

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Capitalist crisis, imperialist debt
bleed workers in Venezuela

— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 37 OCTOBER 3, 2016

US rulers: NY bombs mean less rights, more spying

BY MAGGIE TROWE

NEW YORK — Following a Sept. 17 pressure-cooker type bomb explosion that injured 31 people in New York City's busy downtown Chelsea neighborhood, city and state authorities deployed 1,000 armed cops and National Guard. They shut down dozens of streets and subway stations, and broadcast a manhunt alert that set off millions of cellphones across the city during Monday morning rush hour Sept. 19. That day New Jersey cops shot and arrested Ahmad Khan Rahami, an Afghani-born U.S. citizen who worked in his family's restaurant in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

From Hillary Clinton to Donald Trump to New York officials, government and media figures have called for new restrictions on political rights they say are necessary to further the U.S. "war on terror." The propaganda hyste-

Continued on page 3

Oppose US Mideast wars, attacks on political rights

In response to the Sept. 17 attacks in New York and Minnesota, Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president, released the following statement.

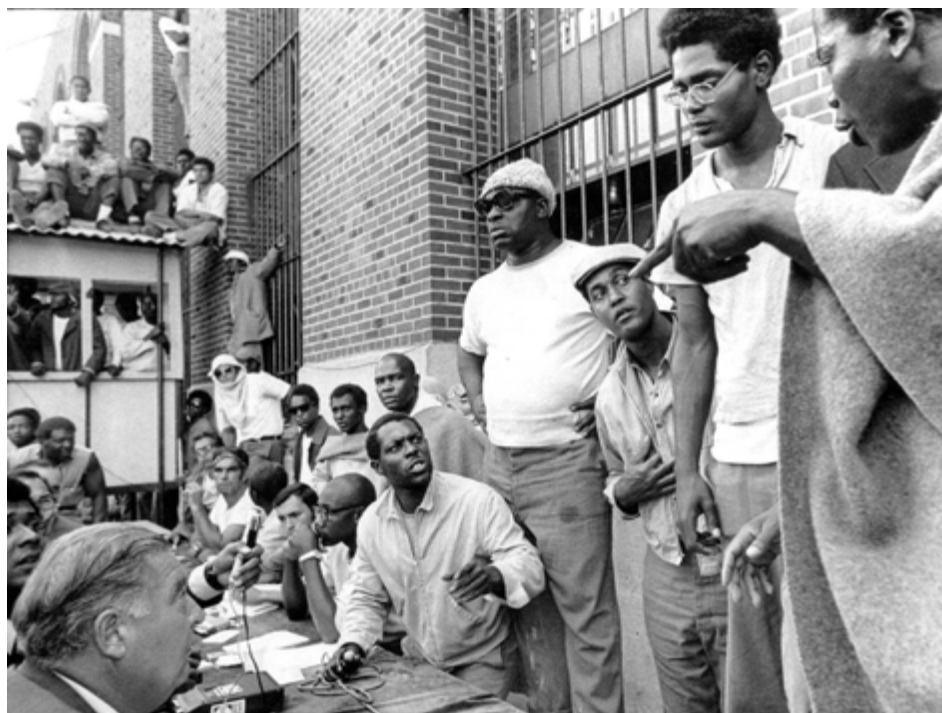
Claiming to act to protect the population in the wake of Sept. 17 attacks on civilians in New York, New Jersey and Minnesota, the U.S. government, Democratic and Republican presiden-

Socialist Workers Party campaign statement

tial candidates, state authorities and the lapdog capitalist media are demanding deeper restrictions on political rights. They say "we" have to further expand government spying. They say the attacks justify Washington's endless wars in the Middle East. And

Continued on page 9

Fight continues 45 years after Attica rebels said, 'We are men, not beasts'



AP Photo

Leaders of Attica prison rebellion — from left, Richard Clark with elbows on table, Carl El Jones, Herbert X Blyden, Frank Smith, Roger Champen, and Elliot "L.D." Barkley — negotiating with N.Y. prison Commissioner Russell Oswald, left corner, on Sept. 9, 1971.

BY SETH GALINSKY

On Sept. 9, 1971, 1,281 workers behind bars at Attica State Prison in upstate New York stormed the heavens. Rebelling against abusive conditions, they proclaimed, "We are men. We are not beasts and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such."

The conditions they denounced still exist in prisons across the United States. That's why their rebellion, the bloody retaliation by guards and police in the retaking of the prison —

including outright murder and torture — and the government lies and cover-up continue to reverberate today.

At the opening of the 1970s, the fight for Black rights that had swept the U.S. over the last decade and the mass movement against the war in Vietnam were giving more confidence to working people behind bars.

On July 29, 1970, some 450 inmates in the Attica metal shop went on strike for two days, winning a raise

Continued on page 6

Washington-Moscow truce in Syria unravels

US seeks deal to protect imperialist interests



Inset: Reuters/Abdalghe Karoof

Above, remains of aid convoy to Aleppo that Washington says was attacked by Syrian or Russian airstrike Sept. 19, two days after Washington bombed Syrian troops near Deir Ezzor. Right, destruction after U.S. airstrike in Kfredrian, Idlib province, Syria, Sept. 23, 2014.



BY NAOMI CRAINE

Washington continues to seek a way to get Moscow's collaboration to broker a new break in fighting in Syria, at the same time the partial truce they forged Sept. 12 unraveled.

The U.S. rulers see a deal with Moscow as the only possible way to secure some stability for their imperialist interests and to deepen attacks

against Islamic State.

But conflicts of interest between Washington, Moscow, Tehran and other capitalist powers in the region, along with the relative weakening of U.S. imperialism, keep plaguing their efforts.

Within a week after the deal was announced, the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad and Russian warplanes had resumed bombing areas under control of government opponents in the city of Aleppo and elsewhere. On Sept. 17, U.S.-led airstrikes in eastern Syria killed more than 60 Syrian government troops, the first time U.S. forces have attacked Syria's army. When Russian military officials informed U.S. officers what they were doing, Washington halted the bombing and apologized, saying the intended target was Islamic State.

And on Sept. 19 U.S. and U.N. au-

Continued on page 9

SWP: What is 'deplorable' is capitalist crisis, not working class

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Half of Republican candidate Donald Trump's supporters are a "basket of deplorables. ... racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic — you name it," Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said Sept. 9. "They are irredeemable, but thankfully they're not America."

Democratic Party leaders and liberal pundits defended Clinton, saying she was accurate — in fact, understated.

Considering Caucasian workers backward bigots is a widely held proposition among liberals and the left. They look at those who come to Trump rallies and see danger.

Trump — who also has no proposals to advance the interests of working people as they face "slow burn" depression conditions and worse to come — takes advantage of workers'

Continued on page 4

Inside

Florida SWP: Follow Cuban example in anti-Zika fight 2

Support grows for Oct. 9 event to free Oscar López 7

Socialist Workers Party joins protest in Puerto Rico 7

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Dominion Gas lockout ends after a week of spirited picketing
Washington berry pickers win union representation vote

Florida SWP: Follow Cuban example in fight against Zika

BY ANTHONY DUTROW

MIAMI — The Zika virus is affecting more and more of southern Florida but authorities from the White House to city halls are failing to take effective action to provide resources to fight it.

“Do they think we’re idiots?” asked Maria Gonzalez, standing by her apartment in the Wynwood neighborhood.

The city has designated a square mile of Wynwood as a site of Zika-carrying *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. Although Gonzalez’s home is a few blocks away, she doesn’t believe government statements that she is safe from the disease.

Her daughter, who is pregnant, was visiting when the zone was declared. The virus can cause severe brain damage and other impairments to infants born to infected women.

Cynthia Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Florida, talked to Gonzalez when she and campaign supporters visited workers on their doorsteps there. She pointed to how revolutionary Cuba has organized to control the virus.

Gonzalez, an airport worker and Teamsters union member, said her landlord had just told her she was being boot-ed out and gave her one month to find a new place to live. Wynwood, a historically Puerto Rican neighborhood, has become a lucrative art and tourist scene, and many buildings are being replaced with housing for wealthier tenants.

Gonzalez’s suspicion that the government is not telling the truth is shared by many workers here.

The *Miami Herald* reported Sept. 10 that as Zika infections spread to Miami

Beach and nearby counties, Florida officials stopped providing detailed information on where the infections were originating and underreported the number of local Zika infections by excluding anyone who is not a state resident.

The City of Miami has conducted aerial fumigation, dropping toxic chemicals on Wynwood, along with using trucks that spread pesticide. But they have not organized fumigation inside homes, where the Aegis mosquitoes often live. There has been no door-to-door education to remove breeding grounds.

Fear of contracting the virus has sparked a drop in tourism. Thousands of workers at hotels, restaurants and other businesses have had their work hours reduced. Luis Taranto, who also lives in Wynwood, drives limousines for a living. He told socialist campaigners that he’s barely working right now.

There have been protests against the city’s decision to use aerial spraying of the chemical Naled, banned in some countries because of its toxicity. Some Miami Beach high school students boycotted school the day after spraying.

The situation here is not as severe as in Puerto Rico, a colony of Washington, where U.S. government authorities callously say over 25 percent of the population will contract the disease, yet are doing little to prevent it. The virus continues to spread around the Caribbean, into Florida and elsewhere in the U.S.

Jaquith campaigns for a massive, federally funded program to eradicate Zika. She demands cancellation of Puerto Rico’s debt to U.S. banks and an end to Washington’s colonial domination.

Protests hit racist cop killings in Tulsa and Charlotte



AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki

Protests broke out in both Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Charlotte, North Carolina, after cops shot and killed Black men in each city.

Carrying signs saying “Justice4Crutch,” hundreds protested, above, in Tulsa after videos released by police showed officer Betty Shelby shoot and kill Terence Crutcher after his vehicle broke down Sept. 16. Crutcher walked back to his sport utility vehicle with his hands in the air, then the cop shot him.

The cops initially claimed Shelby fired because Crutcher reached into the car and she thought he was going for a gun. However, the video shows the window was closed, splattered with Crutcher’s blood. The cop is now under investigation by both city prosecutors and the U.S. Justice Department.

“That looks like a bad dude too, could be on something,” a cop in a helicopter overhead said over the police radio. “That big ‘bad dude,’ his life mattered,” Crutcher’s twin sister Tiffany told a press conference Sept. 19.

Keith Lamont Scott was shot dead by Charlotte cop Brentley Vinson Sept. 20 when he got out of his car by his apartment building. Cops claim he had a gun. Scott’s family members told the press that he was holding a book, waiting for his son to be dropped off from school, as neighbors said he did regularly.

Protesters marched and blocked Interstate 85 in Charlotte, leading to confrontations and clashes.

— JOHN STUDER

By contrast, in Cuba the island’s revolutionary government responded immediately to the threat by mobilizing thousands of soldiers, health workers, unionists and students to go house by house fumigating and educating on how to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. There have been only a few cases of locally caused Zika infections there.

“On the ball,” *Nature* magazine called the Cuban campaign. “That success was the result of its excellent health-care system and an extensive surveillance programme for vector-borne diseases that the government set up 35 years ago.”

The reason Cuba has responded differently is rooted in the different priorities and mobilization of working people

there. This is possible because under the leadership of Fidel Castro the July 26th Movement mobilized toilers to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and put the workers and peasants in power.

Obdulia, a Wynwood dishwasher originally from Cuba, told campaigners this is always the way Cuba deals with potential threats: “We identify the source and then we eliminate it.”

“The Socialist Workers Party fights to unify working people here to emulate the Cuban example and take political power ourselves,” Jaquith says.

Steve Warshell contributed to this article.

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THE MILITANT

Standing Rock Sioux fight for rights, dignity

In response to plans to build an oil pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, hundreds of Native Americans rallied in solidarity to defend sovereign rights for Native Americans there and stop desecration of their land. The ‘Militant’ covers and supports this fight.



Reuters/Andrew Cullen

Standing Rock Sioux and supporters march against pipeline Sept. 9 in Cannon Ball, N.D.

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SWP campaigns in United Kingdom, among US miners

BY TONY HUNT

MANCHESTER, England — Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy and Mary Martin, SWP candidate for governor of Washington, campaigned door to door with the Communist League here.

In working-class Failsworth Sept. 13, truck driver Dave Wardle told Kennedy he favors the UK Independence Party, a capitalist party led by Nigel Farage that campaigned for the vote to leave the European Union, that passed in June.

“Farage spoke at a Trump rally in the U.S.,” Kennedy said. “He and Trump are both ‘America First’ or ‘U.K. First’ nationalists. Trump claims better trade deals will fix the crisis. But all of them — Trump, Clinton, Farage, [U.K. Conservative Party Prime Minister Theresa] May and their parties — represent the bosses. And with or without trade deals, in or out of the European Union, workers are getting hammered.

“Working people need to unite, refuse to let the ruling class pit us against each other. We must build workers’ movements in each country capable of taking political power and using the wealth workers produce to solve the immense social and economic problems caused by capitalism, as we build a new society based on solidarity and join the worldwide struggle for socialism.”

Wardle asked the Communist League members to call again.

“All the plants I worked in around here have closed,” T.J. Murphy, a steel galvanizer of Irish descent in nearby Clayton, told Kennedy. “Trump is the champagne type and Clinton is the cup of coffee sort. I think she will do better,” he said, speaking of the U.S. elections.

Kennedy described how Clinton told coal miners in West Virginia she would put them out of work and close mines, with a vague promise of new “clean energy jobs.” Trump, on a platform with mine bosses, demagogically promised miners jobs, she said. “My party says miners and their unions should be the ones to organize any transition in energy sources, in a way that leaves no one unemployed. We call for a government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union scale pay.”

“One of the problems here is immigrants from eastern Europe who live crowded in houses and don’t have jobs,” Murphy said.

Kennedy told him of campaigning in Harlow, where a worker from Poland was beaten to death recently. “British-born and Polish-born workers came out

to protest the assault,” she said, “and show that workers are on the same side, no matter where we come from.”

“This killing took place in the U.K.? That’s terrible,” Murphy said.

At a pub Sept. 12, Kennedy met with six Tulip meat factory workers. Adam Herring asked her why there is so much police brutality in the U.S.

“Under capitalism the police act to serve and protect the rulers and to keep the working class in line,” said Kennedy. “Their violence disproportionately targets African-American workers, because they fear their history of steadfastness in class battles.”

Kennedy and Martin traveled to Paris to talk with workers there and join a Sept. 14 union protest against the new anti-working-class labor law.

Kennedy and Pete Clifford, Communist League candidate for mayor of Greater Manchester, spoke at a Militant Labour Forum here Sept. 17 with 20 people attending, engaging in a lively discussion and raising £597 (\$778) for the Communist League.

The *International Business Times*, North Manchester FM radio and online news site Mancunian Matters all interviewed Kennedy.



BY ILONA GERSH
AND LAURA ANDERSON

STURGIS, Ky. — Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Osborne Hart joined Dan Fein, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, and others to knock on doors here Sept. 17 in an area devastated by mine closings.

Judy Adams, 58, a disabled nursing assistant, invited Hart in. Her husband, who worked as a coal miner, died last year of black lung disease.



Militant/Mary Martin

SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy and Hugo Wils from Communist League in U.K., right, talk with steel galvanizer T.J. Murphy at his door in Clayton, England, Sept. 13.

“I took coal mining classes some years back,” she said after Hart told her SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy has been a miner. “My husband said, ‘You’ll never pass the test.’ But I did. I think women can do anything men can do.”

She agreed with Hart that all workers need retirement income and lifelong health care they can count on, and that we can’t win it company by company. She bought a subscription to the *Militant* and thanked the socialists for visiting.

John Pike, the son of a coal miner, works at Hydro Aluminum in nearby Henderson. He stopped doing yard work to talk with Hart, asking him, “What do you think of the military?”

“The SWP calls for ending Washington’s wars in the Mideast and elsewhere,” said Hart, whose father was a career soldier. “Everywhere we campaign we meet veterans of the endless wars, many disabled, fighting for Veterans Administration care and benefits. That’s one of the social problems the rulers cause, but won’t solve.”

Hart and Fein talked with Misty and Jim Beck on their porch. Misty Beck was an organizer for the Bernie Sanders campaign for a while. Jim Beck works at an aluminum smelter and is a member of the United Steelworkers. “The Democratic and Republican parties don’t represent the working class and can’t solve the capitalist crisis,” Hart said.

“I agree,” Misty Beck said. “Capitalism is the problem, along with the two-party system.”

“We need a revolution,” added Fein, “to replace this capitalist government with one of workers and farmers.”

“That will never happen,” Jim Beck retorted. “Workers are ignorant and backward. That’s who supports Trump.”

Fein disagreed. “Workers are looking for an alternative. They are dissatisfied with the status quo.”

Misty Beck told Hart she admires Cuba’s health care system. “It took a revolution to produce revolutionary health care,” he said.

“It looks like I have some good read-

Continued on page 9

Rulers: NY bombs mean less rights, more spying

Continued from front page
ria also serves to justify U.S. military interventions in the Middle East and promote attacks on Muslims and mosques.

After the Chelsea explosion New York cops found a second pressure-cooker bomb several blocks away. Authorities charged Rahami with placing both bombs, as well as an explosion earlier that day in Seaside Park, New Jersey, before a Marine Corps charity race, and with abandoning a backpack containing explosive devices in Elizabeth.

Rahami was taken into custody Sept. 19 after a gun battle in Linden, New Jersey, and charged with attempted murder of a police officer. The next day he was

charged by federal authorities with use of weapons of mass destruction and other crimes.

No group has taken credit for the bombs, but authorities say Rahami was carrying a notebook praising jihad and al-Qaeda leaders.

The same evening as the New York explosion, nine people were stabbed at a St. Cloud, Minnesota, mall by Somali-born 20-year-old Dahir Adan, called a “soldier of Islamic State” by the IS-linked news agency Amaq.

“The Socialist Workers Party calls on working people and all defenders of democratic rights to oppose efforts by the capitalists, their government and their politicians to use these attacks as a pretext to escalate restrictions on the political rights of working people and fan the flames of anti-Muslim bigotry,” SWP vice-presidential candidate Osborne Hart said in a Sept. 20 statement.

At a Sept. 18 news conference in St. Cloud, members of the Muslim and Somali communities expressed condolences to the victims of the attack and called for vigilance against attacks on Muslims. “We are also concerned about the potential backlash,” said Jaylani Hussein, executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

The Central Minnesota Islamic Center in St. Cloud and the community it represents has no relationship with Islamic State or other Islamist outfits,

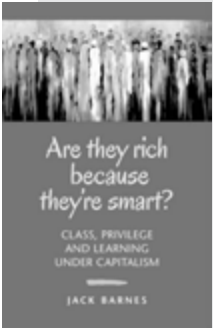
spokesman Mohamoud Mohamed said. “We are victims of those terrorist groups.”

Stoking up an atmosphere of panic that encourages attacks and government spying against Muslims, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump told supporters in Colorado Springs, Colorado, “We better get very tough, folks. We better get very, very tough.”

Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton on Sept. 18 called for “an intelligence surge to help identify and thwart attacks before they can be carried out.” She pressed for expanded surveillance of internet users.

Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?

Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes



“In the coming battles forced upon us by the capitalist rulers workers will begin to transform ourselves and our attitudes toward life, work and each other. Only then will we learn what we’re capable of becoming.”

Special offer: \$7 for book, \$10 for book and ‘Militant’ subscription

See page 8 to contact the Socialist Workers Party or Communist League.

Our party is your party!

Join SWP campaigning, contribute funds!

Campaigners for the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart are getting a great response: discussing with workers door to door the world crisis of capitalist production and trade, joining protests against the bosses’ efforts to make workers pay, and asking people to join the SWP. Kennedy is currently in Puerto Rico, part of a fact-finding and solidarity visit opposing Washington’s colonial rule.

You can join in these efforts — just get in touch with the party in your area, listed on page 8.

You can also contribute to the \$40,000 Campaign Fund that makes this work possible. Contributions can be made out to Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee and sent to 227 W. 29th St., 6th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

\$40,000 needed

\$22,445 raised to date

SWP: Crisis is ‘deplorable’

Continued from front page
search for an alternative to capitalist politics-as-usual and the Clintons’ lack of credibility. But much of what he offers is rightist demagoguery, aimed at dividing the working class.

He moved to capitalize on the angry reaction of many workers to Clinton’s contemptuous remark, declaring himself the representative of the “deplorables.”

“What is deplorable is what working people face in the U.S. and around the world,” Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, the only candidate representing the interests of the working class in the election, told the *Militant* Sept. 19. “When I campaign door to door with supporters, workers tell us about the reality they face — joblessness, low wages, speedup on the job and more dangerous conditions. They tell us of social problems like opiate and heroin addiction ravaging their communities.”

Kennedy said her experience — and that of hundreds of campaign supporters talking to workers about the SWP and its program on their doorsteps — shows opposition to racist attacks and a desire to build unity among workers

of all nationalities against attacks by the bosses and the government.

“The capitalist rulers are afraid of the working class. They portray the majority, workers who are Caucasian, as reactionary to divide and discourage us,” Kennedy said. “But it’s not working. The mass movement that overthrew Jim Crow segregation, as well as recent protests against police killings, inspired millions of workers of all races and strengthened the working class.

“If this wasn’t true, how could you explain the speed and breadth of Confederate flags being taken down at statehouses all across the South over the past year?” she said.

“We meet workers of all races and nationalities who are attracted to the SWP’s confidence that working people are capable of fighting for unity, organizing the unorganized, and opposing the bosses and their government’s wars,” Kennedy said. “By doing this we will become strong enough to displace the capitalist dictatorship and build a new society run by workers and farmers based on values of solidarity and dignity.”

In a Sept. 15 *Financial Times* article, Edward Luce interviews people in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, especially Caucasian workers who say they’re leaning toward voting for Trump. Hazleton was built by workers from all across Europe who emigrated for jobs and made a living mining anthracite coal and in other factory jobs that have since shut down. The town began to shrink.

But it began to grow again, as the Latino population, largely Dominican, grew from 4 percent in 2000 to nearly half today. In 2006 then Mayor Louis Barletta gained nationwide notoriety trying to demonize the newcomers.

Much has changed in 10 years. “A striking thing about Hazleton’s Trump supporters is their reluctance to copy their candidate’s derogatory



Militant/Maggie Trowe

“There’s much less discrimination against Dominicans here now,” Angela Carrasco, right, an Amazon warehouse worker, told SWP campaigner Lea Sherman, in Hazleton, Pa., Sept. 18.

language about Hispanics,” Luce writes.

“Every time I see a Dominican they greet me and they smile,” Karen Ezak, 73, who favors Trump, told Luce. “I have never had a problem with them. They’ve brought life back to the schools and churches.”

Members of the Socialist Workers Party knocked on doors in a working-class area in Hazleton Sept. 18.

“I’m a full-time office worker, but I need a second job,” Dottie Pisano, 52, told the socialists. “I don’t live a flashy life. But I can’t make it month to month with one job. And if you get sick, forget about it — you have to move in with your folks.” She doesn’t like Trump but leans toward him, saying, “I refuse to vote for that woman,” meaning Clinton.

Pisano’s neighbor Angela Carrasco, in her 20s, at home on parental leave caring for her month-old son Johnny, was born in the Dominican Republic but grew up in Hazleton. Like many in the town she works for the big Amazon distribution center.

“There was a lot of discrimination against Dominican immigrants in the past,” Carrasco said, “but it’s much less now.”

Writing off large numbers of workers who are Caucasian, the Clinton campaign is counting on votes from African-Americans and Latinos, as well as those of women. But leaders of Clinton’s campaign are worried about lack of enthusiasm among Blacks.

“The Clinton campaign has refocused its efforts to a big turnout push directed at black and young voters,” the *New York Times* reported Sept. 18. “Younger black voters, in particular have expressed misgivings about Mrs. Clinton because of some of the policies of her husband’s administration,” including the 1994 crime bill, which imposed tougher sentences for nonviolent drug offenders and Clinton’s moves to “end welfare as we know it,” which resulted in deeper poverty, insecurity and social crisis for millions of working-class women and children.

“I will consider it a personal insult — an insult to my legacy — if this community lets down its guard and fails to activate itself in this election,” President Barack Obama, revealing some panic and a meritocratic contempt for Black workers, told the Congressional Black Caucus Sept. 17.

Supporters seek to expand reach of Pathfinder books

BY GALE SHANGOLD

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party have launched a fall campaign to expand placement of books by Pathfinder Press in bookstores, libraries and classrooms. The drive will run through the first half of December. Pathfinder publishes titles by leaders of the SWP, as well as titles on the Cuban Revolution, Marxist classics, labor history, Malcolm X, Thomas Sankara and other revolutionary leaders.

Supporters of the party also help prepare and get the books produced — organizing teams to proofread, format, design and supervise the printing, and to warehouse and ship books once they’re ordered.

A focus of this sales effort will be getting orders for Pathfinder’s latest book, *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning under Capitalism*. As part of the campaign, volunteers are organizing teams to go into their regions to find new customers.

“We have already contacted four buyers, each promising orders for *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* Three of these buyers run bookstores, a fourth is a university library selector,” Jim Kendrick from Miami told the *Militant*. “And

now we have our first confirmed order in-hand.”

Pathfinder volunteers in Twin Cities, Minnesota, visited a local independent bookstore dedicated to the ideas of social justice and the rights of women that opened a few years ago by a group of women. The group includes refugees driven out of Syria by the government of Bashar al-Assad during assaults on mass protests in the early stages of the civil war. They ordered 18 titles, including the four Pathfinder books in Arabic, which will be sold both in the store and on their online bookshop.

The order also includes *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* and *Teamster Rebellion* and *Teamster Power*, two of the four-volume series by SWP leader Farrell Dobbs on the Teamsters union battles in the Upper Midwest during the 1930s, plus several other titles.

“Yes, I will definitely get these books ordered,” the librarian responsible for the American history collection at the university library in Saskatoon, Canada, told a Pathfinder volunteer on a sales visit there. The librarian pointed to several of the Pathfinder titles highlighted on the order form: *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and the

Road to Workers Power; *50 Years of Covert Operations in the US*; and the entire *Teamsters* series.

This effort builds on a successful effort in the spring where Pathfinder volunteers throughout North America got 123 new orders — totaling well over 500 books — from bookstores, libraries and from professors for classroom adoption.

“The most effective way to get orders for Pathfinder books is to get out there and visit bookstore buyers and professors in person — what we call ‘shoe leather’ work,” Nick Castle, a volunteer from Los Angeles, told the *Militant*. “Over the years we’ve established relationships with many buyers who have seen the quality and importance of Pathfinder books firsthand.

“Buyers already familiar with Pathfinder are quick to add new titles to their library and bookstore shelves,” Castle said. “And we’re always looking for new places for Pathfinder.”

Volunteers tripled the number of visits they made over the last sales campaign, he said.

For more information about Pathfinder books, go to www.pathfinderpress.com or contact SWP branches listed in the directory on page 8.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Join the Campaign to Free Oscar López! End U.S. Colonial Rule in Puerto Rico! Speaker: Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

CANADA

Calgary

Solidarity with Native American Struggle in North Dakota. Free Leonard Peltier! Speaker: Michel Dugré, Communist League. Fri., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. Dragon City Mall, 328 Centre St. SE, Suite 246. Tel.: (403) 457-9044.

Montreal

Free Oscar López Now! Capitalist Depression Fuels Struggle for Puerto Rico Independence. Speaker: Michel Prairie and Pierre-Luc Filion, Communist League. Fri., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 7107 St. Denis, Room 204. Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Support West Papua’s Freedom Fight. Speaker: Baskaran Appu, Communist League. Fri., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Tel.: (09) 636-3231.

UNITED KINGDOM

London

End U.S. Colonial Rule in Puerto Rico! Speaker: Ólöf Andra Proppé, Communist League. Fri., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. Donation: £3. 83 Kingsland High St., 2nd floor. E8 2PB. Tel.: (020) 3583-3553.

Manchester

What Is Education Under Capitalism? Speaker: Caroline Bellamy, Communist League. Fri., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

—CALENDAR—

INDIANA

South Bend

Join UAW Local 9 Rally! Support Locked-Out Honeywell Workers Fighting for a Contract! Wed., Oct. 5, 5-7 p.m. by gate 9 in front of Honeywell.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world!

This column gives a voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including United Gas Workers Union members fighting concession demands by Dominion Gas bosses, workers locked out by Honeywell and construction workers demanding safe conditions. I invite those involved in workers' battles to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

— Maggie Trowe

Dominion Gas lockout ends after a week of spirited picketing

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. — After a seven-day lockout by Dominion, a company that produces and transports natural gas, more than 900 members of United Gas Workers Union Local 69 in six states returned to work in mid-September with full back pay and benefits.

After the union's representative council recommended a "no" vote, workers voted 766 to 75 against the company's contract offer June 30. Two months later the council angered bosses when it voted not to send a second, similar company offer to the ranks for a vote.

In the offer Dominion demanded new hires get a cash savings account instead of a pension and receive no medical care in retirement. This would be a boon to a company that anticipates hiring 300 to 400 workers in the next few years. Dominion is also demanding that workers who retired before 2003 lose supplemental Medicare insurance and instead receive a stipend to buy insurance.

The unionists learned of the lockout from a 2 a.m. robocall, telling them not to report in the morning.

Spirits were high on the picket line during the lockout.

"We became complacent, but if you don't keep fighting you lose every day," Bill Nolan, a worker with 37 years experience, told the *Militant* on the picket line here Sept. 12. "I could make a phone call and retire and I'm done, but this is too important."

"I'd like to be in there making a paycheck," said picket Joan Lucas, "but I feel better out here because I have my integrity."

The fighting attitude of the locked-out workers had an impact. A joint agreement issued Sept. 14 by Local 69 and Dominion said the company would end the lockout, both parties would continue bargaining and the union agreed not to strike until next April. The union has been without a contract since April 1 this year.

— Ned Measel

10,000 rally in Australia to support sacked brewery workers

MELBOURNE, Australia — More than 10,000 workers rallied here Sept. 8 to protest the sacking of 55 maintenance workers at beer giant Carlton United Breweries. Hundreds of construction workers, bus and tram drivers, tradesmen and others walked off the job to join the rally. They marched through the city to the state Parliament Building, chanting "CUB, Shame, shame, shame!" and "CUB, no beer at the G!"

Correction

The photobox "SWP VP Candidate Addresses Sydney Dockworkers" in the Sept. 26 issue was incorrectly headlined. It should have said that the SWP candidate was addressing construction workers, as the article describes.

(The huge Melbourne Cricket Ground stadium is known as the G.)

The 55 electricians and fitters, members of the Electrical Trades Union and the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, have been on the picket line for 13 weeks at the brewery's Abbotsford plant. The company fired them, replaced them with nonunion workers, then told them to apply for jobs with the new contractor, Programmed Skilled Group, on individual nonunion contracts with as much as a 65 percent cut in wages and benefits.

The union scored a victory when Programmed Skilled quit the brewery Aug. 29. AMWU officials said beer production has fallen by two-thirds since the firings.

"At first I felt dismay that CUB could treat us this way," Chris Pore, 33, one of the sacked maintenance workers, told the rally, "but now I feel strong and confident." Pointing to the large crowd he said, "We will win this battle!"

— Linda Harris

Prairie bus drivers in Canada rally to defend pensions

CALGARY, Alberta — Bus drivers, members of Amalgamated Transit Union locals from Edmonton, Winnipeg, Calgary and Regina, traveled across the prairies Sept. 10 to join union postal workers and others in support of Saskatoon city bus drivers, members of ATU Local 615. More than 150 people attended the rally and corn roast in front of Saskatoon City Hall.

"I feel proud to be part of this group," Saskatoon bus driver Daryl Strugnell told the *Militant* by phone the next day.

The bus drivers' contract expired in December 2012. They weathered a four-



Militant/Manuele Lasalo

More than 10,000 unionists marched and rallied Sept. 8 in Melbourne, Australia, protesting June firing of 55 union maintenance workers by beer giant Carlton United Breweries.

week lockout in 2014 and continue to fight to keep their defined-benefit pension plan, something eight of the nine municipal unions in Saskatoon have lost. "The city says, 'Everybody else has signed, get on board with this,'" said Strugnell.

In March, bus drivers went to work without their uniforms to draw attention to their fight.

"The politicians anticipated that over time the union would self-destruct," Jim Yakubowski, Local 615 president, told the rally. "But we still have some fight left." Following the rally, negotiations resumed.

— Katy LeRougetel

Washington berry pickers win union representation vote

MT. VERNON, Wash. — "We won 192 votes for the union and the company got 52," Ramón Torres, president of the farmworkers union Familias Unidas por la Justicia (Families United for Justice), told a gathering of 250 Sakuma Brothers Farms berry pickers, family members and supporters Sept. 12. They enjoyed a barbecue and live music while waiting at the United Steelworkers hall here to hear the results of the union representation election. Torres' announcement in Spanish was followed by a translation into the indigenous Mixteca language, spoken by many workers who hail from south-

ern Mexico.

The victory was the product of a fight that began with a series of strikes in 2013 in the berry fields of the Skagit River Valley, 60 miles north of Seattle. Workers at Sakuma Farms struck this summer during the strawberry harvest and again during the blueberry and blackberry season.

While waiting for the election results, longtime union supporter Benito Lopez told the *Militant* he was confident in a positive outcome. "People who weren't with us before are supporting us now," he said. "They feel mistreated by the company and they see the union keeping on and supporting them."

"We talked to a lot of people and explained what Familias Unidas is all about" leading up to the election, Javier Ramirez said.

"This is just the first step," union Vice President Felimon Pineda told the *Militant*. "We still have to win a contract. That's what the workers are waiting for."

Rich Austin Jr., president of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 19 in Seattle, who attended the celebration, told the *Militant* that longshoremen refused to load Driscoll's brand berries from Sakuma on cruise ships. As part of the agreement leading up to the election, Familias Unidas called off a boycott of Driscoll's and Sakuma berries.

— Clay Dennison

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 4, 1991

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Supporters of the right to abortion gathered at the Emma Goldman Clinic here September 14. Right-wingers claiming to speak for Operation Rescue had threatened to close down the clinic that day.

By 10:00 a.m. when the first Operation Rescue supporters showed up, 400 supporters of abortion rights had already occupied the ground in front and on all sides of the clinic.

The rightists numbered less than 80 and were never able to hold any ground near the clinic. As they sent picketers in ones and twos past the defense lines, each picketer was surrounded by supporters of abortion rights.

Supporters kept a steady flow of spirited chants such as "Right to life. That's a lie. They don't care if women die." In less than an hour it was clear that abortion rights forces had won the day.



October 3, 1966

LOS ANGELES — A California law on "criminal syndicalism," which was last used 29 years ago to crush a drive to organize Sacramento County agricultural workers, was resurrected here Sept. 21 by the Los Angeles County grand jury to be used against John W. Harris. Harris is a 23-year-old Black member of the Progressive Labor Party.

This time the police are attempting to intimidate the civil rights and antiwar movements. But the response of civil rights and antiwar organizations was immediate and representatives from 15 of them joined forces within three days to form the John Harris Defense Committee.

Harris was charged with distributing anti-police and pro-revolutionary leaflets. Harris was arrested at his home in Venice by six district attorney's undercover agents.



October 4, 1941

NEW YORK — A National Committee formed to fight for the release from jail of Negro soldiers court-martialed in World War I held its first meeting in Harlem this week.

Delegates were present from such organizations as the Better Harlem Association, the Baptist Ministers Conference, representing 100,000 members, the German Lutheran Church, and the Socialist Workers Party.

The general sentiment was one of active opposition to the current World War. For here, in the unjust imprisonment of innocent Negroes was concrete proof that democracy is no more an issue in this war than it was in the last one.

The freeing of these Negro soldiers whose only real mistake was to suppose that they "were fighting for democracy" can only be achieved through organized mass action.

‘We are men, not beasts’

Continued from front page

to a minimum of 25 cents and a maximum of \$1 a day.

In October that year an uprising in a Long Island City, New York, jail spread to the Manhattan House of Detention for Men, known as the Tombs, and two other jails before cops retook them.

In early November prisoners at Auburn State Prison rebelled after officials put 14 inmates in solitary confinement for defying a prison ban on celebrating Black Solidarity Day. After prisoners surrendered, guards forced them to run gauntlets and beat them with batons.

That same month hundreds of prisoners at Folsom State Penitentiary in California held a 19-day strike.

In June 1971 prisoners calling themselves the Attica Liberation Faction sent a list of demands, modeled on Folsom’s, to Commissioner of Correctional Services Russell Oswald, newly appointed by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. Among the 27 demands: proper medical care; “an end to political persecution, racial persecution” and the censoring of newspapers and books; prosecution of prison guards who perform “cruel and unusual punishment,” and clean dishes and eating utensils.

Oswald, who saw himself as a liberal reformer, replied that he would “study” what improvements could be made.

Prisoner solidarity

Attica officials’ worries grew a few days after well-known Black Panther George Jackson was killed in San Quentin State Prison in California. Guard Jack English later told the *New York Daily News* that prisoners walked into the cafeteria on Aug. 22, 1971, but “nobody took any food. ... They looked straight ahead and nobody made a sound.” Almost all the prisoners — Blacks, Caucasians and Latinos — were wearing black armbands or something else that was black.

“It scared us because a thing like that takes a lot of organization, a lot of solidarity, and we had no idea they were so well-organized.”

On Sept. 9, 1971, some prisoners, upset at the beating of two inmates the night before, broke through a locked gate and took control of a wing of the prison. Some 40 guards and civilian prison employees were taken hostage.

Prisoners rapidly organized to get a guard who had been severely injured in the initial confrontation out for medical care, but he died a few days later.

The prisoners poured into the open-air D yard. Roger Champen, a Korean War veteran and respected jailhouse lawyer, grabbed a bullhorn. “We have to pull ourselves together,” he said. Soon they formed a multiracial leadership committee. Among those who came forward were Herbert X Blyden, a veteran of the Tombs rebellion; Don Noble and Frank Lott, two of the authors of the Attica Liberation Faction demands; Black Panther Tommy Hicks, who had been in the Auburn rebellion; Young Lords leader Mariano Gonzalez; jailhouse lawyer Jerry “the Jew” Rosenberg; and Elliot “L.D.” Barkley.

They dug latrines, since prison authorities cut off water to the toilets. They rigged up a sound system. They set up a racially integrated security force and made sure no harm came to the hostages. They set up a medical aid station. They cooked food and distributed mattresses and bedding, giving the hostages priority. They banned drug use.

Hoping to get the prisoners to give up by giving some small concessions, Oswald allowed the press into D yard. With TV cameras rolling, Barkley read their manifesto and initial demands. (See excerpts below.)

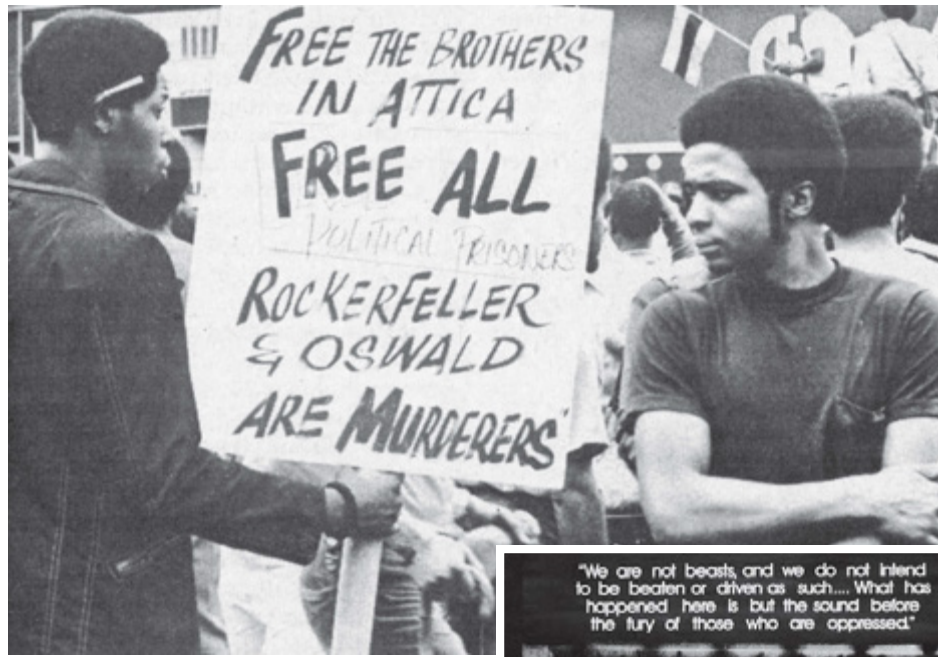
Tom Wicker, a *New York Times* associate editor, who arrived the next day, was struck by “aspects of that strange society — its strikingly effective organization, its fierce political radicalism, its submergence of racial animosity in class solidarity.” He was astonished.

He reported that while a Black prisoner was speaking about “the disadvantages suffered by blacks in America, an inmate shouted back at him in a heavy Puerto Rican accent: ‘Don’t forget our white brothers! They’re in this too.’”

An orgy of terror

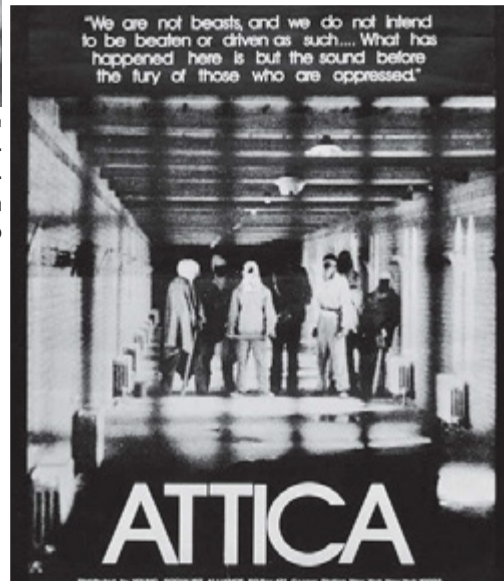
Oswald and Rockefeller claimed they would agree to all the demands for better conditions except the two that were most important to the prisoners: amnesty for any alleged “crimes” connected to the rebellion and removal of the hated warden Vincent Mancusi.

When the prisoners refused to immediately agree, Rockefeller on Sept.



Militant/Candida McCollam

Sept. 18, 1971, rally of 3,000 in Harlem denounces brutal assault on Attica prisoners. Inset, poster produced by Young Socialist Alliance, which joined Socialist Workers Party to campaign to get out truth on rebellion, government cover-up.



13 ordered the assault officials had been preparing since day one. It became an orgy of terror.

Under the command of Mancusi and a low-ranking state police official, more than 1,000 state troopers, local cops and prison guards began the assault, along with National Guardsmen. They were armed with shotguns, rifles with dum dum bullets and their personal weapons.

As soon as a helicopter dropped debilitating CS tear gas, they opened fire indiscriminately, killing prisoners and hostages alike. By the end of the day 29 prisoners and 10 hostages were dead.

New York officials immediately publicized a blatant lie. They said the hostages’ throats had been slit and several castrated by the prisoners. A few days later the truth came out: All the hostages had been killed by gunfire. The prisoners didn’t have a single firearm.

The terror continued for days.

Prisoners were forced to crawl on their stomachs through broken glass. They were stripped naked and made to run gauntlets with guards on either side beating them. They were left naked in cells for days. Troopers forced prisoners to remove their dentures and eyeglasses and smashed them.

Prisoners protest conditions, mark Attica anniversary across U.S.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Beginning Sept. 9 prisoners in a number of states, including Michigan, Alabama and Florida, organized activities and strikes to use the 45th anniversary of the Attica prison rebellion to protest deplorable conditions workers behind bars face today. Demands raised targeted low pay or no pay for prison work, solitary confinement and a host of other prison policies that attack their dignity.

According to the *Detroit Free Press* some 400 of the 1,300 inmates at the Kinross Correctional Facility in Kincheloe, Michigan, marched and chanted in a three-hour peaceful protest Sept. 10 in the commons area in front of the prison’s housing units. The action followed one the day before where prisoners assigned to work in the kitchen and at some other jobs didn’t show up.

Among the issues prisoners raised are miserly wages of 74 cents to \$3.34 per day and obstacles to being able to seek commutation.

Following the rally, prison authorities retaliated against those they sus-

pected of leading the protests. Officials put the prison on lockdown and forcibly removed 150 alleged “instigators” from their cells, shipping them off to other prisons. According to the *Free Press*,

Continued on page 9

Recommended reading ...



“It’s the poor who face the savagery of the US ‘justice’ system”

— Jack Barnes in “*Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*” \$20

The U.S. justice system “is an enormous machine for grinding people up.” — Ramón Labañino in “*It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System*” \$15

“What does the Cuban Revolution teach? That revolution is possible.” — From the *Second Declaration of Havana* \$10

“It’s the strength and resilience of workers who are Black, not the oppression, that bowls you over.”

www.pathfinderpress.com

Capitalist crisis, imperialist debt bleed Venezuela workers

BY MARK THOMPSON

The world capitalist economic and social crisis is fueling ever more devastating conditions for working people in Venezuela, with widespread unemployment, sky-high inflation and scarcity of food, medicines and other basic goods. At the same time, the country’s coffers are being bled dry by payments of billions of dollars to the banks and bondholders in the United States and other imperialist countries who own Venezuela’s foreign debt.

In the face of these worsening conditions, capitalist opposition parties within the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) coalition have been campaigning for a referendum to recall president Nicolás Maduro and force new presidential elections.

To press the demand for a referendum to be held this year, MUD staged a large protest Sept. 1 in the capital, Caracas. Government supporters held a smaller mobilization there that same day.

Washington remains committed to installing a regime more to its liking. It has pursued measures, however, that have deliberately sought to avoid provoking deeper political turmoil, economic breakdown and a social explosion in the country and the region. It hopes for a more orderly transition, counting on the crisis over time to exhaust and demoralize working-class support for the Maduro government. While it has backed the call for a referendum, the Obama administration has sought to initiate high-level contacts with the Maduro government, and has supported efforts to promote dialogue between the government and the opposition.

Talks between representatives of MUD and the government have taken place over recent months mediated by former Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, former Panamanian President Martín Torrijos and former Dominican Republic President Leonel Fernández. The Vatican announced September 14 that Pope Francis had agreed to help mediate.

The government is open to negotiations as long as the country’s sovereignty is respected, said Maduro July 14.

Paying the bondholders

Meanwhile, the wealthy bondholders and their representatives in Washington and elsewhere are lining up to

reap enormous wealth at the expense of working people in Venezuela.

The government owes \$120 billion in debt. It has prioritized meeting payments on this, limiting its ability to import items desperately needed by working people.

For months, business forecasters have been predicting that Caracas will default on its debt payments. Petróleos de Venezuela, the national oil company, owes \$7 billion on bonds maturing in 2016-17. It announced Sept. 13 that it would offer to swap these for new bonds that would mature in 2020, guaranteed by shares in its U.S.-based oil subsidiary, Citgo.

“For bond lords from New York to London, [Venezuela] is one of the biggest bangs for your buck,” noted a July 21 article in the business magazine *Forbes*.

If Venezuela was to default on payment of the debt, the international creditors, current and future ones, would use every means at their disposal to recoup as much of their losses as possible — from seizing sovereign assets to imposition of onerous conditions on future loans. In the case of Venezuela one of the measures being floated already is seizing Citgo’s refineries and its 6,000 gas stations in the U.S.

The foreign debt setup is a form of pillage through which the capitalist families in the imperialist countries suck massive amounts of wealth out of the semicolonial world. Only by revolutionary means can workers and farmers in Venezuela organize to confront the consequences of the crisis, overthrow capitalism and defend themselves from imperialist plunder. And workers in the U.S. should back their class brothers in Venezuela in that struggle.

“Since the consolidation of imperialism,” wrote Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, in *Capitalism’s World Disorder*, “every

Socialist Workers Party joins protest in Puerto Rico



Militant/Cynthia Jaquith

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A delegation headed by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, arrived here Sept. 19 for a weeklong fact-finding and solidarity visit. One of the first stops was for an encampment outside the U.S. federal court, above, where young people have protested daily since June. They are denouncing Washington’s establishment of a “fiscal control” board to enforce payment of the U.S. colony’s \$70 billion debt to capitalist bondholders, including through a lower minimum wage for youth. The sign says, “The future of Puerto Rico doesn’t work for \$4.25.”

Kennedy has been invited to give greetings to the Sept. 23 Grito de Lares celebration, organized by pro-independence groups here to commemorate the 1868 uprising of Puerto Ricans against Spanish colonial rule.

In addition, Kennedy will speak at the University of Puerto Rico, join a march to demand the release of Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López Rivera, meet with trade unionists and visit working-class neighborhoods, going door to door to exchange experiences on what working people face in Puerto Rico and in the United States.

Kennedy is accompanied by Jacob Perasso, Cynthia Jaquith and Martín Koppel. Jaquith and Perasso are the SWP’s candidates for U.S. Senate in Florida and New York, respectively.

— CYNTHIA JAQUITH

action by finance capital in relation to the more economically backward countries ends up further warping the economies of the colonial or semicolonial countries. That is the effect of every bank loan to their ruling classes; every investment in landed, industrial, and commercial capital; every purchase of bonds issued by a semi-colonial administration; every trade pact; every scheme to peg the value of weaker currencies to stronger ones.”

‘Let them fall’

The Sept. 12 *Wall Street Journal* reported that the Chinese govern-

ment is “recalculating” its relations with Caracas and may make no fresh loans or investments. It quoted a Chinese company official reporting on meetings with an envoy from Beijing earlier this year. “The consensus was that no new money was going to be invested,” he said. “There was a clear message from the top: Let them fall.”

Anticipating a change in government and seeking to secure its investments, Chinese officials have also met with leaders of the Venezuelan opposition, according to the *Journal*. Beijing is Venezuela’s biggest creditor with \$60 billion in loans.

Support grows for Oct. 9 event to free Oscar López

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Supporters of Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera, jailed in the United States for more than 35 years, are stepping up their activities to win his freedom. Transportation is being organized from a dozen cities to attend an Oct. 9 “Freedom Convocation and Cultural Celebration” in Washington, D.C., to demand his release.

López was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Chicago as a teenager. Upon his return after being drafted into the U.S. Army and serving a stint in Vietnam, he joined protests against police brutality and racist discrimination in hiring and for bilingual education. He called for independence for Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony since 1898, and was a founder in the early ’70s of the Committee to Free the Five Puerto Rican Nationalists, political prisoners in the U.S. at the time.

López was arrested in 1981 and accused of being a leader of the Armed Forces of National Liberation

(FALN), a group that had taken credit for bombings of U.S. businesses with ties to Puerto Rico. Having no evidence of his participation in any acts of violence, U.S. prosecutors charged him with seditious conspiracy “to oppose by force the authority” of the U.S. government.

A Free Oscar López contingent got a good response at the Puerto Rican Day Parade in Newark, New Jersey, Sept. 18, passing out hundreds of paper fans encouraging people to get on the buses to D.C. and collecting signatures on petitions calling for his freedom.

Rafael Cancel Miranda, one of the five nationalists whose freedom López fought for in the 1970s, is speaking in New York at several programs Sept. 23-24 to promote participation in the Washington event.

“A few weeks ago some people were saying that we don’t have enough time to get people to D.C.,” Ponce Laspina, a spokesperson for the New York Coordinator to Free Oscar López, told the *Militant* Sept. 20. “Now my phone

doesn’t stop ringing with people calling to get on a bus.”

Laspina is also organizing a bike ride for Oscar López in the Bronx on Sept. 24. The ride will make 14 stops, distributing flyers on López, passing out T-shirts calling for his freedom, and encouraging people to go to Washington for Oct. 9.

The next day 35 Women for Oscar is inviting participation in a march from Harlem to the Bronx.

Concert/rally to Free Oscar López!

Puerto Rican independence fighter jailed in U.S. for more than 35 years

Washington, D.C.
12 noon, Sun. Oct. 9
Lafayette Park in front of the White House

For more info: freescarlopeznow.com or boricuahumanrights.org

Revolution awakened millions to ‘thirst for culture’

Problems of Everyday Life by Leon Trotsky is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. The excerpt is from his talk "The Cultural Role of the Worker Correspondent" given in 1924. A leader of the October 1917 Russian Revolution, of the Bolshevik Party and the Communist International, Trotsky became the principal defender of V.I. Lenin's internationalist course against the growing counterrevolutionary bureaucratic social caste headed by Joseph Stalin. Expelled from the Soviet Union in 1929, Trotsky was assassinated in Mexico by Stalin's secret police in 1940. These articles and speeches, most written in the 1920s, discuss the connections between culture, the socialist revolution and strengthening the ability of the working class and peasantry to run the country. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

[W]hy are we poor in schools, books, and newspapers? Because we are poor and culturally backward in general and we have very little of anything. But we do not have class barriers and obstacles on the part of the state; that is, we do not have a state power that has an interest in curtailing the means of cultural development for the proletariat, since



First Soviet soldiers' university, 1919. "The greatest conquest" of Russian Revolution, Trotsky wrote in 1924, was "awakening of a powerful thirst for culture among the working masses."

in our country there is workers' power.

In one of his last articles, to which I have alluded elsewhere, Vladimir Ilyich [Lenin] explained: With the conquest of power, the very approach to socialism is abruptly changed. As long as bourgeois supremacy lasts the struggle for socialism means uniting the proletariat for the revolutionary seizure of power. This means that the first thing you must do is force open the gates to the realm of the future! But once power has been taken, it is necessary to raise the cultural level of the working masses, for it is impossible to build socialism on the basis of underdeveloped culture. Of course, for the German proletariat, the problems of cultural work after the conquest of power will be incomparably easier than for us. But we have to work under the conditions we have been placed in by our whole past history, and our history is one of brutal oppression, backwardness, poverty, and a lack of culture. You cannot jump out of your own skin. The heritage of the past has to be overcome. The greatest advantage, the greatest conquest that the revolution has offered up to this time (and the revolution is not an end in itself, as we know, but only a means) has been the awakening of a powerful thirst for culture among the working masses. A sense of shame over our low cultural level and an aspiration to improve ourselves — that is the main thing the revolution has brought about — and on a scale never before seen, encompassing millions and tens of millions.

This thirst for culture is, of course, particularly strong among the youth. There is no doubt that the rate of illiteracy among the youth is declining. We see this among the new military recruits. But there is a stage between illiteracy and literacy when a person is semiliterate or insufficiently literate. Many stay too long in this stage. There are many such partly literate people in the army, as well as among working class youth, and particularly among peasant youth. It is necessary for our newspapers to get hold of such semiliterates, attract them, induce them to read daily, teach them to read, increase their degree of literacy and through literacy to widen their horizons. Which brings us to the question we are discussing today.

The working class has been awakened to the need for culture. And worker correspondents are one of the expressions of this class awakening. This is the fundamental distinction between the worker correspondents' organization and all the other writers' groups. Worker correspondents are the closest, most direct instruments of the newly awakened working class at the grass roots level. This relationship is what determines the meaning of their work, their role, and the scope of their interests, and this is the scale by which they are measured. The worker correspondent is receptive to everything by which the working class lives and breathes. The worker correspondents use their pens like levers. It is a small lever, but there are many worker

correspondents, and that means there are many little levers for elevating the culture of the working masses. ...

The worker correspondent is an organ of the social conscience, one that watches, exposes, demands, persists. It cannot be otherwise. The worker correspondent writes about cases of malfunctioning and expects them to be eliminated. But they are not always eliminated immediately.

This, then, opens up the only genuine sphere of activity for the worker correspondents. It is very easy after a failure to throw up your hands. But worker correspondents who are fighters act otherwise. They know that it is much easier to find malfunctioning than to eliminate it. They also know that a newspaper makes itself felt, not all at once, but by repeating, keeping pressure on, day after day. Worker correspondents take advantage of all new opportunities and find new ways, using new circumstances or details, to expose these instances of malfunctioning. Moreover, they continue to study the problem themselves, approaching it first from one angle, and then from another, in order to more clearly understand its roots and to strike more accurately at its main cause.

A worker correspondent needs self-control; a worker correspondent needs the temperament of a fighter. Even in the larger political arena we do not win everything immediately. We went through decades of underground struggle, followed by 1905, then defeat, and again the underground; then came 1917, the February revolution, the civil war. ... Our party displayed the greatest tenacity in the revolutionary struggle and through this, it conquered. Worker correspondents must be totally imbued with the spirit of the Communist Party — the spirit of struggle, tenacity, and revolutionary commitment. The worker correspondent must be a communist, must live not just by the letter, but also by the spirit of Lenin's teachings, which means constant criticism and self-criticism. Don't believe everything you hear; don't live by rumors; confirm figures, confirm facts; study, criticize, strive; struggle against arbitrariness and the feeling that there is no defense against injustice; persist, press your views, broaden your field of ideological understanding; go forward and push others forward — only then will you be *genuine and true* worker correspondents!

September **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

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Creating the Foundations for a New Society in Revolutionary Russia
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Oppose US wars, attacks on rights!

Continued from front page

they give the green light to attacks on Muslims and their mosques.

Bombs set off on busy city streets, at sports or social events, stabbing attacks on shoppers in a mall have nothing to do with fighting against Washington’s bloody wars abroad or the rulers’ attacks on workers here. They are acts that can only be committed by forces who despise the working class. They set back working-class struggles and hand the ruling class a pretext to divide and set us against each other.

The ruling class uses working-class revulsion at such terror attacks to crack down on democratic rights we sorely need to educate and organize against the capitalist rulers’ exploitation and brutality.

In response to the attacks, Clinton, Trump and the ruling capitalist class they represent try to make workers think “we Americans” — workers and capitalists — have the same interests. “We” need to back restrictions on our rights and special measures that single out immigrants and refugees from the Middle East.

But the working class and the boss class have 100 percent counterposed class interests. They seek to maintain their class dictatorship and defend their ap-

propriation of the vast majority of the wealth our class produces, here and around the world. They use their war machine to enforce this abroad and their cops, courts and criminal “justice” system to do so at home.

And those of us who become the cannon fodder in their wars or trapped in their prisons get killed or maimed and tossed aside as broken things that are no longer useful to their class.

The Socialist Workers Party fights to organize the working class to replace the crisis-ridden dictatorship of capital and end the wars and oppression endemic to its rule. Working people in the U.S., the Middle East and around the world can look to the Cuban Revolution as an example of the way forward. The leadership of the workers’ and farmers’ battle for power there insisted on proletarian moral values as they fought to take power and implement a revolutionary program.

Join the Socialist Workers Party and sister Communist Leagues around the world in the fight to strengthen the labor movement, fight racist brutality and all forms of discrimination that divide us, and oppose imperialist wars. This is the road for workers and farmers to take political power and organize society to meet human needs, not profits.

Prisoners protest conditions, mark Attica

Continued from page 6

that led to prisoners damaging some housing areas.

“[W]hen you have large numbers of prisoners gathered all together as one, it’s not something we can allow to happen,” Michigan Department of Corrections spokesperson Chris Gautz told Televison 9&10 News.

At the Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore, Alabama, some 75 prisoners did not show up for work Sept. 9, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. In May Holman was one of several Alabama prisons where inmates stopped work over conditions and unpaid or poorly paid labor. Prison authorities there and in Florida often give inmates no wages for their work.

At Holman, prisoners making Alabama state license plates or sewing prison bedding get paid as little as 17 to 30 cents an hour.

More than 400 of the 1,100 men incarcerated at the Holmes Correctional Institution in Florida barricaded themselves in four dorm areas Sept. 7, the *Miami Herald* said. Prison cops broke up the protests, setting off canisters of chemicals.

Two days later “inmates across the state participated in sit-downs and refused to work,” including at Holmes, reported the *Northwest Florida Daily News*.

Claiming the demonstrations had nothing to do with “inhumane conditions,” Florida Department of Corrections spokesperson Michelle Gladly proceeded to list a series of factors that led to the actions — lack of recreation or vocational programs, rotten food quality and denial of access to the canteen to purchase packaged food, toiletries and stamps to write their family.

In South Carolina, some prisoners took the occasion of the Attica anniversary to issue a list of demands, including for the state minimum wage for general la-

bor, fairer parole practices, reinstitution of educational courses for high school diplomas and cutting commissary costs.

Officials at the maximum security Perry Correctional Institution in South Carolina responded by placing the prison on lockdown after some prisoners there refused to return to their cells, WYFF-4 TV reported.

The call for prisoners to commemorate Attica and raise demands on prison conditions today was initiated by the Free Alabama Movement, a group led by prisoners; the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee; Support Prisoner Resistance; and others.

SWP campaigning

Continued from page 3

ing ahead of me,” Misty said, as the couple bought *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* and five other books that present the SWP’s program.

The next day Hart visited the West Calumet Housing Complex in East Chicago, Indiana, where many children have dangerous levels of lead in their bodies. It was built in 1972 on the site of a lead smelter and declared an Environmental Protection Agency Superfund toxic waste site seven years ago. Parents weren’t told until last month that their children were in danger.

Now city officials plan to demolish the complex and are forcing residents to move, but the vouchers they issue don’t cover the cost of replacement housing.

“This housing should never have been built where the lead smelter was located,” Hart told resident Ana Carranza, a cashier. “It shows the disregard of the capitalists and their government for workers’ lives.”

LETTERS

Need a new subscription

I enjoy reading your articles every week, but I have moved to another prison and no one here has a subscription. Please help me with this situation and I will involve others with your perspective on what’s going on in the world.

*A prisoner
Florida*

‘Daesh’ a derogatory term?

Why do you keep calling “Daesh” a “derogatory term for Islamic State”? Daesh is simply the acronym of an original Arabic organization or institution, from Daula Islamia fi’Iraq wa Sham.

Al-sham meaning the original historic “greater” Syria stretching from what is now the Turkish border to the Sinai and Gulf of Aqaba or the Red Sea. I can’t see anything derogatory in that.

*Lüko Willms
Frankfurt, Germany*

‘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., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Editors note: As an Arabic word, Daesh doesn’t mean anything. Acronyms are not as common in Arabic as in English. The group’s supporters object to its use because it *is* used as a derogatory term by imperialist government spokespeople and some Arab regimes.

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.

Syria truce unravels

Continued from front page

thorities blamed Russia or Syria for airstrikes that destroyed an aid convoy outside Aleppo, incinerating 18 trucks carrying food and medical supplies and killing some 20 people.

At the same time, U.S. special forces began conducting ground operations with Turkish troops who are deepening their offensive in northern Syria — ostensibly fighting Islamic State, but with the primary goal of pushing back Kurdish militias from territory they have gained.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault told the media Sept. 19 that in future talks “we can’t limit the dialogue to two countries,” angling for a greater role for Paris, Syria’s former colonial ruler. The French government conducts airstrikes in Syria and Iraq as part of the U.S.-led coalition against Islamic State.

The catastrophe for working people in Syria continues to mount, from the death toll and refugee crisis to the scarcity of food. In the rebel-held section of Aleppo the price of rice has shot up fivefold in recent months, sugar tenfold and flour is not available.

A key aspect of the collapsing truce negotiated between Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was that if the ceasefire held, Washington and Moscow would begin to share targeting and intelligence information in order to carry out coordinated attacks on Islamic State and the former Nusra Front.

This provoked debate between the State Department and the Pentagon, with several high-ranking officers publicly questioning the idea of sharing information with Moscow. “It would be premature to say that we’re going to jump right into it,” Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Harrigian, commander of the U.S. Air Forces Central Command, said Sept. 13.

The next day Gen. Joseph Votel, head of the U.S. Central Command, said he supported the initiative but “there is a trust deficit with the Russians.” Defense Secretary Ashton Carter downplayed the division, pledging Pentagon loyalty to the administration’s course. “We in the Defense Department will play whatever role we have,” he told reporters Sept. 14.

There is growing bipartisan agreement in Washington that U.S. imperialist power has weakened over years of failed military interventions in the Middle East and elsewhere. A deal with Moscow, they believe, holds the only hope for continuing U.S. influence and exploitation in the region.

U.S. troops join Turkish intervention

U.S. officials said Sept. 16 that about 40 special operations troops are joining the Turkish military in northern Syria, operating as “combat advisers.”

The same day, one of the Turkish-backed Syrian opposition militias said they drove out a handful of U.S. soldiers who entered Syria near al-Rai on the Turkish border. “We won’t accept any Americans joining us,” said a person videoing their trucks leaving. “The Americans haven’t saved any Syrian lives from Assad or ISIS,” another fighter told the *Financial Times*.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sept. 19 that Ankara and its Syrian allies were pushing south toward the town of al-Bab, and “may extend this area to 5,000 square kilometers [3,100 square miles] as part of a safe zone.” This would imply a long-term Turkish military presence, and would prevent the Kurds from connecting the two regions they control in Syria.

Washington has demanded the Kurds pull back from the area west of the Euphrates River that Ankara intends to control.

Meanwhile, the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq, headed by Masoud Barzani, hosted a meeting Sept. 19 with representatives of Washington and the Iraqi army to discuss military cooperation to retake Mosul from Islamic State. Over the last month the Kurdish peshmerga militias have taken control of villages near Mosul that had been held by IS. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi warned them not to push further, worried the territory will become a bargaining chip to negotiate greater autonomy for the KRG.

The Kurdish people — the largest nationality in the world without its own state — are divided among Syria, Iraq, Iran and Turkey.