

RED FLAG

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LOS ANGELES—MAY DAY 2009

Comprehensive Immigration Reform's Goals:

SLAVE LABOR, LOYAL SOLDIERS AND FASCISM

The US bosses' push to get the Obama Administration to pass their Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) this year, like their Education and Healthcare Reforms, is dictated by their war needs and the establishing of a fascist police state.

Their present and future wars, including WWII, demand a war economy. Millions will be needed to slave in their war industries and millions more to kill and die on their battle fields. Fascism is to win or force us all to accept the hardships of a permanent war economy.

Fascism in the US – unlike Nazi Germany – will bear a liberal mask. Patriotism will be its hallmark, to get us to fight and die for US imperialism. Liberal politicians like Obama will try to win us to it with slogans like “share the sacrifices.” Underneath this murderous velvet glove, however, lies the rulers' fascist iron fist ready to smash any signs of rebellion.

CIR Serves War Needs of USA Imperialism

Immigrant workers producing for the US military in subcontracting firms work mandatory ten hour days, six to seven days a week, for very low wages and little or no benefits. The CIR will drive millions more of them into these concentration camp like conditions. The “path to citizenship” it promises is a nightmare of at least twelve years of this slavery. Any fight back, or more than 60 days of being unemployed, will mean deportation.

Millions will be given the “opportunity” of a “shorter path to citizenship” by serving in the military. With CIR, the bosses also hope to win the loyalty of 4 million US born undocumented workers' children, and millions of their already “legalized” family members, to “gratefully” labor in their war industries or serve in their military.

CIR: Racist Attack Against All Workers

Racism against black workers has always been the cutting edge of the bosses' attacks against all workers. Racism against immigrant workers has honed this bosses' racist tool even more.

Now the current economic crisis is driving US born workers - black, white, Asian and Latin - into the conditions created by this racism. Day laborers on city corners now include black and white workers. US born workers now labor in subcontracting factories under the same rotten conditions as immigrant and undocumented workers. Millions more will be heading that way.

CIR: Helps Consolidate Rulers' Fascist Police State

Virulent racism against undocumented workers helped the US bosses' drive to fascism. Post 9/11 racism against Arabs served to further consolidate it. E-verify is an internet based program that checks the

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SEE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Support Boron Miners' Struggle Against Imperialist Giant Rio Tinto!

CALIFORNIA—570 miners, 90% white and the rest Latin, are in a fight for their livelihoods since Jan 31st when Rio Tinto, the world's third largest mining company, locked them out for refusing its last contract offer. This included: forced overtime; forcing full time workers to be part time; ignoring seniority in layoffs, transfers and promotions; and using contractors.

Rio Tinto's profits jumped 33% to \$5 billion in 2009. Yet, it is attacking its workers here harder. Why? Because of the dog eat dog nature of capitalism. It has lost 25% market share to Turkish Eti Mine which pays its workers \$9.70 an hour. California miners make about \$26/hour.

To remain competitive, Rio Tinto must attack its workers. That's the nature of the racist, capitalist beast. It devours workers and spits out profits for the capitalists. Only a communist revolution can put an end to this profit hungry monster and build a society where our labor will serve the needs of our class internationally, not the bosses' greed.

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SEE MINERS RIO TINTO

FROM TRADE WAR TO REAL WAR TO CLASS WAR!

“The world will never be as it was before the crisis. The United States will lose its super power status in the world financial system.” It’s well over a year since the German finance minister made that statement in parliament and in the last few weeks we have begun to see a new, temporary, world order struggling to emerge. Threats from the US, rebuffs from China and plans from Germany, all paint a picture of the post World War II financial system disintegrating and that of war and fascism growing.

In the US, Paul Krugman, the main economic strategist for Rockefeller’s New York Times, attacked China for ‘manipulating its currencies’ and producing a “policy that seriously damages the rest of the world.” He called for a strong surcharge (up to 25%) on Chinese imports. He’s talking serious trade war but he’s not alone. The day he wrote his op-ed piece, 120 nationalist US Congressmen wrote the Obama administration urging them to officially charge the Chinese with currency manipulation.

Chinese President Wen Jiabo saw it differently. “I do not think the yuan is undervalued... What I don’t understand is depreciating one’s own currency (which the US did in effect) and attempting to pressure others to appreciate, for the purpose of increasing exports. In my view, that’s trade protectionism.” When it comes to trade protectionism, the Chinese have some trump cards up their sleeve. According to a Newsweek article (‘Power Up’ – Sept 17) they currently produce about 95% of the world’s rare minerals, minerals that are essential to the new green technologies and ‘the defense industries of tomorrow.’ A group of ‘patriotic’ Chinese are urging the leadership to impose a severe export quota on these minerals. Such a quota could have

an immediate effect halting, for example, production of Toyota’s Prius.

Even without this threat in the background, China’s Wen Jiabo is not alone in his argument. The day after Krugman attacked China, Martin Wolfe (the main economic writer for Britain’s Financial Times) attacked Germany. “Chernman (China and Germany) spoke last week,” he wrote, “and the world listened... Was what it said dangerous? Yes. Will wiser views prevail? I doubt it.”

Basically the countries with strong manufacturing economies (China, Germany and Japan) have trade surpluses and money in their banks. They see no reason to go to great lengths bailing out countries that have run up huge debts. The Germans specifically don’t want to bail out the Greeks. They will even go so far as letting the US led IMF penetrate the Eurozone to bail them out, but not out of a sense of trans-Atlantic cooperation. There is a significant group of German politicians who argue Germany’s energies would be better spent on gathering reserves to eventually launch an EMF (a European Monetary Fund) as a regional rival to the IMF.

This makes sense in view of China’s almost already established Asian only Monetary Fund, which will likely begin operating next year. According to “It’s China’s world, we’re just living in it,” an article in the March 12th Newsweek, “Beijing’s efforts to push the yuan as a rival to the (US) dollar are now making tentative progress... (It) has inked \$100 bn in currency swaps with six countries including Argentina, Indonesia and South Korea... ‘The yuan will next be used as a trading currency with India, Pakistan, Russia, Japan and Korea,’ says Gyu Xiaosong, director of the Institute of Southeast Asian studies in Nanning.”

In key areas of the world, then, the US dollar is getting edged out. That doesn’t just hurt US political influence in the regions directly effected, it weakens the dollar’s role as a world currency.

Sooner or later that will have a major effect on its economic performance. Because it is a world currency, countries have to have US dollars. But a country, like Germany or Japan for example, gets nothing if they store their US dollars in Berlin or Tokyo. Instead, they invest them in the US – usually in the bond market – to get some interest on them. Some of that money helps pay off the US government deficit but most of it is recycled for US investment abroad, giving US companies an edge in competing against German, Japanese and other countries’ companies.

No wonder the countries with a strong manufacturing base don’t want to go to great lengths bailing out countries like the US with huge debts! No wonder the US imperialists will spare no expense in money or lives to win complete control of the Mid-East oil market, which alone can ensure the bulk of the world’s oil trade in the US dollar!

Spurred on by the unfolding crisis, the post World War II financial order is coming apart. At present these nationalist voices are not yet dominant in the US, China or Germany, but the trend is clear. Currency wars and trade wars are on the immediate horizon as long as the crisis deepens. More real wars and world war are the not too distant future. It is the enormous task of our modest new Party, the ICWP, to inject into this dismal scenario of capitalist war the liberating energy of revolutionary class war – a war that unites workers of all continents in a fight for a share-and-share-alike communism!

IMMIGRATION REFORM—FROM PAGE 1

CIR: Helps Consolidate Rulers’ Fascist Police State

status of *all job applicants* to prevent “unauthorized” workers from working. Using its computerized and centralized national databases, plus a projected biometric national ID card, the bosses are creating a police state the Nazis could only dream of.

Fascism’s other aspect is to politically disarm workers to passively accept these attacks and embrace their executioners as saviors. The well publicized vicious racist ranting of “fascist” politicians, TV anchormen like Lou Dobbs, the Minutemen and others, while building anti-immigrant racism, has as its main goal driving immigrants into the arms of the bosses’ Democratic Party.

Thus the bosses’ liberal politicians, community organizations, union and religious “leaders” have gotten millions of naturalized immigrants to vote Democrat and millions of undocumented workers

and their allies to march in a sea of US flags demanding the passage of the CIR and the Dream Act. This patriotic embrace is a kiss of death. The Dream Act will immediately make 2 million undocumented youth available to the Pentagon.

Bosses’ Racism-Fascism-War: Opportunity for Communist Organizing

Current total US unofficial unemployment tops 30 million – twice its peak during the Great Depression. Yet, there are no official calls for massive deportations of undocumented workers. Not only do US bosses desperately need these workers here, but are forced to integrate them with US born workers in their war industries and armies.

Latin workers have a long history of armed struggle against US imperialism. Black workers have centuries of heroic anti-racist struggles here, including mass rebellions in the bosses’ military. This explosive mixture exposes the strategic

weakness of the US bosses: their very survival depends on the workers they exploit the most.

Many white workers also have a tradition of mass armed struggle against the US bosses. California Boron miners led a militant strike in 1974 burning down the guard shack, the personnel office, rail cars and cutting off the power to the mine and shooting at scabs. Today they are again fighting the mine bosses. (see Boron Miners’ article pg. 1)

Our Party, the International Communist Workers Party, is fighting to develop communist class consciousness of these and all workers, soldiers and students to be able to turn the coming storms into a class war for workers’ power and communism. We will move forward by waging a relentless multi-racial, international fight against racist capitalism, concentrating on the key sectors of industrial workers and soldiers to win our class to the understanding that racism, war and exploitation can only be ended by destroying capitalism with a communist revolution.



Join the
International Communist Workers’ Party
(ICWP)
www.icwpredflag.org
(310) 487-7674

Step by Step... WORKERS ARE SPREADING COMMUNIST IDEAS

"I like the article in RED FLAG a lot," said a worker referring to an article in the March 10 edition, titled, "No, no, my children aren't going to die for the millionaires." Then he added, "I like it so much that I'm going to frame it and put it up in my living room, so that my friends and family will see and remember it. Give me another paper to take to my father because I want my wife and children to read this one."

This article got a very good response in general among the workers in the base of ICWP on the job. A worker was reading it when the above mentioned worker passed by her, and he said, "Hey, that article talks about me and I stand by what it says." Another worker said, "This is a little radical, but I like it." In this area, more than 20 workers read this article, apart from others in other divisions.

Talking openly about communism on this job has sharpened the struggle with these fellow workers, and at different times with groups of workers, questions have arisen, like:

"Is Cuba socialist?" We explained that what they have is state capitalism, that socialism itself was a system in which differences in benefits, wages, and exploitation remained, and that these are the seeds of the rebirth of capitalism.

Another asked if we support Chavez. We said that Chavez is a representative of a section of the Venezuelan bourgeoisie that wants a bigger piece of the pie and that's why they are allied with other imperialists opposed to the US imperialists. That's why Chavez uses the mask of being "revolutionary".

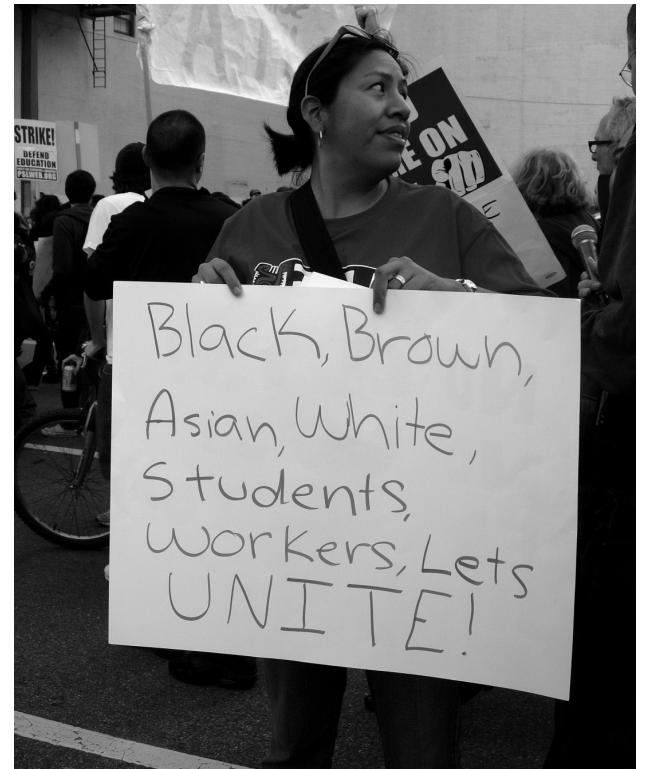
Another said, "Why did socialism fail in Russia and China?" We said, "Because socialism was not a stage that led to communism, but instead it left the roots of capitalism intact."

A worker also asked how it's possible to combine communist ideas with the fight for a new contract. We said that having communist ideas gives us a clearer vision of how the capitalist system functions and gives us the understanding that reform helps the bosses. However we can use these struggles to advance revolutionary communist ideas through political demands and goals to win workers to fight militantly while exposing the bosses' state and deepening the process of winning workers to fight for revolution.

This also allows us to ask other workers to distribute RED FLAG at work and with their friends and families. For example, recently after some very sharp discussions, we asked three of them to help distribute the paper. The first said, "I'm 100% ready to do the political work. I have a list of workers who've read the paper and know about communist ideas. I think I can start with 16 papers." The second said, "Every morning we meet with all the workers to get our work assignment. I think that I can distribute 10 papers there." The third said, "I have a base of 6 people to whom I'll give the paper."

Obviously this won't be automatic, easy or mechanical. But it reflects an open attitude about the need and struggle to expand communist ideas among the workers.

Since the contract will be negotiated this year, we're making plans to meet with drivers and mechanics to form a political strike committee to give political leadership to this struggle. However, we



know that due to wars of robbery and pillage among the imperialists, the possibilities of reforms are minimal. In fact, the bosses will demand cuts in wages and benefits. This industry, like the schools and hospitals, is having its budget cut while the budget for oil wars is increasing.

We made it very clear to many workers that they should ask questions so they can better understand and clarify all their doubts. To do that, it's necessary to join a communist study action group of the ICWP and to continue to read RED FLAG. Learning about the ideas and putting them into practice will be the best way for them to become future leaders of the working class.

MINERS RIO TINTO FROM PAGE 1

Boron Workers Holding Firm

California Boron miners are refusing to give in to these fascist conditions. They man picket lines and organize marches to the mine's entrance. They have a long tradition of struggle. Their grandparents and parents have fought the mine bosses since the 1930s when they fled Oklahoma during the Great Depression.

They have support from boron workers internationally, including Turkish miners and Rio Tinto miners in Poland, Australia and other countries. Workers locally are supporting, collecting food and participating in marches and other mass activities. Teachers, students and workers from ICWP are also supporting them and taking our Red Flag newspaper to them.

World's Boron Miners Crucial to Industrial and Military Production

Boron is extensively used in the production of glass, ceramics, cosmetics, detergents and materials as hard as diamonds. Its isotope is used as a control for nuclear reactors, a shield for nuclear radiation, and in instruments for detecting neutrons. It is in computer chips, rocket igniters, in essential parts for jets, military aircraft fuselages, and advanced aerospace structures.

California Boron miners produce 42% of the Boron in the world. Another 35% comes from the labor of about 800 Turkish workers. The rest is mined by a handful of workers in China, Russia, Argentina and Chile. This shows the crucial strategic role of industrial workers in capitalist production.

Boron Workers Need Communist Class Consciousness Not Reformism

As the lock out continues, many workers are in danger of losing their homes and their lives are being devastated. Meanwhile, the union leaders tell them to rely on the NLRB to force Rio Tinto to end the lock out, give them back their jobs with full back pay and stop the attacks. These misleaders create illusions in the NLRB, an arm of the bosses' state.

The capitalist state's function, however, is to protect the bosses' profits and oppress workers. In the current crisis, all branches of government from city to state to federal are doing what Rio Tinto is doing and more: massive lay offs, wage and benefits cuts, while saving rich bankers and funding racist wars for oil.

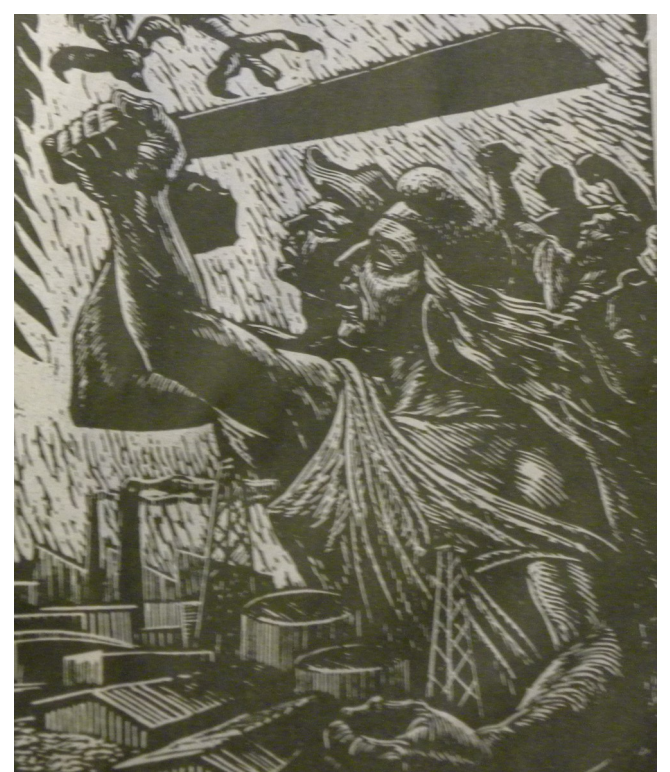
Industrial Workers Like Boron Miners Vital to Communist Revolution

While the bosses say workers are marginal, the Rio Tinto miners are central to the bosses' commercial and military production. Workers' ability to stop production gives them a strategic edge. There should be a fight to stop the scabs working in the mine, which would require mass support from other workers. Such a fight would help build our united power and clarity of vision in the fight to destroy capitalism.

However, in these times of crisis and wars, even such a militant fight would not guarantee that the reversals of these attacks. But even if won, the capitalist beast is left intact to continue its predatory fascist attacks on workers.

Therefore, our long term struggle is to organize for a communist revolution.

Workers and students must support Rio Tinto miners, building support in their union meetings and other organizations, circulating letters and petitions of solidarity among friends and coworkers, and visiting the locked out miners outside the mine. This should be done with the understanding that industrial workers are key to revolution, and that Red Flag should always be present putting forward our communist vision.



U.S. Rulers are Cutting and Reorganizing Education for War!

March 17, 2010: Students, parents, teachers and staff rallied at Fremont High School in Los Angeles today to fight against the latest racist attack against black and Hispanic students and against teachers in the public schools. Saying "We are all Fremont," demonstrators rallied against the superintendent's edict that everyone at the South L.A. school except the principal would have to re-apply for his/her job when school opens July 1.

This is the first time that reconstitution, one of the attacks in the bosses' "school reform" arsenal, has been used in L.A., and it could be the beginning of a trend. Students and teachers in the ICWP were there with our newspaper, the RED FLAG. Since teachers, students and parents are very angry about this attack; and because of our many years of political work in this community, they were open to our analysis that the attacks are to push patriotism and teach more technology to prepare students for war while slashing the budget. A speaker repeated the slogan on our sign, "Capitalist Education Will Never Serve the Working Class."

The capitalist crisis and war budget are attacking students and teachers harder. The district wants to shut down all schools a week early this year. Huge increases in class size are also planned, as 2800 teachers have been hit with pink slips. All school employees are threatened with at least a 15% pay cut. A teacher evaluation task force seeks to tie teacher evaluation to test scores, making it easier for principals to get rid of new teachers. The state retirement funds for teachers and other public employees are in trouble. This is accompanied by huge cutbacks and fee increases in higher education.

Students and parents are angry because they see these racist attacks as a direct attack on their future. Teacher layoffs increase class size, directly affecting student achievement. As homes are re-

possessed, jobs eliminated and wages cut, college education is still seen as a means for "upward mobility". The bosses grant "upward mobility" for a few to control the working class. But racist capitalism has no plans for "upward mobility" for the vast majority of workers and youth, especially black and Latino youth. Instead they have plans for war and fascism.

"HIGH TECH" SCHOOL REFORM=LAYOFFS AND WAR PREPARATION

The Obama administration hypocritically claims they want to "improve" education during these cuts. A new report, "Transforming American Education—Learning Powered by Technology," put out by the Office of Educational Technology of the Obama Administration this Spring, says its goal is to help the U.S. "to remain competitive in a global economy" and reflect "the times we live in and our goals as a world leader." It calls for an increase by 2020 in the proportion of students getting 2 or 4 year degrees from 39% to 60% (although not "nearly doubling" as mistakenly reported in the last RED FLAG).

It also calls for massively increasing the access of schools to interactive and online technology, for all teachers to be able to teach online. They identify their most important challenge in these "tight economic times" as producing "combined online and offline learning systems that produce content expertise and competency equal to or better than those produced by the best conventional instruction *in half the time at half the cost.*" [our emphasis] They want to replace teachers with computers to save money as they prepare US students with the technology they will need for war.

The U.S. capitalist system is in crisis; the U.S. is a declining imperialist power, facing an ascendant China and competition from Russia and Europe. The US bosses face expanding wars, leading to

WWIII. They need some more students in two-year college technical training programs to be machinists, technicians, engineers and soldiers to use and design weapons. This is also behind the Obama administration's push to adopt national standards in math and language arts.

COMMUNISTS, NOT LIBERALS, HAVE THE SOLUTION

The bosses face the contradictory need for students to learn patriotism and technology to serve the rulers in expanding wars, as their budget crisis means doing more with less. The liberals are helping them in two ways. First, they support the bosses' attack on workers to pay for schools, with higher taxes as wages fall. The LA USD proposes a parcel tax which would bill every property owner—from mansions to the littlest home --\$100 more a year to help close the deficit. The union is holding off on endorsing this—not because the tax falls hardest on the working class—but as a bargaining chip. The union has also endorsed vehicle license fees, another attack on workers.

Second, the liberals try to win us to the illusion that if we help the bosses carry out their reform, it will help students learn what they need to have a better life. This is behind the demands of the teachers at Fremont to "participate in... restructuring" with a "real seat at the table." But, this is capitalist education, designed to meet the needs of the ruling class, not for liberation. The only way to eliminate racism and have education that serves the working class is winning industrial workers, soldiers and youth to organize for a communist revolution to eliminate racist exploitation and wars for profit—"upward mobility" for the whole working class. Then education will be directed at building a communist world that meets the needs of the international working class.

STRUGGLE BETWEEN REFORM AND REVOLUTION SPARKS INTEREST IN RED FLAG

Recently there was a Teachers' Conference in Costa Rica, attended by teachers' organizations from throughout Central America. At this meeting, pro-capitalist, reformist politics prevailed. Several topics were analyzed, among them the current political crisis and its effects on education, as well as the effects of the Central American Free Trade Agreement and its linkage to U.S. imperialism.

"They don't convince me. This is the same corruption and same analysis as always," commented a young education worker during a conversation during which we exchanged ideas about what we really thought about the election process and the role of the Central American union leaders who sponsored the conference. This conference was just like the forum in Sao Paulo and other regional congresses attended by many honest workers who fight very hard in their home countries but don't put forth the proposals or bring their comrades from these struggles. Those who lead these events are allied with right wing parties whose priority is to negotiate in exchange for a few reformist crumbs.

We talked about the case of Honduras, in which one union leader is now Minister of Education under the right wing government of Lobo. Despite the many

"reforms" he has instituted, the actual situation of teachers has not substantially changed.

"I've heard a lot of theoretical analyses of the Free Trade Agreement, but we in Honduras need more than this.

The oligarchs of this country have trampled on us, persecuted us, raped many women and killed our friends," said a Honduran worker. The education workers strongly applauded his position.

In these conferences, there is endless talk regarding globalization and neoliberalism, and its effects, but not about capitalism and the need to eradicate it. The leadership of these organizations gets frightened when communists talk of destroying the capitalist system. But the workers respond enthusiastically to these militant political declarations.

As communists in the ICWP, we must expose reformism and struggle with the honest teachers who are in the base of these organizations and who are engaged in real political work, to win them to advance the fight for communist revolution. The important thing about these encounters is the possibility of establishing contacts with many workers in the region and sharing our communist line. Several

teachers have come around to our revolutionary ideas, and they want to know more.

It's clear that the working class needs something more than reforms, which are designed to keep capitalism going by providing just enough for workers to barely survive. The members of ICWP (International Communist Workers' Party) must spread our communist line in these types of events, take the blindfolds off the eyes of many teachers, remove their illusions in reforming capitalism and fight to build a system based on meeting the needs and capacity of every one of the workers.

We're trying to secure the contacts in different countries and send our newspaper Red Flag to them. We've started to organize so that these unions bring teachers to march on May Day throughout Central America.



CAPITALIST CRISIS DRIVES RACIST“RACE TO THE BOTTOM”

Part I: LA Bosses, Union Leaders Plan to Slash City Jobs

The Los Angeles Times complains that LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the LA City Council don't have a plan to guide their massive, highly selective cutbacks in municipal services, layoffs of public employees, and increases in fees. Really, elected officials of the second-largest US city have two plans before them and are carefully following one of them.

The “Los Angeles General Plan,” required by state law, cost the city millions of dollars to prepare fifteen years ago. It was based on rigorous research, honed through several hundred public meetings, reviewed, debated, and legally adopted. It forecast the city's growth and clearly identified the city's priorities for the next two decades (1990 -2010). But the plan was then dropped like a hot potato. *Part II in this series will explain why.*

Instead, the butchers at LA City Hall have another plan to guide their cleavers in carving away vital municipal services and dispensing with thousands of public-sector workers. This “Race to the Bottom” plan was never openly researched, put in writing, debated, or legally adopted. Nevertheless, the LA Times reports about it every day. Similar plans are being implemented at the LA Unified School District, with a budget as large as the city's and an even larger deficit. Likewise, LA's regional Metropolitan Transit Authority and the LA Community College District, both multi-billion dollar agencies, are also facing massive deficits and responding to them with comparable cutbacks, layoffs, and fee increases.

Bosses Quarrel, Workers Lose

The two political factions are both mostly Democrats. In one corner is Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, backed by a majority of the largely Democratic City Council and guided by the City's Administrative Officer, Miguel (“the hatchet”) Santana. A key advisor is Villaraigosa's in-house

Wall Street banker, Austin Beutner. Beutner's resume includes high finance jobs at Smith Barney and the Blackstone Group, and midwifing the rebirth of market capitalism in the former Soviet Union for the U.S. State Department. The Mayor also has a cheering section from Wall Street's three major bond rating companies whose job is to stampede elected officials when they pause in their slicing and dicing of city government's non-police functions.

In the other corner are several LA City Council members, backed by most of the city employee unions and some neighborhood associations. So far this team's great achievement has been to cut city programs through a golden-handshake retirement program to flush 2,400 older employees out of City Hall. They call for slightly less contracting out of government services and more scrutiny in selling off of city assets.

But the two teams agree on:

- Cutting at least 4000 jobs in areas such as cultural events, urban forestry, libraries, parks, environmental affairs, social services, and neighborhood councils, while increasing the LA Police Department.
- Cutting the hours and pay of remaining non-police employees by 10% while increasing payroll deductions.
- Weakening public employee unions while reducing pensions.
- Reducing enforcement of building and zoning codes while cracking down on parking and traffic violations with increased fees and fines.
- Jacking up fees paid by workers for vital city services, such as electricity, water, and garbage collection, while offering truly enormous hand-outs to large real estate projects
- Selling off money-making city assets, such as parking structures and parking meters, while privatizing city services, such as computing (which will go to Google).

- Deferring investment in the city's infrastructure, even though Los Angeles sits on major earthquake faults and is subject to life-threatening floods and wild fires.

All these cuts are racist, falling heaviest on black and latino residents of LA., who are the majority.

LA Workers Need Revolution, Not Reform

Neither LA bosses' team offers any analysis of the causes of the city's past or present budget crises, other than the current recession. They maintain absolute silence on the long-term reduction in Federal program for cities since the Nixon administration. Their lips are sealed about the huge Federal bailout of the bankers (including Austin Beutner's buddies) and the expanding wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and probably Iran.

You're reading it here in **Red Flag**, not in the LA Times: The slashing and burning of public services is a long-term trend in the entire United States. Its cause is a deep capitalist crisis, not just the current recession. Its purpose is not just to dish out public favors to well-connected investors who need a short-term boost in their bottom line through contracts or bailouts, but to marshal public resources for escalating energy wars.

Public employee union leaders and the politicians are partners in this crime. Their job is to bring the work force into line, not to organize work actions against cutbacks and layoffs, building a strategic alliance with the working-class public, who are the majority and the main victims of these cutbacks. The union leaders' job is to preserve capitalism, not to destroy it. That's our job: to build a revolutionary movement under the red flag of communist revolution.

Part II of this series will explain how the crisis in LA reflects the anarchy of capitalist production.

Students and Teachers Rally Against Cutbacks, Need Communist Ideas

San Diego, March 4: About 500 students and faculty walked out of class and marched to the center of campus for a rally at San Diego State U. Speakers demanded an end to cutbacks, especially those that will reduce the student body size and make it more difficult for local black and Latino students to attend SDSU. Others called for changing the California tax system and a few blamed capitalism for the cuts.

Students and faculty need to understand that higher education cutbacks are not just about the economic crisis but come from the capitalists' needs and priorities. Long before the crisis broke, the federal government cut grants to states to pay for the Iraq and Afghanistan war. California politicians give tax breaks to big corporations and spend billions on prisons.

Downtown Rally

Across town, about 1500 students and faculty rallied against cuts at the campus of the University of California (UCSD). Later in the day, students and faculty from the two universities joined high school and community college students in a rally and march downtown.

A spirited crowd of about 2000 marched to the governor's office to demand an end to cutbacks and fee hikes. Many chanted slogans that education was a human right or should be free. Others said the schools and the streets are “our schools” and “our streets.” These ideas express how things should be, but under capitalism, this isn't the reality. Public universities are getting more expensive and tougher for black and Latino students to get into, pricing many out of college at the same time as classes and faculty are cut. Like all institutions of capitalist society, the universities serve the interests

of capitalists, and only ending capitalism with communist revolution can make education serve the working class. A communist society will meet the needs of the working class, with no capitalists' profits or wars for profit.



LETTERS

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LETTERS

Whose Universities? Ours or the bosses?

Angry California college students poured into the streets on March 4, chanting “Whose University? Our University!” This slogan summarizes a huge contradiction in the fight against budget cuts.

On the one hand, many working-class students and their parents see education as the chance for a better life. To them, “Our University” means “our opportunity to escape from the working class.” On the other hand, the universities (and all schools under capitalism) actually exist to serve the needs of the capitalists, not the workers. They train students for whatever positions the bosses need to fill, while pumping their heads full of elitist and anti-communist garbage. They separate students from the rest of the working class.

“We have to talk about how almost all students will become workers, not ‘professionals,’” said a campus leader. “When we march, usually half the marchers are workers. ‘Our University’ isn’t something they relate to.”

This leader explained the debate that went on in the March 4 coalition on that campus over the chant. “We go, ‘whose school? Our school! Whose streets? Our streets! Whose world? Our world!’ But we introduce it by saying that we’re

building a movement to fight for this. We don’t have it yet, but it’s our goal. I know, though,” the student continued, “that this doesn’t fully address the issue.”

We need for more Red Flag readers to write on this question!

The socialist labor activist Eugene Debs said a century ago:

“If...you examine the pages of the Congressional Directory, you will find that almost all of those corporate lawyers and cowardly politicians, members of Congress, and mis-representatives of the masses---you will find that almost all of them claim, in glowing terms, that they have risen from the ranks to places of eminence and distinction. I am very glad,” said Debs, “that I cannot make that claim for myself. I would be ashamed to admit that I had risen from the ranks. When I rise it will be with the ranks, and not from the ranks.”

Other articles in Red Flag go into much more detail about how the bosses are reshaping schools and colleges as part of their preparation for war. We need to get a lot more of these papers into the hands of our friends who are active in this fight against the cutbacks. We need to organize study groups to discuss these issues in depth. We need to struggle for students to identify themselves as members of the working class and dedicate their

life to the struggle for revolution, workers’ power, and communism.



Dear Red Flag:

We would like to let you know how enthusiastic we are with your newspaper. Red Flag has inspired us to unite and fight back against capitalism. Without capitalism, the working-class won’t have any more struggles, there will be more jobs and more benefits within those jobs, and workers will have less of a chance to get fired. In our case, we would have more teachers, smaller classes, and more learning materials such as textbooks or computers.

Well, as we all know, March 4th was a day of action, and some students proudly participated to

fight back. We lifted our heads up high and marched from 8:00am to 9:30am, screaming and shouting; “Students United Will Never Be Divided!” As we marched we arrived at the LAUSD Local District 7, chanting “Shame on You, No More Cuts!” over and over again. Our voices weren’t being heard, so we went back to school as we had planned. Later, a Walk-Out was scheduled at 11’o clock. More students participated than earlier, this time we went directly to the Local District and we weren’t just going for nothing.

We had two students speak with the superintendent, Dr. George McKenna. He listened to our demands and explained to us that nothing could be done at that time. After school a protest was organized, not only for students, but also for teachers and families. This day was an inspiring experience, and we’re sure it will never be forgotten.

Together we will fight and our indignation will come to an end. We still haven’t got what we wanted, but with louder voices I’m sure we will be heard. Sooner or later this WILL change. Your well written newspaper, with such passion towards justice, has definitely encouraged us to come together to fight BACK! Red Flag has the support from students in at our school towards the future Anti-Capitalist communist revolution!

A student that participated in the March 4th Fightback.

Young Student Comrades from ICWP respond:

Once establishing communism not only the life of the working class will improve but the current educational system will radically change so as not to divide the working class but instead nourish and enrich the unity between different people, workers and students.

As young members of ICWP we talked about how everything will be organized and mobilized. We talked about how materials and jobs would be restored. Our time, our knowledge and ideas will be transformed so as to serve the needs of the international working class.

Revolution would be more than material but an increase in our knowledge and our unity will occur. Our jobs will be diverse and our skills will increase. Capitalist education teaches us how to be patriotic and selfish and it only serves the rulers’ needs. It is up to us to abolish this system that tries to eradicate our full skills and full knowledge and only wants just enough to serve their capitalist empire.



**JOIN
ICWP**

In this Edition there are statements in articles that the editorial board of Red Flag would like to criticize. We open our newspaper pages to anyone who would like to comment on the criticism or would like to voice their opinion on other matters.

Dear Editor,

In the Red Flag of March 10th, there is an article on page 9 that caught my attention. The article refers to the Dream Act and enumerates only two options for undocumented youth who in the future could obtain legalization with this law: study two years in the University, or two years of military service.

I thought there was a third option which was to accumulate enough hours of free community work with which they could achieve the dream of legal residency.

I am writing this letter so you can clarify why the third option wasn't included. Or is it that this dream is getting shorter and military service will be where our youth will be forced to go?

Please clear up the doubts of a garment worker reader

Dear Garment Worker:

Thanks for your letter about the article "Dream Act: Part of Bosses' Plans for War and Fascism" published 3/10/10.

You are right. The proposed law, like you say, gave undocumented youth a third option "free community work to accumulate enough such hours to qualify for legal residence". Why was not this option mentioned in the article?

The truth is that it was a question of space. We try to limit the length of the articles. But, the new version of the law does not have this option. It was eliminated before the current crisis. That is before those jobs were eliminated. And, again you are right. Without that option these undocumented youth only have one option: THE MILITARY, because going to college is becoming more and more an impossible dream.

Thanks again for your letter and always at your service and others who would like to comment on this or other topics.

INTERVIEW WITH AN INDUSTRIAL WORKER

Q—What do you think of the new paper?

A—I like it. Do you put it out every week?

Q—No, it comes out every two weeks. What do you like most?

A—I like to read the letters. It's the first thing I read. They are very important. Clearly I see the difference between the old and the new. Its clearer, better explained, with words that are more understandable. I think that before they used words that people couldn't understand.

Q—How do you see the new party?

A—Me, and everyone else is giving their ideas, opinions, of the mistakes so they're not made again. It's very important.

Q—And what do you think about the new paper?

A—That they shouldn't change the letters. I like to explain things in my own way, as I lived them, not the way someone else thinks. Why put it the way someone else thinks? If a person puts it the way they think, and wants only what they say, it would be like talking to the boss.

Q—What would you like to say to the readers?

A.—I think, to start, that they should read every issue so they can learn and give their criticisms and support. This is something different, and I see it as more clear and understandable.

"We went to sleep as members of PLP and the next day we woke up outside of it,"

El Salvador—"We went to sleep as members of PLP and the next day we woke up outside of it," were the words of a comrade. I'm a young student who was participating a lot in PLP. I went to summer projects in Los Angeles, sold papers, and visited factories. At dawn I awoke, excited to carry out the tasks that made me a better revolutionary. In the evenings in the meetings with the comrades I felt like a communist born with red diapers, as they identified me since my parents and brothers and sisters are members of the Party.

I was very convinced that this was the best, but when I found out that the Party has divided due to internal contradictions, it affected me enormously, and I felt very bad, to the point of not wanting to return to the organization that I considered "communist" in theory but which in practice showed that it was one more organization whose priority was reform, not revolution.

This division was very disappointing for me. I talked about this with some comrades. They planned a meeting and talked to me. The meeting took up exactly this theme. They showed me and I read carefully the articles written on both sides:

LA and NY. Even though I didn't know what I would do with my political life, when I heard the complete report of how things happened, including personal reports, I understood that the best way forward was not leaving the struggle for a better world, a world where the proletariat is no longer oppressed, a world for which I've always fought...a communist world.

My internal contradictions in the end were sharpened, and I see that what I most want is to continue fighting for a communist future. They put forward to me the ideas about the new International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), and I've decided to support this new struggle. I'll continue to write for and distribute the Red Flag newspaper, organizing in the school where I study for May Day. Long live the ICWP!

Young Comrade from El Salvador



Answer to Young Students/ Discussion & Action Group:

Dear Young Students/ Discussion & Action Group:

Thanks for your very interesting question. If the US debt is higher than during the Great Depression, why are things not as bad as during that time?

We will enumerate several reasons that we thought of and you and your teacher could discuss them further:

In 1930, US imperialism was a rising power. It has now 65 years of world domination. It has stolen enough surplus value from the workers of the world to have given US workers some temporary "safety nets" to temporarily cope with the current crisis.

There are 53 million people living off social security – 6 million unemployed workers living only on food stamps (no money at all) – More than one million collecting unemployment, which has been extended to almost 2 years. All of this did not exist during the GD.

Public employees' pensions started in 1920. Most private companies had no pensions then. Millions are receiving these pensions now. How long will they last?

Many workers and others have 401k and IRA plans they are living on while unemployed. 8% of the work force has 401k plans of \$100,000 or more.

In the 1920-1940, families mainly had only one bread winner – losing this job was devastating to the family.

Many people employed and unemployed are making both ends meet with their credit cards. Credit did not exist in the GD.

When the above things disappear, the GD will look good compared with what is coming. All the above and the US huge debt are dependent on the petrodollars – oil can only be sold in dollars. These are just some suggested reasons. We hope they are useful. Thanks for your letter.

Heated Discussion in the Classroom about Education

"A student that goes to the university is worth more than a worker", declared a female student while some were listening and the rest were diligently doing their schoolwork. "Then are you worth more than your mother?", asked the teacher. "Yes, because a person that struggles to study should enjoy the fruits of their labor, it's only fair", retorted the student. "Look, no arrogant university student is worth more than your mother", the teacher expressed strongly and loud, now she was bothered.

By now the rest of the students stopped working and became attentive to the discussion. Another young female student added, "one has options in life and if you make the right decisions you can get an education if you do not do it is your fault." And yet another student added "and you went to the university and are you an arrogant university student, are you"?

"The problem", signaled the teacher, "is that since our infancy it is repeated over and over that is necessary to study so that we become successful and even our own parents say to us "baby you have to study and go to the university so you can be somebody, nevertheless where does this idea come from that workers are nothing", asked the teacher. Blank faces. The students did not have an answer to this question.

"This is a bourgeois idea, a bosses' idea. Look the workers are everything, it is we that produce everything that exists in this world, it is because of the working class that we exist, nevertheless the production that we create is stolen from us by the ruling class, the capitalist class and in exchange they pay us with wages, and as a result they make huge profits, this is the basis of exploitation". Then the teacher added, "am I an arrogant university graduate?", no because I have committed myself to serve the working class and fight for their liberation." The bell rung for the students to go to their next class and some left the room speaking under their breath. — Red Teacher

Dialectics: The Communist Philosophy of Struggle

Note: This is the first of three columns summarizing communist dialectics. It is based on an ICWP pamphlet available on the Internet at <http://ICWPRedFlag.org>

By fighting for communism, the working class is making a huge change in society, a change we won't be able to make without understanding a lot about how change takes place. Dialectics is the philosophy of change and development, advanced by Marx and Engels and developed further in the Soviet and Chinese revolutions and by communists who have learned from them. It is our most important tool for understanding how the capitalist system works, what its fatal weaknesses are, and how to defeat it. This series of articles is an introduction to the basic ideas of dialectics, applied to some important topics, including economic crisis and inner-party struggle.

The Unity of Opposites: the Basis of Dialectics

The most important concept of dialectics is the *unity and struggle of opposites*. This means two things or processes which are connected, but which interfere with each other. This combination of unity and struggle is called a "dialectical contradiction."

For us, the most important dialectical contradiction is the unity and conflict between the working class and the capitalist class in capitalist society, but there are much simpler examples. A basketball game is a contradiction between two teams that are united in a single game, with each side playing defense and trying to hold the other back.

Contradictions occur everywhere in nature, like the forces of attraction and repulsion inside the nucleus of an atom. Capitalist competition is a network of contradictions between capitalists who try to outdo each other in the market. The rivalries of capitalists of different imperialist countries, who are competing for control of resources and labor for maximum profits, are in contradiction with each other. In the working class movement, there are contradictions between reformist and revolutionary politics. Inside the party, there are contradictions between different political ideas and strategies.

Contradictions Cause Change

Contradictions are important because they make things change. The internal back and forth struggle

of the two sides of the contradiction causes change, and point that change in a particular direction. As long as capitalism lasts, the contradiction between workers and capitalists pushes capitalist society toward crisis and revolution. The contradiction between two basketball teams drives both teams to play harder. Contradictions inside the nucleus of an atom can make it break up into smaller atoms. Contradictions inside a party can cause a split.

Marx wrote that contradictions "create a form in which they can move themselves." They direct the motion that they cause so that the clash of the opposite sides is minimized. The contradictions in a thing can also prevent forward movement, like someone with a rock in his shoe, or a political movement with intense internal disagreements.

Contradictions are Resolved

Contradictions cause change, but they don't last forever. Eventually they get *resolved*, that is, they stop being contradictions. When the buzzer sounds in the basketball game, the game ends and the contradiction is resolved until the next game. Most contradictions don't end this way, however. There is no referee to call time on class struggle under capitalism. The contradictions of capitalism are only ended when communist revolution destroys capitalism. In the process of eliminating capitalism, however, new contradictions will arise. When contradictions are resolved, new ones are always created.

Contradictions Develop

A critical question of dialectics is how contradictions behave over time. Pro-capitalists or revisionists (fake Leftists) often claim that the two sides of a contradiction can "peacefully coexist" for a long time. Union big shots discourage strikes and accept positions on corporate boards, promoting the illusion that workers don't have to fight the capitalists, but can "share governance." As the current capitalist economic crisis deepens, celeb-



Young students lead literacy classes at Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region commune, China, 1960.

rity politicians like Obama and Villaraigosa claim that "we are all in this together," and should accept "shared sacrifices."

Communists understand that the contradictions don't work this way. They tend to develop and *become more intense*, bringing the conflict out in the open and making the stakes higher. The "peaceful coexistence" idea is wrong because it emphasizes only the unity of the two sides of a contradiction, and ignores their struggle. Over the long haul, however, most contradictions tend to become more intense, and struggle becomes the more important aspect. This was Lenin's point in his famous statement that "The unity ... of opposites is conditional, temporary, transitory, relative. The struggle of mutually exclusive opposites is absolute, just as development and motion are absolute."

Next Issue: Contradictions of the Capitalist Economy

**FOR A REVOLUTIONARY MAY DAY
MARCH UNDER THE RED FLAGS
OF ICWP**

**SMASH RACISM * SMASH ALL BORDERS
SMASH WAGE SLAVERY *
SMASH SEXISM * SMASH IMPERIALIST WAR
FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM (ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)**