‘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 Hoeppner, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in New York’s 9th District, which covers parts of Queens and Brooklyn. Today he and 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 Hoeppner. “Meanwhile others are out of work. The big executives make millions while sacrificing working people. The big executives make millions while sacrificing working people and workers are told 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 7

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 re-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 resi-dents interviewed by the Militant, the young man was waiting on the plat-Continued on page 3

Women’s rights backers to mobilize in Maryland

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 abor-tions after the 21st week of pregnancy, began working there. “Operation Rescue’s intent is to close the clinic,” Laura Kacere, national cam-paign 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 to make sure it stays open.”

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

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 domi-nance 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 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 dip-lomatic phrases, the top military officer of U.S. finance capital told the audi-ence 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 incident does not rise to a level of mis-calculations 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

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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 environmental 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 work- ers 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 wa- ter. He said he knows of well over 30 farms flooded in the area, which equals “quite a few acres.” Accord- ing 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 they have ever seen a flood like this go by next year by. 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 farm- ers, the corps sent out letters to farmers along the Missouri River in June as the flood hit, asking them to consider sell- ing 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 mis- function.”

Joe Swanson contributed to this article.

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

Six people died June 24 at the High- way 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 members and 204 passengers were on board. More than 150 were treated for injuries, including Amtrak workers Richard d’Alessandro and Lexie Sanders, who courageously pulled passengers out of the burning cars.

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

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

The U.S. crossing is one of thou- sands of dangerous ones that could be eliminated by constructing high- way 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, ac- cording to the Gazette-Journal. Amtrak engineer Jack Rivers was the engineer and Lee was a conductor when a truck driver narrowly avoided a crash by turn- ing into the guard rails and tower beside the road.

Truckers are being pushed to drive longer hours without breaks. Rail work- ers face shrinking crew sizes and grael- ling, ever-changing schedules. Both face unsafe railroad crossings and fake “regula- tory” 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.

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MARCH 6, 1971
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.

Oppose FBI raids, grand jury probes!

Since last September the Militant has raised the hopes 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 Monette’s house after May 17 FBI/SWAT team raid.

$35
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Conflicts sharpen 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 right-ists 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 be- come pregnant, as well as women who have done abortions here. "We need the clinic for women entering the meeting."

Cops allege he drew a gun and fired at Harding as a "pimp," parole violator, and drug dealer. "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 Harding, a "pimp," parole violator, and drug dealer.

Continued from front page

Keokuk, Iowa

48 Hours for 48G!

Join Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 48G in Standing Up to Corporate Greed at Roquette!

Come to Keokuk, Iowa, for a solidarity picket in support of locked-out workers, Fri., July 29-30, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. or noon-8 p.m., or throughout August. Join us for a "Roquette Plant Gate Takeover," come to 5th St. and Ridge. Tel.: (319) 524-1249

The Militant August 1, 2011 3
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 waters of the South China Sea, including a joint naval exercise with the U.S. 7th Fleet, formerly commanded by Robert Gates, 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 in the Pacific, centered 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 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 speech days before his visit in Beijing. That Washington might not be the eternal owner of the entire Pacific seems a startling notion. There’s only so much you can take,” he said. —BERNIE SENTER


Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters July 9 that the U.S. military presence in the Pacific “doesn’t change simply because other nations are gaining strength.”

Washington is exploitating disputes between Beijing and several Southeast Asian nations to gain access to their territorial waters and islands in order 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 added. “As I told the Chinese, the United States isn’t going away,” Mullen said soon after his trip. “We’ve worked 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.

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.

“They are some very specific capabilities that are being developed here that are very focused on the United States’s 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.

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.

The Militant’s “Freedom” to maintain its aerial reconnaissance and joint naval maneuvers directed against China.

Workers, now young, who by the remote year of 1980 or 1985 will be 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.

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.

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

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"As I told the Chinese, the United States isn't going away," Mullen said soon after his trip. "We've worked 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.


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.
World War II: How gov’t tried to suppress ‘Militant’

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 Nov. 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 © 1974 The Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY JAMES P. CANNON

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 of the Roosevelt administration’s policies and criticisms of the administration, 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, November 21, 1941, Roosevelt’s Attorney General Biddle quoted as saying: “Insanor 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 hysterias 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 Roosevelt and other high officials of his administration.

These declarations flagrantly contradict the policies 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 propagandist minister Creel during the last war. “They use the authority and influence of their office 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 these vilely doing? When 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 unrelenting 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 our crimes in attacking us at home. The Roosevelt regime claims to oppose wartime censorship, repression and persecution. 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 us. 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 unionists. 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 organizations. 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 elementary right 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.


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The Socialist Workers Party in World War II by James P. Cannon

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The Militant

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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.”

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. They keep tabs on us. Electronic ebugging 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 smearign miners’ leaders.

Capitalist competition

The holier-than-thou anti-Murdoch coverage in the Guardian, the Telegraph, and BBC broadcasting explicitly downplays state prying. The “real villains here are not the police, but the journalists and newspaper executives who have used corrupt and criminal 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 hypocrptic cries that led to Murdoch’s withdrawal of his $8 billion ($US12.9 billion) bid to increase his control of the UK media group BSkyB.

The fact that Australian-born Murdock is a naturalized U.S. citizen and News Corp. a U.S.-based company adds a strong dose of imperialist 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.

Pathfinderpress.com

London march demands right to abortion

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 Aleksie from Abortion Rights told the rally.

ALEX XEZNOKIS

Militant/Alex Xezonakis

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.

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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.
Socialists begin campaign for N.Y. Assembly seats

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

Betsy 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 she participated in the Third International Youth Congress 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, 34, 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 the discharge 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 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 she participated in the Third International Youth Congress 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.

Jobs crisis: ‘shorter workweek, no cut in pay’

BY CINDY JAOUTH
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 Hoeppner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress and a factory worker in the district, has ballot status on the SWP line. Hoeppner’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 Hoeppner that under the federal Voting Rights Act, the 9th C.D. is among districts in New York City where candidates’ names, including his, will appear in Chinese and Korean.

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 she participated in the Third International Youth Congress 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.

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BY RuTH ROBiNETT
NEW YORK—The Socialist Workers Party campaign also calls for a government-funded national health-care system. “Medical care should be universal for all working people,” Hoeppner said. Inset: St. Vincent’s Hospital in Manhattan, another of four hospitals closed in New York City in last two years.

“Crown Heights, Park Slope, and East Flatbush in Brooklyn. Twenty-nine-year-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 annual celebration of the opening of the Cuban Revolution.

Continued from front page

people. The government needs to help private companies create jobs,” Colon suggested, adding that “bridges and roads need to be built, not razed off.”

“The capitalist class and their government have no jobs program,” Hoeppner 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.” The SWP campaign calls for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops now.

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‘Debt showdown’ Continued from front page cause there may simply not be 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 tax rates. Bondholders are not of one mind today about what bondholders want most are steep cuts in social programs needed for long-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 proportioned ruling families in the United States. They continue to receive payments on interest and princi- pal of their “goodwill” or “contrivance” or “disguised value of the debt ceiling.” Bill Gross, founder of Pim- co, the world’s largest bond fund, warns of dire con- sequences if it’s not raised. In the July 13 Washington Post, he says, “The value of this country’s financial position is not the economic — and from as far away as California,” reports Kira Baughman, one of the organizers of the 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 will listen, because the right of choice as central to defending equal rights for women and all working people.

In 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that women have the right to choose whether or not to have children, 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 con- fidence 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 provide fully for their families in terms 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 re- main a minority, many are steadfastly resisting access to abortion, and rightist opponents of women’s rights have threatened and even killed doctors and oth- ers providing abortion services. Electing “prowomen” politicians is not the solution. Rather, the struggle must be to retain and extend the women’s right to choose abortion have a big stake in com- bating the forces of the right to choose as central to defending equal rights for women and all working people.

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