

1,138 readers won through door to door campaign

BY LOUIS MARTIN

Militant readers and distributors sold 201 subscriptions during the third week of our international effort to win 3,500 subscribers by Dec. 16, centered on door-to-door sales in working-class neighborhoods. This brings our cumulative total to 1,138.

“I would like to renew my subscription and make a contribution to the Prisoners’ Fund,” a reader behind bars in Florida wrote on his check to the *Militant* office. His was the third “prisoners” subscription on the cam-

Continued on page 3

Fall 'Militant' subscription campaign				
Oct. 13 - Dec. 16 (week 3)				
Country	quota	sold	%	3,500 <

Event celebrates SWP presidential election campaign, projects LA ticket

BY JOHN STUDER

“We have been inundated with campaign coverage—ads, polls, talking heads,” James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, told supporters in some 35 locations on a Nov. 6 election night phone hookup from a campaign meeting in Los Angeles.

“The U.S. rulers and their media work overtime to convince us we have a substantial stake in whether Barack Obama or Mitt Romney become the president of the United States,” Harris said. “The truth is, we don’t. No matter who wins this race, the working class goes to the wall.”

Supporters listening in campaign headquarters from Seattle to Montreal were joined by workers locked out by American Crystal Sugar and their family members in Drayton, N.D, students at the University of Texas-Pan American in the Rio Grande Valley and others.

Not only do both candidates plan to go after the working class in one way or another, Harris said, but in many

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South African coal miners protest killing of 2 strikers, demand raise



Coal miners, many of whom belong to National Union of Mineworkers or Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union, march Nov. 2 in Dundee, South Africa, to protest killing of two strikers by company security guards and to demand higher wages.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Private security guards killed two striking workers at a Forbes and Manhattan Coal Corp. mine in South Africa’s KwaZulu-Natal province Oct. 31. Some 900 workers have been on strike at the Canadian company’s two underground mines and a processing plant since Oct. 17.

The coal miners are among tens of

Gov’t response to hurricane shows true face of capitalism

‘Nothing was done to prepare us for this’



Matthew Czirr clears debris from his grandmother’s home in New Dorp section of Staten Island, N.Y., Nov. 7. Snow falls as another storm brews with evacuation urged in some areas.

BY EMMA JOHNSON

NEW YORK—As the worst storm in decades hit the East Coast, working people were largely left on their own to deal with its devastating effects.

The government did very little to prepare people despite the fact that it took seven days for Hurricane Sandy to reach the East Coast. At 8 p.m. on

Monday, Oct. 29 the storm’s center came ashore near Atlantic City, N.J. The storm surge was a record 14 feet

MAN-MADE SOCIAL DISASTER
—See editorial, p. 11

when it reached New York Harbor. Throughout the night the winds, rains and flooding pounded New

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Hurricane Sandy: Cuba gov’t leads effort to meet needs and rebuild

BY SETH GALINSKY

The revolutionary government of Cuba prepared the island for Hurricane Sandy and led the mobilization of tens of thousands of working people to meet the needs of the population and repair the damage.

Sandy hit eastern Cuba Oct. 26 with wind speeds of 110 mph, just 1 mph

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A new society was built in midst of Cuban Revolution

Below is an excerpt from Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos and Yolanda Ferrer—one of four books offered at reduced prices with a subscription to the Militant. (See ad on page 3.)

In the interview below, de los Santos recounts her experience as head of the Department of Education, established in the territory liberated by the Rebel Army's Second Front under the command of Raúl Castro at the end of the 1956-58 revolutionary war waged against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Raúl Castro is currently president of Cuba's Council of State. Copyright © 2012 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



SUBSCRIPTION SPECIALS

BY ASELA DE LOS SANTOS

It was in [Cuba's eastern mountainous region of] the Sierra Maestra that preparations began on a large scale to teach literacy to Rebel Army combatants. It was in the Sierra Maestra that Fidel made sure teachers were assigned to all the tiny rural schools that had been closed by the tyranny.

From the moment the Second Front was established, Raúl had the same concern. He issued instructions stating that in all the camps, combatants who were illiterate had to be taught how to read and write. And he ordered the reopening of every small

rural school that had been closed because of the war.

Carrying this out was the assignment I was given when I arrived in August.

Within the first months of the establishment of the Second Front, a wide swath of territory was liberated. After the defeat of Batista's "encircle and annihilate offensive" by early August, those areas were largely free of Batista's ground forces, making it possible to open more than four hundred small schools, old and new. This was also due to Raúl's organizational capacities and to his insistence—whatever the demands of war—that there would be no neglect of something so important to the lives of the fighters and children as education. ...

[M]ost important was the region's social composition—above all, the large exploited rural population. This was a territory of large estates, of landowners who possessed enormous tracts of land. Many US corporations owned mills and plantations there, as well as nickel, manganese, and cobalt mines.

All these things together made it possible to advance. That experience became the forerunner. It showed us what needed to be done once victory was won. The growing determination of the rural population to make sure their children had schools was a big help in turning those ideas into a reality. ...

Alongside the military structure, a military-governmental structure was also built to aid the functioning and development of the armed struggle. Seven departments were established,



Andrew St. George Collection/Yale University Library

Waiting to see doctor in liberated zone of Sierra Maestra, late 1958. Field hospitals provided health care to "peasants and combatants, without distinction," said de los Santos.

one of them being Education. The others were Agriculture, Construction and Communications, Finances, Health, Justice, and Propaganda. ...

No one in the Rebel Army could confiscate anything from the peasants. Everything was bought and paid for. The peasants were respected. That was part of the ethical standard set by the Rebel Army. So Raúl created a group to manage finances, to manage the small amount of economic resources we had at the beginning. Out of this came a financial plan to support the expanding war.

There were also sugar plantations and mills in the area governed by the Second Front. Fidel, as commander in chief in the Sierra, ordered that for each 250-pound bag of sugar produced, the plantations had to pay 10 centavos to the movement in that territory. This was managed through the Finances Department.

Other funds were collected in the form of taxes formerly paid by the landlords and businessmen to the state. ...

We also had a Construction and Communications Department. When it rained, roads sometimes became impassable. So this department repaired them, and opened new ones. ...

There was also the Health Department, headed by José Machado Ventura, who is today first vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers. We organized hospitals

and medical units. Medicine was supplied by the July 26 Movement in the cities. These units even performed surgery.

The Health Department provided health care to the population, peasants and combatants, without distinction, including wounded enemy soldiers.

For the most part, people living in the area of the Second Front had never had the chance to see a doctor before. Many had that opportunity only when the Second Front was established. For the first time they were treated like human beings. ...

Another department was Propaganda. It was important politically, because we had a radio station that could be heard throughout the country. ...

Then there was the Justice Department. It performed marriages and settled disputes among people in the area. It also regulated legal matters in the camps. There were even trials for misconduct. Some combatants were expelled from the Rebel Army. Discipline and order reigned in the life of the camps.

And finally there was the Education Department. ...

The rural population in the Second Front was poor, exploited, hungry. Many young people joined the Rebel Army, so the number of combatants who were illiterate grew. And this was a challenge.

That's how the education effort started. Raúl issued orders that we teach all these young combatants to read and write.

THE MILITANT

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Militant/Betsey Stone

Oct. 20 rally in Oakland, Calif., protests Mi Pueblo store's attacks on immigrant workers.

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Associate editor: John Studer

Circulation director: Louis Martin

Editorial volunteers: Rôger Calero, Naomi Craine, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Brian Williams, Rebecca Williamson.

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

‘Militant’ subscription

Continued from front page

paigned chart, either sent by prisoners or sold to other working people they know outside. The goal of five such subscriptions is well within reach.

The fund makes it possible for inmates to order subscriptions at a reduced rate of \$6 for six months. Half-year subscriptions are also offered free of charge for those who have no means to pay.

Militant subscriber Kenneth Davidson invited distributors Jacquie Henderson and Michael Fitzsimmons from Houston to meet fellow Black rights activists Isaac Wynn and James Smith in Palestine, Texas, last weekend before going door to door. Davidson is the local president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

At the end of a wide-ranging one-hour discussion at a local restaurant, Wynn bought a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. This book is one of four offered at reduced price with a subscription. (See ad on this page.)

When Davidson, Fitzsimmons and Henderson later knocked on the door of Fabiola Rodriguez, she wanted to talk about the ways U.S. immigration laws are used to victimize and intimidate immigrant workers.

She got a subscription to the paper, along with copies of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* and *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*—two other books offered at re-

duced prices with a subscription.

By the end of the afternoon, the three *Militant* volunteers had sold four subscriptions and six books on revolutionary working-class politics. “This was a great experience. I want you to come back and we will go with more people to more areas of town,” Davidson told Henderson and Fitzsimmons.

“I really thought we did great,” said *Militant* reader Nichele Fulmore, a UPS driver and Teamster member from Lumberton, N.C. She joined three volunteers who traveled from Atlanta Nov. 3 to introduce the socialist newsweekly to residents of a trailer park there.

Among the workers they talked to were many from the Smithfield plant in nearby Tar Heel, N.C., the largest slaughterhouse in the world. A 15-year-long battle to win representation with the United Food and Commercial Workers union concluded with a victory in 2008.

In all, five subscriptions, six single copies and three books were sold.

“The *Militant* keeps you in contact with the movement of the working class around the world. It’s a movement we have to follow to organize a struggle against the injustices of the capitalist system,” letter carrier and *Militant* reader Yves Delva told John Steele, a distributor of the paper in Montreal.

Delva is a shop steward in the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. He bought his first subscription to the paper last July along with a copy of the *Workers Power* book at a postal workers’ demonstration against Post Canada’s drive to increase productivity



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Maura DeLuca, right, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, introduces *Militant* to Natalie Rizzo Nov. 4, as she campaigns in Manhattan’s Lower East Side.

through speedup. He recently renewed his subscription for a year.

After listening to an appeal at a recent *Militant* Labor Forum for help in circulating the *Militant*, Delva volunteered to take some copies of the paper and subscription cards to his union meeting the next day.

John Naubert from Seattle wrote that *Militant* supporters there sold 17 subscriptions to the paper last week, along with four books at reduced prices.

In Ellensburg, Seattle supporters teamed up with *Militant* reader Robert Beal from Yakima, setting up a table of the Socialist Workers campaign at the student union at Central Washington State University. In the course of a few

hours, they sold four subscriptions to the *Militant* along with two books at reduced prices.

One of the new subscribers was student Megan Epperson. “I need to know what’s happening in my world,” she said, as she bought a copy of *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*. She returned about one hour later to say how excited she was about the book after starting to read it.

Join the campaign! You can order a weekly bundle of the paper or subscription blanks any time at themilitant@mac.com or (212) 244-4899.

Please keep sending your reports, comments, quotes and photos by 9 a.m. EST every Monday.

Special offers

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning by Jack Barnes

“Until society is reorganized so that education is a human activity from the time we are very young until the time we die, there will be no education worthy of working, creating humanity.”

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Articles, interviews from the *Militant*

“We know that right is on our side, but to win we need a jury of millions throughout the world to make our truth known”—Gerardo Hernández

\$3 with subscription (usually \$5)

See distributors
on page 7

Minn. Militant Labor Forum boosts Party-Building Fund

BY SUSAN LAMONT

This week’s chart for the fall \$100,000 Socialist Workers Party Party-Building Fund reflects initial contributions from Des Moines, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. The annual fund, which began Oct. 20 and runs to Dec. 23, is just getting under way.

Several new pledges were made at a Nov. 3 *Militant* Labor Forum in the Twin Cities, reports Becky Ellis, director of the effort there.

“We had a lively forum with 25 in attendance, including five for the first time,” said Ellis. The program, titled “What the 2012 Elections Are Revealing,” featured Joe Swanson, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Lincoln, Neb., and David Rosenfeld, the party’s candidate for Congress in Iowa’s 3rd District.

“The fund drive was announced during the program,” Ellis said. “Among those who made pledges afterward was a retired construction worker, who handed me \$5, and a young woman, Jenny Shegos, who hadn’t come to a forum in a few years and now works in a bar. She bought *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution* and pledged \$50.”

“I want to give to the fund because the party is the only thing out there offering real change for working people,” Shegos told Ellis. “The party does day-to-day

work to build a movement, not just try to get a candidate elected.”

Contributions can be sent to the SWP address nearest you (see page 7) or directly to the SWP National Office at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, NY, NY 10018.

Susan LaMont is director of the 2012 SWP Party-Building Fund

Party-Building Fund Oct. 20 - Dec. 23

Area	Quota
Atlanta	\$8,600
Boston	\$4,000
Chicago	\$9,500
Des Moines	\$2,250
Houston	\$3,500
Lincoln, Neb.	\$250
Los Angeles	\$8,500
Miami	\$3,000
New York	\$20,000
Omaha	\$600
Philadelphia	\$4,200
San Francisco	\$13,500
Seattle	\$8,500
Twin Cities	\$6,000
Washington, D.C.	\$7,500
Other	
TOTAL	\$99,900
GOAL	\$100,000

US election: Obama wins, victor will deepen assaults

Senate, House of Representatives remain divided

BY JOHN STUDER

Barack Obama won reelection as U.S. president Nov. 6.

The victor, as would his Republican Party challenger Mitt Romney, will use the power of the presidency to deepen the bosses' assaults against working people, as the propertied rulers futilely drive to restore their declining profit rates at our expense. And either way they will seek to strengthen U.S. military and economic domination worldwide in competition with those they see as enemies and allies alike.

Given the reality the crisis of capital-

COMMENTARY

ism is visiting on workers, the election should have been an easy win for the challenger. Jobs are the central question on workers' minds. As the crisis of capitalism deepens, millions have been thrown out of work. Some 23 million people are without work or forced to work part time.

In the face of this, the Obama administration has refused to organize any real national jobs program. Neither candidate even made false promises for such a step in their election bid.

Romney has no jobs program either, but an effective campaign against Obama's record would have seemed an easy win.

In the last couple of weeks, some dozen big city newspapers that had endorsed Obama in 2008 announced that they were backing Romney in 2012, including the *New York Daily*

News, *Newsday*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *Des Moines Register*, *Nashville Tennessean*, and *Los Angeles Daily News*.

Romney failed to present even a pretense of something in common with working people or to conceal his country club Republican outlook. Late efforts to appear as a moderate, down-home, friendly kind of guy didn't convince many.

In fact, despite media hype presenting the election as a contest between two sharply counterposed visions, many commentators pointed out there was in fact little difference between the proposals of the candidates.

In the first presidential debate, ostensibly about jobs and economic policies, Romney captured the heart of the matter when he said to Obama, "The rich will do fine, whether you're president or I am."

The Oct. 23 *Huffington Post*, which supported Obama, had this to say about foreign policy in the second "debate": "It showed that when it comes to drone strikes, the war in Afghanistan, relations

Continued on page 11

SWP candidates back Calif. postal workers' fight



Militant/Bill Arth

VISTA, Calif., Oct. 31—Norton Sandler, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, speaks at rally of 60 postal workers and their supporters protesting outside the office of U.S. Representative Darell Issa, who sponsored legislation to force \$3 billion in cuts in post offices and mail processing facilities. James Harris, the party's candidate for president, also took part.

"The Socialist Workers Party stands with postal workers in their fight against closures and cuts," Harris said. "They affect the working class as a whole."

Sandler addressed the California ballot referendum known as Proposition 32, aimed at outlawing unions' right to financially back political campaigns. "The ruling class fears an independent labor movement," he said. "That's why they want Proposition 32 passed. They fear the day when labor will run our own independent working-class candidates."

The measure was defeated.

—BILL ARTH

Socialist Workers LA ticket launches ballot effort

Continued from front page

ways there are very little, if any, differences. This is especially true in relation to carrying out the rulers' foreign policy.

"Both candidates say they agree on a 2014 date for withdrawal from Afghanistan," Harris pointed out, "while neither of them saw fit to mention that the Pentagon is drawing up plans to keep thousands of troops there for another decade. And both candidates agree with the growing use of aerial drone assassinations."

"Washington's massive shift in military resources to encircle China, the major economic competitor of the U.S., was not a matter of dispute," Harris added. "In fact, right now the U.S. and Japan are engaged in an 11-day military exercise in the region called 'Keen Sword' with 34,100 Japanese troops and more than 10,000 U.S. land, air and naval forces."

"We, the working class, need our own foreign policy—a foreign policy not based upon securing the dictatorship of capital, the rule of the billionaire families," Harris said. "Our foreign policy should flow from the need to unify workers and farmers worldwide against the common exploiting class and make us stronger in our ability to fight to overthrow their rule."

"We call for U.S. troops out of Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, South Korea, Guantánamo and every other part of the world," he said.

John Studer, chair of the SWP National Campaign Committee, emceed the hookup from campaign headquarters in New York. He introduced Maura DeLuca, the party's vice presidential candidate, who had spent the last few days in the New York area visiting and talking with workers affected by the social catastrophe in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

"I have met and heard the stories of

many workers hard hit by the storm and by the way capitalism creates conditions that turn a 'natural disaster' into a social catastrophe," DeLuca said. I've seen the disdain for working people from bourgeois politicians like Mayor Michael Bloomberg and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who called the victims of the storm 'stupid' and 'selfish.'

"But these workers have come together in human solidarity to look out for each other, especially the sick and elderly, to pool the food sitting in their refrigerators without electricity to cook and distribute to those in need, setting up candles in the windowless hallways of flooded public housing so people can see," she said.

"Imagine if this solidarity was backed up by a government run by workers and farmers that put the resources of society at their disposal," DeLuca said. "That is what is happening today in revolutionary Cuba, where workers and farmers are working together to cope with the hurricane's effects."

"Before I came to New York, I visited New Orleans," DeLuca said, "and campaign supporters there took me to the Lower Ninth Ward, which is still devastated from Hurricane Katrina."

"As long as a few wealthy families hold state power, land remains private property and workers are largely forced to live in the most vulnerable, low-lying areas, these sorts of disasters will be repeated over and over."

Turning the program back to Los Angeles, Studer introduced Norton Sandler, the recently announced SWP candidate for mayor there in the May 21 election.

"We are in the midst of a capitalist economic crisis of historic proportions, here and worldwide," Sandler said. "The bosses and their politicians have no proposals to get out of this crisis. They have no plan other than to

make working people pay.

"Official unemployment in Los Angeles is at 12 percent and the real number is much higher," he said. "Most of the jobs they are offering are at near minimum wage, part time or through temp agencies."

"There are 165,000 jailed in California alone, a high percentage of them African-Americans," Sandler said. "You regularly see headlines in the press like 'Officer involved in shooting,' as the cops act as judge, jury and executioner on the streets of the city."

"We campaign for a massive public works program to provide jobs. We call for the immediate legalization of immigrant workers and defend the right of women to choose abortion," he said. "The SWP opposes all restrictions on equal protection under the law and supports the fight to end discrimination in marriage based on bigotry against people because of their gender or sexual orientation."

The party will be putting supporters on the streets this coming weekend to gather 1,000 signatures to put Sandler's name, and that of Eleanor García, the SWP candidate for L.A. Unified School Board, District 2, on the ballot. Sandler reported on volunteers organizing to come and help in the effort.

"Thousands of workers today know that the deepening capitalist economic crisis is unlike anything they have ever seen before," Studer said. "And they want to know why this is happening and what we can do about it."

"We will join together to take the *Militant* door to door in working-class communities, large and small, urban and rural," he concluded, "This is the best way to broaden the discussion in our class about what we face and how we can organize to strengthen our class, fight effectively and carve out a road to workers power."

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

IOWA

Des Moines

The Meaning of the U.S. Elections. Speakers: Jacob Perasso and Fredy Huinil, Socialist Workers Party; Perasso just returned from youth conference in Quito, Ecuador. Sat., Nov. 17. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.; program: 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 707-1779.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

The Fight Against the Anti-Gay Marriage Amendment in Minnesota: The Importance for Working People. Panel discussion. Fri., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. 416 E. Hennepin Ave., suite 214. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Hurricane Sandy and the Devastating Aftermath: Why This Storm Became a Social Disaster for Working People. Fri., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. 307 W. 36th St., 10th floor. Tel.: (212) 629-6649.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Asia-Pacific Conference Builds Support for the Cuban Revolution: Space for Working Class to Discuss Is More Open in Sri Lanka Today—Discrimination Against Tamils Poses Right to Self-Determination. Speakers: Baskaran Appu and Janet Roth, Communist League. Sat., Nov. 17, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged, \$2 unwaged. 4/125 Grafton Road. Tel.: (09) 369-1223.

Teachers rallied working class in Chicago, face more attacks

BY ILONA GERSH
AND DENNIS RICHTER

CHICAGO—Members of the Chicago Teachers Union voted Oct. 2 to approve a new three-year contract by a margin of 79 percent. The vote followed a seven-day strike, marked by mobilizations that galvanized working-class support across the city.

The strike ended Sept. 18. The union’s 800-member House of Delegates, under threat of a court injunction requested by Democratic Mayor Rahm Emanuel, voted to suspend the strike pending membership approval of the contract.

The assault on the Chicago teachers led by Emanuel is part of a bipartisan campaign across the country to slash budget expenses by targeting public programs and government workers, including closing schools, laying off teachers and cutting programs.

The widespread support for the strike among working people reflected the sentiment that something must be done to stem the assault against workers by the employers and the city government. Dozens of unions endorsed the actions.

“Rahm underestimated us,” Noel Merchaert, a teacher at the Jahn World Language School, told the *Militant*. “The strike showed a lot of teachers that it’s worth it to stand together. The solidarity we got from working people across Chicago strengthened all of us.”

Many teachers and their supporters expected they would be able to push back the city’s attack on their union by the Democratic Party administration.

But the union agreed to the pay scale proposed by the Chicago Public Schools of 3 percent the first year and 2 percent during the next two years. The teachers did beat back demands to substitute merit pay for wage levels based on seniority.

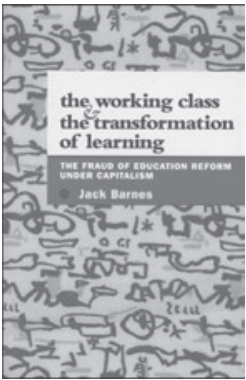
The teachers lost the fight to block the city administration from lengthening the workday and adding more teaching days to the school calendar.

The union kept limited seniority rights for teachers who are laid off because of school closings. If jobs open up within 10 months, 50 percent of them must be filled with laid-off workers.

Under a state law passed in 2010, teachers are evaluated each year, which is used as a factor in layoffs as schools are downsized or closed. The city failed to increase the weight of students’ test scores in these evaluations.

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism

By Jack Barnes



\$2 with a subscription to the Militant (usually \$3)
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

Adopting the law was required for the state to get money from the Obama administration’s “Race to the Top” initiative—\$4.35 billion worth of grants conferred to states for the expansion of charter schools.

The Illinois Education Labor Relations Board barred the union by state law from striking over many other issues that were raised by striking teachers, such as the demand for a smaller class size, school closures, the condition of the school buildings and the issue of privatized charter schools.

The teachers’ and other government workers’ unions face an additional obstacle compared to unions in the private sector. Both have been weakened substantially by decades of class collaboration and political support for the bosses’ parties. Public workers, however, confront the capitalists only indirectly. Their bosses are not capitalists, but government bodies that represent the class interests of the bosses. Their services do not create, but subtract, surplus value, the source of the capitalists’ wealth.

Just as the bosses in one branch of industry after another are determined to shore up their declining profit rates on the backs of workers, and have been doing so, they are doubly united and determined to cut expenses of their government that they see as not essential.

The long-standing strategy of backing Democratic Party politicians by the officials of public workers unions runs even deeper than those of private-sector workers. It has been directly tied to gaining quid-pro-quo support for deals on higher wages, benefits and job security. For decades, this is how they angled for concessions from the Democratic Party administration in Chicago. And these deals have gone hand-in-hand with getting teachers to see themselves as a layer of “professionals,” increasingly divorced from the lives and experience of many working-class students.

The entire course and strategy has turned into a millstone around the neck of the teachers, as the capitalist economic crisis deepens and Democratic

California grocery workers strike over concessions



Militant/Betsey Stone

REDWOOD CITY, Calif.—Strikers outside Nob Hill Foods here are among more than 7,500 workers on strike against Raley’s and Nob Hill Foods, a chain of about 130 supermarkets in Northern California and Nevada. The workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers union locals 5 and 8, walked out on Nov. 4 in opposition to company demands that they accept a wage freeze, an end to premium pay for Sundays and a reduction in medical benefits.

While some customers have crossed the picket line here, strikers have been successful in convincing most customers to shop elsewhere, workers on the line told the *Militant*. Many customers turned around when they saw the picket line, without even getting out of their cars, often giving the thumbs up or honking support.

—BETSEY STONE

and Republican city officials respond to shrinking revenues by taking aim at city services and workers.

Workers back teachers’ fight

Backing for the teachers’ fight was particularly strong among those who are African-American, who comprise a large proportion of public workers and are disproportionately affected by mounting city budget cuts.

“Many parents in the Southside and Westside Black communities supported the teachers because the conditions in their schools are horrible and underfunded,” Owen “OC” Cope, a Chicago streets and sanitation worker, told the *Militant*. “I guarantee the city will now close many schools on the Southside and Westside.”

“In the end the teachers got screwed,”

Cope said. Emanuel “did this to the teachers, and now the other public unions will face this in the future.”

Emanuel and public school officials now say the settlement deepens the school system’s budget crisis, with projected annual deficits of \$1 billion.

Before the strike began, Chicago Public Schools declared its intention to close 80 to 120 schools in the next year, costing thousands of jobs. Now estimates are as high as 200. The underfunded pension system for teachers would require stepped-up payments by the city and state to catch up. Instead, officials say pensions must be significantly reduced and retirement age increased.

Even in the face of all these contradictions, many teachers and other workers here feel proud they stood up to Emanuel and fought against the city’s attack.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 20, 1987

SAHUARITA, Arizona—“They treat us like slaves, not like people,” said Francisco Sesma, one of more than 40 workers on strike against Santa Cruz Valley Pecan Co.

The workers at the company’s pecan processing plant won a union representation election in August 1986 by a resounding 95-49 margin, voting to join United Steelworkers of America Local 13886. Since then owners Dick and Keith Walden have been stonewalling on negotiations while threatening and victimizing union supporters. The workers were finally forced on strike August 11.

The strikers are fighting the company’s starvation wages, dangerous working conditions, and abuse and discrimination by foremen. Workers currently start at the minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour, with a 10-cent raise a year.



November 19, 1962

The House Un-American Activities Committee announced that the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Party had “made common cause” in support of the Los Angeles Fair Play for Cuba Committee. The committee adds that members of the SWP were “the concealed masterminds” behind the group.

The SWP has long-standing well-known political differences with the Communist Party. But the SWP also has an equally well-established record of readiness to work with any group, regardless of differences, in promoting progressive causes. It has consistently engaged in united action in a host of civil rights and civil liberties movements, on picket lines and in the fight for peace.

The SWP has joined forces with others of various views in spreading the truth about Cuba and defending its heroic revolution against U.S. aggression.



November 20, 1937

A brazen attempt to save the profits of Big Business by reducing its taxes and cutting down the already meager relief program is being made by the Roosevelt administration.

Roosevelt admitted in his message to Congress that he was alarmed by the current business recession.

The “New Deal” program to meet this crisis was outlined by Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. “A determined movement towards balancing the budget is one of the needed solutions for today’s problems,” Morgenthau told Wall Street.

The Roosevelt regime hopes to balance the budget through “reducing relief, farm and public works expenditures,” Morgenthau declared, “and would try to encourage expansion of private industry through revising taxes found to be inequitable.”

‘We will not be silent,’ says Pussy Riot prisoner

BY EMMA JOHNSON

“We will not be silent. And even if we are in Mordovia or Siberia, we won’t be silent, no matter how uncomfortable that is for you,” Maria Alyokhina, 24, a member of the Russian punk band Pussy Riot, told judges at the appeal of her sentence Oct. 10.

The court upheld the two-year prison term for Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 22. The third convicted member, Yekaterina Samutsevich, 30, received a suspended sentence.

The three were convicted in a Moscow court Aug. 17 of “hooliganism motivated by religious hatred” for performing a “punk prayer” in the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of Christ in Moscow Feb. 21, asking the Virgin Mary “to drive [President Vladimir] Putin away.” They were arrested March 3.

The case is at the center of the fight for freedom of speech and artistic expression in Russia. The women have won support around the world.

After the appeal denial, Tolokonnikova was sent to a prison colony in Mordovia, 300 miles east of Moscow, and Alyokhina was sent to one in the Perm region in Siberia, 700 miles east of the capital. They had requested to serve their time in the Moscow region, which would have permitted them to be closer to their small children.

Tolokonnikova’s husband, Pyotr Verzilov, tried to visit her at the prison camp Nov. 2, but was turned away and told she would be held in quarantine for several more days, reported the Associated Press.

Verzilov told AP that Tolokonnikova “had been treated well by prison officials, but he attributed that to the publicity stirred up by the trial.”

The judge’s motivation for Samutsevich’s suspended sentence was that she was stopped by guards outside the church and never actually participated in the “prayer.” Samutsevich is now on probation for two years. She has to report once a month and “must not take part in similar performances or will go to prison,” the judge warned.

“I want to continue the actions of Pussy Riot, but that means you have to be more careful and you have to be more cunning,” Samutsevich said to radio station Echo Moskvyy Oct 12.

“We are sitting in jail for our political beliefs,” said Alyokhina at the appeal hearing. “And these beliefs won’t let me be quiet. ... We went into the cathedral to issue a protest against the fusion of the spiritual and political elite of our country.”

“We are not militant Atheists,” she clarified. “We are against cutting crosses, against stealing icons, against pouring ink on icons.”

“We believe that we live in a secular society,” Samutsevich told CNN Oct. 10. “The representatives of the church should not interfere with the politics of the country, and we wanted to highlight this problem through our action.” In an interview in the *Moscow Times* Oct. 15, Samutsevich said the Pussy Riot trial had succeeded in getting Russians talking about the intertwining of church and state and the politically engaged courts.

“People who never even thought about these things started to talk about them, to read and to listen to other people’s opinions,” she stated. “A discussion has begun in society and that is very important for us.”

“They got what they asked for,” President Putin said three days before the appeal hearing in an interview on state television.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Nov. 2 he thought the women should be freed. He made a similar statement Sept. 12, adding that impris-



Above, from left, Pussy Riot band members Yekaterina Samutsevich, Maria Alyokhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova behind glass wall at court in Moscow Aug. 17 where they were each sentenced to two years in prison. Samutsevich was released Oct. 10 with suspended sentence. Inset, New York police arresting woman for wearing balaclava in protest Aug. 17 at Russian Consulate in Manhattan.

onment “seems to me to be unproductive,” according to NBC News. He also said he was “sickened by what they did, by their looks, by the hysteria which followed what had happened.”

Meanwhile, three women who were arrested for wearing balaclavas in a pro-

test in support of Pussy Riot Aug. 17 outside the Russian Consulate in New York have challenged a state law dating back to 1845. The law is a subsection of New York’s loitering statute and forbids three or more people from wearing masks in public.

White House expands ‘kill list,’ drone attacks

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The White House plans to continue expanding its hit list and use of aerial drones for years to come, according to recent articles in the *Washington Post*.

Nearly 3,000 people have been killed by drone strikes over the last decade, according to estimates in the *Post*, the overwhelming majority during the Barack Obama administration.

Over the past two years, the White House has been secretly developing “a new generation targeting list called the ‘disposition matrix,’” reported an Oct. 23 *Post* article, the first of a three-part series on Washington’s use of killer drones. The database tracks individuals targeted for assassination.

The CIA is seeking an additional 10 armed drones to be added to its current fleet of about 35, reported the *Post*. The U.S. military’s fleet dwarfs that of the CIA. According to a 2011 Pentagon report, the Air Force has 246 Predators, Reapers and Global Hawks, with the Army, Navy and Marines having access to hundreds of other attack drones.

The “disposition matrix” was developed by the National Counterterrorism Center—in operation under a 2004 executive order—to augment the CIA’s and Joint Special Operations Command’s separately compiled “kill” lists. White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan presents proposals generated by the military and intelligence agencies to the president, who decides whom to add to the list.

In addition to targeted assassinations of individuals—which also hit whoever else happens to be in the vicinity—the White House carries out what it dubs “signature strikes.” These are drone assaults in which individuals and groups of people are targeted based on “patterns of behavior” and presence at “gathering places.”

The London-based Bureau for Investigative Journalism reports that from June 2004 to mid-September 2012

nearly 900 civilians have been killed, including 176 children. The Pentagon keeps the reported civilian casualties count low by counting all men killed in drone attacks as “combatants” or “militants.”

On Sept. 17, 2001, President George W. Bush signed a memorandum of notification authorizing the CIA to kill without further presidential approval, “two or three dozen” targeted individuals, reported *Foreign Policy* magazine. “There are 500 guys out there you have to kill,” an unnamed former CIA official told the magazine. “There’s no way to sugarcoat it—you just have to kill them.”

Drone strikes in Pakistan began in 2002 under President Bush. Over seven years his administration oversaw 50 drone attacks. Since Obama took office, more than 350 have been carried out in at least six countries—Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia and Libya, reported the *Financial Times*. Former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney fully supported use of killer drones as carried out under the Obama administration.

Residents of Pakistan’s tribal areas bordering Afghanistan are subjected to constant flights of the death machines, never knowing when they will strike. So far this year there have been 40 airstrikes in Pakistan, down from 64 last year.

Over the first 10 months of this year, the White House launched 37 drone strikes in Yemen, nearly quadruple those conducted in 2011, according to the Long War Journal.

Expanding U.S. base in Djibouti

A center for launching airstrikes against Yemen is the Camp Lemonnier U.S. military base in Djibouti in north-east Africa, where more than 3,000 U.S. military personnel are stationed. It also serves as a center for targeting the opposition al-Shabab group in Somalia.

“For the past decade, the Pentagon

has labeled Lemonnier an ‘expeditionary,’ or temporary, camp,” reports the *Post* Oct. 25. “But it is now hardening into the U.S. military’s first permanent drone war base.”

In August, the Pentagon presented Congress with plans to expand use of this base with \$1.4 billion in construction projects, “including a huge new compound that could house up to 1,100 Special Operations forces, more than triple the current number,” said the *Post*.

Drones are being deployed against Somalia not just from the Djibouti base but also from U.S. military bases in the Seychelles and Ethiopia.

A U.N. report earlier this year described the congestion of the skies over Somalia caused by drone traffic. “Over the past year,” the *Post* reported, “remote-controlled aircraft have plunged into a refugee camp, flown perilously close to a fuel dump and almost collided with a large passenger plane over Mogadishu, the capital.”

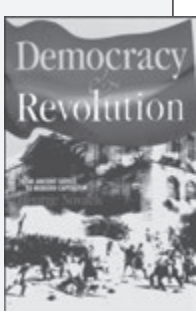
Democracy and Revolution

by George Novack

The limitations and advances of various forms of democracy, from its roots in ancient Greece through its rise and decline under capitalism. How democracy will be advanced under a workers and farmers government.

\$22

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New International no. 12

‘Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun’

by Jack Barnes



Class-struggle-minded workers must face a world marked by an accelerating capitalist crisis and Washington’s most far-reaching military shift since its buildup toward World War II—and chart a revolutionary course to confront it.

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South Africa coal strike

Continued from front page
continued picketing nearby.

“We saw one of the mine managers loading Mbube Security guards in the back of his van at the mine gate and drive towards us,” Mdiyako’s son Sphamandla Mncube, who is also a striking miner, told the *Witness* newspaper. “As the security guards jumped off the van they charged at us firing shots.”

The guards have not been arrested or charged in the killings.

Striking miners and their supporters marched in nearby Dundee Nov. 2 to call for the arrest and prosecution of the guards and to press their demands for a wage raise.

“The police are supposed to protect everyone,” Zet Luzipo, regional secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, told the *Militant* by phone right after the demonstration. “Instead, the police are being used like a private army for the mine owners.”

“Why are there no arrests?” Bhekani Ngcobo, National Union of Mineworkers regional coordinator, said in a phone interview the next day. “If it was workers accused of a killing, we would be arrested and not released until there was an investigation.”

When asked about the killings Forbes spokesperson James Duncan said he could not comment, because “the criminal investigation has to run its course.”

Unlike strikes centered in the North West province by 50,000 gold miners that ended recently and an ongoing strike by more than 26,000 miners at

Anglo American Platinum (Amplats), the strike at Forbes Coal is a “protected” strike. Under South African law, strikes are considered protected if workers have received a strike certificate after seeking mediation and give 48 hours notice of their intent to strike.

Unions unite at coal mine

The “unprotected” strikes have been organized largely by strike committees selected by the miners, without the participation or support of officials of the government-allied National Union of Mineworkers or the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union, often described in the South African press as a breakaway from the NUM. But in this strike NUM and AMCU officials, along with representatives of workers who don’t belong to either union, are working together to coordinate their fight for higher wages and better working conditions.

“We are poles apart,” company spokesman Duncan said. “The employees are demanding a 100 percent wage increase. The company has offered 6 percent. The company’s position is that 100 percent is simply not affordable when markets for coal are extremely weak.”

When asked how much the miners make, Duncan replied, “I’m not going there with you. In the South African context it can be hugely misleading to give you numbers.”

Union officials say that workers make 3,400 to 4,200 rand a month (\$400 to \$480), among the lowest in the mine industry.

“I want more money because we work very hard,” roof bolter Baboangile Ndebele, 36, and one of many women who work underground, said by phone. “The salary is very low. It is dark underground. There are a lot of chemicals and dust.”

“Forbes loads 300 train coaches a day with coal,” AMCU organizer Warton Mdaduli told the *Militant*, in answer to Forbes’ claims that they can’t afford a substantial pay raise.

“AMCU, NUM, we called the strike together,” Mdaduli said, “even the non-union members voted for the strike and we are still united.”

Strikers are not just demanding high-

Workers in Greece strike against gov’t ‘austerity’



Hundreds of thousands of workers in Greece took part in a 48-hour protest strike starting Nov. 6 against a new round of wage and pension cuts before parliament. The cuts were approved the following day. This was the third major walkout in two months against the government’s austerity drive.

The strike was called by the country’s two largest labor unions representing 4 million workers. Public transport was brought to a standstill and schools, banks and local government offices were shut down.

Some 16,000 protesters gathered outside parliament, fewer than in similar street actions in the recent period, reported Reuters.

—EMMA JOHNSON

er wages, Mdaduli said. “We are also asking that maternity leave with pay be increased from four months to six. We will not go back until we win our demands.”

Sit-down strikes at AngloGold

Meanwhile, miners at AngloGold Ashanti Corp. have held several underground sit-ins since returning to work Oct. 25 after the company agreed to move workers to a higher pay grade and pay a 1,500 rand bonus.

“We started hearing rumors that the 1,500 rand was only going to be paid under three conditions: that we produce a certain quantity of gold, that there be no fatalities and that there be no new strike action, all by Nov. 16,” AngloGold miner Tshepo Motloi told the *Militant*.

After workers at the Mponeng and TauTona mine shafts held underground sit-down strikes Oct. 31 and Nov. 2, the company agreed to move up payment of the bonus to Nov. 6 or sooner.

“It was a dispute over the timing of a safety incentive,” AngloGold spokes-

person Alan Fine said by phone. “It has to do with safety performance, attendance and yes, ramping up production.”

On Nov. 5, workers held another short underground strike at the Mponeng shaft, demanding immediate payment of the bonus and that charges of inciting violence be dropped against miner Rodgers Motlhabane, a strike leader. Fine charged that “there was some vandalism and threatening behavior.” Although the sit-down ended, Fine said that AngloGold will not restart work at the shaft “until we have been assured that things will return to normal.”

Motloi said no one had been threatened. “There were 2,700 workers underground and only 15 or so company officials, who workers told to stay put during the action,” he noted, and nobody was hurt.

“The company wants us to stay quiet in the face of injustice,” Motloi said. “But we are going to put on our uniforms tomorrow and report for duty even though they say they are not going to let us work.”

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Oct. 1962: Kennedy brought world to brink of nuclear war

Resolve of Cuban workers stayed imperialists' hands

BY DOUG NELSON

The truth about the events of October 1962, referred to in the U.S. as the “Cuban missile crisis,” is little known among working people outside Cuba.

The 50th anniversary has been an occasion for the big-business media in the U.S. to regurgitate the official narrative, in some cases with new information or “insight.”

But the basic outline has stayed the same for 50 years: After Washington learned about a secret Soviet plan to install nuclear missiles in Cuba, President John F. Kennedy went on the air, pledging to take whatever action necessary to protect the American people from the Communist threat to their lives. A couple of weeks later, Kennedy’s military resolve and/or clever diplomacy prevailed and Moscow was forced to remove the missiles.

But the facts ascribe quite a different role to the three actors. The Kennedy administration pushed the world to the edge of nuclear war. Moscow’s self-serving actions provided a pretext for the U.S. rulers’ war drive. The decisive factor in preventing war was the working people of revolutionary Cuba, whose political determination and combat readiness forced Washington to pause, and then back down.

Hatred of Cuban Revolution

At the root of the October Crisis, as it’s called in Cuba, is the U.S. rulers’ unrelenting class hatred and fear of the Cuban Revolution.

Washington’s hostility began with the overthrow of the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista by a popular revolutionary movement led by Fidel Castro in 1959.

Worst of all for the U.S. rulers is that the workers and farmers of the island didn’t stop there. They wrested political power from the capitalist exploiters and used that power to expropriate the land and other bourgeois property from the ruling families of Cuba and the U.S.; transform social relations to meet the needs of the vast majority; and advance the interests of the working class worldwide. To Washington’s great dismay,

they continue to defend this revolutionary course to this day.

Washington responded to the Jan. 1, 1959, popular insurrection and the revolutionary measures advanced over following months by backing counter-revolutionary groups carrying out acts of sabotage and murder throughout the island. U.S. aerial bombings began before the year was out and the CIA began training a mercenary force of Cuban exiles in early 1960 to prepare for an invasion.

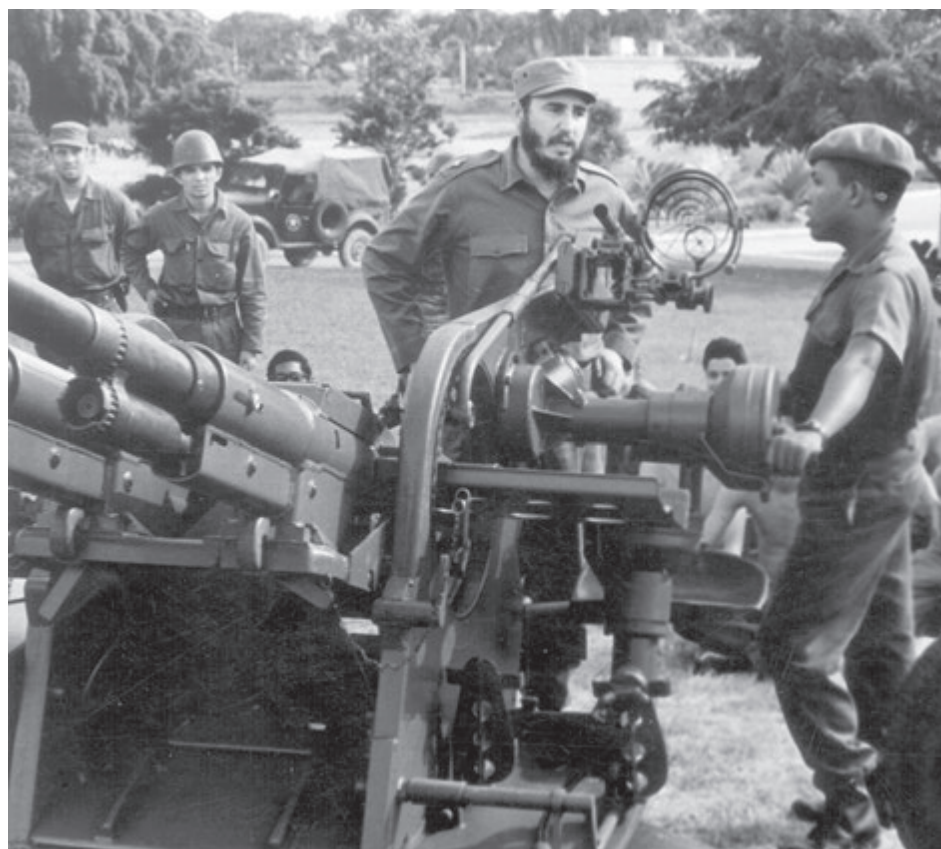
In Cuba 1961 is called the “year of education,” marking the wiping out of illiteracy by a volunteer brigade force of a quarter million people, mostly youth. The same year opens with Washington breaking off diplomatic relations with Havana and the political and military preparation of the Cuban people for an inevitable invasion.

In mid-April, some 1,500 mercenaries armed, trained, supported and deployed by Washington landed near the Bay of Pigs on Cuba’s south shore. The invasion was crushed in less than 72 hours by an armed population still beginning to organize its military defenses. As a result, plans for a full-scale U.S. invasion designed to follow the initial landing were scrapped—for the time being.

While Washington painted its first military defeat in the Americas as an ill-planned fiasco, the U.S. rulers took stock of their real miscalculation: the failure to account for the population’s revolutionary resolve, which led to a huge underestimation of the scope and efficiency of the response by Cuban workers and farmers.

The U.S. government then stepped up its murderous counterrevolutionary activities, including attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro and other central leaders, and drew up new plans for overthrowing the revolution. One plot and provocation after another, with names like Operation Patty and Liborio, were thwarted by the Cuban government.

In November 1961, the Kennedy administration began to roll out Operation Mongoose, a multifaceted approach to overturn the revolution. Gen. Maxwell Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of



Verde Olivo

Fidel Castro visits artillery forces defending Cuba in face of U.S. military threat, October 1962.

Staff, drafted an outline for the plan, which was predicated on the following assumption: “In undertaking to cause the overthrow of the target government ... final success will require decisive U.S. military intervention.”

Carrying out an invasion, the document explained, would require the fabrication of a sufficient pretext. A six-phase Basic Action Plan was set in motion in March and slated to culminate in the forcible overthrow of the Cuban government around late October.

Revolution prepares to defend itself

Meanwhile, Cuba strengthened its national defense, the backbone of which has always been the preparation for a “war of the entire people.” These steps were aided by the provision of some \$200 million in war matériel from the Soviet Union, codified in agreements between the two nations in mid-1961.

On Feb. 3, 1962, Kennedy imposed a total trade embargo. About five months later, the governments of the Soviet Union and Cuba finalized a pact to implement Operation Anadyr. In exchange for the cancellation of some \$67 million in debt incurred by Cuba for the arms agreements the previous year, Havana agreed to Moscow’s request to install medium and intermediate-range missiles under Soviet military control, which led to the transfer of some 42,000 Soviet troops to the island.

As Fidel Castro explained in a 1992 NBC interview and on other occasions, the Cuban government accepted the missiles not for its own defense, but as “an unavoidable duty” of solidarity with the Soviet Union, which was faced with a buildup of U.S. nuclear weapons in Turkey and elsewhere.

“We were not too pleased with the missiles actually,” Castro said in another 1992 interview for a PBS television documentary. “If it had been a matter only of our own defense, we would not have accepted the emplacement ... because this would damage the image of the revolution throughout the rest of Latin America, and the presence of the missiles would in fact turn us into a Soviet military base and that had a high political cost.”

The Cuban and Soviet governments had opposing views on how the missile installation should be conducted.

Castro approached the question as a political one, arguing that it should be

publicly proclaimed and explained to the world on the basis of Cuba’s sovereign right to defend itself. What’s more, Cuban leaders argued, if Washington discovered the missiles before they were operational, it would take advantage of the situation.

But Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev disregarded these concerns, insisted on total secrecy and repeatedly told Cuban leaders to “relax.” Moscow’s plan—driven by narrow self-interest and devoid of any concern for the welfare of Cuba, let alone advancing a revolutionary perspective in the Americas—was to announce the operation after the missiles were operational, which Washington would then have to accept. Soviet officials repeatedly denied rumors of the missiles’ presence in Cuba and had no plan for what to do if they were in fact discovered.

The Soviet government’s approach gave the U.S. rulers just the pretext they were looking for.

Washington blinked

A U.S. spy plane captured the first images of the missile sites Oct. 14. Washington began preparing its response as Soviet officials were still denying the missiles’ existence.

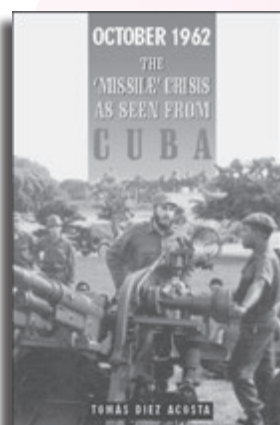
On Oct. 22 Kennedy gave a televised address from the White House announcing Moscow was secretly installing nuclear missiles in Cuba, which he characterized as an “explicit threat to the peace and security of all the Americas.” He presented himself as someone who had been lied to by Soviet officials and contrasted the clandestine nature of the operation in Cuba with Washington’s openly proclaimed nuclear buildup in Turkey and elsewhere.

He announced a naval blockade, euphemistically called a “quarantine,” directed against any ship carrying offensive weapons bound for Cuba. The plan worked out by the administration was to expand the blockade to include any petroleum products, gasoline or lubricants.

Gen. Taylor’s estimate that airstrikes could not be certain to take out all the missiles convinced the White House not to try.

The Kennedy administration mobilized a massive force in preparation for an invasion: 85,000 Navy personnel, including 40,000 marine combat troops; 183 warships, including eight aircraft

Continued on page 9



October 1962

The ‘Missile’ Crisis As Seen from Cuba

by Tomás Díez Acosta

In October 1962, Washington pushed the world to the edge of nuclear war. The determination of the Cuban people to defend their sovereignty and socialist revolution blocked U.S. plans for a military assault and saved humanity from the consequences of a nuclear holocaust. \$25

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs

Washington’s First Military Defeat in the Americas

by Fidel Castro, José Ramón Fernández

In fewer than 72 hours of combat in April 1961, Cuba’s revolutionary armed forces defeated a U.S.-organized invasion by 1,500 mercenaries. In the process, the Cuban people set an example that with political consciousness, class solidarity, courage and revolutionary leadership, one can stand up to enormous might and seemingly insurmountable odds—and win. \$22



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Cuba mobilizes to rebuild

Continued from front page

short of a category 3 hurricane, and gusts of up to 150 mph. Santiago, Cuba's second largest city with a population of 500,000, "looks like a city that has been bombed," Raúl Castro, president of Cuba's Council of Ministers, said after touring the area. Castro vowed to remain there until electricity is restored.

Loss of life was minimized due to advance preparation and the work of more than 1,200 civil defense units. More than 340,000 people were evacuated. Most stayed with family and friends; 14,349 stayed at 432 evacuation centers and were fed meals prepared at 278 kitchens, reported the Cuban daily *Juventud Rebelde*.

Eleven people in Cuba died from the storm. In Santiago de Cuba province, the hardest hit region, 137,000 homes were damaged, including 43,000 that lost their roofs and at least 15,000 that were destroyed. About 52,000 homes were damaged in Holguín province. Power lines were toppled throughout Santiago and Holguín as well as Granma and Guantánamo provinces.

The storm wiped out 245,000 acres planted with sugarcane, banana, coffee and other crops. The hurricane also damaged 895 schools attended by more

than 180,000 students.

José Ramón Machado Ventura, first vice president of the Council of State, said that keeping the population informed on the massive rebuilding effort is crucial so that everyone can have a "clear perception of the complexity of the situation" around the country, reported *Juventud Rebelde*.

To get out information, Santiago's weekly *Sierra Maestra* was turned into a daily newspaper the day after the storm. Cars with loudspeakers drove through the streets broadcasting news along with instructions on boiling drinking water to prevent disease.

"Authorities have set up radios and TVs in public spaces to keep people up to date on relief efforts, distributed chlorine to sterilize water and prioritized electrical service to strategic uses such as hospitals and bakeries," reported the Associated Press Oct. 29.

Reconstruction efforts began as soon as the storm passed. More than 350 brigades of electrical workers from across the island immediately headed to Santiago and Holguín to get power back up. "Convoys of trucks bringing cable and other supplies for the electrical system" of Santiago began arriving the day after the storm, noted Reuters.



Raúl Castro, president of Cuba's Council of Ministers, talks Oct. 31 with residents of Maya, near Santiago, Cuba, on rebuilding efforts after severe destruction caused by hurricane.

"We have to put together a detailed recovery plan in these regions and gather all the kinds of resources that will be necessary," said Raúl Castro Oct. 27.

Castro announced the postponing of previously announced military exercises to allow the concentration of more forces in the reconstruction effort. Medical teams and extra supplies were sent to the region. The government also took measures to ensure that everyone affected by the storm would receive a basic food basket and extra amounts of rice, sugar, pasta, eggs, crackers and chickpeas.

Juventud Rebelde Oct. 27 reported that 150,000 roofs and 4,000 tons of

cement were on their way to the storm-damaged areas. The first 12,000 roofs arrived that day.

Twenty workers from a citrus enterprise in Matanzas went to the Campo Antena farm in Santa María, Santiago, to repair damage there. "When tropical storm Michelle hit [in 2001], we were in a similar situation and we were able to count on hands from Santiago de Cuba," Orestes Menéndez, one of the volunteers, told CubaDebate. "We're here to rebuild the greenhouse. We know it's a hard task, but we came prepared."

Santiago's Department of Culture has also organized theater and music groups to tour the province and perform in the evacuation centers.

The *Miami Herald*, a paper known for its opposition to the Cuban Revolution, took note of the enormous effort. "In a city known for its hospitality as well as for being the cradle of the revolution, neighbors, even small children who are clearing branches, have pitched in to help those with less," it reported Oct. 28.

"They're concentrating on rebuilding and how they can help each other," Rev. Luis del Castillo, a retired Uruguayan bishop who now lives in Santiago, told the *Herald*.

Resolve of Cuban working people prevented war

Continued from page 8

carriers; 2,142 aircraft; and 100,000 Army troops.

The means the U.S. rulers were willing to employ did *not* stop short of nuclear holocaust.

"We must accept the possibility that the enemy may use nuclear weapons to repel invasion," Gen. Taylor wrote in a recently released memo dated Nov. 2, 1962. "However, if the Cuban leaders took this foolhardy step, we could respond at once with overwhelming nuclear force."

The Kennedy administration discussed sending an initial force of 90,000 troops preceded by heavy airstrikes to "get the thing going," in the words of Gen. Taylor on tapes released in 1997. Meanwhile, Washington assessed, as best it could, the military preparedness and morale of the Cuban people.

"We have taken the necessary measures not only to resist but to repel—hear it well—repel any aggression from

the U.S.," Castro told the Cuban people in an Oct. 23 televised speech. "They menace us with nuclear attack, but they don't scare us. We will see if the U.S. congressmen, bankers, etc., possess the same calmness as we. We are calmed by the knowledge that, if they attack us, the aggressor will be exterminated."

White House enthusiasm for the planned invasion started to wane as military officials began assessing what they actually faced. On Oct. 26, the Joint Chiefs of Staff provided an estimate of 18,484 U.S. casualties during the first 10 days of fighting—4,462 on the first day alone. Knowledgeable Cuban military personnel say the figure is greatly underestimated.

It began to dawn on the U.S. rulers that they were walking into a politically shattering situation—the invasion would rank among the bloodiest battles in U.S. history with an average daily casualty rate on par with the "Battle of the Bulge," the most blood-

soaked U.S. battle in World War II, involving some half a million troops. They blinked.

Kennedy and Khrushchev struck a secret deal to remove U.S. missiles in Turkey in exchange for the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. The Cuban government only learned the Soviet Union was removing its missiles Oct. 28, when Khrushchev announced it over Radio Moscow.

"We wanted a solution, but an honorable solution," Castro said in the 1992 NBC interview. "We didn't know that the crisis was on its way to the almost unconditional concession made by Khrushchev. They left everything the way it was. They left the blockade. They left a dirty war. They left the Guantánamo Naval Base."

The deal between the two "superpowers" included the removal of the missiles "under appropriate United Nations observation and supervision."

The Cuban government rejected this stipulation as an assault on its sovereignty and maintained the position announced in Castro's Oct. 23 address that "anyone who tried to inspect Cuba had better come in full combat gear."

Castro explained in the 1992 interview that if he had to do it over again "with the experience of the Soviet hesitation, I would not have accepted the missiles."

Cuba's leadership has since taken a political position in total opposition to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as part of its unbroken record of opposition to any action that results in the death of innocent civilians.

"We have never considered producing nuclear weapons," Castro said in a 2005 speech to students at the University of Havana. "We possess a weapon as powerful as nuclear power and it is the immense justice for which we are struggling. Our nuclear weapon is the invincible power of moral weapons."



Granma

In October 1962 thousands of Cuban troops took up positions along coast in anticipation of invasion by U.S. forces. President Kennedy aborted invasion plan after Joint Chiefs of Staff estimated U.S. troops would sustain some 18,500 casualties in first 10 days of fighting.



Top photo AIN/Juan Pablo Carreras

Above, construction materials arrive at Vita Port in Holguín, Cuba, Nov. 4. Below, Hurricane Sandy tore roofs off tens of thousands of homes in eastern Cuba.

Atlantic City: ‘We stayed to protect what little we had’

BY OSBORNE HART
AND CHRIS HOEPPNER

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—Hurricane Sandy rushed through the Absecon Inlet and into the bay here, sparing the casinos on the boardwalk facing the ocean but devastating working-class neighborhoods nearby.

The Oct. 29 tidal surge cut electricity, contaminated the water supply and flooded most of the Back Bay neighborhood just blocks from the casinos. The four-foot flood mark was visible along houses and sheds for blocks. Couches, refrigerators, stoves, baby carriages, clothing and other household items were heaped high and lined the sidewalks on street after street.

“Haven’t heard from FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency],” Tony Ingram, an African-American in his 50s, told the *Militant*. “They promised but have never been in touch.”

Ingram, just off work from the Showboat Casino where he has been a maintenance worker for 27 years, was working to clean out his basement apartment before nightfall. His sister, niece and son were helping him.

“We came over to help,” Janet, Ingram’s niece who works as a local bus driver, told the *Militant*. “All of our possessions are out on the street. No government agency has been out here. So we’ve been doing what we can,” she said, standing in the ankle-deep mud and sand that covered the floor of Ingram’s apartment.

Ingram said some family members and neighbors were evacuated as far north as New Brunswick to the Rutgers University campus more than 100 miles away. They weren’t told of their destination prior to leaving.

The city’s tourist industry attracts tens of thousands year-round to the entertainment venues, outlet stores and casinos. The \$3.3 billion casino business employs 36,000 workers from the city and surrounding towns.

The city’s population, just under 40,000, is 44 percent African-American.

Federal aid, promised by Gov. Christopher Christie and President Barack Obama during their visit here, has yet to arrive. The only evidence of FEMA was “disaster assistance” leaflets explaining “how to apply for relief” stacked on the counter in a reopened convenience store.

In the Sovereign Elementary School

parking lot a few blocks from the casinos, more than 100 Back Bay residents waited in line for food donations from neighbors, Catholic Charities and the Red Cross.

While *Militant* worker correspondents were there, a neighborhood resident came by with his pickup truck, which he used to ferry food from across town.

The school, located on elevated ground, was spared the flooding that devastated surrounding homes. As the water rose, some residents tried to get into the building, Tony Romero, who is disabled and lives in the neighborhood, told the *Militant*. “When the bay surge came, we went to the school. But the rent-a-cop inside refused to let us in. For a week we had no power or food. I lived on peanut butter and bread.”

“We had no electricity so we couldn’t watch the news to find out what was happening,” Romero explained. “No one came, so we helped each other.”

Police imposed a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew on the city. “The cops wouldn’t let us into Back Bay with food or wa-

Gov’t response to hurricane: face of capitalism

Continued from front page

Jersey and New York. As of Nov. 3 the reported death toll in the U.S. was 109. Of the 40 reported deaths in New York, half are on Staten Island.

In the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens 111 houses burnt to the ground and 20 were damaged early Tuesday morning in the Breezy Point area. The fire and storm surge there left no building unscathed.

The impact on millions has been sharply class-differentiated.

Wage earners lost from two days’ to a week’s pay. For those in salaried professions it was a day off. Workers with children who had to work also had to deal on their own with the one week or longer closure of schools.

Workers in hard-hit areas relied on families, friends and scattered volunteer efforts for housing, hygiene, food, water and clothing. Meanwhile, shopkeepers often jacked up prices of basic necessities.

Like with Hurricane Irene last year, Mayor Michael Bloomberg ordered a mandatory evacuation of 375,000 residents of low-lying “Zone A” areas in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens,



AP Photo/Patrick Semansky

Working-class areas of Atlantic City, N.J., were devastated by hurricane. Meanwhile, nearby casinos, built on safer ground, were left largely unscathed and back in operation within days.

ter,” county worker Gary Wright said. Upon returning to his neighborhood after curfew, “they pulled up and told us ‘to get the f--- out of here.’”

The curfew remained in effect after the casinos reopened. A casino worker said he and several coworkers coming off shift were harassed by the police as they walked to their Back Bay homes.

“Mayor [Lorenzo] Langford never came out here [Back Bay]. The casinos had power and were dry. They took

care of them,” Wright said.

“Christie called us stupid because we didn’t all evacuate,” Wright said, referring to an Oct 29 televised news conference by New Jersey’s governor.

“But they never told us where we would be taken to. And who would protect what we did have. There was looting right after some people left their homes. So some of us stayed to protect what little we have,” he explained.

the Bronx and Staten Island. Working people had to figure out where to go and how to get there. They weighed the challenges and risks of their options and many stayed home. Bloomberg called them “selfish.” New Jersey Gov. Christopher Christie added “stupid.”

Gov. Andrew Cuomo ordered the shutdown of public transportation 24 hours before the storm hit. Limited subway service started up four days later. More than a week after the storm, parts of the system remain inoperable with no schedule for restoration.

More than 8.1 million houses and businesses in seven states lost power. In New Jersey it affected 2.5 million, with 62 percent of the state pushed into darkness. In New York 2 million people were cut off. Knocked-out areas included most of Lower Manhattan.

Wall Street was among the first places where electricity was restored and Bloomberg personally rang the New York Stock Exchange’s opening bell Oct. 31.

“Even though much of New York City was still suffering the effects of power outages, flooding and wind damage, trade was smooth on the New York Stock Exchange,” wrote the London *Telegraph* Oct. 31.

The *New York Post* and other papers scandalized Bloomberg for plans to use three big power generators hidden in Central Park to service the financial sponsors’ tent at the Nov. 4 city marathon, an event that generated \$23.3 million in revenue last year. The mayor finally canceled the event Nov. 2 as the plan became a symbol of the city government’s priorities, including among many runners, some of whom traveled a great distance to participate.

President Barack Obama flew over ravaged parts of New Jersey in a helicopter with Governor Christie. Bloomberg was nowhere to be seen in

the devastated working-class neighborhoods of New York. On Nov. 3 he attempted to make an appearance and have some pictures taken in Far Rockaway, a working-class, predominantly Black neighborhood in Queens. It is among the worst hit areas of the city and still lacked water. Bloomberg wasn’t well-received and the excursion was very short. He endured a minute of angry comments and questions. “When are we going to get some f----- help over here, seriously?” one woman shouted. “Everyone here and not even a bottle of water!” a man commented. Flanked with security, the mayor retreated into his SUV.

Volunteer efforts to help were often impeded by cops.

The Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence, a community group based in Chinatown, organized a major volunteer effort to reach residents in Lower Manhattan and affected areas in Brooklyn. They reported on their website Nov. 4 that cops tried to shut them down and “today was another day where there was no information given out and City officials were nowhere to be seen.”

Mark Torres, a CAAAV volunteer, joined a group biking down with supplies to the Red Hook area of Brooklyn Nov. 4. “Pitch black, no power, no elevator ... no heat, no water. We carried stuff up to the 14th floor for two elderly women,” he wrote on the group’s website.

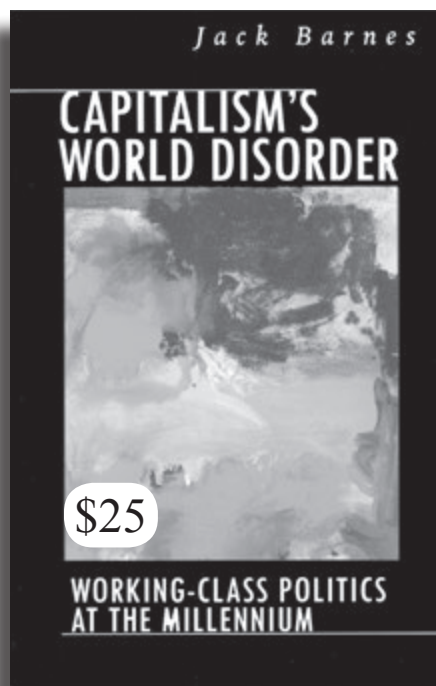
He said FEMA, Bloomberg, the Red Cross weren’t doing anything there. “In fact, the National Guard asks people to fill out a form in order to receive aid. The form asks for your legal status; no papers = no aid.”

Torres said there was no lack of volunteers: “A bunch of them were just hanging around waiting to be assigned a task.”

Staten Island severely hit

Part of the New Dorp neighborhood

Continued on page 11



The social devastation and financial panic, coarsening of politics, cop brutality, and imperialist aggression—all are products not of something gone wrong with capitalism but of its lawful workings. Yet the future can be changed by the united struggle of workers and farmers increasingly conscious of their capacity to wage revolutionary struggles for state power and to transform the world.

**Available from
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Social disaster caused by capitalism

A social catastrophe created by the dictatorship of capital. That describes the ongoing devastation inflicted by Hurricane Sandy on millions of working people on the East Coast, especially in the New York and New Jersey areas that were inundated by flood waters.

People were left to fend for themselves before, during and after the hurricane hit. The government—federal, state and municipal—did little to prepare or protect the population.

The Socialist Workers Party candidates have called for a massive, emergency government-funded program to put workers desperately looking for jobs to work; provide badly needed food, medicine and other basic necessities to those most deeply hit; reconstruct devastated areas and rebuild infrastructure neglected for years by the capitalist rulers.

The man-made character of the capitalist social disaster in the U.S. is brought into sharp relief when contrasted with the response to the hurricane in Cuba. There the government prepared people for the hurricane and led an organized evacuation for those most at risk. It is marshaling a massive mobilization of volunteer work brigades and army units for cleanup and reconstruction, especially in hard-hit Santiago, Cuba's second largest city.

In the United States, basic necessities in the hardest-hit working-class areas became scarce. Their prices skyrocketed as capitalists, big and small, sought to

profit off the misery. In Cuba, the priority was to provide shelter, food, and medicine to those who needed them.

In the United States the evacuation was simply an order, which many saw in their best interest to ignore. In Cuba it was organized. No one is left behind. Saving people's belongings and pets is part of the plan. Even entertainment was organized to keep up people's spirits.

Workers' desire and efforts to help each other are led and organized by the government in Cuba. In the U.S. cop harassment and curfews impede these efforts.

In the U.S., when workers' homes are destroyed, they are out of luck if they don't have the right kind of insurance, which is most often the case. Insurance in Cuba? There is no such thing. Instead, a massive effort to rebuild homes began the day after the storm hit.

In the United States the president flies over in a helicopter and the mayor is run out of the first working-class area he attempts to visit for a photo op. Raúl Castro, president of Cuba is still in Santiago, where he walks the streets, talks with working people and has vowed to stay until power is fully restored.

The difference between the U.S. and Cuba is class-rooted. In Cuba, workers and farmers made a socialist revolution. The government is theirs and they use it to defend their interests.

US elections: victor will deepen assaults

Continued from page 4

with Pakistan, the intervention in Libya, support for Israel or for 'crippling sanctions' on Iran, there is little difference between the two parties."

Neither wants to weaken the capitalist state. Both support government attacks on constitutional protections and workers' rights over the past decade, which have deepened under the Obama administration.

There are only differences on *how* to drive against workers at home and abroad, not *whether*

to do so.

The overall result of the election reproduced the situation that existed before the election—Democrat Barack Obama as president, a Senate with a Democratic majority and the House with a Republican majority.

A little gridlock in the capitalist government is perhaps the one positive development—the less the capitalist exploiters' representatives can agree and act in their efforts to take their crisis out on the backs of working people, the better.

LETTERS

Drought, ethanol and hunger

As a grain farmer I have often said that I really don't care what the buyers do with the corn that I produce as long as they pay me a decent price. Enough to pay my costs of production and a bit to live on.

But with this drought, I am not only concerned about the very small amount of money I will get from my corn and soy bean crops along with the insurance I will collect, which will at best cover my costs. I am concerned about people in the world not having enough to eat.

Corn and soybeans are used in many food products (corn: corn meal, cereal, cornstarch, corn oil, corn syrup, etc.; soybeans: too many food and industrial uses to list). All food prices are going to rise and working people everywhere will have a tougher time paying for their basic food necessities.

In the last big drought, the world population was not so dependent

on the import of U.S. grains as they are today.

The price of U.S. corn and soybeans has increased to such an extent that countries that import from U.S. grain companies like ADM are getting less food for the same amount of money that they paid in past years.

Grain prices have doubled in the last year. Importing countries cannot pay double for the food they need.

There is a lot of corn going to produce ethanol today when it should be used to feed people. You cannot change the amount of corn that is harvested this year. The only way to increase the amount of grain available for food is by not allowing it to be used for ethanol.

I am not the only farmer who thinks this way. When I talk to others, one thing we agree upon

is that this drought and the resulting decrease in corn and soybean production will create more hunger and famine.

This has made me realize how important the food that I produce is for others.

*Randy Jasper
Muscodia, Wisc.*

Using 'Militant' in prison

I was given your address from a fellow comrade/prisoner. I was told you offer a free trial to those who are indigent. I don't know if this is true, but I'm asking anyway. I would really appreciate to share it with other prisoners in my revolutionary study group. We'd be up to date on the events in the outside world. Any help you can offer is greatly appreciated.

*A prisoner
Florida*

Prisoners' Fund

Enclosed is a small contribution to the Militant Prisoners' Fund. The recent coverage in the paper of the thirst among those held in U.S. government hellholes for the fighting perspective laid out every week in the pages of the *Militant* is an indication of things to come within our class.

*Mike Galati
Spotsylvania, Va.*

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Hurricane in US

Continued from page 10

of Staten Island is on high ground. Large houses dot the rolling hills where work crews are busy clearing away fallen trees. The picture is different off New Dorp Lane, the low-lying area that runs up to the beach where many working people live.

Waterlogged basement contents, carted out by residents and volunteers, are awaiting pickup by sanitation crews. Seven days after Hurricane Sandy hit, this neighborhood is still without power. The streets are littered with debris piled six to eight feet high.

"And we are not in the worst shape," said Carmine Anastasio, a teacher from Poughkeepsie, standing outside his parent's house. "The closer you get to the water, where the old beach bungalows are that have no basements and only a little insulation packed in, those are the places rented to poorer people and they have really been devastated." Entire homes were washed away.

Tony Ciaramella, a retired postal worker, described an almost total lack of government response to the destruction working people face. "Nothing that was said or done before prepared us for this."

Floods in south Manhattan

About 400,000 people in the city live in public housing, tall brick buildings often close to waterfronts. The hardest hit area of Manhattan, the Lower East Side, has many such projects. Parts were badly flooded. The entire area was without electricity and some parts lost water.

"You have to have some place to go and some way to get there," said Natalie Rizzo, a worker in a nonprofit health clinic, who lives in the area. "If you don't have a family, where do you go?"

Hotels in the area jacked prices sky high.

Residents in the Jacob Riis Houses are trying to get back to normal. Some residents told the *Militant* they didn't leave their apartment for almost a week.

Marie Latoni, a city worker, went to live with relatives. When she came back, everything in her eighth floor apartment was soaked.

"The windows weren't secured. The top had fallen down and the wind had driven in water," she said. "I had to throw mattresses away. I've been out for a week. I haven't gotten paid and don't expect to get paid. A neighbor told me it might be possible to get food stamps, so I'll try that."

Residents said they've had to stand in line and then pay up to \$5.50 for a four pack of thin candles and \$3.50 for a small bottle of water that normally costs \$1.

Power was restored to the building Nov. 3, but the boiler in the basement was still out, leaving residents with no heat or hot water.

Inez Irazarry and her family had initially decided to stay at their apartment. "But when we learnt that power would be gone for a week, we couldn't stay with the children," she said. "We went to a relative in the Bronx. When we got back on Saturday, it was freezing cold. We had to throw all the food away and hardly have any money."

On Nov. 5 temperatures dropped to the mid-30s at night, with 140,000 houses and apartments still lacking electricity.

"You can die from being cold," Bloomberg warned, according to the *Daily News* Nov 4. And he offered some advice, "If you see someone shivering uncontrollably or incoherent, get them a blanket or hot-water bottle."

The *News* also said that "Bloomberg admitted there is no comprehensive plan for sheltering the hardest-hit victims." City Hall estimates up to 40,000 people need to be relocated, half live in public housing.

Paul Mailhot contributed to this article.

Correction

In the article "Iowa Socialist Candidate Debates Democrat, Republicans on Radio" in the Nov. 12 issue of the *Militant*, the name given of the radio station was incorrect. The debate was broadcast by KMA Radio based in Shenandoah, Iowa.