



As railroad workers fight for dignity and sick leave: Stop government strikebreaking!

By Stephen Millies

Every worker has the right to withhold their labor. Concerted action and collective bargaining by workers are supposed to be protected by law.

That hasn't stopped President Biden from demanding on Nov. 28 that Congress stop over 100,000 railroad workers from striking.

The man in the White House said he was "reluctant to override the ratification procedures and the views of those who voted against the agreement." Yet Biden insisted that Congress enforce a tentative deal "without any modifications or delay."

The House of Representatives promptly voted on Nov. 30 to impose an agreement by a vote of 290 to 137. The Senate agreed and Biden signed the bill forcing the contract on railroad workers without their consent on Dec. 2. So much for the democratic right of railroad workers to vote on their contracts.

This is the thanks the labor movement gets for helping to stop the expected Republican landslide in



A rally in support of railroad workers was organized by International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 at the Port of Oakland, California, on Oct. 27.

Photo: IndyBay.org



Railroad workers and supporters protest BNSF CEO Kathryn Farmer outside Alliance, Nebraska, Nov. 2.

the midterm elections. Forgotten were the volunteers dispatched from Black churches and union halls.

Railroad workers have been under attack for decades. Employment has fallen from 1.5 million workers in 1947 to just 147,000 today.

This 90% drop in employment was the reason that Warren Buffett told Bloomberg Businessweek that he had his Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate gobble up the BNSF railway.

BNSF has 32,000 miles of track in 28 states as well as British Columbia and Manitoba in Canada. Yet there are only 35,000 workers that make the system's trains operate from Chicago, Alabama and Texas to California and the Pacific Northwest.

It was the BNSF that imposed a harsh new attendance policy earlier this year. Workers will be punished for being absent no matter what the reason, including going to a doctor.

Railroad management imposed these rules during the COVID-19 pandemic that killed so many trans-

portation workers. At least 156 New York City area transit workers died of the coronavirus.

As noted in a statement from the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division-International Brotherhood of Teamsters, "the railroad is not a place to work while you're sick. It's dangerous. It requires full concentration, situational awareness, and decision-making."

BNSF employees can be fired for taking off just five holidays during their entire decades-long career. People get sick on holidays, too.

Most transportation workers don't have Monday through Friday work weeks. Neither do millions of workers in hospitals, restaurants and other 24/7 workplaces.

Job cuts kill

Railroad tycoon Warren Buffett doesn't have to worry about sick days. His fortune has ballooned to \$109.2 billion while over a million

Continued on page 12

Worker / community control of social media 3

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Indigenous leadership: #LandBack to bodily autonomy 4

Leonard Peltier's Message 5



SLL photo: Sharon Black

Leonard Peltier Walk to Justice, D.C. 5

► Democrats and war 6

► Utility shutoffs 6

► FBI vs. Black liberation 7

► Sandinistas (FSLN) wins Nicaraguan election 10 ► Racism & antisemitism 8

► Take Cuba off U.S. terrorism list 9 ► Zimbabwe is moving ahead 10 ► COP 27: 'Make U.S. polluters pay' 11



SLL photo: Melinda Butterfield

At New York City Hall, LGBTQ2S activists turned out to protest an anti-trans hate group Nov. 14.

Club Q terror attack
See articles on page 2.

Shooting at Club Q reflects rising fascist terror

By Workers Voice
Socialist Movement

We must unite against the right in a mass workers' movement

Nov. 20: Last night's attack on Club Q in Colorado Springs is a result of years of anti-LGBTQ fear mongering in federal election campaigns, state legislatures, local municipalities and school boards, and across the capitalist media.

Even though most people support LGBTQ people and our rights, the rich have spent millions funding politicians who spread hate. These anti-LGBTQ campaigns are part of a program to divide, disenfranchise and attack the working class. United we can defend LGBTQ rights and fight back on every issue affecting the working class, from immigrant rights to abortion access to ending U.S. wars for profit.

Anti-LGBTQ violence funded by billionaires and hate groups

Billionaire-funded hate groups posing as foundations and think tanks—including the Alliance Defending Freedom, the American Legislative Exchange Council, and others—have drafted hundreds of anti-LGBTQ bills and policy proposals for state legislatures and school boards. These same foundations push attacks on abortion rights and anti-racist education and have blocked raises to the minimum wage.

They push laws that target healthcare, sports, and bathroom access for trans people, especially trans youth; policies forbidding discussion of LGBTQ-related subjects and people in schools; and attempts by the state to take trans children away from their parents. As healthcare for trans people has come under heavier attack, suicide rates for trans people—especially trans youth—have risen.

That the Club Q shooting occurred the night before Trans Day of Remembrance and Resilience is hardly a coincidence. The past few years have seen a rise in anti-trans violence and record murder rates,



Mourners in Colorado Springs, Nov. 20.

especially for Black trans women. The more the capitalists push anti-LGBTQ policies through the government, the more the far-right is emboldened to carry out terrorist attacks.

Capitalist media has helped stoke the flames

The media has been complicit in anti-LGBTQ campaigns, promoting the division and lies the politicians have been spreading. From Fox News to the New York Times, the media has spent years amplifying those who equate being queer or trans with being a sexual predator, including politicians and celebrities like billionaire JK Rowling.

More police are not the answer

After many mass shootings, politicians and their wealthy backers take the opportunity to call for more funding for the police. But customers took down the shooter at Club Q, not the police. And when police have been on the scene, they have protected far-right, anti-LGBTQ hate groups.

Recently in New York, police escorted a rally of far-right, anti-trans demagogues, which was met by counter-protestors defending LGBTQ people. This week, police in Denton, Texas, provided protection to Proud Boys and Christian nationalists who

targeted an event where trans people were reading to children.

Police do not prevent mass shootings, and they don't exist to protect us. They serve the rich and powerful. Heavily armed by the same weapons dealers making fortunes off war, many police forces include members of the same hate groups targeting LGBTQ people and other oppressed people. During the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting, police waited outside for hours, refusing to help those trapped inside. In Uvalde, Texas, police stood idly by while children were murdered.

In the last few years, local, state, and federal politicians have gone out of their way to increase funding to the police. Last year Biden urged city and state governments to spend \$350 billion worth of COVID relief money on cops and jails. At the same time, the cost of living has skyrocketed, unemployment has worsened, and no relief has come from the government.

The rich fear a scenario where these conditions lead to outright rebellion, as they did in 2020 in the wake of the police murder of George Floyd. The funding of fascist forces and the attacks on LGBTQ people, immigrants and activists are meant to divide and weaken us. They don't want us to challenge—much less

overturn—the system of exploitation and oppression that is the basis of all their hoarded wealth.

Voting and the courts are not the answer

While Republicans openly run on platforms of hate, the Democrats offer empty promises. They have already given up on a federal bill to protect abortion rights after the midterms. And they have largely stood by as voting rights of millions—especially Black people—have been stripped away by the right wing.

The Democratic Party blames voters for their losses and inaction rather than admitting that they have failed to address fundamental issues affecting all workers. They have failed not because they did not have support from voters or because of some broken Congressional procedure. They failed because they do not serve the people; they serve the rich.

Even if politicians could help us, we cannot afford to wait for the next election. Women and others who can bear children cannot access abortions right now. Immigrants are under assault, especially in Texas, where Governor Abbott has invoked invasion clauses to call in the National Guard. And no protection will come from the unelected, undemocratic Supreme Court, a panel of nine millionaires who stripped many rights last session and have openly proclaimed their intention to re-criminalize homosexuality, interracial marriage and birth control in future rulings.

We need a movement – NOW

The only answer to this violence is a united front against rising fascist terror. We can build a mass, militant movement to make it clear we will not be divided and intimidated by their violence.

To do this, we must go to our fellow workers directly and dispel the lies spread about LGBTQ people, stand in solidarity with immigrants, and speak out against the warmongers and parasites who profit off our suffering. 📌

Trans community defies police repression, shuts down hate rally

By Melinda Butterfield

More than a hundred trans people and supporters came out to New York City Hall on Nov. 14 to protest a hate rally featuring British TERF Kellie-Jay Keen. It was the final stop on her 11-city U.S. speaking tour. At every stop, fighters for trans liberation and equality mobilized to counter Keen and her home-grown far-right allies.

Only about 20 TERF supporters turned out here, many traveling from other cities, like Jenna Hoch of Denver, who attacked a 14-year-old counter-protester with bear mace at an earlier Keen event in Tacoma, Washington. Their numbers also included several paid security guards.

TERF stands for "Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminist." This is a deliberately misleading description, as TERFs are neither radical

nor feminist. Rather, they adopt the trappings of women's rights protests to attack transgender, nonbinary and other gender-nonconforming people and advocate for their elimination.

Keen's real agenda is shown by her cozy relationship with the white supremacist Proud Boys and by the massive outpouring of New York Police Department protection for her supporters.

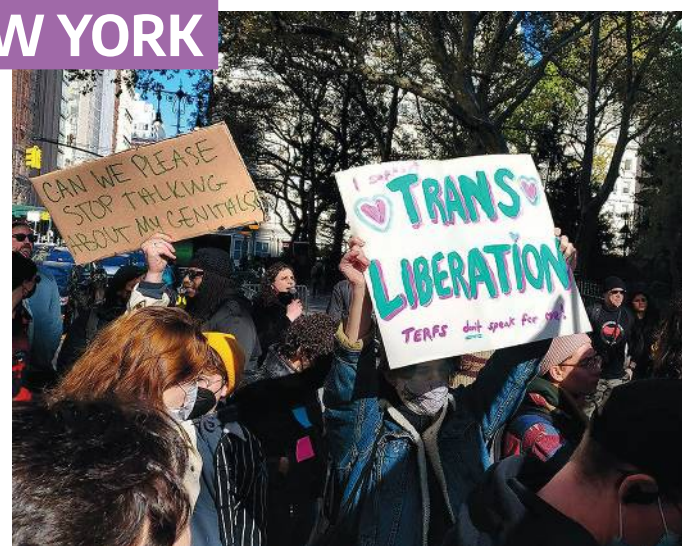
The TERFs' hate speech infuriated those who came out to oppose them. Their venom is especially directed at trans women while claiming they want to "save" trans men from being themselves. These statements are deeply painful and dehumanizing for all trans and nonbinary people living under a hostile capitalist system.

But this rhetoric also fuels the anti-trans panic currently being used to incite right-wing violence against

queer people and ram through measures like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's recent order to de-transition all trans youth in the state—despite plentiful evidence that this will lead to more suicides and abuse.

WarmUp NY called New York's counter-protest. Participating groups included New York Antifa, the Young Communist League, Women in Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha, and Socialist Unity Party.

Trans New Yorkers were determined to drown out and disrupt the TERFs' hate speech. Opposing them was a small army of New York City cops. At least a hundred NYPD offi-



New York City Hall, Nov. 14.

SLL PHOTO: MELINDA BUTTERFIELD

cers formed a wall protecting the fascists from the righteous anger of the LGBTQ2S community. They declared the counter-protest an "unlawful assembly" and arrested nine people.

This reporter witnessed four of
Continued on page 3

Twitter, Facebook mass layoffs: Demand worker-community control of social media

By Melinda Butterfield

Billionaire bigot Elon Musk's chaotic takeover of Twitter, with more than half of the company's 7,500 workers fired and locked out, along with Facebook/Meta's subsequent announcement of mass layoffs, highlights the urgent need for worker-community control of these communication platforms relied on by billions of people worldwide.

Musk's family fortune originated with the stolen labor power of South African mineworkers under apartheid and expanded through the union-busting Tesla auto company and military contractors Starlink and Space X. He's now thrown open Twitter's doors to fascist groups and far-right provocateurs after completing his \$44-billion buyout Oct. 27.

Among those terminated were the entire team of content moderators responsible for addressing incidents of hate speech and threats against people of color, women, trans people, and the queer community.

Twitter's protections were always inadequate and poorly enforced. But all of the measures forced on the company in the wake of the Black Lives uprising and the Jan. 6, 2020, attack on the Capitol have been swept away.

However, Twitter's "warnings" targeting media and officials from countries targeted by U.S. imperialism – including Cuba, Iran, China and Russia – remain firmly intact.

Attack on workers

Business Insider reported: "Five of those laid off filed a class-action lawsuit against Twitter on Nov. 3, accusing Twitter of breach of contract and violating the WARN Act, which requires companies to alert workers prior to mass layoffs."

"An emergency motion added to the lawsuit on Wednesday alleged

that, by promising that the workers would get at least a severance package if laid off after the acquisition, Twitter 'had persuaded employees not to seek or obtain employment elsewhere during the uncertain time period prior to Musk's purchase of the company.'

"After Musk's plans to buy Twitter were first announced in April, 'many Twitter employees' asked management about the changes that this would bring to the company, 'in particular about mass layoffs,' the former workers said."

Those who initiated the lawsuit were among the first fired by Musk. But overnight on Nov. 3-4, up to 3,700 more Twitter workers found out that their jobs were gone – not from an official announcement, but because they were locked out of their Slack accounts and other company platforms.

The ripple effects have just begun.

"After laying off half its staff earlier this month, Twitter on Saturday [Nov. 12] started culling its vast ranks of contract staff, sources confirmed to Axios."

"Like many companies, Twitter's staff is made up of a mix of full-time employees as well as contract workers who work for a third party. Twitter has cut an unspecified number of contractors in various fields, including content moderation, sources confirmed. ...

"Some contractors, meanwhile, are concerned about getting paid for the last two weeks as a number of contractors ended up on teams with no full-time Twitter employees, leaving no one to sign off on their time cards, sources tell Axios."

Tech industry mass layoffs

Musk's theatrics have gotten the lion's share of headlines, but the entire tech industry is in the midst of a deep crisis that it is taking out on the backs of its workers and users dependent on their platforms.

"Tens of thousands of tech workers have been laid off within days, as tech giants including Meta, Twitter, Salesforce and others shed headcount going into the final stretch of the year," CNBC reported Nov. 10. "At least 20,300 U.S. tech workers were let go from their jobs in November, and more than 100,000 since the beginning of the year, according to Layoffs.fyi, which tracks layoffs in the field."

On Nov. 9, Meta – the parent company of Facebook, the world's largest social media platform with 2.9 billion users, Instagram and WhatsApp – announced more than 11,000 layoffs, about 13% of its global workforce.

Facebook has been losing ground to Twitter, TikTok, and other social media platforms. Mark Zuckerberg, chairman and CEO of Meta, sunk enormous amounts of capital into developing virtual reality software that has been ridiculed for being inferior to widely-available VR gaming systems.

On Nov. 14, the New York Times broke the news that Amazon plans 10,000 layoffs, or 3% of its global workforce, in "Amazon's devices organization, including the voice-as-



sistant Alexa, as well as at its retail division and in human resources."

Although known primarily as the world's biggest online store and for the sweatshop conditions of its warehouse and delivery workers, Amazon has its hands in many pots – from grocery chain Whole Foods to the robotics industry to a major social media platform, Twitch. AWS (Amazon Web Services) has tens of billions in contracts with the Pentagon and the National Security Agency.

"As per [a] Bloomberg report, Amazon became the world's first public company to lose a trillion dollars in market value as a combination of rising inflation, tightening monetary policies and disappointing earnings updates triggered a historic selloff in the stock this year," Mint reported.

Ride-share app company Lyft plans to cut 13% of its workforce. And the list goes on.

Tech workers aren't the only ones who will be affected. The ripple effects will hit manufacturing, delivery, restaurant and healthcare workers, to name just a few, as the U.S. economy spirals toward a new capitalist recession.

Workers, communities unite!

Already some of Musk's schemes have laughingly backfired – such as his plan to do away with the Twitter verification system for public figures and companies by charging \$8 a month for a "blue check" verification.

Within hours of implementing the system, Twitter was flooded with bogus "verified" accounts, such as one for pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly. The company's stock crashed after a parody account tweeted that the company would hereafter make its lifesaving insulin free. (Insulin should, of course, be free.)

As a result of Musk's verification scheme and the proliferation of hate speech, advertising giant Omicron – representing huge brands like McDonald's and Apple – urged its clients to pause Twitter advertising,

Reuters reports. So far, General Motors, Volkswagen, and United Airlines are among the companies that have pulled their advertising.

Social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube (owned by Google) have become the most important form of communication for billions of people worldwide. Workers, their families, and oppressed communities – especially young people – rely on them not only to stay in touch with each other but often as their main source of news and information.

The current wave of union organizing efforts at Starbucks, Amazon, and other giant chains has used Twitter and other social media to build public support and spread the word to workers around the country. Likewise, Black and Brown-led groups and antifascists have used them to get out the word about right-wing attacks and to organize resistance.

Elon Musk has made a special target of oppressed communities on Twitter, such as the trans, nonbinary, gender-nonconforming, and intersex community. For years, many vulnerable and isolated groups and individuals have used the platform to build community and seek support and affirmation. Musk has blamed them and "civil rights groups" for the hit to Twitter advertising revenue since his takeover.

The impact goes far beyond U.S. shores. The importance of these platforms for the world's population is reflected in the emphasis Washington has put on appointing censorship boards to silence the voices of media and organizations critical of U.S. sanctions and military adventures worldwide.

Elon Musk's takeover and impending mass layoffs across the tech industry show that it is long past time that Twitter, Facebook and similar platforms were made publicly owned utilities under the control of their workers and the communities they serve, here and worldwide. Let's raise the demand: social media by and for the people! 📢

N.Y. trans community

Continued from page 2

these targeted arrests. Police picked out individuals in the crowd, surrounded them, dragged them to the ground, and cuffed them.

Trans people and allies held their ground against the violent police. They kept up loud chants of "TERFS go home," "Trans women are women, trans men are men," and "How do you spell racist? NYPD" and held banners, signs, and flags.

Keen stayed away after cops advised her that they were unable to suppress the counter-protest. Instead, she posted a whiny YouTube video from a nearby Starbucks. The bigots ended the failed hate rally, and their opponents declared victory.

Afterward, many people went to One Police Plaza to conduct jail solidarity for the arrested comrades. They took shifts in the bitter cold until everyone was released.

TERFs and Nazis say get back; trans people say fight back! 📢

National Day of Mourning 2022:

From #LandBack to bodily autonomy, Indigenous leadership is key

BY MAHTOWIN MUNRO

Opening remarks at the 2022 National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Nov. 24. Since 1970, Indigenous people and their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. This year more than 2,000 people attended – the largest group ever.

Greetings to everyone here with us today and to everyone listening via our livestream. This crowd is amazing! There are people from lots of different Indigenous Nations, and it gives us strength to be together today. Haitian and Palestinian community, Taino, Black, Asian, South Asian, Latino and white — I love looking out every year and seeing everyone together in solidarity with Indigenous struggles.

People yearn to be in relation with each other and with the earth, and that is what we need in order to address the destructive systems that are hurting so many of us. At the United American Indians of New England (UAIN), we have long believed that our liberation is intertwined with the liberation of others.

Welcome Deaf community. Thanks to our ASL interpreters and Sunny Singh from hate5six for live streaming. We also send hearts to our kitchen crew, our sound crew and all the artists who worked on restoring some of our banners. Shout-out too to the Starbucks and other workers here who have been fighting hard to unionize their workplaces.

Reminder: COVID, flu and RSV are all around, and we don't want anyone here to get sick. Masks up! Mayflowers down!

We have a lot of positive things happening in our communities, but this “thankstaking day” is a day of mourning. We start out by acknowledging that a lot of people listening today are feeling pain from the violence that their communities are experiencing. In particular, we embrace and are part of the LGBTQ2S and trans communities that are so under attack and are grieving the loss of family at Club Q in Colorado.

Frontlines of climate crisis

Some of our speakers today are Indigenous people whose nations are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, as are Indigenous peoples on multiple continents, suffering from floods, extreme heat, melting, the impact on fish and animals and

plants. Land bases are disappearing and traditional cultural practices are being devastated by this.

Despite this happening, climate conferences such as COP27 continue to have way too much useless talk without the necessary commitment and immediate action required to properly address what is happening, and they continue to largely exclude Indigenous people and voices.

Everywhere, Indigenous peoples are resisting megadams, lithium mines, copper mines, coal mines, gold mines, oil and gas pipelines, fracking and so many other destructive projects. Many Native communities do not have safe drinking water, often due to industrial and military pollution.

So we say today: Hands off our land and water! Stop destroying our planet!

Attacks on ICWA

Right now, many of us Native people in this country – really all of us – are closely watching the attacks on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), which is intended to protect Indigenous children from being removed from their communities.

The ICWA appeal in the Supreme Court is backed by energy companies and evangelicals. They are viciously attacking Indigenous sovereignty, our nations and our families in an effort to steal more Indigenous land and return to the days when about a third of Indigenous children were taken away from their homes and tribal communities to be adopted into non-Native families.

Along with concerns about ICWA is the blunt fact that Native children are at least 4 times more likely to be in foster care in the U.S., with those numbers even higher in some areas.

We continue to join with those demanding the identification and return of the remains of thousands of Indigenous children who died at the residential schools and boarding schools sponsored by Canada and the U.S. in order to “kill the Indian” in the child and destroy Indigenous communities. Bring our children home!



Mahtowin Munro

**So we say today:
Hands off our children!**

Bodily autonomy and MMIWG2S (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit)

We acknowledge that the current widespread attacks on reproductive rights affect all potential child-bearers. We also point out that a reproductive rights crisis has existed for decades for Indigenous women, long before the overturn of Roe v. Wade.

That crisis includes a lack of support to be able to bear and bring up children with decent food and housing and without having them stolen by settler agencies, the need for free and safe abortions, and we cannot forget the former government practice of sterilizing Indigenous women and girls without consent, something that is still known to happen in Canada.

We point out that violence against Indigenous women, girls and two spirits is rampant, the very highest rates. Our relatives continue to be stolen from us and killed, including right here in Massachusetts.

**So we say today:
Hands and laws off our bodies!**

Museums and other institutions around the country, from Harvard to Berkeley, continue to hold onto our ancestors, by which I mean skeletal remains, skulls, hair, funerary items and more. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act needs to be strengthened, and all of our ancestors returned now. We cannot rest until that happens.

**So we say today:
Hands off our ancestors!**

Solidarity with migrants

Year after year, we stand on this hill and demand an end to the colonial borders, that ICE be abolished, and that Customs and Border Patrol stop detaining undocumented migrants. We think not only of the tribal nations whose homelands have been divided by the arbitrary settler-colonial border, but also of the many thousands of Indigenous people impacted by the U.S. policies that have led them to flee their home countries, and the Haitian and other relatives who are denied entry or deported by border control.

**So we say today:
Hands off our relatives!**

There are many important struggles happening right now that we don't have time to touch upon. So I ask that you spend some time after today following UAIN and other Indigenous-led organizations on social media, and also start reading Indigenous media, to learn more about Indigenous movements here and internationally and what you can do to support them.

LandBack

Everywhere, there are calls for LandBack and reparations.

Our ancestors always taught us to demand the return of our lands – it is not a new idea. The land and water are in our blood and bones, part of our bodies, and we have never forgotten that.

Ensuring that Indigenous peoples around the world can manage land and water is documented to be much better for the earth. As part of urgently needed FIRST steps to achieve justice and address climate change, let's ensure that no projects can go through any Indigenous nation's land without free, prior and authentic informed consent. It's time to cancel the leases, the pipelines, the mining and the corporate contracts and start over.

Take all of the land that is currently being mismanaged by settler governments, such as the National Parks, and hand it over to Indigenous Nations to caretaker that land. That would mean the restoration of millions of acres. It would also mean the end of the desecration of sacred sites such as the Black Hills. Landback needs to happen internationally. [📌](#)



Indigenous people and supporters march through Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Nov. 24.

PHOTOS: RACHEL JONES

Message from Leonard Peltier: 'The world now faces the challenges our people foretold'

Statement by Indigenous political prisoner Leonard Peltier for the 2022 National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Nov. 24.

Greetings my relatives, friends, loved ones and supporters.

First, I want to say how deeply grateful I am that you would want to hear what I have to say.

It is an honor to be with you in spirit, though I am far away. Being my age and having spent these many years in prison plays on your heart to the nth degree. I am here because I wanted to make a difference for our people, and I want to encourage others to do the same.

My heart has not changed, and my intentions have not changed. The love and faith I have in our future generation has not changed.

All the world now faces the same challenges that our people foretold regarding climate damage being caused by people who take more than they need, dismissing the teachings of our fathers, and the knowledge of countless generations living upon the earth in harmony.

I may sound a bit dramatic and sensitive, but after all these years and the 78 journeys around the sun, I often feel and think that I should speak my mind and heart to whomever I can whenever I can, because at my age, you never know if you are going to live another 20 years or 20 minutes.

Our people have been through a lot; generations have been imprisoned, beaten, murdered, dispossessed of our lands, and they fought so we might live.

We are proud of our ancestors. I have tried to make the best of my time upon the earth, in my given circumstances. To say the least, this has not been an enjoyable life journey, but I am proud to have been given a chance to stand for our people. I encourage you to do the same.

I am not a speaker, but I have spoken; I am not a leader, but I have led. Having said this, knowing what I know now, feeling what I've felt, seeing what I've seen and hearing what I have heard, I would do it all over again. For as our ancestors loved a future for us, I love all people who have walked upon this earth. I recognize her as the greatest manifestation of the Creator, and she should be recognized as such.

On this day of mourning, I encourage you, with a hopeful heart, to continue to gather and have a ceremony in remembrance of all our people, especially those who have given their lives so that we might live.

Each of you has within you the potential to make a difference in the world. Each one of you has the opportunity and ability to do one act of kindness to someone in need and one act to make the earth a better place for all life.

I, with the help of others, have started a Food Forest Movement. We encourage all people throughout the earth to plant at least one fruit bearing tree, so that the animals and all creatures of the earth will have healthier food, better air and cleaner water.

Forgive me if I have said too much or too little. Time in this place is often irrelevant to the task at hand. May the Creator bless you, your families and all our peoples of like mind.

**Peace, love and blessings,
In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Doksha,
Leonard Peltier
Mitakuye Oyasin (We are all related)**



PHOTO: RACHEL JONES

For more information on Leonard Peltier's case, and to sign a petition demanding clemency from President Joe Biden, visit WholsLeonardPeltier.info.

Leonard Peltier Walk to Justice culminates in Washington, D.C.



By Struggle-La Lucha Washington bureau

Nov. 13: The "Walk to Justice" to demand freedom for Indigenous political prisoner Leonard Peltier culminated in Washington, D.C. this weekend. Organized by the American Indian Movement Grand Governing Council, its participants trekked 1,103 miles, beginning on Sept. 1 in Minnesota, AIM's birthplace.

Peltier, who is now 78 years old, was framed by the FBI and wrongfully convicted for a shooting at Oglala, South Dakota, in 1975. His case has garnered international support from such notable figures as Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu.

A highlight of the closing rally at the Lincoln Memorial was a special letter from Leonard Peltier read by organizers. Participants pointed out that President Joe Biden can and must use his power to grant Peltier executive clemency.

For information on the walk to justice, visit AIMGrandGoverningCouncil.org/LeonardPeltier.html. <#>

SLL PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Democrats show true colors with allegiance to war

By John Parker

If anyone needs further proof that the Democrats are just as willing as the Republicans to recklessly push the world into crises, the letter from some Democratic congresspersons renouncing a previous, very weak plea delivered by them to President Biden provides plenty of evidence.

On Oct. 25, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, chair of the Progressive Caucus of



SLP PHOTO: MELINDA BUTTERFIELD

Congress, issued a withdrawal of a letter sent the previous day, which had asked President Joe Biden to concentrate more on negotiation rather than escalation of the war in Ukraine.

The letter, in addition to justifying the U.S. proxy war against Russia and Donbass, states that Democrats have “strongly and unanimously supported and voted for every package of military, strategic and economic assistance to the Ukrainian people ...”

Up until this withdrawal was written, folks could still hold onto the illusion of the “progressive” Democrat. But, in spite of the stances some take on domestic issues, can they still be considered “progressive” if they are helping the Biden administration gamble with a nuclear nightmare and the next world war?

The destruction of World Wars I and II would pale in comparison to the devastation and death now possible with far greater weaponry and delivery systems than the atomic bomb and Boeing B-29 bomber that killed hundreds of thousands of civilians in Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945.

Have these politicians forgotten that horrendous war crime by the U.S. government, which – after seeing the destruction and death it cre-

ated in Hiroshima, which instantly killed 80,000 civilians, then 140,000 more in a tortuous and painful way – decided to do it again days later in Nagasaki?

Have they forgotten the many genocidal massacres the U.S. and NATO committed after being given free rein with the disbanding of the Warsaw Pact in 1990? Did they forget the 1999 bombing of Yugoslavia, targeting civilians, Chinese journalists, passenger trains and homes? Or Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria, also using the U.S.-led NATO alliance – the most violent, belligerent and aggressive military alliance the world has ever witnessed?

Have they forgotten the blood of millions dripping from the overflowing coffers of military profiteers Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and others?

Support for permanent war

In a further pledge of allegiance to this imperialist proxy war against Russia, the withdrawal letter states: “Every war ends with diplomacy, and this one will too after Ukrainian victory.” This statement damns all its signatories.

Not even the most optimistic imperialist observers think the Ukrainian military is capable of de-

feating Russia within a year or even longer – especially not with the over 6 million people who voted by over 96% to join the Russian Federation in the Donbass republics and in Kherson and Zaporozhye.

What the statement really means is that these so-called progressive Democrats are okay with extending this war with greater and greater weapons of mass destruction sent by the U.S., targeting those millions of people and the Russian soldiers protecting them, and indefinitely continuing a conflict that could spill into World War III.

The fact that these congresspeople immediately rescinded their original letter, which was in no way critical of this U.S. proxy war and even helped to justify the escalations, shows the extreme cowardice of these politicians, who are much more aware than most people about U.S. war and its aims.

Ukraine: a U.S. puppet state

But there’s more. That original letter sent on Oct. 24 states: “Your support for the self-defense of an independent, sovereign and democratic state has been supported by Congress, including through various appropriations of military, eco-

Continued on page 7

Crocodile tears for Ukraine as millions of U.S. families suffer utility shutoffs

By Stephen Millies

“Kyiv Readies for Brutal, Cold, Dark Winter” is a typical headline in the capitalist media these days. The Nov. 21 Associated Press article—reprinted by Voice of America, the official U.S. propaganda outlet—tells of electrical outages caused by Russian missile strikes.

Other headlines include “A Capital Draped in Darkness” in the New York Times and “Missile Strikes Leave Kyiv in the Dark” in the Atlantic Magazine.

What about the millions of U.S. families facing electric and gas shutoffs by the profit-mad utility monopolies? Twenty million households are behind on their electric bills.

Just in 2020 and 2021, households had their power shut off 3.6 million times. Each of these shutoffs caused misery for millions of children and their parents.

The actual figure of utility shutoffs is higher. Only 33 states and the District of Columbia require utilities to report disconnections.

Many seniors and disabled people have to juggle to pay their rent, food and prescription medicines. Morgan Magda, who lives in Girard, Ohio, had her gas cut off.

Her sole source of income is Social Security disability benefits. Millions of workers become disabled because capitalists speed up work to make more profits. Carpal tunnel syndrome can strike workers at both computer keyboards and assembly lines.

“I’m disabled and have had to live without hot water, a stove to cook on,

and now heat. It’s been so hard,” said Magda.

Utility shutoffs can also become a death sentence. A May 15, 1982, fire in Baltimore killed 10 people, including seven children. The fire was caused by a candle the family was forced to use after their electricity was shut off.

The family owed just \$808 on their electric bill to Baltimore Gas and Electric, now part of the Exelon Corporation. That works out to \$80.80 for every person killed.

A dozen years later, two adults and seven children died in another Baltimore fire on Feb. 26, 1994. Once again, an overturned candle started the inferno after their electricity was shut off.

Stop the shutoffs!

Last year it was estimated that U.S. households owed \$32 billion in unpaid utility bills. President Biden is doing practically nothing to help the millions of families facing life-threatening utility shutoffs.

Yet Biden and Congress have spent \$68 billion so far on the war in Ukraine. The White House has just asked Congress for another \$37.7 billion.

This \$105.7 billion total is three times what could pay all the unpaid utility bills.

Capitalists aren’t spending this money—all of it stolen from poor and working people—because they want to help Ukrainians.

Human life is cheap to the wealthy and powerful. For the executives at Baltimore Gas and Electric, each child killed in that May 15, 1982, fire



A protest in Albany, New York, in June 2022 demanded the extension of a statewide moratorium on utility shutoffs. Photo: Communities for Local Power

was worth just \$80.80.

Black grandmother Eleanor Bumpers was killed on Oct. 29, 1984, by a New York City cop because she owed \$394 in back rent.

To save a mere \$5 million a year, Flint, Michigan, stopped pumping clean water from Lake Huron and instead used water from the Flint River, a virtual sewer. Flint’s children were poisoned while thousands face water shutoffs in Detroit and other cities.

Stop NATO’s war!

Wall Street and European banks are turning Ukraine into their colony. Foreign capitalists are taking over the country’s fertile farmland. A 2021 law is making this theft easier.

The Russian Federation is now targeting Ukraine’s electrical infrastructure in an attempt to disrupt

the massive deliveries of weapons from the U.S. and NATO. The stock price of Lockheed Martin, one of the biggest U.S. war contractors, has gone up \$100 per share since the conflict started.

Russian forces are not carpet-bombing cities like the U.S. did to Baghdad. They’re not dropping napalm to burn children alive like the Pentagon did in Korea, Laos and Vietnam.

The capitalist media sheds phony tears for Ukrainians but it says nothing about the over 14,000 people that were killed by the Kyiv regime’s war on Donbass since 2014.

Why can’t the White House loosen the economic blockade of Cuba while the socialist country is rebuilding the parts of its electrical grid that

Continued on page 9

and enabling of fascism

Continued from page 6

nomic and humanitarian aid in furtherance of this cause.”

The fact is that Ukraine is no longer a sovereign state. That disappeared when the U.S.-orchestrated, -funded and -trained neo-Nazi organizations overthrew the democratically elected government of Ukraine in 2014 and replaced it with an anti-Russian, pro-NATO administration dominated by Washington.

In fact, leaked conversations after the coup by U.S. diplomat Victoria Nuland — now Biden’s Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs — exposed her discussions with other U.S. officials deciding who would be part of the new Ukrainian government.

After 2014, any real opposition to the coup government and growing neo-Nazi influence, especially in the military and security forces of Ukraine, was eliminated, sometimes by fire — as in the burning alive of anti-fascists and workers in May 2014 at the House of Trade Unions in Odessa by neo-Nazi gangs.

Currently socialist and communist parties are banned in Ukraine, as are capitalist parties critical of the war. So is the use of the Russian language, which is spoken by a majority of people in the Donbass region and much of eastern Ukraine.

Any elections or activities of the Ukrainian state after February 2014 existed without any real democratic freedom. Guarantees were imposed to insure that any subsequent administrations would be anti-Russian and loyal to Western and U.S. imperialism.

Eight-year massacre of Donbass

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky continued the massacre of the people of the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics in the Donbass region. Between the spring of 2014 and Russia’s intervention last February, over 14,000 people died because of Ukraine’s war on Donbass. The casualties continue to grow by the day, especially in the capital of Donetsk and surrounding areas.

Zelensky is now calling for a nuclear first strike against Russia, the country that, for the first time in eight years, was able to stop the

genocide occurring in much of the Donbass region. The fact is that by Feb. 23 the Ukrainian military had at least 150,000 troops amassed at the border of the Donbass republics and had escalated the bombing of the region 20-fold in just the five days prior to Russia’s intervention.

A massacre of Donbass residents — whom the Ukrainian regime openly calls “subhuman” — was about to occur; a fact the Washington “progressives” refuse to admit, since they don’t even recognize the existence of the people of the Donbass region.

This is why they also aren’t willing to acknowledge the formal and legitimate request for assistance by the LPR and DPR for Russia’s military support on Feb. 23 to protect millions of people targeted for death by Kiev. The only thing that stopped an ensuing massacre was the Russian intervention, condemned so vehemently by the “progressive” congresspeople in their letters to Biden.

Why the 180-degree turn?

The original letter of the “progressives” also includes this passage, which quotes Biden: “It is imperative to avoid direct military conflict with Russia, which would lead to ‘World War III, something we must strive to prevent.’”

“The risk of nuclear weapons being used has been estimated to be higher now than at any time since the height of the Cold War. Given the catastrophic possibilities of nuclear escalation and miscalculation, which only increase the longer this war continues, we agree with your goal of avoiding direct military conflict as an overriding national-security priority.”

The withdrawal letter actually does a 180-degree turn and advocates escalation towards World War III and extension of the war.

Did something change from one day to the next, negating that threat of nuclear disaster? No, it did not.

What did change is that the orders came down from the capitalist ruling class — the bankers, bosses and Big Oil barons — that the Democratic National Committee had to get the “progressives” in line before the midterm elections. No perceived opposition to the war, even this timid,

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- David Clennon, actor & activist;
- Melinda Butterfield, Struggle La Lucha, co-editor, author of U.S. Proxy War in Ukraine and Donbass;
- Berta Joubert, Women In Struggle;
- Ellie McCrow, Pratt Workers United organizing committee (partial list)

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STOP FUNDING white supremacy from Ukraine to the U.S.

SHUT DOWN NATO, the Pentagon & the CIA

STOP racism, transphobia, union busting, and attacks on women's rights, LGBTQ people and immigrants

could be allowed to stand.

And so they did get in line. The “progressives” proved themselves to be just as cowardly as the “moderate” Republicans who bowed to Trump and the ultra-right.

Boots on the ground

Since then, one thing has changed, but it aggravates rather than negates the threat of nuclear conflict. The Pentagon announced in November that U.S. boots on the ground were no longer limited to Kiev, creating further opportunities for “miscalculation” when U.S. troops get killed while they assist in targeting Russian soldiers.

If the U.S. remains on this most dangerous trajectory, it will destroy all of the good work some of these “progressive” politicians have done in the past, if only by giving lip service to genuinely progressive movements and causes.

These politicians are now enabling endless U.S. wars; increasing the pos-

sibility of World War III; and aiding the continuing rise of fascism and white supremacy supported by the U.S. in Ukraine and blowing back in places like Buffalo, New York, where a white supremacist inspired by the fascist Azov Battalion killed 10 Black people in a supermarket on May 14.

These politicians know better. Shame on them all!

The Congress members who signed the two letters are: Pramila Jayapal, Earl Blumenauer, Cori Bush, Jesús “Chuy” García, Raúl M. Grijalva, Sara Jacobs, Ro Khanna, Barbara Lee, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley, Sheila Jackson Lee, Mark Pocan, Nydia M. Velázquez, Gwen S. Moore, Yvette D. Clarke, Henry C. “Hank” Johnson Jr., Rashida Tlaib, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Mondaire Jones, Peter A. DeFazio, Jamaal Bowman, Marie Newman, Alma S. Adams, Chellie Pingree, Jamie Raskin, Bonnie Watson Coleman, Mark Takano, André Carson, Donald M. Payne Jr. and Mark DeSaulnier. [R](#)

Activists denounce FBI attacks on Black liberation group

By Andre Powell

Washington, D.C.: The Black is Back Coalition led a protest march through the streets of the capital Nov. 5 to denounce the FBI attacks on the leadership of the African People’s Socialist Party (APSP) in Florida and Missouri.

The action began at Malcolm X Park, where APSP Chairman Omali Yeshitela addressed the crowd. Yeshitela and his wife Ona Zené Yeshitela were targeted by an FBI raid of their home on July 29 for their opposition to the U.S. proxy war in Ukraine.

Activists then marched through the streets of D.C. to the White

House. Marching down 14th Street, they greeted shoppers and sidewalk diners with several chants, including: “Fist up, fight back, stop the FBI attack” and “Two, four, six, eight, tell the people who we hate — FBI, CIA, the whole damn state!”

Upon reaching the White House, the crowd listened to other speakers, including Pam Africa, who offered solidarity from political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Brother Lee Patterson also read a solidarity statement from the Socialist Unity Party defending the APSP against the FBI attacks — part of the continuing war on Black Liberation organizations since the 1960s. [R](#)



Washington, D.C. Nov. 5.

James Baldwin, corporate media and the red herring of ‘Black antisemitism’

By Lev Koufax

In 1967, the great African American writer James Baldwin wrote an article that explored the relationship between the Jewish and Black communities, and in particular, the justified anger the Black community felt towards Jewish landlords and businesspeople in major U.S. cities.

For decades, dating back to the great migration of southern Black people to northern and midwestern U.S. cities, Jewish business owners and landlords engaged in practices of exploitation and racism to prove their value to the white ruling class.

Jewish landlords charged Black families exorbitant rents. Jewish capitalists often denied service to Black individuals at their small businesses.

Baldwin details this reality in “Negroes Are Anti-Semitic Because They’re Anti-White,” a title that doesn’t quite mean what it might first appear to mean. The article is ultimately a call for a legitimate reconciliation between the Jewish and Black communities, and for both communities to turn their attention to the real enemy.

Baldwin wrote: “Our parents were lashed to futureless jobs, in order to pay the outrageous rent. We knew that the landlord treated us this way only because we were colored and he knew that we could not move out.

“The grocer was a Jew, and being in debt to him was very much like being in debt to the company store. The butcher was a Jew, and we certainly paid more for meat than [white] New York citizens, and very often carried insults home, along with the meat.”

Baldwin went on to describe how in isolated mid-20th century Black New York neighborhoods, the Jewish small business owners and landlords executed the racist will of the larger and more powerful white ruling class. To many Black families, it felt like Jewish business owners ran every aspect of their life.

Unfortunately, this resentment, stoked by ruling class “model minority” politics, has grown into pockets of antisemitism and the growth of “Black Hebrew Israelite” ideology. This homophobic, transphobic and capitalist ideology posits that the contemporary Jewish community are evil fraudsters who stole the identity of Judaism and to this day manipulate the global economy.

It is an ideology that ignores history and does nothing but divide two communities that should be united in solidarity against capitalism and racism – two communities that at times have been in solidarity against racism.

Black celebrities

Even more unfortunately, this ideology has taken hold among a few Black celebrity icons.

In recent weeks, Kanye West and Kyrie Irving have drawn significant backlash for antisemitic comments. In West’s case, he openly asserted that Jews run the planet and donned a “white lives matter” t-shirt along with fascist talk show host Candace Owens.

If that wasn’t bad enough, West also openly attacked and maligned members of George Floyd’s family.



James Baldwin addressing the crowd after participating in the march from Selma to Montgomery in support of voting rights, March 1965.

West is known for his open admiration for Hitler and his belief that Jews control all global events from the shadows. Irving’s comments were a little more complicated, but still ultimately misguided.

Irving received a great deal of criticism and media attention after he tweeted support for the film, “Hebrews to Negroes.” Among other things, this film argues that the Holocaust was a fabrication and that that modern Jewry are born from a satanic cult that stole the Jewish identity from Black Africans.

To be abundantly clear, this ideology is harmful, inaccurate, and ultimately capitalist. The goal of the Black Hebrew Israelite ideology is not the liberation of all people from capitalist oppression, but to simply replace the perceived Jewish global cabal as the head of the exploitative global imperialist system.

It must be acknowledged that this ideology grew from a legitimate resentment felt in the Black community against Jewish landlords in New York City and Chicago neighborhoods that sought to control and oppress their Black tenants and neighbors.

It flows logically that this resentment could grow into a conspiracy-based ideology, based on experiences with racist Jews trying to prove their worth to wealthy white non-Jews, in the absence of a revolutionary, multinational working-class movement.

Inequality, then and now

It’s not as if the racist inequality apparent between the Jewish and Black communities has changed since Baldwin recorded his perspective more than 50 years ago. Jews in the U.S. are able to achieve higher-paying jobs, management positions and political office at a far higher rate than individuals in the Black community due to the Jewish community’s relative privilege.

The ruling class has for centuries elevated certain oppressed groups to divide the working class and police the most oppressed. In the United States, the Jewish community has long provided managers, small business owners and academics to the ranks of the capitalist system.

The core contradiction of the U.S. Jewish community is the ability of Jewish individuals to become wealthy and obtain positions of power, while buying into the false belief that they will eventually be fully accepted into mainstream white society.

The vast majority of Black people in the U.S struggle through economic warfare, crumbling schools and racist police terror to simply survive, and have little or no opportunity to rise to positions of wealth and power.

This isn’t to say that Irving’s views on the Jewish community are to be condoned or accepted, let alone West’s antisemitism, sexist harassment of his ex-wife, or – to be frank – his support for white supremacy. It is just to say that the ideology expressed by them exists for a reason. This noxious ideology grew from legitimate grievances with racist Jewish business owners and landlords.

Media’s red herring

In reality, West’s and Irving’s respective remarks aren’t even the most concerning development in the fraught dynamic between the Black and Jewish communities. More alarming is the corporate media’s attempt to increase the wedge driven between the two communities.

The U.S. corporate media will never tell us the truth about our true class enemy, the billionaires and their political henchmen, most of whom are racist white men. Instead, outlets like CNN, NPR, and Newsweek will do everything in their power to obfuscate legitimate social issues and instead pit oppressed communities against one another.

When Black celebrities espouse backwards or antisemitic beliefs, corporate media seizes on the opportunity to stoke conflict between the Black and Jewish communities.

Ruling class media accomplishes this division by pushing a false narrative that the Black community is somehow inherently more antisemitic than others. Since West and Irving made their antisemitic remarks, mainstream news outlets have erupted in a firestorm of coverage harping on antisemitism among Black celebrities and communities.

This tactic is concerning and problematic for many reasons. It is concerning that backwards comments from Black celebrities gets more attention and calls for accountability than Nazi-founded companies such as Adidas and Chanel. It’s concerning that Black celebrities lose their wealth and reputation for hateful comments, while white athlete Brett Favre is allowed to extort welfare funds from the state of Mississippi without any accountability.

It’s concerning that a “Saturday Night Live” audience reacted in

horror when guest host Dave Chapelle asserted that the oppression of Jews cannot be placed on the shoulders of Black Americans. That would seem obvious; however, it seems the corporate media has convinced many Democratic Party-aligned whites that Black people are indeed the central oppressor of the Jewish community.

(A better question to ask is why Chapelle, a notorious transphobe, was invited to host the “liberal” SNL amidst the current anti-trans panic.)

This phenomena is not only based in falsehood, but is also incredibly dangerous. The Jewish community must identify the oppressor, it’s true; but the oppressor is not the Black community.

Unity against the common oppressor

On the contrary, the oppressor of the Jewish community is the same as that of the Black community. The oppressor is the billionaire. The oppressor is the war profiteer. The oppressor is the imperialist. The oppressor is the white supremacist. The oppressor is the Nazi. They are the ones with institutional power to carry out antisemitic oppression.

The Jewish community must reject the false narrative that the Black community, which has no such power under white supremacist capitalism, is somehow the main purveyor of antisemitism, or even somehow more proportionally antisemitic than other communities.

One must simply look at the acts of violence in recent years against the Jewish community and those at the head of the modern fascist movement to see who are the central purveyors of antisemitism: the white ruling class and their neo-Nazi running dogs.

Robert Bowers, who shot and killed 11 Jews at the Tree of Life Synagogue, is a white neo-Nazi. When hundreds of right wingers marched on Charlottesville, Virginia, chanting “Jews will not replace us,” they were hundreds of white neo-Nazis. The men who sparked a new wave of racist and antisemitic mass movements – Donald Trump, Steve Bannon, Rupert Murdoch, Alex Jones, Tucker Carlson, the list goes on – are racists, fascists and billionaires.

The ruling class is the enemy, not individual Black celebrities, nor some imagined global Jewish banking cabal.

James Baldwin asserted that a legitimate and candid engagement on past and current injustices between the Black and Jewish communities would be of “inestimable value.” This reconciliation can only occur when Jewish communities reject racism and take responsibility for the struggle going forward against the common enemy, the capitalist system.

The ongoing corporate media propaganda only serves to shift blame for antisemitism and racist hatred onto oppressed communities, when those communities should instead be joining in solidarity in the fight to build workers’ power, end racist police terror and liberate all people from U.S. imperialism.

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist based in Baltimore.

Biden, everyone knows Cuba is not a terrorist country!

By Cheryl LaBash

The Biden administration certainly must have gotten the message after the United Nations General Assembly condemned the U.S. starvation blockade on Cuba by a vote of 185 to 2 and for the 30th consecutive year. Country after country denounced the U.S. economic war while making special emphasis to remove Cuba from the spurious, arbitrary U.S. State Department State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) list.

Both capitalist parties may thumb their noses in imperial fashion at the world's U.N. votes, but already two U.S. labor organizations are telling the Biden administration to pay attention to voices in the U.S. beyond the minority in South Florida and take Cuba off the SSOT.

At the end of October, the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific, Southern California Region, issued a resolution that "strongly urges President Biden and Congress ... to remove Cuba from the United States list of state sponsors of terrorism." Now, just weeks later, the Troy, New York, Labor Council's Nov. 16 resolution also called for the Biden administration to remove Cuba from the SSOT.

A draft resolution calling on the Biden administration to use its executive authority to remove Cuba from the State Department's sanction-enhancing list is being circulated among city councils, state legislatures, labor organizations, county commissions, school boards and others. Already resolutions from elected bodies opposing U.S. policy toward Cuba have been passed that represent more than 40 million U.S. constituents.

Facts should matter. The Obama administration removed Cuba from the unilateral State Department list. Nothing had changed when on Jan. 12, 2021, outgoing President Donald Trump used his authority to besmirch Cuba by declaring it a SSOT.

And who is the U.S. government to create such a list, considering the havoc it wreaks on the planet? Cuba has been an example of solidarity throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, saving lives at home by develop-



Photo: Bill Hackwell

At the National Network On Cuba 2022 Fall Meeting, Cuba's Ambassador to the United Nations Yuri Gala López explains how State Sponsors of Terrorism designation intensifies the U.S. blockade.

ing its own vaccines and across the world with the Henry Reeve Brigade. Even before the SSOT designation, some 243 surgically-honed additional sanctions targeted Cuba's economy in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, intentionally harming the Cuban people.

As Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parilla said on Nov. 3 at the United Nations General Assembly debate on Cuba's resolution to end the U.S. blockade:

"The financial persecution has been further reinforced with the arbitrary and fraudulent inclusion of our country in the State Department's unilateral list of alleged countries sponsoring terrorism, which exponentially raises the so-called Country Risk and forces us to pay for any merchandise even at double its price in the international market.

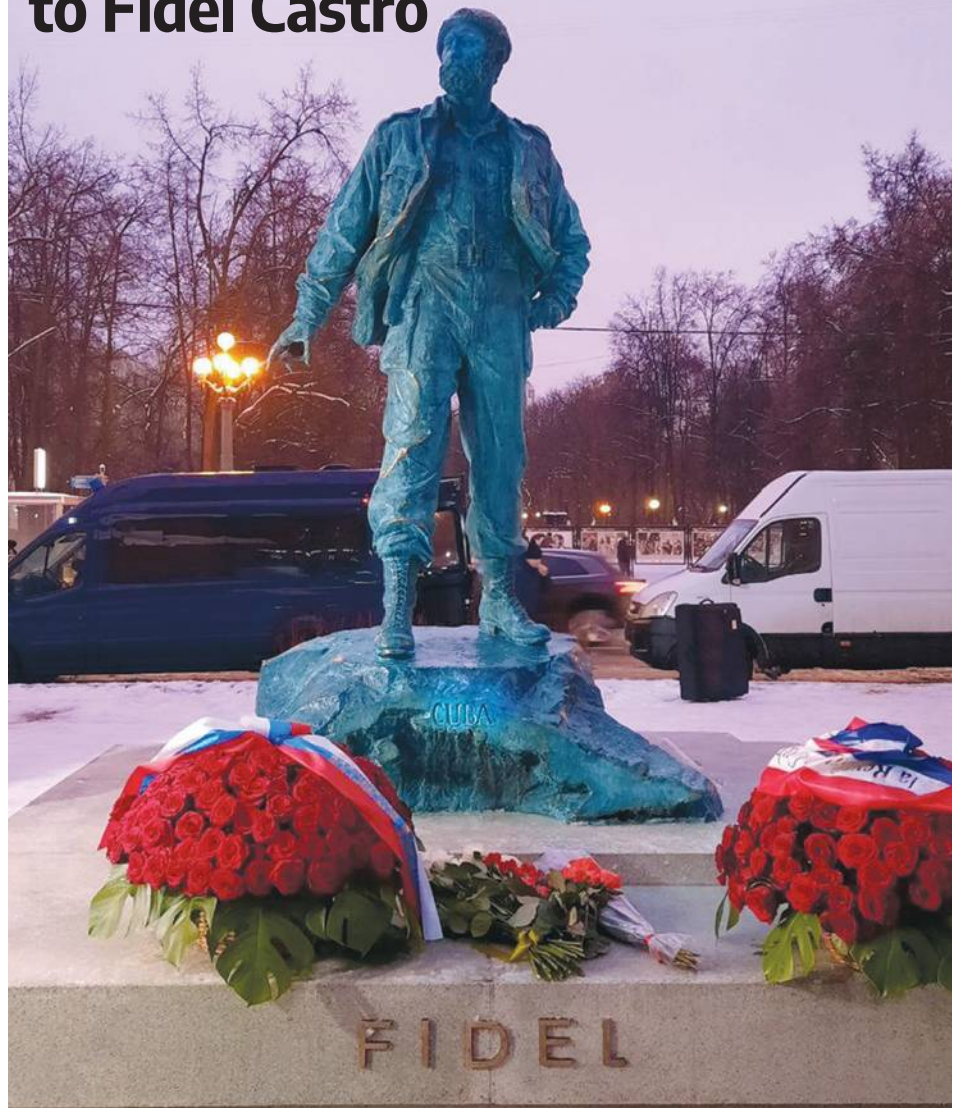
"Such action is inadmissible against a nation that is a victim of terrorism, which even today suffers the instigation of violence and terrorist acts from U.S. territory; and whose conduct of firm rejection and persecution of any form or manifestation of terrorism is unimpeachable and recognized.

"It was a lethal measure imposed by the previous Republican administration, only nine days [before] leaving the White House. The current president could correct it with just a signature. It would be the morally correct and lawful thing to do."

This is why the member groups of the National Network on Cuba are focusing their work in the upcoming year on removing Cuba from the SSOT list – a step toward ending the unjust, cruel one-sided economic war on Cuba. What more can you do? [📌](#)

MOSCOW:

United Communist Party activists attend opening of monument to Fidel Castro



In Moscow, on Nov. 22, 2022, on Fidel Castro Square, the grand opening of the monument to the great commander and leader of the Cuban Revolution took place.

Following Cuban President and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba Miguel Díaz-Canel, the communists of the United Communist Party of Russia (OKP) together with representatives of allied left organizations laid flowers at the open monument.

Source: United Communist Party

Utility shutoffs

Continued from page 6

were wrecked by Hurricane Ian?

The Russian Federation is fighting the NATO alliance of big imperialist states. NATO uses a puppet Ukrainian regime that rests upon fascist militias like the Right Sector and Azov Battalion, as well as thousands of foreign mercenaries.

For the brass hats in the Pentagon, the conflict in Ukraine is just the first step of a war to take over the 6.4 million square miles of the Russian Federation.

The working class and all oppressed people need NATO and the U.S. to get out of Ukraine. We need to take over the greedy utilities to guarantee electricity, gas and water for all. [📌](#)

‘Leaving no one and no place behind’: Zimbabwe is moving ahead

By Stephen Millies

Sistas’ Place in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, was packed on Nov. 15 as members of the December 12th Movement reported on their trip to Zimbabwe. D12 Chairwoman Viola Plummer, along with Omowale Clay, Colette Pean and Sekou Willis, were invited guests to the Seventh Congress of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front.

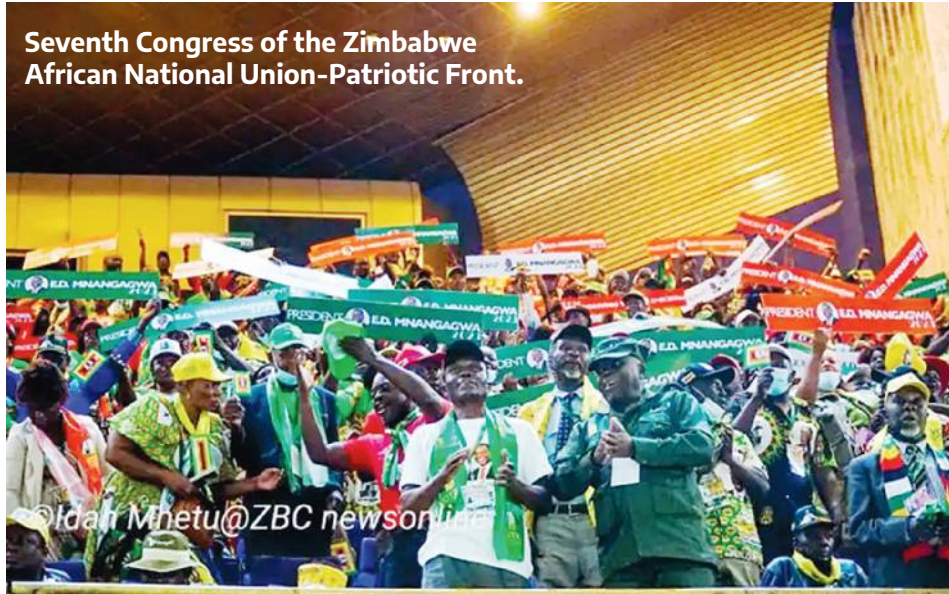
ZANU-PF is the governing party in Zimbabwe. Its founders waged a guerilla war against the racist white settler regime of Ian Smith and won independence. As a teenaged freedom fighter, Zimbabwe’s President Emerson Mnangagwa awaited execution by British colonial authorities before being reprieved.

Zimbabwe is one of many nations that are being punished with economic sanctions because it refuses to surrender to U.S. and European banksters. To these colonialists, Zimbabwe’s great crime was to allow its people to take back their land from European settlers.

Despite 22 years of these harsh sanctions, Zimbabwe is moving forward! A slogan of ZANU-PF’s Seventh Congress is “leaving no one and no place behind.”

While the capitalist media claimed land redistribution was ruining agriculture, Zimbabwe had a record wheat crop of 2.5 million tons.

On Nov. 7, Zimbabwe’s first satellite went into orbit. As Omowale Clay said, “Europeans do not own space.”



Seventh Congress of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front.

PHOTO: ZBC NEWS

Colette Pean pointed out that the ZIM-SAT 1 satellite will help with weather forecasting, better mapping and reforestation. Zimbabwean engineers helped design it. It’s part of Africa’s fight against capitalist climate change.

Sekou Willis told of Zimbabwe’s resilience. The economy has sharply increased in the last two years. Inflation is coming down despite the U.S./NATO war against Russia that’s increased prices on many goods.

The African country is producing more of its own fertilizer and cement. Hydroelectric dams are being built. Textile plants are being opened to use Zimbabwe’s cotton.

Solar power is being harnessed in every part of Zimbabwe to help irrigate farmland. Crops are becoming more drought resistant.

Zimbabwe will never surrender

The meeting’s special guests were New York City Council Member Charles Barron and former New York State Assembly Member Inez Barron. Both have fought tirelessly for reparations.

Charles Barron invited the late Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe to speak at City Hall. The Barrons donated \$5,000 to help Zimbabwe.

Viola Plummer reminded listeners of D12’s vanguard role in supporting African liberation. Its founders helped build the African Liberation Day marches in both Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

D12 Field Marshal Coltrane Chimurenga was buried in the capital of Zimbabwe—Harare’s Hero’s Acre—with a 21-gun salute. Charles

Barron described D12 as “our ambassadors in Africa.”

The Museum of African Liberation is being built in Harare.

Many African countries sent representatives to ZANU-PF’s Seventh Congress. The 14 countries that belong to the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) have demanded that the sanctions on Zimbabwe be lifted.

According to Plummer, the biggest cheers were for the Palestinian delegates.

Like the people of Zimbabwe, Palestinians had their land stolen by European settlers. Among the Israeli settlers are several thousand who formerly lorded over Africans in Zimbabwe.

“There was no such thing as Palestinians,” claimed the former Zionist Prime Minister Golda Meir, who was educated in Milwaukee. White settler leader Ian Smith claimed Black people wouldn’t rule Zimbabwe for a thousand years. Palestine, like Zimbabwe, will be free.

Zimbabwe still faces many challenges. Super-pig Elon Musk eyes the country’s reserves of lithium, which are used in electric cars. Western capitalists would also like to snatch the world’s biggest diamond mine in Zimbabwe.

British colonialists hanged and decapitated Mbuya Nehanda, the leader of Zimbabwe’s first Chimurenga or liberation war. Today her statue stands tall in Harare. Zimbabwe will never surrender. 📌

In latest election, Nicaraguans decisively reject attempted U.S. subversion

By Scott Scheffer

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) won big in Nicaragua’s municipal elections on Nov. 6. The party won every mayoral race nationwide with 73% of voters turning out. The high turnout was in spite of a call by right-wing opposition parties calling for a boycott.

In 1979, the Sandinista guerrillas finally drove out the last dictator of the 42-year-old Somoza dynasty. The reign of the Somozas began with the first of them executing Nicaragua’s greatest hero – Augusto Sandino.

During their decades of control, the Somozas amassed incredible riches. It was only their close relationship with and protection offered by the U.S. and the sheer brutality inflicted on peoples’ resistance that kept them in power.

But the years of repression, and the invasion and occupation by U.S. Marines in the early 20th century on behalf of U.S. agribusiness – Dole in particular – were etched in the consciousness of 3 million Nicaraguan people and formed the basis of support for the revolutionary Sandinistas.

After Somoza’s thugs assassinated a liberal newspaper editor in January 1979, a general strike shut down

80% of all businesses. Protests became more frequent. In the weeks preceding the Sandinista’s revolutionary overthrow of Somoza, the streets were already filled with tens of thousands of people thirsting for liberation.

The Somozas’ National Guard had killed some 30,000 people over the years and impoverished most of the population. The Sandinistas inherited a country with 500,000 people homeless, and with the exception of Managua and a handful of smaller cities, a largely agricultural and desperately poor population.

Upon victory, President Daniel Ortega and the FSLN enacted important reforms that deepened their support. They nationalized banks and insurance companies, placed import and export of food under government control, and attempted to improve the lives of poor people with a series of programs.

Under Somoza, some 70% of land was farmed by a handful of rich landowners who primarily exported food to the U.S. The Sandinistas distributed unused land to impoverished agricultural workers and formed agricultural cooperatives and state-owned farms to begin the eradication of rural poverty.



Sandinista supporters awaiting election results in Leon, Nicaragua, Nov. 7.

The Sandinista government provided medical care to tens of thousands who had never seen a doctor in their lives. They successfully ended polio and other diseases. They launched a literacy program modeled after Cuba’s that reduced illiteracy by nearly 40% and earned the UNESCO Literacy Award.

U.S. launches Contra War

Those reforms also earned them the wrath of the White House. The Reagan administration opened up a brutal campaign to recapture Nic-

aragua and halt the momentum for liberation that was spreading in Central America. Reagan imposed sanctions that prohibited all trade between the U.S. and Nicaragua, and armed and funded the so-called Contra War.

President Jimmy Carter had already authorized CIA funding of the anti-Sandinista opposition, paving the way for Reagan’s escalation. Reagan’s White House organized Somoza’s former National Guard

Continued on page 11

U.S. on hot seat at Sharm el-Sheikh climate meeting

By Scott Scheffer

The 27th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27) is underway in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Delegates from all over the world are gathered to try to agree on proposals to slow down and eventually eliminate rising atmospheric temperatures from the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs).

At its conclusion, the White House and faithful media will speak in glowing terms of the U.S. role. This practice of issuing a rosy, self-serving assessment each year has masked the contentious deliberations that have taken place since the conferences began in 1995.

In reality the U.S. has bullied its way through the annual conferences. In 1997, when the 3rd COP took place in Kyoto, Japan, Vice President Al Gore led the U.S. delegation. Already posturing as a leading figure on battling climate change, his team still insisted that the U.S. be allowed softer requirements than the rest of the world. They shoved an agreement down the throats of the other delegations to exclude most military emissions from agreed upon calculations.

This was huge and continues today. The U.S. is by far the largest and most active military in the world and the number one institutional emitter of GHGs. U.S. emissions per capita are among the worst in the world — even excluding the millions of gallons of jet fuel and diesel fuel needed to keep the Pentagon's tanks, jet fighters and aircraft carriers



'Make big polluters pay': Protesters at COP 27 demand Western powers meet their financial obligations to the Global South, Nov. 10.

er groups threatening and brutalizing the world.

But the U.S. is now on the hot seat over another long-simmering issue — climate finance.

In 2009, at COP 15 in Copenhagen, industrial, developed countries were backed into a corner over the damage that rampant capitalism has done to the Global South. Under pressure,

they were committed to a pledge of \$100 billion annually beginning in the year 2020.

The payments are lagging. The U.S., Australia and Canada have provided less than half their share. Often, instead of outright payments, government figures and financial institutions have been trying to count already agreed-on aid funds and loans as part of the payments.

The terrible consequences of climate change worsened in 2021 and 2022. All around the world, extreme weather events took thousands of lives, left millions homeless, and destroyed infrastructure and agriculture. Normally temperate regions in the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. and many parts of southern and central Europe became ovens.

Historic droughts continued to plague East Africa and the Western U.S. China suffered a 70-day heatwave, and one-third of Pakistan was left underwater from floods — the severity of which has never occurred before.

This torrent of destruction has pushed the issue of climate finance to front and center at COP 27. President Joe Biden attended Nov. 11 and boasted about his legislative success. His Inflation Reduction Act grants billions to cherry-picked, profitable projects that cost the energy industry absolutely nothing, doesn't do enough to curtail the use of fossil fuels, and ignores potential planet-saving projects among the landscape of innovations and technologies that have emerged.

Biden glossed over the real issue at hand. Global South countries are no longer only demanding the fulfillment of the \$100-billion annual pledge. There is now discussion of further transfer of funds referred to as "loss and damage" payments. Any funds that the capitalist robbers are forced to pay should be seen in the context of the trillions of dollars

robbed during the colonial period. That process of exploitive theft continues today in the period of modern imperialism.

When President Ranil Wickremeshinghe of Sri Lanka spoke at the conference, he said, "The practice of colonialism transferred the rich resources of Asia and Africa to Europe to industrialize their countries, which is also the root cause of climate change — the consequences of which we, the poor countries, are forced to suffer."

The issue of climate finance, and loss and damage payments, has to be seen in that context by all those who want to leave a livable planet for future generations.

But for the U.S. capitalist class and their representatives, this treads dangerously close to a demand for reparations to all those brutally oppressed in the development of U.S. capitalism.

Paul Bledsoe, who was the communications director of the White House Climate Change Task Force during the Clinton administration, was candid when he told the New York Times, "America is culturally incapable of meaningful reparations. Having not made them to Native Americans or African Americans, there is little to no chance they will be seriously considered regarding climate impacts to foreign nations. It's a complete non-starter in our domestic politics."

U.S. delegates may be made to feel uncomfortable in Sharm el-Sheikh, and it remains to be seen whether or not the rising anger of those delegates from the Global South will be enough to pressure the U.S. and others to come up with more funds or even to meet previously agreed on obligations. In any case, the global progressive movement, and particularly activists in the U.S., must unite around the issue of reparations for the Global South. [🔗](#)

In latest election, Nicaraguans reject U.S. subversion

Continued from page 10

members that had been roused by the Sandinistas, as well as other right-wing forces from the region, in an illegal and bloody war.

The Contras murdered tens of thousands of Nicaraguans. The Contra War was illegal according to the Boland Amendment, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1984, and Reagan's regime claimed that it was being wound down.

But in 1986, the Sandinistas shot down a plane piloted by Eugene Hasenfus, who was flying arms shipments to the Contras for the CIA. Facing a 30-year prison sentence, Hasenfus opted to sing like a canary to earn leniency. Ortega's government released Hasenfus after revealing the depth of the CIA's continued war against them.

The terrible war and the sanctions, the global setbacks to the socialist camp, and perhaps yet-to-be-revealed election sabotage, led to the election of neoliberal Violetta Chamorro as president in 1990. Even after taking back the presidential palace, the U.S. and its proxies did not attempt to take back all of the progressive measures put in place during the first wave of Sandinista power, out of fear of reigniting the

liberation struggle.

In the 2006 elections, the FSLN retook the presidency, and since then, each municipal election has given them a higher vote than the previous one. In spite of all manner of U.S. sabotage, the uplifting of the poor, the spread of medical care, the provision of housing to the homeless and continued efforts to end illiteracy by the Sandinista government, has built unshakable support.

In 2018, an attempted coup against the FSLN failed. The U.S. State Department narrative claims that this was due to severe repression, and that all electoral opposition figures were jailed, which paved the way for the FSLN victory this month. The reality is that the forces behind the months of violence were well-funded by the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy and were only the latest iteration of the desires of U.S. imperialism to turn back the clock.

Taking funds from an enemy country is a high crime all over the world. Nicaraguans have now expressed their overwhelming rejection of the aims of the 2018 "uprising" and their continued hunger for sovereignty and economic justice.

Solidarity with Nicaragua! Long live the spirit of Augusto Sandino! [🔗](#)

La lucha del pueblo vs. gobierno en Puerto Rico

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

La crisis causada por la privatización de la energía en Puerto Rico, expone cuáles son los alineamientos en la lucha de clases aquí. Por un lado está el pueblo y sus organizaciones de base, incluyendo a importantes profesionales e intelectuales, además de los medios alternativos que responden a los intereses del pueblo, y por el otro lado el poderoso bloque compuesto por la administración del gobierno insular, incluyendo a la legislatura liderada por los partidos colonialistas PNP y PPD; el gobierno estadounidense y su Congreso que representan, no a la susodicha democracia y justicia, sino a los intereses corporativos energéticos yanquis, principalmente del gas.

El pueblo ya ha repudiado enérgicamente a la privatizadora estadounidense-canadiense Luma Energy que está destruyendo la infraestructura compleja de electricidad por su falta de mantenimiento de la Distribución y Transmisión que tiene a su cargo. Los constantes

apagones y las alzas desmedidas en las tarifas, unidos a la falta de transparencia de su operación que ha incluido hasta desacatos al tribunal de PR por parte de su dirigencia, hacen que este contrato pueda ser anulado por falta de cumplimiento el próximo 30 de noviembre cuando termina la vigencia del contrato actual que es uno suplementario en lo que la Autoridad de Energía termina su proceso de quiebra.

Sin embargo, la administración del gobernador Pierluisi, actuando como un verdadero dictador, insiste en la continuidad de este contrato leonino por 15 años más. A este bloque dictatorial se une el Secretario de Justicia de PR, la Junta de Control Fiscal impuesta por EUA, y recientemente, hasta la Secretaria de Energía de los EUA que visitó PR recientemente.



Protesta frente a la sede del gobierno colonial en San Juan, Puerto Rico, el 26 de octubre.

Pero en lo que queda de este mes, el pueblo seguirá manifestándose en las calles para exigir la cancelación del contrato bajo la consigna de ¡Fuera Luma, Fuera Pierluisi, Fuera JCF! 🇵🇷

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.



As railroad workers fight for dignity and sick leave: Stop government strikebreaking!

Continued from page 1

people in the U.S. have died from the coronavirus.

As Willie Adams, International President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), pointed out, “Warren Buffett can afford to pay wages for railroad workers who get sick and need to stay home or see a doctor.”

Under collective bargaining, BNSF’s drastic change in attendance policy was supposed to be subject to negotiation, not imposed by management.

A union grievance – which on railroads is called a time card – would describe it as being “arbitrary and capricious.” Yet the Trump-appointed Federal Judge Mark Pittman ruled that workers couldn’t strike over this issue.

It’s the labor movement that fights for safety on the job. Back in 1909, one in nine train workers were injured, while one in 205 were killed annually on U.S. railroads.

The response of the old Interstate Commerce Commission – abolished in 1996 in the name of deregulation – was to stop collecting these embarrassing statistics. (“The Economic History of the United States” by Ernest Bogart)

For decades the Association of American Railroads attacked safety rules, claiming workers were being coddled. The AAR bosses called these absolutely necessary regulations “feather bedding.”

Crew sizes were cut in both the U.S. and Canada. An inevitable result was 47 people killed in the 2013 train wreck in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. A lone engineer was the only crew member on a long train of oil tank cars.

Shooting strikers

What made these job cuts more heartbreaking was that Black and



Railroad workers protest in Alliance, Nebraska, Nov. 2.

women workers were finally being hired in many railroad jobs.

This took decades of struggle. Charles Hamilton Houston, who mentored Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, repeatedly went to the U.S. Supreme Court to fight discrimination on the railroads.

A. Philip Randolph, the leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, helped organize the great 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech there.

One of the March on Washington’s ten demands was a \$2 per hour minimum wage. That’s worth \$19.41 per hour today.

Biden’s attack on rail labor comes a century after railroaders employed in shops and roundhouses revolted against a 12% wage cut. Nearly 400,000 workers walked off the job on July 1, 1922.

President Warren G. Harding and his thoroughly corrupt administration smashed the strike. At least 10 workers were killed by the National Guard and private detectives across the country.

Striking railroad workers were shot down in 1877 by troops sent

by President Rutherford B. Hayes. He betrayed Black people by letting the Reconstruction governments be overthrown by the Ku Klux Klan.

Jay Gould broke the 1886 strike on the Missouri Pacific, now part of the Union Pacific. The rail tycoon declared he could hire one half of the working class to shoot the other half.

Railroad strikers, led by the future socialist leader Eugene V. Debs, were killed by General Nelson Miles in 1894. This war criminal had Geronimo captured and later seized Puerto Rico as a U.S. colony in 1898.

In 1991, George H.W. Bush was woken in the White House to sign a bill ordering railroad employees back to work.

Fighting for all workers

Today railroad workers are again fighting for justice. Their simple demand for more sick days is being denied. So is their right to spend

more time with their families.

Billionaires and banksters are lined up against railroad workers. One of the most hypocritical claims of the wealthy and powerful is that a rail strike will endanger clean water by disrupting shipments of chemicals to purify it.

This is the same ruling class that poisoned the children of Flint, Michigan, with dirty water. U.S. sanctions preventing the shipment of chlorine to treat water and sewage helped kill 500,000 children in Iraq.

Just six railroad monopolies control 90% of railroad mileage in Canada and the United States. These criminals abandoned at least 50,000 miles of railroad.

Using the speed-up system called “Precision Scheduled Railroading,” another 61,000 railroad jobs have been eliminated since January 2015.

Meanwhile, these rail outfits paid \$196 billion in dividends and stock buy-backs over the last 10 years. That’s far more than the \$136 billion that railroads spent on new equipment and maintaining the right-of-way.

All workers have the right to strike. If union members need to strike, every poor and working person should support it.

Such a struggle will inspire millions like the Black Lives Matter movement did.

The writer is a retired Amtrak worker and a member of the American Train Dispatchers Association and Transportation Communications Union.

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