

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**'Workers in Puerto Rico and US face common enemy'**  
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 41 OCTOBER 31, 2016

## Cubans rally for end to US embargo, intervention

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Under the slogan, "I vote against the blockade," students rallied across Cuba Oct. 17 demanding Washington end its decades-long policy of economic aggression against their country. The mobilizations were among many activities leading up to the annual vote in the United Nations General Assembly Oct. 26 on a resolution condemning the U.S. embargo against Cuba. Last year the vote was 191 for with only the governments of the U.S. and Israel voting against.

In an exchange with students at the University of Havana Josefin Vidal, chief of U.S. affairs for Cuba's Foreign Ministry, discussed a presidential policy directive on Cuba and some slight trade adjustments announced by the Barack Obama administration Oct. 14.

While the policy directive "recognizes Cuba and its government as a legitimate and equal representative," Vidal said, it "doesn't hide the intent

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## Imperialist plunder at root of Haiti storm disaster

BY SETH GALINSKY

The 145 mph winds of Hurricane Matthew that battered Haiti are a natural phenomenon, but the disaster in the storm's wake is man-made. Unlike revolutionary Cuba — where more than a million people were evacuated before the storm hit and not a single person died — the capitalist government of Haiti left working people to fend for themselves. And the legacy and ongoing reality of imperialist domination guarantee the social crisis will deepen in the coming months.

No one knows for sure how many people have died in Haiti after the hurricane made landfall Oct. 4, probably more than 1,000. According to the U.N., over 1.4 million people need assistance and 120,000 homes were destroyed.

A week after the storm, many towns still had not received any aid, health centers are short of basic supplies and workers and farmers are dying from

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## Washington-driven assault on Mosul fuels conflicts among capitalist rivals

BY MARK THOMPSON

A U.S.-backed offensive to wrest control of the Iraqi city of Mosul from Islamic State began Oct. 17 in a joint operation between the Iraqi army and the Iraqi Kurdish regional authorities. The Barack Obama administration has been pushing to get the assault underway, increasing U.S. troops and the training of Iraqi units and Kurdish peshmerga forces. The battle and its aftermath will sharpen tensions and conflicts between rival ruling classes in the region, and extend military action there by U.S. imperialism.

The attacking force includes some 30,000 Iraqi government troops and

police, Shiite and Sunni militias and Kurdish peshmerga fighters. They are backed by U.S. airstrikes and special operations troops. London and Paris are also part of the coalition. There are reported to be up to 5,000 Islamic State fighters in Mosul, and up to 1.5 million civilians.

In the first two days, peshmerga captured villages to the east and Iraqi troops to the south, moving to surround the city. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi says only Iraqi government troops will enter it. This is to allay fears that Shiite militias might carry out reprisals against the pre-

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## SWP is party of working class, fights for solidarity

Trump, Clinton broadly distrusted by workers



Militant/Jacob Perasso

"I'm glad you're talking about the crisis in Haiti," college student Justin Boatswain told Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy Oct. 16 by his house in Brooklyn, N.Y.

BY MAGGIE TROWE

NEW YORK — As election day nears, more workers view both Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton with revulsion. A video of Trump bragging about groping women and accusations of sexual misconduct have been the focus of a media frenzy for days. Given less attention is the release of hacked emails and documents reflecting Clinton's fawning relationship with billionaires and bankers and her contemptuous attitude toward working people.

By contrast, the Socialist Workers Party represents the interests of the working class. Its presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy and running mate Osborne Hart — both longtime fighters with proletarian integrity — are presenting a way forward for workers and farmers.

"Clinton and Trump are the most broadly distrusted candidates ever to run for president," Kennedy said at a campaign meeting here Oct. 15.

"Because of the worsening conditions we face, the working class is the issue in the elections," she said. "And after the elections the workers Clinton dismisses as 'deplorables' and that Trump plays demagogically to — the millions of Caucasian, Black, Latino and Asian workers who are angry and looking for a way forward — are not going away."

"The propertied rulers sense that the future of their crisis-ridden system portends depression and war," she said. "They have no proposals to surmount the crisis. This is the single greatest source of the deepening factionalism, demagoguery and degradation of political discourse and the 'pornographication' that marks capitalist politics."

The capitalist media has dropped any pretense of objectivity. Most journalists echo Clinton's pious outrage against Trump's anti-woman behavior.

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## 'Militant' challenges Attica prison censorship

BY SETH GALINSKY

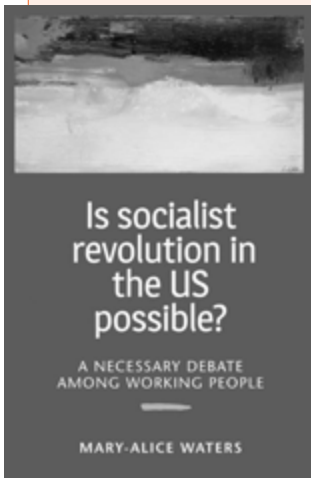
The *Militant* plans to challenge the impoundment of its Oct. 3 issue by New York State prison authorities at the Attica Correctional Facility.

The issue featured an article on the 1971 Attica prison rebellion titled, "Fight Continues 45 Years After Attica Rebels Said, 'We Are Men, Not Beasts,'" as well as an article on several protest actions that took place in prisons in the U.S. this year demanding higher wages for labor and better conditions.

Prison officials claim that the front

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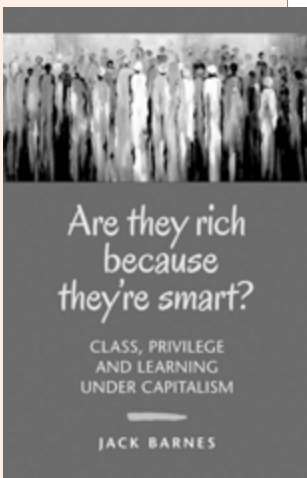
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— Mary-Alice Waters

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



### Inside

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

SKorea truckers, rail workers strike against gov't attacks

Harvard dining hall workers strike for raise, health care

# Attacks on Muslims, Sikhs met by protests in Canada

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

CALGARY, Alberta — Recent threats against Muslims in Alberta have been met with protests and expressions of solidarity. Several dozen anti-Muslim posters were hung on the University of Calgary campus Oct. 4. Four days later, worshippers at the Islamic Centre of South Calgary found the glass front door broken, a burnt Koran and a hate letter.

The morning after the posters were hung, students and faculty rallied to condemn the posters and write messages of solidarity. The Hussaini Association of Calgary invited broad participation in its annual “Peace and Unity” march downtown Oct. 9, handing out informational cards on Islam that denounced “those who have hijacked a peaceful faith to serve their own corrupt ideologies, such as ISIS, whose targets are over 90% Muslims.”

Speaking of the anti-Muslim at-

tacks, march participant Ali Hayder told the *Militant*, “If we allow this kind of behavior to grow, it won’t stop at Muslims.” Hayder, an oil and gas engineer, described the solidarity in the small town north of Calgary where he lives. “On Fridays, because there is no mosque in Airdrie, Muslims use a church and it is acceptable for both sides.”

A Communist League delegation visited the Islamic Centre Oct. 13 to express solidarity in response to the vandalism. “They always need scapegoats,” a taxi driver told them. “But in this neighborhood, everyone smiles and talks to each other — there’s the Baptist center next door.”

In an earlier incident in Edmonton posters targeting Sikhs appeared at the University of Alberta Sept. 19 that read, “F--k your Turban.” In response the following week, dozens of students participated in a “turban tie-in,” lining up to have a turban wrapped on.

## SWP candidate speaks to Wash. high school students



Militant/Edwin Fruit

SNOHOMISH, Wash. — Mary Martin, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Washington, spoke at the Snohomish High School candidates’ breakfast Sept. 27, representing the SWP presidential ticket. “What the working class is living through and all of you face — lack of jobs, low wages, unending wars, police brutality, attacks on women’s right to abortion — stem from the crisis of the capitalist system,” Martin told the 250 students. “It won’t be solved by any of the capitalist parties or candidates. We have to build a movement to replace capitalism and put working people in power. Our party is your party.” After the program, three students signed up to campaign for SWP candidates.

— EDWIN FRUIT

# Five months after Alberta fire, workers face capitalist disaster

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

FORT MCMURRAY, Alberta — Members of the Communist League traveled here from Calgary in September to talk with workers affected by the oil industry contraction and the fire that swept the town in May, forcing all 90,000 residents to evacuate. They gave out the statement issued by Communist League Alberta organizer Joe Young after the blaze, “Wildfire Disaster a Product of Capitalism.”

The fire destroyed some 10 percent of the buildings and damaged many more. The Beacon Hill and Abasands neighborhoods remain virtually uninhabited. Working people are left wrestling with government bureaucracy and insurance companies eager to shirk responsibility.

“At the beginning, it sounded like we’d have no problem with the insurance,” Angela Halvorsen told Young. “Now they won’t even answer my calls. I have allergies, so we spent the entire

summer living in a tent trailer while I cleaned the house. The insurance company was supposed to pay for the trailer, but they refused, saying if I spent 10 hours a day cleaning, obviously it was livable” during that time! Halvorsen picked up a copy of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes and a *Militant* subscription.

“I was laid off as a driller, and there’s no promising work in the oilfields,” said Kyle Stewart. Since late 2014, over 40,000 workers in Alberta’s oil and gas industry have lost their jobs.

“We’re under capitalism, and it’s not working,” said Betty Waquan, a laborer in an aboriginal-run company. “It’s not fair how people are being treated. I have a neighbor who’s lived with two kids in a trailer since they came home.”

*Fort McMurray Today* reported that only four applicants have made deposits on 65 mobile housing rental units avail-

able in October. Rent for a three-bedroom unit is \$2,500 a month because the city didn’t want to undercut landlords, said city official Greg Elsasser.

“My landlord asked for May and June rent even though we weren’t here,” said Nancy Ani, a grocery worker and single mother of five. Her union, the United Food and Commercial Workers, gave each member \$500 for evacuation costs.


“Working people and our unions must demand a government-funded public works project to rebuild the community and create union jobs,” I said.

In our discussions with workers, we contrasted the response to natural disasters by Canada’s capitalist government and by revolutionary Cuba. The Communist League statement explains, “Cuban working people made a socialist revolution in 1959. They took political power, and the self-confidence and self-worth they have conquered gives them the capacity to run Cuba based on human needs, not profits.”

# THE MILITANT

## Bosses’ profit drive causes rail disasters

*Rail workers face a drive by bosses to impose speedup, crew cuts and longer hours, jeopardizing safety of workers, passengers and communities in their quest for profit. The ‘Militant’ backs fights by rail workers against frame-ups and for union control of safety on the job.*



Reuters/Eduardo Munoz

Bosses, politicians blamed workers for Oct. 8 Long Island Rail Road derailment.

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# Party of the working class

**Continued from front page**  
ior. At the same time they brush aside the evidence of sexual misconduct by former President Bill Clinton, Clinton's husband and a key figure in her political team, and her participation in efforts to malign and dismiss those who raise accusations against him.

"If average voters turned on the TV for five minutes this week," they've heard the accusations against Trump, *Wall Street Journal* columnist Kimberley Strassel wrote Oct. 16. "But even if average voters had the TV on 24/7, they still probably haven't heard the news about Hillary Clinton: That the nation now has proof of pretty much everything she has been accused of."

A series of hacked emails, documents released under the Freedom of Information Act and reports by FBI sources have provided new evidence of Clinton's dealings. "Voters might not know any of this," Strassel writes, "because while both presidential candidates have plenty to answer for, the press has focused solely on taking out Mr. Trump."

### Economic crisis in Puerto Rico

Two fighters against Washington's colonial domination of Puerto Rico joined Kennedy, who recently led a solidarity delegation to the island, on the platform at the Oct. 15 meeting in New York.

"Puerto Rico is undergoing a profound economic crisis today," said Manuel Meléndez Lavandero, co-spokesperson of A Call to Action on Puerto Rico. "The two dominant political parties are pawns of Washington and Wall Street. But conscious-

ness is changing. More Puerto Ricans now say, 'Yes, we're a colony.'"

"Puerto Rico's \$70 billion debt is unpayable," Meléndez said. "It is a product of Wall Street pressure and corporations extracting hundreds of billions of dollars in profits from our country."

Walter Alomar, a member of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party and president of the Organization for Culture of Hispanic Origins, condemned Promesa, the U.S. government law enforcing Puerto Rico's debt repayment.

"I'll tell you what Promesa promises," he said. "To lower the minimum wage to \$4.25, cut pensions, sell the power company, ban strikes by public workers and make the Puerto Rican people foot the bill!"

"It's eight years since the near meltdown of U.S. financial markets," Kennedy said, "and there's no recovery for the working class. A slow-burning depression is just beginning. The capitalist rulers slashed interest rates and bought up securities to prop up markets. But debt is growing, the capitalists aren't investing in production and international trade has plummeted."

"The ruling U.S. families use their state power to protect their investments," she said. "That's what Promesa is about."

Workers everywhere "sense we're living through a crisis of the world capitalist system like nothing we've ever seen," Kennedy continued. "Many are open to the perspective of building a movement to end the dictatorship of capital."

"The governor of Florida got on TV to shout, 'Evacuate!' but did nothing to make it possible," Kennedy said, describing campaigning in that state as Hurricane Matthew approached. "More than 40 people have died in the U.S. and 1,000 in Haiti!"

"Contrast this with Cuba, where working people made a revolution," she said. "President Raúl Castro went to eastern Cuba before Matthew hit to lead the evacuation and prepare for rebuilding. No one died."

The next day, knocking on doors in Brooklyn, Kennedy met college student Justin Boatwain. "I'm glad you're talking about the crisis in Haiti," he told her. "I have family members there who are devastated. And it's true what you say, that the Mideast wars never end. The U.S. government doesn't go to help the people there, they go to take over land and oil."

Meanwhile, SWP vice-presidential



Militant/Jacquie Henderson  
**Francisco Coronado, left, with SWP vice-presidential candidate Hart in Minneapolis Oct. 18. Bosses "divide us and pay as little as they can," Coronado said. "We need to change this."**

candidate Hart has been campaigning in Minnesota and North Dakota. In Minneapolis Oct. 18 he talked with Francisco Coronado, 22, who works painting military equipment.

Coronado agreed when Hart said, "The boss class has us pitted against each other competing for jobs. The working class needs to act together. They aren't rich because they're smart. They got rich off our labor."

"They divide us all up and pay as little as they can," Coronado said. "Not just from different countries. They divide us all, and pit men and women against each other. It's not right. We need to change this."

## 'We want to win new contributors to 2016 SWP party-building fund'

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Going into the fourth week of the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund, more than half the areas have now sent in payments and more is on the way. The goal is to reach \$100,000 by Dec. 7 to help finance the work of the SWP. Winning contributions for the fund is an excellent way to explain why a revolutionary working-class party is essential.

Joel Britton, fund director in Oakland, California, explained, "We want to win new contributors, especially among those who have been introduced to the party's program in *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* by Jack Barnes, the party's national secretary, and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by Mary-Alice Waters, a leader of the SWP, as well as the *Militant* newspaper. Our goal is to meet with them, talk politics and explain what kind of party the SWP is and why workers need it."

"We got a boost from long-time contributors, who we encourage to make early payments," Britton said. "Some were able to pay half or more of their pledge, which got us off to a strong start. Everyone we've contacted has gotten a letter with a coupon and a pre-addressed return envelope."

The SWP Party-Building Fund, along with weekly voluntary sustainers from members, helps to meet the party's annual budget. The contributions from workers who value the long-term work are essential to, and the foundation of, the stability and integrity of a commu-

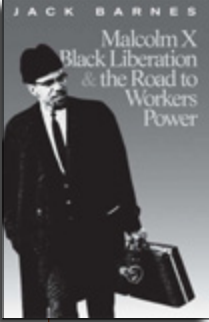
**Hear the Socialist Workers Party candidates**

**Alyson Kennedy, for U.S. president**  
**Seattle, Fri., Nov. 4**  
Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 5418 Rainier Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

**Osborne Hart, for vice president**  
**Atlanta, Sat. Oct. 29**  
Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW. Tel.: (678) 528-2828.

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

by Jack Barnes



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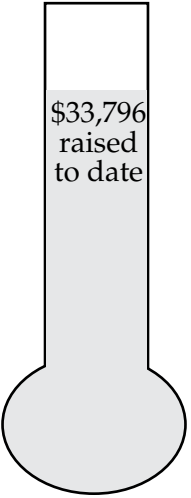
### Join SWP campaigning! Make a donation!

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 cop brutality and against boss attacks, and asking people to join the SWP. Kennedy just returned from a nine-day fact-finding visit to Puerto Rico in solidarity with fighters for independence from 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**



Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund Sept. 24 - Dec. 7 - Week 3			
Area	Quota	Collected	%
Atlanta	\$11,000	\$900	8%
Chicago	\$11,500	\$675	6%
Lincoln	\$300	\$0	0%
Los Angeles	\$9,000	\$0	0%
Miami	\$3,500	\$0	0%
New York	\$22,500	\$4,055	18%
Oakland	\$15,000	\$3,590	24%
Philadelphia	\$4,500	\$0	0%
Seattle	\$8,000	\$544	7%
Twin Cities	\$4,500	\$737	16%
Wash., DC	\$8,500	\$0	0%
Other			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$98,300</b>	<b>\$10,501</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Should be</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>30%</b>

# End US embargo of Cuba

Continued from front page

to promote changes in the economic, social and political system of Cuba. Nor does it hide the attempt to continue developing interventionist programs in our country.”

In clear violation of Cuba’s sovereignty, it reiterates that the U.S. government “has no intention” to withdraw from the Guantánamo Bay Naval Base, Cuban territory occupied by Washington since 1903. And the embargo is left firmly in place.

The directive spells out the course the Obama administration has followed for the last two years, which is “a change in policy, but not in the strategic objective that continues to be carried out,” Vidal told the students.

Since the Cuban workers and farmers, led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship and took power in 1959, Washington has sought to overturn the revolutionary government. The U.S. rulers tried diplomatic isolation, threats, sabotage, invasion and, since 1960, economic sanctions on a scale unprecedented in world history.

Recognizing that more than 50 years of this course had failed to accomplish its aims, Obama — and a substantial majority in the ruling class he represents

— decided it was necessary to try something else. Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro announced Dec. 17, 2014, talks to restore diplomatic relations, which Washington had broken off 53 years earlier. Embassies were opened several months later. Over this time period the U.S. president has issued several executive orders slightly modifying some trade restrictions.

The latest changes issued by the Treasury and Commerce departments are “of a very limited nature,” said Vidal. “They maintain the ban on U.S. investments in Cuba except those that already had been approved in 2015 for the telecommunications sector” and “there’s no expansion of U.S. exports to Cuba beyond the limited sales that had previously been authorized.”

One of few substantive changes is allowing Cuban pharmaceutical products into the U.S., pending approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and joint medical research between U.S. and Cuban scientists.

A month earlier, on Sept. 13, Obama renewed for another year the application of the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917 against Cuba.

Cuba is still unable to use the dol-

lar in its international transactions, despite statements by Obama on the removal of this restriction. Also remaining in place is “the prohibition on opening accounts of Cuban banking entities in U.S. banks,” said Vidal.

In a report prepared for the U.N. debate, the Cuban government details the deep impact of Washington’s economic warfare on Cuba’s economy and population, costing an estimated

\$125 billion since the early 1960s. From April 2015 to March this year, the embargo cost the island \$4.68 billion.

“There is no element of our lives where the impact is not felt,” Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez told the Cuban daily *Granma*. To cite just one example, Cuba is blocked from purchasing deep brain stimulation systems produced exclusively by the U.S. firm Medtronic, used to treat neurological diseases such as Parkinson’s.

The Obama administration has imposed more fines for violating the U.S. embargo against Cuba — 49 companies charged for a total of \$14.4 billion — than any previous U.S. president. Since the announcement in December 2014 on opening diplomatic relations with Havana, eight entities — five of them outside the U.S. — have been fined by Washington for \$2.8 billion. This includes Commerzbank from Germany for \$1.7 billion and PayPal from the U.S. for \$7.6 million.



Juventud Rebelde/Roberto Suárez

Students rally at University of Havana Oct. 17 against ongoing U.S. embargo of Cuba. At left is Josefina Vidal, chief of U.S. affairs for Cuba’s Foreign Ministry, participating in discussion.

## SWP: ‘Standing Rock part of working-class resistance’



Militant/François Bradette

Standing Rock encampment, where thousands of people from Native American nations are protesting construction of oil pipeline, Oct. 15. Chauncey Peltier, right, son of Leonard Peltier, jailed for over 40 years for defending Native American rights, talks with SWP vice-presidential candidate Osborne Hart, left, and Jimmy Crowshoe, aboriginal rights fighter from Alberta.

BY TONY LANE

CANNON BALL, N.D. — “They’re trampling on your treaty rights,” Socialist Workers Party vice presidential candidate Osborne Hart told those gathered around the fire at the Oceti Sakowin camp, part of the Standing Rock encampment near here, Oct. 15. “What you’re doing here is part of the resistance of working people taking place in the U.S. and around the world in the face of the crisis of capitalism,” Hart added as he explained that he had

come “to bring solidarity and learn about your struggle.”

Thousands of people from many Native American nations have camped here to protest the construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, which is being built just north of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation, passing under the Missouri River and threatening the water supply.

Hart sat down with two of the leaders in the camp, J.R. American Horse of the Standing Rock Sioux and Robert Dunsmore from the Cheyenne River reservation in South Dakota. American Horse said they’ve been receiving solidarity worldwide, including “from New Zealand and Paris, France.” Hart described his experience taking part in protests against the police killing of Keith Scott in Charlotte, North Carolina, and they discussed the actions of FBI and local police in both struggles.

Hart also met with Chauncey Peltier, who came to the camp to win support for the fight to free his father,

Leonard Peltier, who has spent more than 40 years in jail for his participation in the fight for Native American rights.

Peltier described how Native Americans are incarcerated at grossly disproportionate rates in South Dakota. The *Wall St Journal* reported in 2015 that the number of Native Americans in the federal prison system has jumped 27 percent in the past five years. In South Dakota Native Americans make up 60 percent of those facing federal charges, but only 9 percent of the population.

Peltier spoke of the lack of jobs, and the conditions he had experienced as a union laborer in Portland, Oregon. And it’s worse on the reservations. “One of my brothers lives on Pine Ridge [in South Dakota], and if you get a job, you have to hang on to it.

“Why don’t they make jobs?” Peltier said. “They’re trying to starve us out. Can’t they put a factory on the reservation?”

Peltier agreed with Hart that while the energy needs of working people have to be met, the oil barons don’t care if their projects violate treaties or contaminate land and water. “All they think about is money,” Peltier said.

“Yes, they make everything a commodity to be bought and sold,” Hart said. “That’s why working people need to take power and build a new society based on human solidarity.”

Hart and supporters also went door to door in this town, which is on the reservation. “We met people who were closely following the struggle, including a high school student who said he would take our campaign material to his journalism class,” Hart said.

“Another worker we met told us he was half Mexican and half Native. He had worked for the pipeline company for three months and had just got laid off along with 90 others when the company moved its base to work on the pipeline in Iowa.”

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### Hands Off Cuba!

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US embargo against Cuba

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New York Cuba Solidarity Project  
Info: (718) 601-4751, [nycsproject.org](http://nycsproject.org)

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Auckland

**No to Cuts in Health Care Funding! — The Working Class and the Fight for Universal, Free Health Care.** Speaker: Annalucia Vermunt, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Tel.: (09) 636-3231.

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Manchester

**What’s ‘New’ in the Program of Theresa May’s Government. Why the Working Class Needs Its Own Party and Program.** Speaker: Pete Clifford, Communist League candidate for Greater Manchester mayor. Fri., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St., M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

# —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 workers locked out by Honeywell, United Gas Workers Union members fighting concession demands by Dominion Gas 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

### SKorea truckers, rail workers strike against gov't attacks

Thousands of truck drivers joined a two-week-old South Korea-wide strike of rail workers Oct. 10. All are members of the Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union (KPTU).

The rail workers struck against government-owned Korail's intention to base wages on performance. Korail runs both freight and passenger trains.

"Imposing performance-rated pay would increase competition among workers and pressure not to work safely," KPTU spokesperson Wol-san Liem said by phone from Seoul Oct. 15.

South Korean law deems rail an "essential" service, she said, and requires the union to ensure a minimum level of operations during strikes or face stiff penalties. Korail hired scabs and shifted some freight workers to passenger service to keep commuter trains running.

But after a truckers' strike threatened to shut down the ports, Korail shifted

some workers back to freight, slowing passenger service, she said.

The truck drivers are striking against government plans to deregulate trucking, which drivers fear would drive down rates, increase pressure to overload trucks and threaten safety.

"Every year 1,200 people die in truck crashes," Liem said.

All cargo truck drivers are owner-operators; they get paid by load and distance, not by the hour, she said. Drivers demand the government withdraw its deregulation plan, introduce standard rates and recognize their right to a union.

Attempting to break the strike, the government deployed 100 military trucks, sent 6,000 cops to the Busan Port and threatened to cancel strikers' fuel subsidies and licenses. Prior to the strike, cargo was piling up because of the bankruptcy of maritime giant Hanjin Shipping.

Labor Minister Lee Ki-gwon accused



Korean Public Service and Transport Workers Union

**Striking truck drivers, members of Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union, rally at Busan Port Oct. 14, joining fight of rail workers who began their strike two weeks earlier.**

drivers of "abusing the situation for their own benefit."

"If the government wants to stop devastating the economy, it should sit down and negotiate with the union and not come up with policies that put workers in a race to the bottom and put safety at risk," Liem said.

— Seth Galinsky

### Harvard dining hall workers strike for raise, lower health costs

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — "Harvard, Harvard, you can't hide, we can see your greedy side," chanted over 100 striking dining hall workers and supporters here

Oct. 5 as they marched around the Harvard University campus.

Earlier that day 750 members of UNITE HERE Local 26, who serve 25,000 campus meals daily, walked out. Their contract expired Sept. 17.

The union is demanding a minimum yearly wage of \$35,000 and lower health care costs. Under Harvard's proposal, an employee with two dependents will contribute a premium of \$233 a month and increased co-pays, reported the *Boston Globe*.

The unionists also want year-round work. "Our bills don't stop coming in the summer," Carlos Alvaro, an assistant cook for 16 years, told the *Militant*. "They have the money. They can pay us."

Meal plans are mandatory for undergraduates at Harvard, who pay about \$63,000 for tuition, fees, room and board. Harvard's \$37.5 billion endowment, the largest of any U.S. university, funds about one-third of the school's operating revenue.

The Harvard Undergraduate Council and the *Harvard Crimson* editorial board have endorsed the strike.

The day the strike began, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 103's electronic billboard beside Interstate 93 through Boston read, "Support Harvard dining hall workers."

— Ted Leonard

## New Zealand march protests contaminated water

BY BASKARAN APPU

HAVELOCK NORTH, New Zealand — "Access to clean, safe water must be a basic right of working people across the globe," Patrick Brown, Communist League candidate for mayor of Auckland, said in discussions with participants at a "Walk for Water" of 200 people here. The Sept. 3 march protested the contamination of drinking water and resultant gastric illness that afflicted more than 5,000 people in this town of 13,000. There was anger also at the inadequate response by local and central governments.

"We want answers — this is mass poisoning," marcher Wendy Reading told Brown. Placards demanded, "Keep our water safe!" and "Clean water, when?" Whole families got sick from the contamination. Two people died and three contracted the crippling Guillain-Barre Syndrome during the outbreak. The crisis drew attention to the decayed state of much of country's water infrastructure.

"The Communist League calls for a massive public works program to create jobs at union wage rates," Brown explained. "This could help clean up polluted waterways, repair and replace crumbling infrastructure, and build new treatment plants where they're needed, to ensure the provision of safe drinking water."

The day of the march the Hastings District Council lifted its "boil water" instruction for residents that it had announced three weeks earlier after campylobacter and other harmful bacteria turned up in the town's water supply, which was unchlorinated.

Mark Gifikis, the principal of a primary school in the nearby town of Flaxmere, told Brown that pupils who traveled to Havelock North for sports were hit hard. "Out of our roll of 550, 80 children got sick, and of the teaching staff

of 40, eight to nine were sick," he said.

Havelock North's contaminated water supply was finally closed in late August. Water, with chlorine added, began flowing instead from nearby Hastings city. E. coli, a bacteria found in feces, had previously been discovered in Havelock North's groundwater supply in 2013 and 2015, but no action was taken.

The district council announced that it would refund 57 New Zealand dollars (\$40) to ratepayers. Individuals wanting compensation for lost wages or other hardship were told to contact the government's Work and Income welfare

agency.

"The NZ\$57 rebate relates to homeowners," retired builder Allen Hessel, told Brown. "What's going to happen to people in rental housing?" Hessel's wife also joined the march, but had to ride much of the way in a wheelchair she has needed since being hit by the gastro bug.

Pollution of rivers, lakes and streams has increased with the expansion of industry and agriculture. Over 60 percent of monitored waterways in New Zealand today are deemed unsafe for swimming.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 1, 1991

Members of the United Transportation Union in the Southern region of the Burlington Northern Railroad are voting on whether or not to modify our crew consist agreement. Consist agreements establish the number of workers required to switch or operate trains.

The railroad companies have been on a drive to cut back the work force. In the last ten years the number of railroad workers has been cut in half.

The BN proposal would cut the standard crew from an engineer, conductor, and two brakemen, to an engineer, conductor, and one brakeman. Crews on many freight trains would be reduced to an engineer and conductor only! Current rules requiring additional crew members on longer trains would be eliminated. All this adds up to smaller crews running larger trains further, contributing to increasingly unsafe working conditions.



October 31, 1966

During election campaigns, almost anything can happen when the capitalist politicians start slugging it out in the final weeks of the fight. "Revelations" about scandalous conditions both sides knew all about, did nothing about and even helped to perpetuate, make scare headlines. Take for example the current investigation into conditions in New York City's 21 municipal hospitals.

These obsolete, rundown, undermanned, under-equipped old buildings have been used to take care of welfare cases and medically indigent sick people. And for years, while both Democrats and Republicans ran the city and state, the medical scandal in this city has grown more horrifying.

At Kings County, a doctor spent eight hours searching for a respirator for a desperately ill patient. Four patients died in that hospital last week for lack of life-saving equipment.



November 1, 1941

[President Franklin] Roosevelt's blunt threat of repressive governmental action, including passage of anti-strike legislation, to drive the 53,000 striking workers of the steel corporations' "captive" coal mines back to work, is more than a gun pointed at the individual, John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers (CIO).

It is a gun cocked, primed and aimed at the head of every worker in the United States.

Roosevelt's demand for the strikers' return to work is no mere appeal to "reason" or patriotism. It is an open notice, backed up by threat of all the repressive power of the capitalist state, that workers cannot strike.

Roosevelt is telling the American workers flatly that he is not interested in the merits of their demands, the justice of their cause, the intolerable level of their conditions.

# ‘Stop deporting Haitians!’ demands protest in Miami

BY STEVE WARSHALL

MIAMI — Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson announced Oct. 12 that because of the devastation in Haiti from Hurricane Matthew, the U.S. government was temporarily reversing a decision announced three weeks earlier to resume deportations of Haitians.

Most deportations to Haiti were suspended after the 2010 earthquake; Haitians making it to the U.S. were allowed to enter on “humanitarian parole.”

On Sept. 21, Johnson announced that Haitians seeking asylum in the U.S. were no longer eligible and would be jailed pending deportation. “The situation in Haiti has improved sufficiently to permit the U.S. government to remove Haitian nationals on a more regular basis,” he said at the time.

The number of Haitian immigrants arriving at the U.S. border with Mexico grew to 4,346 in the first 11 months of the current fiscal year, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Last year’s total was 795.

More than 2,000 Haitians in Tijuana, Mexico, are trying to get appointments with U.S. immigration officials to request entry into the U.S., and another 40,000 were trying to make their way there from Brazil and Central America, according to the *Washington Post*.

Some 40 people joined a picket line at U.S. immigration offices here Oct. 14 to demand Haitians in detention be released and programs that give Haitians work permits be extended.

“My family is from a village near the city of Jérémie,” Johnny Lang, a construction worker, told the *Militant* at the picket line. “Nearly all the crops

were destroyed in the fields. What is especially hard to deal with were the fruits and flowers for export that give us an income for the year.”

A statement by Cynthia Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, was passed out by supporters of her campaign who joined the picket.

Jaquith called for an end to all deportations of Haitians in the U.S. She demanded the U.S. government provide massive aid — including, food, water, medicine, cooking stoves, fuel, seeds, and farm implements — with no strings attached.

## Imperialist plunder at root of Haiti storm disaster

Continued from front page easily curable diseases.

These blows come on top of the deep capitalist social and economic crisis.

Before the hurricane more than three-quarters of Haiti’s population lived on less than \$2 a day, half on less than \$1. Nearly 75 percent of Haitians are subsistence farmers and more than 70 percent of the population has no access to electricity. They rely on kerosene, candles and batteries for light and wood and charcoal for cooking.

To cook or supplement their meager incomes, Haitian toilers have cut down millions of trees. Today only 3 percent of the land is forested, down from 60 percent in 1923. The Dominican Republic, which shares the island Hispaniola with Haiti, is 23 percent forested.

The deforestation magnified the impact of the hurricane: mudslides and rivers that overflowed their banks washed away homes and crops.

During the dictatorships of Francois



Woolser Delisfort

Picket outside U.S. immigration office in Miami Oct. 14 demands Washington release Haitian workers from immigration jails and reverse plan to resume deportations to Haiti.

Duvalier and his son Jean-Claude — who enriched themselves and their U.S. backers at the expense of Haitian workers through their reign of terror from 1957 to 1986 — Haitians produced 80 percent of the country’s food and exported rice.

### Tariff cuts push peasants off land

In the 1990s, President Bill Clinton pressured the government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide to slash tariffs on rice and chicken. The influx of cheaper U.S. food lined the bank accounts of local capitalist middlemen and U.S. agribusiness and drove thousands of peasants off the land. Clinton later admitted the move had been “good for some of my farmers in Arkansas,” his home state, but had undermined farming in Haiti. Today at least half of Haiti’s food supply is imported, including 80 percent of rice.

The hurricane puts local food production in greater jeopardy. According to the *Miami Herald*, 80 percent of the banana crops in Arcahaie, Haiti’s biggest banana-growing region, were wiped out. In the Grand-Anse region, nearly all crops and 50 percent of livestock were destroyed. “Every house has lost its roof. All the plantations have been destroyed,” Pilus Enor, mayor of the town of Camp Perrin, told Reuters.

Cholera, which killed more than 10,000 following the 2010 earthquake, is rising after the storm. It was first introduced to Haiti by U.N.’s so-called peace-keeping troops, who didn’t take the most elementary sanitary precautions.

### ‘Aid’ deepens imperialist domination

The first aid planes from the United States did not arrive in Port-au-Prince until Oct. 9, five days after Matthew ravaged the country’s southwestern provinces, and then had to be loaded on trucks and helicopters.

The U.N. says that \$120 million is needed immediately, but as of Oct. 15 it had received promises of less than \$15 million from member governments. U.N. troops fired tear gas at residents in Les Cayes who, frustrated by the slow response, threw rocks at an aid convoy passing through their area.

The U.S. government has so far promised a piddling \$14 million to aid Haiti, Jamaica and the Bahamas in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

While immediate assistance is desperately needed, Haitian working people know from experience that the aid

from capitalist governments, the U.N. and so-called nonprofit organizations will be used to further deepen the country’s domination by U.S. imperialism.

After the 2010 earthquake that killed more than 100,000 people, the U.S. Agency for International Development sent hundreds of millions of dollars in food assistance. Under U.S. rules, all food the agency distributes must be imported from the United States, turning the “aid” into another weapon against peasant farmers. And some of this food was resold on the market to fund U.S.-based charities, instead of being distributed to those most in need.

U.S. and Haitian capitalists made a killing on the aid programs, and nonprofit and nongovernmental agencies did quite well for themselves too.

A report on the American Red Cross by National Public Radio last year found that one-quarter of the \$500 million the charity collected to “aid” Haiti was spent on its own internal expenses. The Red Cross claimed it had helped thousands of people to build homes, but NPR determined the total number of permanent homes the charity built was six.

Revolutionary Cuba responded rapidly to the escalating health crisis in Haiti following the storm, sending 38 doctors, nurses and specialists to join the 646 internationalist volunteers already there. Cuban volunteers — working closely with Haitians — helped contain the 2010-11 cholera epidemic.

The newest Cuban arrivals are already at work in the hardest hit areas like Anse d’Hainault. “The local population has welcomed us,” Dr. Emmanuel Vigil told Cubadebate.

## US hurricane deaths demonstrate capitalist gov’t disdain for workers

BY SETH GALINSKY

At least 43 people died in the United States from Hurricane Matthew, most from flooding. Capitalist government at all levels demonstrated its inability to carry out elementary preparations and the disdain that the capitalist rulers have for working people.

North Carolina was hardest hit, especially working-class towns such as Princeville, Lumberton and Fair Bluff, which were under water for days. More than 100,000 buildings in the state were damaged. The carcasses of 1.8 million chickens and 4,800 hogs — along with large amounts of bacteria-laden sludge from farm-waste lagoons — have contaminated much of the water.

After Princeville, settled by freed slaves in the late 1800s, was submerged by flood waters from Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the Army Corp of Engineers was supposed to improve the dike protecting the town. But the funds were never approved.

While the governors of Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina ordered people to leave, nothing was done to organize an orderly evacuation. Florida Gov. Rick Scott told people fleeing *not* to fill up their tanks, because there was

not enough gas for everyone.

The *New York Times* reported Oct. 10 on Diamond Hansen and Darryl Clark, who left Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, when the evacuation was ordered and drove to Clark’s uncle’s house in Fair Bluff, North Carolina. When the town was flooded, they had to get out by boat, leaving their car behind.

The *Times* notes that of the cities that had evacuation “plans,” less than half had organized any details for those without their own vehicles, nor how to inform people who don’t speak English about what was happening, or how to help people with disabilities.

They have even less of a plan for how to repair damaged homes and businesses, much less for workers who lost everything in the storm.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory told a press conference Oct. 17 that he hoped that FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, would provide aid. The agency’s response to Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005 was notorious for bureaucratic red tape.

“I don’t want to overpromise,” McCrory said, adding he was setting up a task force to figure out what to do next.

### The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class

Statement of the Socialist Workers Party in *New International* no. 14

“The social disaster that followed Hurricane Katrina in 2005 shined a spotlight worldwide on the ‘values’ of U.S. imperialism’s ruling families and the state that serves their class.”

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# ‘Workers in Puerto Rico and US face common enemy’

## SWP candidate for president makes solidarity, fact-finding trip to US colony

BY CYNTHIA JAQUITH  
AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — On a nine-day solidarity visit here in late September, Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, joined protests against government attacks on the living standards and rights of working people. She exchanged experiences with fighters against U.S. colonial rule, unionists and other workers.

Kennedy addressed the pro-independence Grito de Lares celebration and a rally demanding that Washington release jailed independence fighter Oscar López. She also spoke at events sponsored by university students in San Juan and a public forum in the city of Ponce.

The SWP delegation also included Jacob Perasso and Cynthia Jaquith, the party’s candidates for U.S. Senate in New York and Florida, respectively, and Martín Koppel. We met with leaders of the electrical and water workers unions, and went door to door in working-class neighborhoods to talk with residents.

Everywhere we found eagerness to discuss the capitalist economic and social crisis that is hitting working people hard in this U.S. colony — and interest in meeting members of a revolutionary working-class party from the United States. That interest was reflected in coverage of Kennedy’s visit by the three main daily papers and some TV stations.

Interviewed on a live radio program sponsored by the water workers union, Kennedy said that on her return home she would “tell workers and farmers what we’ve learned from your experiences and struggles. We’ll explain that a successful fight for Puerto Rico’s independence from Washington’s colonial rule is in the interests of working people in the United States, because we face a common enemy — the U.S. government and the capitalist class it represents.”

Students at the University of Puerto

Rico invited Kennedy to address a Sept. 21 “Forum Against the Junta.” The topic was how the U.S. government has imposed a hand-picked “fiscal control” board — the junta, as it’s called here — with powers to pay the colonial government’s \$70 billion debt to U.S. bondholders by selling off public assets, laying off government employees and outlawing their strikes, and cutting the minimum wage to \$4.25 per hour for young workers under 25. U.S. Congress established the board through a law known by its cynical acronym Promesa, Spanish for “promise.”

### Protests, debate on debt squeeze

The students warmly applauded when Kennedy said the Socialist Workers Party supports those protesting Promesa and the fiscal board. Later she spoke at a campus meeting sponsored by the youth groups of the Hostos National Independence Movement (MINH) and the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP).

She also visited a permanent encampment outside the U.S. federal courthouse here that young people have kept up since June. One of the signs protesters display at the encampment says, “The problem is not the junta, it’s the colony!”

Dozens of people we met during our visit reminded us of the realities of living under the U.S. colonial boot. Unemployment is high, as indicated by a “labor force participation” rate of less than 44 percent of the adult population. Per capita income is about half of that in Mississippi, the poorest U.S. state.

But the cost of everything from basic food items to gasoline and electricity is higher than in the U.S. Forty percent of the population depends on food stamps, Medicaid or other public assistance.

To pay off the ballooning debt, suc-



Militant photos: above, Jacob Perasso; inset, Cynthia Jaquith  
Students at Forum Against the Junta at University of Puerto Rico in San Juan welcomed SWP candidate Alyson Kennedy Sept. 21. Inset, going door to door in Villa Palmeras neighborhood Sept. 22, Kennedy talks with Gladys and Nelson López about conditions imposed on Puerto Rican workers by U.S. colonial rule.

cessive colonial administrations have laid off 30,000 public employees, cut pensions, shut down schools, slashed vital medical services and raised the sales tax to 11.5 percent. Today an estimated 1,200 people leave the island every week for the United States.

One afternoon we went house to house in Villa Palmeras, a working-class neighborhood in San Juan. Kennedy spoke with Gladys López, a retired street cleaner, and her husband Nelson, who works in construction and “whatever job comes my way.” Gladys López said her rent is \$300 a month, and her monthly Social Security check is barely \$409. She plans to move to Pennsylvania to live with relatives.

Ruth Brito, a domestic worker, invited Kennedy into her living room to chat. Brito, who moved here from the Dominican Republic two decades ago, said she was disgusted with the government’s handling of the debt crisis and thought the new fiscal board might get the economy on a more stable footing than “corrupt politicians” — a view held by many working people.

Brito was interested when Kennedy described how the same capitalist economic crisis hits workers in the United States. She subscribed to the *Militant* and bought the book *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Education Under Capitalism*, by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes. “Thank you for your work in defense of the working class,” she told the socialist candidate.

### Workers speak on pollution, blackout

We also visited Caño Martín Peña, a large working-class district in San Juan. We were accompanied by Joel Vázquez and José Caraballo, who have been active in a 15-year-long fight to force the government to dredge and clean up a polluted channel that runs through the densely populated area.

Gladys Tirado, whose house is at the water’s edge, said her home and surrounding streets were flooded with sewage-tainted water during heavy rains last April. As a result of the struggle in Caño Martín Peña, her family and others will be relocated to a safer location in the neighborhood.

While we were here, anger at the gov-

ernment was further fueled by a blackout that left much of the island’s population without electrical power, phone service or water, many for three days or more.

At the headquarters of the electrical workers union UTIER, Ricardo Santos, the union secretary for health and safety, told us the blackout was a consequence of the long-term refusal by the government-run Electric Power Authority to spend money on maintenance.

When a fire broke out at one substation, Santos said, other stations were unable to kick in because backup turbines had been shut down to save money — one of the measures proposed by widely despised U.S. “consultant” Lisa Donahue, whose firm is paid more than \$20 million a year to help the utility “cut costs” and pay the government debt.

The UTIER leader said the government has been running the electrical company into the ground to justify selling it off to private owners. It is also seeking to weaken the union, which has been part of the resistance to the anti-working-class offensive.

We were also invited by Pedro Irene Maymí, president of the water workers union, UIA, for a discussion at their headquarters with several officials and other union members. They described how the UIA, like UTIER, is in the crosshairs of the capitalist rulers, who seek to privatize the public water utility and deal blows to the union, which has joined the protests against Promesa and the fiscal board.

In face of the economic catastrophe, the two colonial parties that dominate the government — the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), which favors the current Commonwealth setup, and the pro-statehood New Progressive Party (PNP) — have become deeply discredited. “Many people don’t see much difference between them,” said UIA Secretary Héctor Motta. That’s a big shift in

Continued on page 9



In Ponce, island’s second largest city, two giant cranes have stood idle for six years, since government suspended port expansion that bosses didn’t consider profitable enough, a monument to Puerto Rico’s warped colonial economy. Juan Alindato, center, told Kennedy only three ships are loaded per month, so he was able to earn just \$2,000 on the docks last year. At left is José Escabí, Puerto Rican Independence Party candidate for mayor of Ponce.



# ‘Instead of capitalists, a workers and farmers government’

The French-language edition of *Socialism on Trial* is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. It contains James P. Cannon's testimony in a Minneapolis federal court in November 1941. Cannon, the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, was one of 18 communist and Teamster leaders framed up and convicted on federal "conspiracy" charges under the Smith Act — a law that made it illegal "to teach, advocate and encourage" revolutionary ideas. President Franklin Roosevelt, preparing for Washington's entry into World War II, wanted to isolate and silence proponents of socialism and their opposition to the imperialist slaughter. The defendants used the courtroom as a forum to clearly present their working-class program. This excerpt is from the section "Private property in the workers state." Copyright © 1942, 2014 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

Q: When you say "capitalist government," what do you mean?

A: We mean a government that arises from a society that is based on the private ownership of the wealth of the country and the means of production by the capitalists, and which in general represents the interests of that class.



Hennepin County Library Special Collection

SWP National Secretary James P. Cannon, right, with fellow defendant Farrell Dobbs, leader of 1930s Teamsters union battles in Midwest, during 1941 Smith Act frame-up trial in Minneapolis.

Q: And in contradistinction to this government you propose to establish a workers and farmers government?

A: Yes, we propose in place of the capitalists a workers and farmers government, which will frankly represent the economic and social interests of the workers and the producing farmers.

Q: Well, what would happen to the capitalists?

A: Under the workers and farmers government, the main task of the government will be to carry out the transfer of the most important means of production from private ownership to the common ownership of the people.

Q: Well, what would happen to the individual capitalists who would lose their wealth?

A: What do you mean, "happen to them," in what way?

Q: Would you kill them or put them to work or what?

A: Well, under our theory, citizenship participation in the benefits of society would be open to everybody on a basis of equality. This would apply to former capitalists as well as to workers and farmers.

Q: When you use the term "productive wealth," do you mean any property that an individual owns?

A: No — when we speak of the means of production, the wealth of the country, we mean that wealth which is necessary for the production of the neces-

sities of the people. The industries, the railroads, mines, and so on. We don't propose — at least, Marxist socialists have never proposed anywhere that I know — the elimination of private property in personal effects. We speak of those things which are necessary for the production of the people's needs. They shall be owned in common by all the people.

Q: What would happen to small businesses, the owners of which do not have labor to hire?

A: Well, the best Marxist authority since [Frederick] Engels is that small proprietors, who are not exploiters, should be in no way interfered with by the workers and farmers government. They should be allowed to have their farms, their small possessions, their small handicraft shops, and only insofar as they become convinced, by the example of socialized collective farming and voluntarily would agree to pool their land and their resources in a collective effort, only to that extent can collectivization of small farming enterprises take place.

In the meantime, it is a part of our program that the workers and farmers government should assist such enterprise by assuring them reasonable prices for their implements, for fertilizers, arrange credits for them, and in general conduct the government as a government which is concerned for

them and wants to represent their interests.

I am speaking now of small producing farmers, not of big landowners and bankers, who exploit a lot of people, or who rent land out to sharecroppers. We certainly intend to socialize their land in the very first stages of the workers and farmers government, turn it over to the administration of the people who actually till the soil. That also, I may say, is the standard Marxist doctrine since the earliest days, and the doctrine of [V.I.] Lenin and [Leon] Trotsky in the Russian Revolution.

Q: How will this socialist society be controlled and directed?

A: Well, socialism naturally would have to grow out of the new situation. After the social revolution has been effected in the political arena, and the capitalist government has been replaced by a workers and farmers government, which proceeds to the socialization of the industries, the abolition of inequalities, the raising of the level of the income of the masses of the people, and the suppression of any attempts at counter-revolution by the dispossessed exploiters, the importance and weight of the government as a repressive force would gradually diminish.

Then as classes are abolished, as exploitation is eliminated, as the conflict of class against class is eliminated, the very reason for the existence of a government in the strict sense of the term begins to diminish. Governments are primarily instruments of repression of one class against another. According to the doctrine of Marx and Engels and all of the great Marxists who followed them, and based themselves on their doctrine, we visualize, as Engels expressed it, a gradual withering away of the government as a repressive force, as an armed force, and its replacement by purely administrative councils, whose duties will be to plan production, to supervise public works, and education, and things of this sort. As you merge into socialist society, the government, as Engels expressed it, tends to wither away and the government of men will be replaced by the administration of things.

The government of a socialist society in reality will be an administrative body, because we don't anticipate the need for armies and navies, jails, repressions, and consequently that aspect of government dies out for want of function.

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# Solidarity with Puerto Rico

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a nation that for decades was polarized between loyalists of one or the other party.

## Growing discussions on colonial rule

As a result of this growing political ferment, partisans of Puerto Rico's independence say they are getting a wider hearing. Rafael Cancel Miranda, one of five Nationalists who served more than 25 years in U.S. prisons for their pro-independence actions, told us that people who for years backed one or the other ruling party now come up to him and say, "Don Rafael, you were right all along" about the disastrous effects of colonial rule.

Adrián González, candidate for mayor of San Juan of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, described to us how, "as we go through neighborhoods, people are opening their doors to us who previously never did." The change is not that many more people are now pro-independence — it's the openness to discuss and consider new perspectives, González said.

The interest in what socialist workers in the United States are saying and doing was part of the openness we encountered. An example of this was our visit to Ponce, where Kennedy spoke at

a public forum at El Candil, a popular bookstore that holds book presentations every Saturday.

That week's event featured José "Che" Paralitici, author of several books on the history of U.S. repression against the independence movement and of resistance to U.S. military conscription in Puerto Rico. Paralitici welcomed our attendance and told the audience that the Socialist Workers Party has a long history of fighting FBI attacks on the labor movement, going back to the union battles of the 1930s.

After the book presentation, most of the 50 people stayed to hear Kennedy. She was welcomed by local PIP leader Carlos Reyes, and the program began with questions to the socialist candidate by well-known radio host Alfonso Giménez. Then audience members asked questions, ranging from the state of the U.S. union movement to the Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump election campaigns, immigrant rights, police brutality and the response to the Socialist Workers Party campaign.

Kennedy explained the world capitalist economic crisis "has come crashing down on working people in Puerto Rico sooner and harder because of U.S. colonial rule. But it's hitting us too. And just as you are seeing here, the assaults



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Aníbal Rodríguez, left, education director of Museum on the Ponce Massacre, talking with Martín Koppel, Alyson Kennedy and Cynthia Jaquith about 1937 killing of 19 people when cops fired into a Nationalist Party parade on orders of U.S. Gov. Blanton Winship.

on our living standards are generating widespread anger by workers in the U.S.

"That's reflected in the crisis in the two main capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans," she noted. "Most workers don't like either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. No matter which one gets elected, nothing is going to change for the better for working people."

Kennedy underlined that "it's only through massive struggles that we will change things, that we will transform

the unions into strong fighting organizations. Look at the labor struggles of the 1930s, the mass battles for the rights of Blacks in the 1950s and '60s. Workers need to organize a revolutionary movement that can take political power out of the hands of the capitalist minority in order to reorganize society. We point to Cuba's socialist revolution as an example." And as we knock on doors across the country, she added, "we're finding willingness among workers to consider this perspective."

Kennedy said, "As you build your fight against colonialism here, it's going to have a big impact and strengthen the struggles of working class in the United States too. And the other way around."

## History of anti-colonial resistance

In Ponce, Puerto Rico's second-largest city, we learned more about the long history of resistance to U.S. colonial rule, from the 1898 U.S. invasion to today. Jose Escabí, the PIP's mayoral candidate, took us to a park and statue dedicated to Pedro Albizu Campos, located in the neighborhood where the historic Nationalist Party leader was born.

PIP leader Reyes went with us to the Museum of the Ponce Massacre. It vividly documents the events of March 1937, when cops in Ponce, under orders from U.S. Gov. Blanton Winship, fired on a Nationalist Party parade and killed 19 people.

Escabí also took us to the port in Ponce, where two giant cranes loom, unused since they were built six years ago. They were erected to handle super-sized tankers now coming through the Panama Canal, but the colonial government has suspended the megaport project because capitalist investors don't consider it profitable enough. The idle cranes stand as a monument to Puerto Rico's warped colonial economy.

Nearby, we met stevedore Juan Alindato, who told us he earned just \$2,000 last year from working on the docks. Only three ships are loaded a month and the work is done in about three days. Alindato supplements his income by making miniature traditional papier-mâché masks to sell to tourists.

Alindato and his wife, Anabel Figueroa, who works with him at their stall, said they have always been "a PPD family." Now, however, "I'm not sure we'll vote at all," he said.

The dockworker got especially interested when he found out Kennedy was a veteran unionist and former coal miner in the United States. He put us on the phone with his local union president to stay in touch and explore future opportunities for solidarity between workers in the two countries.

# Washington-driven assault on Mosul fuels conflicts

Continued from front page

dominantly Sunni population in Mosul.

There are already tensions between the competing forces involved. Former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, now a vice president, warned that Kurdish forces must not stay in territory they occupy in the march toward Mosul.

As the assault began, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan repeated his demand that Turkish troops and planes be involved. Ankara has some 2,000 troops in northern Iraq, which the Iraqi government has demanded be withdrawn.

Ankara is also angry that fighters from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) had been in talks with Baghdad about joining the attack on Mosul. The Turkish government has been waging a military offensive against the PKK in southern Turkey and northern Iraq, where the group has bases. The Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government, which exports oil through Turkey, also opposes PKK involvement.

The reactionary Islamic State captured Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, in June 2014, along with large swaths of Iraqi territory. At that time, the city had a diverse population of over 2 million. Today IS holds only about 10 percent of Iraqi territory, after losing cities and towns to Kurdish fighters and Iraqi troops and militias. It has also lost substantial ground in Syria.

## Bombing of Aleppo

Russian and Syrian warplanes halted their bombardment of opposition-controlled areas of Aleppo, Syria, Oct. 18 ahead of what Moscow announced would be an eight-hour "humanitarian pause." Russian officials said this would allow civilians and rebels to leave the city. The pause followed an intensification of airstrikes over previous days that had killed scores and continued to reduce much of eastern Aleppo to rubble.

Secretary of State John Kerry met

with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Switzerland Oct. 15, despite Washington's announcement 12 days earlier suspending talks with Moscow on Syria. The next day, Kerry joined U.K. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson in London. The two stressed that they see their only course as continuing to seek an agreement with the Russian government.

Johnson noted "a lack of political appetite" on the part of Washington and its allies for "military options" in Syria, and said, "The tools we have are diplomatic."

Meanwhile, the government of Saudi Arabia admitted Oct. 15 that jets from its coalition had been responsible for an airstrike in Yemen on a funeral ceremony a week earlier. More than 140 people were killed and up to 600 injured in the

attack in Sanaa, the capital.

Kerry and Johnson, whose governments back Riyadh in the civil war there, called for a truce. A three-day cease-fire was reported Oct. 18 between the Houthi-led government in Sanaa, which has Tehran's backing, and the Saudi-led coalition, which backs the deposed government of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

A U.S. warship fired cruise missiles at Houthi radar installations in Yemen Oct. 13. The Pentagon said it was retaliation for two missiles fired towards a U.S. warship days earlier. Houthi officials have denied their forces were responsible. While Washington has been supporting the Saudi government with intelligence and military aid, this was the first direct U.S. attack against Houthi forces in Yemen.

# 'Militant' challenges Attica censorship

Continued from front page

page and inside coverage "incite rebellion against government authority."

Dozens of other periodicals published articles on the anniversary of the Attica rebellion, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time* magazine, *Ebony* magazine, the Roch-

ester *Democrat and Chronicle* and the *Wall Street Journal*, along with widespread reports on television.

"Workers behind bars have the right to know what's going on in the world, to read different political views and to form and hold their own opinions," said John Studer, the *Militant's* editor.

The censorship decision at Attica "is not just an attack on the rights of the *Militant*," he added. "It's an attack on freedom of speech and freedom of the press."

"Running an article on a watershed event in the modern U.S. class struggle doesn't 'incite rebellion,'" Studer said. "It just tells the true story of the brutality and violence by state officials and prison authorities, a story hundreds of other media took the opportunity to re-prise as well."

The *Militant's* lawyer David Goldstein of the Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman law firm, well known for defending civil liberties, is preparing the paper's appeal.

## Fight prison censorship

**Help get out the word.** Print out copies of this article and get them around.

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