Durham, N.C., campaign

‘Housing, not evictions!’

By Zachary Richardson
Durham, N.C.

As the rate of evictions in this rapidly gentrifying city reaches a fever pitch, people here have banded together to demand that the Durham Housing Authority stop displacing residents over the winter season and recognize housing as a human right.

According to Legal Aid of North Carolina, DHA’s attempted evictions in 2019 affected a full 40 percent of its residents. The year’s eviction rate wildly outpaced several major neighboring cities, such as Greensboro (5 percent), Raleigh (1.7 percent) and Charlotte (1.2 percent).

The Emergency Committee to Stop DHA Evictions—a broad, diverse coalition of residents and activists—announced the launch of a new campaign on Dec. 20 outside the Housing Authority. The committee presented a petition supporting its demands, including a moratorium on evictions through March 31.

Activist Loan Tran quoted the petition: “Historical trends indicate that the number of evictions increase over the holidays, which puts families and vulnerable individuals in even more precarity.”

In fact, while the number of evictions has gone down since a midsummer high, evictions again began to increase in October and November—at double the rate during the same period in 2018.

The campaign comes at a time when the city of Durham is undergoing massive shifts in racial demographics and wealth concentration, as longtime, less wealthy residents are being pushed out by newer, comparatively monied, and often white, new arrivals.

According to research by The Herald-Sun, "Since 2010, six [Durham] census tracts have seen their median household income levels rise by more than 40 percent.

The county’s median household income increased 8.4 percent over the same period. The same is true of median house value, where five census tracts saw median house value rise by more than 25 percent from 2010-2016." (April 24, 2018)

The $95 million housing bond is supposed to be used in part to redevelop five much-needed community housing projects in Durham. Black Youth Project 100, Durham chapter Co-Chair AJ Williams said that DHA needed to show it is capable of meeting community needs in return for that large investment: “We demand that not a dime of the housing bond be released to DHA until it stops its out-of-control eviction filings.”

The Coalition’s petition gathered over 1,000 signatures in a few days, with support from over 20 organizations, including the Durham City Workers Union (UE 150), Durham Workers Assembly, NC Raise Up for $15, National Domestic Workers—We Dream in Black, Black Youth Project 100, Durham, NC State AFL-CIO, Durham Association of Educators, the Human Relations Commission, Carolina Jews for Justice and others.

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Protest in Philadelphia against corporate sexual abuse, racism

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Rylinha Rhodes was loud and clear, speaking here at a Dec. 18 rally outside Comcast world corporate headquarters: “I am a survivor of workplace sexual harassment at Comcast. ... You do not have the right to touch me. I have a right to be protected in my workplace. Comcast, listen to your survivors!” Rhodes worked as a Comcast call center for five years.

Then Sil Lai Abrams spoke as a survivor of sexual harassment and assaults at NBC, which is owned by Comcast: “How can a survivor who comes to you with their story of victimization, and asks you to be heard? ... You are supposed to help humanity. Instead you are a mega-media-conglomerate with tentacles that extend around the globe. In choosing to silence me, and other survivors at NBC as well, it’s an act of cowardice and an act of injustice that helps fuel rape culture. ... We will not be silenced!”

Rhodes and Abrams were joined by over a dozen workers, community members and the women’s advocacy group UltraViolet at the evening rush-hour rally in frigid temperatures. As the rally continued, a mobile billboard truck with two-foot-tall letters, “Survivors Demand Justice at Comcast” and “Comcast—Silencing Survivors,” drove around and around the Comcast skyscrapers.

‘Who do we believe? Survivors!’

Despite demonstrators calling for the corporation to fire NBC News President Noah Oppenheim, and anyone else who covered up harassment and discrimination to protect powerful abusers, NBC renewed Oppenheim’s contract.

Protesters also called for Comcast to put in place new policies to eliminate sexual harassment, abuses of power and discrimination. Organizers asked supporters to call Comcast’s Senior Director of Communications, Matt Heimke, at 215-286-8666 with those demands.

Comcast call-center employees have described experiencing a culture of sexual harassment and a hostile work environment. Employees report they have been retaliated against by both NBC and Comcast for coming forward.

UltraViolet Executive Director Shauna Thomas explained: “The toxic work environment that Comcast and NBC Universal has fostered goes far deeper than one or two show-business or two bad apples. Between the dangerous approach of addressing abuse in the workplace only when it is exposed in the media, and their knack for launching bogus ‘internal’ investigations against perpetrators of harassment and abuse at the company, enough is enough. There is no holiday cheer in a toxic workplace, and Comcast’s 189,000 employees deserve better.”

Comcast is only one of many corporations that harbor toxic cultures hostile to women and trans people. Workers are increasingly demanding accountability from institutions, the media and individuals who create and tolerate workplaces with sexual abuse, perpetuate sexist narratives or seek to limit the rights, safety and economic security of women and gender-nonconforming people.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization not only aimed to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward! 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, attacks on immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means homelessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and profits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

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 capital 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.

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

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Philadelphia students protest anti-Muslim laws in India

By Joe Piette

Over 60 demonstrators protested on Dec. 19 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia against India Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government that pose immediate threats against Muslims and their citizenship rights in India. Speakers, signs and chants denounced passage of a discriminatory amendment to India’s citizenship laws and the creation of a national registry of citizens, which critics say will be used to deport or deport large numbers of legitimate Muslim citizens in India.

The Citizenship Amendment Act, combined with the National Registry of Citizens, would effectively make millions of poor Indian Muslims stateless.

Opponents argue that these proposed laws would put an end to the civil rights of the underserved communities across the U.S. provided desperately needed medical aid for the beleaguered people of Gaza. The IRS concession absolves our right of response to stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza and to engage in peaceful public disobedience of the U.S. government’s unjust and criminal blockade of the island nation.

In the words of our attorney, this reinvention is a clear signal of IFCO’s principled stand to serve as a fiscal sponsor of the Viva Palestina project that provided desperately needed medical aid for the beleaguered people of Gaza.

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The British elections and the defeat of the Labour Party

By Larry Holmes

This is a slightly edited talk from the Dec. 19 Workers World Party forum in New York City.

I thought we should take this opportunity to talk about the Dec.12 British elections. I’m not going to go into the comprehensiveness of an analysis of it. What I’m going to do is reflect on it.

First thing, you know this is important and that’s the problem with the bourgeois media and bourgeoisie to the media. The British Labour Party is not the same as the Democratic Party. There are similarities, but there are also important historic differences. As a matter of fact, one of the reasons why the Democratic Party has existed, especially over the last 70 to 80 years, is actually to thwart any movement to form such a party — either a revolutionary workers’ party or a moderate labor party — that say’s no to that kind of question to the serious and the constant.

The Tories, the Conservative Party, gained with Labour losing badly and not in a revolutionary way, but nonetheless important. Their election manifesto for 2019 compares in a distinctive way, not in a revolutionary way. The Labour Party in Britain is like the social democratic parties all over Europe and all over the world. It is a product of the development of social democracy, of the political development and struggles inside the working movement between revolutionary Marxists and reformist social democrats.

So it has a different history than the Democratic Party. It is sort of an alliance, representing the workers and the interests of the British ruling class. Obviously, that’s a contradictory thing. It’s an uneasy alliance. For most of the last century, the ruling class has dominated the alliance. Four years ago, Jeremy Corbyn, an important leftist leader, got into the Labour Party and became its leader, I believe, on the basis of the vote of thousands upon thousands of young workers — who, like a lot of young people in this country, were adversely affected not only by the global financial crash, but it certainly affected them. It affected worse. It was a significant development.

Corbyn pushed the party to the left in a distinctive way, not in a revolutionary way, but in a way that is important. Its election manifesto for 2019 compares favorably to anything Bernie Sanders is raising Corbyn put to the left of Sanders, not only on some domestic issues, but also in terms of the anti-war movement. He has mostly broken with Israel.

Ruling class, media demonized Corbyn

Why did the elections turn out the way they did with Labour losing badly and the Tories, the Conservative Party, gaining ground Number one: There were the vicious attacks on Corbyn. Since we aren’t there, we don’t feel it. But there didn’t feel like the heat and the seriousness and the constant effort of the bourgeois media and bourgeois politicians to demonize Corbyn.

This is different from any discussion of Corbyn being anti-Semitic, primarily because he criticizes Israel. The military came out and almost held a press conference denouncing the imperialists in uniform, saying that if he was elected it would represent a threat to the national security of “our country.” It’s an honest campaign.

We didn’t have that kind of thing. But there was a lot of discussion about Corbyn being anti-Semitic, primarily because he criticizes Israel. The military came out and almost held a press conference denouncing the imperialists in uniform, saying that if he was elected it would represent a threat to the national security of “our country.” It’s an honest campaign.

One of the major problems in this election was Brexit — the vote in the summer of 2016 to leave the European Union and just be under the thumb of the British ruling class. If everybody was truthful, it should have been made as clear as possible that this was a dead end for the working class.

Sure, the bourgeoisie of the European Union is horrible. We are against them, but to trade the European bourgeoisie as your master for the British bourgeoisie is a dead end for the working class.

Solidarity with migrant workers is key

If even if it lost Corbyn some votes, he should have said very strongly: “I am with the migrant workers. They are part of our class.” One of the reasons why the Labour Party’s going to have to strengthen its internationalism is to talk about the Dec.12 British elections. I’m not going to give a comprehensive analysis of it. What I’m going to do is reflect on it.

We should be talking about how to rally a massive strike of workers and their allies around the world — which means the entire working class. Perhaps the chances of Corbyn and the Labour Party winning were very, very slim because of Brexit and other things.

It’s not just about the workers. It also represents a division in the British ruling class. But as far as we’re concerned, its principal target — in terms of division and using racism — was definitely the working class.

But that wasn’t the case last week. Also, the ruling class inside the Tory Party and the ruling class inside the Labour Party were united against Corbyn. That’s where their class unity transcended their party loyalty.

If you’re going to lose an election from a tactical and political perspective, maybe some in the Labour Party were optimistic. I’m sure they fought to the last minute before the elections.

If you thought it was going to go your way — and a lot of them had a lot of questions about that because they were aware of the war being waged against the Labour Party — sometimes it’s better if you’re going to lose an election to be politically strong. And not equivocate on principled issues, so that at the very least you’ve laid the basis for future struggle.

We can’t put ourselves in Corbyn’s place. Generally our party stays away from hav- ing some up-and-down analysis of the situation that the working class and the left faces in another country. Although we do maintain our right comment on it. It would have been better if Corbyn had come out more strongly as an internationalist. No one was defending the migrant workers. They are part of our class.

No to racism! Forge working-class unity!

No to racism! Forge working-class unity!

Our message is: No. We don’t choose. All of them are the working class and that’s the point. You have to talk more and more about class. For any revolution- ary who’s going to be viable and for any revolutionary party, you have to. The next phase of the global struggle for equality can be a really strong position against racism and for working-class internationalism.

Now it may seem a bit abstract, and not as important as addressing the local struggles that people are in. Whether it’s Medicare for All or free college or fighting racial police brutality in the subways or on the streets, people relate to local struggles. But sooner or later as the worldwide crisis deepens along with class struggles, internationalism is going to become more and more decisive. I wonder whether it would have been a good idea for Corbyn to call a conference in London of European socialists and revolutionaries who want to discuss how we can strengthen the class struggle against the European Union, the bankers in Germany — and bring them all together.

That would say so much. That would be a conference about anti-chauvinism and bourgeois nationalism having an effect. No, this is a leader who has an internationalist vision.

Corbyn’s existence as a leader became part of the program of the commentary of the Third International. (We had a discussion of that a few months back, as this is the hundredth anniversary of the Third International formed in Moscow in 1919.)

But if the International didn’t take that position, at least they were discussing it and calling for the workers to declare a United States of Europe, where it would be united European workers fighting the imperialist unity of bourgeois forces. That’s an important point. Soon or later we’ve got to go back to that.

Build internationalism!

I wonder what would have helped Corbyn — what would have made the difference? I wonder what’s the message that would have been interpreted as: “We’re not going to turn against migrant workers, our workers or our allies outside of our geographical boundaries.”

Maybe Corbyn should go to Paris because there is a tremendous general struggle. Even in many countries, thousands of workers out in the street in every city. You know the strike is primarily against attempts by Macron and the bourgeois to extend that kind of thing. Some people will have to work longer to get it.
Sanctions: A new generation of warfare

By Makasi Motema

Below is a slightly edited version of a talk by Makasi Motema given at a Dec. 19 Workers World Party meeting in New York City.

In the winter of 1941, the people of Leningrad survived on 125 grams of bread per day. Half of that bread was made of sawdust. In many buildings in the city wallpaper paste had been made into bread. Under their great hunger and despair, citizens began to strip the walls and boil the paste to make soup.

The cause of this suffering was the military encirclement of Leningrad by Nazi Germany during the early stages of “Operation Barbarosa,” the Nazi offensive into the Soviet Union in World War II. The German Wehrmacht quickly surrounded the city and could have easily sent troops to occupy it.

But this was ruled out early by the German high command “because it would make us responsible for food supply” for the civilians in the city (Leningrad: The Epic Siege of World War II, 1941-1944 by Anna Reid). Instead, the cold calculation was to maintain the siege. Block off all roads. Allow no supplies in or out. Allow starvation to take its course.

Since 1941, the imperialist powers of the world have grown more sophisticated, but they have not become more merciful. The United States has earmarked many governments for destruction, but like the German high command before them, they understand that a military occupation would make the U.S. responsible for feeding and caring for millions of civilians.

And like the German high command, the U.S. ruling class has settled on the cold, inhumane calculation of siege warfare. Cut all lines to survival. Do not allow supplies in or out. Allow starvation and disease to take its course.

This is so-called “modern warfare.” The goal is, through minimum effort, to create chaos and desperation among the civilian population — to facilitate and finance the evolution of general chaos into civil unrest, then political destabilization and finally regime change.

The first critical step in this process is the imposition of sanctions. The use of sanctions is as clear an act of war as occupying highway intersections, Panzer divisions. It is a means of cutting off the supplies necessary for the continuation of human life from an entire population.

Sanctions Kill campaign holds NYC planning meeting

Saturday, Dec. 14, about 40 organizers gathered at the Solidarity Center in New York City to plan a campaign against U.S.-imposed sanctions. This campaign will lead to nationwide actions on the weekend of March 13-15. In New York, a demonstration on Wall Street will be held on March 14.

During the meeting, several organizers raised the importance of political education around this issue — which is intentionally complex and opaque. That’s why the leadup to these actions will be driven by an educational campaign in social media, leafleting and teach-ins.

There is also a draft resolution calling for the immediate abolition of sanctions and a call that has already been translated into 12 languages, with more on the way. These resources can be used by any organization that wants to participate in the call to end sanctions.

The meeting was an important first step in the education process in New York City, where organizers intend to explain the way that sanctions are used as an act of war — that they are a critical tool for the U.S. and its junior partners to expand the hegemony of finance capital across the globe.

U.S. imperialism uses dollars to rule world’s economy

By G. Dunkel

The whole structure of the world’s financial system — where every day, trillions of dollars, euros and yuan zip from bank to bank, from individuals to companies, to and from all sorts of institutions — still reflects the domination of the U.S. dollar.

According to the World Bank, 50 percent of all bonds and loans issued throughout the world are valued in U.S. dollars, and the share of world commerce valued in dollars is four times the amount of world commerce coming from the U.S. Also, 60 percent of the countries in the world, which produce 70 percent of the world’s output, rely on the U.S. dollar to value their currencies.

Put another way, most of the world’s trade is in U.S. dollars, even between entities outside the U.S. The U.S. has used its only enforceable sanctioned regimes, which include not just sanctioned countries and organizations such as the “Transnational Criminal Organizations,” but essentially every day-to-day business with these sanctioned entities, change frequently. Some, like the sanctions against Cuba, have remained in force for decades. Other countries with a significant number of neocolonies, such as France, have their own sanctions policies.

Germany, whose economy produces much more per worker than does the U.S. economy, has nevertheless had to follow the U.S. decree of strict sanctions against Iran. German banks, stock markets and trading companies need access to the capital that is locked behind the U.S. dollar.

After powerful Germany folded before the might of the dollar, weaker European powers like Belgium, France and Italy fell into line on the sanctions, even though their governments complained.

The British elections

Continued from page 4

them. But there are other issues involved. Imagine if leaders of the Labour Party would have gone to Paris to say we are all with the French workers. And imagine if delegations were sent from Italy, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Poland to show solidarity with the French workers and their general strike. And, moreover, we’re going to have a continent-wide general strike so that bourgeoisie unity will no longer ring in the European Union, but it will mean working class unity.

As I said earlier, this issue of internationalism may not seem as urgent and as important at the moment, but that is going to change, especially if a war breaks out anywhere. It would do our party very well — when our efforts in history are judged — if we were the primary party at the center of world imperialism and had the strongest record not only on paper and in speeches, but in actions, that we were ready to show the direction to new kind of proletarian internationalism.

Ultimately, the way to fight racist bourgeois chauvinism and nationalism — and we’re talking about Trump as much as we’re talking about Boris Johnson or any of the neofascists in Europe — is to fight it with internationalism. You fight reactionary bourgeois nationalism with proletarian internationalism.

It wasn’t the first time German imperialism felt the power of the U.S. dollar and sanctions. After the November 1918 armistice ended the fighting in World War I, it took eight months before the peace treaty was signed in June 1919. The Allies maintained their sanctions on German ports for those eight months, while 100,000 Germans died of starvation and preventable diseases.

Sanctions let U.S. hide its role

Tank, bombs, explosives, bullets and napalm leave a clear trace. Children missing limbs because they played with the mines and bomblets that the Pentagon has dropped in great abundance can be photographed and interviewed. When the U.S. Armed Forces shoot at people and occupy a country, the people often shoot back. This popular resistance can arouse opposition in the U.S. to supporting such military measures.

On the other hand, if children die from lack of vaccines or their parents die from lack of money for blood pressure medicine, the political impact is less. And the governments in sanctioned countries can be blamed, instead of the country which imposes the sanctions. An example is media coverage of Zimbabwe.

Countries use tightly networked relationships to make trades, and many trades are monitored by computer servers located in New York City. This makes it hard for countries facing sanctions to hide their trades.

Remittances

The U.S. and French governments impose sanctions on Mali, a poor landlocked West African nation of 20 million people, which has a large migrant community in France. Mali doesn’t prevent the migrants from simply wiring money home. According to a 2015 study by the World Bank, the way most Malians in France send money home is by courier: Somebody puts the money in a belt and takes a plane.

Remittances are not the only financial weapon Washington has in its arsenal. For five countries — Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in Central Asia, Liberia and Nepal — remittances from abroad are equivalent to a quarter or more of each country’s economic output, which is traditional measured as gross domestic product.

In 2018, remittances to Haiti were slightly over 30 percent of GDP. In 2016 and the percentage of remittances was also very close to 30 percent. In absolute terms, this works out to approximately $60 million a week.

Over the past three years, hundreds of thousands of Haitians have taken to the streets to demand significant changes in government policies: lower fuel prices, higher minimum wages, support for farmers. If the Haitian government tried to make political changes that Washington opposes, the U.S. could slow down the money flow or even stop the remittances. This punishment would mean immediate, substantial damage to the economy.

The Trump administration has tried to end Temporary Protective Status for 50,000 Haitians currently living and working in the U.S. Ending TPS would protect by it, but also a major blow to Haiti’s economy. International Days of Action Against Sanctions & Economic War will be held March 13-15. The organizers say: “Sanctions kill! Sanctions are war! End sanctions now!” For more information: sanctionskill.org.
The corporate media constantly tell us that the United States is a great democracy because of its “free elections.” Never mind that Donald Trump became president with fewer votes than his main opponent. Never mind that the U.S. Senate has long been described as a “millionaires’ club.” And never mind that few limits are set on the money spent on elections — meaning that despite numerous attempts at campaign finance reform, the candidates with the closest ties to the rich and ultra-rich always win. To confirm that, the current president was a multimillionaire from New York City.

But what about other types of elections? What about when workers want to vote in a union so they can combine and strengthen their ability to fight the boss for better pay and conditions? If anything, these elections are even less “free” than the ones for political candidates.

**Criminal bosses vs. unions**

A recent report from the Economic Policy Institute shows that bosses are increasingly breaking the law to prevent workers from joining together in unions. In roughly 42 percent of all union election campaigns, the owners were found to have violated federal laws. Some crimes are even more truthful: illegal fliers are mailed to workers for union activity. (EPI, “Unlawful,” Dec. 11)

And the real numbers are undoubtedly even higher. First of all, the 42 percent of all election campaigns violated by the National Labor Relations Board. Workers in industries like agriculture and construction are even more likely to face legal space in which to live authentic lives. (Available free at lesliefeinberg.net.) Hir decades of public speaking, the author’s life work has been to teach people whose gender identity is nonbinary.” (“Trans Liberation: Beyond Gender Bigotry.”)

Struggle for trans justice continues

While in the last decade headlines on gender struggles have focused on such topics as Hollywood movies and the battle for safety in public schools, the gender activism has been waged on all fronts — from the workplace to health care to the prison-industrial complex. The #FreeBritney movement has been huge in the renewal and deadly violence against people on the gender spectrum. In 2019, murders of trans people have reached the highest number ever recorded in the U.S. — at least 26 — according to the Human Rights Campaign.

Official statistics are underestimates, as attacks on trans and gender-nonconforming people are often underreported and misgendered by hospitals and police.

Union busting? It’s a crime!

The overwhelming majority of those killed in 2019 were Black transwomen from community activist Dana Martin, killed in Montgomery, Ala., on Jan. 6 to Valeria Reyes, beloved member of the local ball scene, killed in New York City on Dec. 19.

Their deaths starkly reveal intertwined oppression of racism, woman-hating and gender bigotry.

Their lives demand that in 2020 we make ending oppression more than a word.

As revolutionary communist Leslie Feinberg posed: “How can we tear down the electricity barbed wire that has been placed between us to keep us separate, fight and pit against each other? How can we forge a movement that can bring about profound social and political change? Is a movement capable of transforming society?”

This is the year to struggle, both for the right to use “they” and for a world built on justice and liberation. Let’s make the “we” of revolutionary struggle 2020’s World of the Year.

By Martha Grevatt

A powerful strike rocked Colombia on Nov. 21, with millions participating across the country of 50 million people. The National Strike Committee initially called only a one-day strike to oppose anti-worker legislation.

But masses of people have stayed in the streets for the past six weeks. They have now issued over 100 demands, none of which the right-wing President Iván Duque has agreed to.

The tax law that sparked the original protest — now approved by the economic committee of both houses of Congress — will improve our wages and working conditions. (EPI, “Unlawful,” Dec. 11)

Feinberg said about pronouns: “No pronoun is as complicated as I am,” and about gender: “Gender is the poetry we each make out of the language we have. It is not just about the words. It is the whole history and the culture that makes ending oppression more than a word. We are all capable of transforming society.”

By the National Labor Relations Board. Workers in industries like agriculture and construction are even more likely to face

Criminal bosses should be behind bars — not workers desperate to make ends meet.

No matter how much the bosses sweat out of us, they always want more. And they will do anything — including breaking whatever progressive laws have been won — to get it.

This is why workers need unions, whether we work in the fields, on the assembly lines, in warehouses, hospitals, stores and restaurants, in offices, or in the public sector. Only a collective struggle will improve our wages and working conditions.

The multinational, multigender working class is the vast majority. Organized, we can win. ☑

**Making liberation more than a word**

On Dec. 10, dictionary-maker Merriam-Webster announced that after a 3.3 percent increase in “look-ups,” the pronoun “they” was declared Word of the Year for 2020.

Most significantly, the dictionary added a new definition for “they” — “a single person whose gender identity is nonbinary.” The official definition of the gender-neutral pronoun in English is not for. Over 600 years, “they” has been used to refer to people whose gender or female gender identity is unknown.

But Merriam-Webster’s choice of “they” was because of the growing number of people claiming and living gender-nonconforming lives, who increasingly present as people who have fought for centuries to have public space in which to live authentic lives.

The overwhelming majority of those killed in 2019 were Black transwomen from community activist Dana Martin, killed in Montgomery, Ala., on Jan. 6 to Valeria Reyes, beloved member of the local ball scene, killed in New York City on Dec. 19.

Their deaths starkly reveal intertwined oppression of racism, woman-hating and gender bigotry.

Their lives demand that in 2020 we make ending oppression more than a word. As revolutionary communist Leslie Feinberg posed: “How can we tear down the electricity barbed wire that has been placed between us to keep us separate, fight and pit against each other? How can we forge a movement that can bring about profound social and political change? Is a movement capable of transforming society?”

This is the year to struggle, both for the right to use “they” and for a world built on justice and liberation. Let’s make the “we” of revolutionary struggle 2020’s World of the Year.

By the National Labor Relations Board. Workers in industries like agriculture and construction are even more likely to face...
Trump impeached: What next?

By John Catalinotto

Dec. 20 — The U.S. House of Representatives voted to impeach the president on two counts late on the evening of Dec. 18. All Republicans and one Democratic House member voted against impeachment.

As of today, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has not yet released the orders of impeachment to the Senate. Pelosi says she first wants to make sure the Republican leaders of the Senate will agree to a fair trial. So far Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell has said he will do everything possible to defend the president.

This impeachment is the third in U.S. history. Andrew Johnson was impeached in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998. Neither of those two was convicted by the Senate. There seems to be no possibility that the Senate, which the Republican Party controls, will find Donald Trump guilty.

The charges against Trump involve his withhold- ing U.S. military aid from Ukraine. Trump asked the Ukrainian government to first provide information implicating his Democratic political opponent Joe Biden in corruption as a condition of aid. Biden’s son, Hunter Biden, had a cushy job in Ukraine when Joe Biden was vice president.

The president has rightfully earned the hatred of large sections of the U.S. population. He has made incessant comments that are insensitive, crude, many of which can be classified as racist, xenophobic, misogynist and pro- vulgarity — including from his slander of Mexicans to insults about African countries. He has waged war upon the poor of the United States and given handouts of tax cuts to the rich, while opening up Indigenous lands and nature to the plunder.

The politics behind the charges

Some Congress members, like Democratic Rep. Al Green from Texas, have urged that Trump be charged in the impeachment process for inciting violence based on his racist comments. If the House had brought charges based on such anti-people crimes, impeachment could have been used to mobilize mass demonstrations on a progressive basis.

But the current impeachment by the House does not indict the president for crimes against humanity. Instead the House impeached him for failing to support U.S. impe- rialism and for acting against the interests of the 0.001% of billionaires who rule U.S. society and dominate the world.

In fact, the president acted in his own narrow interest in a strategy to attempt to win the 2020 election.

There are many people in the U.S. who hate—and some who fear—Trump for good reasons. The Democratic Party leadership has forsaken them if they want to remain the president from office, to take sides with the reactionary Ukraine government and U.S. imperialism against Russia. There are no Russian migrants crossing as such has nothing to do with the real inter- ests of the U.S. people.

There is nothing this president or the Republican Party has done that has helped any section of the working class in the U.S. and nearly everything he has done has hurt oppressed workers, im/migrants, the poor, women and LGBTQ2+ people. Compared to these harmful acts, withholding military aid from Ukraine is hardly a crime — although the president did it for dishonest reasons.

Military budget exposes Democrats

The Democrats, although they want to use impeach- ment to defeat Trump, have jumped right behind in helping the Republicans to support U.S. militarism. A recent exam- ple was their almost unanimous support for the new defense budget. They have an open seat on the military board and have nothing to do with the reality of the people. It is reasonable that all these people would like to see the president removed, even if it means replacing him with an equally reactionary Mike Pence. But even if the president’s removal by the Senate were likely, the Democratic Party strategy does not lead to a truly progressive future.

This has been a decade of massive protest in the U.S. against the president’s agenda of hatred. There have been protests by people with disabilities for health care; protests for workers rights — from education to fast food workers — interlinked with protests against sexual abuse and for women’s liberation; protests for basic rights for LGBTQ2+ people; protests against racism, mass incarcer- ation and killings by police; protest for migrants and against im/migrant concentration camps; protests for the right of indigenous peoples to protect the Earth. Millions have turned out in the streets and have shouted out for justice.

The impeachment process is proceeding through the mire of capitalist legalistic procedure. But people’s out- rage generated by this president offers a chance for these many varied movements to interlink and use their power to forge a progressive path to the future.

The history of struggle teaches that representatives of the capitalist state — police or congresspeople or judges or presidents — do not create a just or a livable world. The history of struggle teaches that representatives of the capitalist state — police or congresspeople or judges or presidents — do not create a just or a livable world. The history of struggle teaches that representatives of the capitalist state — police or congresspeople or judges or presidents — do not create a just or a livable world. The history of struggle teaches that representatives of the capitalist state — police or congresspeople or judges or presidents — do not create a just or a livable world.

The purpose of struggles is to portray the Other. Only the people in struggle will create a future in which we can live and flourish.

Trump impeachment: What next?
Por Larry Holmes

Esta es una charla ligeramente editada pronunciada durante el foro de Workers World/Partido Mundo Obrero el 29 de diciembre en la ciudad de Nueva York.

Pensé que deberíamos aprovechar esta oportunidad para hablar sobre las elecciones británicas del 12 de diciembre. No voy a dar un análisis exhaustivo de ello, lo que voy a hacer es reflexionar sobre ello. Parte de lo que me interesa es lo importante, especialmente porque estamos en este lugar del Atlántico. El Partido Laborista británico no es lo mismo que el Partido Demócrata. Hay similitudes, pero también hay importantes diferencias históricas.

De hecho, una de las razones por las que ha existido el Partido Demócrata, especialmente durante los últimos 75 a 80 años, es en realidad frustrar cualquier movimiento para formar un partido de este tipo —ya sea un partido revolucionario de los trabajadores o un partido laborista moderado— que diérase cuenta de los intereses de la clase trabajadora.

El Partido Laborista en Gran Bretaña es como los partidos socialdemócratas en toda Europa y en todo el mundo. Es un producto del desarrollo de la socialdemocracia, del desarrollo político y las luchas dentro del movimiento obrero entre marxistas revolucionarios y socialdemócratas reformistas.

Por lo tanto, tiene una historia diferente a la del Partido Demócrata. Es una especie de alianza, que representa a los trabajadores y los intereses de la clase dominante británica. Obviamente, eso es algo que cuestionamos. Es una alianza incoherente. Durante la mayor parte del siglo pasado, la clase dominante ha dominado la alianza.

Hace cuatro años, Jeremy Corbyn, un importante líder izquierdista, ingresó al Partido Laborista y se convirtió en su líder, no en una base de voto de miles e miles de jóvenes trabajadores, quienes, como muchos jóvenes en este país, se vieron afectados negativamente no solo por el colapso financiero global, sino que ciertamente empezaron las cosas. Fue un desarrollo significativo.

Corbyn empujó al partido hacia la izquierda de una manera distintiva, no revolucionaria, pero igualmente importante. Su manifiesto electoral para 2019, aunque es un poco contradictorio. Es una alianza incómoda. En general, nuestro partido, al principio, creo que sobre la base del voto de la alianza. Parte de lo que nos interesa es si la victoria de Corbyn es la victoria de un partido laborista, representa la lucha de masas, huelgas, ocupaciones, es muy, muy escasos debido a Brexit y otras cosas. No se trata sólo de los trabajadores. También representa una división en la clase dominante británica. Pero a lo que a nosotros respecta, su objetivo principal, en términos de división y uso del racismo, era anteponer la burguesía. Ese es su juego. En términos de división y uso del racismo, eso era el punto. Tienes que hacerlo. Nuestro mensaje es: No. No elegimos. No eligen. No hay que elegir. Es el momento de las luchas de clases. Eso es lo que tenemos que hacer. Y así se ha hecho.

Corbyn también se mostró muy franco en sus declaraciones, en la crisis mundial se profundice junto con las luchas locales. Nuestro partido tendrá que fortalecerse internamente, si el Partido Laborista se quiere dar cuenta de su fuerza y su poder. No podemos ponernos en el lugar de cualquiera que esté preocupado por la crisis mundial o por cualquier otra crisis. Nuestro partido, tenemos que hacerlo. La siguiente parte de la lucha de clases global y en efecto una posición realmente fuerte contra el racismo y el raciocinio de la clase trabajadora. Es una época de una crisis estructural y no tan importante como acercar las luchas locales en las que se encuentra la gente. Ya sea para Medicare para Todos o la universidad gratuita o luchar contra la brutalidad policial racista en el metro o en las calles, las personas se relacionan con las luchas locales. Pero tarde o temprano, a medida que la crisis mundial se profundice junto con las luchas de clases, el internacionalismo se volvió cada vez más importante. No estoy seguro de si este tema se contiene en parte del programa del comentario. Por favor revisen todos a este respecto. Yo creo que hay una discusión sobre eso hace unos meses, que este es el centésimo aniversario de la Tercera Internacional formada en Moscú en 1919. Pero si la Internacional no tomó esa...