

CHALLENGE



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HAITI

Teachers Blast Slave Wages, Rotten Schools, Cholera



Teachers meet to discuss strike on November 13 — 14.

HAITI, October 28 — Sometimes all it takes is for someone to stand up and say no, for the whole system of exploitation and oppression to reveal itself. The rebels might get some crumbs from the bosses' teeming table for his trouble. They might go back to being resigned to the bosses' state power for ever. Or they might be radicalized by the experience and spend the rest of her life fighting for the working class.

But whatever the outcome of a reform struggle, once people stand up, and organize themselves, and then stand up stronger in numbers and conviction, and take the streets and march to the seat of power together, to the men with guns and money — then all bets are off, and it's a teaching moment. It's a moment when our action unmasks the power relationships that hold us in chains.

Such moments are when revolutionaries are born and it's not about crumbs any more but the whole loaf. If a few communists are in the crowd, especially ones of different colors, genders, countries, and languages, it can be a prophetic moment. One in which we glimpse the guns and money abolished, the bosses thrown into the sea. Then it's time to organize to make that revolution happen. If many more become communists, it does happen eventually.

Teachers in Haiti want a living wage and a decent public school system and an end to cholera. Just a few crumbs from the billions gambled away in one day on Wall Street. They are re-organizing themselves for a nation-wide two-day strike November 12-13, undeterred by Hurricane Sandy's washing out their first strike date last week. They are standing up. And given the pressure-cooker of rage and political desire that is Haiti at the moment, and the presence of revolutionary communists in PLP, many can be won to revolution.

More specifically, in the open-air auditorium of a, run-down school, they were shouting: "Teachers are tired! Teachers are tired!"

Tired of a pittance that barely covers transportation, a leaky-roof lodging, a few sets of clothes, two meals a day, and our own kids' school fees this month.

Tired of a hundred noisy, frustrated teenagers packed so tight into a room that only the first row can hear you try to teach. Tired of seeing the few full-time, half-secure teaching jobs in a country of 80% unemployment going, not to the qualified young coming full of hope out of the Teachers' Colleges, but to cynical incompetents put there by

politicians who see a teacher's job simply as a paycheck to reward a client with.

So when a union speaker asked journalists not to interview her but the teachers themselves, what sprang from their hearts in a singing chant led by the sopranos was: "Teachers are tired! Teachers are tired!" Eighty teachers had come through the torn-up streets of this small port town to an organizing meeting called by their union.

The teachers' meeting began. The left-wing national union and student leaders took the mike and speakers from far away told of their own desire to build the strike with international support. "You are not alone," they heard from someone who worked in the Chicago strike. They heard of the campaign in the U.S. to end cholera, and the lift their union had given this campaign by making that a strike demand, by far the most significant action of the campaign so far. This town is seeing a spike in cholera deaths, predictable after heavy rain.

Then the witnesses from the teachers' assembly came to the front and spoke their piece. There was a debate, to be resolved by the union exec meeting the next day, about which date to re-launch the strike.

It was a good meeting, a glimpse of the nation-wide structure of rank-and-file assemblies and a fifty-strong leaders' group the union has spent a year building. Women took the lead at some points, gaining confidence by sitting together, leading the singing.

But after a wage increase, what? After the end of cholera, which new preventable illness will cut workers down? As long as capitalism remains, these struggles will go on endlessly.☺

Hurricane Sandy Can't Wash Away Haiti Teachers' Strike

Support the Nation-Wide Teachers' Strike in Haiti and Internationally!

National march in many Haitian cities to launch the strike, Monday November 12

Strike all the schools November 12-13, 2012

To see the strike demands, the union's call for support, and where to write letters and send donations to the strike fund: <http://psc-cuny.org/unnoh>.

Write letters of support from unions, churches, student and community groups, professional associations

Organize forums on the strike in union halls, schools, campuses and churches

March and rally to support the strike at Haitian consulates, U.S. government offices, the U.N. and the World Bank.

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

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REVOLUTION, YES! ELECTIONS, NO!

IMPERIALIST WAR HAS GOT TO GO!

An imperialist war-maker will occupy the White House no matter who wins the presidential election. Imperialism inevitably breeds war to settle conflicts among capitalist nations. In the United States, both the Democrats and Republicans organize for war to maintain U.S. domination worldwide. They differ only on how to wage it, on how the war machine can best protect and project U.S. capitalists' global interests.

Recent endorsements of Barack Obama or Mitt Romney by various retired military brass reflect a real difference in the kind of warfare the victor will pursue. In an October 21 appearance on CBS, Colin Powell, point man for the first genocidal Gulf War against Iraq in 1991, backed Obama. Three days earlier, Romney announced formation of a

"military advisory council" of more than three hundred blood-soaked ex-generals and admirals. One of its more prominent members is Tommy Franks, the commander of the second genocidal Gulf War against Iraq, launched by George W. Bush in 2003. The two beribboned butchers hold competing views that mirror different capitalists' interests.

The Powell Doctrine: Mass Support for Massive War

Colin Powell's military doctrine demands overwhelming force, a clear objective, hosts of allies and mass popular support. The 1991 Iraq War, as waged by Powell as chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reflected the need of ExxonMobil, Chevron and British BP and Shell for oil-field security and government stability. Powell led 956,600 troops (73 percent from the U.S.) in ousting Saddam Hussein's 120,000 soldiers after George H.W. Bush complained they "had poured into Kuwait and moved south to threaten Saudi Arabia."

In 1991, Powell and the elder Bush took firm control of Kuwait's oil wells and shored up Saudi defenses, a move that angered aspiring oil baron Osama bin Laden. But they deliberately refrained from marching on Baghdad. Instead, they left Bill Clinton the task of containing Hussein with airstrikes and sanctions that killed a half-million children.

Shock and Awe: War on the Cheap

Romneyite Tommy Franks was top ground commander for the post-9/11 U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and later Iraq. In neither case did U.S. forces amount to more than 200,000, even though both were aimed to defeat and replace the existing regimes. In 2003, as Secretary of State, Powell also pushed for invading Iraq. But he called for tens of thousands of troops more than Franks and his neo-conservative bosses — War Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Richard Cheney — had agreed upon. Outmaneuvered, Powell quit the next year.

Rumsfeld and his cohorts proceeded to opt for a swift, high-tech, "shock-and-awe" invasion, saying the war should be run "with the troops we have." They predicted that Iraqis would greet U.S. troops with flowers. The reality was a trillion-dollar disaster that massacred more masses of workers.

The current state of Iraq and Afghanistan, largely the work of both Bushes, Franks, Rumsfeld & Co., troubles the oil-driven capitalists served by Powell. Because of the Gulf Wars, Exxon now has major operations in both the north and south of oil-rich Iraq. But violence and a rickety government keep the country's production under three million barrels a day, far below the six million barrels promised by war planners. In Afghanistan, meanwhile, Taliban attacks have prevented the surveying — let alone the building — of the Exxon- and Chevron-backed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. It now languishes on the drawing board.

Powell in the Rockefeller Camp

As a self-styled "Rockefeller Republican," Powell aligns with Rockefeller-dominated firms including Exxon, Chevron and JPMorgan Chase. It's not just a phrase. In 2003, with Iraq and Afghanistan both under siege but far less productive than he wished, David Rockefeller presented troop-booster Powell with the Gen. George

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.

EVIL? YES; LESSER? NO!

The liberal capitalist media attempts to portray Obama as a better choice than Romney — or at least as a lesser evil — to prospective voters who are disgusted with both parties. Yet both candidates support:

- Cuts in corporate taxes;
- Privatizing education through charter schools;
- Maintaining insurance and drug companies and HMOs as the bedrock of the healthcare industry;
- Expanding the cops' power to wreak terror on black and Latino youth;
- Terrorizing immigrant workers through massive deportations;
- Cutting wages to bolster corporate profits for the likes of GM and Chrysler;
- Warrantless surveillance of "suspected terrorists";
- A prison system of 2.4 million inmates, a majority for non-violent offenses, 70 percent black and Latino;
- Continued military adventures to increase U.S. corporate profits.

The ruling class uses the electoral system to enforce the profit system. It tries to deceive workers into thinking that one candidate represents their interests better than the other. But there is no "lesser." The evil is capitalism.

C. Marshall Award for service to U.S. imperialism. And Powell sits on the board of the Rockefeller-led Council on Foreign Relations, U.S. imperialists' top think tank.

Tommy Franks' capitalist loyalties lie elsewhere. Until an Obama-engineered 2009 purge, Franks was a board member of Bank of America, the gigantic bank with a more domestic than imperialist focus. Today the former general sits on the board of Chuck E. Cheese, a string of pizza parlors with relatively little use for the Pentagon.

Romney's inconsistent foreign policy pronouncements and jumbled cast of counselors mirrors a fragmented Republican Party. His top donor, Sheldon Adelson, promotes Israeli attacks on Iran. Team Romney includes neo-conservatives John Bolton, Dan Senor and Elliott Abrams, who prefer Franks-style war-on-the-cheap. But it also features at least one long-term war supporter: the Rocke-

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Myth of the 'Middle Class'

Obama, alongside his political buddies and the bosses' media, constantly invoke the mythological "middle class" while never mentioning the working class. They are trying to convince workers who earn — or who aspire to earn — \$50,000 or \$75,000 a year that they are not workers. They want to hide the reality of a working class with its antagonistic relationship with an opposing, parasitic ruling class. The latter controls the means of production and reaps profits from exploiting worker's labor power, the source of all value. Capitalists own; workers create.

Many workers' struggles may have won incomes that enable them to afford a home, a car and a college education for their children, but they have no security under capitalism. Come the next crisis of overproduction and the next wave of mass unemployment, these higher-earning workers promptly get laid off and made homeless. Their "middle-class" life goes up in smoke. One's class is not determined by income, but rather by the source of that income.

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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Mexico's Labor 'Reform' Chops Wages, Hours, Seniority

The Labor Reform in Mexico is exposing the true nature of the capitalist system. The bosses, in their dogfight to control markets and maintain their rate of profits, have forced the Mexican government to reform labor laws, and take back many of the gains that the working class fought for and won through the years, many in bloody struggles, as in Chicago and Cananea in northern Mexico.

The recently-approved Labor Reform is an insult to the struggles and dignity of the international working class. The bosses argue that the reform will generate jobs in Mexico, but it will almost certainly cause unemployment in another part of the world. This shows that the international working class has only one option: to become organized around an international party like PLP to fight for communism.

The ruling class and the government are trying to convince us that the reform will benefit workers because, they claim, it will create jobs. The reality is that the capitalist system is in the midst of a profound crisis and the bosses are less willing to honor benefits such as seventh day payments, paid vacations, utilities, and bonuses.

Under their new system, workers won't earn seniority. Even more importantly, it allows bosses to hire workers by the hour instead of by a work-day of 8 hours. This will only mean more poverty and misery for the working class. It's hard enough to live on 8-hour wages much less trying to survive working only 2 or 3 hours.

Labor reform is the product of inter-imperialist struggles. By approving the Labor Reform, the Mexican government creates the conditions to increase production at the price of increased misery for the working class. Currently, U.S. Imperialism is declining and facing a threat by the Chinese imperialists, who super-exploit workers and pay even lower wages. Imperialists, to maximize profits, need to decrease their labor cost, and control a docile labor force.

Labor reform is the product of inter-imperialist struggles.

That's the reason the Mexican state, which serves the interests of the imperialist ruling class, is creating these conditions, similar to those enacted elsewhere.

According to the September 2012 issue of the Mexican journal Proceso, similar New Labor Principles are being pushed in the U.S. and Peru (2009), in Panama (beginning next month), South Korea (last March) and Colombia (since last May).

Labor Reform for Bosses, Revolution and Communism for Workers

Under capitalism and class society, workers have struggled and lost their lives to secure some labor benefits. The profit nature of this system demonstrates now, once again, that any gains made by the workers can be taken away at any moment, using capitalist institutions such as the state, the courts, the police and the army. Workers must continue fighting to benefit our class, not just to reform capitalism but to destroy it with a working-class revolution.

We must fight for our class interests, fight for communism; our party, Progressive Labor Party, has that objective. The bosses are our enemies and none of their initiatives could ever benefit the working class.

We invite you to organize our class brothers and sisters in the factories, schools, communities and armies all around the world to smash capitalism with a communist revolution. We invite you to join PLP.☸



LA Forum: The Elections Trap

LOS ANGELES, October 25 — The big problems facing public education are not necessarily a lack of funds or bad policy, but in fact the system itself which operates on the basis of maximizing profit. That was the message from panelists at a local community college forum titled "Beyond Elections," attended by close to 150 students. The forum was in the context of the recent push by faculty and teacher unions to pass Proposition 30 which would raise taxes in California to pay for public education.

But the panelists pointed out that the problems originate in the political economy of capitalism; unless public colleges and universities can be turned into profitable enterprises, they will always be depending on a system that prioritizes the building of a racist police state and imperialist war.

This forum reflects the efforts of a group of college professors and students, disappointed with unions' lack of fight-back, who have been meeting regularly to figure out how to put forward an anti-capitalist analysis in the struggle over budget cuts. PL members are actively helping organize this group, creating opportunities to discuss moving beyond a reformist outlook and how students and workers can work together to build a revolutionary communist movement.

The message was clear: elections are not enough; in fact, they are a trap. No matter the promise, they cannot move workers and students beyond capitalism, which is based on the exploitation of the working class. In his concluding remarks the last panelist pointed out that students and faculty need to recognize that workers have tremendous social power and do not need to depend on ruling-class politicians.

PL students and professors will continue to help organize more forums and actions, especially in public universities and community colleges throughout LA and Southern California. Also, they are already connecting these students to the fighting Walmart workers.

A few days after the forum, several students visited a local Walmart where they met the workers who have organized walkouts. In their discussions, they raised the need for building a worker-student alliance on the basis of class-consciousness and the need for a revolutionary communist outlook.☸



Haiti: National Teachers' Strike: School for Revolution?

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, October 17 — If “a strike is a school of revolution,” as Lenin said, then this October 25-26 in Haiti a national school of revolution may be on the class schedule. The teachers’ union UNNOH (a union of the graduates of several Haitian teachers’ colleges) is not a revolutionary organization. But, like the Chicago Teachers Union which just carried out a successful teachers’ strike in Chicago, UNNOH’s strike-call and nine strike demands have many progressive features which can drive our class, the working class forward. All workers internationally should support this strike.

Four demands refer to teachers’ own needs — back pay, a minimum living wage of \$1,185/month, credentials giving job security, and a say in social insurance policies. These improvements lifting teachers above abject poverty and insecurity will also benefit their students because teachers’ working conditions are students’ learning conditions.

But the imperialists have absolutely no interest in, and no intention of, granting such massive reforms (the wage demand is for a 70% hike.) Poverty is their racist plan for the schools of Haiti and all who teach and study in them.

Everything in a struggle that advances class consciousness and unity will move our whole class one step further up the road to revolution.

In addition to these just demands, UNNOH is issuing its strike call to the entire teaching body. It appeals to students, parents, college students and teachers, other workers in education and other industries to support the strike. Its call for international solidarity, with all the strike demands, is posted in English at www.psc-cuny.org/unnoh and asks for letters of support.

Progressive teachers in UNNOH know that the unity and numbers of the whole working class are a source of the strength they need way beyond their own numbers. That’s why UNNOH is a key part of the federation of left-leaning unions, the CTSP (Confederation of Workers in the Public and Private Sectors), who came to march with UNNOH, students, and other teachers’ unions in Port-au-Prince in a stirring 1000-strong demonstration on October 5, World Teachers’ Day.

The union of part-time college professors, STAIA, also stands with UNNOH in this strike. Such class unity — against the bosses’ preach-

ing of everyone for themselves — is hard to create, to mobilize, and to sustain, and that too is part of learning in a school of revolution.

Other strike demands are clearly mainly for their students and for the whole working class. These include a hike in the education budget to 30% of the national budget (for K-12) and 4% (for public colleges, who now struggle along on 0.55%), which clearly benefits all students and their parents; a free, quality, public school system; cafeterias in all schools and colleges guaranteeing one hot meal a day to all students, teachers, and school workers; and a program to end the cholera epidemic, starting with vaccination of all school and college students.

These class demands are the foundation for advancing the struggle beyond trade unionism to a mass fight for communism. As capitalist ideology has preached to them all their lives, many UNNOH teachers right now are more focused on their own salary and security than on a universal public education system or ending cholera, let alone revolution. Everything in a struggle that advances class consciousness and class unity will move our whole class one step further up the road to revolution. (See adjoining article)

“In this bitter struggle national and international solidarity is essential,” says the UNNOH call. They have worked since last November to create a national network of union branches, each attempting to integrate teachers with other workers, in all ten departments (regions) of the country. Out of those trips they have built a national leadership body of fifty members.

In the mass demonstrations of September 10 and October 5, following mass meetings of the teachers, there were hundreds of teachers marching on the same day in each of eight towns on September 10 and in twelve on October 5, and these numbers doubled between September and October.

The strike call is therefore not for a “Hollywood strike” or fake strike, but built on a solid foundation of organizing. It will be combined with mass action in the streets in the militant Haitian tradition. It is also a test of the teachers’ organization and strength.

PLP salutes these teachers who know that “power concedes nothing without a struggle.” They are fed up with inaction in the face of a cynical government and a fascist regime imposed by the imperialist troops in the U.N. MINUSTAH force and are standing up to fight.

Win, lose, or draw in this strike, may they learn the lessons of revolutionaries before them (starting with the bold fighters who ended slavery in Haiti), and come out of this important and risky moment stronger for the battles ahead. We stand alongside them and will learn along with them.✊

Whether this strike remains a strike only, or becomes a step towards communist workers’ taking state power away from the bosses by armed revolution, depends on the activity of revolutionaries with their fellow workers during the struggle. They will be arguing for striking for the whole working class rather than only for the teachers’ interests. They will argue that “winning” the strike means not winning the strike’s reform demands (urgently necessary though they are in the misery of Haiti), but building the revolutionary party PLP and its communist influence.

They will try to mobilize support for striking teachers among every other sector of our class — students, workers, peasants, professionals, employed and unemployed — internationally as well as inside Haiti. They will highlight the need to end the structural inequality between teachers in the public schools (only 10% of all schools) and the even more oppressed and exploited teachers in the private schools (around 85% of all teachers.)

They will point out that reforms such as a better public education system will always fall short of what workers need, even if we can wrench them out of the unwilling hands of a cruel, racist ruling class (imperialist and local.) These reforms can always be taken back from us, whenever the rulers think they need to use their state power to do so.

They will point out that the role of education under capitalism — adding certain skills to our labor power, but mainly training obedient workers who believe in the system — cannot be transformed without workers’ seizing state power. They will show how the imperialist system of our day maintains Haiti for imperialist interests as a valuable “reserve” of manpower, resources, and military assets. Therefore the imperialists (the U.S., in rivalry with others like the European Union and China) will never “reconstruct” the education system or anything

State power in the hands of the working class is essential to reconstruct the world from the ruins in which four hundred years of capitalism has left it.

else in Haiti for the well-being of the working class.

For the PLP, this strike is international. We do not respect the bosses’ borders nor their “national sovereignty.” These struggles in Haiti are best seen not as national but as part of an international working-class movement, which needs an international revolutionary communist party. Each struggle must become a step towards the next wave of international communist revolution.

Why? Because state power in the hands of the working class is the first essential thing we need to reconstruct the world from the ruins in which four hundred years of capitalism has left it. Some live now in incredible luxury and waste while at least half the world’s people go hungry and unchecked capital accumulation destroys the planet.

We say “ruins,” because the racist inequality of world capitalism — so stark in Haiti — is the ruin of all the hopes which ever inspired the oppressed to struggle upwards. Also because, most likely, the conflict between rival imperialists will result in a massive world war, even worse than the two we have already endured. The reasonable course is not to reform capitalism but to destroy it before it destroys us.✊



Puerto Rico: 'War on Drugs' Is War on Youth

In Puerto Rico, as in the U.S., the "War on Drugs" is another ruling-class weapon in the class war waged against the working class to prevent it from organizing and seizing control. In the name of this fraudulent "War on Drugs, Puerto Rico has suffered years of devastation by the U.S. and its law enforcement agencies.

The coined phrase "War on Drugs" was invented by the Nixon administration in the late 1960's to use drug laws to suppress student agitation, the civil rights movement, and urban protests in impoverished black communities. In the 1980s, the Reagan administration added mandatory sentencing laws to exert social control over such communities, as neoliberal economic policies slashed government aid.

The "War on Drugs" — supposedly to stop the export of drugs from South America into the U.S. — was, in fact, a thinly veiled scheme, disguised as drug interdiction, to send funds and military personnel to fascist regimes in South and Central America to suppress communist and nationalist movements.

The racist "War on Drugs" in the U.S. has suppressed and destroyed black communities through massive incarceration of young black men.

In Puerto Rico, where the population exhibits less apparent racial differences, the "War on Drugs" is still truly racist as well as a merciless class war. It massively jails the poorest of the poor, targeting Puerto Rico's Public Housing Projects. With the U.S. military substantially forced from the island because of popular protests, the "War on Drugs" has allowed the U.S. to militarize Puerto Rico with a flood of federal agents ready to suppress its long tradition of revolutionary struggle.

Jailing the Unemployed

Historically, enforcement of drug laws was the

province of the Puerto Rico Police Department, the second largest police force in the U.S. (including its colonies). Federal law enforcement targeted only large drug importers while local law enforcement dealt with daily drug traffic, especially in Public Housing Projects. In 1995, with poverty and joblessness continuing to rise, and fearing rebirth of the recently crushed armed independence movement, Puerto Rico was declared a High Density Drug Trafficking Area, flooding more personnel and funds onto the island. Thus the "War on Drugs" invaded Public Housing Projects, arresting the unemployed and imprisoning them in the U.S., using mandatory minimum federal sentencing laws.

Today, there's little work in Puerto Rico. Official unemployment is around 15%, but Puerto Rico has a large underground economy, not counted in jobless figures. On most street corners one sees people selling fruit from their gardens, bottled water, newspapers or anything else they can find. They earn almost nothing but are not counted as unemployed, which tops 30%. Public Housing Projects — the biggest containing approximately 40,000 residents — are where many of these oppressed and unemployed workers live. Drug trafficking is often the only way families can survive.

The "War on Drugs" in Puerto Rico is primarily the federal government's province. FBI and Drug Enforcement Agents (DEA) swarm into Public Housing Projects and based on long surveillance and using cooperating witnesses, arrest and indict from 60-100 residents; 95% are drug addicts and petty drug sellers. They're charged in a single massive drug "conspiracy." The mandatory minimum sentence is 10 years, the maximum life. There's virtually no defense to the charges since sales are videotaped by co-conspirators forced into cooperation by the threat of long mandatory sentences.

In order to avoid 20-30 year after-trial sentences, usually almost every defendant pleads out. Sentences generally run from 5-10 years. Between 600 and 1,000 young men are sentenced each year and shipped to prisons across the U.S. Another 1,700 spend each day at the Federal Detention Center in Puerto Rico, where, having been arrested and denied bail, they wait to negotiate a plea agreement and are then sent to the U.S. to serve their sentences.

Over the past 25 years, the number of Federal judges in Puerto Rico has grown from three to ten; the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI and the DEA have doubled and tripled in size. Criminal defense lawyers have grown from a handful to over 200.

Massive Arrests, Youth Disappear

In the housing projects, young men are disappearing. Impoverished residents now have no source of income. Drug trafficking continues unabated. Usually within a week of the massive arrests, the drug-selling points are reestablished. But now they are run by 15-year-olds.

Less than two years ago, Puerto Rico's Governor Luis Fortuno fired 30,000 already grossly underpaid public employees. The "War on Drugs" helps make such barbarities possible by justifying the mass use of police terror. Furthermore, it permits the removal and warehousing of thousands of unemployed youth before their misery and unrest can grow into organizing and social struggle.

Many workers are deceived into believing that the government is waging the "War on Drugs" to keep us safe from violent crime. This couldn't be further from the truth. The real crime is committed by racist U.S. rulers. Only a communist-led workers' movement will provide an alternative to those being ravaged by drugs, capitalist-induced unemployment, racism and poverty. ☸

France: Bosses' Laws, Union Hacks Take Airline, Rail Workers for A Ride

PARIS, October 27 — Why workers must break out of the narrow confines within which union misleaders' operate — as junior partners of the bosses — is revealed in the extremely limited strikes against Air France-KLM and the state-owned rail company (SNCF). Neither walk-out has seriously challenged the two companies' anti-worker policies, which were aided by the "lesser-evil" Socialist government. Actually only a minority of workers struck. The only way forward for the working class is to stop operating within the bosses' laws and turn away from the impossible goal of reforming capitalism and towards communist revolution.

The bosses' Diard law forces transport workers individually to give 48 hours' advance strike notice, dampening solidarity and allowing the bosses to plan counter-strike action.

Only a few of Air France's 49,000 workers struck; no flights were cancelled and few were delayed. While ground and freight workers struck, no flying personnel did. In Toulouse, large numbers of baggage handlers, taxi-ing guidance workers and baggage check-in workers struck but this delayed take-offs barely 15 minutes.

Yesterday, up to 500 strikers demonstrated inside France's main airport, Roissy Charles de Gaulle, despite the presence of a large number of threatening police and gendarmes. The strikers chanted slogans demanding abandonment

of the Transform 2015 restructuring plan (see below).

The Diard law enabled Air France bosses to mobilize 6,500 Air France workers and pay rival companies to fly Air France passengers in order to break the strike.

Socialist Government Enforces Capitalism

"We're angry at the [Socialist] government, which has not kept its promise to repeal the Diard law," said a union leader. His mis-directed faith in the "lesser-evil" Socialists' electoral promises is exactly the reason why Air France workers need revolutionary leadership!

Transform 2015 is a 2-billion-euro (2.6 billion US\$) cost-cutting plan. It will void existing union agreements to achieve a 20% productivity increase by 2014, lay off 10% of the workforce and restructure short and medium-haul flights.

The plan follows the European Aviation Safety Agency's attack on safety, proposing to force flying personnel to work over 20 consecutive hours without a break for meals or rest!

Airline workers clearly need to wage an international struggle, one that breaks down the unions' national barriers.

The Air France strike is scheduled to end October 29, with rallies today at Roissy Charles de Gaulle and another on the 29th at Air France headquarters. Other airport workers, including temps, civil servants, those



Striking Air France workers protest inside Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris despite heavy police presence.

at subcontractors, and other industrial workers fighting their own companies (like autoworkers) are being asked to join the October 29 rally.

National Rail Walkout

Nearly 35% of France's 245,000 rail workers struck for 37 hours beginning at 7 AM, October 24, for higher wages and new hires and against government plans to restructure the rail network. Thirty percent of high-speed trains and 33% of normal trains were cancelled. Bumper-to-bumper traffic clogged the road as people used cars instead of trains.

One could only imagine the effect of workers' power if 100 percent of the workforce had walked out indefinitely.

The bosses' advance-warning law also minimized the action's impact. The bosses used coaches and transferred passengers to trains that were running in order to break the strike.

Its immediate cause was the SNCF's "offer" to "increase" wages 0.5 percent, with annual inflation running nearly four times that

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PL Panel Makes the Case for Communism

WASHINGTON, DC — Four friends of PLP and a veteran PL'er developed a panel on communism for the October 6-7 Public Anthropology Conference, which PL'ers have attended before. It "brings together professional anthropologists and archaeologists, public health professionals, social justice activists, community organizers, filmmakers and educators to discuss new approaches to progressive political action."

This year's theme was "Does Government Matter?" Our panel explored "What Would a Communist Government Do?" We gave short talks on public health campaigns in China, the treatment of African Americans in the USSR and Soviet art and education.

We planned, discussed and researched our panel for four months. In mid-June, the veteran PL'er first brought the call for papers to two younger PL study-group participants. The latter eventually produced two possible ideas for a panel: explaining how the economic system determines what the government does; or positive advances toward social justice which communist governments have made (and could make again).

The first idea seemed easier and probably more acceptable since we'd only describe the problems with government under capitalism — also a starting point for many anarchists and Occupy activists. However, the second idea could provoke more questions and discussion, and challenge our group to become more knowledgeable about past communist movements. We decided on the latter.

Our veteran PL'er introduced our two PL study-group friends to a third, who's active in the Occupy DC Labor Committee. These three — a student, a library worker and a

teacher — led in planning the panel and writing presentations. During study groups and PLP city committee meetings, others suggested subtopics and sources. The panelists chose from these suggestions, focusing on health, racism, culture and education.

We overcame distance and work-schedule difficulties through phone-calling, e-mails and private social media to arrange planning. In late August, the panel began meeting face-to-face to share research and discuss the panel's structure. This covered many topics as we got to know each other, especially when one panel member asked the others why they hadn't joined PL. We discussed personal challenges — shyness, low energy, demands on our time like children and family — as well as doubts about the Party, criticisms of CHALLENGE and philosophical questions about communism.

After our first meeting, a fourth young friend (a study-group regular) joined the panel and offered his house to meet in. Inspired by his visible passion for communist ideals, the other panelists asked him to introduce the panel with an explanation of communism.

That meant that first we had to answer this question ourselves: what is communism? We also had long talks about the conference theme, "Does Government Matter?" We asked ourselves and eventually our audience: what should a government do? Whom does it serve? What should motivate it?

Our presentations drew from our personal interests and the research material we found. The health panelist focused on the Barefoot Doctors Movement and elimination of syphilis in China, because of the similarities to the anti-HIV campaigns she's been involved in.

The racism panelist researched the positive experiences in the Soviet Union of African American writer Langston Hughes and singer-actor Paul Robeson. Her interest in culture led her to explore Soviet propaganda and art, particularly films like her favorite, "Battleship Potemkin." This fit her anti-racist topic because Hughes traveled to the USSR to make a Soviet film about African Americans.

The third panelist researched education in the USSR: how it differed from czarist religious education; how manual work and practical skills were part of the school day; and how minorities within Russia were taught first in their native languages. This panelist knows from her own work experience and specialty that this is the best way to develop knowledge, literacy and eventually to learn other languages.

We deliberately avoided presenting China and the USSR as perfect societies, but rather to show their positive advances that aren't mentioned in mainstream U.S. media.

The conference's selection panel combined ours on communism with another on institutionalism. The original proposal was a debate between the two. Therefore, these two panels had to coordinate with each other and share space and time. As it turned out, our "What Would a Communist Government Do?" panelist spoke, followed by a short talk about communism and the importance of a party from our veteran PL'er. Then came an explanation of institutionalism and a critique of communism, from the institutionalist on the second panel.

A half-hour discussion with audience members followed, which one of our panelists opened, stating we wanted to hear directly from them. The chairs were arranged in a circle

so everyone could see each other. About 30 people participated, including many friends we had invited, along with presenters from other panels, academics and students.

Responses to communism were generally curious, not hostile. Many questioned whether the old communist movements of China and Russia were too authoritarian, and whether horizontal-style organization favored by Occupy would attract more people.

The institutionalist critique gave us opportunities to address misconceptions about communism, like thinking the "dictatorship of the proletariat" meant "anyone who cannot work would go hungry." Communism means distribution based on need: people receive food, clothing, housing and health care regardless of how much they can work. The dictatorship of the proletariat means the working class will run society, not capitalist business owners.

The audience's open response encouraged us to be more straightforward about communism. It's clear that at least some students and academics are ready to go beyond merely detailing the evils of capitalism; they want to know the alternative, so we should be prepared for such conversations.

At least one member from our panel attended another event. But most outcomes of this panel are internal: the knowledge gained by the four panelists, confidence in speaking on these topics and comradesly relationships built working with one another. Our major weakness was failure to get more friends involved who've been active with the Boycott Wells Fargo campaign and Occupy DC, and could have contributed and benefitted from our planning and research discussions.☺

France: Airline, Rail Workers Walk Out

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at 1.9%. Starting wages are below the minimum wage! Meanwhile, the ten highest-paid SNCF bosses pocketed a 15% salary increase last year.

Using a slightly higher raise, SNCF bosses wanted to blunt workers' anger at Socialist government plans to restructure the national rail network but the "lesser-evil" Socialists insisted on extending the civil service wage-freeze to the SNCF workers.

The European Union requires all member countries to open rail service to private competition.

In order to "save" the state-run rail company, the Socialists intend to lower wages for new hires and phase out job protection.

Additionally, rail bosses have cut 1,600 jobs. The remaining ticket agents and conductors are overworked, while maintenance jobs are subcontracted to private companies whose workers have not been trained to meet safety standards.

Thus, the union misleaders have organized what hardly could be called real strikes, having become junior partners of the bosses and their government in repressing the workers. It's only a communist-led, worker-run government and society that can end this exploitative profit system. ☺

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

Capitalism: The Mother of All Hurricanes

Hurricanes may be acts of nature, but the damage they wreak is an act of the profit system.

As TV journalists depict in graphic detail the hardships suffered by millions from Hurricane Sandy, the one thing they hide is the root cause of this devastation: capitalism. The capitalists' drive for maximum profits has destroyed the environment and resulted in climate change and more violent weather phenomena. At the same time, they ignore their own scientists' warnings of the danger of floods to urban tunnels and electrical plants, and how catastrophic damage might be avoided.

Had the Japanese government erected a seawall around the Fukushima nuclear plant, it would not have been flooded; millions would have been spared the dangers of radiation. Had the proper dams and levees been in place in New Orleans, thousands of residents would have been saved from the horrors of Hurricane Katrina.

New York City's subway system has steadily deteriorated, in part because workers were laid off and preventive maintenance neglected from the 1970s into the 1990s. No wonder the tunnels are vulnerable to flooding! Why was this maintenance "overlooked"? Because under capitalism, profits are primary. When public infrastructure breaks down, bonds must be issued via the big banks to fix it. The workers' tax payments go toward billions in interest on these bonds, which in turn create obscene profits for the banker-bondholders.

In assessing the 590,750 bridges in the United States, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave a "D" rating to 30 percent of them, meaning they are "structurally deficient or functionally obsolete" (New York Review of Books). It would require an annual expenditure of \$9.4 billion for 20 years to eliminate these bridge deficiencies. In addition, more than a third of the nation's dams, 3,500 in all, are considered unsafe.

In New York, as Con Edison lays off electrical workers while forcing one to do the work of two, its CEO collects a compensation package of \$24.8 million. With the highest rates in the U.S., Con Ed turned a \$5 billion profit in 2011.

At the same time, trillions are being spent for another top priority for U.S. bosses: imperialist wars that kill millions of workers. The maintenance and repair of transportation, electrical grids, dams, levees and bridges don't directly advance the efforts of the U.S. ruling class to control the world's oil resources and dominate its capitalist rivals in Europe and Asia. That is where war comes in.

Only a communist society run by and for workers will put the interests of the working class front and center. Only then will we build an infrastructure that can tame natural phenomena like hurricanes and floods. ☺

Revolution, Yes! Elections, No!

continued from page 2

fellerite Robert Zoellick, a protégé of ex-Secretary of State James Baker, who has strong ties to ExxonMobil and JPMorgan Chase. For a time Zoellick headed the major U.S. imperialists' beloved World Bank.

Romney's uncertain allegiances stand in contrast to dyed-in-the-wool imperialist Powell's jump to Obama. "I'm not sure which Romney we would be getting," he told CBS. "One day he has a certain strong view about staying in Afghanistan, but then on Monday night he agrees with the withdrawal."

Anti-Obesity Campaign = Youth As Cannon Fodder

Obama has a more insidious assemblage of generals and admirals in his corner. It promotes the wellbeing of children while not so secretly planning their deployment in all-out war against China or Russia or both. More than a hundred retired flag officers, organized as "Mission: Readiness," have signed on to Michelle Obama's anti-obesity campaign. Their aim is to improve young people's health as they are mobilized for world war. In other words, they want more effective cannon fodder.

As this group laments, "Being overweight or obese has now become the leading medical reason why young adults cannot enlist in the military. The Defense Department estimates that 1 in 4 young adults is too overweight to enlist" (Mission Readiness website, 9/25/12). But as the current depression impels more jobless youth to join the Army, U.S. military recruiters are roughly meeting their targets. So why the worry? It can only be that the Obama/Powell camp has a larger mobilization in mind than Romney and Franks envision.

Under capitalism, a system based on the boss-

es' drive for maximum profits, the state apparatus called the government — including the courts, cops and prisons used in racist attacks on millions of black and Latino youth and workers — is an instrument for class rule. To enforce that rule, the capitalists require war to maintain profits and control of resources — especially oil, the heart and soul of industry and the military.

Racism: Hallmark of Imperialist War

The two Gulf oil wars have an especially racist character. They target workers and their families in the Middle East, a region that imperialist powers have long victimized and mercilessly exploited. Workers in Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan and Pakistan have been victimized by bombings, massacres by drones, assassinations and direct invasions. As it trains working-class soldiers, the U.S. military whips up racist hatred against Muslims and

Arabs, demonizing them as violent and worthless human beings. To fill their quotas for cannon fodder, the generals are pushing the recruitment of undocumented immigrant Latino youth with empty promises of citizenship — a cynical maneuver endorsed by Obama to shore up his political base. Racist wars have long been the province of the U.S. war machine, going back to the genocide against Native Americans. Racism is the foundation of U.S. capitalism, netting the bosses hundreds of billions in super-profits from wage differentials.

Elections: Capitalists' Tool to Oppress Working Class

Elections are created to maintain the charade of "democracy," the dangerous lie that the working class chooses who will run the government and their lives. In reality, the role of all elected officials is to serve the capitalist class and its profit needs. In the U.S., despite tactical differences that reflect the bosses' factional disagreements, both Democrats and Republicans represent the same interests. Capitalism is the dictatorship of the ruling class.

Our class has no stake in the capitalists' dispute over how our daughters and sons should kill and die in their profit-driven wars. The goal of the Progressive Labor Party is for the working class — the producers of all value, from which the bosses derive their profits — to dictate the course of our lives. In so doing, we will eliminate what capitalist profits breed: wars, racism, sexism, mass unemployment and poverty. Our alternative is communism, the dictatorship of the working class, which will free us from the horrors of the profit system. Join us. ☺



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

Arabia and Africa ravaged by U.S.

GW, 9/28 — The US-British invasion of Afghanistan was...the poison fruit of US-led support for the Afghan mujahdeen war against the Soviet Union. Why do they hate us, many Americans asked at the time, oblivious to their country's role in decades of coups, tyranny, sanctions regimes and occupations across the Middle East.

In the aftermath of the killing of the US ambassador to Libya and assault on the consulate in Benghazi, as protests against a virulently Islamophobic US-made video spread across the Muslim world, Hilary Clinton echoed the same sentiments. "How could this happen in a country we helped liberate?" she asked....

This is the start of the blowback from US and western attempts to commandeer the Arab uprisings. Something similar to that is likely to happen in Syria....

In Libya, Nato's intervention sharply escalated the death toll, triggered large-scale ethnic cleansing, spread war to Mali, and left thousands in jail without trial and the country in control of multiple armed militias....

Since launching the war on terror, the US and its allies have attacked and occupied Afghanistan and Iraq; bombed Libya; killed thousands in drone attacks in Pakistan, Yemen and Syria; imposed devastating sanctions; backed Israel's occupation and dispossession of the Palestinians to the hilt; carried out large-scale torture, kidnapping and internment without trial; maintained military bases to protect dictatorships throughout the region; and now threaten Iran with another illegal war....

About two-thirds of people in the Middle East and north Africa say they distrust the US....The

only surprise is that there aren't more violent anti-US and anti-western protests in the region....

Recovery won't boost workers

NYT, 10/17 — Income inequality has soared to the highest levels since the Great Depression, and the recession has done little to reverse the trend, with the top 1 percent of earners taking 93 percent of the income gains in the first full year of the recovery.

The yawning gap between the haves and the have-nots — and the political questions that gap has raised...has given rise to anti-Wall Street sentiment....Now, a growing body of economic research suggests that it might mean lower levels of economic growth and slower job creation in the years ahead, as well.

"Growth becomes more fragile" in countries with high levels of inequality like the United States, said Jonathan D. Ostry of the International Monetary Fund, whose research suggests that the widening disparity since the 1980s might shorten the nation's economic expansion....

US leaving Afghanistan — not really

NYT, 10/14 — At the debate, Vice President Joseph Biden could not have been more emphatic: By the end of 2014 Americans will be out of Afghanistan: "We are leaving. We are leaving in 2014, period." After that, he said, it was up to the Afghans to secure their country.

But leaving? Not exactly.

In every major conversation with the Afghans and the Pakistanis, American officials talked about their plans for an "enduring presence" of American troops.

No one says, at least officially, how big the enduring partnership would be. But the internal estimates cited by American officials in recent interviews run from 10,000 to 15,000 troops....As a tripwire....the force would include drone operators, so that the United States can...launch missile



attacks inside Pakistan or in Afghan territory.

China's low-income class is kept low

GW, 9/29 — China's 150 million migrant workers are the force that has powered its economic miracle, yet they are treated like second-class citizens. The country's household registration system divides people into urban and rural dwellers and allocates their rights to services such as education and health accordingly. The income ratio of town to country is more than 5:1, according to recent research....Those who construct the cities' buildings and clean their streets are condemned to poor services, vulnerability and....petty indignities: the glances from urbanites who when climbing on to a bus...still grimy from the day's labour...."If there are 10 people, maybe two of them will treat us like equals. The rest still look down on us."

Power-holders decide 'peace' or war

GW, 10/12 — To the Editor:....Peace comes when the power-brokers or power-holders decide that a state of war no longer serves their needs....

Once the US decides that Afghanistan and Pakistan have been pacified enough to let the interested parties move their central Asian oil and gas through the country, then some figure will "magically" broker a peace...which at the end of the day only happens because the powers-that-be decree so.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

The Real Choice: Vote or Revolt

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, October 20 — With the U.S. presidential elections around the corner, college students here held a study-action group to address some questions our friends may be having, mainly, “Can you vote away the ills of capitalism?”

One young woman voted for Barack Obama in 2008 with great zeal. Today she is a PL'er and believes that “when it comes to war and foreign policy, Republicans and Democrats are the same.” Even so, she fears that Republicans will cut funds for family planning and preventative health services for poor and uninsured workers. Actually, Democrat Clinton made the biggest cuts in welfare.

In reality, racist unemployment and sexist healthcare cuts are a daily reality for workers under Obama. Nearly one in three teens is unemployed. The expansion of minimum-wage jobs has lowered wages overall. More than \$60 million in cuts have been made to Planned Parenthood. Brooklyn's Downstate Medical Center is being shut down, a huge blow to the borough's majority black and Latino residents and to the hospital's mainly female workforce. As the Obama administration has demonstrated, these attacks will continue no matter who is president.

The State and Class Dictatorship

The Progressive Labor Party rejects bourgeois democracy, the capitalists' form of government. As Karl Marx noted, all governments are absolute dictatorships of the class that holds state power. Under bourgeois democracy, the bosses use elections to confuse and distract workers from organizing in their own interests.

Presidential campaigns are one of the rulers' main tools to hide their brutal control over every aspect of capitalist society, regardless of which party or candidate comes out ahead at the polls. Despite the candidates' tactical disagreements, a vote for Democrat Barack Obama is essentially no different than a vote for Republican Mitt Romney. Both serve the bosses' class interests.

In our study group, we considered how elections are both a con game for workers and a method to settle differences for the ruling class. As our friend from Haiti said, “Voting is to keep us in check. They have voting so we don't revolt.”

Voting is Futile

Nothing frightens capitalists more than workers' anger. To prevent armed revolt, the bosses channel reform movements into the electoral process, where that anger is neutralized. Whatever gains workers have made are the result of mass organizing against the bosses led by communists, not because of voting. The eight-hour day was enacted after years of strikes in basic industries and the threat of a national railway strike. Communists organized the fight for unemployment insurance and the Flint sit-down strike of 1936-37 which led to the unionization of autoworkers, the basis for decent pay and health care. While reform victories are short-lived, they demonstrate that change — and ultimately

communist revolution — can be achieved only through long-term mass struggle.

We asked our friends who have mobilized for Shantel Davis, the 23-year-old black woman executed in June by a Brooklyn kkkop, if we could vote away racist police shootings. They unanimously replied that we could not. They understand that capitalism rules through state-sanctioned, systematic violence to suppress and intimidate workers.

The bosses run our schools, hospitals, and workplaces to squeeze out maximum profit while indoctrinating workers with capitalist ideology. Under their dictatorship, the capitalists own everything — including their puppet politicians, rigged court system, and racist and murderous cops. As the competition between national groups of capitalists sharpens, the bosses need more intensive and massive terror — fascism — to fight broader wars for even more profit.

Elections are like being asked, “Would you prefer to be decapitated or shot in the head?” Communists refuse to choose which politician will be in charge of the next round of layoffs, cuts, wars, and police violence. Our goal is a society where working people run everything for the working class.

Under communism, everyone will be entrusted with the power and responsibility to think, speak out, and act in their class interest. Goods will be produced and distributed according to need. In contrast to bosses' democracy, communist government demands full and open discussion and criticism. Once a decision is made, collective struggle will put it into practice.

What To Do?

Some of our friends think capitalism can never end: “It's been around so long. Change is difficult.” Indeed, change is difficult. But mountains turn into soil, your childhood enemy comes to be your best friend, and passive workers become fierce revolutionaries. The question now is how.

The Progressive Labor Party says communist revolution is truly the only solution, and what's rotten must be destroyed at the root. For that we need millions of workers to unite under the banner of the communist PLP. Every time a worker joins PL, a cop trembles in fear and a capitalist is that much closer to a bullet to the head. Yes, revolution will be violent. What did our friends think of that? They agreed to another study group for further discussion!☺

This is Class War Patron or Boss, Don't Be Fooled



Sign Reads, “Immigrants and Citizens United. Workers' Struggles Have No Borders”

OAKLAND, October 27 — A loud and enthusiastic crowd picketed and rallied at Mi Pueblo Market today to popularize a community boycott here in Oakland (see CHALLENGE 10/17). The most organized and noticeable group were young people in 67 Suenos who took over the parking lot chanting, “If you're E-Verifying, We Ain't Buying!” (a redo of E-40's rap song, “We out here trying to function”). One manager got so frustrated that he threw raw eggs at the crowd!

PLP members and friends participated. We had signs and leaflets in Spanish and English about uniting the working class across all borders. (see photo). Our leaflet explained that the capitalist class worldwide causes migration around the globe and unemployment as a “labor policy,” as a race to the bottom for cheaper labor and maximization of profits. This hurts every worker, citizen or immigrant. We called to abolish racism, sexism, and nationalism with international working-class unity. When you look around, it's only communists that say class trumps nationalism in all its forms.

Here we have a former “illegal” immigrant, Juvenal Chavez, who now owns 21 stores, pays substandard wages and uses Immigration Customs Enforcement to scare workers from fighting back. Nationalism doesn't get in his way when he screws these workers! At the same time, his stores always have the red, white and green of the Mexican flag all over the place. “Patron” or “Boss — don't be fooled — this is CLASS WAR. Capitalists of every nationality and every country are our enemies!☺



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