

# CHALLENGE



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## Battle Rulers, Cops, Politicians:

# Militant Moms Holding Fast



**CHICAGO, IL, October 1** — The occupation of the Whittier field house is in its third week. It appears that following one week of direct confrontation with the CPS (Chicago Public Schools) security (see CHALLENGE, 10-6-10), the city's police, politicians, ruling class and their school board are waiting them out.

CPS, planning the demolition of the building, refused the mothers' demand for a library and after-school facility, so they have begun transforming this place into the library and community center they want. Volunteer librarians and donations of hundreds of books have transformed the field house into a near-functioning library, proving we don't need these politicians and the banks and businesses they serve to provide for our needs.

The predominantly Latina mothers are beginning to see this as more than a struggle for a school library because they now know it is simply 1 of 160 Chicago schools, mainly black and Latino, that don't have libraries!

We are mobilizing the Party and our friends around this struggle:

- Chicago State University professors have circulated a petition supporting the mothers and brought black stu-

dents to the field house.

- One student who previously had made several anti-immigrant comments in class changed when she went to show her support and met some of the mothers.

- A postal worker raised this struggle in his union, took up a collection and organized a BBQ at the field house.

- Comrades have done overnight guard duty.

- When some mothers were getting sick, the PLP County hospital club and friends helped organize a health fair for them. As one comrade took a mother's blood pressure, she whispered, "I really like your paper. I've shown it to some of my co-workers." She and others have met to discuss and write this article for CHALLENGE.

She then described the 7-year struggle for this library, saying her involvement initially was very minimal due to being driven by the many problems in her life pulling her away from it, "sometimes going to the local school council meetings, but mostly I just got information from one mother who went."

At times very stoic and at other times very emotional and teary-eyed,

she described the difficulties of being a single mother raising three children and her history of being terribly mistreated by her ex-husband. She said her new boyfriend, who is black, treats her much better but it has increased a long-standing rift with her family due to their racism.

She noted the stress on her job and lack of respect by her boss who is always trying to put her down. Then she smiles when mentioning her discussions with co-workers about this school library fight.

The mothers now see a larger picture, how this potential demolition is part of a long-standing process of privatization of "public" property, tied to gentrification and the demolition of public housing ten years ago and the ongoing downsizing of public health care.

On the one hand, this struggle highlights the workers' courage fighting back and the potential for widening class struggle. But it also highlights the necessity of PLP's role within it to build the long-term personal ties and a sharp ideological exposé of how racist gentrification and privatization are not simply "bad decisions" but are necessary to capitalism.

During economic crises and imperialist wars, the bosses suck even more funds from all social services, from public schools and housing as well as squeeze profits from workers' wages, pensions and health insurance.

However this struggle turns out, state power still belongs to the bosses. Their plan right now seems to be to wait the community out, but that too could change. One thing's for sure: this struggle will change the parents and the community too.

Our Party must step up our efforts within our own mass organizations to support the Whittier rebels. This is especially important because within the struggles against these attacks we fight against the cancerous ideas of racism, private ownership and profits and the divisive nationalism that prevents our class from uniting to fight for a society that will destroy these evils — communism. ☪

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# U.S. Bosses' Tactical Split on Iran War, Army Loyalty

A fierce tactical debate is heating up within the U.S. imperialist camp. Confronting Iran's nuclear-arming ayatollahs is becoming increasingly urgent for those bosses Obama is struggling to serve. An Iranian A-bomb, closer by the day, could effectively erase 60 years of a major cornerstone of U.S. imperialism: its domination of the oil-rich Mid-East. The stakes are high. It boils down to: U.S. (or Israeli) air strikes right now or a major invasion (with more allies) as soon as possible.

## Imperialists Split on Iran Tactics: Strike Alone Today or With Allies Tomorrow

The dominant imperialists had leaned towards the latter course until recently. Their top

think-tank, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), published an article entitled "After Iran Gets the Bomb" in its Foreign Affairs journal (March-April 2010). It said Iran's nuclearizing was unavoidable but would give the U.S. an excuse to spread its own nuclear umbrella over the region while it gathered allies for a massive invasion of Iran. Now, however, the CFR, led by David Rockefeller who personifies its imperialist Exxon Mobil-JP Morgan Chase backing, entertains a shorter timetable.

On September 28, the CFR hosted Joseph Lieberman, a party-straddling, liberal Senate war-hawk at its New York mansion. Lieberman told the journalists and corporate decision-makers the CFR had assembled:

"It's time to retire our ambiguous mantra about all options remaining on the table. It's time for our message to our friends and enemies in the region to become clearer: Namely, that we will prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability period — by peaceful means if we possibly can, but with military force if we absolutely must. A military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities entails risks and costs — I know that — but I am convinced that the risks and costs of allowing Iran to obtain a nuclear weapons capability are far greater."

### Liberal Lackey Lieberman Pushes Immediate Attack on Iran

Lieberman pointedly swatted down the CFR's previous more gradual (but just as lethal) approach:

"Some have suggested that we should simply learn to live with a nuclear Iran and pledge to contain it. In my judgment, that would be a grave mistake. As one Arab leader I recently spoke with pointed out, how could anyone count on the United States to go to war to defend them against a nuclear-armed Iran, if we were unwilling to go to war to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran in the first place?" (CFR website, 9/29)

Lieberman's nameless "Arab leader" probably hails from Saudi Arabia's royal family but could be any of the pro-U.S. Gulf state regimes who received Washington's recent record-setting \$137-billion arms sales. The oil-soaked potentates want assurance that the weapons deals mean "the U.S. is with you" rather than "you're on your own."

### Liberal Bosses, Unable to Get Workers or Elites to Fight, Must Rely on Potentially Disloyal Rightist Troops and Officer Corps

Either form of wider Mid-East war requires increased forces. Thus it presents serious problems for U.S. rulers locked in the Vietnam Syndrome puzzle which provoked mass working-class opposition to a draft, limiting the rulers' source of military recruits. Their blatantly imperialist, racist genocide in Vietnam forced an end to both the draft and to officer training programs (ROTC) on many elite campuses.

Today the Pentagon gets its ground troops mainly from among desperately poor workers, with black and Latino recruits opting out of combat as much as possible. In a September 28 speech at Duke University, Defense Secre-

tary Robert Gates complained that officers and foot soldiers come increasingly from red states: "Currently, the percentage of the force from the Northeast, the West Coast and major cities continues to decline."

Gates said that the military's own decisions on where to locate bases have reinforced the trend, with a significant percentage of Army posts moved in recent years to just five states: Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Texas and Washington. This trend, Gates said, also affects the recruiting and educating of new officers.

"The state of Alabama, with a population of less than five million, has 10 Army ROTC host programs," he lamented. "The Los Angeles metro area, population over 12 million, hosts four ROTC programs. And the Chicago metro area, population nine million, has three." There is a risk, over time, Gates declared, of developing a cadre of military leaders that — politically, culturally and geographically — have less and less in common with the people they have sworn to defend.

### War-Making Rulers Need Anti-Worker Draft which PLP Helped Bury

Any Election Day success for Tea Party anti-tax candidates is another near-term crisis looming over the liberal, imperialist wing of U.S. capitalists. Tea Partiers are funded by the likes of the billionaire Koch brothers and media mogul Murdoch whose fortunes gain little profit from the spending on imperialist wars (which require higher taxes).

War-bent U.S. imperialists, with Obama as commander-in-chief, dread anti-Washington, anti-tax Tea Partiers running and manning their military, given their strong influence among the very regions where the Pentagon has concentrated its bases. The rulers' liberal wing's only hope in avoiding that nightmare lies in bringing ROTC back to Ivy League colleges and restoring the draft of working-class GIs.

They have made modest progress on ROTC, with a handful of recent commissionings in Harvard Yard. But our class can draw on the anti-draft sentiment engendered by the militant, anti-imperialist struggle of millions in the 1960s and 1970s — a struggle in which our Party played a leading role, in factories and neighborhoods, on campuses and in the military itself. The rulers have not yet won working-class parents to willingly allow a draft that would send their children to fight and die in imperialist wars.

However, the ruling class holds state power. It can and must seek to reverse its predicament by restoring the worker-destroying draft. Taking on relatively puny Iran may or may not require full mobilization. Inevitable clashes with burgeoning U.S. rivals China and Russia surely will.

Our Party must lead our class in regaining the war footing we had decades ago. We need to militantly expose and attack the imperialists' assaults on us where we work, live and go to school. Walkouts, strikes, mass demonstrations, accompanied by leaflets, forums and widespread distribution of CHALLENGE — and, most importantly, building solid PLP ties in, and recruiting from, the working class — can serve as training for the communist revolution that will eventually obliterate the war-making billionaires. ☺

## OUR FIGHT

★ **Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.**

★ **Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.**

★ **Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.**

★ **While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.**

★ **Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.**

★ **Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.**

★ **Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.**

★ **Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.**

★ **Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.**

★ **Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!**

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### Why Articles Are Not Signed

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual. While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.



## D.C. Rally:

# PL's Red Line Antidote to Liberal Rulers' Poison

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 3 — This past weekend the liberal wing of the ruling class tried their best to motivate its base to elect Democrats on November 2. The PLP joined thousands of other workers at the Lincoln Memorial to expose the dead-end politics of voting and to spread the revolutionary communist ideas crucial to fighting the endless attacks workers have been facing. On the buses going to and from the rally and at the rally itself, PL members distributed over 7000 issues of CHALLENGE while making many new friends.

The event, entitled, "One Nation Working Together," was an attempt by the liberal rulers to rally their base. Through various unions — the UAW, CWA, AFSCME and SEIU 1199 — they had hoped, for a number of different reasons, to bring hundreds of thousands to Washington.

In the long term, the bosses are working to convince millions of workers to fight and die in their imperialist wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq. As their situation deteriorates, the capitalists here know they'll need a much more disciplined work-force than they've got now.

In the short term, this liberal ruling-class wing hopes to win workers to support the Democrats in the November 2 elections. With the recent Republican primary victories of Tea Party candidates in Delaware, New York and Kentucky as well as the "Restoring Honor Rally" led by right-wing commentator Glenn Beck, the liberals are worried that the energy from the 2008 Presidential election has temporarily run out of steam.

In a NY Times article (9/17) titled "Unions

Find Members Slow to Rally Behind Democrats," labor columnist Steve Greenhouse warns about the Democrats' inability to energize rank-and-file workers to support their local politicians: "Union leaders themselves say that their efforts may not be enough because union members, like other important parts of the Democratic base, are not feeling particularly enthusiastic about the party."

Who can really blame them? Unemployment and underemployment has passed 30 million; 21% are either jobless or can't find full-time jobs. The rates are double for black workers and 40% to 50% for youth, depending on the region. Meanwhile, wages, pensions and benefits are being slashed, causing many workers to feel betrayed by the same politicians they campaigned for door-to-door just two years ago.

This was evident in the weeks leading up to the October 2 rally. Unions, in trying to win rank-and-file members to go to D.C., were literally bribing them with free bus rides, clothing and lunch. PLP members on those buses were working to seize an opportunity to win workers towards a communist revolutionary line.

On the bus rides heading to the rally, many PLers detailed the attacks workers are experiencing. Contrary to the "alternatives" advocated by the rally's organizers, PL speakers advanced international working-class unity, fighting back militantly against the bosses and the importance of revolutionary communist ideas. They inspired many riders, who also bought copies of CHALLENGE.

At the Lincoln Memorial, PLers led marches and chants through the crowd,



with many high school students leading the way, receiving a warm reception from those in attendance. One worker, a CWA member, said, "You know, I'm not a communist. I always voted for the Democrats. But as I see more and more taken from me and the Democrats not doing much about it...Hell, the union isn't even doing much about it, [so] your idea doesn't seem that crazy." He then gave \$5 for a copy of CHALLENGE.

Ultimately, the event revealed both the strengths and weaknesses of the liberal section of the ruling class. While there are still signs that the Democrats are unable to energize the workers to support them, they definitely control the organizations that can mobilize many workers and students.

There might not be a lot of workers organizing for them, but there is still only a small section of the working class ready to fight back against the bosses. The bosses' lieutenants in the unions and community groups have done their job in keeping the working class passive in times of incredible attacks.

But if this rally revealed anything, it's that workers with pro-worker leadership, are willing to fight back and are upset with their current conditions. It's PLP's responsibility to give leadership to these workers, not only through the distribution of CHALLENGE, but also by fighting side-by-side with them. Over time, many workers will see that communist revolution is the only solution.

However, as we've always said about the class struggle, "You gotta be in it to win it." ☪



## The Fight's On! GM Rebels Reject Bosses, Pols, Union Hacks

INDIANAPOLIS, IN October 3 — While UAW President Bob King was addressing the mass "rally for jobs and justice" in Washington, D.C. yesterday, he forgot to mention the ongoing struggle here by GM workers in UAW Local 23, who refuse to knuckle under to King and the UAW leadership, GM and JD Norman Industries, or the Governor of Indiana. On September 27 they rejected a tentative agreement between the UAW and GM by a more than 10-1 margin that would have cut their wages so that GM could sell the plant.

Under the Obama bailout and restructuring of GM, this plant will close. JD Norman Industries wants to buy it and turn it into a low-wage GM parts supplier. After workers voted by a similar margin to reject any wage concessions last May, GM and the UAW continued to bargain and tried to pass an agreement in August.

But International reps were met by hundreds of workers and literally run out of the union hall. The UAW then scheduled a mail ballot to try to pass the deal. GM allowed International reps into the plant to sell it, and the Governor said if the plant closed because the workers rejected the wage cuts, they would not be allowed to collect unemployment benefits!

The workers responded with a rally against concessions at UAW Region 3 headquarters on September 25, and a "Solidarity Vote," where 412 members came to the hall and voted "NO" in front of a video camera. Then they videoed taking the ballots to the post office and the mail clerk counting them to record the rejection of the contract.

PLP members visited the plant and distributed hundreds of fliers and CHALLENGES before being chased off by GM security. We

talked with some workers at length who expressed tremendous anger at the UAW leadership and thanked us for coming. In a sense, this fight reflects why King & Co. organized the Washington rally in the first place.

Workers have sacrificed billions without a fight, but they have not been won to doing whatever it takes to save U.S. imperialism. So the union leaders are trying to get us focused on the Tea Party and getting out the vote for the Democrats while they slash our wages and destroy 200,000 jobs. Ultimately they have to win us to embrace a future of poverty wages, high racist unemployment, and world war to save their asses. But we are building a revolutionary communist movement that will smash them and their billionaire masters. And we need to win these GM rebels to join us. ☪

# Nursing Home Strikers Fight On; Praise CHALLENGE

**HARTFORD, CT, September 24** — The strike is officially over, but the struggle continues.

Last April, workers at four nursing homes in Connecticut, members of SEIU District 1199, struck against Spectrum Health Care (see CHALLENGE, 9/22) after having worked without a contract since March 2009. Spectrum, which purchased the nursing homes several years ago after a fire at Park Place Health Center, the Hartford facility, has a long record of anti-union activity, including the arbitrary firings of committed union members.

The workers responded favorably to the issue of CHALLENGE that reported the strike, distributed by a PLP member. As one worker commented, "It's good for people in other parts of the world to see what's going on here." Spectrum has basically tried to bust the union, refusing to negotiate for 13 months while attacking the workers by:

- Penalizing workers for signing in one minute late;
- Assigning injured workers to "light duty" and then cutting their pay to \$10 an hour;
- Demanding workers forego any wage increase until July 2011, more than 2½ years;
- Intimidating and firing active union members.
- Hiring scabs with the intent of replacing the strikers permanently.

All four Spectrum nursing homes were on the list of 15,000 workplaces cited by the government agency OSHA as having the highest number of workers injured on the job. These and other oppressive conditions led one worker to exclaim that the Spectrum owners "were the worst bosses of my life."

Under constant union pressure, the National

Labor Relations Board (NLRB) presented a formal complaint of Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs) against Spectrum in August, with a hearing scheduled for November 2. However, as many workers have learned in the past, even when NLRB rulings are issued seemingly in favor of the workers, the bosses use all sorts of ways to avoid obeying them, procrastinating often for years while they bring in a totally new workforce to effectively bust the union.

On August 31, the union made an offer to Spectrum for the strikers to return to work with no conditions attached, thereby officially ending the strike. It did this expecting the charges to be upheld in November, as they were recently in a similar strike at Avery Heights, another Connecticut nursing home. If that happens, all the workers not recalled will be entitled to back pay dating from August 31, when the union offer was made. However, it remains to be seen what that would mean for elimination of all the oppressive conditions cited by the workers as well as their delayed wage increase.

Three weeks into September, Spectrum had recalled only 11 workers out of 400 strikers, less than 3%. The rest remain out on the street protesting Spectrum's ULPs. "They took back two people here at Park Place," declared one worker walking the line, "but they refuse to follow union seniority, which is another ULP." "They still don't negotiate," said another, "and sometimes even refuse to appear at scheduled negotiation sessions." We'll stay out here protesting until we're all back in."



Meanwhile, in supporting the workers by spreading their story in CHALLENGE, the Party has also supplied occasional live music to the line, spurring the workers to develop new lyrics for some old songs. For example, in "Old MacDonald Had A Farm," they substitute "Sean and Brian" (Spectrum's owners) for "Old MacDonald" and "scabs" for "chicks" and you get the idea. Also, it happened that as a scab car drove past the line, "La Cucaracha" (the cockroach) was being performed, which, as one worker observed, seemed like a fitting song to describe any scabs crossing the line. We'll see if it catches on. This is a sharp struggle, one that has already lasted five months and may last a lot longer.

Capitalist bosses are screwing the workers and their patients. They need a communist society that the working class rules for the benefit of all workers. Join the PLP and fight for a world without bosses! ☺

## Stella Strike Lesson: Beware of NLRB

The experiences of the Stella D'Oro workers are instructive for any workers who must deal with their union and rely on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in the course of a strike and its aftermath, as happened with the Stella workers.

At one point during the 11-month walkout, the strikers' union "won" a ruling from the NLRB to order the Stella bosses to restore their old jobs and benefits. The bosses then simply turned around and sold the plant to new owners who moved it elsewhere, dumping the strikers. No help there from the NLRB.

More recently, months after the strike ended, the Stella workers are still fighting for their full pensions, but now their enemy has become their own international union.

To qualify for a full pension, the workers must have a combination of 20 years of service at age 60 (the so-called "Golden 80" — see CHALLENGE, 9/22). But now the international union is using the excuse of the pension fund "going broke" to justify cutting workers pensions from 40% to 60%. They're refusing to use the \$12 million penalty the Stella bosses had to pay to withdraw from the pension fund to help maintain full pensions. This targets the oldest workers, the least likely to work again, given the current Depression and mass racist unemployment.

As one worker charged, "We fought for a year and a half, ... stood up for this union and they give away our pension!"

Union leaders work within, and defend, capitalism and its laws which protect and enforce that same profit system. When push comes to shove the union looks to defend the system, not the workers' interests. This is also what happened when the Obama administration bailed out General Motors and threw thousands of auto workers into the streets — with the complete agreement of the auto workers' union — to help GM to make millions in profits again.

Similarly, the NLRB is a government agency, which more often than not rules in favor of the bosses. Even when they seem to give the workers a "favorable" decision, under capitalism the bosses have all sorts of laws and loopholes to foil such rulings, making the NLRB decisions meaningless.

The government protects and enforces the profit system. When profits conflict with workers' needs, invariably the bosses' government and its laws come down on the side of profits, not workers.

Workers must beware of relying on these defenders of capitalism rather than on their own united rank-and-file strength to answer the bosses' attacks, an answer that ultimately can only be achieved by building their communist Party to get rid of the bosses and their system altogether. ☺

## D.C. Jobs Conference: PL'ers Tell It Like It Is: Communism Means Jobs for All

**WASHINGTON, D.C., October 1** — As the U.S. unemployment rate continues at staggering levels (between 15 and 33 million, depending on how it's measured), Howard University hosted a day-long conference on U.S. jobs policy and strategies, attended by about 100 policy advocates, academics, students, workers, and local community activists. Unemployment is fundamentally racist, with unemployment rates for African Americans more than double that of white workers, with rates of 30% in many inner-city areas with mainly black populations. Nothing shows the absurdity and oppressive character of capitalism more than the fact that there are idle factories and an enormous amount of work that needs to be done while millions of workers eager to work cannot find jobs!

Panels included diverse advocates for policy reform ranging from liberal Congressman John Conyers, Jr. to fighters for revolution from PLP. The goal of the conference: reach consensus on policy to advocate for jobs and develop strategies to win them. The PLP's goal in participating in this conference was to show that the reform struggle must be rejected and that building anti-racist, communist revolution is the best strategy to follow. Other panelists generally treated these views respectfully while disagreeing, while several workers and students at the conference liked the communist ideas; over 40 CHALLENGES and 20 PLP magazines were taken by participants.

### The Proposals

The proposed policy reforms varied widely. Many argued for a blanket job guarantee from the federal government for public works jobs (especially in "green" areas) and social service positions in such areas as elder care, health care, child care, and education. They referred to the 1930s "New Deal" of Franklin Roosevelt as a model. In reality, the New Deal provided a limited number of jobs and they were extremely exploitative and discriminatory. The depression ended only with the buildup towards World War II — not the ideal model for ending unemployment! Advocates for federal job guarantees argued that such New Deal-style programs could be funded by a Tobin tax, a ¼ of 1% tax on

*continued on p. 6*

# France: 3,000,000 Slam Pension Cuts; Strikes Exploding

**PARIS, October 2** — Today nearly 3,000,000 people across France turned out for union-sponsored demonstrations against the government's retirement "reform," the third giant protest in a month. With opinion polls showing 70% of the population opposed to raising the retirement age, President Nicolas Sarkozy's prediction that the movement "would run out of steam" has been proven wrong.

The government wants to increase the minimum age for retirement on a partial pension from 60 to 62, and the age for retirement on a full pension from 65 to 67. This attack on pensions is part of a general Europe-wide bosses' assault on past social welfare gains in order to maintain and increase profits, forcing the workers to pay for the bosses' general financial crisis.

Rank-and-file militancy is on the rise here. Hollow phrases from the government and unions negotiating give-backs are a far cry from what workers want. Signs and banners call for winning back what was lost in 2003: retirement after 37½ years of paying into a retirement fund, whatever a worker's age.

## Broad Strike Spreading in Marseilles; Port Workers Block Oil Shipments

Since October 1, striking dock workers have blocked the port of Marseilles, strangling oil supplies, with 40 ships, mostly crude oil tankers, sitting in the harbor, unable to move. The port feeds all the oil refineries in eastern France and if the strike continues it will affect the entire country.

Now, walkouts are occurring or planned involving chemical refineries, bus lines, school cafeterias and nurseries. Petrochemical workers were slated to strike before October 12, which could block oil refineries.

Workers in Paris subways, on buses and suburban trains have filed a pre-strike notification for an

unlimited strike beginning October 12. Although the union leaders have refused to call unlimited strikes. Rank-and-file workers are pressing for longer walkouts, beginning on a 24-hour strike day.

Also in Marseilles, Monoprix department store workers have been striking for higher wages since September 17. Christine, a young single mother fighting her first strike, declared: "We had to go on strike because we're sick and tired of being stepped on. Demanding a 50-euro-a-month pay hike was really the minimum!"

Workers in the shipyard town of Saint-Nazaire stoned police during the September 23 demonstration.

Rank-and-file workers' militancy and organization will win or lose this pension struggle. It began with strikes and protests on March 23, May Day, May 27 and June 24, and resumed after the summer holidays. Another day of strikes and demonstrations is scheduled for October 12.

Today's protests were broader, with more families with small children, and more private-sector workers who feel vulnerable to retaliation from the boss if they strike. The atmosphere was friendly and laid-back, the kind of protest that suited the leaders of the right-wing unions.

## Racist, Anti-Worker 'Reform'

The retirement "reform" is an anti-working class measure. A business executive who retires today gets an average pension of almost 3,000 euros (\$3,750) a month and can expect to live for another 23 years. A factory worker gets an average pension of slightly over half that and can expect to live only another 17 years. Do the math: overall, executives get triple the average worker's pension from the retirement system. Raising the minimum retirement age two years will worsen this inequality.

The retirement reform is also racist. Workers subjected to the most exhausting jobs — in the construction, retail and hotel-restaurant trades (Observatoire des inégalités, 9/6/10) — are precisely the occupations where black and Arab workers are concentrated. Raising the retirement age means more years of the wear and tear of these jobs for these workers.

The ruling UMP party has been hinting that the calendar for increasing the minimum age for a full retire-



Banner reads "All together against their rotten reforms"

ment pension from 65 to 67 might be pushed back, and that something might be done to raise the pensions of women who stop work to raise children. These crumbs will supposedly allow CGT and CFDT union leaders to cry "victory" and end the movement.

The Socialist Party (PS) is also joining the protest demonstrations. The PS's goal is to win workers' votes in the 2012 presidential elections. But no worker should be fooled: on January 17, PS first secretary Martine Aubry declared: "We'll move to [a minimum retirement age of] 61 or 62" and promised to help the Sarkozy government achieve that goal.

On October 1, Ségolène Royal, the PS's 2007 presidential candidate, proposed a referendum to "solve" the retirement issue instead of forcing the government to annul the law, threatening a loss via referendum what might be won with strikes and demonstrations.

In late August, President Sarkozy's special negotiator, Raymond Soubie, told the union misleaders he was "worried about an uncontrollable degeneration of the labor climate that would go far beyond the retirement issue." On September 23, Sarkozy noted with satisfaction that "the [main] unions have excluded the idea of a general strike or a strike that lasts more than 24 hours. That's the main thing." Now, according to the publication "Le Canard enchaîné" (9/29), "the big bosses of the union confederations" are worried about a possible "increase in the number of local hard-fought strikes."

Organizing the kind of unified militancy displayed in Marseilles and in the mass demonstrations, workers here could move to dump the union misleaders and organize a general strike. This could lead beyond defeating the government attack on pensions. It could be a step toward developing the communist leadership needed to win the war against capitalist exploitation through communist revolution. ☸



Striking Monoprix department store workers. "GREVE" is French for STRIKE.

# Mexico: Seeds of Emerging Struggle Fertile Ground for Revolution

PLP must go where the workers are, get our newspaper around and motivate the class struggle. Reforms are not the workers' way to victory but can be used as a way of learning to fight, since what we really need is to destroy this murderous system. The workers of the Mexican electricity company have been on strike since March, and they need solidarity as much from the outside as the inside. We need to make our presence known there. We will also motivate the workers from Volkswagen with our solidarity.

Our class ties will grow as well as our feelings of brotherhood. We will grow and learn from the class struggle there. That's what we communists do. We learn a lot from strikes such as the one from Stella d' Oro in New York, and they elevate our level, encourage our revolutionary spirit and our commitment to fight until we accomplish our objective. We contribute collectively and win new comrades to communism in the struggle, and we

expand the distribution of our newspaper.

While we learn and teach, we prepare for the destruction of the capitalist system and building a new society in the service of workers, where everyone will have what they need and where collectivism, not individualism, will determine our actions.

There are 10 billionaires in Mexico, including Carlos Slim, the second biggest billionaire in the world. Meanwhile, 70% of the population is poor, the tenth part of the poorest population earns 1.1% in income, 53% are malnourished, 24% are extremely poor and 18% of indigenous children don't attend school. The capitalist system is unable to meet the most basic needs of workers, but if we build the PLP, we can make our own communist history which will solve these problems.

Mexico is the second largest oil provider for the United States, with oil reserves of 47 trillion

barrels which cost about \$102 trillion. Oil represents about 40% of Mexico's internal production, with 4 million barrels a day. Mexico is the world's 5th largest oil producer; 75% of this oil ends up in the United States. The petrochemical industry provides Mexico with a profit of more than \$45 million, but 140,000 of its workers get dirt-poor wages as a result of the deals made by the union to serve the greed of the oil bosses.

Places such as Chiapas and Tabasco are towns in misery, with killings and drug trafficking everyday happenings, and the workers don't understand where the profit they create as part of the industry goes to the bosses' pockets. The supposed achievement of the union, putting five of its representatives on the board of directors of the company, hasn't benefited the workers. It has helped the oil companies to exploit and op-

*continued on p. 7*

# LETTERS

## Small Actions, Long-time Readers Pay Off

I'm enclosing another \$100 check for a donation given for the paper by a long-time reader. He's the owner of a Haitian restaurant whom we first met in the '90s during the InCAR days. His restaurant, new at the time, was being victimized by a racist who lived across the street (and was probably encouraged by the cops constantly ticketing customers who parked around there). It was vandalized several times and racial slurs were shouted at the customers.

We held a small InCAR demonstration in front of the racist's house and since then the restaurant owner has been a regular reader of CHALLENGE! The racist abuse, as well as the parking tickets, also ebbed out after that.

I've learned that even very small struggles, and maintaining long-term CHALLENGE readerships, are worthwhile. Another person whom we first met about 20 years ago, and whom I've been getting the paper to for at least the past 10 years, just recently participated in one of our activities for the first time in many years.

Thanks for keeping up the good work on the paper.  
*A persistent comrade*

## Capitalism: the Ultimate Bacteria

We are taught tremendous hype about how capitalism, through competition for market share (i.e., customers), creates the best quality products. Products that involve health reveal just how profound a lie that really is.

The news today is of a new bacterial species with a mutated gene that makes it resistant to all known antibiotics. Many old bacteria are undergoing mutations that make them more likely to survive and reproduce because they can resist antibiotics. After all, if any bacterium undergoes such a mutation in the presence of an antibiotic, it alone will survive and multiply, and thereby eventually become more common than other types which are killed by the antibiotics. So antibiotics always create new bacteria that are resistant, since mutations happen randomly all the time, and sooner or later a resistant strain will arise.

So how has the field of medicine responded to these new antibiotic-resistant bacteria? By inventing new antibiotics. But here's the problem that capitalism throws in our laps. The new antibiotics require research and development (R&D) and passage through regulatory agencies. That can take 5 to 10 years all told, and it's very expensive. Much of the R&D is covered by government subsidies, often through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), but the development takes place in the laboratories of the giant pharmaceutical companies, i.e., drug companies.

Then, after having the government pay for much of their R&D, the drug companies sell these products at high prices, on the grounds that the R&D is so expensive (even though they didn't pay for much of it). The prices put these life-saving drugs out of reach of more and more people, particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, but increasingly so in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

And now that capitalism is in a financial crisis, and companies are taking fewer and fewer chances, no drug companies want to work on antibiotics. Thus, more and more drug-resistant bacteria are coming into being. Two better known examples are the bacteria that cause tuberculosis and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, known simply as MRSA, (pronounced "MER-sa"). More and more people are dying from these bacteria around the world.

So what happened to "capitalism, through competition for market share (i.e., customers), creates the best quality products"? Fact is, capitalism creates tremendous amounts of junk that we don't need but that millions of us can be coaxed into buying through advertising, particularly by hooking our kids. But when it comes to life-saving medicines, forget it.

This is no trivial problem today, and represents just one more reason why the world's working class needs desperately to get rid of capitalism and set up a communist-led working-class-ruled world.

*Saguaro Rojo*

## International Solidarity with R.R. Strikers in Peru

As recent travelers to Peru, my husband and I were inspired to witness intense struggle and to spend some of our time getting to know international, like-minded workers. Our Salkantay trek (hike to Machu Picchu) was extended by a day because of a railroad strike and road blockades. During our five-day hike with folks from Australia, Portugal and France we had many discussions and one young man showed interest in the PLP website.

On September 24, 1,000 young demonstrators broke into the Cuzco airport wall, causing the airlines to close the airport—giving us yet another day of adventure.

Cuzco was the site of protests earlier in the week of September 20, and a railroad strike in solidarity involved the trains from Cuzco to Machu Picchu. The state and local government have acted in concert to privatize water and land in various areas of Peru. Millions will be spent building the Angostura dam, which will transfer water to other areas such as Sigwas and Majes, affecting the availability of water to locals from the Apurimac River.

In the Arequipa region of Peru, the Chilean government has bought land in Majes, turning it into "Little Chile," with Chilean restaurants. There is no "illegal" immigration between governments so far as profit-making is concerned.

We were able to march with the demonstrators in Cuzco and pointed out how we were going through issues of privatization over water in Newark. I told two women how tenant families of Newark had had their water shut off while delinquent corporations and landlords had unlimited water. I said how these local struggles emphasize the need for internationalism and an end to capitalism. We embraced, and my only regret was in not having armloads of literature.

*Two enthusiastic internationalists*

## Profits First Kills Ten

I've lived in San Bruno, C.A. for a long time. Nothing ever happens here, until a few days ago. The neighborhood just exploded into flames, from

**We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses around the world.**

a natural gas line. The first reports were inaccurate, about a falling plane or a gas station blowing up, and the regional utility, PG&E, denying everything. There were later reports that residents had reported gas odors in the area for at least a few days. I myself have seen required maintenance cut back by PG&E over a period of time. They haven't had official layoffs, but they have not hired for a long time. Attrition has cut back the workers that do all the required maintenance.

As a CHALLENGE reader, I have heard about the aging infrastructure of the U.S. Profits are up, while the workforce is cut back. With taxes going to fund the wars in the Middle East and company money in a falling economy going to profits first, there is less than a minimum for required maintenance of all kinds of systems. We don't know the exact cause yet, but I would expect that lack of maintenance had a lot to do with it. And whatever the exact cause this time, there are many, many more problems like this one waiting to happen for this same reason. This system puts profits above workers' health and safety. We need a system that puts workers' welfare first.

*A Friend in San Bruno*

[Writers Note: In the aftermath of the disaster that resulted in 37 homes destroyed and at least ten dead or missing, as investigators study bones reduced to dust, federal and state investigators have pointed to decades-old, corroded pipes, and manual shut-off valves. (A 1981 federal report on a previous accident called for automatic shut-off valves.) The Sept. 20 issue of the SF Examiner carried a photo of the neighborhood engulfed in flames with the following caption quoting B. McCown, retired U.S. Dept. of Transportation executive: "We really don't have regulations or policies that dictate planning and zoning."

The story below quoted San Francisco Planning Director J. Rahaim as saying planners were unaware of any provision in the planning or building codes requiring builders to consider pipeline safety risk, other than ensuring that lines are not damaged by construction work. All this in an earthquake-prone area.]

## D.C. Jobs Conference

*continued from p. 5*

certain financial transactions by Wall Street. Getting such a tax authorized by the government is far-fetched, since the financial elite rule the U.S. and fight for every dollar they can steal from our pockets, and pull the strings of puppets like Obama and Congress.

Other presenters proposed less aggressive policies. The bill that Conyers has proposed in Congress, for example, argues only for a jobs policy that reduces unemployment gradually (through public sector jobs and enhanced job training) over 10 years until it reaches 4%. This would keep African American unemployment at 8% and for African American teenagers at 12%! In typical capitalist fashion, his staff argued that moving below that level of unemployment might lead to upward pressure on wages and an inflationary spiral — even in a situation where most economists are mainly worried about falling prices!

Two speakers, including a PLP'er, called attention to the challenges of racism and sexism in the existing jobs structure in the U.S. and were critical of any proposal that failed to explicitly address these challenges.

### The Strategies

How to win the battle for jobs? The liberal strategy revolved mainly around electoral and legislative initiatives. Conyers' staff argued that, to win any support for the Conyers bill from other legislators, town hall meetings would have to be launched in congressional districts around the country to bring pressure on the representatives to sign on to the bill. Other presenters argued for a grassroots strategy like that used by commu-

nists in the 1930s, forming local unemployment councils that mobilized workers to stop evictions, demand relief, and fight for local jobs. Still others argued for the creation of anti-racist, anti-sexist worker cooperatives as a step toward ending capitalist domination, but without confronting the capitalists directly.

### The Real Solution

PLP'ers argued that the capitalist system requires unemployment to keep workers' wages down. Its irrational competitive character means that often capitalists are not able to control the crises they create (like today's recession.) The burning need today is the growth of a revolutionary party — the PLP — that mobilizes workers to make a revolutionary fight for communism. Only then can all workers share the work needed for society and meet everyone's needs across the globe.

A critical part of the communist strategy is the grassroots anti-racist struggles for jobs that must include employed and unemployed workers alike. These battles must sharpen the conflict with the bosses rather than compromise and collaborate with the misleaders from the Democratic Party like Conyers, the AFL-CIO, the SEIU, and the NAACP. These forces want to keep the struggle directed towards electing Democrats and keep the struggle within the capitalist structure.

Through communist-led struggles, more workers will learn concretely who their enemies are and how to fight them and thus join the revolutionary movement for communism. The working class will then collectively rule society and profit-driven decisions will be ended for all time. ☘

# Mexico: Seeds of Emerging Struggle Fertile Ground for Revolution

continued from p. 5

press the working class even more.

There are more than 5,000 assembly plants along the border of the United States, the second most important area in the economy, employing about two million workers. Because of the NAFTA treaty, the bosses can get the most work out of them and maintain their profit even in a crisis. The NAFTA agreement has generated more poverty and allowed international companies to exploit Mexican workers even more, as the profits of these companies show earnings of thousands of dollars even in the time of crisis.

Drug-trafficking generates about \$40 billion dollars annually and is the third generator of profits in Mexico according to Seminario. The bourgeoisie profits, even if they hypocritically say they are fighting drugs. They need the violence, killings and kidnappings to intimidate the workers and keep them passive.

The supposed fight against drug-trafficking also works as a screen to disappear and kill union leaders, human rights activists, reporters and politicians that step out of line. Curfews have been imposed like those that were used in dictatorships like Pinochet's Chile. The police raid homes for supposed drug traffickers, when they really know their names and where they are hiding. There are cases such as the 72 immigrants to the United States who were killed in August and found after some of the workers that escaped filed a report. They still don't want to say in whose house the others were killed and are scared to tell the truth, because they know the power of the owner. In reality the ruling class is knee-deep in this, and that is why the investigators have never found an answer.

Neither the PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party), nor the PAN (National Action Party), PDR (Party of the Democratic Revolution) can solve

the problems of the workers, because they all represent the billionaires and drug traffickers. All the things they represent are products of the capitalist system: poverty, exploitation, oppression and corruption.

The union leaders aren't happy because the workers haven't been passive. According to the informative bulletin from IMMEX this year, there have been 918 strikes and demonstrations approved, but only five have been carried out. Volkswagen preferred to set up in Guanajuato and not Puebla, because the average wage in Puebla is higher. Also, in Puebla there is an old tradition of struggle, and the bosses don't want to deal with it.

But now the Volkswagen workers approved a strike for Wednesday the 29th, mainly fighting for a wage increase. We will be with the workers, just as we were with them in the teachers' strike in Oaxaca and the strike from UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) and will bring our communist ideas, because wage movements alone do not fix the lives of workers.

The history of the working class is full of triumphs against the bosses. These are the real stories that capitalists fear and these are the struggles that today continue to inspire workers around the world. The strike of thousands of French workers against their bosses for their pensions, the demonstration of thousands in India against unemployment and for their pensions; these tell the capitalists that we have po-



**BARCELONA, September 29** — Workers here blocked highways in a general strike, part of a Europe-wide "Day of Action" demonstrating against the austerity attacks by European Union bosses. They are demanding recovery plans that benefit workers, for jobs to counter rising unemployment.

tential.

A spark lights a flame, but we need to improve the revolutionary consciousness of the working class. We can't look only at the immediate demands, because we limit our real possibilities. However, the struggles that are happening in the world help us learn that the working class can become class conscious and break away from these imaginary limits, erasing all capitalists with an international communist revolution. ✪

## RED EYE ON THE NEWS

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

### No immigrant problem for bosses

**NYT, 9/23** — In a time of widespread joblessness, Mexicans in New York have proved unusually adept at finding and keeping work....And as they have filled the city's restaurant kitchens and building sites, they have acquired a reputation for an extraordinary work ethic.

"They put their heads down and work..."

One reason Mexicans have found work in such numbers, experts say, is that many are "illegal" immigrants, and less likely to report workplace abuses to the authorities for fear of deportation....

"Employers are quite interested in employing people who are willing to work and to overlook some labor laws."....

"They can call me and say, 'Hey, you've got to come in tomorrow and work....There's nothing I can do. I have to go work.'...."

Many Mexican men in New York left their wives and children behind when they came in search of jobs. Some...say the absence of families makes it easier to endure the hardships...and to focus on work....

"Americans expect accommodations to be made in their personal lives. But these guys have no personal lives."

...While there was nothing intrinsic to their culture or character that made Mexicans better workers than others, a certain pride came with the toil...

Agustin, 45.... found a job this year at a supermarket in Bensonhurst....He now works 12 hours a day, seven days a week, he said, and is paid \$4 an hour, more than \$3 below the minimum wage.

He sends whatever he can back to Mexico...."if I don't work," he said, "they don't eat."

### S. Africa: System robs workers

**GW, 9/24** — The ANC critics claim that it has fallen into the trap of business patronage, corruption and bureaucratic indifference towards millions of poor South Africans....

The ANC conference this week, kick[ed] off with a gala dinner at which a seat at president Zuma's table cost \$73,000. During the week, breakfasts with ministers were to provide business people with direct contact with decision-makers.

"We have an absolute entrée into any ministry."... Others are more harsh on the ANC... "What the ANC, with the endorsement of the Communist party and Cosatu unionists, have developed is a truly amazing system. It allows them to make sweeping promises during elections then stage a fake battle between alliance partners.

"The contending forces manufacture discourses that suggest that what is at stake is something noble and for the benefit of the oppressed and excluded. The...battles crowd out the real questioning of how they run the country. No one takes responsibility, and the spoils are shared [among the insiders]."

### No recession, just a fall in jobs!

**NYT, 9/21** — The United States economy has lost more jobs than it has added since the recovery began over a year ago.

Yes, you read that correctly.

The downturn officially ended, and the recovery officially began, in June 2009, according to an announcement Monday by the official arbiter of economic turning points. Since that point, total output... has increased.... But nonfarm pay-



rolls are still down 329,000 from their level at the recession's official end 15 months ago, and....the unemployed still have a long slog ahead...The recovery thus far has been so anemic that the job picture seems likely to stagnate, and perhaps even get worse, in the near future.

### Black pols help rulers stay on top

**NYT, 9/21** — It's no secret that the president is in trouble politically, and that Democrats in Congress are fighting desperately to hold on to their majorities. But much less attention has been given to the level of disenchantment among black voters, who have been hammered disproportionately by the recession and largely taken for granted by the Democratic Party....

Race is still a very big deal in the United States.... Black leaders like.... Obama try so hard to behave as though they are governing in some sort of pristine civic environment in which the very idea of race has been erased....

The president has consistently seemed more concerned about the needs and interests of those who are already well off, who are hostile to policies that would help working people and ethnic minorities....

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

# Strikers Shut S. Africa, Fight Nationalist ANC Rulers

**SOUTH AFRICA, September 18th** — Government workers in South Africa have sent a message to their working-class brothers and sisters around the world: Even in the depths of capitalism's worst economic crisis in decades, when workers are having our collective lives squeezed out of us to secure the bosses' profits, we, the workers of the world, who produce everything of value, have the potential to bring this system to its knees. Indeed, the strike of 1.3 million teachers, nurses, immigration officers and other government workers has brought South Africa to a virtual halt.

The union representing the government workers, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), is asking for wage increases of 8.6% and an increase in the monthly housing stipend. The government, led by the ruling African National Congress (ANC) has offered a 7.5% rise. Whether the union is successful or not, when workers limit themselves strictly to economic demands such as this, the bosses eventually win. History is littered with examples of workers winning higher wages and better working conditions, only to see these victories eroded when the bosses' require concessions.

In this strike, the victories for the working class and our movement toward a communist future can be seen in other ways: On August 30th, the National Union of Metalworkers (NUMSA) joined the strike, not only shutting down auto manufacturing but displaying workers' solidarity that is key to making revolution. The strike continues even in the face of the bosses' media that portrays the strike as an attack on other workers. (Funny how the media cares so much about workers during a strike, but doesn't give a damn about us otherwise.) As more

and more workers become armed with communist ideas, the "small" victories such as these will be transformed into seeds from which communist revolution will grow.

## South African Public Workers Strike Ends

On September 6, the leaders of 19 public unions declared they were "suspending" the strike of 1.3 million workers so they could "finalize" a deal with the ANC-led nationalist government. For three weeks, schools were shut and hospital services were restricted to emergencies only as the impoverished black working class demanded more money for education, health care and other desperately needed social services. This occurred in the wake of billions that had been lavished on millionaire tourists who came to watch the World Cup last July.

Among other things, the workers were demanding an 8.6% pay raise and a \$130 housing subsidy. When the government finally offered 7.5% and \$104, the union leaders declared "victory" and were tripping over themselves trying to get the workers back to work.

The sons and daughters of the heroic struggle against Apartheid are learning the same lesson as many of the heirs of the Civil Rights movement in the U.S. who voted for Obama. It doesn't matter what color the ruler is, the racist profit system

a progressive labor party periodical • Winter 2010

# THE communist

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must be destroyed with communist revolution. At the height of the struggle against Apartheid, many thousands of S. African workers and youth were part of the communist movement. They marched and fought under red flags. The most militant youth movement was called the "Young Comrades." The armed struggle for communism will eventually be resumed, as we build the international PLP. ✪

## Movie Review:

# 'The Army of Crime': How Red-Led Resistance in France Killed the Nazis

The French film "L'Armée du Crime" (The Army of Crime), through the thrilling story of a French resistance group in Paris during the World War II German occupation, shows the important role in the fight against German fascism played by Jewish and communist immigrants (Poles, Spaniards, Italians, Romanians, Hungarians), not only by French workers.

Moreover, the film shows how French officials eagerly collaborated with the Nazi occupation by arresting and torturing Resistance activists and rounding up Jews and incarcerating them until they were sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where many died. In contrast, the communist-led resistance group FTP-MOI, with many immigrant workers, risked their lives on a daily basis to carry on a war against the German fascists and their French collaborators.

Resistance militants assassinated German soldiers and officers, and bombed bars frequented by the occupiers. The Germans vowed to execute ten Resistance members for every German killed. There was tremendous pressure on the Resistance to stop attacks on German soldiers in order to lessen the repressive response, but the fight continued.

One of central figures in the film is Missan Manouchian, an Armenian communist poet and factory worker, who had seen his family murdered by Turkish soldiers in his home country. He's asked by the French communist party to lead an armed operations group that will carry out attacks on the occupation forces. Missan hates violence and initially refuses the role, but then realizes that there's no alternative to armed struggle. He accepts the mission, but the film brilliantly depicts the inner struggle that rages within him.

The audience comes to know and admire a

number of young Resistants, who daringly carry out missions, including distributing leaflets urging French workers to engage in industrial sabotage. It is heart-wrenching to see most of them eventually arrested and brutally tortured (French military interrogators were expert torturers, as they proved in Algeria and other French colonies), yet they refused to reveal Resistance secrets and were executed. Yet others took their place and the Resistance grew.

The film shows some of the inevitable tensions and disagreements within the organization over which tactics to use, and how much direction the group should receive from the central party. The director demonstrates some anti-communism when he presents some of the party leaders as somewhat insensitive bureaucrats. However, this doesn't overshadow the film's respect and admiration for the communist militants who dealt heavy blows to the fascists in France from 1941 to 1945. ✪



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