcolm X, Black Liberation, & the Road to Workers Power

"This is a book about the dictatorship of capital and the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat. A book about the last century and a half of class struggle in the United States ... and the unimpeachable evidence it offers that workers who are Black will comprise a disproportionately weighty part of the ranks and leadership of the mass social movement that will make a proletarian revolution." — Jack Barnes

\$20. Also in Spanish, French, Greek, Farsi, Arabic

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when there's an election. It's what we do year round. We talk with other working people about a course of revolutionary struggle and join with them in demonstrations, strikes, political meetings, and other activities, small and large. We emphasize the self-destructive dead end of the reactionary politics of resentment. We discuss how our class can carry out a course of political action based on our class interests, not those of our capitalist employers, their government, and their parties, and why we need our own political party to do that. To all we say, our party is your party — if you agree, join with us to fight for this future.

One thing is startling by its breadth and depth: ever since the blows of the 2008–09 crash, there is growing openness among working people to talk and debate with each other about the broadest social and political questions facing our class, our unions, and our allies. Workers everywhere are looking for an explanation of capitalism's grinding and destructive decline, and, even more importantly, how to chart a way forward to combat its consequences.

That's why books such as *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record* have an important place. As you read it, you will be struck time and again by the fact that the three articles it includes were published in earlier versions more than eight years ago in issue no. 14 of *New Internationalist* magazine. One piece is based on a talk presented by Jack Barnes more than fifteen years ago. But the words read as if spoken today!

The photos, illustrations, graphs, and other new information that have been incorporated update trends already evident since the 1990s.

The book is one of three titles published this election year by Pathfinder Press to help working people address the far-reaching political questions that we and others in the working class need answers to in order to fight more effectively and win. It stands alongside *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning under Capitalism*, also by Jack Barnes, and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible? A Necessary Debate Among Working People* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters. They build politically on another title by Barnes, *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, published in 2009 at the height of the paralyzing financial crisis.

In addition to translations into Spanish and French for use around the world, these books are right now being translated in Iran into the Farsi language. They will be distributed

Continued on page 11

# Vote, build Socialist Workers Party!

Continued from front page  
fighters everywhere.

Don't throw away your vote on the capitalist parties of exploitation, depression and war. Their rule relies on you holding your nose and backing the "lesser evil." But there is no lesser evil. Democrat Hillary Clinton is a warhorse veteran of a bourgeois political family and a leader of imperialist aggression who has used government positions to enrich herself and her \$400 million family foundation. She oozes contempt for workers she writes off as "deplorable" and "irredeemable."

Republican Donald Trump is a coarse, demagogic billionaire landlord who acknowledges the economic crisis facing workers, but says the answer is to enrich the bosses, push "American interests" and scapegoat immigrants and Muslims. Both parties promote the lie that "we" Americans — workers and capitalists — have common interests.

No matter who is elected, the slow-burning depression conditions will worsen, imperialist wars will metastasize and the need for the working-class road to power will be posed more sharply.

The propertied rulers respond to the world contraction of production and trade the only way they can, by attacking the working class — the source of their profits — trying to drive down wages and working conditions here and around the world, divide us and erode our confidence. Ultimately, capitalism's crisis drives the rulers toward the kind of imperialist world slaughter they unleashed twice in the 20th century, seeking to arise triumphant from the mass destruction of human beings and productive capacity.

Both Republicans and Democrats will continue to carry out the ruling families' war against workers at home and abroad. Both will continue the trillion dol-

lar "modernization" of Washington's nuclear weapons arsenal, increasing the danger of annihilation.

The Socialist Workers Party explains that only the working class can stop capitalism's march toward economic catastrophe and world war.

The Cuban Revolution shows that ordinary working people can wage and win a struggle to form a workers and farmers government, end the dictatorship of capital and join the world struggle for socialism. Workers here can do the same, becoming different people along the way.

This is a fight worth fighting, a life worth living.

On Nov. 8, pull the lever for Kennedy and Hart, and for the candidates for federal and state office listed below. If the SWP has been kept off the ballot where you live, write them in.

Vote Socialist Workers Party! Join the Socialist Workers Party!

## SWP candidates

**Alyson Kennedy for president**  
**Osborne Hart for vice president**

### California

Eleanor Garcia, *US Senate*  
Jeff Powers,  
*Congress, Dist. 13*

### Florida

Cynthia Jaquith,  
*US Senate*

### Georgia

Sam Manuel, *US Senate*

### Illinois

Dan Fein, *US Senate*  
Betsy Farley,  
*Congress, Dist. 5*

### Minnesota

David Rosenfeld,  
*Congress, Dist. 5*

### New York

Jacob Perasso, *US Senate*

### Pennsylvania

John Staggs, *US Senate*

### Washington

Mary Martin, *Governor*

### Washington, D.C.

Glova Scott, *Delegate, US House of Representatives*

# Join SWP taking new book to workers

Continued from front page

cratic or Republican — is named the winner Nov. 8 and installed in the White House in January, the capitalist crisis and political discussions among workers and farmers about its consequences for our families will continue to deepen. The elections themselves can and will "solve" nothing, because *there are no solutions under capitalism*. Workers are looking to understand the roots of the joblessness, police killings, speedup and many other crises we face, and how we can fight effectively against the ongoing assaults by the bosses and their government — *and win*.

That's why the working-class explanation and political course presented by SWP leader Jack Barnes in the new book are so necessary. He tells the story of the anti-working-class legacy of Bill and Hillary Clinton during their eight years in the White House from 1993 to 2001, and why that record foretells what's in store for working people in the months and years ahead. The three articles by Barnes were published in earlier versions in 2001 and 2008, but the words read as if they were spoken today.

This week party members and others will take the introduction to the book printed in this issue of the *Militant* to workers' doorsteps. We'll begin reading the book together and discussing what it says about our future and the need to build the SWP. We'll take time off work during the 10 days to maximize our reach and geographical spread.

In order to concentrate on this political campaigning, SWP members in cities across the country are not organizing Militant Labor Forums on

Friday, Nov. 4. That's one of the nights you can join them in going out and talking with workers in your area.

The book will be sold at a special price of \$5. Socialist workers are organizing to get 1,000 copies into the hands of working people and others over the 10 days, and keep going from there.

Barnes explains the roots and the scope of today's grinding worldwide contraction of production and hiring, the capitalist financial crisis and Washington's bloody and expanding wars. He points to opportunities to build a working-class party to combat the consequences for working people of this global capitalist calamity.

The propertied families and their hired political servants consider working people to be "deplorable," even "irredeemable," as Hillary Clinton put it during a September fundraising talk in New York. But as Barnes explains, the capitalist rulers have no answers to the crisis of their economic and political system — based on exploitation and oppression — and a growing number of them sense the class-struggle explosions that loom ahead. They *fear* our potential power.

On Friday, Nov. 11, the Socialist Workers Party will organize special Militant Labor Forums across the U.S. to celebrate the 2016 SWP election campaign and the party's year-round propaganda activity to use the new book and other party material to talk with workers about the SWP and its program.

We will show people the *Militant* and two other new books: *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*, also by Jack Barnes, and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible? A Necessary Debate Among Working People* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

To join in, contact the nearest Socialist Workers Party branch, listed in the directory on page 4. Or order a bundle of books from [pathfinderpress.com](http://pathfinderpress.com).

*Paul Mailhot is a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.*

# Mideast war moves

Continued from front page

from either Washington or Moscow, Washington continues to pursue a new cease-fire agreement with Moscow. This course reflects recognition that U.S. imperialism is weaker today, with greater limits on its ability to use raw military might to assert its interests in the region.

The Turkish government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, posing as the defender of Mosul's Sunni population, continued to demand a role for its troops and planes in the assault in Iraq, an intervention opposed by Baghdad. U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter visited Ankara and Baghdad Oct. 21-22 in an attempt to broker a support role for Turkey, a NATO ally. The Iraqi government of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, already alarmed at Ankara's territorial incursions, rejected the proposal.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu threatened Oct. 25 to send ground troops into the battleground "if there is a threat posed to Turkey." The next day he warned of action against Iraqi Shiite militias poised to join Iraqi troops in a battle to drive Islamic state from Tal Afar, a city west of Mosul with a predominantly ethnic Turkmen population.

Tehran backed Baghdad's opposition, warning Ankara not "to violate the sovereignty" of Iraq.

Over the opposition of Abadi, up to 800 Turkish troops, along with tanks and artillery, are already in Iraq at a base close to the Iraqi town of Bashiqa near Mosul. They have been training peshmerga forces and some Sunni Arab fighters. Peshmerga forces captured the town and surrounding territory from Islamic State Oct. 23 as they advanced toward Mosul. Ankara reported its forces had given artillery support to the peshmerga in the battle.

To allay fears of reprisals by Shiite militias or Kurdish forces against the mainly Sunni Arab population in Mosul, Baghdad has said that only its army units will enter the city. But the government is dominated by Shiite factions, and many of its troops converging on Mosul are flying Shiite flags.

Up to a million people could be displaced by the fighting in Mosul, which would bring the total driven from their homes in Iraq since 2014 to over 4 million.

Some 327,000 refugees displaced by wars in the region have fled across the Mediterranean to Europe from North Africa so far this year. At least 3,800 have died trying, making 2016 the deadliest year yet.

French authorities began demolishing the makeshift camp in Calais known as the Jungle Oct. 24, seeking to relocate some 8,000 migrants to smaller settlements in towns across France, away from the coast where they have been trying to get to the UK. The French government and bourgeois opposition parties have whipped up anti-Muslim sentiment in the wake of Islamic State-backed terror attacks in Europe, and the attempt to move the migrants inland has sparked debate and protest in areas designated for resettlement.

# Clintons' record

Continued from page 10

widely in bookshops and libraries there and well beyond Iran's borders. Their broad circulation demonstrates how the scope and explosiveness of the capitalist crisis, and the response of working people to its consequences, are truly worldwide.



When the first modern communist organization was founded in 1847, the workers from Germany, Britain, and elsewhere who initiated it recruited two young revolutionaries named Karl Marx and Frederick Engels and asked them to help draft a founding program (what we know today as the Communist Manifesto), as well as a set of organizational rules they considered essential to a successful fight to realize that program. Second among the conditions of membership was "revolutionary energy and zeal in propaganda."

The aim of *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record* and its two companion titles is to provide new political tools for workers who — amid today's mounting crises, and opportunities to build a working-class party — will read these books, share them door to door in workers districts, and use them in struggle, with just that kind of energy and zeal.

October 23, 2016

## '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.