

Women say “hell no” to Texas anti-abortion law



By Communist Party USA

On October 2, tens of thousands of women and their allies marched to defend women’s reproductive rights in cities around the country, including Washington, D.C., where marchers took their message to the steps of the Supreme Court: Hands off Roe v. Wade! Over 600 marches took place in this massive effort organized by 200 organizations to respond to the Supreme Court–sanctioned (for now) Texas law banning abortions past six weeks. The CPUSA was there, too, carrying our banners and shouting our support.

The immediate significance of October 2 is that the marchers signaled state and federal governments that we’re angry about having rights taken away, and we’re not going to put up with it. Marching tells other Americans who agree with abortion rights that they’re not alone. A Pew Research Center poll taken this year shows that 59% of Americans support women’s right to have an abortion in all or most cases. And marching with the like-minded simply feels good. For a moment, we’re unified, we’re loud, and we’re demanding, not asking. Perhaps most important, though, is that marches galvanize the younger generations into action.

The marches were small compared to the Black Lives Matter marches of 2020 and the Women’s March of 2017. But that they happened is big, as they represent a regrouping of the democratic

movement.

People were prompted to act because the right to access abortion is a life-and-death issue. Dr. Ghazaleh Moayed, an abortion provider, wrote an op-ed in the New York Times where she described the increased dangers pregnant women are in, now that the Texas law has gone into effect. Since abortion is permissible after six weeks only if the woman’s life is in immediate danger, preventive care is not an option.

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The right to control one’s body is also a civil rights and human rights issue, akin to voting rights, also under attack by the Right. It’s a fundamental inequality that one’s home address determines whether a woman has access to abortion, a senior citizen can easily vote by mail or a formerly

The October 2 marches for reproductive rights signal a regathering of the democratic movement.

imprisoned person can vote at all, or a poor person can get health care through Medicaid.

The long-term importance of October 2 will depend on what happens next. We'll have to wait and see if October 2 is a defining moment like January 21, 2017. That march led to an explosion of electoral activity in which voters took the House away from the GOP, brought in the "Squad" (AOC, Tlaib, Pressley, Omar) which has since expanded to six progressive representatives, and, with the Black Lives Matter movement, unions, and voting rights and civil rights groups, defeated Trump.

In the end, marches are not enough, whether they are spontaneous or planned. Some marchers understood this, carrying signs calling for the end of the filibuster. Political processes are important too. After all, if the Supreme Court hadn't shift to the right, thanks to the election of Trump, the Court would have swatted down Texas' law like an annoying fly.

Resistance must be organized — on the streets

but also in workplaces and neighborhoods. Many tactics are needed to reach the greatest number of people and convince them to fight for their rights. Resistance also must be organized with an eye on the 2022 elections and the Senate races.

When the House passed the budget bill this year, they omitted the Hyde Amendment, which bars federal funding for most abortions and has been included in every budget since 1977. In September the House passed the Women's Health Protection Act, which would protect abortion services countrywide. Of course, it doesn't stand a chance in the Senate, which makes next year's elections important. Republican senators from Wisconsin and North Carolina, for example, are up for re-election or are retiring, and these elections are considered competitive. Also at stake are governors' races in Arizona, Michigan, and Virginia, among others.

In the meantime, let's keep marching. It's good for our mental health and the political health of the nation

U.S. government preparing final blow to revolution

By W. T. Whitney Jr.

Fabian Escalante helped establish Cuba's state security services. He headed Cuba's Department of State Security from 1976 to 1996, served as vice minister of the Interior Ministry, and after 1993 led the Cuban Security Studies Center. His views on threats from the U.S. government and on protecting Cuba's Revolution carry weight.

He regards the timing as crucial, inasmuch as Cuba will be re-opening its borders to international tourists in November; they've been excluded due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At issue is revival of Cuba's economy.

Escalante cites a Miami periodical's report asserting that "marchers will be calling for rights for all Cubans, liberation of political prisoners, and democratic and peaceful solutions of differences." The story portrays island-wide marches as challenging Cuba's government to honor a constitutional right to "public protest."

He observes that "lies and half-truths, swarming around via social media, are disparaging government leaders, especially Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel. Accusations center on "failing to improve living conditions in deprived, vulnerable

urban districts."

Escalante notes that in Miami, "a sector of the Cuban community, manipulated by fundamentalist congresspersons Marco Rubio, María Elvira Salazar, and their acolytes, are readying their weapons, coordinating and paying local peons." These are "in close touch with counterparts on the island and will assist in creating an environment of social destabilization."

In July, the House Appropriations Committee "approved a bill that would authorize the State Department to spend \$20 million on democracy promotion projects in Cuba during fiscal 2022.... Nearly half the money — \$9.98 million—would go toward civil society; \$4.78 million would be spent on independent media and free flow of information, and \$5.24 million would be used to promote human rights."

He believes that the "enemy of humanity, the U.S. government...is preparing to deliver the final blow to the Revolution." He suggests that the Biden administration, presuming Cuba to be weakened, wants a "consolation prize" in view of recent U.S. defeats. Now, therefore, "The street belongs to the revolutionaries, as Díaz Canel has alerted us."

Fabian Escalante believes that "the U.S. government...is preparing to deliver the final blow to the Revolution."

Arkansas jail uses inmates to test fake COVID cure ivermectin



By Holly Dickson & Corene Kendrick

Last month, people detained in a Fayetteville, Arkansas jail became the unwitting subjects of an unsafe experiment—like many incarcerated people before them. In late August, a county official revealed during a budget meeting that a doctor employed at the Washington County Detention Center had been treating COVID-19-positive incarcerated people with ivermectin. The anti-parasitic drug has garnered increased media attention in the last few weeks as poison control centers across the country field an increasing number of calls from people who have misguidedly attempted to treat or prevent COVID-19 with the drug.

The FDA has warned that ivermectin has not been shown to be safe or effective for treatment or prevention of COVID-19, and that the misuse of ivermectin can cause serious harm, including seizures, comas, and even death. As COVID-19 ravages communities in Arkansas, the ACLU is fighting for the detained people who were given non-FDA approved drugs without their informed consent or patient education.

Sadly, the jail's actions fit into a larger pattern seen across the country during the pandemic. Incarcerated people are not receiving proper medical education or care to protect them from the virus, nor to treat them once infected. Providing unapproved and even toxic "treatment" to incarcerated people without their knowledge or education is not only in

humane and dangerous; it's also a recipe to create even more mistrust of staff among people in jail.

Following the revelation in Fayetteville, several incarcerated people at the jail contacted the ACLU of Arkansas to report that they were unaware that they had been given ivermectin to treat COVID. They also reported that they have been and are still experiencing adverse side effects from the medication.

Marlana Floreal-Wooten learned that her husband Edrick was one of those COVID-positive patients misled by medical staff at the detention center. Edrick and Marlana report that he was told he was being treated with vitamins and steroids—not a dewormer more commonly used for livestock.

When ingested by humans in high doses, ivermectin can cause a number of side effects, including skin rash, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, facial or limb swelling, and adverse neurologic events. Once it was publicly revealed that he and others at the jail were given ivermectin without their knowledge, Edrick and 20 other people in his housing unit refused to take the pills again.

Washington County's mistreatment of the people in its custody illustrates the larger systemic problem in jails throughout the country of mistreating incarcerated people, and needlessly locking up more people who pose no threat to public safety — even in the midst of a pandemic.

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LOCAL CONTACT

contact@peoplesworld.org

'Bird Union' times two: CWA, OPEIU win recognition votes at conservation groups

By PAI

Call the election wins at noted wildlife groups "Bird Union" victories, times two. That's because staffers at the Audubon Society headquarters, split between New York and D.C., call themselves the "Bird Union," and they voted in a 90-14 landslide on Sept. 23 to join the Communications Workers.

And the day before, the four professional employees at D.C. office of Defenders of Wildlife voted unanimously to join their non-professional staff colleagues there as members of Office and Professional Employees Local 2.

The non-professionals overwhelmingly welcomed them. They had to vote them in, too. That tally was 70-5. The National Labor Relations Board ran all the elections.

The effort is needed. Bosses at non-profits, like bosses in private industry, often hate unions. But they also try to take advantage of workers' passion to serve good causes—wildlife conservation, in these cases—by arguing employees should sacrifice such tangible benefits as decent pay, protection against arbitrary firing, and health care coverage, for the "greater good."

At the Audubon Society, that didn't work, especially after management hostility and mistreatment of workers, culminating with a mass firing on Earth Day. When CWA achieved a majority of NLRB union election authorization cards, bosses rejected a request for voluntary recognition, then hired a union-buster to try to browbeat the workers into voting "no." It failed.

Kellogg's obliga a 1.400 trabajadores de plantas de cereales a hacer huelga

By Mark Gruenberg

Los trabajadores que traen a sus hijos Tony the Tiger en Kellogg's Frosted Flakes están gruñendo a sus jefes, quienes los han obligado a hacer huelga.

Enfrentando turnos de 12 horas los siete días de la semana en sus plantas en Battle Creek, Michigan, Omaha, Neb. Lancaster, Pa., Y Memphis, Tenn., Además de las demandas de la compañía de devoluciones y sacrificios en meses de negociaciones infructuosas, los 1.400 miembros de cuatro trabajadores de panadería, confitería y tabaco y molineros de granos (BCTGM) se declararon oficialmente en huelga el 5 de octubre.

"Durante más de un año durante la pandemia de COVID-19, los trabajadores de Kellogg en todo el país han estado trabajando muchas horas, día tras día, para producir cereales Kellogg listos para comer para las familias estadounidenses", el presidente del sindicato Anthony Shelton dijo en un comunicado.

"La respuesta de Kellogg a estos empleados leales y trabajadores ha sido exigirles que renuncien a la atención médica de calidad, los beneficios de jubilación y el pago por vacaciones y vacaciones. La empresa sigue amenazando con subcontratar puestos de trabajo si los trabajadores no aceptan propuestas escandalosas que eliminan las protecciones que los trabajadores han tenido durante décadas.

Las propias cifras de Kellogg enviadas a Wall Street respaldan su punto. Las ganancias del primer trimestre en América del Norte fueron de \$ 379 millones, un 3,6% más que en el primer trimestre de 2020. Las ventas en América del Norte aumentaron un

1,6%, trimestre a trimestre, a \$ 2,13 mil millones en 2021, aunque las ventas de cereales cayeron un 1,9%. Lo que Kellogg's no dijo fue que las ganancias del primer trimestre equivalieron al 17,7% de las ventas.

Y utilizando registros federales, el Executive Paywatch de AFL-CIO informó que el director ejecutivo de la empresa, Stephen Cahillane, recibió \$ 11.664 millones en sueldos y beneficios en el año fiscal 2021 de la empresa. Su total fue 279 veces el salario medio de los trabajadores de Kellogg.

Además de Tony the Tiger y sus Frosted Flakes, los trabajadores producen Froot Loops, Rice Krispies, Raisin Bran y Corn Flakes. Un nuevo contrato debe "recompensarlos por su arduo trabajo y dedicación y proteger el futuro de todos los trabajadores de Kellogg", dijo Shelton.

La AFL-CIO de Tennessee saltó para apoyar a los trabajadores. El último conflicto notable entre Kellogg's y BCTGM fue en 2013-14, cuando la empresa despidió a 226 trabajadores, en su mayoría negros, miembros del Local 252G de Memphis, durante nueve meses. Reclamó el derecho a imponer salarios más bajos. Un juez federal ordenó a la empresa reintegrar a los trabajadores, con pago retroactivo, el 31 de julio de 2014.

"Todo trabajador merece ser tratado con dignidad, respeto y equidad en el trabajo. Sin excusas, nada menos", dijo el presidente federal Bill Dycus. "Nuestros hermanos y hermanas de BCTGM tienen una solicitud simple: ganar un salario digno en un momento en que la codicia corporativa continúa descontroladamente y recibir buenos beneficios que puedan mantener a sus familias".

NATIONAL CONTACT

Editorial: (773) 446-9920 Business: (212) 924-2523
Email: contact@peoplesworld.org