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Capitalism is the crisis

Democrats fiddle as climate emergency grows

By Scott Scheffer

The consequences of a century's worth of industrial capitalist destruction of the atmosphere continued lashing out at the earth in late October. A "bomb cyclone" attacked the U.S. West Coast, while a nor'easter slammed the Northeast.

The damaging weather from the west then sped clear across the country after causing floods and mudslides. Tornadoes and thunderstorms rocked the region known as Tornado Alley, from South Dakota all the way south to Texas.

On the East Coast, from as far south as North Carolina and all the way north, thunderstorms with winds clocked in between 60 and 100 miles per hour. In New England, a storm surge of three to four feet knocked out power to well over 500,000 people.

The extreme weather of 2021 has surpassed so many previous records. It has been severe and frequent.

The most important international conference on climate change since the Paris Climate Accords were reached in 2015 began in Glasgow, Scotland, on Oct. 31. The White House was counting on getting an assortment of climate change proposals included in a broader spending bill through Congress before Glasgow — to avoid international embarrassment.

The U.S. is the worst per capita emitter of greenhouse gases in the world and hasn't moved forward in its commitments. Biden has to present a puffed-up picture of progress. Negotiations with a handful of right-wing members of his own party sent Biden and other U.S. representatives to Glasgow empty-handed.

The Build Back Better spending bill was initially proposed with a price tag of \$3.5 trillion. Along with a handful of



Protesters dressed as President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at a climate demonstration in Glasgow, Nov. 1.

other Democrats, Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia has beaten that down to \$1.75 trillion, and is still pushing for more cuts.

Manchin himself was already a coal baron before he became a U.S. senator. He's raked in more than \$5 million since then. In April he was made chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in a bipartisan vote. That should be seen as a major conflict of interest, but it doesn't raise any eyebrows in Washington. There's plenty of that in capitalist government.

Alongside programs that would be key to mitigating climate change, the bill would have boosted crucial social services like paid family leave, student debt relief, child nutrition, an expansion of Medicare and Medicaid, and more. The spat within the Democratic Party has put all of that on the chopping block.

Manchin, the senator from Big Coal, says he wants the total spending bill cut to just \$1.5 trillion.

CEPP on cutting room floor

Also left on the cutting room floor as of this writing is the Climate Energy Performance Program (CEPP). That

proposal would have paid power generators incrementally to switch to wind, solar, hydro or nuclear power instead of coal or diesel. It would have imposed penalties for non-compliance.

CEPP was the flagship among the climate change proposals included in the spending bill, and the Biden administration was counting on it to happen before Glasgow.

The overall bill is framed in the media as grand and ambitious, but it doesn't live up to the urgency of the climate crisis. None of these climate change proposals go after the profits of the giant U.S. banks or energy industry. The CEPP came the closest — and that was too close for comfort from the point of view of Big Capital. Manchin is their attack dog.

The congressional group aligned against the bill used phony concern over deficit spending — a favorite of the right-wing — as a cover story. It's really the profits of giant corporations that they're defending.

The money is there. Much of it is locked away in the bloated military budget with near-unanimous bipartisan support. U.S. military spending over the same 10-year period projected in the Build Back Better spending bill will add up to at least \$8 trillion — and that's a conservative guess, because there will be increases.

But Pentagon spending is considered untouchable, as are the trillions of dollars in the coffers of the tiny handful of corporate owners that dominate the world.

Their wealth far outstrips that of the rest of the population of the planet.

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NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, settler colonialism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores.

Dedicated to Moonanum James, Bert Waters, and others who have returned to the ancestors.

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!

We welcome all our relations crossed by the U.S. border & ICE.

In 2021, while some supporters will attend in person, we will also livestream the event in Plymouth and have additional online content, with messages from many struggles as well as music.



**52ND ANNUAL
NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING
NOV. 25, 2021
12:00 NOON
Cole's Hill, Plymouth, MA**

Please join and check the UAINE facebook group at Facebook.com/groups/UAINE for updates. E-mail: info@uaine.org Website: [Uaine.org](http://uaine.org)

- Capitalism is the crisis
- National Day of Mourning
- Their elections and our struggle
- Unemployed workers will continue to fight
- Stop terrorist 'no-knock' police raids!
- Raise the minimum wage (and give Marx a prize)!
- Berlin voters say: Expropriate the landlords!
- New York Times on cybersecurity: More like war propaganda
- Biden targets China: Turning Taiwan into a military outpost
- 12 years after coup, Honduran resistance fights for fair election
- Nicaragua stands up to U.S. election interference
- End sanctions on Zimbabwe
- Philippines: In memory of Ka Oris
- Estados Unidos tiene una obsesión malsana con Cuba
- The U.S. has an unhealthy obsession with Cuba

