

FLASH! Boeing workers voted two to one Wednesday (11/13) to reject the extortion contract. The booted district president Wroblewski off the stage, chasing him down the hall, pointing their fingers at him. They yelled at international president Mark Johnson, “Go back to D. C. [location of the IAM national headquarters].”

No Extortion: Take Back What Is Ours!

This contract extension is extortion. Extortion is the Boeing bosses’ *modus operandi*. It’s all legal and normal under capitalism. We must find a way to end this blackmail, once and for all.

If this last week has shown us anything, it is that trade unionism and votes are no match for the capitalists’ power. Indeed, the unions and contract votes have become central to this shakedown. To reject extortion, we have to reject the capitalist system that breeds it.

At last Thursday’s union meeting, recent hires spoke eloquently about how they had experienced extortive threats to their jobs in the factories and mills in which they had worked before coming to Boeing. They — like the other hundreds at that meeting, and thousands in the plants — condemned Wroblewski for dithering and bringing this contract to a vote.

We have responded with marches through the plants, banging and ripped-up contracts posted in plants. Those traitorous union officials that came to “explain” the contract were often sent packing. But even if we vote this “piece of crap” down — as now seems likely — the logic of trade union negotiations means another “piece of crap” contract can not be far behind.

Labor Contracts Aren’t Worth The Paper They’re Printed On

A contract doesn’t destroy the chains of exploitation: it only defines the shape of those chains. As the worldwide capitalist economic crisis continues, they don’t even do that.

This is the second time the union has collaborated with the company *in secret* to sharpen the attack on us even when we had a contract. We can expect more of the same.

There is, however, something these contract extensions do try to guarantee: a no-strike regime!

The International forced this vote. Contract extensions like these promote their “national security re-industrial” plan. They aim to plead with the bosses to keep unions, which they say can secure passive, non-striking, cheap labor under the tyranny of these contracts. Obviously, this means security for the

bosses’ profits and capacity to wage war on their competitors, but the opposite for us.

We Deserve Better

Better contracts won’t do the trick; we deserve something *better than* contracts. We built the planes. Our labor paid for all the plants and machinery, the fancy corporate offices, huge executive bonuses and deluxe retirement packages. Whose factory is this anyway?

We are subject to this extortion because the bosses have legally stolen all this from us. As a result, we have to sell our labor to these thieves to survive. We can’t get or keep a job unless we give into greater and greater exploitation.

Capitalism organizes production for sale and profit. If we organized production for the needs of our class, all this exploitation and blackmail goes away. Exploitive jobs cease to exist; we work for the good of our class.

Communist production replaces competition for profits with collective labor. We can welcome helping hands, not fight over the scraps the bosses throw us.

Millions are on the move around the world, breaking the restraints of capitalism and contracts. Masses of workers have met the power of capital head on from South Africa to Brazil, from the Mid-East to Europe. They haven’t asked their union “leaders” if it was ok.

Extortion is baked into this system. Join us in mobilizing for communist production throughout the world based on our collective labor and needs. Where those that do the work decide where and what we produce. Help us expand the network of *Red Flag* readers and distributors in the plants.

We’ll end this extortion when these networks mobilize to take back the means of production, which our labor built and should be ours.

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