

CHALLENGE



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Workers, Students Unite with Dockworkers

Fight Obama-Boss Gang-Up

NEW YORK CITY, January 23 — A steady winter rain couldn't dampen the spirit of 75 workers and students as we picketed the federal building in lower Manhattan this evening in support of dockworkers in Longview, Washington. Representing a half-dozen unions and college campuses, the protesters challenged the Obama administration's support of EGT, a union-busting grain consortium. The U.S. Coast Guard has deployed boats and helicopters to escort tankers making deliveries to EGT's newly constructed grain terminal, which is being operated by scab labor.

EGT made \$2.5 billion last year, but it plans to make a lot more by opening its Longview terminal without hiring workers from the ILWU, the longshoremen's union whose members have worked this port for 70 years. Instead, it brought in a scab union, Operating Engineers Local 701. This is a crude attempt on the part of a major corporation to break the back of the ILWU. If EGT succeeds, port companies all along the West Coast will smell blood and look to hire non-union workers.

The longshoremen have some formidable enemies. The police have arrested hundreds of protesting workers. The corporate media have attacked their struggle. The national AFL-CIO — led by sellout Richard Trumka — has refused to support their cause, calling the matter a "jurisdictional dispute." The National Labor Relations Board has filed an injunction against the union to prevent further protests.

Despite these obstacles, the workers are fighting hard, realizing that losing would be devastating. In July, after workers blocked train deliveries to the terminal and one hundred were arrested. In September, 500 dock workers and supporters defied the police and took over the port, stopping deliveries and dumping grain.

Many of us at the picket line this evening — transit workers, teachers, professors — are working without a contract. Others have had concessionary contracts forced down their throats. We were there tonight because we understand that our local struggles are part of a larger class war between the small ruling class of owners on the one hand (along with the politicians and union sellouts who serve them), and the working class on the other.



Progressive Labor Party brings to the struggle the understanding that this war can only be resolved by workers taking state power and running society — not for the obscene profit of a few, but for the benefit of all. ☪

Mark Anniversary of Haiti Quake

International Solidarity from Port-au-Prince to Brooklyn



OAKLAND, January 28 — More than 400 Occupiers were arrested in clashes with the cops during a series of marches and actions, including an invasion of City Hall. After laying off workers, the City spends \$5 million for cops' pay to attack protesters.

BROOKLYN, NY, January 12 — In Port-au-Prince, Haiti, students marked the anniversary of the 2010 earthquake with a march between two campuses of UEH, the State University of Haiti, while simultaneously PLP rallied in a Brooklyn neighborhood where many workers from Haiti live.

Our banner here read, in English, Kreyòl, French and Spanish: "International Solidarity with Haitian Workers: The Struggle Will Go On!" We distributed more than 500 Party flyers, along with CHALLENGE, and gathered over 100 signatures on a solidarity petition to be sent to five union and student groups in Haiti, supporting their efforts to defend themselves against the failed system of Haitian local bosses under imperialist control.

Students spoke in Kreyòl and English about the need to abolish capitalism itself, both in the U.S. and in Haiti, and to build a worker-run society, egalitarian communism. Our bullhorn echoed through the busy intersection as thousands of workers hurrying home heard the communist message.

Just as Bill Clinton's vaunted "reconstruction" has failed in Haiti (his Interim Haiti Recovery Commission folded last October), capitalism itself is failing everywhere. Consider these racist unemployment figures: 80% in Haiti, 70% in Pakistan, 70% among youth in South Africa, 20% in Spain, 17% in France, 21% in the U.S., (50% among black youth).

Capitalism is a system of production for profit but because of overproduction and a credit crisis, its drive to maintain profits has thrown 250 million workers worldwide onto

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Election Dogfight Underlies 'State of Union'

U.S. Ruling Class Faces Internal Crisis

In Barack Obama's State of the Union address, he said:

We can either settle for a country where a shrinking number of people do really well while a growing number of Americans barely get by, or we can restore an economy where everyone gets a fair shot, and everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules.

In reality, however, Obama and the U.S. ruling class he serves cannot possibly produce economic fairness. Because capitalism is a super-exploitative, racist, sexist system, based on the drive for maximum profits, it is inherently unequal. "Fairness" would require eliminating the system itself.

Under capitalism, bosses and bankers own the means of production while they themselves produce nothing. Workers create everything of value and, for the most part, receive just enough to sur-

Politician	Backers	Platform	What it means for the working class
Barack Obama	Liberal Rockefeller wing of the ruling class; JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Exxon Mobil	All class unity; rich and workers pay more to expand U.S. dominance in the Middle East and rest of Asia	Maintain bosses' dictatorship; "sacrifices" in form of mass racist cutbacks and mobilization for war
Mitt Romney	Rockefeller forces, Goldman Sachs	50 percent increase in Navy; expand U.S. dominance in the Pacific	Maintain bosses' dictatorship; mass murders of workers in the Asia-Pacific region
Newt Gingrich	Pro-Israel billionaire Sheldon Adelson	Tackle "radical Islamism"; soft on taxes and China	Maintain bosses' dictatorship; child labor in U.S.; super-exploitation of workers in Asia
Ron Paul	Smaller bosses; conservative Cato Foundation	Isolationist; draw back U.S.'s role in world to fatten up local U.S. bosses	Maintain bosses' dictatorship; racist, sexist elimination of social programs for the working class
DON'T		VOTE,	REVOLT & ORGANIZE!
The Progressive Labor Party	The international working class	Destroy capitalism. See "Our Fight" box	A communist egalitarian society for all workers

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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vive — if that. Phony "Fair Share" Obama is cynically trying to manipulate Occupy Wall Street-inspired sentiment for the section of the ruling class he represents.

No matter what popular phrases he opportunistically mouths in the run-up to this November's election, Obama has no room in his agenda for the redistribution of wealth. His proposals to raise taxes on the very rich and to tighten regulation of investors have a different aim entirely. They are designed to enable the most powerful imperialist bosses to wage the ever-wider wars they need in order to control energy resources and cheap labor, the vital elements in maintaining U.S. supremacy over its capitalist rivals.

War and Taxes At Heart of 2012 Election Circus

But not all U.S. capitalists have the same vested interest in U.S. imperialism. As a result, taxes and war will likely be the central focus of the 2012 election dogfight, which Obama kicked off with his blatant campaign speech in the State of the Union. The candidates' positions differ according to their capitalist backers' varying needs. The spectrum runs from arch-imperialist Obama to isolationist Ron Paul.

But for the working class, none of these candidates will solve its problems: mass racist, long-term unemployment; constantly shrinking wages; foreclosed homes; prison-like schools; mass detention and deportation of workers who are immigrants; and a criminal injustice system that imprisons 2.4 million people, of whom 70 percent are black and Latino (see page 5). Capitalist-created horrors confront the working class worldwide even more intensively, especially in the U.S.-spawned imperialist wars that slaughter millions in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Obama's War Moves

On January 24, Obama asked Congress to hike rich people's taxes and revive manufacturing, steps required for mobilization for armed

conflict with China. (Saving the auto industry means saving the means to produce tanks and armored personnel carriers in wartime.) Obama's supposedly pro-worker pronouncements came shortly after he had installed a new Marine base in Australia and officially "rebalanced" the Pentagon "toward the Asia-Pacific region."

Obama represents the dominant, liberal Rockefeller wing of U.S. bosses who financed his election. Their financial and energy firms (JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Exxon Mobil, Chevron) operate in virtually every country on earth, and are on a collision course with China's rising capitalists. Liberal Obama bankroller George Soros has bought big into Petrobras, a Brazilian oil company and its potential 4.9 million barrels per day, a prize for which Washington and Beijing are now jockeying.

Romney and Gingrich Clash Over Mobilizing Against China

If the sinking economy winds up wrecking Obama's drive for re-election, the next U.S. president most likely will be Republican Mitt Romney, who stands close behind Obama in his loyalty to U.S. imperialists. Romney's primary source of election cash is U.S. global investment flagship Goldman Sachs. Like many U.S. capitalists, Goldman Sachs has ties to the Rockefeller forces but keeps a foot in both camps.

Romney wants to keep the current tax rates but doesn't explain how he intends to fund his proposed 50 percent increase in Navy ships. He pledges to "maintain robust military capabilities in the Pacific" and "implement a strategy that makes the path of regional hegemony for China far more costly than the alternative." Although Obama is ideal for the bosses' campaign to rally U.S. workers to their imperialist war agenda, the U.S. establishment could also live with Romney. That's why its leading mouthpiece, the New York Times, editorialized, "Newt Gingrich will pass like a tantrum. That leaves us with a general election between two serious and certifiably sane candidates" (11/13/11).

Gingrich's financial backers are soft on both taxes and China. He wants to abolish levies on capital gains and never mentions China on his national security webpage. "Radical Islamism" constitutes his chief global foe. No wonder that Gingrich's top backer is the pro-Israel, billionaire casino owner, Sheldon Adelson, who has ongoing deals with China's rulers to set up gambling dens there. The Gingrich-Romney divide crystallized last fall when Gingrich branded Romney as a friend of the Rockefeller imperialists: "It's not that he's a Mormon. It's his Nelson Rockefeller problem" (Wall Street Journal, 10/16/11).

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.

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SCHOOLS, NOT JAILS



BALTIMORE, January 16 — As another strong step in the struggle against Maryland Governor O'Malley's plan to build a new \$100-million youth jail, a bold protest rally was organized by Occupy Baltimore, Schools Not Jails and the Baltimore Algebra Project.

While a sizeable group of supporters erected a huge tent, and as volunteers brought supper for everyone, six people defied state and local police by crossing the fenced perimeter of the would-be construction site. A large truck of pre-fabricated construction material was collectively unloaded. Then pieces of a one-room, red wooden school house were passed, hand to hand, up to and over the fence.

As kkkops decided exactly what to do and when, the six people who had entered the site managed — before being arrested — to finish building the schoolhouse, symbolizing the demand being chanted: "Education, not Incarceration!" One of the six, a teacher, also managed to conduct a brief

class, repeated in mic-check Occupy-style by everyone at the support rally, just outside the fence. The class cited anti-racist lessons to be learned from the life of Frederick Douglass.

Meanwhile, all 50 CHALLENGES that were brought were eagerly taken by rally participants. In an electrifying moment, a young comrade, recognizing the need for mass advocacy of Progressive Labor Party's revolutionary ideas, took the initiative to give a dynamic and well-received speech, explaining the necessity for working-class revolution and communism.

It's now appears that the governor and the local ruling class may back down on this issue, at least for now, and forego construction of the new jail. Even of more profound importance is the emergence of a new PLP study group, led by young comrades, to help create the next generation of revolutionary leaders.

Dare to struggle, dare to win!✊

Haiti Quake

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the streets. Meanwhile, U.S. banks sit on \$2 trillion of capital they will not release for investment in real production. So workers' needs simply go unmet.

As Karl Marx showed, these crises inevitably have recurred throughout capitalism's entire history. The bosses' solution to maintain profits during crises is to redivide the pie and destroy workers' lives through gigantic inter-imperialist wars. Haiti too, as an "ally," will be caught up in the major war brewing between the U.S. imperialists and their rivals.

The bosses' proclaimed programs of aid to Haiti have gone mostly right back to the bosses themselves, not to workers there. The vast majority of the \$4.59 billion in international aid to Haiti went to the donor governments themselves, to major "vulture capitalists" who swoop in to profit from natural disasters, and to the big NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) with their expensive overhead costs.

For example, \$600 million of the \$1.6 billion the U.S. Congress eventually released went to the U.S. Department of Defense to reimburse it for deploying 20,000 troops to Haiti to guard against post-quake rebellions. (For details see "Haiti: Seven Places Where Earthquake Money Did and Did Not Go," at <http://www.commondreams.org/view/2012/01/03-2>.) We can never count on any capitalist, only on ourselves as one international working class.

These January 12 actions are small steps in PLP's strategic effort to revive the proletarian internationalism so necessary for all workers to defend ourselves, defying the bosses' borders. We see this urgent need as the big imperialists prepare for world war, most menacingly right now in the flash point of the Hormuz Strait near Iran (see CHALLENGE editorial, 1/18).

The mistakes of the old communist movement, as it collapsed because of the abandonment of its principles, dragged the red flag of internationalism into the mud. In 1943, the Soviet leadership, with the agreement of the Chinese and other communist parties, dissolved the Communist International (the Comintern) and lapsed into a loose collection of national parties. This retreat came directly from the parties' united front with the capitalist "Allies" in the war against fascism. The Soviets and the others saw abolishing the Comintern as necessary to reassure the Allies that they were safe from communist revolution at home — in essence abandoning workers to their own bosses in the Allied countries.

We need a new version of the Comintern! PLP is organizing as a single international party, a step beyond the Comintern coalition form. This is a gigantic task, but the principle is clear, as we chanted today: "Same Enemy, Same Fight: Workers of the World Unite!"

Workers have no country and want no country: as workers our "country" is the whole world. Workers in Haiti need both solidarity from the entire international working class as well as to contribute to it. From small actions like these simultaneous rallies a great movement will grow.✊

Rank-&-File Battles NJ School Privatization

NEWARK, NJ, January 26 — Education workers are angry. The Newark Teachers Union (NTU) has let teachers and support staff go two years without a contract with no end in sight. Most schools are falling apart and some are hazardous. Students are forced to suffer through state testing every year only to be told their improvement is still insufficient. The NTU addresses neither issue with members or the Newark community.

This is hardly surprising given the lack of resistance from NTU leaders against ruling-class unity on education reform. The recently passed Urban Hope Act is a prime example. It allows private companies to build and manage public schools using public funds. Up to 12 schools in the mainly black and Latino districts of Newark, Camden, and Trenton will be affected. The largest teacher's union in the state, the New Jersey Educators Association (NJEA), supported this pro-corporate, for-profit legislation.

The NTU leadership did nothing to inform the rank-and-filers about this law, much less organize against it. Further, liberals and conservatives in the privatization debate want teachers to churn out pro-capitalist ideas to maintain this crisis-ridden system. Under capitalism, education is a private industry for the accumulation of profit.

Workers' Response

Some education workers in the NTU are responding to the union misleadership by forming a caucus. To align the caucus with the class nature of Newark, it was named Newark Education Workers (NEW) Caucus. The NEW Caucus held three steering committee meetings and two general membership meetings. PL'ers participated to push the struggle to the left.

Three main ideological struggles took place. The first was winning workers to understand the importance of developing a working-class consciousness. The second was to recognize that alienation — the commodification and separation of workers from their labor and from themselves as producers — is a product of capitalism. Alienation makes workers feel like a cog in a wheel. Overlooking this is the primary issue preventing more education workers from fighting back, not apathy. Apathy is a bourgeois myth that functions to blame workers for their inaction, not the misery-inducing capitalist system. The third was to increase the fight against oppression, especially racism, both inside and outside the NTU.

When working on the mission statement for the caucus, it did not take much struggle to persuade education workers that alienation was the primary barrier to more workers participating in the union. Members of the NEW Caucus are also working toward building unity with all workers and students in Newark, the source of proletarian strength.

Fighting Against Racism is Primary

Much to the surprise of a PL'er, the issue of fighting racism took much struggle. A caucus member said union leaders were not defending black and Latino workers in the NTU. Another person then brought up the need to defend students by fighting racist attacks within and outside of the school system.

For some, racism was seen as a personal thing that individuals use against one another and thus no longer a primary problem in society. PL'ers must point out that racism is a class issue and source of immense super profits. Some workers believe we live in a "post-racial" society, a myth the ruling class has worked hard to spread. Another member added that if the mission statement opposed racism then it would have to include all the other "-isms" like ageism.

After much struggle, caucus members acknowledged racism as a major social problem necessary to fight back against. It is one of the ruling class's main weapons in dividing and conquering workers. Anti-racist language was included in the mission statement.

The next step is another mass meeting in two weeks with rank-and-file education workers. Committees will be formed, direct actions will be proposed, and discussion will ensue over how best to introduce the caucus to NTU (mis) leaders. Be assured that the essence of the NEW Caucus will be reformist, even if militant at times. But with struggle and CHALLENGE, PLP can build a base with fellow education workers by consistently pushing anti-racist class struggle towards communism. PLP hopes to win these workers to fight for a communist world where education is for the benefit of all workers, not for the profit of the ruling class.✊

Books vs. Profits: Protest Bosses' Grab of Gary's Main Library

GARY, IN, January 21 — For over a month, a small but dedicated group of local activists have been leading a campaign against the Gary Public Library Board's racist closing of the city's downtown main library branch. Although the branch stopped its services last December 30th, the group shows no signs of giving up on the struggle.

The roots of the library board's decision to close the downtown branch date back to last spring, when the president, Tony Walker, started to unveil plans for a museum/cultural center that would operate for a profit in the current library building. Among other points, Walker stated that the building in its current state was structurally unsound and in drastic need of renovations. In a "public" meeting that hardly represented the voice or interests of the city's citizens, the board voted to end the library services in the downtown building and forge ahead with the plans for the cultural center.

For those familiar with the political scene in Gary, the corrupt actions by the elected and appointed officials were business as usual. All meetings that are open to input from local residents involve the city council members quickly pushing their anti-working class motions through early on during the session, then opening the floor briefly to public comments, well after the point that the citizens' opinion on the issue can have any effect!

This joke of a public proceeding is a microcosm of capitalist "democracy": creating the illusion that the workers have a say on the decisions that affect

their class, when in fact the bosses already have their minds made up about how they can screw us yet again.

On January 2nd, a few days after the downtown branch closed its doors to the public, a group of activists braved the frigid conditions and rallied in front of the facility. Gary residents and other local allies explained a myriad of harmful effects that were bound to occur as a result of the main branch closing. Some of the concerns brought up included how those unemployed could no longer use the free internet and computers to apply for jobs, how the library staff would likely not be retained to work in the new museum and how members of the whole community are losing a centralized and effective resource of information.

Aside from these unethical consequences of their actions, the library board may very well have engaged in some illegal activity as well. From the first time the plans for the cultural center were proposed, the activists have questioned the legality of using public funds — that were generated via taxes specifically designated for library use — to finance a project that will be of far less use to the community. In fact, the board members were quick to point out that the costs of renovating the library would surpass two million dollars, completely neglecting to mention the fact that to remodel the building as a museum would likely be double that!

The group opposing the closing of the library recently met with the mayor of the city to express

our dissatisfaction. Though recently elected and no doubt seeking public approval, she was clearly hesitant and reluctant to agree to the group's demand to recall the four members of the library board who voted in favor of closing the main branch. The mayor, who personally appointed one of those four members, insisted that we continue to circulate our petition. After that, she told us, she would consider holding a public hearing.

A few PL members have been active in this struggle since the Jan. 2nd rally. Although those currently involved in the small group are very motivated and passionate in their efforts, the struggle will no doubt need to expand to include a wide variety of activists, especially the youth of Gary, if we hope to succeed in not only re-opening the library, but keeping the flame of working-class militancy burning as well. We PL members plan to commit much time and effort to raising the issue at our local university in order to get more people involved in the fight.

With fierce commitment and sharp communist leadership, the crooked politicians in Gary will begin to notice that the working-class residents of the city are no longer taking their racist attacks lying down. Under capitalism, libraries and a proper education are luxuries for an increasingly elite few. Under communism, both will be top priorities for all workers. It is our task to convince the working-class that a communist future is the only one worth fighting for. More on this struggle to come!✊

Minnesota: March in Solidarity with Occupiers Worldwide

MINNEAPOLIS, January 28 — In international solidarity with our working-class brothers and sisters of Tahir Square and our fellow anti-capitalists in Athens, London, Paris and Rome, the Minnesota Occupiers held Occupy Space Day in Minneapolis. It was thrilling!

A contingent of 70 demonstrators marched through the Steven Square and Eliot Park downtown neighborhoods protesting income inequality and housing evictions. Minneapolis has one of the Midwest's highest eviction rates, after Chicago. Our demonstrators were men and women, black, white and bi-racial, union activists, workers and college students. While many were reformist in outlook, many others were anti-capitalists.

The kkkops harassed us initially but left before the march's main event. In Eliot Park where the march ended there was an anti-capitalist speech declaring international solidarity with our working-class brothers and sisters in Egypt and with other global protestors against racist, imperialist capitalism.

The speech was in front of an abandoned church that Hennepin County declared county property. An unused church could be used as a workers' cultural community center. However, the county bosses want to hold onto it rather than give it to workers, so we took it!



One speaker declared, "We take this property in the name of the Minneapolis oppressed!" The doors were forced open and we had a party! We held it for one hour before the cops gave us 15 minutes to clear out or be arrested. We all left together, orderly and disciplined.

Despite that outcome it was a small victory because workers are slowly learning we don't have to take oppression, that we can collectively fight back. Workers took all the CHALLENGES I had. Personally the march and occupation made me think of the 1871 Paris Commune and the 1968 general strike in France.

This is a great time to be alive because the PLP will show millions of workers globally the revolutionary path to communism!

Minnesota Red

Jobs, Not Jails! Protest Wells Fargo's Investments in Racist Private Prisons



WASHINGTON, DC, January 25 — For more than two months, the Criminal Injustice Committee (CIC) of the Occupy DC movement has been battling the Wells Fargo bank to stop its support of the racist private prison system. In mid-December, more than 100 occupiers protested at the Wells Fargo branch in the mainly black Shaw neighborhood. Every Friday afternoon since then, a team of occupiers has leafleted there to urge its customers to close their accounts. Recently the CIC has expanded its boycott activities to a second branch office in Columbia Heights, where many black and Latino workers live.

On January 24, a second demonstration was held there in solidarity with protests at the Florida meeting of financiers involved with the GEO private prison company. The CIC also marched in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade on January 22. The black working-class onlookers gave a rousing cheer to our "Jobs not jails!" chant, and quickly took all of our leaflets and CHALLENGEs.

The capitalist system requires and reinforces racist institutions in order to maintain social control and maximize its profits (see "Smash Racism: A Fighter's Manual" at www.plp.org). Capitalism systematically ensures the super-exploitation of African American workers by criminalizing and marginalizing them in what has been called the New Jim Crow (see adjoining article).

More than 60,000 DC residents have criminal records, mostly due to the bogus, racist "war on drugs." The majority are jailed not for new crimes but for parole violations that are almost impossible to avoid. Half of those with criminal records are unemployed because it is lawful to discriminate against individuals for prior convictions. Wages and working conditions are driven down for these workers, and ultimately for all workers, as a result of this massive branding of black workers.

A similar institutional process is apparent for Latino immigrants, who face intense harassment, unjust jailings, and massive deporta-

tions. In the last three years, more than a million immigrants have been forced out of the U.S. under Barack Obama's accelerated deportation proceedings. Meanwhile, 35,000 individuals are held in camps under the expansion of mandatory civil detention for non-citizens by Obama's liberal predecessor, Bill Clinton, in 1996.

The surge in detention has resulted in horrid conditions, including grossly inadequate health care, physical and sexual abuse, and overcrowding. One Latino worker pressed a twenty-dollar bill in our hand to support our work against detention centers. We learned that his entire family was being held with no end in sight.

The Wells Fargo campaign is merely one element of the attack on the criminal justice system and by extension the entire capitalist system. Why Wells Fargo? All banks are ruthless. But Wells Fargo

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U.S. Bosses' New Jim Crow Slavery

When slavery in the U.S. was finally abolished in the mid-1800s as a result of the Civil War, the problems of formerly enslaved Africans did not end. Capitalist-inspired racist ideology helped enable the bosses to exploit black labor to a higher degree than it did white labor. Prison chain gangs were fed by arbitrary arrests and convictions, injustices cloaked by Jim Crow laws. The thirteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution that purported to end slavery contains the following loophole: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States....[Emphasis added — ed.]

"Crimes" used to justify imprisonment and enslavement after the formal end to slavery included vagrancy (essentially unemployment), which was so vaguely defined that any black man could be convicted of it. Much the same happens today with arrests and convictions for drug "crimes." One key aspect to this sham of justice, then and now, was that state legislatures and Congress define many offenses as crimes without victims — no victims, that is, other than the person arrested. Among victimless crimes, possession of drugs is the contemporary equivalent to vagrancy.

With the skyrocketing of the U.S. prison population in recent decades, beginning with the political manipulation of "crime in the streets" by Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, and escalating with the "War on Drugs" under Ronald Reagan, a huge proportion of black workers — mainly men — have been re-enslaved. In Chicago, for example, 55 percent of adult black men have felony records. Overall, black men in the U.S. are incarcerated more than six times the rate for white men. They have a one-in-four chance of being jailed during their lifetimes; and one in fourteen are in jail or prison at any one time (see PLP pamphlet "Prison Labor: Fascism U.S. Style").

The U.S. prison population, the largest in the world, is 70 percent black and Latino in a country where black and Latino people represent only 29 percent of the population. Latino workers are also imprisoned far out of proportion to their share of the population. The vast majority are behind bars for non-violent violations of drug laws, which were deliberately designed to turn a medical problem into a criminal act. Contrary to capitalist propaganda, however, the proportions of black and white workers who use or deal in drugs, is approximately the same, between 6 and 7 percent.

Of late, the label of "drug criminal" is increasingly and falsely applied to Latino immigrants, the vast majority of whom come to the U.S. to find jobs that have been destroyed in their native countries by U.S. corporations. In the drive for maximum profit, corporate capital moves south across Latin America and dispossesses millions of rural workers of their land and livelihoods. This creates an army of unemployed workers who are available for the ever-shifting needs of global corporations.

Today's equivalents to the slave drivers' guns and whips are the police, courts, jails and prisons. After Congress upgraded drug charges from misdemeanors to felonies, convictions or forced plea bargains for drug possession leave people ineligible for the rest of their lives for food stamps, public housing, and — in practice — from most jobs. This in turn all but destroys the opportunity to have and love a family. No other country brands drug possessors as felons or imprisons them for victimless "crimes" at anywhere near the rate in the U.S.

Although chain gangs were abolished in the early 1900s, the entire working class remains bound to this day to the capitalist class. Chattel slavery (enforced by chain, whip, and gun) has simply been replaced by wage, debt and prison slavery, where workers are chained to their jobs by the underlying threat of homelessness and starvation. Immediately after the Civil War, black and white sharecroppers were primarily bound by debt slavery; they incurred financial obligations to their landlords that they could never pay off. In today's financial crisis, mortgages, rent, and credit card debt play a similar role. In place of the slave driver and bounty hunter, the banks and large property owners force us to do the capitalists' bidding.

The racist inequalities of capitalism injure all workers. According to a study by economist Michael Reich, the places in the U.S. where wage differentials between white and black workers are greatest are also the places where the wages for all workers are lowest. The capitalists need racism to justify the super-exploitation of certain groups of workers. Racism is also the capitalists' main tool to divide the working class — both in the reform struggle for higher wages and better working and living conditions, and in the revolutionary movement to destroy capitalism altogether. In fighting back against racism, workers are laying the indispensable foundation for a communist revolution and a communist world.☺

(See references online.)

DC Occupiers Prepare for Park Cops' Attack



WASHINGTON, DC, January 31 — After prodding from the richest man in Congress, Darrell Issa of California, who heads the colonial committee overseeing the District of Columbia, the U.S. Park Police are moving against Occupy DC at McPherson Square. Several people have been arrested, including one who was unjustifiably tasered by the cops and a PL'er who is falsely charged with assault on a police officer and resisting arrest. Occupiers have erected a giant tent over the statue of General McPherson (a Civil War hero) and are preparing for an attack by Park Police. Stay tuned!☺

LETTERS

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

King Birthday: Media Hides How Racist Capitalism Maintains Slavery

On January 16, the U.S. government and media celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and some months ago dedicated a new statue honoring him in Washington, D.C. All of the bosses' media find something in King to praise. Even most right-wingers laud his non-violence, which was more a service to the capitalist ruling class than to the working class.

Some judged King a danger to the current power structure and assassinated him in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was supporting a workers' struggle there for the right to organize unions and against racism as he saw it. But imagine if he had pointed out that no worker — black, white, Latino and anywhere worldwide — would be free of exploitation by the bosses, as long as capitalism exists. Then the media and the bosses would refer to him as an enemy of "freedom and democracy."

Confining his approach to workers' rights under capitalism, the ruling class viewed him as an ally. Though far from his intent, King's limited outlook made him, in fact, a misleader of the working class, which needs desperately to overthrow capitalist rule with a communist-led revolution. Nothing else will ever succeed in eliminating racism.

The more liberal columnists claim "we have come a long way" since the days of segregation, lynchings and Jim Crow laws, but admit there's still a long way to go. They imply there's been a one-way direction in the history of racism, namely improvement.

This view completely ignores the changed forms racism has taken in the U.S. over the centuries since the first slaves were stolen from their homes in Africa. While the Civil War ended chattel slavery, it was replaced by its modern form — wage slavery.

A more accurate view is one of class struggle — a tug of war in which various forms of racism strengthen and weaken, as a result of extreme, and usually violent, working-class struggle against it, generally led by black workers.

"The New Jim Crow" (2010), a book by a black lawyer, Michelle Alexander, describes the huge upsurge in imprisonment of black workers that destroys lives of entire families. This upsurge has been part of a plan by all administrations since Nixon's in the 1970s — including Obama's — called "The War on Drugs"; more accurately it's a war on black workers. Rather than having come "a long way" from Jim Crow laws, she recognizes that these laws are still present, and have merely changed form.

Segregation in housing has changed little, and in some areas, due to a modest rise in the black professional class who can afford suburban housing. Ratios of black income to white income have

fluctuated slightly but are still miserably low (around 60%), and ratios of black to white wealth (accumulations of income from year to year) are even lower (about 5% of white wealth several years ago).

Racism in hiring and layoffs is still the rule, despite laws that paper it over, a permanent feature due to the central role that racism plays in capitalist profits and maintenance of class power. For a detailed pamphlet see www.plp.org — "Smash Racism: A Fighter's Manual."

The forms of racism and its intensity may change from time to time as a result of class struggle, but only communism will end it. Only communism can eliminate the capitalist class, whose very existence depends vitally on racism for super profits and to keep the working class divided and too weak to overthrow capitalism. Leaders like King only serve to prolong our exploitation, even if it's unintentional.

Saguaro Rojo

Diego Rivera Art Captures Revolutionary Class Struggle

The communist Diego Rivera was an influential and iconic artist who was also a great hero to the international working class. As part of an exhibition, his art has returned to New York City within the midst of an upsurge in working-class resistance to bourgeois rule. A poster of a Rivera mural, replete with red flags, striking workers, charging soldiers, and a mother holding an infant while pushing a soldier's saber bearing arm away from killing her, is all over NYC subway stations. Ironically, the Metropolitan Transit Authority and museum bosses who put the posters up are helping more and more of the working class to see communist art. It is also telling that graffiti hasn't marked up the posters of Rivera's mural.

Man's Crossroads was another mural that was too radically communist for Rockefeller because it positively depicted Lenin and a workers' state. It was chipped off of the wall it was painted on before it could be completed. Today, humanity's crossroads still lies between another barbaric, imperialist war to enrich the bosses and the truly civilizing force of communism. It is an important understanding for the international working class to have. Diego Rivera's art continues to be timeless because it captured the essence of revolutionary class struggle, and scientific communism versus barbaric capitalism.

It is quite ironic that with the upsurge in class struggle, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) would choose to display Rivera. The capitalists are showing his art off as a trophy much like the Caesars would show off defeated kings. They want us workers to believe that the communist movement is dead irrelevant history. MoMA did intersperse

some anti-Stalinism into the exhibit, but there was no way that they could hide the open adoration of Lenin that Rivera showed in his murals.

PL teachers should organize trips to see these murals and discuss them with our students. We should also discuss them with our friends. Rivera's communist politics are a rich part of working-class history.

Red art admirer

OWS'ers Admire CHALLENGE, Hit Obama, Bush and Bloomberg

A member of a study group and I had long exchanges with four or five people at Zuccotti Park while getting out 500 papers. Almost everyone, from tourists to people dressed in business attire, took the paper after only reading the headline ("Bosses Aim to Pacify Occupy Wall Street"), thoughtfully nodding.

One young lady from Cuba, who said she'd been here since age 7, told us right away that she knew all about Marxism and that her parents had left Cuba without a backward glance because her father had been very outspoken against Castro. Her parents had warned her not to come to the park because it was full of terrorists. She saw that they were not.

Another man was sweeping debris with his own broom and dustpan. He looked to be of retirement age and told me he'd been a seaman and then a restaurant worker and came there every day for five to six hours to clean up. He said the only terrorists were Bush and Bloomberg. The people the U.S. honored as heroes were hired killers, he said, and these people in the park were the real heroes. He had trusted Obama but was now 100% disappointed and would tell him what he thought but couldn't afford to discuss this over dinner with Obama at \$10-20,000 in the same company that Bush had kept.

He was from Greece and said ancient Greece had called itself a democracy but had slaves; I said U.S. capitalism had the same kind of democracy and had been founded on slavery. He went on to talk about when Greece had a man in the leadership who called himself a communist but only dictated orders. I said how the communism we would fight for had to be understood by millions of people through struggle and discussion.

One of our last conversations was with a student who had been raised in Youngstown, Ohio. He had just the night before told his friends that he felt he might have to give his life to fight for a better future for his children. He did not believe in voting since politicians could be bought. We met because he asked for a second paper and took ten more after our talk. We will keep in touch.

Two visitors

Election Dogfight

continued from page 2

But the problematic and erratic Gingrich is not yielding to Romney as conveniently as the main rulers wish. He recently terrified them by trouncing Romney in South Carolina's primary, triggering an anti-Gingrich frenzy in the capitalist media. They've turned up the pressure for Romney to win in Florida.

Ron Paul is backed by the smaller bosses. The darling of the conservative Cato Foundation, Paul appeals to U.S. businesses that either do not operate overseas or do not wish to antagonize their foreign hosts. He says that both the Internal Revenue Service (the federal tax collector) and the U.S.'s military role as "the world's policeman" should be eliminated immediately. But he may be playing a double game, which would explain why the main rulers tolerate him. A potential third-party bid by Paul could split conservative Republicans' vote and help a beleaguered Obama.

Looming Pre-Election Surprise: Attack on Iran?

Confronting China, the Rockefeller wing's biggest platform issue, looms years away for U.S. rulers. But a clash with Iran could well come before Election Day. The New York Times prepped its readers for an October (or earlier) surprise that would strengthen the U.S. imperialists' hand. It devoted much of its Sunday Magazine (1/29/12) to an article by a well-connected Israeli journalist named Ronen Bergman. He concluded, "After speaking with many senior Israeli leaders and chiefs of the military and the intelligence, I have come to believe that Israel will indeed strike Iran in 2012." Responses from Iran's allies — Syria, Hamas and Hezbollah — and from U.S. bosses could lead to "full-scale

war" in the Middle East, Bergman wrote.

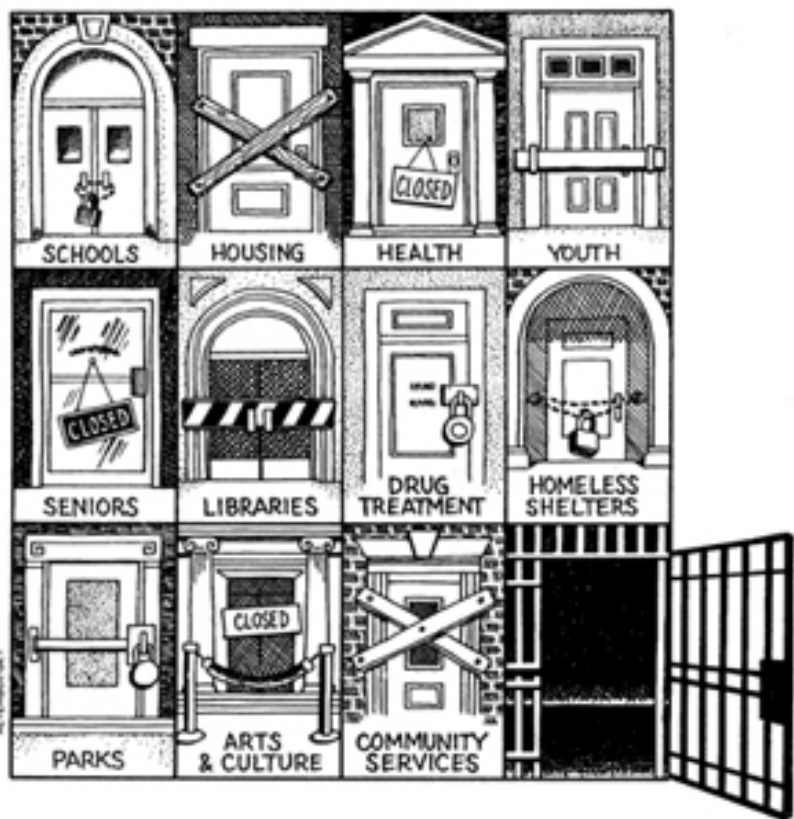
For the working class, the only political alternative to Obama, Romney, Gingrich and Paul is our Progressive Labor Party. No matter which of the bosses' candidates wins, the ruling class's agenda will prevail. We reject the electoral process

that rewards one or another capitalist faction. Instead, we work painstakingly on the job and in the unions, schools, neighborhoods and churches to eradicate the death-dealing profit system. We immerse ourselves in and help to lead class struggles in these areas (see reports on pages 1, 3, 4 and 5) to win workers and youth to join and build the PLP.

Bringing masses of workers to our Party will motivate millions to actions far more meaningful than flipping a lever in a voting booth. It will produce a revolutionary communist movement to create a society that dumps the bosses and establishes workers' power. Then the international working class, which has always produced all value, will share it according to workers' needs. ☺

FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD
BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL PLP!
PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Racist Private Prisons



continued from page 5

in particular profits from its extensive business with the GEO Group, the second largest private prison owner, and second to none in its brutality towards incarcerated individuals. Wells Fargo is GEO's largest investor (owning more than \$100 million in stock) and serves as its underwriter, broker and financial advisor.

At the Rivers Correctional Facility in Winton, NC, GEO incarcerates nearly a thousand residents of the District of Columbia. CIC members have met many former Rivers inmates with horror stories to tell, from snakes in the toilets (from the adjacent swamp) to negligent health care (one doctor for 1,300 inmates) to physical and psychological damage. As a profit-maximizing private facility, Rivers refuses to spend enough to provide decent food, health care, education, or job training. The truth, however, is that all prisons, public or private, are vicious tools

of capitalist oppression. They must be smashed through revolutionary action.

During weekly CIC meetings, PL'ers have argued that the anti-racist Wells Fargo boycott campaign will require more participation by the industrial working class to gain clout. While quite a few Wells Fargo customers have told us that they have already closed their accounts, more force is needed to pressure the bank and also to broaden the campaign. PL'ers have invited other CIC members to join the Party's regular distribution of anti-racist and communist literature to bus drivers, an effort to gain transit workers' support for this campaign. PL'ers have also made clear, through discussions and the distribution of CHALLENGE, that only by building a revolutionary PLP, smashing capitalism, and replacing it with a communist system can the New Jim Crow be defeated. ☛

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

U.S. helped rich to ruin Haiti

NYT, 1/9 — The slave revolution that ended with Haiti's creation in 1804 led to what the sociologist Jean Casimir dubbed a "counter-plantation" system.... a kind of sustainable agriculture that involved planting a variety of crops close together....

This system of agricultural self-reliance provided a better quality of life than that of African descendants anywhere else in the Americas....

In the 20th century, however, this system came under increasing pressure. Outsiders, along with many in the Haitian elite, saw small farms as a barrier to [their profits]. When the United States occupied Haiti, from 1914 to 1934, it worked to centralize the economy....It pushed through a re-writing of the Haitian Constitution to allow foreigners to own land, which the country's founders had banned for fear of re-enslavement, and worked to replace small farms with large plantations owned by foreign corporations. Many farmers saw their land expropriated.

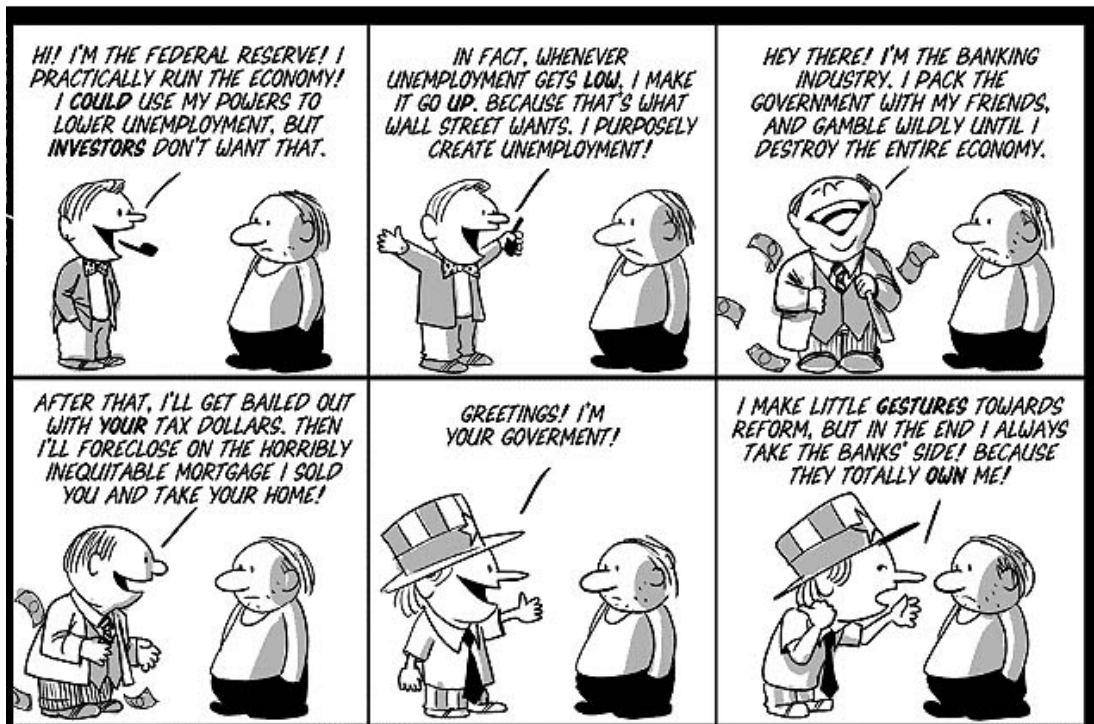
...When the countryside erupted in a revolt against [U.S.] occupation and the use of forced labor to build roads, the United States created a newly centralized gendarmerie to suppress the insurrection. Violence and economic decline in the countryside forced many Haitians to flee....The countryside has continued to experience environmental degradation as well as exodus....Haiti's now chronic problems [include] malnutrition and food insecurity.

Hospitals crowded — by rich suites

NYT, 1/22 — Greenberg 14 South [is] the elite wing on the new penthouse floor of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Hospital. Pampering and décor to rival a grand hotel...have long been the hallmark of such "amenities units," often hidden behind closed doors at New York's premier hospitals....part of an international competition for wealthy patients willing to pay extra....

"These kinds of patients, they're paying cash — they're the best kind of patient to have...."

The rise of medical tourism to glittering hospitals in places like Singapore and Thailand has turned coddling and elegance into marketing necessities, designers say.



....In space-starved New York, many regular hospital rooms are still double-occupancy, though singles are now the national standard....

Recall the tale of a family friend stuck for three days in the New York-Presbyterian emergency room for lack of a hospital bed last winter. At the time...the Saudi king had been....granted the whole 14th floor for his entourage.

Great work based on cooperation

NYT — To the Editor: Susan Cain ("The Rise of the New Groupthink," Sunday Review, Jan. 15) writes that creative people are more likely to be introverts; that students learn better when alone; and that solitary computer programmers write better code. In each of these cases, research shows just the opposite. Decades of scientific research have revealed that great creativity is almost always based in collaboration, conversation and social networks — just the opposite of our mythical image of the isolated genius.

History says capitalism must go

GW, 12/30 — To the Editor: I really hope...that a "good capitalism" is the...way forward, but I fear that the lessons of history tend to a more catastrophic outcome....Capitalism has established itself as a system based on exploitation, competition, monopoly and wealth for a tiny elite.

Exploitation of labour — wealth from the slave trade — provided seed investment for manufacturing in both the UK and the US. Cheap labour from dispensable rural workers provided the unskilled proletariat of 19th century capitalism, until the emergence of trades unions and a very real fear of

revolution brought some sharing of wealth....

Finally, competition between capitalist nations brought the horrific wars of the 20th century....

Capitalism succeeds not so much through innovation as by eliminating its competitors....The electorate...and government crumble before the might of capital. Our "competing" parties have become clones of each other [to] the point where governments used our money to pay the bills of bankers who had already gambled with our money and lost it.

....It is unsustainable to continue with such an economic system. If a "good capitalism" cannot be found, then perhaps we need to find another sustainable, equitable and democratic system.

Bigger lockout threat, fewer strikes

NYT, 1/23 — Lockouts were once so rare they were almost unheard of. Now, not only are employers increasingly on the offensive and trying to call the shots in bargaining, but they're backing that up with action — in the form of lockouts.

The number of strikes has declined to just one-sixth the annual level of two decades ago....Workers worry that if they strike they will lose pay and might lose their jobs....

....At American Crystal Sugar, the nation's largest sugar beet processor....after the 1,300 unionized workers — spread among five plants in North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa — voted overwhelmingly to reject [employer] demands, the company locked them out and hired replacement workers [scabs]....

Keystone Oil Pipeline A Disaster for the Working Class

The U.S. bosses are determined to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Alberta, Canada, to Texas to increase their profits at the expense of workers' lives and livelihoods. Recent months have seen mass demonstrations, including encirclement of the White House, to protest this project. Pipelines inevitably leak, the more so as they corrode with age, and can contaminate entire water supplies. While the oil projected to flow through the Keystone XL will be extracted with difficulty from tar sands in northeast Alberta, the project has become relatively profitable because of the rising international price of oil.

Regardless of when Obama decides to permit this cross-border pipeline (most likely after the November election), the working class in both Canada and the U.S. will be the loser. Unchecked, the continued burning of fossil fuels will bring the world closer to the tipping point where global temperatures could rise beyond reversible levels. (See THE COMMUNIST, Winter 2010, "Global Warming Driven by the Profit System...Only Communism Can Create a Sustainable World" at www.plp.org). Only after state power is seized through communist revolution will the world's workers be able to guarantee a safe environment for themselves and their descendants.

The Keystone issue

Tar sands oil is known as "sour" crude. It contains far more corrosive elements than the "sweet" crude derived from large underground oil lakes, like those in the Middle East and under the oceans. Sweet crude is also more easily extracted, but it is being depleted faster than new discoveries can replace it. Sooner or later, it will likely run out.

For the time being, Obama has put off a decision on Keystone XL because of the public outcry led by liberal environmental forces, an important constituency for his reelection bid this fall. But when leaders of the anti-pipeline demonstrations, particularly from the organization 350.org, claim victory, they also obscure the rest of the story. Two other pipelines, in operation since 2010, already cross into the U.S. from Alberta: the Keystone Phase 1 and the Alberta Clipper (see map; the dashed line is the proposed Keystone XL). Meanwhile, the oil industry's umbrella lobbyist group, the American Petroleum Institute (API), continues to press its bought-and-paid-for politicians for approval of the Keystone XL.

Because of the delay, Canadian bosses are seeking to build an alternative Northern Gateway pipeline directly westward to the Pacific coast to ship the crude to China. But Prime Minister Stephen Harper is meeting his own opposition from environmentalists already up in arms about the Trans Mountain pipeline ports near Vancouver (see map). They fear the potential destruction of Canadian forests and coastal areas by oil leaks from both pipelines and tankers.

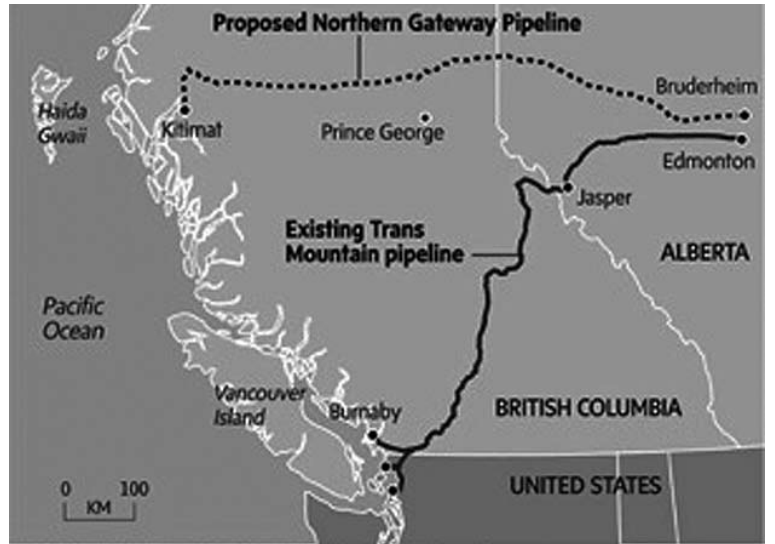
Obama, backed by the API, claims that the Keystone XL would create thousands of new jobs for workers in the U.S. Such hyped and misleading claims are aimed to divide people concerned about the environment from unemployed workers, who are urged to believe that their joblessness is the fault of the environmental activists. This ignores the fact that those most hurt by damage to

the environment, as always, are the working class.

The Keystone XL, like the existing Keystone Phase 1 pipeline, was slated to pass through the middle of Nebraska. This is where the Ogallala Aquifer lies underground, feeding fresh water to agricultural states in the middle of the U.S. As global warming from fossil fuels shifts rain patterns, the aquifer is shrinking at an accelerating rate. This phenomenon threatens to expand drought conditions well beyond Texas and into the nation's breadbasket. Pipeline leaks of sour crude will only hasten its destruction.

No simple reform, like blocking the Keystone XL, will prevent the long-term disasters posed by global warming. All capitalists, forced by their system to continually maximize profits, ignore the future beyond the next business quarter. They will guarantee that

highly profitable fossil fuels remain the world's primary form of energy. To save our class and our planet, the world's workers will have to crush the capitalists' hold on power and rid the world of the plague of capitalism forever. ☸



THE GLOBE AND MAIL ■ SOURCE: KINDER MORGAN CANADA INC.

Bosses Fiddle While Planet Burns, and... Big Oil Laughs All the Way to the Bank

South Africa hosted a two-week United Nations conference on climate change in early December, attended by delegates from more than 190 countries. Called for the nominal purpose of ending greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that cause global warming, it was one of a long series of failures.

GHGs threaten all workers

GHGs come from the burning of fossil fuels: coal, oil, and natural gas. By trapping heat in the lower atmosphere, they have already warmed the earth by more than one degree; under capitalist business-as-usual, they threaten to warm it even more. Global warming shifts evaporation and precipitation patterns, leading to more frequent extreme weather events like hurricanes, heat waves, droughts, floods, and severe winter snows. The melting of the big glaciers and ice caps, particularly in Greenland and Antarctica, could ultimately threaten to drown small island nations and coastal cities that contain more than 10 percent of the world's population, including 80 percent of the people living in California. (See the Winter 2010 issue of THE COMMUNIST magazine "Global Warming Driven by the Profit

System...Only Communism Can Create a Sustainable World" at www.plp.org.)

Bosses battle each other rather than global warming

As usual, the competition inherent in capitalism has prevented any meaningful agreement among various nations' ruling classes. The lines are drawn most sharply between the ruling classes of the industrialized nations and those of the developing nations. The European Union recently demanded that all countries share equally in limiting GHG emissions, even though the industrialized countries have produced the lion's share of GHGs to date. The U.S. rulers, meanwhile, are using this issue in an attempt to stem the rapid Chinese economic development that is pushing the two rivals toward war for control over fuel sources. The ongoing U.S. wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan concern oil and natural gas. All imperialists, whether from industrialized or developing nations, will fight to the last worker's death to retain such control.

The conference ended with yet another worthless pledge to meet again later to come to agreement. The world contin-

ues to warm and the poorest among us continue to suffer the major burden of climate changes. That industrialized nations promised to throw in a few pennies to help the developing nations cope with the expenses of cutting fossil fuel emissions only serves to cover this reality, and their culpability.

The only established alternative to fossil fuels, which now provide about 85 percent of the world's energy, is nuclear energy. Other sources are far less developed and reliable: wind, solar, hydro (dams), and geothermal (tapping underground hot magma). The extreme profitability in fossil fuels means that those corporations and their financial backers will continue to fight tooth and nail to prevent any reduction in their use.

Given the competition that is a mainstay of capitalism and imperialism, climate change conferences will inevitably disappoint the world's working class. Only when workers everywhere take state power will we be able to halt and perhaps reverse global warming. That will require a communist-led global revolution, which is PLP's goal. Join us. ☸



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