

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Socialist Workers conference discusses openings to advance workers movement
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 76/NO. 29 AUGUST 6, 2012

Working farmers bear brunt of drought

BY DAVID ROSENFELD
 AND ELLEN BRICKLEY

DES MOINES, Iowa—Small working farmers are bearing the brunt of the most extensive drought in a half century combined with a major heat wave, which has been wiping out crops in the Midwest and the Great Plains states.

“This is the third time in my lifetime that I have experienced a drought like this,” Garry Klicker told the *Militant*. “You can’t get over the feeling of devastation that comes from total loss.” Klicker, 66, owns a small farm in southern Iowa. In past years he raised and sold cattle.

“Right now, corn is hurting. I am short of hay. I have to haul water to the cows. But in the long term, I don’t know if we will even have corn to harvest for feed,” Gary Hoskey said in an interview. He has 50 cows and grows corn on 100 acres in Montour.

No one knows how long the drought will last, but currently 88 percent of U.S. corn and 87 percent of U.S. soybeans are in drought-stricken areas.

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Killings by Anaheim cops spark outrage, protests

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

ANAHEIM, Calif.—Manuel Diaz, 25, was killed by a police officer here July 21. Witnesses told the family he was shot once in the back of his body, dropped to his knees and then shot a second time in the head. He was unarmed.

Along with her parents, John and Genevieve Huizar, Lupe Diaz spoke out the next day in front of the Anaheim Police Department. “There is no explanation for what the police did. They robbed my brother of his life,” she said.

According to Anaheim Police Chief John Welter, police thought Diaz’s behavior was suspicious—he was leaning against a car talking to two men in an alley.

“He was hanging out with some friends and was shot in the back,” Lupe Diaz told reporters, who questioned her about whether or not her brother used drugs, was a gang member or had an arrest record.

“These kids run from the police because they are afraid for their lives.

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‘What matters most are fights by working people’

SWP candidates join in labor, social battles



Militant/Laura Anderson

James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, speaks at Chicago protest demanding release of prisoners framed under cop torture. At left Mark Clements, one of those tortured by Commander Jon Burge. Clements was freed as case against cops gained support.

BY ALYSON KENNEDY
 AND WILLIE COTTON

“We’re out here today to support your fight,” James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, told members of Machinists union Local 851, who were picketing July 20 outside Caterpillar’s hydraulics plant in Joliet, Ill., where some 780 workers have been on strike since May 1.

“At every campaign stop we extend solidarity to workers in struggle and learn the truth about their struggles so we can tell other workers about them,” said Harris, who was in the Chicago area for three days as part of a national campaign tour.

Harris and Maura DeLuca, SWP candidate for vice president, are running a working class, labor, socialist campaign that joins with workers resisting attacks from the bosses and their government and engages fighters in a discussion on how the working class can unite, fight more effectively, and chart a course toward independent political action.

Caterpillar, which is posting high profits, is demanding deep cuts from workers. The bosses’ assault against the Machinists is being closely watched by employers around the country.

“One of the big issues in our fight is wages,” Jeff Burch, one of the strikers,

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NY rally backs Con Ed workers, demands raise in minimum wage



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Workers locked out by Con Edison in New York at expanded picket line July 24 after taking part with other fighting workers, unions, and community groups at rally in Manhattan.

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK—Some 3,000 workers converged on Union Square here July 24 to back more than 8,000 locked-out Con Edison workers and to demand raising the minimum wage.

Originally called by a coalition of community and religious groups and labor unions to back “low wage workers,” the action was bolstered by the

participation of some 700 members of Utility Workers Union Local 1-2, who marched from the Con Edison headquarters a few blocks away.

Con Edison, which made more than \$1 billion in profits last year, locked out the workers July 1 in the midst of negotiations for a new contract. The company is demanding a steep slash

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U.S. cops demanded 1.3 million mobile phone records last year

BY EMMA JOHNSON

In response to a Congressional inquiry, nine mobile phone carriers reported that last year cop agencies demanded 1.3 million text messages, caller locations or other information—one of many fronts in the government’s ever expanding assault on

the constitutional right to privacy.

The carriers report that they turn over records thousands of times a day in response to court orders, subpoenas and other requests. These de-

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Tens of thousands strike in Egypt textiles, ceramics

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Over the past few weeks tens of thousands of textile and ceramics workers have conducted combative strikes in Egypt, continuing to use the space working people have won to

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Through Rio Tinto lockout fight, workers ‘more united’

BY KATY LEROUGETEL
AND JOE YOUNG

ALMA, Quebec—Members of Steelworkers Local 9490 at Rio Tinto Alcan’s aluminum smelter here voted to approve a new contract by a margin of 84 percent.

Locked out since Jan. 1, the 770 workers were resisting company plans to hire workers outside the union as “subcontractors,” at half the wages once union workers retire. Rio Tinto bosses initially offered union protection only for 350 so-called core jobs.

Rio Tinto Alcan, a subsidiary of mining giant Rio Tinto PLC, is the world’s second largest aluminum producer.

“It’s not as much as we wanted, but they wanted carte blanche and now there’s a limit to subcontracting,” Patrick Giasson, an electro-technician, told the *Militant*.

Hours worked by subcontractors are to be limited to 10 percent of those worked by union members. In the last year of the contract, which runs through 2015, that will increase to 15 percent.

“We didn’t get a minimum guaranteed number of jobs, but we got a ceiling on subcontracting,” said Local 9490 member Suzy Fournier.

“The agreement respects our goal, which is to keep the plant competitive,” Rio Tinto Alcan spokesperson Claudine Gagnon told the *Militant*. Gagnon wouldn’t say whether the subcontracting permitted in the new contract represents an increase over current practice.

“There was a lot of uncertainty. Some people had the ballot in their hands and didn’t know where to put their X,”

Danny Beaudoin said in a phone interview. “I refused the offer. I’d have waited for Kitimat. I’m afraid we’ve cut the ground out from under them by accepting too fast.”

The contract for some 1,050 Rio Tinto smelter workers in Kitimat, British Columbia, ends July 23. They face a similar fight against subcontracting.

“This isn’t an overwhelming victory,” USW Local 9490 President Marc Maltais told the *Militant*. “But it’s still a union victory given the goals we set.”

Two union members were suspended by the company during the lockout, accused of sabotage. Sureté du Québec, the provincial police, told the union there was no basis for legal proceedings against the workers. The back-to-work agreement reduced each suspension by three months, to nine and six months respectively. During this time the union is supporting its two members financially.

The company also refused to drop the summons served on Pierre Simard, local union president of RTA’s hydro-electric plant workers. Simard is accused of being instrumental in exposing the secret



Unionists representing Rio Tinto workers in U.S., Australia, New Zealand and South Africa joined March 31 rally in Alma, Quebec, in support of locked-out members of USW 9490.

accord between RTA and provincially-owned power company Hydro-Québec that earned the company millions of dollars through sales of its excess electricity during the lockout.

All 56 union jobs in the pot lining center will be subcontracted. The 56 union workers will be offered other jobs in Rio Tinto plants at higher pay.

“We’ll develop ties inside the plant,” said Jean-Marc Côté, a maintenance worker with 25 years’ seniority. “We should reach out to the subcontractors to

get them unionized.”

“You have no idea what I gained from this conflict: the solidarity, the support,” said pot lining worker Jean-Marc Vaillancourt. “I’ll never forget it. This is a fight that’s marked me deeply forever.”

“The biggest gain in the conflict is the employer’s respect for our organization,” Marc Perron, who works in heating and ventilation, said by phone. “We’re more united than ever. We’ve mounted the first step. Now we have to climb the rest of the stairs.”

‘Declarations of Havana’ reviewed by Iran book agency

The following is a translation of a June 24 book review by the semi-official Iran Book News Agency of The First and Second Declarations of Havana, which was translated into Farsi and published in Iran by Talaye Porsoo. The original booklet was published by Pathfinder Press.

The two declarations were read by

Fidel Castro and adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962.

The First and Second Declarations of Havana are published in a book with the same title. This work, which reflects the revolutionary anti-capitalist views of South America, contains the manifestos of revolutionary struggles in the Americas adopted by the Cuban people.

IBNA reports that these declarations were issued around five decades ago and they demonstrate the anti-imperialist and revolutionary tendencies of the people of South America, especially Cuba.

The main effect of these declarations was to help clarify the thinking of the vanguard workers, farmers and revolutionary-minded youth in the entire American continent, including the United States, who were increasingly being drawn into struggle. The declarations explained that victory is possible only through their own [struggles].

The introduction to this work briefly explains the perspective of the declarations. Below is a summary.

These declarations strive to answer the question: Why is it that the national bourgeoisie is incapable of advancing the struggle against imperialism even when its interests come into conflict with imperialism? According to these declarations the fear of a social revolution has crippled the national bourgeoisie; it dreads the roar of the exploited masses.


The [Second] Declaration explains that a revolution can be successful only if the working class is able to also lead the struggles of the farming regions.

In its preface the publisher writes, “While the Second Declaration of Havana is more widely known since it was adopted some forty-five years ago, putting the First and Second Declarations together in the order they were presented is what makes it possible to place ourselves inside the historical turning points that linked them.”

THE MILITANT

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Reuters/Andrea Comas

July 11 march against austerity in Spain.

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The Militant

Vol. 76/No. 29
Closing news date: July 25, 2012
Editor: Steve Clark
Managing editor: Doug Nelson
Business manager: Lea Sherman
Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Naomi Craine, Maura DeLuca, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Louis Martin, Jacob Perasso, John Studer, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.
Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in July, and two weeks in August.
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.

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Socialist Workers campaign

Continued from front page

told Harris. “We’ve received cost-of-living increases but haven’t received a contractual raise in years.”

“They like to tell us we’re overpaid,” said striker John Horniak. “But they get gigantic bonuses every year and golden parachutes when they retire or leave.”

Both Burch and Horniak are CNC machinists with more than a decade experience. “Some people have told us that this is not the best time to strike. But the way I see it, it won’t be any better six years from now,” said Horniak.

Harris was joined in Joliet by John Hawkins, SWP candidate for Congress in Illinois’ 1st District. They were interviewed by the local *Herald News*.

“James Harris’ presidential campaign doesn’t make promises,” began the article. “The Socialist Workers Party candidate instead meets with struggling working-class people and speaks with them about what is needed to fight for better lives.”

“People are finding less work and people who do work are working longer hours, working harder and earning less,” Harris told the *Herald News*. “Real change to fix these conditions comes not from electoral politics but from mass, organized labor. ... We want to talk to working people about taking political power, and establishing a government that working people control.”

In Chicago, Harris was invited to speak at a demonstration in front of a police station demanding the release of victims of police torture. Mark Clements, a protest organizer, said, “Six years ago the Cook County Special Prosecutor issued a report documenting an epidemic of police torture in Chicago. Twenty-three known torture victims are still in prison.”

“I am very proud to be here,” Harris told protesters. “Everywhere I go people are standing up to this. This is not a justice system for working people, but a system of brutality and coercion designed to inspire terror in working people, to keep us from fighting.”

Harris was interviewed by the editor of the *North Lawndale Community News*, which covers the city’s Westside Black community. Fifteen high school students studying journalism at the newspaper joined the interview.

The final day of the Chicago leg of the tour ended with a lively campaign forum. Harris was joined by a panel of fighters, including Clements; Ralph Peterson, a leader of a fight against the police torture and killing of his cousin and other cop brutality cases in North Chicago; young socialist John

Stachelski; Tracey Johnson, a member of the Painters union and the Young Workers Organization; and Hawkins.

“One thing I like about brother James Harris is that as soon as he arrived in Chicago he went to our picket line,” Clements told the participants.

“One of the primary things we want to do is have a discussion,” Harris responded. “To learn, come up with a plan. I am honored to be here with these fighters.

“The SWP campaign is about reaching out to workers in struggle. Why? Because these are the centers of education for working people. It doesn’t matter who is elected president. What matters is whether working people fight.”

DeLuca meets with Calif. workers

“It is important to support union struggles or groups of workers that may not have a formal union but act as one,” Maura DeLuca said July 19 at a spirited campaign house meeting of 15 in South San Francisco.

“The company protects its people, we need to protect ours,” added Gerardo Sánchez, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in California, as he introduced Marisol Guerrero, an industrial kitchen worker.

Guerrero was suspended and subsequently fired by Flying Food Group on allegations of mislabeling products. Sánchez, who works there with Guerrero, chaired the meeting. Workers at Flying Food are represented by UNITE HERE.

Guerrero explained she and several other coworkers were victimized on mislabeling charges before and suspend-



Militant/Eric Simpson

Maura DeLuca and Gerardo Sánchez at house meeting July 19 in San Francisco with Dolores Piper, left, aunt of slain youth Derrick Gaines; and Marisol Guerrero, right, fired coworker of Sánchez.

ed for three days. She got support from the union, and 62 of her 100 coworkers signed a petition demanding she return to work with back pay.

Also on the panel was Dolores Piper, aunt of Derrick Gaines, a 15 year old who was fatally shot in the back by a South San Francisco police officer June 5. “I want to reach out and tell as many people as possible that the actions of the police were extremely reckless,” she told the meeting. Piper and Derrick’s parents are filing a lawsuit against the police.

Several participants in the meeting joined DeLuca as she traveled to Madera, Calif., to learn more about the recent victory at Gargiulo Inc., where farmworkers voted to be represented by the United Farm Workers after a two-day strike.

While campaigning at a grocery store in Madera, DeLuca met Eutracia Garcia, a UFW supporter. She told DeLuca that

in order to maintain the brutal pace of work, growers hire younger workers and discriminate against those with more experience.

Many of the discussions outside the grocery store focused on the increase in deportations of immigrants over the past several years. “Whether a worker has papers or not, they should treat us right,” said Garcia. “We are all human beings.”

“The bosses try to divide us, and to use the fact that workers are not documented to try to intimidate us,” DeLuca pointed out. “Fighting against the attacks on immigrant workers will put the working class in a stronger position.”

DeLuca flew from northern California to join supporters of a woman’s right to choose abortion July 21 in defending the Family Reproductive Health clinic in Charlotte, N.C., from a “clinic siege” organized by Operation Rescue/Operation Save America. (See article on page 4.)

Socialist candidates: Free the Cuban Five!



From left: Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González.

The following letter was sent June 26 to Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero and René González by James Harris and Maura DeLuca, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president of the United States.

The Cuban Five, as they are widely known, are Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the U.S. since 1998 on trumped-up charges, including “conspiracy” to commit espionage and, in the case of Hernández, “conspiracy” to commit murder. They were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 15 years to double life plus 15 years.

The five were living and working in southern Florida gathering information for the Cuban government on activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups with a history of violent attacks on Cuba and supporters of the Cuban Revolution, with the complicity of Washington.

All but René González remain in prison. He was released Oct. 7 but is forced to serve an additional three-year parole in the U.S.

Dear Gerardo, Ramón, Fernando, Antonio and René,

As the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president of the United States in the 2012 elections, we will be campaigning from one end of the country to the other

“This is the jury of millions we fight for—and we will campaign to reach every single one of them”

over the coming months. Broadening the worldwide battle for freedom of the Cuban Five will be an essential part of our work as we talk with workers on picket lines, at factory gates and unemployment centers, at gatherings of struggling small farmers, at protests against police brutality and attacks on immigrant workers, with students facing unpayable debt loads, and families whose homes have been foreclosed.

It is the Cuban Revolution itself—the ongoing work of millions of Cuban

workers and farmers of all ages—that comes to life through your example. And that revolution is the best example we can put before working people in the United States to show what our class, together with our allies, is capable of. The best example of what we can accomplish as we transform ourselves through mighty battles, taking and using political power to defend our own interests, as we work together to build a world on new economic and social foundations.

As the crisis of capital intensifies worldwide, and working people increasingly respond to the attacks on our livelihoods, our rights, and our dignity, it is those on the front lines of these battles who will most readily identify with each one of you as fellow fighters, adding their voices to those demanding your release. This is the jury of millions we fight for—and we will campaign to reach every single one of them.

With revolutionary greetings,
James Harris
Maura DeLuca

Literature on SWP presidential campaign



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Stu Singer: 45 years building communist movement in US

NY meeting celebrates his life, political contributions

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—A meeting here June 16 celebrated the life and political contributions of Stu Singer, a member and supporter of the Socialist Workers Party for 45 years. Singer died June 1 at age 65 after a battle with cancer.

The event, attended by some 100 people, was organized by party supporters in the New York area. Among those attending were members of the communist movement Singer worked with over the years; coworkers Edgar Malave and Roosevelt Hudgson, who worked with Stu at AVA Pork Products in Hicksville, N.Y.; and his companion Robin Mace, brothers Jeffrey and Robin Singer, sister Wendy Singer and other family members.

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP, sent a message that was read to the meeting by John Studer, a party leader in New York. “Stu Singer, first and foremost,” Barnes said, “was part of the generations that politically transformed the Socialist Workers Party by initiating and carrying out the turn to industry at the opening of the 1980s.”

Barnes called that political turn “the third proletarian transformation of the communist party in the United States

in the past century.” The first, he said, followed the party’s founding in 1919, under the impact of the October 1917 Russian Revolution and “responding to the example and leadership of V.I. Lenin and the Bolsheviks.” The second was the struggle for a proletarian party begun in 1938 under the guidance of SWP leader James P. Cannon and Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky—a transformation “carried out as Washington entered into the second world imperialist slaughter,” World War II.

If a single book could capture what the SWP accomplished through the turn to industry, Barnes said, it is *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*. “That is truly a book less written than dictated by the actions and voices of hundreds. And Stu is rightfully, and unqualifiedly, one of its authors.” The course it records “inseparably combines practicing revolutionary proletarian politics with involvement as part of the working class through disciplined fractions of party members in industrial workplaces and unions.”

As a member of party branches from Houston to the Minnesota Iron Range,



Above, Militant/Arthur Hughes
Above, audience at June 16 meeting in New York held to celebrate life and political contributions of Stu Singer, who for quarter of a century helped carry out Socialist Workers Party’s turn to industry beginning in late 1970s. Inset, Singer at age 53.

from Des Moines to New York City, “Stu stayed that course for a quarter century,” Barnes said.

1960s Black rights fight

Steve Clark, a member of the SWP National Committee, spoke about the life-changing impact the struggle for

Black rights in the U.S. had on Singer. He joined in that fight from his high school years in Roanoke, Va., in the early 1960s on.

In June 1966, along with other supporters of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in Boston,

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Locked-out Con Ed workers

Continued from front page

in pensions for new hires and a big increase in the cost of health insurance.

A contingent of Cablevision workers from Brooklyn, who won a union recognition election in January and are now negotiating for a contract, also marched.

“We have to back each other’s struggles,” said Cablevision worker Lawrence Hendrickson. “I’m here to back the low wage workers and the Con Ed workers.”

Workers who are trying to organize a union at several car washes in the area also joined the protest.

“The bosses pay me \$4 an hour for 10- to 11-hour days, with no overtime pay,” said one worker from Central Islip, who asked that his name not be used since the owner of the car wash does not yet know he is involved in the fight for better wages and conditions. “They say if we don’t like it, take a hike.”

Hotel and Motel union workers, subway and bus workers from the Transport Workers Union, Communications Workers from Verizon, airport workers, as well as several hundred organized by Make the Road, an immigrant rights group, were among the participants in the action.

After the rally more than 1,000 people marched back to Con Edison’s headquarters and joined an expanded picket line that lasted several hours.

“The company has been planning this lockout for the last four years, since we signed the last contract,” Gjorgi Kukuvikov, a high voltage lineman, told the *Militant*. “They brought in college kids and made them ‘gold associates,’ they make up a big part of the 5,000 supervisors” who are taking the place of the locked-out workers.

Con Edison spokesperson Allan Drury said the company is negotiating “in good faith” and that “workers could return to their jobs immediately if their leadership would agree to provide us with adequate notice of a strike.”

A statement on the Utility Workers website says, however, that it was “clear

to Con Edison that Local 1-2 was not going to strike” and that the company locked out the workers “with no advance notice whatsoever” after the strike deadline had passed.

Con Edison boasts on its website that it sold near record amounts of electricity on July 17 and 18. But many customers are complaining that they are being overcharged because the meter readers are locked out. The readings will resume, Drury told the *Militant* via email, “once the work stoppage ends.”

Union officials have criticized Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who they backed in the last election, for taking a hands-off approach to the lockout. City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and City Comptroller John Liu have both called on Con Edison to end the lockout.

“They’re not going to break us down,” said locked-out worker Samantha Turner. “We’re still here and we’ll be here.”

“It’s all about corporate greed,” said Dennis Schuette, 52, who has worked at Con Edison for nine years. “We’ve got to stay united and keep on marching.”



“March Against Fear,” nears Jackson, Miss., June 1966. Action aimed to push back racist terror. Swelling to 15,000 in Jackson, it was largest mobilization for Black rights in the state’s history.

Actions defend women’s right to abortion at clinics in Charlotte

BY NED MEASEL

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Thirty-five defenders of a woman’s right to choose abortion, organized by the National Organization for Women and Feminist Majority Foundation, turned out here July 21 to defend the Family Reproductive Health clinic from a similar-sized gathering of rightists there to harass women.

The pro-choice mobilization is aimed at ensuring that the city’s three abortion clinics remain open during an eight-day conference and “clinic siege” by the rightist group Operation Rescue/Operation Save America. The defenders will have a presence at the clinics through July 28.

One of the participants, Doug, 43, who is an office worker, told the *Militant* that he started coming to help defend the clinic a few weeks ago after driving by every day to work and seeing people standing up to the rightists’ harassment. “I saw women’s rights were being violated,”

he said. “They deserve a safe legal opportunity to do whatever they decide. The harassment is an affront to their rights.”

One of the harassing tactics employed by the anti-choice side is to use an extremely loud sound system in an effort to be heard inside the clinic and intimidate the women there. “When they get the permit the noise is mind-numbing,” Cindy Thomson, a NOW activist, said. “They’ve never been fined, only warned by the police for exceeding the permitted 75 decibels.”

Last year the director of Operation Save America, Phillip Benham, was found guilty of stalking a doctor who performs abortions at the Charlotte clinics. Benham had put up hundreds of “Wanted” posters with the doctor’s name, including in the doctor’s home neighborhood.

He was sentenced to 18 months probation, ordered to stop the intimidation, and to stay at least 500 feet away from the doctor.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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59th Anniversary of the Moncada Uprising: Cuba and the Coming American Revolution. Fri., Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 5418 Rainier Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

UNITED KINGDOM

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The Turmoil in the Middle East: Class Struggle Openings in Egypt, Israel. Speaker: Julie Crawford, Communist League. Sun., Aug. 5, 4 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Room 301, 3rd floor, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St., M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Hundreds rally for Teamsters on strike against Davis Wire

KENT, Wash.—Some 300 people rallied outside the Davis Wire Company here July 17 to show support for members of Teamsters Local 117, who have been on strike since May 21.

“These men have worked together in an oppressive environment,” Tracey Thompson, secretary-treasurer of Local 117, told the rally, thanking those from other unions and the surrounding community for providing support. “Now they stand together as coworkers, husbands, sons and fathers, demanding that their employer recognize and honor their dignity as men.”

“We work 12-hour shifts and have to stay at our machines on breaks and lunch. Many of us have suffered injuries because of the unsafe conditions,” said Robert Bruner, a Teamsters union shop steward in the plant. “Enough is enough, and we are not going back without a contract.”

Earlier in the day the union filed a lawsuit against the sweatshop-like conditions at the mill.

Those wishing to support the workers can find out about the ONE MORE DAY fund at www.teamsters117.org.

—Edwin Fruit

Atlanta school workers protest denial of jobless pay

ATLANTA—On July 17, school bus drivers from Taylor Motors in Columbus and cafeteria workers from Spelman College, Emory University, Georgia Tech and Georgia State, along with supporters from several unions, other organizations and student groups protested at the South Metro Office of the Department of Labor.

Georgia Labor Commissioner Mark Butler recently issued a ruling denying unemployment payment to workers at private schools laid off over the summer break. Some 64,000 workers in the state are affected by the decision.

—Rachele Fruit

Steelworkers in Iowa ratify Henniges’ new contract offer

KEOKUK, Iowa—After rejecting an earlier company offer, members of United Steelworkers Local 444 at Henniges Automotive Profiles voted to accept the company’s new offer July 20. The agreement includes \$1.13 in wage increases over the next three years, an increase in second- and third-shift differential pay, and an extra week of vacation for workers with one to eight years’ experience. Unlike the first offer, the second contained no increases in medical or dental insurance premiums.

“It was pretty much unanimous,” Mike Bennett, president of Local 444, told the Burlington *Hawk Eye*.

“The fact that the company backed off increasing the medical insurance and

kept it the same, while giving the \$1.13 raise, made me decide to vote for it,” Tammy Allen said at the Labor Temple Lounge after the vote. She has worked at Henniges for 34 years.

Carol Picton, who has worked there for 33 years, said, “I would have liked to have a little more. But the fact that we got some money and the insurance was left alone is important.” Picton added, “I feel that if we had demanded more, the company would have hired replacement workers and we would have had to go through something like Local 48G went through,” referring to the 10-month lockout of the 237 members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union by the international corn-processing giant Roquette America here in 2010-2011.

“I voted no,” Dwayne Bunker said. “We have given up too much in the past, and I don’t feel the wage increase was enough.”

There are 472 hourly workers at the Henniges plant, which makes rubber seals for automobiles; 425 of them are members of the USW.

—Buddy Howard

Canada nuclear workers fight concession demands

MONTREAL—Some 800 nuclear engineers, scientists, technologists and tradespeople in three Canadian provinces walked off the job July 9, rejecting far-reaching concession demands aimed at pensions, vacations, seniority and wages by Candu Energy Inc. bosses.

The workers design, build and service Candu nuclear reactors and are members of the Society of Professional Engineers and Associates. Candu, which had been operated by the federal government, was privatized and sold to Montreal-based engineering giant SNC-Lavalin last year. The 18 nuclear reactors the company services supply 16 percent of Canada’s electricity requirements.

“They are trying to get rid of the union,” Montreal striker Gilles Sabourin told the *Militant* in a phone interview. They had been working without a contract for 18 months, Sabourin added.

Since Candu was privatized, 25 per-



Militant/Annalucia Vermunt

Workers on picket line in front of Aranui Home and Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand, July 17 as part of three days of partial strike actions demanding increased wages.

cent of union jobs have been cut, while the number of contract laborers has more than tripled.

—John Steele

Australia grocery warehouse workers end two-week strike

MELBOURNE, Australia—Some 600 grocery warehouse workers in Somerton, north Melbourne, ended a two-week strike July 23 after winning higher shift payments, more flexibility in the use of public holiday entitlements and a modest wage increase.

The workers—whose slogan is “equal rights for equal sites”—demanded the same rights and conditions as workers at other Coles warehouses across the country.

Coles outsourced workforce hiring and management at Somerton to Toll Holdings six years ago.

Toll secured a “greenfields” site agreement with the National Union of Workers—a contract that is reached before any workers are hired and requires no ratification—before it opened the new warehouse. Since then, the workers have been fighting to gain a better union contract.

“We’re trying to get what everyone considers standard,” Mark Hopkins, 35, a forklift driver, told the *Militant* July 15. This strike “is about showing the company we have some spine.”

Elizabeth McEwen, 47, who works in returns and damages, said that when she started five years ago “only 60 percent were union members but now it is 93 percent.”

—Ron Poulsen

New Zealand home care workers conduct partial strikes over pay

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—More than 60 workers at the Aranui Home and Hospital began three days of partial strike actions at 3 a.m. on July 17. The workers, members of the New Zealand Nurses Organisation and Service and Food Workers Union, provide care for elderly residents.

At a lively picket line NZNO delegate Julie Faifai Loa, who has worked at the facility for 10 years, told the *Militant* many workers have been there a long time and are not going up the pay scale. “They don’t acknowledge the work we do and just want you to shut your mouth and do your work,” she said.

Most workers used to belong to an outfit named “Team Aranui,” set up by the facility’s bosses. Around three years ago, led by a few who had joined the Nurses Organisation, workers began to discuss the need to have their own union. Almost all now belong to the NZNO or the SFWU.

—Annalucia Vermunt and Felicity Coggan

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 7, 1987

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb.—Meatpackers here ratified a new contract July 26 ending their long strike at IBP’s nearby Dakota City plant.

The workers have a history of strikes going back to the organization of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 222 at the Dakota City plant in 1968.

There has not been a pay raise at the Dakota City plant since 1981. After the last strike in 1982, the workers had their wages cut \$1.05 an hour.

IBP locked the meatpackers out December 14 after the unionists rejected a contract proposal. In March, the workers voted to go on strike after turning down a second contract offer.

The new contract retains the current pay scale through 1990. Wages will remain at \$7.90 an hour in processing and \$8.20 in slaughtering. After 33 months, wages will be raised 15 cents an hour.



August 13, 1962

Friends of the Cuban Revolution and defenders of civil liberties in New York City are indignantly protesting the open campaign of violence being carried on by Cuban counter-revolutionaries against pro-Castro Cubans and Cuban-Americans.

This protest took physical form on July 28 when some 200 people picketed City Hall to protest the wrecking of Casa Cuba, the city’s second oldest Cuban social club, two days before and to demand police action.

Counter-revolutionaries had chosen July 26, the anniversary of Fidel Castro’s historic attack on the Batista regime’s Moncada Barracks, as the date for their attack on Casa Cuba. Late at night, when everybody had left the club, they broke in, accompanied by press photographers and TV cameramen, and made a shambles of the place.



August 14, 1937

As a further indispensable instrument in our fight, we are undertaking the immediate publication of the “SOCIALIST APPEAL.” The solemn decision under which the APPEAL suspended publication at the time of the [Socialist Party’s] Chicago Convention has been brazenly violated. The internal discussion organ has never appeared.

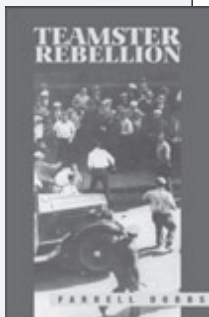
The official press is a purely factional press from which we are systematically excluded. The Left wing is expected to stay muzzled and now, with mass expulsions, to remain silent about the crimes committed against it. We refuse to be muzzled! The APPEAL is our answer to the gag-laws and the split drive. Every revolutionary consideration demands its immediate appearance as the militant and uncompromising spokesman and banner-bearer of the Left wing.

Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle.—\$19

PathfinderPress.com



Textile strikes in Egypt

Continued from front page

organize and defend their rights since the overthrow of the Hosni Mubarak dictatorship nearly 18 months ago.

The strikes also come as Mohamed Morsi, the newly elected president and the Muslim Brotherhood leader, is jockeying with the military for a division of political power.

Some 23,000 workers at Egypt's largest textile company, Misr Spinning and Weaving Company in Mahalla, ended an eight-day strike July 22 "after the company's board partially responded to their demands," according to the July 23 online edition of the daily *Al Masry Al Youm*. The strike included a sit-in by more than 3,000 workers.

According to Bloomberg News, strike leader Kamal el-Fayoumi said that Misr workers "were promised the distribution of profit-sharing payments that have been delayed since 1992, and an increase in their yearly bonuses and other benefits." Misr is a

state-run company.

The Misr work stoppage had spread to seven other textile factories in Alexandria, Mahalla and two other cities in the Nile River Delta, involving some 12,000 additional workers. There are 100,000 textile workers in the Mahalla region alone, north of Cairo.

The workers demanded an increase in their basic monthly pay to 1,500 Egyptian pounds (\$250). They are currently paid from 700 to 1,000 pounds.

Other demands included long overdue profit-sharing bonuses; a purge of corrupt company officials associated with the previous Mubarak regime; and improvement of the company's health care system, including changing its medical staff.

Meanwhile, more than 10,000 workers at Cleopatra Ceramics in Suez ended a 28-day strike July 18 after management agreed to pay them their delayed June wages as well as



Textile workers gather in Mahalla, Egypt, to begin strike July 15. Some 35,000 joined the action.

their share of the company's profits. Workers had been demonstrating daily for about a week.

When they stormed government

buildings in Suez July 17 demanding action against the company's owner, they were tear gassed by security forces.

Stu Singer: 45 years building communist movement in US

Continued from page 4

Singer hopped in a car and drove to Mississippi for the last leg of a three-week-long "March Against Fear" on the state capital in Jackson. The action aimed to push back racist terror and discrimination in Mississippi. Its nightly encampments were guarded by Black workers organized in the Deacons for Defense. Sharecroppers, tenant farmers and other working people joined in the action along the way.

The final eight-mile walk from Tougaloo College to a June 26 rally of some 15,000 in Jackson was the largest mobilization for the rights of Blacks and other working people in Mississippi since the bloody crushing of Radical Reconstruction in the 1870s. After the march, Singer and others joined the outpouring in Black neighborhoods, where people opened their porches and doors, inviting others to eat, talk and celebrate late into the night.

From Jackson, Singer went on to spend a week in Lowndes County, Ala., where farmers and workers who were Black were setting a powerful example by breaking from the capitalist Democratic and Republican parties and launching their own independent working-class party—the Lowndes County Freedom Organization.

Singer gained great confidence in the fighting capacities of working people from these experiences, Clark said. Two years earlier he had bought a *Militant* subscription in Boston and began attending socialist meetings. "But what I saw and learned on that trip settled any questions I had about the course I was going to follow," Singer later said. He joined the Young Socialist Alliance and then the Socialist Workers Party.

SWP National Committee member Dave Prince spoke about a photo on one of the displays prepared by party supporters for the meeting. It showed the January 1969 Young Socialist Alliance delegation to the 10th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution in which Singer and 12 others participated, including Prince.

After spending a month on the island meeting and talking with working

people, Prince said, "we reaffirmed that the revolutionary capacity of toilers to make the revolution in Cuba will be true in the U.S., and a leadership to do that can and will be built."

Returning from Cuba by cattle boat, Prince said, Singer and other YSA members—despite bouts with their stomachs—worked hard together on board preparing talks on that revolutionary perspective that they ended up giving to hundreds of young people and others when they got back.

Producing books for party work

Gale Shangold chaired the meeting. She and Don Mackle, who also spoke, are party supporters and leaders of the Print Project. Project volunteers help produce, upgrade, and keep in stock more than 300 Pathfinder books and pamphlets used by SWP members and other vanguard workers. Shangold read excerpts from some of nearly 20 messages, several of which commended Singer's patient assistance during construction projects to upgrade the party's meeting hall and other facilities in New York.

Mackle said that Singer, a party supporter for the last half-decade of his life, was always conscious about training other volunteers in skills needed to produce books important to the party's work. Singer was also a "top-notch salesperson" to bookstores in New York, Mackle said, a point seconded by Shangold, who helps lead the project's sales to retail stores, distributors and libraries.

Disciplined habits, not individualism

In 1982 Singer spent six months in upstate New York at a session of the party's leadership school that Barnes organized. "As we prepared to jump into following the line of march of the early modern working-class movement, as it affected, transformed and was recounted by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels," Barnes wrote, Singer was asked to organize an introductory class on an outline by SWP leader Farrell Dobbs of his series *Revolutionary Continuity: Marxist Leadership in the United States*. Dobbs completed the first two volumes before he died in 1983.

In preparing the discussion, Barnes said, "Stu did what we had come to count on from him—a thorough, workmanlike job."

In the section Singer was asked to focus on, Barnes wrote, Dobbs explained that in addition to turning its back on the social-patriotic Socialist Party leadership in the U.S., who backed Washington's imperialist military efforts in World War I, the young Communist Party also had to break from revolutionary-minded left socialists such as Eugene Debs and from "the individualist, self-serving radicalism" of the Industrial Workers of the World—the Wobblies—and leaders such as Vincent St. John.

Forging a communist party in the U.S., Barnes wrote, "involves surmounting some extra hurdles. It runs up against the petty bourgeois tradition of American 'individualism'—a by-product of the long duration of the Westward-shifting frontier and access to free land. It's even reflected in literature, such as the restless, questing, chasing-and-doing Huck Finn. ...

"Who among those early generations of communists in this country," Barnes said, "could even have imagined that close to a century later, a bumper sticker aimed at workers, among others, would cynically proclaim: 'He who dies with the most toys win.'"

Singer and others at the leadership school, Barnes said, came to recognize that "the kind of disciplined habits and selflessness" Dobbs was describing at the birth of the communist movement were also the "norms and values that shaped the generations in the party who carried out the turn in the 1970s and made the SWP so unique a party, a proletarian party."

Barnes quoted from a message by Jeff Powers, a friend of Singer who joined the YSA and SWP in Boston around the same time in the mid-1960s. Powers recalled that Singer once found both of them a job—one they thought at the time was "a perfect gig. Not much work and a company vehicle that served as a delivery truck for leaflets, buttons and posters for the Boston Peace Action Coalition throughout the area, with the gas included."

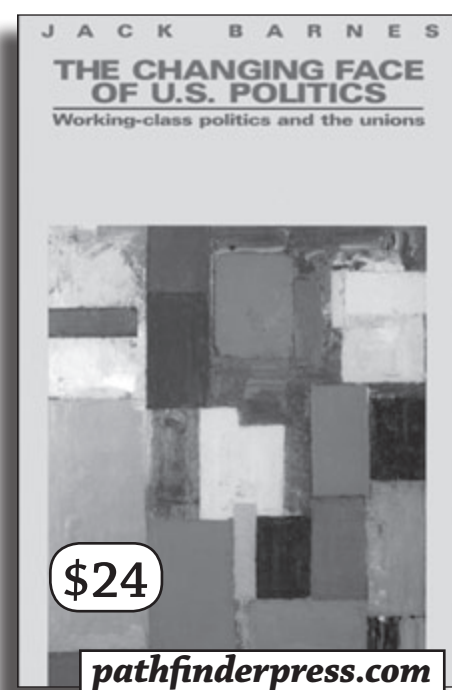
At the time, Barnes said, such jobs were "close to universal in what comrades in the YSA, and younger ones in the party, looked for in a job. But that ended for all time with the run-up to the party's turn. From then on, each generation in the party converged—not only in program, but in our lives and work—with the struggle for a proletarian party as fought for" by Trotsky, Cannon and Dobbs.

"All this rang true to Stu's roots as a young person who came to the party along the road of the working-class-based fight for Black freedom in the 1960s—one of the great turning points in the U.S. class struggle," said Barnes.

For a number of years Singer had organized Barnes' secretariat. His experiences in the Black rights movement in the South, Barnes said, "was substantially responsible for the fact that no one I ever worked with in my secretariat was more attentive to security. ... Nothing, nothing, was ever going to happen on Stu's watch."

Singer "remained to the end true to the young man who first discovered the truth about capitalism and the class struggle from the racism he saw all around him, hated and combated for the rest of his life," Barnes concluded.

An appeal for contributions to advance the work of the Socialist Workers Party raised nearly \$3,600.



UK dairy farmers protest squeeze from cuts in prices

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—More than 2,000 dairy farmers rallied here July 11 to protest cuts in the price the big capitalist dairies pay them for milk.

“The clock is ticking,” David Handley, chairman of Farmers For Action, told the meeting to loud applause. “August 1—if nothing is done by then we’ll have no option but to show them what we’re capable of.” A second round of price cuts is set to take effect on that date.

The meeting was jointly organized by the National Farmers’ Union, including its chapters in Wales and Scotland, the Tenant Farmers Association and Farmers for Action.

The *Militant* interviewed a half dozen farmers at the rally.

“We took a cut of 2 pence a liter and then a further 1.7 pence a liter,” Simon Scott told the *Militant*. Scott has 200 cows in Brinkworth Chippenham and supplies the First Milk processor. (1 pence = US 1.5 cents)

The price cut by the big dairies tightens the squeeze especially on working farmers, who are locked into long-term contracts that allow the processors to change the price paid on short notice. “Our production costs are at least 29 pence, but we’re only getting 25 pence a liter,” said Gary Fisher from Ashmonsworth, Newbury.

“At least 30 percent of my costs are animal feed,” said Chris Spiby, from Sidlesham in West Sussex. “We need a price that covers our costs of production—it should be at least 30 pence a liter.”

“The soya we feed cows has gone up 40 percent in the past few months,” added Bill Turner from Yeovil.

“We have no bargaining power. The processors and supermarkets dictate the contracts to maintain their profit margins,” said Cornwall farmer Ross Symons, 24.

United Kingdom Minister of State for Agriculture and Food James Paice addressed the meeting, claiming the government was powerless to intervene in the market. He was jeered when he lectured farmers on “cutting costs.”

Surrey farmer and Farmers for Action leader Youleite Parkes responded to Paice from the floor. “You come up with the same obstacles all the time,” she said. “Dairy farmers are not the problem. We work our butts off and then companies put us down. The problem is the retailers push the processors and they push the farmers. We’re at the bottom of the chain.”

“Before I was struggling to break



Militant/Hugh Robertson

Farmers arrive in London for July 11 rally against cuts in milk price paid by big capitalist dairies.

even,” Tom Holland from Derbyshire, told the *Militant*. “Now we could go under.”

The *Daily Telegraph* estimates that 200 dairy farmers in England and Wales have quit farming in the past year. Over the last decade supermarket chains have steeply increased the percentage they

get from the sale of milk at the expense of farmers.

Since July 19 hundreds of farmers have carried out protest blockades of dairy processors in Somerset, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Leicestershire and Yorkshire.

Tony Hunt contributed to this article.

Midwest drought devastates working farmers

Continued from front page

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced July 18 that 1,297 counties in 29 states now qualify for disaster assistance because of severe drought conditions.

For the first time ever, the price for wholesale corn topped \$8 a bushel—up 50 percent from where it was priced just a month ago. Among the hardest hit by high corn prices are dairy and livestock farmers, who depend on corn, hay and other crops to feed their animals.

“We are going to have to buy \$30,000 of hay to make it through to the fall,” said Jerry Harvey, a dairy farmer in Promise City. Harvey helped organize a protest of dairy farmers in 2009, when he and other dairy farmers were losing money on every gallon of milk they produced and were on the brink of losing their farms. “We borrowed \$60,000 then. We never got out of the hole.” Because the cost of feeding his 60 dairy cows is so high, Harvey said, “we are going to have to sell some heifers. But everyone is sell-

ing, so the price is dropping.” He added that he will be lucky to get half the price for a cow that he got last year.

Cattle farmers “are being forced to sell out a big part of their herds because they will not be able to afford to buy winter feed,” Edward Dunkle, a retired farmer and ranger near Benkelman, Neb., explained to the *Militant*.

Klicker said working farmers need access to “low interest money and fair prices. But the government and corporations manipulate the prices.” He is wary of government financial assistance, “because in the past, assistance has only fed the super-sized operations at the expense of small farmers.”

The media has been awash with stories about the drought and pictures of farmers standing in dried, withered, brown cornfields. Many articles claim that corn and soybean farmers will not fare badly because of crop insurance. Most corn and bean farmers “are forced to buy crop insurance in order to qualify for loans or other USDA programs,” said Dunkle. “The premiums are very high, while payments cover only a part of farmers’ losses.”

“It’s true that farmers producing milk, livestock, fruits and vegetables are getting hit harder than row-crop farmers,” said Klicker. But insurance for row-crop farmers is “no panacea. The small guy can’t really afford insurance.”

Harvey agrees that insurance would not have answered his problems. “Many small farmers feel we are getting insured to death. We can’t afford it.”

While small farmers are gripped in the vice of a crop-destroying drought and skyrocketing feed prices, workers will soon feel the consequences of this disaster in their pocketbooks. The cost of meat, poultry and milk is expected to jump later this year. Fuel prices are also expected to jump, because 10 percent of nearly every gallon of gasoline is ethanol, a fuel additive distilled from corn.

Meanwhile, food commodity speculators salivate over rising prices, agribusiness stocks rise in anticipation of sales of cutting edge seed, and big capitalist farmers positioned to weather the drought look to buy up livestock and land from those threatened with ruin.

Judge upholds 10-year sentence for Lynne Stewart

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEW YORK—On June 28 a panel of judges here upheld the 10-year sentence of framed-up defense attorney Lynne Stewart, who often defended people who were targeted by the government and working people who could not afford a lawyer.

Stewart had appealed a ruling from July 2010 that increased her sentence from 28 months to 10 years, arguing that it penalized her for comments she had made and thus violated her First Amendment rights.

Judge Robert Sack, presenting the unanimous verdict for the three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals Second Circuit, dismissed Stewart’s arguments.

“From the moment she committed the first act for which she was convicted, through her trial, sentencing and appeal, Stewart has persisted in exhibiting what seems to be a stark inability to understand the seriousness of her crimes,” wrote Sack.

Stewart was sentenced in 2005 to 28 months in jail on charges of “conspiracy to provide material aid to terrorist activity.” She was one of the lawyers for Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, a blind Muslim cleric who was found guilty of “seditious conspiracy” in 1995 for allegedly plotting to blow up the United Nations headquarters and other structures. No physical evidence was presented by the prosecution.

Abdel-Rahman was sentenced to life. U.S. officials also imposed a dra-

conian ban, prohibiting him from most communications with people outside the prison. His lawyers were required to abide by Special Administrative Measures that shut him off from the world.

Stewart’s conviction was based on the fact that she released a press statement on behalf of Abdel-Rahman, which the government said was a violation of the administrative restrictions. Much of the evidence was based on wiretaps and video recordings of her meetings with Abdel-Rahman in prison, trampling on the constitutional right of meaningful access to legal counsel and freedom of speech.

An appeal by Stewart was rejected in November 2009. In addition, the appeals court ruled that the 28-month sentence imposed by Judge John Koeltl in 2005 was too light and instructed a re-sentencing. On July 15, 2010, Koeltl increased Stewart’s sentence to 10 years on the pretext that she showed a “lack of remorse.”

Ralph Poynter, spokesperson for the Lynne Stewart Defense Committee, said in a phone interview that

Stewart wasn’t surprised by the ruling and will keep fighting to throw the whole case out.

“The next step is the full appeals court,” Poynter said. “We’ll go all the way to the Supreme Court if we have to. We’re defending the Bill of Rights amendments one, four and six. They’re all affected by Lynne’s case.”

Poynter said Stewart is reaching out for support from lawyers’ organizations and others, and urged people to follow the Justice for Lynne Stewart website at: www.lynnestewart.org.



AP Photo/Mary Altaffer

Lynne Stewart Nov. 17, 2009, at protest against appeal denial.

Political space to advance workers movement in US, v

As working people mount resistance to propertied rulers' offensive, groups of workers link up, prep

(Continued from last week)

BY DOUG NELSON

While the capitalists cannot give up the intensifying competition among themselves to conquer markets and maximize profits, the same is not true for the working class, explained Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

Competition for jobs is the condition of workers under capitalism, but the working class *can* counteract that dog-eat-dog rivalry. We can do so through class solidarity, organizing unions, and carrying out independent labor political action.

Barnes presented the opening talk and closing summary at the Socialist Workers Membership Conference held June 21-23 in Oberlin, Ohio.

Today, Barnes said, as the employing class reacts to the capitalist crisis by deepening their assault on our wages, conditions, unions and very dignity, workers are standing up and resisting, regardless of how great the odds may seem.

Example are mounting in the United States: the fights against union-busting lockouts by the bosses, from the one-year struggle by 1,300 workers against American Crystal Sugar in the Upper Midwest, to actions by more than 8,000 workers against Con Edison in New York; and strikes, big and small, from 780 workers taking on Caterpillar in Joliet, Ill., over a wage freeze and pension cuts, to 85 Teamsters in Kent, Wash., resisting Davis Wire's relentless "productivity" drive.

Regardless of the immediate outcome, workers often come out of these fights more ready to continue the struggle inside the plants, as well as to organize solidarity with embattled working people elsewhere. Many deepen their interest in struggles by workers and farmers the world over, as well.

That's true, for example, among members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union who fought a 10-month battle against Roquette America's lockout

in Keokuk, Iowa, in 2010-2011; of Steelworkers who for 14 months stood up to Honeywell's lockout at its uranium plant in Metropolis, Ill.; and of dockworkers in Longview, Wash., who after an eight-month fight against union busting by EGT Development forced the company in February to hire members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

Through these battles, Barnes said, small groups of militant workers come together, look for others like them, and seek out discussions of how the working class can prepare more consciously and effectively for future battles. Efforts by socialist workers and use of the *Militant* are part of this process.

SWP 2012 campaigns

The conference discussed using Socialist Workers Party 2012 election campaigns as a voice presenting a fighting course for workers and our allies to confront the capitalist crisis. The party is running James Harris for president and Maura DeLuca for vice president, along with candidates for state and local offices. (See article on front page.)

The campaign puts forward immediate demands workers can organize around today to strengthen our unity and fighting capacity, such as a massive public works program to combat joblessness. At the same time, the socialist candidates point to the need for working people to chart an independent political course from the bosses, their parties, and their government, along the road toward the revolutionary fight for workers power.

Part and parcel of this effort is getting the *Militant* and books on working-class politics into the hands of workers in neighborhoods in cities and small towns, on picket lines and at demonstrations, on the job and at factory gates, in prisons and elsewhere. More and more workers today see the *Militant* as their own paper, Barnes said. This is not only because it's the only paper that—week in and week out—champions and tells the truth about fights by working people



Left, Socialist Workers Membership Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, in June discussed a fighting course to of their parties and their government. Right, Alyson Kennedy and Betsy Farley discuss politics with Dav Wisconsin protests that year against union-busting by state officials, socialist workers went door to door workers and government employees, union and non-union workers, farmers and others about need for

like themselves. It's also because these workers are more and more interested in learning the political lessons of struggles by working people of today and yesterday that are found in the pages of the *Militant*.

Communist workers take SWP campaign flyers, the paper and books with us as we join workers' battles and social struggles, from fights against cop harassment and brutality to defending women's right to abortion.

Party of industrial workers

The activity of SWP members together with fellow workers includes organized political and trade union work with those we work alongside in factories across the United States. Without that, Barnes said, we're an organization composed of factory workers, but not a disciplined proletarian party.

Communist workers sell *Militant* subscriptions and sign up SWP campaign endorsers on the job, and look for opportunities to join with fellow workers in bringing solidarity to union fights and social protests, locally and beyond. We're part of efforts to strengthen our unions and bring union power to bear against the bosses. When we're holding down jobs in the growing percentage of workplaces that are unorganized, we act on the recognition that there's always a union in embryo as workers look for ways to fight to defend each other, Barnes said.

Socialist workers reject any and all prejudices against fellow workers who hold religious views, Barnes said. We're as likely to get a *Militant* subscription from a worker who has a crucifix or other religious symbol at their workstation, or on their door or wall at home, as we are from a worker who doesn't, he said.

That distinguishes socialist workers from middle-class radicals, bourgeois liberals, and bureaucratic-minded union officials, who tend to consider themselves "smarter" and more "enlightened" than workers.

'Wisconsin' and 'Occupy'

Barnes contrasted the SWP's political course—more broadly into working-class and popular struggles worldwide, as we build the nucleus of a proletarian

party able to lead working people toward the fight for power—with the perspectives of various petty-bourgeois organizations and currents in U.S. politics.

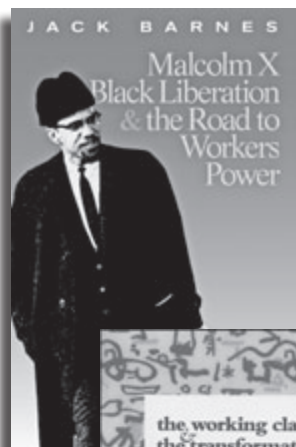
Many of these forces, for example, threw themselves into the labor-officialdom-led effort earlier this year to "recall" Wisconsin's Republican Governor Scott Walker. In early 2011, Barnes said, SWP members from across the U.S. joined with other workers in the mobilizations in Wisconsin against union busting by the state government targeting public employees. But the aim of the "recall" campaign was to put Democrats into office, at the very time that Democratic administrations from the White House to states and cities across the country are leading assaults not just against public employees but workers and unions of every kind.

Government workers, Barnes said, are being forced to pay the price for the procapitalist labor officialdom's decades of collaboration with the Democratic Party, dependence on "deals" with government officials, and embracing as supposedly part of labor cops, prison guards, and other police- and court-linked "uniformed services"—whose job is to defend capitalist property and rule by violence and repression. A fight-



"Through fights, small groups of workers come together consciously and effectively for future battles," said Jack Iously locked out by Honeywell in Metropolis, Ill., at A

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Why the "revolutionary conquest of state power by a politically class-conscious and organized vanguard of the working class—millions strong—is necessary." \$10 with subscription to the *Militant* or \$15 without (usually: \$20)

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by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer - \$15 (usually \$20)

Available from distributors, page 10

worldwide discussed at Socialist Workers Conference

are for coming battles, become interested in world politics and lessons of working-class struggles



Militant photos, left, Eric Simpson, right, Paul Mailhot
defend the working class and unions against the bosses, and Gundersen in Stoughton, Wis., April 2011. During the conference, talking to privately employed workers and resistance and solidarity against rulers' assaults.

ing course to defend the working class and unions, including public employees, requires a break from the bosses' parties and their government, the SWP leader said, not deepening reliance on them.

Socialist workers took that message and the broader working-class course presented in the *Militant* not just to demonstrators in Madison (a government and university-centered town, with a disproportionately middle-class composition), Barnes said. We increasingly concentrated our effort on going door to door in cities and small towns across Wisconsin, talking to privately employed workers and government employees, union and nonunion workers, farmers, and others. Just as the party continues to do in states and regions across the U.S.

Similarly, Barnes said, when the "Occupy" actions began in New York and spread to other areas in late 2011, socialist workers and young socialists went to them to bring working-class politics to participants looking for answers. We joined actions called under "Occupy" auspices that were part of broader social protests in the interests of working people.

But virtually all centrist and other petty-bourgeois organizations claiming

to be socialists or part of the workers movement, Barnes said, ended up burying themselves in Occupy—"Occupy is *our* party," became the watchword. Or else, he said, they looked to Occupy as *a substitute* for the transformation of the labor movement *by the ranks of the working class*—organized and unorganized—into instruments of struggle to defend workers' interests. (For example, Occupy forces on the West Coast organized ultraleft adventures earlier this year during the hard-fought battle by ILWU members against union busting on the docks in Longview, Wash.)

The SWP, to the contrary, acted from the outset on the recognition that this phenomenon wasn't and couldn't be a surrogate for a class-struggle union movement, much less for a proletarian party. Its middle-class base and political trajectory precluded either one.

What's more, socialist workers explained how Occupy's "We are the 99 percent!" slogan obfuscates true class relations under capitalism and dovetails with the anti-Republican demagoguery of the Democratic Party's campaign strategy.

Using political space

The political space opening for workers and farmers the world over to defend our living and working conditions was at the center of the talks and discussion at the socialist conference.

Everything points to this space remaining open for the foreseeable future, Barnes said, and that fact will be key to strengthening the organization, solidarity and political clarity of vanguard workers in the U.S. and worldwide.

This is not a matter of how "democratic," or how "secular," a particular capitalist regime may be. Conditions are often fraught with dangers and sharpening class conflict as political space opens, as, for example, in Syria. As civil war rages there, the old regime that for decades kept a lid on working people engaging in politics is cracking, and the capitalist rulers are deeply divided.

Both in the semicolonial world and a growing number of imperialist countries, Barnes said, divisions within the propertied rulers, often registered in difficulty maintaining stable governments, are exacerbated by the capitalist crisis. These divisions within the enemy class—whether in Greece or elsewhere in Europe, or in parts of the Middle East—provides greater latitude for workers and farmers to organize and defend our class interests.

In Egypt, for instance, the contest for political dominance between the wing of the bourgeoisie tied to the officer corps and those behind the Muslim Brotherhood is good for maintaining the space for workers won in 2011 by the mass mobilizations that toppled the regime of Hosni Mubarak.

And in Israel itself, the grinding consequences of the capitalist crisis on working people, middle layers, and



Right, Militant/Natalie Morrison

Political space opening for working people the world over was at center of socialist membership conference. Despite blows to toilers since 1979 revolution in Iran, more political space remains there to circulate books on revolutionary struggles for power than in much of the world. In Egypt space won through mass protests that toppled Hosni Mubarak regime remains open. Above, oil workers protest in Iran, 1978, helped topple U.S.-backed monarchy. Right, sales of *Militant* and Pathfinder literature at Tahrir Square demonstration, Cairo, April 2011.



youth, both Jewish and Arab, are fueling mounting social struggles and class conflict.

Political openings in Iran

More than any other country in the region, or in much of the world, the political space in Iran to circulate books and pamphlets recording the lessons of revolutionary struggles for power by workers and farmers the world over remains open, Barnes said.

This is true despite blows working people have taken from the ruling capitalists and religious hierarchy there since the 1979 Iranian Revolution went into retreat soon after the victory. That deep-going social upheaval, in which workers' strikes and mobilizations proved decisive, overturned the U.S.-backed monarchy and ripped from Washington a strategic ally in defending imperialist interests.

The bourgeois counterrevolution has narrowed the space won by working people in 1979 but never succeeded in closing it. Communist literature is more available in Farsi, the main language of Iran, than any other language today other than English, Barnes pointed out.

Some four dozen books translated from Pathfinder titles are published in Iran, said Mary-Alice Waters in her conference talk, "Starting with the World: The Practical Work of the Party." She pointed to a review by the Iran Book News Agency of the new Farsi edition of *The Revolution Betrayed* by Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky, recently issued by the Talaye Porsoo publishing house. (See review in next week's issue.)

"The capitalist crises at the present time put wind in the sails of left currents, more than before, to beat the drum of capitalism's future demise," the reviewer for the government-run news agency

wrote. "... For years Pathfinder Press has been publishing books in the field of left-wing thought. The publisher stood its ground at the height of the domination of capitalism, especially in the U.S., and published books by Trotsky, Lenin, Marx and Engels, as well as thinkers of the contemporary left in the U.S. such as Jack Barnes."

The review then listed several other Pathfinder titles published in Farsi in Iran, including *U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War* and *Feminism and the Marxist Movement*.

As the capitalist market draws more and more toilers worldwide into the working class and modern communications continue to make the earth a smaller place, Waters told the conference, the world is getting bigger for the communist movement.

Living Marxism has had, and continues to have, only one source—the practical work of proletarian parties such as the Socialist Workers Party involved in working-class politics and drawing the lessons of revolutionary battles by the working class worldwide. And our publishing program, Waters said, provides the only written record of those lessons today.

The communist movement reaches out to anyone, anywhere in the world who demonstrates an interest in the class struggle and the lessons of workers' battles to take on capitalist rule—from the Bolshevik Revolution of October 1917, to the Cuban Revolution of 1959 and its ongoing revolutionary course today. Doing that is an integral part of the day-to-day work of proletarian parties whose members, through their branches, carry out political and trade-union activity with fellow workers on the job and off, Waters said.

(Continued next week)



Militant/Betsy Farley
her, look for others like them, and seek ways to prepare more conferences. Above, members of United Steelworkers Local 7-669 picket American Crystal workers picket line, East Grand Forks, Minn., July 3.

Jobless hated relief setup, broke out in angry actions

Below are excerpts from *Teamster Politics* by Farrell Dobbs, a leader of Teamsters Local 574 in Minneapolis and in the Teamsters Midwest over-the-road organizing campaign in the 1930s and the labor secretary of the Socialist Workers Party beginning in 1940. The book is part of a four volume series along with *Teamster Rebellion*, *Teamster Power* and *Teamster Bureaucracy*. In this excerpt, Dobbs describes how the militant Teamsters union in Minneapolis reached out to organize and collaborate with the unemployed movement. Copyright © 1975 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

While preparing this segment of Teamster history I asked Max Goldman, an organizer of the unemployed in the 1930s, for his recollections about conditions and events during that period. One of my questions concerned the prevailing mood among workers who had lost their jobs because of economic depression.

“Let me illustrate,” he responded, “what I consider the general reaction of the unemployed to the indignities of being on relief. I’m not speaking here of anger at the authorities, or of militant struggles waged by the jobless. It’s



Socialist Appeal
Unemployed workers picket in New York City, April 1, 1939. In 1930s Teamsters in Minneapolis fought for unions to back and organize jobless workers to strengthen and unify working class.

the indignity of having to fill out forms and of being interrogated by relief interviewers: such as, how much money do you have, when were you last employed, why do you need relief, etc., etc.?” ...

“The mass of unemployed hated the relief setup; resented the indignities they were subjected to; shed tears over their plight; and broke out in angry actions: such as protest demonstrations, sit-ins at state capitals, hunger marches, and raids on food warehouses in which food was expropriated and distributed to the needy.” ...

Shortly before the WPA* came into being, a new formation appeared within the Minneapolis labor movement, one that was to have a significant effect on later mass struggles against Roosevelt’s stingy relief policies. In the spring of 1935, General Drivers Local

574 expanded its structure to include an auxiliary unit known as the Federal Workers Section. This unit was especially designed as a vehicle for organization of the unemployed under the local’s direct sponsorship. Its creation marked a pioneer step in trade-union activity, and for that reason the way had been carefully prepared during the course of preceding events.

When Local 574 launched its 1934 campaign for bargaining rights in the Minneapolis trucking industry, there was great potential for support from the city’s unemployed. The jobless were in a deeply rebellious mood. Generally speaking, they looked upon any struggle against the status quo as their struggle. Some among them were, of course, susceptible to being tricked into serving the bosses as strikebreakers; but that danger could be minimized if organized labor sought to promote united action by the employed and unemployed in defense of their collective interests.

Being conscious of those factors, Trotskyists in the General Drivers’ leadership initiated policy measures designed to forge the necessary working-class unity. In effect they were saying to the unemployed: “Help us now to win our battle against the trucking employers, and we will then back your cause with the full power of our union.”

* The Works Project Administration (WPA) was part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal, intended to put people to work, paying barely enough to keep body and soul together. There was little dignity in the assigned work and while here and there something useful was accomplished, for the most part it was unproductive, made-up busy work. The labor power of millions was wasted, so as not to upset the balance of the capitalist system.

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Thousands of jobless workers responded to the appeal during the hard-fought trucking strikes that followed. Voluntarily accepting discipline in combat, they stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the strikers in defending picket lines against the cops. Many were arrested before the battle was finally won; scores suffered injury from police clubs and guns; and one of them, John Belor, gave his life for the cause.

A close affinity grew up between the truck drivers and the unemployed. The average Local 574 member thought it only fitting and proper to form the Federal Workers Section, so as to help those who had so loyally backed the union in its time of need. ...

The jobless workers gained a lot from the overall arrangement. Affiliation with a strong trade union gave their movement unprecedented inner stability, a new measure of dynamism, and an enhanced growth rate. In addition, a member of Local 574’s executive board, usually Grant Dunne, helped the FWS in dealing with city relief agencies and WPA officials. Such action signified that workers on relief were backed by the full power of the entire local in their clashes with the authorities.

Although the Federal Workers Section functioned under the supervision of the union’s executive board, it had full democratic rights in forming an internal structure and in shaping its own policies. The section had its own executive committee and, due to the peculiar needs of the unemployed movement, the committee was viewed as an open-end body to which personnel could be added as circumstances required. There was a steward formation, which consisted mainly of representatives elected on WPA projects. A grievance board was also established and, like all official bodies, it was accountable to the monthly membership meetings of the section.

After a time a special women’s division was formed, primarily among workers on a large WPA sewing project. In this connection it should be noted that most of the FWS members were on WPA, mainly workers on labor projects. The section had only scattered influence among unemployed professionals.

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July

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Anaheim, Calif., cop killings

Continued from front page

Nobody is given their due process. That is the important issue,” Theresa Smith told the *Militant* at the protest. Her son, Caesar Cruz, was killed by the Anaheim police in December 2009. Since then she has organized weekly protests.

Smith pointed out that Diaz was the seventh young man killed by the Anaheim cops this year. The next day police killed Joel Acevedo, 21.

The Anaheim Police Association issued a statement July 24 defending the killings, based on the allegation that both men were gang members.

“I hate how they talk about it—‘officer involved in shooting.’ My brother was murdered on the spot by the police,” Sonia Hernandez, 20, told the *Militant* at the protest. Martin

Angel Hernandez, 21, was killed on March 6. Since then she has been joining protests against the cops almost every week.

Since the killing of Manuel Diaz, the police have responded to protest actions with a stepped-up presence in the working-class neighborhood where Diaz was killed. Increased patrols, cops in riot gear, pepper spray, rubber bullets and a police dog released into a group of people, including children, have been featured on local television.

Protests have taken place every day since the killing. On July 24 more than 250 cops brought in from several Orange County cities confronted demonstrators, making 24 arrests. The cops fired pepper pellets at angry residents near the site of the shooting.



AP Photo/The Orange County Register

Demonstrators gather on steps of Anaheim City Hall July 24 to protest killing of Manuel Diaz by Anaheim, Calif., cops three days earlier. City cops have killed eight young men since January.

Unions, SWP target of Socialist Equality Party slanders

BY MAGGIE TROWE

DES MOINES, Iowa—As the effort to put James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, on the ballot in Iowa got rolling, the *Des Moines Register* ran an article July 8 reporting on the positive response the campaign was getting. One reader posted a comment in the paper’s on-line edition that threatened and slandered the party.

In the comments section linked to the article “Socialist Presidential Candidate Attends Iowa Rally,” Jim Johnson wrote, “The Socialist Workers Party exists solely to discredit real socialism.... The SWP is a cult of provocateurs [sic] who’s socialist attitudes are just window dressing for a darker purpose.”

To back up his slander, Johnson pointed to *The Mark Curtis Hoax*, a book published two decades ago by an antilabor outfit called the Workers League backing a cop frame-up and smear operation here. Adherents of that current now identify themselves as the Socialist Equality Party or the World Socialist Web Site. In his post, Johnson personally threatens Curtis with bodily harm.

“This attack is part of a broader campaign by antilabor forces to demoralize workers involved in resisting the bosses’ attacks, turn them against the union movement and drive a wedge between them and organizations involved in the developing working-class resistance,” David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in Iowa’s 3rd District, told the *Militant*. “They are a danger to the labor movement and their antilabor propaganda and threats must be answered.”

Rosenfeld, who was the SWP candidate for governor of Iowa in 2010, continued, “SWP candidates and our supporters in the Midwest and beyond have been active in supporting workers resisting the bosses’ attacks. We joined the picket lines of members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco and Grain Millers union locked out by Roquette America in Keokuk, Iowa, in September 2010.” Members of the SWP in the Midwest have joined 1,300 sugar workers on their picket line in the Red River Valley in North Dakota and Minnesota. They were locked out in 2011 by American Crystal Sugar.

“We did the same for the Cooper Tire workers,” Rosenfeld said, referring

to members of United Steelworkers Local 207L locked out by the Cooper Tire bosses last December. During the three-month lockout, the unionists picketed the plant, held rallies and joined American Crystal Sugar workers in a “Journey for Justice” solidarity caravan.

Those active in the Socialist Equality Party and the World Socialist Web Site don’t build solidarity or participate in working-class resistance. Instead, Rosenfeld said, they intervene in an effort to turn workers against their union, often targeting those frustrated in the course of the struggle.

“You can see this in how they argued for Cooper Tire workers to break from their union,” the socialist candidate said. The WSWS wrote, “The unions, tied as they are to the profit system and economic nationalism, are worse than useless in this struggle. They stand on the other side.” Another WSWS article stated, “At every point during the struggle, the workers confronted the USW not as an ally, but as an agent of management that sought to isolate, demoralize and defeat them.”

Rosenfeld pointed out that the tire bosses eagerly used the anti-union material in the WSWS to bolster their position against the union. In January, the editor of the tire industry publication *Tire Review* quoted extensively from the WSWS in an attack on the union. “Some of those who are locked out are lashing out at their union,” wrote the editor, Jim Smith, backing up his assertion with several paragraphs lifted directly from the WSWS. He also misidentified it as the “Socialist Workers Web Site,” or “SWWS,” sowing confusion on the source of the anti-union propaganda.

The attack by Johnson and the campaign against the Steelworkers at Cooper Tire are just two of the recent anti-labor provocations the WSWS has carried out, noted Rosenfeld. It has also intervened against the union in the battles of strikers confronting Caterpillar in Joliet, Ill., the fight of Con Edison workers locked out in New York, sugar workers in the Red River Valley and others. These are all recent examples of the functioning of a political current that has been on this course since the 1970s.

These disruption efforts pick up wherever workers are on the move, as they are today.

“In the late 1980s, the Workers

League devoted substantial resources to support the government’s frame-up of Mark Curtis, a packinghouse worker here in Des Moines who also was a member of the SWP,” Rosenfeld pointed out.

“As struggles of meat workers, including immigrants fighting deportation raids, spread in the Midwest, Curtis was one of the young workers who got involved in the resistance. At Swift, the packinghouse where he worked, workers walked off the line to attend a meeting called to protest an immigration raid and the arrest of 17 coworkers,” said Rosenfeld.

A few hours later, after he attended the meeting, the cops arrested Curtis on false charges of rape and burglary, beat him severely in the city jail, and the Des Moines prosecutors built a

frame-up case against him. As a result Curtis was convicted and sent to jail for eight years.

“The Workers League made support for the prosecutors’ frame-up their central campaign for years,” Rosenfeld continued, “targeting through Curtis the broader vanguard of workers in the Midwest who had begun to fight back against the attacks of the bosses and their government. And they targeted the SWP, which was deeply involved in the fightback.”

“As the bosses’ attacks continue and more workers decide to fight today, it is important for those involved in labor battles to understand and be prepared for anti-union disruption efforts by the Socialist Equality Party and the World Socialist Web Site,” Rosenfeld concluded.

Cops demand cellphone records

Continued from front page

mands for private records come from all levels of government—from local cop precincts to intelligence agencies at the state and federal levels.

Over the last five years the number of requests has increased annually between 12 and 16 percent, the *New York Times* reported July 8.

Verizon has a team of 70 employees working around-the-clock seven days a week dealing with these requests. Sprint has 36 analysts reviewing court orders for wiretaps and trace devices and another 175 to respond to court orders for subscriber information.

Under federal law, companies say they generally require a search warrant, a court order or a formal subpoena to release such information. But in cases that cops or government agents claim are an emergency, a simple request can be enough.

In addition, the FBI is permitted by law to permanently gag service providers from revealing that a demand for information was made, preventing them from notifying either their customers or the public.

In a case filed last year in California, one phone company has challenged an order from the FBI to turn over its records.

The case is shrouded in government-ordered secrecy. The person who received the FBI request—in the form of a “national security letter”—is legally barred from acknowledging

the case or even the existence of the letter to anyone but his lawyers.

National security letters demanding private information date back to the 1980s, but were expanded significantly with passage of the USA Patriot Act in 2001.

Since this law was passed, the FBI has issued hundreds of thousands of letters seeking private telecommunications and financial records of U.S. residents. The NSL statute permits the FBI to issue demands for records and gag provisions without court authorization.

According to the Department of Justice, the FBI in 2000 made 8,500 requests for records of numbers called by a phone or the “to” and “from” lines of emails. In 2011 the figure had increased to 16,511. If you add requests demanding only the name of the subscriber associated with an account, the number jumped to more than 49,000 in 2006.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation brought the challenge on behalf of its client, who they are barred from naming, arguing that the national security letter law is unconstitutional.

The Department of Justice aggressively fired back, filing a civil complaint, saying that the recipient, by challenging the statute’s legality, was “interfer[ing] with the United States’ vindication of its sovereign interests in law enforcement, counterintelligence, and protecting national security.”