

Malevolent Mitch drives U.S. democracy into a ditch



By Mark Gruenberg

Malevolent Mitch” McConnell—Senate Republican leader from Kentucky—is driving U.S. democracy into the ditch of history. Of course, he’s got a lot of help.

McConnell engineered the defeat, by a 49-51 vote, of even the start of debate on the latest attempt to save and strengthen U.S. voting rights. That Oct. 20 tally, with all 49 other Senate Republicans blindly following McConnell’s diktat, kills any chances that GOP voting repression around the country can be stopped legislatively, at least for now.

It’s no surprise McConnell wants to ban voting by people of color, women, youth, some older people, and workers. That’s what those who now rule the Republican Party—and who kowtow to their Supreme Leader, Donald Trump—demand.

Besides, banning voting by your foes—by outlawing mail-in balloting and early voting, restricting drop boxes to one per county, rampant gerrymandering, scrubbing voter rolls to erase Black Americans, imposing registration fees which look suspiciously like poll taxes and, if all else fails, empowering GOP-gerrymandered state legislatures to override popular votes—is exactly what the Republicans and their corporate contributors mandate.

If your opponents can’t elect anybody to office, they can’t stop your agenda of tax cuts for

corporations and the 1%, of repressing worker rights, of reducing women and people of color to second-class citizenship or worse, and on and on and on. Democracy? What’s that?

But McConnell is just leading the charge in ditching democracy. In back of him are the rich radical right, such as the Koch Brothers and other denizens of the capitalist class, the other 49 Senate Republicans, right-wing governors such as Ron DeSantis of Florida and Greg Abbott of Texas, all

T H I S W E E K :

- **Malevolent Mitch drives U.S. democracy into a ditch**
- **Sudan & Communists warn of ‘onslaught’ against democratic forces**
- **CPs of Australia, Britain, and U.S. condemn nuclear submarine deal**
- **Greenhouse gases reach record high for COP26 climate summit**
- **Los trabajadores de Amazon están listos para unirse a la unión**

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but a handful of House Republicans, and GOP lawmakers and local officials from coast to coast.

After all, even the Republican governor of Alaska, Mike Dunleavy, has gotten into the act. He wants the legislature to pass a law allowing investigations of “voter fraud”—one of Trump’s perpetrated lies—

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if any voter complains. He also wants to repeal automatic voter registration.

No wonder Communications Workers President Chris Shelton zeroed in on the threat.

“This has been a year and a half of political extremism,” Shelton said. It included “the decision of a sitting president,” Trump, “to refuse to accept the results of an election.

“And never before have extremists, carrying a Confederate battle flag, stormed the Capitol on behalf of a candidate who lost, lost, lost—by seven million votes.

“And never before has a political party, with a few exceptions, lost its mind and” adopted “the spirit of hate in the insurrectionist mob of January 6,” Shelton told his union’s convention recently.

Instead of invaders sporting buffalo horns, the threat to democracy is being committed by “legislators wearing suits,” he added. “They can’t win an election,” Shelton said of the Republicans. “So their Plan A is eliminating the right to vote of those

they don’t want to vote.”

So what can we do about Malevolent Mitch and his ditching of democracy? One idea is to overwhelm the foes with absolute numbers—register so many people and make sure they hit the polls in 2022 and 2024 that, despite the GOP’s blockades, we win and they lose.

But if democracy’s foes don’t even let us vote, then what? Well, maybe French revolutionary Bertrand Barère de Vieuzac (not Thomas Jefferson) had the right idea: “The tree of liberty only grows when watered by the blood of tyrants,” he said in 1793. Are you listening, Mitch McConnell? How about you, Donald Trump? How about you, GOP?

Military coup in Sudan, Communists warn of ‘onslaught’ against democratic forces

By Steve Sweeney

Sudanese Communist Party (SCP) officials issued an urgent appeal for international solidarity today after the military seized power in a coup, making sweeping arrests. A state of emergency was declared as General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan dissolved Sudan’s transitional government.

Tanks surrounded the home of interim Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who was placed under house arrest, while army and security forces rounded up other ministers and political leaders in the capital, Khartoum.

Journalists at the state broadcaster were detained after troops stormed television and radio headquarters in Omdurman, the Information Ministry confirmed.

Gen. Burhan justified the power grab by claiming a struggle between the civilian and military elements of the interim administration threatened peace and security. But the coup was branded “political foolishness” by Mohammed Hassan El-taishi, a civilian member of the sovereign council, who vowed to resist “until the last drop of blood.”

Hamdok issued a statement calling on the Sudanese people to “protest using all peaceful means

possible...to take back their revolution from the thieves.” He was backed by the SCP, which called for “civil disobedience until this coup is defeated.”

The Sudanese Doctors Committee said that at least 12 people had been injured when security forces opened fire on people protesting against the coup in Khartoum.

The Arab League expressed “deep concern” at the unfolding situation, urging Gen. Burhan to return to the negotiating table.

Earlier this month, the Communists demanded the immediate transfer of power to a civilian government, accusing the military of derailing the transition to democracy.

The party said the armed forces, which dominated the joint civilian-military administration, were moving away from the goals of the revolution that ousted former President Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

It accused the government of implementing economic reforms at the behest of the International Monetary Fund that were increasing poverty as the prices of bread and basic goods rocketed.

Today’s coup took place soon after a visit by U.S. special envoy Jeffrey Feltman, raising questions about external interference in Sudanese affairs.

The Sudanese Communist Party says the armed forces are moving away from the goals of the revolution that ousted former President Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

CPs of Australia, Britain, and U.S. condemn nuclear submarine deal



By CPB, CPUSA, and CPA

The Communist Party of Britain and the Communist Party USA declare their support and solidarity with the Communist Party of Australia which has called on its members, supporters and all peace-loving men and women to actively oppose the Government's decision to join the AUKUS agreement; to buy nuclear-powered submarines; to purchase cruise missiles and other offensive weapons; and for Australia to host more US troops, warships, and planes.

AUKUS is a response to changes in the global economy that are promoting a direct challenge to neoliberal norms of government across the globe. The US is determined to maintain its political and economic hegemony in the economically expanding Asia-Pacific region.

In the face of declining US economic power, AUKUS aims to tie Australia even more tightly to US imperialism's plans to contain and control the People's Republic of China and to consolidate Australia as a US launching pad for coercion and even war.

AUKUS is an aggressive and destabilizing military alliance which jettisons what vestiges of sovereignty Australia still retained. It is part of the US-led imperial system which prioritizes the rights of private investors over the sovereignty of most states.

In post-Brexit Britain AUKUS feeds Prime Minister Johnson's dream of aggressive expansionism for a "global Britain." The UK already has a strike group in the South China Sea. This will not be wel-

come, as British imperialism was particularly brutal in the Asia-Pacific region, from impoverishing India to starting the Vietnam War, to laying the basis for ethnic conflicts in Fiji and Sri Lanka and inflicting near genocide on the Aboriginal owners of Australia and the Maori of Aotearoa.

The governments of our three countries rob jobs, education, the environment, the vital health budget, welfare, and much more to pay for unnecessary war preparations that benefit only the armaments corporations.

Military spending does create some jobs but not nearly as many jobs as a comparable investment in productive industry. In the US \$1 billion of federal investment in the military creates 11,200 jobs, whereas the same investment in clean energy technology would yield 16,800, in health care 17,200, and in education 26,700 jobs.

Working people need work that creates benefits for the people of the world, not work that produces more efficient people-killing machines. Rather than sinking resources into the creation of tools that further destroy resources, both people and goods, production that meets human needs is required.

Many Asia-Pacific nations have only recently emerged from a long period of oppressive European imperialism. Many view AUKUS as an attempt to reimpose an imperialist dominated military and economic hegemony in the region. Inevitably, tensions will increase, as already suggested by the Indonesian and Malaysian responses to AUKUS.

The new Australian-British-US military alliance strengthens only the military-industrial complex.

Greenhouse gases reach record high, increasing stakes for COP26 climate summit

By Niall Christie

Levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached a new record high last year, United Nations scientists have warned in the run-up to the COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow next week.

Concentrations of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere rose faster in 2020 than over the previous decade and the trend has continued this year, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a U.N. agency.

The economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic did not have any discernible impact on atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases and their rate of accumulation, the WMO said.

If greenhouse gas concentrations continue to increase at current rates, the world will see temperature rises far above the internationally agreed long-term targets, which aim to limit global warming to 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Professor Taalas said: “Many countries are now setting carbon-neutral targets and it is hoped that COP26 will see a dramatic increase in commitments. We need to transform our commitment into action that will have an impact on the gases that drive climate change.

The bulletin was published as world leaders and negotiators prepare to gather at the COP26 climate conference on Oct. 31, where countries will be under pressure to take greater action to cut emissions of the greenhouse gases that are driving rising temperatures.

Los trabajadores de Amazon están listos para unirse a la unión

By MAICOL D LYNCH

Los multimillonarios tienen que irse!” gritó la multitud afuera del Centro de Logística de Amazon aquí en una manifestación el lunes 25 de octubre. Los vítores se produjeron después del anuncio de Amazon Labor Union (ALU), el grupo de trabajadores que intenta organizar la instalación ubicada en la esquina noroeste de la isla. que había reunido más de 2.000 tarjetas sindicales y presentado con éxito su petición para convocar una votación de certificación sindical.

Chris Smalls, un ex empleado de Amazon que fue despedido en marzo de 2020, dijo a los reunidos: “Planeamos este mitin sin que la gerencia de Amazon lo supiera porque, de lo contrario, desviarían los autobuses para que nadie pudiera ver todo esto. Este es un ataque sorpresa que todos ustedes se presentaron hoy para solidarizarse con nosotros. Ahora, tomemos nuestra vuelta de la victoria “.

La multitud respondió con: “¿Qué queremos? ¡Una union! ¿Cuándo lo queremos? ¡Ahora!”

Hablando sobre la experiencia en el trabajo dentro de un almacén de Amazon, Justine Medina, quien ha estado con ALU desde septiembre, testificó:

“Este trabajo es un infierno para tu cuerpo, es el trabajo más exigente físicamente que he hecho en toda mi vida. Tiene estándares y cuotas de desempeño insanos y poco realistas que se establecen como imposibles. Los compañeros de trabajo sufren accidentes o se lesionan todos los días. Tengo colegas que están embarazadas y no se les permite sentarse. Si tardas demasiado en ir al baño, te escriben “.

En una entrevista con People’s World, Medina dijo: “Hay algo agrad-

able y gratificante en hacer el trabajo de inventario”. Sin embargo, “dado que se le quita toda la dignidad y no nos pagan un salario digno, simplemente no vale la pena”.

Sin embargo, no tiene por qué ser así, según Medina. “La capacidad de sentarse, tomar un descanso para ir al baño cuando lo necesite y tal vez un salario de \$ 30 la hora, que Amazon bien podría pagar, podría hacer que todo esto valga la pena”.

Otro trabajador reveló: “Hay personas mayores a las que no se les permite sentarse y evitar usar el baño todo el día para no meterse en problemas”.

En el apogeo de la pandemia de coronavirus, Amazon proporcionó un suplemento salarial de pago por riesgo. Se eliminó gradualmente a partir de principios de 2021 y desapareció por completo en el verano, a pesar de los peligros continuos del COVID-19 e incluso mientras los trabajadores recibían correos electrónicos de la gerencia advirtiendo sobre empleados infectados en el piso.

Los próximos pasos en Staten Island dependen de la administración de Amazon, que aún no ha reaccionado al anuncio de ALU. Aún es necesario convencer a los trabajadores de que voten sí cuando se celebre la elección de certificación, y los miembros de ALU están pidiendo solidaridad a sus compañeros de trabajo, otros sindicatos y miembros de la comunidad. Quieren impulsar la sindicalización en Staten Island pero también aumentar la participación para un evento del Viernes Negro en la residencia de Jeff Bezos en la ciudad de Nueva York después del Día de Acción de Gracias.

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