

Capitalists Treat Farmworkers Like Dirt

COMMUNISM WILL VALUE ALL WORKERS

Under capitalism, no one who has studied wants to work as a day laborer. What is known as “pick and shovel” work in the city and the fields, is the worst paid work. Parents want their children to study as much as they can so they don’t end up as day laborers.

It’s not that the work of the day laborer is unseemly, but that it’s badly paid because of money. The bosses take advantage of the fact that the workers haven’t studied so they could be able to work where they would get higher wages. Thus they can pay poverty wages and enrich themselves more.

In agriculture in particular, the bosses don’t just think this and act on it, they even shout it out. A few years ago in Delano, California when the workers from the Pandol Brothers Company declared a strike, one of the bosses yelled at the workers on the picket line, “We have the money to pay you what you’re asking and a lot more, but we have to treat you like circus animals, to keep you hungry, so you’ll work hard.”

Another boss from the Guimarra Company yelled at the workers who were also on strike, “You like to come to the United States to work even though they only pay you a little and that’s because you like having bosses with blue eyes like me. And if you don’t want to work today, tomorrow many more will come to take your place.”

As a New Year’s present for 2012, the State of California has passed a new law to protect day laborers in the fields, a law that supposedly punishes the bosses who treat workers badly and violate their rights. But this law, like others, is like a “sugar coated bullet,” because for workers such laws are useless. Because the workers know that if they complain against the boss or the contractor, the boss won’t be punished but rather the workers, in retaliation, will be fired from their jobs under any pretext.

Under capitalism, it can’t be denied that the lack of schooling of the day laborers puts them at a disadvantage compared to those who are pre-

pared academically. But if there are some day laborers who don’t know how to write their names, they do work that many who have had an education neither know how nor are able to do, and so that there’s no reason to treat them as ignorant or inferior.

In a communist world, everything will be different. There won’t be privileges for anyone because this would make some feel more important than others. Everyone will participate in doing all kinds of work in an organized manner. Every kind of work will be important, and those who do it will be important. The term “day laborer” won’t exist. By destroying these divisive barriers we’ll build a world where we’ll all live with respect and dignity. On the contrary, nothing that’s not the organization for communism will serve the working class. We can do everything that we want to for “equality” in society, including organize a revolution, but while money exists, we’ll never be able to build a society worthy of being called a communist society.