

RED FLAG



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



Soldiers Rebel Against Racism During Viet Nam War

SOLDIERS WELCOME RED FLAG AT FORT LEWIS

At Fort Lewis a young disgruntled soldier said to us, "Yeah, the military has really changed my view of this government, they're a bunch of liars, and once I get out I'm moving to Toronto." He was responding to young members of ICWP pointing out the article in *Red Flag* about the firing of McChrystal and the bosses war plans. He folded *Red Flag* and placed it inside the side pocket of his fatigues as he said goodbye and thanked us.

Also, when we said to a soldier that we're building a movement of soldiers and workers against the rich who put us in harm's way for oil profits, the soldier gave us the fist and said "I want that paper." As we explained that this is a communist paper, and that we need to organize a revolution, he and his friend each gave 50 cents and sincerely thanked us.

Dozens of GIs lined up waiting for a traffic light to get into the base gratefully took copies of *Red Flag*; several gave us donations. All together, over 130 Red Flag newspapers were distributed.

The bosses' army brings working-class young people together, white working class youth from rural Arkansas and Idaho, immigrant youth from Haiti and El Salvador, and black youth from inner-city Detroit and East St. Louis.

They are all confronted with the reality that capitalism in crisis has nothing to offer any of them but more war, more unemployment and more exploitation. When communists in ICWP reach out to these young soldiers, sailors and marines, we find them open to our ideas.

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BOEING: Communist Summer Project Blasts 'Labor Peace'

Seattle, WA, July 11-- "What has been the reaction of workers when you talk about communist revolution?" asked a Boeing worker who was attending his first summer project BBQ after an LA comrade invited all to the upcoming International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) cadre school.

The ten-year no-strike regime pushed by the IAM union has brought questions like this to the forefront. More aerospace workers are looking for possibilities that go beyond the usual talk about union struggles for wages and benefits. This year, revolution has been discussed more.

Boeing and school workers, old comrades and new friends, black, latin and white, high school and college students and even a couple of retired contributors reviewed the project's progress between mouthfuls of delicious food.

We distributed 2,000 *Red Flags* and an equal number of topical flyers at the plant gates, among Ft. Lewis soldiers and to teachers at the AFT convention.

In particular, we focused on small daily lunch and dinner get-togethers with Boeing workers. We asked a number to join the ICWP and made concrete plans how each individual can help build a base for revolution.

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Union Leaders Are Capitalist Agents:

MTA WORKERS NEED A REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL STRIKE

MTA Bus Driver: As of June 30th, all of MTA's three unions representing over 6,700 workers are working without a contract.

Red Flag: What is the union leadership doing?

MTA Bus Driver: They are "negotiating." They tell us that as long as the old contract holds and we are lucky to have a job, we should be happy. They say that MTA has enough money but MTA is saying they don't. That if we cry loud enough, MTA will use that to force California to give it money.

Red Flag: If that doesn't work?

MTA Bus Driver: MTA will then proceed with cutbacks and layoffs to force us to scream louder to attract the state's attention.

Red Flag: The union is going along with MTA's strategy and it sounds like MTA is going to force a strike and is preparing for it.

MTA Bus Driver: There are rumors that MTA is training drivers to take our place if we go on strike in October. There are also rumors that the company will be cutting back on its DASH contracts, laying off an undisclosed number of drivers who are under Teamsters' contracts, making less than half of what we make. MTA's plan is also to use these drivers to break our possible strike in October.

Red Flag: What do you think will happen?

MTA Bus Driver: I don't know. MTA workers are afraid to strike. The union has not prepared us for a strike. We elected these guys to fight for us but they are more interested in keeping their cozy positions even if it means selling us down the drain. Some union elections are coming up soon. We hope to replace them with better ones.

Red Flag: What MTA workers need are not new more militant union leaders. They need a new revolutionary way of thinking and acting. They need to read and distribute *Red Flag* and join the International Communist Workers Party and prepare for a revolutionary political strike that puts capitalism in its sights.

Capitalists Have State Power: They Allocate Society's Resources To Serve Their Needs

Does MTA have the money? Does the state have the money? Will MTA workers ever get a "good" contract? The bosses, not we, decide those questions. They decide them based on their needs. They

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Greek Rulers Use Social Fascists to Control Workers

TO SMASH CAPITALISM, WORKERS NEED TO ORGANIZE ICWP

The sight of millions of Greek workers shutting down industry and marching against banks – thousands of them under a huge banner declaring “War on Capitalism” – thrilled workers all over the world. It was a sign of an awakening militancy. It underlined what Marx argued over 100 years ago: “Ideas, when grasped by the masses, become a material force.”

Of course, as much as they attracted us, they alarmed the capitalists. New levels of militancy begin to revive ideas that just a few years ago might have sounded somewhat abstract. The call for communist revolution now had a new relevance. The launching of *Red Flag* and the ICWP comes at a vital time, so it is all the more important we understand the formidable resources of the state that the capitalists command.

In January 2007, two years before the Greek workers took to the streets, the British Ministry of Defence published a 90 page report called “Global Strategic Trends 2007-2036.” It warned not only of “a resurgence of anti-capitalist ideologies [but also] the revival of Marxism.”

The report was actually written by the “Development, Concepts, Doctrine Centre” of the Ministry. The very existence of such a department –

let alone its name – warns us that the capitalist class itself understands Marx’s point that ideas can become a material force. They understand the potential appeal of communist ideas.

Of course, an Army doesn’t research a report like that to observe the development of a revolution. They do it to derail one. One of the first things we must learn as we develop ourselves as communists, is that mass ideas don’t drop out of the sky. We don’t spontaneously create and march under a banner declaring “War on Capitalism” any more than we spontaneously march under one calling for a “War for Communism.”

All of which brings us to the May 20th edition of Britain’s right wing daily newspaper, *The Telegraph*. “If Europe’s ultra-Left has so far reaped little dividend from the great ‘Crisis of Capitalism’ this will surely change,” the paper wrote. “There’s typically a lag-time between economic shocks and social fury. Luckily there is no Fascist threat this time [referring to Hitler and Mussolini of the 1930s]. It is the more benign Marxist Left that stands to gain.”

They are talking about the likes of Germany’s Left, Spain’s Left Unity and France’s Anti-Capitalist Party. As a system, capitalism has been preparing

for this crisis for some time. Although their present emphasis might well lie in promoting social-fascists, we should not for a moment think they are not also preparing full-fledged fascists in the event the “Left” fails to sufficiently discipline our class.

Just as all that glistens isn’t gold, so all that attacks capitalism isn’t revolutionary, or communist. Think of the austerity demands the IMF and the Euro loans are making on Greek workers and listen to this argument:

“Greek industry and economy in the hands of international finance capital means the end of all possibility of social liberation.”

Now take out the word *Greek* and put in the word *German* and we have an exact quote from the Nazi George Strasser in the 1930s! The Nazis also pretended to be anti-capitalist before taking power.

All this makes it essential that the debate among workers more and more becomes a debate between capitalism and communist revolution. We must understand with even greater conviction that ideas, once grasped by the masses become a material force and that the next step in our long and complicated march is the growth of *Red Flag* and the study action groups we must organize in order to build a massive ICWP.

Oscar Grant Trial:

SMASH GENOCIDAL RACIST CAPITALISM

Angry at the verdict in the Oscar Grant case? Good. Anger feeds the conviction that things have got to change...radically!

Oakland, CA transit cop Johannes Mehserle shot and killed Oscar Grant, a 22 year old black father, as he lay face down on the BART platform on New Year’s Eve. At the trial, Mehserle claimed he meant to use a Taser gun, which is light and yellow, but instead used his heavy black hand gun. This is a lie. It was racist murder! Oscar Grant took a picture of Mehserle with his cell phone while he was on the ground. Meshlerle had the Taser gun in his hand. Meshlerle then put it back and took out his handgun and killed Oscar Grant.

The manslaughter verdict of Johannes Mehserle is no ‘miscarriage of justice.’ Rather, it’s capitalist justice as usual. Every inch of the gigantic penal system in this country is rotten with racism. The US has a higher rate of jailing than pre-war Nazi Germany (1933-39).

When the verdict was announced, youth and workers in Oakland demonstrated their justified anger and fought with cops who attacked the crowd and then arrested 78 people.

The murder of Oscar Grant was not an isolated incident.

In Oakland, young black men are murdered at the rate of 186 per 100,000. This is a near genocidal rate of murder. It’s a genocide that almost every politician in the Bay Area not only tolerates and supports but helps impose (Richmond and San Francisco have similar statistics).

The fact is that in this period of deepening economic crisis and wider imperialist wars, with world war looming in the horizon, the US bosses are consolidating a fascist police state. The racist imprisonment

of black youth and workers – over 47% of the prison population while only 7% of the population at large – plus the systematic genocide, or near genocide, of young black men bares the bloody fangs of the US fascist beast. Workers should shed any illusion that capitalism’s institutions and politicians can mete out any justice for our class. It’s a system that has to be overthrown!

Call It Genocide, not Homicide

In order to suppress awareness of this genocide, the capitalist media steers the public away from seeing it. Although it reports all the murders in Oakland, it reports them only as ‘homicides.’ Likewise the courts, as in the case of Oscar Grant, only look at ‘homicide.’

Homicides are committed by individuals or small groups. It takes a State to commit, or be complicit in, genocide. It takes a capitalist society to produce a Mehserle. The media’s refusal to examine this narrows our consciousness and limits our actions.

That is why we need the communist paper *Red Flag*

We want to build revolutionary class consciousness. Workers need to see ourselves not as ineffective victims but as the powerful creators of all value that we are. *Red Flag* sets out to build the unity we need to defeat not just genocide, but the capitalist system that breeds it.

Oscar Grant was murdered in the early hours of January 1st. The previous year he had survived in an Oakland where there were 124 murders. There were more murders in Oakland that year than US soldiers killed in Baghdad! Over 70% of the victims and suspects were black. Over 70% were unemployed!

A new way of thinking

Working-class life is cheap anywhere under capitalism. Racism cheapens it even more. It enables US rulers to murder workers here with impunity and slaughter millions abroad for their blood-soaked profits and empire. We can expect no more “justice” for Oscar Grant than for the 11 BP workers blown to bits drilling for oil in the Gulf of Mexico or the 500,000 Iraqi children murdered by Clinton’s sanctions, or over a million Iraqis exterminated by Bush, or the thousands of Afghans and Pakistanis whose lives were snuffed out in Obama’s killing fields.

We can, however, expect our anger to change our way of thinking. We can start organizing at work, so that each and every racist murder, industrial death or war “casualty” becomes another argument to get rid of this capitalist-imperialist system –with its racism, jails, cut-backs and wars - and replace it with a share-and-share-alike communist system of workers’ power.

That’s no easy journey. The last great communist movement fought for socialism, thinking it would lead to communism. It failed. Socialism, it turned out, was a form of capitalism. Because it kept the wage system and banks, it kept a class system and capitalism grew out of that class system. The ICWP fights directly for communism. We aim to build a massive international ICWP among workers, soldiers and students. A Party that will be the political and military leadership of the international working class on the road to communist revolution and its decision making body to run the communist world we need and will build under the communist dictatorship of the working class.

Fight Against Genocide Everywhere! Organize for Workers’ Communist Power! Read/distribute Red Flag! Join the ICWP Summer Project!



**Join the
International Communist Workers’ Party
(ICWP)**

www.icwpredflag.org

(310) 487-7674

E-mail: icwp@anonymousspeech.com

“Labor Peace” Leads to War and Fascism:

Workers and Soldiers Need Communist Class War Against Capitalism

MILITARY, from page 1

For our part, the summer project in Seattle has been part of strengthening our commitment to the concentration on the military as an absolutely crucial aspect of any revolutionary strategy.

Summer project participants watched the classic movie *Battleship Potemkin*, which highlights the importance of Bolshevik organizing in the Czarist military in the Russian Revolution, as well as *Sir, No Sir*, which documents the history of GI rebellions during the war in Vietnam.

Forum on Organizing Soldiers in Vietnam

Those involved in the project also participated in a forum led by a comrade who was active in organizing in the bosses' military during the Vietnam War and discussed the *Red Flag* article in the previous issue which draws lessons from the organizing done by a comrade in Iraq.

The forum began with a history of soldier rebellions against the military brass. “Man, we took every opportunity to organize passive and active rebellion against all sorts of abuses, anything to subvert their authority and build anti-racist solidarity among the soldiers.”

The veteran comrade added, “there was a demonstration called by and organized by enlisted communist soldiers in the Army on Armed Forces Day. The demonstration was against racism, genocide and imperialism around the world; above all it had a class line.

“As soldiers saw the demonstration assembling they broke through a line of tanks to join it. It was a great day!” This proved that soldiers under communist leadership can be won to organizing and fighting back against the brass.

Fort Lewis Soldiers Welcome *Red Flag*

With this as preparation, we took our newspaper to soldiers at Fort Lewis, and received a friendly and interested response. The current economic crisis and the increasing casualties during repeated deployments to losing wars for oil and natural gas pipelines and profits have opened the eyes of many soldiers.

These developments made them more willing to entertain a communist explanation than in the recent past. In particular, right after Obama was elected many soldiers shared the optimistic illusion that withdrawal from Iraq and redeployment to Afghanistan was the correct strategy, and would result in a rapid victory.

Events have proven that wrong, and the war-mongering propaganda preparing for the invasion of Iran has sharpened the contradictions within the military.

Soldiers are Key to Communist Revolution

Our experience in Fort Lewis proved that soldiers are not only open to the ideas expressed in the pages of our communist newspaper but actually welcome them. *Red Flag* not only provides an analysis of the current situation but also a path to follow which is the communist road.



BOEING, from page 1

ICWP Exposes Phony Debate

The project kicked off amidst a public blow-up over the editorial “Boeing ‘Chicago Gang’ Not Really Interested in Labor Peace” in the July issue of *The Aeromechanic*, the monthly newspaper of the Boeing union. “Did you hear the crap [Union President] Wroblewski’s been saying on talk radio all day?” asked a Renton Machinist, alerting us to the controversy.

In this editorial, Wroblewski said, “Machinist Union and management worked together [in the Wichita aerospace plant involving 6,000 union workers and a much smaller Spokane, WA factory of a little over a hundred], cooperatively, to build the kind of agreements that will benefit both the company and the workers.” He accused Boeing of wanting to “pick fights with its union, instead of forming the kinds of productive labor-management partnerships that will be the key to the future of American aerospace.”

A phony media debate was sparked when the company protested that they did, indeed, want labor peace. Our leaflets and *Red Flag*, distributed at the plant gates, but mostly hand-to-hand within the plants, exposed this dead-end debate. Our literature provided the basis for intense personal discussions between individuals and groups of Boeing workers and summer project volunteers.

ICWP and our base in the plants denounced the call for labor peace, exposing it as a recipe for a 10-year no-strike regime. The Wichita Spirit agreement the union touted was just such a deal.

We argued that this labor collaboration is necessary to lower the wages and benefits of aerospace workers as the US bosses struggle to compete globally, both economically and militarily. “US Defense Secretary Gates ... said budget woes could be a factor in deciding whether to use force against Iran and others (*Reuters*, 5/8).”

Our literature and personal discussions *always* lead to the conclusion that the only effective answer to this fascist collaboration is building for communist revolution through *Red Flag* networks, study/action groups and joining the ICWP.

Our friends at these get-togethers mapped out the ways they intend to spread this communist vision to their friends at other plants and work locations in the coming days and weeks. We found out a lot about how others react to “talk of communist revolution,” as well as the obstacles we must overcome. (See pages 14, 15)

Revolution Will Put An End To The Debate

This debate touched thousands. It should have been no surprise that a worker entering the gate hailed down a seller. “Hey, what have you got there?” the worker demanded. “*Red Flag*, the communist newspaper,” the volunteer replied. “Finally! Give me one of those!”

When the capitalist calls for labor peace, it’s the peace of the grave for us workers. It’s a call for unilateral disarmament in the face of the bosses’ attacks.

This year’s summer project helped us break out of the confines of the capitalist debate, putting ICWP’s communist politics on the map. We’ll be on our way to ending this debate when those Boeing workers that helped distribute our flyers in the shop join; when the soldiers who read *Red Flag* organize reader groups in the barracks; and when the young volunteers who made this project possible grasp the reins of leadership.

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have always allocated the wealth, that only we can produce, to serve their needs.

Now, in times of economic crisis and their desperate need to defend their crumbling empire in wider oil wars and eventually world war against Russia and China – they have no money for the millions of unemployed and uninsured, no money for the millions losing their houses or for MTA workers.

They, however, have trillions to save bankers and to slaughter millions of Arab workers. This will always be the case as long as the bosses hold state power. To change this we must fight for workers’ power by organizing a communist revolution and a massive ICWP to lead it.

MTA Workers’ Problem Is Capitalism:

Unions Are Part Of The Problem

Capitalism’s sole purpose is to produce profits for the bosses. It devours workers – in their industries and battle fields - and spits them out as profits. No reform can ever change this. No reform can ever change the fact that the bosses’ interests are mortally opposed to ours.

As their worldwide capitalist economic crisis deepens, the life and death struggle between the bosses and us becomes more obvious. The lives of hundreds of millions of our brothers and sisters, here and abroad, are being destroyed for the benefit of our capitalist masters. Only a communist revolution can resolve this struggle in our favor.

The union movement sabotages this struggle. It preaches peace and unity with our oppressors when what we need is class war. It negotiates contracts that legalize our exploitation and wage slavery instead of breaking the chains that tie us to our oppressors. At best, it wants to improve our conditions within the capitalist system by negotiating another “good” contract.

But there has never been a “good” contract, even before this period of deepening economic crisis, rising fascism and looming world war. The job of our union leaders is to squash the class struggle to get us to march patriotically behind the bosses to defend their fortunes and empire.

Revolutionary Political Strikes Put Us On The Communist Road

Let’s strike against this murderous system that sacrifices our class for the benefit of the rich capitalists and imperialists. A political strike is a declaration of class war against our oppressors. It is sending a clear message to the entire working class that we are not fighting just for a miserable wage increase, for pension funds we may never see and health care that will get worse no matter what we do. The message is: We are fighting for a new world, for a communist world!

A political strike means shutting down production for however long we can and organizing public demonstrations that raise political slogans like “Smash Racism-Sexism-Exploitation-Borders-Capitalist Education and Imperialist Wars with Communist Revolution!” This will firmly put us and the working class on the communist road to build the revolution needed to destroy capitalism. On its ashes we will build a society where workers will collectively decide every aspect of their lives through their International Communist Workers Party. Join us!

Fight for Communism!

“I’ve Seen The Workers Motivated by Communist Ideas”

Los Angeles—I’ve been an industrial worker for 30 years. I’ve seen the conditions of racism, exploitation, and sexism. But I’ve also seen the workers respond and fight motivated by communist ideas.

Recently young students and teachers passed out communist literature where I work, a factory that makes parts for Boeing and Airbus. When I was leaving work to go home, a co-worker called me on the phone to tell me that he stopped to read the leaflet and very happily he said, “I’m calling to ask if you read the paper they gave us just now. It’s really good. It talks about the conditions in the factories like where we work and how the bosses are exploiting us.” I answered, “Yes, of course I read it. Tomorrow we’ll talk about it.” And the next day at lunch time several workers discussed the leaflet.

I’ve seen racism on several levels: the racism generated by the bosses based on preferences for certain sectors of the population, different wages, different positions, always against black and latino workers, but that affects all workers. There’s also the racism the workers have absorbed from the bosses’ ideas. But I’ve seen that racism can be fought through friendships and the need to unite in times of struggle against the bosses. I’ve seen this through experiences in which

black, white and latino workers go to parties together, hang out, joke, and also especially when we unite against the bosses’ attacks. Through showing workers that racism is a weapon of the bosses, workers have responded with multi-racial unity. But we need to show that the capitalist system needs racist division, which goes hand in hand with wage slavery, and that the only way to end it is through communist revolution.

Once when I worked at Southwest Company, we were fighting for a contract with the machinists’ union. The sellout leaders had accepted a contract that attacked the workers. A group of latino workers with revolutionary ideas exposed the union leaders and built unity with white, black and asian workers to reject the contract. The point is not that we won the reform but that we united against racism. Workers will unite and reject the bosses’ racist ideas when they understand their class interests are affected.

Everything we workers produce under capitalism is stolen by the bosses as profit. This exploitation is the basis of capitalism. They pay us a miserable

wage, a small part of what we produce, to keep us working.

These industrial factories are key because they’re used to make parts for war and communications, airplanes and transportation that now benefit the capitalists, especially as they prepare for WWII. They will be used in the future for the benefit of the working class, like making weapons and using them in the revolutionary struggle to get rid of capitalism.

Some people think that workers get upset by the word communism. But I’ve seen that when communist literature comes to the factory, workers read it, comment on it and discuss it. And there are always more advanced workers who have questions and many

times want to know more about communism. Some of them participate in meetings and join the ICWP.

I recommend that workers read and distribute *Red Flag*, which represents the true interests of the working class, that teaches us what our class interests are and that fights against illusions in reforming capitalism. It shows how when united we can build a mass ICWP capable of destroying the bosses profit system and building communism. In a communist system, workers will mobilize to lead society to decide what to produce and how to meet the needs of the international working class, without profits, exploitation or imperialist wars.



GARMENT WORKERS MUST ABOLISH WAGE SLAVERY

Los Angeles, CA—Comments from garment workers:

- “In a factory where we produce clothes for labels like True Religion, we were tired of the bad verbal treatment from the secretary. She insulted us, she searched bags when we left the factory supposedly to keep us from stealing a piece of clothing. They treat us like garbage. We started to talk with each other and one day we said, ‘enough!’ We stopped working. We stood up and we went to the office to demand that the boss immediately fire this person. The boss called the secretary’s attention, asked for forgiveness, and said that it wouldn’t happen again. But a worker who wasn’t satisfied told the others, ‘We can’t be fooled by these tricks. In the other factory this same boss said, ‘whoever comes, it will always be the same

thing because I like managers to be demanding.’ That’s why we have to keep fighting against all these bosses,” a group of workers told us.

- “Look, I recently worked in a factory located in the basement of a building, without windows and with only one door. There were many workers; you could see the lint from the fabric in the air. After 5 days of work I couldn’t stand it anymore and I asked for my wages. They gave me \$80,” commented a worker.
- “We work 6 days a week and they pay us \$200 a week,” said a couple of garment workers.
- “I’ve been working in this factory for 20 years and I’ve never had a week of paid vacations. Much less paid medical insurance,” said another garment worker.

(see *Red Flag*, Vol. 1 #10).

In many of these factories there are political discussions, from the struggle against nationalism and patriotism that were built in the World Cup Soccer games to discussions about the need for communism and to read and distribute the Red Flag.

The more than 60,000 garment workers in Southern California represent a great revolutionary potential. They could stop the center of LA and ally with black, asian and white workers to advance the struggle for communist revolution. Many of these garment workers are parents and their children are in the schools and the military, giving even more importance to their revolutionary potential. In the past, many garment workers supported the strikes of the transit workers and formed the base of the large pro-immigrant marches.

Our struggle must be to take communist ideas to these workers through leaflets, newspapers, friendships, and struggle. We have social-political meetings, study groups and aim to recruit new members to build a mass Party, the ICWP, and for communist revolution.

END WAGE SLAVERY

Capitalism creates and thrives on wage slavery. The bosses need racism to divide the working class and pay some workers less to drive all workers’ wages down. Racism against immigrant workers is part of capitalism’s attack on the whole working class. The current capitalist crisis makes this attack sharper. To get rid of wage slavery and exploitation we have to get rid of capitalism with communist revolution. The only way out of the capitalist inferno is to build a communist society where everyone contributes to the society and everyone shares abundance and scarcity, without wages or exploitation.



Burmese garment workers on strike—April 2010

The city of Los Angeles is one of the centers of the international fashion industry, where the racist conditions of exploitation are the base of the multi-million-dollar garment industry. The workers who produce these clothes that are sold for hundreds and even thousands of dollars get poverty wages. The local, state and federal government with their supposedly “protective labor laws” know this situation, but this is capitalism, with its maximum exploitation for the bosses’ maximum profit. And that’s why the politicians and “immigrant rights” organizations praise factories like American Apparel and other bosses who pay the “minimum wage”, but in the end they are all exploiters

Socialist vs. Communist Dialectics

In his study of dialectics, V. I. Lenin, leader of the Russian communist movement until he died in 1924, came to the profound conclusion that unity is not the main aspect of a contradiction:

“The unity ... of opposites is conditional, temporary, transitory, relative. The struggle of mutually exclusive opposites is absolute, just as development and motion are absolute.”

This means that the struggle inside a contradiction does not tend to die out, but eventually becomes more intense. Beginning about 1930, the Russian communists developed a different view of dialectics. They started to use the term “non-antagonistic contradiction” and its political counterpart, the concept of a “non-antagonistic class relationship.” Basically this amounted to a seriously wrong idea about socialism, that despite the fact that socialism had a wage system, inequality, classes and class conflict, its internal contradictions tended to die out rather than become more intense. This theory undermined the struggle for communism in the USSR and China by claiming the inequalities and conflicts of socialism aren’t destructive, don’t need to be struggled against, but would die out by themselves.

Russian communist philosophers made a number of attempts to define what an antagonistic contradiction was supposed to be. Proposed definitions claimed that antagonistic contradictions were resolved by becoming more intense, or by violence, or by the two sides becoming independent of each other. Non-antagonistic contradictions were claimed to be capable of being resolved gradually, without using violence or becoming more intense.

Leaders of the communist movement in China borrowed the concept of non-antagonistic contradiction and added to it the concepts of “contradictions among the people” that were said to be non-antagonistic. The convenience of this terminology

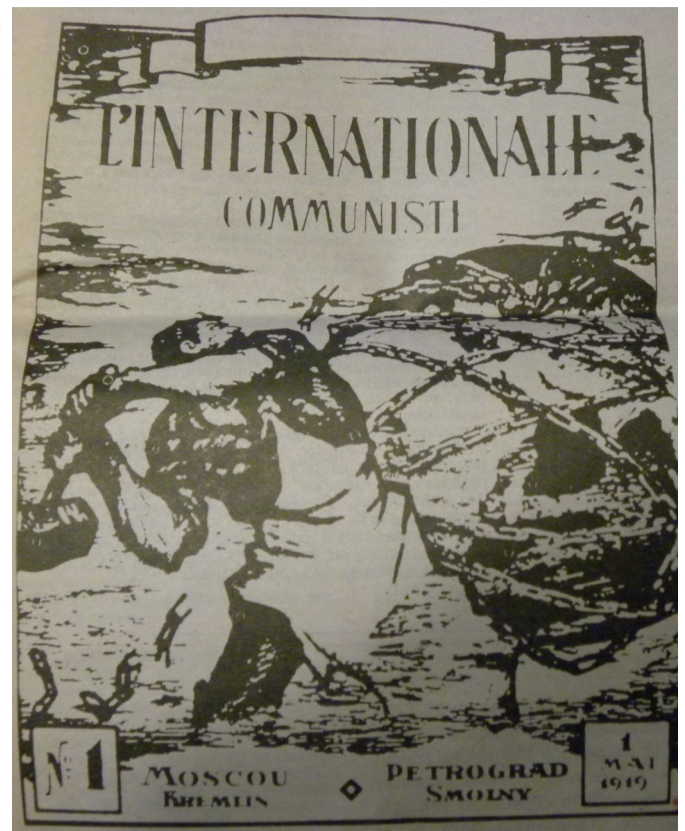
was that “the people” could be shifted whenever the Chinese communist leaders wanted to make an opportunistic alliance. “The people” then became whoever agreed to cooperate with the communist movement, including capitalists and landlords.

Scientific study of the various theories that have been put forward about how contradictions are to be resolved, including the analysis of the evidence available from a variety of sources, including the practice of class struggle, war, and natural science, etc., lead to the following conclusion: *Contradictions are only resolved or moved toward resolution by intensifying the struggle of their opposite sides, by increasing their negative relationship to each other.*

Thus the main political task the working class has is to intensify the contradiction between itself and the capitalist class, in order to move that contradiction toward resolution by revolution. On its side, the capitalist class is also intensifying the worker-capitalist contradiction by increasing police terror, lowering wages, wiping out civil liberties, spreading fascist ideology and racist propaganda, and promoting patriotism and loyalty to the “homeland.”

This intensifying contradiction can only be resolved by revolution, but revolution or violence is not always involved in making social contradictions more intense.

The way a contradiction is made more intense depends on the particular things or processes within it. Resolution by violence does not describe some special type of contradiction, but only one particular way in which a contradiction can become more intense. Resolving a contradiction within an individual person or inside the party also happens by making it more intense, but the means for doing this are discussion, criticism and practical changes in behavior rather than violence. Contradictions within people and collectives are not resolved by waiting for them



to die out or “managing” them. Unresolved contradictions continue to act and cause change whether they are ignored or not. Frank and honest discussion in which contradictory viewpoints, practices, and tendencies, confront each other intensifies these contradictions, but just for that reason, it moves them toward resolution.

Hoping that conflicts will go away by themselves, or making a pact that “I won’t criticize you if you don’t criticize me,” does not resolve contradictions among friends and comrades, any more than it resolves the contradictions of capitalism. True, communist dialectics recognizes that contradictions don’t die out, but are resolved by struggle and intensification.

ICWP SUMMER PROJECT:

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND SOLDIERS KEY TO REVOLUTION

Industrial workers and soldiers are key to the survival of the capitalist-imperialist system. Industrial workers and soldiers are also crucial to the fight for communism. The rulers of the world need them to build the arms, and fight their wars to maintain their profit system and empire that oppress the workers of the world. We need industrial workers to build the arms and soldiers to turn the guns around and to liberate the international working class from the capitalist-imperialist exploitation.

On whose side will the workers and soldiers be? That is the burning question of the day. It comes down to a life and death struggle between the bosses of the world and the communist ICWP for the hearts and mind of these two key sectors. It is an ideological struggle of gigantic proportions. It is a struggle we are determined to win and will win. In the Summer Projects in Seattle and Los Angeles, ICWP’s first such efforts, we are distributing Red Flag to industrial workers and soldiers to defy the bosses’ nationalism, racism and anti-communism and to put more workers on the communist road.

As the US bosses launch wider wars for oil and prepare for a global confrontation with their Chinese and Russian imperialist rivals, their war industries and armed forces will be ever more crucial. Industrial workers and soldiers will be attacked the hardest. Millions will be questioning capitalism and will be open to our revolutionary communist politics. Millions will eventually embrace communism

and revolution as the only way of putting an end to the bosses’ unending carnage.

History has proven that industrial workers and soldiers can give real life to this struggle. In Russia in 1917, workers in the huge arms manufacturer, the Putilov Works, with communist leadership, didn’t just strike against WWI. They took their weapons to the front and participated in the revolutionary movement to take power for the working class. They were also able to sway millions of soldiers to turn their guns on the Russian government and fight on their side.

The US bosses’ future plans will require a huge sacrifice in treasure and blood. The bosses have no qualms shedding rivers of our blood. But, when it comes to treasure they are determined to wage war on the cheap. That’s why they’ve moved many jobs to non union factories in the southeast and California.

In California, the bosses’ racism against immigrant workers means lower wages in the subcontractor factories producing parts for their war machines and commercial airlines. In the southeast, the history of slavery and racism against black workers has meant lower wages for all workers. The aerospace bosses are building assembly plants and a network of contractors there while attacking the pensions and working conditions of workers in unionized plants.

No reform or union movement can stop these attacks. Only communist revolution can end the rule

of profit and exploitation. Workers in all these plants need a new communist way of thinking. ICWP is committed to spreading **Red Flag** and building our party into a mass Party to take power and build a communist society where workers organize production and all aspects of society to meet the needs of the international working class.

Join us! Start by reading and distributing Red Flag. Organize a study action readers’ group. Write to the paper with your experiences, suggestions, criticisms



Conversation with a Store Clerk (SC) and Red Student (RS)

RS: Would you like a copy of our communist newspaper?

SC: I already got one, but can I ask you a question?

RS: Of course.

SC: Do you really believe in communism?

RS: Yes I do. That's why I am out here trying to distribute our newspaper [*Red Flag*] because I feel that the only way to get rid of our oppressors is through communist revolution.

SC: So you believe socialism is the only way?

RS: No, communism is the only way. We learned from the Russian and the Chinese revolutions that socialism leaves too many of the capitalist roots intact. So what must happen is that we must go straight from capitalism to communism.

SC: So you separate socialism from communism? But Karl Marx says that in order for the proletariat to eventually take control they must go from capitalism to socialism to communism. Are you going against what he said?

RS: I'm sure Marx did not intend for the *Communist Manifesto* to be followed to the letter. By studying what happened in past revolutions we have learned that socialism, or as we call it, "state capitalism," is not the way to go in order to achieve communism.

SC: So revolution is the only way?

RS: Yes, an armed revolution.

SC: Will you be making the guns?

RS: Well, that's why we're out here at Fort Lewis distributing our paper. We are trying to educate the soldiers so that they unite and eventually turn their guns around and point them at the bosses, forming a Red Army.

SC: Hmm, I did not know there were any real communists inside the United States. I think your ideas are good, but it's going to be very difficult for revolution to ever happen here.

RS: We know that it will not be an easy task, but we are strongly committed to our cause. The people are fed up and by educating them, through our newspaper, through discussions and through struggle we hope to breed communist leaders all over the place, who will eventually help us win over the masses. Someone has to do it.

SC: That's interesting.

RS: So can we send you a handful of *Red Flags* in the mail?

SC: You know I'm not sure about that, but I don't mind if you leave some here with me.

RS: Sure, OK I will. We'll be back all right?

SC: Sure, I'll be here.

Dear Red Flag

El Salvador—Every week I carry out an activity in my school so that my classmates learn the true history of El Salvador, because the majority don't know the history of this country or know only what the system wants them to know. There are some topics that don't interest them. Each week I bring in a different topic about the true history of the country. This activity is called "Council of Proof" and is carried out every Monday.

To rescue these youth who've been absorbed by the system, I introduce communist ideas to them so that in the future they join the revolutionary struggle, to "turn the tables" on the capitalists.

At the end of the first day that this activity was carried out, my teacher had led the discussion apathetically. She doesn't understand the peoples' struggles and she's a big defender of the capitalist system. She

talked to my mother, who is also a teacher, to tell her that while I understood political issues well, she preferred that I "don't talk about these issues with my class mates, but just give them feedback on the topics already discussed" and developed by the teacher.

I won't stop my activities but will strive for more young people at this school to know the true history of capitalism in this country and worldwide and to win them to join the fight for revolution.

I feel happy and motivated with what I'm doing since I've seen the interest and attention that my classmates have shown. This helps me to advance this project. We've built a club of four youth with whom there is a struggle to see that industrial workers are key for revolution, and to go to the factories and win more workers to the struggle for communist revolution.

We should strive to win more young people to join the fight for communism and rescue them from the clutches of the capitalist system.

Red Youth

I'm 16 years old. I recently joined ICWP.

After my first *Red Flag* sale to Boeing workers, I was hooked. Conversing with the people, whether it be industrial workers, military or everyday civilians who are interested in our paper is exhilarating. "Our Paper." I love the feeling of being a part of something where I know I help change people's lives and my comrades understand me. How I feel after a day of sales is unexplainable. You feel such bliss—happiness you could never get from anything else and when I see the smiles on the faces of the party members, my friends and mentors I'm at peace and everything's okay for a while. Prior to joining ICWP I always felt like no one understood my views and wondered if there would ever be a way to alter the corrupted system of capitalism. Being with the fellow members of the party gave me the opportunity to meet very wise and honest people and build hopefully everlasting friendships. From my first sale to the most recent, I see a tremendous change. I'm myself. My first sale at a Boeing plant, I was very nervous and afraid to show off the paper or to push this subject on people. Now, I realize the difference. It's a difference that will not only help me within this party but that can help me through my life. I've become more open, more persistent, more hardworking, and now I'm not afraid to fight for what I believe in.

Seattle Summer Project Participant

Mexican Workers Support Central American Immigrants

In the town of Tultitlan, Mexico last July 2nd in broad day light, 20 hooded police came using violence to try to take away 30 immigrants who came from Central America headed to the US. As is the custom, the federal agents came in cars without license plates so that they could carry on their criminal acts without being identified. They pushed those who tried to stop them and they kicked one immigrant like an animal.

This was one of the 43 immigrant houses, where food and housing are given to immigrants who are passing through in search of work.

The neighbors started to meet together and got very angry at the abuse that they were seeing, to such an extent that they didn't care that the police have powerful rifles and they confronted them, stopping them from taking the immigrants and one of their community members. So that they wouldn't leave empty handed, like any other thief, they took a young woman who they left 5 kilometers away.

In this colony called Lecheria, trains cross coming from southern Mexico and going north, which is the destination of the undocumented. The police and

thieves know this and that's why they abuse the travelers in all possible ways. This time, about 50 workers fought back showing the strength of the workers. And what if we were thousands and millions? We would get rid of this capitalist system that keeps borders. We would build a new society, a communist society, without money, and without workers who were considered to be immigrants.

Really to be an immigrant is to be considered a person who doesn't belong in a region or country, but in truth we workers have no country; we only have our hands to work and to survive. We need more workers to read and distribute *Red Flag* and to become members of our party, the ICWP. These 50 workers did more than any organization outside this community. They showed that unity is what we need, without caring where we're from. We are one class, the international working class.

L.A. Garment Worker

Distributing Red Flag to Strikers in Mexico

Mexico—Recently I passed out some copies of *Red Flag* to teachers and workers of Section 22 of the Teachers' Union (Oaxaca) who were camped out in the center of Mexico City, in the Zócalo. One of them said, "But you will want a donation and I don't have it now." I told him, "Don't worry. When I go to Oaxaca, you can give it to me." He said, "Good," and he took it. I gave out other copies so that the teachers could look it over. One teacher quickly gave me a donation. I continued distributing *Red Flag*. Next to the teachers was a group of electrical workers who are on a hunger strike, protesting their firing. I also told these workers that *Red Flag* is an international communist newspaper that is building a Party to destroy capitalism and build a communist society of social equality; they took it and gave a small donation.

It was interesting and shows that the opportunities are all around us and much depends on our decision to take advantage of them.

Comrade in Mexico

Distributing Red Flag to Boeing Workers

My stay in Seattle has taught me more about the military and industry. This understanding came from the workers themselves. I met Boeing and other aerospace workers with whom my comrades and I had conversations about how harsh their work was in inside those factories and the importance of a revolution throughout the world.

"We are being worked in situations that put us at risk," said one worker. Another worker said, "Soon the managers won't be needed because we will be on each others' backs, pushing each other to keep working to death."

We went to three Boeing sites to pass out *Red Flag* and leaflets that explained the "10 year no strike deal" that the bosses are trying to push onto the workers. "At last!" a Boeing worker said, as I explained the contents of *Red Flag*.

We also went to the AFT (American Federation of Teachers) convention where we passed out *Red Flag* to teachers and staff. "It is a great thing that you students are actually conscious about the world around you. I believe in you, because we need people like you that can create a change for this society to stand strong as one and be there for the revolution," said one.

We were able to pass out two thousand *Red Flags* to Boeing workers, teachers and soldiers. I feel like this experience was one of the first that ICWP will have through these years. We will get closer and prepare for the revolution that we all look forward to so that we can stop this system that is controlling us and exploiting us.

War--a despicable subject to touch, but why?

When is it a good time to speak about war? Is it just because we can't imagine ourselves going into combat using arms against others? Or is it just because we don't dare reach into fate's hands and look at our loved ones march out and fight in a cold-blooded war for the fortune of the rich people and the profits of the oil companies?

Is it really that despicable, that we would rather let our brothers, sisters, friends and co-workers just keep fighting, suffering and perish under a system that doesn't just rip us off of our work but also makes us pay for something we, ourselves, have made? Many family members, friends and neighbors are being used as puppets to defend the benefits, and profits of those who oppress us, exploit us, and rip apart our lives by giving us no choice other than to follow their disgusting scheme, making us believe we can one day reach to the top and live an all-time 'American Life'.

During the time I've been in Seattle, I've been able to understand how important the military is for the protection of the profits of the oil companies and the pockets of rich people. The aerospace industry is critical for the wars that these rich people need to be able to suppress and oppress us so they can stay on top of the entire system. I've learned a lot speaking with workers who know that this crisis is only for the benefit of those with power and those who own oil companies.

But, who are we really kidding? Shouldn't we start opening our eyes to the true reality that was covered by the illusions and lies of the bosses and rich people that are the only ones being able to survive without worrying about the bills or how much is going to be needed for the necessary things in life. "A revolution needs to be made, to be able to live a life where you get what you deserve and all that you work for," said a Boeing worker. "How much more should we suffer under the oppression of these bosses, that only work us to death? How much more until everyone realizes that we need a revolution to truly change this system we live under?"

We need to organize in and out of the military, industries and throughout the world. We need to unite as one, no matter what sex, age, ethnicity, and region we come from. We need to fight for a better future and communism.

Dear Mom,

How is everything going, down in California? Sorry I have not been able to call you more often. I have been really busy with the Summer Project. Most of our days start around for 4 in the morning and end at 9 at night.

Just yesterday, we went to the AFT (American Federation of Teachers) Convention in downtown Seattle. We distributed almost a thousand copies of *Red Flag*. The day before we had a study group discussion about education; in it we talked and exchanged our ideas of the topic. Since we were going to the AFT convention tomorrow we felt that we needed to discuss education.

I felt that the main question that drove the discussion was "What is education under capitalism?" I believe, Mom, that education under capitalism teaches the youth to be obedient and patriotic. Do you remember when I was five and I had to sing the national anthem and "This Land is our Land?"

I learned how to recite the pledge before I even knew how to read. Not only does capitalist education push for patriotism and obedience but also for education programs that support industry. I have seen this in my school, dropping arts programs with the excuse that funding was cut, but there is still enough funding for machine shop, engineering and robotics. The capitalist system is training your son

to be an industrious worker and preparing an industrious workforce for a wartime industry for World War III.

School Reform leads to World War III. When you tell this to a teacher many people turn their heads. I offered a teacher a paper saying, "School reform leads to World War III." He said, "No," and walked away. He took two steps before he turned around and said, "Wait, what did you say?" I repeated myself and he nodded his head and took the paper.

The responses that I got from the teachers at the AFT convention were great. Many of the teachers I talked to agreed that capitalist education teaches us students to become a part of the war industry and the war machine. One teacher said, "I am glad that the young people are here and involved with this. It makes me proud to see the youth here."

Participating in the summer project has taught me many things. I have learned so many things in the short time I have been here, but the one question I think about, the question one party member asked me is, "What does it mean to you to be in the party?" I think being in the party means being committed to struggling to fight for the workers, to fight for communism. Knowing this, I have decided to join the International Communist Workers Party and I will continue the struggle to fight for workers internationally.

Love, Your son

Dear Red Flag

The last issue of Red Flag asked for comments on whether the "Stop SB1070" movement is playing into the hands of the ruling class. I just returned from the convention of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and saw how this is true. Delegates submitted several resolutions "condemning the Arizona Immigration Law" but the one that passed also supported the rulers' "Comprehensive Immigration Reform" (CIR) program. It even quoted Obama approvingly.

One delegate who spoke about the resolution said that CIR was anti-labor. She pointed out that the requirement for 10-12 years of continuous employment would discourage workers from complaining about abusive or even illegal wages and working conditions. It would make it hard to organize immigrant workers because losing your job could also mean losing your green card. Also, how would low-wage workers ever be able to save enough money to pay huge fines? The delegate also said that the DREAM Act would be a "green-card draft." Lots of us applauded her conclusion that the AFT should support the right of workers everywhere to go anywhere they had to go to find work.

So, yes, the AFT is definitely trying to mislead teachers around "Stop SB1070" but the other side is that they don't necessarily have a solid hold on them. When presented with a good analysis, many people are open to changing their minds.

Red Flag comments: Thanks for your letter, and we too applaud the spirit of what the speaker said. However, we should be talking about the "needs" of the working class rather than about "rights." The international working class needs to be unified in order to smash the bosses and their borders. We need to build communism so that workers will never have to leave their homes and families to find work and so that people who do want to move will be able to do so. Sometimes we will be asked to move somewhere – temporarily or permanently – to help give political leadership and contribute our labor where it's most needed. By the way, one of the greatest needs we have is for young people to organize for communism in the military – regardless of the reason they join.

Dear Red flag

I have huge respect for what you [ICWP members] are trying to do. ...And you've kept at it for a long time. Red Flag is the only paper that has these facts that are the truth. The usual media never lets these facts out.

But I just think making a revolution against the bosses is like stabbing at an 18-foot grisly [bear] with a butter knife. I only think it could work if there were a huge catastrophe, like a complete financial meltdown.

Don't get me wrong. I think you should keep at it. I don't want to discourage you. Who knows? Maybe, that grisly will die a death of—how do they say it—a thousand small cuts?

Boeing Worker

ICWP Youth Summer Project Volunteers Respond to Boeing Worker

We here at ICWP understand that we are facing what seems like a ferocious capitalist bear, and to that bear we might seem like an insignificant dull butter knife. The odds of a revolution may seem slim, but as the world crisis intensifies, ICWP is diligently struggling with workers soldiers and students to educate and train future leadership of the movement. And with these soldiers, workers and students we are aggressively sharpening our "dull butter knife" in order to deliver one fatal wound to the "capitalist bear" as opposed to how do you say "a thousand small cuts". There is an endless amount of analogies that can be made. In reality as ICWP sharpens its political line it also organizes students, workers and soldiers. By doing so ICWP is assembling the working class and draining the capitalist system of the people it depends for its survival. We will lead the working class towards a communist revolution and smash capitalism once and for all.

AFT Convention

I had an incredible experience being down at The AFT convention. I was proud to be representing The International Communist Workers Party by distributing *Red Flag*. I had many different interesting conversations with teachers at this convention. A lot of the conversations were about concerns with the politics we represented. The other conversations we had involved interest in our views. I had a discussion with an older teacher. She came up to me as I was holding a sign and said "Communism eh?" I responded by saying "Yes". She had concerns about the role communism would play in society. I realized she was confused about what a communist revolution was. She began to compare us to past revolutionary movements. I let her know that the past revolutionary movements established Socialism with intent to establish communism but failed due to the corruption of money holders.

AFT CONVENTION: AFL-CIO COLLABORATES WITH RULING CLASS' PLANS FOR FASCISM AND WAR

"This resolution takes us down the road of class collaboration instead of class struggle," a delegate to the American Federation of Teachers convention declared before hundreds of other delegates.

Understanding this is especially important in this period which is not just a 'recession' but a global crisis of capitalism. It's sharpening rivalries between US capitalists and their competitors, leading to more and wider wars.

"The nationalist mindset of 'making America strong,'" she continued, "is meant to get us to produce compliant young workers and soldiers for these wars. To create a positive vision for education, we need to ask what is best for the working class. Schools cannot effectively serve our children and youth in a society based on racism, exploitation, profit and greed."

Many of the 3400 delegates were open to hearing about this and more. Almost a thousand took *Red*

Flag. Many more took ICWP's communist flyers. Some gave their names on the spot to stay in touch with ICWP. (See letters, p. 15)

All is not as it seems. The AFT convention appeared to show delegates uniting around building bridges to the "community" to fight for jobs, public education and positive teacher involvement in improving instruction and student success.

However, the convention was really an all-out offensive of the class-collaborationist AFT leadership to win members to the bosses' war plans. They cynically twisted the desire of teachers and other public-sector workers for class solidarity into nationalist support for "America."

AFL-CIO President Pushes "ONE NATION" March

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka was present to help AFT president Randi Weingarten build a mass reform movement for the Democratic Party and its war plans. Trumka misrepresented the capitalist crisis as merely "the worst recession since the Great Depression." He blamed it on Bush's tax breaks for the rich, rather than on the basic nature of capitalism. (More on this in future issues of *Red Flag*.)

Trumka said that the problem was not the budget deficit but the "skills deficit," the "technology deficit," and the "economic competitiveness deficit." He meant that US public schools need to get better at teaching young people the technical skills needed to work in industry (especially war industries) and training more engineers so that the rulers aren't dependent on technical experts from other countries. He also meant that US bosses need to squeeze more profits out of the working class so they can fight to keep their position as a global power. In his own words:

"If you want the US to be world-class, stand together. Wall Street helped us get into this mess and Wall Street needs to pay its fair share to get us out of it." We say that Wall Street (capitalism) IS the mess. Workers can only get out of it with communist revolution. In communist society, there will be

no money, no Wall Street, and nobody will pay for anything.

The October 2 "ONE NATION" march in Washington is the Democrats' answer to the TEA Party. It will bring together huge numbers of folks from the unions and civil rights movements (including "Immigration Reform") and others just in time to get out the vote for the November congressional elections. Beyond that, it will build a patriotic nationalist movement that can be mobilized for war. In Trumka's words, "Americans do better when we stand together and face the challenges of our time."

When the "ONE NATION" resolution came up, a delegate took the floor to reject Trumka's social-fascist line. "We don't have one nation; we are divided into a working class and a corporate class." Perhaps this delegate was influenced by the ICWP leaflet that said, "the [community] ties we have to build are forged in resolute class struggle, not class collaboration." Workers have no nation and we never will, but someday we will decisively defeat the capitalist class and we'll have one communist world led by one working-class party, ICWP.

The bosses need (not just "want" as the liberals say) to cut teachers' pay and benefits because of their crisis. But they need even more to use teachers to prepare students for World War III.

That's why AFT President Randi Weingarten pushes so hard for "national standards" and "teacher evaluation." She's helping the rulers, including the Obama administration, make sure that teachers toe the line. As Trumka put it: "American community and common destiny is what you teach in your schools every day."

Sorry, Rich. Sorry, Randi. Communist teachers and students are learning and teaching class struggle. We are learning how to put forward revolutionary ideas in the midst of the reform movement. We are winning our brothers, our sisters, and ourselves to break the chains of racism, reformism and revisionism. Our common destiny is not as "America" but as the international working class building the communist road.



ICWP Fights for Revolution, Not Reform

The AFT convention was – as always – tightly controlled by the leadership caucus. More significant was the nature of the opposition.

Revisionists and liberals opposed the AFT leadership's pro-war policies, but the only connection they made to education was that war takes money away from schools. They struggled in committee and on the floor of the convention around the resolution on Afghanistan – basically the Obama administra-

tion line – and to a lesser extent around a resolution to "defend Iranian trade union rights" which was a thinly-disguised effort to build support for a US military attack on Iran.

Meanwhile various revisionist groups put a lot of energy into demonstrations against Arne Duncan (Obama's Education Secretary) and multi-billionaire Bill Gates, who puts a lot of money behind Duncan's plans for "school reform." Their leaflets said nothing about imperialist war.

Many delegates were furious that AFT leaders invited Bill Gates as keynote speaker because he is a major force

behind the privatization of public education (for example, for-profit charter schools) and "teacher accountability" based on students' scores on standardized tests. Hundreds boycotted his speech, and about seventy-five delegates walked out chanting "public schools are not for sale." They joined dozens more in a loud and angry protest in the lobby, scuffling with convention officials to open the doors so that chants of "Bill Gates has got to go" could be heard inside. ICWP teachers and students tried to change the chant to "Capitalism has got to go." They got a few supporters, but the group – even those who claim to

be anti-capitalists – wouldn't join in. Reformism doesn't lead to revolutionary thinking.

Neither large teachers' union (AFT and NEA) dared invite Duncan to speak, knowing he'd face massive opposition in spite of the huge backing these unions gave to the Obama campaign. Two groups left the convention – without telling most delegates where they were going – to rally against Duncan.

But the real fight was in the convention hall itself – not a fight to amend or pass or defeat resolutions, but a fight for the "hearts and minds" of teachers.

Questions for Study-Action Readers' Groups

1. Are all union leaders "capitalist agents?" (See MTA page 1) Are all unions pro-capitalist? Why do we talk about building "communist fractions" but not communist unions?
2. A sign in the picture on page 1 says "Labor Peace is Fascism." Do you agree?
3. The article on the Oscar Grant trial (page 2) talks about connections between racism, capitalism, genocide and empire. How can we best understand these connections?

JOIN THE ICWP SUMMER PROJECT
SPEND TIME WITH WORKERS AND SOLDIERS
DISTRIBUTE RED FLAG AT FACTORIES
STUDY GROUPS AND CADRE SCHOOL TO DEVELOP COMMUNIST LEADERS