

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



Los Angeles: One million marchers protest attacks on immigrants, 2006



TURN COMING WORLD WAR INTO CLASS WAR FOR COMMUNISM

PENTAGON/BOEING ATTACK YOUNG WORKERS

As US imperialism prepares for war against the China-Russia-Iran axis, it wants to build its military machine as cheaply as possible. The “tankers” or airplanes that refuel their combat aircrafts in flight are an example.

The Pentagon wants “more tankers for less.” Boeing is already \$500 million over budget. The Defense Department has publicly called for a low-cost Southern aerospace corridor and sub-contracting to keep costs down.

In the new IAM contract, the Joint Union/Boeing Council will be in charge of guaranteeing the company “gets more with less” in the older “heritage” plants. The company wants this council to help train a new generation of lower-paid, more passive workers.

But they have a problem. Every poll shows the millennials (age 18-29) in the U.S. have lost faith in capitalism. Although the polls only offer socialism as an alternative, it’s clear young workers are more favorably disposed to communist alternatives.

As this new generation enters the factories, we ask you to help us expand our *Red Flag* networks and distribution of our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. These networks will form the backbone of the movement to take back the means of production: that which should be ours.

BOEING TO WICHITA: DROP DEAD

WICHITA, KANSAS-- Boeing promised 7500 new jobs if they won the Air Force tanker contract last year. They won and then promptly closed the Wichita facility eliminating 2,160 jobs instead.

Every Kansas politician and Boeing union official joined a relentless, decade-long campaign to secure the contract. “We expect Boeing to honor their commitment [to add jobs],” said Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback when the company signed the tanker contract 10 months ago.

Now the bosses’ politicians are singing a different tune. “[We] can’t compel a private company to make a certain decision,” said Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts.

International Association of Machinists (IAM) international vice-president Mark Blondin said much the same thing. The IAM tried to lie about job guarantees in order to sell the union contract last month. “We can’t stop Boeing from placing work wherever it wants,” he admitted after being confronted by dubious members.

We asked then and we ask now, “Why not?”

After all, we built these planes. The working class’s labor paid for all the plants and machinery, the fancy corporate offices and outsized executive bonuses. Whose factory is this anyway?

It’s illogical--not to mention immoral--that the bosses, the top 1/2 of 1%, own the product of our

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FIGHT TO DESTROY BORDERS AND WAGE SLAVERY!

As crisis in the world continues to sharpen, the bosses push hatred or discrimination of immigrant workers. Capitalism divides working class people and pits workers against each other. Some people have been won to a racist attack against immigrant workers. On the other hand, a lot of immigrants and citizens are angrier and want to fight this racism.

One recent racist example is a video that went viral on YouTube and received over a million hits in one day and countless responses—some against and some for. The video by “Racist Arizona White Ladies” is five minutes of discrimination and hatred towards immigrants and Latinos.

Besides a lot of disgusting slander, it argues, falsely, that it’s easy to get a green card, that it wouldn’t be a problem if immigrants came here legally, and that immigrants are stealing jobs from “Americans.”

It’s capitalism that forces workers to emigrate in search of work to survive. It’s the capitalists who lay off and fire workers to increase their profits. It’s capitalism’s drive for maximum profits, speed-up and mechanization, producing more with fewer workers, that causes mass unemployment.

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Sharpening US-Iran Conflict Shows:

URGENT NEED TO BUILD ICWP WORLDWIDE

The Iran situation shows that the world is on the brink of a major war, while Obama's 'Pivot to Asia-Pacific' shows that the US bosses are accelerating their preparations to confront the rising imperialist power China.

The International Communist Workers' Party's answer to the bosses' impending bloodbath is to mobilize the masses for communism now. We can't stop the rulers from going to war, but we can turn their world war into a revolutionary war for communism.

This requires winning millions of workers, soldiers, students and their allies to embrace communist ideas to organize the class war we need. Every *Red Flag* reader and all ICWP members must see the urgent need to spread our communist ideas massively.

This means putting *Red Flag* and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* into the hands of all our co-workers, friends and families, and winning them to do the same.

It means responding to the bosses' attacks by organizing class struggle on the job around revolutionary communist

principles which targets capitalism and organizes to destroy it. It means organizing political strikes against capitalism that show workers the need and the potential for workers' power.

But most important of all, it means joining ICWP and recruiting others. Every MTA and Boeing worker, every soldier, student and others who read *Red Flag* and agree with communism should join ICWP and help build it into a massive international Party capable of leading the international working class to power.

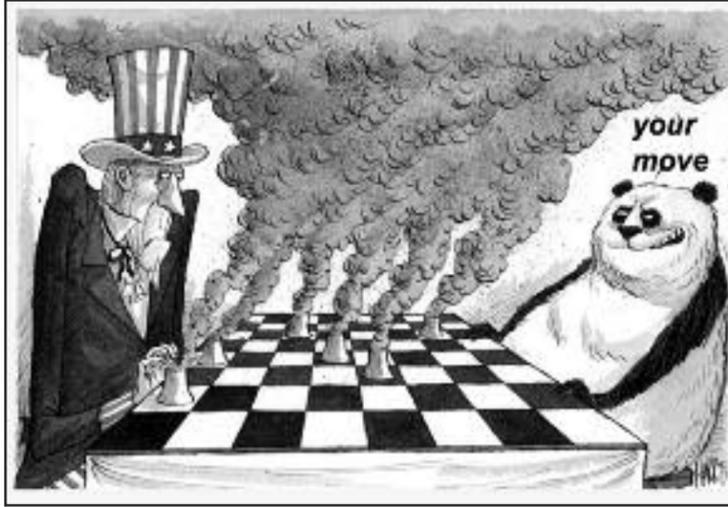
The stakes couldn't be higher:

It is either capitalism's massive destruction and death, or communism, a world without the rule of money-capital. Communism will cherish workers' lives, not profits. Without exploitation and wage slavery, all workers will flourish and develop to their fullest potential.

The imperialists' dance of death becomes ever more dangerous

On Thursday (1/4/12) Obama unveiled US imperialism's new military strategy. He said the military will be leaner, but the US would maintain its military superiority. Pentagon officials made it clear that they focus on Asia-Pacific because the fronts for potential conflicts are shifting toward China.

The Chinese imperialists, however, are not sleeping. They acknowledge that the main pur-



pose of the new US strategy is to form an alliance in the region to stop China's rise. An editorial in their mouthpiece *Global Times* states in no uncertain terms that as long as the US abides by international rules, it will never contain China's rise.

It further adds that budget constraints will undermine US military capability: "In this case, the US would witness not only the end of its economic hegemony but also its global military dominance."

Such future scenarios can only embolden China and make US imperialism more desperate and dangerous.

Chinese bosses getting more confrontational

"China should take fight to US over Iran," screams a *Global Times* editorial (1/14/12), responding to sanctions imposed Thursday on a Chinese energy company dealing with Iran. It

states: "China should not bend to US pressure. It needs to come up with deliberate countermeasures, and show deterrence to an arrogant US."

It stresses that "Iran's oil resources and geopolitical value are crucial to China." Continuing doing business with Iran is worth "China taking some troubles and even paying a certain price."

They know that their anti-sanction position will anger the US, but are confident that US reaction will be limited by a potential trade war it can't afford and by China being the "largest holder of US treasury bonds."

Sounding a more confrontational note, they add that worries about antagonizing the US "should not dominate our thinking... China should... protect its own interests."

As world war looms closer, two questions rest heavy on workers' minds.

One: what can we do?

Thoughts of nuclear war paralyze many today. The bosses will, however, put tens of millions into motion. They will try to use patriotism to get us to slave in their war industries and kill and die on their battlefields for their profits. But, we have no nation or empire to defend.

We can mobilize the masses to reject the bosses' patriotism and embrace our internationalist revolutionary communist ideas to overthrow the bosses and their system. The workers and soldiers in Russia did it during WWI, and in China in WWII. They proved that the bosses are not invincible.

The other: Can we build and run a better world?

The answer is a resounding: Yes! We can build a better world! Are we going to end up like Russia and China? No! They fought for socialism, which was state capitalism. Learning from their triumphs and mistakes, we fight for communism, a world without bosses, their exploitation and money: the root of all our problems! Our strategy, *mobilize the masses for communism now and always*, will guarantee our victory. Join us to help put it into practice!

THIS MAY DAY

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY,

IN LOS ANGELES AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, ICWP URGES WORKERS, STUDENTS, SOLDIERS AND THEIR ALLIES TO:

TO MOBILIZE THEIR FRIENDS TO STRIKE ON MAY DAY FOR COMMUNISM

TO MARCH WITH ICWP AND TO HELP SPREAD RED FLAG AND OUR MANIFESTO MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM TO TENS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS.



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)
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3175 S. HOOVER ST., LOS ANGELES, CA
90007, USA

Los Angeles Transit:

TALKING ABOUT WAGE SLAVERY AND COMMUNISM

This lively discussion took place between Stan, an MTA bus driver, and Ben, an ICWP organizer, after an ICWP workers' meeting.

Stan: Sorry I was late.

Ben: I'm glad to see you. Look, the latest *Red Flag* has an article about racist assistant manager Richard Herpers verbally assaulting a mechanic at Division 15.

Stan: Didn't hear about that. Wasn't my division. Heard anything about Dion?

Ben: He is suing the company for wrongful termination. Hope to meet with him to write more about his case.

Stan: I'd like to see him come back.

Ben: We too. Shop steward Pacheco was present when Herpers cursed the mechanic in his office, once again.. Pacheco did not mutter a word.

Stan: Yes, shop stewards are powerless. The union honchos took their power away.

Ben: All union officials seek to reform capitalism, not to destroy it. Even if honest, they only help perpetuate the bosses' wage slavery. In this crisis, however, UTU officials are openly supporting MTA's reign of terror, cameras, rotten contracts and all. Besides, why do we need unions to negotiate the terms of our exploitation? Under slavery, would we have fought to negotiate with the slave master how many lashes to give

us, or built a movement to destroy the slave master and slavery?"

Stan: To destroy the slave master.

Ben: Today, we fight to get rid of wage slavery. Have you seen the movie *Burn?*

Stan: No.

Ben: It's about a heroic slave revolt. In it, Marlon Brando tries to win some slave masters, sugar producers, to free their slaves and convert them into workers. He argued that it would be more profitable. He compares slaves to wives that must be fed, clothed, housed and taken care of even when the harvest is over. Workers he compares to prostitutes, paid for their services and discarded when no longer needed. It's a sexist image, but it makes a point.

Stan: Sounds very interesting.

Ben: You should also see *Quilombo*, about rebellions of African slaves in Brazil. Escaped slaves built cities in the jungle, lived collectively and shared everything in common without money or bosses, like in pre-class communism.

Stan: Sounds like a good movie too!

Ben: Yes. Today we continue their tradition. As wage slaves, we fight to break the capitalists' chains and build scientific communism. Workers' rebellions, rocking the world today, clamor for a better world.

Stan: You're right. But I question if workers here will rise and sacrifice as workers around the world are doing.

Ben: US workers have a rich history of class struggle. There are, for example, the black workers' rebellions in the sixties.

Stan: That was then but now is different.

Ben: For workers, the past never dies. It serves to build the future. The 1967 Detroit Rebellion showed that soldiers can support industrial workers' uprisings against the bosses. The armed rebellion was led by black ex-GIs recently back from Vietnam. Also, many soldiers stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas, refused to go to put down that rebellion and were sent instead to the stockade.

Stan: I guess you're right. Workers here might move. I have another question: Who decides what a worker is worth?

Ben: That was decided a long time ago when capitalism first began. Capitalism created the working class: a class with nothing but its labor power to sell to the capitalists in order to survive. The capitalists decided the price (wages): just enough to keep workers alive, and raise the next generation of wage slaves. The capitalists called it "continued wanting." Wages are the chains that enslave us to our bosses.

Stan: Yeah, *Red Flag* is always saying we are wage slaves.

Ben: We think we can't live without the chains (money). But the English capitalists had to impose capitalism brutally. They passed vagrancy laws. If you were caught without having a boss, they cut off one of your ears. The second time, they cut off the other ear. The third time they hung you!

Stan: I see we have to do something. I tell people to join the organization.

Ben: We only want to build ICWP.

Stan: That's what I tell them to join. You should know that corporate MTA must get *Red Flag*.

Ben: Good. We say that "to be attacked by the enemy is a good thing." What we are doing must be hurting them. We should be careful.

Stan: I'm not afraid. Let them come. I'm not doing anything illegal.

Ben: Just like it was illegal for slaves to plot to organize rebellions, it is illegal for us to organize against the capitalists. Let's not be fooled by their legality. They will use brute force when needed. We must build networks of *Red Flag* readers and ICWP groups to survive and grow under any and all conditions.

Stan: OK. Give me 5 extra copies of *Red Flag*. Here's a \$20 donation. I'll get together a group at work for you to talk to. Good night."



BOEING from page 1

collective labor. But that's capitalism for you! The bosses' government and laws all ensure this thievery is legal.

The only answer is to take back what is ours. We must take the industry out of the hands of the profiteers and produce according to what our class needs. That means building a new society based on mobilizing the masses for communism.

Pitting Worker Against Worker

The skepticism of those questioning the union leadership proved valid. The union led us to believe that the new contract guaranteed that Wichita jobs would move to union facilities in Washington State.

Only 100 jobs will move to Washington State. Fifteen hundred will move to non-union San Antonio and Oklahoma. The rest will be eliminated.

The Texas facility has 70% lower costs than Wichita. It will duplicate much of the airplane-modification work done at union factories in the Seattle area, as the low-cost South Carolina plant duplicates the 787 work in Everett, WA.

The future that the pro-capitalist union leaders have bought into has become crystal clear. As in the auto industry, Boeing bosses will build parallel non-union, low-cost facilities in the southern US aerospace corridor. Unions in the heritage plants will be allowed to continue to function as long as they maintain a no-strike regime and sing the virtues of capitalism.

These parallel low-cost facilities will help the

union traitors defend capitalism in crisis. Job one for these traitors is to make us feel powerless in the face of the bosses' attacks. "We have to stay competitive," said Tom McCarty, president of the white-collar union at Boeing.

Communism Welcomes Helping Hands

Production for profit not only pits company against company, but also worker against worker. Unlike dog-eat-dog capitalism, communist production for need gathers its strength from helping hands.

We can use the extra time helping hands give us to decide where, what and for whom we produce. Military hardware will serve the interests of the world's workers, not the empire of the corporate bosses.

Communism means Wichita workers will no longer compete against workers in San Antonio, Oklahoma, Washington State or anywhere in the world. Divide and conquer: that is the logic of the capitalism. Rely on the strength of a united working class and the mobilized masses: that is the logic of communism.

THE BOEING WAY: SECRETS AND LIES

Boeing has been in Wichita since it bought the Stearman Aircraft Co. in 1929. During WWII, employment peaked at 40,000. For decades, Boeing was the city's largest employer. Over 12,000 worked for the company as recently as 2004.

The next year Boeing sold off its commercial division leaving 3,800 mostly union workers on the military side. Six years later, the workforce had shrunk to 2,160.

Even as the company promised to add an additional 7,500 tanker jobs, it began to study how to close the Wichita plant altogether. The secret plan was completed in November. At the same time the company worked out another secret deal with the union leadership to sabotage any fight-back.

The union railroaded the deal through in early December. The final decision to close the plant was made on December 30th. Wichita workers were notified the following Wednesday that they would no longer have jobs.



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.



No Borders from page 1

Immigration laws punish those who must cross the boss-created borders to survive. Like the laws keeping people slaves, the bosses’ laws protect their profits, never the workers. All immigration laws are racist. All nations belong to the bosses. We workers have no country, only our class. In a communist society, based on producing and sharing collectively, workers will be welcomed everywhere.

In a communist society all workers will be needed everywhere to build houses, hospitals, produce food, clothes, and whatever we all need. There won’t be any unemployment because there won’t be any buyers of sellers of labor.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform For War

The top imperialist bosses pretend to be anti-racist, opposing the open racism in the YouTube video, and also laws attacking immigrants in Arizona and elsewhere. But the immigration laws that they support for war are just as racist as the Arizona law!

Comprehensive Immigration Reform, supported by Obama, would put undocumented immigrants on a twelve-year controlled “path to legalization” during which they could be deported if unemployed for 60 days or if fired for rebelling. It would make millions of immigrants slaves in the rulers’ war industries. The Dream Act would force millions of undocumented US high school graduates into the military to have a chance for a green card.

The rulers’ disagreements about immigration

need. That’s why they want immigration reform.

Those bosses who oppose these reforms only want to keep immigrants terrorized, fearing deportation. These bosses have no interests outside the US and are putting up obstacles to paying for war.

Because of these disagreements, Congress hasn’t passed the comprehensive immigration reform laws the imperialists want. So the Obama Administration is going around Congress, decreeing that undocumented immigrants with no criminal record should be a “low priority” for deportation. They issued new training guidelines for ICE agents not to prioritize deporting immigrants with young US-born children without a criminal record. Some ICE agents refused this training, claiming it’s against the law.

Neither group of exploiters is a friend of workers. Both use the law to keep immigrant workers chained to wage slavery. Both divide immigrants from US-born and blame immigrants for capitalism’s crisis.

laws only reflect their own different needs and interests. The top US imperialist rulers are planning for wider war (see page 2). So they need disciplined, low-paid workers for their war industries and patriotic soldiers for their military. These imperialists plan to use immigrants, black and white workers and youth to fill this

One side wants to prepare for world war; the other only wants terror and exploitation for today’s profits.

Some California politicians are collecting signatures for a ballot measure asking the federal government to make California a “safe harbor” for some undocumented workers in the state by formally exempting them from deportation and immunizing the employers who hire them. Their goal is to force the Federal government to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

We workers should neither support the liberal imperialist exploiters nor the openly anti-immigrant forces. We need to confront the current crisis by fighting to get rid of capitalist borders, wage slavery and exploitation with communist revolution. Uniting citizen, especially black, and immigrant workers to destroy racist capitalism, we’ll build a society where all workers are welcome everywhere and no one is forced to leave home to survive. Communist workers will eliminate borders and share all that we produce to meet all workers’ needs. Racism, immigration laws, and exploitation will be eliminated once and for all. The bosses fear that black and immigrant workers will unite in the factories, fields and military to mobilize masses of all “races” for communism. Let’s make it happen.



Kaiser Permanente Shows Capitalism in Action

HEALTH CARE WORKERS MUST BREAK CHAINS OF WAGE-SLAVERY

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 16—Healthcare workers are planning a one-day strike against Kaiser Permanente for January 31, 2012. The National Union of Healthcare Workers staged three one-day strikes in 2011 against Kaiser, the largest Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in the US. The statewide September strike of over 21,000 workers was the largest in Kaiser's history.

Kaiser proposes to reduce its employee health coverage and to eliminate workers' only defined-benefit pension plan, while it rakes in \$billions. The average annual CEO pay for California's largest HMOs is \$7.4 million. Kaiser CEO George Halvorson, the highest earner at a supposedly non-profit HMO, took home \$7.9 million in 2009.

This capitalist system, where even health care workers can't afford health care, has got to go!

Don't US capitalists need a healthy workforce any more?

Yes, but with the large reserve of unemployed and growing elderly population, many workers have become expendable. The nature of capitalism, especially during its current crisis, means that the bosses pay workers less while forcing them to do the work of two. The bosses are also finding ways to reduce costs, (meaning cuts) in health care, directly affecting Kaiser, along with cuts in social welfare and education. The bosses pay service providers the bare minimum to keep the work force alive and well enough to return to work.

Since 1938, Kaiser has profited from pre-paid health care, in partnership with the federal gov-

ernment and Kaiser Steel. It flourished during World War II when it contracted for the care of workers building aircraft and warships. After the war, large labor unions joined the partnership, fattening profits even more. After the HMO Act of 1973, Kaiser worked to regain lost profits by attacking workers' benefits. The AFL-CIO agreed to a "Labor-Management Partnership" and "Unit-Based Teams" to keep workers from fighting back. These "partnerships" ensure Kaiser's profits.

Today, Kaiser's options to maintain its 7.5% profit margin are rate hikes, reduced quality of care, driving down Kaiser employees' wages and benefits, or reducing executive pay. Federal regulators limit rate hikes because of the costs to other capitalists. Care has already deteriorated (www.nuhw.org/caredenied). Now Kaiser employee benefits and pensions are under attack. The only option Kaiser is unwilling to consider is reduced executive pay! However, even this wouldn't resolve the problem, which is much larger than Kaiser alone.

Unions, reforms are no solution.

Unions serve the bosses by negotiating the terms of our exploitation, rather than eliminating our exploitation. Even if we win reform struggles, capitalism was not designed to meet our needs. The 1/2 of 1% will continue to make their profits off the other 99 1/2% of us. Any gains we make will be reversed at the next chance the bosses get. Not just because they are "mean" or "greedy" but because capital accumulation is the defining principle of capitalism. The dog-eat-dog competition among bosses (US, China, Mexico,

etc.) means they must constantly drive down the cost of our labor power. We are wage slaves under their system. Instead of seeking the highest bidder for our labor-power, we need to get rid of our chains.

We need a society where health care only exists to benefit the working class.

Under capitalism, health care and all products are treated as exchange values (commodities). They must be useful or seem useful in order to be sold, but usefulness is not the most important thing under capitalism. "No sale, no use." We all need healthcare, but billions go without it.

Only Communist Revolution will solve our problems.

Under communism, money will no longer exist and therefore products (including health care) will no longer need to be exchanged for dollars, euros, or yen.

Capitalists will not surrender without a fight. They constantly spread anti-communist propaganda and use racism, sexism, and patriotism to divide us, trying to ensure the survival of their system. But because their system forces them to attack workers, it helps to create its own gravediggers.

Help fight for a world where workers will share all that we produce! Fight for a world where no one will have excess while others starve. Help spread the truth about capitalism and the vision of a better tomorrow by distributing *Red Flag* and the ICWP manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

Our children and grandchildren deserve a communist, share-and-share-alike, world.

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

Excited to Build for a Communist Dream

A while ago, comrades explained to me a little about ICWP which made me want to know more about it. A few days ago they invited me to a New Year's gathering. The information, the ideas, the proposals and the remarks that were expressed (even though they were few) left me satisfied, deeply moved, and let's say excited that a movement like this exists.

I say this because of the current situation of the FMLN party that claims to be the "left" in the country. Look out: I'm expressing my value judgment. The history, ideals, convictions, and struggles are intact, the motives that generated the war in El Salvador are there. The problem, for me, is that the leaders of the FMLN and their decisions are far from those ideals. These FMLN leaders talk all the time about how the youth are the present and future of the country, that spaces must be opened for the youth. I don't only mention this because they say it but because new ideas are needed: the enthusiasm and the biological rebelliousness of youth to want to change the world, without being infected with power as many are now.

These FMLN leaders really need and are looking for young leaders, but they want leaders who can be manipulated, to keep the FMLN where it is, where they have accommodated to capitalism.

That's why I'm excited about the vision of this new project, because it brings this utopia closer to us. Clearly it won't be easy, but this activates us. We must neither conform nor become accustomed to the reality that's been imposed on us. It's not God's destiny, much less just that "things happen, because that's how things are." We don't want to justify ourselves with this. It's a cowardly way of eluding the responsibility that we have at the very time that we need to



PARTY, from 16

groups spread the idea that the masses can make a revolution without a Party. Others say that having only one party is what caused communism to degenerate. Both ideas are wrong.

To Achieve the Unity of the Workers, We Need Centralism

Marx saw centralism as fundamental to "the

transform reality.

As Silvio says, "We don't need wings to make a dream, it's enough with our hands, it's enough with our chest, with our legs, with the effort... We don't need wings to be more beautiful, it's enough to have a good sense of immense love; we don't need wings to fly." And this dream is this new world, this human world, just, supportive; a world that will be unachievable subjectively for some, but not unachievable objectively for the dreamers like you or like me.

I'll continue to be involved, learning more, informing myself of more, transmitting and expressing ideas in ICWP. I hope to share pieces of hopes and deliver our dreams in exchange for theirs. To know that in the world there's always a friendly hand, that is, to expand this message more of change, a real change. We have the duty to become informed, to organize, to mobilize no matter where we find ourselves. I wish to draw new horizons, and in the darkest days, to think always that the world is inhabited by these dreams. We have to have these dreams and keep them alive, knowing that the pain, the exploitation, the hunger, the injustices, the indifference, the envy, the selfishness (and all that capitalism teaches us) have their days numbered while we are together in this, our continuous struggle.

--Young Comrade, El Salvador

Looking for a Real Communist Party

El Salvador—After the political split between PLP and ICWP, I decided to continue with PLP. As a worker, I haven't been active for a long time. I've been feeling abandoned. My decision to continue in PLP didn't bring me anything positive. But I always tried to have contact with other co-workers who feel the same repressive pain, and economic poverty from the bosses' profit system. This has made me reflect seriously about where the debate is taking place about the fight for communism, and that is not in PLP.

At the same time, I've heard, seen and read that ICWP maintains the discipline to carry forward the theory and practice of communism that in the other party is not even mentioned and where you only have to sheepishly follow a leader.

Today the working class is on its knees asking for equality of wages. That's the basis of the struggle of the reformists like the group that I went around with for a while. All of this is my

organization of the proletariat into a class, and consequently into a political party." However, it was Lenin who systematized this idea. He saw centralism as necessary for illegal work, but we believe that the Party has to guide us all the time, not only under conditions of extreme repression.

For any human activity to succeed, a central leadership is needed. However, there is counter-

revolutionary centralism and bourgeois dictatorship. There are anti-communist, counter-revolutionary parties.

What's crucial to building a communist centralist mass Party is a clear, class-conscious understanding of the Party and its objective: the abolition of wage slavery. No vacillation! No retreat from communism!

motive to renounce it and to decide to be a member of ICWP. That's why I'm sending you this letter hoping that again you are taking me into account. As a worker I hope to be accepted as a comrade.

The value of making contacts in a factory is to win more in the revolutionary communist process (qualitatively and quantitatively) and that is what ICWP is doing. It's not to form electoral and reformist committees—for what? We fight for communism in the face of the discontent of the working class. When we paralyze factories, block streets, etc., the bosses start to give crumbs from their super profits to the suffering workers, but this is not the struggle for communism but simple reformism that keeps the bosses' system alive.

I have 5 friends who are readers of *Red Flag* and many more from my class. I know there is a communist presence in El Salvador and that's why I address you to ask that I could join the Party. Long Live the worker's struggles of the organization from the north, Europe, Asia, China, to Central and South America!! Until victory!

--For Communist Revolutionary Struggle

WUHAN/WUKAN WE GOOFED!

We made a mistake

In the last issue of *Red Flag* (vol.2 #24), the article about the rebellion in Wukan, China said that the village was formerly called Wuhan, a center of communist political activity during the Cultural Revolution. This is not the case. They are in two different areas of the country.

We'll work better without money

I attended a meeting of workers recently where there was a lively discussion. Someone asked, "Have you ever envisioned a world without money?" Then other questions came to mind. Who would be left without a job if money no longer existed? What will motivate people to work without money? How many hours would we have to work collectively if everyone capable of working had work to do? How will we distribute what is produced so that everyone gets their needs met? I was intrigued with the discussion and could hardly wait for the next meeting.

--Enthusiastic Red

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Communist soldiers were key in the Russian Revolution

Who are the soldiers?

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND SOLDIERS WILL LEAD THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

world wide have ignored or under-appreciated the work of politicizing those in the armed forces. We're not going to commit this mistake. We see that the two key centers to achieve a communist revolution are the industrial factories and the army.

This negligence or distortion of the revolutionary strategy of the inevitable need to carry out political work among this sector of the working class has led to the wrong and dangerous idea that soldiers are our enemy.

It's indispensable to develop persistent, tenacious work of agitation and political organizing inside and outside the army, against the abuses to which soldiers are subjected. This campaign of organization must have as its main goal communist political education and as a final goal the recruitment of thousands of soldiers and their families and friends to our Party (ICWP). To carry out this work, we need to develop a plan that very seriously takes into consideration the political security of this project in doing the work inside and outside the military.

In my personal experience, when I was in the army in Latin America, I had the opportunity to confirm that soldiers are open to revolutionary ideas. The great majority are not in the army because they are patriotic or anti-worker, but instead because of being forced, in some Latin American countries, and because of economic necessity in others.

I remember that once I invited a group of soldiers to a public meeting of a party that opposed the government. When we got to the meeting, the people started insulting us and telling us to leave the place, thinking that maybe we were there as agents of the government. Unfortunately they didn't see us soldiers as their allies. We left the place of the meeting thinking about the great political error they were committing.

On many occasions, we soldiers rebelled spontaneously against abuses. We got to the point of discussing among ourselves whether we should execute an officer. But without organization, without political consciousness, and without a Party like ICWP, these rebellions ended in defeat. However, the class hatred was great. I am completely sure that with patient and consistent work, millions of soldiers around the world will join our Party.

--Red Veteran



Soldiers rebelled against US imperialism in Vietnam

"Hey, I heard that your son is in the army. Where is he stationed?" a co-worker and *Red Flag* reader asked me.

"It's true," I answered and told him where my son is stationed.

"That's the same place my grandson is," he told me. Then we exchanged information so that our family members could meet each other.

Where I work, there are black, latin, asian and white workers. Many of them have family members in the US Army, or they themselves were there. The great majority of the members of the army, especially of medium rank and lower, are workers, working class students, the children of workers and farmworkers. When many of these soldiers finish their military service, they return to factories or other jobs to work and be exploited.

The great workers' revolutions in Russia and China have shown that we must and can do political work among the soldiers and win big sections of them to revolutionary communist ideas.

However, the pseudo-leftist organizations

What are Communist Social Values?

The article on "Freedom" in the last issue of *Red Flag* follows Marx in arguing that communism is "working class freedom itself." But Marx also said (in the *Communist Manifesto*) that "the first step in the revolution ... is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class to win the battle of democracy." Another article "Wiggling Fingers or Clenched Fists" in the same *Red Flag* criticizes this position, saying that "the working class needs communism, not democracy."

Freedom and democracy are not the same ideas, but they are related to each other and to other concepts like equality, fraternity, justice, and natural rights. History books often call these "Enlightenment values."

The rising European capitalist class embraced these ideas in the 17th and 18th centuries. They were tools to justify and build support for its attack on the institutions of feudalism. They remain an ideological pillar of decaying capitalism today. Often they're used to justify its bloody imperial wars.

Freedom and other Enlightenment values seem to be about humans generally, not about classes. But as the "Freedom" article notes, dig a little deeper and you'll find class content: Capitalist freedom means freedom to exploit workers, who are wage-slaves of the capitalists. As "Fingers or Fists" says, capitalist democracy is one form of capitalist class dictatorship.

"Freedom" shows that the capitalist idea of "freedom" is "imaginary freedom." It doesn't even explain the material conditions that con-

train the capitalist rulers themselves, much less the working masses. The same can be said for other Enlightenment concepts.

Here's the question, and possible disagreement: Should we follow Marx and most of his followers in redefining "working-class freedom" to mean gaining "the greatest possible collective power over our conditions and circumstances" and therefore communism?

If so should we also redefine "working-class democracy" (and equality, justice, and the rest) to show why they, too, demand mass mobilization for communism?

Or should we reject the Enlightenment vocabulary of values? Should we define and uplift, instead, values (such as power, solidarity and collectivity) that are intrinsic to communism?

— Former philosophy student

Smashing Racism, Sexism, and Homophobia are the Same Fight

A few months ago, a discussion was held between a young comrade and an older member of the party about the role of gay individuals in the party. The younger member felt that fighting for gay rights is just as important as the fight against racism and sexism. The older comrade disagreed because, as he put it, "racism and sexism are the key tools needed for capitalism."

I agree with his views to a certain extent. In my observation of how capitalism works, workers of one ethnic group or sex, mainly men, are put at a higher position in order to further perpetuate competition for work and labor and

keep workers divided.

After the older comrade said that he felt that destroying capitalism would mean destroying homophobia as well, and that racism and sexism are more important, I just could not agree with that.

As an international party we are constantly exposed to new cultural views and perspectives on an issue and I have learned that not all countries are equally accepting of someone's sexual preference, which could result in a worker's social persecution or death. I say worker because I know that many people tend to forget that part when it comes to passing judgment on someone's value in our society.

Every member of our party has their certain biases and contradictions, which are reason enough for mass struggle amongst us to find understanding. I am writing this letter in order to remind those who may have a lack of understanding about LGBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered) and faithful readers that in a communist society all members of society are valued members as long as they are willing to do what they can for the betterment of the masses.

I also believe that racism, sexism and homophobia all have equal importance because it is a struggle against bourgeois ideas to understand equality of all workers. That won't be solved until the workers are in charge. In order to do this, we in ICWP require all the help we can get in distributing *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, our communist manifesto, from men, women, gays, straights etc.

—Young comrade

A LIFETIME OF STRUGGLE FOR OUR CLASS

LOS ANGELES—A few days ago, I was invited to a dinner to support the humanitarian activities of the priest Rogelio Poncelle, in El Salvador, especially in the area of Morazán. Another panelist was the Mexican writer, Hector Ibarra Chavez, Genaro, who had supported and participated with the guerrilla of the FMLN during the war. In the audience there were more than 50 people, among them ex-guerrilla fighters, unionists and other supporters of the FMLN.

The priest Poncelle talked, detailing the terrible reality of poverty that Salvadoran workers suffer and how he helps build small cooperatives, clinics, and other forms of aid. During his presentation he said that we must help, but also that we must reconcile ourselves with the past. Basically he said that we should forget the past and try to build a world of peace and love.

Genaro said that socialism failed. He's putting forward the point of view that capitalism is invincible, that nothing else can be done, and that we have to support the FMLN.

After these presentations, there was a question and answer period. A youth asked, "How can we forget what the military did, the massacres, rapes, and tortures, especially at El Mozote, where they massacred more than 900 people, mostly women and children?" The priest responded that we have to pray and look inside ourselves for forgiveness.

A representative of Central American Studies at Cal State University at Northridge said that he thought that the war hadn't been worth it, that we don't need to fight, and that we don't win anything by doing so. His perspective was capi-

talist, saying that we shouldn't fight and that we don't win anything by fighting.

Others spoke from a religious point of view. The priest, as well as the writer, gave their points supporting capitalist reformism.

At the end a worker spoke, explaining that we must never forget but instead learn the lessons for the next battle. Forgetting would be to betray those who rose up to say "enough" to exploitation and died thinking of a better future for all the workers. He said that the conditions of exploitation, poverty, and repression that caused the war to start are still there, that the capitalist henchmen are still there. He explained that it's true the struggle failed, because they didn't fight for communism. Socialism is state capitalism and it can't lead to communism.

He said that there are men and women workers here in the US, in Mexico and Central America who are fighting for communism, that communism continues to be the alternative for the future that we all want and need. He called on them to join ICWP. He also said that there won't be peace while bosses and workers exist. That the future we need will happen when free workers take power and build communism. He ended by saying there are good people who fight for one year; that those who struggle for ten years are better; but those who fight for their whole lives are indispensable for the revolution.

A friend of his gave out *Red Flag* and the document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to some of those present. One of the regular readers of *Red Flag* said, "I want to see who dares to contradict that speech."



ICWP has published our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It's available in English and Spanish. Order your copy or copies. Please send donations for the costs of printing and mailing. We also ask for your suggestions and criticisms.

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After the loud applause that we gave to his small but direct speech, there was silence. No comments.

Then the moderator said, "Well, umm, er, we see that there are different points of view...let's bring out the singers."

THE MASSES NEED A CENTRALIZED COMMUNIST PARTY

The workers' movement has always needed unity, cohesion and discipline in the struggle against the capitalist rulers (bourgeoisie). But it's had to fight the opposite ideas from the start. Today, mass reactions against bourgeois politics are misdirected with spasms of horror at centralism, the dictatorship of the working class, and, most of all, the Party.

These ideas are not "spontaneous." Reformism, unionism, cooperatives, and anti-Partyism are spread by political organizations. No matter how honest their advocates, they end up serving capitalism.

Communism vs. Anarchism

The International Workingmen's Association (1864-1876) included communists led by Marx, plus socialists, anarchists, trade-unionists, and

others. Bakunin formed a secret anarchist group within it. Anarchists rejected all forms of a state, including the communist dictatorship of the working class. Instead they wanted a secret "invisible dictatorship" to lead the workers' revolt and then declare a "stateless" social system. The International expelled Bakunin's group in 1872 as splitters.

Marxists continued to fight the influence of Proudhon and Lassalle. Marx agreed with the anarchist Proudhon that the capitalist state had to be smashed, rejecting reformism and reliance on elections. But Marx argued for centralism against Proudhon's "federalism."

Lassalle founded the General Association of German Workers, a key element of the International. Lassalleans organized producers' cooperatives, partly funded by the landlord-dominated Prussian state. They called for liberal political reforms but nationalistically supported the unification of Germany by force by their reactionary Prussian patrons.

When the Second International was formed in 1889 without the anarchists and cooperativists, Marxism won out. However, the Second International was an association rather than a party, seeking sympathetic national affiliates. Each national party elected its leadership and built trade unions, believing wrongly that participating in bour-

geois political maneuvering was a step toward political liberty that had to precede economic emancipation from capitalism.

Lenin and other communists in the Second International waged a sharp, protracted struggle against its nationalism, trade-unionism, and opportunism. But when the first World War began, its incorrect politics, loose structure, and lack of a centralized, disciplined party led to its political bankruptcy. Each party sided with "its" capitalist government and supported imperialist war. Even the left-wing German Spartakusbund delayed its break from the frightened sell-out social-democratic leaders. Its leaders paid for their indecision with their lives.

Lenin's communist party, in contrast, seized the opportunity to take power in Russia. In 1919, fifty-two delegates from thirty-four communist parties formed the Third International.

A year later, the KAPD faction split from the German Communist Party. Linked to the Dutch leaders Pannekoek and Gorner, it put forward "council communism," a form of anarchism. It posed a false dilemma: "Who will exercise Proletarian Dictatorship – the Party or the Class?" It wrongly saw the centralized, disciplined Party as an "external" intervention. They advocated that the working-class (proletariat) should organize alone, without it. They looked for some other form of immediate organization that workers could guarantee as revolutionary.

Today the struggle is even sharper. Some



Communist-led Workers Rally in Petrograd, 1917

See PARTY, page 14