

Get rid of Trumpism? FBI no, mass resistance YES!

By Fred Goldstein

Dec. 4 — While the Trump administration's attacks upon the masses continue without letup, the political struggle within the ruling class intensifies and the political crisis of the system deepens.

On the one hand, the Republican Party and Trump are about to finalize a tax giveaway to millionaires and billionaires to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars, even as they starve social services, health care, education and environmen-

tal protection and threaten hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants.

On the other hand, the special prosecutor's office under Robert Mueller has just forced Michael Flynn, Trump's former national security adviser, to enter a plea agreement that can implicate high Trump officials in secret dealings with the Russians during the election campaign of 2016.

It is harmful to the masses to let a faction of the ruling class lead the battle

against Trump. Mueller and his grouping will do it in an entirely unprincipled way which will do nothing to impede the attacks on the people.

Many, many struggles have been waged on numerous fronts against capitalist reaction — on the picket lines, in the communities, on the campuses, outside detention centers, in the prisons and on the reservations. These struggles must grow stronger and wider until they eclipse the Mueller investigation and the FBI — enemies of the people. The popular

struggle against Trump must take center stage.

Mueller v. Trump: Pushback against right-wing move

The move by Mueller against Flynn is calculated to undermine Trump at the moment that he is moving to push things even more sharply to the right. In fact, the Mueller investigation is as much about Trump as it is about Russia. Mueller took Trump totally by surprise by not giving the White House even a moment's

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Dec. 5 bulletin: Observers in Tegucigalpa report that the national police, including an elite unit previously trained by U.S. experts called the COBRAS, have refused to enforce the curfew ordered by the U.S.-backed regime. This is the first indication that the massive popular uprising has driven a wedge into the apparatus of state repression itself.

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Students protest Chicago school closings

By Becca Tellgren-Leng and Thomas Tellgren-Leng
Chicago

Students at Harper High School staged a sit-in on Dec. 1, protesting the closing of all four public high schools in the historically Black, working-class neighborhood of Englewood on Chicago's South Side.

The schools are slated to close next June, with a replacement school not set to open until the fall of 2019. The proposed replacement school will be developed under Distinctive Schools, which has ties to Edison Learning. That for-profit charter network has received criticism from communities in San Francisco and Michigan, Delaware and Florida for mistreatment of teachers and their role in penalizing and displacing students.

The replacement of public schools with charter schools in Chicago is an attack on unionized teachers in Chicago Teachers Union Local 1. Charter schools are also an attack on students, especially Black and Brown students with disabilities.

In the network of Chicago charter schools, where one of the writers of this article worked, the rigid discipline, inflexible learning environment and rejection of restorative justice caused many students, both with and without disabilities, to drop out, transfer, repeat grades or be expelled — all so the school might have a more “rigorous” learning environment.

Another South Side school is also in the news. Mollison Elementary, located in Bronzeville, is experiencing an infestation of rodents. A protest at the school broke out the morning of Nov. 30 when a school security guard crushed a Local School Council representative and parent to the



PHOTO: CTU TWITTER FEED
Students strike, sit down in hallways.

ground, sending her to Mercy Hospital in an ambulance. Not only are Chicago schools infested with rats, 113 schools (out of 660 in 2014-15) tested positive for unacceptable levels of lead in the drinking fountain water!

Drive to gentrify, privatize

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel closed 50 public schools in 2013. These closings affected 46,000 children — the majority of them Black — and were 10 times more likely to target schools that had a majority-Black teaching staff.

As members of the Chicago Teachers Union who work in a West Side neighborhood, it is very apparent to us that Emanuel's latest proposal — motivated by continued gentrification of Chicago's South Side and the profits that generates — is an attack on Chicago's Black working-class communities.

Activists have been protesting the installation of a \$95 million cop training academy in Garfield Park, another historically Black, working-class neighborhood on the West Side of Chicago.

Closing public schools and opening police academies are both racist attacks on Chicago's Black and Brown communities. Instead of working to improve the conditions in schools and fund public resources, Emmanuel and his cronies are bent on policing and privatizing the remaining services available to Chicago's most oppressed communities.

Chicago doesn't need another racist charter school. We need sustainable community schools equipped with clean drinking water and clean classrooms where students can flourish and learn. □



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Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Tax “reform” Rob the poor to pay the rich

By Chris Fry

Dec. 4 — Faster than a speeding corporate PAC contribution to campaign coffers, the U.S. Senate passed its version of the infamous “tax reform” bill after midnight on Dec. 2. All but one of the Republican senators voted for the bill.

The legislation now goes to a joint House-Senate “reconciliation” committee, where both corporate giveaway versions of the bill will be merged into one final bill. The Senate and House each tried to outdo the other in showering favors on the wealthy.

Some of the senators’ changes aimed at pleasing the rich were hand-scrawled on the margins even as the bill was being debated. “After Oregon’s Ron Wyden expressed outrage that the bill couldn’t be read before the vote, Senate Majority Leader McConnell insisted Wyden would have ‘plenty of time to read (it) — afterwards.’” (msn.com, Dec. 2)

Blithely labeled a “middle-class tax cut” by both Trump and these millionaire senators, the legislation is, in fact, a huge giveaway to corporations, banks and the billionaire class.

For workers — well, as an article in Rolling Stone put it: “The last best estimate we’re left with is the JCT [Joint Committee on Taxation] scoring that shows that more than 80 percent of Americans wind up in 2027 with either a tax increase or a benefit of less than \$100.”

While all the much-touted tax breaks for workers are temporary, the maximum corporate tax rate is permanently reduced from 35 percent down to a measly 20 percent. And for “pass-through” businesses, which are privately owned companies whose profits “pass through” to the own-

ers, the Senate bill allows owners to reduce their taxable income by deducting 23 percent of those profits. This is a favorable change from the current 17.4 percent.

Boss Trump’s family, which owns some 500 pass-through companies, stands to save tens of millions in reduced taxes from this provision alone. (cnbc.com, Dec. 1)

And a lot of his billionaire buddies will see their top income tax rate reduced from 39.5 percent to 35 percent, saving them millions upon millions for more yachts, more mansions, more private jets. They even get a new maintenance deduction for those jets.

More attacks on poor to follow

But for the workers and oppressed, this tax giveaway for big business, combined with the Trump budget plan, represents devastating cutbacks and a new wave of austerity, all designed to rob the workers and poor to pay the rich.

These senators have made their agenda quite clear. According to Sen. Orrin Hatch: “We’re spending ourselves into bankruptcy. ... You don’t help the poor by continually pushing more and more liberal programs through.”

Sen. Marco Rubio told the press: “The driver of our debt is the structure of Social Security and Medicare for future beneficiaries.” (washingtonpost.com, Dec. 2)

Neither noted that the biggest discretionary item in the yearly federal budget is always military spending.

Meanwhile, workers are contributing 83 percent of the total federal budget through their income and payroll taxes for Medicare, Social Security, worker’s compensation and so on. (tinyurl.com/yd9nudye)

The Senate tax plan ends the mandate for health insurance, which means that

premiums will go up, and could cause 13 million people to lose their health insurance.

It allows the well-off to use tax-free dollars to fund K-12 private and religious schools, while at the same time it lowers the tax deduction for property taxes, which will put the pinch on public education.

In the proposed Trump budget, subsidies for the Affordable Care Act are already slated to be slashed. That budget also calls for a 47 percent cut to Medicaid with a 30 percent cut to food stamps.

Pell Grants and student loans will be devastated. Funding for K-12 schools will be reduced by 30 percent. Head Start will lose nearly 200,000 kids. Job-training cuts will rise to 40 percent, and nearly 1 million households will lose rental assistance. All of these attacks are especially harmful to Black and Latinx communities. (theroot.com, Nov. 16)

More debt for workers

These fat-cat legislators proclaim that the tiny tax cuts for workers will stimulate the economy by hiking consumer spending. But the Center for Microeconomic Data, part of the Federal Reserve, reports: “Total household debt reached a new peak in the third quarter of 2017, rising \$116 billion to reach \$12.96 trillion.” (newyorkfed.org, Nov. 1)

So workers will be forced to spend much of any savings from their meager tax reduction to pare down their debt.

All Democratic senators did vote against the tax bill, saying it is “unfair to



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

In New York City, union workers march Dec. 1 against new tax plan.

the middle class,” and it will drive up the deficit. True enough. But payoffs to military contractors are their real priority. When the massive \$700 billion Pentagon budget came up for a vote in November, nearly all Democrats voted for it, even though they know it makes social programs more vulnerable because it will hike up the deficit.

Should the Dems regain control of Congress next year, you can be sure what they will say when the next recession hits — and it will. They will tell the workers and oppressed to quietly accept that the Treasury lacks money to rescue them. That’s what the Democrats did in the 2008 Great Recession.

That the capitalist system provides tax cuts for big business and its billionaire owners while imposing austerity on workers means that capitalism has failed. Now the wizards of high finance can no longer rely on their “normal” exploitation to generate enough profits. Out of desperation and greed they have directed their minions to squeeze the working class harder to fill their vaults.

Workers face a choice: To meekly accept wave after wave of these terrible attacks —

Or to fight. □

Net Neutrality to be given away to cable monopolies

By Gary Wilson

Not every move by the Trump administration is done with a Twitter shoutout. Quietly on Nov. 21, right before a holiday, a news release from the Federal Communications Commission reported that the 2015 net neutrality regulations would be reversed at a Dec. 14 commission vote.

The chairman of the FCC, Ajit Pai, was selected by Trump and given a five-year appointment by the Senate on Oct. 2. Pai has been at the FCC since 2011 in a Republican Party position and had long advocated at the FCC for his previous employer, Verizon.

The announcement got some but not a lot of notice. The repeal of the net neutrality regulations is a big giveaway to four of the most hated monopolies in the United States: AT&T, Charter, Comcast and Verizon. All are cable companies, and the change will mean that internet service will become a mirror of cable service.

No one needs to be reminded how expensive cable service is, nor how bad.

The future will be “Basic Internet” with Facebook-Messenger-WhatsApp-Instagram, Google-YouTube, Amazon and maybe Skype. Premium channels might include Netflix and Hulu.

The net neutrality regulations introduced in 2015 classified internet service as a utility, a communications service like the telephone. As a utility, internet service providers were banned from throttling or blocking service in any way

or from making charges based on favoring one source over another.

Did net neutrality regulations establish a completely open internet? No. Did they prevent price gouging by the monopoly service providers? No. Almost 90 percent of the United States is restricted to getting internet service only from the four monopolies — AT&T, Charter, Comcast and Verizon.

As an essential utility, internet service should be free, like the city streets, or at minimal cost, like water. That would be essential for an open internet.

No longer a freewheeling World Wide Web

The internet itself is not the freewheeling World Wide Web that it started out as in the 1990s. Today, the internet is controlled by gatekeepers and monopolists. Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google and Microsoft control almost everything online. New York Times tech columnist Farhad Manjoo calls them “the frightful five” and notes that they are “collectively more powerful than many governments.” (Oct. 26)

Google and Facebook have a direct influence over 70 percent of all web traffic. Mobile internet traffic is now the majority of all internet traffic worldwide, and most mobile devices are used primarily to access Google and Facebook networks.

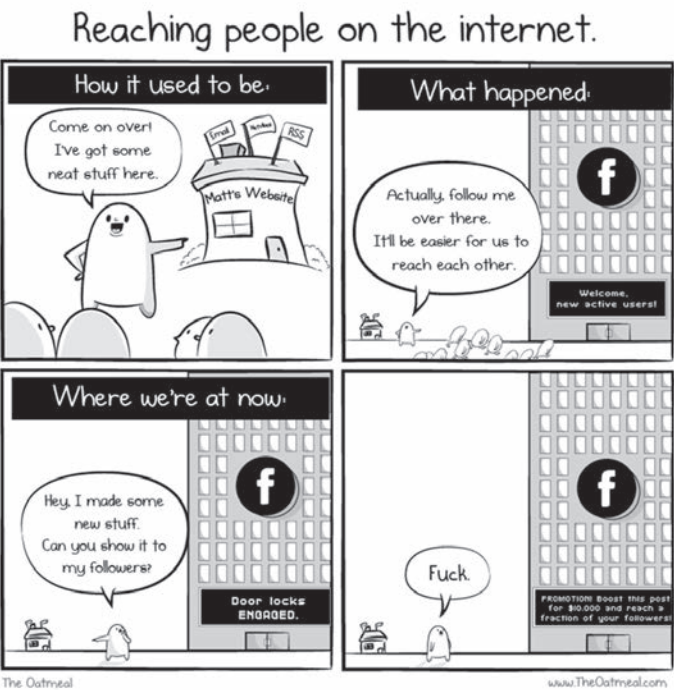
In the big business media, there is little coverage of popular opposition to the repeal of net neutrality. Net neutrality

was passed in 2015 only because it was so widely supported, with literally millions of comments recorded at the FCC in support of strict regulation of the internet service providers. Polls show that support for the regulations has only increased, not decreased.

Today, what might be called the internet monopoly capitalists — Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google and Microsoft — have voiced little opposition to the repeal of net neutrality regulation. Perhaps because the change in regulations will not challenge their control in any way.

Of course, no one should expect the internet monopoly capitalists to lead a pro-

gressive challenge to the internet cable monopolists, the so-called service providers. That can only come from an independent, grass-roots movement. □



CAPITALISM AT A DEAD END
Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

EL CAPITALISMO EN UN CALLENJON SIN SALIDA

For other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to www.LowWageCapitalism.com
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Syracuse University union drive

Grad workers denounce tax plan

By Minnie Bruce Pratt
Syracuse, N.Y.

Worker outrage and organizing was the order of the day on Nov. 30, as some 150 members of Syracuse Graduate Employees United and their supporters rallied on Syracuse University's central quad. SGEU was speaking out both for the right to a union and against the current federal tax bill that was on the verge of passing the U.S. Senate.

SGEU was making its first public announcement of a drive to unionize all graduate teaching assistants (GAs and TAs), research assistants (RAs) and fellows at SU. After the SU administration tried to take employee health insurance away from grad student workers in spring 2015, many began to meet and reach out to other student workers to build a union.

At the rally, SGEU declared its affiliation with Service Employees Local 200United. This local represents approximately 900 building and grounds, dining services and library employees at Syracuse University.

Laura Jaffee, a key SGEU organizer, has worked as a teaching assistant in the Cultural Foundations of Education Department. She told WW: "I support a union because the work TAs, GAs, and RAs do is necessary for the university to function. We deserve to be compensated for that labor with dignified working



WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT

Student workers affiliate with SEIU Local 200United Nov. 30.

conditions in the form of comprehensive and affordable health care, decent wages, accessible childcare, adequate mental health support, and other benefits to make graduate life viable, particularly for oppressed groups largely excluded from accessing graduate education.

"A union gives us collective bargaining power," she continued, "and enables us to democratically make decisions that improve our work lives. The power to have some say over the conditions of our work is a really basic acknowledgement of the value of the work we do."

Jaffee emphasized that a union would help fend off future attacks on graduate workers, like the blows now threatened by the new federal tax plan. The rally was

part of a national graduate student walkout to protest the tax bill, with participation in #gradtaxwalkout at more than 50 colleges and universities.

'Build power in the workplace'

Speaker after speaker, ranging in academic departments from Physics to Journalism, from Disability Studies to Geography, gave devastating details on the impact of the tax bill's proposed provisions. Under the current tax code, tuition benefits received by grad students are exempt from taxation. The tax plan would repeal that exemption, so a grad worker earning \$5,000 yearly for teaching, who receives \$36,000 in untaxed tuition benefits, would go from paying virtually no taxes to owing over \$3,456 in taxes — on an actual income of \$5,000. Student loan interest would also not be allowed as a tax deduction. (Daily Orange, Nov. 28)

Rally speakers stressed the tax plan would make Syracuse University even less accessible to Indigenous students on whose land the school stands, and to Black and Latinx students, especially those from the city of Syracuse proper,

which has the highest rate of concentrated poverty for those populations in the U.S.

International grad students spoke of how the economic burden would add to special difficulties they already suffer: extra travel and living expenses, being targeted by white supremacists and Islamophobes, isolation from their home countries and cultures, fear of losing their documentation status.

Students affiliated with the disability rights movement said that SU was just beginning to make the school accessible to all students, and the tax plan barriers would effectively cut access for grad students with disabilities.

Scott Phillipson, president of SEIU Local 200United, described the GOP tax plan as "a kick in the gut for the working class." An SU School of Law graduate, he said that under that plan he could not have afforded to attend SU as "a hard-scrabble Rochester working-class kid," and that he was honored to be with the graduate workers as they fight for a union.

He pointed out that untaxed tuition benefits, available to all SU employees for their children, are the only way union members who clean the classrooms and cut the grass can afford to give their children a college education.

He ended: "Our dreams are getting squashed. We have to build power in the workplace." □



Seattle school bus drivers strike

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Four hundred school bus drivers held a one-day strike Nov. 29 against First Student, the big national contractor. The strike shut down all school bus transportation in the Seattle school district, which has almost 50,000 students. Teamsters Local 174 announced the strike a day early to give families notice that they would need to find other means of transportation.

The unfair labor practice strike was called

after First Student unilaterally cut back its medical plan for the workers. A driver on the picket line described not having access to the health care plan despite the fact that she has cancer. The workers are also striking against a woefully inadequate retirement plan.

A big turnout of multinational drivers was on picket lines at both First Student bus lots. Another strike could be called at any time if a fair agreement is not reached. And "it will not just last one day," asserted Local 174 President Rick Hicks. □

Brooklyn tenants insist

'The city is not for sale!'

By Anne Pruden
New York City

Brooklyn tenants against gentrification were threatened with arrest on Nov. 30 during a New York City Council meeting. Earlier, these advocates for affordable housing occupied the flight of steps leading up to New York City Hall. Two hundred tenants, members of Laborers Union Local 79 and other supporters had rallied for over an hour to demand that Brooklyn's publicly owned Bedford Union Armory in the Crown Heights neighborhood be turned into 100 percent affordable housing.

Politicians walked by this very strong protest on their way to the council meeting, where they would soon vote against the interests of the community.

Laurie Cumbo, City Council representative for the tenants' area, had promised during her run for office that the armory

would become 100 percent affordable. But the plan Cumbo backed in the council meeting included over 150 market-rate apartments.

Not long after the protesters opposed to gentrification and displacement filled seats at the council meeting, another City Council member praised Cumbo's armory plan. When the crowd's demands of "Kill the deal!" rang out, people were threatened by police with removal by physical force of anyone who spoke out.

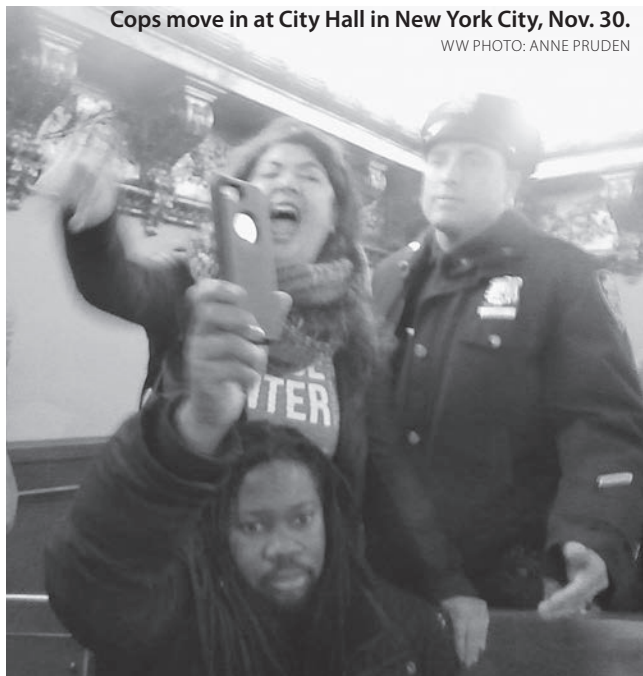
The protesters condemned any praise for Cumbo's plan because market rate means high rents and continued displacement of poor and working-class renters. As community leader Berta Lewis of NY Communities for Change said: "[Cumbo] has no shame. She will do anything!" Lewis noted that politicians "will talk progress and walk for profit."

The community's strong organizing and working-class pressure over the last

three years has been victorious in forcing the politicians and developers to include 250 low-income apartments in the armory plan. Only 10 percent of the projected apartments are designated for people who are homeless.

As Imani Henry, a leader in the Brooklyn Anti-gentrification Network, told WW: "What is evident and clear is that the vast majority of the City Council are Democrats, who are pro-gentrification in line with big real estate. Even the so-called progressive ones are at the bidding of big realtors."

"That there was so much police presence for our rally speaks to the fact that



Cops move in at City Hall in New York City, Nov. 30.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

the council members and the de Blasio administration know what they are doing is wrong. They're scared to death of the people, when the people of the city continue to rise against them!" □

Serious questions after Notorious Philly DA appointed

By Joe Piette

Longtime Philadelphia civil rights attorney and newly elected District Attorney Larry Krasner has appointed former DA and retired State Supreme Court Justice Ron Castille, a notorious death penalty advocate, to his 16-member transition team. Krasner’s official term begins in January.

A number of supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal and other community activists criticized the selection of Castille to a committee that features 15 other elected officials, city power brokers and attorneys (including noted civil rights defense attorney Michael Coard).

Some Krasner supporters are suggesting that it’s only his transition team, which includes people who will not necessarily be in his official administration, so it’s not that important.

There are many reasons, however, to ask what good could come from Krasner’s appointment of Castille.

Castille refused to recuse himself from ruling on Abu-Jamal’s appeal at the State Supreme Court level, even though the former Philly DA was instrumental in denying Mumia’s appeal years earlier. Mumia currently has a case under litigation, which could lead to his freedom, that hinges on whether a federal Supreme Court decision against such practices applies to him.

Castille’s inclusion on Krasner’s team gives a false impression that the former DA and justice is somehow progressive. This couldn’t be further from the truth.

Castille’s long reactionary history

While Krasner often stated opposition to the death penalty during his campaign,

he chose Castille, who bragged during his election campaign for State Supreme Court in 1993 that he was responsible for putting 45 men on Pennsylvania’s death row.

Krasner campaigned that he would reduce mass incarceration, yet Castille boasted about strengthening state laws against drug trafficking, which more than tripled the conviction rate of local drug dealers. In other words, Castille contributed mightily to mass incarceration.

Castille and the state’s other DAs persuaded the Pennsylvania Legislature to approve mandatory sentencing for drug dealers — one of many state laws for which Castille took credit as legislative chairperson of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association in the late 1980s.

Castille asserted that he took on “every child advocacy group in the state” to push through a tougher law on juvenile crime. This law let police photograph and fingerprint youths arrested for felonies and gave the DA the power to veto judges’ decisions to send youths into probation-like programs. (Philadelphia Daily News, Sept. 25, 1989)

Krasner promised to end the civil asset forfeiture law; yet this law was actually written by Castille. The American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania says that under this law, “[T]he government can legally take property it claims is connected to illegal activity but without actually charging, much less convicting, the property owner of a crime.” (aclupa.org) In Philadelphia, up to \$1 million a year in cash is seized from innocent residents. (aclupa.org, June 2, 2015)

Krasner gained his reputation as a civil rights attorney willing to take on police brutality cases, but Castille is notorious for defending cops, no matter what they



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Demonstrations earlier this year call for freeing Mumia Abu-Jamal.

may be accused of. As Philly DA, Castille concluded that despite the deaths of 11 Black adults and children after the city bombed the home of MOVE, a Black liberation group, in 1985, there was insufficient evidence of criminal intent to justify a prosecution of any city officials.

More than 100 members of the racist Fraternal Order of Police attended Castille’s victory party in 1985. The organization had sent out 16,000 letters urging members to “bring their moms, their brothers, their sisters, their aunts” to the polls. Retired officers staffed telephones and drove 26 vans to deliver the message on Castille’s behalf.

The FOP named Castille FOP Man of the Year in 1986. (Philadelphia Daily News, Nov. 6, 1985) Unsurprisingly, Castille was named attorney for the state FOP in 1993.

The unconstitutional McMahon tapes, which train DA attorneys how to keep Black and Brown people off juries, were

recorded during Castille’s term as DA.

On May 8, 2013, state Justice Castille wrote the opinion that allowed unnecessarily gerrymandered legislative districts for the next eight years in Pennsylvania, especially obstructing the voting rights of Black, Brown and poor communities. This practice in Wisconsin and other states is currently being challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Krasner has the right to appoint anyone he wants to his transition team. But if he chooses to invite a former DA with a long history of supporting the death penalty, mass incarceration and the FOP, and of being anti-justice, the people have a right to raise questions. Many politicians have been elected after making many promises to voters, only to do an about-face once in office.

Krasner now has to answer what many people are asking: Is the appointment of Castille the first sign of compromise with Philadelphia’s racist power structure? □

Steinle verdict Bigots call for sanctuary cities boycott

By Terri Kay
San Francisco

Furious, threatening tweets by #45. These were the president’s response to the Dec. 1 acquittal of undocumented migrant Jose Ines Garcia Zarate on murder and manslaughter charges in the 2015 shooting death of Kate Steinle. Trump had made this tragic accidental shooting a hallmark of his election campaign as a way to build support for his proposed U.S./Mexico border wall and his threat to deport immigrants.

The day after the acquittal, an editorial in the so-called liberal San Francisco Chronicle said that an inmate with Garcia Zarate’s record “could be released on the streets today,” implying that following sanctuary city policies would bring violence. The editorial didn’t explain what in this worker’s totally nonviolent record would make such a release a threat to the community.

In 1989 San Francisco was among the first U.S. cities to establish a sanctuary law as part of a national wave of local policies intended to help Central American refugees. (tinyurl.com/ybab8bum)

Trial testimony showed Steinle had been hit with a bullet that had ricocheted off a concrete pier. Prosecutors presented the jury with the choice of first- or second-degree murder or involuntary manslaughter charges. The defense argued that Garcia Zarate had found the gun under a bench on the pier and that it accidentally fired as he unwrapped it from

a cloth. (The gun had been stolen from a federal Bureau of Land Management agent’s car several days before.)

The prosecution was unable to present any evidence of murderous intent or malfeasance on Garcia Zarate’s part. He was acquitted of the prosecutor’s charges and convicted only as a felon in possession of a firearm.

Garcia Zarate had been released by the San Francisco County sheriff several weeks before Steinle’s death, after marijuana possession charges against him had been dropped. That release went against a federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement request to hold him.

Trump had used Garcia Zarate’s previous release and later acquittal to attack San Francisco and other local sanctuary city policies. In the 24 hours following the acquittal he whipped up an anti-immigrant, right-wing frenzy over the verdict, with thousands calling for a boycott of San Francisco and all sanctuary cities. (tinyurl.com/y7cped4u)

Trump’s tweets, in typical fashion, falsify information, claiming erroneously that Garcia Zarate was deported seven times as a violent felon. He had previously been deported five times, but had never been charged with any violent crimes. All charges against Garcia Zarate were drug or immigration related, with no suggestion of violence.

As Trump renewed calls to build his border wall, other tweeters pointed out the hypocrisy of boycotting San Francisco after Trump and supporters remained

silent following the killing of anti-racist Heather Heyer during a white supremacist rally and counterprotest in Charlottesville, Va. (tinyurl.com/yb3hv2mh)

On the day of Garcia Zarate’s acquittal, eight white supremacists stood outside San Francisco City Hall protesting sanctuary city policies. Two days later, Dec. 3, a group of about two dozen neo-Nazis and white supremacists gathered in front of the White House, using Steinle’s death to call for stricter laws on immigration.

Featured speakers there were Richard Spencer, a man now synonymous with so-called “alt-right,” neo-Nazi politics; Matthew Heimbach of the explicitly neo-Nazi “National Socialist” group, the Traditionalist Worker Party; and Mike Enoch, a well-known white supremacist blogger.

Despite recent brutal suppression of protest in Washington, D.C., anti-fascist, antifa counterprotesters showed up

in twice the numbers. They shouted the right-wingers down with slogans like “Nazi punks, fuck off!” It took only 20 minutes before the Nazi and racist protesters, backed by a police escort, had to disappear. (tinyurl.com/y7l9nas)

Far-right-wingers have called two events on Dec. 16 under the pretense of “justice” for Kate Steinle and against sanctuary cities and the new California Values Act, SB 54.

That state bill, going into effect Jan. 1, 2018, mandates statewide limitations on local law enforcement cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Counterprotests supporting sanctuary cities and SB 54 are in the works.

Kate Steinle’s death was a tragic accident. The use of this tragedy to foment anti-immigrant hatred is not only unwarranted, but deeply racist in character. No walls, no deportations, no bans! □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes • **Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy • **Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** Leilani Dowell • **The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead • **Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights** Imani Henry • **Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!** Saladin Muhammad • **Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior** Mumia Abu-Jamal • **Racism & Poverty in the Delta** Larry Hales • **Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions** Pat Chin • **Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation** Consuela Lee • **Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion** John Parker

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Socialist methodology and the mass struggle: Lessons from Detroit and beyond

This year represents the centenary of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia — a socially transformative occurrence which served as a political model for all peoples seeking to liberate themselves from capitalism and imperialism.

As a group concerned with building a revolutionary party of the working class and the nationally oppressed, we need to study V.I. Lenin’s ideological and organizational contributions. We must adopt a dialectical materialist approach to the struggle against exploitation and oppression, and to understand our enemy.

The destruction of the world capitalist system is a prerequisite to the emancipation of humanity. Socialism leading to a communist society provides the only hope for realizing world peace, security and sustainability.

Leninism and building a revolutionary movement

Nonetheless, the freedom of the proletariat and oppressed nations will not be achieved spontaneously. Perhaps the Bolshevik Party’s most profound lesson is its emphasis on scientific organization based on democratic centralist principles.

Still relevant today, Lenin published his groundbreaking work, “What Is to Be Done?” in 1903. Here, Lenin told the socialist movement that “our primary task [is] to establish an organization of revolutionaries capable of lending energy, stability and continuity to the political struggle.”

During World War I, Lenin explained in “Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism,” the increasing concentration of industrial ownership and the banks’ eventual domination over all sectors. Today, this is even more pronounced. Consequently, we must focus on finance capital to fight this exploitative system.

Organizing in Detroit

As revolutionaries we have no other choice than to respond to capitalism’s continuing crises. Detroit was the birthplace of advanced industrial capitalism, and provides



tremendous insights into the system’s recent transformation.

In the fall of 2002, five months prior to the U.S.-led bombing and invasion of Iraq, and after the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice was formed. MECAWI’s slogan “Money for our cities, not for war” captures the direct link be-

tween the Pentagon budget and the impoverishment of cities. Its program is anti-imperialist, with unconditional support of the right of self-determination and national liberation of all oppressed peoples.

A great achievement by MECAWI was founding the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day march. We sought to reclaim Dr. King’s social justice and anti-war legacy, and rejected the false, distorted history of the Civil Rights Movement. We emphasized that movement’s progressive contributions to the struggles against racism and economic exploitation by stressing its merger with the struggle for Black Power, Black Liberation and solidarity with national liberation movements. January 15 will mark Detroit’s 15th commemoration of MLK Day.

An effective alliance resulted with principled veterans of the 1960s and 1970s Civil Rights and Black Power movements. Subsequent generations of activists gather yearly to celebrate the struggles’ gains, and are inspired by the possibilities of future advances.

Moratorium Now Coalition

The Moratorium Now Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shut-offs grew out of MECAWI’s work. It is not enough for revolutionaries to do anti-imperialist work. Detroit’s population is 82 percent African American. It has been impacted by the ravages of national oppression and superexploitation, and constitutes an integral demographic within the oppressed African nation in the U.S. empire.

Detroit changed from being a center of African-American working-class politics, social activity and national

culture into a city showing capitalism’s decline. It requires a Leninist party to consistently intervene in the mass struggle.

That is why we have organized around the housing crisis for years. Housing is a fundamental human right of working people. All oppressed people must be free from the racist capitalist state’s tyranny and police terrorism.

We opposed the pseudo-legalized theft of pension and health care benefits from municipal retirees, privatization of public resources and erosion of bourgeois democratic rights. These rights — gained through decades of civil rights and labor campaigns — belong to the working class and the oppressed. They are being reversed as a by-product of capitalism’s crises.

We must interject revolutionary class politics into the mass struggle. Our work has clarified a principled approach to a popular movement, as contrasted with an opportunistic one, as outlined in “What Is to Be Done?”

‘The State and Revolution’

Lenin’s important contribution, “The State and Revolution,” written just before the Bolsheviks seized power in October 1917, discusses the imperatives of proletariat at state control. A revolutionary organization must take control of the state apparatus in order to build a socialist society, paving the way toward communism.

After the Bolsheviks seized power, amid the armed struggle to defeat the counterrevolutionaries, and under threatened reversals of the revolution’s gains, Lenin maintained the party’s objectives and what is necessary to eradicate all exploitation and oppression.

Lenin’s lecture on “The State,” delivered on July 11, 1919, at Sverdlov University, asserts: “We shall place this machine [the state] in the hands of the [proletariat] class that is to overthrow the power of capital. ... We shall use this machine ... to destroy all exploitation.

“When the possibility of exploitation no longer exists anywhere in the world, when there are no longer owners of land and ... factories,” and when no one gorges while others starve, only then “shall we consign this machine to the scrapheap. Then there will be no state and no exploitation.”

We must build a revolutionary organization of workers and oppressed people to suppress the capitalists. The Marxist-Leninist party, guided by scientific analysis of the conditions facing the exploited and oppressed, tutored by its own work, is the only hope for transforming society. □

Disability rights A working-class issue

Mary Kaessinger
Disability rights activist

Are disability rights a working-class issue? Yes. We work for a living, or want to. At the same time, capitalism grinds us down, so we have to fight for essential services.

For decades we were invisible — warehoused in institutions or hidden away by our families. Now we’re out and demand our rights to housing, education, public transit and employment. We have to change public attitudes and laws, which let employers discriminate and exploit us.

The disabled rights movement started during the Depression era, prompted by the economic situation, and energized by the labor and civil rights struggles.

1930s sit-downs for jobs

Six workers formed the League of the Physically Handicapped in New York City to protest discrimination in hiring by the Works Progress Administration. A nine-day sit-in occurred after managers refused to meet with them.

A weekend sit-in at WPA headquarters in June 1935 won 1,500 jobs in New York. The League gained several hundred members and started a speakers’ bureau that educated unions on disability issues.

At least two sit-ins of visually disabled workers occurred in 1937, one in Pittsburgh and one in New York — remarkable feats, considering they were prohibited from forming unions at exploitative “sheltered” workshops. The league was red-baited and eventually dissolved.

The “Fair” Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938 legalized long-fought-for rights like the eight-hour day, the 40-hour workweek, overtime pay and an end to child labor.

But it engraved superexploitation in stone, allowing a subminimum wage for many workers, including disabled people. It codified that these workers are “precarious” — marginalized, discarded and made invisible.

The often-revised law has never eliminated the subminimum wage. The National Federation of the Blind, which has demonstrated countrywide, and Sen. Bernie Sanders have proposed amendments to raise or eliminate it. Neither succeeded.

The hourly minimum wage should be \$15 for all able and disabled workers.

Outrage at Goodwill

Goodwill Industries uses FLSA waivers to pay subminimum wages to thousands of employees, while its top executives rake in millions of dollars. CEO’s leave it to “local” affiliates to decide wage rates and ignore the inequities.

Workers World Party showed its support for disabled workers by picketing a Goodwill facility, demanding higher wages, during our 2014 national conference in Queens, N.Y.

In the 1960s and 1970s, institutional warehousing began to wane, and disabled people started moving into the community. The independent living movement intensified, with struggles to access housing, education and public transit.

Betsy Gimbel, as secretary of NYC Disabled in Action, led sit-ins at strategic locations, demanding accessible buses and curb renovations for wheelchair users. Eventually, they succeeded.

Medicaid has been crucial, as it finances necessary services. A close bond develops between disabled people



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

and their caregivers. Recently, Kansas activists won a pay raise for their support workers.

Activists barricaded buses

In Denver, the Atlantis Community (later Americans with Disabilities for Accessible Public Transportation) surrounded buses for three days in 1978. At night, they placed their placards under the buses’ windshield wipers, climbed down

from their wheelchairs and slept on the ground. Three years of demonstrations won accessible buses.

After a 13-year struggle for comprehensive federal legislation to codify the rights of the disabled, the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990. It specified these rights and the criteria for removing architectural barriers.

Annual parades commemorate the ADA’s signing. NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani refused to issue parade permits after 9/11, so they stopped. However, Disability Pride parades resumed in 2015 and grow every year.

We brought a political note to this year’s parade with our banner and People’s Power Assembly signs saying: “Subways Should Be 100% Accessible,” “Hands Off the ADA” and “Defend the ADA.” This law is endangered by reactionary politicians.

Cuba: leader in disability rights

The movement for independent living is global. Brian Shea attended a conference in 1996 in Cuba on this subject. (See WWP’s pamphlet entitled, “Disability Rights and the Class Struggle.”) Some 300 delegates, the overwhelming majority with physical disabilities, attended. Delegates came from Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, Spain and the former Soviet Union.

The Cubans had to become expert in treating the ul-

N.J.

Fighting Native Erasure

Stephanie Tromblay, Huron/Metis nonstatus and Tsalagi heritage unenrolled

We meet on stolen Lenni-Lenape land. The history of this country is founded on lies meant to erase Indigenous nations and cultures. A great heritage has been stolen, commodified and sold to the whole capitalist world — from tobacco to tomatoes to the fringe on leather jackets. Native nations originated chocolate, chili, potatoes, over half of the world’s foods by volume and species, sunglasses, most of the original medicinal pharmacopeia (formulary) in this country and the world’s first apartment buildings. The concept of living in harmony with the biosphere — from which we are not separate — has inspired environmental movements. The Haudenosaunee nations’ matrilineal society inspired the original feminists. All of this is part of the heritage of the Indigenous peoples of this hemisphere and their contributions to world culture. Every Communist fighting capitalist lies has a duty to

raise awareness among members of our class that Native peoples are not dead and gone. We live among you, despite smallpox, genocide and constant warfare perpetrated by colonizers and the U.S. military. From coast to coast, Native people live in urban areas and small towns, as well as on the reservations. We discuss smashing white supremacy as part of our political work. Native people discuss the subjects of “Native Erasure” and decolonization. The term Native Erasure means leaving out Native peoples in everyday discourse, from the mass media to the educational system. Our vast heritage and contributions to the world are made to appear to come from anywhere but Native peoples. Native people might be referred to when there is a hot struggle, like against the Dakota Access Pipeline at the Standing Rock Reservation. When our political struggles are raised and connected — and they are broadcast anywhere in the media — there are Native people listening, and they immediately note if they are left out.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Every time we speak and raise all the struggles to connect the fight against imperialist war with fights against racism at home, make sure to mention Native people, too. Keep Indigenous nations on the front burner with all of the other struggles. One way to do this is to simply recognize whose land you are standing on at the opening of every event. The leadership of oppressed communities understands we need solidarity. Black Lives Matter of Chicago kept a presence at Standing Rock Reservation throughout the encampment. Several of the arrested water protectors will soon go to trial on serious charges. They urgently need movement support. Let’s give a special shout out to the Ramapo Nation a few miles north of here in New Jersey. They are fighting against Native Erasure, extraction of the Earth’s resources and racism every day of their lives. Water is Life! End Native Erasure! Smash white supremacy! □

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Oppressed, working women must lead

I first joined Workers World Party in 1975 due to the party’s unique understanding that the struggle against national oppression and white supremacy can never take a back seat to fighting capitalism and imperialism in order to carry out a socialist revolution in the largest imperialist country. Since then, I have appreciated so many other struggles. One of those is women’s liberation. When I witnessed the emergence of the women’s movement in the early 1970s as a Black teenager living in the South, I could not relate to a majority white movement that didn’t take seriously that women’s liberation for Black women is rooted in national liberation. That changed after my being influenced by Dotty Ballan, a party founding member who wrote “Feminism and Marxism.” Her pamphlet accessed what was progressive about the women’s movement as a mass movement, and also its narrow limitations, its political and ideological

Monica Moorehead

domination by a petty-bourgeois, reform-capitalism leadership with no clue about class solidarity with the most oppressed women.

Marxism and feminism

Workers World Party challenged this backward ideology while attempting to influence the movement by being a part of it. The party had so many women leaders during this period that we were referred to in the movement as “the Party of the Matriarchy.” Dotty wasn’t the only leading comrade to elevate the revolutionary potential of working-class women. Our late chairperson, Sam Marcy, wrote his groundbreaking book, “High Tech, Low Pay: A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class,” over 33 years ago, where he stated: “Today the working class is of a thoroughgoing multinational character. ... Statistics appear almost daily in the bourgeois press which show how much of the working class today is Black, Latin, Asian, Native as well as women. The most recent study shows that white males are no longer predominant in industry. The workforce is already composed of over 40 percent women.

“But what has not been pointedly brought to the attention of the public is that the working class as a whole in the U.S. has changed dramatically. ... In almost all of the service industries, there is a growing preponderance of new, low-paid workers.” Sam understood that this pauperization of labor, intensifying with the global capitalist crisis of low wages, had created the feminization of labor. Sam explained: “The further development of the processes of capitalist production has forced many more women out of the home and into the workforce. It is these objective trends more than any subjective factors which have broken up the old family structure headed by the male breadwinner. The pauperization of labor has made it imperative that women work.”

Now, this feminization of labor manifests itself with women workers, especially the most oppressed — Black, Latinx and Native — being in the forefront of not only economic, but also political, struggles. Like the Fight for \$15 movement, Indigenous water rights at Standing Rock, Black Lives Matter led by Black trans women, and the struggle for reproductive justice. As an activist with the International Working Women’s Coalition, I also find there is no more important issue that impacts women — no matter their nationality, gender expression, socioeconomics, youth, age or abilities — than the issue of sexual oppression: rape, assault, harassment, domestic violence.

Working-class women’s liberation

The #MeToo campaign exploded as women actors exposed movie mogul Harvey Weinstein as a sexual predator. But the real catalyst was the election of white supremacist Donald Trump, with his well-known history of misogyny. Now, every day, another misogynist is being exposed.



The #MeToo campaign has been liberating for many women who have lived in silence and the deep-seated pain of being sexually assaulted, but now realize they are not alone. This campaign has brought widespread awareness of this war on women. But how can any real change be made when the voices of millions of other women haven’t been heard because of who they are, due to being marginalized and disenfranchised under capitalism? They are migrant women facing rape and death daily by the U.S. Border Patrol when forced to flee their homeland due to imperialism. They are Black and Brown single mothers whose bosses threaten their low-wage jobs if they don’t submit to sexual “advances.” They are women prisoners, including trans prisoners, sexually assaulted daily by brutal guards, or homeless women facing similar fates in shelters. They are young women assaulted daily in high schools and on college campuses, knowing they can’t get justice because administrations and police are complicit. #MeToo can go only so far when dominated by liberals with allegiance to the Democratic Party. The most oppressed working-class women must lead struggles in order for those to become more independent, anti-racist, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist, and lay the basis for socialism to liberate women of all nationalities.

Marx and Engels stated in “The Communist Manifesto”: “The essential conditions for the existence and for the sway of the bourgeois class is the formation and augmentation of capital; the condition for capital is wage-labour. Wage-labour rests exclusively on competition between the labourers. The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the labourers, due to competition, by the revolutionary combination, due to association. The development of Modern Industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. “What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own gravediggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable.” The most militant of all the gravediggers will be women. In tribute to Dotty Ballan and all women who have given their lives to the liberation of all humanity, working and oppressed women of the world unite! We have nothing to lose but our chains. □

cers that result from sitting in a wheelchair all day because the U.S. blockade prevented them from acquiring suitable cushions for the chairs, cushions that would alleviate pressure sores.

‘Kill the bill! Don’t kill us!’

Enter Trump. Trump’s first post-election goal was dismantling the Affordable Care Act, especially Medicaid, a life-and-death issue. This brought the struggle to a new pitch. Disabled people are fighting for their lives. Members of ADAPT (renamed Americans Disabled Attendant Programs Today), a national organization, occupied Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell’s office for several days, protesting a bill undermining Medicaid. Wheelchair users were arrested, picked up and thrown into police vans. The fight escalated a few weeks later when disabled activists marched through the Senate chamber shouting “Kill the bill! Don’t kill us!” The inhumane bill was voted down for the time being, but “tax reform” endangers all federal health programs.

Accessible transit now!

Disabled people in WWP, along with the PPA, are campaigning to make the subway system more accessible, and to increase bus service. Every working-class New Yorker rides the subways and buses, and everyone hates it. The 113-year-old system hasn’t been repaired or updated for decades. Delays and breakdowns occur daily. The fares go into the banks’ coffers for debt service. We pay the fare twice — through taxation and MetroCard payments. MTA officials are refurbishing and building new stations in gentrified neighborhoods. We want to end racist policing in the subways. And we want justice for transit worker Darryl Goodwin, unjustly arrested by police, who soon after died of a stress-related heart attack. □

★ WORKERS WORLD PARTY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ★

Excerpts based on talks given on Nov. 18 - Nov. 19 at the 2017 Workers World Party national conference in Newark, N.J.

Dialectics and dreaming the impossible



L.T. Pham

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

We are positioned to take the lessons of the past and shape them to help determine the future. As Marxist-Leninists and dialecticians we are charged with making sense and use of what is seemingly out of our control.

The past few months in Durham, N.C., have been an intensified period of dialectical struggle for our comrades. Understanding the conditions and contradictions that led to the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., allowed us to take revolutionary action.

In Durham, a city shaped by slavery, tenant farming and Jim Crow segregation, tearing down the monument honoring “the boys in gray” was a necessary, direct and revolutionary response to Charlottesville and the white supremacy of this wretched capitalist system. It recognized the working class as agents of revolutionary change.

The state allowed the erection of this racist statue in front of the courthouse in 1924 to send a chilling message to the Black community: that the white power structure would fight to control the social, political and economic life of Black people.

Following the people’s removal, dozens of cities witnessed an upsurge in actions to deface, vandalize and remove racist monuments. Our bold action presented to our class what could be possible in this phase of struggle.

We organized the momentum into a broad-based coalition fighting white supremacy, in solidarity against the state’s attempts to repress organizers and sow division. This formation has pushed thousands to take action through petitions, national days of action and call-ins to the district attorney.

With new and strengthened alliances, we are now tasked to continue to organize resistance in dialogue with history, accurately assess conditions and make calculations about how to advance the class struggle.

In Durham we are building a People’s Tribunal and Commission of Inquiry to charge the state with obstruction of justice and conspiracy in its persecution of our class. This tribunal will raise mass consciousness; connect spontaneous moments to a legacy of struggle; keep us in motion and maintain a basis to create bold, militant actions; and offer direction to our class toward revolution, not demoralization or reformism.

Let’s put on trial the capitalist system and its armed men, puppet politicians and corporate bosses. What would it look like to hold a People’s Tribunal for reparations for the Puerto Rican people? To indict killer cops who murder Black, Brown and Indigenous people? To expose the wealth stolen from workers through student debt and austerity? Let’s build People’s Tribunals Against Racism, Repression and Capitalism!

Building organized resistance should be a practice of dialectical analysis and action. Our world is shaped by change, by dialectics that emerge as patterns. Through struggle, we can strengthen our ability to seize these patterns in service of the movement.

We should make it a primary objective to take action that can raise the stakes and propel our class to a different and higher phase of struggle. Anything short of this puts our class in jeopardy of being paralyzed by the attacks under this capitalist system.

What happens then when we raise the stakes? When we sharpen the contradictions? We know the answer — we win; we get closer to revolution; once in a while, our class gets a revolution.

We’ve seen this in 100 years of socialist and national liberation movements. We’ve seen disruptive actions shift us from the defensive to the offensive.

We should reflect on key moments in history — to when the Bolsheviks overthrew the tsar and established Soviet Russia; when the DPRK defeated the U.S. empire and liberated its people; when Cuba forced out [dictator Fulgencio] Batista; when Vietnam defeated the French colonizers and claimed another victory against the U.S. empire.

These shifts are possible here. We have a history that shows what’s possible — from the resistance of Indigenous peoples to colonizers, of Black revolts to slave masters and the fight back of lesbians, gay men, queer and trans people at Stonewall and in ACT UP; from sit-ins, bus boycotts and community defense efforts of the Black Power movement; from strikes and picket lines, unions of all stripes; and, recently, the emergence of the Occupy Movement that held fire to corporate exploitation, the Black Lives Matter movement, Standing Rock and beyond. We are on par with the global history of resistance.

I hope that everyone has seen the wonderful poster designed by our comrades commemorating 100 years of global revolution. Under the year 2017 it reads, “The next revolution is up to us.”

This is what is in our control: the fight for revolution from the belly of the beast. This seemingly insurmountable task is inevitable; it is necessitated by dialectics and change, it is necessitated by sharpening contradictions, it is necessitated by the future of humanity.

I end with the spirit of Che Guevara, who said, “We are realists — we dream the impossible.” □

The working class and mass struggle

It might be helpful to look at the question of working-class and mass organizing through the lens of the centennial of the Bolshevik Revolution and the anniversary of the assassination of Che Guevara.

In the case of the Bolshevik Revolution, there is hardly a way of discussing it without referring to Lenin’s leadership. I think a large number of the comrades and friends are familiar with Lenin’s theoretical contributions on imperialism and the national question.

What has to be understood is that the theoretical works produced by Lenin were written in the heat of battle, even in exile. Lenin wrote as a means to intervene in the struggle. On the other hand, there is less discussion of Lenin’s role as the organizer of the Bolshevik Party.

Lenin, Che and the working class

Lenin paid immense attention to, and developed an unparalleled understanding of, the working class and peasants of Czarist Russia.

This could not have happened if the Bolsheviks were not deeply engaged in the struggles of the masses and had not recruited workers into the ranks of their party.

Krupskaya, his companion, who was a revolutionary and leader in her own right, wrote about how feverishly Lenin, even in exile, followed every detail of what was happening in the working-class struggle. Without this work, without the building of the party, a great revolutionary development might have been missed or delayed.

What were the rallying call and demands of the Bolshevik Revolution?

“Bread, land and peace!” The Russian bourgeoisie had neither the will nor the ability as defenders of private property to fulfill these rather straightforward demands.

Poor people and the working class were hungry and starving, the peasants despised the landlords, and the soldiers who came from both the working class and the peasants, who were used as cannon fodder in the imperialist war, were weary, exhausted and ready to turn their guns around.

The workers in the cities wanted power!

Revolutions, uprisings and insurrections are perhaps the most democratic expression of the will of the mass of people. As Marxists, we recognize this.

[On another field of battle], Comandante Che Guevara insisted not only on teaching political theory to the peasants and workers in the mountains of Cuba, but also on requiring literacy as a prerequisite for participating in the guerilla army. He had the confidence in the poorest of the poor in Cuba.

This story shines light on the Che quote referenced many times, his statement that revolutionaries are guided by great feelings of love.

I’m positive that the love Che refers to is not the ridiculous Hallmark-card version of love, but rather the deeper sentiment of concern, service and care for the people which involves action and sacrifice — the kind of action that Che took in teaching peasants to read and write.

I’m convinced that this work was not without huge frustrations. Many of those who deeply hated the Ba-

tista regime came into the struggle with backward ideas, including anti-communism. There were a lot of rumors that “Che was a rotten, evil communist.”

They came with the prejudices that are the stamp of the old society.

Love is not always about not being angry or not struggling; it is about persevering, hanging in there and not giving up! In this case, love means not giving up on the broad working class, regardless of all of its characteristics. More importantly, love means not giving up on each other.

Our party takes a page from the Bolsheviks

Our party has an amazing history guided by our founding leaders: Sam Marcy, Vince Copeland, Dorothy Ballan and others. Sam continuously insisted that the party turn its face to the workers and that it had to particularly recruit and defend the oppressed communities.

The All Peoples Congress, which was convened in Detroit on Oct. 18, 1981, in response to the crisis of Reaganism, was the conception of Marcy and was characteristic of many of Sam’s tactics and strategies.

The 2,000-plus delegates who convened this congress called for “Days of Resistance” and called for assemblies everywhere. In a very modest way it borrowed its conception from the early Soviets.

Today, we cannot allow the fight against Trump to be co-opted by the Democratic Party. Instead of the sickening, mind-numbing attacks on Russia, which have done nothing but sideline the masses, the fight instead must be against white supremacy; against the wave of anti-immigrant attacks; about health care; about women, LGBTQ and trans rights; and about the general misery and state of affairs for the working class. The fight should be to turn the lights back on in Puerto Rico!

Build Workers World Party! Fight for Socialism!

Workers and oppressed of the world unite! □



Sharon Black

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

TEAR DOWN WHITE SUPREMACY

BULLETIN: Durham, N.C., activists charged in toppling a Confederate statue were once again in court Dec. 5 to defend themselves, with their case continued to Jan. 11, 2018. They ask supporters to keep making those phone calls to ‘drop all charges’ to the Durham County District Attorney, **919-808-3010**.



This article is excerpted from a talk given at the National Day of Mourning on Nov. 23 at Cole’s Hill in Plymouth, Mass. James is co-chair of United American Indians of New England. The full talk is available at workers.org.

‘We will protest until oppression ends’

By Moonanum James
Plymouth, Mass.

Once again on the fourth Thursday in November, United American Indians of New England and our supporters are gathered to observe the National Day of Mourning. Today marks the 48th time we have come here in all kinds of weather to mourn our ancestors and speak the truth about our history. Many elders who stood on this hill and organized that first Day of Mourning are no longer with us, but we feel their spirits guiding us today.

1970: First National Day of Mourning

The National Day of Mourning should always have been part of the history of this country. Forty-seven years ago, my father, an Aquinnah Wampanoag man named Wamsutta Frank James, was invited to address a gathering of so-called “dignitaries” celebrating the 350th anniversary of the pilgrims’ stumbling ashore. When asked to provide an advance copy of [his] speech, Wamsutta agreed.

Within days, Wamsutta was told his words were not acceptable. Fearing the truth, the gathering’s planners told him he could speak only if he was willing to speak false words in praise of the white man.

Wamsutta refused. National Day of Mourning came into being as a result of his refusal to speak untrue words. Instead, he and hundreds of Indigenous People from throughout the Americas gathered here and observed the first National Day of Mourning in 1970.

Plymouth is planning to celebrate 400 years of the same myth in 2020. I don’t think that anyone from UAINE, myself included, is going to be invited to address that banquet! Rest assured that no advance copy of our remarks will be sent.

The first ‘thanks-taking’

What really happened at the first “thanksgiving” — or what some of us call

the first “thanks-taking”? According to popular myth, the Indians (us) and the white folks (them) sat down and had a wonderful dinner. Everyone lived happily ever after.

Here is the truth: The first thanksgiving did not take place in 1621. ... The first official day of thanksgiving feasting in Massachusetts was proclaimed by Gov. John Winthrop of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1637. He did this to give thanks for the safe return of men from the colony who had gone to what is now Mystic, Conn., to participate in the massacre of over 700 men, women and children of the Pequot Nation. ...

The pilgrims did not find an empty land any more than Columbus “discovered” anything. Every inch of this land is Indigenous. The pilgrims who called themselves “saints” did not come here seeking religious freedom. ... They came here as a commercial venture.

The Mayflower Compact was nothing more than a group of men sticking together to get a return on their investment. They introduced sexism, racism and a class system to the shores. They did not even land at Plymouth Rock — a monument to racism and oppression we are proud to say we buried, not once, but twice — in 1970 and in 1995.

There are now two plaques erected by Plymouth, one on Cole’s Hill to honor Day of Mourning, and another to honor Metacom or King Philip in Post Office Square, part of an agreement we signed with Plymouth in 1998. Those of us here in 1997 will never forget what happened [when police arrested 25 peaceful protesters]. After a powerful show of unity, Plymouth was forced to drop the charges and erect the plaques. At least, there are now two rocks in Plymouth that speak the truth!

‘We will protest until oppression ends’

These plaques do not end the need for us to continue to come to Plymouth and speak



WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

Elder Bert Waters reading Leonard Peltier’s statement at the 2017 National Day of Mourning, flanked by his grandsons.

the truth. We will do so as long as sports teams and schools use racist team names and mascots. We will continue to gather on this hill until the U.S. military and corporations stop polluting our mother, the Earth. We will continue to stand here and protest until racism is made illegal.

We will not stop until the oppression of our Two-Spirited sisters and brothers is a thing of the past, when the homeless have homes, when people from Mexico and Central and South America are no longer targeted. When no person goes hungry or is left to die because they have little or no access to quality health care. When union busting is a thing of the past. Until then the struggle will continue.

That first Day of Mourning in 1970 was a powerful demonstration of Native unity. Today is a powerful demonstration not only of Indigenous unity, but also the unity of all people who want to speak truth to power — people who want to see an end to the oppressive system brought to these shores by the pilgrim invaders.

Today, on liberated territory, we will correct some history in a country that still glorifies butchers such as Christopher Columbus, glorifies slave-owning presidents, such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson — and even carves their faces into the sacred Black Hills of the Lakota.

Native speakers will be our only speakers today. This is one day when we speak for ourselves without non-Native people, so-called “experts,” intervening to interpret and speak for us. Our very presence frees this land from the lies of the history books, the profiteers and the mythmakers. ...

To our beautiful Native youth, I say learn about and remember what your ancestors went through to bring you here. We are like the dirt, the sand and the tides. We shall endure. In the spirit of Crazy Horse, in the spirit of Metacom, in the spirit of Geronimo, and above all to all people who fight and struggle for real justice, we are not vanishing. We are not conquered. We are as strong as ever. □

★ Excerpts based on talks given on Nov. 18 - Nov. 19 at the 2017 Workers World Party national conference

Low-wage and oppressed workers in the struggle

When most people hear the word “worker,” they imagine probably a scruffy-looking white dude in denim overalls with a wrench in his back pocket or some shit like that. Sure, lots of workers look like that. However, the majority of workers don’t fit that description at all.

What’s a worker? A worker, in the Marxist sense, is someone who sells their labor power for a wage and does not own the means of production.

That’s most of us in this room.

We aren’t just talking about people with union jobs. A large portion of the working class goes unrecognized. We believe that the revolution will be led by the most oppressed elements of society, because they have the least to lose and the most to gain.

The antagonisms are much more severe for the lower strata of the working class: Black and migrant workers, queer workers, disabled workers, sex workers, etc., and therefore these elements of the working class have the most revolutionary potential, historically.

When Brother Bobby and Brother Huey were organizing and recruiting for the Black Panther Party, one of the most advanced Black Liberation movements in the U.S. to this very day, where did they go?

They didn’t sweep the university halls for philosophers or look around in coffee shops or join leftist book discussion groups.

They went straight to the oppressed communities with the science of Marxism-Leninism because they knew that poor Black folks were feeling the sharpest end

of the blade of capitalism.

The Chinese Revolution could not have happened without the peasantry. Even the Russian Revolution required an alliance with rural farmers.

There will be no revolution here without two things. The first is an understanding of the concept of the global working class. There are two camps: the oppressed and the oppressors, the imperialists and the anti-imperialists, the capitalists and the communists. Any win against imperialism is a win for our class camp.

[The second is] understanding that the “lumpenproletariat” — part-time, non-union, non-legal, low-wage workers — are part of the global working class and necessary for the building of a revolutionary force against capitalism, imperialism and white supremacy.

Historically, the people with the most revolutionary potential are the people who, under no conditions, could gain anything from playing into the capitalist game of destruction.

Imagine the revolutionary potential of a low-wage worker. Working three jobs under horrible conditions and abusive management, just barely making enough to support their family and feed themselves. Watching their water be shut off for petty delinquencies, while corporations rack up thousands of dollars in unpaid water bills, but go unpunished. They know what this system does.

Imagine the revolutionary potential of these hustlers and drug dealers and gang members, disenfranchised from society and the job market by the strategic dismem-

berment of their neighborhoods and families, and the police war on Black and Brown people. They know what this system does.

Imagine the revolutionary potential of every prisoner, unjustly imprisoned, tortured and exploited by the “justice system.” Denied health care, privacy, basic human rights.

If anyone knows the effects of capitalism, if anyone wants to see this system crumble, it’s them.

We have to show solidarity with Black Lives Matter, BYP100 and any other organization of oppressed people fighting against this racist system. As a multinational, working-class, socialist, anti-imperialist organization in the imperialist center, that’s one of the ways we operate.

We have a responsibility to our class and to the struggle to be in solidarity with any force fighting against capitalism and racist oppression.

We know that the racist Republicans, the Democratic-rackers and social chauvinists are leading the people astray. Through building class consciousness among the most oppressed, moving through the people like a fish through water, we will see the end of the oppressive, Western regime and the hyper-exploitation of the people at home and abroad.

U.S. imperialism? Down with it!
Racist cops? Down with them!
White supremacists? Down with them!
Capitalism? Down with it!



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Mond Jones

WORKERS WORLD

editorial

☆

Behind the

unthinkable

A potential crime of historic proportions is being openly discussed and evaluated in the U.S. imperialist media. They're debating the pros and cons of whether or not millions of people should have their lives snuffed out in an instant, instead of immediately rejecting that possibility.

The "analysts" are discussing the nuclear destruction of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by the Pentagon. That there can possibly be "two sides" in such a discussion is itself a confession of how bankrupt this imperialist system has become.

The DPRK has declared it now has a reliable nuclear deterrent to any U.S. attack and has completed tests of both nuclear weapons and the missiles that could deliver them to targets in the U.S.

Despite this, the U.S. just carried out its most threatening war "games" ever, right on the border of the DPRK.

Many voices in the U.S. foreign policy establishment have recently admitted publicly that the DPRK's nuclear program is motivated by its need for defense, and even cite the havoc the U.S. wreaked on countries like Iraq and Libya once they

lacked the ability to retaliate. Yet voices associated with the Trump administration are calling for an increase in the threats, some even including an all-out war.

What kind of apocalyptic thinking breeds such a stance? Is it all bluster? They should already know that bluster does not work with the DPRK.

It should be noted that the People's Republic of China takes these U.S. military exercises very seriously. An article in the People's Daily of Dec. 4 reported:

"The DPRK foreign ministry spokesman said this drill would be unprecedented in its size and nature of simulating actual combat situation and have the highest number of U.S. major strategic assets including the F-22 Raptor and F-35 stealth fighters.

"The U.S. is publicly touting the objective of the drill as enhancing the actual combat capability to disable the DPRK's major strategic bases in the early stages of war," the spokesman noted.

"He pointed out that Washington has just wound up a large-scale nuclear war drill against the DPRK which involved three nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

strike groups. Such exercises are fueling the speculation that a U.S. nuclear attack on the DPRK is indeed possible and plausible.

"The Trump team is begging for a nuclear war by staging an extremely dangerous nuclear gamble on the Korean Peninsula," he said."

In quoting the DPRK foreign ministry, China is sending a message to the U.S. warhawks.

What impels the U.S. rulers toward war?

At the end of World War II, the U.S. ruling class controlled the only nuclear arsenal in the world. U.S. productive capacity, virtually untouched by the war's destruction elsewhere, amounted to 50 percent of the entire world's gross domestic product. Its corporations could, and did, scour the globe in search of super-profits, with little competition.

Today, the U.S. is still the world's biggest military power. But even as the ruling class here has enriched itself to astronomical proportions at the expense of workers everywhere, the relative economic strength of the U.S. has shrunk

A map of the Korean Peninsula and surrounding regions. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is labeled in the north, and South Korea is labeled in the south. The 38th parallel is marked as the dividing line. To the west, China is labeled, and to the north, Russia is labeled. Major cities like Pyongyang, Incheon, Seoul, and Pusan are indicated on the peninsula.

significantly compared to that of other imperialist countries — consider Western Europe and Japan — and also compared to that of People's China, once home to hundreds of millions of peasants on the edge of starvation. Bloomberg News predicts China will overtake the U.S. in GDP within a decade.

The unbridled ideologues of the right, who this administration has moved to the top, would rather risk a holocaust than yield on their ambition to rule and exploit the world. But the DPRK, a small socialist country, has shown unparalleled courage in refusing to be pushed around.

That may strike fear into the hearts of the U.S. imperialist ruling class, but it should encourage all who struggle to build a world free of class and national oppression. □

Get rid of Trumpism? FBI no, mass resistance YES!

Continued from page 1

advance warning of the deal with Flynn.

While the ruling class is salivating over the planned tax cuts for billionaires, oil companies, real estate moguls, etc., they are also applauding Trump's attack on all forms of regulations that limit the damage the bosses can do to the workers, the environment, immigrants, education and so on.

But while they are using Trump for their own enrichment, the imperialist rulers don't want him to tear apart the global system of alliances and networks of subversion that they have built up over decades to protect their profit interests.

The announcement of Flynn's plea deal came shortly after White House plans to move CIA Director Mike Pompeo into Rex Tillerson's post as secretary of state were made public. Tillerson is no dove. He was CEO of the biggest private oil company in the world, ExxonMobil. He is a reactionary, worth hundreds of millions of dollars, who spent his career dealing with the heads of oil states and planning the plunder of oil-rich countries.

Tillerson: watchdog for Wall Street

Yet Tillerson is a watchdog for Wall Street who has differed with Trump on many things and has tried to uphold many of U.S. imperialism's standard political positions in the world.

Tillerson helped keep Trump from pulling out of the Iran nuclear agreement. He opposed pulling out of the Paris environmental accord. He held out for negotiations on the Korean crisis and was publicly rebuked by Trump, who said Tillerson was "wasting his time." Tillerson was opposed to Trump's alignment with Saudi Arabia's blockade of Qatar, where there is a giant U.S. airbase. He tried to patch up U.S. relations with NATO after Trump called the NATO alliance "obsolete."

When asked about Trump's views that there were "good people" among the torch-carrying fascists in Charlottesville, Va., Tillerson replied that Trump "speaks for himself." And it has been reported that Tillerson had deep reservations about the Muslim travel ban. These are

It is harmful to the masses to let a faction of the ruling class lead the battle against Trump. Mueller and his grouping will do it in an entirely unprincipled way which will do nothing to impede the attacks on the people.

all standard, mainstream imperialist positions expressing the basic interests of Wall Street and the Pentagon.

Pompeo: extreme Islamophobe, warhawk, Trump confidante

But Pompeo is far more right wing. He spends hours with Trump every day, traveling from Langley, Va., to the White House to brief Trump on developments. He is an ultra-warhawk who has spoken of assassinating north Korean leader Kim Jong Un, sabre-rattled at Iran, and is a fanatical Islamophobe on the same wavelength as the neofascist Britain First organization.

Unlike Tillerson, Pompeo is regarded as a trusted consultant by Trump. Trump just retweeted three concocted and violent anti-Muslim videos to his 144 million followers that came from Britain First. Pompeo defended the tweets.

Pompeo is also an ally of Frank Gaffney, who runs the Center for Security Policy. Gaffney considers following the Koran to be "sedition," which should be prosecuted. Pompeo has been on Gaffney's radio program 20 times. Pompeo has publicly agreed with Gaffney that President Barack Obama was anti-Christian and pro-Islamic State group. (theatlantic.com, Dec. 3)

For the moment, Trump has pulled back on the removal of Tillerson, undoubtedly in response to the Mueller attack.

Democratic Party leaders, liberals, moderates push Russian card against Trump

The anti-Trump sectors of the ruling class, and especially the ruling-class advisory ranks in the media and the think tanks, as well as the Democratic Party leadership, are hoping that Mueller will

be able to bring down Trump or push him back over the Russian connections. That is because they do not want to confront him politically for his racism, sexism and bigotry and his warmongering, Islamophobic, anti-working class, authoritarian style of rule.

The liberals and moderates, especially the Democratic Party leadership, feel that Trump and his family and administration are vulnerable because they are so entangled with Russian officials and capitalists. These anti-Trump forces have elected to confront him on a reactionary, anti-Russia basis, rather than on the basis of his reactionary policies and politics.

For them, the anti-Russia campaign has the twin virtues of keeping Pentagon military contracts flowing as well as promoting a geostrategic position of the military encirclement of Russia. That is what the attempt to seize all of Ukraine was about. Now U.S. battalions and anti-missile batteries are being moved within miles of Russia. The excuse given for these hostile maneuvers is that they are aimed at protecting Poland and the Baltic satellites of NATO.

Trump's Russia entanglements and the banks

Trump's vulnerability flows from his years of dealing with Russian oligarchs. During the 1990s and after the 2007 economic crisis, Trump's access to big imperialist banks ran dry.

As this author wrote in an article titled "Behind the firing of Comey: A struggle within the U.S. ruling class," which appeared in the May 16 issue of Workers World:

"[T]he only big bank that has lent mon-

ey to Trump in recent years is Deutsche Bank, which was recently fined \$630 million for laundering \$10 billion worth of Russian money. (cnn.com, Jan. 31) The big New York Wall Street banks won't lend to him because he has gone bankrupt six times, stiffing investors, contractors and workers." (Wash. Post, Sept. 26, 2016, and wsj.com, March 20, 2016)

John Norris and Carolyn Kenney wrote of his relation to Russian oligarchs in "Trump's Conflicts of Interest in Russia": "As Fortune Magazine notes, during the 1990s, Trump found himself more than \$4 billion in debt to more than 70 banks, and a series of bankruptcies, heavy financial losses, and debt restructuring lead almost all major American banks to simply refuse to do business with him. ... [H]e began to rely very heavily on foreign banks for his lending." (americanprogress.org, June 14)

Many more examples could be cited, including how a former Soviet official turned capitalist opened up his world headquarters in Trump Tower. But there is not space enough in this article to elaborate.

Trump, in other words, was too crooked for the crooks on Wall Street. But the Russian oligarchs, who had become billionaires overnight by plundering the destroyed socialist economy after the counterrevolution, first under Boris Yeltsin and then under Vladimir Putin, had money to spare to be invested and laundered. The Trump family, being shut out of Wall Street financing, was inevitably drawn to them.

Of course, politics follows the money, and the Trump family became entangled with Russia, financially and perhaps politically. This is what makes Trump legally vulnerable under U.S. capitalist law. It is on this that the neoliberals, Democratic Party bigwigs and anti-Trump sectors of the ruling class are pinning their hopes.

Workers and oppressed must take advantage of split to fight back

Whatever the particulars of the case, it would be to the detriment of the working class to let the ruling class lead the battle against Trump.

Continued on page 11

Hondurans fill streets, resist electoral fraud

Dec. 5 bulletin: Observers in Tegucigalpa report that the national police, including an elite unit previously trained by U.S. experts called the COBRAS, have refused to enforce the curfew ordered by the U.S.-backed regime. This is the first indication that the massive popular uprising has driven a wedge into the apparatus of state repression itself.

By Martha Grevatt

Dec. 4 — Amid substantial allegations of mass electoral fraud, the Honduran government is moving to impose the dictatorship of Juan Orlando Hernández on the people for another four years, using its U.S.-backed Honduran military forces.

Tens of thousands of people defied the army-police takeover of the capital of Tegucigalpa in a mass march and rally. People around the country are erecting roadblocks and flaming barricades, blocking toll booths and occupying strategic bridges in the port city of La Ceiba.

Salvador Nasralla Salum, candidate of the Opposition Alliance Against the Dictatorship (the Alianza), called for a general strike on Dec. 5 and called on “all members of the armed forces to revolt against your bosses. You all over there, you shouldn’t be there, you should be part of the people.” (CBC News, Dec. 4)

Washington and Honduras’ wealthy oligarchs back the current president and right-wing National Party candidate Hernández, referred to as JOH. Washington, under President Barack Obama and now under Donald Trump, has given tens of millions of dollars to the heavily militarized Honduran state.

Soon after the Nov. 26 election, Nasralla appeared to be the clear winner.

Nasralla led by 5 points

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) announced that, with 57 percent of the ballots counted, Nasralla had 45.7 percent of the vote, with 40.2 percent to Hernández and the rest to other candidates. Records of the Alianza, which had its own poll workers at every polling place, also show Nasralla winning by 5 percentage points.

Yet, after some suspicious technical problems lasting as long as 10 hours, only after four days did the TSE claim that, as the rural votes were tallied, JOH had retaken a tiny lead. JOH had appointed all TSE members. The Alianza refuses to accept the TSE’s offer to recount only around 1,000 ballot boxes.

In 2013, the TSE declared Hernández the victor over Xiomara Castro Zelaya, candidate of the LIBRE (Liberty and Re-foundation) Party.

International human rights observers, including this writer, witnessed and heard firsthand testimony of widespread

fraud, voter obstruction, bribery of the extremely poor, and intimidation that included physical assaults and assassinations of LIBRE candidates and campaign workers.

Xiomara Castro Zelaya is the spouse of former President Mel Zelaya, who was ousted in a 2009 U.S.-backed coup. The people resisted the 2009 coup and took to the streets en masse after the 2013 stolen election.

Under JOH’s rule, the Honduran police and army increased their repression beyond that of the illegitimate coup regime of 2009-13. Rights activists, Indigenous communities, Afro-Hondurans, women, teachers, journalists, LGBT people, children and youth, and trade unionists have been terrorized and murdered by police, military and right-wing paramilitaries. Murders included those of environmental activist Berta Cáceres and human-rights leader Margarita Murillo.

This year, the people again challenged the dictatorship. Formed earlier this year, the Alianza consists of three opposition parties: LIBRE, the Anti-Corruption Party and the Party of Innovation and Unity.

Nasralla was the presidential candidate of the Anti-Corruption Party in 2013. Xiomara Zelaya was his running mate this time. The Alianza is essentially a center-left bloc against the dictatorship.

‘¡Fuera JOH!’

Protests demanding “¡Fuera JOH!” (JOH out!) have rocked the country since this repeat of the 2013 stolen election.

JOH’s regime responded by suspending the Constitution for 10 days, imposing a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew and threatening to enforce an “anti-terrorism” law that could impose a 6- to 12-year prison sentence for protesting. It allows prosecutors to charge journalists for incitement to “psychological terrorism.”

Police and the military have fired on protesters with water cannons and paint guns — using the paint to later identify demonstrators. Scores have been wounded and detained. Government forces have reportedly killed at least eight people.

Told that the TSE forwarded its records on the election to the U.S. Embassy, Juan Barahona, coordinator of the National Front of Popular Resistance, said: “Yes, I do understand why. ... It’s because we are a country dependent on the [U.S.] Amer-

ican Empire.”

Barahona said the U.S. interest in Honduras involved its central location in the Americas. Over decades, the Pentagon has launched military interventions against Cuba, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. With the Pentagon’s sights trained on Venezuela, Palmerola Air Base in Honduras is the military facility with the longest airplane runway in Central America.

The Dole and Chiquita agribusiness monopolies have huge plantations in Honduras. Honduran company Dinant, whose shareholders include major world finance capitalists, is a big producer of African palm oil.

Since the 2009 coup, the reactionary regimes have handed over large tracts of land and waterways to foreign mining interests, areas formerly held communally by Afrodescendente and Indigenous communities.

On Nov. 29, the Platform of Social and Popular Movements of Honduras (PMSPH) issued a five-point communique declaring its “absolute and categorical rejection of the fraudulent electoral

process that legitimizes the continuity of the model of repression and death, directed by Juan Orlando Hernández.”

The platform called for “a permanent mobilization” of the people, exhorted communities to organize their own protection from the military, held the JOH government responsible for human rights violations, and charged the U.S. government and its servants such as the Organization of American States with complicity. The communique concluded with a call for international solidarity.

Solidarity is growing. The Venezuelan government has unequivocally condemned the electoral coup. Within the U.S., organizations around the country have signed a letter of protest circulated by the Honduras Solidarity Network and held protest demonstrations. Parties of the revolutionary left in the Dominican Republic came together to issue a joint statement demanding “sovereignty, democracy and justice for Honduras.”

Grevatt was a member of the International Action Center observer delegation to Honduras during the 2013 stolen election.

Fidel Castro remembered in the former Soviet Union

By a guest author

Workers World is sharing these reports from the Donbass-Cuba Friendship Society and I.B. Khlebnikov Workers’ University to mark the first anniversary of Cuban leader Fidel Castro’s death. The text was translated by WW contributing editor Greg Butterfield.

Donetsk: On Nov. 25, an evening of memory for Fidel Castro was held in the capital of the Donetsk People’s Republic, under the slogan #YoSoyFidel (I Am Fidel). The event was organized by the Donbass-Cuba Friendship Society. The memorial brought together different kinds of people — supporters of leftist and anti-fascist ideas, students and schoolchildren, workers, journalists — all united in their interest in the history of Cuba and Latin America, as well as respect for the personality of Fidel Castro, who inspired thousands of people to fight injustice.

Svetlana Licht, a member of the Friendship Society, not only prepared a report about the personality of the leader of the Cuban Revolution, but also made Russian subtitles for an interesting video about the life of the Comandante and the #YoSoyFidel campaign. We learned a lot of new things, saw how he appeared in the eyes of ordinary Cubans, how he interacted with people and how it changed their lives. Many participants gratefully recalled the assistance provided by Cuba to the Ukrainian children who suffered from the Chernobyl disaster.

After taking pictures with Cuban flags, we continued to talk about Fidel, Cuba and the whole situation in Latin America. Despite the fact that the occasion was sad, the atmosphere at the meeting was warm and at ease.

Moscow: November 25 is a sad date. It’s exactly one year since the great son of the Cuban people passed away, perhaps the last of the giants the 20th century gave mankind. A person who, in his lifetime, became a legend — Fidel Castro.

On a frosty November evening, in a small room of the Workers’ University, hung the



state flag of Cuba and the flag of the 26th of July Movement. A heavy minute of silence was observed, and we watched a solemn and sad video of the changing of the guard at the Comandante’s tomb.

The evening’s program was very rich: a fiery speech by the secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba to the Russian Federation, Oscar Redondo; speeches by social scientists (A.V. Kharlamenko, A. Lepeshkin) about the high moral and humanistic level to which the revolutionary movement rose thanks to Fidel; the development of the revolutionary process in Cuba today; the life of the working people of the Liberated Island and the place Fidel occupies in it in the memories of E. Letova; the revolutionary songs performed by D. Chernov; and poems from the heart read by L. Rebrova.

The initiators and organizers of the meeting were the New Communist Movement, the I.B. Khlebnikov Workers’ University and Red TV. Representatives of various left parties, Moscow students, musicians, a large number of foreign guests from different countries of Latin America, all gathered — with a burning desire to pay tribute to Fidel, reaffirm the ideals that he embodied and express readiness to move along the trail he blazed.

As one of the guests wrote in the memorial book: “Fidel did not die, he dissolved into humanity.”

Original:
<https://prometej.info/blog/obyavleniya/pamyat-nuzhna-zhivym/>

Get rid of Trumpism? FBI no, mass resistance YES!

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If the top labor leadership were not in the pockets of the bosses, it would have mounted massive struggles against the tax bill, opened up the fight for universal health care and defended the 800,000 DACA immigrants, as well as the tens of thousands of immigrants from the Caribbean facing deportation.

It would fight for a massive raise in the minimum wage and, above all, open up the battle against racism/white supremacy, sexism and anti-LGBTQ oppression. It would demand U.S. troops out of the Middle East, Afghanistan, Africa and south Korea, and an end to U.S. military

exercises against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, hands off Venezuela and Honduras, and an end to the blockade of Cuba.

It would wage a struggle to shut down the Dakota Access Pipeline, not only in the interest of the environment, but in solidarity with the Native people whose land is being destroyed.

This would be the beginning of a minimal independent working-class program.

This is the way to fight Trump and Trumpism, as well as the neoliberalism of the Democratic Party imperialists. □



FOTO DE GREENLEFT.ORG

Cerrando la brecha de conciencia

MO/WW Editorial

La conciencia social a menudo va más allá de la realidad. Las cosas cambian, pero nuestra comprensión de ellas se ve obstaculizada por las viejas concepciones, nacidas de las condiciones previas.

Y luego, cuando la brecha se vuelve completamente absurda, puede haber grandes saltos hacia adelante a medida que la conciencia alcanza a la realidad en lo que parece ser un zumbido vertiginoso.

Los marxistas han entendido desde hace tiempo que las sociedades progresan no de manera uniforme o en línea recta, sino por lo que algunos llaman “desarrollo combinado y desigual”. Lenin escribió sobre el desarrollo capitalista extremadamente rápido de Alemania y Japón en la era del imperialismo, cuando alcanzaron e incluso superó algunas de las potencias coloniales europeas más establecidas en algunas décadas.

Lo que es verdad del desarrollo material también es verdad de la conciencia. No avanza lenta y uniformemente, sino que avanza hacia adelante, y a veces hacia atrás, a medida que cambian las condiciones.

¿Estamos viendo los comienzos de un cambio amplio y profundo en la conciencia dentro de los EUA? Hay muchas razones para pensar eso.

Primero, por supuesto, está la emergencia de la prominencia de los movimientos populares que han sido reprimidos durante mucho tiempo. Las luchas continuas de los negros y los latinos contra el racismo y la opresión nacional, de las mujeres contra el patriarcado, de las personas LGBTQ contra los ataques homosexuales continúan, ya que estas condiciones se ven reforzadas tanto por el estado como por el funcionamiento del capitalismo. Sin embargo, la conciencia de decenas de millones ha sido cambiada por estas luchas, hasta el punto en que el



FOTO DE WW: BRENDA RYAN

En la conferencia del Workers World Party/Partido Mundo Obrero 2017.

liberalismo capitalista debe aparecer del lado de la justicia.

Junto a esto están las muchas encuestas en los últimos años que muestran que el capitalismo se ha convertido en una mala palabra. ¿Por qué más un político millonario demagogo pero calculador como Trump hablaría tanto sobre los trabajadores? Está tratando de renovar la imagen del capitalismo vinculándolo a “buenos empleos”, culpando a otros países por “robar nuestros trabajos”.

En un momento de la historia en que la automatización, los robots, los camiones autónomos y un millón de innovaciones que ahorran mano de obra están deslum-

brando a los propietarios del capital con la promesa de desprenderse de los trabajadores para obtener mayores ganancias, los tweets de Trump se desgastarán.

En este momento, los trabajadores jóvenes están a la vanguardia de la conciencia. Vimos a algunos de ellos el 18 y 19 de noviembre en Newark, N.J., en la conferencia nacional del Workers World Party. Orgullosamente multi genero y multinacionales, hicieron un trabajo espléndido al defender y explicar la necesidad de un cambio revolucionario en este país. Y no tenían miedo de darlo a conocer a todo el mundo, a través de las redes sociales. ¡Qué cambio desde los

días en que los progresistas temían ser perseguidos y aislados!

Esta lucha solo está comenzando. Pero ya están claros los lineamientos de un futuro infinitamente mejor. Nosotros, los humanos, hemos progresado en nuestro conocimiento hasta el punto en que tenemos los medios para terminar con el trabajo agotador para que todos puedan tener lo que necesitan sin que les trabajen hasta la muerte. Una clase cada vez más pequeña de individuos cada vez más ricos se interponen en nuestro camino.

Envuelve tu cabeza en eso, y la conciencia revolucionaria seguramente seguirá. □

Ataque contra inmigrantes dirigido a todos los trabajadores

Por G. Dunkel

En su forma cruel habitual, la administración de Trump hizo obvio en la primera semana de noviembre que tiene la intención de poner fin al programa de Estatus de Protección Temporal, (EPT)

El programa EPT permite a los refugiados de países donde ha habido desastres naturales como huracanes o terremotos, o violencia política como una guerra civil, vivir y trabajar legalmente en los Estados Unidos. Lo otorga el Secretario de Seguridad Nacional con el asesoramiento del Secretario de Estado.

La mayoría de los que están dentro del EPT provienen de El Salvador (195.000), Honduras (57.000) o Haití (50.000). (Revista sobre Migración y Seguridad Humana, julio de 2017).

Cerca del 90 por ciento ahora son trabajadores en áreas metropolitanas de las costas este y oeste. Se estima que tienen

cerca de 275.000 niños, que nacieron aquí y son ciudadanos de los EE. UU. Aproximadamente un tercio está comprando una casa. El tiempo promedio que han estado viviendo en los EE. UU. es de 19 años. (Center for American Progress, 10 de octubre)

La administración de Trump proclama en voz alta que fue elegido para poner fin al EPT. Estos intolerantes identifican a las personas de color en el programa EPT, proclamando que son la razón por la cual los salarios son bajos y los empleos escasos, —en vez de admitir que así es como funciona una economía capitalista cuando puede explotar al máximo a los trabajadores porque su estado precario.

Varios economistas dicen que la presencia de trabajadores protegidos por EPT realmente beneficia a las economías de las áreas donde están concentradas. Además, el dinero que envían a las familias equivale al 15 por ciento del producto

nacional bruto de los tres países que representan la mayoría de los destinatarios de EPT. (Pew Research Center, 2015)

Pero en el esquema de Trump, inflamar la supremacía blanca e incitar al racismo vale el riesgo de compromisos menores a la economía.

Cuando Elaine Duke, la Secretaria Interina de Seguridad Nacional, decidió que no tenía suficiente información sobre Honduras y extendió el EPT para los hondureños otros seis meses, John Kelly, el general retirado que es el jefe de personal de Trump, la llamó a larga distancia de Asia para decirle que reconsiderara. Ella se negó y dijo que se retiraría cuando se confirmara una secretaria permanente.

La decisión del EPT para los haitianos vendrá a finales de enero y para los salvadoreños a principios de marzo.

Una cantidad de haitianos que se habían mudado a Brasil para trabajos relacionados con las Olimpiadas y los juegos

de la Copa del Mundo intentaron ingresar a los Estados Unidos en EPT. Terminaron yendo a Canadá cuando no pudieron ingresar a los EE. UU. Hay comunidades haitianas importantes en Montreal y la ciudad de Quebec.

Hasta agosto, un gran número de haitianos cruzaron desde los EE. UU. A Canadá y solicitaron asilo. Si hubieran intentado un cruce legal, se requeriría que Canadá los envíe de vuelta en virtud de los tratados existentes con Washington. Pero un cruce “ilegal” les permite solicitar asilo.

El gobierno canadiense se está preparando para una gran afluencia de refugiados de los EE. UU., Especialmente si la protección de EPT se retira a los 195,000 salvadoreños en marzo. El sistema canadiense para escuchar solicitudes de asilo está muy retrasado, pero las personas con un reclamo de asilo pendiente pueden obtener trabajo antes de que se escuche su caso. (Globe and Mail, 7 de noviembre) □