



Speak Out Now

April 3, 2023

mail@speakoutsocialists.org

speakoutsocialists.org

(510) 343-9105

During the pandemic, workers were called “essential” for all of the work we do to make the society run. For a little while, workers were called heroes by the media when we left for work, but then we were treated like sacrificial lambs once we got there. As many workers lost money, lost hours, lost their jobs, or lost their lives, corporations made record profits during the pandemic, mainly from jacking up prices.

At work, conditions were often unsafe, schedules unpredictable, and staffing usually lower than normal, and we had to do extra work. And now, these staffing shortages have become permanent in many workplaces, and many workers are doing a lot more work. In a recent survey of 1,000 different companies, 20% admitted to posting job openings they have no intention of hiring for — they just post the job openings to make it seem like they are trying to fill the positions. Corporations will try anything to squeeze as much work out of us as they can.

Jamie McCallum is an author, activist, and associate professor at Middlebury College. During the pandemic, he travelled the country, speaking with workers about how their lives were impacted by the pandemic. He was able to capture the stories of workers all over the U.S., telling about their struggles for safer workplaces, better pay and health care, and the right to unionize. He tells these stories in his latest book, *Essential: How the Pandemic Transformed the Long Fight for Worker Justice*.

The pandemic exposed how working people are essential to the day-to-day functioning of this society. And the bosses who benefit from our labor are not essential at all. Many of them disappeared on vacations during the pandemic, and nothing changed at work. The collective labor of working people gives workers a tremendous power if we choose to organize and use it. Organized together, working people have the power not just to fight for better pay and safe working conditions, but to change the whole society, and the entire world.

Join us to discuss with author Jamie McCallum the lessons for working people from the pandemic.

WHO IS ESSENTIAL? WHO IS NOT?



**Online Townhall
with Jamie McCallum
SUNDAY, APRIL 23
4pm PT / 7pm ET**



<https://tinyurl.com/APRIL-TH-23>

Fake Job Postings for Short Staffing

According to official statistics, there are supposedly 1.8 jobs for every job seeker. But many workers know that we are working short-staffed all the time, and the companies just aren't hiring people. In fact, many of these job openings are fake. A Clarify Capital survey of 1,000 companies found that 20% of companies are listing fake job openings, just so they can "placate overworked employees."

What a scam! Those fake job postings are just cover for companies that are trying to force people to do more work with less people. This just confirms what many workers have already suspected, and now we have proof!

Los Angeles School Strike Wins

Last week, after three years without a contract, education workers in Los Angeles schools — bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers, gardeners, and other members of SEIU Local 99 — carried out a three-day strike that forced the school district to meet their demands. After years of poverty-level wages and inadequate work hours and short staffing — all while the cost of living has skyrocketed — these workers went on strike, and were joined on the picket lines by teachers from the United Teachers of Los Angeles, who in effect went on strike, too. After a few days of strike, the school district, which had said for years that it did not have any money to raise wages, quickly changed its tune, and met some of the major demands.

The fight isn't over. L.A. teachers will soon enter contract negotiations with the district, which may require another strike. But this recent is a clear reminder that when we're organized and we stand together, we can win!

We live in the wealthiest country in the world, and it is our labor that has created all of this wealth. But we aren't the ones who benefit from this. The super rich — the bosses of the big corporations and banks — keep the wealth and make all the decisions. But working people do the work to make society run, and we can organize to unite our forces. And when we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.

Get in touch with us if you want to fight for a better world.

speaktoutsocialists.org



@sonsocialists



Government Bails out the Banks

Across the U.S., working people have faced severe cuts, including millions who've been dropped from food assistance benefits, and soon millions will be cut from Medicaid in a time when inflation is at a 40-year high. The Federal Reserve's solution to this is raising interest rates and forcing a minimum of 2 million people into unemployment.

These attacks come at a time when the second and third largest bank failures in U.S. history have happened, and the capitalists who made all sorts of risky investments are being bailed out with billions of dollars by the government and other financial institutions. It couldn't be any clearer that this system serves the rich and powerful, who are willing to ruin our lives to enrich themselves.

Workers in France Fight On!

For months, many workers in France have been on strike against the government's proposed pension reform. President Macron wants to raise the age of retirement from 62 to 64. The government is playing hardball, refusing to budge. Nonetheless, the working class is determined. On the 28th of March, two million people demonstrated across France, along with some strikes of workers. The so-called left-wing parties and union officials look for a compromise, or a legal ruling against the reform, but you don't stop an attack by negotiating!

Power is in the streets and workplaces, and many workers are determined to keep the fight going. If workers take the struggle to the end, start to organize themselves, and don't let the union officials and politicians sell them out, they can win!

