#STRIKETOBER!

The working class rises up

By Stephen Millies

The U.S. working class is waking up angry and defiant. More than 100,000 workers are on strike from coast to coast. Here are some of the biggest battles that broke out during “Stiketober”:

- 10,000 members of the United Auto Workers are on strike at 14 John Deere plants in Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Georgia, and Kansas. The manufacturer of construction and agricultural equipment, including tractors, is expected to rake in profits of nearly $6 billion this year. That hasn’t stopped Deere from demanding pension cuts for newly hired workers. Salaried, non-union employees are being forced to picket lines to try to break the strike. It’s dangerous for these workers to perform jobs that they’re not trained for.
- 38,000 Kaiser Permanente health care workers in California and Oregon have authorized a strike. After 19 months of putting their lives on the line fighting COVID-19, they want better staffing and wages that get ahead of inflation.
- 60,000 members of IATSE (the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) authorized a strike that would have shut down Hollywood. They’re sick of working 14 or more hours a day so that movies can be completed. The workers’ solidarity forced the studio bosses to come to a tentative agreement.
- 1,400 Kellogg’s cereal workers — members of the Bakery Workers

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‘Mobilizing in our own name’

Interview with author and labor activist Clarence Thomas

This season is being called #Stiketober. Workers are showing their power by striking, and demanding better conditions. The release of the anthology, “Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March” is timely.

Author Clarence Thomas, an African American labor activist, longshore leader, and an organizer of the 2004 Million Worker March — has been speaking at meetings and gatherings across the country. We talked with Thomas on Oct. 17, the anniversary of the Million Worker March in Washington, to get his insights on the labor struggle today.


Clarence Thomas: Thank you for the opportunity to have this conversation. I have been a member of International Longshore and Warehouse Workers (ILWU) Local 10 for 31 years. Though retired from the waterfront, I’m still in the struggle. After I finished the book, I first reached out to the ILWU Local 10 members. I introduced the book at the Local 10 commemoration of Juneteenth and at a Labor Fest program on July 10 where I did a book signing and reading for union members and the community.

There are Local 10 members that are featured in “Mobilizing in Our Own Name.” For many, it was their first opportunity to meet an author who wrote a book about them and their union. Of course, they’re very enthusiastic about the book.

Since then, most of my interactions have been through Zoom. In the past several weeks, I’ve begun to travel to events. I attended and sold books at the Teamsters Women’s Leadership Conference that took place in Las Vegas, Nevada. We met with workers from across the country: Louisville, Kentucky; Houston, Texas; Seattle, Washington; New York City; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and from Phoenix, Arizona. It was the first time that we had a chance to meet workers in one location from various parts of the country.

The Teamsters National Black Caucus (TNBC) invited us to the women’s conference. They played a very important role in organizing the 2004 Million Worker March. Brother Chris Silvera who is the longest serving principal officer in the Teamsters, heads up Teamsters Local 808 in Long Island City, New York. Local 808 members are responsible for maintaining the track at Metro-North. Chris Silvera was the East Coast coordinator of the Million Worker March (MWM) along with sister Brenda Stokely from AFSCME DC 1707.

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National Day of Mourning 2021

THURSDAY NOV 25

12 NOON

Cole’s Hill, Plymouth, MA

(hill above Plymouth Rock)

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

Please join and check the UAINE Facebook group at Facebook.com/groups UAINE for updates.

E-mail: info@uaine.org
Website: Uaine.org
Justice for Ahmaud Arbery!
Lynched for jogging while Black

By Stephen Millies

Phlando Castile was killed by a Minnesota cop for Driving While Black. Trayvon Martin was killed by a wannabe cop George Zimmerman in Florida for Walking While Black.

Ahmaud Arbery was killed by three white vigilantes in Georgia for Jogging While Black.

The 25-year-old Arbery was running near his home when he was shot on Feb. 23, 2020, in the Satilla Shores neighborhood just outside Brunswick, Ga. On that Sunday afternoon retired police officer Gregory McMichael spotted the former high school football star jogging and decided he must be a burglar.

McMichael grabbed his son Travis and got into a pick-up truck that had a license plate decorated with the confederate flag. Together they confronted Arbery with a .357 Magnum handgun and a shotgun.

A neighbor of the McMichaels, William Bryan, Jr., joined the posse in the truck bed with a gun. Bryan also allegedly struck Arbery with his truck.

Ahmaud Arbery’s mother, Wanda Cooper, was informed of her son’s death by a police investigator. The cop said that Arbery was involved in a burglary and was killed by a homeowner.

Bryan’s video showed Arbery running when he’s inter- cepted by the McMichaels. Gregory McMichael is seen standing in the truck bed with a gun.

Arbery tried to run around the truck, but he was stopped by Travis McMichael. Shots are fired and Ahmaud Arbery fell to the ground.

It then took 74 days for the police to arrest McMichaels and another two weeks to lock-up Bryan.

Gregory McMichael is actually proud of killing Ahmaud Arbery.

“Ahmaud Arbery was a 21st century lynching. That’s the shining example right there,” referring to the Black man’s death.

A 25th century lynching

The three killers of Ahmaud Arbery are now on trial in Brunswick. Linda Dunikoski came from Mariet- ta, Ga. to be the prosecutor.

The only reason the killers were brought to court was because millions of people across the country joined the Black Lives Matter pro- tests. The deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor in Louisville and George Floyd in Minneapolis ignited this uprising.

Protest at the Glynn County Courthouse in Brunswick, Georgia. is an attorney for Ahmaud Arbery’s father, Marcus Arbery. It then took 74 days for the police to arrest McMichaels and another two weeks to lock-up Bryan.

Gregory McMichael is actually proud of killing Ahmaud Arbery.

“It’s been felt for too long that no good deed goes unpunished.”

McMichael said on a phone call from jail. “Yeah, that’s the shining example right there,” referring to the Black man’s death.

Barnhill urged the police depart- ment in Glynn County not to arrest Ahmaud Arbery’s killers. The prose- cutor maintained there wasn’t “probable cause” to arrest the Mc- Michaels since they were pursuing a “burglary suspect.”

The McMichaels are claiming they were trying to make a “citizen’s ar- rest” of Ahmaud Arbery. Georgia’s “citizen’s arrest” law was passed in 1863 during the Civil War to capture enslaved Africans who were trying to escape.

One hundred twenty-nine years before the killing of Ahmaud Arbery,

Wesley Lewis and Henry Jackson were lynched just outside Brunswick on Feb. 21, 1891. According to the Marshall Project, the two Black men were hanged from a tree, ridd- led with more than 1,000 bullets, then left on display for thousands of white spectators to view.

There were more than 500 docu- mented lynching victims in Georgia. Ahmaud Arbery’s death was a lynching.

The unfinished revolution

Brunswick is on Georgia’s Atlantic Coast. It’s near the Sea Islands that stretch 245 miles from Florida to South Carolina.

On Jan. 16, 1865, Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman issued field order No. 15, which confiscated the aban- doned plantations. The 400,000 acres were to be given to freed Afri- can-Americans in 40-acre plots as a tiny down payment on reparations.

President Andrew Johnson, who did nothing to stop thousands of Black people from being killed by the Ku Klux Klan, overturned Sherman’s order later that year.

Northern capital- ists grabbed much of the land in- stead to build luxury estates. Brunswick, Ga., was the stopping-off point to these resorts.

The U.S. Civil War was an unfin- ished revolution. Instead of land and freedom, Black people were lynched and forced and forced to be sharecroppers.

Seventy miles from Brunswick, Troy Davis was framed in Savannah for killing a police officer. Despite virtually every witness recanting their testimony, Davis was executed on Sept. 21.

Ten years later, justice for Ahmaud Arbery also means remembering Troy Davis, Henry Jackson, Wesley Lewis and all the other victims of lynching terror.

‘Mobilizing in our own name’
Interview with labor activist and author Clarence Thomas

Continued from page 3

International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) General President, James P. Hoffa, wrote a letter praise- ing the book and discussed its impor- tance to the theme of building labor solidarity. He expressed that the concerns of workers addressed at the Million Worker March (MWM) in 2004, are even more relevant today.

Hoffa’s support for the book, which features the Teamsters, is one of the reasons why we are able to reach out to IBT members all over the country.

Struggle-La Lucha: The book’s title — “Mobilizing In Our Own Name” — tell us more.

Clarence Thomas: Oct. 17, 2021, is the 175th anniversary of the 1905 Million Work March Mobilization in Washington D.C. on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The name of the MWM book, “Mobilizing In Our Own Name,” is based on the prem- ise that workers cannot depend on bourgeois politicians to address the issues of systemic racism, income inequality, corporate greed, work- ers’ rights, universal health care, slashing the military budget, ending the murder of African Americans and other people of color. Today, the contradictions that are precipitated by the crisis of capitalism are greater than they were in 2004.

The MWM anthology is about radical African American trade unionists in one of the most well- knowned radical labor organizations of the world, the ILWU Local 10. They defied the Democratic Party and the AFL-CIO, to mobilize the Million Worker March.

As we relate the story of the MWM, organized 17 years ago, to what’s happening today, it is prophetic. Workers, for too long, have been put into a straitjacket as it relates to their being able to address their needs, because of their respective labor organizations are subordinat- ed to the Democratic Party.

Struggle-La Lucha: Yes. Now there is a strikewave across the country

Clarence Thomas: This October, some 100,000 workers from across the country are withholding their labor at the point of production. No one can speak for workers like workers can speak for themselves. Those actions involve workers that are organized, such as the UAW, California nurses, Kellogg’s, Nabisco and John Deere. What we’re witness- ing is not limited to the traditional sectors of industry. Workers are coming out of the global pandemic, which highlighted the income and wealth inequality in this country.

The corporate media and econ- omists measure the success of the economy by the number of jobs that are generated, while ignoring the quality of those jobs. What the corporate sector frames as a labor shortage is more accurately de- scribed as a living-wage shortage. It is a pay shortage, a child care shortage, a paid sick leave shortage, a health care shortage.

In an interview, an African American woman in Battle Creek, Michigan, reportedly said that at Kellogg’s, a global company, “while we prepare food for the world, we’re unable to take off from work to feed our children.” Kellogg’s workers are being told just minutes before the end of their shift that they have to work more hours. This hardens back to the days before we had unions.

This is a reflection of the capitalist crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 epidemic.

In California where I live, a multi- billionare, a right-wing, racist capitalist who owns the Oakland A’s, the Gap and other enterprises, wants to build a baseball stadium, a condo- minium, a hotel, as well as retail and commercial space at the third bus- iest port on the West Coast. This is an example of the neoliberal model of capitalism, which is a policy that makes it easier for corporations, banks and the rich to exploit the working class. This gentrification will compromise the Port of Oakland and the jobs of essential workers.

Struggle-La Lucha: The ILWU has a history of class struggle, of knowing the power of a strike.

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Supply chain crisis? There’s more to that story

By Gary Wilson

Fears of empty shelves and online shortages seem to dominate the daily news cycle. The reports are completely overblown, as Barron’s admits in a report that’s blocked for common reading by a paywall. (Barron’s is a Dow Jones & Company news magazine; they also publish the Wall Street Journal.)

Barron’s notes that year-end shortages in the supply chain are nothing new. “Our conversations with retailers, manufacturers, shippers, and Wall Street forecasters indicate that businesses are learning to cope with bottlenecks,” Barron’s says.

Moreover, with the reports filling the news, toy sales have taken off. The toy industry is reporting that sales have increased by 15% over last year — to $23.9 billion — and 28% over 2019. And you may have noticed, toy prices are going up — allegedly because of “short supply.”

Supply chain bottlenecks don’t originate from COVID-19. The bottlenecks were introduced back in the 1970s by what is called “just-in-time” manufacturing. Manufacturers no longer have big inventories of parts. For global manufacturers, everything is now “off-shored.” Everything from parts to completed products are made globally and then shipped to where they are needed.

With the anxiety of capitalist production, it’s never known what will be needed or when — not overall for the whole economy. Of course, Ford Motor Co. knows what computer chips it wants and when it wants them for F-150 pickup production. But does that matter if more of Chrysler’s Ram pickups are being sold and use the parts that are most needed? That’s the anxiety of capitalism.

**Attack on longshore workers**

Besides a chance to raise prices, there’s another game hidden in the shipping bottleneck on the West Coast that’s been the highlighted image on the TV news.

International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 President Trent Willis says that there is no backlog of ships at the Port of Oakland, the third-busiest port on the West Coast. Local 10 is an African American-led labor union that is world-renowned for its militant and just struggle to unstop the loading and unloading of ships from apartheid South Africa and Israel.

“I want to make something absolutely clear: The supply chain backlog on the West Coast has been inaccurately reported,” Willis said in a Labor Video interview.

“It’s being inaccurately reported that this backlog is all up and down the whole coast. Why are ocean carriers refusing to use the Port of Oakland to unload container ships with 70 to 80 ships backing up in the ports of LA? Willis asks.

“They could be playing some kind of game; you know. We have our contract negotiations starting up in 2022.” And they want to gentrify the Port of Oakland. John Fisher, the multi-billionaire, right-wing, racist capitalist who owns the Oakland A’s, the Gap and other enterprises, wants to build a baseball stadium, a condo-minium, a hotel, retail and commercial space there. This gentrification would compromise the Port of Oakland and the jobs of the dockworkers.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles and Long Beach, the shipping backup is being used to force the dockworkers to go 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The big shipping operators have been demanding a 24/7 work schedule for years. The ILWU has resisted this, in part, because it creates a more hazardous work environment. Now they are being forced to accept it.

Even though the union has agreed to the 24/7 schedule, the shipping companies are still boycotting the Port of Oakland.

www.MillionWorkerMarch.com

‘Mobilizing in our own name’

Struggles documented in news articles, interviews, letters, posters, photos, speeches and video transcripts.

Danny Glover who was a part of the MWM, wrote, “Those of us that are activists in the struggle and are contemporaries of my brother and comrade Clarence ‘Buzz’ Thomas, whom I’ve known since our days at San Francisco State, he has done what many of us have talked about but refused to do; write a book! This anthology captures the Million Worker March and so many subsequent struggles that really underscores how ILWU Local 10 continues its long radical history and tradition of struggle. To quote sister Angela Davis, when we both spoke at the Juneteenth 2020 rally at the Port of Oakland, ” Whenever the ILWU takes a stand, the world feels the reverberation.”

Mobilizing in Our Own Name will be inspiring and instructive to workers and activists in the future. For those of us that were part of the struggles and actions covered in this book, we realize this is ‘our’ anthology.”
Sirhian Sirhan was convicted of the murder of a Kennedy
He could spend less time in prison than this California man

By Thandisizwe Chimurenga

Sirhan Sirhan was convicted of the murder of Democratic presi
dential candidate Robert Kennedy, brother of former president John F. Kennedy, just over half a century ago at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968.

On March 30, 1981, John Hinckley Jr. walked up to then-President Ron
ald Reagan outside of a Washington, D.C., hotel with gun in hand. He fired multiple shots, striking Reagan in the chest, Secret Service agent Tim
tothy McCarthy in the side, District of Columbia police Officer Thom
as Delahanty in the neck and White House Press Secretary James Brady in the head, leaving him partially paralyzed.

Hinckley spent 35 years in a men-
tal hospital before being granted conditional release. On Sept. 27, he was freed from court supervision at the age of 66. Sirhan, meanwhile, was deemed eligible for parole on Aug. 27, after 53 years of imprisonment.

In light of the prospect of two con-
victed presidential shooters walking the Earth as free men, it’s worth in-
quiring why similar consideration isn’t being given to Ruchell Magee, a Black man who has been imprisoned in California for more than 50 years.

Magee has neither committed nor been convicted of murder. He was first eligible for parole in 1981, but has been denied release ever since. Magee has never been tried for murder. His parole denial has been based on what the state assumed he did.

Although Magee never went past seventh grade in school, he studied law in prison and learned to file le-
gal documents, eventually securing a reversal of his conviction — but was then retried and convicted a second time.

Magee spent the next few years attempting to legally free himself from what he believed to be a corrupt justice system. His knowledge of the law and his behavior in court (he frequently disrupted proceedings to level charges of racism) made him a thorn in the side of the court.

Those same qualities, howev-
er, endeared him to other prisoners who could not afford legal counsel.

This is how Magee wound up on the witness stand of a Marin County courthouse on Aug. 7, 1970. He was testifying in support of a fellow San Quinlin Prison inmate when 17-year-

old Jonathan Jackson entered the courtroom with a satchel full of guns. Jackson took several hostages, including the judge and prosecutor. His goal was to free three other inmates — collec-
tively known as the “Soledad Brothers” — who were charged with killing a prison guard.

Meanwhile, after eight years of legally trying to overturn his unjust conviction, seized on the mo-
ment to free himself. He joined with Jax-
son in the armed escape and fled the courthouse. Prison guards on the roof opened fire at Jack-
son’s getaway vehicle. The sole sur-

vivors of this volley were the prose-
cutor, who was left paralyzed, three jurors and Magee.

Magee was charged along with ac-
tivist Angela Davis for conspiracy to kidnap and murder. Worldwide support aided Davis’ acquittal on all charges. Murder charges were even-
tually dropped against Magee, but he was convicted of kidnapping and sentenced to life in prison.

And he’s still there.

The longer a person lives, the more medical care they need. This is as true for prisoners as anyone else. In Magee’s case, his health will come from an overburdened and understaffed prison medical system. According to the Public Policy Institute, older prisoners may be a contributing reason for California’s astounding prison health care costs, currently the highest in the nation, at more than three times the na-
tional average.

The recidivism rate for prisoners in California is 68%. The longer a person lives, the more medical care they need. This is as true for prisoners as anyone else. In Magee’s case, his health will come from an overburdened and understaffed prison medical system. According to the Public Policy Institute, older prisoners may be a contributing reason for California’s astounding prison health care costs, currently the highest in the nation, at more than three times the national average.

Sirhan was convicted of the murder of a Kennedy. He could spend less time in prison than this California man.
Capitalism stands in the way of reversing climate crisis

By Scott Scheffer

A lot of today’s climatologists may at this point feel like Superman’s father, who, as you might recall, was a leading scientist, Jor-El, who, in the comic book world, tried to warn the Council of Elders that planetary doom was nigh unless they acted.

Earth’s scientists have been sounding the alarm about climate change since as early as the 1880’s, and much more in the last four decades, but they have been up against corporate-funded climate change denial and action has been limited. The last few years — and especially this summer — may have silenced some of the most vociferous of the deniers.

Raging wildfires, floods, extreme storms, historic drought, are already happening, and more are almost certain to be seen in the future. As useful as a doubling or tripling of the annual number of days with unlivable heat affecting huge swaths of the planet is by mid-century. An Aug. 5 Washington Post report says that something called the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) — the current ocean current that includes the Gulf Stream, has slowed down because of climate change and could collapse altogether. If it does, the Post reports, “it could bring extreme cold to Europe and parts of North America, raise sea levels along the U.S. East Coast and disrupt seasonal monsoons that provide water to much of the world.”

Planet not exploding, yet

No serious scientists believe that we will share the fate of Krypton — the comic book planet exploded — but mitigating and reversing the crisis will have to be done independently of the current economic system and their government. Unless that is done, global warming will bring more widespread death and destruction. The poorest countries and populations will bear the brunt of it.

There are measures that can be taken to get humanity on track. They would all be large undertakings. It may take a big combination of some or all of them in concert if we are to achieve any meaningful level of mitigation. The biggest is the direct financial support of the poor.

Raging wildfires, floods, extreme storms, historic drought, are already happening, and more are almost certain to be seen in the future.

The required measures are enormous. They are not all technologically feasible or economically possible, but they do require massive levels of political and social will.

For this, they require an entirely new kind of political leadership, which we have not had and which is not likely to emerge. As one commentator recently wrote, “We have reached a point where the political system itself is a part of the problem.”

The solution is to create a new political system, which requires the people to take over control of the institutions of the country.

The centerpiece of this new system would be a powerful social movement, such as the one that won the right to vote for African Americans in the 1960’s.

This movement must be a mass movement, with a broad base of support, and it must have the power to make decisions and act on them.

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The movement must have the power to create a new political system, which requires the people to take over control of the institutions of the country.
South Korean labor calls general strike to free union president

By Scott Scheffer

Yang Kyung-soo, the president of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) — South Korea’s largest and most militant trade union confederation — has been jailed and is on a hunger strike.

A general strike has already been called for Oct. 20, and has now taken on demands to release Yang. Police had attempted the arrest in mid-August at the KCTU headquarters but were fought off by union members and had to retreat.

Although the Moon Jae-in government rode a wave of support by labor unions, and in particular the KCTU, repression against the labor movement has not changed and is continuing.

Since its foundation in 1995, there have been 13 presidents of the KCTU. All 13 were at one time or another jailed by the U.S.-backed South Korean administration.

There has been no international outcry over the arrest, no word of it in the U.S. media. Compare that to when other people arrested for their activism were arrested in Cuba, China, Nicaragua, Venezuela or any other country where struggles to remain independent. Where are the cries for human rights in South Korea?

“Instead, the New York Times writes that South Korean workers have lost the ‘enthusiasm’ for strikes. They fail to mention that the KCTU has grown to be the largest trade union confederation based on its history of militant and determined struggle. The percentage of temporary workers in South Korea is among the highest in the world, ranging between 25% and 35% over time, mostly women, children and elderly. Indeed, it’s beingfits are disappearing. Similar to but even more pronounced than the ‘gig economy’ of the U.S., temporary fits are disappearing. Similar to but even more pronounced than the ‘gig economy’ of the U.S., temporary

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The Ba-puraziering of the working class

The disappearance of jobs with pensions has led to a 50% poverty rate among elderly workers, many of whom are now homeless. This pa-purazieration of a section of the working class is a sign that the U.S. military workers in South Korea are being forced to work long hours at low wages without even basic benefits.

The pa-puraxieration of the working class

The disappearance of jobs with pensions has led to a 50% poverty rate among elderly workers, many of whom are now homeless. This pa-purazieration of a section of the working class is a sign that the U.S. military workers in South Korea are being forced to work long hours at low wages without even basic benefits.

Claiming that South Korean workers have lost enthusiasm to fight back is not just twisting facts or twisting things out of context — it’s an out-and-out lie. The U.S. media hasn’t reported what happened in South Korea just last summer.

In June, some 2,100 couriers struck against unbelievably long hours and overwork that caused the deaths of many workers. They won a cap on hours and several delivery companies have committed to hire more workers to sort packages. During the strike, the workers rallied just blocks away from parliament and the skyscraper headquarters of the chaebols.

Workers at HMM, South Korea’s biggest container ship company, carried out a strike that lasted 77 days until the end of August. They won a 79% pay increase and incentives of up to 650% of workers’ monthly wages.

In August, healthcare workers’ threat to strike won many pandemic-related demands including the establishment of a no-strike-to-patient ratio; the establishment of at least four public infectious disease hospitals by Oct. 20; and more funding to subsidize things including contagious diseases, to go into effect in January 2022.

When South Korea’s economy collapsed in 1997, representatives from the U.S. arranged an International Monetary Fund “rescue.” Some of the biggest U.S. banks, as well as bankers from Europe, swooped in and demanded restructuring in return for a bailout.

The crisis gave the Western banks even more control over the half of the Korean nation that they divided and had dominated and used since the terrible destruction that they carried out in the 1950–53 Korean War. The 1997 restructuring of the South Korean economy was accompanied by a campaign to drive down wages so that the short and long-term loans that the U.S. arranged could be repaid. Those loans were at higher interest rates than the rate at which major global banks normally lend to one another. Now, South Korea’s external debt is growing once again and the financial burden is being placed on the working class.

All trade unionists and work-class activists, especially in the United States, should join the call to free Yang Kyung-soo! Solidarity with South Korean workers and the 2021 general strike!

Political analyst and activist

Bill Dore says China is no threat to the people in the United States; Wall Street, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the Pentagon are.

Dore, a writer for Struggle/La Lucha and longtime antiwar activist, made the remarks in an interview with Press TV on Saturday after the CIA launched a new mission center to address what it calls “the most important geopolitical threat” posed by China.

CIA Director William Burns said in a statement last week that the new unit, called the China Mission Center, will “further strengthen our efforts to counter the Chinese military threat.”

“Why is CIA targeting China?” Dore commented to Press TV.

“The CIA is grabbing more tax money to start a ‘mission center’ aimed at China, which it calls the ‘most important geopolitical threat’ we face,” he said.

“China is our not-labor’s enemy, Wall Street is it, and the CIA is just another tool of Wall Street,” he added.

China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

China’s economic threat to U.S. “China’s real ‘threat,’ in the minds of the U.S. corporate ruling class, is economic. China produces more than the United States, and its economy is growing much faster,” the analyst said.

“It has achieved this not by destroying the economies of other countries with war and sanctions, but by growth and trade. China’s Belt

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China is not labor's enemy, Wall Street is

Continued from page 6

Road Initiative has greatly weakened Wall Street banks once held on the world economy. An article in the U.S. magazine Foreign Policy whined that China is "well on its way to becoming a Western-style 'sanctions regime' the U.S. and Western Europe use to 'punish' countries that defy their dictates," he explained.

"U.S. corporations do of course invest in China. They make a lot of money there. But they can't dictate to the Chinese state," Dores said. In 2015, Chevron and other oil companies dictated to the Shah of Iran before the 1979 Islamic Revolution. On the way they dictated to their paid servants in the White House and the Capitol today," he observed.

"Politicians and news media tell working-class people in the United States what China is up to, as if there's a threat there. In fact, there is a threat to our well-being. They conceal the fact that China's dynamism is the result of a factor staying off a global economic collapse," he said.

"Yet it is their own Wall Street managers who are responsible for all over this country and foreclosed on millions of homes. It is they who used the technological revolution as a weapon to drive down wages and destroy millions of jobs," Dores said.

Washington's 'hate China' campaign

"Washington raises severalphony issues in its China campaign. One is the alleged persecution of the Uighur people in Xinjiang Province. There's nothing but hypocrisy here," the analyst said.

"If this claim were true — and I've seen no reliable evidence that it is — Washington would be the last to care. The United States leads the world in mass incarceration and murder by police," he noted.

"According to the Equal Justice Initiative, 'Millions of Americans are incarcerated in overcrowded, violent and inhumane jails and prisons that do not provide treatment, education, or rehabilitation.' The majority are from the oppressed Black, Latin and Native nations targeted by police," he said.

"Among the incarcerated are dozens of political prisoners, such as Ahmed Abdullah and Jamil Abdullah Al Amin, who have spent decades behind bars on false charges," he stated.

"The problem is that commerce. It does have an interest in international law, shall continue and intensify."
Washington escalates: U.S. special forces secretly operating for past year in Taiwan

By Gary Wilson

Unless the U.S. government promptly removes its military forces from China's Taiwan province, China may send in its own military force to defend its territory, declared an editorial in Global Times, the Communist Party of China's daily newspaper.

Global Times explains: "We must resolutely define the deployment of U.S. troops in Taiwan as an 'invasion.' The mainland has the right to carry out military strikes against them at any time. We will not make any promises over their safety. Once a war breaks out in the Taiwan Straits, those U.S. military personnel will be the first to be eliminated. Through such a declaration, we must make Washington understand that it is playing a dangerous game, a game that is destined to draw fire onto itself and it is risking the lives of young men and women."

On Oct. 7, the Wall Street Journal reported that about two dozen U.S. special operations and support troops have been moved toward Taiwan to train military forces there for at least a year. The Global Times points out that "since the U.S. has exposed the news through anonymous officials, it has taken a step forward to undermine, from covertly to semi-overly, the key conditions for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Chinese mainland and the U.S." The U.S. government officially recognizes that Taiwan is a province of China, not a separate nation. Therefore, what the Biden administration is now doing — secretly sending special forces into the Chinese province — is in violation of both U.S. and international law.

Taiwan is a crucial issue. The struggle over Taiwan, always considered to be a province of China, has been ongoing since 1949, when the Chinese People's Liberation Army (CPA) defeated the Nationalist Army from the mainland as it retreated to Taiwan under the protection of the Pentagon. The CPA declared the Republic of China on the mainland to be "null and void," and that Taiwan is a part of China.

Shanghai Communique: One China

The U.S. agreed to surrender the Chinese province of Taiwan, as promised in the Shanghai Communique, on Feb. 28, 1972. The U.S. signed a compromise that "The United States acknowledges that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China."

The United States does not challenge that position. It reaffirms its interest in a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves. The Trump administration moved toward dropping most of the long-standing policies toward China and Taiwan, even suggesting the possibility of granting Taiwan official recognition and an embassy in Washington.

The Biden administration has not changed any of the Trump policies toward China. A Democratic congressionalwoman, Rep. Elaine Luria, in an op-ed published in the Washington Post Oct. 11, "Congress must untie Biden's hands on Taiwan," called for an act that would allow the president to bypass Congress to declare war on China.

"The Stars and Stripes daily newspaper that's issued from the Pentagon headlined Oct. 12: 'Retired Marine colonel says U.S. should weigh nuclear war with China over Taiwan.' Ruling class behind anti-China campaign

Has the rapprochement between Washington and Beijing, as represented by the Shanghai Communique, ended? This breakup is not just the doing of Donald Trump or Joe Biden. It flows from the fear of the predominant sections of the U.S. ruling class that the attempt to overthrow Chinese socialism from within has failed, just as the previous military aggression from 1969 to 1975 also failed.

In the 1970s when China "opened up," the giant capitalist monopolies were changing the Chinese market. But the strong socialist core of the People's Republic of China has held on. And the stronger China becomes, the more Wall Street fears for its economic dominance and the more the Pentagon fears for its military dominance.

On Feb. 25, China’s President Xi Jinping announced that 853 million Chinese people have lifted themselves out of poverty since 1981 thanks to large-scale interventions from both the Chinese state and the Communist Party of China. China’s technological and economic strength — as well as its remarkable response to the coronavirus (6.64 total deaths compared to more than 718,000 in the U.S.) — has raised a new respect for socialism. U.S. ruling class hostility to China has, on the contrary, to build a socialist society is behind the New Cold War and the real threat of hot war.

Biden kidnaps Venezuelan diplomat:
#FreeAlexSaab now!

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like food, oil and gold between the cracks of U.S. oversight.

"Only in the case of Venezuela, this [Saab’s activities] is not criminal — Saab is a hero, and his efforts overseas are the actions of a man trying to feed and house the hungry and homeless." Readers are urged to see Roger D. Harris’ comprehensive report at Orinico Tribune for more details.

Acts of war

The United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Bar Association, and governments around the world called on Cape Verdean authorities to release Saab and protested that there was absolutely no legal basis to extradite him to the U.S. More than 15,000 people signed an international petition to free the Venezuelan diplomat.

This is far from the first time Washington has illegally kidnapped foreign leaders and officials. Saab’s extradition immediately brings to mind the March 1, 2004, kidnapping of then-Venezuelan President Jean-Bertrand Aristide by U.S. soldiers, who deported him in a coup d’état and put him on a plane to South Africa.

In recent years the U.S. has escalated these attacks.

Simon Trinidad, international renewable energy official of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People’s Army (FARC-EP) and an official member of the negotiating team at peace talks in Havana, was extradited to the U.S. Despite all bogus drug trafficking charges being dropped after three trials, Trinidad was nevertheless convicted of "conspiracy" and is today imprisoned under the torturous Special Administrative Measures (SAMs) at a Federal prison in Colorado.

Then there was the years-long siege of journalist and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. Assange similarly has been tortured in isolation by British authorities and faces extradition to the U.S., even though the charges used to justify his arrest were dropped long ago.

And there are more cases related to the fight against sanctions, when foreign nationals are charged with violating provisions of the [illegal] U.S.-imposed sanctions on countries it seeks to destroy. Such was the case of Meng Wanzhou, a Chinese businessperson who was detained in Canada for nearly three years before finally winning the right to return home to China Sept. 24.

And of course, there was the Trump regime’s illegal seizure of the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 7, 2019, including the arrest of four embassy defenders.

Sanctions are an act of war. So are violations of the international and universally recognized rights of diplomats. The U.S. empire’s political gangsters carry out these lawless and illegal acts by themselves, “Who will dare to stop us?” We must dare — to struggle and to win.

Free Alex Saab! Free all political prisoners of U.S. imperialism — domestic and international!
Propping up the U.S. military is driving the economy down

By Gary Wilson

Talk about inflation. On Oct. 18, a Senate panel approved an annual Pentagon budget that’s at least $29 billion more than last year and $10 billion more than requested. Most of the increase is earmarked for "equipment purchases" — a big, fat giveaway to the military-industrial complex.

Whatever happened to the necessity to limit spending, to cut back government spending?

The Pentagon’s budget over nine years, from 2011 to 2020, has been $91 trillion. Funding for the Pentagon constitutes most, but not all, U.S. military spending.

The CIA budget, for example, is unpublished and unaccounted.

The U.S. spends more on its military than the next 10 countries combined — namely, Brazil, Britain, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia and South Korea.

Compared with that, meanwhile, can’t come up with $35 billion a year — which is $35 trillion over 10 years — to fund President Joe Biden’s Build Back Better Act.

Of course, there’s very little about the military budget being reported in the major media. The military budget isn’t open to debate or dispute. Even the efforts of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders to slow down military spending go mostly unreported.

War has ended?

Why did the Pentagon budget need to get a big increase, plus an extra, mystery $10-billion bonus? The Afghanistan war has ended. Yet military spending is higher than ever and expanding at a faster rate than ever.

Some say the big spending is meant to counter the economic crisis aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. One sometimes hears that it was the military buildup for World War II that finally ended the Great Depression of the 1930s.

But military spending was already at record highs when the recession of 2020 hit, so it clearly didn’t prevent an economic downturn.

Of course, the 2020 recession was more than the usual cyclical downturn. But there were many signs a recession was developing before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Industrial production in most countries had already ceased to rise. The U.S. Federal Reserve System had already initiated an “easing” cycle — that is, increasing the money supply — in an attempt to contain the incumbent downturn.

Capitalism’s boom and bust

The capitalist boom-and-bust cycle was noted long ago by Karl Marx. While capitalism has changed since Marx wrote, evolving from industrial capitalism to monopoly capitalism, the boom-and-bust cycle has continued.

The domination of capitalism on a world scale means that periodic crises return again and again, each one causing great hardship.

The system’s dependence on relentless expansion and its inherent drive to maximize profit rather than meet human needs causes periodic collapses. And the bosses make the workers pay for the collapse.

Marx identified the essence of the periodic crises of capitalism as crises of overproduction very early on, even in the Communist Manifesto in 1848. Traditional bourgeois economic theory denied that capitalism could have crises. Bourgeois economist John Maynard Keynes, looking at the catastrophic crisis of the 1930s, may be best known for acknowledging the reality that capitalism can have crises.

Keysnes — and the economic policies identified with him — believed the state could intervene to lessen the crises if not eliminate them altogether.

According to Keynes, capitalism does not have crises of overproduction, as Marx had shown. Rather, Keynes argued that it was a crisis of under-consumption that can be resolved by the state stepping in to purchase goods directly, printing money to give people to spend themselves and/or using government deficit spending to put more money into the economy.

Part of the reason Keynes favored ending the gold standard was to allow for a stimulus to happen more easily.

A stimulus becomes a depressant

Military spending was at first a powerful stimulant to production, a fact that Keynesian economists never tire of noting. The constant and expanding military spending in the U.S., however, has become a primary cause of inflation, even if that is not acknowledged by the bourgeois economists.

At the same time, military spending represses the expansion of capitalist reproduction. Economic reproduction is the process whereby the means of production — the raw materials, facilities, machinery and tools used in the production of goods and services — are replaced. Expanded reproduction — or reproduction on an expanded basis — is the economic essence of capitalism.

Under expanded reproduction, the existing means of production are not only replaced, they are expanded. The capitalist must expand capital and machinery — constant capital. If not, there is failure: expand or die.

However, military spending means contracted reproduction. Factories that under normal conditions produce commodities that are used to replace the equipment of existing factories or build new factories are instead producing the means of destruction.

The economy rots from within by destroying the productive forces, including, in the case of actual warfare, the most important productive force — the workers.

NFL’s racism, misogyny and homophobia

NFL’s racism, misogyny and homophobia

Continued from page 4

Africa American. This year, the NFL kept up the practice of painting feel-good phrases like “End Racism” in end zones and of allowing players to wear approved slogans like “Black Lives Matter” on the back of helmets.

Even though the league gives lip service against racism, the numbers demonstrate the NFL’s hypocrisy. Black players make up close to 70 percent of the NFL rosters, including, in the case of actual warfare, the most important productive force — the workers.

Powerful, wealthy white men have by far the most control over professional football. How they act, whom they appoint and hire, what they say — and in this case the casual jokes and demeaning put-downs — underscores the lie of the league’s public relations displays. These are the men who make the day-to-day decisions in football. And those emails are where the NFL owners’ culture was exhibited.

The league may try to spin and make John Gruden to be just one bad apple but the truth is, the whole NFL ownership and management is rotten to the core.

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Members of the U.S. Army 1st Division 9th Regiment 1st Battalion unload heavy combat equipment including Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles at the railway station near the Pabrade military base in Lithuania, on Oct. 21, 2019.
Según el último censo, en 10 años se redujo la población en casi un 12%. Y mientras creció el número de perso-
nas de la tercera edad, la de los jóvenes menores de 18 años bajó casi un 40%.

Tal parece que la política imperi-
alista hacia Puerto Rico es la de ex-
terminarnos a través de la pobreza, la falta de buenos servicios básicos, cos-
los de salud y educación, la falta de tra-
abajos al no haber ningún crec-
imiento económico que no sea de-
pender de fondos federales luego de una de catástrofe, que por cierto aquí
no han sido pocas. Porque al terrible Huracán María del 2017, le siguieron
terremotos y ahora la pandemia.

Por lo que catástrofe ha sido la
imposición de la Junta de Control Fiscal impuesta por el Congreso EUA para
destrozar el país mediante recortes absurdos a los presupuestos de servicios esenciales.

Apar te de las privatizaciones de
servicios básicos, intentan destruir
el sistema público universitario, la
Universidad de PR con sus 11 recintos. E incluso en estos recintos que más se empeñan en cerrar es el de en la montaña, en Utuado. ¿Por qué? Este se especiali-
iza en la agricultura. Y en un país-isa-
la que depende en más del 98% de la
impulso de la Junta de Control Fou-
sistit, este cierre es una amenaza a
nuestra sustentabilidad.

Teniendo en cuenta que los jóvenes que se han empeñado en quedarse para desarrollar el país, están crean-
do fincas agroecológicas que se ben-
fician de los estudios del recinto de
Utuado. Por lo tanto este cierre es un
ataque directo a esa juventud.

No se ha escrito y los jóvenes universitarios son conocidos por su combatividad.