

## Postal “Consolidation” to Cut 80,000 Jobs

### **STAMP OUT CAPITALISM!**

We call it “junk mail.” The US Postal Service (USPS) calls it “standard.” Pretty soon it’ll get to us faster than letters with a stamp. Instead of aiming for overnight service, the USPS now plans for first-class letters to take two or three days.

The USPS is planning a major reorganization that will save money at the expense of tens of thousands of workers’ jobs. It claims a “financial crisis” but the US Congress hoards workers’ taxes to spend on imperialist wars of conquest, not on services we need or want. Once again the capitalist rulers are bailing themselves out at our expense.

Companies encourage us to pay bills and do other business online, so there’s less first-class mail. The USPS uses new communications technologies to automate workers out of jobs. Now it plans to “consolidate” by closing over 300 of its 500 processing facilities.

In communist society, if work is reorganized more efficiently, workers won’t suffer. They’ll work fewer hours at that job, or none at all, leaving more time to do a different kind of work. They’ll never have to worry about going hungry or losing the roof over their head, the way laid-off workers do today. Communism provides “according to needs,” not “according to work.”

Close to 100 people (mainly postal workers and their relatives) jammed a public hearing to protest the cuts to jobs and services. The USPS expects to save over \$6½ million per year by cutting 260 jobs at this one facility alone. That could mean as many as 80,000 jobs cut nationally and \$billions more for US rulers’ preparations for world war!

As always these mass attacks have a racist

edge. A postal job used to be one of the few stable, secure jobs available to folks without a college degree, especially black workers and, more recently, immigrant workers. Union leaders say, “Don’t worry, they’ll go by seniority; you’ll get transferred.” But clearly tens of thousands of workers, perhaps part-timers or “casuals,” will end up on the streets. Those with more seniority face severe cuts to their health care and pensions.

“I tell my people that the problem is business unionism,” said a postal worker at the meeting who is trying to change his union “from within.” He meant the horde of bureaucrats in every union who enrich themselves while cozying up to management. This worker and others were open to the Occupy movement’s plan for a May Day general strike.

But the problem goes deeper than business unionism. Even militant trade-unionism or a general strike can’t save workers from the ravages of the capitalist crisis that’s behind massive cutbacks, layoffs, and increasing war preparations. Neither can tough-talking local politicians of any color or description.

Postal workers need communist revolution, and so do we all. In communism, workers organized through the International Communist Workers’ Party will collectively decide what work is needed and how to get it done. For example, will we have daily mail deliveries? Maybe not. Communism will get rid of money, and with it, bills, payments, and ads—most of today’s mail.

In a communist society, there won’t be part-timers or “casuals.” There won’t be any unemployment. Everyone will have constructive work spreading useful information, building houses, meeting the needs of our class, not of the bosses.

We’ll probably read magazines online or in community centers, or they could be delivered as newspapers are now. Letters, for those who still write them, could be delivered, but the delivery system won’t be based on profit. Postal workers, who know the current system best, will help figure out how communist society will get things where they need to go.

We’re not just dreaming. We’re distributing *Red Flag* and *Mobilizing the Masses for Communism* to postal workers and talking with them. The growing attacks on us make it more urgent to spread the fight for communism. We’re working to mobilize the masses to think about and organize to get rid of racist capitalism with communist revolution worldwide, and how to build our new society. Join us!



**1970: Nationwide Strike shut down US Postal Service**