

RED FLAG



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



US-China Conflict Shows Need To **DESTROY CAPITALISM BEFORE IT DESTROYS US**

(see Page 16)

Boeing Workers Debate Communism

TALK ABOUT PEOPLE WHO DON'T PRODUCE ANYTHING!

SEATTLE, WA, 8/25 — Boeing's two major unions are contributing \$100,000 each towards a local aerospace business-climate study for the Washington Aerospace Partnership. This government/private partnership is expected to spend \$600,000 on a study that produces absolutely nothing. Other states will no doubt make their own equally worthless and expensive reports. Millions wasted!

Overpaid Wall Street number crunchers will use our union dues to "outline the state's strength and weakness in the industry." The study will give "Washington leaders a clear picture of what we need to do to keep the re-engined 737 in the state," said Taylone Washburn, co-chair of the partnership. In other words, how can we give away the store to guarantee Boeing huge profits?

The last time the state issued one of these business assessments, former Governor Gary Locke (recently Obama's commerce secretary) proposed giving Boeing \$3.2 billion to build the new Dreamliner here. Boeing's blue-collar union, the International Association of Machinists (IAM), held multiple rallies to back this thievery. Boeing moved extra 787 production to non-union

South Carolina anyway.

Adding insult to injury, a good chunk of this racist giveaway came from the pocketbooks of some of the state's lowest paid workers, seasonal farmworkers. This mostly latino workforce lost unemployment benefits so Boeing, the largest employer in the state, would not have to pay as much into the employment security fund.

A retired Boeing industrial engineer was not happy about these developments, but wondered whether communism was a viable answer. Under this system the bosses own the means of production. We are forced to work for them or we starve.

He wondered how we could guarantee people went to work each day if a communist society provides for our needs. "What would we do about people who don't produce under communism?" he asked.

Talk about people who don't produce anything! Communists would never waste our labor on studies outlining how to more efficiently exploit the working class. We don't give a fig about "language that the Wall Street money managers - and executives at Boeing and other aerospace companies - understand" (which Machinist president Tom

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Trade-Unionism Chains Us to Capitalism

WORKERS NEED COMMUNIST POLITICAL STRIKES

LOS ANGELES —In the last couple of years, MTA (LA transit) bosses have unleashed a reign of terror against MTA workers. The MTA is an agency of the US rulers' state apparatus. It implements the rulers' policies, which reflect their economic, political and military needs.

The US bosses' present needs demand drastic cuts in our wages, benefits and services to pay for their current and future wars. These are the needs of capitalism-imperialism: a system that exploits hundreds of millions of workers worldwide, and condemns billions more to live under subhuman conditions for the benefit of 11 million millionaires.

We need to destroy this system and replace it with a communist society based on human needs, not on profits. We need a system whose survival doesn't depend on competition for markets, raw materials, and world domination: the continuous source of wars.

MTA Operators Believe a Union Contract Means Protection

Cameras and the cell-phone law are at the center of MTA's reign of terror. They harass, suspend, fire and even pressure drivers to the point of death, as in Paul's case, for

allegedly holding an electronic device (which wasn't his) while driving.

"Protection," an MTA driver explained to *Red Flag*. "That's why I want the contract to be signed as soon as possible." This is a very dangerous illusion. Union contracts don't protect anyone except the bosses.

Another MTA operator provided the following excerpts from the union contract:

Article 27, *Section 2: In all instances the operator must be personally contacted as soon as possible by the person citing the major infraction, and*

Section 6: *When a Service Inspector or any other MTA personnel writes up an Operator for any violation except Not Accounting for Passengers (N.A.P.) the Operator will be given written notification of the violation by that individual as soon as possible prior to exiting the bus.*

Both sections are supposed to protect the operators, but don't. The citers are in India and are not MTA employees. They often accuse drivers of wrongdoings, which after a long and tedious process, turn out to be bogus. Yet, the mental damage

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JOBS CRISIS DEMANDS COMMUNIST RESPONSE

Stop and think about all the work that needs to be done, and all the people who are unemployed. Why can't this capitalist system bring them together?

As *Red Flag* goes to press, US President Obama is preparing a major speech about "creating jobs." It seems that the capitalist US rulers have noticed there's a "jobs crisis."

That's news? Who doesn't have a relative who's been out of work for months – or years? One friend's hours have been cut while another works forced overtime. Someone's architect daughter, jobless since January, just landed a gig serving coffee at Starbucks on Saturdays.

So why have President Obama and the *New York Times* suddenly gotten interested?

You might think it's because corporate profits fall when (as the *Times* said recently) consumers, "unemployed, underemployed, underwater in their debts... are unwilling or unable to spend."

But corporate profits have actually risen during the "jobless recovery" since 2008. According to the US Department of Commerce, profits have passed previous peaks in durable goods manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and information.

Are Obama and his corporate buddies afraid that workers and youth in the US might follow the examples of their class brothers and sisters in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Syria, Greece, England, Spain, Brazil, Honduras, and elsewhere – and rebel?

There's probably some truth in this.

But the main reason is different. US imperialism needs to mobilize a huge workforce to rebuild infrastructure (roads, bridges and ports) in preparation for inevitable war with China (see p. 16). And they have to do it "on the cheap."

"America's infrastructure is in a shambles," complains Fareed Zakaria of the Council on Foreign Relations. "Just a decade ago, we ranked sixth in infrastructure in the world ... Today we rank 23rd and dropping. We will not be able to compete with the nations of the world if we cannot fix this problem."

Zakaria joins senior NY banker Felix Rohatyn and an imperialist chorus pushing Obama to create a "national infrastructure bank" that would "combine public and private investment in large-

scale projects."

Such a bank would give private corporations an even bigger role in running roads, highways, railroads, airports and other public resources. New low-paid jobs would be a side effect – but expect Obama to sell the idea as a "job-creation measure."

Former Obama advisor and Harvard professor Lawrence Summers makes a direct connection between jobs and the build-up toward war:

"But for Hitler and the military buildup up he caused, [President Franklin D. Roosevelt] would have left office in early 1941 a failure, with American unemployment above 15 percent."

A major New Deal jobs program, the "Civilian" Conservation Corps, was actually run by the US Army. Young men desperate for jobs were recruited to work for \$5 per month (plus room and board, and \$10-20 per month that went directly to their families). This was well below minimum wage, and they learned the military discipline they would need when drafted a few years later for World War II.

Is that the kind of "jobs" program Obama is proposing? Why can capitalism only put some people to work by slaughtering millions of others?

Nina Easton, a senior editor of *Fortune*, writes that "All signs point to a continued struggle for people who don't have jobs for long periods of time." She doesn't mention it, but this is especially acute in black and latin working-class neighborhoods.

"U.S. companies," Easton continues, "will actually face a talent shortage in 10 years, even as growing numbers of teens drop out of school and millions of once-talented adults fall idle. Does that mean," she asks, "that we, as a society, have given up on millions of valuable Americans?"

It means that capitalists, as a class, only value workers as a source of profits or as cannon-fodder in their wars against rival capitalists.

It means that workers, as a class, must destroy capitalist society. Our rebellion must be for communist revolution, and we must spread it to every corner of the globe.

Communism doesn't promise "more jobs" or "jobs for all." Jobs are how capitalist bosses organize work to exploit us, pigeonhole us, divide us, and make us think that only an elite few are capable of running society. Jobs mean wage slavery.

Communism means abolishing wages and money. Workers will decide collectively through our mass Party what has to get done to meet the needs of our class. We'll mobilize the masses to do it.

All will be able to learn and do many kinds of work. Everyone's contributions will be valued.

We will struggle to find better ways to organize production to create comradeship and communist consciousness as well as tools, weapons, and material goods.

Communism will do what capitalism can't. The workers ourselves will bring together the work we need done and those who want to do it. Never has this task been more urgent.



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inflicted on the drivers in question is permanent.

"Ask the union officials to show proof of any effort they have made to challenge the camera's usage and how MTA abuses it. They do not have any!" commented another operator. The argument here is that since the law came out after the contract was signed, the union has "legal" grounds to defend drivers accused of these violations.

Communists Reject Legality and the Bosses' Rule of Law

We raise these "legal" issues here for two reasons. One is to show the complete treachery of union officials. They believe in the bosses' legality, yet are incapable and unwilling to fight the bosses even on these grounds. The other is to

show the futility of such a fight even if honest, well intentioned, militant workers are elected as union officials.

The legislature, the courts, the judges, the cops and their military are the creators and enforcers of the bosses' laws. We will never gain our freedom in the bosses' courts or in their ballot boxes. Anything short of building the fight to destroy capitalism and build communism is not winning.

Trade unionism enshrines both the bosses' laws and their electoral circus. It can never liberate us from capitalism's wage slavery and its consequent evils. As an MTA driver once said, "They can only try to limit the size of the syringe and the amount of blood the bosses draw from us. They can't eliminate the bloodsuckers!"

In critical times like these, however, unions actively help implement the bosses' murderous

policies. Allowing MTA to fire high-seniority drivers and hire new ones at a cheaper rate, this union is helping the US bosses' drive towards war and fascism.

Unlike these traitors, we refuse to participate in the bosses' legal charades because as long as they have state power they can enforce their will on us. We need to fight for state power for our class to destroy their legal system that perpetuates private property and our wage slavery. There is nothing "legal" about a communist revolution.

Join ICWP and let's turn the upcoming contract struggle into a battle against capitalism by organizing a political strike against this murderous system. Read and distribute *Red Flag* to better prepare our class for this fight.



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INDUSTRIAL WORKERS PLAN TO SPREAD RED FLAG AND ORGANIZE STUDY-ACTION GROUPS

LOS ANGELES, CA.—Two days ago there was a meeting with women and men workers from different areas: transportation, garment workers, machinists, and others. A young comrade garment worker led the discussion. She started it with the explanation of the conditions in the garment industry, where the bosses pay by the piece of work completed, an old capitalist system of paying wages. She also explained that it is workers who grow the cotton, who make the cloth, and workers who make the cloth into useful garments. But it's the bosses who make the profits. Communism will eliminate profits and bosses.

In this industry, the bosses' rule is to demand more production all the time, since the minimum is \$8 an hour, and the prices for each operation workers perform on the sewing machine are paid in pennies. Another garment worker said, "The bosses are demanding more from us and they pressure and insult us, telling us that we're not producing enough. They say that they're losing money because they have to 'complete' the minimum wage. But the truth is that we are maintaining them—not the other way around!"

After that, different workers talked about ex-

amples of the crisis of capitalism and war. A steel worker said, "to talk about capitalism and its horrors would take us hours and days, since today's world is capitalist. We need to try to make concrete plans about how to expand communist ideas."

A transit worker asked, "How are we going to achieve a communist revolution?" Another worker from the same industry explained how hundreds of workers from the same industry are reading, distributing, writing for, and economically supporting our newspaper *Red Flag* and that this is the basis to act around communist ideas that will lead us to take power and build communism.

A worker said that sometimes articles in *Red Flag* are very critical of other movements and that we don't have the absolute truth. Another explained that there are experiences already developed that we can learn from and that we have to take a hard line against revisionist and reformist ideas. He gave as an example the current struggles in Chile (see page 4), where the leaders only want to reform capitalism. He explained that criticism and self-criticism are based on confidence that the workers will be able to identify commu-

nist ideas as their guide.

A worker who came to an ICWP meeting for the first time gave advice about how to take precautions in doing communist work. She emotionally recounted her experiences in the civil war in El Salvador in which she lost several loved ones. She said she wants to help distribute *Red Flag*.

Even though all of us workers don't have the same level of political understanding, we tried to make it clear to all the workers that our role isn't to struggle to improve the capitalist system. It's to destroy it and build a communist world.

We omitted developing more communist ideas about what a world without bosses, wages or borders will be like, but we made concrete plans to increase the *Red Flag* readers' networks and to have three different study groups and campaigns for communism and to write up these struggles for our paper.

In the study action groups we can discuss questions and doubts that we have about what communism really means and how to fight for it. There's a lot of work to do. There are millions of workers waiting for communist ideas, and this meeting was one more step in the struggle to deepen and spread them.

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Wroblewski says we need).

The Bosses Are Thieves

The working class creates everything of value. The bosses steal the value we produce to, in part, expand their business. They call that thievery "creating jobs."

Nor can \$600,000 financial reports save jobs. Any union "leader" that claims they will be leading us down the primrose path.

If we produced for the needs of our class this legal thievery, which dwarfs all illegal robbery combined, would be eliminated. There would be no need for states to compete with each other for jobs, or, for that matter, nations either. We'll welcome helping hands.

At the same time, communism will eliminate millions of useless jobs, like Wall Street number crunchers. Everyone will be struggled with to provide for our collective security.

Jobs will no longer be drudgery dedicated to the bosses' profits. Profits will no longer shackle our work life. Work can become a "labor of love."

Building just such a movement for a communist society should be



Farmworkers protest against Boeing bosses

our number one priority.

As the 2012 contract looms, we can go down two paths. We can continue the "partnership" with the bosses and their system. We can throw good money after bad, or we can break this chain of exploitation.

Wroblewski and Co. tells us to bet our hard-earned money on capitalism. It's a fool's bet.

Better to devote our time and money to the working class. Help support *Red Flag*. Sell a copy to your friend. Contribute extra each month towards defraying the cost of production. Write up your own experiences from the shop floor. Join an ICWP study-action group to help us prepare to advance during a possible strike next year.

Now that's a productive plan!

REPORT FROM SPAIN

SPAIN—The meeting with the friends who are *Red Flag* readers was very lively. We started with questions about what will communist society be like. We said that everything would be decided based on meeting the needs of the working class and all of this will also be produced based on those needs.

The laws, norms and principles that are applied in a communist society will have to be established according to the needs that exist in the community. The discussion turned sharper when we talked about the questions: If someone is murdered and no one sees it, who investigates? Are fingerprints and DNA collected? If someone is accused, how is he tried? We also added questions like: If technology would be used for the working class, to what extent would it help the environment?

The conversation dealt with education: we would have to educate the population to make a better place. An organization would have to exist that collectively is in charge of the issues of every neighborhood. But, without a doubt, we came up short in our analysis. First we have

to have a communist vision not contaminated by capitalist customs. We have to agree that in a communist system we'll have technology and human resources. We'll have a state that will be led by the working class. Decisions will be made based on necessities. Therefore the rules that govern will be for and by the working class.

To achieve a communist society, first we have to defeat capitalism. Our red army has to exist in order to defend the working class and begin to restore and bring order to the cities, give leadership to the forms in which the families organize for their own production and consumption, education, transportation, the construction. This will also be the form in which we'll defend our working class when some individual attempts to harm the organization that the same workers have built. Building ICWP is the basis that we have to be able to destroy capitalism and begin a new era in which we workers will live calmly without being exploited or murdered at the hands of the bosses. Long Live Communism and Long Live ICWP!



Boeing Bosses Steal From Us Everyday

We pay Boeing; Boeing doesn't pay us everyday we go to work.

We produce enough value to cover our wages and benefits in the first two hours of work. Boeing appropriates the next six hours.

That "surplus" six hours pays for their profits; their buildings, utilities, machines and raw materials; their research and development; their taxes (this year less than CEO McNerney's salary) to support their government.

That's the secret of capitalist exploitation: the bosses steal from us each and every day.

From Chile To Honduras

WORKERS NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT NEW CONSTITUTION

Chile—The two days of a general strike, August 24 and 25, called by CUT (Integral Workers' Center), saw thousands of workers and students in the streets confronting the police, making barricades and banging pans to protest against the economic and social crisis. Thousands of miners closed access to the biggest copper mines in the world, which produce 40% of the state's income. But the conditions of capitalism continue unchanged.

"The government has not been capable of responding to the demands of the social movements in Chile. Its time for changes in the Constitution and a better distribution of wealth," said Maria Puelma, president of the Association of Public Workers in Santiago. But the constitutions have been created by the bosses to favor the bosses and not the workers. The constitution guides the capitalist state that gives the green light to private property, exploitation, and repression of the masses of workers.

Learn from History So We Don't Make the Same Mistakes

During the decade of the 1970's, the world saw how the Vietnamese workers defeated the forces of US imperialism on the battlefield. They showed an important aspect of revolution: armed struggle. On the other hand, the Chinese Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution showed how to spread communist ideas and practice.

However, in this same period of the 1970's in



Chile, the socialist government of Salvador Allende came to power through democratic elections and as a candidate of the social democratic movements, Christian democrats, socialists and communists, including the MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left). Allende trusted that the local capitalists and the US empire would allow him to improve the living conditions of the workers without the opposition of capital.

By the beginning of 1973, Allende had nationalized 464 factories and mines. These included the powerful copper corporations, Anaconda and Kennecott, owned by US capitalists. During this time, the masses demonstrated demanding more radical changes. The bosses boycotted each plan in one way or another. The workers asked for weapons because they saw repression coming and wanted to defend their "revolution." Allende said no, trusting in democracy.

On September 11, 1973, the US government, through the CIA (US Central Intelligence Agency), the military officials, and the Catholic Church organized a coup to bring down and kill Salvador Allende. Two recognized butchers of the coup were Henry Kissinger and Agosto Pinochet. The majority of the expropriations were returned to the previous owners. Allende and the MIR erroneously thought that through elections and democracy they could get to socialism (state capitalism) and give some more crumbs to the workers. But this fatal error left dozens of thousands of students and workers dead, tortured, exiled and imprisoned. Local capitalism and US imperialism brutally repressed the hopes of the workers who dared to dream of a new future.

Unfortunately, this liberal capitalist political line of creating a new constituent assembly and of taking power through elections is strong in the union and student movements worldwide. For example in Honduras, hundreds of thousands have gone into the streets to demand a constituent assembly to write a new constitution and to call for

the capitalist Manuel Zelaya to be President. This ideology is fatal for the working class, because it keeps us always under the yoke of the capitalist exploiter.



Since capitalism was born it has never been capable of meeting the needs of the workers. The politics of the reformist student movement and the union movement don't seek the destruction of capitalism but only to reform it so that it continues exploitation to a "lesser" degree.

Reform Capitalism or Build a New Communist Society

"We're all worried about the social climate... the strike is illegal... the government won't tolerate barricades... The programs of the government aren't created in the streets but in the ballot box," said Felipe Larrain, Chilean Finance Minister. The ruse that elections and the constitution will decide our future is the lie of the centuries, for centuries. We shouldn't fall into this trap. Our communist future, without bosses, or exploitation won't be decided in elections nor with a new constitution, but with an armed uprising of millions of worker, soldiers and students fighting for communism.

Let's not make the same mistake of fighting for constituent assemblies or reforms, that only lengthen the life of capitalism. Let's join ICWP and forge new methods of struggle in which we put the building of communism up front. Let's break the chains of nationalism and reformism that tie us to capitalism. We need to build groups of readers, distributors and action with the ideas of *Red Flag* as the basis of building a communist revolution.

LESSONS OF 9/11: WORKERS NEED REVOLUTION

Ten years after the 9/11 attacks, the working class gets oppressed, separated and segregated in the name of "Security" and "the good of our country." Some live in fear. Others live with the idea of not trusting anyone at all, in the name of self-reliance.

The war supposedly begun to capture a terrorist has been from the start a war for oil and to control the Middle East.

Some soldiers fight because they're blinded by patriotism, others by the need of money to survive. Others just don't believe in throwing away this flawed system for one like communism that needs only the hands of the working class to meet the needs of the working class and no one else.

Imperialism and fascism are sugar-coated while 'Capitalism' is being used every minute to torture and kill workers just for the profits of those with high-status.

We live under a dictator that is not human. It began as a means of exchange. Hundreds of years later it evolved into a tool used by those who had it to control, extort, and govern over the majority.

This dictator is MONEY.

Far from the United States, wars rage in Middle East neighborhoods where children just like ours run around or have to be caged up in their houses to avoid getting bombed.

There are innocent lives ending and becoming

only statistics. There are teenagers having to learn how to use a machine gun, not only in Afghanistan or in Iraq, but also in Central America where they never know when they might get shot down just for speaking.

If we keep running away, if we continue believing that all will be fine when we move away from this chaos to another country or state, then we are lying to ourselves.

While wars are fought for the good of the wealthy, there will always be more and more wars, killings, oppression, and segregation, no matter who wins. Not until the working class fights for itself, conscious of how badly we need communism, will we win. It is in our own hands whether we survive or die, whether we let future generations go through the same deadly cycle of remaining ignorant and following the system blindly.

We Must Learn From History

We must learn from the mistakes of past revolutions, of wars and movements that meant only reformist changes.

We need no more memorials. We need a revolution where we won't keep strug-

gling against other brothers and sisters just for survival, where we aren't thrown into a cage to see which animal is still alive at the end.

Let's not forget who we are: the working class.

We are the majority, although we are called the minority.

We should respect the lives lost in tragedies like September 11, 2001, but let's not believe that under this system we will ever live without sexism, racism, fascism or any of those walls that separate us. This system will never end the massive killing for profits.

We should take up arms and fight for all workers. A revolution well-built starts and ends with all types of workers mobilizing for communism.



WHAT DOES A MYSTERY NOVEL HAVE TO DO WITH THE REBELLIONS IN BRITISH CITIES?

If you want to understand the background of the current rebellion in England, read *What Came Before He Killed Her*. It is a mystery novel written by Elizabeth George, part of the Inspector Linley series (shown on PBS). The book is not about finding a murderer. It describes, from the origins the circumstances which led to a murder. This book is a sharp, riveting indictment of capitalism. The plot is fiction but the background is real, as the recent unrest shows.

The book is about three Jamaican orphans dumped by their grandmother at their aunt's near a council estate (projects) in London, riddled by drugs and violence. Their dad has been killed in a drug crime and their mother is in a mental institution. Their paternal grandmother abandoned them because she wants to go back to Jamaica to be reunited with her no-good boyfriend who has been deported back to Jamaica. Right away racism and sexism are in play.

It seems that settling near this council estate, ominously described as hell on earth, is going to mean for the three kids the same violent end as their dad. But Elizabeth George describes the more pervasive torture inflicted on poor workers by capitalism day by day.

Joel and his siblings have been totally forsaken by society. Joel, 14, lives every day in fear of being separated from his siblings and sent to an orphanage. His little brother Toby is mentally challenged, and protecting him is a full time job. To do so, Joel suppresses his own desires and makes himself invisible and helpful. He tries courageously to placate the drug dealers who have been crossed by his eldest sister Ness, who is righteously angry and rebellious. The aunt generously and bravely takes on the challenge but dealing with Ness is just too much. As the story

develops, one realizes that the problems of the little family are insurmountable. Such is the devastation and cruelty of capitalism.

The description of their surroundings shows the revolting lack of care caused by the capitalist attacks unleashed by Thatcher and followed by the successive governments (Tory and Labour).

Violence and decay are everywhere: the estate, the school, the bus station, even the shops. The author describes a store like a prison where all goods are under locks and the shop owner is more worried about being robbed than selling any items.

There are social workers who become aware of the plight of Toby and Ness, but they are powerless. In capitalism, social workers are there not to help but to stop the pressure cooker from exploding. As the last week's upheaval shows, they are not doing such a great job.

Joel meets some compassionate adult volunteers at school but they are so naive about the evils of capitalist society that in the end they abandon him too. So, inexorably, the fate of Helen (the "her" in the title) is sealed. Helen, intelligent and kind, is dragged into the miserable world of Ness, the poor, black, abused and abandoned teenager. Even Helen's husband, a high ranking policeman, cannot save her. Capitalism is like a bulldozer which indiscriminately crushes any-

one on its path, including its servants.

The inhuman living conditions of the British ghettos described by E. George are no fiction. Millions of people in England experience it. These conditions, dominated by violence, drugs, gangsters, prostitution, racism and police brutality, are no accident. For the bosses, the dignity, safety or happiness of these people are of no importance.

Although understandable, looting and (sometimes misdirected) "rioting" won't improve the lives of these youth and workers who face despairing prospects, unless they help build a communist revolution that smashes capitalism and its evil for good. Only such a mass communist movement, led by our Party, can usher in a just world where all will live free and safely and respected for their contribution to society.



TRANSIT WORKER TALKS TO RED FLAG

"You become property of the company," said an angry but confident MTA operator to *Red Flag*. "You have no freedom of speech and the random uniform checks combined with the verification of medical cards, vehicle training and drivers' licenses are part of the constant harassment that we have to put up with," he added. The MTA bosses have installed all sorts of measures to control all of the workers and have an obedient workforce. The very camera on the center of the windshield, the on-time performance, the off-route violations, and the three accident rule that calls for automatic termination are some of these measures. Some "accidents" are minor, like the damage of a side-view mirror.

Recently MTA supervisors drove to an operator's house, after the operator had finished her shift. They forced the operator to get into their car and took her to undergo a drug test. The fascist environment of control that MTA bosses are creating for workers is similar to the environment that workers in all other industries are being exposed to. In the war production industries, in agriculture, in textile and even in education workers are experiencing similar situations. This environment and the situations are the effects of capitalism in crisis, which is driven by a falling rate of profit and an overproduction of goods and capital. For the bosses to solve their capitalist crisis and restart their profit rate they must destroy capital on a massive scale. This massive destruction will amount to a war on a world-wide scale. Millions of workers will perish. In this atmosphere of fascist control, attacks on workers and world wide war, MTA workers must organize a political strike against the system of capitalism.

A political strike against the system by MTA workers with the united support of bus riders, students, teachers and all other sectors of the working class will be a significant blow to the bosses and a victory for the working class. "Things have to change," the MTA worker emphasized. He added, "You better mobilize". Yes, we have to mobilize the masses of workers for communism. The working class with the leadership of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) can make a revolution and have the workers run society without need of any sort of boss. Workers' committees will reorganize and run all industries from transportation to agriculture to textile to education. Each one of these industries will be reorganized collectively to meet the needs of the world's workers and not the profit needs of a few bosses. It's significant that this worker agreed to receive *Red Flag* regularly. Join us. We have a world to win!

from IMMIGRATION page 16

immigration policies, Obama pushed for "secure borders" and "secure communities." Since becoming president, his ICE has deported over one million immigrants—more than under Bush. Hundreds of thousands have lost their jobs with "e-verify."

Having failed in winning the other US bosses' support, the imperialists are by-passing these programs that undermine their attempts to win immigrants to trust and be loyal to the system. When immigrant workers called the police, often they themselves were jailed, along with anyone else around.

Rabid anti-immigrant laws like Alabama's give the imperialists' politicians the opportunity to pose as anti-racist saviors of undocumented workers, channeling these workers' and their supporters' anger into the dead-end street of electoral politics and "better" laws.

Communism will create a world without borders or racism

The bosses will be sending millions of immigrant workers and youth into their war industries and army. We welcome them. Let's turn every factory, military base, and school into a center of anti-racist, communist understanding and struggles. Let's forge unity of immigrants and native

born workers and soldiers to destroy capitalism-imperialism.

Workers have no nations—only our class: the international working class. We need one party, the ICWP, with one goal: communism. We need a communist world with no borders or racist immigration laws. Instead of being pitted against each other for jobs, workers will build and develop communist relations of sharing, producing and distributing to meet the needs of our class. Workers will be welcome everywhere to learn from each other to eliminate racism, sexism, exploitation and wars, and to spread communism.

MTA Worker Criticizes *Red Flag*

An LA transit worker who reads *Red Flag* regularly had a criticism of the last issue (vol. 2 #14). "Not enough about the ideas, too much about you getting the ideas out," he said. "Too much about you, not enough about the workers."

He also thought that the paper was sometimes "almost condescending... as though you didn't think workers could figure things out ourselves."

We were talking in front of the transit division where he works, and didn't have a copy of the old paper to look at together. That made it harder to know what really bothered him and harder to respond to his comments.

I agreed that workers obviously know a lot. We get most of our information about MTA from MTA workers. Many workers see that capitalism is increasingly making our lives impossible.

But, I said, history shows that workers' lives under capitalism don't spontaneously lead to communist analysis or understanding. That's one reason it's so important to get out *Red Flag* massively.

It's also why it's so important that *Red Flag* articles develop our communist analysis and understanding. We are trying to get better at doing this instead of writing long articles about what's wrong with capitalism and then tacking on communist slogans at the end.

I asked the worker to write his criticisms as a letter, but he wanted me to write this letter. He promised to read the new issue carefully and tell me his criticisms the next time we're outside his division.

Red Flag Seller

Be Bold, Be Red, Support Grocery Workers

"Eight of us went into a Ralph's grocery store last week," a *Red Flag* reader told me. "We were a multi-racial group. We had the union signs saying 'health care not welfare for grocery workers.'"

"We marched around the store, giving out strike support stickers for all the customers to wear. Then we went to the front and asked to see the manager. All the workers were watching."

"The manager said he didn't disagree with us, but please take the rally outside."

"We marched out chanting 'Health Care Not Welfare.' Right in front of the manager, the checkout clerks were clapping and raising their fists. A couple even chanted along with us. Meanwhile customers with stickers were coming through the lines."

"That's great!" I replied.

"Well," she said, "there's more. I was thinking, as it was happening, that it was all very reformist, even though it was pretty bold. Then I got into a conversation with a working-class shopper in the parking lot."

"He wanted to know what was going on, so I told him. He said he agreed that the workers should get a contract without give-backs. But he also said the problem was immigrants who were taking jobs and using too many services."

"I struggled with him. I said the problem was the banks and corporations who have all the power. I said we needed to unite all workers internationally for a revolution to get rid of them."

"When's that going to happen?" he asked doubtfully. I told him it would happen sooner if he helped work for it. He wanted to know

how. So I told him to talk to everyone he knows about why we need revolution."

Unfortunately my friend didn't have a copy of *Red Flag* to give this worker. Maybe next time!

LA Comrade

Workers Need To Take Power

A few weeks ago, *Red Flag* reported about a driver named Deon who was provoked by a manager in MTA Division 10. Deon tried to keep his anger under control but Farley continued to insult him and wave his finger in Deon's face. Finally, Deon had enough and he punched Farley. Farley has a reputation for mean, petty harassment. Now the rumor is that Farley has been fired and Deon is on probation facing possible firing too. "They might fire Deon too. Because if they fire Farley, they probably have to fire Deon too. They want balance," a transit worker said.

A *Red Flag* seller said, "They don't have to fire Deon", who beat up racist Farley. "There's nothing balanced about it—the bosses and workers are at war. The bosses have power and we need to take it away from them with revolution."

If Farley is being fired, it's to try to relieve pressure on MTA from workers angry at the increasing fascist attacks. But there are many more Farley's who are paid to harass, provoke and attack workers. There can't be any balance between the workers and the bosses. We need a revolution to get rid of all the bosses and a communist system to end their fascist reign of terror for good.

A Comrade

**JOIN
ICWP****Dear *Red Flag*,**

An article in the last *Red Flag* argued that there will be principles but not laws under communism. The article does not give a clear explanation of the difference between principles and laws, but seems to say that a rule is only a law if it is enforced by an oppressive state.

I think that this view, which treats "communist law" as a contradiction in terms, is wrong or at least poorly explained. A 'principle,' as most people use the word, is a broad general statement. ICWP accepts the principles that everyone should work, including their share of manual labor, that leaders should have no special privileges, etc.

Laws, however, require that specific things be done or not done. For example, our new pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* tells the story of a strike in Honduras:

"[T]he communist-led strike committee shut down all the bars in Tela for the duration of the strike. They did this not through some legal maneuver, but by a collective decision, carried out by the masses of workers."

I think that the Honduran workers made their own law, based on their understanding of the

workers' interests, and were prepared to enforce it collectively. There is no principle that says bars must close in a strike.

More generally, workers need to adopt and enforce specific rules, policies, or laws to put communist principles into practice. The principle that everyone should work needs to be made specific by a collective decision, which specifies how much work a person is expected to do, given the current needs of the working class, and the worker's age, health, other responsibilities, etc. People who don't abide by the rule should be confronted and struggled with.

Unless the authors of the article mean something pretty strange by the word 'principle,' their claim that "pre-class society was ruled by principles, not by laws" is not true. Some pre-class societies had explicit law codes, like the Iroquois Great Law of Peace, with 117 articles, transmitted orally, long before the Iroquois had any contact with Europeans. The !Kung San of Botswana and Namibia, whom many take as the best modern example of an original communist society, have laws or rules that they enforce collectively. Among these are:

—No one may hoard goods. "In order to en-

sure compliance with this cardinal rule the !Kung browbeat each other constantly to be more generous." This social pressure against a hoarder continues until the hoard is given away. (E. Leacock and R. Lee, *Politics and History in Band Societies*, p. 53.)

—There are complex rules about past residence and kinship that determine where a person is entitled to live.

—Women may not use weapons (i.e., poison arrows).

—Extremely violent people can be killed by collective decision.

—Incest is forbidden.

The article also rejected the use of "specially trained" people to track down criminals. I think it would help clarify issues if the authors of the article would explain, as concretely as possible, how they imagine that those who commit serious crimes would be caught and tried. If someone is murdered and no one sees it, who investigates? Are fingerprints and DNA collected? If someone is accused, how is he tried? Perhaps this could be a future article.

Red Reader

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LETTERS

Joining the US Military: A Slow Process
These Days

I thought in June I could just walk into a recruiting office and be shipped out within a couple of months. I wanted to be shipped at the end of the summer. But I didn't account for the endless processing that I have been in for months.

The military carefully examines recruits, not to make sure the person is healthy, but to make sure he will not be a liability. After this long process, I was sent to get a job and a shipping date. I sat in a waiting room, where recruits are not allowed to leave the building or use phones, from early in the morning until late afternoon. After my recruiter finally returned that day, he told me that an error occurred in my paperwork and they stopped processing me hours ago. So, I was told to go home, after a day of waiting, and further wait to be scheduled for another time. The recruiter told me that there is a hold on new recruits until the beginning of next month. Now, I'm unemployed and occasionally finding only odd jobs because I still have no idea when I will ship out.

This has been my experience in trying to join the military. I mistakenly thought I would be in quickly. When I asked around about my situation I got two different reactions: one was surprise that the military lagged so much with enlisting from recruits; others assumed is the type of treatment from the military these days and told me to get used to it.

There are some military jobs that recruit quickly. For example, special operations and female enlistees are sought-after categories. But special operations is a bad place for revolutionaries to build a base, network and organize in the military. As far as the female category, I don't see why females could not successfully do revolutionary work in the military.

I wanted to share this with others who are thinking of joining so that they can anticipate this problem and not fall into a similar jobless situation. My mistake was to expect a quick transition into the military. This didn't happen. If I were to do this summer again, I would have been looking for a civilian job while I was trying to enlist into the military.

Red Recruit

Obama is president, but...

I was driving a friend home around midnight. A cop pulled me over for "a broken license-plate light." He glanced at me and saw my shirt and tie. He asked was I just coming from work and I said yes. He asked where I work and I told him. Finally he let me go.

Three days later I visited a friend up in Hollywood. Then I went into a 7-11. I picked up



LETTERS

LETTERS

some Twix, said to myself, "No, don't need it," put the Twix back, and got myself a bottle of water.

When I went up to the counter, the clerk said, "The total is \$2.97 for the bottle of water and the Twix. Out of your pocket, please!"

I said, "What Twix?" I was in shock. I patted myself down and emptied out all of my pockets in front of him. He kept saying, "Just give me the Twix and everything will be okay." I was mad but I calmed myself down. Then I took off my shirt and he still said, "Where are my Twix?" So I dropped my pants because I was so mad. He mumbled something about "procedure" and apologized. I paid for my water and walked out thinking, "This is a racist bastard!"

I don't think any of this would have happened if I weren't a young black man.

The next day I was handing out *Red Flag* at a transit division. A middle-aged black gentleman came to me and was going to give it back. He said, "This paper is a little bit too strong." I said, "Yes, it is too strong. We make it strong because these are strong times. There is nothing for the black man living in the inner city. Only the people with lots of money got the power."

He said, "I feel you. The black man in capitalism is doing okay but we still struggle. We don't have the same treatment."

I said, "What we're told about communism in school is wrong. Real communism is that everyone will have the same educational system and everything will be equal."

He said again, "I feel you" and walked away with his paper.

All the experiences I had made the conversation with the gentleman more strong, because I feel that communism will change the society forever.

Young Comrade

Red and Prepared

This upcoming school year has many opportunities waiting for the ICWP high school club. The goal we have agreed to for the following school year is mobilizing the masses for communism. Since many students will be new to the school we have decided to introduce *Red Flag* to them. Not only will we introduce it but we will refresh as well. The summer was pretty long and we lost contact with some fellow comrades that weren't able to participate in summer project events.

The high school club decided to meet every Friday after school, as planned and done last year. We will read articles from *Red Flag* and discuss those articles for about an hour and a half. Also, since *Red Flag* comes out every two weeks, we've decided to go to the side of the school and pass out the newspaper before school starts. A leaflet will be handed out along with the newspaper.

Finally, we can never forget the marches that were done by the students, as some of us like to call them- walk-outs. We are hoping to be more organized and prepared, unlike last year. Our goals are being set high into welcoming schools all around the city, or maybe even state, to participate in this event. The march has been planned for March 7, 2012. We will be making flyers about further information on this. Some will march against the budget cuts but we will put forward the fight against capitalist education and the fight for a communist

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



system that will meet our needs. This is a brief summary of some of the things that the high school club is planning for the coming year.

The cause for the march will be the budget cuts that are harming students in many schools and the need to fight for a communist system that meets our needs. This is just a brief summary of what the high school club has in mind for the following school year.

A Fellow Comrade

Communism will put an end to rotten
capitalist education

Through the years, for many generations, in the schools they've taught the big farce of struggling for democracy, a reform contaminating the minds of thousands and thousands of students. Through this they prepare students to be servants of the bosses and inject them with capitalist philosophy. In spite of everything, the working class continues forward fighting against capitalist philosophy which is a hard but not impossible process. Through the historic struggle the working class had seen that capitalism can't satisfy our needs since it only represents the bosses' interests. Racism, religion, and sexism are ways that the system attacks us in our daily lives, to put the brakes on our struggle for communism, but they can't achieve this because together fighting shoulder to shoulder we workers are greater in quantity and quality! Communism isn't a utopia as Thomas More, among others, declared. Communism isn't either exploitation of workers or exploitation of religion. Communism is equality of rights and duties, quality education without mental borders; above all popular power without the bourgeoisie, revisionists, liberals or bosses.

Communism is living in a community with respect and equality. Communism isn't foreign to the worker. Instead, it's inherent to being a human being. What happens is that capitalist education blocks these ideas. In a communist society, education will be equal for all without utopias, with teachers who don't have capitalist guidelines.

Today and day by day comrades sow the seeds of communism in our minds and those of our children (in the case of fathers and mothers).

Because the day will come when the masses will rise up with weapons and with an ideology to achieve change, proud of fostering the seed of the International Communist Movement so that one day our children harvest the fruits of the revolution...

Congratulations comrades who formed part of the Summer Project. Let's continue forward!

Red Flag, congratulations to all for the section included in the newspaper of debate where it is discussed how to concretely explain how ICWP will replace capitalism.

Young Comrade

US- Chinese Bosses' Conflict

DEFINING WAR OF 21ST CENTURY: COMMUNISM WILL DESTROY CAPITALISM

\$5.7 Trillions to kill and maim millions

Taking advantage of 9/11, the US bosses launched their "war on terror." It was indeed a "war of terror" against the world's workers, as the US bosses were trying to stem their empire's rapid decline and recover their position as the world's dominant imperialist power.

After ten years of war and over \$5.7 trillion squandered, the US bosses have nothing to show except a trail of terror and destruction from Libya to Somalia-Yemen-Afghanistan-Iraq-Pakistan and millions of working class men, women and children displaced, maimed or slaughtered.

Meanwhile, the China-Russia-Iran axis, the main target of these wars, has grown stronger politically, economically and militarily. The US bosses, on the other hand, are stuck in three unwinnable wars and a deepening economic crisis. Wider wars and preparations for global war are increasingly the only options open to them.

As China's military build-up advances by leaps and bounds, the preparations become more urgent. A report published by Project 2049, a conservative think tank, concludes that "China's military ambition imperil the US military strategy that underpins its global primacy."

But five years is a long time...

For those who argue that decades must pass for China to match the US militarily, the report warns that "five years is a long time for a country growing and changing as rapidly as China."

The latest Pentagon report on China's military power substantiates this view. It points out that China's indigenous aircraft carrier being built "could achieve operational capability after 2015. China likely will build multiple aircraft carriers with support ships over the next decade," something military analysts claimed it would take decades to achieve.

The 21st century's defining battleground is going to be on water

This is what Robert Kaplan - an important US imperialist strategist - predicts in his latest article because the "demographic and economic axis of the Earth has shifted measurably to" East Asia, making the South China Sea of "critical strategic importance."

Most of the oil imported by south Asian countries, including 80% of China's, plus one third of all maritime traffic passes through the US-controlled chokepoints surrounding this sea. To rise as the dominant imperialist power, China must control the South China Sea, the gateway to the Pacific Ocean.

An article published by the Australian government spelled it out clearly: "Asia cannot continue to change economically without changing politically and strategically; a Chinese economic behemoth naturally will not be content with American military primacy in Asia."

Preparing for this eventual and inevitable clash, US bosses are leveraging the territorial disputes in the area that pit all elen South China Sea states against China. They hope to forge a military alliance to encircle China and enable them to shut off its energy supplies at will.

With eleven aircraft carrier groups the US has the advantage on the sea, now and in the near future. The Chinese imperialists, although building a blue-water navy, are building up their other capabilities.

New Silk Road or Tank Road?

Since 1991 the Chinese imperialists have been rebuilding this historic land corridor to connect China to Russia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe through a network of highways, pipelines and rail lines.

It is negotiating these proposed lines with 17 countries and will construct 19,000 miles of new

domestic rail lines in five years to connect its major cities with high speed trains. These networks of highways and rail will allow the Chinese bosses to move their exports and imports by land, cheaper and faster, bypassing all the US chokeholds.

The pipelines will safely transport China's imported oil and gas from Iraq, Iran, and the Caspian-Central Asian region. Its imports from Africa and Saudi Arabia will be much safer as their sea journey will be much shorter.

Militarization of the Iron Silk Road

Military requirements are part of China's rail development. The Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) participates in the design and planning of the high speed rail system. Over 1,000 railway stations have been equipped with military transportation facilities.

This has enhanced the PLA troop projection capabilities. It was used to transport troops to Kazakhstan to participate in the SCO Peace Mission 2010 military exercise. During the March 2008 unrest it was used to put armored vehicles on the streets of Tibet within 48 hours.

Chinese trains have been clocked at over 300 miles an hour. This vast rail network will enable the Chinese bosses and their allies to rapidly project power to the whole of Eurasia. This shifts the battle ground from the sea to land.

The international working class needs to shift the main contradiction from wars among the imperialists to a class war of workers against all the world's capitalists-imperialists. Our need to mobilize the masses of workers, soldiers, students and their allies for communism and only for communism is more urgent than ever. History has shown this is the only way to end forever the endless racist blood baths that capitalism's profits and empires require.

Immigration and Imperialism

WORKERS HAVE NO NATION-ONLY OUR CLASS

The immigration debate among the US rulers is sharpening. The needs of the liberal imperialist wing will eventually prevail. Their needs ultimately decide US foreign and domestic policies.

This dominant imperialist wing has built and ruled a worldwide empire for over a hundred years. Now they need to defend their declining empire, challenged increasingly by rising imperialist powers, foremost among them China.

Their interests require us to sacrifice "blood and treasure." Our interests demand we sacrifice all capitalists and build a communist world based on producing according to commitment and sharing the products of our labor according to need.

Wage slavery forces workers to immigrate

Capitalism created the biggest migration in human history, forcing hundreds of millions of workers to relocate in desperate search of an ever more elusive job.

Immigration laws and borders were created to super-exploit this immigrant labor, while dividing and exploiting all workers. The laws also hide the role of the capitalist state, channeling workers' efforts into changing the law—rather than destroying capitalism.

Imperialist bosses' profits versus local bosses' profits

The politicians' fight over immigration policy reflects the US bosses' conflicting needs. Those whose profits are made mainly locally don't want them used to pay for the imperialists' wars. These

local bosses sponsor the rabid anti-immigrant movements and laws. So far, they have successfully derailed the passage of the imperialists' Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) and Dream Act.

For the imperialists the CIR and Dream Act are crucial to winning the over twelve million undocumented immigrants and their four million children to patriotism. They hope to mold them into a loyal workforce for their low-wage war industries, as well as into a massive military to fight wider oil wars and eventual war against China.

Furthermore, as four million baby boomers begin to retire yearly, the US rulers are also counting on immigrants, undocumented and documented, to help care for them and to occupy many of the jobs this aging native population are retiring from.

Bypassing Congress, Obama is implementing CIR and Dream Act

The Obama Administration has revised its policy on immigration, implementing aspects of the CIR and Dream Act, although not passed by Congress. It announced that hundreds of thousands of undocumented workers and youth in prisons,



and those arrested in the future, without criminal records, will be allowed to stay in the country and in time be given a work permit.

Also, the California State Senate just passed part of the California Dream Act, allowing undocumented youth who finished high school in California to attend college for in-state tuition and financial aid.

Rabid anti-immigrant movement used to drive these workers into the arms of the Imperialists

Hoping to win the other bosses to support his

[See IMMIGRATION, page 13](#)