

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Raúl Castro: 'Cubans are free, independent and sovereign'
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 81/NO. 29 AUGUST 7, 2017

SWP takes campaigning deeper into working class

BY ELLEN BRICKLEY

RAVENA, N.Y. — “The rulers’ political crisis is deepening,” Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Albany, told Danielle Sitterly, after knocking on her door here July 22. “Neither Democrats nor Republicans have a solution to the economic decline, and millions of workers are losing confidence in both of them, and in the political swamp in Washington. Only the working class has a solution — to organize a movement of millions that can end the dictatorship of capital.”

“To me it’s more like a tyranny,” said Sitterly, a disabled worker who cares for her three children.

Trowe underlined the importance of organizing the unorganized and supporting unions to strengthen the fight against growing boss attacks on workers.

But sometimes unions don’t do enough to support workers’ struggles, Sitterly responded. “My husband works at a big plant where he’s forced
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Fight for gov’t-funded health care for everyone!



Reuters/Joshua Roberts

Thousands of working people turned out to receive free medical care July 22 in Wise, Virginia. Above, dental care section. More than 29 million people in U.S. have no health insurance.

Workers face growing crisis of decline in health care

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Riddled with political disagreements, the Republican Party can’t muster enough votes to “repeal and replace” the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, which Presi-
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Socialist Workers Party: Health care is a right!

The following statement was released July 27 by Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York.

Both so-called Obamacare and the various Republican health care schemes being pushed in Washington today illustrate the inability of the dog-eat-dog capitalist system to provide lifelong health care for all as a birthright.

Cradle-to-grave health care will only be possible when working peo-
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Demand Washington hands off Venezuela!

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington tightened the screws against the government of Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro July 26, imposing sanctions on 13 government, military and state oil-company officials, including freezing their assets in the U.S. and banning travel to the country.

The measure came in the midst of a growing political crisis, four days before a vote scheduled to take place July 30 to select members to a Constituent Assembly called by President Maduro.

Meanwhile, the pro-imperialist forces organized in the opposition Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) called for a 48-hour nationwide strike starting July 26 and for a mass demonstration in the capital Caracas on the day of the vote if the government refuses to put off or cancel the election. Opposition forces claim Maduro’s call for the vote is a move to bypass the elected National Assembly, which they won control of in 2015.

More than 100 people have died — including both opponents and supporters of the government, bystanders and members of the police and national guard — as the opposition has stepped up its provocative protests, including blocking roads and
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Protests say, ‘Prosecute cop who killed Justine Damond!’



Star Tribune/Aaron Lavinsky via AP

Hundreds join July 20 protest against police killing of Justine Damond in Minneapolis.

BY TONY LANE.

MINNEAPOLIS — Hundreds gathered here in south Minneapolis July 20 near where Justine Damond was shot and killed by Minneapolis cop Mohamed Noor five days earlier, and then marched to a rally at Beards Plaisance Park.

Valerie Castile, mother of Philando Castile, who was killed by a cop in the St. Paul suburb of Falcon Heights in July 2016, joined the protest, hugging

Damond’s fiancé. “This is not a black or white thing,” she told the rally before the march. “This is a human being thing.”

Damond, originally from Australia, was Caucasian and Castile was African-American.

Jeronimo Yanez, the cop who killed Castile, was acquitted in June. “Like I said after the verdict, I knew they were going to kill again,” Valerie Cas-
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Liberals witch hunt to impeach Trump driven by fear of the working class

BY SETH GALINSKY

The shrill and unrelenting witch hunt by liberal Democrats, some Republican politicians and most of the bourgeois news media who accuse President Donald Trump of “colluding” with Moscow to “influence” the 2016 presidential elections, has reached a new fever pitch. These forces thought they had finally reached a “gotcha” moment when Donald Trump Jr. admitted he had had a meeting with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya and lobbyist Rinat Akhmetshin in June 2016.

The witch hunt is aimed at criminalizing what are in fact political differences in order to force the impeachment or indictment of President Trump and bring down his administration.

Trump is the target of an open-ended investigation by special counsel and former FBI chief Robert Mueller, as well as both the Senate and House intelligence committees.

The *New York Times* giddily ran an article July 22 that they had uncovered

a memo by Kenneth Starr, who served as special counsel assigned to look into possible impeachment of then President Bill Clinton, that said a sitting president could be criminally indicted.
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NY: Unionists rally in 4-month strike against Spectrum

Nurses in Boston strike over wages, conditions, patient care

N. Ireland: Women advance in fight for abortion rights

BY PAMELA HOLMES AND ANNE HOWIE

LONDON — “It’s a day for celebration!” Goretta Horgan told those at a packed meeting of the London-Irish Abortion Rights Campaign here June 29 after the U.K. government announced it would pay abortion costs for women coming to England from Northern Ireland, where the procedure is effectively illegal. Horgan is from the Alliance for Choice in Derry. The governments in Scotland and Wales said they will follow suit.

The government in London acted in response to a Belfast Court of Appeal ruling overturning a 2015 High Court decision allowing abortion in cases of fatal fetal abnormality or sexual crime.

The 1967 Abortion Act made abortion widely available in Britain under the National Health Service. But the law does not apply in Northern Ireland, where women seeking abortions can face life in prison, and doctors who perform them face five years. As a result hundreds of women travel to Britain each year, forced to pay for private abortions. Women will still have to pay their own travel and accommodation costs.

The two ruling parties in Northern Ireland — the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin — both oppose a woman’s right to choose. “I would not want abortion to be as freely available here as it is in England and don’t support the extension of the 1967 Act,” Arlene Foster, head of the DUP, said in 2016. Sinn Féin backs allowing abortion in cases of rape, incest and fetal abnormality, but also opposes extension of the 1967 British law.

Several hundred women led an International Women’s Day protest in front of Belfast Town Hall March 8, calling for widening access to abortion in Northern Ireland. Support demonstrations took place in the Republic of Ireland, in Dublin, Cork and other cities.

The demonstrations in the Irish Republic also protested a 1983 amendment to their Constitution, which effectively outlaws abortion. A referendum to repeal this “Eighth Amendment” is scheduled for 2018. “Abortion is a reality in Ireland — between 1980 and 2014, at least 163,514 women registered for terminations abroad,” spokeswoman Mary Diskin said last year at the launch of the Trade Union Campaign to Repeal the Eighth Amendment.

Repeal is winning growing support, reflecting a change in social attitudes. In 2012 tens of thousands took to the streets in protest after Savita Halappanavar died following a miscarriage. Doctors in Galway had refused Halappanavar’s repeated requests for an abortion. Three years later gay marriage was legalized in a referendum in the Irish Republic.

Defend the Bundys! Defend ranchers’ access to public land

BY JOEL BRITTON

OAKLAND, Calif. — “In Defense of Ranchers’ Rights to Graze Cattle on Federal Lands” was the topic of the Militant Labor Forum here July 21. This writer was the speaker, on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party.

On July 17 Dennis Richter, from Los Angeles, and I attended the opening day of the frame-up retrial in Las Vegas of



Vice.com/Jake Lewis

Supporters of the London-Irish Abortion Rights Campaign join September 2016 protest in London against moves in Poland to further restrict women’s right to choose abortion there.

The British Medical Association, representing doctors and medical students throughout the U.K., voted for decriminalizing abortion. The 1967 law didn’t do this. It allowed abortions, but set a series of limitations on legal terminations, including a 24-week limit and requiring two doctors’ signatures of approval.

“Decriminalization is the removal

of abortion from the penal code,” Dr. Coral Jones told British Medical Association members when she proposed the motion. “Doctors and women will no longer face the threat of imprisonment for procuring or performing abortions.” The motion does call for maintaining the 24-week time limit. It was adopted by a two-thirds majority.

Scott Drexler, Richard Lovelien, Eric Parker and Steven Stewart, four men who participated in a protest three years ago demanding that Cliven Bundy’s cattle be freed from federal govern-

AS I SEE IT

ment impoundment. A number of other people who joined the protest, including Bundy and two of his sons, are in prison pending later trials on related charges.

This past spring a jury in the same courtroom had been unable to find the defendants guilty. The charges included “assault on a federal officer,” “threatening a federal law enforcement officer,” “interstate travel in aid of extortion,” and “conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States.” Judge Gloria Navarro declared a mistrial of the four, while two others were convicted on

some of the charges.

The Bureau of Land Management seized 400 of Bundy’s cattle near his Bunkerville, Nevada, ranch in April 2014, and was preparing to take them to California and sell them. They claimed to be acting in defense of the environment, with court decisions backing them up.

The fact is the Bundys — like most farmers and ranchers — pride themselves on being stewards of the land, on which their livelihoods depend.

Hundreds of ranchers, family members and other supporters from all over the western United States rallied in defense of the right of the Bundys and all ranchers to graze their cattle on lands controlled by the federal government.

Federal agencies control nearly 87 percent of the land in Nevada. For generations Bundy family members paid

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THE MILITANT

Solidarity with working people in Greece!

The ‘Militant’ reports on the devastating impact of the capitalist economic crisis and debt bondage of the Greek government to German and other bondholders. Competing national capitalist interests amid world crisis are unraveling the European Union.



DPA Picture Alliance/Alamy Stock Photo
Greek teachers’ union demonstrates against layoffs in Athens, March 2014.

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The Militant

Vol. 81/No. 29

Closing news date: July 27, 2017

Editor: John Studer

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Jacob Perasso, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in December.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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SWP deeper to working class

Continued from front page

to work massive overtime,” she said. “In many unions the officials don’t organize the kind of fight necessary to take on the bosses’ attacks,” Trowe said. “They tell us to rely on the Democrats to protect us. But this is a deadly trap. We need to organize ourselves, to strengthen our unions into democratic, fighting organizations capable of taking on the employers and both their political parties, the Democrats and Republicans.”

Sitterly told Trowe that she was concerned with the radicals and liberals on the campuses who “are intolerant of any point of view they disagree with. They shout down people with different ideas or try to get them fired.”

Trowe described how she and other SWP members recently went to Middlebury College in Vermont after some students there shouted down conservative academic Charles Murray and physically attacked him and the professor who invited him to speak.

“We debated with students, explaining how suppressing free discussion always hurts the working-class movement,” said Trowe, showing Sitterly the book *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, which contains a polemic against Murray’s book, *The Bell Curve*.

“We need to debate with people like Murray, who say there is an intelligent ‘cognitive elite’ that is rich and in power because they’re smart,” Trowe said.

“Behind the election of Donald Trump as president, the rulers see the working class beginning to discuss how they can assert their class interests against the growing carnage of capitalism they face,” said Trowe. “They increasingly fear the working class because they expect growing class battles where workers learn our worth and capacity to build a successful revolutionary fight for political power.” Sitterly got the book and subscribed to the *Militant*, and said she wants to stay in touch.

SWP members and supporters around the country are stepping up their efforts to get out to workers’ neighborhoods as well as strike picket lines and social protests to discuss what our class faces today and the party’s program.

In doing so, we introduce workers to *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*; *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*; *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, all by Jack Barnes, and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.



Campaigning in North Minneapolis July 22, David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Albany, N.Y., introduces party to preschool teacher Stacy Jenkins in Ravena, N.Y., while campaigning door to door July 23.



Militant/Ray Parsons

Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Albany, N.Y., introduces party to preschool teacher Stacy Jenkins in Ravena, N.Y., while campaigning door to door July 23.

ist Workers Party candidate for Minneapolis mayor, met Catrice Lynch, a preschool teacher’s aide who goes to college part time. “I can’t afford health care even though I’m working 40 hours a week,” she said.

“Insurance is designed to make profits and prevent you from going to the doctor,” responded Rosenfeld. “The solution is to fight for health care for all, not health insurance for profit. We can make gains on this as we organize to unify our class and fight for political power, like they did in Cuba with their revolution in 1959.”

Last week campaign supporters in

Minneapolis organized teams throughout the area to introduce the party, selling 12 *Militant* subscriptions and 11 campaign books by party leaders. They gathered 164 signatures for a total of 331 out of the 750 needed to go well over the filing requirement to place Rosenfeld’s name on the ballot.



While visiting the Skyway neighborhood just south of Seattle, Mary Martin, SWP candidate for Seattle mayor met Elisa, a house cleaner who’s originally from El Salvador.

“There are real problems in every country including in my home country and here in the U.S.,” Elisa said, pointing to the growing drug trade that preys on working people.

“The drug trade is a big business under capitalism,” Martin said. “And this won’t end until the working class removes the capitalist class from political power through a socialist revolution. One of the first things the revolutionary government in Cuba did after workers and farmers took political power there was to close down the gambling, drug and prostitution trade that devastated the lives of many.” Elisa purchased the Spanish edition of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*

To join SWP members campaigning in your area, contact the branch nearest you listed on page 4.

Tony Lane in Minneapolis and Edwin Fruit in Seattle contributed to this article.

‘Prosecute cop who killed Justine Damond!’

Continued from front page

tile told the rally. “And they have.” The crowd chanted, “No justice, no peace, prosecute the police!”

The state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, charged with investigating Damond’s shooting, is not making any further information public. Noor, one of a handful of Somali-American officers on the force, has refused to be questioned.

There is no video recording of the killing as neither Noor nor his partner Matthew Harrity had turned on their body cameras or the videocam in their squad car.

The two cops had been sent to respond to a 911 call from Damond, who reported she heard what sounded like a sexual assault in the alley behind her home. When she walked up to the cops’ car in her pajamas, Noor shot her in the stomach.

The rally drew participants from the surrounding neighborhood and from across the Twin Cities, including a number who had been active in protests since the killing of Castile.

“We really need to go deep with this and follow through with this and people need to be heard,” marcher Julie Shannon told KARE 11 news. “And as a whole system things need to change because this isn’t OK.”

The following day, Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges asked for and got the resignation of Police Chief Janeé Harteau.

There is widespread discussion and debate about what can be done to curtail cop abuse among working people and capitalist politics in the city. Robert Bennett, the lawyer for the Damond family, called for more rigorous procedures for hiring of cops, better police training, and more exacting instructions covering cop use of body and squad car cameras. Somali-American City Council member Abdi

Warsame, called for the city to find a different police chief who could provide “fundamental change.”

“No amount of so-called de-escalation training, sensitivity training, body cameras and community policing programs will change the nature of the police,” Socialist Workers candidate for mayor David Rosenfeld said in a public statement. “Like every aspect of the criminal ‘justice’ system, cop brutality is an essential part of how the rulers protect their interests.

“The fight against police brutality,” and the call for the prosecution of Noor and Yanez, Rosenfeld said, “is part of a bigger fight to unify the working class and act in solidarity with all who are exploited and oppressed.”

“I think the cop needs to go to jail,

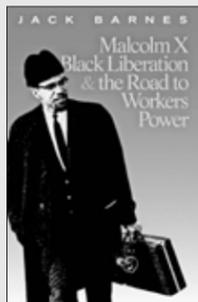
there’s no reason for the shooting,” one worker told Rosenfeld as he and other SWP members campaigned on doorsteps in north Minneapolis July 22. “It doesn’t matter if the police officer is white or Black,” he said.

“The problem is the character of the police, not the individual,” Rosenfeld replied. “And the only way to change their behavior is to send them to jail when they kill us.”

Angus Knowles, a union bus mechanic, told SWP campaigners Kevin Dwire and Jacquie Henderson that he didn’t think workers should have any confidence in the cops. “When something happens around here,” he said, standing in his front yard, “I’m not going to call the cops. That’s just asking for more trouble.”

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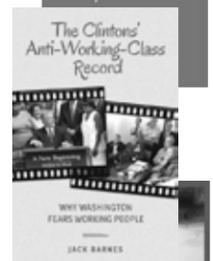
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Defend framed-up ranchers

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grazing fees, until BLM bureaucrats arbitrarily limited Cliven Bundy to grazing 150 head on the land. He decided to ignore the order and continued to graze his cattle as his family had done for decades. By 2014, the family faced \$1 million in unpaid fees, fines and interest, and a series of court orders to stop using federal lands near his small 160-acre ranch.

Following a tense standoff between the heavily armed Clark County police, sheriffs and BLM cops on one side, and Bundy family members and their supporters, a few of whom were armed, on the other, the cattle were released. As Lovelien's attorney Shawn Perez said in his opening statement at the trial, "Not a shot was fired, not a bottle was thrown, not a rock was thrown." Not by Lovelien, any of the other defendants or any other supporter of the Bundys.

After this victory, Democratic Sen. Harry Reid, at that time the majority leader in the Senate, threatened, "It's not over!" And sure enough, the FBI went to work to cook up "evidence" for frame-up charges against Bundy, the current defendants and others. The defendants have been denied bail while awaiting trial.

When the prosecutors failed to get the four defendants convicted last spring, they pressed for a new trial and got Judge Navarro to bar defense attorneys "from referencing constitutional rights to freely assemble and to bear arms," and "from mentioning alleged misconduct or excessive force by law enforcement," as they did successfully in the earlier trial.

Working people should stand with the Bundys and the other defendants. The day before the trial began, Richter and I knocked on doors in a workers' neighborhood in Las Vegas near the Nellis Air Force Base.

"We introduced ourselves as members of the Socialist Workers Party, explained our revolutionary perspectives and reported on protests in defense of the Bundys and the other defendants party members had attended the day before," said Richter. "The four workers who we had the chance to speak with at length said they had heard about the ranchers' protests and the trials. They expressed their solidarity and all got copies of the *Militant*."

We explained, and I repeated it at the forum in Oakland, that a fighting alliance between workers and independent producers such as ranchers and farmers is necessary to end the dictatorship of capital and to make the revolutionary changes needed in this country. "The logic of workers, farmers and ranchers fighting in our interests — against the wealthy capitalist rulers and their government — is to mobilize in our millions to take power, to establish a workers and farmers government," I told the forum.

Such a government would ensure that ranchers are able to continue to make a living and act as guardians of the land and the environment as a whole.



Reuters/Jim Urquhart

Protest against seizure of Cliven Bundy's cattle near Bunkerville, Nevada, April 12, 2014.

Washington seeks 'reset' with Moscow in Syria

BY JIM BRADLEY

The *Washington Post*, *New York Times* and other media reported July 19 that the U.S. government has ended a covert CIA program that has given some military aid to select rebel forces fighting against the Bashar al-Assad dictatorship in Syria. The move cements a consensus in Washington — by both the administrations of Barack Obama and Donald Trump — to back off calls for removal of Assad as part of any diplomatic settlement to the ongoing Syrian civil war.

The U.S. rulers goal in Syria is to reimpose some stability in the Middle East that protects their imperialist interests.

The conflict in Syria began in 2011 after Assad unleashed brutal military force to crush massive, popular mobilizations of working people demanding democratic rights and the end of his autocratic rule. Over 400,000 people have been killed. Contending capitalist powers have intervened, including Washington, Moscow, Tehran, Ankara and the monarchies on the Saudi peninsula.

Washington's decision to provide limited aid to a small number of heavily vetted Syrian rebel groups in 2013 — proposed by then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton — had limited effect. None of the recipients were ever provided with weapons capable of challenging the air power of Assad and his allies.

While a variety of rebel forces, including some backed by the U.S., made inroads against Assad, the situation on the ground shifted in September 2015

when Moscow intervened, backing Assad with deployment of bombers. Tehran joined Moscow, sending additional officers, troops and Shiite militias to take part in ground combat.

The decision of the Trump administration is the latest step in Washington's shifting emphasis on confining its actions to attacks on Islamic State, in both Syria and Iraq. Washington continues to arm and support troops of the Syrian Democratic Forces, led by Kurdish fighters from the People's Protection Units, who are engaged in an effort to drive IS out of its Syrian capital in Raqqa.

An unnamed U.S. official told the *Washington Post* that, given Assad's current grip on power, the decision should not be seen as a concession to Moscow but rather, "a signal to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin that the administration wants to improve ties with Russia."

Washington seeks to establish a working relationship with Moscow to tamp down the fighting. Meanwhile, Moscow signed a pact with Assad to station aircraft and troops at Syria's Hmeymim air base for the next 49 years, with an option to extend. The air base supplements Moscow's Tartus naval base on the Mediterranean Sea.

At the same time, Washington signed an agreement with the governments of Russia and Jordan, supported by Damascus, for a cease-fire in an area of southwestern Syria that began July 9.

Speaking in Geneva July 15, where the latest round of U.N.-sponsored Syria

"peace talks" have been taking place, Russian Ambassador Alexei Borodavkin said progress is being made because demands for the overthrow of Assad have receded. Participating in the negotiations are Assad officials and the High Negotiations Committee — a Saudi Arabia-backed stand-in for the anti-Assad opposition groups, who are too divided to have official representatives.

Washington-Tehran relations

The new U.S. policy "will give a boost to the Assad regime and strengthen the Iranians," Col. Ahmed al-Hammadi, a Free Syrian Army commander near Damascus, told the *Post* July 20.

Washington's 1991 and 2003 wars against Iraq that overthrew the Saddam Hussein regime there failed to create a new government that could unite the contending religious and political forces in the country. One unintended consequence of this and of Washington's withdrawal was the emergence of Islamic State — a marriage of a group of Saddam's officers who had been imprisoned by the U.S. and forces that split from al-Qaeda.

A second unintended consequence was the fast-developing political, economic and military ties of the Iranian regime with Iraq, also a majority Shiite country. Shiite militias controlled by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards hold territory in eastern Iraq that Tehran envisions as part of a future land corridor connecting the Iranian capital, through Iraq and southwestern Syria to Lebanon on the Mediterranean, the home base of its Hezbollah militia ally.

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U.S. Hands Off Venezuela. Speaker: Rebecca Williamson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 2826 S. Vermont Ave. Tel.: (323) 643-4968.

CALENDAR

AUSTRALIA

Sydney
Celebrate Opening of New Headquarters for Communist League Election Campaign. Meet Joanne Kuniansky, Communist League candidate for Canterbury-Bankstown council. Sat., Aug. 12, 6 p.m. Donation \$10. Suite 22/10 Bridge St., Granville. Tel.: 0422-062-821.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

NY: Unionists rally in 4-month strike against Spectrum

QUEENS, N.Y. — “What do we want? A contract! When do we want it? Now!” shouted some 200 members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 3 at a July 19 rally in Astoria. The 1,800 IBEW workers have been on strike since March 28 against cable giant Charter Communications/Spectrum. Their last contract expired more than four years ago.

Charter purchased Time Warner Cable in 2015 and renamed it Spectrum. The company raked in some \$3.5 billion in profits last year. They’re demanding steep concessions, including a halt to company contributions to workers’ medical and pension plans.

Leonardo Blandino, who has worked repairing outside cable lines for nine years, told the *Militant* that “the company is bringing in non-union workers from other states to work here.”

“It’s not just a question of pensions and medical,” he said. “They are trying to send people out alone to do jobs. That’s dangerous. What if something happens?”

— Sara Lobman



Militant/Sara Lobman

Unionists on strike against Spectrum cable company rally in Astoria, Queens, July 19. Workers have been on picket lines four months opposing cuts to medical and pension plans.

NY Teamsters protest union-busting firings at Waldner’s

NEW YORK — A spirited picket line at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital July 18 protested the firing of 40 members of Teamsters Local 814 by Waldner’s, a furniture supplier for the hospital. The unionists, many with more than 30 years on the job, were handed pink slips when they returned from the July 4th holiday.

The company ignored the union’s proposal for negotiations when the contract expired in March, Teamsters local organizer Julian Tysh told the *Militant*. Instead, it shut the doors on the Farmingdale, Long Island, warehouse.

Local union President Jason Ide said that the company wanted to get out of its obligations under the Teamsters’ pension plan.

— Vivian Sahner

Nurses in Boston strike over wages, conditions, patient care

BOSTON — Over 1,200 nurses at Tufts Medical Center here conducted a one-day strike July 12 to protest low wages, staffing cutbacks, declining patient care, and overtime demands in addition to long regular shifts of up to 16 hours. The nurses are members of the Massachusetts Nurses Association.

The medical center then locked out the nurses for the next four days. But the workers remained on the picket line day and night and won support from other unionists, local residents and families of patients. Hundreds of supporters from building trades unions, including plumbers, construction workers and carpenters, marched down the busy avenues to join the nurses on the picket line.

Another strike around similar issues occurred a few weeks earlier at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Massachusetts. Some 200 unionized nurses struck June 26 and were



Militant/Andrés Mendoza

Cabin crew workers on strike against British Airways picket at Heathrow Airport July 11.

locked out for three days by the bosses when they reported to work the next day.

— Claudia Kaiser-Lenoir

Cabin crew workers strike British Airways over pay

LONDON — Some 2,000 cabin crew workers struck British Airways July 1 against low pay and company reprisals against workers who had walked out earlier this year, denying them allowances and bonuses.

“The strike has opened up my vista,” 25-year-old Shane, who has worked at British Airways for two years, told the *Militant*. “I’ve met so many different people, and it has given me a feel for the potential power that we have.” The workers are members of the UNITE union.

Strike picket lines Communist League members visited were young, lively and spirited, with music, dancing and chanting going on.

The British Airways website says a job for a mixed fleet cabin crew member pays £21,000 to £25,000 a year (\$27,360-\$32,570), but the basic starting salary is just £12,192 per year. According to a 2016 UNITE study, nearly half of mixed fleet cabin workers at British Airways “said that they had taken on a second job to make ends meet with some saying they had to sleep in their cars between shifts because they couldn’t afford the petrol

to drive home.”

With U.K. government backing, British Airways leased planes and got cabin crew and pilots from Qatar Airways to continue flying during the strike. In response, UNITE called for a further round of strikes through mid-August.

— Andrés Mendoza and Daniel Savage

Housing maintenance workers in UK strike Mears for higher pay

MANCHESTER, England — Some 170 workers at Mears, a housing maintenance company, are striking for a wage raise. They’re currently making as much as £3,500 (\$4,500) a year less than workers at other companies doing the same job.

“Our strike is about setting a benchmark,” shop steward Bill Sinclair said on the picket line here July 12. “If we lose, all the other housing maintenance companies in Manchester will say: ‘Look at the Mears workers. Why should you have more?’”

“They are undervaluing us, and now we are standing our ground,” said striker John Lavery.

The wage gap has been a source of anger among the workers for several years. It started when maintenance workers of the Manchester housing estates were split up and transferred to private companies. Recently workers from Manchester Working, a joint venture partly owned by Manchester City council, were transferred to Mears. The strike was launched May 16, initially for three days a week, and it became a full-time walkout from July 4 to Aug. 4, organized by the UNITE trade union.

— Dag Tirsén

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



July 31, 1992

RAVENSWOOD, West Virginia — The 20-month-long lockout by Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. of 1,700 members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 5668 ended June 29. The company spent millions of dollars in its unsuccessful effort to bust the union.

By going back with the union intact, Local 5668, the Women’s Support Group, and their supporters won a significant victory. The workers won by remaining united — less than 20 unionists crossed the picketline — and reaching out to working people around the world.

They leafleted from Wall Street to the Metal Exchange in London. The United Mine Workers organized bucket collections at mine bath houses and in mining communities.



August 7, 1967

The Detroit rebellion exerted a power over the workings of the city which has not been matched by any previous ghetto revolts. Due to the character of Detroit’s living conditions, it wasn’t just a tightly contained black ghetto that blew up. The whole city went.

Businesses and banks were closed, transportation and communication disrupted, mail halted, schools and universities shut down, downtown was a ghost town. Communities were put under the state of emergency provisions. In order to subdue the ghetto guerrillas, 20,000 police and soldiers had to occupy the whole city. It was like Vietnam with an occupation army trying to pacify the population.



August 8, 1942

The Executive Committee of the All-India Congress Party will meet to act on the resolution adopted July 14. This resolution demands that “British rule in India must end immediately” and it proposes to achieve independence through another campaign of “civil disobedience.”

The passage of this resolution might well lead to an immediate showdown in India. London has promised to crush in blood all manifestations of struggle for Indian independence.

In the grave crisis of British imperialism, the Indian masses sense and see an unprecedented opportunity to gain their freedom. They want to seize this opportunity to realize their aspirations and dreams of the past two centuries.

Rally and march for silver miners on strike

Support United Steelworkers Local 5114 at Lucky Friday Mine

Wed. Aug. 2, 12-2 p.m.

Hecla Corporate Office
6500 North Mineral Dr.
Coeur D’Alene, Idaho

For more info: (208) 744-1774

Raúl Castro: ‘Cubans are free, independent and sovereign’

Below is an excerpt from a July 14 speech by Cuban President Raúl Castro at the closing session of the National Assembly of People's Power discussing Cuba's relations with Washington. After this excerpt, Castro concluded his talk by reiterating the Cuban people's solidarity with the people of Venezuela, demanding Washington "respect Venezuela's legitimate right to resolve its internal problems peacefully and without any foreign interference." Translation by the Militant.

Regarding our foreign policy, I would like to say the following:

This past June 16, President of the United States Donald Trump, announced his administration's policy toward Cuba — nothing novel for sure, since he reclaimed the rhetoric and elements from a past of confrontation, which has proven to be an absolute failure for over 55 years.

It is evident that the U.S. president has not been well informed on the history of Cuba and its relations with the United States, or on the patriotism and dignity of the Cuban people.

History cannot be forgotten, as they have at times suggested we do. [Then U.S. President Barack Obama urged Cubans to "leave the past behind" in a March 22, 2016, address on Cuban television, to forget about the decades of Washington's economic, political and military attacks against Cuba's socialist revolution.] For more than 200 years, the ties between Cuba and the United States have been marked, on the one hand, by the attempts of the northern neighbor to dominate our country, and on the other, by the determination of Cubans to be free, independent, and sovereign.

Throughout the entire 19th century ... different U.S. administrations tried to take possession of Cuba ... they did so in 1898, with a deceitful intervention at the end of the 30-year war Cubans waged for their independence [from Spain]. U.S. troops entered as allies, and then became occupiers.

Negotiating with Spain behind Cuba's

back, they militarily occupied the country for four years ... and imposed an addendum to the constitution of the nascent republic, the Platt Amendment, which gave them the right to intervene in our internal affairs and establish, among other things, the Guantánamo naval base, which today still usurps part of our national territory — the return of which we will continue to demand. ...

On Jan. 1, 1959, exactly 60 years later, with the triumph of the revolution led by Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, we became definitively free and independent.

From that moment on, the strategic goal of Washington toward Cuba has been to overthrow the revolution. For more than five decades they resorted to diverse methods: economic war, breaking diplomatic relations, armed invasion, attempts to assassinate our principal leaders, sabotage, a naval blockade, the creation and support of armed bands, state terrorism, internal subversion, the economic, political, and media blockade, and international isolation.

Ten administrations held office until President Barack Obama, in his Dec. 17, 2014, speech, without renouncing their strategic goal, had the good sense to recognize that isolation had not worked, and that it was time for a new focus toward Cuba.

Washington profoundly isolated

No one could deny that the United States, in its attempts to isolate Cuba, in the end found itself profoundly isolated. The policy of hostility and blockade toward our country had become a serious obstacle to relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, and was rejected almost unanimously by the international community. Within U.S. society, a growing majority opposed to this policy had developed, including among a good portion of the Cuban émigré community. ...

Over the last two years, working on the basis of respect and equality, diplomatic relations have been re-established and progress made toward resolving

Nicaragua events build World Festival of youth, students



Militant/Jacob Perasso

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Ronal Hidalgo Rivera, second secretary of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba, speaks to over 100 young people at the Sao Paulo Forum Youth Meeting here July 17. Oscar López Rivera, on Hidalgo's right, also spoke. López won his freedom earlier this year after spending 36 years in jail in the U.S. for his participation in the struggle for independence of Puerto Rico. A worldwide campaign was waged to win his release. The meeting was one of several held that day as part of the 23rd Sao Paulo Forum July 15-21.

"In October we will celebrate the World Festival of Youth and Students and officially, in front of all of you, we invite Oscar López to participate to help us understand what we are and where we are going," José Maury del Toro, secretary general of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and a leader of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba, to Hidalgo's left, told young people at the meeting. "It will be a great pleasure to have Oscar there with us to show the world what solidarity can accomplish."

Hidalgo Rivera and some 20 representatives of youth organizations in WFDY's Americas region met the following morning to discuss participation in the Oct. 14-22 festival in Sochi, Russia. WFDY is an international anti-imperialist youth organization that has organized festivals around the world since 1947. Delegations are being built across the continent from Cuba, as well as Panama, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Canada and the United States to attend the gathering and take part in discussions and debates about defense of the Cuban Revolution and other activities.

— JACOB PERASSO

pending bilateral matters, as well as cooperation on issues of mutual interest and benefit. Limited modifications were made to the implementation of some aspects of the blockade. The two countries established the basis from which to work toward building a new type of relationship, demonstrating that civilized coexistence is possible despite profound differences.

At the end of President Obama's term in office, the blockade, the Guantánamo naval base and the regime change policy remained in place.

The announcements made by the current U.S. president June 16 represent a step back in bilateral relations. This is the opinion of many people and organizations in the United States and around the world, who have overwhelmingly expressed their outright rejection of the changes. This sentiment was also expressed by our youth and student organizations, Cuban women, workers, farmers, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, intellectuals, and religious groups, on behalf of the vast majority of the nation's citizens.

The U.S. government has decided to tighten the blockade by imposing new obstacles on its businesspeople to trade and invest in Cuba, and additional restrictions on its citizens to travel to the country, justifying these measures with outdated, hostile, Cold War rhetoric regarding the Cuban people's exercise and enjoyment of human rights and democracy. ...

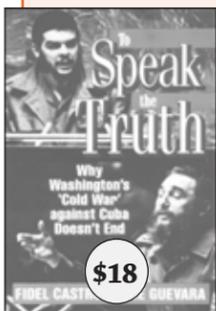
Today, we reiterate the revolutionary government's condemnation of measures to tighten the blockade, and reaffirm that any attempt to destroy the revolution, whether through coercion and pressure, or the use of more subtle methods, will fail.

We likewise reject use of the issue of human rights against Cuba, which has many reasons to be proud of its achievements, and does not need to receive lessons from the United States or anyone else (*Applause*). ...

Cuba and the United States can cooperate and live together, respecting our differences and promoting everything that benefits both countries and peoples, but don't expect that, to do so, Cuba will make concessions essential to its sovereignty and independence. Nor will it negotiate its principles or accept conditions of any kind, just as we have never done throughout the history of the revolution.

Independently of what the U.S. government does, or does not decide to do, we will continue advancing along the path sovereignly chosen by our people.

Example of Cuban Revolution for workers



To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End

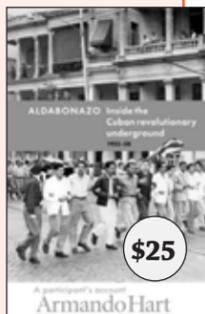
Fidel Castro, Che Guevara

In speeches before UN bodies, Castro and Guevara address the peoples of the world, explaining why Washington fears the example of the socialist revolution and why its effort to destroy it will fail.

\$18

Aldabonazo: Inside the Cuban Revolutionary Underground

Armando Hart Also in Spanish



\$25

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

Jack Barnes

Also in Spanish, French, Farsi



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

Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer Also in Spanish, Greek



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US hands off Venezuela!

Continued from front page
firing homemade mortars and Molotov cocktails at police and national guard. Some forces in the opposition have vowed to mount violent protests until Maduro steps down, while others have favored negotiations toward a “transition.”

Working people have been hardest hit with shortages of food and other basic necessities. Many products are only available on the black market for anywhere from 4 times to 20 times the legal price or more, way out of reach for many workers.

US threatens more sanctions

Threats by the Trump administration to follow through on a “steady drumbeat” of measures against the Venezuelan government, including a possible ban on oil imports to the U.S., have been met with caution among U.S. ruling circles and some opposition figures in Venezuela. They have expressed concerns such moves could lead to a collapse of the country’s economy and deeper crisis.

Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world and is the third largest supplier of crude and petroleum products to the United States. Citgo, which is owned by the state-run Venezuelan oil company PDVSA, has 6,000 gas stations, three refineries and 50 fuel terminals in the in the U.S., employing 46,000 workers.

Even in the midst of an estimated 18 percent drop in the country’s Gross Domestic Product in 2016, the Maduro government has continued to make its payments on its \$120 billion debt to foreign bondholders.

Maduro and the governing United Socialist Party of Venezuela have put forward no course of action for working people to advance their class consciousness on the road to workers and farmers overthrowing capitalist rule and taking

political power. Instead they say that rewriting the country’s constitution is the way to resolve the increasingly violent conflict and “deepen the Bolivarian revolution.”

Going through with the July 30 vote, however, has the potential of escalating the polarization and conflict, opening the door to a bloodbath, as opposition forces press violent street protests and call for the armed forces to break with Maduro and restore “constitutional order.” Some former high-ranking officers of the armed forces and government officials have urged Maduro to consider postponing the vote.

Gen. Alexis López Ramírez, a long-time supporter of Maduro, resigned last month because of his opposition to holding the vote.

Millions of workers who supported the government have become discontented. At the same time they have not gotten involved with the Roundtable, who they know from experience only defends the interests of the wealthy propertied owners.

Former Spanish President Luis Rodríguez Zapatero met in Venezuela July 24 with opposition leaders in an attempt to win support for a dialogue with Maduro to win postponement of the election to the Constituent Assembly.

Defend Venezuela’s sovereignty

The Cuban government has consistently defended the right of the people of Venezuela to make their own decisions without interference from U.S. imperialism or capitalist regimes in the region.

“Cuba calls for absolute respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezu-



Reuters/Carlos García Rawlins

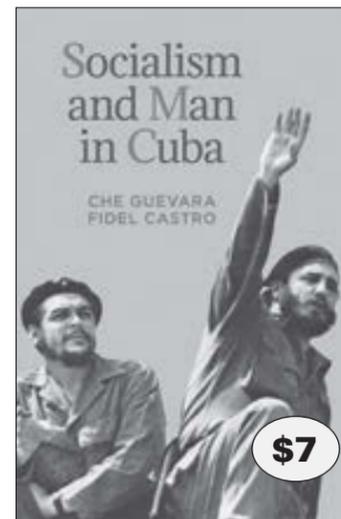
Members of pro-imperialist opposition prepare to battle police, national guard during strike in Caracas July 20. Washington has stepped up sanctions against government officials.

ela,” José Ramón Machado, second secretary of the Cuban Communist Party’s Central Committee, told the crowd in Pinar del Rio at a July 26 celebration of the opening of the Cuban Revolution in 1953.

“Those who are trying to give lessons on democracy and human rights from afar, while they encourage pro-coup violence and terrorism, should get their hands out” of Venezuela, he said. “It’s up to the Bolivarian people and government to overcome their difficulties without foreign meddling in their internal affairs.”

“Working people here and worldwide should follow Cuba’s proletarian internationalist example,” Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor in Albany, said in a public statement July 19. “The Socialist Workers

Party says: U.S. hands off Venezuela! End Washington’s economic sanctions and interference in the internal affairs of the people of Venezuela!”



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Meetings build ‘Che’ Cuba brigade, Sochi youth festival

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

In a little over two months, young people and workers from the U.S. and around the world will take advantage of the opportunity to join the Oct. 1-15 “In the Footsteps of Che International Brigade” to Cuba or the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students in Sochi, Russia, Oct. 14-22.

Both the brigade and the youth festival will bring together anti-imperialist fighters, supporters of the Cuban Revolution and other political activists.

Affiliates to the World Federation of Democratic Youth from throughout the Americas met in Nicaragua July 18 and discussed plans for the youth festival, which will be honoring Fidel Castro (see article on page 6). Meetings have been held in workplaces and schools across Cuba that elected 250 delegates, who will join some 20,000 young people from over 120 countries in Sochi, including from the U.S. Applications to attend the festival have now closed, but discussions and debates preparing for the meeting are ongoing.

“I’ve wanted to go to Cuba and see it for myself,” said Frank Munoz, a member of United Auto Workers Local 551 at a Chicago-area Ford assembly plant, as he signed up for the brigade July 25 at the NAACP convention in Baltimore. In all, 16 people signed up for more information on the brigade at the Socialist Workers Party booth there.

The brigade will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Che’s death in com-

bat in Bolivia in 1967, where he led Cuban volunteers participating in a guerrilla struggle against the René Barrientos dictatorship there. Participants will do volunteer agricultural labor, visit sites where Che led battles during the Cuban Revolution, and meet with leaders of Cuba’s youth, women’s and labor organizations. They will have the opportunity to meet and discuss with fellow brigadistas from across the country and around the world. Steve Eckardt, a member of the Amalgamated Transit Union in Chicago and brigade co-coordinator, told the *Militant* that over 35 people have signed up so far from the U.S. Eckardt urged people considering going on the brigade to get their applications in early.

“I want to go in October to celebrate a hero of mine — Che. He fought in Africa against colonialism,” Zakiyyah Muhammad, a caregiver for 19 years and member of Service Employees International Union Local 880 in northwest Indiana, told the *Militant* July 24.

Guevara became a central leader of the Cuban Revolution, along with current Cuban President Raúl Castro and his brother Fidel, who died last November. Guevara, originally from Argentina, met Fidel in Mexico in 1955 and joined the Granma expedition to Cuba to relaunch the struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and lead Cuba’s working people to take political power.

“What was that characteristic that gave the precise measure of Che’s spirit

and soul?” Fidel Castro asked in a 1971 speech in Chile. “It was his moral qualities, his altruism, his absolute selflessness. He had met a group of Cubans; he became convinced of their cause; and from the very first moment he showed great selflessness and generosity. From the first moment he was absolutely willing to give his life, regardless of whether it was the first battle or the second or the third.”

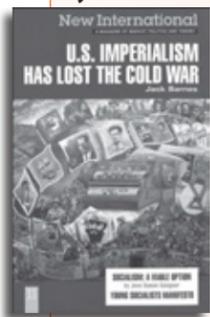
Brigadistas will meet with combatants who fought with Che in the Cuban Revolution or in Africa, where he led a column of Cuban volunteers fighting alongside anti-colonial combatants in the Congo after U.S.-backed Belgian troops organized the murder of Patrice Lumumba, the country’s prime minister and independence fighter.

“I just saw ‘Cuba, An African Odyssey,’ which shows how Cuba is clearly principled and how it values human development and life in action,” Samir Hazboun, 25, told the *Militant* July 22. He is one of seven people who have signed up to go with the Washington, D.C., Metro Cuba Coalition. “Now I’ll get to see the agricultural cooperatives, meet with the women’s organization and the Union of Young Communists, and hear firsthand about the strengths and challenges they have and how they organize together to solve problems.”

To sign up for the brigade or get more information, contact the Chicago Cuba Coalition at (312) 952-2618 or ICanGoToCuba@gmail.com.

U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

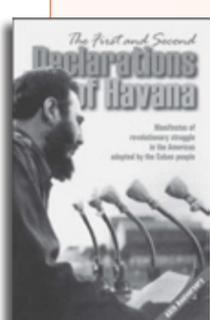
by Jack Barnes



U.S. imperialism has lost the Cold War, the Socialist Workers Party concluded after the collapse of regimes and parties across Eastern Europe and the USSR that claimed to be Communist. Contrary to imperialism’s hopes, the working class there has not been crushed.

in *New International* no. 11 \$16
Also in Spanish, French, Farsi, Swedish, Greek, Icelandic

The First and Second Declarations of Havana



Nowhere are questions of revolutionary strategy in the Americas addressed with greater truthfulness and clarity than in the First and Second Declarations of Havana, adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962.

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Universal health care is a right!

Continued from front page

ple take political power from the hands of the billionaire propertied families, install a government based on our organized and mobilized power and create a society that serves the interests of workers and farmers — those who produce all the wealth.

All the plans pushed by Democrats and Republicans, including “single payer” plans, are health *insurance* schemes, not *health care*. They are designed to boost the profits of the insurance, pharmaceutical, and hospital bosses — the “health industry.”

While some health insurance is better than nothing, the daily reality for working people is rising premiums, deductibles and co-pays for shrinking plans available on the “insurance market,” as the ruling class seeks to cut back social gains won through struggle — like government-funded Medicaid for those who can’t afford insurance premiums and Medicare for seniors.

Under capitalism, health care — like all basic needs of working people — is turned into a commodity produced and sold for profit. The propertied ruling families don’t wait in line to see a doctor or worry about whether they can afford exorbitant new drugs. But these are life-and-death questions for working people.

A shrinking number of workers and their unions have wrested some health care coverage from their employers. These plans are on the chopping block today, as bosses drive to slash costs, cut corners and

speed up work in an effort to maintain profits at our expense. They work overtime to divide us, telling the majority of workers who have no union, “Why should these people get better care than you?”

Health care is a *social* question — the working class and our unions need to organize a broad social struggle to demand government-funded medical care for all as a basic right! Workers can only hope to wrest concessions on medical care for our families and ourselves by fighting independently of the bosses’ Democratic and Republican parties on the road to taking political power into our own hands.

Revolutionary Cuba is the only country on this planet where health care is not a commodity. Since the 1959 revolution that put the working class in power, the social surplus generated by the collective labor of Cuba’s workers and farmers has been used to provide lifelong free, quality, preventative health care for every single person. Thousands of Cuban doctors and health workers volunteer to provide care to working people throughout the world, as they did during the recent Ebola crisis in West Africa.

The Socialist Workers Party is convinced it is necessary and possible for the working class in this country — and others — to overthrow the dictatorship of capital and open the door to work with others worldwide to build a socialist world, as workers and farmers did in Cuba. There is no better goal for which to dedicate your life. Join us in this struggle!

Workers face growing crisis in health care

Continued from front page

dent Donald Trump promised would be one of his top priorities.

Since its passage seven years ago, Obamacare, which includes a more than \$2,000 tax penalty per family for any year they don’t buy health insurance — insurance that is becoming increasingly costly — is unpopular among many working people.

Insurance premiums are scheduled to go up further. In Connecticut, for example, insurance company bosses have announced plans to jump premiums by 15 to 34 percent. In Maryland, workers will see increases from 18 to nearly 60 percent.

Whether it’s Obamacare or any of the failed Republican “overhauls” proposed so far, none make any pretense to provide health care for all who need it. All are based on a system of private profits for insurance, hospital and pharmaceutical companies. Many workers face limited options, with plans featuring soaring premiums, high deductibles, and shrinking coverage.

The Senate barely voted to open debate on Republican health proposals July 25, with Vice President Mike Pence breaking a 50-50 tie. But just a few hours later, their latest bill went down to defeat 57-43. The following day a proposal to repeal Obamacare and come up with a replacement within two years was also rejected.

Meanwhile, the health care crisis facing working people under the capitalist for-profit system continues to worsen, with the rising opioid epidemic, hospital closures and less care across large areas of the country.

Thousands from throughout Appalachia flocked to the annual free clinic set up in Wise, Virginia, July 21-23 for the only medical, dental and eye care they get, unable to afford insurance under Obamacare or qualify for Medicaid coverage. “I really think that they don’t have any clue what’s going on,” auto mechanic Larry McKnight, 37, told the *Washington Post*, pointing to politicians of all stripes in Washington. “You watch the news and it’s two sides pitted against each other, which in turn just makes them pitted against us, the normal person.” Some 29 million people in the U.S. have no health insurance today.

Rural hospital closures

Among those especially hard hit are some 90 million workers and farmers living in rural areas. Over the past seven years, 80 of the more than 1,800 rural hospitals have closed, with 673 others on the brink. At this rate, some 40 percent of U.S. rural hospitals could be shut in the years ahead.

Deteriorating care has had a big impact on pregnant women and newborns. Between 2004 and 2014 more than 200 hospitals have closed their birthing units. In Texas, just 70 of the state’s 162 rural hospitals deliver babies. Residents in 16 percent of Minnesota’s rural counties have seen maternity care there vanish over the past decade. Overall, 54 percent of rural counties lack hospital-based obstetrics, according to the University of Minnesota’s Rural Health Research Center.

In Cook County, Minnesota, Clare Shirley and her husband Dan had to drive two and a half hours to get to a hospital in Duluth where she could give birth, as the one closer to their home had shut its labor and delivery service. She just made it. This story is typical of the situation facing working-class women who can’t afford to take days off work or stay in hotels near the hospitals prior to giving birth. And it’s led to higher infant mortality rates, longer stays in intensive care units, and more out-of-hospital deliveries.

And there’s a shortage of doctors as many prefer to remain in large cities where pay is more lucrative. According to the National Rural Health Association, rural areas could be short 45,000 doctors by 2020, and specialists are even more scarce.

Drug costs for people under 65 are soaring — up 11.3 percent in 2016 and projected to go up another 11.6 percent this year. Wages are barely rising at all.

Many new drug prices are astronomical. When Gilead introduced its new hepatitis C drug Sovaldi, it set the cost at \$1,000 a pill, or \$84,000 a year.

The spreading opioid epidemic amid deteriorating health care has reached the point where “four out of five people with opioid use disorder do not receive treatment,” reported the *Post*.

The Middletown, Ohio, fire department reports that it sends people out on calls for drug overdoses — four to five a day — more often than to respond to a fire. Complaining that the cost of anti-overdose drug Naloxone threatens to bankrupt the city, council member Daniel Picard has submitted a bill that authorizes the fire department to respond if you overdose twice, but not a third time. Strike three and they’ll let you die.

One of the most controversial proposals by the Republican leadership in the Senate was deep cuts to Medicaid, an entitlement program won in 1965 as a result of the massive Black-led proletarian struggle that overthrew Jim Crow segregation. It provides medical care for workers with the lowest incomes and the disabled, covering more than 70 million people, including nearly 40 percent of all children, and half of all births in the country.

Liberals witch hunt

Continued from front page

Liberal papers, nighttime TV talk shows, morning commentators and countless others with blood in their mouth are full of calls to bring Trump down.

This is not normal capitalist politics.

The capitalist rulers saw something new and different in the 2016 elections that kindled fear of the working class. The object of their fear isn’t Trump, but the workers they saw behind his victory. Millions of workers and farmers are beginning to see that the capitalist political parties have no solutions for the carnage they face from today’s deepening crisis of capitalism — except throwing the monetary and human costs of their crisis onto the backs of working people. The rulers fear what they see coming out of this — sharpening class struggle.

“The media often reports that Trump won a majority of voters without college degrees, which is taken by Trump supporters as just a nicer way of being called stupid,” Gary Abernathy, editor of the *Times-Gazette* in Hillsboro, Ohio — where Trump won 75 percent of the votes — wrote July 21. For millions of people, he says, when Trump calls charges of collusion with Moscow “fake news,” he “strikes a chord because the Russia hysteria is not real news, either, not compared with the issues that impact their daily lives.”

What is important here for class-conscious workers is not that Trump is better politically than the liberals, he isn’t. His goal, like theirs, is to defend the interests of the capitalist system in a time of crisis.

But the appointment of a special counsel, and fawning praise from the liberals for this former FBI top cop, is dangerous for the working class. The special counsel is called out when the rulers are looking to get someone. He starts with a target and then goes to work to find something to use. He digs with no time limit, no limits on what he can investigate or the charges he can bring. His appointment undercuts the constitutional protections to due process in the Bill of Rights.

And bringing down Trump would tell millions of workers who voted for him that their votes are less meaningful than the liberals’ political vendetta.

Trump fights back

Trump has begun to call out those he suspects of being part of the “leakers” feeding the press frenzy. And others he believes have made it easier for the liberals to use whatever they can get their hands on to take him down.

This is what’s behind his complaints that Attorney General Jeff Sessions betrayed him when he recused himself from having anything to do with the “Russian collusion” charges.

And Trump criticized Sessions for failing to investigate Hillary Clinton over the scandal that found she had illegally sent and received “top-secret” information on her personal computer.

In a remarkable turnabout, the liberal press has now become a champion of Sessions, a politician they have pilloried as a racist and reactionary. The July 27 *Economist* ran an article headlined, “Jeff Sessions Is in Peril; So Is America.”

Trump went back on the road to mobilize the workers who elected him against the liberals’ crusade. He spoke to an overflow crowd of more than 6,000 in Youngstown, Ohio, July 25.

When he said he was glad to be “back in the center of the American heartland, far away from the Washington swamp,” he got some of the biggest cheers of the night, with loud chants of “Drain the swamp.”

“I don’t care for the hatred directed towards him or the people who supported him,” Dave Torrance, an African-American Trump supporter who attended the rally from Hermitage, Pennsylvania, told the *New York Post*. “There have been plenty of presidents I did not vote for, but I always want them to be successful so that our country is successful.”

“He’s exactly who we wanted, someone fresh, different, not a politician,” Roxanne Jewell, of Orangeville, Ohio, told the *Post*.

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