

RED FLAG



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



BOEING BOSSES' ETHICS= RACISM, EXPLOITATION, WAR BOEING STRIKERS WELCOME RED FLAG

Over the holiday weekend, I had the chance to visit the Long Beach picket lines to show support and help distribute *Red Flag*. One striker said that only 8% of the cost of the airplane went into labor. He asked me if it was the same in the commercial division where I worked.

I've heard this argument in every strike I've been in (and in lots of others as well). The implication is that if the bosses weren't so greedy, they could, in this case, preserve our medical plans and pension. After all, we're only a small percentage of the cost.

To the contrary, the only place the company can get surplus value (from which they get profits) is from the labor we put into making the jets. All the other money they put into raw materials, buildings, automation, machinery, parts and subsections

they buy from subcontractors, etc. doesn't produce any profit for them. It's dead to the Boeing bosses.

The Boeing bosses have to squeeze their profits out of that 8%. This makes them desperate to exploit us more sharply.

Now, other bosses make profits off of mining and processing raw materials, building the buildings, manufacturing the machines, fabricating jet parts in subcontractors, etc. But the truth is, in a modern economy, every boss must deal with a more automated workplace putting him in a similar position: the percentage of labor drops relative to the investment in machines and other general investment.

This means the general "rate of profit" (the amount of profit each boss can extract vs. the amount he must invest) drops. This fal-

ling rate of profit makes the periodic crises of capitalism deeper and more widespread. That's what we're seeing now in the global "great recession."

Newer emerging capitalists, like the Chinese, aren't immediately affected as drastically. The rise of new imperialists and the sharpened economic situation push capitalism into political and military crises: i.e. war and fascism.

Some may argue that even if this is true, why not just agree with this striker. It might spur on more militant activity. I think, unfortunately, that would just lead us down the primrose path of reformism. We have to understand our enemy—capitalism—and smash it with communist revolution.

Seattle Boeing Worker

Long Beach, May 31—"Ethics' is for them [the bosses]. And that is what we told the [bosses]. And they didn't like it," said a striking Long Beach Boeing worker to some supporters who came to the picket line with RED FLAG.

The workers had to watch Boeing's latest "ethics" video just before going out on strike against attacks on their health and pension benefits. In the video CEO McNerney has the nerve to talk about ethical company behavior when the company has taken the profits produced by union workers' sweat to build a non union plant and supply chain in South Carolina. Boeing will pay here a third of the wages paid its union workers while planning to force Long Beach workers to take big cuts, layoffs and the threat of closing the plants producing the C-17.

We told the strikers that Boeing workers in Seattle reacted in the same fashion when they saw the video. A Seattle Boeing worker screamed "Ethics! What ethics?" after watching the hour and a half video, "Just ask the striking Long Beach workers about company ethics!" RED FLAG has pointed out that the only bosses

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Our Times Demand a Communist Party of a New Type

“This meeting exceeded our expectations!” declared a comrade from Latin America after attending his first meeting of the Central Committee of the International Communist Workers Party.

This period cries out for a communist party of a new type – a party that consistently fights for communist revolution, not reform, in every aspect of the work. We have to fight the illusion that reform is enough—or even possible, other than fascist reform—and show that only communism can resolve the crises. We need a Party that wages that struggle now.

ICWP is becoming this Party and our discussions at this meeting reflected that work concretely. We are new and small, but we are united in the determination to fight for communism in industrial concentrations and the military in half a dozen countries – and counting. We are on the communist road.

CRISIS AND WAR LEAD MILLIONS TO QUESTION CAPITALISM

Today, war, mass layoffs, racist cuts, homelessness, and racist terror-- the global crisis of capitalism-- has forced millions to question the system, many of whom had not done so before. We must seize this opportunity. Sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry is leading to big and rapid changes in the world.

US imperialism is increasingly on the defensive, while Chinese imperialism grows in influence – even in Latin America, long an uncontested sphere of US influence. We continue to report on these developments in the pages of *Red Flag*.

Whether or not China’s rulers believe their own propaganda about a “peaceful rise,” US imperialism cannot and will not allow China to rise peacefully at the expense of its global empire. We may

look back, in the future, and conclude that World War III began in the first decade of the 21st century.

A PAPER OF A NEW TYPE FOR A PARTY OF A NEW TYPE

“We must make a sharp turn toward industry and the military,” declared an ICWP leader. Many more of us must take responsibility for analyzing, evaluating, and developing our political line. We need to grasp the line, put it into practice, and write about our work for *Red Flag*.

We want every reader to become a writer. We want every friend of our Party to become a member, an organizer and a leader. We need every reader to support *Red Flag* financially and to help increase the distribution of the paper. We need to take seriously the political development of every one of us.

Red Flag is beginning to develop into a paper of a new type: A paper that motivates and leads communist class struggle. A paper that provides a realistic and convincing vision of how communism will be. The reports at the meeting from comrades trying to do communist work in the factories and schools in a number of countries revealed practical political questions and obstacles. Such issues include:

- How should we organize communist working-class solidarity, for example strike support? Should we only circulate petitions that put forward communist revolution or should we also circulate letters, in particular cases, that raise advance aspects of our political line, but not all of it. Can we mobilize our base around openly communist politics? What do we learn where this has been tried, even in small ways?
- Does every Party member need to be involved in “mass work”? Does “mass work” mean

“work in mass organizations”? If not, what does it mean?

- How do we view the science and technology developed under capitalism? Are they tools we can learn to use to serve the working class? Or does capitalist science and technology, in the present period, mainly serve the bosses to attack the working class?
- What do we mean when we say that we use the “communist science of dialectical materialism” to fight for “scientific communism”?
- How is “education” different from “schooling”? Is it true that schools are part of the state? What does that mean under capitalism – and what will it mean under communism? Is it good or bad for young people to go to college? Do you have to be a teacher to educate young workers?

Every one of us should contribute to these discussions, and more.

We are unified in our determination to fight for communism especially in industrial and military concentrations. But struggle is primary over unity. This Central Committee meeting exceeded all our expectations in proving that a new kind of party is possible – and communism is possible! -- because that new Party exists today as ICWP.

“We are determined to struggle, not to drift with the current of the old movement,” a comrade said.

“The collective is strong, and that gives us confidence that we will grow,” remarked another.

Our first summer projects – in Seattle and Los Angeles – will further strengthen our collective and give us even more confidence. We will sharpen the struggle for communist revolution, not reform, in relation to industrial work, the military, and the schools. Join us!

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“ethic” is to fight for maximum profits at the expense of workers’ lives. “The workers, however, are always blamed for the bosses’ crises,” said another striker.

Workers told us that the International union leaders were coming to Long Beach to meet with the company. We warned that this was dangerous because when this happened in Seattle, the International leadership secretly promised 12 years of “no strikes” to keep production from moving to South Carolina, which is happening anyway.

“Yea, like who votes to give the bosses \$40 million in bonuses? Did they ask us? And even when they screw up they get the money,” said a worker in response to Red Flag sellers saying that we need a system “where workers control everything, and we produce without money, profits or bosses.”

Voting just masks the dictatorship of the capitalist class over us. Capitalist democracy for workers is an impossible illusion. Only by smashing the bosses’ state and building a communist society

COMMUNIST IDEAS WILL UNITE WORKERS

where goods are produced for use and not for sale can workers run society. Under capitalism, workers can never have a say because the bosses control the state and everything is organized for their profits.

We pointed out that Obama and McNerney had made a deal to fund the non union supply chain in South Carolina using money they stole from the workers’ pensions, and that the low wages in the southeast are based on the long history of racist exploitation. The strikers angrily agreed.

While the union leaders portray this strike as a narrow fight, the stakes are very high in this period of widening imperialist war as the declining US bosses fight for their empire. At the latest meeting of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Boeing CEO McNerney “expressed concerns about China’s growing military strength.” We told the strikers that Defense Secretary Robert Gates told the US military that “budget woes could be a factor in deciding whether to use force against Iran and others.”

We explained to the workers that to pay for their wars the US bosses must first attack US workers. They’re using racist exploitation in the subcontractors to attack all aerospace workers. We need to unite against this racism, building multi-racial and international unity of the working class to fight for communism, which will eliminate production for sale and wage slavery. Everything workers produce will be for the benefit of workers.

Most of strikers gladly took RED FLAG, while some refused to do so. The ICWP urges workers and students to circulate solidarity letters, go to the picket lines and build unity and solidarity with the strikers based on communist understanding.

Members of ICWP will also continue to take *Red Flag* to the strikers, and build communist class conscious solidarity with them and Boeing workers in Seattle, in the subcontractors and with other workers and students.



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US BOSSES' IRAN SANCTIONS: RUN FOR YOUR HELMET!

General David Petraeus, the top American commander in the Middle East, ordered an expansion of secret military activities that “appear to authorize specific operations in Iran, most likely to gather intelligence about the country’s nuclear program or identify dissident groups that might be useful for a future military offensive.” (*New York Times*, 5/24/10) Understanding this development highlights the urgent need for *Red Flag* readers to build the communist movement inside the bosses’ military and war industries.

IRAN'S OIL, GEOGRAPHY: KEY TO US-CHINA RIVALRY

The US bosses’ excuse is Iran’s nuclear ambition. The real reasons are Iran’s strategic geographic location and vast energy resources. Geopolitically, Iran is the gateway to the far richer in energy Greater Middle East, crucial to the imperialist aspirations of the US and its rivals China and Russia.

Chinese and Russian imperialists, however, currently have the upper hand in Iran. To reverse this situation, US bosses must either topple Iran’s regime, a very distant possibility, or invade it. Firm control of the whole region, they hope, will stem their decline and regain them the position – held since the end of World War II – of the world’s dominant imperialist power.

Yet, this is not enough. US imperialism is being wracked by the deepening worldwide economic crisis. Furthermore, it has lost its competitive edge in the world market, primarily losing out to China. Some analysts idealistically think that the US could convince China to accept US strategic interests in exchange for US energy supplies.

We think that the only US options are: (1) strangle China’s economic growth by denying it the energy it needs; or (2) destroy China’s rapidly growing industrial infrastructure. Either choice will pit the US militarily against the Chinese imperialists.

So Washington is now positioning itself to deny China the energy it will need for growth or to fight

a war. Iran is currently the only country besides Russia that has the energy resources and is geographically positioned to serve China’s future industrial-military needs by land.

A US-occupied Iran would deny China land access to this energy, especially in a war. It would force China to import all its energy needs from Russia or via the Indian Ocean sea lanes. This would be tremendously advantageous to the US because its Navy presently controls all the strategic shipping chokepoints through which most of China’s energy imports and commerce must pass.

UN AND US IRAN SANCTIONS: SCAM TO JUSTIFY THE WAR

The UN and US unilateral sanctions, being discussed, are charades to win world and US public opinion to support war against Iran. “Even crushing sanctions might not do the job,” says Congressman Ed Royce, a chief sponsor of the gasoline sanctions bill. (*The Nation*, 5/5/10)

“Most Iran analysts are skeptical that economic pressure will produce the desired results,” says Suzanne Maloney of the Brookings Institution, a major US think tank. (*The Nation*, 5/5/10)

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, a close US ally, said it more bluntly, “While sanctions are important symbolically...I think we all know these sanctions will not stop Iran.” (*Jerusalem Post*, 5/26/10)

IRAN'S GROWING INFLUENCE IN IRAQ: A MENACE TO US BOSSES

The US invaded Iraq hoping to reverse its rapid decline by using it to regain control of the world’s energy resources, once largely held by the major US oil companies. Today over 80% of these resources have been nationalized.

The US bosses planned to use the vast Iraqi energy resources to flood the world’s oil market. This would have driven their adversaries in Iran, Venezuela and Russia into bankruptcy and forced them to sell their energy sectors to the US at bargain prices.

It didn’t happen. War-torn Iraq only produces 2.4 million barrels per day. Furthermore, if the US withdraws tomorrow and Iraq is normalized, the biggest winners will be Russia and China, which acquired the rights to some of Iraq’s biggest oil fields.

Thus, the US bosses are not seriously considering leaving Iraq. But Iran is the major obstacle to pacifying Iraq enough to exploit its treasures. The Iranian mullahs came out as the primary strategic winners of the US invasion of Iraq.

Since the invasion, Iraqi politics have been dominated by Shi’ite Islamist parties with powerful militias and strong ties to Iran. Iraq’s biggest Kurdish parties-- representing more than 20% of the Iraqi population--also have close ties with Iran. Whichever government emerges from the contested March election will be strongly influenced by Iran.

Iran also dominates the Iraqi economy, with a trade value expected to exceed \$5 billion this year. Iran is most active in the construction and banking industries and its cheap goods flood the Iraqi market. All this helps Iran further its political influence by working with Iraqi companies that agree with its policies. Seven years after the invasion, Iran has more influence there than ever before.

US imperialism’s Iraq-Afghanistan-Pakistan fiasco has not only helped Iran’s rise as a regional power but is driving staunch strategic allies like Saudi Arabia into China’s embrace. Thus, US rulers are putting preparations for war with Iran on the front burner.

The above scenario shows that the inter-imperialists rivalry is lurching from war to wider wars to WWII. History presents us with a challenge: Communist revolution or more infernal capitalism? Workers’ historical task is to bury capitalism. ICWP is dedicated to make communism the main priority on the international working class’ agenda.

Join us on the communist road!

RED FLAG OPENS ITS PAGES TO WORKERS

Southern California—A black worker who reads *Red Flag* stopped a paper distributor after work and asked, “Do you make this paper?”

“No,” he answered. “I’m not the one who puts it out.”

“Who does?”

“It’s put out by a collective of workers.”

“Can I write for it?”

“Of course you can. We need workers to write for the paper.”

“Good because I want to write a letter telling black workers that they need to join this party.”

This conversation is part of a growing atmosphere of political discussion and struggle, reading *RED FLAG*, Bar-B-Que’s, visits and discussions about the general situation in the world, the attacks on us workers, and the need to build the communist ICWP.

“I want you to explain to me more about communism,” were the words of another worker who has been reading *Red Flag* for some time. The newspaper has attracted much attention from many workers, especially black workers, who have become more interested, not only in reading the paper, but also in writing and making suggestions. Her action of asking to know more took place at the beginning of our lunch break. This was a pleasant surprise, to realize that more of the workers are interested in communist ideas.

During a discussion we talked about the different societies and how communist ideas explain the his-

tory of class society and that they have been always related to the history and struggle of the working class. We talked about how workers have shown tremendous loyalty and commitment to communist leadership and ideas. During the discussion a supervisor came around us and we moved to another work area. Here she said, “Now I have another question, ‘why so secret?’” We explained about the bosses’ repression. The bosses spend millions of dollars to distort revolutionary communist ideas because they know that communism means the death of their deadly system. And even though at this moment our Party doesn’t represent an immediate threat, we are sure that in the future this will change. That’s why we try to maintain it secret from the bosses, but open to the workers.

Now it was time to go back to work and she said, “We have to keep talking Monday because I liked this discussion. It’s very interesting, you got me wanting to know more.”



The discussion continued and we talked about a study group and the need for her to write for the paper. She reacted by saying that she doesn’t like to write nor give speeches because it makes her nervous. We talked about how this is overcome in practice and she said, “why do you push me to do it?” We explained that she, a woman worker, is very important to give leadership to the international working class. We know that many workers respect her, and like her, and that’s why we want her as well as the worker who plans to write for the paper, to join the ICWP. The world is changing and we’re fighting to turn a bad thing--the capitalist crisis--into a good thing--the growth of the fight for communism.

To Fight Israeli-US Fascist Attacks

Palestinian And Israeli Workers Need Communist Outlook

Los Angeles, May 31- About a thousand people demonstrated in front of the Israeli embassy here, and tens of thousands more around the world, manifesting their outrage against the Israeli Navy attack on an international flotilla bearing relief supplies for the workers besieged in Gaza. Israeli warships killed at least twenty unarmed civilians traveling on the six boats.

Among the Los Angeles demonstrators were many Palestinians, as well people from Turkey, Israel, and their local U.S. supporters from many religious and ethnic backgrounds.

All of the speakers denounced Israel, but several speakers also placed the blame on the US government for its military and diplomatic support to Israel. One of the speakers declared, "We need to highlight the complicity of the U.S. government in these murders, in particular the Obama Administration and both parties in Congress."

Missing from most of the speeches was any criticism of the Palestinian Authority, whose leaders are openly allied with Israel and the United States. The speakers also failed to criticize the clerical fascists from Hamas who govern Gaza, as well as the conservative Gulf business people who have been its main financial supporters. Likewise, the government of Egypt, which supports the siege, and the governments of most other Arab countries, which passively support the siege, were also spared any criticism.

The reasons behind U.S. support for Israel

The U.S. bosses continue to fortify Israel because they need its long-term help to prop up their declining control over the oil-rich regions of the Middle East. Meanwhile, massive U.S. military aid pays for the weapons Israel uses against Palestinian workers and their supporters – including the white phosphorous shells used to attack Gaza a year ago and the Apache helicopters used for the murderous assault on the flotilla.

The U.S. imperialists view Israel as a key ally in their approaching war against Iran. However, they also know that resolving Israel-Palestine issues is crucial to vital U.S. interests in the Middle East, including its impending attack on Iran. Not solving this problem jeopardizes their Arab allies' regimes, especially Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The U.S. government desperately needs these allies' support for their plans to take on Iran. Israel's latest atrocity not only derails the Israeli-Palestinian "peace process," but the mass public outrage in Turkey and Arab countries makes it harder for the U.S. to build an anti-Iran coalition based on Israel, pro-U.S. Arab regimes, and possibly Turkey.



ISTAMBUL, TURKEY—DEMONSTRATION AGAINST FASCIST ATTACK

Nationalism, Pacifism: Dead Ends for Working Class

The "Free Gaza" movement that organized the flotilla supports Palestinian nationalism from a pacifist point of view. *Red Flag* admires the courage and commitment of these activists and their supporters around the world, but their nationalism and pacifism are deadly to the working class.

There is a long and proud history of Arab, Jewish, and other workers struggling to unite in Palestine/Israel. Nationalism - whether Jewish/Israeli or Palestinian - divides the working class while tying workers to "their own" capitalist bosses.

Capitalism in its very essence means exploitation of the working class. Communism means the abolition of exploitation, and that requires working-class unity and the smashing of

borders, nations, and nationalism. It's the only long-term solution to the Palestine/Israel crisis, and we need to start fighting for it now.

Pacifism disarms workers. It diverts us from our historical task which is to smash the state power of all capitalist bosses. This will require armed struggle by class-conscious workers and soldiers who seize the weapons and war industries and use them to fight for communism.

Red Flag is our key weapon in the fight to bring communist ideas to the mass movement against Israeli fascism and its supporters in the White House and Congress. Share this paper with your friends in this struggle. Confront and take on the nationalist and pacifist ideas that presently lead the mass movement.

Arizona: Convert Anti-Racist Anger into Communist Consciousness

Tens of thousands of workers and students converged on Phoenix on May 29 to protest Arizona's new racist anti-immigrant laws. Many more – including athletes and artists from the U.S. and Mexico -- are "boycotting" Arizona under the leadership of liberal organizations.

One of the new laws demands that police stop workers who "look illegal" and check their papers. Another makes schools fire English teachers who speak "with an accent." These laws are a step in the development of full-blown fascism.

A group of teachers, students and workers were discussing this situation. One was about to move to Arizona to get a job.

"Why would you move there when there's a boycott?" someone asked.

"Why only boycott Arizona?" another countered. "The worst anti-immigrant legislation is coming from the US federal government."

"I think I want to move to another country," replied the one heading for Arizona.

But racism is a cornerstone of capitalism everywhere in the world. Capitalism requires racism to divide the working class and to extract superprofits. Sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry in the present period requires intensification of racism.

Communism is the opposite. Communist revolution demands the end of racism and national borders because only a united working class can de-

stroy the capitalist hell of exploitation and imperialist war.

The protests against the Arizona laws show the mass anti-racist anger that is growing among workers and youth. They are emboldening some undocumented students to stand up and fight back. But the liberal assault on Arizona serves the liberal imperialist wing of the US ruling class as a cover for federal laws like the DREAM Act, Comprehensive Immigration Reform and intensified "homeland security" fascism. Both immigration bills will induct millions of undocumented youth and workers into the bosses' military and war industries, in preparation for wider oil wars and looming WWII.

It's like when the liberal Civil Rights movement in the mid-1960s concentrated its fire on Mississippi. One song even went, "Mississippi, find yourself another country to be part of." But anti-black racism was woven into the fabric of every state in the capitalist Union. By 1967, there had been anti-racist rebellions in every large city in the north.



And wherever revolutionary ideas were raised, workers embraced them.

Today, members of ICWP and readers of *Red Flag* have the responsibility to raise revolutionary communist ideas with all our friends who are angry about the racist Arizona laws. We need to convert this anti-racist anger into lifelong commitment to communist revolution.

Building Communist Consciousness in the Struggle for the Jobs of Mexican Electricians

The need to organize ourselves as a class, get rid of the bosses and achieve political power can only be understood with a communist point of view.

RED FLAG has reported that the Irish government lowered the wages of teachers and other government workers by decree. The economic analysts praised this, recommending that all governments do it. They have now imposed this in Greece and Spain.

The Mexican government has also, using different procedures, made unprecedented cuts in the labor contracts of government workers, especially those who work for social security (ISSTE), as they had previously against similar government workers. There were also cuts in the collective bargaining agreements in the last few years in the private sector, especially aviation and bank workers. In the textile and sugar industries, the workers will soon face the end of legal contracts.

For all these reasons, it's necessary that you join the struggle for a society of social equality under the dictatorship of the working class by joining ICWP, since the fight among the imperialists will

mean that they send us to kill other workers so they can decide who will be the top dog imperialist.

"Workers' Cooperatives" Are No Solution

In the face of the government shut-down of the Light and Power of Central Mexico City, 18,100 (out of 44,000) workers oppose collecting severance pay. They demand their jobs back, as long as the buildings, and equipment and the need to give electrical power exist. The bosses respond that they should quit and become "partners" of the company or cooperatives which provide service to the Federal Electricity Commission, the government business that took over operation of the Light and Power Company.

The union (SME) says that the Federal Electrical Commission should be the substitute boss and rehire them as workers for the company, not through third-party temporary hiring agencies or cooperatives. Communists point out that cooperatives are, in practice, commercial businesses. In every part of the world where they exist, they cover capitalist exploitation with their ideology of supposed solidarity. (That's how they were in the social theory of Proudhon in the 19th century.)

In several parts of the world, fired workers have taken over the remains of the businesses where they worked and tried to run them under capitalism. Two examples in Mexico are the bottling plant "Pascual" and what was left of "Route 100" (the Mexico City bus company). However, when they have a little success, it's at the cost of a lot of hard work within the bounds of the capitalist system that we need to fight to destroy, and at the cost of other workers who now are their employees. When the cooperatives violate labor laws or occupational health laws, or have workplace accidents, they try to evade their responsibility, especially when they are subcontractors. Then they blame the company to which they give service.

Reforms to capitalism are patches on the system that won't resolve our problems and will only prolong our suffering as individuals and as the working class. We're talking about such situations with the electrical workers and students who we intend to win to the Party (ICWP) with the goal that they understand that we need to fight for Communist Revolution.

Sharpening the Contradictions to Build ICWP

"The ideological struggle," wrote F. Lassalle to Marx in 1852, "strengthens the party...the party is strengthened by cleansing itself."

Lenin approved this statement and used it as an epigraph in his book What is to be Done?

Fighting for communism requires constant struggle against capitalist practices and ideas, like the tolerance of wage slavery (looking only for reform), or taking things in stride, as if the working class wasn't suffering exploitation, racism, wars and the risk of the world war.

Theories and practices like these kept Lassalle from becoming a revolutionary communist. Collaborators with Marx and Engels, like Edward Bernstein and Karl Kautsky, (who edited vol. 4 of "Capital" and was cited approvingly by Lenin in What is to be Done?) ended as counter revolutionaries.

One difference, the way we ask Party youth to do work in the factories or the army, can appear to be just a "tactical difference." It's not.

In 2005, the Banamex Foundation (Citigroup in Mexico) sponsored the exposition of Li Zhensheng, Red soldier in the News, photos of the epoch of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China, with anti-communist subtitles. A young student close to us commented to his friend how a subtitle can transform something good into something bad.

During the Cultural Revolution, young revolutionaries publicly exposed corrupt functionaries, who had taken watches and jewelry. Li, the renegade photographer (who had begun, assigned by his newspaper, on the side of the Red Guards, and later was defeated by them) considered the punishment unjustly severe; and the public, the majority of whom were students, agreed. They would have thought it was fair in the case of extreme enrichment, as is the case with the current functionaries, but not for a "small" accumulation of wealth. [RED FLAG agrees with the young revolutionaries.]

In the same way, in our recent Party discussions some consider it too picky to criticize leaders who

say that those who are pushing the fight for communism forward "should be quiet"; or those who recruit youth to the party based on (perhaps not consciously) improvements under this system (like fighting for better schools and achieving victories under capitalism) instead of fighting for revolutionary communism.

To calm down the struggle, even if it's not done consciously, keeps capitalism intact, that is, revisionism. Above all, when the struggle roars all around, more audacity is required to make the Party grow. Today that's what making the revolution means.



China's Auto Strikes: Revisionism Can't Eliminate Class Struggle

In China's Guangdong province a wild cat strike of workers at a Honda factory has spread to three other auto factories building Honda parts. The Honda bosses have attempted to get these striking workers to sign a form renouncing all future work slowdowns, stoppages, strikes, and gatherings, but most of the workers are refusing.

Furthermore, according to the Financial Times (June 1, 2010), all of Honda's production in China has stopped for a second week. According to press reports, the Honda employees are totally committed to the strike. The paper quoted one striker as saying, "We're different from our parent's generation. Their wishes were simple – to earn some money and return to their home towns. We want to stay in the cities and enjoy our lives here. But, we demand respect."

In 1982 the Chinese government removed the right to strike from its constitution. Since then the Chinese bosses have opposed efforts by workers to organize grass roots unions not controlled by the official All China Federation of Trade Unions. In fact,

in this strike the official union has been ignored by the strikers. One striker told the Financial Times, "We are doing this ourselves. The official union doesn't represent us and never showed up to the talks. We don't even know who the union chairman is."

The Chinese government, foreign investors, factory bosses, and workers throughout China are closely watching these strikes. If the workers succeed in forming their own union, and if they win the concessions they want from Honda, it means that China's workers will have gone from suicidal despair to joining ranks to fight back against their employers and the sham unions which are supposed to represent them. Workers are attacking such work practices as tedious assembly lines, constant overtime, and night shifts.

Others gimmicks employed by the bosses, such as hiring interns and students, because of sudden labor shortages, will also no longer work, according to the Financial Times, because of unity between the permanent and short-term workers.

If the Chinese rulers allow any reforms, it will only be to attempt to pacify these angry workers and to try to win them to support the same bosses who are exploiting them. However, no matter how militantly they fight for reforms, the only way to change class relations and end exploitation is with a mass revolutionary communist party that fight directly for communism, taking the valuable lessons of the heroic struggles of Chinese workers that took state power in 1949 and later fought, but lost, the Red Bourgeoisie that now rules China. Chinese workers and students need to build the ICWP

Red Flag salutes these workers and encourages them to go beyond their wage and hour demands. They need to understand how China's state capitalism works and how China's "communist" party is not different than Honda's Board of Directors and large stock owners. And, they need to understand that China's claim that it can have a peaceful rise as a global capitalist power is also bogus. The logic of

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LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

VISITING STRIKING INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

I first went to the Boeing picket line on May 11th, the first day of the strike. Morale was high and the workers were eager to speak with us. They shared what they knew about Boeing on the inside and we shared our ideas about speed-up, the capitalist profit motive, the need for working-class unity, and the need for a revolutionary communist analysis. Throughout the day, and on my next few trips to the picket line, I helped distribute Red Flag which contained coverage of their fight and leaflets that stressed the need for all workers to support each others' struggles, particularly that of the miners locked out of the Rio Tinto mine in Boron. [see previous articles in RED FLAG]

At both the Boeing picket line and in Boron, we talked at length about how, under capitalism, workers will always be attacked as the bosses seek higher profits and are increasingly challenged by their imperialist rivals, which will ultimately lead to WWII. We also talked about how workers need to fight for a system in which they will not work for the bosses' profits, but directly for the needs of their class. But reformist struggle will not end capitalism. Only a mass army of the working class, armed with revolutionary communist ideas – and led by the International Communist Workers' Party – can. That's why we're asking these workers and our friends to read and distribute Red Flag, join a study group, and fight for the working class!

I think that I was successful in showing workers that their struggles are inter-related, and that the bosses try to divide us and keep us from seeing ourselves as part of the international working class. I said that the struggles of miners in Boron, Chile or China, and aerospace workers in Seattle or Long Beach or the subcontract workers in Torrance are all the struggles of the same international working class. Seeing that is part of seeing the revolutionary potential of the international working class. I intend to continue to visit the line as long as it takes and intend to write a letter of solidarity with my friends.

Dear Red Flag,

The article about the Boeing workers' strike makes many good points, particularly on the limit of reform struggle, the misleaders of the unions and the need to put a communist solution to end exploitation and the insecurity of the working class in this capitalist system.

It also says that the gang of capitalists who are able to maximize profit can rule the world. But it should have also included that those who can monopolize the market and control vast material resources like oil and important minerals can rule the world.

When it talks about what things will look like under communism, it says that communism does not pit workers against workers, nation against nation. But under communism there is no nation or national borders, period. The identity of the working class will be the human race. One party (ICWP), one flag, one international working class. Internationalist Comrade

Lessons from the Chinese Miners

Although the communist movement in China was eventually destroyed by revisionism, and capitalism was restored there, the inspiring struggles of Chinese workers have important lessons for our work. Industrial workers were then a small percentage of the population, but they were a key force in the development of the fight for communism. Mao and other college-educated revolutionaries were right to focus their work on miners and railroad workers, and later on peasants. Their "Red education" taught literacy and communist ideas, and the workers quickly put these into practice to make a big gain in the fight for communism in China. In building ICWP, students should help develop our work with industrial workers. To put this idea into practice, we invite students and workers to take part in our summer projects in Seattle and Los Angeles.

"Let those who didn't believe us say something now,"

El Salvador—"Let those who didn't believe us say something now," said a comrade about the first year of the government of Mauricio Funes and the FMLN. What we've been saying since before the elections is now becoming obvious, and the hard-core members of the FMLN who were attacking us before the elections are now telling us that we were right.

Mauricio Funes has been exposed as what we already knew, one more servant of the capitalist system letting himself be manipulated by big capital, abandoning their phony rhetoric of a "real change." At the same time, the FMLN, disgusted by Funes' actions, keeps quiet—a clear strategy to keep the presidency in the elections of 2014. This shows that the elections and their participants are nothing but a farce of the capitalist system and

that we need communist revolution to get rid of them.

The working class of the country, disillusioned with the FMLN and Funes, is taking actions against them such as was shown on May Day, when they showed their anger with the system. While the FMLN wanted to manipulate the march in their favor, the working class responded against the system and its lackeys like Funes and the FMLN.

A few weeks after the first anniversary of the Funes FMLN government, you could hear people say things like "we saw this coming" and "the problem is the system."

That's why we should fight to expose this decadent capitalist system and take more seriously the development of networks of distribution of RED FLAG and fight for the dictatorship of the working class. Long live the Working Class. Long life the ICWP

Workers of the world unite, Salvadoran comrade.

"Capitalist Education Will Never Serve the Interests of the Working Class."

El Salvador—When we were engaged in the guerrilla struggle, we used to destroy trenches and interrupt the war plans of the military high command, and Radio Venceremos would announce it in their programs. In the same way, I interrupted a meeting of the local school principals to distribute the article "Capitalist Education Will Never Serve the Interests of the Working Class." Of course, I asked for permission to give them something about education, so they asked me to identify myself. I told them that I was a parent and that I wanted to give them this information, but seeing that they wanted details, I pretended I didn't hear them and kept passing out the article.

Before that, I was with a university teacher who, when I gave him the same article, told me that he was going to post it on the university bulletin board. Then he asked me for the newspaper RED FLAG, to which I responded, "With pleasure, but we have to talk," and asked him for a donation. "No problem," he answered, and I kept on my routine. Salvadoran Comrade.

Dear Red Flag,

A friend has just come back from visiting his family in Ireland. A company that had a group of 15 houses built recently there was unable to sell them. They are talking of destroying them because they can't sell them and don't want squatters to live in them. The ongoing destruction of value is one of the key features of capitalist crisis. Today they're talking of destroying houses. Next they'll bomb them.

A Reader

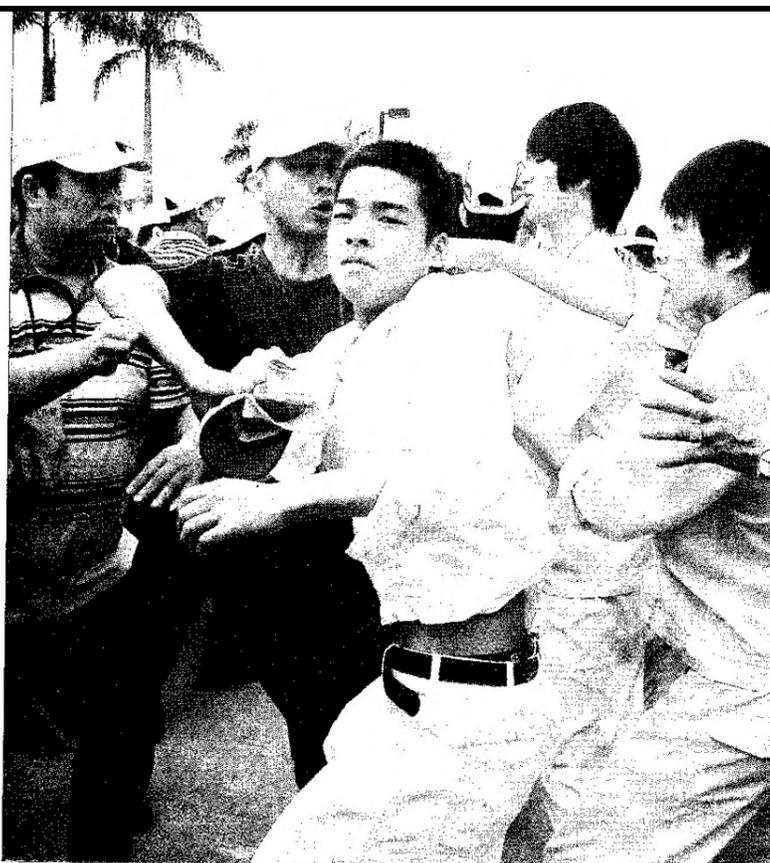
Red Flag Comments:

The author probably meant to write: "In the future they are going to be bombing the houses in the cities of the "First World". The capitalist-imperialists have been bombing workers' houses in the "Third World" for some time. Clinton bombed former Yugoslavia for 78 days, destroying its civil infrastructure and many houses. In Iraq, the destruction of houses has been massive. Over two million workers are homeless. When writing or speaking we should be careful not to repeat the bosses' racist thinking that if it doesn't happen in their metropolis, it is not happening in the world.

CHINA STRIKERS, FROM PAGE 5

capitalism's competition for maximum profit means that "peaceful co-existence" between the main imperialist rivals is an impossibility. China is already building up its armed forces at a furious rate. It is quickly developing modern military technology and preparing to deploy its military far beyond its territorial waters. China will need these industrial workers to become cannon fodder or to build military hardware.

Given that China is on a collision course with US imperialism fighting for world domination - these economic strikes must become political strikes. In fact, they must be prepared to join with workers from other imperialist powers facing the exact same demands to fight, in factories or in the battle field, for their bosses. These workers need to join the fight for one Party, the ICWP, with one line the fight for communism.



A group of Honda workers confronts people claiming to represent the workers union outside a factory in Foshan, China, yesterday

Reuters

Love for the working class and the desire to cradle in our arms the recently born ICWP

Los Angeles—The May Day dinner was a complete success. In spite of the short time we had to prepare it, and the break with the old Party, the attendance at the event, and the willingness and spirit of the comrades made this a great Communist celebration.

The internal struggle to resolve the disagreements, like choosing the songs and poems to give the revolutionary message of our communist line, were also part of the celebration. There was a struggle not to use songs that were, and continue to be, used by the revisionists, which talk about how sad it is to live in houses of cardboard, but which don't talk about destroying the capitalist system that creates this worldwide poverty, wage slavery and racism.

We learned that we have to struggle against anarchism that arose every minute putting at risk the discipline, the seriousness and the responsibility that we were building. We also struggled when for moments our own lack of desire to participate became contagious. But love for the working class and the desire to cradle in our arms the recently born ICWP, inspired us to do our work as professionals in spite of our inexperience and nervousness.

On the day of the dinner, we felt capable of winning all the workers who came to the event. We sought to win them to the Party through poems, songs, plays, and speeches, with the security of being the leaders of this working class that is yearning to take power. All of this was possible thanks to the collective work of all the comrades who helped taking care of the children, preparing the food, allowed us to use the house where we practiced, made criticisms, suggestions, etc. And of course we were inspired by the struggle for communism. The day of the dinner came and nervousness and stress made their appearance. The presenter of the monologue didn't sleep well and woke up with back pain, almost not being able to move, but above all there was the need to struggle against nervousness and fear because the war isn't lost in the war, but in the fear before the war.

The dinner ended, and we were all happy, and relaxed, but now we're lacking the most important thing, which is to maintain the discipline, the seriousness and the responsibility to make this leadership that we felt we were giving when we were on the stage into a reality in our workplaces, in the schools, the universities, and the army so that next May Day will be a more political, and bigger celebration where we can raise the RED FLAG of ICWP much higher.

Build Unity of Young, Older Workers in Fight for Communism

I teach industrial students. Two things that have inspired me to struggle for communist consciousness are the Boeing Strike and the Rio Tinto struggle, both involving critical and strategic productive arms of the ruling class. I have invited my students to come to the picket lines, to support the strike and to learn from the workers.

On a late evening, a student and I got to the Long Beach Boeing war factory, we saw dozens of workers chanting in the darkness. We approached them to see what they had to say.

We said we wanted to come and support and that we wanted to know clearly what they thought this strike was about.

Most of their comments directed to the student. "We are doing this for you!" they said.

"They are trying to cut you guys out before you even get in the factory! All the new guys will get no pension, no medical and low wages. We the old guys, got all that stuff already. It's not about us. We're not fighting for higher wages for ourselves, it's about the new generation. The CEO just got an 8 million dollar bonus, and then they are trying cut out the new generation entirely. They say were a team, that's no team!"

The student was completely impressed by the general militancy and fight that these workers had for the new generation that he is a part of. He thought that they were selfless, contrary to the general idea he had before that people are selfish and only looking out for their own individual gain.

On the way home, we discussed that Boeing is in a global fight for the world market. The rulers are trying to squeeze every ounce out of the working class to fund their war machine to kill and destroy other workers in the world.

I concluded that we need something entirely new, a world where there were no borders, markets or money. This world is called communism. If the Boeing workers want to fight for the new generation, they should be fighting for communism.

Every industrial student should be trained with a communist consciousness, without it the new generation will fail to destroy capitalism, and build a communist world. Most of my classroom discussions have focused on the world crisis brought on by overproduction. It's real easy for some to see that the only way out for the world's bosses is world war. From these discussions, some of my students are now reading *Red Flag*.

SERVE THE WORKING CLASS, BE A COMMUNIST

Several social workers and I are involved in providing pro-bono/free counseling to those who would not otherwise be able to afford counseling. We had a meeting to discuss this service and there was a debate as to whether we should start charging a small fee to "motivate" client attendance. The rationale on one side was that "clients don't value the service because it is free." They don't lose anything when they "no-show" to appointments—so charging a fee would increase their commitment level.

The opposing rationale argued that not everything of value has a price tag associated with it. We value our time, yet we are providing a free service that requires a lot of our time. We value our kids and they don't have a price tag associated with them. There are many other things we do daily because they are important to us (stay fit), our family (clean our house), or our community (recycle).

I remember having a gym membership for over a year once and going only a handful of times. I was disappointed to see money come out of my bank account monthly just to be able to go if/when I actually found time. I valued my membership not because they charged me a fee, but because of the service I could receive if I made it there. I had to cancel my membership because this was getting too costly. However, if being a member would be free, I could have continued my membership and perhaps be more fit today.

The bottom line is that Capitalist education and media push the idea that money is necessary to motivate people to do things. They say that if money did not exist nobody would want to work. They neglect to admit that humans lived for thousands without money or even trading—they simply shared what they had.

In my household I refuse to pay my children "allowance"—because I would rather they be

motivated internally rather than externally. I spend time to explain why their various chores are important to the family and our household. It seems to be working just fine.

I will continue to volunteer time to provide free counseling to work with others to figure out the real reasons behind "no shows."

Dear Red Flag

The article in the June 2nd *Red Flag* "Financial Regulation Can't Solve Capitalist Crisis of Overproduction," had two lines on what caused the current crisis. The first half of the article emphasizes overproduction as the cause of the crisis: "Behind the [2008] crisis ... is the crisis of overproduction." Later in the article, the falling rate of profit is emphasized: "The deeper cause of the crisis is not the bankers crazy behavior, but the long fall in the rate of profit in the U. S. economy from its peak in the 1950s." Both of these factors helped cause the crisis, but they are not *both* primary.

Both factors, overproduction and falling profit rate, have a common cause, the anarchy of capitalist production, the fact that capitalists can't carry out common plans because they are fighting each other for profits. Overproduction and the falling profit rate have other connections, too. *Over-capacity* means having more factories and machines than a capitalist can use. This is important in the auto industry, for example. Over-capacity lowers the rate of profit because the capitalists have to pay for capacity they can't use. This was a key factor in the bankruptcies of GM and Chrysler in 2009. Over-capacity drives capitalists to fight for new markets, so it is one of the economic factors that lead to war.

Over-accumulation of finance capital also occurred before the current crisis, as oil dollars and Asian loans flowed into the US, looking for a place to invest and make a profit. This kind of excess accumulation is a cousin to overproduction, with similar causes. Neither overcapacity nor over-accumulation is quite the same as overproduction, however.

The main place that overproduction of commodities happened in the US before the crisis was in housing and the industries that feed housing. Interest rates were low because of the low rate of profit and over-accumulation of finance capital. When interest rates are low, more people can afford houses. The Federal Reserve helped keep interest rates low in order to keep the housing industry expanding, hoping to prop up the rate of profit in the economy as a whole.

Even in housing, however, it was not excess production but financial collapse that led directly to the crisis. The financial collapse resulted from risky financial investment, which was driven by the low rate of profit. Once a crisis has begun, however, many products in many industries go unsold. There is too much production in that case because the crisis has already occurred and many consumers are broke, even if production was about right before the crisis struck.

I think the right conclusion is that in this crisis, the low rate of profit was the most basic cause. This is not the case in every crisis. Most recessions result mainly from overproduction, but this one did not.

Whether this is the right conclusion or not, the article should have dealt with these two factors in a less contradictory way.



RED EDUCATION OF CHINESE MINERS: HELPED INITIATE CHINA REVOLUTION

In a previous article we described how historically miners have often been in the forefront of rebellions and revolutions. China was no exception, and in fact the coal miners of Anyuan (southeast central China) were renowned throughout the country for their heroic role in helping launch the Chinese revolution. Even today, in Tiananmen square in Beijing, you can still see statues of Anyuan miners, and the modern phony communist / real capitalist rulers of China dare not remove them.

The Chinese Communist party was founded in 1921 by a small group of mainly middle-class intellectuals, including the young Mao Zedong. From the beginning they determined that the future of their part lay first with the working class. One of their first decisions was to send organizers to the huge German/Japanese coal mines in Anyuan, even though at first they had only a few contacts there.

According to tradition (not always reliable) Mao himself was the first to arrive, disguised as a wandering scholar. He and his comrades who followed stayed with local miners and their families and began by investigating the situation. They toured the town, spent long hours interviewing miners, and even put on miners' clothes and went down in the shafts.

What they found was that the 12,000 coal miners lived a hellish existence. They worked fourteen or fifteen hours a day, bent over, and near naked because of the heat. For one day of exhausting labor a miner was payed 26 coppers (maybe \$1), even though the coal he produced during that day was worth at least ten times that much to the mine bosses. In the town itself there were 24 churches, one small medical clinic, and no schools. Furthermore many miners belonged to gangs (triads).

Where to start? Mao and his comrades began the same way they did in Changsha - by giving free classes! The miners, who had very little spare time, were at first reluctant to take part, but were very eager for their children to have some education. So the young communist intellectuals began with day schools for miners' children. These went so well the miners themselves began showing up for evening sessions. What did the Reds teach? Basic literacy and basic Marxism. The formerly illiterate miners began publishing their own articles in their own newspaper.

The classes set the ball rolling. The first Party branch met in January of 1922 and a Communist

Youth League started soon after. The Red miners set up a miners club with its own building with meeting rooms, and a big hall. On entering the club you were greeted by posters of Marx and Lenin, and above the stage hung a big banner reading "Workers of the World, Unite". Mao's brother Zemin arrived and help set up a cooperative to compete with the company store. On May Day 1922 the miners founded their union.

The company demanded the miners disband their club/union and stopped paying the miners wages. The Red miners struck back - at the beginning of September 1922. They sent an ultimatum to the mine bosses demanding their back pay, a big increase, and financial support for their union. The bosses refused and the strike began on 14 September 1922. The strike, organized by the Party, the Youth league and the club members was immediately 100% effective. A thousand rail workers joined, so that even if some coal was dug, it wouldn't go anywhere.

The Kiangsi provincial warlord sent his troops but the red miners persuaded the soldiers not to fire on the workers. The treacherous mine bosses invited the strike leaders to the heavily fortified mine headquarters, supposedly for negotiations. The leaders went, but took several thousand miners with them, who surrounded the headquarters while the leaders went inside. The mine bosses threatened the leaders but one answered, "you can grind me to meat, that won't solve your problem with 12,000 miners". Meanwhile the crowd of miners outside shouted, "if you harm our leaders, no mine staff will leave Anyuan alive".

The leaders were allowed to leave with their escort, and the next day the mine bosses gave in to most of the demands. This victory, the first led by the young Communist Party, had a huge effect, and soon Red-led unions were springing up all over. In Anyuan itself the union membership jumped from 700 to 12,000 - basically all the miners. More than half the club budget went to cultural and educational events - schools, reading rooms, plays, films debates. Anyuan earned the nickname "little Moscow".

However the Communists (most of them) were under no illusion about what had been won. The club and the cooperative were great while they lasted, but as long as the bosses held state power they could disappear overnight. The one gain that could

not be so easily reversed was the winning of thousands of workers and youth to Communism.

In fact the warlord armies finally managed to shut down the union in 1925. But this turned out to be a disaster for them. The warlords' action forced thousands of miners to return to their native villages in Hunan. These miner refugees promptly began organizing their fellow peasants to strike at the ruthless landlord class that had been exploiting them for generations. By 1927 all the Hunan countryside was in revolt, and this gave Mao the idea of including peasants in the worker-led revolution. When in the same year Mao and Zhu Deh founded the Red Army, an entire regiment - 1000 strong - consisted of former Anyuan miners.

It's easy to imagine that the setting up of classes was just a gimmick to set the union organizing in motion. This would be a serious misunderstanding. The strike victory was vital, but in the end the red education had the most lasting effect. One of the best testimonials to the Communist education efforts was in a secret 1928 report by a Kuomintang military officer:

"The reason the Communist Party has such a deeply rooted and firm foundation at Anyuan is because in the past the Communists carried out comprehensive "red education" at Anyuan. Six or seven years ago the Anyuan workers were all country bumpkins ... Not one of them could stand up at a meeting and say a word, let alone deliver a speech. Still less had any of them ever heard of organizing anything. It was only after the Communist bandit Li Lisan went to Anyuan ... that the knowledge of how to organize became widespread. Now workers were speaking up at public meetings and even giving lectures! The Communists at Anyuan greatly valued education but they did not mechanically evangelize Communism like a missionary cramming a religious belief into a worker's head. At first they focused on literacy and basic knowledge. Every week they convened lectures as well as workers' debate societies and study groups."

Now all the important elements in the peasant associations in all the counties of Hunan are workers from Anyuan. ... Today when one speaks with an Anyuan worker, everything he says is crystal clear. No longer is he a country bumpkin.

(Quoted in E. Perry, "Reclaiming the Chinese Revolution", The Journal of Asian Studies Vol. 67, No. 4, 2008)

If you like to read *Red Flag*....

START A READERS' GROUP

Get a few friends together once every two weeks or so to read and discuss the new issue of *Red Flag*. We'll suggest a few discussion questions, or you can come up with your own. You can write back with your group's ideas and questions. Together we'll build *Red Flag* into a "paper of a new type" (see editorial, p. 2).

In this issue:

1. Read the article about the Chinese miners (p.16). What can we learn from this story about "red education"? About the role of teachers and students in helping to organize industrial workers? What's the difference between "education" and "schooling"?
2. Read the article about the Boeing strike (p. 1) and the questions about how to organize communist strike support (editorial, p. 2). Can you get some signatures on a support letter to the Boeing strikers? What should it say? If you write such a letter, send it to *Red Flag* and we'll get it to the picket lines in Long Beach, CA.

Participate in the Communist Summer Project

Seattle and Los Angeles

- **Learn from and bring communist politics to industrial workers, soldiers and youth.**
- **Talk with workers about their work and their struggles in fighting the capitalist crisis by making communist politics primary.**
- **Study the science of dialectical materialism, criticism and self criticism, and how communism will work.**
- **Lead in the fight against racism and patriotism by fighting for communism.**