

RED FLAG

NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY



Capitalism Has Buried Thousands Of Our Haitian Brothers And Sisters:

LET'S BURY RACIST CAPITALISM WITH A COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!

Capitalism - the most destructive force in human history - has hit Haiti with a vengeance leaving in its wake tens of thousands dead, hundreds of thousands maimed and injured and over 3 million homeless. Earthquakes are acts of nature but the horrors inflicted on Haiti by the latest are direct results of the crushing poverty imposed by the racist international capitalist system on the Haitian working class as continued punishment for successfully rebelling in 1804 against the French slave masters.

Haiti, like New Orleans in 2005, exposes the racist nature of capitalism in crisis and paints a graphic picture of what capitalism has in store for all workers. Just as Bush was slow to help Katrina-ravaged New Orleans, Obama was late sending aid to Haiti. One thousand marines landed first; nine thousand soon followed to safeguard their property, send a warning to their imperialist rivals of US bosses and their allies and quell any possible rebellions by angry Haitian workers.

The Haitian workers have a heroic revolutionary history. When 13% of the US population was enslaved, the Haitian slaves defeated in 13 years of war, the legendary army of Napoleon and those of Spain and England that sought to re-enslave them. US and Europe bosses imposed on Haiti a global economic embargo forcing it to pay France about \$21 billion (in 2004 dollars) "as compensation from the newly freed slaves for denying France the further benefit of owning them..."

For 111 years, 80% of the Haitian government resources went to paying interests to the US and French banks on loans made to enable Haiti to pay reparations. In 1915 the US bosses invaded and occupied Haiti until 1934, murdering 15,000 Haitians, to guarantee these payments. They imposed a \$16 million loan on Haiti to finish paying off its reparations to France. After paying off this debt in 1947, Haiti, which had been France's richest colony, was bankrupt. Its working class, super-exploited by Haitian and US capitalists, was mired in abject poverty.

Like vultures feasting on a carcass, US and the Haitian bosses intensified this racist super-exploitation. Cash crops for US markets replaced the traditional self sufficient agriculture, making the 3% in the Haitian elite richer while hunger and malnutrition gnawed at the Haitian working class. In the mid 1980s, subsidized US agricultural products flooded the Haitian market, driving hundreds of thousands of peasants, unable to compete, into the cities where sweatshops located in U.S. export processing zones awaited them. Port-au-Prince went from a city of 200,000 in the 1950s to a huge slum of 3 million with little or no infrastructure.

Cheap labor for cheap export crops and manufactured goods meant super-profits for Haitian and US bosses. Thus, the minimum wage in Haiti is \$2 per day. Of its 4.1 million workforce only 110,000

are officially employed. Of the 9 million Haitians, 2.7 million live with less than \$2 a day, another four and a half million live with less than \$1 per day. 300,000 children ages 8 to 15 are domestic slaves to the elite, 75 % of them girls that are subject to rape and sexual abuse by their masters. This racist impoverishment and deprivation are the real causes of Haiti's massive death and destruction.

Only capitalism, based on production for profits, can create such a monstrosity. Before humanity was divided into classes - into slaves and slave masters, serfs and nobles, workers and capitalists - production was only for use value, to serve the needs of people. Class society added exchange value. In capitalism it means exchange for money. The capitalists' motto is "Sell it or let it rot!" No money, no use value. The bread rots; workers starve to death. Or you are shot to death, like in Haiti, for taking from under the rubble of stores the bread or milk desperately needed by your family. Furthermore, if the capitalists can't exploit the workers' labor power profitably, millions go unemployed and languish in poverty, like in Haiti, denied the most basic necessities of life because they have no buying power.

Workers need a society based on use value only. We and only we produce all the value in society, which should go to fill the needs of the international working class not the pockets of the world's bosses. To achieve such a society we need to make a communist revolution and build a communist world. Under communism there will be no need for money because nothing will be bought or sold. We will create a borderless world without bosses, their racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and other poisonous ideologies. For this, we need to build the revolutionary International Communist Workers' Party into a massive international army of workers, soldiers and students.

In 2004 the US-French imperialists invaded Haiti overthrowing elected President Aristide for raising the minimum wage to \$2 a day and cozying up to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. For the same reasons the Obama administration overthrew last year Honduran President Zelaya. Chavez's Latin America capitalist block want to break US imperialism's almost two-centuries old domination and ally with US rivals Europe, Russia and China -which are fighting the US for world domination.

Their rivalry is sharpest in the Middle East, where Obama continues the US bosses' legacy of slaughtering millions of Arab workers for the likes of Exxon Mobil. The options history places before us, as Haiti shows, are Capitalism or Communism. Failed Socialism, in essence state capitalism run by workers, is no longer an option. Only communism can serve our needs. Let's bury capitalism with a communist revolution. For this, we need to build the International Communist Workers' Party.



Locked-out miners confront sheriff's deputies.

California Miners Fighting Imperialist Giant Need Revolution, Not Reform

Boron, CA, Feb. 1 - The huge international mining company Rio Tinto cut off negotiations with 540 miners at its U.S. Borax subsidiary in Kern County, California, locking them out, giving them final paychecks, and bringing in scabs. The workers had refused to accept a new contract designed to boost profits and break the union (ILWU Local 30) by destroying seniority, cutting full-time jobs to part-time, lowering wages, cutting sick days and vacation benefits, and bringing in contractors using non-union workers. Now the county government has stepped in - as always! -- on the side of the company, sending Sheriff's deputies in riot gear to guard the mines from the fired workers.

Thirty-six years ago, in 1974, U.S. Borax strikers overwhelmed Sheriff's deputies and forced them to retreat. They burned down a guard shack and the personnel office the first night, set fire to rail cars, cut a power line to the mine, and shot at scabs. The strikers fought for over four months while the company used office workers and bosses as scabs.

This time it's a lockout, not a strike. Union leaders are keeping workers on the defensive and tying their hands with reformism. A union spokesperson stated that the locked-out workers are "100% solid" but that they "could not picket or they'd lose their unemployment benefits." Instead, they are losing their jobs! But even militant class struggle, such as that waged by Boron workers in 1974, can't save us from the profound crisis of global capitalists locked in deadly competition to exploit us. Our response to the bosses' attacks must be sharpened class struggle under the red flag of communist revolution.

Rio Tinto, based in London and Melbourne, is one of the largest mining companies in the world, with 52 thousand workers on six continents and about \$7.4 billion in net income. in annual revenue. Do the math: Rio Tinto makes almost \$150,000 per year off of each and every worker!

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BUILD A MASS FIGHTING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST PARTY!

The deepening world wide capitalist economic crisis and the world imperialists' unrelenting drive to wider and more lethal oil wars have hundreds of millions of workers questioning capitalism. This crisis will deepen, regional wars will give way to World War III and billions of workers unable to live in the old way, will not only question capitalism but will look for radical alternatives. Will they choose and fight for communism as the only solution to the capitalist-imperialist inferno? No, this will only happen if revolutionary communists now wage a protracted, patient but determined effort to put communism on the agenda of the international working class. In order to do this, we must inject our revolutionary communist ideas in every piece of literature and every class struggle in which we participate. Our task is to win millions of workers to embrace communist ideas in order to guarantee that they will fight for, win and build a communist society. It is a monumental historical challenge. We have accepted it with responsibility, humility, confidence in our class and great revolutionary optimism by founding the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP).

Members and friends of ICWP in the US and other countries are determined to build our Party into the new Communist International. We are determined to destroy forever the bosses' poisonous ideologies of racism, sexism, individualism, patriotism and nationalism. We are determined to fight for a world without borders. We are determined to win millions of workers, soldiers and students worldwide to fight for communism under the slogans of "one class, one flag, one political line and one Party." We are committed to building a communist world - a world without bosses where nothing will be bought or sold; a world where "from each according to his/her commitment, to each according to his/her needs" will be the universal rule.

It is not an easy task and it won't happen overnight. However, history has recorded many in-

stances in which our class has overcome overwhelming odds - has "dared to storm heaven" - and won. The Russian Revolution of 1917, the Chinese Revolution of 1949, the Defeat of Hitler's Nazi hordes during WWII and the Chinese Proletarian Cultural Revolution in the 1960s will stand as the last century's greatest achievements. Unfortunately, the old international communist movement lacked the confidence that the working class could be won to fight directly for communism. It fought for socialism - state capitalism administered by the working class - and inevitably turned into its opposite, that is, back to capitalism. Now Russia and China are imperialist countries rivaling US imperialism for world domination.

Today, standing on the shoulders of the giants who preceded us, we can see farther and clearer. We are forever grateful to the founder of Progressive Labor Party under whose leadership the PLP made tremendous contributions to the international communist movement. Nevertheless, we have left PLP to found the ICWP because we consider that the current PLP leadership has taken the revisionist road. We take with us the great lessons and experiences of PLP and its fight against revisionism, especially *Road to Revolution 4* published in 1982 which rejects stages and socialism and calls for fighting directly for communism. RR4 calls for a mass party and for winning masses of workers, soldiers and students to communism before, during and after revolution. We take with us the PLP document *Road to Revolution 4.5* which confronted one of the main unresolved weaknesses of the international communist movement: understanding the contradictory nature of reform and revolution.

RR4.5 makes clear that it is not enough to say we fight for communism. It makes clear that communists must fight daily, shoulder to shoulder, with workers who are struggling against the bosses' attacks. However, our main task in these struggles is to constantly introduce our communist ideas,

fully confident that many workers can be won to see that communism, not reformism, is the solution to their problems. We undertake this task seriously, participating in class struggle, exposing illusions in reformism and reformist leaders, agitating massively for our ideas in leaflets, building networks to distribute our newspaper, organizing action-study groups and recruiting to our party. Long term ties with our fellow workers are key to our work, especially among industrial workers and soldiers. Communists who see their main task as winning the reform will inevitably become reformists and end up revisionists, fake communists who destroy the communist movement. This is the road the PLP leadership has taken and they refused to have an all out party discussion of their reformist and revisionist errors. What's more, they tried to silence the left. We refused to commit the same error as the Chinese Red Guards who, during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, fought for communism and against the Chinese Communist Party's revisionism but failed to break with Mao and found their own party.

The road to revolution will have many ups and downs but the final victory shall be ours. We face the most murderous fascist ruling class in history: the capitalists and imperialists of the world. They boast the most lethal and destructive weapons ever developed. They arrogantly stride the world as if they were all powerful and invincible. Nevertheless, the capitalists are strategically weak. More than other ruling classes in history, their economic and military might are dependent on their gravediggers, the workers of the world. The rulers' ideology among our ranks is the main obstacle preventing us from carrying out our historic task. The sooner we in ICWP replace it with communist ideology the sooner the international working class will be on the road to communist revolution and communism. Dare to struggle, dare to win. The future shall be ours. Fight reformism! Fight for Communism! Join Us!

Boeing Threatens Jobs To Wage Imperialist Dogfight

SEATTLE, WA, Feb 4 — "It always comes down to getting more, making us work faster for less," concluded a machine operator after the crew meeting. Supervisors have fanned out through the Puget Sound plants this week to the push Boeing executive vice-president James Albaugh's 2010 "vision" for the commercial division. Albaugh's vision threatens our jobs to prepare the company for the imperialist dogfight ahead.

Boeing made \$1.3 billion in profits last year, but commercial CEO Albaugh's major concern was that the company was "losing" (i.e. paying) \$155 million/day to keep operations going. This had to stop or the company would not have enough cash flow to com-

pete (re: build new non-union plants with wages cut by two-thirds).

Line supervisors said Albaugh was worried about the emerging Chinese aerospace industry. Airbus has a Chinese plant and supply chain that produces four A320 jets/month. It has its own regional jet (less than 100 seats) and will be producing the most fuel-efficient 737-class plane on the market in a few years.

In an unprecedented move, the Chinese government threatened sanctions against Boeing and other U.S. weapons producers in retaliation for advanced arms sales to Taiwan. "They're getting cocky," joked a

toolmaker as she commented on the Chinese industry's technological advancement.

Bosses Fight Imperialist Competitors By Attacking Workers Here

The argument at one particularly tense crew lecture showed the real meaning of these company propaganda sessions. The line boss's answer to this "loss" was to attack the lowest-paid crewmember for shoddy work. When other workers disputed his over inflated cost estimate of rework, he launched into a tirade.

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Get Rid of a System that Attacks Education to Bail Out Bosses

Los Angeles, Feb. 1 Today President Obama requested an additional \$3.5 billion for school reform, vowing to rewrite the “No Child Left Behind” law to enforce his school reform agenda of tying teacher evaluations to student test scores and turning more public schools over to charter school operators. School reform, like health care and immigration reform, are part of the ruling class’ plans to reorganize society to prepare to defend their declining empire. Every educational institution is being reshaped with huge cuts. A declining power can’t afford teacher tenure, union contracts for cafeteria, janitorial and gardening workers, or full time employment for those who work in university offices. The attacks have created an opportunity to expose the nature of the capitalist crisis and the need for communist revolution to solve it.

The entire educational system, from K-12 through the University of California, is under attack, and student and faculty activists at all levels are organizing to fight back. Last spring, faced with 1300 teacher pink slips, high school students all over L. A. walked out. This fall, faced with tuition increases and cuts in services, university students struck and battled the cops in an inspiring demonstration of militancy and solidarity. Now, on March 4, a state-wide day of action to “defend public education” is planned, with actions throughout California. The California Federation of Teachers and others are planning a march on Sacramento to petition the legislature for changes in funding. The cuts are caused by the capitalist crisis and preparation for World War III. We are pushing for actions which will build the working class unity against the entire capitalist system that can be part of building a movement to smash it. We are raising the slogan: “General strike against the system that cuts education for war.”



UC Berkeley Protest Against 32% Fee Hike

This crisis and expanding wars can only be ended with revolution and a communist society in which education will serve the needs of the working class—not the capitalist war makers.

Last year’s mass actions showed the potential of students and teachers organizing together against the cutbacks. Teachers at three Los Angeles area high schools organized one-hour wild-cats

against teacher layoffs. Los Angeles teachers voted overwhelmingly to participate in a one day strike in May against layoffs and cutbacks. Faced with a court injunction against a job action, the union leadership folded, covering their retreat with a small civil-disobedience action. This weakened and demoralized the teachers’ union, and opened the door for this year’s attacks: first a motion to turn 250 schools over to charter school operators, and then, as teachers were scrambling to come up with their own reform plans, threats of new layoffs, pay cuts, and furlough days.

University students have shown inspiring militancy, first in a one day strike in September, and then in actions around the U.C. regents meeting in November. Faced with a 90% tuition rise over six years, larger classes, layoffs of service workers, pay cuts of 4-10%, and furlough days, students occupied buildings at UC Berkeley and UCLA, fighting cops in riot gear, armed with batons and tasers. Students have made the relative funding for higher education and prisons a mass issue. Mass organizing, especially at the University of California and Cal State campuses, is going forward for mass actions on March 4. Much of the organizing is focused on appealing to the Legislature to lobby for tax reform and changes to the California legislative budget process.

Federal Government Military Spending Dwarfs Bailout and Stimulus Funds

YEAR	2008	2009
U. S. Military Spending	\$ 740 Billion	\$ 772 Billion
Bank + Auto Company Bailouts	\$ 350 Billion	\$ 380 Billion
Stimulus Package	none	\$ 150 Billion

Shaken by growing student, teacher activism, the ruling class is working hard to keep the plans for March 4 and beyond within the confines of capitalist “tax and budget reform” solutions. This strategy and the demand to return to the 1960s California Master Plan for Higher Education call for returning to a so-called golden age of the 1960s, when American schools received a massive influx of spending on science after the Russians put the first man-made satellite in space. NASA science training for elementary school teachers, and expansion of community and state colleges reflected the ruling class’ need, and ability, to improve math and science education for the Cold War. Expanded training of teachers, social workers and cops attempted to convince working class students that there was equality of opportunity as it educated them to do the jobs required to keep the working class under control.



Today’s cuts in education funding, as well as the school reform which refocuses the dollars spent, are taking place during a capitalist crisis as the U.S. position in the world declines relative to its economic rivals. The capitalist system is in crisis. In the U.S., a “jobless recovery” leaves unemployment officially at 17.5%, without including the skyrocketing numbers of black and Latino young men in prison, and destruction of the social services that keep working class families intact. The response to the crisis is wider war where each soldier in Afghanistan costs an estimated \$1million per year.

The plan to turn the schools over to charter school operators is part of the bosses’ long term plan, outlined in the 2007 report of the “New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce.” Robotics, “community service” and ROTC are the themes of all schools being organized to prepare students technically and politically for war and fascism. While any programs are cut, police science in the Cal states and war research at the UCs--go on full speed ahead.

We may be in the fight of our lives, but so is the U.S. capitalist class. They face a decline worldwide relative to China and Russia. They have no intention of going down without a fight in which they’ll sacrifice the working class to defend their system. We can’t go back to the 60s or rely on the capitalists’ legislature. Instead we have to build a fight with ties between students, teachers, industrial workers and soldiers to show that capitalism is to blame. The solution is the long term fight to destroy the system of war, racism and exploitation with communist revolution. Organizing for this revolutionary outlook in this struggle will lead many to have a clearer understanding of the system we confront, and to see the need for the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the system and build a communist system where education and all of society will be organized to maximize human potential, rather than corporate profits.



CALIFORNIA MINERS—From Page 1

Rio Tinto is legendary for its ruthless exploitation of workers worldwide and its track record – dismal even by imperialist standards – of destroying and poisoning the environment. For example, Rio Tinto operates the Murowa diamond mine in Zimbabwe, where abuse is widespread. Black workers at Rio Tinto’s huge Rössing uranium mine in Namibia—which the company ran throughout the apartheid era—have struck repeatedly over the bare subsistence wages, including a wildcat walkout as recently as April 2008. The company collaborated with the fascist Indonesian military to suppress indigenous opposition to its operations in Kalimantan and West Papua.

Rio Tinto CEO Tom Albanese reported that the last quarter of 2009 was “another very strong quarter for

iron ore production, driven by continuing high demand from China.” But this vicious imperialist giant is struggling to keep its position in an increasingly consolidated global mining industry. For the past three years it has engaged in an escalating (and so far unsuccessful) series of attempted mergers, joint ventures, and hostile takeovers with companies like Alcoa, Canada’s Alcan group, BHP Billiton, and the Aluminum Corporation of China (Chinalco). As national governments move to protect their own capitalists, these economic struggles will inevitably boil over into full-scale war. Meanwhile, all these companies need to bolster their own positions by turning the screws on the workers who produce their profits, and that’s what’s happening in Boron, California.

The International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Union (ICEM), founded in 1998 by Rio Tinto union workers from a dozen

countries, has “condemned” the lockout in Boron. But its strategy has been to protest at annual meetings of the companies and to file shareholder resolutions, mainly concerned with environmental issues. It’s vainly urging the company to “keep negotiating.” This reformist “solidarity” is not what the workers need. Workers around the world are members of one class. We need one International Communist Workers Party to unite us in the revolutionary struggle to destroy all the imperialist companies that exploit us and the capitalist governments that use the armed force of the state to keep us in wage slavery.

“When the Leaders Speak of Peace, The common folk know, That War is Coming.” Bertold Brecht

Two meetings in London, one on January 27 on Yemen and the other on Afghanistan the next day, convened the “leaders” of 65 countries. The Afghanistan conference tried to find a “peaceful” resolution to the US-NATO eight-year Afghan war. The Yemen meeting focused on eliminating the causes of its instability. While “peace” was the proclaimed goal, wider oil wars, precursors to impending World War III, were being hatched.

To prepare for these wars now— especially against Iran – and global war later, the US imperialists need to extricate themselves from the Afghanistan quagmire. Their main reason for invading Afghanistan was to secure the pipelines to transport Central Asia’s energy to world markets bypassing Russia and Iran. This goal is no longer achievable because, even if built, there is nothing to transport: China, Russia and Iran have bought up most of the energy that will be produced there in the foreseeable future. (*China resets terms of engagement in Central Asia*, Asian Times on Line, 12/24/09. *Iran and Turkmenistan Inaugurate Gas Pipeline*, Georgian Daily. 1/09/10)

The US bosses’ Afghan plan now seems to be to reach a “peace accord” with the Taliban that will enable them to withdraw the bulk of their forces and keep their bases, which are part of Washington’s military encirclement of Russia, China and Iran. Thus, reconciliation with the Taliban, which seemed heretic until recently, was at the center of the London Conference’s agenda.

We heard the UN special envoy to Afghanistan, the US secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Secretary of State Clinton and US General Stanley McChrystal, commander of the NATO forces in Afghanistan, singing the same tune of “peace and reconciliation”. “Peace” in order to wage larger wars. Losing ground on a global scale to their Russian and Chinese rivals, the US bosses have fewer options but to resort to war. Whatever deal they make or don’t make with the Taliban, Washington will not inherit a “peaceful” Afghanistan. The Afghan proxy forces of their rivals – China, Russia and Iran – will guarantee that.

Similarly, the London meeting on Yemen was a further indication of the sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry for world domination, and of the proximity of the approaching storm. At the meeting, US Secre-

tary of State Hillary Clinton claimed its instability poses “an urgent national security priority” to the United States and other nations. Obama had already invoked the “War on Terror” to justify his military intervention there. However, both claims and the meeting camouflage US imperialism’s real geopolitical designs.

Yemen is strategically located on the Arabian Peninsula bordering Saudi Arabia to the north. Besides its many serious social and economic problems, the Yemeni government is fighting a secessionist movement in the south and, since 2004, a Houthi rebellion in the north. Houthis Zaidis, who are Shiites, represent 30% of a Yemeni population of 23 million.

Saudi Arabia supports the Yemeni government which is Sunni. Both accuse Iran and Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr of supporting their Zaidi Shiite brethren. The US bosses and their allies fear that if allowed to develop into an all out Sunni-Shiite civil war, the conflict could engulf the whole of Yemen. However, what they fear most is that this conflict could spread to Saudi Arabia’s restive eastern province, where 2 million Shiites seethe with resentment over Wahhabi intolerance and where 90% of Saudi oil production rest. US imperialists will prevent such a scenario at all cost because it poses a dire threat to the oil-rich kingdom, a major pillar of US imperialism’s world domination.

Another goal of US imperialist intervention in Yemen is to acquire rights to build a naval base in Southern Yemen at the port of Aden, located at the entrance of Bab-el-Mandeb, listed by the US government as one of the seven strategic oil and commercial shipping chokeholds. This would be strategic blow to China’s efforts to import oil evading US controlled chokeholds, as China’s Sudan oil production must pass through there.

Besides, Aden is not too far from the Hormuz Strait, where 40% of the world oil, 6% of China’s, must pass daily. The US bosses plans are also to turn



Yemen into another of its military bases to encircle China, Russia and Iran, besides giving US Majors access to the vast untapped world class oil deposits that international oil companies report Yemen contains.

The US rivals are not taking this lying down. Russia is the Yemeni government’s main arms provider. Moscow is also vying to gain control of its Soviet Era port of Aden, and Russia’s “Marxist” friends are part of the secessionist southern coalition. Iran will continue to pour oil on the Sunni-Shiite conflict. China is negotiating for a naval base in Djibouti, on the African shore of el-Mandeb. All this will accelerate the drive toward WWII.

It is crucially important that workers, soldiers and students of the world understand these important developments. We are the ones suffering the hardships of the ongoing imperialist wars and we’ll be called on to slave in the bosses’ war industries and die on their battle fields. Local, regional and world wars are the inevitable products of capitalism’s inherent competition. This murderous cycle can only be ended by a multiracial and international working class organized to turn the bosses’ wars into armed struggles for communism. That’s the goal of the International Communist Workers Party. Join us!

Boeing from Page 2.....

The crew wasn’t buying it. We immediately started to check out what had been happening in other meetings in our building and other buildings. Harassment has skyrocketed everywhere. Letters of reprimand, which can eventually lead to firings, are being handed out like candy.

The company is always spouting on about creating a “non-hostile work environment.” Some want to complain to higher ups about this hostile work environment. Others more familiar with our revolutionary communist analysis remarked, “What don’t you understand about capitalism” as we struggle for work actions and rolling thunder (banging, metal on metal, common around contract time).

Machinist President Buffenbarger Goose Steps Right Along

“Where’s the union?” almost everybody complains. The union is busy collaborating with the bosses.

The next major negotiation for our union, the International Association of Machinists (IAM), is with Spirit Aerosystems, a huge subcontractor that used to be part of Boeing. A letter to members of Spirit Local Lodge 839 said that the international had concluded a weeklong bargaining committee training session.

During this supposed union “training”, the committee met with Spirit CEO Jeff Turner and labor relations vice-president Sam Marmick. The stated rationale for this new level of class collaboration was to [develop] “a completely new model to ...save the aerospace industry.”

“It’s time to move beyond the old ways of bargaining that have been used since the 1930s,” said IAM president Buffenbarger. “We must find ways where both company and workers benefit together, neither one profiting at the expense of the other in adversarial roles. We owe it to...our nation to find a new way.”

More than one shop-floor meeting concluded this means waving the bosses’ flag to cover a no strike deal.

“You know what I think,” offered a comrade at one such discussion. “A system that destroys our jobs, substituting racist super-exploitation to pay for more imperialist war and maybe even world war with someone like China, doesn’t deserve to exist.” To her surprise, those machinists in attendance agreed. Now the hard work of deepening this idea among these workers and others through study and fight back against these threats to our jobs and lives just begins!