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Here's why you should go see "Trumbo"

by Jarvis Tyner



If you haven't seen *Trumbo*, run to the nearest theater and check it out. It is politically that good. With *Star Wars* and the constant maze of blockbuster movies invading your local theaters, *Trumbo* is in danger of disappearing or being drowned out.

The movie *Trumbo* is about the persecution of top screen writer Dalton Trumbo and the Hollywood 10. It dares to be honest about McCarthyism and the extraordinary danger it posed to democracy. It shows the courage and integrity of the Communists and other victims who fought back and ultimately won their right to create and make a living.

The movie focuses on Trumbo, who did not deny his party membership nor did he denounce his beliefs. He ultimately prevailed despite being dragged before the House Un American Activities Committee in 1954, blacklisted, losing his livelihood, victimized by the FBI, held in contempt and sent to prison. That was the plight of many others besides Trumbo, but his story is highlighted here.

The movie treats the Committee as the tyrants they were. It shows the informers as pitifully cowed into trying to save their own skins, and right-wing, red-baiting media charlatans like the notorious Hedda Hopper as fascist-minded,

power-hungry, anti-Semitic opportunists.

The movie breaks the mold when it comes to the way Hollywood typically treats Communist characters. Dalton Trumbo played by Bryan Cranston comes off as a courageous, principled individual who refuses to be cowed by the congressional committee. We see the enormous pressure on himself and his beautiful supportive family.

The film shows how he successfully organizes

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among his fellow blacklisted screenwriters to find a way out of their victimization.

The *Trumbo* character makes the point in the end that what they are fighting for is the First Amendment and defense of democratic rights for all. These were patriots in the greatest meaning

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of that word because they refused to give in to the well financed attempt of the extreme right to outlaw all progressive thought and stop all forms of resistance on the part of labor and people's movements.

In the real world the Communist Party was not just a victim of McCarthyism. It remained an organized force in its own defense legally and politically not only in Hollywood but also in the broad peace, economic and social justice fronts of struggles. Because it fought back the party survived and democratic rights for all were preserved.

The right danger then was very much like the right danger today. It is politically and financially sponsored by the most reactionary sections of the one percent. Trumbo, whether intentionally or not, sounds the alarm.

Donald Trump and his crude, anti working class, racist Republican cohorts are the rebirth of McCarthy and worse.

Their glorification of political incorrectness is to magnify racism, male supremacy,

homophobia, war and aggression.

It pisses on the graves of all of those who fought and died to make this country more humane and democratic.

Go see this movie before it disappears from the theaters. Get active against the right-wing forces. Take Trumbo's inspiration to others and bring them to the polls next November.

To defeat the Republicans who are the main obstacles to peace, economic and social justice today is to honor and further exonerate the victims of that horrible period in our history.



Jarvis Tyner is executive vice chairman of CPUSA.

Let Cuba Live Committee of Maine says end Cuban Adjustment Act

By W. T. Whitney Jr.

Maine's Let Cuba Live organization is marking 25 years of work on behalf of decent relations between the United States and Cuba by petitioning the U. S. Congress to end the Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA). Spokeswoman Judy Robbins recently pointed out that "the CAA absolutely blocks progress toward normalization of relations that began a year ago. It's time now -- way past time -- to end a terrible law," she said.

The U. S. Congress passed the Cuban Adjustment Act in 1966.

Let Cuba Live puts forth this argument for ending the CAA: We call upon the U. S. Congress to repeal the CAA.

The CAA is more than the "wet foot, dry foot" policy that it is often associated with. That law has led to the deaths of innumerable Cubans crossing the Florida Straits in small boats. The survivors, arriving without documents, can expect permanent U.S. residency, which the CAA guarantees.

In both theory and practice, the CAA is unfair

and discriminatory. It privileges the majority of Cubans migrating to the United States who are economic migrants. U.S. policies bar similar migrants from every other country in the world. The law hypocritically encourages irregular Cuban migration to the United States even as U.S. travel to Cuba is criminalized and all other Caribbean and Latin American migrants are persecuted.

The CAA infringes upon Cuba's sovereign power to determine its own affairs. For example, it entices Cuban professionals away from prioritized work, notably Cuban doctors working abroad. The CAA enables them to move to the United States under the auspices of the State Department's Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program.

Through this law, the U.S. is complicit with Cuban migrants currently violating the border regulations of sovereign South and Central American nations. Propelled by the CAA, Cubans trekking north to Texas are creating turmoil in those countries.

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Keystone saga continues: Firm sues govt., seeks damages under NAFTA

By PAI

The long-running saga of the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline's northern leg, which saw building trades unions campaigning for it, and other unions saying it would add to greenhouse gases and global warming -- opposing it, continues.

That's because TransCanada, its sponsor, sued in federal court in Houston to overturn the federal rejection of Keystone. Separately, it used NAFTA to seek \$15 billion in damages for that pipeline denial. TransCanada wrote off \$1.8 billion-\$2 billion in Keystone losses in 2015.

Environmentalists scorned the suits. After seven years of review, President Obama decided late last year to reject TransCanada's permit application for Keystone XL's northern leg, from the Alberta, Canada-Montana border to Nebraska. Its southern leg, to oil refineries on the Texas Gulf Coast, is already built and carrying oil.

Building trades unions, the Teamsters, the Operating Engineers and the Laborers, signed a project labor agreement with TransCanada to have union workers construct the pipeline. The building trades calculated Keystone would create 40,000 jobs over two years. Other unions, led by the National Nurses United, denounced Keystone's environmental damage, due to emissions caused by extraction of the



830,000 daily barrels of "dirty oil" from Albertan tar sands to be pumped through the pipeline, and oil spill accidents. Those unions said far more construction workers would be better employed in other, safer, projects.

In rejecting it, Obama said Keystone foes overemphasized its environmental damage, while backers overstated its job numbers. His stand led TransCanada to tell the court in Houston that Obama's rejection was unconstitutional and "perverse." Congress, not Obama, has power under the U.S. Constitution "to regulate interstate and foreign commerce," TransCanada said. And Congress, it noted, voted for Keystone. Obama vetoed that bill.

Regardless of what happens in court, TransCanada also used NAFTA, the jobs-destroying 22-year-old U.S.-Canada-Mexico "free trade" pact that is a model for such succeeding pacts, including the controversial and pending Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Like the TPP, NAFTA has a mechanism where corporations can sue for damages if a government action-federal, state or local-cuts into present or future profits. But under NAFTA, Keystone's complaint against Obama, which seeks \$15 billion in damages, went to U.S. government officials.

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Communist Party USA responds to Obama's State of the Union

By John Bachtell

In his final SOTU address, President Obama projected a bold vision for a more socially and economically just nation while appealing to the hopes of the American people.

He identified unprecedented economic, environmental and social challenges that will frame the 2016 elections and the years to come.

President Obama recounted historic achievements of the administration and advanced the challenges with full knowledge of the powerful forces arrayed in opposition.

These include Wall Street, massive growth of wealth and power of the 1% and the unrelenting obstruction of the right wing dominated GOP congress and the Supreme Court.

President Obama rejected right wing Republican policy solutions including repeal of Obamacare, aggressive military buildup and action, tax cuts to the wealthy, blocking common sense gun control, while supporting "states rights" to undermine civil rights and equality.

Administration achievements include creation of millions of new jobs, normalization of relations with Cuba, the Iran nuclear deal and Obamacare and extension of health care to 18 million people.

The president is optimistic about change. His confidence is deeply rooted in American history and the power of transformational majority movements of the past.

President Obama asserted the only way to overcome the obstruction of the right wing and 1% was mass participation and unity of the people.

But advancing a people's agenda in the immediate period depends on the outcome of elections and voter mobilization.

Calidad en América que envejece

Doug Moore

El Mes Nacional de los Cuidadores Familiares es una época para ofrecer nuestra gratitud a quienes se ocupan de cuidar a sus seres queridos cuando éstos más lo necesitan. Es una labor que requiere de un gran sacrificio personal y con frecuencia no se agradece lo suficiente. En noviembre nos tomamos el tiempo para reconocer a los cuidadores familiares por su importante rol en la protección de la independencia y la dignidad de tantos ciudadanos.

Este mes también es el momento para honrar a quienes han elegido ser cuidadores tanto para sus familiares como no familiares y adoptar esta labor como su profesión de tiempo completo. Es decir, hablo de los dos millones de proveedores de cuidados en casa que trabajan en este país. Estos trabajadores ayudan a los ancianos y a las personas con discapacidades a vivir con seguridad e independencia en sus propios hogares y comunidades.

Realizan una gran variedad de tareas para cuidar de sus clientes, desde limpieza doméstica hasta atención paramédica. Para mucha gente mayor, el cuidado en casa significa mantenerse fuera de las instituciones y envejecer en casa donde se sienten más cómodos.

Para el año 2030, 72 millones de ciudadanos serán elegibles para jubilarse y representarán una de cada cinco personas en el país. Se estima que el 70 por ciento de esta población necesitará alguna forma de cuidado de largo plazo. Conforme envejecen los baby boomers necesitaremos 2.5 millones de proveedores de cuidados

en casa adicionales en los próximos 15 años.

Desafortunadamente, estos trabajadores ganan bajos salarios y existen pocas oportunidades de capacitación y crecimiento en esta profesión. Muchas agencias de cuidados en casa se rehúsan a invertir en sus empleados, lo cual impide que dichos proveedores puedan mejorar la calidad de sus servicios y ser más competitivos en el mercado.

Pero todavía podemos prevenir esta crisis que se avecina y sus desastrosas consecuencias. Si trabajamos juntos como país, podemos arreglar el cuidado de largo plazo para millones de ciudadanos de la tercera edad y para niños y adultos con discapacidades. Usemos este mes para agradecerles a los cuidadores sus servicios de forma tangible. Trabajemos juntos para mejorar sus condiciones laborales y darles el respeto y dignidad que se merecen. Pocas crisis ofrecen una ventanilla de tiempo para prevenir una calamidad. El tiempo de actuar es ahora.

Doug Moore, Director Ejecutivo, UDW(United Domestic Workers of America)

AFSCME Blog en español

AFSCME, la Federación Americana de Empleados Estatales, de Condados, y Municipales, AFL-CIO es el sindicato más grande de trabajadores del servicio público y de la salud de los Estados Unidos. Le invitamos a unir su voz a la de más de 1.6 millones de miembros de AFSCME en toda la nación.

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