

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

World War II: How Washington tried to suppress 'Militant'

—PAGE 5

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 75/NO. 28 AUGUST 1, 2011

'Shorter workweek with no cut in pay'

Socialist candidate talks about jobs crisis

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK, July 17—"Something has to be done about unemployment. We can't keep on like this," Florentino Colon told Christopher Hoepfner, the

N.Y.—Socialist Workers candidate on ballot, p. 7

Socialist Workers Party candidate in the special September 13 election in the 9th Congressional District.

Last week Hoepfner and his cam-

paign supporters collected more than 7,000 signatures to put the Socialist Workers Party on the ballot in the district, which covers parts of Queens and Brooklyn. Today he and half a dozen supporters were back in the Forest Hills neighborhood of Queens campaigning.

Colon has worked as a doorman for 20 years. "Some people I know are working 10 to 12 hours a day," he told Hoepfner. "Meanwhile others are out of work. The big executives make millions while sacrificing working

Continued on page 7



Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Christopher Hoepfner, right, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in New York's 9th District, talks with nurse Sharon Salmon while campaigning in Forest Hills, Queens.

Working class is rulers' target in U.S. debt ceiling 'showdown'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Behind the supposed partisan showdown in Washington over raising the \$14.3 trillion federal "debt ceiling," Democrats and Republicans alike aim to impose cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other social programs vital to workers and farmers.

President Barack Obama, for example, is floating the idea of increasing the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67 and further reducing cost-of-living payments to Social Security recipients. The divided Republican membership in Congress peddle their own belt-tightening remedies.

Failure to raise the government's debt "limit" by August 2 "could plunge the world economy back in recession," the president told the press. Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke warned of a market crisis similar to the one that followed the 2008 bankruptcy of the Lehman Brothers investment house.

To pressure Republicans to vote

to lift the debt limit, Obama is using scare tactics. He told CBS News he can't guarantee Social Security checks will be sent out August 3 "be-

Continued on page 8

S.F. cops kill youth in chase over 75¢ fare

BY ERIC SIMPSON

SAN FRANCISCO—Police shot and killed a 19-year-old Black man here July 16 after they chased him for an alleged 75-cent "fare evasion." The San Francisco Medical Examiner's office identified the victim as Kenneth Harding of Seattle. Police refuse to reveal the names of the cops who killed him.

According to press reports and residents interviewed by the *Militant*, the young man was waiting on the plat-

Continued on page 3

Women's rights backers to mobilize in Maryland



Militant/Laura Anderson

Pro-choice picket in DuPage County, Illinois, July 9 to counter protest there by Pro-Life Action League. Supporters of women's right to choose abortion are gearing up for demonstrations in Germantown, Maryland, in response to actions planned there by rightist forces.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Women's rights supporters will join Summer Celebration of Choice actions in Germantown, Maryland, from July 31 to August 7. They are responding to plans by Operation Rescue, a right-wing opponent of women's rights, to target the abortion clinic there for nine days.

Germantown Reproductive Health Services has been in the crosshairs of rightist groups since December when LeRoy Carhart, one of the few doctors in the United States who performs abortions after the 21st week of pregnancy, began working there.

"Operation Rescue's intent is to close

the clinic," Laura Kacere, national campus organizer for the Feminist Majority Foundation, said in a phone interview. "We want to have as many people as possible in front of the clinic every day

All out July 31–Aug. 7! Keep the clinic open, p. 8

to make sure it stays open."

"It's an outrage the way these groups are targeting Dr. Carhart, his staff, and women who come to the clinic," Erin

Continued on page 3

Why U.S. gov't is startled by notion that Pacific isn't its eternal property

Washington's stepped-up efforts to maintain its 66-year-long military dominance in the Pacific was at the heart of a four-day trip to China in mid-July by Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mullen visited military facilities, spoke at one of the

incident does not rise to a level of miscalculation which could become very dangerous and get out of control."

Mullen used the visit to continue the imperialist rulers' anti-China drumbeat

Continued on page 4

EDITORIAL

country's main universities, and held talks with high-ranking government officials, including Gen. Chen Bingde, chief of the general staff of the Chinese armed forces.

In arrogant language laced with diplomatic phrases, the top military officer of U.S. finance capital told the audience at Renmin University that China has "arrived as a world power" and that the imperial alliance Washington leads hopes to resolve disputes with Beijing "in a responsible way, so that a specific

Also Inside:

- Bosses, gov't to blame for rail-crossing 'accidents' 2
- Queens, N.Y., strike rally backs building workers 4
- Stakes for working people in Murdoch 'hacking' story 6
- Rallies in Egypt condemn military rule 8

Midwest flood disaster: ‘Not just Mother Nature’

BY MAURA DELUCA

HONEY CREEK, Iowa—“I wouldn’t mind as much if this was just Mother Nature, but it wasn’t. This government cares more about the environmentalists’ concerns than people’s livelihoods,” said George West Jr., a farmer in Crescent, Iowa, one of the many small towns along the Missouri River where workers and farmers are affected by severe flooding. *Militant* reporters visited the area July 9.

West, a 70-year-old corn and bean farmer, has 850 acres of land under water. He said he knows of well over 30 farms flooded in the area, which equals “quite a few thousand acres.” According to the *Des Moines Register*, “more than 560,000 acres in seven states have flooded, including nearly 447,000 acres of farmland. About a third of the flooded land is in Iowa, including about 158,000 acres of farmland.”

West said he and his neighbors have to travel to their homes by boat. His brother was fined \$86 by police for not having a life vest in his boat. “We’re already hurt, and it can’t get much worse for us,” said West, “but I hope it doesn’t go into Council Bluffs. A lot of people would get hurt.” Council Bluffs, Iowa, is a town of some 60,000 right across the river from Omaha, Nebraska.

“I don’t know if the water will be gone by next year. In [the flood of] 1952 the water came through and went, but now there are six dams, not just one, and they’re storing so much water.” West expressed concerns that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did not release water from reservoirs early

enough to avoid some of the flooding. “We’re not getting much info,” said West, who is hoping his insurance will cover the damage.

Further frustrating Missouri farmers, the corps sent out letters to farmers along the Missouri River in June as the flood hit, asking them to consider selling land to the army that would be used to restore fish and wildlife habitat. After some angry protests by farmers receiving the letter, corps spokesperson Tony Hoffman dismissed it as a “staff misfunction.”

Joe Swanson contributed to this article.

Bosses, gov’t to blame for rail-crossing ‘accidents’

BY JIM ALTENBERG
AND JOEL BRITTON

SACRAMENTO, California—Rail workers and other working people are discussing what can be done in the face of yet another unnecessary fatal train

COMMENT

crash amid the transportation bosses’ “productivity” drive and penny-pinching by state governments.

Six people died June 24 at the Highway 95 rail crossing east of Reno, Nevada, when a big rig crashed into Amtrak’s California Zephyr passenger train.

Among those killed were conductor Laurette Lee, 68, and Lawrence Valli, 43, the truck driver. Fourteen crew



AP Photo/Argus Leader, Devin Wagner

Dave Reinschmidt visits his flooded farm near Wagner, South Dakota, June 9. George West Jr., a farmer downriver in Honey Creek, Iowa, told *Militant* that far from providing needed relief, government’s response to flood is big part of problems facing farmers.

members and 204 passengers were on board. More than 150 were treated for injuries, including Amtrak workers Richard d’Alesandro and Loxie Sanders, who courageously pulled passengers out of the burning cars.

The highway speed limit is 70 mph and trains travel at nearly 80 mph. Flashing lights go on and a gate comes down across the road only 20–25 seconds before a train reaches the crossing. Amtrak engineer Ron Kaminkow applied the emergency brakes, but the train went half a mile before stopping. Valli’s truck skidded more than 100 yards before hitting the train.

Amtrak has filed suit against Valli’s employer, John Davis Trucking. Charging negligence, the rail bosses seek to deflect attention away from their unsafe operations.

The U.S. 95 crossing is one of thousands of dangerous ones that could be eliminated by constructing highway overpasses. Nevada Department of Transportation spokesman Scott Magruder blamed crossing accidents on “inattentive driving” but said the agency would consider adjusting speed limits and warning lights, reported the *Reno Gazette-Journal*. He admitted that what the paper called a “more dramatic fix” would be an overpass. But “that would be costly,” he said.

The Federal Railway Administration, a body responsible for railroad safety, reports that some “900 deaths occur every year” at highway-rail crossings and along railroad rights-of-way. The

U.S. Department of Transportation says there are “more than 3,000 highway-rail crossing incidents annually,” in which 300–400 people are killed.

Most recently a driver was killed and several people injured July 11 when an Amtrak train hit a tractor-trailer in North Berwick, Maine.

Many “incidents” are not reported. This includes a “near miss” at the Highway 95 crossing last September, according to the *Gazette-Journal*. Amtrak engineer Jack Rice was the engineer and Lee was a conductor when a truck driver narrowly avoided a crash by turning into the guard rails and tower beside the road.

Truckers are being pushed to drive longer hours without breaks. Rail workers face shrinking crew sizes and grueling, ever-changing schedules. Both face unsafe rail crossings and fake “regulatory” agencies, which take the greatest care in protecting the “safety” of the rail owners’ profits.

The murderous “productivity” drive we face today is part and parcel of the deepening crisis of capitalist rule, which puts profits before the needs—and the lives and limbs—of working people. Until workers, who *are* concerned about safety, begin to use our collective power to push back, this profit-driven system will bring more “accidents.” And the bosses will continue to blame us.

Jim Altenberg is an Amtrak conductor and member of United Transportation Union Local 1732.

THE MILITANT

Oppose FBI raids, grand jury probes!

Since last September the FBI has raided the homes of political activists in several cities and served them with subpoenas to appear before grand juries. The ‘Militant’ keeps you informed of the government’s political frame-ups and how you can join protests against them.



Door to activist Carlos Montes’s house after May 17 FBI/SWAT team raid.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE E-MAIL

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

The Militant

Vol. 75/No. 28

Closing news date: July 20, 2011

Editor: Steve Clark

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Harry D’Agostino, Seth Galinsky, John Hawkins, Cindy Jaquith, Doug Nelson, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in June, and one week in September.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £75 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Conflict sharpens in Kansas over women’s right to choose

BY MAGGIE TROWE

WICHITA, Kansas—“The way I see it, people should stay out of other people’s business,” Mike Sherrets told the *Militant*. The 58-year-old house painter said he doesn’t like the efforts of rightists to thwart plans for a new abortion clinic in Wichita. Abortion is a personal matter for a woman to decide herself, he believes.

Sherrets lives across the street from the College Hill United Methodist Church, where more than 150 people turned out June 24 to hear Dr. Mila Means, who has announced she will begin performing abortions in the city.

According to the *Wichita Eagle*, 15 to 20 antiabortion demonstrators outside the church held what they claimed were photos of aborted fetuses and shouted at people entering the meeting.

“We need a safe and secure place to do abortions here,” Means told the gathering, according to the *Eagle*. While there are three abortion clinics in the state, there have been none in Wichita since the murder of Dr. George Tiller by a rightist in 2009. In the early 1990s there had been three, prior to a sustained harassment effort by Operation Rescue.

In April the Kansas state legislature passed a bill requiring abortion providers to obtain a license and meet onerous

requirements. Two of the three clinics are unable to meet the new regulations. A court injunction was issued blocking implementation pending the outcome of a suit challenging the law.

“The regulations are political” and aimed at shutting down the clinics, Kari Ann Rinker, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in Kansas, told the *Militant*.

On May 13 Kansas lawmakers banned general medical insurance from covering abortion except when the mother’s life is at risk. Women would be required to purchase a rider covering abortions. The legislature has also required minors to get permission from both parents to obtain an abortion, and has outlawed most abortions after 21 weeks of pregnancy.

Nicki Scheid, a member of the board of Wichita NOW, said women are being pushed back to the days when they had no alternative to dangerous back-alley abortions.

NOW plans an August 6 First Amendment Freedom rally here, to protest state police prohibiting NOW demonstrators from bringing placards on sticks or flags on poles to the state capitol.

‘The police turned the victim into the criminal’



Militant/Betsey Stone

SAN FRANCISCO—Carole Lesnick, Socialist Workers Party candidate for district attorney here, addresses July 18 speak-out on police killing of Kenneth Harding.

The day before Lesnick and Lea Sherman, SWP candidate for San Francisco mayor, visited the neighborhood where Harding was killed to talk with workers and condemn the fatal shooting of the young man. They also denounced the July 3 cop killing of Charles Hill.

“In both cases the police have turned the victim into the criminal,” the SWP candidates said in a statement passed out here. “The police officers who brutally killed these two men acted as judge, jury, and executioner. They should be arrested, prosecuted, and punished.”

—ERIC SIMPSON

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

FLORIDA Miami

Celebrate the 58th Anniversary of the Opening Battle of the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Tom Baumann, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 30. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m.; followed by party. 719 NE 79th St. (one block east of Biscayne). Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

MINNESOTA Minneapolis

The Crisis of the Dictatorship of Capital and the Growing Responsiveness in the Working Class to a Revolutionary Perspective. Speaker: Maggie Trowe, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 30, 8 p.m. 1311 1/2 E. Lake St. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

TEXAS Houston

Vote Socialist Workers Party! Amanda Ulman for Mayor of Houston. Speaker: Amanda Ulman, SWP candidate for mayor. Sat., July 30, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-50L. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.

WASHINGTON Seattle

U.S. and NATO Troops out of Afghanistan! Hands Off Pakistan, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, and Somalia! Fri., July 29, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 5418 Rainier Ave. S Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

AUSTRALIA Sydney

How Workers Can Join Together to Transform Social Relations. Speaker: Linda Harris, Communist League. Fri., July 29, 7 p.m. Donation: \$4. Upstairs, 281-7 Beamish St., Campsie. Tel.: (02) 9718 9698.

UNITED KINGDOM London

‘Hacking’ Scandal: What’s at Stake for the Working Class? Speaker: Ögmundur Johnsson, Communist League. Fri., July 29, 7 p.m. 120 Bethnal Green Rd. (entrance on Brick Lane). Tel.: (020) 7613 2466.

San Francisco cops shoot, kill Black youth

Continued from front page

form on the T-Third Street light rail line when he was approached by two uniformed San Francisco police officers as part of a “violence reduction” operation.

“He was sitting on the platform. They targeted him,” said Rashid Preston, a computer science student at City College of San Francisco who lives nearby. “They sit here and bother us all day.”

“You see this type of racial profiling every day by police officers. It never stops,” said Ashawn Hunter, also a City College student.

According to press reports, the victim was shot from behind multiple times a few hundred yards from the train stop as he was running from the police.

Two videos posted on the Internet show the youth lying in a pool of blood surrounded by cops with guns drawn.

Cops allege he drew a gun and fired at them while running, an accusation disputed by resident Henry Taylor. “What I saw was a young man running for his life,” Taylor told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Police claim they retrieved Harding’s gun the following day.

Immediately after the shooting, dozens of cops closed off a three-block area, including busy Third Street. Residents expressed their anger and outrage while cops in riot gear, clubs and guns drawn, stood shoulder to shoulder. One resident said she counted more than 60 cops. An armored assault vehicle was on the

scene as well.

“If a 75-cent transfer means that much, if it’s going to cost the lives of our kids, take the ‘T-line’ away,” said Kitty, a retired Muni operator who lives in the neighborhood and asked that her last name not be used. “The police target this station for fare-evasion citations. They have been ‘head-hunting’ here—it’s been ugly.”

The police department has portrayed

Harding as a “pimp,” parole violator, and suspected killer. A press conference and speak-out against police brutality of about 100 people was held July 18.

The killing comes only two weeks after Bay Area Rapid Transit cops killed 45-year-old Charles Hill on the Civic Center train platform July 3. Hill, who was Caucasian, homeless, and had a history of mental illness, was killed during a one-minute confrontation.

Pro-choice action in Maryland

Continued from front page

Matson told the *Militant*. Matson is action vice president of the National Organization for Women (NOW). “We will be there to demonstrate women’s right to control our own destinies and to ensure a robust, peaceful presence.”

Matson noted that a woman’s right to choose is facing attacks elsewhere in the United States. “It’s not just in Germantown. There are double the number of antichoice bills being considered in state legislatures across the country,” she said, “even though the majority is pro-choice.”

Operation Rescue claims its actions are modeled on the 1991 Summer of Mercy in Wichita, Kansas, when hundreds of opponents of women’s rights blocked clinic entrances, often with the collusion of cops and city authorities. The most prominent women’s rights organizations didn’t mobilize in a timely way to answer the antichoice forces, nor did union officials and civil rights groups.

But when Operation Rescue tried to repeat their success in April 1992 in Buffalo, New York, the new attempt failed. They were surprised to find thousands of women’s rights supporters defending the clinics, which stayed open.

“This time we are not being called to Wichita, Kansas, but to Germantown,” the Summer of Mercy 2.0 website says. “We believe God is issuing a similar call

to ‘establish justice in the gates’ of our nation.”

According to the group’s website, they are planning actions at the Germantown clinic and other locations during the week, culminating in a “Cross 4 Life” at the clinic on August 7. The Summer of Mercy 2.0 is officially backed by the Catholic Archdiocese in Washington and Baltimore.

Antichoice groups harass clinics

Rightist groups routinely harass patients and workers at clinics around the country. In Orlando, Florida, Operation Save America protested in small groups outside four clinics starting July 16 in conjunction with its national gathering being held there.

On July 9 NOW in DuPage County near Chicago helped organize a picket to counter an action by the Pro-Life Action League, which has been on tour holding up giant posters of fetuses in public areas. While the pro-choice picket began with just six participants, 12 people who saw the action parked their cars and joined in, including a taxi driver and a teacher.

Supporters of the Summer Celebration of Choice are reaching out to build the Germantown pro-choice presence. According to Kacere, the Feminist Majority Foundation is working with students from American University, Mont-

Continued on page 8

Pacific isn't U.S. property

Continued from front page

concerning the South China Sea, where Washington is exploiting disputes between Beijing and several Southeast Asian governments over claims to territorial waters and islands in order to maintain U.S. hegemony in the Pacific and extend provocative military maneuvers aimed at China.

A few weeks before Mullen's arrival, the U.S. military had concluded 11 days of joint exercises with the navy of the Philippines, involving two U.S. guided-missile destroyers. Manila is one of the bourgeois governments in the region—all of which look to the U.S. Pacific Fleet as their protector—that are sparring with Beijing in hopes of wresting parts of the South China Sea. Last month Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pledged Washington would provide "affordable material and equipment that will assist the Philippines military to take the steps necessary to defend itself."

As Mullen arrived in Beijing, U.S., Japanese, and Australian warships were carrying out their first joint exercises in the South China Sea off the coast of the Sultanate of Brunei, another of the capitalist regimes pushing for control of sea lanes and seabeds in the region.

'We're a Pacific power'

Washington is determined to extend its two-thirds-of-a-century-long naval dominance of the Pacific, conquered with U.S. imperialism's bloody triumph in World War II. That victory was capped in 1945 by U.S. firebombing and nuclear assaults on cities across Japan, in which hundreds of thousands of civilians were burned alive, suffocated, or killed by massive radiation.

The U.S. Navy's control of the South China Sea—with its vital trade routes, large oil and gas deposits, and proximity to major U.S. allies and rivals—was among Washington's most cherished spoils of war.

"We are and will remain a Pacific power," Mullen emphasized in the Renmin University speech—echoing a refrain of top U.S. officials for many years and multiple administrations, including recently Secretary of State Clinton and former defense secretary Robert Gates.

According to statements featured on a U.S. Navy website, the U.S. Pacific Fleet "remains the world's largest naval command, extending from the West Coast of the United States, into the Indian Ocean, encompassing three oceans, six continents, and more than half the Earth's surface." It has "180 ships, nearly 2,000 aircraft, and 125,000 Sailors, Marines, and Civilians."

In 1968, at the height of Washington's war against Vietnam, the fleet had "225 ships committed to operations in the South China Sea" alone, according to the U.S. Navy command.

From bygone days when "the sun never set on the British Empire," as the

saying went, to Washington's post-1945 Pacific dominance, China has faced the depredations of colonial and imperialist powers that ruled the seas. With the 1949 Chinese Revolution and overturn of capitalist social relations in the early 1950s, the peasants and workers lifted the boot of imperial domination from their necks.

In recent years, the Chinese government's first steps to build a blue-water navy have been met by Washington's efforts to even further reinforce the U.S. military presence in the Pacific. The U.S. rulers have redeployed the bulk of their aircraft carriers from the Atlantic and strengthened military alliances with capitalist governments in the region, including Pakistan and India to China's west, Thailand and Malaysia to China's south, and Taiwan, South Korea, and the Philippines to the east. Washington has been expanding joint operations with the other imperialist powers in the region, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

The government of the workers state in Vietnam—reunified in 1975 following defeat of Washington's war to roll back the Vietnamese Revolution—has since 2003 established limited, defense-related ties with the U.S. military, including joint exercises with three U.S. warships July 15.

In early 1979, after toppling the murderous Beijing-backed Pol Pot regime in Cambodia, Vietnam's troops had to repel an invasion by Beijing, in which some 10,000 Vietnamese soldiers and civilians were killed and substantial damage inflicted on infrastructure, factories, and housing.

Last month Hanoi accused Chinese ships of interfering with a Vietnamese oil exploration mission and responded with live-fire drills off its coast.

'Area-denial' capabilities

U.S. rulers are fretting over what they call the Chinese military's growing "anti-access and area denial" capabilities. "Of particular concern is the expanding inventory of ballistic and cruise missiles (which include anti-ship capability) and the development of modern, fourth- and fifth-generation stealthy aircraft," Adm.

Queens, N.Y., strike rally backs building workers



Militant/Stu Singer

QUEENS, New York—More than 150 people joined a solidarity rally July 14 to support 25 building maintenance workers in Far Rockaway, Queens. Members of Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union at Dayton Beach Park Co-ops went on strike July 7.

Members of 32BJ from other buildings joined the rally. "Most of our guys are here supporting the strike," said Malcolm Louis, who works at nearby Bay Towers. "We know what they are going through. We know how hard they work," said one of two dozen Dayton Beach Park residents at the rally. Striker Alex Latorre explained that the bosses want to lay off six workers, impose a four-year wage freeze, and charge more for health insurance. "There's only so much you can take," he said.

—BERNIE SENTER

Robert Willard, head of the U.S. Pacific Command, reported April 12 to an open hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Beijing is working to develop the world's first anti-ship ballistic missile, dubbed the "carrier killer," and has established a satellite surveillance system.

"There are some very specific capabilities that are being developed here that are very focused on the United States' capability," Mullen told the press during his visit in Beijing. That Washington might not be the eternal owner of the entire Pacific seems a startling notion.

Days before Admiral Mullen's foray, the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution supporting "the continuation of operations by the United States Armed Forces in support of freedom of navigation rights in international waters

and air space in the South China Sea." Translation: Washington's "freedom" to maintain its aerial reconnaissance and joint naval maneuvers directed against China.

Several times during Mullen's trip, General Chen publicly and demonstratively objected to ongoing reconnaissance intrusions and provocative joint maneuvers in the South China Sea. "At least, I think this is bad timing," said General Chen. "It's not that difficult a thing to change a schedule," he later drily added.

"As I told the Chinese, the United States isn't going away," Mullen said soon after his trip. "We've operated in the South China Sea for many decades and we will continue to do that."

A sense of history has never been Washington's strong suit.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 1, 1986

NEW YORK—Forty-six undocumented Salvadoran refugees in Long Island were arrested by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in factory raids on Long Island, shackled in chains, and sent to a new INS detention center in Oakdale, Louisiana.

The 46 Salvadorans were arrested in raids at Austin Productions in Holbrook, Long Island, and American Tissue Corp. in Farmingdale, Long Island.

In the course of the raids, all exits to the factories were blocked, and only "foreign-looking" persons were questioned. Those detained were taken in handcuffs to the INS offices in Manhattan. They were informed of proceedings in English, were not allowed to make telephone calls, and were not fed.

The Center for Immigrant Rights, along with Central American refugee organizations and civil liberties groups, have launched an effort to defend these refugees.



July 24 & 31, 1961

The antisegregation movement has scored notable victories in Atlanta, Ga., and Oklahoma City, Okla.

The national office of the NAACP announced July 21 that the Negro community of 60,000 in Atlanta has resumed shopping in the downtown stores of that city after a 15-month boycott in protest against segregation. The "no-buying" drive was launched after several Negro students were arrested for staging sit-ins at Jim Crow lunch counters. These counters have now been integrated.

The victory in Oklahoma City is particularly gratifying since it was the scene of the nation's first lunch-counter sit-ins and did much to help spark the south-wide drive that followed.

Organized by the NAACP Youth Council, the first sit-ins were held there in August 1958. The youth council, which had but 14 members at the time, now has a reported 3,000.



December 26, 1936

Although the blanks for registering 26,000,000 workers for old age pensions have been sent out by the Social Security Board, no move has as yet been made to eliminate those aspects of the new act which have aroused the vigilance of organized labor.

Aside from the fact that workers will still be required by law to contribute a portion of their hard-earned wages which they cannot afford, the Board has done nothing to assure workers that they will not be discriminated against by employers.

Workers, now young, who by the remote year of 1980 or 1985 will become eligible for old age pensions will receive no enviable amount although calculated on the basis of a lifetime of earnings. But workers who will be 65 or over by 1942, the earliest date for the first payment, will receive a mere pittance even if they have been lucky enough to have been steadily employed.

NEW INTERNATIONAL
MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY
Capitalism's long hot winter has begun

by Jack Barnes
In New International no. 12

Includes the article
"Their Transformation
and Ours"

\$16

www.pathfinderpress.com

Below is an excerpt from The Socialist Workers Party in World War II by James P. Cannon, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for July. Cannon describes the attacks by the Democratic Party administration of President Franklin Roosevelt on the Militant's mailing rights.

The article appeared in the Nov. 28, 1942, issue of the paper. That month three consecutive issues dated November 7, 14, and 21 were “disposed of” by the U.S. Post Office—that is, destroyed. This action was taken by government authorities without any explanation or advance notification of the editor.

The Roosevelt administration claimed, among other charges, that articles in the paper defending Black rights were a "stimulation of race issues." In March 1943 the postmaster general revoked the Militant's

second-class mailing rights. Despite continued government attempts to censor the paper, the Militant was sent out as third or fourth class, which was much slower and more expensive. The Militant won restoration of its mailing rights a year later after protests by leaders of Black rights groups, trade unions, and civil liberties organizations. Copyright © 1975 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

As reported last week, the issues of November 7 and November 14 were held up by the post office authorities. Since then the November 7 issue has been destroyed at the post office on orders from Washington, and the issue of November 21, which carried a report and protest against these arbitrary actions, has likewise been held up. We have learned from attorneys of the Post Office Department that *The Militant* has been subjected to these persecutions because of its editorial policies and criticisms of the administration. . . .

In a featured article in the *New York Times*, Sunday, September 21, 1941, Roosevelt's Attorney General Biddle was quoted as saying: "Insofar as I can, by the use of the authority and influence of my office, I intend to see that civil liberties in this country are protected; that we do not again fall into the disgraceful hysteria of witch-hunts, strikebreakings, and minority persecutions which were such a dark chapter in our record of the last world war."

We could quote similar declarations of intent from President Roosevelt and other high officials of his administration.

These declarations flagrantly contradict the policy of persecution initiated by Roosevelt's administration against our movement. Despite their promises Roosevelt and his aides have set their feet upon the path of persecution blazed by the Wilson administration in the last war. President Roosevelt takes up where Wilson left off; Attorney General Biddle, with his raids and prosecutions, imitates Attorney General Palmer; Postmaster General Walker suppresses socialist and labor papers like his Democratic predecessor Burleson; OWI [Office of War Information] head Davis suppresses the news of our suppression like propaganda minister Creel during the last war. They "use the authority and influence" of their offices, not to protect civil liberties, but to abridge them. Persecutions speak louder than promises.

The administration claims that it is waging this war to defend democracy against the fascists and to preserve the four freedoms, among them the freedom of speech and freedom of the press. But what are they actually doing? They attack free speech. They attack the free

press. While dealing with quislings and fascists abroad, they strike at genuine antifascists at home. . . .

We are unremitting fighters in the interests of labor. We fight for the preservation of all democratic rights and civil liberties, against every form of inequality and injustice. As revolutionary socialists, we are principled opponents of the Roosevelt administration and criticize it from the standpoint of the socialist and labor movement.

These are our crimes in the eyes of the administration, and they add to their crimes in attacking us for them. The Roosevelt regime claims to oppose fascism but it collaborates, when expedient, with the fascists. It claims to be defending the four freedoms while trying to deny these freedoms to its political opponents. We Trotskyists, however, are defending democratic rights here at home against Roosevelt's assault upon them. We are fighting for the freedom he hypocritically pretends to be safeguarding.

But we are not defending these rights for ourselves alone. We are fighting on behalf of the entire labor movement in the United States. We are only the first to be attacked. If the government can put through these initial moves without a wide protest, prosecution of others will surely follow.

If *The Militant* can be suppressed, any CIO or AFL paper can be likewise suppressed. If our party's candidates are not given their electoral rights, other parties can be similarly disfranchised. If the leaders of Local 544-CIO can be convicted under the Smith "Gag" Act, this law will be used against other militant trade union leaders. If the FBI can succeed in their frame-ups against us, they will extend the frame-up system to others.

The persecution against the Trotskyist movement is simply the first step toward an all-out campaign against the militants in the trade unions and the civil liberties of all working-class critics of the administration. The workers have already been denied the right of collective bargaining and the right to strike. Are they now to be deprived (by the powers that be) of the elementary right to express their convictions, to criticize the acts of the government and the reactionary plots of the profiteers, to defend their interests *even in words*? Wages have been frozen. Are civil liberties also to be frozen? The cost of living is mounting daily. Is the wave of reaction to be permitted to rise along with it? . . .

These are the reasons why our fight should be supported by the whole labor movement and every sincere believer in democratic rights and civil liberties.



Front page of Nov. 28, 1942, *Militant* condemning government moves to suppress paper. Inset, James P. Cannon, national secretary of Socialist Workers Party, in August 1940. Attack on *Militant*, writes Cannon, is first step toward all-out drive against working-class fighters in the trade unions. "Wages have been frozen," he said. "Are civil liberties also to be frozen? The cost of living is mounting daily. Is the wave of reaction to be permitted to rise along with it?"

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4025
S. Western Ave. Zip: 90062. Tel: (323)
295-2600. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net
San Francisco: 5482 Mission St. Zip: 94112-
1015. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf
@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 719 NE 79th St. Zip: 33138. Mailing address: P.O. Box 381063 Zip: 33238-1063. Tel: (305) 757-8869. E-mail: swpmiami@att.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 476 1/2 Edgewood Ave. Zip: 30312. Tel: (404) 525-5200. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 806 W. Washington
Blvd. Suite 202. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 455-
0111. E-mail: Chicagoswp@att.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave.
Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail:
swpdesmoines@qwestoffice.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13
Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Bos-

ton. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169.
E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 1311 1/2
E. Lake St. Zip: 55407. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-
mail: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

NEW YORK: Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 3701
Pulaski Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 225-1270.
E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-50L. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston@att.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 143
Kennedy St. NW, Suite 15. Zip:
20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail:
swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@qwestoffice.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish
St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing

address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194.
Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis
#204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. E-mail:
cllc_can@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe.
Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37.
E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 4/125 Grafton Rd., Grafton.
Postal address: P.O. Box 3025, Auckland
1140. Tel: (09) 369-1223. E-mail: clauack@
xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green Road (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: (020) 7613-2466. E-mail: cllondon@fastmail.fm
Manchester: Room 301, 3rd floor, Hilton House, 26–28 Hilton St. Postal code: M1 2EH. Tel: 0161-478-2496. E-mail: clmanchr@gmail.com

July BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

**25%
DISCOUNT**

The Socialist Workers Party in World War II

by James P. Cannon

Preparing the communist movement in the U.S. to join with other working people in campaigning against wartime censorship, repression, and antiunion assaults.

\$25. Special price: \$18.75

An Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory

by Ernest Mandel

\$11. Special price: \$8.25

John Coltrane and the Jazz Revolution of the 1960s

by Frank Kofsky

\$25. Special price: \$18.75

Their Morals and Ours

by Leon Trotsky, John Dewey

\$15. Special price: \$11.25

Out Now!

A Participant's Account of the Movement in the United States against the Vietnam War

by Fred Halstead

\$35. Special price: \$26.25

El aborto: derecho fundamental de la mujer (Abortion is a Woman's Right!)

by Pat Grogan, Evelyn Reed

\$6. Special price: \$4.50

**Join Pathfinder Readers Club
for \$10 and receive
discounts all year long**

**ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL JULY 31**

Stakes for working people in Murdoch ‘hacking’ story

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—It’s been like a movie thriller. Revelations and allegations that the Murdoch-owned *News of the World* hacked phones and secretly taped interviews of everyone from murder victims, to families of those killed in the September 2001 World Trade Center attack in New York and July 2005 bombings in London, to actors, politicians, and members of the British royal family. They used private eyes, hired thugs, and paid tens of thousands of pounds to police for “information.”

COMMENT

As with any blockbuster, the story has drawn tens of millions into following the saga, as cops and media tycoons appear before parliamentary committees, the 168-year-old *News of the World* is closed, and former editors and others are arrested.

But what are the stakes for working people in all this?

Right to privacy

Media intrusion on privacy—anyone’s privacy—is an assault on the basic dignity of all. And millions of workers are rightly outraged. Down the road, such prying, “legal” or “illegal,” aims to push back workers’ capacity to organize and struggle in our own class interests.

The biggest intruder, however, is not the media but the capitalist state and its agencies.

It is claimed that the *News of the World* hacked the phones of some 4,000 people. But the British cops

have files on millions.

Under the banner of the “war against terror” and the “fight against crime,” state agencies tap phones and Internet connections and scrutinize emails to keep tabs on us. Electronic bugging is already admissible as court evidence, and the government has announced it will expand the admissibility of other intercepted evidence. The last Labour government greatly expanded the role and numbers of spying agencies, and the current Conservative Party–Liberal Democrat coalition government is preparing further expansion.

Recently courts ruled that police can keep files for 100 years on people convicted of minor offenses. The cops keep records on anyone who reports a crime and maintain a Sex Offenders Register. Using National Insurance numbers, car licensing, and other methods, the state keeps files on almost the entire population. Not to mention the national census, other official surveys, immigration and Customs authorities, welfare inspectors, and more.

Such spying and harassment by the state was extensively employed during the 1984–85 coal miners strike. The media acted in tandem, including by distorting the news and smearing miners’ leaders.

Capitalist competition

The holier-than-thou anti-Murdoch coverage in the *Guardian*, the *Telegraph*, and BBC broadcasts explicitly downplays state prying. The “real villains here are not the police, but the journalists and newspaper executives who have used corrupt and criminal



Top: British police charge miners at Orgreave coke depot during 1984–85 coal strike. BBC news coverage of the “Battle of Orgreave” gave false impression mounted police only charged miners after coming under hail of stones. Throughout strike, media acted in tandem with government to smear workers. Right: News about Rupert Murdoch is displayed on ticker in New York at building that houses News Corp. The alliance of “respectable press” against News Corp. has nothing to do with protecting political rights and everything to do with clipping wings of a capitalist rival.



methods,” wrote the *Telegraph* in a July 12 editorial.

The alliance of “the respectable press” against Rupert Murdoch has nothing to do with protecting political rights and everything to do with clipping the wings of a capitalist rival.

Anyone who reads the British press—“red top” tabloids and broadsheets alike—or who follows the broadcast media knows that Murdoch’s News Corp. is hardly alone in trampling on rights and dignity.

It is capitalist competition that is driving News Corp.’s detractors, including the hypocritical cries that led to Murdoch’s withdrawal of his £8 billion (US\$12.9 billion) bid to increase his control of the UK media group BSkyB.

The fact that Australian-born Murdoch is a naturalized U.S. citizen and News Corp. a U.S.-based company adds a strong dose of interimperialist rivalry, with calls to fight “foreign control of the British media.”

Working people have no interest in backing this nationalist campaign, designed to divide working people in the United Kingdom from workers in other countries.

Bourgeois party factionalism

The “Murdoch affair” is also fueled by the sharpening factionalism among capitalist parties in the United Kingdom. This factionalism rises in step with their political convergence around the rulers’ course of making workers and their imperialist rivals pay for the crisis—through eroding living standards, increasing the pace of work, and waging war from Libya to Afghanistan.

With the political distance between Labour, the Liberal Democrats, and the Tories so narrow, factionalism is the only way to stake out some apparent political ground. This is sharpened by a coarsening of political and cultural life, in which the capitalist media has a special place, and the greater susceptibility of ruling-class institutions to “scandal.”

The working class has no interest in sensationalist gossip promoted by the

rulers for their own ends.

Nor should we support calls by the bourgeois parties for increased state “regulation” of the media. There are already an abundance of such measures in the United Kingdom, like DA (“Defence Advisory”) notices, a supposedly voluntary arrangement under which the government censors the media in the name of “national security.”

Working people should have no doubt that such “regulation” will be used with full force against the workers movement and our right to organize and act in our class interests—including the right to produce and circulate our own newspapers.

In the course of the recent debate, many on the left have trembled before what they describe as the immense power of the media and of the “Murdoch empire” in particular. This is greatly exaggerated. History shows that, try as they might through both propaganda and repression, the capitalist rulers cannot prevent revolutionary struggle by working people. Indeed, such struggle is inevitable as they drive to make working people pay for their crisis.

In the course of such struggle, human solidarity—the opposite of the gutter into which the propertied ruling families, ably abetted by the media, would like to drag us—gets forged anew and prepares us to reorganize society in the interests of the vast majority.

FOR FURTHER READING

Cointelpro: The FBI’s Secret War on Political Freedom

by Nelson Blackstock

Describes decades-long covert counterintelligence program—Cointelpro—directed against socialists and activists in the Black and anti-Vietnam War movements.

\$15

Pathfinderpress.com



London march demands right to abortion



Militant/Alex Xezonakis

LONDON—Some 250 people rallied outside Parliament here July 9 to defend a woman’s right to choose abortion. The action was called to protest proposals to introduce mandatory pre-abortion counseling by outfits, including those opposed to women’s rights, not affiliated with abortion providers. These changes “will delay women getting the treatment they need, and they will expose them to biased and inaccurate counseling,” Darinka Aleksic from Abortion Rights told the rally.

—ALEX XEZONAKIS

Socialists begin campaign for N.Y. Assembly seats

BY RUTH ROBINETT

NEW YORK—The Socialist Workers Party has nominated three candidates in the special September 13 elections for New York State Assembly. The SWP is also running Christopher Hoepfner for U.S. Congress in the 9th District.

Harry D'Agostino, 19, is running in the 27th Assembly District, which includes College Point, Willets Point, Kew Gardens, and parts of Forest Hills and Richmond Hill. D'Agostino works in a food manufacturing and distribution center and is a student at the State University of New York in New Paltz. In June he participated in the Third International Youth Conference in Solidarity with the Cuban Five in Havana. The five are Cuban revolutionaries serving long prison terms in the United States for monitoring the activities of right-wing Cuban exiles who have carried out violent attacks against Cuba.

Seth Galinsky, 54, is running in the 23rd A.D., which covers most of Rockaway Peninsula, Howard Beach, and Ozone Park in Queens. Galinsky writes for the *Militant* newspaper. He has participated in mobilizations for legalization of undocumented workers and marched against U.S. wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and Libya. The SWP campaign calls for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops now.

Rebecca Williamson is the SWP candidate in the 54th A.D., which includes

Crown Heights, Park Slope, and East Flatbush in Brooklyn. Twenty-nine-years old, Williamson is an assembler in an electronics plant. She has been active in defending women's right to choose abortion. In 2007–2008 she participated in a fight to defend the union at her workplace, Dakota Premium Foods in South St. Paul, Minnesota.

All four socialist candidates are campaigning July 23 at the Harlem Book Fair and the anniversary celebration of the opening of the Cuban Revolution.



Militant photos: left, Helen Meyers; center and right, Dan Fein
Socialist Workers Party candidates in special September 13 election for New York State Assembly, from left: Rebecca Williamson, Seth Galinsky, and Harry D'Agostino.

Jobs crisis: 'shorter workweek, no cut in pay'

Continued from front page
people. The government needs to help private companies create jobs," Colon suggested, adding that "bridges and roads need to be repaired."

"The capitalist class and their government have no jobs program," Hoepfner replied. "It's working people who have to organize and fight together for what we need. The Socialist Workers Party proposes that working people organize a fight to demand that Congress pass emergency legislation for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay."

"That would put millions back to work," he said, "and put the burden of the crisis on the backs of the bosses." Forcing the employers to spread the available work around would cut into their profits, instead of devastating the lives and livelihoods of working people, he noted.

"That sounds good," Colon said.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign also calls for a government-funded public works program to create jobs for millions rebuilding roads, railways, and other crumbling infrastructure and constructing schools, hospitals, child-care centers, and other projects needed by working people

"Capitalism keeps creating and recreating the same problems," Hoepfner told Colon. "That's why we need to take power out of the hands of the capitalist ruling families."

Unemployment and job conditions were also on the mind of Sharon Salmon, a private nurse. Salmon explained that on the first day of her last job, she was the only nurse on evening shift for 60 nursing-home patients.

"You just can't give proper care under those conditions," she said. "They've cut back on hours, so the family has to provide care. And our pay rate keeps going down. I take home in three days what I used to make in half that time." Salmon said she can't afford medical insurance for herself.

"Medical care should be universal for all working people," Hoepfner said. "Not something contingent on where you work and what you can afford. But the capitalist class will never prioritize health care over profits."

Just since 2009 St. John's Hospital and Mary Immaculate Hospital have been closed down in Queens, as have St. Vincent's Hospital and North General Hospital in Manhattan. For tens of millions of working people, there is no



Abandoned St. John's Hospital in Queens. "Medical care should be universal for all working people," Hoepfner said. Inset: St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, another of four hospitals closed in New York City in last two years.

prospect of regular preventive checkups and treatment of chronic conditions.

"Changing things like this will take a real fight," Hoepfner said. "Yes," Salmon agreed. "It will take a long time. But we have to try."

While some people didn't want to talk, others—including some who initially said "I'm not interested in politics"—stopped when they heard what Hoepfner had to say about the depth of the capitalist crisis and need for working people to fight.

John Doyle, a retired construction worker from Ireland, stopped to take

a campaign flyer. "It's the same all over the world," Doyle said. "In Ireland teachers are being laid off. They are closing factories." But the United States, too, "is in dire straits," he added. "I expected better from Obama."

"Obama represents the ruling class in this country," Hoepfner replied. "They are using the rising debt of the U.S. government as an excuse to come after working people."

Among the other things Hoepfner raised as he campaigned were the need to fight for an immediate and unconditional end to the U.S.-led wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Libya. He talked to passersby about why support for legalization of immigrant workers is decisive to strengthen the solidarity and fighting capacity of the working class.

"My campaign will be joining others in the streets of Germantown, Maryland, to defend the abortion clinic there when opponents of choice by women mobilize to try to shut it down," Hoepfner told those he spoke with here in Forest Hills.

"We join the struggles taking place today, big and small, that defend the interests of the working class. That's how we can build the kind of mass revolutionary movement of working people that can place workers and farmers in power and begin the reorganization of society in our interests."

Socialist candidate for Congress wins N.Y. ballot spot

BY CINDY JAQUITH

NEW YORK, July 19—There will be a working-class candidate on the ballot here in the special election September 13 in the 9th Congressional District. The New York City Board of Elections confirmed today that Christopher Hoepfner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress and a factory worker in the district, has ballot status on the SWP line. Hoepfner's supporters turned in 7,080 signatures, more than twice the required number, to get on the ballot.

There are two other candidates in the race, Democrat David Weprin, a lawyer and currently a member of the New York State Assembly, and Republican Robert Turner, a retired TV executive.

In addition to the SWP, the Democrats, and Republicans, the other parties on the ballot are the Conservative Party, listing Turner as their candidate, and the Independence Party and Working Families Party, listing Weprin.

The Board of Elections also informed Hoepfner that under the federal Voting Rights Act, the 9th C.D. is among the districts in New York City where candidates' names, including his, will appear in Chinese and Korean.

Special offers with Militant subscription

Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs ~~\$19~~ \$10 with subscription

The story of the strikes and union organizing drive the men and women of Teamsters Local 574 carried out in Minnesota in 1934, paving the way for the continent-wide rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations as a fighting social movement.

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes ~~\$20~~ \$10 with subscription

This book helps us understand why it is the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class that will make possible the final battle for Black freedom—and open the way to a world based not on exploitation, violence, and racism, but human solidarity. A socialist world.

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics Working-Class Politics and the Unions

by Jack Barnes ~~\$24~~ \$10 with subscription

A handbook for those seeking the road toward effective action to overturn the exploitative system of capitalism and join in reconstructing the world on new, socialist foundations.

Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters ~~\$7~~ \$5 with subscription

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

by Jack Barnes ~~\$3~~ \$2 with subscription

Contact distributors on page 5—subscription rates on page 2



Pathfinder Press

All out to defend Maryland clinic!

Working people and all those who support a woman's right to choose abortion have a big stake in coming to the defense of the Reproductive Health Services clinic in Germantown, Maryland. Beginning July 30 Operation Rescue and other opponents of women's rights will begin "Summer of Mercy 2.0," nine days of demonstrations aimed to shut the facility down.

In response, a Summer Celebration of Choice is being organized, beginning with a "Kick-Off Walk" July 31 in the neighborhood where the clinic is located. Defenders of women's rights will be out every day to ensure the clinic stays open. Join them! Get in a car, on a bus, on the train—get there however you can, and organize others to come with you. Talk to coworkers, neighbors, student clubs, unions, community groups, to anyone who can be won to seeing defense of the right to choose as central to defending equal rights for women and all working people.

In 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that women have the right to decide whether or not to have a child, striking down laws branding them criminals for seeking to control their own bodies. The ruling came as millions of women were entering the workforce, gaining confidence in their capacity to chart their own destiny.

Ever since, misnamed "Right to Life" forces have

sought to take away the right to choose, setting back women's fight for full equality. By keeping down the value of women's labor power, and hampering their ability to participate fully in all aspects of economic, social, and political life, the capitalist class hopes to boost its profits and strengthen its rule.

While forces opposing women's right to choose remain a minority, many states have sharply restricted access to abortion, and rightist opponents of women's rights have threatened and even killed doctors and others providing abortion services. Electing "prowomen" politicians in the Democratic and Republican parties rather than building a fighting movement independent of these two capitalist parties has failed to counter these blows.

The actions planned to defend the Germantown clinic are an opportunity to demonstrate broad support for the right to choose. This strengthens the solidarity and fighting capacity of working people as we resist the capitalists' assault on our living standards, conditions of work, and rights to act politically.

We need to outmobilize opponents of women's rights. Join the July 31 walk and week of action in Maryland! Keep the clinic open! Defend a woman's right to choose!

Rallies in Egypt condemn military rule

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Chanting "Oh police, you are thugs," thousands rallied in Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt, July 15 demanding prosecution of police officers and government officials responsible for the killings of more than 850 working people and others during sustained outpourings January 25–February 11 that ousted Hosni Mubarak after 30 years of dictatorial rule.

Billed as the "Friday of Last Warning," the actions were preceded by sit-ins that began July 8 in Cairo's Tahrir Square, with hundreds of thousands of people rallying there and in 11 other cities, reported the Egyptian daily *Al Masry Al Youm*.

The actions reflect mounting anger against the five-month-long rule of the Supreme Military Council, which took over after Mubarak was forced to resign. The council, based among top officers who served Mubarak for many years, has kept in place the political and military structure of the old regime.

Other demands raised by protesters include speedy public trials of Mubarak and officials from his regime, firing and trying cops involved in torture, and repeal

of antistrike legislation. There are widespread calls for annulment of all rulings by military courts against civilians; an end to civilians being tried in military tribunals; and lifting the state of emergency, which has been in place 54 of the last 59 years.

Among those attending the Tahrir Square action was Amal Zine al-Abadeen. She told the *New York Times* that one of her sons was shot dead by a policeman in January, and another beaten and incarcerated in a military prison after attending a recent protest. "I don't want money," she said. "I don't want anything at all. All I'm asking for is justice." To date only one police officer has been convicted of murder in the deaths of protesters.

Tens of thousands rallied in Suez July 8 when the criminal court there released on bail seven police officers accused of killing protesters.

Several days later thousands marched to the Suez Canal Authority's headquarters. Protesters chanted, "The people want to overthrow the field marshal," referring to Defense Minister Mohamed Tantawi, head of the ruling military council, reported *Al Ahram*.

In April the Supreme Military Council arrested Mubarak, his two sons, and some top officials from his regime. Mubarak is in custody in an Egyptian hospital. He's scheduled to be tried August 3 for the killings of protesters. If convicted he could face the death penalty.

In hopes of quelling protests, Interior Minister Mansour el-Essaway announced July 13 that nearly 700 police officers accused of killing demonstrators would be dismissed. "Some human rights groups have criticized the shakeup," wrote *Al Masry Al Youm*, "saying that it amounts to little more than a routine annual pensioning-off of officers who have reached retirement age."

The government also postponed parliamentary elections from September until October or November.

The Supreme Military Council announced it was creating a list of "supra-principles" to guide the drafting of Egypt's constitution. The "principles" protect the armed forces' political role and ensure that their extensive economic interests are protected. Council member Maj. Gen. Mamdouh Shahine recently called for granting the military special status, "exempting it from being at the 'discretion' of the president," reported *Al Masry Al Youm*.

The Shariah Association of Rights and Reform called for a rally July 22 to protest the military council's interference in rewriting the constitution. The Muslim Brotherhood, whose Freedom and Justice Party is running in the upcoming election, is not encouraging its members to attend. The group has aligned itself with the military rulers on many issues since Mubarak was removed in February.

'Debt showdown'

Continued from front page

cause there may simply not be the money in the coffers to do it."

But the big danger to Social Security comes from bipartisan plans to raise the eligibility age, gut cost-of-living protection, and eventually push up payroll taxes, not from the looming vote in Congress. In the short term, noted Andrew Biggs in *The American* July 12, "By itself, the payroll tax would cover around 93 percent of all Social Security payments."

No such threats are posed for bondholders, however, a group that largely coincides with the class of propertied ruling families in the United States. They continue to receive payments on interest and principal—their "contractual rights"—as they have at every turn in government bailouts during the 2008–2009 financial crisis, from Bear Stearns to General Motors, you name it.

But bondholders are not of one mind today about hiking the "debt ceiling." Bill Gross, founder of Pimco, the world's largest bond fund, warns of dire consequences if it's not raised. In the July 13 *Washington Post*, he says, "Don't mess with the debt ceiling," as a default on U.S. bond payments would introduce "fear and unnecessary volatility into the economy and global trade."

But Stanley Druckenmiller, a well-known former fund manager for financier George Soros, says that what bondholders want most are steep cuts in social spending *now*, to ensure their payments are stable and secure over the long haul.

"A financial crisis is surely going to happen as big or bigger than the one we had in 2008 if we continue to behave the way we're behaving," he told the *Wall Street Journal* in mid-May.

On August 2 he said that Washington would only experience a "technical default," in which investors may have to wait a short period for a particular interest payment. In exchange for that, "I'm going to get massive cuts in entitlements . . . so my payments seven, eight, nine, 10 years out are much more assured."

Echoing Druckenmiller's doubts that bondholders are fit to be tied over the August 2 deadline, Bloomberg News columnist Caroline Baum wrote a July 14 opinion piece, headlined "Worried about Debt Limit? The Bond Market Isn't." Despite warnings by government officials that a default would increase borrowing costs and interest payments, "why is the bond market trading like a passive observer?" she asked.

One reason, Baum noted, is that the United States, in the words of one banker, "still looks pretty good compared to the risks associated with European debt." This includes countries increasingly threatened with default such as Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain—and now Italy—as well as stronger capitalist powers like France and Germany that hold sizable amounts of the debt from their smaller brethren.

Workers and farmers across Europe, too, face the ax to their jobs, wages, pensions, medical care, and working conditions.

"The issue is the federal debt itself, not the debt limit," says the Bloomberg News columnist, throwing her lot behind massive cuts in social programs needed by working people. "Not much point wasting a lot of time and energy on the dress rehearsal."

Women's rights

Continued from page 3

gomery College, and Goucher College in the D.C.-Baltimore area to turn out for the activities.

The Summer Celebration of Choice will start with a 1:00 p.m. Kick-Off Walk on July 31 that will circle the neighborhood where the clinic is located.

"People are coming from all across the country, from as far away as California," reports Kira Baughman, one of the organizers of the Celebration of Choice. "We're getting a great response."

For frequent updates on how to get involved visit www.summerofchoice.com or just show up starting July 31 at the clinic, 13233 Executive Park Terrace, Germantown, Maryland.

Laura Anderson in Illinois and Naomi Craine in Florida contributed to this article.

'Just what I, as a young Egyptian, need to read'

Sarah Dorra, a young woman in Cairo, Egypt, who is reading *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, has been posting her comments on the popular online book club and readers forum www.goodreads.com.

"Just what I, as a young Egyptian, need to read after 25th January Revolution," she wrote after finishing page 58 of the book—the end of the chapter with the January 1965 interview with Malcolm X that first appeared in the *Young Socialist* magazine. January 25 was the day of the first popular mobilization in Egypt earlier this year that led to President Hosni Mubarak's resignation on February 11.

A number of working people and youth in Egypt took advantage of the opportunity to pick up copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* from an international team of socialist workers participating in the Tahrir Book Fair in Cairo in April. During the five-day book event, and at a large April 1 demonstration for political rights in Tahrir Square, nearly 250 books and pamphlets on revolutionary politics, published and distributed by Pathfinder Press, were sold, as well as 24 subscriptions to the *Militant*.

—B.W.