

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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FERGUSON YOUTH DEFY KKKKOPS

FERGUSON, MISSOURI, August 11 — “Racism means? We got to fight back!” came the shout down West Florissant Avenue, as hundreds of Black youth and PLers took the streets one year after the murder of Mike Brown by the racist Ferguson Police Department. In defiance of both the Ferguson PD and a thunderstorm, we chanted and stopped traffic.

PLP sent contingents from the South, the Midwest, and Los Angeles to Ferguson to organize around the one-year anniversary of Brown’s murder. Because of PLP’s consistent work in Ferguson over the past year, we have been welcomed by workers there. We received an especially warm response at CHALLENGE sales near the site of Mike Brown’s murder, a segregated Black working-class area. Many residents agreed with our analysis on the need for multiracial unity and workers’ power.

We have developed relationships with Ferguson youth who have organized themselves under the name of Lost Voices. For three nights in a row, PLers have joined with them and other young protesters in nightly marches from West Florissant Avenue to the Ferguson Police Department. These energetic marches would start small, with 50 to 60 people and a few cars, and then grow into masses of hundreds that took over the street. When PLP and Lost Voices led chants on the bullhorns, they were picked up by the rest of the marchers. These marches were powerful and loud, with a level of militancy that many people haven’t experienced before – even veteran members of PLP.

Ferguson: School for Communism

Many PLers have learned a lot about commitment and perseverance from the young people of Ferguson. Less experienced PLers have gotten a crash course in how to protest and fight back in this class struggle against the Ferguson PD and the capitalist state. The lessons they have learned are invaluable.

While standing shoulder to shoulder in this struggle, PLP has also struggled politically with our friends in the community to share our vision of the fight for



One year after Michael Brown murder, workers fight back against police terror in Ferguson.

communism. PLers held a study group that stressed the need for multiracial unity while discussing the divisive role played by all types of nationalism and the false notion of “white skin privilege.” Some friends of PLP defended the idea of needing a “Black space,” and a comradely and passionate discussion ensued. PLers argued that ideas like “Black spaces” are pushed by the ruling class through organizations like Black Lives Matter, which is funded by the Ford Foundation and billionaire imperialist George Soros. These backward ideas can only mislead workers into aligning with bosses of like “identity.” Unity with bosses is a death trap that leads workers to fight each other instead of the ruling class. PLP fights for worker unity: Asian, Latin, Black and white.

It is our discipline as a Party that allows us to grow and advance. Discipline means learning to recognize the limits of a situation. During one march, the numbers of workers and community members dwindled to the point that continuing to hold the street would have unnecessarily risked our comrades and friends. Once the Party leadership determined it was time to leave the street, we made a tactical retreat. One individual who’d joined the march toward the end criticized the

Party for leaving when we did. He was a provocateur who wanted to attack the cops on the spot or provoke the cops into attacking the marchers. PLP believes in organizing a mass party for mass revolutionary violence, not spontaneous anarchy!

The Struggle Sharpens and Continues

Later that day, the police showed up in riot gear, and shots were fired between them and some community members. This gave the cops their opportunity to crack down. Tyrone Harris, who’d just graduated from high school and was a classmate of Michael Brown, was shot by St. Louis County Police. He is currently in a local hospital where his family has been banned from entering.

Our primary focus has been on the youth and community who were most active in the rebellion over the past year. However, this Summer Project has given us a new perspective on organizing and opened new possibilities for struggle. After the police crackdown, we attended a public meeting with progressive local clergy

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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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. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, 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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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

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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Editorial

Dark Night Shall Have Its End

This editorial is adapted from a report of PLP's Central Committee to our 2015 Convention. Its title derives from a message of encouragement from Mao Zedong, chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, to William Z. Foster, chairman of the Communist Party USA, in response to Foster's complaint that U.S. imperialism appeared indestructible.

Capitalism offers the world's workers nothing but endless horrors. Its "triumph" brings imperialist war; mass racist and sexist poverty and unemployment; racist police terror and border control; fascist "homeland security"; hunger and malnutrition; ethnic and religious genocide; mind-numbing cultural degradation. This is the nature of the profit system. It cannot change. It will prevail until it is smashed by communist revolution. That is the main task for workers of the world: to destroy the old order and create something new. The challenge was never easy, but today it is harder than ever. Why? Because of the cynicism and passivity resulting from the collapse of the old communist movement.

Nonetheless, we have every reason for revolutionary optimism. Progressive Labor Party's experience in the mass movement tell us that a growing number of workers, soldiers and students are looking for a way out of capitalism's house of horrors. Their search for an alternative creates an opportunity to win them to our political ideas. Though there are no quick solutions, what we do now—or what we fail to do—is more important than ever. With the reversals in Russia and China to full-blown capitalism, we have lost the model and inspiration of a center for the world communist movement. The current menu of political "options" consists of one set of billionaires or another, from Democratic Party liberals to Tea Party Republicans to Middle East petro-capitalists to a rogue's gallery of nationalists in Latin America and Africa. None of these bosses have solutions for us. The only solution—the one way to stop imperialist bloodbaths for all time—remains international communist revolution.

Revisionism, the Movement's Achilles' Heel

The Achilles' heel of the old communist movement was revisionism, capitalist ideas masquerading as leftist ideology within the ranks of the working class. While we must fight for reforms within the class struggle to communist ideas, reformism is a deadly ideology. It makes reforms the end rather than a means to build the revolutionary movement.

Our Party was born in the fight against these anti-communist tendencies, and has continuously fought to deepen

The choice between communism and capitalism is one of life and death.

the struggle. In the early 1980s, with the document *Road to Revolution IV*, PLP concluded that seizing power—and then keeping it to build an international communist workers' dictatorship—hinged on bringing communist consciousness to hundreds of millions of workers organized into one revolutionary party. *RR IV* called for the elimination of money. The capitalist wage system would be replaced by communist distribution: from each according to commitment, to each according to need, with no special privileges for Party members. These theoretical advances were vital contributions to the arsenal of revolutionary communism.

We have a long way to go to build a new communist movement as a beacon of hope for billions of workers. We need to struggle very hard to make limited progress. Each advance, from the sale of one more CHALLENGE to the recruitment of one more worker, helps us move to a higher level of struggle.

Reviving Class Struggle in a Difficult Period

The biggest error our Party made after *Road to Revolution IV* was to underestimate the significance of the old movement's collapse. Its defeat has devastated class struggle throughout the world. Where so-called activist movements still exist, they are dominated by agents of the ruling class.

Class collaborators preside over labor unions' dwindling memberships. The U.S. bosses keep pushing FBI informer Al Sharpton as the pacifying misleader of the movement against racist murders by cops. Billionaire imperialist George Soros marshals pro-capitalist reformers worldwide for "human rights." (His foundation trained the organizers of the Arab Spring and the current leadership of Black Lives Matter.) Barack Obama, who has droned to death more innocents than the number killed on 9/11 and deported more workers than all other presidents combined, successfully posed as an anti-racist champion in his eulogy for murdered church members in Charleston, South Carolina.

For the mass movement to break from capitalism and advance toward communist revolution, it must first break from these misleaders and their oppressive ideology.

There Are No Lesser Evils

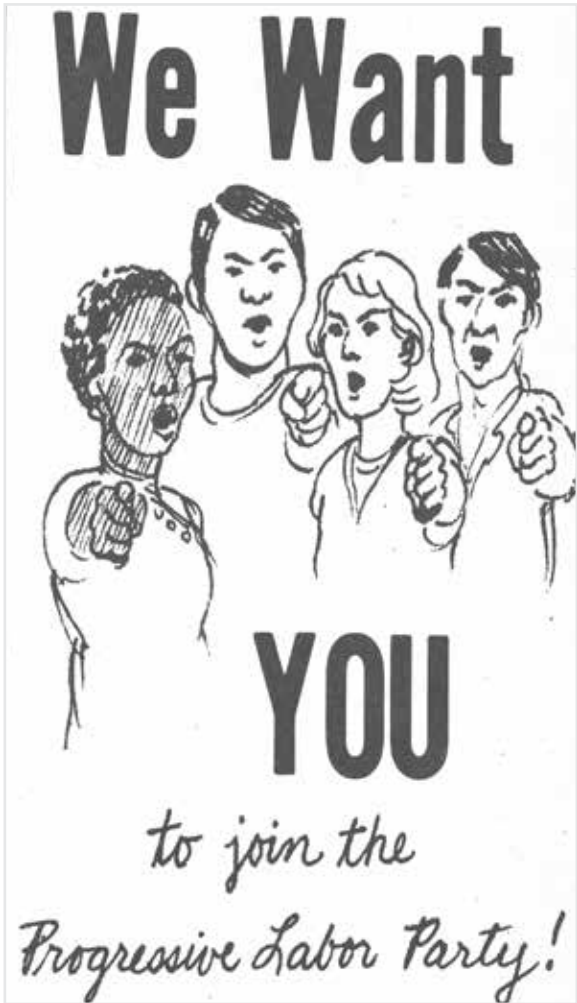
Worldwide, inter-imperialist rivalry, the main source of international conflict today, has sharpened to the detriment of U.S. rulers. Russia has annexed Crimea and invaded Georgia and Ukraine. China brandishes its growing military might in East Asia and the South China Sea. After a small success in Kosovo, U.S. imperialists have struck out in Afghanistan, Libya, and Iraq.

But the U.S. bosses' losses are not workers' gains. Without exception, the main opposition to U.S. imperialism is reactionary and nationalist in character. A case in point is the U.S. rulers' bungled invasion of Iraq. There is no "good" side here, only a choice among thieves and murderers. There is some support for ISIS among oppressed people around the world, but as CHALLENGE has pointed out, the group's main funding comes from the same non-royal wing of Saudi bosses that bankrolled Osama bin Laden. They want to oust ExxonMobil and capture Saudi and Iraqi oil profits for themselves.

From the Masses, to the Masses

A Party immersed in the working class will destroy imperialism and the old capitalist order. Relying on workers will make us immeasurably stronger. It will sustain us through hard times and secure the Party against fascist terror. Wherever we fight to sharpen the class struggle, we get a strong

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Haiti: 'We Are Rebelling, We Cannot Bear Hunger'

HAITI, July 28 — On the one hundred year anniversary since the 1915 U.S. imperialist invasion of Haiti, more than a thousand angry workers, students and youth demonstrated, marched and sang under the Progressive Labor Party's leadership in the south of the country! The demonstration was called denouncing hunger, high prices, and the MINUSTAH occupation. MINUSTAH is an acronym for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, an imperialist military occupation began in 2004, following a U.S. imperialist-backed coup. This occupation intensified after the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010, which massacred more than 250,000 workers, injured 300,000 and displaced 1.5 million more. MINUSTAH's occupation is also responsible for the spread of cholera in the earthquake's aftermath.

Workers from all over marched for kilometers singing militant songs with lyrics like, "why do the dogs of those with money live better than the poor, poverty is destroying them, it will not stay that way" and "we are rebelling, we cannot bear hunger [poverty, high prices, capitalism, etc.]. They arrived with plates, pots and spoons to hit to demonstrate that they cannot feed themselves. Many who came were inspired, and one participant later summarized his impressions to a friend: "the people who fight, will win, and we need to change the welfare of everyone." Everyone agreed that we must organize other mass mobilizations

and denounce the evil of capitalism.

Our Party extensively prepared for this event. After a quick meeting we got to work: hundreds of pamphlets were printed and sent for distribution, and mobilizations were called via social networks and on the radio station of the city. Contributions were taken for the banner and placards. Some of our comrades visited a nearby town days prior to the march. They gave a lecture about how the struggle is not about "poor" countries versus "rich" countries, but rather the fight against capitalism in every country and organizing for communist revolution. Other PLers mobilized door-to-door with friends and relatives in the area with a megaphone, and under a veil. On the day of the march itself we obtained a sound system, and our comrades ensured there was enough water for the marchers.

The lesson from this demonstration: workers were hesitant about the march, but when they saw it was a PLP comrade giving leadership to the demonstration, they asserted their confidence that this is a revolutionary and correct event. From the masses to the comrades, it inspired confidence.

The working class in Haiti and the abundant natural resources there have long been a target of U.S. imperialism. In 1915, the U.S. imperialists invaded, massacred thousands of workers, and

began a brutal twenty year occupation claiming they were building "democracy." While the French imperialists were busy stealing 80% of Haiti's budget for over a century as punishment for the 1803-4 revolution that ended French colonial rule, the U.S. imperialist occupation re-instituted slavery to the working class of Haiti. The U.S. bosses also claimed its forests, oil and gas reserves, for exploitation. While the U.S. imperialist occupation supposedly ended in 1935, Haiti has been ruled by a string of U.S. imperialist-backed murderers since. MINUSTAH is only the latest.

This insatiable imperialist drive for labor and resources in Haiti is essential to capitalism. Under capitalism, competing imperialists are driven to exploit workers and resources all over the world that will guarantee them the greatest profits, and greatest power over other rivals. Meanwhile, workers in Haiti face escalating food prices, and whole communities are still displaced in camps without water, healthcare, or schools. The international working class has no stake in capitalism. PLP fights to smash the capitalist source of imperialism with armed revolution.

Our Party will continue to mobilize and work in this area where our demonstration inspired many and where there are friends and relatives becoming involved with our Party. Our struggle is the struggle with and within the working class for the establishment of communism!✊

Mexico: Teachers Fight Bosses' Attacks

OAXACA, MEXICO — On July 21, the Governor of Oaxaca, Gabino Cué, announced the elimination of the State Institute of Public Education of Oaxaca (IEEPO) and the creation of a "new" governing body of education in the state. As Cué made this announcement, the sinister head of the Ministry of Public Education (SEP) Emilio Chuayffet was there showing his support, and that of the federal government.

These politicians state that this measure will put an end to teachers' control of the IEEPO, held since 1992 under Section 22, won by the National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE) union. At the core of the announcement is a fascist hit against Section 22, openly excluding teachers from participation in decision-making on educational programs and the organization and supervision of the schools. According to Cué and Chuayffet these things must be performed by personnel as corrupt and sinister as they are, not the teachers who are responsible for the education of the children and youth in the classroom. That is the capitalists' vision for all aspects of society.

The announcement was accompanied by the presence of thousands of federal police and the military, who have been patrolling by ground and air trying to intimidate the teachers and the community. They have canceled the bank accounts of teachers and the delivery of union dues. Teachers have responded with massive demonstrations at the state and national level, and teachers from other cities like Michoacan, Chiapas, Guerrero and Mexico City have shown their support of Section 22.

On behalf of Cué's education reform, the ruling capitalists, their apologists and their repressive governing bodies

have launched a fascist attack to get rid of Section 22. There is no doubt that this is an attack by the capitalist class against the entire working class. Its education reform has nothing to do with improving the quality of education, but to fire teachers and privatize education.

The assessment that the SEP is supposed to make does not seek to retain effective teachers who are committed to the education of children and youth, their true goal is to dismiss anyone who questions the rotten education system and defends their rights as workers. Tens of thousands of education workers will be laid off because the SEP is moving all administrative work to municipalities, who will subrogate these services and will force parents to pay for them. Teachers from Oaxaca are the ones with the strongest resistance to this repressive and privatization reform, thus they are being targeted, and eventually eliminated.

In Mexico and throughout the world, capitalists blame teachers for backwardness in the education system, but the ruling capitalists are solely responsible for this as they subject and degrade education to their needs and monetary gains. They spend public funding to sustain hundreds of thousands of military



Workers in Mexico City protest Governor Cué's fascist attacks on education.

and police murderers who defend the capitalists and their profits, and commit mass murders, in particular of young people who the capitalists' hypocritically claim to defend with this reform.

Behind the current education problem, unemployment, growing poverty rates, narco-state genocide, among other calamities, are the capitalist ruling elites who accumulate enormous wealth daily through cheap labor, seizing natural resources and privatizing basic social services such as health and education.

The capitalist ruling class exploits, represses, imprisons, tortures, disappears, spies and corrupts — it is a burdening liability to humanity. Workers have the need and the power to put an end to it. We must break nationalist borders and

expand this struggle internationally, with the understanding that we are one working class and our enemy is the entire imperialist capitalist class. Workers of the world unite! It is a powerful slogan that puts all the world's oppressed on the offense.

A true good quality education for all youth will only come when we've smashed this system of markets and profits, when society is run by and for all workers and their families, and where all members of the working class are provided for. The working class united and organized by Progressive Labor Party has the power to end this rotten capitalist system. PLP has already begun the fight for communism. Join us!✊

Health Profits Kill Kids

CHICAGO, August 5 — “If you go ahead with this plan, you are murderers!” said a speaker at a community meeting, after a secret plan was revealed to close pediatric inpatient units at Stroger Cook County Hospital. The bosses’ plan to quietly phase out the pediatric patients was disrupted when someone leaked minutes of their secret June meeting, and resistance to this secret plan has been building since. On July 31, CEO Jay Shannon’s smug arrogance was shaken at a monthly Board meeting for Cook County Health and Hospitals as scores of outraged doctors, nurses and patients packed into the meeting room. Security told the local news that they couldn’t bring in their cameras to film the public meeting, while outside the Administration Building, hospital security guards failed to silence two dozen members of the United Methodist Women demonstrating in support.

Resistance Quickly Mobilized

After the leak, doctors, nurses, patients and community people organized in a few days so that the meeting room was standing room only. Witness after witness denounced the no-longer-secret racist plans that would take away the safety net for uninsured working class Black and immigrant kids. PLP comrades who work at the hospital pointed out among their coworkers that capitalism’s racist “market reforms” in medical care were the real murderers. The de-funding and dismemberment of the Cook County Health and Hospital System, which has already lost two of its three hospitals and half of its clinics, has

hit Black and immigrant workers hardest, who are a large percentage of our patients.

Our fight is to continue linking the many examples of local corruption to capitalism. For instance, the hospital bosses engineering the closure of the newborn unit whose patients will end up across the street in the private hospital, while the bosses rake in \$25 million annually. Or the sweetheart deals that allow hospitals to profit from the procedures that used to be carried out more cheaply at the County. Or the multi-million dollar contracts to “consultants” that take their huge fees and leave, having fixed nothing.

Communists Make Link to Capitalist System

The bottom line is, under capitalism where profit is king, we can never have health care that is designed and carried out to maximize our health. What is maximized under this system is profits. Period.

Our work is to channel these upsurges of anger by the workers into a mass PLP and sweep the profiteering parasites out of our hospitals and out of our world with armed revolution. We also must help people make connections between racism and capitalism.

Under communism, we will share the things we produce and the services we provide. That kind of system, run by the working class, is called communism. Every fight we engage in today can serve as a training ground for the much larger fight in the future, the fight for political power to end this racist, oppressive capitalist system.✶

Score for the Working Class

BROOKLYN, NY, August 9 —The Shantel Davis Committee and PLP organized the third annual Hoops for Justice basketball tournament yesterday in Shantel Davis’s and Kimani Gray’s memory, two Black youth murdered by kkkops. Players waiting to compete looked through CHALLENGE as announcers mixed in play-calling with political consciousness. This tournament kicked off Progressive Labor Party’s summer project, a week of political actions concentrated among training youth to be communist organizers.

Teachers determined to see their students as more than “suspects” united with Shantel’s sister and local coaches to pull off the event. CHALLENGE is not only connecting the dots of racist, senseless murder — from Pakistan to Ukraine to New York City to Missouri. It’s also become the news source for many youth. The youth are listening. Families stricken by racist cop murders are forming bonds of fightback. We refuse to forget our working-class sisters and brothers taken from us. PLP will carry the call for justice forward to the only solution that can put a stop to racist cop murders: communist revolution.

Hundreds of people were involved in Hoops for Justice—playing basketball, organizing the food, watching the games and more. A highlight of the day was when a group of young women from the community held a Double Dutch contest and invited one of the lead organizers to jump in.

Solidarity with Ferguson

Hoops for Justice is part of our work around these police murders. The

following day, we rallied in solidarity with the working class in Ferguson who staged mass demonstrations on the anniversary of the murder of Mike Brown, teen killed by cops (see front page). A multiracial, international group of PLP distributed scores of CHALLENGE with the front page headline, “Death to the Klan!” Workers joined in on our chants.

This mainly Black, immigrant working-class neighborhood has been PLP’s stomping grounds for decades. So when Kyam Livingston was murdered by disregard, while custody of the cops who ignored her calls medical attention, PLP supported the fightback. We’ve brought our revolutionary line to the working class in the neighborhoods these youth lived and where they were killed.

Why? The misleaders, supported by the ruling class, talk about “just a few bad cops,” or in Black Lives Matter, try to build a movement limited only to Black workers. We talk with workers about capitalism’s need to target and terrorize Black workers from fighting back. Cops are part of that terrorization strategy.

While this is only the third year that Hoops for Justice has taken place, it is a community tradition. Next year, we plan to feature tennis and handball clinics and continue to bring our message of multiracial unity, class struggle and communism. See next issue for a report on how we concluded the summer project!✶

Verizon Workers Threaten Strike

Verizon workers from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and Communication Workers of America (CWA) have been working without a contract since August 1st.

Verizon is a very profitable company. Last year it earned \$9.6 billion in profits, but the ceiling on the exploitative needs of the one percent extends at least to the moon. They still want to cut union workers’ pensions, healthcare benefits, take away workers’ job security and create more repressive working conditions. These conditions are opportunities for PLP to advance revolutionary politics among these strategic telecommunications workers, so one day we can control them!

The IBEW and CWA are no friend of the Verizon workers. The role of unions under capitalism has become to cut backroom deals instead of fight back.

The unions have responded with demands like a sixteen percent wage increase over three years (VZ CEO Lowell McAdam got sixteen percent in one year), substantial pension increases and to regain the health benefits that workers lost in the last contract.

While there is a threat of a strike, most workers currently have mixed feelings about it. Whenever workers go into a contract battle with bosses, we do so chained in arm and leg restraints. The laws, the courts, the media and all the power of the corporate state try to keep

us from using tactics that could quickly bring the enemy to its knees. This circumstance makes even the most radical of workers contemplate the effectiveness and usefulness of a strike. This is what many Verizon workers are doing right now.

Institutionalized passivity and class collaboration are two of the primary characteristics of the US union movement. Most union leaders “lead” by misdirecting and stifling the anger of the rank and file. By focusing struggles around narrow demands like pensions and healthcare, they surrender the potential to use every contract fight as an opportunity to build a class-conscious working class.

We all need to survive, so raises in pensions, healthcare and wages are certainly important issues. But capitalism is the cause of these cuts, as increasing automation in the industry has dropped the rate of profit, forcing the Verizon bosses to cut pay and benefits, lay off workers, and force one worker to do the job of two or three. In every sector of the U.S. economy, bosses are also cutting back to prepare for bigger imperialist wars on the horizon. Wage slavery and the global profit system need to be abolished and strikes and contract battles should be seen as opportunities to create conditions that allow the workers living through this experi-

ence to understand that the only way to secure a future for ourselves and our families is to fight for all workers everywhere in the world to have the same guarantee.

While the union bosses treat strikes as a publicity stunt, Verizon workers armed with revolutionary politics could make it a school for communism. While the union strategy is to try to gain sympathetic coverage in the capitalist press, this is an opportunity for PLP to inject itself into the struggle. The capitalist media is as much a part of the bosses’ state as these labor unions, and our struggle is to make CHALLENGE the voice of the Verizon workers.

PLP supports the Verizon workers in their struggle, and calls on them to recognize the incredible power they hold. Here in the northeast are the main switching stations where all calls and internet traffic—both wireless and wireline-- are routed. This includes the vast amount of electronic financial transactions and much of the trading on Wall Street. To occupy and shut these offices down would not only send a message, it would shake bosses all over the world and be an inspiration for workers everywhere. This would be an incredible advance!

PLP argues that we workers produce the economic value and we should make the decisions on how it is used. We fight for a society where the working class is in charge – communism – and invite the Verizon workers to join us in building a mass international party for communist revolution. With telecom workers inside using our skills to shut down the systems that allow the profits to flow through the network and fellow workers outside surrounding the buildings, we no doubt would have the raw material of an insurrection that could rock the foundation of the capitalist economy. We have the power.✶



Ferguson Youth Defy KKKops



In defiance of both the Ferguson PD and a thunderstorm, rebels and PL chanted and stopped traffic.

Continued from front page

who are organizing their parishioners in direct action against racism in the area. We also are planning a rally and CHALLENGE sale at the hospital where Tyrone Harris is being held. We will reach out to health workers to make the connection between racist police terror and the racist healthcare system.

The fightback in Ferguson is far from over, and PLP's work here is just getting started! Getting all workers to see that the Ferguson fight is their fight will be another nail in capitalism's coffin. Multiracial unity of the entire working class is the only way to smash this entire system, and PLP's Summer Project is bringing that future closer!✊

Dark Night Shall Have Its End

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response.

In our participation in the recent wave of demonstrations against racist police terror, we showed how a small but disciplined and organized group can influence the masses. The slogans of PLP became mass slogans; the boldness of PLP pushed the limits in a range of actions.

We can do even more. Through the actions in Ferguson, Missouri, and subsequent demonstrations around the world, our younger comrades learned—and older comrades were reminded—that we must respond with boldness and enthusiasm to the class struggle. Whenever we put the needs of our class first, we win more workers to the revolutionary communist PLP.

The Future Is Bright

Our responsibility is immense. As the current wave of anti-immigrant racism illustrates, the political line of the working class will derive from one of two sources: capitalists or communists. The liberal capitalist line points to the Koch brothers as the enemy and offers the likes of arch-imperialist Hillary Clinton as an alternative. The communist line takes a class position on internationalism and imperialist war, and calls for revolution. There is a life-and-death difference between these two positions.

The mass international protests in 2003 against the U.S. invasion of Iraq and the mass anti-racist marches of 2014 and 2015 show the potential for a mass working-class movement. As U.S. rulers plunge into broader global conflicts, turmoil and mass protest are sure to follow—and on a scale we have not seen in close to half a century.

As Marx wrote, every problem creates the elements of its solution. The profit system's contradictions are universal and absolute. No amount of fascist repression or imperialist war can erase the historic need of the international working class to make communist revolution.

PLP represents the future. Our opportunities are abundant. By learning to diagnose the disease of reformism more quickly and sharply, we can cure it. Though years of struggle lay ahead, history demands nothing less of us. The working class deserves nothing less.

As we continue to build upon the theory and practice of the communist movement, Progressive Labor Party has the potential to midwife a new humanity into the world. We must stay the course with revolutionary patience and revolutionary urgency. The current period will not last forever; the change may come sooner than we can now foresee.

Dark Night will have its end.✊

Bombing A-Bomb Lies

This August marks the 70th anniversary of the single most murderous act of terrorism in world history. On August 6 and August 9, 1945, the U.S. ruling class dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, slaughtering over 300,000 civilian men, women and children. In 2004, a report from Hiroshima set the cumulative death total at 237,062 (CBS News, 8/6/2005), plus another 75,000 from the after-effects in Nagasaki.

The racist U.S. rulers were more than ready to launch these horrific attacks on an Asian population. These atrocities had nothing to do with ending World War II—or “saving lives,” as the bosses’ media constantly claims. They were actually a political warning from U.S. imperialism to the then-socialist Soviet Union, the first shots of the Cold War. According to A-Bomb scientist Leo Szilard, who met with Secretary of State James Byrnes:

“Mr. Byrnes did not argue that it was necessary to use the bomb...in order to

win the war....Mr. Byrnes's....view [was] that our possessing and demonstrating the bomb would make Russia more manageable in Europe” (A Personal History of the Atomic Bomb, Leo Szilard, 1949).

Japan Was Already Beaten

U.S. rulers pushed the falsehood that the A-Bomb attacks were necessary to force Japan's surrender and avoid a U.S. land invasion that would have led to one million U.S. casualties. In fact, Japan's rulers were ready to surrender before the atomic bombings:

- The United States Strategic Bombing Survey reported: “Certainly...in all probability prior to November 1945, Japan would have surrendered even if the atomic bomb had not been dropped... and even if no invasion had been planned or contemplated” (Survey: “Japan's Struggle to End the War”).

- In “The Myths of Hiroshima” (8/5/2005), the Los Angeles Times reported: “The hard truth is that the atomic bombings were unnecessary. A million lives were not saved. Indeed, McGeorge Bundy, the man who popularized this figure, later confessed that he had pulled it out of the air to justify the bombings in a 1947 Harper's Magazine essay he had ghostwritten for Secretary of War Henry Stimson.”

- On March 9, 1945, “100,000 to 200,000 men, women and children died when the U.S. Air Force doused Tokyo with jellied gasoline....In the months before Hiroshima [conventional] bombs killed up to 500,000 in Japanese cities and left 13 million homeless” (U.S. News & World Report, 7/13/1995).

- By the spring of 1945, Japan's entire industrial and military machine had ground to a halt, severing its oil lifeline. By June, U.S. Air Force General Curtis

LeMay complained that there was nothing left to bomb in Japanese cities except “garbage can targets.”

- President Harry Truman's diary referred to a decoded Japanese cable indicating that Japan was about to surrender unconditionally.

- On July 17, 1945, three weeks before Hiroshima, Truman's diary shows that he believed the Soviet Union would “be in the Jap[anese] war by August 15. Fini Jap[anese] when that comes about.” At the Yalta Conference in May 1945, Soviet leader Josef Stalin had promised Truman that the Red Army would enter the war against Japan within three months of the Nazi surrender in Europe. The latter occurred on May 8, 1945; the Soviets swept into Japanese-occupied Manchuria on August 8 and were preparing an invasion of homeland Japan.

- Dwight Eisenhower, the U.S. general who later became president, said it was his “belief that Japan was already defeated and that dropping the bomb was completely unnecessary...and no longer mandatory to save American lives” (Mandate for Change, Dwight Eisenhower, 1963).

- General Douglas MacArthur, U.S. Pacific commander, believed the dropping of the bombs was “completely unnecessary from a military point of view” (The Years of MacArthur, 1941-1945, Vol. II, James Clayton).

U.S. War Crimes

So why were the the bombs dropped? With the Red Army ready to enter the war against Japan by August 8, the U.S. rushed to use the bomb two days earlier. The U.S. rulers believed an official Japanese surrender would demonstrate to the Soviets that the U.S. had what War Secretary Stimson referred to as a “master card”: “Let our actions speak

for words. The Russians will understand them better than anything else....We have to regain the lead...in a pretty rough and realistic way....We have coming into action a weapon which will be unique” (Stimson's diary).

Secretary of State Byrnes told Stimson, “The atomic bomb might well put us in a position to dictate our own terms at the end of the war.” (Year of Decision, Harry Truman).

Earlier, on June 6, 1945, Stimson told Truman he was “fearful” that the U.S. Air Force would have Japan “so bombed out” that the A-Bomb “would not have a fair background to show its strength.” Obviously, U.S. rulers would be “showing that strength” to the Soviets, a “show” that slaughtered more than a quarter-million Japanese civilians.

As the U.S. continues to prosecute a “war on terror” and negotiates to constrain Iran's nuclear program, Barack Obama's hypocritical pronouncements about a world “free of nuclear weapons” ignore the fact that only the U.S. rulers he represents stand guilty of this genocidal act.

In what amounted to an indictment of the liberal Democrat Truman administration, atomic scientist Szilard stated: “If the Germans had dropped atomic bombs on cities...we would have defined [it]...as a war crime, and we would have sentenced the Germans who were guilty of this crime to death at Nuremberg and hanged them.”

It remains for the international working class to mete out this justice to the most murderous war criminals the world has ever known. United beyond the rulers' borders, workers must turn the guns and bombs around and smash imperialism in the fight for a communist world.✊



LETTERS

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

Multiracial Fightback is Healing

I remember leaving Ferguson feeling like a winner. I felt like we showed the bosses that they couldn't fuck with us there. The people who mattered (working people from that community) felt like we had their back and everyone recognized that we were there to show unity with those oppressed there: multiracial unity. At the Movement for Black lives conference it felt different. Our multiracial groups were getting attacked during the workshops and rallies. The organizers of the conference choose healing over fighting racism as the focus of the discussion. There were some parts of the conference that were moving, such as the opening ceremony, where dozens of families whose family members were killed told the crowd about how their family member was before being murdered. To me, this was

more of a reason to talk about fighting racism but the organizers still decided to focus on healing.

Although the conference was overall more superficial than substantive, the most encouraging part of it all was the anti-capitalist sentiment among the Black working-class people. For PLP the focus was discussing multiracial unity during the conference but in the long run, as we work to dismantle capitalism we hope the attendees choose smashing our whole system over Black capitalism or nationalism. I hope the next conference is more about fighting back than healing and if so, we will be in a great position to win over more of the Black working class.

★ ★ ★ ★

Exploitation: Basis for Workers' Unity

The Progressive Labor Party always tries to clarify that the condition for most white workers and their families is one of oppression – less, in general, than the oppression experienced by Black workers, but oppression nonetheless. There is, therefore, an objective basis for unity of the oppressed.

All of this is true, and was well stated in the August 12 CHALLENGE in the article, "White Comrades, Not Allies." But in this case, it might have been more precise to consider the concept of exploitation, rather than oppression.

In short, exploitation is what the capitalists absolutely require in order to make the very profit that keeps them alive as capitalists. Oppression, on the other hand, while including exploitation as one of its many forms, is a much broader concept that is related to exploitation mainly through its supporting role. The capitalists need to *oppress* the working class in order to make it possible for them to *exploit* the workers, without hindrance from workers' resistance, and for no other reason. It's not that they are sadists who have a

psychological need to make people's lives miserable. Rather they have a material need to exploit in order to make profit or die as capitalists. And for that they need oppression. The central point for the capitalists, however, is exploitation. They oppress in order to exploit, and not the other way around.

Oppression takes a tremendous number of forms, while exploitation takes only one form – paying only for labor *power* (what it takes to keep a worker and her/his family alive day to day) while reaping the benefit of labor *time* (embodied in what workers produce). Oppression occurs, for example, in segregation, high rents for poor housing, impoverished and mis-aimed education, racist discrimination, media lies, cop killings, drug infestation, gang encouragement, mass incarceration, unemployment, being used as cannon fodder, and sexist violence.

The fact is that the primary basis for unity between Black and white workers is precisely that both are exploited – that is, the bosses steal from both and from all. That fact Black and white workers share, while the many forms of oppression they often do not share, or at least the intensity of those various forms are not shared. Of course, the intensity of exploitation is often not shared either, but the Black/white income differential owes at least as much to different job and education opportunities as it does to unequal pay for equal work (a point, by the way that we have not made clear when we speak of the billions of dollars reaped from racism).

Once it is said about exploitation that all workers are its victims, the false concepts of white skin privilege and nationalism can more easily be tossed out the window, because no one who is robbed cares that someone else was robbed of more, or for that matter of less. To be robbed is to be robbed. As a basis of unity, the need to throw off exploitation is the heart of the need for unity among all workers.

★ ★ ★ ★



Robert Conquest: Good Riddance!

Like all institutions under capitalism, universities and colleges serve the needs of the ruling class. They slant their research to cloud the reality of class conflict and to advance the bosses' lethal anti-worker ideologies: racism, sexism, nationalism, imperialism, anti-communism. In the U.S., nowhere is their agenda more brazen than in the field of Russian or Soviet studies. Leading departments—at bastions like Harvard and Columbia—were essentially created in the Cold War 1950s by alumni of the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency. From the start, their mission was to promote anti-communist propaganda masquerading as academic scholarship.

On August 3, Robert Conquest, academia's most influential anti-communist of the 20th century, died belatedly at the age of 98. Predictably, the capitalists' liberal media celebrated his work. Citing Conquest's cynical fictions as fact, the New York Times lauded his "landmark studies of the Stalinist purges and the Ukrainian famine of the 1930s [that] documented the horrors perpetrated by the Soviet regime against its own citizens." The Guardian called him "the man who told the truth about the terror [of the '30s], and Stalin's murderous tyranny."

A Capitalist Secret Agent

In actuality, Conquest was a bought-and-paid-for agent for the ruling class. His career stands second to none for dishonesty and deceit; his shoddy research—and its formidable reputation—speaks volumes about how the capitalist "academy" distorts history. His bibliography is a testament to the work of Nazi propagandists. Here are the facts about one of the bosses' top hatchet men in their ideological war against the international working class:

1. A dual British-U.S. citizen by birth, Conquest received his doctorate in Soviet history from the University of Oxford, the crème de la crème of capitalist higher

education. There he joined the Communist Party of Great Britain in 1937—and then left it two years later after the party denounced World War II as capitalist and imperialist (The Guardian, 8/5/2015).

2. In 1948, after a wartime stint as a British intelligence officer, Conquest joined the newly created Information Research Department (IRD), a secret section of the British Foreign Office. Christopher Mayhew, the Labour minister who invented it, called the IRD a covert "propaganda counter-offensive" against the Russians. Its job was "to collect and summarize reliable information about Soviet and communist misdoings, to disseminate it to friendly journalists, politicians, and trade unionists, and to support, financially and otherwise, anti-communist publications" (New York Review of Books, 9/25/2003). This was known as "gray propaganda"—heavily spun and vaguely official material that always concealed its source.

3. Conquest officially left the IRD in 1956, but continued to work closely with his British intelligence connections even as he forged a career as a writer and historian. His first free-lance job, at his handlers' request, was to edit eight volumes of IRD documents into a "Soviet Studies Series" that was reprinted in the U.S. by the Praeger Press, a publisher subsidized by the CIA (The Cultural Cold War: The CIA and the World of Arts and Letters, Frances Stonor Saunders, The New Press, 2000).

4. In 1968, Conquest published the book that would become the bosses' basic anti-communist manual: The Great Terror: Stalin's Purge of the Thirties. In an analysis that violated every rule of demography and scholarship, he wildly estimated that Stalin was responsible for the deaths of 20 million people. (He later revised his estimate to "thirteen to fifteen million.") The Great Terror was finished and published with the help of the IRD; a third of the publication run was bought by the Praeger Press (http://www.fact-index.com/r/ro/robert_conquest.html).

5. In 1981, Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute asked Conquest to write a book on the so-called "Holodomor" (or "terror-famine") in the Ukraine in 1932-33. The pot was sweetened by an \$80,000 subsidy from the Ukrainian National Association, a New Jersey-based group whose newspaper, Swoboda, was banned by Canada during World War II for its pro-German sympathies (Village Voice, 1/12/88).

6. The resulting volume, The Harvest of Sorrow, makes the utterly unsubstantiated claim that Stalin deliberately starved millions of men, women, and children to consolidate the collectivization of agriculture. Though the book was favorably reviewed by The New York Times and The New York Review of Books, it was slammed by a number of top Soviet scholars. "This is crap, rubbish," said Moshe Lewin, a self-described anti-Stalinist at the University of Pennsylvania (Village Voice).

7. Facts never got in Conquest's way. In The Great Terror, he states: "Truth can thus only percolate in the form of hearsay....On political matters basically the best, though not infallible, source is rumor." This approach gave Conquest free reign to rely on the self-serving memoirs of virulently anti-communist Ukrainian nationalist emigres, many of whom were Nazi collaborators during World War II.

8. In the 1990s, after the Soviet archives began to be opened to historians, Conquest asserted that this primary source material supported his slanders against Stalin. In fact, these claims were based on the big lies put forward by Soviet revisionist misleaders, notably Nikita Krushchev and Mikhail Gorbachev. Honest historians like J. Arch Getty (at UCLA) and Grover Furr (at Montclair State University) have found that the Soviet archives contradict Conquest at every turn.

Continued on page 7

Conquest: Good Riddance

continued from page 7

Why the Bosses Hate Stalin

Capitalism relies on racism and sexism to divide the working class and enlist them as fodder for their imperialist wars. The 1917 Russian Revolution revealed that another system was possible. Under Stalin's leadership, the Soviet Union went further than any other society in eradicating racism and sexism. Anti-communism smears the great advances made by the Soviet working class and builds the lie that there is no practical alternative to capitalism. By attacking Stalin and the Soviet Union, the bosses seek to distract the working class from the horror house of capitalism. PLP stands by the successes of the Soviet Union, criticizes its mistakes, and fights to teach the working class the truth!

In the bosses' eyes, the true "crime" of Stalin's leadership was the Soviet Union's commitment to the international working class. When Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, Stalin's leadership was instrumental in creating the heavy industry needed for war materiel. This was a monumental task, since factories had

to be dismantled and rebuilt far east of the Ural Mountains while being strafed by Nazi warplanes. The Stalin leadership's greatest achievement may have been the development of the Red Army, a multiracial, multiethnic force composed of many languages and hundreds of ethnic groups. Not only did the Red Army defy worldwide expectations that they'd collapse within six weeks, but they drove the Nazis all the way back to Berlin and flew the red flag from the roof of the Reichstag. Workers throughout the world were saved from Nazi fascism because of the Red Army.

As in any revolutionary movement, the Stalin leadership made mistakes. They reflected the mistakes of the Soviet working class, the first to wage armed revolution and learn how to run society to serve workers' needs. In spite of its many serious weaknesses, which PLP has analyzed elsewhere, Stalin's leadership represented the best of the international working class. It is a legacy that inspires today's communists and helps us grow. PLP sustains that legacy in our fight for communism, and in our relentless struggle against the horrors of capitalism that vermin like Conquest defend. ☛

Smash Bosses' Borders

continued from page 8

workers from Latin America and through CHALLENGE on the internet. Today, CHALLENGE is printed in English, Spanish, French, Creole, Arabic, Hebrew, Dari, Urdu, and more.

One Class, One Fight for Communism

The world we fight for is one where workers' power will reign supreme. A communist world will wipe out borders created by the bosses to reap more profits from exploiting those they call "foreigners." It will eradicate imperialist wars, which the rulers launch to grab resources and cheap labor. In a communist world, there will be no foreigners, no "illegal" migrants, no refugees from war or poverty.

While the reformists continue to fragment themselves with the identity politics of race, gender, sexuality, or national loyalties, PLP unites ALL workers, based on class consciousness. Over the last 50 years, our staunch internationalism made has helped us grow from an organization with a handful of workers in New York to a Party that spans 27 countries in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Europe. That is no small victory! Forward to another 50 years of communist organ-

Though our circumstances may differ in the U.S. and East Africa, our political line for communist revolution is the same everywhere.

izing that puts the international working class above the individual.

Workers in Senegal has the same interest as workers in China or Chile or the U.S.: a society that will meet their class's needs. An egalitarian, communist world. We invite all workers to join this struggle—for yourselves, for your children and for future generations.

We have a Party to organize and a world to win! ☛



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

A-bomb 'a pleasant way to die'?

NYT, 8/2 — ...The atom-bombing of Nagasaki and its agonizing aftermath killed more than 70,000 civilians on the day and more in the long term....

What it must have been like for people who were unlucky enough not to be killed instantly: "A woman who covered her eyes from the flash lowered her hands to find that the skin of her face had melted into her palms"; "Hundreds...were missing body parts and others were so badly burned that even though they were naked Yoshida couldn't tell if they were men or women. He saw one person whose eyeballs hung down his face, the sockets empty."

Gen. Leslie Groves, the director of the Manhattan Project, which had developed the atom bomb, testified before the United States Senate that the death from high-dose radiation was "without undue suffering" and indeed "a very pleasant way to die."

Many survivors died later...of radiation sickness. Their hair would fall out, they would be covered in purple spots, their skin would rot. And those who survived the first wave of sickness after the war had a much higher chance of dying of leukemia or other cancers even decades later.

What made things worse for Japanese doctors who tried to ease the suffering of atom-bomb victims is that information about the bomb and its effects were censored by the American administration occupying Japan....Films and photographs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as medical data, were confiscated by American authorities....

...Atom-bomb victims...found it hard to find marriage partners because people were afraid of passing genetic diseases to their offspring.

A-bombs dropped to scare Soviets

NYT, 8/8 — Many Americans believe [the] government's official narrative: that the two bombs dropped...led to Japan's surrender. But it is now well known that the surrender was prompted...by the Soviet Union's decision to join the Allies in the war against Japan. Just 11 hours before the Nagasaki bombing, 1.5 million Soviet troops crossed into the Japanese puppet state in Manchuria, in northern China, and attacked the...Japanese

Army there on three fronts.

Clintons 'dead broke' at \$139 million

NYT — Hillary Rodham Clinton...and former President Bill Clinton earned \$139 million in adjusted gross income from 2007 to 2014....she...earned nearly \$10 million in speaking fees in 2013....

The Clintons have grown immensely better off in the 15 years since they left the White House....

Mrs. Clinton has devoted a fair amount of time...to showing she understands the needs of working-class Americans, who have not seen their wages grow in years, and those struggling in the post-recession job market....

...Mrs. Clinton said last year that she and her husband were "dead broke" when they left the White House....

Mrs. Clinton's...standard [speaker's fee] was \$225,000.

She gave three speeches to Goldman Sachs in 2013 and was paid...\$675,000;...her husband was paid \$200,000 for a speech in New York....

Besides his royalties from his books and his speaking fees, Mr. Clinton earned nearly \$20 million between 2011 and 2014 for advising or consulting companies.

U.S. deports kids

GW, 7/24 — U.S. border patrol agents...deport[ed] thousands of unaccompanied immigrant children from 2009 to 2014....

...U.S. Customs and Border Protection repatriated 93% of unaccompanied children under the age of 14 from Mexico and Canada without documenting how they decided the children would be safe when the return to their home countries.

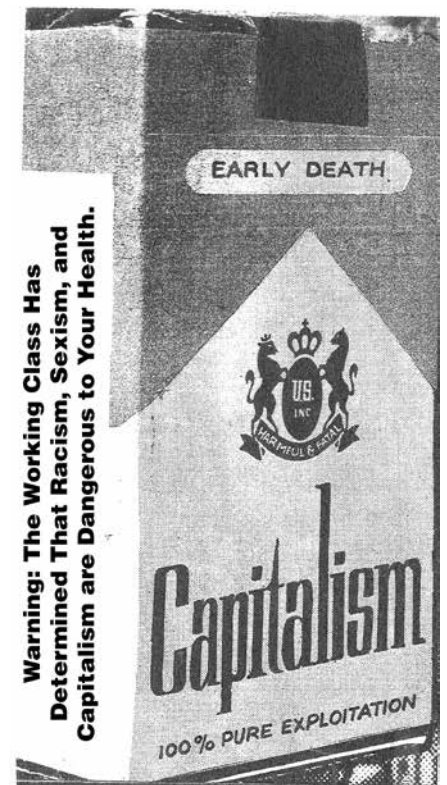
Higher wages, empty promises

NYT, 7/26 — There's a certain euphoria among minimum-wage workers these days....but...will the promise of better pay actually become a reality?....

With a vast underground economy where workers are routinely paid in cash, Southern California has long been considered an epicenter of wage theft....

...More than one-quarter of all low-wage workers in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York City [have]...been paid less than the legal minimum wage in...a 2009 study.

In California, there is a claim about wage theft filed every four minutes....Even when the state rules that an



employer violated minimum wage laws, employees don't receive the money....

"We've had an existing wage theft crisis for a while, and if we don't address that the increase is just an empty promise and unfulfilled dream," said...the project director of the UCLA Labor Center.

Clinton's jailed millions

NYT, 7/16 — Former President Bill Clinton's...anti-crime legislation that he long considered one of his top accomplishments...played a significant part in warping sentencing standards and leading to an era of mass incarceration....

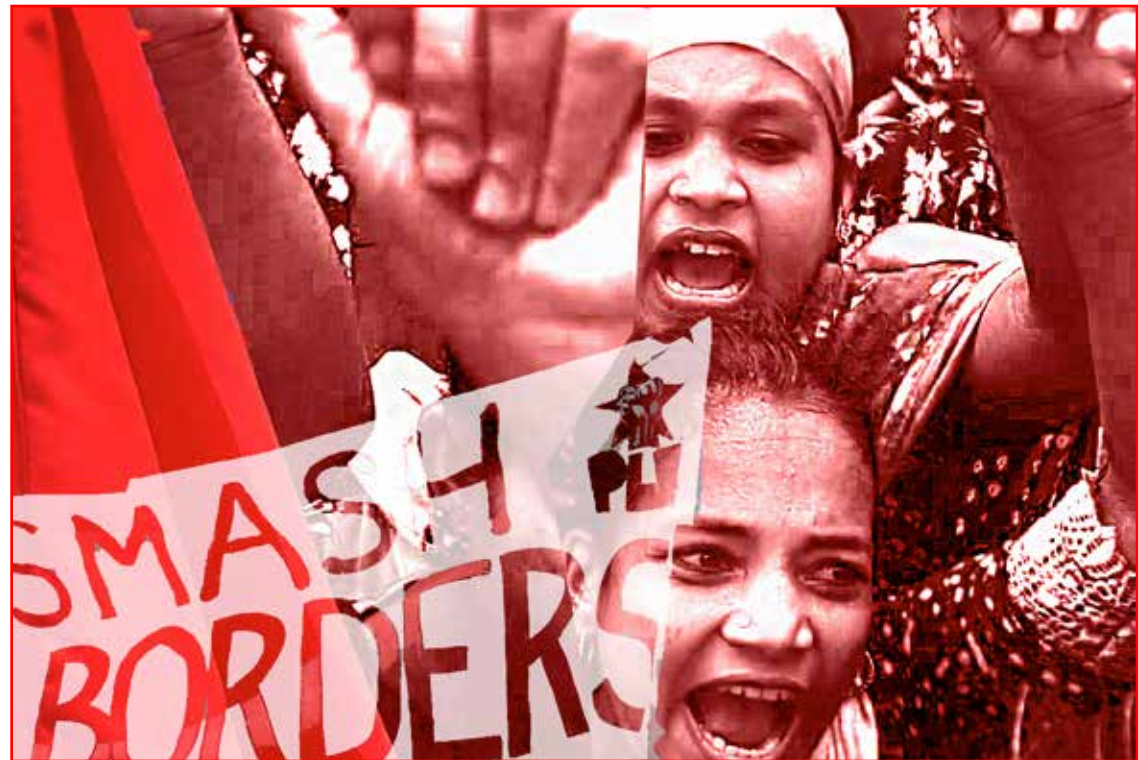
The law Mr. Clinton signed in 1994 committed...putting 100,000 more police officers on the street....

More than 2.2 million people are behind bars, nearly double the total incarcerated when Mr. Clinton took office. Although the United States makes up less than 5 percent of the world's population, it has more than 20 percent of its prison population.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Build International PLP

SMASH BOSSES' BORDERS



Beginning with our May 6 issue, CHALLENGE has run a series celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Progressive Labor Party. These articles have described the origins of PLP — including its forerunner, the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM) — as well as our concentration among industrial workers; the fight against racism; our Party's leadership of the anti-Vietnam War movement; the breaking of the government ban on travel to Cuba; the defeat of the fascist House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). Here we will review the Party's championing of internationalism.

Progressive Labor Party advanced a tradition of communist internationalism that began with the First International and the Paris Commune of 1871. We have carried the torch of internationalism to its logical and necessary conclusion: one world, one class, one Party fighting directly for communism. No retreats along nationalist lines!

PLP is an international communist party because the working class is one class everywhere, with a universal class interest. Since workers produce everything of value, we can collectively determine how to share it according to need. We don't need bosses, a class that steals most of that value through wage slavery. We stand for the abolition of capitalism; we fight to eliminate racism, sexism, and nationalism.

Our internationalism means working-class unity that follows the slogan, "Smash All Borders!"

It means a united working class led by one mass, international Party containing hundreds of millions of communist workers. We reject the call by various national "communist" parties for nationalist "roads to socialism." This formulation is drawn from capitalist-created countries that divide the international working class and negate its universal class character.

Unlike the old communist movement, PLP does not separate along nationalist lines. Though our cir-

cumstances and tactics may differ in the U.S. and East Africa, our political line for communist revolution is the same everywhere. We oppose nationalism, which leads to workers uniting behind "their" capitalist bosses and fighting "foreign" or immigrant workers. The concept of two opposing, worldwide classes — workers against bosses — is fundamental to destroying capitalism and establishing communism.

PLP Grows Worldwide

The following are just some of the struggles that reflect the Party's internationalist practice:

In 1964, in solidarity with the workers and youth of Vietnam, PLP formed the May 2nd Movement to oppose the U.S. imperialist invasion of Vietnam. We organized the first mass demonstration against the war under the slogan, "U.S. Imperialism Get Out of Vietnam!" This slogan eventually was adopted by millions, challenging the calls by liberals and phony leftists to "Stop the Bombing" and "Negotiate," neither of which indicted U.S. imperialism (see CHALLENGE, 8/12).

In the late 1960s and early '70s, PLers joined the military to win soldiers to refuse to kill their sisters and brothers in Vietnam and instead to turn the guns against the U.S. ruling class.

During the 1984-85 British miners' strike, PLP organized support campaigns, bringing miners to the U.S. to speak at rallies and on campuses. They exposed the brutal policies of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who ordered police attacks on strikers and laid off tens of thousands.

In El Salvador, PLP recruited from among former fighters for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, after the FMLN became an electoral party that betrayed the revolution.

In Palestine-Israel, PLP joined mass demonstrations against Israeli rulers' demolition of Palestinian villages.

PL by the Numbers:
50 Years
27 Countries
5 Continents
1 Class
1 Party

We fought sub-standard wages enforced by slave traders and exposed the rulers' racism perpetrated against immigrants from Africa.

In Mexico, PLP members in the teachers' union fought government attacks to break their strikes and cripple the schools through privatization.

In East Africa, PLP is organizing among students and teachers and waging anti-sexist struggles.

In Colombia, PLP mobilized striking workers, from refrigerator factories to beer factories. PLP's revolutionary line was so threatening to revisionists [fake leftists] and bosses alike that death threats to our comrades were common.

In Haiti, we grew from a club of trade unionists and students to one embedding itself into the agricultural working class. PLP fought against MINUSTAH, the UN occupation force that triggered the spread of cholera, as well as racist deportations and inadequate sewage and plumbing systems.

In Pakistan, PLers organized aid for workers devastated by an earthquake, while the government abandoned the victims. We are fighting to unite workers to challenge the bosses' attacks, especially on super-exploited women working in subhuman conditions and earning little or no pay.

With the advent of U.S. imperialist assaults on the working class in Afghanistan and Iraq, PL launched campaigns attacking the murders of millions by U.S. rulers, from George H.W. Bush to Bill Clinton to George W. Bush to Barack Obama. Pickets were organized at embassies in U.S. cities. PLers enlisted in the military to spread the Party's ideas among soldiers in Iraq and to oppose attacks on working-class families there.

Spreading Solidarity and Ideology

PLP has organized international solidarity for local struggles. Comrades in Haiti wrote letters of solidarity to City University of New York students during the campaign to oust war criminal David Petraeus from campus. In Brooklyn, PLP rallied in immigrant neighborhoods in response to racist deportations in the Dominican Republic.

Word of PLP's actions and communist ideology have spread across the world, both through immigrant

Continued on page 7

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