


WORKERS' ACTION

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DEFEAT THE TRUMP AGENDA!

BUILD A MASS MOVEMENT IN THE STREETS! PAGE 3

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What We Stand For

WORKERS' ACTION is the publication of Workers' Voice / La Voz de los Trabajadores, a revolutionary socialist organization founded with the fusion of Socialist Resurgence and Workers' Voice in March 2022.

We aim to build a strong, working-class, multinational revolutionary party that defends the principle of class independence and is capable of providing theoretical and political coordination for the struggles of exploited and oppressed communities.

Our ultimate goal is to build a socialist society—one in which productive resources are collectively owned and controlled by the people, not by corporations and the rich ruling elite; where wealth and knowledge are invested in human needs (food, health care, housing, education, and culture) and not in creating profits for a handful of exploiters; and where government is controlled democratically by workers, not by capitalists and their political regime. Building a socialist society means distributing wealth equitably, dismantling all forms of oppression (including but not limited to racism, sexism, heterosexism, transphobia, and ableism), ending wars of plunder and conquest, and protecting the environment.

We do not believe these aspirations can be achieved under capitalism, which is a system rooted in exploitation and inextricably linked to inequality, war, and environmental destruction. Thus, we reject capitalist parties like the Democrats and the Republicans, whose political projects openly protect business inter-



WORKERS' VOICE

ests at the expense of workers.

Workers need a party of their own. We call for an independent and militant labor party that will break from the Democratic Party.

We fight for the immediate material needs of workers and oppressed people (such as better wages and benefits), as well as for social and democratic reforms that benefit the working class. But we must go further. To bring about a truly free and just society, we must mobilize the working class, along with all oppressed and marginalized peoples, to take political power and replace the capitalist order.

We actively support the new unionization drives, while working toward building a class-struggle left wing in the trade-union movement to take on the bosses. We think unions should be democratically run, rely on collective action such as strikes, and operate independently from the bosses and the State. Unions should fight sexism, racism, and all forms of oppression in the workplace and society at large.

Climate change is the biggest threat that humanity and all life on this planet face today. "Green capitalism" and individual consumer choices are entirely insufficient to tackle the catastrophe facing the planet. Fossil-fuel-driven capitalism must be abolished and replaced with a planned socialist economy based upon renewable

energy, mass transit, and the shared and carefully planned use of resources for the public good. As a major step toward that goal, the energy industry needs to be nationalized under workers' and community control in order to convert it to renewable energy sources.

Sexism, racism, Islamophobia, anti-immigrant sentiment, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of oppression and discrimination are the product of capitalism's drive toward the lowest wages, most meager living standards, creation of an auxiliary work force, denigration of unpaid labor, and the disunity that prevents an organized resistance to these conditions.

Therefore, we support the struggles of those who are specially oppressed under capitalism—women and the LGBTQI+ communities, and those suffering national oppression. We support and help build movements for the oppressed with a class-struggle perspective so that such movements can articulate their own demands and develop political consciousness as a group.

The unpaid labor of women and other caregivers is vital to the functioning of capitalism, which privatizes and atomizes the labor and costs associated with raising, nurturing, and maintaining workers. This is why, beyond demanding full reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, the liberation of women and transgender and gender non-conforming individuals rests upon the overthrow of the capitalist system and its replacement with socialism.

We stand against all forms of racism, and we demand open borders and the immediate closure of immigrant detention camps. We support the right of the oppressed and exploited to defend themselves from racist and fascist violence. Defeating the far right requires a mass mobilization of broad social forces, including the labor movement ranks. We support self-determination for Black people and for Native Americans—both of whom are oppressed nationalities in the United States. We support Native American demands for recognition of treaty rights, confronting the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women, and full nationhood.

We understand that the United States is an imperialist, colonial power, and we defend the right to self-determination for the peoples of U.S. colonies such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and Samoa. The process of building a revolutionary party in the U.S. is inseparable from the struggle for a revolutionary *international* party. Workers' Voice is a sympathizing section of the International Workers League. ■

Our 10-point program

1) Defend unions and workers' rights to organize! For an independent labor party based on a democratic, fighting labor movement! No support for Democrats and Republicans!

2) Stop all deportations now! Equal rights for immigrants! Close the camps!

3) Black Lives Matter! Jail killer cops! Dismantle the racist police and the criminal "justice" system! Reparations and self-determination for Black people, Puerto Ricans, and all indigenous and colonized communities!

4) Reproductive justice: Free, accessible contraception and abortion on demand.

5) Free quality universal public health care now! Quality free public child care and elder care for all, 24-7! Free education for a lifetime!

6) Full civil and human rights for the LGBTQIA+ community!

7) For climate justice! Public ownership of the energy industry under workers' and community control to achieve emergency conversion to 100% renewable energy!

8) No U.S. military intervention abroad! Dismantle the war machine! End U.S. aid to Israel! End sanctions on Venezuela, Iran, and Cuba! For a free and democratic secular Palestine!

9) For the full integration of disabled people into social, political, and economic life.

10) Public ownership, under workers' control, of big industry, transport, and the banks! For a workers' government and a planned economy—for socialism!

— JOIN US! —

To learn more about Workers Voice:

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FASCISM: WHAT IT IS, AND HOW TO FIGHT IT

Join us for the discussion!

Saturday, March 15, 11am - 1pm

West Philadelphia Library, 40th & Walnut Sts., Phila.

Strengthen the protests in the streets!

By CHRISTINE MARIE

In a startlingly short amount of time, the Trump-Musk presidency has made good on its promise to begin to dismantle the elements of the state that they consider superfluous to private profit and imperialist expansion. That has turned out to be almost any government service that working people have wrested from the elites to try to stabilize their standard of living and sense of wellbeing.

In short order, the new administration has used cabinet and agency head appointments, illegal executive orders, racist and sexist demotions and firings—as well as the deceitful DOGE operation, which is unleashing hackers on government servers—to gut spending and activity in support of health, education, climate mitigation, childcare, elder care, reproductive justice, basic scientific research, and the implementation of more than a century and a half of hard-won civil rights measures.

Along the way, they are attempting to tear up labor contracts, disperse workforces funded by federal dollars, and terrorize the already vulnerable immigrant workforce with sensationalized deportations.

As might have been anticipated, there is reason to believe that neither Congress nor the courts can be counted on to erect significant obstacles to Trump's growing assertion of executive power. And just in case they do, Defense Secretary Hegseth has helpfully culled the Pentagon of generals who might be expected to oppose the deployment of U.S. troops on American soil or in an invasion of Greenland or Panama.

Given this frightening situation, the movement to obstruct the drive toward authoritarianism is growing. Tens of thousands of people have come together in protests from one end of the country to another, at town halls and in town centers, outside federal agencies, at the offices of Congress members, and at Tesla dealerships—making it clear that they are ready to fight. Their signs oppose Trump's attacks on democratic rights, LGBTQI rights, and the unions. They oppose billionaire rule.

The majority of these actions have been organized by liberal formations, such as Indivisible, long operating inside a larger Democratic Party milieu. They have gained a broad reach into one section of the population that appears eager to demonstrate and express dissent.

At the same time, those who are most victimized have been organizing themselves. Immigrant working people have displayed their courage in street marches and through rapid response networks that have successfully impeded ICE raids. There has also been an upswing in the number of actions in defense of trans people's right to health care and full participation in public life. Federal workers of all types have protested outside their workplaces in Washington, DC, waving union signs and placards defending their work.

As more and more working people absorb the reality of the Trump-sanctioned federal budget plan, a plan sure to include some \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid, theft from Social Security funds, an increase in war

spending, and massive tax cuts for the rich, there is the potential to build demonstrations in more areas and with a greater size.

These protests have the ability to significantly expand the breadth of the population who become involved, while at the same time, augmenting the number of working people drawn into action. Accomplishing this usually requires organizers to meet in person and to plan deliberate outreach. Today, that could include labor militants eager to try to win the participation of their union locals, youth schooled in Palestine solidarity work, faith groups rooted in social justice activism, climate and Indigenous activists, and neighborhood organizations rooted in the Black community.

Efforts to broaden the protests could be firmed up with open, inclusive, democratically-run meetings. Each new meeting could bring in previously unorganized people and provide the space for those newly radicalizing to assume leadership roles.

This pattern, creating new open and democratic spaces rather than utilizing already existing formations associated with electoral politics, is important for another reason: Millions and millions of those who will want to protest have been deeply disappointed with both the Democratic and Republican parties and they have been disappointed for a very long time. They are going to be wary of organizations that they fear view them mainly as a vote in the mid-term elections. They will want to shape the politics of the movement.

It is reasonable to expect that working people who are inspired to act in response to the federal budget fiasco will want future demonstrations to clearly speak to their most immediate needs for an adequate income and for affordable housing—needs often summed up in the perennial slogan “money for human needs, not war.”



Brian Munoz / St. Louis Public Radio

(Above) Over 1000 march to protest President Trump's mass deportation plans on Feb. 1 in St. Louis.

This kind of organizing can exponentially increase our capacity to fight back, building toward a moment when the opposition to the Trump-Musk drive toward authoritarianism can convincingly be seen by our worried neighbors and coworkers as the place for them. Nothing less is needed to rout the billionaires and preserve political space in which radicalizing working people can organize for even more fundamental social change.

History shows that in order to rout the far right, much more must be accomplished than simply increasing the size of the protest movement. It is also necessary for the movement to build deep roots among the working class. When big business politicians see protests whose marchers and leaders work every day to keep the lights on, the store shelves full, the trucks and trains moving, and the army marching, they worry about their ability to retain their class rule. To the degree that working people and their unions and community organizations take a major role in the movement, expressing solidarity with all oppressed people while raising their own demands, the movement will gain leverage to force concessions from the ruling class.

A mass movement can be built to force a retreat by the far-right politicians, the billionaire corporate heads, and others in the capitalist class whose policies are leading us to catastrophe. If you are interested in studying the history of our past victories and defeats in the battle against authoritarianism and capitalism and working to apply the lessons, consider joining Workers' Voice. ■

Trump's campaign against DEI: A bid to reinforce white supremacy

Donald Trump has returned to power, and the far right is confident that he will surpass what he carried out during his first term. The administration is prepared and motivated; armed with the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 as its program, it is primed to do damage. Consistent with the right-wing strategy in legal battles and legislation, it uses the language of civil rights to fight civil rights.

A major component of the plan is the firing of government employees and rooting out all vestiges of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The Foundation describes DEI as anti-American. This runs deep within the administration. Secretary of State Marco Rubio snubbed the G20 hosted by South Africa because it highlighted "DEI and climate change." These concepts are considered anti-American by the administration.

Contextually, the moment is defined by the right wing forces seeking to revoke the progressive trend brought about by the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020. This administration and its supporters regard even the word "progress" as a vulgarity. Recent Supreme Court rulings have only encouraged the right. The effects of these efforts will have serious consequences for Black workers and students.

Supreme Court decision

In 2023, the conservative Supreme Court ruled in separate cases involving the admissions practices of Harvard and the University of North Carolina that the schools discriminated against Asian students. Henry Blum, the attorney behind the suit, after failing to win a case with white plaintiffs, used Asians instead. While the right wing argues that Black people are admitted based on race and therefore undeserving, Black students admitted to Harvard University graduated at a rate of 96% in 2021. The most significant example of preferences in colleges are for children of alumni; 40% of white students at Harvard were admitted as a result of legacies.

The cases involving Harvard and University of North Carolina are notable as they set legal precedence, and the right wasted no time in proceeding to the next phase. Immediately after the ruling, attention turned to the workplace.



Attorney generals from several states sent letters threatening companies with legal actions if their hiring practices were consistent with DEI. Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey sued Starbucks in federal court charging discrimination based on race and sex in making the workforce "more female and less white." Bailey's legal action is in defense of "disadvantaged" whites. Would the lawsuit have been filed if Starbucks' workforce was 90% white males?

Destruction of Black working class

Black people make up a significant part of the public-sector workforce and 20% of the federal workforce, including 20% of Health and Human Services and 24% of the Veterans Administration. In the Education Department, which is targeted for abolition, African Americans are 30%. The slash and burn method will disproportionately affect Black workers. As one federal employee explained to NBC News: "Black people not only benefited from what they call DEI now, but the original affirmative action programs and the veteran preferences. ... That combination helped a lot of people get a foothold in the civil service."

In the colorblind society of the right, blindness to discrimination past and present is key. The administration has endorsed the program to reinstitute full-

throated white supremacy by demolishing every bit of progress in the last century.

The right's multi-pronged attacks are possible only because of demobilization and retreat. Democrats, for their part, are opening confirming their irrelevance. Rather than expressing support for groups organizing opposition, House minority leaders Hakeem Jeffries merely expresses "frustration."

Affirmative action or DEI programs only exist because of the rising tide of Black struggle. They are concessions made by the ruling class. Affirmative Action was a result of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements of the 1960s. The programs were deployed to hopefully lower the temperature of the times, but they worked in tandem with more repression. Although progress was made, oppression persisted. Richard Nixon's chief of staff H.R. Haldeman was explicit in "The Haldeman Diaries": "The whole problem is the Blacks."

A system was devised to address this specific group without appearing to be focused on them. "War on crime" meant a war on the Black community. Incarceration rates skyrocketed, with drug laws that decimated communities. The ruling class preferred to create a state of despair as opposed to a state of revolutionary fervor.

A new movement required a counter-offensive by the right. Momentum had gathered with the election of Donald Trump as a president with aggressive and openly racist expressions. Constant police violence toward the Black community was encapsulated in the nine-minute video of George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis officers. Across the country in major cities and suburbs, a multi-racial movement grew and even spread to other countries. While police violence and murder were the catalyst, demands went beyond addressing police brutality. Recognition that racial oppression is systemic was a challenge that once again terrified the ruling class. Many companies instituted or enhanced DEI programs and made them public. Meanwhile, the right was engaging in a counter-offensive of legislation, propaganda, and violence.

No one should be under the impression that Affirmative Action and DEI are the solution to inequality in regard to the Black community or other groups. But gains must be defended, and we must continue to make demands and not allow for a right-wing offensive to draw concessions from us.

According to U.S. Labor Department statistics, DEI has primarily benefited white women. So the idea that Black people are taking jobs from whites is just a myth. Moreover, the greatest recipients of preferences in U.S. colleges and universities are children of alumni, who are overwhelmingly white and well off.

Right-wing arguments that DEI programs cause racial tension—rather than the machinations of the state—are also a myth. Portrayals of African Americans as violent criminals, feeding fears long cultivated in white America, is a part of state propaganda.

Socialism as a project is constructed by a unified working class, but this cannot be achieved by negating the struggles against oppression. Just as here can be no acceptance of retreat in the class struggle, there must be no retreat in the fight against white supremacy and for Black liberation.

— BRIAN CRAWFORD

Mobilize to defend reproductive rights!

Rio Nero / Worker's Voice

By AVA FAHY

The Trump administration has launched a full-frontal assault against all oppressed and exploited sectors of the population, and women are no exception. Since the catastrophic Supreme Court decision that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* almost three years ago, the impact of abortion bans on reproductive health in the U.S. has been dire, particularly for Black pregnant people who are more than three times as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white people.

Most states that have implemented abortion bans or severe restrictions have not also tracked the correlated factor of maternal mortality. Independent reporting reveals the violent, terrible impact of abortion bans. In Texas, which punishes abortion providers with up to 99 years in prison, the rate of sepsis spiked more than 50% for women hospitalized with pregnancy loss in their second trimester.

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition, and indeed, Texas women like Josseli Barnica and Neveah Crain died of sepsis that could have been prevented had doctors not delayed performing an abortion until their fetuses ceased their heartbeats. Candi Miller and Amber Thurman of Georgia, and an unknown amount more in states with abortion bans or restrictions, died in the same way. Porsha Nguzemi of Texas similarly died of hemorrhaging when doctors delayed lifesaving abortion care.

Trump and Musk's Project 2025 seeks to ban and criminalize medication abortion, the most common form of abortion, and often the only form of abortion care available to rural patients and people in abortion deserts—which have become all the more common post-Dobbs.

The attack is two-pronged: First, they have launched a lawsuit seeking to reverse the FDA approval of mifepristone, a major abortion pill. Second, they seek to expand and enforce the Comstock Act, an 1873(!) federal law that criminalizes mailing information on reproductive care. Under Project 2025, the proposal is to criminalize anyone who sends or receives not only abortion pills, but potentially anything used for abortion, up to and including speculums and analgesics. This could amount to a nationwide ban on abortion—which experts estimate would increase maternal mortality by 24% nationally and by 39% for Black people.

Project 2025 also seeks to expand surveillance of pregnant people, and a number of Republican legislators have introduced proposals for registries of pregnant people to be monitored and prosecuted if they obtain abortions. Similar surveillance of pregnant people already takes place, primarily among people with a history of incarceration or substance use, and it leads to traumatizing and deeply unethical criminal charges for behavior while pregnant. This kind of surveillance sends a clear message to women and pregnant people: you have no autonomy while pregnant.

What do we do? One vital solution is to fight back through the labor movement. Union struggles are a mechanism by which working women can win vital freedoms. Unions can fight for health benefits and can even wage struggles for reproductive justice by winning protections for workers seeking abortions or other reproductive care. And the unions can link up with and help to organize demonstrations in the streets for



reproductive rights and in defense of health clinics.

Black and Asian women led the gains in union membership growth in the U.S. over 2024. They were the only demographics to see an increase in union numbers, with every other demographic decreasing. Growing efforts to unionize retail, caregiving, and hospitality sectors may be behind this growth, as these sectors are traditionally dominated by women.

Unionized working women earn more money—on average, about 19% more than their non-union counterparts, and they are far more likely to have health insurance coverage. These benefits and wage improvements are particularly beneficial for working women of color, who face particularly harsh discrimination at the intersection of class exploitation, racial oppression, and gender oppression. Successful contract fights for paid family leave and paid sick time disproportionately benefit women, who are more likely to be responsible for childcare and elder care.

As important as these labor wins are, the liberation of women and the end of gender oppression requires much more. It will certainly not be won by the efforts of the Democratic Party, under whose watch *Roe* was overturned with little more than a shrug from the Democratic president or Congress. It will not be won by NGOs like Planned Parenthood or the Guttmacher Institute, who are beholden to their wealthy ruling-class donors, dependent on government grants, and are thus incapable of engaging in the class struggle because of their allegiances.

It will be won by creating a class-struggle left wing in the union movement, with a pointed focus on developing the leadership of women and Queer people. It will also require a mass movement in the streets, independent from the Democrats and the Republicans and ruled by the needs and methods of working-class

(Above) Protesters gather on the Statehouse steps during the People's March in Columbus, Ohio, on Jan. 18, 2025.

women and Queer people fighting for their rights.

On March 8, millions of women will take the streets worldwide to protest for women's rights. International Women's Day burst forth proudly from an international movement of socialist working women. Luise Zietz and Clara Zetkin proposed at the 1910 International Conference of Socialist Women that they must organize a special Women's Day to promote not only women's suffrage but labor rights for working women and democratic rights for women and children. On March 8, 1917, women textile workers in Petrograd organized a Women's Day demonstration that swallowed the entire city, developed into a general strike, and, with the strength that they demonstrated in the streets, marked the beginning of the February Revolution. The Tsar abdicated only a week later.

In the United States, the assault on women's rights by Project 2025—and by Trump, Vance, and their flunky Musk—necessitates a serious movement of working women to organize beyond electoral politics and take matters into their own hands. As examples, we should look to the strong women's movements in Ireland, Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, and elsewhere that have recently successfully won abortion rights after years of restrictions.

The only real solution to the end of women's oppression is an end to the sexist, patriarchal capitalist system. The end of that system will only be won by building a huge movement of working people in the streets, communities, and workplaces, organized by an independent revolutionary socialist party that includes the mass participation of working women. ■



What's behind Trump's attack on 'DEI'?

By ERWIN FREED

The first weeks of Donald Trump's presidency has seen a barrage of spectacles pointing toward some of the fault lines in the capitalism of today's global order. Trump, Musk, and their coterie of apparatchiks are quickly using their control of the executive branch to blame every catastrophe on "DEI," "woke," and "transgender ideology." In their hands, the sins of U.S. imperialism have become the fault of trans, Latino, and Black communities and their alleged allies in the state, universities, non-profits, and media.

The MAGA regime counterposes the alleged excesses of "the left" to an eternal "common sense" that they claim to possess. Under the guise of fighting Marxist equity, transgenderism, and Green New Deal social engineering, they are carrying out a massive series of attacks on the basic protections that workers and oppressed people have won through struggle. The attacks are unilateral and unaccountable even by the mostly fake norms of bourgeois democracy.

The Trump-Musk-Vought triumvirate is simply shifting blame for the U.S. imperial decline and the harsh realities for oppressed and working people here away from the capitalist ruling class and onto the shoulders of the most victimized people—most openly, the trans and immigrant communities. While corporate DEI programs are themselves largely a fig-leaf covering the reality of ongoing workplace and social discrimination, the Trump administration's attacks on the concept are nothing but a screen to usher in austerity and deepen oppression.

MAGA is using its attacks on "DEI" to rationalize censorship, cover up corruption, and discipline the state bureaucracy. Using Steve Bannon's strategy of "flooding the zone," the far-right forces that have coalesced in the Trump administration are using the



Rally against DEI-related staff firings at UT Austin, April 29, 2024.

"Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) to create or deepen the connection between "woke" ideology and "wasteful spending" in the popular imagination. Under this smokescreen, they are putting everything from school funding to Medicaid on the chopping block. The offensive against "DEI," along with a constant flood of posts and claims that DOGE is cutting "wasteful" spending, sets the stage for more "traditional" corporate demands. This includes adding work requirements to welfare eligibility that could cut benefits to over 21 million people.

The failure of the Democratic Party to mount a visible or effective opposition suggests that they can imagine later benefiting from the strengthened executive state and corporate control of its most ideological apparatuses—education, police, etc. As celebrity billionaire Mark Cuban pointed out in a post on X, the Democratic Party agrees with the

economic, if not the ideological, basis for the mass layoff program, "cutting the deficit."

Our response must be full-throated defense and a fight to expand, not demolish, the social gains won through historic struggles. Elite-run DEI programs were themselves meant to be a bulwark against working-class struggle. On the one hand, by acknowledging the existence of structural inequality, they were designed to provide a release valve for anger against the racist and sexist system. On the other hand, the programs were usually received as a management strategy foisted upon workers as job requirements. Thus, they were sometimes viewed as a potential threat to one's livelihood. And as an alienated mode of education, they failed to seriously advance the cause of women, LGBT+ people, and racialized employees.

These sorts of corporate and foundation-funded programs are not the way to defeat oppression in U.S. society. Instead, as has been the case throughout the entire history of this country, the real way to make change is through independent organization rooted in Black, Queer, Indigenous, and other oppressed communities.

There is a need to build the struggle against these frontal attacks on the working class that is separate from the ruling-class maneuvers that use our rights as pawns in their game. Mass meetings countering book banning and reactionary education curriculums can develop into movement organizations. Actions in defense of trans health care, as are happening in New York City, can connect with trade unions, Black community and immigrant organizations, and other progressive forces to demand and expand rights for the trans community as a whole.

Both liberal and conservative capitalists, represented by and funding both parties, show every day that they do not stand for the rights and livelihood of working people. We cannot let them use the attack on "DEI" as a cover for rolling back already limited democratic forms in the United States, as a cover for increased militarism, or to scapegoat oppressed communities. These facts should be readily apparent to all. The task is to build a movement that can stop these forces in their tracks. Unions must take up affirmative action in all of their mobilizations and political work. The fight against discrimination, Queerphobia, and racism in the workplace helps to empower and unify workers.

In the final analysis, as long as control of production, distribution, and the state remain in the hands of capital, democratic rights will always be under attack. Creating the conditions to really abolish social oppression will only be possible with the working class taking control of production, that is to say, building a socialist society. Due to the foundational role of racism in U.S. capitalism, the socialist revolution will have a "combined" character in this country. Workers' power is impossible without also taking up the fights for Black self-determination, Land Back, and the socialization of what MAGA considers "women's work." ■

By JOSE MONTEROJO

Immigrants and their allies mobilize against Trump's attacks

Immigrants and their allies are responding to the Trump administration's attacks on their community with organizing and mobilizations across the country. From California to the East Coast, immigrant organizations and communities are marching in the streets, holding legal training to prepare immigrants for ICE raids, and preparing networks to defend immigrants from deportation.

We are witnessing a revival of a political tradition of immigrant rights organizing that has deep roots among the U.S. working class. This fledgling movement carries the potential to become a mass movement of millions to not only fight the current regimes racist policies, but also to unite with all sectors of workers and social movements to shake the foundation of the government and the imperialist system it defends.

The immigrant rights struggle has generated significant protests in areas as far and wide as Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Chicago, and New York City. While not yet a movement of millions, these protests do demonstrate a willingness among a sector of the immigrant rights movement to openly defy the government's actions.

On and around Feb. 1-3, people in many cities observed a series of pro-immigrant boycotts and demonstrations—precursors and building actions for this year's "A Day Without Immigrants" activities that are planned nationwide for May 1-5. In Los Angeles, approximately 3000 protesters took to the streets over the course of three days. Students walked out of classes, protesters marched to central Los Angeles and took over a freeway. Latin American flags, in particular the Mexican flag, waved in the wind, as activists called for an end to deportations and a recognition of immigrants' humanity.

In early February, thousands of protesters mobilized in front of the Colorado State Capitol. They were responding to ICE raids in Denver and Aurora as part of Trump's "Operation Aurora," meant to sweep up supposed members of the Venezuelan gang El Tren de Aragua. That same week, approximately 1500 people attended a legal training held by pro-immigrant lawyers on how to respond to ICE raids in their communities.

In Chicago, immigrants and their supporters sprung into action to counter a series of raids in late January. The round-up of immigrants, dubbed "Operation Safeguard," involved a number of U.S. agencies besides ICE, and was overseen by top Trump officials. Activists leafleted the community and held a number of training sessions in order to inform immigrants of their rights, while taking other steps to hinder federal agents from completing their quotas.

These were a few of the major examples of pro-immigrant mobilizations across the United States. Most protests are small, gathering dozens to hundreds of protesters. The current climate of fear within the immigrant community is undoubtedly contributing to smaller protests, but this may change as immigrants see non-immigrant and non-undocumented workers speaking out against anti-immigrant racism and helping to build political spaces where undocumented workers can mobilize in an environment of collective solidarity and safety.

As in the Palestine solidarity movement in the



U.S., youth are playing a leading role in fighting deportations. In the nationwide "Day Without an Immigrant" protest held on Feb. 3, thousands of immigrant youth stayed home from school and took to the streets. In Houston, about a quarter of its student population stayed home. In San Jose, hundreds of students from Latino immigrant neighborhoods staged walkouts on Jan. 30. In Oklahoma, hundreds of students, educators, and community members mobilized against the local Board of Education against policies meant to inquire about students' and families' immigration statuses.

These protests do not yet have a clear leadership or structure. Non-profit groups, legal advocates, left-wing organizations, and social media posts are contributing to the mobilizations. While the various activists in the spaces are demonstrating initiative in kickstarting an immigrant rights movement, a national campaign against nationwide attacks on immigrants will require local, regional, and national frameworks to effectively resist the Trump regime.

Such frameworks can take the form of immigrant rights coalitions, uniting all the various pro-immigrant organizations into one powerful struggle around key demands such as "end the deportations," "close the detention centers," "free immigrant detainees," and "citizenship for all."

One example we can learn from is Papeles para Todos (Papers for All), an immigrant rights coalition based in San Jose, Calif. Most recently, in February, this coalition, along with other immigrant organizations, participated in a protest in San Jose to denounce ICE raids. In addition to this, Papeles Para Todos built a solidarity campaign with immigrant detainees on strike at two ICE detention centers in Southern California. This campaign held virtual meetings with detainees, organized fundraisers, and protests in solidarity with their strike. Papeles Para Todos unified local left-wing, non-profit, and

(Above) Thousands march along a Los Angeles freeway in a protest for immigrant rights, Feb. 3.

legal aid organizations into one unified coalition.

Such a coalition, on a much larger scale, organized the 2006 "A Day Without Immigrants" mobilization. Student organizations such as the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA), human rights organizations like the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of LA (CHIRLA), and labor unions such as the Service International Employees Union (SEIU) and American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) collaborated to organize a nationwide mass protest to push back against H.R. 4437, a policy aimed at making living without legal documents in the U.S. a felony and to lengthen the border wall.

There are currently two lawsuits underway on behalf of pro-immigrant legal groups aimed at blocking Trump's orders to remove Temporary Protected Status (TPS) from hundreds of thousands of refugees from devastated areas such as Haiti, Venezuela, and Nicaragua. While the blocking of these policies is welcome, we must place our faith in our ability to organize in the workplaces and in the streets. Lawsuits are slow, grinding processes that channel our energy toward the courts—where the bosses hold power and write the rules—and away from where we live and work, which is where we can organize the mass actions to beat back the Trump regime's reactionary attack.

Various labor unions across the United States released statements critical of the right-wing attacks by the new government. The AFL-CIO's response criticized Trump's deportation orders. It will be up to union activists across the U.S. to argue for a pro-immigrant campaign in coalition with other immigrant rights organizations, which are now promoting May 1 rallies. ■

Trump & the Tech Bros: A Match Made in Hell



By HERMAN MORRIS

The Year is 2025. The richest man in the world has gained full administrative access to and control of the U.S. Treasury payment system. He will go on to use that access in order to publicly brag on his privately owned blogging site about the next target he has chosen to be denied funds.

For his next trick, he plans to upload all the budget data for the U.S. Treasury into an AI platform in order to find other places to which he can unilaterally shut off funding. The entire political establishment is either too impotent to stop him or actively invested in helping him gut the public sector of the United States, including funds to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Department of Health and Human Services. While it is unknown yet if money has been directly transferred from the public coffers to private hands, there is really no way for anyone to know at this point until after it happens.

Unfortunately for working people, this is not the plot of a cyber punk

thriller but the actual state of the U.S. government and what is possible in the hands of Elon Musk and Donald Trump. While this flexing of terrifying and unstoppable force on the government may seem to be simply a demonstration of the raw power that these men hold, it is also an expression of the deep crisis that Musk and tech specifically are in, as well as a reflection of the general decline of the United States as the top imperialist power of the world.

While the “Magnificent Seven” big tech companies have accounted for nearly all the growth in the public stock market for the past two years, these corporations are failing to find ways to productively invest their hoards of wealth. The so-called “Next Big Thing” that tech companies have been seeking out since the cloud and smartphone revolution spurred profits to new and dizzying heights has failed to materialize.

Self-driving cars, artificial general intelligence, augmented/virtual reality, and quantum computing are just a few examples of the kinds of research projects from the industry that promise levels of technology worthy of science

fiction. While undeniable progress has been made in all of those fields, not one of them has reached the point where it can demonstrate a financial return that justifies their deep levels of research costs.

To add to their woes, the traditional bedrock technologies that have spurred the profits and valuations of these corporations are now under threat, with ad-tech losing money to new privacy tools, government regulation enforcing data protections, rising militancy from workers, antitrust scrutiny, and increasing competition from Chinese companies. This means that—while things may look good for tech for now—there are stormy waters ahead, and it’s unclear where and how they will be able to deploy their vast resources in a way that continues the breakneck growth they have historically enjoyed.

While some tech capitalists have been vocally reactionary their whole lives, the past few years have seen a significant growth both in how many tech CEOs have declared an allegiance to Trump’s Republican Party and in the overall extremism of their views. The most famous examples are Elon

Musk’s support for the AfD in Germany (an anti-immigrant, far-right party that has repeatedly used Nazi slogans) and Mark Zuckerberg’s ending of all DEI programs at Meta while making the bizarre claim of needing more “masculine energy” at the corporation—which historically has been over 60% male, according to its own diversity reports.

While CEOs may talk about a change in values or other high-minded ideals on how they believe their companies should run, there is a material basis to these changes from the top. One is the profitability crisis that tech is facing. In short, they may have all the money in the world, but they don’t know how to put it to good use. Unless they can find that use, Wall Street and other investors are going to start wanting their money back in the form of buybacks or dividends, rather than having it just sitting in the bank.

The other is that Trump won, and in his first term he made it clear he would punish those who he felt had crossed him. This had disastrous implications for Amazon, where Jeff Bezos originally made it a point to antagonize Trump through *The Washington Post*, which he also owns. Trump retaliated by rewarding the JEDI military contract (a deal all but assumed to be gift-wrapped to Amazon) to Microsoft, costing them \$10 billion dollars and the opportunity for more contracts in the future. Jeff Bezos doesn’t want to lose money, and so this time he saw to it that *The Washington Post* wouldn’t endorse Kamala Harris.

So, tech is weak. Where does the rest of the country stand? While the continuous growth of the national GDP might show that everything is “fine,” as mentioned above, most of the growth of the past several years can be solely chalked up to the tech revolution, with the rest of the U.S. industrial base either stagnating or contracting, up until the recent re-shoring efforts to combat Chinese competition. Even this effort, though, required hundreds of billions of dollars in state assistance and there are big questions on the profitability of such ventures without severe curtailment of workers’ rights.

Internationally, things aren’t looking

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

good either. The last administration had to finally admit defeat in Afghanistan, and the U.S. has spent billions of dollars funding wars in Ukraine and Palestine—neither of which has resulted in a victory. In simple terms, the United States is failing to find ways to use its immense hoards of wealth and power to keep itself economically ahead of the rest of the world, and is increasingly at risk of being dragged down from the number one spot into a field of having to contend with other major powers to carve up the world.

These conditions are ripe for a marriage between the most powerful and corrupt leaders in the U.S. today to try to identify some way to keep themselves on top. Now that the more “centrist” U.S. leaders have repeatedly failed to prescribe workable measures for the United States to stay ahead of China and Russia, some feel that it is time for more radical ideas to come forward.

Enter Trump round two, except that this time, instead of the tacit working relationship he had with tech and other big arms of capital in the U.S., he is enjoying active cooperation and even some kickbacks. In return for the friendly approval and financial support in the form of million-dollar donations to his inauguration fund, Trump is doling out public support like candy: \$500 billion for Stargate, a multi-company AI server investment where it’s unclear what role the federal government is even playing in it; a new government-specific AI chat bot provided by Open AI; with the capstone being the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

DOGE is a vague and ill-defined “Temporary Organization” (a classification fabricated to avoid saying it’s an executive department, which can only be formed by Congress). Its purpose is stated to “modernize federal technology and software to maximize governmental efficiency and productivity.” Its actual steps so far seem to consist of personally putting Elon Musk in charge of the executive branch of the U.S. government to conduct cost reductions and layoffs in the exact manner that Elon has pursued at his own corporations. These attacks have been wild and all over the place, with the only departments assured safety being ICE and the military—and even they have been subject to anti-DEI policies.

Will this strategy work, though? There are two very important factors at play here. While on the one hand, potentially massive amounts of contracts and funds may be siphoned from the public sector to the private sector, this is just one more acceleration of the same neoliberal policies that have



been gutting the public sector of the U.S. government since the 1970s. This may temporarily free more capital to be invested, but it comes at a cost of more human misery in that basic services and needs are no longer fulfilled.

Additionally, the people carrying out these cuts still have no plan for where the money can be profitably spent once the smoke clears, other than continuing to invest in industrial research projects worthy of science fiction, as they did earlier, and praying for another breakthrough. Mostly, it will only mean more money for them, and less for the working class. This is the key lack of vision and imagination that the capitalist system has instilled in its most powerful leaders, and they must resort to deeply undemocratic means to carry them out because they know how unpopular they really are.

On the other hand, the way that these neoliberal reforms are being carried out represents an important shift in the nature of capitalist rule in America. There is no longer any pretending that what Congress passed into law today or yesterday will be carried out at all by the executive branch, if it is willing to leverage the payment system to unilaterally divert funding. The judicial branch of government is also staffed by Trump loyalists, who promise at best a slowing of the process, if not rubber-stamping aspects of it outright.

This can be seen as one layer of the U.S. capitalist class saying that traditional American “democracy” and its institutions are not useful enough for them to realize their aims. So far, no ruling-class opposition that could stop this effort has materialized. While there is immense oppression and injustice in the U.S. as it exists today, this new form of government with an executive branch that can work virtually unchecked, as proposed by segments of the far right, would obviously only be worse for working and oppressed people.

The unpopularity of these measures is very important to remember. Trump may have won the “popular” vote this time, but once again, he didn’t even win a majority of the electorate. While the Democratic Party has been extremely feeble and ineffectual in protesting these maneuvers, public reaction has been growing. On Feb. 5, thousands demonstrated around the country in loosely coordinated “50 Protests, 50 States, 1 Day” rallies, which expressed support for LGBTQ, reproductive, and immigrant rights, as well as outrage over Project 2025 and the onslaught by Trump and Musk.

These events included spontaneous rallies by federal workers. In the meantime, immigrants and their allies have been building bigger and bigger demonstrations across the U.S. to fight back against deportations.

These demonstrations contain within

them the kernel of building a mass democratic movement to provide a far stronger check on capitalist politicians than what Congress is capable of. For these demonstrations to grow, it will be essential to form broad coalitions that include labor unions, immigrant communities, civil liberties groups, and other mass organizations.

The attempts to dismantle federal departments threaten the jobs of federal workers and can severely diminish the important services that they provide; they also threaten to reduce the strength of some of the biggest unions in the United States. Only through building a movement in the streets and in the workplaces of those facing the worst threats can an effective fight against the Trump regime and his sycophants be mounted.

While the ruling class may live in its fantasy world of super-computers and infinite power, workers live in the real world. In this world, we know from history that mobilizing and building a broad, democratic fightback against the worst excesses of the state—from the Vietnam War to Jim Crow—can be successful. By studying our past and building this movement, working people have the power to put a stop to the capitalist agenda to gut workers’ rights and the democratic liberties that we enjoy today as the fruits of past struggles. Working-class power is in the streets, not in the halls of Congress, and only through bringing greater and greater masses of workers together, organized to fight back against cuts to federal jobs and social services, can workers take their destiny into their own hands. ■



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Trump engineers a stunning shift in U.S. foreign policy

By ERNIE GOTTA

The Trump administration has stunned the world with a radical shift in foreign policy. One of the crudest expressions of the new policy took place on Feb. 28 when, at an explosive shouting match at the White House, President Trump and Vice President Vance teamed up to humiliate Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky for being “disrespectful” to the U.S. The session had been called in the context of an impending “deal” (steal) in which the U.S. would be given the right to extract key mineral resources from Ukraine. At the end of the meeting, however, Trump brusquely declared to Zelensky, “you either make a deal or we’re out!” Zelensky was then asked to leave the White House.

The meeting followed several other shocking statements by U.S. officials in the early weeks of the Trump administration. As a whole, they were read by many commentators as an expression of the destruction of the post-World War II global order in favor of a new configuration thought to be more beneficial to U.S. imperialism.

Elements of the U.S. change in policy

On Feb. 24, the U.S. refused to vote for a UN resolution condemning Russia on the third anniversary of that country’s invasion of Ukraine. The vote followed three shocking speeches from the Trump administration:

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, in a Feb. 12 meeting in Brussels with the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, made it clear that the U.S. was prioritizing containing China—and not Russia. He said, “We will only end this devastating war—and establish a durable peace—by coupling allied strength with a realistic assessment of the battlefield. We want, like you, a sovereign and prosperous Ukraine. But we must start by recognizing that returning to Ukraine’s pre-2014 borders is an unrealistic objective.” He implored European members of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group to donate more ammunition and spend more on defense.

Hegseth laid out the U.S. priorities: “The United States faces consequential threats to our homeland. We must—and we are—focusing on security of our own borders. We also face a peer competitor in the Communist Chinese with the capability and intent to threaten our homeland and core national interests in the Indo-Pacific. The U.S. is prioritizing deterring war with China in the Pacific...”

Two days later, at the Munich Security Conference, JD Vance elaborated on the attitude of the Trump administration to-



Shannon Stapleton / Reuters

ward much of Europe. He painted a picture of repression by liberal Europeans against Christians and people on the far right. Vance went out of his way to meet with Alice Weidel, leader of the far-right German party AfD, which made significant gains in the German elections.

On Feb. 18, Secretary of State Marco Rubio had a meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, to discuss reestablishing diplomatic relations in order to work out a “peace deal” in the war with Ukraine. Ukraine was left out of the meeting, and President Trump went so far as to say that Ukrainian President Zelensky was a “dictator without elections.” Lavrov told Rubio that Russia would unlock opportunities for U.S. investment and access to minerals.

Capitalist nations in crisis

This is a dramatic shift from the previous position of the U.S., when the Biden administration gave Ukraine enough military support to keep their defense alive. That policy was in line with maintaining a strategic alliance with a Europe that is fearful of Russian encroachment in other border areas. But now, Washington sees its future better served by playing ball with Russia.

This historic switch is tied to a new U.S. strategy for competing with China while in a period of economic decline. Part of Trump’s rise to power has been related to his stated intent to put the U.S. on a war footing to contain China, which requires a new military build-up.

This view was reflected in May 2024 when Mississippi Senator Roger Wick-er said, “It is far past time to rebuild

America’s military. We can avoid war by preparing for it. When America’s senior military leaders testify before my colleagues and me on the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee behind closed doors, they have said that we face some of the most dangerous global threat environments since World War II. Then, they darken that already unsettling picture by explaining that our armed forces are at risk of being under-equipped and outgunned. We struggle to build and maintain ships, our fighter jet fleet is dangerously small, and our military infrastructure is outdated. Meanwhile, America’s adversaries are growing their militaries and getting more aggressive.”

People who will benefit from these shifts are far-right tech billionaires like Peter Thiel and Elon Musk, who will get billions in government contracts. Musk is openly intervening in the government—with one hand, slashing programs and departments, while on the other hand, accepting billions of dollars in government subsidies for SpaceX. According to Reuters, SpaceX CEO Gwynne

Shotwell has said that the company currently holds \$22 billion in government contracts.

Meaning for the working class?

Trump’s “America First” declarations signal a concentrated effort by the United States to reassert itself as the preeminent superpower in the world—above any rivals such as China. As steps are being taken to increase funding for a modernized high-tech U.S. military force, the president has made it clear that Washington intends to threaten and bully other governments to get its way. The administration has shown that it is willing to pose as a “peacemaker” when that tactic seems useful, but that it will unleash its military power if necessary.

Workers have no stake either in the current economic conflicts or in the looming war of military destruction. If the U.S. were to go onto a full war footing, we could see drastic domestic changes as well—the reinstatement of a draft, a clampdown on dissent, efforts to regiment labor and outlaw strikes, and the continued gutting of social programs and regulations affecting corporate production.

Some sectors of corporate America believe that Trump’s policies will help their bottom line on the world stage. But ultimately, the capitalists have few means to increase their profits other than ramping up their exploitation of the working class. In order to fight back, working people and their allies can only depend on themselves. Democratic Party politicians claim to provide leadership, but have no real answers. We need to organize in our workplaces and unions, schools, and communities in order to mobilize millions of people in the streets in a powerful and united response to the Trump agenda. ■

- Money for housing, health, and climate mitigation—not for the Pentagon!
- Self-determination for Palestine and Ukraine!

“Capitalism has grown into a world system of colonial oppression and of the financial strangulation of the overwhelming majority of the population of the world by a handful of “advanced” countries. And this “booty” is shared between two or three powerful world plunderers armed to the teeth, who are drawing the whole world into their war over the division of their booty.”

- V. Lenin, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*

Protectionism or Free Trade?

What is capitalist trade policy to the working class?

By ERNIE GOTTA

“I’m President of the UAW. We’re ready to work with Trump,” read a headline in *The Washington Post* that shocked many in the labor movement.

Shawn Fain, president of the United Auto Workers (UAW), spent the better part of the 2024 presidential elections warning workers everywhere that Donald Trump only represented the billionaire class and called him a “scab.” Then, the day before Trump’s inauguration, Fain published an Op Ed explaining why his union needs to have a voice in developing U.S. trade policy. In the Op Ed, Fain endorsed Trump’s plan to implement tariffs and explained why, in his view, tariffs would be a necessary corrective following decades of devastating attacks on U.S. jobs and workers from neoliberal free trade agreements like NAFTA and the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Fain is not the only union leader to support Trump’s trade policies. Why did the United Steel Workers union try to thwart the merger of U.S. Steel and Japan’s Nippon Steel? Why did the International Longshore Association during their strike blame foreign companies for not adequately compensating U.S. workers and taking profits out of the country?

Why did the general president of the Teamsters, Sean O’Brien, when addressing the Republican National Convention in July 2024, parrot Trump’s “America First” rhetoric, saying, “We need trade policies that put American workers first.” O’Brien doubled down on vile anti-immigrant protectionist ideas on a podcast in which he interviewed Republican Senator Josh Hawley—who masquerades as a friend of the unions. O’Brien stated, “I think the biggest problem is people are trying to protect illegal aliens that come here and commit crimes, and that’s unacceptable. ... Social issues are all well and good, but protecting illegal immigrants that come into our country to commit crimes and steal jobs, that’s a tough pill to swallow.”

For many, at first glance it seems logical that unions would rally to protectionist ideas after facing the carnage brought on by NAFTA and USMCA. So-called “free trade” has had a deeply negative impact on jobs and wages in the U.S., but is Fain correct to say that protectionist policies geared around tariffs will be the answer to bringing manufacturing back to this country? Can protectionist policies like tariffs, import quotas, and other government regulations lead to less exploitation, higher wages, and better working conditions for the working class?

No. Capitalist trade policy is made by capitalists for the benefit of their own class. Whether it’s “free trade” or protectionism, the implementation of the policy is meant to protect and increase the profits of the ruling class.

There are times when the capitalists need higher revenue streams and favor a free trade approach. Of course, free trade is really “free” in name only and generally serves for the exploitation of one nation over another. In reality, free trade agreements like



(Above) Workers at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) rally outside the Capitol on Feb. 5.

NAFTA establish zones that allow imperialist nations flexibility in deferring tariffs, managing inventory, and cash flow. These free trade agreements allowed U.S. companies to close down production lines in the U.S., cross the border into Mexico, and super-exploit the workers there.

This worked for a while for the U.S. since it was the undisputed hegemonic power and leading economy, but with the restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union and China and the subsequent rise of China and Russia as new imperialist powers, the situation has shifted significantly. The inter-imperialist rivalry with China in particular is driving some U.S. capitalists to favor protectionist policies in order to put up barriers and hurt the competition. The resulting trade war will likely be a driver of inflation and put more economic burden on the working class—not just in the U.S. but globally.

Trump has said many times that tariffs are paid for by foreign countries. But ultimately it would be U.S. importers who pay the tax and then recoup it by making U.S. consumers pay higher prices. Trump knows this but has created a narrative in which the U.S. is being taken advantage of in global trade. He posted on X, “This will be the Golden Age of America! Will there be some pain? Yes, maybe (and maybe not!). But we will make America great again, and it will all be worth the price that must be paid.”

Historically, the Tariff Act of 1789, the Tariff of

“Do not imagine, gentlemen, that in criticizing freedom of trade we have the least intention of defending the system of protection.

One may declare oneself an enemy of the constitutional regime without declaring oneself a friend of the ancient regime.”

— Karl Marx, *On the Question of Free Trade*

1816, and the McKinley Tariff of 1890 did nothing to benefit working people. McKinley was known as the “Napoleon of Protection” and every move he made was to benefit the interests of manufacturers.

Trump, as a mouthpiece for the ruling class, uses phony pro-worker rhetoric to sell the unions and the broader working class on the notion that protectionist policies will reverse the degradation of their daily lives. However, protectionist trade policies, attacks on immigrants, and other oppressed communities will not resolve the very real economic crisis that capitalism is enduring on a global scale. The reality for billions of workers around the world is more instability, worse wages, and poorer working conditions. How do working people escape being trapped in the vicious cycles brought on by the inherent flaws of the capitalist system?

Working and oppressed people have to wage a relentless political struggle for independence from the capitalist class in their unions, on their campuses, and in their communities. This means, for example, that when U.S. Steel wants to make a deal that hurts the workers, the demand of the workers should be to open the corporation’s account books for all to see how they make their profits, and to put U.S. Steel under public ownership and democratic workers’ control. When workers are exploited by U.S. companies in another country or rounded up at a militarized border, U.S. workers need to extend a hand of solidarity and demand an end to the injustice by withholding their labor power.

When the elections come around, the unions should no longer support this or that capitalist politician. They should instead hold a meeting among all the unions and all rank-and-file members. The meeting should open a discussion on running their own candidates under the banner of a labor party. Working-class independence and international solidarity are the only way forward for working people. ■

¿Proteccionismo o libre comercio?

¿Qué significa la política comercial capitalista para la clase trabajadora?

Por ERNIE GOTTA

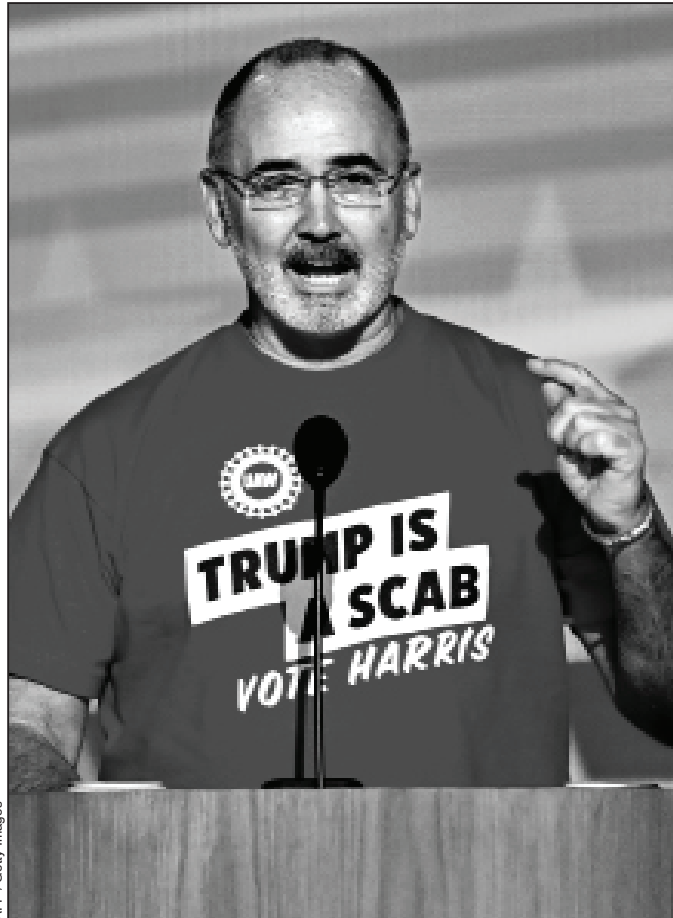
«**S**oy presidente del UAW. Estamos preparados para trabajar con Trump», decía un titular en The Washington Post que sorprendió a muchos en el movimiento obrero. Shawn Fain, presidente del sindicato United Auto Workers (UAW), pasó la mayor parte de las elecciones presidenciales de 2024 advirtiendo a los trabajadores de todo el mundo de que Donald Trump solo representaba a la clase multimillonaria y lo llamó un «esquirol». Luego, el día antes de la toma de posesión de Trump, Fain publicó un artículo de opinión en el que explicaba por qué su sindicato necesita tener voz en el desarrollo de la política comercial estadounidense. En el artículo de opinión, Fain respaldaba el plan de Trump de aplicar aranceles y explicaba por qué, en su opinión, los aranceles serían un correctivo necesario tras décadas de ataques devastadores contra los empleos y los trabajadores estadounidenses por parte de acuerdos neoliberales de libre comercio como el TLCAN y el Tratado entre México, Estados Unidos y Canadá (USMCA).

Fain no es el único líder sindical que apoya las políticas comerciales de Trump. ¿Por qué impidió el sindicato United Steel Workers la fusión de U.S. Steel y la japonesa Nippon Steel? ¿Por qué fue que la International Longshore Association, durante su huelga, culpó a las empresas extranjeras de no compensar adecuadamente a los trabajadores estadounidenses y de sacar beneficios del país?

¿Por qué repitió como un loro la retórica de Trump de «América primero» el presidente general de los Teamsters, Sean O'Brien, al dirigirse a la Convención Nacional Republicana en julio de 2024, diciendo: «Necesitamos políticas comerciales que pongan a los trabajadores estadounidenses en primer lugar»? O'Brien redobló las viles ideas proteccionistas contra los inmigrantes en un podcast en el que entrevistó al senador republicano Josh Hawley, que se hace pasar por amigo de los sindicatos. O'Brien declaró: «Creo que el mayor problema es que la gente está tratando de proteger a los extranjeros ilegales que vienen aquí y cometen delitos, y eso es inaceptable. [...] Los problemas sociales son importantes, pero proteger a los inmigrantes ilegales que vienen a nuestro país para cometer delitos y robar puestos de trabajo, es difícil de aceptar».

Para muchos, a primera vista parece lógico que los sindicatos se unan a las ideas proteccionistas tras enfrentarse a la carnicería provocada por el TLCAN y el T-MEC. El llamado «libre comercio» ha tenido un impacto profundamente negativo en los empleos y salarios en EE. UU., pero ¿tiene razón Fain al decir que las políticas proteccionistas basadas en aranceles serán la respuesta para traer de vuelta la industria manufacturera a este país? ¿Pueden las políticas proteccionistas como los aranceles, las cuotas de importación y otras regulaciones gubernamentales conducir a una menor explotación, salarios más altos y mejores condiciones de trabajo para la clase trabajadora?

No. La política comercial capitalista la hacen los capitalistas en beneficio de su propia clase. Ya sea



El presidente del United Auto Workers, Shawn Fain, habla en la Convención Nacional Demócrata el 19 de agosto de 2024. Se quitó la chaqueta para revelar una camiseta que decía "Trump es un esquirol."

«libre comercio» o proteccionismo, la aplicación de la política tiene por objeto proteger y aumentar los beneficios de la clase dominante.

Hay momentos en que los capitalistas necesitan mayores fuentes de ingresos y favorecen un enfoque de libre comercio. Por supuesto, el libre comercio es realmente «libre» solo de nombre y, por lo general, sirve para la explotación de una nación sobre otra. En la realidad, los acuerdos de libre comercio como el TLCAN establecen zonas que permiten a las naciones imperialistas flexibilidad para diferir aranceles, gestionar inventarios y flujo de caja. Estos acuerdos de libre comercio permitieron a las empresas estadounidenses cerrar líneas de producción en EE. UU., cruzar la frontera con México y superexplotar a los trabajadores de allí.

Esto funcionó durante un tiempo para EE. UU., ya que era la potencia hegemónica indiscutible y la economía líder, pero con la restauración del capitalismo en la Unión Soviética y China y el posterior ascenso de China y Rusia como nuevas potencias imperialistas, la situación ha cambiado significativamente. La rivalidad interimperialista con China en particular está llevando a algunos capitalistas estadounidenses a favorecer políticas proteccionistas para poner barreras y perjudicar a la competencia. La guerra comercial resultante probablemente será un motor

de inflación y supondrá una mayor carga económica para la clase trabajadora, no solo en EE. UU. sino en todo el mundo.

Trump ha dicho muchas veces que los aranceles los pagan los países extranjeros. Pero, en última instancia, serían los importadores estadounidenses quienes pagarían el impuesto y luego lo recuperan haciendo que los consumidores estadounidenses paguen precios más altos. Trump lo sabe, pero ha creado una narrativa en la que se aprovechan de EE. UU. en el comercio mundial. Publicó en Twitter: «¡Esta será la Edad de Oro de Estados Unidos! ¿Habrá dolor? Sí, tal vez (¡y tal vez no!). Pero haremos que Estados Unidos vuelva a ser grande, y todo valdrá la pena el precio que hay que pagar».

Trump, como portavoz de la clase dirigente, utiliza una retórica falsa a favor de los trabajadores para vender a los sindicatos y a la clase trabajadora en general la idea de que las políticas proteccionistas revertirán la degradación de su vida cotidiana. Sin embargo, las políticas comerciales proteccionistas, los ataques a los inmigrantes y otras comunidades oprimidas no resolverán la crisis económica muy real que el capitalismo está sufriendo a escala mundial. La realidad para miles de millones de trabajadores en todo el mundo es más inestabilidad, peores salarios y peores condiciones de trabajo. ¿Cómo pueden los trabajadores escapar de los círculos viciosos provocados por los defectos inherentes del sistema capitalista?

Los trabajadores y los oprimidos tienen que librar una lucha política implacable por la independencia de la clase capitalista en sus sindicatos, en sus escuelas y en sus comunidades. Esto significa, por ejemplo, que cuando U.S. Steel quiere hacer un trato que perjudique a los trabajadores, la demanda de los trabajadores debe ser abrir los libros de cuentas de la corporación para que todos vean cómo obtiene sus ganancias, y poner a U.S. Steel bajo propiedad pública y control democrático de los trabajadores. Cuando las empresas estadounidenses explotan a los trabajadores en otro país o los acorralan en una frontera militarizada, los trabajadores estadounidenses deben tender una mano solidaria y exigir el fin de la injusticia a través de retener su mano de obra.

Cuando lleguen las elecciones, los sindicatos no deberían seguir apoyando a tal o cual político capitalista. En su lugar, deberían celebrar una reunión masiva entre todos los sindicatos y todos sus miembros de base. Esta reunión debería abrir un debate sobre la presentación de sus propios candidatos bajo la bandera de un partido laborista. La independencia de la clase trabajadora y la solidaridad internacional son el único camino a seguir para los trabajadores. ■

¡Nos movilizamos para defender los derechos reproductivos!

Por AVA FAHY

La administración Trump ha lanzado un ataque frontal contra todos los sectores oprimidos y explotados de la población, y las mujeres no son ninguna excepción. Desde la catastrófica decisión del Tribunal Supremo que anuló *Roe contra Wade* y *Planned Parenthood contra Casey* hace casi tres años, las repercusiones de las prohibiciones del aborto sobre la salud reproductiva en Estados Unidos han sido nefastas, especialmente para las mujeres negras embarazadas, que mueren por causas relacionadas con el embarazo tres veces más frecuentemente que las blancas.

La mayoría de los estados que han aplicado prohibiciones del aborto o restricciones serias no han actualizado estadísticas sobre su impacto en la mortalidad materna. Los informes independientes revelan el impacto violento y terrible de las prohibiciones del aborto. En Texas, que castiga a los proveedores de abortos con hasta 99 años de cárcel, la tasa de sepsis (una condición potencialmente mortal) aumentó más del 50% en las mujeres hospitalizadas por pérdida del embarazo en el segundo trimestre.

El Proyecto 2025 de Trump y Musk pretende prohibir y criminalizar el aborto con medicamentos, la forma más común de aborto y, a menudo, la única forma de atención abortiva disponible para las pacientes rurales y las personas que viven en desiertos abortivos -que se han vuelto cada vez más comunes después de la sentencia Dobbs. El ataque tiene dos vertientes: En primer lugar, han puesto en marcha una demanda que pretende anular la aprobación de la FDA de la mifepristona, una importante píldora abortiva. En segundo lugar, pretenden ampliar y aplicar la Ley Comstock, una ley federal de 1873(!) que penaliza el envío por correo de información sobre atención reproductiva. Según el Proyecto 2025, la propuesta es criminalizar a cualquiera que envíe o reciba no sólo píldoras abortivas, sino potencialmente cualquier cosa que se utilice para abortar, incluidos los espéculos y los analgésicos. Esto podría equivaler a una prohibición del aborto en todo el país, lo que, según los expertos, aumentaría la mortalidad materna en un 24% a escala nacional y en un 39% en el caso de la población negra.

El Proyecto 2025 también pretende ampliar la vigilancia de las personas embarazadas, y varios legisladores republicanos han presentado propuestas de registros de personas embarazadas para ser vigiladas y procesadas si abortan. Ya existe una vigilancia similar de las personas embarazadas, principalmente entre las personas con antecedentes de encarcelamiento o abuso de drogas, y conduce a acusaciones penales traumatizantes y profundamente contrarias a la ética de empatía para las personas embarazadas. Este tipo de vigilancia envía un mensaje claro a las mujeres y otras personas embarazadas: no tienes autonomía mientras estes embarazada.

¿Qué podemos hacer? Una solución vital es contraatacar a través del movimiento obrero. Las luchas sindicales son un mecanismo mediante el cual las mujeres trabajadoras pueden conquistar libertades vitales. Los sindicatos pueden luchar por las prestaciones sanitarias e incluso pueden librar luchas por la justicia reproductiva consiguiendo protecciones para



Kristine Jones / Women's March

las trabajadoras que deseen abortar o recibir otros cuidados reproductivos. Y los sindicatos pueden vincularse y ayudar a organizar manifestaciones en las calles por los derechos reproductivos y en defensa de las clínicas sanitarias.

Las mujeres trabajadoras sindicadas ganan más dinero—de media, alrededor de un 19% más que sus homólogas no sindicadas—y tienen muchas más probabilidades de tener cobertura sanitaria. Estas condiciones mejores son especialmente beneficiosas para las trabajadoras racializadas, que se enfrentan a una discriminación especialmente dura en la intersección de la explotación de clase, la opresión racial y la opresión de género. El éxito de las luchas contractuales por el permiso familiar remunerada y la baja por enfermedad remunerada beneficia desproporcionadamente a las mujeres, que tienen más probabilidades de responsabilizarse del cuidado de niños y viejos.

Por muy importantes que sean estas victorias laborales, la liberación de la mujer y el fin de la opresión de género requieren mucho más. No se conseguirá con los esfuerzos del Partido Demócrata, bajo cuya vigilancia se anuló *Roe* con poco más que un empujamiento de hombros del presidente o el Congreso demócratas. No lo conseguirán las ONG como *Planned Parenthood* o el Instituto *Guttmacher*, que siguen las ordenes de sus ricos donantes de la clase dominante, dependen de las subvenciones del gobierno y, por tanto, son incapaces de participar en la lucha de clases debido a sus lealtades.

Se conseguirá la liberación creando un ala izquierda de lucha de clases en el movimiento sindical, centrada en desarrollar el liderazgo de las mujeres y de las personas LGBTQ+. También requerirá un movimiento de masas en las calles, independiente de los demócratas y los republicanos y regido por las necesidades y los

métodos de las mujeres y las personas LGBTQ+ de la clase obrera que luchan por sus derechos.

El 8 de marzo, millones de mujeres salen a la calle en todo el mundo para protestar por los derechos de la mujer. El Día Internacional de la Mujer surgió con orgullo de un movimiento internacional de mujeres trabajadoras socialistas. Luise Zietz y Clara Zetkin propusieron en la Conferencia Internacional de Mujeres Socialistas de 1910 que debían organizar un Día de la Mujer especial para promover no sólo el sufragio femenino, sino los derechos laborales de las mujeres trabajadoras y los derechos democráticos de las mujeres y los niños.

El 8 de marzo de 1917, las teleras de Petrogrado organizaron una manifestación por el Día de la Mujer que abarcó toda la ciudad, se convirtió en una huelga general y, con la fuerza que demostraron en las calles, marcó el comienzo de la Revolución de Febrero. El zar abdicó sólo una semana después.

En Estados Unidos, el asalto a los derechos de la mujer por el Proyecto 2025—y por Trump, Vance y su lacayo Musk—requiere un movimiento serio de las mujeres trabajadoras que se organicen más allá de la política electoral y tomen su propia iniciativa. Como ejemplos, debemos fijarnos en los fuertes movimientos de mujeres de Irlanda, Argentina, México, Colombia y otros lugares que recientemente han conseguido con éxito el derecho al aborto tras años de restricciones.

La única solución verdadera para acabar con la opresión de la mujer es acabar con el sistema capitalista sexista y patriarcal. El fin de ese sistema sólo se conseguirá construyendo un enorme movimiento de trabajadores en las calles, comunidades y lugares de trabajo, organizado por un partido socialista revolucionario independiente que incluya la participación masiva de las mujeres trabajadoras. ■

¡Fortalezca las protestas en las calles!



Por CHRISTINE MARIE

En un tiempo increíblemente corto, la presidencia Trump-Musk ha cumplido su promesa de comenzar a dismantlar los elementos del Estado que consideran superfluos para el beneficio privado y la expansión imperialista. Esto ha resultado ser casi cualquier servicio gubernamental que los trabajadores han arrebatado a las élites para tratar de estabilizar su nivel de vida y su bienestar.

En poco tiempo, la nueva administración ha utilizado nombramientos de jefes de gabinete y agencias, órdenes ejecutivas ilegales, degradaciones y despidos racistas y sexistas, así como la engañosa operación DOGE, que está desatando hackers en los servidores del gobierno, para destruir el gasto y la actividad en apoyo de la salud, la educación, la

Ante esta terrible situación, el movimiento para obstruir el avance hacia el autoritarismo está creciendo. Decenas de miles de personas se han unido en protestas de un lado del país al otro, en ayuntamientos y en centros urbanos, frente a agencias federales, en las oficinas de los miembros del Congreso y en concesionarios de Tesla, dejando claro que están dispuestos a luchar. Sus pancartas se oponen a los ataques de Trump a los derechos democráticos, a los derechos LGBTQI y a los sindicatos. Se oponen al gobierno de los multimillonarios.

La mayoría de estas acciones han sido organizadas por formaciones liberales, como Indivisible, que llevan mucho tiempo operando dentro de un entorno más amplio del Partido Demócrata. Han conseguido un amplio alcance en un sector de la población que parece ansioso por manifestarse y expresar su disconformidad.

Al mismo tiempo, los más perjudicados se han organizado. Los trabajadores inmigrantes han demostrado su valentía en marchas callejeras y a través de redes de respuesta rápida que han impedido con éxito las redadas de la migra. También ha aumentado el número de acciones en defensa del derecho de las personas trans a la atención sanitaria y a la plena participación en la vida pública. Trabajadores federales de todo tipo han protestado frente a sus lugares de trabajo en Washington, DC, ondeando carteles sindicales y pancartas en defensa de su trabajo.

A medida que más y más trabajadores comprendan la realidad del plan presupuestario federal aprobado por Trump, un plan que seguramente incluirá unos 880 000 millones de dólares en recortes a Medicaid, el robo de fondos de la Seguridad Social, un aumento del gasto en guerras y recortes fiscales masivos para los ricos, existe la posibilidad de organizar manifestaciones en más zonas y de mayor tamaño.

Estas movilizaciones tienen la capacidad de ampliar significativamente el alcance de la población que se involucra, al tiempo que aumentan el número de trabajadores que se suman a la acción. Para lograrlo, los organizadores suelen reunirse en persona y planificar un seguimiento deliberado y propaganda consciente para el público. Hoy en día, esto podría incluir a militantes sindicales que quieren conseguir la participación de sus sindicatos locales, jóvenes formados en las tareas de solidaridad con Palestina, grupos religiosos arraigados en el activismo por la justicia social, activistas del medioambiente e indígenas, y organizaciones populares arraigadas en la comunidad negra.

Los esfuerzos para ampliar las protestas podrían consolidarse con reuniones abiertas, inclusivas y gestionadas democráticamente. Cada nueva reunión podría atraer a personas no organizadas anteriormente y proporcionar el espacio para que los recién radicalizados asuman funciones de liderazgo.

Este ritmo, que crea nuevos espacios abiertos y

democráticos en lugar de utilizar formaciones ya existentes asociadas a la política electoral, es importante por otra razón: millones y millones de personas que querrán protestar han quedado profundamente decepcionadas tanto con el partido demócrata como con el republicano, y llevan mucho tiempo decepcionadas. Ellos no confían en las organizaciones porque tienen miedo de que sean descartados principalmente como un voto en las elecciones de mitad de mandato. Ellos quieren dar forma a la política del movimiento.

Es razonable esperar que los trabajadores que se sienten inspirados a actuar en respuesta al fiasco del presupuesto federal quieran que las futuras manifestaciones hablen claramente de sus necesidades más inmediatas de ingresos adecuados y viviendas asequibles, necesidades que a menudo se resumen en el eterno eslogan «dinero para las necesidades humanas, no para la guerra».

Este tipo de organización puede aumentar exponencialmente nuestra capacidad de contraatacar, avanzando hacia un momento en el que la oposición al impulso de Trump y Musk hacia el autoritarismo pueda ser reconocido como su propio movimiento por nuestros compañeros de trabajo y vecinos. Es lo que necesitamos para derrotar a los multimillonarios y preservar el espacio político en el que los trabajadores radicalizados pueden organizarse para un cambio social aún más fundamental.

La historia demuestra que para derrotar a la extrema derecha, hay que hacer mucho más que simplemente aumentar el tamaño del movimiento de protesta. También es necesario que el movimiento eche raíces profundas entre la clase trabajadora. Cuando los políticos de las grandes empresas ven protestas cuyos manifestantes y líderes trabajan todos los días para mantener las luces encendidas, los estantes de las tiendas llenos, los camiones y trenes en movimiento y el ejército marchando, se preocupan por su capacidad para mantener su dominio de clase.

En la medida en que los trabajadores y sus sindicatos y organizaciones comunitarias asuman un papel importante en el movimiento, expresando su solidaridad con todos los oprimidos al tiempo que plantean sus propias reivindicaciones, el movimiento ganará influencia para forzar concesiones de la clase dominante.

Se puede construir un movimiento de masas para forzar la retirada de los políticos de extrema derecha, los jefes de empresas multimillonarias y otros miembros de la clase capitalista cuyas políticas nos están llevando a la catástrofe. Si te interesa estudiar la historia de nuestras victorias y derrotas pasadas en la batalla contra el autoritarismo y el capitalismo y trabajar para aplicarlas, únate ya a La Voz de los Trabajadores. ■

La Voz de los Trabajadores

(Workers' Voice)

Quiénes somos

La Voz de los Trabajadores es un grupo de activistas y obreros en los EEUU que está dedicado a la liberación de los trabajadores y los oprimidos. En solidaridad con la Liga Internacional de los Trabajadores, buscamos construir los movimientos sindicales, estudiantiles ambientalistas, contra-guerras, anti-racistas, anti-machistas, y otros. En este proceso esperamos traer junto al pueblo obrero de sus fondos diversos y unirlos en un partido revolucionario de los trabajadores que puede lograr en la lucha contra los ricos.

Nuestra meta final es la construcción de una sociedad verdaderamente democrática, organizada para cumplir con las necesidades de la humanidad y no para ganar lucros para los ricos. ¡Si usted quiere luchar para el socialismo, contacte a nosotros! ¡Únase a La Voz de los Trabajadores hoy!

protección del medioambiente, el cuidado de niños, el cuidado de ancianos, la justicia reproductiva, la investigación científica básica y la implementación de más de un siglo y medio de medidas de derechos civiles ganadas por las luchas.

Por el camino, están intentando romper contratos laborales, dispersar a las plantillas financiadas con dinero federal y aterrorizar a la ya vulnerable población inmigrante con deportaciones dramáticas.

Como era de esperar, hay razones por creer que ni el Congreso ni los tribunales intenten erigir serios obstáculos a la creciente afirmación del poder ejecutivo de Trump. Y por si acaso lo hacen, el secretario de Defensa, James Mattis, ha eliminado del Pentágono a los generales que podrían oponerse al despliegue de tropas estadounidenses en tierras domésticas o para invadir a Groenlandia o Panamá.

Por ERWIN FREED

Las primeras semanas de la presidencia de Donald Trump han sido una serie de espectáculos que apuntan a algunas de las debilidades del capitalismo en el orden global actual. Trump, Musk y su camarilla de apparatchiks están utilizando rápidamente su control del equipo local para culpar de todas las catástrofes a la «DEI», al «woke» y a la «ideología transgenero». Según él, los pecados del imperialismo estadounidense se han convertido en culpa de las comunidades trans, latinas y negras y de sus supuestos aliados en el Estado, las universidades, las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro y los medios de comunicación.

Con el pretexto de luchar contra la equidad marxista, el transgenerismo y la ingeniería social del Green New Deal, están llevando a cabo una serie masiva de ataques contra las protecciones básicas que los trabajadores y los oprimidos han ganado a través de la lucha. La troika de Trump-Musk-Vought simplemente está desplazando la culpa de la decadencia imperial estadounidense y de las duras realidades de los oprimidos y los trabajadores de aquí de la clase dominante capitalista a los hombros de las personas más oprimidas, más abiertamente, las comunidades trans e inmigrantes.

Mientras que los programas corporativos de DEI son en sí mismos en gran medida una tapadera que oculta la realidad de la discriminación laboral y social, los ataques de la administración Trump al concepto no son más que una cortina de humo para introducir la austeridad y profundizar la opresión.

El fracaso del Partido Demócrata a la hora de organizar una oposición visible o efectiva sugiere que pueden imaginar beneficiarse más adelante del fortalecimiento del control estatal ejecutivo y corporativo de sus aparatos más ideológicos: la educación, la policía, etc. El Partido Demócrata está de acuerdo con el programa económico, sino la ideología, del programa de despidos masivos y «recortar el déficit».

Es necesario construir la lucha contra los ataques frontales a la clase trabajadora que sea independiente de las maniobras de la clase dominante que utiliza nuestros derechos como peones en su juego. Tanto

¿Qué hay detrás del ataque de Trump a la DEI?



Laini Bay Area

los capitalistas liberales como los conservadores, representados y financiados por ambos partidos, demuestran cada día que no defienden los derechos y el sustento de los trabajadores.

Es necesario construir la lucha contra los ataques frontales a la clase trabajadora que sea independiente de las maniobras de la clase dominante que utiliza nuestros derechos como peones en su juego. Los sindicatos deben defender las medidas de acción afirmativa en todas sus movilizaciones y trabajo político. La lucha contra la discriminación, la homofobia y el racismo en el lugar de trabajo empodera y unifica a la clase obrera.

En última instancia, mientras el control de la pro-

ducción, la distribución y el Estado permanezcan en manos del capital, los derechos democráticos siempre estarán bajo ataque. Crear las condiciones para abolir la opresión social definitivamente sólo será posible si la clase trabajadora toma el control de la producción, es decir, si construye una sociedad socialista.

Debido al papel fundamental del racismo en el capitalismo estadounidense, la revolución socialista tendrá un carácter «combinado» en este país. El poder de los trabajadores es imposible sin asumir también las luchas por la autodeterminación de los negros, la devolución de tierras y la colectivización de lo que MAGA considera «trabajo de mujeres». ■

... Los inmigrantes y sus compañeros

(desde la página 16)

tes faltaron a clase y salieron a la calle. En Houston, aproximadamente una cuarta parte de la población estudiantil se quedó en casa. En San José, cientos de estudiantes de barrios de inmigrantes latinos organizaron huelgas el 30 de enero

Estas protestas aún no tienen ni liderazgo ni clara organización. Una mezcla de grupos sin ánimo de lucro, defensores legales, organizaciones de izquierdas y publicaciones en redes sociales están contribuyendo a las movilizaciones. Mientras que los diversos activistas en los espacios están demostrando iniciativa para poner en marcha un movimiento por los derechos de los inmigrantes, una campaña nacional contra los ataques a los inmigrantes en todo el país requerirá organización a los niveles locales, regionales y nacional para resistir eficazmente al régimen de Trump.

Dichos marcos pueden adoptar la forma de coaliciones por los derechos de los inmigrantes, que unan a todas las diversas organizaciones proinmigrantes en una lucha poderosa en torno a demandas claves como «poner fin a las deportaciones», «cerrar los centros

de detención», «liberar a los inmigrantes detenidos» y «ciudadanía para todos».

Un ejemplo del que podemos aprender es Papeles para Todos, una coalición por los derechos de los inmigrantes con sede en San José, California. Más recientemente, en febrero, esta coalición, junto con otras organizaciones de inmigrantes, participó en una protesta en San José para denunciar las redadas del ICE. Además, Papeles Para Todos creó una campaña de solidaridad con los inmigrantes detenidos en huelga en dos centros de detención del ICE en el sur de California. Esta campaña celebró reuniones virtuales con los detenidos, organizó recaudaciones de fondos y protestas en solidaridad con su huelga. Papeles Para Todos unificó a organizaciones locales de izquierda, sin ánimo de lucro y de asistencia jurídica en una coalición unificada.

Dicha especie de coalición, a una escala mucho mayor, organizó la movilización de 2006 «Un día sin inmigrantes». Organizaciones estudiantiles como el Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA), organizaciones de derechos humanos como la Coalición por los Derechos Humanos de los Inmigrantes de Los Ángeles (CHIRLA) y sindicatos como el Sindicato Internacional de Empleados de Servicios (SEIU) y la Federación Estadounidense de Empleados Estatales, del Condado y Municipales (AFSCME) colaboraron para organizar una protesta masiva a nivel nacional para hacer frente a la

H.R. 4437, una política destinada a convertir en delito grave vivir sin documentos legales en EE. UU. y a prolongar el muro fronterizo.

Actualmente hay dos demandas en curso en nombre de grupos legales pro-inmigrantes destinadas a bloquear las órdenes de Trump de eliminar el Estatus de Protección Temporal (EPT) a cientos de miles de refugiados de zonas devastadas como Haití, Venezuela y Nicaragua. Aunque el bloqueo de estas políticas es bienvenido, debemos confiar en nuestra capacidad para organizarnos en los lugares de trabajo y en las calles.

Las demandas legales son procesos lentos y agotadores que canalizan nuestra energía hacia los tribunales, donde los jefes tienen el poder y escriben las reglas, y lejos de donde vivimos y trabajamos. Es aquí donde vivimos y trabajamos que podemos organizar las movilizaciones masivas para derrotar el ataque reaccionario del gobierno de Trump.

Varios sindicatos de Estados Unidos han publicado declaraciones en cual critican los ataques de derechos del nuevo gobierno. La respuesta de la AFL-CIO criticó las órdenes de deportación de Trump. Dependerá de los activistas sindicales de todo Estados Unidos defender una campaña a favor de los inmigrantes en coalición con otras organizaciones de defensa de los derechos de los inmigrantes, que ahora están organizando manifestaciones el 1 de mayo. ■

ACCIÓN OBRERA

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Los inmigrantes y sus compañeros se movilizan contra los ataques de Trump



Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times

Por JOSE MONTEROJO

Los inmigrantes y sus aliados dan respuesta a los ataques de la administración de Trump contra su comunidad con movilizaciones y organización en todo el país. Desde California hasta la costa este, las organizaciones y comunidades de inmigrantes están marchando en las calles, impartiendo formación legal para preparar a los inmigrantes para las redadas de la migra y preparando redes de respuesta rápida para defender a los inmigrantes de la deportación.

Estamos frente del resurgimiento de una tradición

política de organización por los derechos de los inmigrantes que tiene profundas raíces en la clase trabajadora de Estados Unidos. Este incipiente movimiento tiene el potencial de convertirse en un movimiento de masas de millones de personas no solo para luchar contra las políticas racistas del régimen actual, sino también para unirse a todos los sectores de trabajadores y movimientos sociales para sacudir los cimientos del gobierno y del sistema imperialista que defiende.

La lucha por los derechos de los inmigrantes ha generado importantes protestas en zonas tan diversas como Los Ángeles, Minneapolis, Chicago y Nueva York. Aunque todavía no se trata de un movimiento de millones, estas manifestaciones demuestran la voluntad de un sector del movimiento por los derechos de los inmigrantes de oponerse abiertamente a las acciones del gobierno.

Del 1 al 3 de febrero la gente de muchas ciudades observó una serie de boicots y manifestaciones a favor de los inmigrantes. Fueron ante-

cedentes y preparación para las actividades de este año de «Un día sin inmigrantes» que están previstas en todo el país del 1 al 5 de mayo. En Los Ángeles, aproximadamente 3000 manifestantes salieron a las calles durante tres días. Los estudiantes abandonaron las clases, los manifestantes marcharon hasta el centro de Los Ángeles y se apoderaron de una carretera. Las banderas latinoamericanas, en particular la mexicana, ondeaban al viento, mientras los activistas pedían el fin de las deportaciones y el reconocimiento de la humanidad de los inmigrantes.

A principios de febrero, miles de manifestantes se movilaron frente al Capitolio del Estado de Colorado. Respondían a las redadas de la migra en Denver y Aurora como parte de la «Operación Aurora» de Trump, destinada a barrer a supuestos miembros de la banda venezolana el Tren de Aragua. Esa misma semana, aproximadamente 1500 personas asistieron a una formación jurídica impartida por abogados proinmigrantes sobre cómo responder a las redadas de la migra en sus comunidades?

En Chicago, los inmigrantes y sus aliados se pusieron en acción para contrarrestar una serie de redadas a finales de enero. La redada de inmigrantes, denominada «Operación Salvaguarda», involucró a varias agencias estadounidenses además de la migra, y fue supervisada por altos funcionarios de Trump. Los activistas repartieron folletos en la comunidad y celebraron varias sesiones de formación para informar a los inmigrantes de sus derechos, al tiempo que tomaban otras medidas para impedir que los agentes federales completaran sus cuotas.

Estos fueron algunos de los principales ejemplos de movilizaciones proinmigrantes en Estados Unidos. El actual sentido de miedo dentro de la comunidad inmigrante está contribuyendo sin duda a que las protestas sean más pequeñas, pero esto puede cambiar a medida que los inmigrantes vean a otros trabajadores hablar en contra del racismo antiinmigrante y ayudar a construir espacios políticos donde los trabajadores indocumentados puedan movilizarse con la solidaridad colectiva y su seguridad.

Al igual que en el movimiento de solidaridad con Palestina en EE. UU., los jóvenes están desempeñando un papel destacado en la lucha contra las deportaciones. En la protesta nacional «Día sin inmigrantes», celebrada el 3 de febrero, miles de jóvenes inmigran-

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