

## Form Workers Defense Guards To Defeat the Fascist Threat



Portland Labor Against the Fascists at August 4, 2018 anti-fascist rally.

Fascist terrorism is on the rise, including in Portland where in recent months, several trans and gender non-conforming people have been attacked. On February 10, a trans woman was attacked by a group of men wielding baseball bats and left unconscious near the intersection of SE 15th and Morrison. In another incident, it was reported that two men in a truck hurled an unopened can of beer at someone on the street after yelling bigoted slurs at them. These are examples of the kind of violence the fascist scum want to incite. And when they feel emboldened enough, they commit mass murder, like a Trump-loving fascist did shooting 50 Muslim worshippers dead at Friday prayers in Christchurch, New Zealand on March 15.

Nationally, the beating of an antifa (anti-fascist) activist by the Proud Boys after their founder, Gavin McInnes spoke at the Republican Club in New York City

on October 12th of 2018 and the attempted bombing of several prominent liberals by a Trump enthusiast who wanted to go back to the “Hitler Days” and to “eradicate the Jews” demonstrates a rise in violence from far right goons. Then in Pittsburgh a gunman carried out a vicious attack at Tree of Life Synagogue, murdering 11 of the Jewish congregation after shouting, “All Jews Must Die.”

With Trump’s praise of the fascist thugs who chanted “Jews will not replace us” and who killed Heather Heyer, an antifascist activist by running her down with a car, as “fine people”, it’s no wonder there’s been a rise in racist and fascist violence, and Portland has been no exception. But the social pressures that create the fascist movement have their source in the decay of U.S. imperialist capitalist society, that leaves millions alienated and hopeless.

*Continued on page 2*

## Workers Defense Guards (continued from page 1)

Democrats and Republicans are equally responsible for this rotting system that they both defend. And in almost every major city, including Portland, it is the Democrats' police who defend and embolden the fascist gangs.

Portland has again become a favorite target for fascist provocations, in an ominous echo of the 1980s when the city was known as a center of fascist skinhead activity, including the infamous murder of 28 year old Ethiopian student Mulugeta Seraw in 1988.

After Jeremy Christian, a known sympathizer of Joey Gibson's Patriot Prayer, a far-right Vancouver Washington based group, murdered two people and nearly killed a third on a Max light rail in Portland on May 26th, 2017 when they intervened as he screamed anti-muslim slurs at two young women on the train, Patriot Prayer went ahead with their planned "freedom" rally on June 4 in downtown Portland. These rallies are not exercises in abstract "free speech" but opportunities for the fascists to recruit and organize more terrorists like Christian.

Class Struggle Workers – Portland, along with Portland Labor Against the Fascists, called for a mass labor mobilization to stop the fascists from marching. Some 300 workers from various unions rallied behind our banners. Building on resolutions passed by several Portland unions calling on labor to mobilize against racist groups, a solid showing of unionists succeeded in helping to stop the planned fascist parade.

In August of 2017 when Patriot Prayer tried to take their show on the road and stage a provocation in the San Francisco Bay area, the Longshoremen of ILWU Local 10 voted to mobilize to stop them, and labor activists from the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) Local 10 in Portland sent a delegation in support of their action. Joey Gibson then called off his event, thanks in no small part to the Longshore union. While the ILWU Local 10 leadership undercut the impact of the their union's decision by cancelling the planned union action once Gibson called off his rally, the events showed the potential power of labor action to stop the fascists.

After a series of smaller events, including some dismally attended indoor events, Patriot Prayer again attempted a major rally and march in Portland on June 30, 2018. The counter-protest was much smaller this time, with many liberal organizations choosing to stay away, and the labor contingent, led by Class Struggle Workers Portland, was attacked by police with pepper balls. The fascists then went on in roving bands of thugs around the Portland Downtown Waterfront, and police contributed to the melee with flash-bang grenades and more pepper balls. One antifascist activist was sent to the hospital with life threatening injuries after being punched out by a Proud Boy.

By August 4, the next planned provocation on the part of the fascists, Portland had hit a boiling point. As our

leaflet declared, "While Patriot Prayer and their Nazi allies prefer small street skirmishes where they can commit their cowardly assaults in the name of 'free speech,' or better yet, jumping activists in dark alleys, they would be hard-pressed to face a large and disciplined mobilization of workers aiming to shut them down.... A mass mobilization led by workers defense guards can and must crush the fascists before it is too late." Gibson's crusade of racist intimidation drew over 1,000 counterprotesters. The Portland Police Bureau again jumped in to aid the fascists, who were given a safe space on waterfront park, behind a line of armed



Fascists cancelled their planned 26 August 2018 rally in San Francisco as longshore workers in ILWU Local 10, pictured above, joined by a delegation of Portland union Painters, resolved to lead a march to confront the racist rally. But the ILWU bureaucrats undermined the victory by calling off the march when the fascists cancelled their rally.

riot police, to make their Nazi salutes and sport their new shirts that read “Pinochet Did Nothing Wrong” and had a picture on the back depicting someone being thrown from a helicopter, a reference to the Chilean military dictatorship’s practice of throwing leftists into the ocean.

Once the fascist scum was well protected, the police went on a rampage, chasing crowds first in one direction, then another, firing tear gas canisters and flash-bang grenades at point-blank range. One protester was nearly killed by a flash bang when he was hit in the head at close range, but was narrowly saved by his motorcycle helmet. The labor contingent chanted “cops and Klan go hand in hand” as they led a group to safety, and blasted the right wing with music and chants of “Fascist terror won’t go down, Portland is a union town.”

On August 12, well over 2,000 leftists demonstrated in Lafayette Park opposite the White House in Washington, D.C., as police escorted a couple dozen fascists in for a “rally” that was so brief that it ended by the announced starting time. Importantly, Local 689 of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) told the Washington transit authority, WMATA, that its members would not provide “special accommodations” to the fascists (a private train to bring them in from Virginia) that transit officials had promised. This statement electrified union militants around the country, and the members of ATU Local 1277 in Los Angeles voted a motion saluting the D.C. union’s stand over opposition from the local bureaucrats, while Local 757 in Portland wrote an eloquent letter explaining how the year before, racist murderer Jeremy Christian had been given such special transportation along with other members of hate groups a month before he killed Ricky Best and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche, and wounding Micah Fletcher. But in the end, the Local 689 leadership folded and the fascists were given a chartered subway car to and from their rally.

Revelations that Patriot Prayer had attempted to set up weapons on a garage roof on August 4, and were thwarted by police, have promoted liberal groups to call for more stringent gun control laws. Mayor Ted Wheeler, side by side with Police Chief Outlaw announced that he would push for “time, place, and manner” restrictions on protests to supposedly decrease violence at these events. But anti-gun measures and increased restrictions on protest both rely on the biggest purveyor of violence in Portland, the police to enforce their supposed anti-violence measures. The

ACLU pointed out, “To our knowledge, no other police force in America uses crowd control weapons with the regularity of the Portland Police Bureau.”

As evidenced by the recent publication of police collaboration with Joey Gibson, leader of the far right Patriot Prayer group, as well as some disturbing coordination with prominent liberal leaders to stifle anti-fascist protesters,

**Washington, DC ATU Local 689’s declaration that it would not provide special transportation for the fascist “Unite the Right 2” rally in August ignited interest and support from transport workers around the country. In a resolution, Los Angeles Local 1277 wrote that “transport workers refusing to transport racist terror groups to their rallies is an important example....” Local officers of Oregon Division 757 wrote “the hate peddled by the groups that are preparing to rally this weekend in Washington ... goes against the basic principles of our labor movement.” But the union tops betrayed their bold statement, and let the neo-Nazi train roll.**

the police have clearly demonstrated their role. In an incident on June 25th, 2018 Jason Washington, a black member of the postal workers union, was trying to help break up a fight at a bar near the Portland State University campus. The recently armed PSU police arrived on the scene and shot him dead. Jason Washington was also

a permitted gun owner. Gun control laws can’t protect us from the most frequent perpetrators of gun violence, because the police will always be exempted.

The Portland police have a well documented history of association with racist and fascist groups. Police Captain Mark Kruger erected plaques honoring Nazi SS and army officers. But even if the Portland cops expelled the fascists in their ranks, they still would be deadly enemies of the working people and no ally against the fascists. The heavy-handed “crowd control” arsenal they use against leftist protesters today will be deployed against union pickets tomorrow. And cops kill more black people on the streets of Portland and every city and town in this country than the KKK fascists could ever dream of.

Gun control laws will first and foremost be used against leftists, black people, and workers trying to organize. In city after city, from Charlottesville to New York City to Portland, the police can be seen on video standing by while antifascist protesters are brutally beaten by fascist thugs. The armed enforcers of the bosses’ state will not defend the rights of workers.

Rather than hoping that the Democratic Party, Ted Wheeler, or some other local savior will go against their own interests and protect us from the fascists, CSWP calls for mass mobilizations of workers, led by workers defense guards to crush the fascists. A genuine mass laborcentered mobilization that inflicts a stinging defeat on the would-be Hitlers will only come about as the consequence of a decisive victory of union militants over the resistance of the pro-capitalist union bureaucracy that fears the mobilization of the rank and file and preaches reliance on the bosses’ state and the capitalist Democratic Party. ■

# What CSWP Stands For

*The following is an excerpt of the program of Class Struggle Workers – Portland. The complete program was printed in Bridge City Militant No. 1, and is available at <http://csw-pdx.org/program/>.*

**1. For total independence from the government of capital, its agencies, courts and the web of anti-labor laws.** The class-collaborationist bureaucracy must be ousted by a fight for class-struggle politics within the unions: building pseudo-radical “alternatives” on the sidelines won’t do the job. Class-conscious unionists refuse to sue the unions, and oppose all interference by the capitalist state in the workers movement. We defend the unions against capitalist attack. Employer/government hands off union finances. Police, prison guards and security guards are the armed fist of capital, part of the apparatus of anti-labor, racist repression: they must be removed from the unions.

**2. For united labor action and industrial unionism.** Any real struggle for union democracy requires a clean break from the capitalist state. For the election and recall of all union officials by majority vote of the membership. Wages of union officials and staff should be no higher than an average worker’s wage. No to secret negotiations with employers. Elect mass strike committees of delegates recallable by the ranks at any time.

**3. Picket lines mean don’t cross, period.** Rip up anti-union injunctions and the slave-labor Taft-Hartley law by building massive picket lines that no scab dares to cross. Down with the two-gate system in construction and craft union divisions everywhere. For a single industrial union of construction workers. No race-to-the-bottom raiding. For real wall-to-wall contracts, closed shops, and union hiring halls. For union safety committees with the power to stop work. No non-union contractors or management doing our work. Organize port truckers and respect their picket lines, no matter what the bosses’ arbitrators say. Scab cargo is too hot to han-

dle. Instead of powerless consumer boycotts, for active labor solidarity to bust the union-busters. Mobilize against anti-labor “right to work” forces.

**4. Organize the unorganized.** Despite their super-sized talk about fast-food and other low-wage workers, the present labor leadership only “organizes” them to stage small-fries rallies for capitalist politicians. Labor must use its power to shut down businesses that refuse to grant these workers a massive wage increase and union recognition. Strike at mass unemployment by fighting for a shorter workweek with no loss in pay, and a massive program of public works under control of the workers. Make affordable housing a reality: expropriate the landlords, convert the property of the super-rich into public housing.

**5. Fight racism, defend the rights of African American, Latino, Asian and other oppressed people.** Smash the racist death penalty and the neo-slavery of mass incarceration. Eliminate all drug laws, which are a tool of racist repression. Mobilize labor’s power to free Mumia Abu-Jamal. For free, quality, integrated secular public education from pre-K to graduate school. Unions should recruit and train workers from oppressed communities. For strikes and workers mobilization against police terror and brutality; organize labor/black/immigrant defense guards to sweep fascist scum off the streets.

**6. Fight sexism, defend the rights of women.** For free, high quality 24-hour child care. For full reproductive rights, including free abortion on demand as part of a socialized universal health care system. For labor defense of abortion clinics against reactionary terrorists. No discrimination against gays, lesbians or anyone on the basis of their sexuality. Church and state out of the bedroom.

**7. Oppose imperialism, defend immigrants, for international workers solidarity.** Fight racist discrimination and anti-immigrant prejudice in our unions. Mobilize labor’s power to stop deportations. Full citizenship rights for all immigrants. For union action to stop I-9 and “no match” firings and ICE factory raids. No to racist “English-only” laws or rules. For workers action against imperialist war: political strikes against the war, “hot cargo” war supplies. Oppose flag-waving appeals by the labor fakers. For active labor solidarity with the Palestinian people. Oppose U.S. occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, and war threats against China, Cuba, North Korea or Iran.

**8. For a class-struggle workers party.** Break with the Democratic Party, no support to the Green Party or any other capitalist parties or politicians. For a fighting workers party to organize and lead the struggle for a workers government and a planned economy to serve human needs instead of capitalist profit. ■



Class Struggle Workers – Portland  
P.O. Box 86902, Portland, OR 97286

503-303-8278  
[cswp@csw-pdx.org](mailto:cswp@csw-pdx.org) <http://csw-pdx.org/>

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the position of CSWP.



**We Will Not Forget**  
**Jason Washington**  
 45 year old African American  
 Father, grandfather  
 Navy veteran  
 Postal worker  
 Union steward  
 Legal concealed-carry permit holder  
 Murdered by Portland State University police on  
 29 June 2018.  
 No charges filed against the police.  
 No justice in racist American capitalism.

# Painters, Drywall Finishers: Prepare to Strike to Defend Our Pension!

• **No Confidence in the Bosses' NLRB!** • **Labor's Got to Play Hardball to Win!**

*Painters and Drywall Finishers in Local 10 are under attack by the employers associations (Signatory Painting Contractors Association and Wall and Ceilings Board) who are trying to force a major change to our pension that would relieve the bosses of any obligation to cover a guaranteed benefit for our retirees.*

*At a special called mass meeting on November 16, 2018, union militants distributed the following leaflet. Union militants warn that we cannot rely on the courts or the Labor Board, which are instruments of the bosses' government to discipline the labor movement, and must prepare to mobilize our forces in alliance with other construction workers to defend our hard-won right to a secure retirement pension.*

## **Vote to Strike to Save Our Pensions!**

The District Council has announced that the employers are trying to force us to change our pension into a "Sustainable Income Plan" (SIP). We work hard for our inadequate pay and benefits. *If this goes through you can kiss the promise of a secure retirement goodbye.* The future of every member of IUPAT Local 10 is at stake, and it will affect painters, drywall finishers and construction workers throughout the Pacific Northwest.

A special membership meeting has been called for this Friday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m. Each and every one

of us should be there. At that meeting there must be an **OVERWHELMING VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A STRIKE**. No beating around the bush. Failure to pass such a vote will only embolden the bosses. And it can't just be a paper resolution. At this meeting, **A STRIKE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ELECTED, PICKET CAPTAINS SHOULD BE NAMED and PICKET TEAMS FORMED**, which should start holding **PRACTICE SESSIONS**, starting immediately. Show the employers that **WE MEAN BUSINESS!**

Moreover, if the contractors unilaterally make ANY CHANGE AT ALL to our pension plan, the entire membership must be ready to **WALK OUT IMMEDIATELY**. In addition, we should issue an **APPEAL TO OTHER BUILDING TRADES UNIONS** to alert them to this attack and ask for **CONCRETE SOLIDARITY**, not only respecting our picket lines but **JOIN OUR PICKET LINES** at every job site in the region. We need to make it real: **AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!**

What's happening here and now is part of a nationwide anti-union offensive by the bosses and their government. Both Republicans and Democrats, and the Wall Street interests they represent, are trying to do away with pensions. Across the country, only 18% of private sector workers have defined benefit pensions, down from 35% in the early 1990s. **A "Sustainable Income Plan" is not a**

*Continued on page 6*

# CSWP salutes the heroic maquiladora workers of Matamoros, Mexico

*¡La lucha obrera no tiene frontera!  
The workers struggle has no border!*



A wave of workers strikes at the export factories (*maquiladoras*) has swept through Matamoros, across the Rio Bravo/Rio Grande from Brownsville, Texas. Against police intimidation and state-controlled pseudo-unions, the women and men workers have won increased wages and bonuses. Their fight is our fight! (Photo: Obreros Unidos de Matamoros, 24 January)

## Defend Our Pensions (continued from page 5)

**guaranteed pension at all.** Payments could go up or down depending on the market, and it lets the bosses walk away from any financial responsibility for funding our retirement. The SPCO (paint bosses) claim that “The Management Trustees are trying to protect the retirement benefits for all of our members.” Nonsense. What they want to do is lower the retirement benefits. To protect them, they would have to increase their contributions. And an arbitrator, agreed to by the employers, is no protection either.

The construction trades are one of the remaining

strongholds of union power. Today the contractors are going after our pensions, tomorrow they will take aim at our health insurance. Nationwide almost 129,000 painters and allied trades have multi-employer, defined pension plans, whose assets total \$6.8 billion (MCAA, *Inventory of Construction Industry Pension Plans* [February 2016]). The bosses have always hated the idea that they might owe us anything after they’ve used up our bodies making themselves into millionaires. We say: **HANDS OFF OUR PENSIONS! And prepare NOW to strike! ■**

## **CLASS STRUGGLE EDUCATION WORKERS**

# **Oakland, Los Angeles: Teacher Strikes Sold Out by Democratic Party, Union Bureaucracy**

*The long-simmering “teacher revolt” that began in West Virginia spread to Los Angeles in January and Oakland in February. In both cities, the teacher strikes were overwhelmingly popular and effective, as parents, students and workers stood with union teachers fighting for higher wages, smaller class sizes, and against the “charter schools” that are undermining public education. But in both cities, the union leaders betrayed the strikers and sold them out. Why? Above all, because the*

*union bureaucracy is beholden to the capitalist Democratic Party, which controls the state of California and the cities of Los Angeles and Oakland. We reprint leaflets distributed in LA and Oakland by Class Struggle Education workers, a militant opposition tendency in the education workers unions that fights to break the unions from the bosses’ parties.*

*For more information on CSEW, visit their web site at <http://edworkersunite.blogspot.com>.*

## **Oakland Teachers: The Deal Stinks – Vote It Down!**

### **Escalate the Strike By Taking It to the Port No Cuts, No Layoffs, No School Closures!**

Oakland, March 2 – After a week on the picket lines in a rock-solid strike, on Friday the leadership of the Oakland Education Association (OEA) announced a rotten deal which sells short the demands that teachers have been fighting for. Even before the tentative agreement had gone up on the Internet so members could read it, officials ordered strike pickets taken down, contrary to the decision of the Rep Council on Thursday to keep strike lines up until the membership voted.

As the press conference announcing the agreement was live on the OEA Facebook page there were lots of comments posted opposed to it (try finding them now). At a meeting of the Rep Council today (Saturday, March 2) many activists voiced opposition. Remember: the membership IS the union, and this deal does not at all reflect what the membership voted to strike for. The tentative



**Teachers, staff, parents, students and supporters at OEA rally at Oakland City Hall on the first day of the strike, Feb. 21. (Photo: Jeff Chiu/AP)**

agreement includes:

- **A salary agreement that is really a pay cut.** The tentative deal is for 11% over four years, or 2.75% per year. The rate of inflation last year in the Bay Area according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics was 3.9%. The aver-

*Continued on page 8*



## Oakland Teachers (continued from page 7)

age increase in Oakland apartment rents last year was 12.7%. As for the 3% signing bonus (bribe), the cost of living for Bay Area residents has already risen over 6% in the year and a half that Oakland teachers have been working without a contract. Do the math.

- **Minimal cuts in class size.** Class sizes will be cut by one (1) student in the coming year for “highest- needs” schools, and one (1) student for all schools in the following year. The difference between teaching a class of 30 vs. 32 students will be practically unnoticeable.

- **Nothing to stop school closures.** The “5 month pause” on new school closures is no win at all – in fact, it may aid the OUSD in closing schools. It means that Roots Academy would still be closed, and the School Board can order the other 23 schools on its chopping block closed during the summer recess when teachers are not there and parents are not mobilized.

- **Nothing to stop charter schools.** Getting the pro-charter School Board to send a hypocritical letter to state authorities calling for a temporary moratorium on new charters will achieve zero.

- **No real increase in student support.** No additional nurses, reduction of counselor caseload from 600:1 to 550:1? This won't be “the schools our students deserve,” as the OEA rightly called for.

- **Plus any gains will be paid for by cutting programs and laying off staff.** The OUSD has already announced \$30 million in cuts, including laying off as many as 150 classified staff represented by the SEIU and AFSCME. This deal is stabbing them in the back.

This tentative agreement is an insult to the educators who undertook months of preparations for this strike and a slap in the face for the students and parents who joined the picket lines and marches. Class Struggle Education Workers urges Oakland teachers on Sunday to **VOTE “NO” ON THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT.**

Overturning a rotten contract negotiated by the union leadership is a big deal. The House of Delegates of the Chicago Teachers Union did it in 2012, whereupon the leadership (of the Caucus of Rank-and-file Educators, or CORE) turned around and shoved the deal down the delegates' throat in a second vote. To be successful it is necessary to have a clear and simple message.

The rotten deal is the product of the union bureaucracy (yes, the OEA has one, we're seeing it in action right now) that seeks to balance between the employers and the union ranks, acting as an obstacle to militant class struggle.

In going back to the bargaining table, in order to ensure rank-and-file control, negotiations and strike activity should be under an **ELECTED STRIKE COMMITTEE.**

Bottom-line strike demands should be: **NO CUTS –**

### **NO LAYOFFS – NO SCHOOL CLOSURES!**

And to escalate the pressure on the District, **TAKE OEA PICKET LINES TO THE PORT OF OAKLAND** where ILWU Local 34 has voted to support the teachers strike and the ILWU Local 10 membership meeting enthusiastically applauded OEA leaders on the first day of the strike.

Class Struggle Education Workers has called for union action to shut down the port in solidarity with the teachers strike (see our leaflet, “Mobilize Bay Area Workers to Win Oakland Teachers Strike” on the CSEW site). CSEW supporters in Oakland advocated this in meetings with strike activists this past week. So have others. This deal, if approved, would short-circuit the decision of the Rep Council to mass picket at the port next week.

A mass outpouring of striking teachers and supporters together with dock workers at the port where the profits of Bay Area rulers are generated could be key to winning a real victory.

The battle to defend public education against the capitalist privatizers and their charter schools must be fought politically. Ultimately it must be taken to Sacramento, not to lobby hat-in-hand but to occupy and shut it down, as teachers from West Virginia to Arizona did against Republican governments last year. That means mobilizing teachers throughout the state, but above all, in deep-blue California, to be successful it requires a **SHARP BREAK WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY**, the bosses' party that is centrally responsible for the education crisis facing us today. ■

---

### **Selling the Sellout**

*Socialist Alternative headline, March 6: “Oakland Teachers Strike: A Victory Filled With Lessons”*

---

## *You are invited to* **Union Night**

At



**Second Sunday of each month, 4-7 p.m.  
807 NE Couch St, Portland**

**\$1 off drinks with union card**



## “What Happened Today Is Just Capitulation to the Privatizers and Union Busters”

### Powerful L.A. Teachers Strike Was Betrayed in Settlement

Los Angeles, January 23 – At 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, on the sixth day of the powerful teachers strike that electrified working people across the U.S., Alex Caputo-Pearl, president of United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), stood with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) superintendent Austin Beutner and Democratic mayor Eric Garcetti at a City Hall press conference to announce that a strike settlement had been reached. It was a “historic agreement,” said Garcetti. Caputo-Pearl called it “a historic victory for public education educators, students and parents.” It’s not. Instead, the deal maintains the intolerable conditions which UTLA tops have agreed to for years.

So the tremendous energy of a strike that brought an outpouring of support from parents, students and key sectors of L.A. labor was squandered in a deal, brokered by the Democratic Party, which achieved none of the major goals educators fought for on the picket lines and in daily mass marches. Jam-packed classes of over 40 students per teacher are to continue for another three years; the salary hike is actually a pay cut when adjusted for inflation; charter “co-locations” in public schools will continue, and while hiring a couple hundred librarians and nurses is a limited gain, the agreed-upon ratio of 500 students per counselor is an abomination.

When Caputo-Pearl left the press conference and walked across the street to Grand Park, music and dancing filled the lawn as thousands of red-clad striking teachers were awaiting an agreement that would at least partly reverse decades of attacks on L.A.’s funding-starved public schools. When the UTLA leader said there was a settlement with reductions in class size and gains in staffing, that the strike was over and teachers would be back at work on Wednesday, many cheered. But by mid-afternoon when the 47-page tentative agreement was posted online, the cheering turned to shock. This was what tens of thou-



Strikers cheered when settlement was announced. The cheering stopped when the terms of the deal were revealed. “It wasn’t a party, it was a funeral, nobody knew it though,” commented one rally participant. (Photo: Scott Heins/Getty Images)

sands had marched and picketed in the rain for?!

A little over two hours later, a “streamlined voting process” was held at school sites during rush hour (5-7 p.m.). At 7:30 p.m. Caputo-Pearl declared that a “super-majority” had voted “yes.” “Streamlined”? It was steam-rollered. The whole business made a mockery of union democracy. The UTLA Facebook page exploded with thousands of angry comments complaining about the terms of the deal and the rushed vote before teachers and parents could even figure out what all the legalese meant. **The agreement is a shameful sellout of the strike**, forced down the throats of UTLA rank-and-file by a leadership that ultimately seeks to keep the class struggle in check.

The most positive comment we heard about the agreement on Tuesday afternoon after the terms were revealed was that it was “a few baby steps in the right direction.” It’s not even that. What the Internationalist Group said about the Chicago teachers strike of 2012 holds true for L.A. today: “*strike was huge, settlement sucks.*”

So why did this happen? For the misnamed Union Power caucus that talked of a “social justice strike” even as it engineered the sellout, this strike was all about the

*Continued on page 10*

## Los Angeles Teachers (continued from page 9)

Democratic Party. As Class Struggle Education Workers said in our leaflet widely distributed at yesterday's rally:

"The governor, state superintendent of education, Los Angeles mayor and almost all members of the L.A. school board are Democrats, who also hold huge supermajorities (over 70%) in both houses of the state legislature, which they have controlled almost continually since 1970. They are the ones directly responsible for the perilous state of public education in California today. Yet both the UTLA and the LAUSD are looking to the Democrats to resolve the issue in the strike."

—"To Win the Teachers Strike We Must Shut Down L.A." (21 January)

Sure enough, the Democrats "resolved" the strike issues, in their (capitalist) class interests. As a comment on the union's Facebook page said: "What happened today is just capitulation to the privatizers and union busters." But remember, the membership is the union. The UTLA ranks should demand the right to debate and vote on the final agreement. And the most determined should undertake the difficult task of forging a leadership with the program and determination to wage the class struggle through to victory....

### The Pro-Capitalist Labor Bureaucracy and Its "Left" Apologists

When teachers saw the temporary agreement there was an explosion of outrage, frustration, bitter disappointment and confusion on social media. Some of the comments:

"This agreement is no win!! It's a big fat LOSS!!"

"This was a set up. They must have had this contract last week, but needed to pump us all up and wait until day 7 to make a decision in a few hours!"

"Why was a 'victory' announced before we voted on this agreement??? Why were we RUSHED into voting on something so important???"

Clearly, many teachers saw that Caputo-Pearl had pulled a fast one on them, and rightly felt betrayed. Yet some were so demoralized that they questioned paying dues and the very need for a union. This would go along with last year's *Janus v. AFSCME* Supreme Court ruling seeking to financially cripple public sector unions and to encourage people to leave or refuse to join unions by outlawing "agency shop" fee collection.

That is also the line of the so-called World Socialist Web Site (WSWS), which has put out leaflets during the strike. Teachers and strike supporters should be forewarned that this *sinister anti-union outfit* seeks to destroy the UTLA. The WSWS fraudsters appeal to demoralized teachers by equating the union tops with the union itself. Yet unions are an essential first line of defense against the

bosses. Without the UTLA there would have been no strike. Class Struggle Education Workers criticizes the class collaboration of the "Union Power" sellouts because we *defend the unions* by building a core of militants on a political program of hard *class struggle*.

For their part, the Democratic (Party) Socialists of America (DSA) and International Socialist Organization (ISO) act as apologists for, and in fact are part of the UTLA leadership. During the strike a joint DSA/ISO statement admitted that "local and state Democrats" had overseen the underfunding of L.A. schools, and meekly called for "holding these Democrats to account and breaking with their pro-business agenda." As if the Democratic Party politicians can be made "accountable" to anyone other than the capitalist class they serve! No, it is necessary to *break with the Democratic Party* as a whole in order to throw off the *stranglehold of this ruling-class party* and fight for the political independence of the workers from the bosses throughout the U.S.

ISO spokesperson Gillian Russom, a member of the ruling Union Power caucus and of the UTLA Board of Directors, presented the sellout agreement to teachers at Roosevelt High School on Tuesday. That night she described it as a "victory on many levels" to an ISO meeting where she repeated the bureaucracy's falsehood-filled talking points ("We Won a Historic Victory for LA Schools," *Socialist Worker*, 23 January). The same line was taken by the DSA's *Jacobin* ("After LA's strike, 'nothing will be the same'," 23 January). Meanwhile, the "Left Voice" media group runs interference for these reformists, trying in standard centrist fashion to split the difference between victory and betrayal, with a piece (23 January) claiming "important gains" while reporting teachers' "mixed feelings" about the contract.

During the strike, there was an overwhelming outpouring of solidarity from the working-class population, including from some of the most powerful unions that make this city move. Longshore dock workers who have the power to shut down the ports, bus and rail workers who could paralyze the public transit system – these are key allies of the teachers. Their presence on the picket lines and in mass rallies was a threat to the bosses who fear more than anything the spectre of labor mobilizing its power to defeat the privatizers and shut down the flow of profit.

As the CSEW wrote in our first leaflet, "Victory to Los Angeles Teachers Strike" (7 January), "To build massive picket lines that no one crosses, the active support of the entire L.A.-area labor movement is needed." We did our best to build such support. The solidarity strikes by SEIU Local 99 workers were also very important, point-

ing the way to shutting down all the schools. But UTLA leaders didn't attempt to shut down the schools, instructing strikers not to stop anyone crossing the lines, and the agreement doesn't even have a "no reprisals" clause for the solidarity strikers. In line with its policy of class collaboration, the leadership didn't have a strategy to win the strike: what they sought was to pressure the Democrats.

### Forge a Class-Struggle Opposition in the Unions

After taking it on the chin for too long, L.A. labor is starting to fight back, and not just on narrow economic issues. The teachers strike was an expression of that. Contingents of Transport Workers Against Deportations have fought to defend immigrants. Port truckers blocked the L.A. detention center with Teamster rigs in defense of immigrants threatened by the cancellation of TPS (Temporary Protected Status). It's also significant that class-struggle militants in the transit union (ATU 1277) and the Cal State faculty union (CFA) were able to get motions passed pledging solidarity action with the UTLA and identifying the Democratic Party as responsible for attacks on public education.

In the strike, ILWU union halls were used as strike support centers to plan and prepare concrete solidarity action for the teachers, such as organizing food distribution to the picket lines and making hundreds of picket signs declaring "ILWU stands with Teachers". At schools near the harbor and beyond, longshore workers and their families turned away scabs and gave confidence to the teachers. The CSEW worked alongside them. But to win the strike and real gains in the fight against privatization of public education, a port shutdown by this powerhouse of labor would have hit the privatizers and union-busters where it hurts.

The struggle is far from over. The strike at the Accel-

erated Schools charter chain in L.A. is still on and needs solidarity. Teachers in Denver, Colorado have voted to strike as early as January 28, while teachers in Oakland (where Democratic Party billionaire Eli Broad tries out his charter schemes before generalizing them in Los Angeles) are about to vote to strike next month. While the second unionized charter chain in Chicago has set a strike date for February 5.

The momentum building behind the L.A. teachers strike posed the prospect of a raging class battle engulfing the whole city, in which the loyal agents of the Democratic Party in the union leaderships could find the reins of control slipping out of their fingers. *That is why there was such a frantic rush to shut the strike down by ramming through this sellout agreement.* The main obstacle standing in the way of defeating the money men who seek to take over the schools is the *labor bureaucracy* that holds back class struggle in the service of the bosses' Democratic Party, along with the so-called leftists alibiing their betrayals, and whose fundamental loyalty is to U.S. capitalism.

Class Struggle Education Workers fights to **oust the bureaucrats, break with the Democrats, Republicans and all capitalist political parties** and to **build a class-struggle workers party**. The urgency of this task is the most crucial of all the strike's lessons. ■

---

### Selling the Sellout

*Labor Notes* headline, January 24: "L.A. Teachers Win Big and Beat Back Privatizers"

---



---

## #HimToo Fascist Provocation (continued from page 12)

slogan "It's okay to be white." The co-leader of the November 17 #HimToo event is Quincy Lee Franklin, a disciple of the white supremacist "Hell Shaking Street Preachers." At a January 2018 march in Seattle he was spewing violent misogyny, yelling that "some women deserve rape."

The #HimToo hashtag spread on the Internet around the Senate hearings on Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. It was claimed that this all-round reactionary was supposedly the "victim" of #MeToo feminists, yet Kavanaugh's record shows him to be a virulent anti-immigrant, anti-labor, anti-abortion bigot and sexist pig. The real aim of the #HimToo hatefest not to counter false accusations of sexual abuse, but to put women back "in their

place." Several Patriot Prayer thugs and their local Proud Boy allies have been charged with domestic violence, cyberstalking and assault against women.

Contrary to its lying propaganda, #HimToo crew is not defending free speech, due process or those unfairly accused. They are provocateurs who pose a clear and present danger to the rights of women, and a physical threat to all defenders of the oppressed. Class Struggle Workers – Portland calls to fight sexism and defend the rights of women. CSWP has mobilized labor defense of abortion rights and opposes discrimination against gays, lesbians or anyone on the basis of their sexuality. Today we call to bring out the power of labor to stop this woman-hating mob and defend women's rights! ■

## **PDX #HimToo Nov. 17 Event a Fascist Provocation: Mobilize the Power of Labor to Defend Women's Rights!**



Union workers protest against fascist, anti-women #HimToo rally in Portland, 17 November 2018. (CSWP photo)

*On Saturday November 17, 2018, a contingent of Ironworkers and other union members joined in protests against a fascist rally that targeted women who dare to speak up against sexist harassment and abuse. The heavy police presence deployed by Portland's Democratic Party government menaced anti-sexist protesters, arresting half a dozen and shoving us off city sidewalks with riot clubs and an arsenal of lethal weapons, protecting the small band of fascists. CSWP fights in the unions to break with the bosses' Democratic Party, and for union-based workers defense guards to lead mass worker/black/immigrant mobilization to sweep the fascist scum off the streets. We distributed the following leaflet.*

On November 17th, a group calling itself #HimToo wants to use Portland as a platform to intimidate and harass women. Make no mistake: the sponsors' talk of "men's rights" and a "war on men" is in fact a battle cry for an attack on women by ultra-rightist, racist and out-right fascist forces. Class Struggle Workers – Portland

calls on labor and all defenders of democratic, union, immigrants' and women's rights to mobilize against this dangerous provocation.

The public face of this bogus "movement" is one Haley Adams, who is a YouTube figurehead for Joey Gibson's fascist "Patriot Prayer" outfit. She has been a constant presence at its rallies since it came on the scene in Portland on 29 April 2017. That same event was attended by Jeremy Christian, the Nazi who only a few weeks later murdered two men and nearly killed a third who came to the aid of two young Muslim women he was haranguing on a MAX train. These people are dangerous.

Adams was described just as a "Portland resident" in an article on #HimToo by National Public Radio, which has more than once given fascists a platform for their racist filth. In fact, she is a hard-core racist who put up a video of herself firing an automatic rifle to celebrate "white pride month." Two weeks later she marched on June 30 with neo-Nazis while wearing a helmet with the

*continued on page 11*