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The wolf is at the door: Mobilize workers against a stolen election

By Sharon Black

Sept. 30 — Since our last article, "2020 elections and capitalist instability: How should we prepare?" President Donald Trump has declared several times that he won't leave office if the presidential election is "not fair." By that he means, if he does not win. It may be the first time that a U.S. president has openly said that he won't accept the vote, indicating that there will be no peaceful transfer of power.

This is not an idle threat. Trump has his own paramilitary police force, which has been deployed against protesters in test runs from Washington, D.C., to Portland, Ore.; the Department of Homeland Security; the support of the most virulent and reactionary police departments; and a myriad of violently racist, vigilante-type groups.

At the Sept. 29 debate in Cleveland with his Democratic opponent Joe Biden, after the moderator asked if he would condemn white supremacists including the Proud Boys, a violent far-right racist group, Trump declared: "Proud Boys: Stand back and stand by," acknowledging that he was their leader.

Later in the debate, Trump refused to say that he would abide by the results of the election and declined to tell his supporters to remain calm or avoid violence. "If I see tens of thousands of ballots, I can't go along with that," he said, urging his supporters to go to the polls and "watch very carefully."

If anyone is fooled into thinking that Trump is remotely anti-war, his 9-minute rant at the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 22 should set the record straight. It was a full-throated jingoistic preparation for war against China, along with Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. Though this is not unusual for Trump, it was a departure from the subterfuge used by most capitalist politicians on the world stage.

"When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time" is a saying made famous by writer and poet Maya Angelou. We should believe Trump.

Growing repression

State attacks on the Black Lives Matter uprising against racism and police terror have escalated.

In Louisville, Ky., Attica Scott, the only Black woman state representative, and her 19-year-old daughter were arrested Sept. 24 on felony riot charges during protests after the grand jury decision exonerating Breonna Taylor's killers. Twenty-four others were arrested at the same time, along with 127 more on Sept. 23.

This follows on the heels of draconian charges against Party for Socialism and Liberation and Frontline Party for Revolutionary Action members in Aurora, Colo.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis recently announced a legislative bill, the "Combating Violence, Disorder and Looting and Law Enforcement Protection Act." It would drastically intensify criminal charges against protesters. Blocking traffic would become a third-degree felony, but drivers who intentionally plow their vehicles into crowds would not be held liable for injury or death.

Destroying or toppling monuments, such as Confederate statues, would become a second-degree felony.

These recent events make it all the more imper-



Minneapolis protest against release of killer cop Derek Chauvin on bail, Oct. 7. Chauvin's murder of George Floyd on May 25 sparked the current anti-racist uprising.

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**If November election is stolen
OCCUPY THE STREETS**
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PeoplesPowerAssembly.org

ative for the working class to intervene actively in what undoubtedly will be a series of major crises this year and into 2021.

Lessons of 2000 election

The 2000 election pitted Democrats Al Gore and Joe Lieberman against George W. Bush and Dick Cheney. It was stolen by outright suppression of Black and working-class voters in Florida.

After several contentious months of struggle, sometimes in the street, the outcome was resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court, which overturned a Florida Supreme Court decision ordering a recount. Bush was declared the winner. Not even the undemocratic Electoral College, but just nine Supreme Court justices chose the president.

At that time, James Baker was chief legal advisor for Bush's campaign and oversaw the Florida recount operation. Baker was responsible for the strategy to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court after losing in a deeply corrupt effort on the state level.

Baker later became Bush's secretary of state. John G. Roberts Jr., one of the lawyers on Baker's team, was rewarded by Bush with an appointment to the Supreme Court. Roberts is now the chief justice.

As Struggle-La Lucha's Gary Wilson wrote in "Donald Trump's Greedy Big Oil Backers Want More":

"Former Secretary of State James Baker considered voting for Joe Biden in November but will instead keep backing Donald Trump, a new biography reveals, in the process outlining a key reason

for continued Republican support for the scandal-plagued U.S. president," the Guardian reports.

"Though the 'myriad ethical scandals surrounding Trump were head-spinning,' Baker told the authors, 'it was worth it to get conservative judges, tax cuts and deregulation.'"

"Yes, Trump is giving them exactly what they want."

Democratic Party's role

In 2000, the Democratic Party fought the election theft with one hand tied behind its back. It pulled Jesse Jackson back from organizing demonstrations. Democratic Sen. Joe Lieberman, who later became chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, broke ranks and called for conceding to Bush.

This should serve as a lesson to not count on the Democratic Party to protect the rights of the people. In the final analysis, the Democratic Party could not be relied upon to defend African American voters. In the end, its allegiance was only to Big Capital.

Readers should take note: Following that election and the 9/11 attacks, the U.S. started the endless "War on Terror" and the second Iraq War. At home, the expansion of the repressive apparatus of the state became gargantuan — a tendency that V.I. Lenin described in the pamphlet "The State and Revolution."

In 2002, the Homeland Security Act was passed, and in 2003, the Department of Homeland Security was formed. Today, it is the third-largest

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