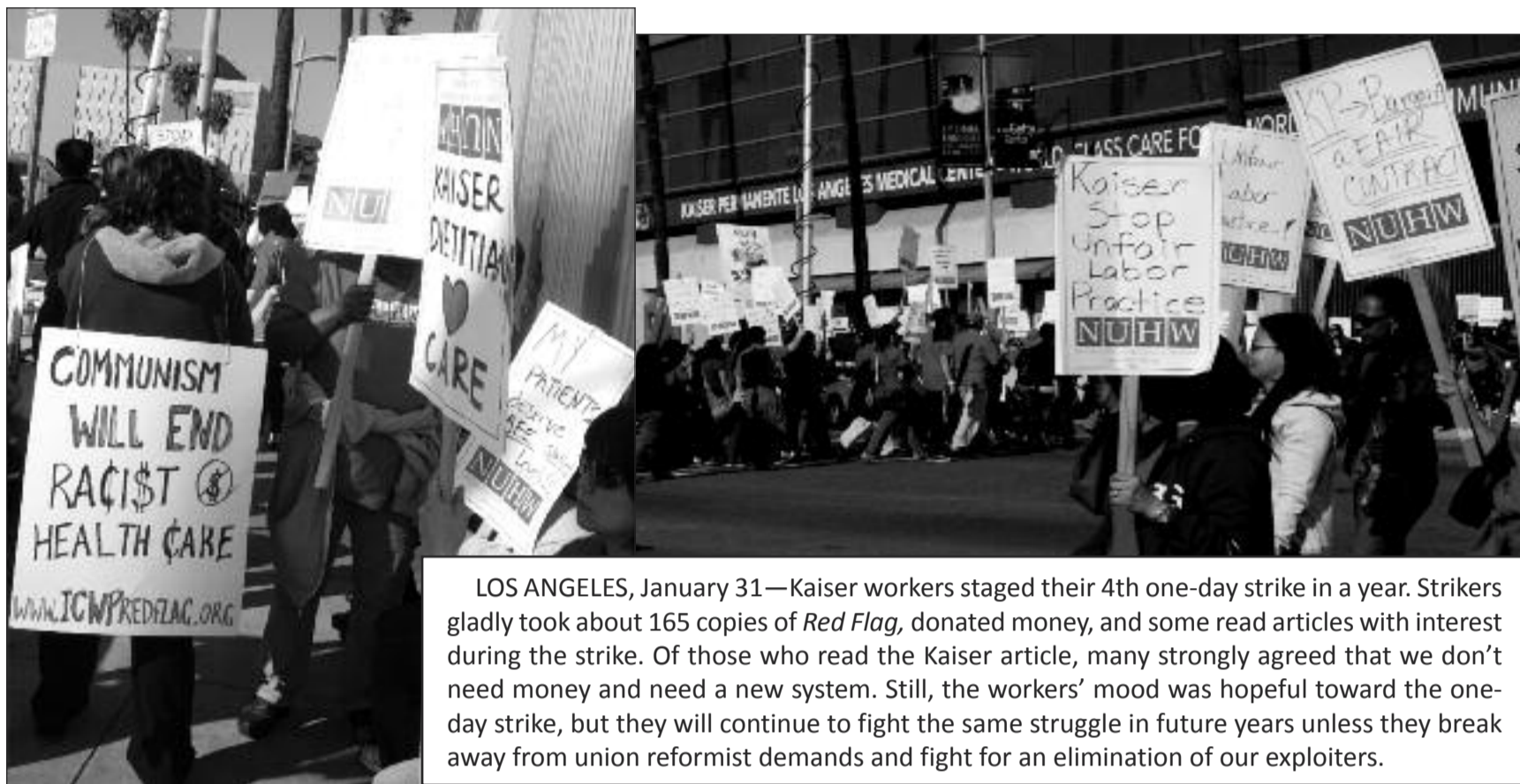


RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



THE NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



LOS ANGELES, January 31—Kaiser workers staged their 4th one-day strike in a year. Strikers gladly took about 165 copies of *Red Flag*, donated money, and some read articles with interest during the strike. Of those who read the Kaiser article, many strongly agreed that we don't need money and need a new system. Still, the workers' mood was hopeful toward the one-day strike, but they will continue to fight the same struggle in future years unless they break away from union reformist demands and fight for an elimination of our exploiters.

SOLDIERS, SAILORS, WORKERS: FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST POWER

COMMUNISM IS MORE AND MORE ON TRANSIT WORKERS' MINDS

LOS ANGELES--Capitalism's economic crisis is deepening and the preparations for world war are accelerating. Both events are profoundly affecting workers internationally.

On one hand, life is becoming more unbearable. On the other, it is clearer and clearer to millions that capitalism can't meet our needs and that we need a new system.

Many are going from questioning capitalism to actually considering communism to be a viable alternative. This is the case at MTA.

When Stan first came to an International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) meeting, he said:

"All my life I had been told bad things about communism. I never thought that I would be coming to a meeting and discussing communism."

Here are some excerpts of a recent conversation:

Stan: Yes, the bosses helped create this mass unemployment by exporting jobs overseas.

Ben: Precisely. They can't help it. Competing for market share, the capitalists look for where to super-exploit workers. Also, they introduce machines at home to produce more with fewer workers.

Stan: But then more people can't afford to buy what they produce.

Ben: Yes, it then becomes a crisis of overproduction. They can't sell what they produce. Yet millions can't satisfy their basic needs. It shows the need to destroy capitalism.

Stan: Well, we can become independent.

Ben: No, that's no solution. We will either end up being exploiters or bankrupt. No, we need a revolution.

Stan: I guess you're right. I'm ready for the revolution. When do

PENTAGON BUDGET MIRRORS BOSSES' PLANS TO CONFRONT CHINA

Soldiers are talking about the cuts in the new military budget and what they mean. Looking beneath the surface of the Pentagon's announcement of reduced spending, the message is that the bosses are preparing for wider and more intensive imperialist wars. According to the *LA Times*, "The plan is meant to shift spending away from the heavy commitment of troops and equipment needed to fight the wars of the last decade, and to instead beef up the Navy and other assets to help counter Iran, China and North Korea."

According to the *Washington Post*, the budget reflects "a new strategic focus on the Pacific."

According to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, the budget cuts include cutting some soldiers and marines and eliminating obsolete equipment. These cuts are deceptive. Soldiers and Marines are the

part of the budget that are least expensive and easiest to replace when war needs demand.

The savings, supposedly "peace dividends," will be used to upgrade and replace defense systems whose construction requires more time. The Pentagon plans "new generation bombers capable of penetrating modern air defense systems like that of China." Also, carriers and long range bombers will be kept and submarines will be upgraded. This means more war against workers here and worldwide. This is the true nature of this war budget.

With ever-increasing competition, US imperialists are facing the daunting task of keeping militarily ahead of countries like China and Russia. Even though competition now seems mainly economic, US imperialists know very well that ultimate power lies with the capitalists with the stronger, most

WAR BUDGET from page 1

committed military force. This is the reason that the US is changing its defense priorities, to focus on China and try to come back with a vengeance.

For the imperialists, serious steps need to be taken before launching the next war. First, the US



The Yemeni government is desperately trying to crush a wave of mutinies at military airbases. Rebellious soldiers have demanded the ouster of officers who steal from them and amnesty for those who refused to fire on protesters.

bosses need to convince the soldiers, workers and students in the US that war will be necessary and in our interest. We shouldn't fall for their lies. They're fighting for their empire at our expense. Even when they tell soldiers they want us to be "critical thinkers," it's just to help the bosses fight for their empire, to exploit more workers.

They will try to pit US workers against Chinese workers. Many articles in the bosses' media talk about competition with countries like China and about Iran's nuclear quest. In the name of "democracy," "peace," and "economic survival," US imperialists will try to win domestic support for wider war, to get us to fight patriotically for the bosses.

They are modernizing the current military force that continues to use drones to spy on and bomb other countries, while they cut jobs, health care and pensions. Obama's military budget includes increases for every year for five years, except one. It's no surprise that the Pentagon plans to discontinue drones like the one captured in Iran, and build a group of new ones with the latest technology.

Perhaps the brass is afraid of the rank and file refusing to follow orders when told to bomb innocent civilians. This explains why the bosses created a military elite group that controls drones from a central control station. But soldiers, sailors and Marines from many ranks refused orders during the Vietnam War. In fact, the rulers got a taste of how low morale can affect the wars in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. You can bet that the temporary reduction in troops is also a plan to weed out rebellious soldiers who have experienced the harsh reality of war and who don't believe the lies of the brass and the rulers.

The Pentagon has revealed that the Navy forces will be maintained. This includes ten carrier air wings, eleven aircraft carriers and all amphibious assault ships. The only elimination is the Ticonderoga class cruisers, which need extensive repairs. In fact, all this talk of downsizing is really planning for the next wars.

Workers, soldiers and sailors around the world should realize the truth of the matter: the imperialists are gearing up for world war and we must organize in the ranks of the soldiers, sailors and Marines to turn imperialist war into communist revolution. We need a communist world without wars for profits or exploitation. Join us!

LA METRO from page 1

you think it will start?

We talked about the need to mobilize the masses for communism. We both agreed it was not an easy task but that it could be done. He thought that a general strike by MTA workers that shuts down Los Angeles would be a good start. He said that unlike previous strikes, the buses would have to be stopped completely.

Stan: What would be the demands? It wouldn't be for higher wages, right?

Ben: No, they would have to be political slogans that point toward communism. Demanding higher wages would just perpetuate our wage slavery. We need to destroy it!

Stan: You're right. Higher wages wouldn't be a unifying slogan. It divides us from other workers. We need something that would unify us all!

The conversation got more politically intense. We talked about the simmering volcano below a sea of seemingly passive masses. We talked about Wisconsin and the Occupy movement as examples of the masses beginning to stir. We talked about the 1992 LA Rebellion triggered by the Rodney King beating, showing small events can trigger huge ones. We both agree that we want

the masses to rise with the right ideas. We want a vision of communism in the minds of those who will pull the trigger on capitalism.

We said good-bye till another day. Self critically, when he asked, "When will the revolution start?" I should have answered that it has already started. We are on the road to revolution, mobilizing the masses for communism. I should have asked him to join ICWP. It is not too late. I know he will read this article. We would be more than honored if he joined ICWP. The working class needs communist fighters like him, and also like you who are reading this.

Like capitalism, MTA continues relentlessly its reign of terror against workers

A driver from Division 15 told us that Management prohibits them from carrying their cell phones on them, turned off or not. However, since there are no public phones, management wants drivers to use them to call in if their buses stall or the radio fails.

Management is also forcing drivers to sign an agreement granting them access to the drivers' monthly telephone bills. This is to get proof of "illegal" use of cell phones to fire drivers.

Other drivers report that MTA wants to force

drivers to work overtime for free. Due to budget cuts, routes that had five buses running now only have three. Drivers can't service these routes within the old allotted time. They routinely finish their shift twenty or more minutes late. Management is now suspending drivers who submit those minutes for overtime pay.

Many drivers who regularly finish 5 to 10 minutes late never submit them for overtime because of the hassle. Now MTA wants to make this unpaid labor "official."

With friends like the union officials, who needs enemies?

The union is a dues-collecting machine that does the bosses' bidding. Expect nothing good from them or any other union leader. Unionism only leads us down the path of reformism and electoral politics. Both are deadly traps.

It bodes well for the revolution that more MTA workers see us and communism as a viable alternative to these traitors and capitalism. Join the growing numbers reading, distributing and financing *Red Flag* and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. Most important, join ICWP to move the revolution forward.



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3175 S. HOOVER ST., LOS ANGELES, CA
90007, USA**