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Trump spews more than hate

By John Bachtell

After two white racists urinated on a homeless Latino worker and assaulted him with a metal pole, they fulminated, “Donald Trump was right, all these illegals need to be deported.”

When Republican presidential candidate Trump was asked about the assault he shrugged his shoulders and responded, “People who are following me are very passionate. They love this country and they want this country to be great again.” This incitement to violence and green light to scapegoat immigrants is more than xenophobia, it’s the stench of fascism.

The assault was instigated by Trump’s call to deport all 11 million undocumented workers and their children, including those born in the U.S., citizens protected by the 14th Amendment.

Trump is not alone. Irrationality and open racism, misogyny, homophobia and transphobia pervade this pack of Republican presidential candidates.

Trump’s extremist positions are resonating with a section of voters. “It’s what everyone is feeling but afraid to say,” said one woman who attended a Mobile, Ala. rally. The entire Republican field is now scrambling to match his extremist appeal.

“Making America great again” implies the



U.S. should make ethnic and racial cleansing official policy by deporting undocumented immigrants and unleashing racist police officers in communities of color.

Much of the corporate media is making a spectacle of this, and some well-meaning people are dismissing it as something that will pass. But we dismiss this as the ranting of ignorant candidates at our peril. Similar mistakes were made with George W. Bush and Ronald Reagan, who

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were packaged as folksy and subsequently did great damage.

To turn a blind eye to the fervent appeal to hatred and violence is to open the door to a new political dynamic that once unleashed carries unpredictable consequences. It will influence the

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Republican primaries and the 2016 general elections. It encourages candidates for U.S. Senate, House and state legislatures to do the same.

Such hateful and irrational ranting didn't come out of thin air. It is the fruit of over 35 years of right-wing extremism, beginning with the right-wing takeover of the Republican Party during the Reagan presidency, massive concentration of wealth, right-wing talk radio and media, American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) takeover of state legislatures, NRA pushing fear to remove all restrictions on gun control, the anti-Muslim frenzy, etc.

Right-wing extremism spawned and sustains racist violence, including the Charleston massacre, violence against transgender people, tea party, border vigilantes, violence against abortion clinics, and voter suppression.

Powerful forces including the Koch brothers, Sheldon Adelson, Norman Braman, Diane Hendricks support it. Forty of the wealthiest Americans have already spent \$60 million bankrolling this hate in the Republican primary.

But the 2016 elections can deliver a resound-

ing repudiation of these ideas and policies and break the right-wing domination of our democratic institutions.

This right-wing frenzy stands in sharp contrast to the majority public support for unions, taxing the rich, raising the minimum wage, criminal justice reform, action on the climate crisis, marriage equality, expanding Social Security, and new awareness of police crimes and institutional racism.

The labor movement and its allies, #BlackLivesMatters, women, LGTBQ, immigrant rights, environmental, student and other movements, are establishing a different framework for the 2016 elections. The Democratic candidates are responding with bolder positions.

This is the basis for assembling and inspiring a broad multi-class, multi-racial coalition with labor and the democratic movements at the center. This coalition must also necessarily include the Wall Street wing of the Democratic Party.



John Bachtell is national chair of CPUSA.

Reinstate all Walmart workers!

By Rossana Cambron

Walmart workers and their supporters rallied in front of the Pico Rivera Walmart, in California, calling on Walmart to reinstate the 530 employees they laid off last April.

Walmart suddenly closed five stores giving its employees only a few hours notice and laying off an estimated 2,200 workers. They cited persistent plumbing problems as the reason for the closures.

In October 2012, the Pico Rivera store was one of the first sites ever to strike against the corporate giant. "We were the first to go out and we will be the last to go down," Evelyn Cruz, said. She was among 30 employees to walk out from this Walmart store, demanding to be treated with respect.

Mayor of Pico Rivera Gregory Salcido spoke in support of the workers, "I come from a union family, there is not a doubt in my mind that I was given the opportunity to have a good home, be able to attend college and live the American

Dream and stand here before you, were it not for my parents' union jobs. I support reinstatement of all Walmart workers."

Jenny Mills was one of the first Walmart workers to go out on strike. She spoke of being homeless while employed at Walmart because she did not earn enough to pay rent. "If you work, you should not be homeless." She told the crowd.

Director of Organizing Gilbert Davila of local 324 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, who have been a strong supporter said "We all know that the plumbing problems which Walmart gave as a reason for closing is only an excuse to attempt to silence the workers from this store. When Walmart workers are outside something is wrong inside," chanted Davila.

Rusty Hicks executive secretary treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor addressed the crowd. "A unified labor movement stands behind these workers and we will be back again and again until they get their jobs back."

If you work, you should not be homeless.

Trumka: Pope should tell Congress to support economic justice

By Larry Rubin

Asked what he hopes Pope Francis will say when he addresses a joint session of Congress in two weeks, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka was emphatic: “He should repeat the key message he has delivered many times, that the economy should serve human beings and that we should direct a loud ‘shall not’ at any financial system that perpetuates poverty.”

Trumka added, “We’ve been told that the economy is like the weather - there’s nothing we can do about it.” Pope Francis reminded the world that men and women make the rules which are against the vast majority of people.

“But, as Pope Francis says, the rules were made by people and can be changed by people to be more fair to people.”

Trumka participated in a panel hosted by Georgetown University, a Jesuit institution, titled, “A Dialogue on Economic Pressures and Family Life Amidst Pope Francis’ U.S. Visit.” The session is the first of many events being conducted by Catholic Church affiliates in advance of the Pope’s visit.

Along with Trumka, the panelists are: Catholic University Prof. Maryann Cusimano Love, who stated “that women are responsible for preserving families and gaining economic empowerment.” Unite Here union organizer Tarshea Smith hopes the Pope’s speech addresses concerns of workers



rights to organize, join unions and build power. While Michael Strain, the American Enterprise Institute’s deputy director for economic policy studies, hopes the Pope will “embrace capitalism and the free market” systems for “lifting people out of poverty.” He said that capitalism has been proven to “reward work.”

Panel moderator John Carr, director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, explained that his organization has joined with others to highlight for American Catholics a discussion initiated by Pope Francis for a Synod of bishops soon to take place in Rome. The Pope has asked the bishops to focus on the proposition that lack of moral values is not the main cause of family instability and dissolution. It’s the economy, stupid.”

Carr said, “We don’t think many of our bishops in the U.S. are stupid, we feel they’ve been ‘distracted’.”

Trumka added that in theory capitalism might work, but in reality “under today’s system, work does not lift people out of poverty; it traps them.” At the end of the discussion, Carr concluded, “We should show our pride by getting our act together. We should dialogue and reach working agreements on social and economic issues.”

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LOCAL NEWS

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Millions of union members to get wage hikes this

Special to Peoplesworld.org

Working people are achieving significant victories through the most expansive period of collective bargaining in modern labor history, according to a new report by the AFL-CIO's Center for Strategic Research.

"This country is having an important debate about raising wages and tackling income inequality," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. "This report provides clear evidence that joining a union and bargaining with your employer is the most effective way to give workers the power to raise their own wages. When working people speak with one voice, our economy is stronger, and all workers do better."

The AFL-CIO report represents the most comprehensive look at the current state of collective bargaining in a period when an estimated five million American workers will bargain for new contracts.

The first half of 2015 saw their wages increase by an average of 4.3 percent, an increase of \$1,147 a year for an average wage earner in the United States. These increases are up from 2.9 percent in the first half of 2014, with substantial wage wins occurring in sectors from nursing and oil to airline pilots and teachers.

Miembros de AFSCME establecen innovador tribunal de menores

Omar Tewfik, AFSCME

Miembros de AFSCME impulsan una innovadora iniciativa para mantener a los jóvenes fuera del sistema judicial de Texas y de la cárcel.

Durante más de una década, la presidenta de la Local 1624 de AFSCME, Judy Cortez, y el juez del tribunal municipal de Austin John Vasquez, miembro de AFSCME desde 1996, han estado usando su tiempo libre para establecer un tribunal juvenil móvil que contribuya a reformar el comportamiento de los jóvenes delincuentes con un enfoque arraigado en la comunidad, en vez de castigarlos por delitos de menor nivel.

"Este es el resultado de 10 años de trabajo impulsado por AFSCME", afirmó Cortez, quien es empleada del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos del Condado de Travis. Se trata de trabajar cercanamente con administradores escolares, oficiales electos, organizaciones de servicios sociales y miembros de la comunidad. "Nuestro modelo se enfoca principalmente en estudiantes de secundaria y ofrece soluciones que ayuden y no sólo castiguen a los niños por delitos menores", dijo.

Cortez afirma que castigar a los niños por delitos menores puede repercutir negativamente en sus vidas a largo plazo. "Imaginate que tuvieras que faltar a la escuela porque eres la única persona que puede cuidar de un familiar enfermo ya que tu padre o madre trabajan y por ello te multen y te castiguen".

Cortez recibió la ayuda de otro miembro de AFSCME, el juez de absentismo escolar Leonard Saenz, de Austin. La Local 1624 reúne a trabajadores de todos los departamentos de la Ciudad de Austin y el Condado de Travis.

En esta etapa inicial del programa, el tribunal juvenil emplea a dos administradores de casos y un juez que trabaja directamente con las escuelas de Austin así como con un comité local compuesto por voluntarios de la comunidad. Cuando se identifica a un niño que falta a la escuela, tiene parafernalia de drogas o viola un toque de queda, los trabajadores de casos recomendarán, por ejemplo, que dicho estudiante asista a una clase de abuso de sustancias, tutorías después de la escuela o participe en deportes para mejorar su autoestima y su capacidad de trabajar en equipo.

Si dichos recursos no funcionaran, el juez podría referir al estudiante al comité local de voluntarios para buscar otras formas de cambiar su conducta. "El comité y el tribunal están ahí para resolver problemas, involucrar a la comunidad y rendir cuentas para lograr el éxito de nuestros jóvenes", afirma Cortez.

"Será necesario trabajar juntos para luchar contra la avaricia corporativa, especialmente cuando se trata de las cárceles de nuestro país, en donde las corporaciones multimillonarias se han instalado para beneficiarse de la miseria humana."

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