

# RED FLAG



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

## MARINES HATE BRASS, OPEN TO COMMUNIST IDEAS

July 9—"One thing is for sure. Most soldiers, sailors, and Marines hate the brass. This is the basis to unite with them and struggle for communist ideas. They have been key to past revolutions along with industrial workers, and they are key for communist revolution today," said a military veteran. "More youth need to go into the military to mobilize for communism," said another.

This was part of the discussion led by military veterans who talked to the summer project about their experiences organizing their fellow soldiers in the armed forces for communism. One young comrade said, "Their stories were very motivating. Those stories gave me the confidence to go to the next day to talk to marines and spread communist ideas to them. I'm never going to forget that forum. It changed my perspective on the Armed Forces—that they're our brothers and sisters in arms; they're part of the working class."

The next day volunteers went to a town near a marine base to distribute *Red Flag*. Volunteers distributed 89 copies of *Red Flag* to Marines; which was a lot since most of the Marines had been deployed overseas that week. Some of them took more than one and some donated money.

We talked about the cynical US bosses who sent Marines and soldiers to kill Taliban and be killed by them, only to see the US government negotiate with them because they're losing in Afghanistan and preparing for bigger wars against Iran and China. When we said, "We're pawns in their game," many agreed. This can lead to rebellions against the brass like in Vietnam, but this time we need to fight for communism.

"When we were in the town," said a comrade, "we offered the first Marine we saw the paper, and he said, 'I'm going to look like a fool carrying this paper around,' insinuating that we looked like fools.

"He told us that he considered himself anti-capitalist, and he thinks that all the imperialist banks of the world are going to unite to create a war on purpose. Then he asked me why I thought communism would work. I explained to him that we want a society where workers work for our own needs and not for capitalist profits and told him about past revolutionary movements like in Russia and China. I told him that they established socialism and not communism because of lack of faith in the workers, that they could be

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### Boeing:

## A NOOSE AROUND WHOSE NECK?

*FLASH: In a desperate attempt to keep up with the international competition, Boeing has announced it will build a re-engineered version of the 737. It managed to salvage a minority share of the huge American Airlines order with this maneuver. Faced with the huge capital requirement of the 737 derivative and the prospect of a serious aerospace crisis of overproduction, the Boeing bosses will be forced to attack their workforce even more intensely. It's either the bosses' capitalist nightmare or workers' power.*

SEATTLE: The company is using South Carolina as a noose around our necks," said a C-17 Boeing worker to a young *Red Flag* seller. He was referring to the front-page article about the

recent Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) complaint brought by the Seattle Boeing union to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

The ULP complained that the company made public statements describing this move as retaliation for strikes. The Charlestown factory is the first southern non-union, low-wage, commercial aerospace assembly plant. It will be up-and-running just in time for next year's contract battle.

Relying on the legal process is futile and disarming. No matter what the legal outcome, nobody's wages will be raised. Not one job will be saved, and the company will continue to pit one

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### MTA Workers Must Answer No-Strike Regime:

## BUILD ICWP!

The ICWP Summer Project distributed over 1,500 *Red Flags* in the last three weeks at 11 MTA divisions. Workers of all races warmly welcomed our communist press. Many donated money understanding that the newspaper of the working class is only supported by the working class. We thank all of them for their continued support.

**"Our Contract" Gives Us Nothing, Allows MTA Bosses To Impose Their Reign of Terror**

Doing this, we encountered massive anger at MTA's reign of terror. Workers firmly agree with us that this pressure was the major cause of an MTA employee's (Paul) recent fatal heart attack after he had been viciously harassed by a supervisor for weeks. Just as massive was their sup-

port for more than 50 drivers that MTA has threatened to discipline for attending their co-worker's funeral.

So far, MTA bosses have not implemented their threats. *Red Flag* was told, however, that MTA claimed their camera had captured one of these drivers using a cell phone while driving. The driver proved them wrong. It turned out to be his glove.

But management went "fishing" and now accuses him of holding the PA system while keeping only one hand on the steering wheel. We will keep *Red Flag* readers informed of the latest developments. We have been working under the old

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# US & EUROPEAN "DEBT CRISES" EXPOSE DANGER OF WORLD WAR AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

"Again and again the spiraling costs of war [have] forced monarchs to default upon debt repayments, to debase the coinage, or to attempt some other measure of despair, which brought short-term relief but long-term disadvantage."—Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*

The debt-ridden Austrian Habsburg Empire and Tsarist Russia collapsed in the crucible of World War I. The world hasn't seen a debt crisis of the current proportions since the build-up to World War II. The current crisis is leading to World War III.

Workers everywhere must seize the opportunity contained in this crisis – as Russian workers and soldiers did in 1917 – to overthrow capitalist rule. But this time we must prepare to replace it with communism.



## "Austerity" Can't Stem US Decline

The Council on Foreign Relations' James Lindsay warns that default could endanger US imperialism in four ways:

\*Cuts in war spending, meaning "a smaller, less capable military."

\*Making it harder "to negotiate agreements or build alliances." With diplomacy failing, US rulers would have to prepare for more war, sooner.

\*Reinforcing doubts worldwide about US-style politics and economics, default would bolster the claim of China, Russia, and other competitors "that America is in decline." Says Lindsay: "Countries that now look to Washington for leadership and protection could decide that they're better served currying favor with Beijing and other capitals."

\*Default "could help China, Russia and other major buyers of U.S. debt ... find an alternative investment." US bosses would have to worry about how their foreign policy would affect domestic finances.

Lindsay calls default "wholly unnecessary." He's partly right, but mainly wrong. US dominance is steadily declining, default or no.

The government-run Chinese website global-times.cn writes: "Suffering an economic slump, the US, whose financial hegemony is based on the dollar cannot halt its decline. Such an inevitable trend," it editorializes, "should be realized step by step because nobody wants it to come overnight."

The Chinese rulers prefer "to gradually wind up the privilege of US dollar" instead of an abrupt decline that would threaten their dollar investments and force them into war before they're

ready.

**This is a full-blown crisis of world capitalism: a crisis of overproduction and a crisis of wage slavery.**

Obama and congressional leaders present the situation as a debt crisis to be solved by "austerity." Workers from Athens to Argentina know that "austerity" means disciplining us to lower our expectations and accept drastic cuts in our living standards, all to restore a healthy rate of manufacturing profit for capitalists.

The most oppressed among us – like black and immigrant workers in the US, women everywhere – are hit first and hardest in this racist and sexist system. Their fight against super-exploitation leads our whole class.

Only industrial capitalism, not financial wizardry, creates new wealth. Today, industrial capital can only return a sufficient rate of profit in resource-rich countries with minimal wages, like Brazil, Russia, India, Indonesia, and China. The inevitable alternative is war that destroys competitors' means of production, killing tens of millions of workers or more in the process..

Industrial capital creates wealth by turning workers' surplus labor (the difference between what we produce and the wages we get) into commodities for "the market." The gross inequality resulting from this wage-slavery creates a potentially explosive situation.

Says *The Economist* (6/25): "approximately 11 million people have a combined wealth equal to about two-thirds of the entire production of the planet." The remaining 99.99% of us have the other third!

This unprecedented crisis means upheavals in all our lives. For example, it appears likely that the Democratic and Republican wings of the US ruling class will unite to slash Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, and federal pensions. Obama, not the Tea Party, is leading this assault on the working class.

As hunger, sickness, joblessness, homelessness and poverty skyrocket around the world, this system where a workforce of three billion is organized solely to provide profits for 11 million capitalists is increasingly intolerable.

**Communism Means a Revolutionary Change: A Society Where We Take Care of Each Other**

Communism will abolish money and markets, bankers and debts, politicians and budgets. It will end the isolation created by capitalism, which forces each of us individually to worry about how to pay the rent or mortgage, health care or babysitting, whether we can survive on our pension (if any).

Instead of the chaos resulting from capitalist competition, the masses will discuss and generate the projects we need.

Instead of "jobs" making stuff to sell, we'll produce things we decide we need for the social good. Our work will have a direct social meaning. The idea of "retiring" won't make any sense. We may slow down as we grow older, but how could you "retire" from meeting social needs?

The promise of unleashing the creative powers of three billion people fires the imagination. Be-



## CAPITALISM SAYS PAY YOUR FARE OR DIE!

On July 17 nineteen year old Kenneth Harding was fatally shot in the back and neck multiple times by police in San Francisco Bayview Hunter's Point neighborhood as he was running away from them. Harding had been stopped after getting off a bus for not paying his fare. They claim that Harding shot at them first but eyewitnesses claim that Harding was unarmed. Video footage of the incident shows a dying Harding trying to pull himself out of a pool of his own blood while cops stand by with their guns trained on him. Only after several minutes had passed and he had stopped moving were First Responders allowed to take him away on a gurney. In the video you can see children watching the whole horrible scene unfold. This was a real lesson showing young black men how their lives are valued by capitalist USA.

The police and their mouthpiece, the capitalist media, have described Harding as a pimp, parolee, and murder suspect, all in an effort to dehumanize him and try to take the focus off the central question, "How does a young man end up getting shot in the back for not paying bus fare?" Kenneth Harding could have been our son, brother, nephew, cousin. We must feel the sting of his death in our chest. Comrades, we can never become desensitized to the brutal killings of members of our class! We should never forget this, and make the police and the capitalists pay for their cowardly act by fighting to destroy their racist system.

The best revenge is to redouble our effort to do away with this murderous system of capitalism. We'll replace it with a system where there is no money, bus fares, no cops, and no bosses' laws. In this communist society that we will build, we will all work together as one.

tween that promise and the dismal reality of the present, however, lies a long struggle.

**We Carry Out That Struggle for Communism Today**

It is the struggle to build the International Communist Workers' Party.

It is the struggle to see in this period of intensifying crisis, deepening fascism and looming world war the opportunity to build a communist world where all stand shoulder to shoulder together, working for each other and burying capitalism forever.



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)**

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## RED FLAG BUILDS COMMUNIST UNITY BETWEEN FARMWORKERS AND CITY WORKERS

McFARLAND, CA “This was an eye opening experience for me. The farm workers, who have no union, are very open to communism—even more than city workers who have unions,” said a city worker who participated in the Summer Project going door to door in McFarland to introduce *Red Flag* to farm workers and their families. “The farm workers welcomed us and *Red Flag*,” said another worker who distributed the paper for the first time. A black woman shared that her father and grandfather had also worked as farm workers in the San Joaquin Valley. The veteran farm worker said that when he started working in the fields, there were few black workers, but that racism of the union leadership kept them out of the movement.

A veteran farm worker explained that this project was to restart the communist political work in the fields. We passed out a letter addressed to the workers and their families introducing *Red Flag*. It said, in part, “*Red Flag* is not sponsored by political, commercial, or religious institutions, because if this were the case, it would not be the newspaper only and exclusively of the working class, students, and rank and file soldiers. Therefore its printing and distribution costs are only met by the donations, the political consciousness, and goodwill that the same workers, students and soldiers contribute.”

He pointed out that workers in the area used to fear communism but that political work carried out over many years made them more open to communist ideas in spite of the anti-communist attacks of the bosses and their union hacks like Cesar Chavez. Another pointed out that the excellent response we’ve been getting from transit workers shows that city workers, including those in unions, are also more open to communist ideas than before.

It was a day of political development. The volunteers from the ICWP drove from Los Angeles to the San Joaquin Valley, center of the agriculture industry in California. Twenty five comrades and friends went door to door and collected over \$30 for 210 papers and talked to many workers who took extra papers, some of whom want to keep receiving *Red Flag* and keep talking to us. We explained that we came to build unity between farm workers and workers from the city to build a movement to destroy capitalism, which can’t meet our needs, and to build communism, in which we’ll share scarcity and abundance together.

The openness of the workers to communist ideas inspired the young and less young volunteers to explain how communism will be and to answer the workers’ questions. One worker told us that he hadn’t been able to learn English in

classes. When we said that to learn anything you have to practice it, he agreed and said it was the same with working in the fields.

Many workers were angry with the police for their new tactic of stopping workers, demanding their drivers’ licenses, and if they don’t have them, taking their cars and demanding huge fines (“towing fees” etc) to get their cars back. A worker told us that these attacks are directed especially against undocumented workers—but all workers are affected. She said we have to fight attacks on immigrants as attacks on us all. In fact, the same thing is happening in Pasadena, California.

“But if there are no bosses, who will give us a job?” asked a worker. After a brief discussion with him, he said that the bosses need us to make profits; we don’t need them to produce food or anything else. He took a paper and asked for another for his neighbor.

We have plans to return next month to see all the people who expressed interest in continuing to get *Red Flag*, discuss it with us, and plan actions against the capitalist cop terror and the whole system. Teams from Los Angeles will continue these visits to develop communist leadership among the workers and youth in both McFarland and Los Angeles.

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contract since it expired in 2009. The union blabbers that “at least we have a contract.” But as one driver puts it, “MTA has a contract to harass, suspend and fire drivers, mechanics and service attendants at will. We have nothing. We haven’t even seen a wage increase in three years!”

Recently the UTU union officials representing all MTA drivers sent their members a letter thanking them for their “patience ... during the lengthy and...very frustrating negotiations for a new labor contract.”

#### Union Officials Brag We Have A “Miracle Rainbow”

These union officials were also “...pleased to report that there may be a rainbow in the sky, which will brighten our prospects for achieving that (contract) goal.” Their “miracle rainbow” is LA Mayor Villaraigosa because he “became MTA Board Chairman on July 1 and ... has always been a friend to this Union...”

#### Villaraigosa Enemy of LA City Workers, Savior of MTA Workers?

This can only be true for our treacherous union officials! Since 2008 Villaraigosa has laid off 5,000 city workers and has forced a mandatory 2-day per month furlough on all remaining city workers, the equivalent of a 10% pay cut. He further cut their wages another 1 to 2%, their added

to increase their contributions to a pension they may never see. Additionally, he has cut basic programs like maintaining streets and parks in order to put more racist killer LAPD cops on the streets.

#### US Rulers Need To Impose A Regime of No Strike On MTA Workers!

US rulers have been trying for years to get MTA workers to submit their contract negotiations to binding arbitration in order to avoid potential strikes every three years.

Neil Silver, president of the ATU (mechanics), during the MTA workers’ strike in 2003, offered to submit that contract and all future contract negotiations to binding arbitration. The MTA bosses, for their own petty reasons, rejected this offer. US rulers angrily and publicly chastised them for this betrayal.

US rulers, however, have, with the help of the union officials, imposed a de facto “no strike regime” on MTA workers. It’s almost six years since the last contract was negotiated and there has been no strike, even though MTA workers overwhelmingly voted last year authorizing one.

#### Villaraigosa: Rulers’ Knight In Shining Armor To Impose “No Strike Regime”

Earlier in the year, “our fearless” union officials submitted a contract proposal basing everything on “Merit Pay.” We said at the time that we

did not know why such a give-away contract was rejected by the MTA board.

Now it’s clear: US rulers are shooting for a binding arbitration clause in the next contract to impose a “no strike regime.” They hope that Villaraigosa, both Mayor of LA and President of the Bboard, will get all board members to toe the line.

#### The US Rulers, Their Union Officials and Politicians: All Our Enemies.

There is no such thing as a good contract. Contracts only legalize and justify our condition as wage slaves. We need to destroy the bosses and their capitalist system of wage slavery. That will take a communist revolution.

Hundreds of MTA workers reading, distributing, and supporting *Red Flag* are getting closer to this understanding. Their next step is to become active communists by joining ICWP now. We have complete confidence that they will. They must get in touch with our members and friends in MTA and join our action-study groups. As we grow, we will be better positioned to take on the MTA-US bosses’ daily terror with political strikes and other actions against their racist system, and advance the struggle for communism. The future is in our hands. If you want something done, guess who has to do it? Dare to struggle, dare to win!

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won to communism.

“He said what I said was very interesting and that ‘although I don’t agree with your politics, you can consider me your ally.’ I said we have the same enemy and the same fight. He said, ‘Yes!’ with enthusiasm and took *Red Flag*. We were surprised because this guy started out basically insulting us and ended up with a brotherly handshake and calling himself our ally.”

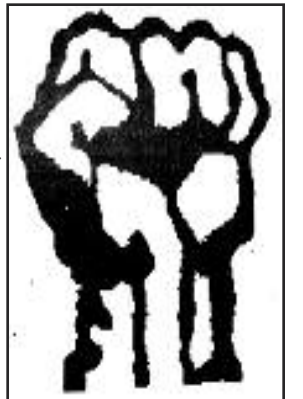
Another volunteer said, “The Summer Project of ICWP has inspired me to become more involved and opened my mind to future ideas and plans. I, along with two fellow comrades, went through a hard time of getting rid of a man who claimed to serve the government (not a Marine)

who tried to follow us and shouted, ‘It’s impossible to get rid of the government; they have the armed forces and you have nothing.’ He tried to scare us but his annoying statements only made me angry and encouraged us to go to more Marines. I despise the government with a passion and am willing to do what’s needed to bring those disgusting racist filthy pigs down.

“The next guy to come along was a Marine, who liked the paper as soon as he saw it. He said we need to make the revolution like you guys are trying to do and pass out the paper so people can see what the bosses are trying to do, and not just what the bosses think but what workers think. We gave him the paper, and he asked for three more for friends who think the same as us. He

also asked for our e-mail and phone number. He said he was a communist and that he’d been one for about 2 years. He said he was going to talk to people about how things really are and not just what the government is trying to make people believe. Our group ended up getting out a lot of papers to Marines today.”

*Red Flag* is uniting soldiers, Marines, and workers against the bosses who put us all in harms way for their profits and empire, to fight for a communist system that meets the needs of workers everywhere.



## Gold Cup: Bosses' Nationalist Weapon

### WORKERS WIN WITH COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALISM

LOS ANGELES, CA. — Soccer, like any other sport under capitalism, has the appearance of being a fun activity for workers and their families, but in essence it creates division, exploitation and subjugation through nationalism. To do this, the bosses use all kinds of championships: the Gold Cup, the America Cup, the World Cup, etc. Recently Mexico won the Gold Cup. After the final soccer game in Los Angeles, where Mexico beat the US, a wave of insults and offenses among the workers and youth from the US, Central America and Mexico was unleashed on the internet, the television and in the press.

This shows that sports only create divisions that blind the international working class to our potential to unite to fight for our interests. To counter this, we started an honest and sharp discussion about nationalism and the need to build communist internationalism. In this discussion workers from different nationalities and different workplaces participated. Some comments were:

“I feel a lot of warm feelings and respect for the workers of Mexico, for their courage and fighters. Many of them help Central American

workers day after day when they are on their way to the US,” said a worker, after another said, “I’m proud of my country. [We won the Gold Cup.]

“I took one of my best friends off my list because she was making jokes and insults against the people of ‘my country,’” said a young Central American. Others commented that we can’t write her off, but should instead struggle politically with her about how nationalism affects relations between people.

“It’s not that I hate the people from this country, but I don’t like their team,” some one said. Immediately others said that this was bad and that he was falling into the trap of nationalism.

“I think we should with struggle ourselves against our forms of nationalism and struggle with others to see that nationalism divides us,” said a comrade from ICWP self-critically.

The bosses use borders and nationalism to win workers to the idea that they are all part of one nation against another. They try to hide the reality that there are two classes locked in a fight to the death: the workers of the world against the bosses of the world. During these sports events the

bosses want the workers to forget about exploitation, poverty, unemployment, and police repression. They want them to see other workers as their enemies. It’s a Roman circus, except that in this case they aren’t slaves fighting for their lives, but well paid “star” players.

The soccer competition is a reflection of capitalist competition. A very few direct the game while millions of us are passive, only watching. A few become millionaires by capitalizing on our fanaticism.

In a communist society sports won’t be for competition and money, but for fun. Sports will be collective and massive. For example today there are big marches of workers from one town to another and it’s not to see who gets there first but so that they all get there together and make their goal visible to others. Communism won’t have “stars” because there won’t be money, nor privileges for some while the rest die of hunger.

Help us beat the bosses. We have to struggle against nationalism, just like against racism and sexism, because this is key to build the basis of a communist world. Join the winning team, ICWP

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group of workers against another.

“We need a noose around [the bosses] necks,” answered our seller. The 292 readers in the plant and their friends loved the idea. It was certainly better than relying on the bosses’ courts.

### Speed-Up And Harassment Increase Daily

Forced overtime, petty harassment, pitting one shift against another in a desperate effort to inflate production quotas are the order of the day at Boeing’s plants in the Puget Sound area.

Competition among the world’s capitalists always forces the bosses to attack us harder. China, Russia, Canada, and possibly Brazil and Japan, will join Airbus in producing more fuel-efficient versions of the 737 jet.

Boeing is desperate to produce more planes now while keeping hiring down and wages low to pay for the Dreamliner fiasco and horde cash to compete. What kind of system must sacrifice us on the altar of the bosses’ profits in order to survive?

### Neither Laws Nor Elections Will Lessen Exploitation

While all this is going on our union “leaders” urge us to have faith not only in the legalities of the bosses’ system, but in their electoral circus as well.

“What’s the point of all those phone banks across the hall [when all the politicians support the company during this NLRB process],” complained one shop steward at a recent meeting.

District President Wroblewski could only answer how disappointed he was with them. “But we’ll remember,” he said, as these pro-capitalist union leaders have assured us a million times before. How pathetic!

### Halfway Measures Won’t Do

So what’s the picture here? The union leaders have no answers because they are tied to capitalism. The last thing they want to organize is a movement that will put a noose around this deadly exploitative system.

Wroblewski even complained that the media always shows pictures of us on strike when they refer to the Machinists’ union. He

thought to change that image by partnering with the Governor at the Paris Air Show. For those who don’t remember, this was the same Governor who held back our strike the last time.

We are about to enter contract negotiations in the midst of the worst capitalist caused economic crisis in a generation. With these crucial contract negotiations coming up next fall, it is precisely a strike that we have to prepare for. No interminably long legal process or bosses’ election will diminish the need for class war.

But this strike has to take aim at the bosses’ system. Halfway measures won’t work any more.

We need a system that does away with laws that hide the bosses’ “right” to exploit us, and which mask their escalating attacks on the working class behind a wall of legalities.

We need a system where the working class is not reduced to electing its new oppressor every few years. We must have a system where masses have learned how to directly mobilize for power.

We need a system where we produce for our collective needs, not the bosses’ profits.

We need a political strike next year that breaks out of the usual capitalist political dead-ends and puts us on the road to just such a communist system.

Start now by circulating this paper far and wide. Lets make the bosses’ media afraid to show pictures of politically energized strikers next year ready to mobilize the masses for communism. We’ll rely on our own newspaper, *Red Flag*. Let’s show them how we put the noose around the neck of capitalism!

## WE CAN’T RELY ON THE BOSSES’ MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Boeing’s biggest union, the International Association of Machinists (IAM) just finished praising Obama for “leading by example and staying out of [the NLRB process].”

“This is not a matter for politicians to be throwing their weight around on,” said Frank Larkin, a spokesman the union. “This is an enforcement issue, and there is a process for handling enforcement issues.”

Of course, Obama had no intention of “staying out of it.” The *Seattle Weekly* reported that Obama sent his “cabinet-pick lackey to take sides in the Boeing/NLRB fight (6/22).”

Commerce Secretary nominee John Bryson, formally of the Boeing Board of Directors, told a congressional hearing that the NLRB’s decision to move forward with the complaint “was not the right decision.”

Boeing officials were “doing the right thing for the country “ by keeping [low-paid!] jobs in the U.S.,” he continued.

Lest anyone have any doubts, Obama followed up at a press conference saying, “companies need to have the freedom to relocate.”

“We can’t afford to have labor and management fighting all the time, at a time when we’re competing against Germany and China and other countries that want to sell goods all around

This legal process is right now leading us into a no-strike trap. Everyone from the president on down is pushing for secret negotiations. The out-

line of a deal has already been spread across the pages of every local and national newspaper.

In exchange for some vague promise of Washington State jobs many years in the future, the union is to offer a no-strike pledge for a decade or more. Ironically, it may become harder to strike at the unionized plants than at the non-union plants!

Law always provides a political cover for the bosses’ exploitive system. We can’t win in that arena.



## PRISON HUNGER STRIKE EXPOSES INHUMANITY OF RACIST CAPITALISM

Hundreds of California prison inmates have been on a hunger strike which started with over six thousand on July first. They are demanding changes in maximum-security prison isolation units. Some have openly stated that they prefer death to remaining for decades in these inhuman cages, which have been compared unfavorably to the US government's torture cells at Guantanamo Bay.

Some supermax prisoners have committed brutal rapes and murders. But capitalism itself dwarfs their crimes with the cold-blooded brutality and racism of its Secure Housing Units (SHU) prison system.

Most of the hunger strikers are in the SHUs at Pelican Bay and Tehachapi. Across the US, tens of thousands of prisoners – mainly black and latin men — are locked up in “supermax” units like these.

Thousands are in SHU on “indeterminate” assignments because some prison official decided they have “gang ties.” It's pretty hard for any young black or latin man to grow up in a city like Los Angeles without having some relative or neighbor in a gang!

The California prison hunger strikers have rejected the racial divisions pushed by prison guards. They have come together around five core demands:

\*Stop punishing groups of prisoners of the same “race” for an individual's actions.

\*Stop the “debriefing” policy in which prisoners are sent to SHU based on arbitrary accusations of prison gang membership, and kept there until they provide information (true or false) im-

plicating other prisoners in gang activity.

\*End long-term solitary confinement.

\*Provide adequate food.

\*Allow all prisoners to engage in productive activities and to enjoy “privileges,” like warm clothing and one phone call per week.

Hundreds of prisoners are willing to risk their lives for modest reforms like these! This should fuel our anger against the system that treats human beings worse than zoo animals. It should inspire us as an example of workers' capacity to fight back, at great personal cost, for the sake of the collective.

**The harshest aspect of SHU is isolation itself.**

SHU inmates spend 23 hours a day in individual cells that are often windowless and sound-proofed. Their daily exercise hour is also solitary. Their meals are thrust through a hole in the solid door. They are under constant surveillance. Some have been isolated for decades.

Depriving human beings – whatever their crimes – of their ability to hear and touch others means intentionally destroying their sanity and their humanity.

Social relations are a basic human need. Of course, we all depend on each other for the things we need to survive. But more: our very existence as human beings depends on our interactions with other people.

The capitalist system obscures this fact by turning everything into commodities. Everything is produced to be sold on the market, instead of to meet our needs. Even our ability to labor becomes a commodity. We all need money to buy things we need. So we learn to think of money –

not social relationships — as the glue holding society together.

This contradicts our core experiences of solidarity and mutual dependence, starting from infancy. And we all know how money can poison relationships among friends and relatives.

The fight for communism sharpens this contradiction. We struggle with ourselves, each other, and the people around us to build relationships based on comradeship and trust. We struggle against capitalist thinking such as “I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine.”

When enough of us are motivated by communism, we'll tear down capitalism and its repressive state (including the prison system). In our new communist system — without money or markets — the Party will be at the heart of a “world wide web” of social relationships that will guide our collective decision-making about production, distribution, enforcement of social norms, and all other aspects of society.

When the masses embrace communist principles, and without money (or lack of it) to cause problems, there will be much less crime. Those who still make mistakes will be struggled with collectively. The few who pose a real danger to others will be isolated but definitely not in cages. Those who intentionally attack communist society will be dealt with swiftly and harshly by the masses. Once we have experienced communist society, we'll make sure there's no going back.

*Future issues of Red Flag will discuss questions such as prisons and capital punishment under communism in the context of a larger discussion of how to organize communist society.*

### Postal workers say, “The supervisors are slave drivers!”

#### LET'S FIGHT TO GET RID OF WAGE SLAVERY!

Postal workers, like others, are feeling the direct effect of the crisis created by capitalism and its wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In every Post Office workers are having their hours cut, being laid off, and pushed harder to do more. Thousands of post offices are being closed. In the last few years the US Post Office went from 800,000 workers to 575,000. This is the result of the global crisis that the bosses created in their drive for money and power, which has left millions jobless worldwide.

Every day management seems to come up with another absurd idea to make workers' lives more miserable. They come up with numbers impossible for workers to meet, to maximize production and profits with fewer workers. To speed up workers, they lie and cheat using their so-called computer “simulated work load programs.” These computers supposedly simulate how long it should take a mail carrier to do his or her route on any given day. But, of course, this computer program is designed to work in favor of the bosses and never in favor of the workers. So workers have to run, skip their breaks and sometimes their lunch to finish their route in an eight hour day.

Management purposely makes the routes 10 to 20 minutes longer, never shorter, and implements ridiculous rules and policies. They harass workers by constantly watching and monitoring them for every little mistake to try to intimidate workers and threaten them with firing. The pressure is growing. Some workers say, wishfully, “We need a new supervisor that is not as bad.” But another worker answered, “They're all the same—especially in this economic crisis.”

He's right. To exploit workers to the max they

must try to keep us intimidated all the time to try to make sure we don't organize to rebel against them. The Post Office is part of the capitalist system, a system that doesn't care about workers' health and safety because the bosses' profits stand in direct contradiction to our health and safety. To end this, we have to get rid of capitalism's wage slavery.

Management knows that many of the carriers won't be able to finish their longer routes in eight hours. They use this excuse to harass workers and force them to retire or be fired if they don't make “standards,” especially the old timers, whom the Post Office managers push the hardest. Many workers are complaining and thinking about quitting, saying, “I don't know how long I'm gonna last.” But these comments are music to the Post Office managers' ears because if workers leave with less than 20 years of service, they don't get any retirement or health benefits. They can then replace these workers with younger, lower paid workers.

Many workers had faith in the union officials and thought the union was going to protect and save them from this nightmare. But, this illusion is rapidly vanishing because some of them have first hand experience that the union and management are part of the same bosses' capitalist plan to keep workers under control and exploited.

Workers should under-

stand that we can no longer live in the old way and that the only alternative we have is to organize to fight back to end this capitalist nightmare. We have more power than we think. We make everything run, and we're capable of building a communist system with no bosses, exploitation, or harassment.

We need a revolution to create a society where workers won't need to work just to make someone else rich. In communism, we'll work for the common well-being of the whole society, with no exploitation of workers for profit—and no profits at all, but only workers collectively producing and distributing what we need.

In a communist system workers decide the future of the working class of the world. We need to wake up and fight back. Instead of asking, “How long can I last?” we should ask, “How long until our class can get rid of capitalism?” Postal workers need to read and distribute *Red Flag* to build this fight now.



Summer Project Volunteers Working on Red Flag

## “How can you tell whether or not someone will be interested in our paper, *Red Flag*?”

That's what we discussed in the first of two study groups about dialectical materialism. We started the meeting reporting on our experiences in several transit divisions as well as on the streets of a town near a military base. This group had distributed about 600 *Red Flags* at transit divisions during the first week of the project, and another 60 to Marines.

“If they're dressed conservatively, I would think they wouldn't want it, but if they're dressed like me (less conservatively and with an anarchist patch on his shirt) I would think they would be more receptive,” said a young man. “But I haven't tried it.”

“If I see them turn down two other people, I won't try myself,” said a fifteen-year-old high school student participating in his second summer project. “But sometimes people surprise you.”

“That's for sure,” said a veteran comrade. “I went up to a very buttoned-down looking bus driver, and was surprised to find that he was very interested in our ideas. He said he hated the union leadership because they were just like the bosses and was very grateful for our paper.”

“If somebody rejects two other comrades,” said a young man who joined ICWP at May Day, “you should still try to talk to them. Maybe you will have a different approach, and be able to point out something that your other comrades didn't.”

All these comments led to a very interesting discussion about dialectical materialism, the communist philosophy that helps us understand the world and change it. We discussed the difference between idealism and materialism. We first clarified that we're not using the terms in the traditional sense: idealism meaning you have high moral standards and ideals and materialism meaning you're all about the money. For communists, idealism means having ideas that are not backed up by material reality, and materialism means understanding the world by scientific inquiry—investigation being the first step.

So we had been doing a lot of investigating in the summer project about how people respond to communist ideas. From these experiences, we found out that you can't judge people by appearances. You also can't accept all the racist, sexist and anti-working class stereotypes you get from TV, church, school, etc. You have to go out and talk to workers, presenting a communist analysis of the world situation. Then you see how they respond, and how much workers have in common.

We ended the discussion by asking, “How do we know we can mobilize the masses for communism?” The answers to this question clearly pointed out the difference between idealism and materialism. One person said, “We'll win because we have guts!” Others said, “We'll win because workers need these ideas, and we have seen from our experience that when we take *Red Flag* to them, they take them as their own.” We concluded that it's not just about guts, or optimism, or dedication. It's about doing the day-to-day work of putting forward communist ideas to workers, whose own lives prove them to be true.

The main idealism we have to combat is the idealism which holds us back from seeing the urgency and taking the opportunity to mobilize the masses

for communism

--Struggling for a Materialist Outlook

## Workers Vs. Suits

On July 12 at the study group on idealism and materialism, a discussion on racial profiling took place, focusing on who fellow communists believed would take *Red Flag*. During our discussion ideas concerning race and dress attire were a common theme amongst our group's ideas on who would be interested in our literature. We later came to the conclusion that we can no longer have these idealistic ideas about people because as a multi-cultural communist party we welcome members from all walks of life who consider themselves as part of the working class.

This discussion led to implementation the following day as we distributed *Red Flag* to workers at Boeing trying not to stereotype people. Many workers of different ethnic backgrounds were interested in our paper. I realize that I myself was at first reluctant to go up to older white workers which is the majority at Boeing, but the only people who were completely uninterested were those who dressed in suits.

Over all, distribution of *Red Flag* at Boeing was a success in the sense that we distributed a great deal of newspapers. My only criticism is that we all could improve on asking for donations because donations play a major role in funding the paper.

--New Comrade, Learning Fast

## Planting Red Seeds Among Farmworkers

I went to McFarland to distribute *Red Flag* to farmworkers and talk to them about communism. I saw that people didn't panic when we said the paper was communist, so I felt comfortable talking to them about *Red Flag*. I came across 2 young women who work in the grapes. They told me they're under tremendous stress. They only make minimum wages and when it's too hot, the boss sends them home for two hours and that's taken out of their already too little wages. I told them that I had worked in the fields and I know what it's like to work in the hot sun—it's a killer. They gladly took the paper. I told them and other people that they should read the paper with others. There was a retired farm worker who invited us into his house. He knew about the struggles in the fields and knows the veteran communist farm worker. He said he can't read so I encouraged him to have one of his children or a friend read him the articles. He agreed to get the paper and to seek out friends to read it to him. I know what this life is like. When I was a girl we didn't have much. But my father taught me to defend myself and be a fighter, and that's what we have to teach too. I told the workers that we're organizing the whole working class, not only latinos, but black workers, white, Chinese, Koreans, everyone who's oppressed. I told my son who went with us that one day the red flag will fly everywhere, not the US flag, Mexican flag or any other bosses' flag!

Next time, we should get there earlier and spend less time talking among ourselves and go out and spend our time with the workers and then be back home early to do our work.

--Committed New *Red Flag* Seller

## Workers' Leaders Must Be Communist Revolutionaries

“As your international president, it gives me great frustration to observe how some of our most committed local union leaders are under constant attack by the members of their own union locals.”

With these strong words, traitor Larry Hanley, President of the Amalgamated Transit Union, which represents the MTA mechanics, complains bitterly about the workers who are beginning to ask for accounts and to demand that the union leaders take real working class leadership and not collaborate with the bosses.

A working class leader must be honest and militant, with a revolutionary vision because the economic crisis demands that the workers' leadership be bold, with a political understanding that breaks with the capitalist molds of the workers' leaders who are lackies of the Democrats.

Because we live in a class society, to negate or hide this reality or try to pretend that some bourgeois politicians are our friends is a lie meant to brazenly fool the workers.

Every leader who participates in this farce consciously or unconsciously is an enemy of our class, because he's helping to perpetuate wage slavery and collaborating in the suffering and hunger of millions of unemployed.

There's no justification for these parasites and their bosses. They have to be smashed because they hold back the political advance of the base. The workers' leaders have to be communist revolutionaries with a class understanding, who study and teach the political ideas and are willing to take the struggle to the final victory no matter what sacrifices are needed. Only a leadership of communist revolutionary leaders committed and dedicated to their class can pull the workers away from the swamp in which the cowards, sellouts and treacherous union leaders have them imprisoned.

Join our international revolutionary communist party and take part in this battle to start to clear the road that will take us to our final goal of communist revolution.

--A Comrade

## My First ICWP Summer Project

My experiences with the International Communist Workers' Party have fulfilled my expectations. In the first place I didn't know much about communism, but through the communist study groups, people have clarified many of the questions I had about communism, for example: In communism wouldn't there be laws? And I asked myself wouldn't a state without laws be a failed state?

So I learned that the laws favor the bosses, they favor the ones that have the money and don't benefit the working class; that's capitalism. In communism, everything would change. We would implement a control of the neighborhood where everyone would meet to determine some problem or conflict derived from a problem. Also, in communism, there wouldn't be social classes and we will work together to meet our needs.

One of my experiences was that we went to a garment factory and passed out *Red Flag* and I saw that many people liked it and took it. They started to read it, nodding their heads in a favorable way. I feel

very happy to support the party that I now belong to, the International Communist Workers' Party.

In conclusion, now I feel more convinced of the need to struggle for communism and to increase *Red Flag* networks.

--Summer Project Youth



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### The Chorus

I want to share with **Red Flag** readers the experiences I lived during several years when I participated in the Salvadoran revolutionary movement.

I lived with my family in a village in the western part of El Salvador. The economic conditions were very hard. The exploitation was brazen, the hours of work long and exhausting. The wages were ridiculously low, without any benefits. There was no protection for workers while they worked. For example, those who sprayed poison in the fields didn't use masks, nor uniforms nor special boots and therefore many became poisoned.

These terrible conditions, added to the repression, shaped one of the conditions for a revolution, the "objective" one. However, in other parts of the country we began hearing about rebellious priests. This is the way that I began to see myself involved in the movement. I participated in a church chorus and the priest denounced many injustices and social inequalities, talking about the workers' need to organize.

These speeches about justice and equality attracted me. Seeing my positive reaction, I was contacted by cells of the FMLN and they started assigning me logistical tasks, like guaranteeing the coordination of food and drinks for big meetings. I also participated in other events like taking over ranches, participating in study groups and attending mass marches. I also helped organize night time distribution of leaflets, and quick escapes when the army invaded.

In each of these activities, the risk of losing your life was very great. To the extent that the revolutionary movement advanced, the repression that was unleashed was unimaginable. Every day there were deaths, and people taken away, captured and tortured. During the nights the silence was almost absolute. You could hear the noise of a cat on the roof.

Relatives, friends and co-workers lived watching out for terror and death everyday. Many disappeared as if by magic. Due to the fact that all of us youth were considered suspicious, it was decided to have guards who would alert us in case of a military invasion. When the alert sounded, we ran to hide in designated places.

Sometimes we hid for days among the plants of the lagoon, or in the mountain under the rain with the swarms of mosquitoes welcoming us. We slept on the floor, calming the children so they wouldn't cry. We spent the days fearful that the planes or helicopters would discover and bomb us. Many people lost their lives in these running escapes.

During this period, I still thought that it was worth it to suffer so much pain and grief because we were advancing to a new communist society, even though my concepts were vague and limited about how this new society would function.

Now I understand that the direction of these struggles was reformist and the FMLN didn't seek a real communist revolution. I've also learned that it's not enough to have a rifle and a rebellious heart, but that we need a true communist movement that practices communism today.

Today my ideas are clearer and more precise about building a real communist society. I'm learning this day by day through **Red Flag** and ICWP.

--Comrade of many struggles

### "Primitive" Not the Best Term

In the previous edition of **Red Flag**, the term "primitive communism" was used to describe the stage

of historical development prior to the development of class societies. While the author correctly explained that "primitive" is used, not in the sense of inferior, but to mean original, we think that there is still a problem with the term. It would probably be better to use a more scientific term, such as "original communism" or "pre-class communism," to describe the egalitarian societies that existed in the past, and to some extent still exist today, in the few remaining gatherer-hunter societies.

The domestication of animals, both dogs and sheep, led to herding, and the production of iron tools led to the development of agriculture around the world at about the same time, including the domestication of basic crops. Although there is evidence of a significant period of egalitarian agricultural societies in places such as Catal Huyuk in Turkey, the overall sweep of history shows that the development of agriculture and herding led to surplus food, and then to class society to control that surplus.

In universities today, this overall sweep of history and anthropology that is the basis of Marx and Engels' historical analysis is rejected. Instead, egalitarian gatherer-hunter societies, such as those in the Amazon today, are presented as a voluntary lifestyle cultural choice rather than as an early period of human society and an example of uneven development. The purpose of this counter-theory is to deflect one of Marx's basic theses: as the means of production (i.e., tools and techniques, such as farming, the plow, looms, electricity, the assembly line, the internet) developed, the social relations of production (slavery, feudalism, capitalism) developed in sync with them. We know that all of our ancestors once lived in egalitarian, pre-class communism for tens of thousands of years before the development of class society. Looking at the egalitarian values of those societies that have survived today is an inspiration to us about how all human beings once lived, and how, when we make a communist revolution and destroy the capitalist exploiters, we can live again in a future of scientific, egalitarian, post-class communism. It is living refutation of the capitalist claim that human biology forever handcuffs us to societies based on economic exploitation expressed as class relationships.

While we fight for this Marxist understanding of the development of class society, we should probably avoid misleading terms like "primitive." They are hot-button terms that deflect the debate from the real question of class struggle based on a scientific understanding of the social relations underlying capitalist production and exploitation. We need to maintain a clear analysis of the communist future, and not unintentionally trigger emotional debates over terms that are misinterpreted as insulting the people who live in egalitarian pre-class communist societies today.

--Red student

### More on Smashing Reformism

**Red Flag** is trying to lift the reformist discussion out of the swamp of pointless and endless stories about cutbacks, closings and corporate greed. Instead, **Red Flag's** aim is to encourage the workers to learn about what we need to do in order to win communism. Rather than giving in to our addiction to first thinking about how bad things are for us, we need to be primarily thinking and acting out of regard to others around the world...

I don't feel like I have enough of this communist outlook and thoughtfulness yet. But I think this potential solidarity with other workers is what the capitalists are really afraid of. This is where our power

lies. This concern for others is what we need to organize.

So what do we need to think about, if not protecting our pensions and saving our skins? The ominous analysis of the rise of China and the emerging confrontation with the US...certainly commands our attention. The facts appear to be there. ...A world that could be shared by the capitalists during most of our lifetime...once again no longer has room – nor profits – for everyone. This dynamic is basically driving our lives and creating tremendous, escalating suffering throughout the world. ...

What shall the workers do in the face of the holocaust being planned for us? Should we take sides in the capitalist and imperialist slaughters? Of course not.

Then why would we continue to pursue the poisonous and divisive strategy of reformism, an idea that disarms us and that helps deliver us to the battlefields and morgues of the warmongers?

The report from El Salvador is a promising example of the development of a more revolutionary and political kind of journalism that combines day-to-day struggle with the primacy of communist ideas.

This kind of article seems like a fresh example of revealing the nuts-and-bolts of how communism is built....

However, as evident and inspiring as the advances in **Red Flag's** politics are, much more of the struggle against reformism remains. ...

Many of us desperately want to know how to do communist work. **Red Flag** needs to become an instruction manual for communist revolution. A start has been made. **Red Flag** has shown some inclination to take this approach. It needs to do exponentially more, and I believe it will as we learn how to be communist organizers.

—Transit Worker

*[This is the second excerpt from a long letter. The third excerpt containing the reader's criticisms of several MTA articles, will be printed in the next issue of Red Flag, along with the MTA comrades' response.]*

### I've seen a different reality

For the last few weeks I've been in Los Angeles for the ICWP summer project. It's been an excellent experience that helps strengthen confidence in the working class.

We've gone to factories, MTA divisions, and a military base, taking communist ideas to the workers and soldiers through **Red Flag**. Wherever we go, our ideas are accepted by hundreds of workers who need to know the importance of organizing to fight against the capitalist system that exploits us daily. It's up to us to organize the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) and thus fight for a communist revolution.

In these weeks, I've seen a different reality than what we hear about US workers. People think that here all the workers are middle class. But when you see people living in the streets, selling fruits on the sidewalk, losing their homes, and others unemployed, you see that the American dream is nothing but a farce. The workers, no matter where they live, are exploited and forced to live in poverty. These workers need communist ideas and to organize in ICWP to achieve the only system that will benefit us all.

This summer project is helping us strengthen **Red Flag** networks and see up close the reality of the working class. We youth are an important part of this process. That's why we need to organize more members in this struggle. The task of increasing the networks of **Red Flag** must be of all. This will help us to strengthen our party and thus achieve a real communist revolution.

Red Youth



# IN MEMORY OF MILT ROSEN

Comrade Milt Rosen died last week. He is a hero of the working class who devoted his entire life to what he urged and taught us all to do: serve the working class. He fought furiously against the cult of the personality (the idea that any leader is infallible and beyond criticism) as something seriously dangerous to the communist movement. He included himself.

Today we honor Comrade Milt knowing that our humble tribute is modest compared with his great and lasting contributions to the international communist movement. We are also aware that the best way to honor his memory is to continue his legacy of serving the working class. We have concluded that the best way to do that is to mobilize the masses for communism, and this we pledge to do.

Back in the 1960's, Milt and a handful of comrades broke with the old Communist Party USA over the question of the need for armed revolution for workers' power, the fact that the Soviet Union had become capitalist, and the need to openly take communist ideas to workers.

Milt Rosen bravely fought against all forms of nationalism — for the international unity of the working class. He fought uncompromisingly against racism, showing that it is the cutting edge of the rulers' attack on all workers and that the most oppressed workers should be in the forefront of the fight for communism. He taught — and encouraged all to learn and teach— dialectical materialism, the science of the working class, to workers, soldiers, and youth.

Milt fought to make communist ideas mass ideas. He influenced many workers and others to have confidence that the international working class can and will run a communist society. For him, serving the working class was lifelong struggle to win and organize workers to fight for a communist society.

Milt was forthright, caring and principled, which gave many people confidence in him and his communist ideas.

Milt's life was dedicated to the proposition that the masses can rule, that we can and will have a communist world. He believed that we should never sell the working class short, that workers can and will take up communist ideas as their own. When a farmworker became a communist and started spreading communist ideas to other farm workers, Milt insisted that he quickly be recruited into the international leadership of the movement.

Milt also taught humility. He hammered home that we advance only through criticism and self criticism. We shouldn't get a swelled head. He taught us to fight to do the work well and evaluate the results objectively. He often advised that we sometimes learn more from our mistakes than from victories.

Milt taught us, "When in doubt, move to the left." When we face obstacles that seem insurmountable, turn to the working class and to communism, he would say.

We shouldn't fear being isolated but should tell workers the truth and rely on their understanding and experience. He was sharp in the fight against the bosses' ideas inside the working class movement, which divert workers from advancing to communism.

In this and many other ways, Milt led and inspired many to understand that fighting for anything less than communism would lead to disaster for the working class. This meant understanding that socialism would never lead to communism, that a revolution must be directly for communism and that workers can and will take up this fight when they understand it fully.

He took a dialectical approach to history. The Russian and Chinese workers fought courageously for and deserved, a society without exploitation, but their leaders fatally thought that they needed the stage of socialism to get to communism because workers weren't ready for communism.

Even when he was bedridden by disease, Milt was always interested in what was

going on in the world. An ICWP comrade who visited him 3 times a week and read *Red Flag* to him was always greeted, as long as Milt was able to form words, by the question, "What's new?"

Milt wasn't perfect. Although he always said that the ideological struggle was the main thing, he and we underestimated the depths of the struggle against reformism inside the party. But he had unshakable confidence that the masses can be communist leaders. Once, a young comrade was arrested while he was in the army. The MP's (Military Police) brought out a picture of a hundred soldiers who were at a demonstration against the war and racism. They pointed to one soldier in the picture and said, "This is your minister of defense." They pointed to another and said, "This is your minister of information." They kept on like this.

The young comrade told this story to Milt, concluding that this showed the MP's didn't know much because Communists don't have "ministers of defense and information." Milt stopped the comrade and told him, "That guy *should* have been the minister of defense and the other guy *should* be the minister of information." He had confidence that these soldiers, as well as workers and youth, can be leaders for communism, and that the comrade should have recruited and developed them as such.

We're learning today what kind of struggle, party and base among the masses are needed to hold and win communism. We have to involve a broad base of workers in all aspects of mobilizing and developing the fight for communist ideas and a communist society.

We thank Milt for his unyielding fight for communism. Learning from him and others, we'll hold the red flag high when others drag it in the dirt. His legacy lives on in the International Communist Workers' Party as we fight to mobilize the masses for communism.

## TEACHERS DEBATE COMMUNISM

El Salvador—July 17—Today, dozens of teachers from a teachers' organization took over one of the main streets in the capital in front of the metropolitan cathedral to demand that the government of Mauricio Funes raise their wages.

After chanting several slogans and getting the attention of the media, which comes to cover the Sunday mass, they organized an assembly to plan a march the next week to win some reforms. In this assembly there was a very sharp argument between some union leaders who couldn't agree on the strategy to follow in order not to harm either the Minister of Education or the FMLN. One of them made a great effort to convince those present not to carry out actions that would tarnish the image of the Minister of Education, one of the ex-maximum commandantes of the FMLN.

The teachers' answer to this was to put forward to him the nature of the economic crisis in which teachers are living. They asked him how it was possible that the FMLN, which had promised to provide adequately for the teachers, could now say there was no money. They added that as leaders, they had to say where they stand: defending

the minister or fighting for the teachers.

In his zeal to convince the teachers, this leader told a story about how the workers in Cuba survived on \$20 and how they distributed this salary to pay for the family expenses.

A comrade took advantage of this discussion to reflect out loud that money was the source of all the evils of the capitalist system.

She pointed out how much better a communist system would be where money doesn't exist, but where we workers will live in dignity. The comrade explained why we workers don't need money. Many teachers liked this position.

At the end of the assembly some friends came around to tell the comrade that what she had presented was a good idea. "I hadn't thought about it," said one of them.

"So, I'll bring you a newspaper (*Red Flag*) so you can find out more about it," she said.

"Do we really need to change the government?" asked a worker. He added, "Now they say the current government isn't really from the FMLN, that we need to put someone in power who is a real red."

"What we need," said a comrade, "is to organize for communism."

We workers need communist ideas. We have to proceed to get rid of capitalist ideas in order to be able to fight for a communist system. It's the International Communist Workers' Party that organizes and struggles to free the workers from rotten capitalism.

Read and distribute *Red Flag*, the newspaper of the international working class.



**Striking Brazilian Teachers Protesting Bosses' Literary Festival Need to Learn to Fight for Communism More Next Issue**