



January 25, 2025

As Trump returns to power, resistance kicks off at nearby rally

By Kei Kebreau and Taryn Fivek

WASHINGTON—It's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Washington, D.C. Six hundred people are gathering in the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church to attend a National Action Network rally.

The march planned earlier from McPherson Square was canceled because the weather is sunny, but chilling. It's hard to tell if the relative silence in the streets is because of the weather, or if a sense of anticipation, even dread, is hanging in the air. This is not your typical Martin Luther King Day. Today is also Inauguration Day, the day a man who says God has given him to the American people is inaugurated as president for the second time.

Five or six white charter buses are idling in front of the church. During the first Trump administration, the extreme right often claimed that anti-fascist protesters were bussed in, and here they are: African American elders from California, youth artists from the District of Columbia, homeless advocates from New York City, and civil rights activists from the South.

It's church, but people are all dressed in their own way. Some are wearing their Sunday's best, while others are more utilitarian, with their sweat hoodies tucked under puffer jackets. Though it is dangerously cold and icy outside, the people inside the church bring their own warmth.

In line for the ladies' bathroom, one attendee gives a pep talk to those waiting. "That word, resilience, we keep getting tested by it," she says, inspecting each person in line with a disciplined smile. "The whole nation is looking to see what Black people will do. Keep a smile on your face when you see the media. We're built for this. We'll be okay. We know who's still on the throne."

Strength is needed. Today, on this Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, all those attending this rally will enter the church under a Biden administration and will exit under Trump's rule.

The Metropolitan AME Church, the oldest continuously operating Black church in Washington, D.C., is stepping into its historical role as a center of spiritual and political leadership for the country yet again. The pews are full of people of all generations and all races, united in song as they consider the moment ahead of them.

It was here that Frederick Douglass, a regular at the church, gave his final speech calling on the United States to end racial injustice. These walls stood witness to the funerals of both Douglass and Civil Rights leader Rosa Parks. Ida B. Wells and W.E.B. Du Bois spoke here. And in December of 2020, Proud Boys and other Trump supporters stole and burned a Black Lives Matter flag from here when faced with Biden's win as the 46th president, the first stirrings of the coup that was later launched on January 6th, 2021.



But today, it is the launch site for a struggle to defend the civil rights legacies of Douglass, Parks, King, and so many others against Trump's attacks.

Those present are committed to building a movement that is unified in action. National Action Network Vice Chair Jennifer Jones Austin appeals to King: "Our coming together today demonstrates unity – our shared commitment to ensure for ourselves a seat at the table and to not just sit at the table but to turn the table over if we must."

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CONTINUING THE DAILY WORKER



For over a century, People's World and its predecessor publications have taken the side of the 99 percent and worked to promote the struggle for a sustainable environment, jobs, democracy, peace, and equality.

As Trump returns, resistance kicks off

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Alphonso David follows after, emphasizing the connection between economic and racial justice in the U.S. “Dr. King understood that the fight for racial and economic justice are deeply interconnected and in fact inseparable.”

King grew his 1968 Poor People’s Campaign out of that understanding. Ultimately, that campaign threatened to turn the economic and political table over, winning power for poor people of all races to end poverty, end the Vietnam War, and end systemic racism. King was assassinated while planning the campaign, but the campaign continued then and now.

Called the real visionary

Looking back on previous fights for democracy, Rev. Marshall Hatch calls Frederick Douglass the “real visionary of America as we know it.” Hatch credits Douglass with saving Abraham Lincoln’s skin during the Civil War, counting the former’s efforts to convince Lincoln to save his own country by allowing 180,000 African-American troops to fight for their own freedom.

Douglass’s vision of a society that accepted all the world’s people prevails today in the form of acceptance of immigrants. On those grounds, Hatch says “Elon Musk, who was born in South Africa, owes his citizenship to Frederick Douglass,” as well as Vivek Ramaswamy and Usha Vance. “It’s good to be woke!”

Finally, as the music and energy swell inside of the church, the Rev. Al Sharpton, leader of the National Action Network, takes the stage to tell “a tale of two cities in one district,” referring to the District of Columbia. As Elon Musk is delivering Nazi salutes at Trump’s inauguration just a mile away, Rev. Sharpton takes the audience through the history of the fight for democracy starting from 1619: “We were brought here as a result of the slave trade. Slave trade meant that there was an economic arrangement. They justified it by dehumanizing who they traded.”

Sharpton develops the historical connection between race and class through to the present day with Trump’s defense of the death penalty for the Central Park Five. In 1989, ten days after the five African American boys were rounded up, accused of rape, and forced by police to make false confessions, Trump took out a \$209,000 full-page ad calling for the death penalty to be used on them.

Of course, they didn’t actually do it. The actual attacker confessed over a decade later such that the law was forced to exonerate the accused 13 years after the event. Korey Wise, one of the five exonerated, joyfully salutes the crowd from the front and center pew.

Continuing King’s commitment to the fight for economic justice, the first strike against Trump’s attacks will be a targeted boycott. Like the bus boycotts of the 1950s civil rights movement, this boycott aims at corporations that first abandoned people’s rights. For 90 days, the National Action Network will research corporations that revoked their diversity, equity, and inclusion measures and boycott two of the least profitable ones.

Sharpton draws the battle line in terms of David and Goliath: “There’s a giant that defies Martin Luther King... I come to Washington with my slingshot.” He closes his remarks by asking the audience to take a solemn oath, invoking the sacred ground on which we rally:

“I want everyone, if you’re resolved to just raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, state your name (Al Sharpton), do solemnly commit, that I will stand up, and rise up, in the name of Dr. King, in the name of Frederick Douglass, in the name of Rosa Parks, that I will defend equality for all: diversity, equality, inclusion, women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, immigration rights.

“I commit, I take this oath, that I will not become, like those I’m fighting — I’m not violent, but I will peacefully stand, against those who want to bring us down. I commit this in the house of God, on this sacred ground, so help me God.”

As the crowd follows with hands raised, Sharpton breaks into a smile. “Congratulations!” he bellows as if this rally is a graduation ceremony into a new form of struggle.

Before the rally closes, Reverend William H. Lamar IV lays out a benediction rooted in history: “We are a sankofa people: we look back to go forward.”

He closes with a quote from Lucille Clifton, reminding the audience that it’s appropriate for “a Black woman to have the last word today”:

“won’t you celebrate with me what i have shaped into a kind of life? i had no model. born in babylon both nonwhite and woman what did i see to be except myself?”

i made it up here on this bridge between starshine and clay, my one hand holding tight my other hand; come celebrate with me that everyday something has tried to kill me and has failed.”



Trump's on a mission: Make American Imperialism Great Again

By Adrien Welsh



In the area of foreign relations, Washington has two parties but just one policy—that of war and imperialism. Donald Trump is no exception to this iron law, something already demonstrated repeatedly. His call to “Make America Great Again” means, in fact, “Make American Imperialism Great Again.”

Once his promises and populist speech have been stripped away, the facts speak for themselves.

No, Trump will not withdraw the United States from NATO. As a businessperson, he is simply applying to foreign policy the same tactic that earned him his real estate fortune—intimidation as a negotiating weapon.

He threatens to withdraw his country from the alliance (which would mean its dissolution) only to force a greater financial and military contributions from the member states and to produce an even more warlike alliance. It is no coincidence that, after his election as the new Secretary General of NATO, Mark Rutte said he was ready to collaborate with Trump.

Trump claims to want to disengage from financing the war in Ukraine and make peace with Russia. But this so-called peace will certainly not be negotiated between Putin and Zelensky. The framework agreement will be drafted in Washington, which will impose it on both parties—a sort of gunboat diplomacy that will give pride of place to the U.S. monopolies, which will impose their law with renewed vigor in the region and on the skin of working people of both countries.

On the subject of China, which he presents as his “systemic rival,” Trump seeks to increase and intensify military exercises in the South China Sea. His vision of the world perceives China as the main obstacle to the recovery of U.S. imperialist power, hence the urgency of waging a merciless trade war against it, accompanied by military pressure.

Attacking China also allows Trump to redouble his zealous anti-communism, which feeds into dangerous aspects of his political project at home: breaking unions, reducing wages, and gutting public services.

And in the Middle East? The United States has consistently supported the ongoing genocide in Gaza and Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Trump instigated the Abraham Accords to normalize relations between Israel and Middle East countries in spite of the former's occupation of Palestine.

Trump remains Netanyahu's faithful ally, despite the latter being accused by the International Criminal Court, and he recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by moving the U.S. embassy there in defiance of international law.

What prospect of peace can there be when the avowed plan remains total support for the main belligerent, and when Trump's proposed Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, states that “there is no such thing as the West Bank” and that the Palestinians “do not exist”?

With respect to Latin America, Trump tightened the U.S. blockade on Cuba during his first term, including by imposing 243 additional measures against the island while in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Matching words with actions, he defined Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua as the “troika of tyranny” and tried to foment a civil war in Venezuela, complete with threats of U.S. invasion and recognizing unelected opposition leader, Juan Guaido, as the country's president.

Trump's choice of advisers and enforcers also reveal a lot about his administration's plans. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, for example, promises to “prepare for a war with China, because China wants a different world order.” For all countries that refuse the yoke of U.S. imperialism, Rubio plans to impose coercive measures, including an intensification of the blockade against Cuba.

Some in the peace movement have foolishly claimed that Trump's election “opens up prospects” for peace. They have learned nothing from the tragic lessons of history: Mussolini and Hitler also promised peace and prosperity for their countries, while in the midst of a capitalist crisis. Yet they were responsible for the massacre of Guernica and the butchery of World War II.

It is said that “peace is everyone's business,” which means we need to unite all people and forces who want to thwart war plans. But we still need to expose the deception of those who use the language of peace to disguise war.

To oppose war without opposing the power of the corporate monopolies, to suggest that imperialism can be peaceful, or to promote the idea that “patriotic” capitalism confined to national borders is somehow a force for peace—this is to succumb to warmongering.

Dictator Trump, on Day One, declares war on American families

By Mark Gruenberg and John Wojcik



WASHINGTON—Donald Trump, barely inaugurated as the president of the United States yesterday and today, trashed the Constitution by declaring an end to birthright citizenship, unleashed the ravenous fossil fuel companies to do as they pleased from coast to coast, sprung from prison his dangerous supporters who took over the Capitol in 2021, rolled back government protections for the nation’s workers and forced on leave thousands of federal government employees.

Labor and its allies in the civil rights movements, women’s movements, LGBTQ organizations and many others are mobilizing across the country to resist the wholesale attacks launched by the man who promised during the campaign that he would be a “dictator on day one.” They understand that in fighting an avalanche of right wing executive orders they have their work cut out for them, particularly since Republicans will use their slim majorities in the House and Senate and their control of the Supreme Court to make Trump’s goals easier to achieve.

Over and over again those who have hoped Trump “won’t be so bad” have, and are, being proven wrong. On ending birthright citizenship they have contented themselves that it will “only be for the children of (so-called) illegal immigrants.” Proving them wrong, the Trump order applies even to the children of perfectly legal and documented people living in the country, according to the ACLU and other lawyers and Trump has made it clear that he intends to challenge the entire meaning of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, the one that provides for birthright citizenship for all.

Fascist dictatorships always move early on in the direction of laying the groundwork to take away passports from and nullify the citizenship rights of the people living under their control.

Trump has also issued orders that simplify the process of ending solar and wind energy projects and replace them with fossil fuel operations. He removed the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accords and sent a letter to the UN explaining that he was doing that.

The resistance to the initial Trump moves includes a detailed and determined legal fight on as many as 200 fronts. Major unions have already joined the legal battles. They include the Government Employees, the Treasury Employees and the Teachers. The AFL-CIO itself is also considering joining those battles.

The looming new battles against Trump’s depredations, which he’s carrying out on behalf of the capitalist oligarchs class, do not count court suits that personally involve him and predates them all.

Sanctioned by federal courts, individual U.S. Capitol Police officers, for example, severely injured by the Trumpite invaders there four years ago have spent three years in court suing Trump personally for damages.

The battle against Trump’s attacks on American families anticipates a mass zoom meeting, scheduled for 8 p.m. Eastern Time on January 23 and hosted by the Working Families Party, the Women’s Campaign and other progressives, to discuss further anti-Trump strategy.

The AFL-CIO, in its comment on Trump’s inaugural address, vowed to resist his regime through mobilizing and organizing, holding the greed-driven corporate class accountable for its conduct. It is also battling to protect migrant workers and has issued instructions to affiliates on all levels on how to protect immigrant workers in individual work places. The AFL-CIO is also building on the wins and momentum workers gained during the last four years.

There’s already a suit against the deportations, filed in federal court in New Hampshire by three state ACLU affiliates. “While Trump and extremist Republican leaders propagate divisive rhetoric about immigrants to stoke fear, working people know our fellow workers aren’t the problem,” Liz Shuler said. “The real threat is billionaires like Trump and Elon Musk who seek to distract and divide us so they can seize even more power and make ever greater profits off of our labor.

Dictator Trump, declares war on American families

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“Deporting people whose labor helps our country prosper and cutting off pathways into the United States is not only a betrayal of our values. It is also a recipe for economic disaster.

“The bottom line: An immigrant doesn’t stand between you and a good job. A billionaire does.

To stop economic and social chaos, “Our unions will fight to defend and preserve fundamental rights for all working families, including access to education and health care, as well as the birthright citizenship protections enshrined in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution,” Shuler said.

“We will join community allies to counter Trump’s unfair and unconstitutional attacks, so together we can ensure everyone is safe on the job and can continue to build an economy that supports working families, not corporate billionaires.”

Trump’s deportation order aims not just at the migrants, but at those who help them. Buried deep within it is one paragraph cutting off federal funds to groups and institutions that aid migrants in any way. That could off everything from Medicaid to federal food for pantries to feed the poor to university scholarships which don’t discriminate.

And a second paragraph cuts off all federal funds to sanctuary cities—such as Chicago, Los Angeles and New York—and states, notably California. Unless, that is, they flip-flop and cooperate with coming Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) roundups of migrants, with or without papers.

Several unions are already out front in suing Trump over various executive orders. So are 18 “blue state” Attorneys General, led by Andrea Joy Campbell of Massachusetts—where the case was filed—Minnesota, Maryland, California and New York. Their target, possibly the easiest to shoot down: Trump’s ban on “birthright citizenship.” It flatly violates the U.S. Constitution.

Targets Schedule F

The Treasury Employees’s lawsuit targets Schedule F, Trump’s executive order to politicize the civil service. He’d make tens of thousands of top career workers subject to firing at will, to be replaced by Trump devotees. Two other Trump executive orders end telework and impose a federal hiring freeze. They’re not part of NTEU’s suit, but they are part of his anti-worker pattern.

“The American people deserve to have day-to-day government services in the hands of qualified professionals who are committed to public service and stay on the job regardless of which political party holds the White House,” union President Doreen Greenwald explained.

She called Trump’s order “a dangerous step backward to a political spoils system that Congress expressly rejected 142 years ago, which is why we are suing to have the order declared unlawful.”

The union may have another ace in its hand against Trump’s plan. Anticipating Schedule F could occur, NTEU won—during the preceding Democratic Biden administration—a supposedly binding ban. The ban is an actual federal rule against returning to such a spoils system. It took effect last May.

Federal rules, once on the books, can be removed only after a long and arduous trek through hearings, appeals and often the courts.

The Government Employees (AFGE) also hates Trump’s spoils system plan, along with Trump’s hiring freeze and telework ban. All would make the government less effective and responsive to everyone’s needs, it says. But there aren’t suits filed against them—yet.

“This unprecedented assertion of executive power,” Schedule F, “will create an army of sycophants beholden only to Donald Trump, not the Constitution or the American people. The integrity of the entire federal government could be irreparably harmed if this is not stopped,” said AFGE President Everett Kelley. “Every American has a stake in ensuring federal employees remain free to carry out the mission of the agencies that employ them without fear of political interference.”

AFGE, the Teachers and two good-government groups, sued to stop Trump’s so-called “Department of Government Efficiency,” headed by multimillionaire Elon Musk. There’s already been a shake-up at DOGE, news reports say, as Musk sidelined his co-chair, millionaire Vivek Ramaswamy, who quit.

DOGE, the two unions say, isn’t a full-fledged government department, complete with a Cabinet Secretary and other top administrators answerable to the president and Congress. It’s an “advisory committee,” covered by federal law and rules which mandate balanced representation of all interests and open hearings.

But when AFGE pointed that out to Trump’s transition team, in a formal reminder to follow the law, the only reply it got was a verbal brushoff: “We don’t want any Democrats.”

“We’re part of this new lawsuit because DOGE must come out of the shadows & comply with the law before the sweeping, self-serving plans of billionaires upend the federal government and cause irreparable damage in the lives of working people,” Teachers/AFT President Randi Weingarten tweeted.

What may be the easiest anti-Trump lawsuit to win, and the one that’s attracted the widest support so far, is the state Attorney Generals’ joint suit to uphold birthright citizenship.

Ratified after Civil War

The U.S. Constitution’s 14th Amendment, ratified three years after the end of the Civil War, was explicitly written to guarantee that everyone born or naturalized in the U.S., but especially the formerly enslaved Black people, are “citizens of the United States and of the states in which they reside.”

That same section also says all citizens get U.S. “privileges and immunities,” “equal protection of the laws” and “due process of law”—clauses the courts have used for decades to expand civil rights and often worker rights.

“Birthright citizenship in our country is a guarantee of equality, born out of a collective fight against oppression, slavery and its devastating harms. It is a settled right in our Constitution and recognized by the Supreme Court for more than a century,” said Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell.

“President Trump does not have the authority to take away constitutional rights, and we will fight against his effort to overturn our Constitution and punish innocent babies born” in the U.S.

“Only hours ago, the president swore an oath to uphold the Constitution, then broke it almost as soon as he took it,” added Keith Ellison, Minnesota’s pro-worker AG. “I am using the power of my office and the law to join with other state Attorneys General from coast to coast to quickly and clearly bring suit to stop this unprecedented, blatant breach of the Constitution by a president.

“For more than 125 years, the Supreme Court has clearly interpreted the 14th Amendment to eliminate any doubt or confusion that anyone born in the U.S. is automatically a U.S. citizen. Duly passed federal laws the president and his advisors are well aware of clearly spell this out as well. I look forward to the court putting a stop to this blatantly unconstitutional order as soon as possible.”

AFGE also hates the Trump order abolishing diversity, equity and inclusion programs government-wide.

“Undoing these programs is just another way for Trump to undermine the merit-based civil service and turn federal hiring and firing decisions into loyalty tests,” Kelley said.

“Our nation’s military leaders have said eliminating diversity, equity, and inclusion programs within the Defense Department risks undermining military readiness,” added Kelley, a veteran who is African-American.

“The Trump administration wasted no time dismantling the government and targeting AFGE for extinction,” the union, which is aiming for 325,000 members, adds.

One set of suits against Trump began more than three years ago and his executive order may not affect it: The pending cases U.S. Capitol Police officers brought individually, against Trump, as an individual for inciting the Trumpite invasion, rebellion and *coup d’etat* try on Jan. 6, 2021, where they were mauled, beaten and badly injured.

Trump pardoned all 1600 invaders convicted and sentenced for their roles in the insurrection he ordered and told officials to let out any still in prison. He also ordered his Justice Department “to pursue dismissal with prejudice [to the government] all pending indictments” in those cases.

But Trump’s order was silent about the Capitol Police officers’ cases against him, or against the invaders. Federal appeals courts have let their cases proceed.

With Biden’s grant of clemency, Leonard Peltier’s racist political imprisonment has ended

By Albert Bender



It is with the greatest euphoria, the greatest elation, call it what you will, that I pen this article celebrating the issuing of clemency to long-suffering, unjustly incarcerated Indigenous fighter and stalwart Leonard Peltier.

Monday morning, as I scrolled online news, I saw the headline—“Joe Biden Grants Clemency to Leonard Peltier.” I had to read it again and again to make sure my eyes were not deceiving or misleading me.

Just minutes before his term ended, Biden did what was so long hoped for, that which the Indigenous movement had so long fought for.

In a statement, that was at the last minute, to say the least (Trump’s inauguration was already underway), Biden’s office announced that he was “commuting the life sentence imposed on Leonard Peltier so that he serves the remainder of his sentence in home confinement.”

Peltier has served almost 50 years, 47 to be exact, in prison for a crime he was never proven to have committed. He was accused by the federal government of murdering two FBI agents in a shooting confrontation on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in 1975.

Peltier’s trial in 1977 was riddled with prosecutorial misconduct, including the forced testimony of witnesses, the withholding of exculpatory evidence, falsified affidavits, and most tellingly, the hiding of a ballistics report that established that the bullets that killed the agents were not from Peltier’s gun.

After these revelations came to light, the government reduced the charges against Peltier to “aiding and abetting” whoever did kill the agents—based absurdly on the fact that he was one of simply dozens of people (in other words just because he was present) on the scene when the shooting occurred. Peltier was convicted of the lesser charges and sentenced to two life terms. This was outrageous, racist sentencing.

Peltier is now 80 years old, mostly blind, and can only get around using a walker. He also has life-threatening health conditions.

Calls for his release have resonated from tribal leaders, U.S. Senators, members of Congress, virtually every human rights leader in recent history, and even from former U.S. Attorney James Reynolds, who in fact, prosecuted Peltier decades ago.

Reynolds has said, “We were not able to prove that Mr. Peltier committed any offense on the Pine Ridge Reservation.”

In light of this preponderance of evidence of innocence, it must again be noted that in January 2017, then-President Barack Obama, to his everlasting disgrace, rejected Peltier’s request for clemency.

The entire incarceration was unjust and racist. Peltier was targeted because he stood up unwaveringly for Indigenous rights.

Already at the Pine Ridge Reservation, Peltier’s supporters have prepared a home for him to live in upon his release. His release was decades overdue, but such is the so-called “justice system” that has for centuries enabled the long genocidal oppression suffered by Indigenous people. Peltier was the victim of that system.

Suffice it to say, it was the Indigenous movement and its allies that were responsible for this momentous victory.

UAW forces Stellantis to keep promises, wins back thousands of jobs

By Cameron Harrison



DETROIT—After months of campaigns, rallies, grievances filed, and strike votes taken, the United Auto Workers have just won back thousands of jobs in a new agreement with Stellantis. The union’s “Keep The Promise” campaign kicked off after the company reneged on a number of key issues that the workers and their union won in their historic 2023 Stand Up Strike.

“This victory is a testament to the power of workers standing together and holding a billion-dollar corporation accountable,” Shawn Fain, president of the UAW, and Kevin Gotkinsky, UAW Stellantis Department Director, said in a [statement](#) released Wednesday morning.

Here are just a few of the promises that workers forced the company to keep, along with a few new gains:

- Production of the new generation of the Dodge Durango will be in Detroit and not be moved to Windsor, Ontario.
- The Stellantis plant in Belvidere, Ill., a major sticking point for the workers during the 2023 strike, will be reopened by 2027. A new mid-size truck will be added to production there.

- Significant new investment in the company’s Kokomo, Ind., facility. Stellantis workers there will build the GME-T4 EVO engine beginning in 2026—reversing the company’s previous plan to move these jobs out of the country.
- Component production at the Toledo, Ohio, Machining Plant will increase.

The solidarity shown by the United Auto Workers membership “forced Carlos Tavares out as CEO of this company, and it’s been a game-changer,” the union said.

Before the holiday season, “Shitcan Carlos,” the moniker given to the much disliked former chief executive, resigned amid a floundering performance and massive anger among the workers. His resignation came on Dec. 14, 2024.

“There’s no doubt that the membership played an important role in forcing him out,” Fain said. “Over the last few months, we showed the company that we will do whatever it takes to protect our jobs and protect our future.”

UAW wins back thousands of jobs

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The UAW made clear to Stellantis that workers will not back down and will continue to fight until they “see job security for every UAW Stellantis facility.”

“There is more work to do in reversing the damage done by Carlos Tavares. We still have thousands of our union sisters and brothers laid off due to the gross mismanagement under Tavares,” the union said.

The layoffs carried out during Tavares’ reign—called “productivity cuts”—resulted in thousands of workers losing their livelihoods, including those at Toledo Assembly, Warren Truck Plant, Sterling Heights Assembly, and various parts plants throughout the Midwest.

“We must remain vigilant and stay organized,” the union said. “Throughout this process, we’ve all learned an important lesson: It takes a fight to keep jobs here in this country. We’ve shown the company, and the nation that we are ready for that fight.”

Washington state marchers protest Trump’s “anti-people” offensive

By Tim Wheeler



PORT TOWNSEND, Washington – Marching to the beat of a Dixieland jazz band, 600 people demonstrated through this city on Jan.18 in the Olympic Peninsula’s version of the “People’s March” that turned out tens of thousands of protesters in Washington D.C. and across the nation. Here, they carried signs such as “Trump-Musk, Keep Your Greedy Hands off My Medicare.”

The march took place on the eve of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday, Monday, Jan. 20, and the eve of the presidential inauguration. Many called it a “coronation” of convicted felon Donald Trump.

Hundreds of protesters marched holding signs like “No Human is Illegal,” “Women’s Rights Are Human Rights,” and “My Heart Breaks for Gaza.” Most were residents of this picturesque Victorian city, but hundreds more traveled from throughout Jefferson County. Clallam County residents carpooled to join the march.

Prominent was a banner, “JCIRA,” or Jefferson County Immigration Rights Advocates. Scores of Latino immigrants marched.

A contingent of PSARA—Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action—active in defense of traditional Medicare and Social Security marched with their banner. Hundreds were mobilized by the Democratic Party of both Jefferson and Clallam counties.

Fled from his home

One marcher, Gerry Daley, even fled from his home in Pacific Palisades, California, destroyed in the still-raging wildfires. A lifelong union organizer, Daley said he and his wife had been given shelter by in-laws in Port Townsend. “It’s still too early. We don’t know when our home will be rebuilt,” he told this reporter.

Port Townsend Mayor David Faber welcomed the crowd at Pope Park on the waterfront and read a City Proclamation, making Jan.18 the first annual “People’s March Day.” This garnered excited cheers from the crowd.

Faber said it is a grim time in America. He recalled a conversation he had 20 years ago with folksinger Utah Phillips, who urged him not to focus on the “Big Picture” but instead on smaller, more local issues, and if you build movements at that level, soon majority movements will grow to fight to end the war in Vietnam and racist segregation.

Walter McQuillen, hereditary chief of the Makah tribe, chanted a blessing for the rally. The tribes, he said, still face the “doctrine of discovery” in which European settlers “discovered” North America and claimed it as their own. It includes nearby “Indian Island,” the sacred land of the Pacific Northwest Indians, now a U.S. Navy weapons depot used to export bombs and missiles to Israel, for example, used in the 15-month Israeli war on Gaza.

Angela Gyurko, President of the Jefferson County League of Women Voters (LWV), said many vital issues are not partisan issues but have been deliberately politicized to divide the community. One aim, she said, is to isolate and intimidate LWV members. “But we will not be silent! Be an agent of change. Disengage from the oligarchs. They tell us we must buy more to be happy!” The crowd erupted in applause.

Newly elected Washington State Sen. Mike Chapman, a former Border Patrol officer in Port Angeles, praised JCIRA for defending immigrant rights in the face of Trump’s threat to deport as many as 22 million immigrants. “Something is wrong with the Republican Party,” Chapman continued. He quoted the widely respected former Washington Governor Dan Evans, a Republican, that the U.S. should remain a sanctuary for all “refugees” around the world.

Avriana Sixtos, a JCIRA Board Member, spoke in Spanish, translated by Natalia Duran, JCIRA Outreach Coordinator.

“If they are going to put a label on us, it should say we are not afraid to do a good job...We are hard workers.” Natalia Duran then added her own comments: “Why did I decide to emigrate?”

Look around you. For better living conditions. To put food on the table. All the results of hard work: food, housing, medical care, social security.”

Two young women students at Port Townsend High School spoke. Tallulah Sebastian praised the grassroots get-out-the-vote effort against ballot initiative 2117 sponsored by hedge-fund millionaire Brian Heywood and the Republican Party. “This initiative, 2117, would have got rid of the Climate Commitment Act, but Washington voters said NO!” she said as the crowd applauded.

Hilina Taylor-Lenz spoke of the struggle to block real estate developers who seek to build houses in a wooded area within the Cappy Trail, a popular hiking trail in Port Townsend. “We will gain a sense of power by making changes right here in our own community,” she said. If the people succeed in defending Cappy Trail, “our entire community will benefit,” she said.

As the crowd was about to disperse, Gerry Daley asked loudly, “Is anybody here from the labor movement?” Several voices spoke up from union members in the crowd. “Reach out to labor! They know how to fight,” Daley said.

Welcome to the Oil-igarchy: Fossil fuel billionaires cash in on Trump

By Chuck Collins

As he left office, President Biden warned of an emerging oligarchy in this country—rule by and for a small number of wealthy people and corporations.

After donating heavily to President Trump’s campaign, the fossil fuel industry in particular has already begun to reap return on their investments. Welcome to the age of “Oil-igarchy.”

Trump has nominated some of the most vociferous climate deniers and advocates for the oil, gas, and coal industries for key positions overseeing the environment, energy, and public lands. He picked former Rep. Lee Zeldin, a climate denialist, to run the Environmental Protection Agency and Chris Wright, CEO of fracking company Liberty Energy, to oversee the Energy Department.

Meanwhile the top 15 fossil fuel industry billionaires have already seen their personal combined wealth rise from \$267.6 billion to \$307.9 billion—a gain of over \$40 billion, or 15.2 percent—since April, 2024.

The Climate Accountability Research Project (CARP) released its first monthly tracking report, [Pipeline to Power: Trump and the “Oil-garch” Wealth Surge](#), that will monitor wealth gains and losses by top billionaires in the sector over the coming year. According to the report, the first wave of big wealth gainers includes fossil fuel CEOs and scions of billionaire families like the Kochs.

For these billionaires, it’s time to cash in.

On April 11, 2024, the CEOs and leaders of the oil and gas industries [gathered at Mar-A-Lago](#) for a meeting with then-candidate Trump about energy policy.

Trump used the occasion, [according to witnesses](#), to make a brazen transactional pitch: raise \$1 billion for his campaign and he would do their bidding. Trump [told the assembled](#) that the billions they would save in taxes and legal expenses after he repealed regulations would more than cover their billion-dollar contribution.

Already, Trump is moving to expand offshore drilling, weaken environmental rules, scrap electric vehicles, and stop new wind projects, among other policies opposed by the industry groups. Trump also vowed to reverse President Biden’s pause on new LNG exports.

Present at the Mar-a-Lago Club on that April day were industry leaders such as Harold Hamm, the wildcat fracker and chairman of Continental Resources, who played an influential role in Trump’s first administration. Also present was Doug Burgum, governor of North Dakota and Trump’s nominee to Interior Secretary, a position overseeing gas leases on public lands.

Other attendees included leaders from the American Petroleum Institute and executives from Chevron, ExxonMobil, and ConocoPhillips, along with fracking producers Cheniere Energy and EQT.

Hamm and Vicki Hollub, CEO of Occidental Petroleum, [organized donors](#) within the fossil fuel sector to support Trump and funnel money to his campaign. They didn’t raise a billion dollars, but they helped move hundreds of millions to PACs supporting Trump and directly to the candidate.

According to [Climate Connections](#) at Yale University, the fossil fuel industry spent \$219 million to influence the new U.S. government, including \$26 million in direct oil and gas industry contributions to (mostly) Republican lawmakers and nearly \$23 million in oil and gas industry funds went directly to Trump and his PACs.

No wonder Hamm just hosted [an exclusive inauguration watch party for fossil fuel executives](#) to celebrate Trump’s re-election.

If the last few years taught us anything, it’s that record levels of oil production and fossil fuel profits don’t lead to better prices for consumers—and they come with the additional price of climate chaos for our communities.

This is what “Oil-igarchy” looks like. And we all need to stand up to it.

Preparing room, Mexico ready to receive their compatriots

By Rossana Cambron

MEXICO CITY – President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, at a Monday press conference, sent a message to Mexican immigrants in the U.S., stating that the government of Mexico is prepared to receive any national that is deported. “You are not alone”, she wanted them to know.

Titled “Mexico Embraces You,” a program established by Sheinbaum’s government provides a variety of services to Mexicans returning on their own or being deported. They will be provided with assistance on how to apply to all Well-Being programs (Bienestar), along with help providing any necessary documentation.

Arrangements have been made to meet Mexican nationals at the border, provide them a place to stay and transportation to their home of origin. Immigrants that arrive without any funds will also receive a credit card called Paisano Well-Being Card, with 2,000 pesos to cover the cost of a transportation and food as they make their way home.

An app has been created, currently only available on Android phones, [Consul App](#).

This app has an emergency button that alerts selected family members that they have been picked up and/or deported. The feature is only available for those residing in the U.S. The app will also alert the nearest Mexican Consulate when deportation is imminent for real-time support. All consulates are ready to provide lawyers, which they have contracted, most on a pro-bono basis.

Members of Congress that represent Mexicans living outside of Mexico are instructed to make themselves available in the event that they are needed. Below are their names and numbers for your reference.

Deputy Alejandro Robles, 647-708-3482

Deputy Maribel Zolache, 760-707-4188

Deputy Roselia Suarez, 443-196-8161 in Chicago

Deputy Aniseto Polanco, 310-490-6390

Deputy Olga Chavez, 562-753-1133

If you know of anyone needing assistance, they can contact their nearest Mexican consulate, which have been instructed by the president to be available at all times.

People needing more information can also call this hotline: 520-623-7874.

Los capitalistas multimillonarios son dueños de la inauguración y del presidente

By Mark Gruenberg

WASHINGTON—Un puñado de multimillonarios capitalistas se han comprado el control no sólo de la inauguración del criminal reelecto Trump, sino también de su gabinete, las políticas de su administración entrante y del propio presidente entrante.

La cifra de 200 millones de dólares que los multimillonarios han gastado en la inauguración es sólo una cifra preliminar que se espera que aumente, según Public Citizen, que ha mantenido un recuento continuo de los gastos. La compra descarada de un presidente, su administración y numerosos otros legisladores será una de las principales preocupaciones de las personas que acudan a protestar este fin de semana a la capital del país.

El dinero de los multimillonarios y las cosas en las que se está gastando plantean un gran problema para los trabajadores y sus aliados. Los dólares que las corporaciones gastan en la derrota de Trump superan los presupuestos anuales normales no electorales recientes de la AFL-CIO, la federación laboral más grande del país, por ejemplo. Y los oligarcas capitalistas que desembolsan todo ese dinero esperan un gran retorno de su inversión. Ellos esperan poder acallar los esfuerzos de los sindicatos y organizaciones aliadas que representan al 99 por ciento de la población del país.

Trump presta juramento en una ceremonia en el Capitolio de Estados Unidos. Los contribuyentes pagarán gran parte de la cuenta.

Un mayor gasto de Washington en seguridad adicional, policías importados, altas vallas de acero que cierran las calles bloqueadas y tal vez tropas de la Guardia Nacional también le dejarán al Capitolio una factura multimillonaria. Washington luego factura al gobierno federal por sus gastos adicionales, pero el Congreso puede demorarse en pagar. De todos modos, todos esos gastos importantes correrán a cargo de los contribuyentes, no de los multimillonarios. Su dinero se destina íntegramente al control político y la influencia sobre el presidente y su administración. Ni un centavo va a ayudar al público.

La mayoría de las contribuciones de los ricos y famosos comienzan con \$1 millón y van aumentando a partir de ahí.

Si quieres ser “tacaño” y donar quizás solo \$100,000, todo lo que obtienes es un asiento en la parte trasera de la iglesia el 19 de enero, el servicio al que asisten los Trump. Tetzl, el monje alemán que vendía indulgencias en el siglo XVI, dijo que cuanto más dinero tintinee en la caja de la colecta de la iglesia, más alto saltará tu alma al cielo. Sin embargo, no se sabe si las donaciones de 100.000 dólares que se requieren para ingresar a la iglesia les darán a los donantes alguna garantía de felicidad celestial en la próxima vida.

Disfrutando de su capacidad de casi literalmente hacer rodar todo el dinero, el propio Trump anunció anteriormente en su cuenta de redes sociales Truth: “¡TODO EL MUNDO QUIERE SER MI AMIGO!”. Las mayúsculas y los signos de exclamación son suyos.

Un precedente largo y preocupante

“Si bien las motivaciones egoístas de los donantes de la investidura tienen un precedente largo y preocupante, el alcance de las donaciones y, en muchos casos, el temor a las represalias que impulsan las donaciones al Comité Inaugural Trump-Vance representan un cambio preocupante”, dice Public Citizen.

El “temor a las represalias”, por cierto, se refiere a las empresas que juraron no donar a Trump después de que incitara y ordenara la insurrección, invasión e intento de golpe de estado en el Capitolio de Estados Unidos hace cuatro años. Ahora, recordando que Trump guarda rencor, han vuelto arrastrándose, agrega Public Citizen.

Su solución a tal generosidad y los quid pro quos que la acompañan es la luz del sol: la reforma del financiamiento de las campañas, con límites en dólares para los donantes y la divulgación completa de sus identidades y motivos, respaldada por una aplicación estricta y multas.

“El pozo negro sin precedentes de financiación de intereses especiales para el Comité Inaugural Trump-Vance, Inc., plantea serias preocupaciones sobre la capacidad de las corporaciones y los intereses especiales ricos para comprar influencia sobre las políticas públicas o contratos gubernamentales lucrativos”, dice Craig Holman, un experto en ética gubernamental de Public Citizen.

Puede haber un elemento que podría entorpecer las festividades, si no el flujo de efectivo: la nieve esperada y el frío intenso.

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