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Communist Party convention opens in New York

By Teresa Albano

Just blocks north of Wall Street here, the site of the biggest crime spree in history, Communist Party Chairman Sam Webb said executives who planned, aided and abetted the theft of wealth and sent the economy into a tailspin deserve to “be in prison.” Webb opened the 29th Convention of the Communist Party USA, May 21.

Anger at corporations and “bosses,” who constantly take, take, take from workers, communities and taxpayers leaving financial crises, joblessness, foreclosures and environmental disasters in their wake, was apparent at this gathering of a few hundred delegates and guests. Anger was also directed at the use of racism and immigrant-bashing to further their pro-Wall Street agenda.

But there wasn't just anger in the keynote and delegate speeches. There was also optimism, compassion and readiness to organize a fightback on jobs and in the mid-term elections.

Saying the far-right political forces in the United States have launched a “new racist counteroffensive” in order to “strip away popular support for the first African American president,” Webb said, “if unchallenged” it could lead to a “much uglier version of the Bush-Cheney administration.” But if the “racist barrage runs into a powerful anti-racist response coming not only from



people of color, but also from the white majority and white workers” it can be stopped.

“My guess,” said Webb, “is that the Republican Party, which has turned into an instrument of unabashed racism ... will not be successful” in 2010 or in 2012.

Webb called on the delegates to step up their involvement in the fights for jobs, anti-racism and grassroots election work.

Webb also expanded on a vision for socialism.

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Calling it a “work in progress” Webb spent time on developing a vision for socialism based on U.S. culture, history, democracy and traditions. And that socialism has to be sustainable - environmentally/economically - and given the huge dangers of global warming, socialism is a necessity.

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Jarvis Tyner, CPUSA executive vice chairman, welcomed the convention along with CPUSA organizer Rossana Cambron who spoke in Spanish.

“Socialism is getting popular. The right wing has no solutions to this economic crisis, except cut taxes for Wall Street. The Communist Party sees there is a way to come out of this crisis by uplifting all working people, not the Dow Jones,” Tyner said in a statement.

Secretary-Treasurer Roberta Wood says, “When just about every working-class family in this country has somebody out of work, while Wall Street profits haven’t missed a beat, you know capitalism isn’t working. The American people can do better and we’re here to talk about how. And we’re serious.”

Numerous delegates took the floor and spoke about the new Arizona law, SB 1070, which empowers state law enforcement to stop anybody suspected of being “illegal.” A delegate from Phoe-

nix hailed the boycott of Arizona, which has taken on a “life of its own” with so many organizations, businesses and government bodies refusing to bring their tourism or other business to the state.

Young people, their future bleak with skyrocketing jobless rates, education cuts and the promotion of violence also were addressed by many delegates.

The convention sets the main political strategy for the next four years and elects a collective leadership body called the national committee.

The CPUSA received international greetings from communist and workers parties from around the world.

Founded in 1919, the Communist Party USA has been on the U.S. political scene for more than 90 years. For more information go to, www.cpusa.org.



Teresa Albano writes for the People’s World.

Rand Paul’s racism

By PW Editorial Board

The dictionary definition of racism says any programs or practices of discrimination and segregation that uphold the political or economic domination of one race over another.

Considering recent comments of Rand Paul, is he a racist?

No matter how he may try to twist out of it, yes, he is. His statements in opposition to Federal laws that protect African Americans against “programs or practices that uphold political or economic domination of one race over another or others” brand him.

Racist Jim Crow laws and culture - “program or practice” - existed throughout the country before the passage of the Civil Rights Law, amounting to uninterrupted “economic or political” domination over African Americans, going back to the earliest days of our nation.

Racist “programs or practices”, first and foremost, are sources of power and profit - “political or economic” - and those who support them are the most ardent and consistent opponents of Fed-

eral laws that put those sources out of reach. But one of the great setbacks of the discourse over equality and justice since the passage of the Civil Rights Law is the success those who benefit from racist “programs or practices” have had in redefining racism as some kind of subjective state of mind.

Some — even those who should know better — speak of “black racism,” as if the African-American community has ever been in any position to institute any “program or practice” that would lead to any level of “political or economic domination” of the white population.

Those like Rand Paul, lurk under the mantle of respectability while planning the return of “programs or practices of discrimination and segregation that uphold the political or economic domination of one race over another or others.”

Rand Paul is a racist. We as a nation trying to move forward risk much if we shy from the challenge his ilk presents. We must toss him onto history’s trash heap as we pass it in November!



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Calif. governor proposes 'scorched earth' budget cuts

By Marilyn Bechtel

Once again, Californians most needing their government's help are being told they must bear the brunt of a \$19 billion budget gap.

Declaring that no more "low-hanging fruits" remain to be plucked from the budget tree, Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger May 14 revealed his "May Revise" proposals for the coming fiscal year.

Overall, the "May Revise" calls for \$12.4 billion in further cuts.

The MediCal health care program (California's Medicaid) and In-Home Supportive Services for the elderly and disabled would be slashed. Cuts to the Healthy Families program serving children of low-income parents would mean monthly premiums would rise to \$42 per child. A 60 percent cut in state funds for county mental health programs would force already struggling counties to absorb hundreds of millions in additional costs.

The proposed health care cuts would "limit and place financial barriers on medically necessary care for 8 million Californians,"

Though the budget proposals don't include further cuts to the University of California or California State University systems, California Teachers Association president David Sanchez pointed out that public school funding would be cut by \$3 billion, on top of billions in cuts in previous years.

State workers again face cuts including a mandatory unpaid "personal day" each month, a 5 percent pay cut and an increase in pension contributions.

Democrats in the legislature came out swinging. "We will not pass a budget that eliminates CalWORKS, outright," said state Senate president pro tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento. "We will not be party to devastating children and families. We need revenue, and we will fight for



revenue."

Said state Senator Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, "I have opposed and will continue to oppose all budgets that are balanced on the backs of our students, elderly and working poor ... Democrats need to stand strong and say draconian cuts to education and other critical services will not be tolerated."

California Labor Federation head Art Pulaski said the May proposals accelerate the governor's "slash-and-burn cuts to vital services into an all-out scorched earth campaign," adding that under conditions of continuing joblessness and recession, the cuts "would choke off any hope of economic recovery."

California is the only state requiring a two-thirds legislative majority to pass budgets and to raise taxes. Though Democrats lead both the Assembly and Senate, their majority falls short of that level, and virtually all Republican legislators have signed a "no new taxes" pledge. Legislative efforts and ballot initiatives are underway to change that requirement.

The proposed health care cuts would "limit and place financial barriers on medically necessary care for 8 million Californians."

2010 Kentucky primaries

By Derek Souleotes

On May 18, the U.S. Senate primary elections took place in Kentucky. There was a reported "low turnout" for both the Republican or Democratic parties.

Out of the Republican candidates, Trey Grayson, Rand Paul, Jon Scribner, John Stephenson, Gurley Martin, and Bill Johnson (who dropped out of the race before the primary, but was still on the ballot), it had become a simple race between Rand Paul and Trey Grayson.

Rand Paul supports the extreme capitalist values of the GOP, such as a "free market" solution to health care.

Trey Grayson (Kentucky Secretary of State) supports the more "traditional" values of the GOP. He is "pro-life," seeking to ban abortions under any circumstance.

The Democratic candidates, in similar fashion to the Republican race, had 5 candidates, with two of them having the best chance of winning.

Daniel Mongiardo, lieutenant governor of Kentucky and son of Italian immigrants, supports further healthcare reform.

Jack Conway, who is the current attorney general, has a plan to create jobs by proposing a 20% tax credit to businesses who expand their payroll and hire more workers, but doesn't apply to government workers.

For working class families, Mongiardo seemed to be the best candidate. Most progressive groups supported him.

In the end, Jack Conway won the Democratic Primary, beating Mongiardo by 1%. As for the Republican Party, the tea party backed candidate, Rand Paul, won by a wide margin.

En NYC se solidarizaron con los estudiantes de la UPR

Especial para Mundo Popular

Las imágenes del estado del caos que vive Puerto Rico corren el Mundo y en la tarde de 18 de mayo cientos se dieron cita en la oficina del Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration (PR-FAA) en Manhattan, respondiendo al llamado de grupos políticos, estudiantiles y comunitarios neoyorquinos. Con la intención de manifestarse en contra de los recortes presupuestarios a la educación pública universitaria y a los despidos masivos que sufren los trabajadores puertorriqueños. La gran cantidad de personas solidarias y de manifestantes egresados de la Universidad de Puerto Rico demostró que la UPR es el centro universitario más productivo del país que contribuye al desarrollo social, científico y económico de la sociedad puertorriqueña y en los Estados Unidos.

La educadora Norma Pérez, expresó "la decisión del gobierno de Luís Fortuño de continuar su plan de despidos masivos y de recortes presupuestarios a la educación pública constituye una barbaridad social y económica que sólo servirá para agudizar la crisis, incrementando los procesos de privatización de servicios básicos". Son los estudiantes del país "quienes llevan la peor parte al pretender eliminar las exenciones de matrícula para atletas, artistas, entre otros estudiantes de alto rendimiento académico" sentenció la

egresada de la UPR que contaba con becas deportivas.

Un representante del Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño en NY, Eric Ramos denunció, "vivimos en tiempos de crisis económicas pero en la colonia de vez de imponer impuestos a corporaciones foráneas prefieren eliminar servicios al pueblo". Según Ramos, esto empeora cuando "las autoridades prefieren estilos evasivos y punitivos de vez del dialogo". Para la representante del Latino & Latin American Students Organization, Marissel Hernández, "los estudiantes cuentan con unas posturas precisas y democráticas en cambio el gobierno recurre a la intimidación". Mientras reprochaba la activación de la fuerza de choque, el desalojo de las residencias universitarias y negarle alimentos y agua al estudiantado que permanece en el Recinto.

Los manifestantes repartieron información a la prensa y a los ciudadanos del área que salían de sus trabajos que es la sede de las oficinas de la PRFAA. Esta red de apoyo en NYC le petitionó al gobierno que se regrese al dialogo para poner fin a este conflicto mediante acuerdos que satisfagan a la UPR como la primera institución académica del país.

Al final de día, "la UPR sigue dando la cara por Puerto Rico, hasta en el extranjero", concluyó Norma Pérez.

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