

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Sign the petition  
to free Oscar López!

— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 46 DECEMBER 12, 2016

## Washington's China 'pivot' falters as Asia trade pact dies

BY MARK THOMPSON

President-elect Donald Trump announced Nov. 21 that on his first day in office he will issue notice of Washington's withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The trade and regulatory agreement, negotiated with 11 other Pacific governments over the past decade, was touted by outgoing President Barack Obama as a signal achievement of his presidency and a core part of the "pivot" to Asia, which was a hallmark of Washington's foreign policy for the past five years.

The "pivot," later renamed a "re-balance," was a political and military course intended to counter the ascending economic and military weight of China. But Beijing has continued to expand trade and political ties across Asia and the Pacific, further eroding the domination of the region that was one of U.S. imperialism's main prizes from the slaughter of World War II.

Trump made opposition to the TPP, accompanied by nationalist dema-

Continued on page 4

## Millions turn out in Cuba for Freedom Caravan

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Millions of working people and youth across Cuba, organized by the leadership of their government and Communist Party, are mobilizing to support and defend the socialist revo-

**LETTER FROM JACK BARNES,  
SWP NATIONAL SECRETARY,  
TO RAÚL CASTRO,  
FIRST SECRETARY OF THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF CUBA**

— page 7

lution there. Massive outpourings are saluting the life and decisive political contributions of the Cuban revolutionary movement's founding leader, Fidel Castro, who died Nov. 25.

"Fidel dedicated his life to solidarity. He led a socialist revolution 'of the humble, by the humble, for the humble' — a revolution that became a symbol of the anti-colonial, anti-apartheid and anti-imperialist strug-

Continued on page 7

## Cubans mobilize to back their socialist revolution

Remarks by Raúl Castro at massive tribute to Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro



Reuters/Edgard Garrido

Hundreds of thousands of Cubans fill Plaza of the Revolution in Havana Nov. 29 to hear Raúl Castro's tribute to Fidel Castro and to support and defend their socialist revolution.

*Remarks by Army Gen. Raúl Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, and President of the Councils of State and Ministers, at the mass rally in tribute to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution, Nov. 29. Translation is by the Militant.*

Esteemed heads of state and government; Gentlemen, leaders of delegations; Outstanding figures; Friends all; Dear people of Cuba:

It will be my responsibility to pres-

ent the final speech Dec. 3, when we gather in Antonio Maceo Plaza of the Revolution in Santiago de Cuba. But I wish to express now, in the name of our people, party and government, as well as our family, our sincere gratitude for your presence here (Applause), for the moving words you have expressed, and also for the countless extraordinary, demonstrations of solidarity, affection and respect received from around the world in this hour of pain and commitment.

Fidel dedicated his life to solidar-

Continued on page 6

## Attica officials claim 'Militant' appeal 'incites disobedience'

BY SETH GALINSKY

Karl Marx wrote that many things appear twice in history, "the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce." Proving Marx's point, the Attica Correctional Facility Media Review Committee impounded the *Militant* Nov. 16 for the second time in a month.

The pretext? That the article "'Militant' challenges Attica prison censorship" in the Oct. 31 issue, which reports on the *Militant's* decision to appeal prison authorities' impoundment of the Oct. 3 issue reporting on the 45th anniversary of the historic Attica inmate uprising in 1971, "could incite disobedience" to prison personnel.

So if the *Militant* follows prison guidelines to appeal censorship and reports on it, the paper "incites disobedience!"

The second article reported that the *Militant's* lawyer, David Goldstein, from the prominent civil liberties law firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard,

Krinsky & Lieberman, was preparing the appeal, charging that the ban on the issue violated both freedom of the press and the right of workers behind

Continued on page 9

## SWP takes LA campaign for mayor to workers' doorsteps



Militant/Becca Williamson

Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Los Angeles mayor, shows *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* to Christine Dixon on her doorstep in Van Nuys, California, Nov. 27.

BY LAURA GARZA

LOS ANGELES — "Cuban workers and farmers participate at all levels in making decisions — including in local, regional and national elections — and the Cuban government is their government. They defend their own interests, not those of a capitalist class, but you never hear about that. Why do you think the U.S. ruling class and the newspapers and TV stations they own denounce Fidel Castro?" Dennis Richter, Socialist

Workers Party candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, told Mary Jones on her doorstep Nov. 29.

"It's his example and that of the Cuban Revolution that the U.S. is so afraid of," he said. "They do not want working people to do the same here."

Richter and SWP supporters are campaigning door to door in working-class neighborhoods, introducing the party, discussing how workers can organize against the attacks of the

Continued on page 3

### Inside

Excerpt from new book:  
US rulers' attack on abortion 8

Native Americans face the  
highest rate of cop killings 2

Protests hit anti-Muslim  
attack on Washington mosque 4

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Rail workers in Turkey's Izmir  
province strike for higher wages

Locked-out Ind. UAW members  
reject Honeywell demands



# Native Americans face the highest rate of cop killings

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Killings of Native Americans by police are on the rise with little coverage by the capitalist media. In 2016, according to the *Guardian*, Native Americans have been killed by cops 3.25 times more frequently than Caucasians in proportion to their percentage of the population, surpassing the rate for Blacks who are killed 2.5 times more often.

So far this year 18 Native Americans have been killed by the police compared with 13 in all of 2015, the paper reports. This increase stands out even more in light of the slight overall decline in cop killings over the last year.

Especially on the reservations and in nearby towns, Native Americans confront high unemployment and inadequate housing and health care. But as they assert their dignity and defend their sovereign rights — from the Standing Rock Sioux fighting against construction of an oil pipeline in North Dakota to actions against cop killings led by groups like Native Lives Matter — they’re winning solidarity.

Puyallup tribe members near Tacoma, Washington, are a good example.

In January police approached a parked car and shot and killed 32-year-old tribe member Jacqueline Salyers, who was in the driver’s seat. Her boyfriend, Kenneth Wright, who had several outstanding warrants, was in the passenger seat and managed to escape.

There is no video of the attack. Police say a surveillance camera overlooking the street malfunctioned during the incident. According to *In These Times*, cops apparently destroyed three other cam-

eras that might have recorded the attack.

Salyers’ relatives and friends have reached out to fighters against cop brutality and in defense of workers’ rights. Nearly 300 tribal members and others rallied at Tacoma’s federal courthouse March 16. Family members have organized regular gatherings, inviting people throughout the area to participate.

The county prosecutor and police review board cleared officer Scott Campbell, who fired the shots that killed Salyers. The board said Aug. 16 that his “use of deadly force was reasonable and within department policy,” based on an officer’s testimony that Salyers had threatened his life with the car.

### Cops kill those in mental crisis

A quarter of all those killed by cops in the first half of 2016 were experiencing mental health crises, according to data collected by the *Washington Post*. For Native Americans the figure is even higher. While funds for mental health care have plummeted, calls for medical assistance are instead often met by cops ready to shoot.

In Sandpoint, Idaho, in July 2014, Suquamish tribe descendant Jeanetta Riley was threatening suicide. The 34-year-old mother of four was homeless, pregnant and had a history of mental illness. Her husband drove her to a nearby hospital asking for help, but officials there called the police. When cops arrived they ordered Riley to drop the knife she held. Fifteen seconds after arriving they fired three shots that killed her.

Renee Davis, 23, who suffered from

### Minn. rally backs Standing Rock Sioux fight



Jeff Schad Imagery

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Hundreds rallied at the Army Corps of Engineers offices here Nov. 15 to demand recognition of treaty rights and protection of water sources at Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota.

“I am here to bring awareness and to protect the water,” Verlin Wells, a Native American from Welch, told the *Militant*. Many thousands have visited Standing Rock to express solidarity with its fight against routing the Dakota Access Pipeline near the reservation. Wells has made three trips and said it is very powerful to have “every one there for the same reason, standing together.”

The Corps has called for more study and tribal input before issuing permits to Energy Transfer Partners to complete the pipeline. The company has asked U.S. District Judge James Boasberg to declare it has the right to continue the construction. “There’s not another way. We’re crossing at this location,” CEO Kelcy Warren told Associated Press Nov. 18.

— HELEN MEYERS

depression, texted a friend Oct. 21 that she was in “a bad way,” reported the *Seattle Times*. Kings County Sheriff’s deputies arrived at Davis’ home on the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation in Washington state after her friend requested a “wellness” check. Instead of the psychological help she needed, the deputies shot and killed her.

In March police officer Austin Shipley shot and killed Loreal Tsingine, 27, in Winslow, Arizona. Tsingine, who was Navajo, was accused of shoplifting from a convenience store. According to body-cam footage obtained by the *Arizona Daily Sun*, Shipley threw Tsingine to the ground twice. When she got back up and started walking toward Shipley, he shot her, claiming his life was in danger because she had a pair of scissors in her hand. In July the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office ruled the shooting justified.

tified.

Like African-Americans, Native Americans face proportionally higher incarceration rates. In South Dakota, for example, Native Americans make up 9 percent of the population, but 29 percent of the prison population.

According to the National Congress of American Indians, health service expenditures per capita for Native Americans was \$2,849 in 2013, about one-third of funds spent per person nationwide.

The percentage of Native Americans living below the official poverty line is 28.2 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. On larger reservations it’s 68 percent. There are 90,000 homeless or “under-housed” families on tribal lands. In many instances several generations are crowded into single homes with inadequate plumbing and electricity.

## THE MILITANT

### Thomas Sankara — example for the world

*Thomas Sankara led the 1983-87 popular revolution in Burkina Faso, West Africa. He was a Marxist, a communist, who had confidence in the revolutionary capacities of workers and peasants. The ‘Militant’ helps keep the voice of revolutionary leaders like Sankara alive.*



Militant/Marla Puziss

Thomas Sankara at tree-planting mobilization in Burkina Faso, August 1985.

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# SWP campaigns in LA

**Continued from front page**  
bosses and their government in the midst of today's capitalist depression conditions, and signing people up to put Richter on the ballot.

In nine days of campaigning, 69 copies of *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes and other books and 30 *Militant* subscriptions have been sold, and \$126 donated toward the filing fee.

Over 475 signatures have been gathered toward the goal of 1,000 — twice the requirement. The party plans to turn in the petitions and the \$300 filing fee by the Dec. 7 deadline.

"I think Fidel Castro was a dictator and the people of Cuba do not have the right to express themselves," Jones, a retired high school history teacher who is African-American, told Richter.

"As the central leader of the revolutionary movement, Fidel fought alongside his troops," Richter said. "Cuba sent 425,000 Cuban volunteers to Angola to defend that country against the South African army and they won, helping to lead to the overthrow of the hated apartheid regime.

"They send doctors and other medical personnel to any country that asks for help, asking nothing in return," he said.

"The Socialist Workers Party also starts with the world and how we can advance the fight of toilers worldwide," he said.

"The Socialist Workers Party is part of the fight for a workers and farmers government here in the U.S. and to put an end to capitalism," Richter said. "This would also be a tool in the hands of Black people opening the road to ending racism for good."

Jones signed the petition to get the SWP on the ballot. "I'm going to consider the things you've said," she said. "I had never heard any of this about Castro and Cuba."

Richter met high school student Xavier Izquierdo when he campaigned in Wilmington two days earlier. They discussed the unending wars U.S. imperialism has begun, from Iraq to Afghanistan to Syria. "Wars are nonsense and pointless," Izquierdo said.

"It's young people from neighborhoods like this one who are called on to fight and die to defend a system that serves the ruling rich," Richter said.

"The only way the working class will make decisions on how society is run is if we organize a movement of workers to take power away from the capitalist class," he said. "Workers can't organize

such a powerful movement without their own party. That's where building the Socialist Workers Party comes in."

Richter is running for the seat currently held by liberal Democrat Eric Garcetti.

Richter and other SWP members joined a Nov. 22 protest at an El Super supermarket, where workers have been fighting for three years to get a contract in the face of intimidation and firings.

A number of demonstrators were discussing the presidential election, many repeating what they heard in the liberal big-business press — that Trump won because workers were becoming more right-wing and prejudiced.

"I don't think it's because most working people suddenly became more racist. The historic fight that overthrew Jim Crow segregation and protests against cop killings across the country have transformed the working class. There's less racism in the working class than ever before," Richter told fellow marcher Fanny Ortiz. "Trump won because many workers responded when he said he was an outsider, saw the economic crisis working people face today, and said he would do something different.

"Workers contrasted this to Hillary Clinton, one of the most distrusted candidates in history, who said the economy was great and called workers 'deplorables' and 'irredeemable,'" he said. "Neither of them have any answers for us. Workers will have to fight for ourselves, to depend on our own mobilizations and build our own party to move

## Nationwide actions demand \$15 and a union



Militant/Betsey Stone

SAN FRANCISCO — "Dignity, respect, more money in my check!" chanted hundreds of protesters Nov. 29 as they rallied at the San Francisco International Airport, joining a national Fight-for-\$15 day of action in more than 300 cities across the U.S. and at 19 airports. Participants here included fast-food workers who called off work and protested at a McDonald's in Oakland earlier in the day. Some came in buses from San Jose, Sacramento and Fresno. Airport, home health care, construction, child care and other workers took part.

— BETSEY STONE

forward."

Some workers have offered to join in the campaign. Kevin Smith, a worker at a pet food manufacturer, volunteered to circulate the SWP ballot petition on the job. A young worker who is a hotel valet gave his name and number to SWP campaigners, looking to set up a time to sit down for a longer discussion. He got a copy of *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record*.

Another supporter of the campaign

set a date to introduce Richter to co-workers outside the meatpacking plant where he works. Two workers watching news coverage about Castro's death invited SWP members who knocked on their door in for discussion and got a subscription to the *Militant*.

SWP members from the Bay Area, Chicago and elsewhere are joining the campaign effort. Anyone who wants to help can contact the Los Angeles SWP at (323) 643-4968 or swpla@att.net.

## 1955 to 1960s 'Militant' added to those available online

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

A whole new range of past issues of the *Militant* are now available online going back to the 1950s! Just click on "view back issues" at [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com) to access the paper's archives, including the newly added pdf files from the mid-1950s to the early 1960s.

These issues cover key events in the class struggle, including the Hungarian Revolution and growing crisis of world Stalinism, the struggle to bring down Jim Crow segregation, the victory and early years of the Cuban Revolution, and the very beginnings of Washington's war against the workers and farmers of Vietnam. The paper provides firsthand reporting on events that changed history, speeches by communist leaders such as Fidel Castro, and the sharp humor of Laura Gray's cartoons and Harry Ring's "Great Society" column.

The record of the Socialist Workers Party's participation in the labor movement and political action is very much present in these pages, even under the challenges of the 1950s. The issues document the 1960 solidarity and fact-finding trip to Cuba by Farrell Dobbs, the SWP presidential candidate that year, and how it was used in the *Militant* to campaign to get out the truth about the revolution to workers in the U.S.

The team of eight volunteers who put

the *Militant* online every week organized a special two-day effort to upload the new editions — a process that previously would have taken eight months.

Over the past year, volunteer scanners, indexers and others have also made available online the entire archive of *Intercontinental Press* and every issue of

*New International* and its predecessors back to 1934. These publications are fully indexed and the *Militant* is currently indexed back to 1990. All are available at [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com). Work continues to make every issue of the *Militant*, back to 1928 and from 1967 to 1982, available online and fully indexed.

## Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund poised to go over the top!

BY PAUL MAILHOT

The Socialist Workers Party's 2016 Party-Building Fund looks set to go over the \$100,000 goal. More than \$23,000 came in over the past two weeks. Final payments must be made by Dec. 7, so that checks can be sent by regular mail to arrive in New York no later than Tues., Dec. 13.

"We will go over," wrote Ilona Gersh from Chicago. "This week's payment includes four new contributors. Two we met going door to door talking about the 2016 elections and why the Socialist Workers Party is the working-class party. The other two we met at an event in solidarity with the Cuban Revolution."

As we enter the final week, reports indicate pledges are now near or surpassing all of the local goals, and members of the SWP are organizing to collect contributions so that every area makes or exceeds their quota on time.

"We are within \$60 of our goal in pledges," Joanne Murphy in Washington reported Nov. 28. "We are working to get a few new contributors in addition to donations we continue to pick up as we campaign for the party. The small but important contributions we have gotten that way so far add up to \$65."

The annual party-building fund complements the weekly voluntary sustainers from SWP members and is vital to meeting the party's budget. Local quotas are just shy of the \$100,000 goal, so party branches across the country are working to go over their goals.

To help, contact the SWP in your area, listed on page 4.

Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund Sept. 24 - Dec. 7 - Week 9			
Area	Quota	Collected	%
Atlanta	\$11,000	\$9,143	83%
Chicago	\$11,500	\$9,403	82%
Lincoln	\$300	\$177	59%
Los Angeles	\$9,000	\$7,840	87%
Miami	\$3,500	\$1,745	50%
New York	\$22,500	\$16,385	73%
Oakland	\$15,000	\$13,337	89%
Philadelphia	\$4,500	\$3,917	87%
Seattle	\$8,000	\$6,254	78%
Twin Cities	\$4,500	\$2,340	52%
Wash., DC	\$8,500	\$5,608	66%
Other		\$1,200	
Totals	\$98,300	\$77,349	79%
Should be	\$100,000	\$90,000	90%

### —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

#### CALIFORNIA Oakland

**Fidel Castro, Cuba and the Coming American Revolution.** Speaker: Betsey Stone, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

#### AUSTRALIA Sydney

**Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution.** Speaker: Joanne Kuniansky, Communist League. Fri., Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Donation: \$4/\$2 (unwaged). Upstairs, 281-7 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718-9698.

#### Gather to honor the life of Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro

Cuban Mission to the U.N.  
315 Lexington Ave., New York  
**Sunday, Dec. 4, noon - 2 p.m.**  
Info: cubasi@googlegroups.com



# US anti-China ‘pivot’ falters

Continued from front page

gogy, a central plank in his campaign as the Republican presidential candidate. It was also the policy of his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. Ratification of the pact in Congress already faced opposition among both parties, and within days of the election the White House announced it would not proceed.

The TPP, which excluded China, was an attempt by Washington to assemble a political bloc as a counter to Beijing in the region. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter described it as being as “important to me as another aircraft carrier.” Its collapse is a blow to U.S. strength in the region.

The collapse has accelerated moves by many of Washington’s Pacific allies to finalize an alternative regional trade agreement with Beijing. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership includes the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations along with Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and China.

Beijing has also been pushing for adoption of a trade agreement among the 21 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, an association of Pacific rim countries, which met in Peru Nov. 19-20. A number of APEC governments in Latin America are now looking to join the RCEP.

Last year, Beijing launched the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Against Washington’s opposition, 57 governments signed on, including most U.S. allies except Tokyo. Beijing is already expanding trade and investment with countries across Asia and the Pacific.

Conflicts over the composition of regional trade blocs are primarily about political and military alliances, not trade. There are already 147 “free trade” agreements among countries in Asia, with 68 more under negotiation. The TPP was intended to ensure that Washington “called the shots” in Asia, as Obama put it, and not Beijing.

As part of the “pivot” to counter China, the Obama administration had planned to shift the weight of the U.S. armed forces to the Pacific, opening new bases, increasing military exercises in the region and positioning 60 percent of its naval warships there by 2020.

But this was premised on the winding down of U.S. military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Instead, these conflicts have intensified, as has Washington’s military involvement there and in Syria, Somalia and elsewhere. Although maintaining the overwhelming supremacy it has held for decades, Washington’s military and naval power in the Pacific has continued to diminish, even as Beijing expands its military buildup in the South China Sea.

This shifting weight was reflected in the Philippines, a former colony and ally, following the election of President Rodrigo Duterte in May. He announced a scaling down of military ties to Washington and withdrew from U.S. naval patrols in the South China Sea.

During his campaign for president, Trump lambasted the TPP as a “disaster” that would mean job losses in the U.S. He attacked “jobs theft” by Asian countries and singled out China as “the No. 1 abuser,” saying, “They suck the blood out of us and we owe them money.” He urged the use of U.S. “economic power” and hefty import tariffs against competition by Chinese imports.

Trump called on the governments of Japan and South Korea to do more to beef up their armed forces and said they should “pay up” for U.S. military bases in those countries. He said he would increase the size of the U.S. military.

“A strong military presence will be a clear signal to China and other nations in Asia,” said Trump’s campaign website. But a senior defense adviser

## Protests hit anti-Muslim attack on Wash. mosque



Militant photos by Mary Martin

REDMOND, Wash. — A granite sign in front of the Muslim Association of Puget Sound was vandalized here early Nov. 21. Association librarian Sulieman Abdulkeni, above, shows part of the damaged sign to Socialist Workers Party members who came from Seattle two days later to join in speaking out against the attack.

“The community has turned out to stand up against such attacks in an overwhelming and powerful response,” Muslim Association President Mahmood Khadeer told the *Militant* Nov. 28. “This is a stand against attacks on anyone whether Muslim, Mexican or anyone else.”

“The Socialist Workers Party stands in solidarity with the Muslim Association of Puget Sound and calls on all working people to protest this and all anti-Muslim attacks,” the SWP said in a statement of solidarity. “We defend the right to worship for all religions and oppose all actions which target and scapegoat Muslim people. An injury to one is an injury to all.”

Several hundred people from local churches and synagogues and others attended an open house here Nov. 25, including some two dozen middle and high school students, members of Kids4Peace. They held a solidarity picket at the mosque with signs saying, “We Stand with our Muslim Neighbors.”

— MARY MARTIN

to Trump, former CIA head James Woolsey, in a Nov. 10 opinion piece in Hong Kong’s *South China Morning Post*, said he anticipated a “much warmer” response from the new administration to China’s regional economic initiatives and said Obama’s re-

fusal to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank had been a “strategic mistake.”

“We understand China’s desire to reform global institutions” to reflect its greater economic and military weight, Woolsey said.

## Indian gov’t attack on access to cash blow to workers

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi abruptly voided 500 and 1,000 rupee notes Nov. 8 (\$7.30 and \$14.60) — some 86 percent of cash in circulation. He claimed the move would deal a blow to the “black” economy, increase tax revenue and fight crime and corruption. The move caused a crisis for millions of workers and farmers whose family savings are kept outside the banking system in cash and gold.

The Indian rulers’ reduction of cash is aimed at advancing the development of a modern capitalist state, sweeping aside

vestiges of pre-capitalist social relations. Two-thirds of the country’s 1.27 billion people live in the countryside and most function solely with cash. The informal or underground economy that operates with cash or gold involves 80 percent of the workforce and produces about 45 percent of the gross domestic product.

This keeps capital out of the hands of the banks and prevents the state from collecting taxes. Modi’s government seeks to get control of these massive funds, allowing for infrastructure development that can expand production, commerce and investment.

Indians can deposit banned notes into bank accounts until the end of the year, but tax officials said they will take a close look at all deposits above 250,000 rupees (\$3,650). Only small amounts may be exchanged for cash.

Modi’s steps come as the government pushes greater use of banks. Between September 2014 and February 2015 bank accounts increased from 53 million to 128 million. But 84 million of them had a zero balance.

The government announced Nov. 21 that \$80 billion of the \$220 billion in outlawed notes had been turned in.

Reducing cash in workers’ hands is a popular idea among capitalist planners worldwide. Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi are on the bandwagon. They argue that big bills are overwhelmingly used by criminals, terrorists and those who employ workers lacking immigration papers.

But the rulers’ real objective is to prevent workers and others from hoarding cash to avoid paying taxes, bank fees and credit card companies’ steep interest rates. Forcing workers to put their money in the bank strengthens the hands of central banks like the U.S. Fed, the big private banks and the propertied rulers’ government.

“What the government fears is that if people use cash, they’ll be able to act privately,” Seth Lipsky wrote in a *New York Sun* op-ed earlier this year. “It’ll be harder to impose on them the sky-high taxes the government likes.”

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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 on strike at Momentive, California port truckers fighting to be classified as workers, not owners, 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

### Rail workers in Turkey's Izmir province strike for higher wages

Some 340 members of the Turkish Railway Workers' Union in Izmir province on Turkey's west coast went on strike Nov. 8-15 against the IZBAN transit company, which is owned by the provincial and municipal governments.

The workers demanded a 24 percent wage increase, which would have brought the lowest pay to \$533 a month, and additional bonus pay. Bosses increased their offer from 12 to 15 percent, but the unionists rejected that and continued the strike. IZBAN employed 14 replacement workers.

"Working conditions are heavy," a worker told the Istanbul daily *Star*. "We travel 350-400 kilometers [220-250 miles] daily." He said some think the workers make big money. "But that's wrong. I make 1,485 lira (\$450). We're not demanding much. We want the people of Izmir to support us."

Oguz Ozcamli, representative of the Confederation of Public Employees, announced his union's support for the striking rail workers and said IZBAN's use of strikebreakers was endangering safety. Railway Workers' Union members at the state-owned national railroad also backed the strike.

Officials ended the walkout Nov. 15 after bosses added a modest increase of bonus pay to the 15 percent wage hike.

— Yasemin Aydinoglu

### NZ meat workers celebrate gains, continue fight against AFFCO

WAIROA, New Zealand — Close to 100 AFFCO meat workers gathered at a marae (Maori community center) here Oct. 29 to celebrate another victory in their fight to defend their union and working conditions and to thank all who have supported them. The Court of Appeal Oct. 6 upheld an Employment Court ruling that AFFCO's 2015 lockout of some 200 workers here was illegal.

Officials of the Meat Workers Union, E tu union ("stand tall" in Maori) and Council of Trade Unions were guests at the celebration.

In September 2015, AFFCO, owned by anti-union food giant Talleys, demanded workers returning from seasonal layoff at eight of its plants sign Individual Employment Agreements instead of renegotiating the union contract.

Workers at Wairoa refused and were locked out. Unionists fought back, organizing protests, distributing donated food and publicizing their fight at Parliament in Wellington and court hearings in Auckland. All but 32 were called back to work in February after the Employment Court ordered their reinstatement.

Delegations from the Whanganui and Feilding plants — where AFFCO has refused to rehire selected union members for the season in breach of seniority — attended the social.

In Feilding members of the Communist League learned Nov. 11 that 15

unionists, including all shop stewards and the union president, have not been rehired, allegedly because of "bad attendance," including approved time off.

Working union members are fundraising to support those still out and joining pickets at the plant. When the company told them to stop wearing union T-shirts on the picket line, "I told them what I wear out here is my business," said union President Kevin Hickey.

Bargaining for a new contract began in November, ordered by the Employment Court after the company tried to use new labor laws to walk away from negotiations.

AFFCO has appealed the latest court



Militant/Baskaran Appu

**Locked-out Meat Workers Union members from Wairoa, New Zealand, rallied in Auckland Jan. 25 to back union court challenge against meat giant AFFCO. Social Oct. 29 celebrated ruling that 2015 lockout was illegal and demanded workers be called back to work.**

ruling and those ordering compensation for lost wages.

"We're a bit brassed off," said Joe Blake, a long-time beef grader at the Wairoa plant. "They're trying to shut down the union through the courts."

"We didn't make this stand just for us,

just for now," Wairoa Union Secretary Justin Kaimoana, told Radio New Zealand Oct. 6. "We made it for our fathers, our grandfathers who stood up for the union back in the heyday of meat workers and for the future, for our kids."

— Felicity Coggan

## Locked-out Ind. UAW members reject Honeywell demands

BY BETSY FARLEY

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — After being locked out for six months by Honeywell Aerospace here, members of United Auto Workers Local 9 voted overwhelmingly Nov. 12 to reject the company's latest concession contract offer. The plant makes airplane brakes and wheels for Boeing, Airbus and other aerospace bosses.

Honeywell locked the workers out May 9 after they voted down a contract that would drastically increase health care costs, tear up work schedules and ignore job classifications. The company also locked out 41 UAW Local 1508 members at its Green Island, New York, brake pad plant.

"The company's new proposal was basically the same offer," Todd Treder, Local 9 vice president and a pipefitter in the plant, told the *Militant*. "All they

changed is to put a 15 percent cap on yearly increases in health care costs. But they're still demanding we accept insurance with a huge deductible and weekly payments of \$114 for a family."

"Honeywell offered us a union-busting contract, and said, 'If you don't like it, we'll lock you out until you like it!'" said Bob Beduhn, a carbon fabricator. "But this lockout is being watched all over the country. Unions are afraid if Honeywell succeeds they'll be next. And companies think if Honeywell wins here they can do the same thing."

Pickets say health care is not the only problem. "With their contract language we might as well not even have a union," said fabricator Brian Huge, 34. "Without seniority in layoffs, overtime and shift preference, all you have is discrimination and playing favorites."

Treder said the local union bargaining

committee brought the company's new offer to the membership "because unemployment benefits expire in November and the members should have the right to decide what happens."

Although some unionists have gotten other jobs, 266 of 317 members turned out to vote, rejecting Honeywell's proposal by 70 percent. Local 1508 members in New York voted 30 to 6 in favor of the new offer.

"We are disappointed UAW members rejected our contract proposal," Honeywell spokesman Scott Sayres said in a Nov. 12 statement. "We listened to the union and made substantial moves on healthcare."

UAW members here saw it differently. "The company was hoping we'd cave in after being locked out for six months," Treder said. "But we've come too far to back down now."

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



**December 13, 1991**

The U.S. government continues a massive military operation off the coast of Haiti aimed at preventing working people from successfully fleeing the repression of the military junta now in power there.

Meanwhile, talks initiated by the Organization of American States between Haiti's deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the current rulers collapsed.

Between October 29 and November 29 some 5,790 Haitians have been loaded onto 15 U.S. Coast Guard cutters patrolling the 600-mile stretch of water between Haiti and the United States.

Overcrowded, rickety boats continue to leave the Haitian coast, despite the fact that as many as half the people attempting the voyage die at sea. While refusing to allow Haitians to enter the United States, Washington is trying to convince other countries to accept some refugees.



**December 12, 1966**

Almost half of the more than 3,000 members of the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) have submitted one-month resignation notices to pressure Twin City hospitals to grant immediate salary increases.

The resignations are part of an MNA drive to force the Twin Cities Hospital Association to grant wage boosts more than seven months before the nurses' contracts expire. The resignations become effective Dec. 26 if no settlement has been reached.

The MNA has asked the immediate raises because, it says, low nurse salaries are causing nursing shortages — ultimately harming patient care.

Reasons given at a Nov. 21 meeting of the nurses, in favor of mass resignation rather than a calling in sick proposal, were that a sick call was "no real commitment" and that disunity might result if some nurses began to return to work after one or two days of calling in.



**December 13, 1941**

The declaration of war on Japan by Congress brought automatically into operation the war-time legislation known as the "Espionage Act," first enacted June 15, 1917.

Most of the Espionage Act deals with such subjects as espionage by enemy agents and the protection of military secrets. However, Section 3 of Title I of the Act served the purpose of prosecuting political opponents of the first World War.

The original law makes punishable words or acts which "willfully" or by "intent" interfere with the war. The judicial interpretations applied this so broadly that words or acts, regardless of their intent, came under the act.

Raids were made on the offices of antiwar organizations. Nearly 2,000 prosecutions and other judicial proceedings took place during the last war, the most important of them under the Espionage Act.



Remarks by Raúl Castro

Continued from front page  
ity. He led a socialist revolution “of the humble, by the humble, for the humble” — a revolution that became a symbol of the anti-colonial, anti-apartheid and anti-imperialist struggle for the emancipation and dignity of the people.  
His vibrant words echo in this square today as they did when peasants gathered here July 26, 1959, in support of the agrarian reform — a moment, like crossing the Rubicon, that earned the revolution a death sentence. Here Fidel reaffirmed, “The agrarian reform is moving forward.” And we carried it out. Today, 57 years later, we are honoring the person who conceived it and led it.

At this site, together with him, we voted to approve the First and Second Declarations of Havana, in 1960 and 1962. (Applause) Faced with aggression backed by the Organization of American States, Fidel proclaimed that “behind the homeland, behind the banner of freedom, behind this emancipatory revolution ... stand a people with dignity” ready to defend their independence and “the common destiny of a liberated Latin America.”

I was with Fidel in the building now housing Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, (alongside the Plaza) [in 1960], when we heard the explosion of the French ship *La Coubre* — the vessel that brought the first and only weapons we were able to buy in Europe.

We went to the docks to help the victims. We knew the explosion could only have come from the ship where those weapons were being unloaded. Then a few minutes after our arrival, like a lethal trap, a second explosion occurred. The two together caused 101 deaths, with many wounded.

Here, with Fidel, in December 1961, we declared Cuba to be a Territory Free of Illiteracy — at the conclusion of the literacy campaign carried out by more than 250,000 teachers and students, a campaign that did not stop.

That same year veterans of the Rebel Army and the emerging units of Revolutionary National Militias battled the mercenaries at Playa Girón [Bay of Pigs] while, in mountainous areas they fought armed bands, infiltrated from abroad, that carried out many vile acts, including the murder of 10 young literacy teachers. A victory was won at Girón. At the same time we fulfilled the commitment that the entire coun-



Hector Planes  
Raúl Castro prepares to speak Nov. 29 in Havana.

try would learn to read and write (Applause), to ensure, as Fidel said at the time, that “the young have a future in their hands.” (Applause)

With great emotion, right here, we heard the Commander in Chief, here in this square, during the solemn commemoration of October 1967 to pay tribute to the unforgettable Commander Che Guevara. We returned here 30 years later, during the most difficult moments of the Special Period [of economic hardship Cuba faced after the collapse of the Soviet Union], to commit ourselves, before his remains, to follow his immortal example.

Moved and filled with outrage, we attended the memorial ceremony for the 73 persons murdered by state terrorism in the [October 1976] bombing of the Cubana Airlines airliner over Barbados. Those who died included all the young winners of gold medals in the Fourth Central American and Caribbean Fencing Championships. On that occasion we repeated with him, “When an energetic and virile people weeps...” (Shouts of “Injustice trembles!”) Exactly, “Injustice trembles!” (Applause)

This Plaza is the home of important May Day marches in the capital.

In 1996, against the [U.S.] blockade and the Helms-Burton Act, which are still in effect. The enormous march of 1999. And the Open Platform of Youth, Students and Workers of 2000, when Fi-

Cuban leaders speak at Chicago ‘Solidarity Evening’

BY JOHN HAWKINS  
CHICAGO — “Dec. 17, 2014, is proof that victory is possible,” Miguel Fraga, first secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C., told some 150 people



Above, Cubahora/Fernando Medina  
Top, Fidel Castro speaks to people in Colón, Jan. 7, 1959, day before Freedom Caravan reached Havana. Caravan took week to cross Cuba, as Fidel and other leaders addressed outpourings of working people to explain character of revolution and win broader participation. Above, residents of Cárdenas fill streets Nov. 30 to demonstrate commitment to revolution as caravan carrying Castro’s ashes passes.

del presented his view of revolution — a conception millions of Cubans have made their own, with their signature, over the last few days in a sacred act of commitment [see the pledge below]. (Applause)

This is the place where we have come to support the agreements reached at our congresses of the Communist Party of Cuba.

In this same spirit, the people have come during these last few days, with large participation by young people, to pay heartfelt tribute and pledge loyalty to the ideas and lifework of the Commander in Chief of the Cuban Revolution. (Applause)

at a meeting here Nov. 19.  
That was the day almost two years ago when Cuban President Raúl Castro and President Barack Obama announced that diplomatic relations between the two countries, broken by Washington in 1961, would be re-established. It was also the day five Cuban revolutionaries long incarcerated in U.S. prisons were reunited on Cuban soil.

The “Evening in Solidarity with Cuba: End Washington’s Continued Blockade, Return Guantánamo!” was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the National Network on Cuba, a coalition of U.S. solidarity groups. For the first time in many years, the NNOC was able to meet outside Washington or New York due to the recent loosening of travel restrictions imposed by the U.S. government on Cuban diplomatic personnel. The event was sponsored by the NNOC, Chicago Cuba Coalition, International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity, and endorsed by other groups.

Dear Fidel:  
Alongside the monument to José Martí, our national hero and intellectual author of the assault on the Moncada Garrison, we have gathered for more than half a century in moments of extraordinary pain — or to honor our martyrs, proclaim our ideals, celebrate our symbols, and consult the people regarding important decisions.  
Precisely here, where we commemorate our victories, we say to you, alongside our self-sacrificing, fighting, heroic people: ¡Hasta la victoria siempre! Ever onward to victory! (Shouts of ¡Siempre! Applause. Shouts of “¡Viva Fidel! ¡Viva Raúl!”)

Resumption of diplomatic relations “is a victory not only for the Cuban people but also for all your efforts,” Fraga said. “We want to express our thanks.”  
This doesn’t mean “that relations are normalized,” he emphasized. “The embargo is still there. The U.S. military base at Guantánamo is still there. Travel restrictions are still there. And efforts to undermine the revolution are still there. While some progress has been made, there is still a long way to go.  
“Cuba is not going to change our values, and we are not going to abandon our ideals,” Fraga said. Those aren’t bargaining chips in talks with Washington.  
“We are going to continue to support Venezuela. We are going to continue to support Bolivia. We are going to continue to back the fight for independence for Puerto Rico,” Fraga said. “Like José Martí we will continue to subscribe to the idea that our homeland is all humanity. That’s why we send doctors around  
Continued on page 9

Fidel’s life work: ‘Cuba’s socialist revolution, its example & ongoing march’

The following letter was sent to Raúl Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, Nov. 27.

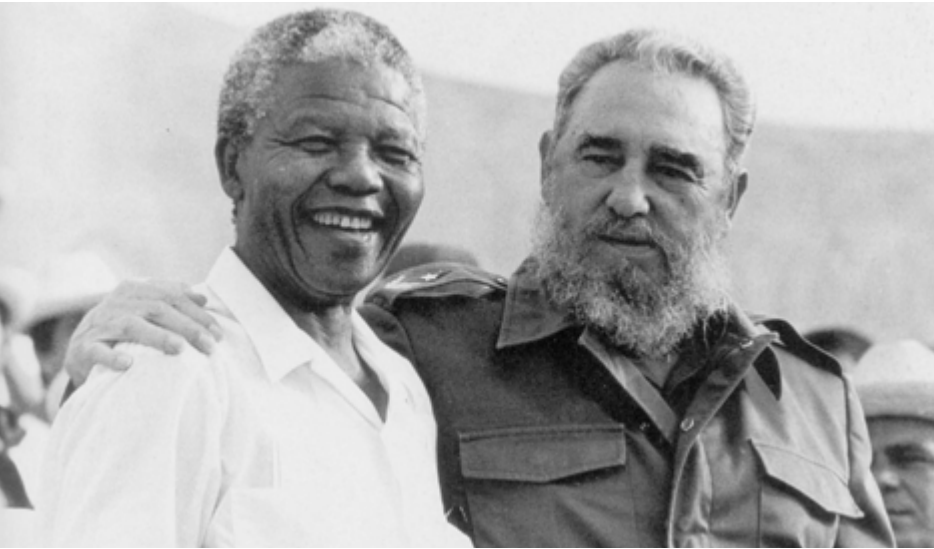
Dear Compañero Raúl,  
There were two great socialist revolutions in the twentieth century, one in Russia, the other in Cuba. Neither was the product of a single individual. Both were the result of the operations of capitalism itself. But without the presence

LETTER FROM JACK BARNES, SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY NATIONAL SECRETARY

and political leadership of Vladimir Lenin and of Fidel Castro Ruz at decisive moments in those historic battles by working people, there is no reason to believe either revolution would have been victorious.

Apart from Lenin and Fidel, the history of the twentieth century — and the twenty-first — is unthinkable. Both of them, Marxist students of science and history, gave their lives to uprooting the dog-eat-dog exploitation, oppression, and compulsion on which the capitalist world order depends and replacing it with a workers state, with new social

and economic relations based on the liberating capacities of working people and the youth they inspire.  
Fidel belongs to Cuba first and foremost, to the men and women of José Martí and Antonio Maceo. His highest achievement was forging in struggle a revolutionary cadre, a communist cadre, capable of leading the workers and farmers of Cuba to establish the first free territory of the Americas and successfully defend it for more than five and a half decades against the determination to destroy it by the mightiest and most brutal empire the world has known.  
But Fidel belongs to the working people of the world as well. From Latin America and the Caribbean, to Africa and Asia, to North America and Europe, he showed us in action what proletarian internationalism means. During Cuba’s historic sixteen-year mission aiding the people of Angola and Namibia against apartheid South Africa and its promoters in Washington, Fidel demonstrated his unmatched political leadership on a world scale. He also proved, as the Rebel Army combatants of the Sierra knew well, that he was one of the toilers’ greatest military commanders ever.  
All this is why Fidel became the most loved as well as the most hated, the most



Top, Verde Oliver; above, Hector Planes  
Fidel “showed us in action what proletarian internationalism means,” wrote SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. Top, Fidel Castro and South African revolutionary leader Nelson Mandela in Havana, 1991. Above, honor guard pays tribute to Castro, including Gerardo Hernández, left, and Fernando González, second from right, who were imprisoned many years by Washington. Both were among hundreds of thousands of Cubans who fought in Angola to defeat South African invasion, setting stage for overturn of apartheid regime in South Africa.

slandered man of our lifetimes.  
As Fidel said in his farewell words to the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba in April, “We all reach our turn.” He cannot be replaced, but his life work, Cuba’s socialist revolution — its example, and above all its ongoing march — stand as his monument. He needs no other.  
For our part, members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists will continue to do everything in our power to publish and spread the truth about the Cuban Revolution and Fidel’s leadership, to make it known to working people in the United States and throughout the world. With unshakable confidence in the working class and its allies, we will continue to organize and act on the course Fidel uncompromisingly presented to the world in 1961, a month before the victorious battle of Playa Girón: “There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba.”  
Comradely,  
Jack Barnes  
Jack Barnes  
National Secretary  
Socialist Workers Party  
Continued on page 9

Millions turn out in Cuba for Freedom Caravan

Continued from front page  
gle, for the emancipation and dignity of the people,” said Raúl Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and president of Cuba, at a rally of hundreds of thousands at the Plaza of the Revolution in Havana Nov. 29. (Printed in full in this issue.)  
Millions of Cubans — from all generations that have participated in the revolution for six decades — have turned out for rallies and lined roads in rural areas, towns and cities to cheer the contingent carrying Fidel’s ashes on a four-day journey to Santiago de Cuba at the eastern end of island. The itinerary follows in reverse the route taken by the Freedom Caravan of January 1959.  
After a two-year revolutionary war culminating in the triumph of the Rebel Army and flight of U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista Jan. 1, 1959, Castro led the victorious forces in a weeklong caravan of jeeps, tanks, trucks and other vehicles to Havana, stopping in every

town along the way to explain the goals of the revolution and mobilize broader participation by workers and farmers.  
Among the millions who’ve come into the streets since Castro’s death are internationalist volunteers of all ages who have served as combatants, teachers, medical personnel, and in other ways at the request of leaders of national liberation struggles and governments in the Americas, Africa, Asia and beyond.  
Cuban leaders are encouraging those who wish to, to sign a pledge to uphold Cuba’s revolutionary course as expressed by Fidel Castro in a well-known May Day speech in 2000. (See below.) Amid widespread discussions about the significance of the Cuban Revolution, its history and future, and the revolutionary guidance and leadership that Fidel Castro provided, the Cuban masses have come out to schools, hospitals and public buildings to make that affirmation.  
In face of a relentless campaign to vilify Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution by the propertied rulers in Wash-

Workers, youth affirm commitment to revolution

Below is the pledge millions of Cubans have signed, based on a speech Fidel Castro presented at a mass rally on May 1, 2000.

Revolution means having a sense of history. It means changing everything that must be changed. It means full equality and freedom. It means being treated and treating others like human beings. It means achieving liberation by ourselves and through our own efforts. It means challenging powerful, dominant forces within and without our society and nation. It means defending the values we believe in, whatever the sacrifice. It means modesty, selflessness, self-sacrifice, solidarity, and heroism. It means fighting with boldness, intelligence, and realism. It means never lying or violating moral principles. It means a profound conviction that no power in the world can crush the force of truth and ideas. Revolution means unity. It means independence. It means fighting for our dreams of justice for Cuba and for the world, which is the foundation of our patriotism, our socialism, and our internationalism.

Further reading on Fidel Castro, the Cuban Revolution and the world

**The First and Second Declarations of Havana**  
Manifestos of Revolutionary Struggle in the Americas Adopted by the Cuban People  
Also in Spanish, French, Greek, Arabic, Farsi. \$10

**How Far We Slaves Have Come!**  
South Africa and Cuba in Today’s World  
by Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro  
Also in Spanish, Farsi. \$10

**Cuba and the Coming American Revolution**  
by Jack Barnes  
The Cuban Revolution had a worldwide impact, including on workers and youth in the imperialist heartland.  
Also in Spanish, French, Farsi. \$10

[www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)

**Sign the petition to free Oscar López!**

The National Boricua Human Rights Network and other supporters of the fight to free Oscar López are campaigning to get more than 100,000 signatures on an online petition to the White House. López has been imprisoned in the U.S. for more than 35 years for his participation in the fight for independence for Puerto Rico.  
As of Nov. 30 more than 72,000 people had signed.  
“President Obama, do what is right and release Oscar López Rivera before your term ends,” the petition says in part.  
According to the White House, if the petition gathers 100,000 signatures by Dec. 11, it will receive an official response from the president.  
To add your name, go to: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/president-obama-free-oscar-lopez-rivera-he-ends-his-term-president>



# US rulers’ attacks on women’s right to abortion

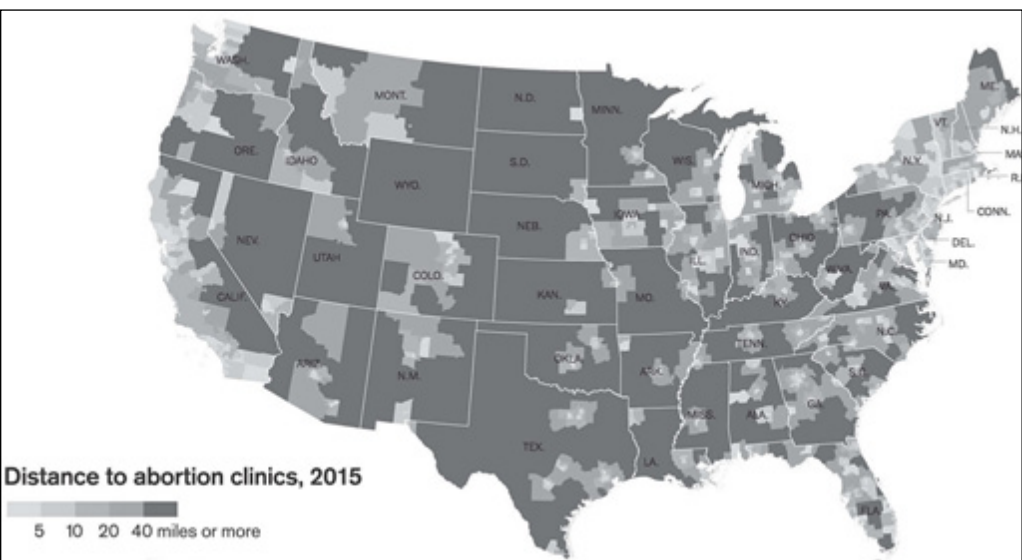
Below are excerpts from the new book *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. This section, which takes up the offensive against women’s right to choose abortion that has continued under Democratic and Republican administrations alike, is based on a public talk given in March 2001, just after President Bill Clinton left office. Copyright © 2016 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

**BY JACK BARNES**

Over the quarter century since the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* ruling, the political backlash from sections of the bourgeoisie against decriminalization of

**FROM THE PAGES OF  
THE CLINTONS’ ANTI-  
WORKING-CLASS RECORD**

a woman’s decision to end a pregnancy has been at the center of assaults on the social and economic gains of women. It is part of the broader attack on the rights and living conditions of working people. Despite George W. Bush’s election campaign rhetoric, the new administration is no more likely than its predecessors to attempt a head-on assault against a woman’s right to choose. Nonetheless, attacks on abortion rights continue, and they’ve been made easier by the character and content of the 1973 court ruling. *Roe v. Wade* was based not on a woman’s right “to equal protection of the laws” guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, but on medical criteria instead. During the first three months (“trimester”), the court ruled, the decision to terminate a pregnancy “must be left to the medical judgment of a pregnant woman’s attending physician” (not to the woman herself, but to a doctor!). At the same time, the court allowed state governments to ban most abortions after “viability,” described in *Roe v. Wade* as the point at which a fetus is “potentially able to live outside the mother’s womb” — something that



As opponents of women’s rights have imposed more onerous restrictions on access to abortion procedures, average distance women must travel to reach a clinic has grown. In rural counties, more than three-quarters of women must drive more than 40 miles, and one-third must drive more than 100 miles.

medical advances inevitably make earlier and earlier in the pregnancy. Opponents of women’s rights have taken advantage of the Supreme Court’s “medical” criteria from the outset. And they’ve made the most of the fact that the 1973 court decision was handed down while a raging debate had not yet been fought out and won by those who insisted that a woman’s decision on this medical procedure falls under the protection of our hard-won constitutional rights. The Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution, ratified in 1868, was a direct conquest of the Second American Revolution. Among its provisions, the amendment established that neither federal nor state authorities could “deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws” — not to any *male* person, not to any person of a particular *race*, not just to any person who is a *citizen*. No government could deny those rights *to any person* — period. That’s what the Fourteenth Amendment says.

Nonetheless, for more than a century, one federal court after another denied women just that. It wasn’t until 1971 that the US Supreme Court — in an opinion written by Chief Justice Warren Burger, a Nixon appointee — finally affirmed that women were included in the Fourteenth Amendment’s “equal protection under the laws.”<sup>1</sup>

That shift, of course, didn’t come as a sudden “judicial epiphany.” It was the product of victories won in the streets in the 1950s and 1960s by millions of fighters for Black rights, as well as ongoing mobilizations against Washington’s murderous war in Vietnam. Those battles, in turn, gave impetus to a new wave of activity and consciousness around the fight for women’s rights. But when the Supreme Court issued its opinion on abortion rights in 1973, the justices retreated. They rejected building on their ruling just two years earlier affirming women’s equal protection under the laws. Instead, they issued *Roe v. Wade*, which — in the words of one former US solicitor general — read more “like a set of hospital rules and regulations.” Since then, state governments have loaded on more than seven hundred laws erecting obstacles to women exercising

their constitutional right — age restrictions, “consent” by parents, longer waiting periods, mandatory “counseling” about “alternatives,” safety, and many more. Congress and the White House have barred (1) federal Medicaid funding for abortions, even those that are “medically necessary” (the 1976 “Hyde amendment”); (2) federal insurance coverage for abortions for women in the armed forces (except in cases of rape or incest, or danger to the woman’s life), or use of military medical facilities for the procedure even if paid by other means; and (3) US government funding of “foreign aid” programs if abortion-related assistance is included in the program (the 1973 “Helms amendment”). These “restrictions” have taken a heavy toll. Among other things, today there is not a single medical facility providing abortions in a third of all cities and nearly 90 percent of the counties in the United States — *90 percent!* As a result, the extra cost of travel alone means that working-class women and those living in rural areas are at a big disadvantage in having access to this medical procedure.

1. For the first time since ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868, the US Supreme Court in its 1971 *Reed v. Reed* decision struck down a state law on grounds that it violated the amendment’s Equal Protection Clause by discriminating against women. The Idaho state law in dispute gave preference to men over women in appointment as administrators of estates.

## A victory in pushing back assaults on women’s rights



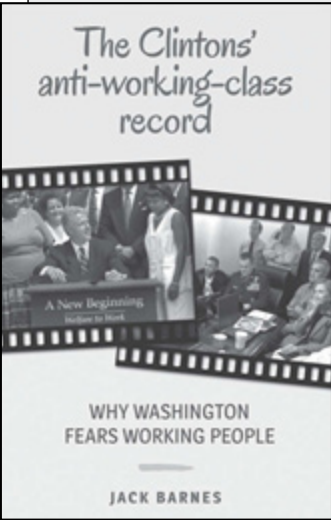
Militant/Ellen Brickley  
Abortion rights supporters celebrate in Washington, D.C., following June 27 Supreme Court decision striking down most burdensome provisions of Texas law.

Since 2010, enemies of a woman’s right to choose have increasingly focused on legislation requiring that abortions be treated differently from other out-patient surgical procedures. These assaults have been cynically packaged as “protections” of women’s health. On June 27, 2016, a major victory was registered pushing back “health” regulations restricting women’s access to abortion. The US Supreme Court struck down provisions of a 2013 Texas law that had already resulted in closing half the state’s forty abortion clinics, and if fully implemented could have reduced facilities to ten or fewer. Those consequences fell especially hard on women from the working class and from families on farms and in rural towns. The court rejected the heart of the Texas legislation, which had (1) required any doctor performing abortions to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital, and (2) demanded that family planning and prenatal clinics providing abortions meet hospital standards. Such requirements are not imposed on clinics handling more medically dangerous procedures, including colonoscopies, tonsilleotomies, and dental surgery. This victory for women’s rights opens the way to fight to block similar anti-working-class legislation in Alabama, Mississippi, Wisconsin, and other states.

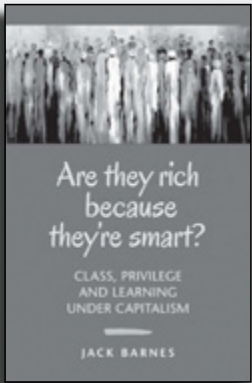
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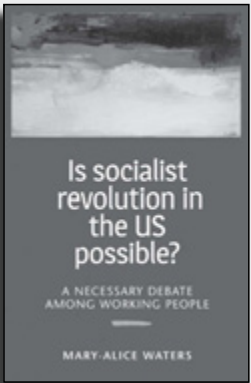
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# Solidarity event in Chicago

Continued from page 6

the world. That's why we sent soldiers to Angola to help fight apartheid."

The release from U.S. prisons of the Cuban Five — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González — grew out of a 16-year international campaign for their freedom. The Cuban revolutionaries had come to the U.S. in the 1990s to monitor plans by paramilitary forces here to carry out violent assaults against Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution abroad.

"Every day Cubans have to make a decision — to surrender or to continue fighting," Fraga said. "And every day we decide in our great majority to keep fighting."

Behind the platform were two large banners: one calling for an end to the U.S. embargo, the other demanding freedom for Oscar López Rivera, imprisoned for 35 years for fighting for independence of the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico. The jailed freedom fighter's broth-

er, José López, spoke at the meeting.

"The collaboration between revolutionaries from Puerto Rico and Cuba dates back to the 19th century," said López, executive director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Chicago.

"I can remember meetings in my family's living room where supporters of the July 26 movement here in Chicago met to raise funds and organize support for the revolutionaries in the mountains in Cuba fighting to overthrow Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship," he said.

He asked participants to sign the on-line petition demanding Obama free Oscar López now. The goal is to get 100,000 signatures by Dec. 11. (See box on page 6.)

"When Fernando González, one of the Cuban Five and now vice president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), heard we were going to be in Chicago, he said we had a special obligation to deepen our collaboration with those fighting to free Oscar López," Sandra Ramírez told the crowd. She is ICAP North American director.

"Fernando was Oscar's cellmate while imprisoned in Terre Haute," Ramírez said. "We support Puerto Rican independence. And as we thank those who fought to free the Five, we urge you to join the fight to free Oscar."

Fraga also spoke at four Chicago-area campus meetings Nov. 17-21. "Aren't you afraid of McDonald's overrunning



Militant/Dan Fein

Nov. 19 panel in Chicago included, from left, Miguel Fraga of the Cuban Embassy; Leima Martínez and Sandra Ramírez, speaking, of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples; and José López, brother of imprisoned Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López.

Cuba with the end of the embargo?" was asked at the University of Illinois here.

"The end of the embargo will greatly strengthen the economy of Cuba," Fraga replied. "Foreign companies invest in Cuba only under our rules."

Accompanying Fraga and Ramírez on the program was Leima Martínez from the North America division of ICAP. Over previous days the two ICAP leaders had spoken in Milwaukee, Pittsburgh and Minnesota.

In Minneapolis they held an hour-and-a-half exchange at the American Indian Student Cultural Center at the University of Minnesota. The two Cubans learned about the movement to support

the Standing Rock Sioux in their fight to defend their treaty rights, sacred sites and water sources threatened by construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

"It's an awakening for all indigenous people," student Raven Ziegler explained. "Over 500 tribes have extended solidarity."

"In Cuba we have a long history of struggle too," Ramírez said. "We defend our principles as part of our sovereignty."

Also speaking at the Nov. 19 Chicago meeting were Harold Rogers, director of international affairs for the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and Aislinn Pulley of Black Lives Matter.

## Freedom Caravan

Continued from page 7

tion's intransigent working-class course was the refusal of Washington or its imperialist allies to send any high level representative to events in Cuba marking Castro's death.

In December 2014 President Barack Obama and Raúl Castro announced talks to restore diplomatic relations, which Washington had broken off in 1961. This move reflected that Obama and a substantial majority of the ruling class he represents had decided it was necessary to try different means to overthrow the Cuban Revolution.

Decades of attempts to assassinate Fidel, to back violent assaults on the island by paramilitary bands organized from inside the U.S., to punish the Cuban people through a brutal economic embargo had left Washington isolated in Latin America and the Caribbean with diminishing capacity to influence class relations in Cuba.

The actions by the Cuban leadership and response of Cuban working people in the wake of Fidel Castro's death have increased the capacity of Cuban workers and farmers to advance and strengthen the revolution that Fidel devoted his life to — to deepen and spread its working-class internationalism and its moral values of human solidarity, to continue to show the way forward for the oppressed and exploited the world over.

## Appeal of Attica 'Militant' ban

Continued from front page

bars to get the news they want.

New York State Department of Corrections regulations say that its policy is "to encourage inmates to read publications from varied sources if such material does not encourage them to engage in behavior that might be disruptive to orderly facility operations."

State prison authorities put new rules in place after a lawsuit by the Fortune Society in 1970 overturned a ban on the group's newsletter *Fortune News*. The court ruled prisoners do not lose their constitutional protections just because they are behind bars. Banning the newsletter could only be justified by showing "a clear and present danger to prison discipline or security," the court said.

## US election shows crisis of two-party capitalist rule

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The 2016 election exposed a historic crisis in the stability of the two-party system through which the U.S. imperialist rulers have governed for more than a century.

The Republican Party, fractured by Donald Trump's primary victory over many of the party bosses' "brightest and best," is being rebuilt around the president-elect.

The Democratic Party is in disarray and its leadership faces a challenge from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is leading a "revolution" to take over.

"The bourgeois two-party system has, for so long, delivered nothing but crushed expectations," notes Socialist Workers Party leader Steve Clark in the introduction to *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. Published just before the election, the book shows how the political turmoil in the bosses'

parties is rooted in the world crisis of capitalist production and trade — in decades of the employers trying to reverse their falling profit rates on the backs of working people.

"For the first time in decades, the US rulers and their government have begun to *fear* the working class," Clark notes. "More working people are beginning to see that the bosses and political parties have no 'solutions' that don't further load the costs — monetary and human — of the crisis of *their* system on *us*." The rulers "sense that mounting struggle — *class struggle* — lies ahead."

Trump, the billionaire real estate mogul, said he spoke for the working class who had no voice in Washington. He said there was a jobs crisis, that as a political "outsider" he would use his business acumen to change things. And he mixed in rightist demagoguery.

Trump's campaign was opposed by many in the Republican machine and the conservative press. His victory shut them up and won some over.

The president-elect has begun to rebuild the party in his image, seeking to forge a conservative capitalist party with a base in the working class. His popularity grew when he said he would take a salary of \$1 a year.

Many of his cabinet nominations reflect this new party. One of the sharpest debates has been over the selection of secretary of state. One candidate is Mitt Romney, the losing Republican presidential nominee in 2012 and a sharp critic of Trump during the campaign. Others are outside the former party establishment.

Trump gave the OK to Kellyanne Conway, one of his top advisers, to publicly oppose Romney's nomination. She told CNN Nov. 27, "I'm all for party unity, but I'm not sure we have to pay for that with the secretary of state position."

"The working class of this country is

being decimated — that's why Donald Trump won," Sanders told the crowd at a Nov. 20 Boston event promoting his new book *Our Revolution: A Future to Believe In*.

Hillary Clinton had campaigned saying the economy was great and that workers attracted to Trump because they were upset about losing jobs were "deplorable" and "irredeemable."

Sanders urges new candidates, many from the Occupy Wall Street movement of a few years ago, to seek office.

And he says the Democrats have to get rid of "identity politics," looking for a future party built solely on Blacks, Hispanics and women. The focus has to be on appealing to workers who feel exploited, he said.

When Michigan officials certified Trump the winner there Nov. 28, it brought the Electoral College vote to 306 for Trump and 232 for Clinton. Meanwhile, Clinton's lead in the popular vote has reached about 2 million, encouraging some who oppose Trump to claim his election was illegitimate.

Trump says he ran to win the Electoral College. "If the election were based on total popular vote," he said, "I would have campaigned in New York, Florida and California and won even bigger," which likely is true. Without campaigning there, Trump won in more than a dozen upstate New York counties where workers voted for "change" with Obama in 2012.

As he appeals to the working class, Trump's cabinet picks, such as Wilbur Ross for Secretary of Commerce, demonstrate his intention to rule in the bosses' interests. Ross' International Coal Group owned the Sago Mine in West Virginia, where 12 miners died in a 2006 explosion from lack of safety measures. He serves on the board of steel giant ArcelorMittal, spearheading attacks on steelworkers.