

MR. KOPPEL: My name is Martín Koppel. I am the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Mayor of New York City.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign is offering a working-class alternative to the Democratic, Republican, and all other capitalist candidates.

Working people face a brutal offensive by the employers, who are driven by the need to reverse the decline in their profit rates. The bosses are making us work faster, longer hours, and eroding job safety. They are cutting pensions and healthcare coverage, and pushing to undermine Social Security.

The extension of the war on working people at home is the imperialist assaults abroad, from the occupation of Iraq, to the threats against Iran and North Korea. We condemn the FBI's cold-blooded killing of Puerto Rican independence fighter Filiberto Ojeda.

In face of the boss's assaults, we need unions. We need to mobilize our unions or to organize unions to defend ourselves and all working people.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign calls for solidarity with workers at Northwest Airlines, on strike today against union busting.

We point to the example of workers fighting to organize unions, from independent truckers in Miami to hotel workers in New York. This resistance points the way forward for working people to rely on our collective power and solidarity.

The social disaster in New Orleans exposes the brutal disregard by the Democratic and Republican politicians for the needs of working people. Hundreds of thousands were left to fend for themselves, causing hundreds of unnecessary deaths. It was workers who showed solidarity, took action, and saved many lives.

This latest disaster shows the need for workers to have our own political party, a labor party based on a fighting union movement. A labor party that will act independently of the capitalist two-party system.

The Socialist Workers campaign begins with the needs of working people in the world. We reject the employers framework of "we Americans." Who is the "we"? Working people have no common interests with the billionaire families that rule the United States. That's them, not "us." But we have everything in common with workers and farmers around the world, from Mexico to China to France. That's us.

Our campaign supports the efforts of Third World nations to get the energy sources necessary to expand access to electricity, a precondition for economic and social advances.

We oppose the drive by Washington and its allies to prevent oppressed nations from developing nuclear power and other energy sources needed to bring much of humanity out of darkness.

We demand the withdrawal now of U.S. and other imperialist troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Korea, Colombia, Haiti, and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

To meet the needs of working people, we call for a massive, federally-funded public works program at union scale to put millions to work.

We say defend a woman's right to choose; oppose restrictions on access to abortion. We say repeal the laws calling for employer checks of immigration documents.

Our campaign opposes the random bag checks in city subways and other efforts to legitimize increased police spying and harassment and the domestic deployment of the U.S. military. The ultimate target of these moves is the working-class resistance the wealthy rulers know is coming.

We point to the example of the Cuban Revolution, where workers and farmers took political power into their own hands and have shown it's possible to build a society based on human solidarity, not the dog-eat-dog values of capitalism. The resistance by working people today points to the need to build a revolutionary movement that will lead a fight by working people to take power out of the hands of the billionaire class and to establish a workers and farmers government, to join the fight for a world of solidarity and dignity.

Join with us in campaigning for the Socialist Workers Party. Call us at 212-736-2540, or visit us at 307 West 36th Street in Manhattan, off 8th Avenue.