

Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 7/1/2024

Burnout as the Standard

If you were lucky enough to have the time to attend the Special Board Meeting on June 5th, you may have been able to listen to the close to 2 hours of public comment. 40-50 AC workers spoke on basic things, like not having enough time to go to the bathroom or being able to eat our lunch, trying to keep the impossible schedule all while not getting burnt out! They spoke of wanting to be able to come to work without getting major health conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and skeletal issues.

What does it say that workers don't think they will be able to last at a job because of what they are going through, not just now, but consistently for the past 5, 10, 20 years at least? What kind of pressure does this put on the driver who is navigating an 18 ton (36,000 pounds) vehicle down public streets with any hazard that could happen at any moment? It's no wonder we get burnt out!

Owning A Home -

Further And Further Out Of Reach

Joe Biden and the Democrats love to talk about how good the economy is supposedly doing and how inflation has slowed down. What world do they live in? Whatever numbers they are looking at, they don't reflect the realities of our lives. Look at the issue of home ownership, which is often seen as a sign of "making it" in this society. According to Zillow, the average American adult would need to make over 106k to comfortably afford a home. This is compared to 59K in 2020, which is an 80% increase over 4 years!

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court just ruled that city governments can now criminalize homelessness! This system makes it harder and harder to survive, pushing us out onto the streets, and then punishing us for being on the streets!

Slavery Today

Recently, it was discovered that a wealthy white couple in West Virginia had adopted five Black children and used them as literal slaves! The children, ages 6 through 16, were not allowed inside the house, locked inside a barn at night, forced to sleep on a concrete floor, deprived of basic necessities, and engaged in forced labor on a farm.

Every so often, the system takes its mask off and shows us what its core nature is - vicious and cruel exploitation!

On The Other Side Of The Bay

MUNI operators in San Francisco just voted to accept a new 3-year contract that includes 13% wage increases and additional pay for working on "high volume service days" when there are major events in the city. This is after workers voted down a previous contract proposal that they felt was unsatisfactory.

On our side of the bay, what are workers at AC facing? Wages that don't keep up with the cost of living, issues of safety, and inadequate runtimes. They're the same issues everywhere! The only way we will get anywhere to address any of these issues is if we stand up for ourselves and stand together, including with workers in other agencies and companies. Our contract is set to expire next summer, the same time as workers at BART. Why should we stand alone by ourselves? What if we were to start building links to workers at BART and elsewhere now?

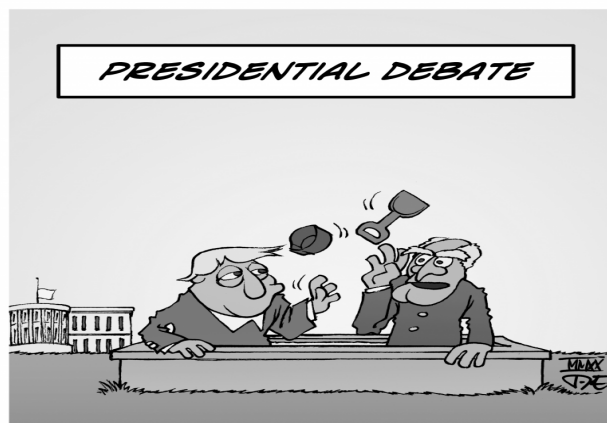
In-Person and Online Town Hall Event: The Forced Migration Crisis at the Border

Tens of millions of people around the world are being forced from their homes.

The climate crisis, economic, political, and social crises—the violence of poverty, the state, and gangs—have made life impossible in their homelands.

Democrats and Republicans want us to believe that these desperate people are a threat to our lives. That's a lie. We can't allow the separation, imprisonment, and deportation of migrant families to be carried out in our name.

**Saturday, July 20th, 4pm,
2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley**



SpeakOutSocialists.org

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