

So-called Democratic 'moderates' trying hard to sink Biden agenda



By John Wojcik

Nine “moderate” House Democrats have joined powerful conservative forces trying to undo President Joe Biden’s multi-trillion-dollar domestic agenda.

They are demanding that the House pass the bipartisan infrastructure deal approved by the Senate before any vote on the president’s \$3.5 trillion budget resolution, which would allow for passage of Biden’s human infrastructure plan.

Biden, Pelosi, progressive Dems, people’s organizations, and the public itself want the human infrastructure plan proposed by the president and see the demands of the handful of “moderates” as a ploy to sink that agenda altogether.

Republicans have already made clear their opposition to the budget resolution and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, and Pelosi can only lose three votes in the House. With the right-wing and other media on a full-fledged anti-Biden campaign around the issues of the COVID-19 resurgence and the situation in Afghanistan, the actions of the nine “moderates” are insidious attempts to take advantage of the situation to sink the Biden agenda.

The “moderates” are swimming against another current—the support of the majority of the public for the idea of taxing the rich to pay for the president’s plan. Only small minorities of the public oppose a \$3.5 trillion social safety net and a massive plan to

save the environment—all to be paid for by the rich having come up with their fair share of taxes.

Pelosi has made and will continue to make moves to prevent a defeat of the Biden agenda and, in the face of the attacks on Biden regarding the coronavirus and Afghanistan, seems more determined than ever to succeed.

She sent a letter to all Democrats in the House arguing it was critical to pass the budget resolution and any delay threatens the timetable for delivering

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“the transformative vision that Democrats share.”

“It is essential that our Caucus proceeds unified in our determination to deliver once-in-a-century progress for the children,” she wrote.

Just days after sending that letter last week, Pelosi released a letter from the chair of the Congressional

They are up against a powerful array of forces: the White House, Nancy Pelosi, rights activists, progressive House majorities, and the people of the United States.

Hispanic Caucus urging lawmakers to support the budget resolution. It was seen as a move to cut support out from under four members of that caucus who are among the nine problematic Democrats.

The House Blue Dog Coalition, a group that includes conservative congressional Democrats, has, under the pressure from Pelosi oppose the budget resolution. Eight of its 19 members are among the nine “moderates” who have threatened to vote against the budget resolution.

Biden and Pelosi both put the squeeze on congressional members all week, emphasizing their demands that the budget resolution be approved. They gave no ground on and never even mentioned the demands by “moderates” that the hard infrastructure bill be approved first.

“The president noted that these policies go to the heart of the values that he ran on,” a White House statement said. It simply stated that Biden “reiterated his enthusiasm” for signing the \$1 trillion infrastructure and \$3.5 trillion social and

environment bills “as soon as possible,” again ignoring the demands of the so-called moderates of first holding a vote on “hard” infrastructure.

The plan now is to hold a vote Monday night on a measure that will allow passage of the budget resolution, the infrastructure bill, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. The expectation is that Pelosi should be able to push it through.

Showing the true colors of his so-called “moderates,” Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, said in an interview with the press last week, “No progressive is going to cram something down my throat.” Rep. Jared Golden, D-Maine, said failure to pass the infrastructure bill quickly “leaves the nation’s economy and crumbling infrastructure hostage to political gamesmanship.”

Rep. Katie Porter, D-Calif., a leading progressive, hit back at the idea that the nine are really moderates, saying in an interview that Democrats “not actively supporting” Biden’s priorities “are not moderates.”

Study: Unionization cut poverty rates by more than two-thirds

By PAI

It may be stating the obvious, but a new study of U.S. wage data over decades reveals unionization cuts poverty rates by more than two-thirds. Only 5.9% of families with one union member lived in poverty, compared to 18.9% of families without union members, it says.

The data, analyzed by University of Minnesota sociology professor Tom VanHeuvelen and David Brady, a public policy professor at the University of California-Riverside, also shows that over time states with higher unionization rates had lower poverty rates, too. A research brief on their findings appeared in a blog *The Conversation*.

“When policymakers and academics develop plans to address poverty, they rarely consider the impact of labor unions,” the two wrote. Their data, from the University of Michigan’s Panel Study Of Income Dynamics, covered from 1975-2015.

“Research shows time and again unions have been central to bolstering the American middle class by raising wages and expanding access to fringe benefits,” they added. That’s a point Democratic President Joe Biden frequently makes.

The average annual poverty rate in union-heavy states, such as New York, California, Hawaii, Il-

linois, and Alaska, was 7% below the average poverty rate of less-unionized states, the two report.

Their study backs the federal government’s annual data comparing union versus non-union workers. It shows a consistent advantage of 20%.

In 2020, the difference was \$186 more per week for the median wages of unionized workers, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. The median is the point where half are above and half below.

That data also measure relative poverty, accounting for inflation, income support programs, and other factors which affect poverty. By contrast, the federal “poverty line” for families of 3 or 4 hasn’t changed in at least a decade.

“Our results suggest that had union membership not declined dramatically since the 1970s, we could reasonably expect poverty rates would be significantly lower,” the two said.

“We intend to conduct additional research, both in the United States and other countries, to better understand the mechanisms linking unionization to poverty. More broadly, the biggest open question is whether U.S. labor unions can expand their membership again and provide these types of pro-

Results suggest that had union membership not declined dramatically since the 1970s, U.S. poverty rates would be

CPUSA youth school a success



By Maicol David Lynch

Solidarity forever, for the union makes us strong!” sang the young comrades attending the 2021 Little Red Schoolhouse in New York City at a rally in support of striking Alabama mine workers early this month.

Forty-seven young Communists representing CPUSA districts and Young Communist League clubs in Ohio, Colorado, Virginia, Washington, DC, California, Illinois, Florida, North Carolina, Texas, Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, and Arizona attended the 10-day school. Morning and afternoon classes ranged in topic from historical and dialectical materialism and the U.S. labor movement today to the struggle for women’s equality and the fight against racism. Guest lecturers included Marxist scholar Vijay Prashad and World Federation of Democratic Youth president Aritz Rodriguez.

Former CPUSA chairman John Bachtell taught a class on Marxist environmentalism in which he emphasized how the fight against global warming is the broadest struggle we can engage in due to the fact that it affects everyone. After all, there is no class struggle if there is no planet to fight it on!

CPUSA co-chairpersons Joe Sims and Rossana Cambron led the discussions around petty bourgeois radicalism and the political moment of today, respectively. Students were able to distinguish the special role of the Communist Party in the struggle for socialism and democracy in comparison to other groups in the wider movement.

Chauncey Robinson, a staff member of the People’s World, talked about the importance of the working-class press and its role on social media. CJ Atkins, another staffer with the People’s World, spoke to the students about the victories and shortcomings of the CPUSA’s role in the fight for LGBTQ equality, a conversation which students greatly appreciated because of its “honesty, self-criticism, and transparency,” as one student from Virginia put it.

But the students didn’t just sit in a classroom all day learning about theory: they put that theory into practice. From mutual aid drives at public housing complexes to tabling in Union Square, the young Communists learned how to engage working people on all sides of the political spectrum and even gained a few recruits in the process. The students also marched alongside Medicare for All advocates and striking United Mine Workers. “They were so happy to see us,” said an attendee from Illinois. “They took a picture with us and sang songs as well.”

“And let’s not get started with the food!” stated a comrade from North Carolina. “Greek, Arab, Caribbean, Chinese, Italian, Thai, and Indian all in one week? This is the beauty of internationalism and the USA. Immigrant workers make this country great.”

The school provided students with the tools to go back to their clubs and districts to build up the Communist Party, Young Communist League, local unions, and other aspects of the democratic movement around the country in which the “communist plus” is needed.

Students at the Little Red Schoolhouse in NYC were immersed in theory and practice.

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Covid-19: Protect yourselves, protect our collectives!

By Communist Party USA

The global Covid-19 pandemic has killed more than 600,000 in the United States and 4 million worldwide. Several safe and effective vaccines have been developed and fully tested, and are now protecting millions of people from serious illness and death. The CPUSA recognizes that we protect ourselves, our families, and our communities by getting vaccinated and by following local guidelines regarding masking and social distancing. We urge everyone who can safely do so (that's almost all of us) to be fully vaccinated.

As CPUSA collectives begin to meet again in real life, we believe that anyone attending an in-person meeting should be able to attend with confidence that all participants are fully vaccinated. A small minority of us have medical reasons that prevent us from getting the vaccine safely, and for others, immunosuppressants interfere with the vaccine's effectiveness. Clubs, committees, and other collectives should have an option for comrades to join meetings virtually (e.g., Zoom or conference call).

Please protect your health and your community's health. We have lost many dedicated comrades to this virus; we cannot lose another one.

Trabajadores promueven proyecto de ley de infraestructura

By Mark Gruenberg

Recorriendo el país desde el noroeste de Indiana hasta Tidewater Virginia y Wilmington, Carolina del Norte, el recorrido en autobús "We Supply America" de los trabajadores del acero trajo a casa la necesidad de revitalizar la infraestructura de EE. UU., Incluida su cadena de suministro de materiales como el acero y el cemento, utilizando mano de obra sindical estadounidense.

El objetivo: lograr que los trabajadores y sus aliados, además de los residentes de la comunidad, llamen, envíen correos electrónicos o instan a sus legisladores, de ambos partidos, a recordar eso y votar por el proyecto de ley de infraestructura de 5 años de \$ 978 mil millones que ahora está pendiente en el Capitolio.

"Esto no es seguro", advirtió el vicepresidente de Steelworkers Fred Redmond en una parada. "Necesitamos que presione a sus legisladores para que muevan este proyecto de ley. Este no es un problema de representante o demócrata, es un problema estadounidense. Tenemos la oportunidad de hacer que esto suceda, itodo lo que tenemos que hacer es arremangarnos y ponernos manos a la obra!"

Junto a los líderes locales del USW, el presidente del sindicato Tom Conway, el secretario de Trabajo Marty Walsh, miembro de Laborers Local 223, y varios miembros de la Cámara de Representantes de los EE. UU., Los pasajeros del autobús y sus aliados machacaron el mensaje sobre las carreteras en ruinas, los puentes chirriantes, los subterráneos ancianos, Los aeropuertos envejecidos y los ferrocarriles y túneles de más de un siglo deben reconstruirse ahora. El proyec-

to de ley de infraestructura "dura" también conectaría a la nación para la banda ancha y la haría asequible.

Y que los trabajadores sindicalizados lo hagan, proporcionando tanto los materiales como la mano de obra.

Biden y los líderes demócratas de la Cámara de Representantes, junto con los trabajadores organizados, son impulsando un proyecto de ley de \$ 3.5 mil millones que incluye expandir el cuidado infantil, aumentar los salarios de los trabajadores, hacer que los pagos de licencias familiares y por enfermedad sean permanentes, aumentar los impuestos a los ricos y aumentar enormemente las sanciones por la violación de la legislación laboral.

Conway hizo hincapié en la importancia no solo de construir y comprar estadounidense, sino de hacer estadounidense, especialmente en la cadena de suministro. Ese también es un gran tema de Biden y el trabajo. La pandemia de coronavirus expuso la dependencia de Estados Unidos de los suministros del exterior, suministros que podrían ser fácilmente interrumpidos o manipulados políticamente por gobiernos extranjeros.

Después de que el representante Frank Mrvan, demócrata de Indiana, hablara en Chesterton, una chica pequeña y rubia con anteojos, con pantalones cortos azules, tenis y una camiseta azul oscuro de la USW se unió a él en el podio. Informe de USW, vía tweet:

"Stormy, hija de un obrero siderúrgico, le dijo a @RepMrvan:" Estoy en cuarto grado y cuando sea mayor quiero ser @steelworker ". ¡Vaya, eso acaba de derretir nuestros corazones! #WeSupplyAmerica "

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