Los Angeles, February 5 - “When the working class is under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back!” The fight back in Los Angeles this time took the form of a documentary screening and forum against police brutality. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) brought two families together from both coasts to demonstrate the power of multi-racial unity in the fight against racism. The importance of this unity cannot be overstated. Without it, the working class is fragmented and weak. With it, we can smash capitalism for good!

With string lighting and fancy hors d'oeuvres courtesy of the mass organization connections of a comrade, the space looked more like a chic art gallery than a forum on police brutality. But as 85 multi-racial, multi-generational, workers and students filed in, it was clear that everyone meant business. We were all there to unite against police brutality and more importantly how to change this racist system that relies on it to control our class.

Justice for Alex Flores

Only under capitalism can a simple phone call to the police about a concern surrounding a minor altercation end in the murder of someone. That’s exactly what happened to Alex Flores on the morning of November 19, 2019 when he was savagely gunned down by KKKops Steven Ruiz in a South Central neighborhood. Since that date, the family, community members, and members of PLP have held dozens of marches from the site of the shooting to the Newton police station to demand justice.

Throughout that fightback, PLP has reminded the family that every 12 hours someone is murdered by the police. The importance of that discussion has always been to identify the systemic nature of police murderers and communism as the only way to achieve true justice. PLP members also told the family of all the organizing we have done against police murder on the east coast and offered to connect them with those struggles.

After two months of PLP organizing with the family of Alex Flores around their fight for justice, we were now able to start to build the coast to coast ties. While planning the event with the family, they wanted to bring more awareness to what happened to Alex, but reiterated multiple times, they didn’t want this to just be about Alex, but rather “all the ties. While planning the event with the family, they wanted to bring more awareness to what happened to Alex, but reiterated multiple times, they didn’t want this to just be about Alex, but rather “all the ties.”

Police murder means fight back

PLP’s strategy for mobilizing with the family comes from decades of experience of doing this kind of work. The connections we have made with other victims families of police brutality from the Bronx to Brooklyn to Baltimore, and more support the struggle here and reinforced the resounding call that “an injustice to one is an injustice to all.” So when the family member of a police brutality victim from New York is willing to fly across the country to show support to the family of Alex Flores and represent PLP and the work we do in the process, it reminds us that our currently small organization has a much wider reach than we often recognize. In fact, our friend from NYC invited two friends and activists living in LA to our event, introducing them to the Party.

After watching the infuriating, yet inspiration-al, film “Profiled” which spotlighted two families who lost people to the murderous 68th Precinct in Brooklyn, NY, we hosted a panel discussion session. Panel members gave detailed accounts about organizing justice for Alex Flores, Brendon Glenn (a homeless man killed by LAPD on Venice Beach) and others murdered by the KKKops.

The important point was made that we cannot rely on having Black and Latin workers as police, judges, mayors, district attorneys, etc. The cop who killed Shantel Davis is Black. The cop who killed Alex Flores is Latin. The LA district attorney, Jackie Lacey, a Black woman, has not indicted a single cop for murder even though roughly 400 people have been killed by LAPD during her eight eight in office (The Guardian, 8/24/18). All these people, regardless of skin color, uphold the system of capitalism that continues to brutalize us.

Through the discussion, a Black student/worker and friend reminded the crowd that capitalism will always take back reforms we fight for, so we can never stop fighting to change the system. A 15-year-old Latin student called out the imperialist nature of the United States and another attendee compared the police in our communities to the U.S. military presence in other countries.

One question from the floor was “when is it ok to call the police when you feel unsafe?” The overwhelming consensus of the room was “NEVER.” Instead, several proposals from the panel and the floor were for taking care of each other and our communities ourselves and that if we lived in a more communist society, we certainly wouldn’t have to fear our own class brothers and sisters.

Onward to May Day

At the end of the night, there was a tremendous feeling of power and desire to get more involved in the fightback. A young Latin mental health care worker found the event inspiring and was blown away by the amount of organizing in the communities happening. People took buttons and signed up to attend upcoming rallies and marches. This forum is just one step to making the police killing of Alex Flores a more mass issue. As we shared stories of fightback against police terror across the country, we showed the family a vision of where their struggle can go and how it can be expanded.

We hope a lot of you go to get the participants to take the step of joining the PLP in the fight for communism, but this forum was a small step in that struggle. We will continue to organize with the Flores family. Our next major call is for a May Day march through the neighborhood and to report at the May Day dinner of all the fight back between now and then. The struggle for communism continues! Join us!

Periodico En Espanol Adentro

The Revolutionary Communist Newspaper of Progressive Labor Party

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Challenge

Coast-to-Coast Multiracial Unity Against Racism

At the latest protest: antiracists chant "Killer cops!" and surround every cop car pulling out of the police station.

Editorial

France: rising fightback & declining empire… p2

Chicago

Sexist capitalist violence kills Juania; co-workers organize p3

NYC

Anti-displacement struggle attacks liberal sellouts… p4 through novels… p5
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.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that today’s world faces and can take us from a world poisoned by capitalism to a world true to the working class.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that today’s world faces and can take us from a world poisoned by capitalism to a world true to the working class.

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 society that 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 racial and gender roles created by the class society.

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

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Moderate people who desire peace may be unable to meet its commitment to buy $200 billion in additional U.S. imports over the next two years (AP News, 1/30). The government is also publicly urging workers to inform on each other and leak personal data (New York Times, 2/3). Under the pretext of safety, these tracking and police measures are being used to create Orwellian exercises to ratchet up the control of the masses.

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

C HALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from the recognition that the current bosses are the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “Challenging” (read: any reformist) individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the real editorial is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

EDITORIAL

We are fighting for a society run by and for the international working class. Freedom from profiteers or bosses, a communist society will organize resources scientifically and on the basis of the needs of the working people. The Chinese Communist Party put an end to famine, female infanticide, foot binding, prostitution, malnutrition, and illiteracy, all of which previously afflicted the working class.

The Chinese Revolution eliminated diseases like syphilis and schistosomiasis. It trained masses of doctors and nurses to eradicate diseases and make what was considered impossible under capitalism.

Facts about 2019-nCoV

The outbreak of the latest coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, is a health crisis for the working class, a fascist tool for the Chinese Communist Party and a great opportunity for a deteriorating U.S. to attack their top imperialist rival.

What the world’s workers need is a revolutionary communist newspaper. The PLP fights to make something unthinkable under capitalism into reality: a system run solely in the interests of the working class. A world where public health will be protected with the weapons of the capitalists will suffer profit.

Fascism, the real contagion

Capitalist China has responded to the new coronavirus with intensifying fascism, a form of capitalism in crisis. Under president-for-life Xi Jinping, the Chinese bosses are concentrating their power through their state apparatus: the government, the police, the media. Their goal is to pacify, divide, and terrorize the working class.

In much of China, everyday life has come to a halt. After first downplaying the outbreak and punishing doctors who warned about the virus, the rulers quarantined (read: imprisoned) some 50 million people in Wuhan and nearby cities. (By comparison, the New York City metropolitan area has about 20 million people.) Schools, businesses, theaters, churches, and restaurants are shut down. Supply trucks, with drivers in masks and protective suits, must pass through tightly controlled checkpoints. Police segment people with fever. The Chinese state is “the greatest quarantiner in history. . . . The impact of such draconian measures has rippled throughout China” (Economist, 1/30).

The Chinese state does not just close off borders, it turns a problem into an Orwellian exercise to ratchet up the control of the masses. Under the pretext of safety, these tracking and police measures are being used to create Orwellian exercises to ratchet up the control of the masses.

The coronavirus and mass quarantine could not “swallow China’s first recession-like experience” (Reuters, 2/4), but also renew its prolonged trade war against the U.S. (Reuters, 2/4). Under the pretext of safety, these tracking and police measures are being used to create Orwellian exercises to ratchet up the control of the masses.

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.

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INCIDENTS

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Even as they kick China while it’s down, these bosses have no leg to stand on in the battle for global health. “In 2017-18 a flu season saw symptoms in 45 [million] Americans, and 61,000 deaths” (Economist, 1/30). That doesn’t even factor in the death toll of the U.S. bosses’ global supply chains. Workers and youth must fight for multiracial unity in the face of racist ideas wherever they appear.

Communism, the best medicine

All “natural” diseases are in fact caused by capitalism. Communism would eliminate the underlying causes that breed infectious disease, mainly unhealthy working and living conditions. It would use science to handle unforeseen outbreaks in the interest of the masses.

The Chinese Revolution eliminated diseases like syphilis and schistosomiasis. It trained masses of doctors and nurses to eradicate diseases and make what was considered impossible under capitalism.
Shut down racist police, keep hospital open!

BRONX, January 20 – On Martin Luther King day (MLK day) the interfaith coalition joined with a Black church in the Bronx for the third year to emphasize the struggle aspect of MLK day. Anti-racists workers in this mass organization, and members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) packed the church’s basement with a multiracial crowd, young and old, eager to learn from our panel of experienced organizers. The presenters clearly described the racist horror of police killings nationally, the scandal of Columbia Presbyterian’s attempt to close the Allen Hospital Psychiatric service, the life and death need to expand mental health services, and the campaign to stop cops from being the first responders to calls for people in mental crisis.

Surely the future must hold an egalitarian, communist world with medical care, food, housing and all basic needs available equally to all. That’s when the working class runs all aspects of society. In the meantime we organize to fight back against the capitalists who are mainly concerned with profits.

Cops hail from slave system

How cops respond to people in mental crisis is a racist horror. The Washington Post and the The Guardian estimate that uniformed, armed cops kill roughly 1,000 victims annually. Almost half are Black, Latin, or Indigenous, and fully half are people suffering mental crisis. Weekly friends ask, “Why are cops allowed to administer this racist carnage?” Why are they “out of control!”

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, February 5 – Another police murder of a Black man happened just as the Community Justice Coalition (CJC) in Prince George’s County, MD was holding a conference call about police brutality. Our 43-year-old William (Boo) Green was another slain victim of racist capitalism. Only a revolution against the whole damn profit system can begin to end such racism, since it is needed by capitalism to intimidate, control, and subject us all to intense exploitation. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members participate in the CJC to help sharpen the struggle against racism and to bring more anti-racist fighters into the communist movement.

Racist killer cop Owen

Boo banged into some parked cars in Temple Hills, MD, and the police put him in handcuffs (behind his back) and strapped him into the front seat of a police cruiser. Then Cpl. Michael Owen, a Black cop, shot seven times, fatally striking him, demonstrating that all cops carry out racist attacks. This same pig had killed another Black Prince George’s County resident in 2011! The police chief, Henry Stawinski, and his top cops hedged and put out the lie that Boo was on PCP but once we saw that local residents had cell phone videos that showed no resistance by him, or erratic behavior, they realized they had to change their story. They charged pig Owen with 2nd degree murder, manslaughter, and weapons violations (Washington Post, 2/4/). We’ll see if there is truly any accountability for this racist murder.

We answer that they are, in fact, very much “in control!” From their origins in the slavery enforcing murder squads, police have always served the fundamental needs of the U.S. ruling class. Now more than ever racist intimidation is vital to forestall any multiracial rebellion that could threaten the critical need of the U.S. to militarize to count the ascendancy of other international imperialists, principally China, that are moving to become the Top Dog Imperialist. Knowing that this process is leading to World War III, the capitalist rulers depend on racist cop forces to terrorize and control the working class domestically as these bosses mobilize to defend U.S. imperialism globally. These cops provide the front line warriors nationally to promote fascism at home.

EMERGENCY MEETUP IN RESPONSE TO BOO’s MURDER

We held an emergency meeting via conference call to consider a course of action in response to Boo’s murder. It turns out that a leader of the CJC grew up with him, bringing home how police violence harms us all. Coalition members had lots of recommendations, from encouraging an uprising against the police state violence to a renewed circulation of our petition demanding the firing of Chief Stawinski. A PLP member recommended we take to the streets with a bullhorn rally near the site of the murder to swell the ranks of our modest organization.

At our follow up meeting, another case of racist police action came to us. In this case, cops with guns drawn burst into a Black couple’s home, failed to identify themselves, poked around the house while the wife told them to get out and that they had no right to search her house. The terror felt by her and her husband is a prime example of how routine aggressive racist behavior is intended to intimidate and control Black working class people, all in the service of helping capitalists achieve maximum profits through the exploitation of the working class as a whole.

KK Kop murders William; workers gear up to fight

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The fightback will continue!
The Mexican National Guard, once again, re-pressed a caravan of Honduran migrants by badly beating them and firing tear gas at them. The mi-grants were trying to cross the border between Guatemala and Mexico. Several were arrested and deported, some managed to escape to the moun-tains where they will face other dangers. With this action the Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) government and the liberals in the ruling class which he represents are essentially outlawing working class migration. It also reveals that capi-talism in crisis will always resort to fascism despite the appearance of a so-called transformative pop-ulist change.

Migration is caused by capitalist inequity that condemns millions of workers to misery, ex-ploitation and violence. These workers are forced to leave their places of origin with the false hope of improving their situation or escaping the danger of gangs or cartels, but capitalism attacks workers in every corner of the world. In more developed countries, they reach a dead end, where they are victims of racism, super-exploitation, and even slavery.

The only escape from this criminal system is a communist revolution to achieve a society or-ganized and led by the workers. One that is based on the majority of the majority of the working population and not of a rapacious minority of capitalist bosses. It should be remembered that the creation of the National Guard was to support public safety. We know that is just the cover for the Mexican bosses’ true intentions. Ever since the previous President’s administration, the center-right Cal-lenos, the bosses have tried to pass the internal security law. This would give the army the right to act as police forces within the country’s terri-tory.

The National Guard (GN) operates through a permanent Council chaired by the Secretary of Public Security, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Navy, appointed by the President. In general terms, its structure is completely mili-tary. This Council has the power to evaluate and shape action strategies, to designate commands, among other things, and to guarantee the safety of citizens. However, due to its structure, it is not accountable to the Federal Government.

All of this is worsened by the approval of an-other law that facilitates the use of lethal force. So that, now, what has been created is a political po-liticization of repression, with representatives armed against the working class. Before the approval of this law, the decision on the use of lethal force was based on repelling attacks. That is, they could only fire after being attacked. Now, they can attack even without being completely sure that the people are armed. Previously, during Peña Nieto’s term, the army was instructed not to shoot at people who they could not prove were armed. Under these fascist AMLO laws, they face no investigation threats!

On January 28, U.S. President Donald Trump, flanked by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netan-yahu, unveiled an Israeli/Palestinian “peace” plan. The plan gives Israel significant parts of the West Bank and control of most of Jerusalem. It legal-izes illegal Israeli settlements in Palestinian terri-tory, gives Palestinian refugees no right of return and gives Israel security control over some future Palestinian state. None of the capitalists compet-ing for power in the Middle East accept this plan. More chaos and war is in store for the region, with workers dying for the bosses’ profits. The Progress-ive Labor Party (PLP) organizes to turn these im-perialist wars into working class wars against all capitalist bosses.

On Dec 22, 2019 a CHALLENGE editorial stat-ed “U.S. President Trump’s recent move to recog-nize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital was a holiday gift to the Israeli ruling class, a big-power blessing of the country’s anti-Arab racism and apartheid, and a reflection of the embattled U.S. bosses’ growing isolation in the region and the world. It would also lead to even more instability in the Middle East, collateral damage to U.S. allies, and further rise in mass anger and fight-back against the U.S.”

Trump’s latest “peace” plan is more of the same. This time it is more specifically a gift to the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who is facing corruption and fraud charges in Israel. It is also a play by Trump to appeal to his racist, Zion-ist and evangelical base as he faces impeachment and a coming election.

Since recognizing Jerusalem as the Israeli capi-tal the U.S. killed the Iranian general Soleimani in Iraq and an Iranian missile strike seriously injured 30 U.S. soldiers, bringing the U.S. and Iran to the brink of war. Then masses of Iranians and Iraqis demonstrated against the U.S. and the Iraqi Par-liament voted to kick the U.S. military out of Iraq. The instability and fightback that CHALLENGE predicted continues.

Further weakens U.S. imperialism

Indeed “mass anger and fight-back against the U.S.” is increasing and the imperialist wing of the U.S. ruling class is losing control in the Mid-dle East. Their allies are wavering. The European Union and the United Nations both came out in opposition to Trump’s plan. Then so did the Afri-can Union and the Arab League and the Organiza-tion of Islamic Cooperation (Al Jazeera, 2/4). The ambassadors from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan did not attend the unveiling of the “peace” plan (NYT, 1/28).

But Sheldon Adelson and Jared Kushner were there. The Kushner family has major investments in Israeli settlements (Real Clear Politics, 12/6/19). Adelson is a billionaire, Zionist supporter of Israel and Trump. He is aligned with the more domesti-cally oriented U.S. capitalists who want low taxes and less regulation of business.

Israel: birthed by imperialism, raised by apartheid

This imperialist control of and competition over Palestine started in 1948 when the new Israeli state demanded or established over 7,500,000 Palestini-ans, 85 percent of the population. In 1967 they took over more territory and left only 22 percent of the land in Palestinian hands, albeit occupied, and exerted complete military control over 30 percent of the territory and nearly all of its water, its borders, and security. The West Bank (WB) has now been illegally militarily occupied for 53 years. Military incursions into Gaza have killed over 7,000 since 2000, wounded thousands more, and left that area nearly uninhabitable. According to the United Nations. The 20 percent of Israeli citizens who are Palestinians have markedly fewer rights than Jewish workers. By declaring itself a “Jewish State” in 2018, Israel has officially adopted apartheid.

Reject the bosses’ nationalism

Thousands of Palestinians have demonstrated against this “peace” plan, but their leaders are corrupt. The Palestinian Authority represents the small, ruling capitalist elite in the West Bank, where inequality is as great as in the U.S. It has a long history of cooperating with Israel to suppress dissent. Hamas is a fundamentalist party that rules Gaza and gains some support by inciting doomed armed actions against Israel.

Need Black-Arab-Jewish working class unity

Workers in Israel also suffer, with shortages of housing, jobs, and good schools. Yet Israelis are blinded by racism against Arab workers, especial-ly Black immigrants. Meanwhile Palestinians are bombarded with nationalism, loyalty to the unity of all Palestinians regardless of their class. Many focus on differences between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority and having their own state. As in all capitalist states, workers are misled by nationalism or patriotism—loyalty to local rulers, instead of allegiance to the international working class. The only hope for all workers in the Middle East is to build an international communist move-ment of Arab and Jewish workers to unite with workers around the world to overthrow imperial-ist capitalism. Join the Progressive Labor Party as we fight for an egalitarian, communist world.
The impeachment acquittal of openly corrupt U.S. President Donald Trump has exposed the disarray of the finance capitalist section of the U.S. ruling class. Overwhelmed by self-interest and chaotic infighting, these main-wing Big Fascists have lost significant control over their state apparatus and institutions. With growing threats to their power and profits, the bosses will be forced to impose fascist discipline on their own ranks—followed by even sharper and more deadly attacks on the working class.

A fraudulent system

The doomed impeachment effort by the Big Fascists’ Democratic Party was driven by the demands of big donors loyal to arch-racists Bill and Hillary Clinton. This group is still furious over Hillary Clinton’s loss to Trump in the 2016 election. The Democrats focused on Trump’s pressure on the president of Ukraine to get dirt on Joe Biden, the one-time vice president and hack U.S. senator who’s now running another hapless campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. The Republicans focused on Biden protecting his parasite son, Hunter, who skimmed millions as a do-nothing director of the biggest Ukrainian natural gas company. Each side accused the other of shameless corruption and of tearing apart the country for political gain. Neither side was wrong.

This partisan mud-throwing splattered the most hallowed institutions of U.S. liberal “democracy,” the bosses’ capitalist dictatorship— the Presidency, the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Supreme Court. The rulers’ fraudulent electoral system—after yet another fiasco in the Iowa primary—has likewise been exposed. The Republicans, terrified of losing Trump’s white nationalist base, couldn’t even pretend to make the impeachment process seem fair or legitimate. They refused to hear witnesses like former national security chief John Bolton, who’s cashing in with a book that confirms Trump’s “high crimes and misdemeanors.” The pro-impeachment Republicans argued that presidents can do almost anything they want, even if it means illegally undermining an ally (Ukraine) by withholding military aid. So if it means illegally undermining an ally it will.

The bosses are, among the people we know, to build PLP for the next fascist onslaught. That means mounting the struggle wherever we are, among the people we know, to build PLP and seize state power with communist revolution. Join us!

**Impeachment**

**Capitalist democracy in disarray, fascism on the horizon**

It’s Not Just Trump

Joe Biden’s whole career has been based on selling his votes in Congress to serve the credit card, health care, oil, real estate, and Wall Street bosses (Guardian, 1/20). While everyone knows that’s just business as usual in Washington, Biden is now straining to re-invent himself as a working-class champion who will clean up Trump’s corruption.

Meanwhile, the Clintons and the old Democratic Party power structure—including Barack and Michelle Obama, who have raked in $40 million since leaving the White House—are busy sabotaging the main wing’s long-term interests. Instead of using the primaries to unite the Democratic Party against Trump, they have turned it into a war on Biden’s behalf against social democrat Bernie Sanders. Beyond Hillary Clinton’s open sniping, the old guard is conspiring to rig the primary process against the fake-left Sanders, as it did in 2016: “Democratic operatives have been in discussions about putting together an effort to attack Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) should he end up winning this week’s Iowa caucus and, potentially, the New Hampshire primary a week later” (Daily Beast, 1/27).

While Sanders may not be the Big Fascists’ first choice for president, he just might be their best shot to regain control. With the possible exception of Elizabeth Warren, he’s the capitalist reformer best equipped to keep anti-racist workers and youth trapped inside the bosses’ dead-end electoral system—the same people the rulers will need for their next big war. Sanders leads all candidates, including Trump, in fundraising among suburban women, active-duty military, and college students. He is the only presidential candidate mobilizing significant numbers of young Black and Latin workers. Openly cheating Sanders and further alienating his base is a losing strategy for the main wing.

If they manage to overcome their divisions and beat Trump in November, the main wing bosses will still be challenged by Trump’s Small Fascist base. It will be very difficult for the rulers to win back these open racists while trying to build a multicultural, imperialist campaign.

**Fighting Fascism**

In the short term, the impeachment farce highlights the main wing’s weaknesses. In the longer term, it marks a significant step toward fascism. As the rules of liberal democracy lose their legitimacy, it will be even easier for the finance capital Big Fascists to suspend them the next time—when it suits their purpose. Raw power is becoming the new normal. In the 1930s, when the German ruling class moved toward fascism, their system saw similar infighting. In a massacre now known as The Night of the Long Knives, they settled their factional differences through mass arrests and executions. Then came the fascist deluge against the working class.

Progressive Labor Party must prepare ourselves and the international working class for the next fascist onslaught. That means mounting the struggle wherever we are, among the people we know, to build PLP and seize state power with communist revolution. Join us!”
and under control. I identified myself as a communist and said that although many abusers were themselves victims of abuse, our primary concern must be protecting people currently being terrorized.

This work must be done by working-class people, as we cannot rely on cops or the courts in this capitalistic system to do it. The only reason some laws have changed is due to the actions of people, led by women who experienced these horrors, and their support collective. These comments were very well received, and led to Progressive Labor Party members talking to people further as we socialized after the gathering. Violence against women, and sexism over all, is a tool of the capitalist class that we have to attack openly and with other workers. To eliminate sexism means we must fight for communist revolution!

New PL'er explains inter-imperialist rivalry

Around 15 people have been participating in a study group, including Progressive Labor Party (PLP) comrades and friends. A young comrade who recently joined our Party made a successful report on the international situation and the danger of an imminent war. He explained that this threat of war is based on selfishness and greed of the imperialist superpowers and their need to control more territory and greater wealth.

The internal situation within the most powerful empire in the world (the United States) was also discussed and analyzed. There is a major clash between the domestic-minded Small Fascists and the internationally-minded liberals (the Big Fascists) of the Democratic Party. This clash is playing out right now with U.S. President Donald Trump’s impeachments.

There were many questions and much discussion by those who attended with very accurate analyses. The level of awareness that the working class is acquiring is increasingly important for understanding everything that is happening worldwide, including climate change.

One of the participating friends proposed working with another committee to plan a forum in our community organization as soon as possible, where we would present political topics. We will discuss in detail what is happening between the Big and Small Fascists around the world, explaining how it affects the entire working class in order to raise the level of consciousness of ourselves as workers.

We need to win more of us workers to fight for the line that only a united, revolutionary and militant working class, led by a mass PLP, can lead us along the path of revolution to the seizure of state power from the bosses and the construction of a communist society that brings equality for all.

Vigil against sexist violence

I recently attended a vigil that was held by workers at a city hospital in honor of the victims of domestic abuse killed by intimate partners. An employee at the nearby hospital spoke of how abuse against women was more than just an issue between two people. It was a systemic problem that needs to be addressed by people with power in government and by the general public.

I added to that by pointing out that under capitalism, sexism must thrive in order to keep women, a valuable labor resource for bosses worldwide, terrorized out of the workplace and under control. I identified myself as a communist and said that although many abusers were themselves victims of abuse, our primary concern must be protecting people currently being terrorized.

This work must be done by working-class people, as we cannot rely on cops or the courts in this capitalistic system to do it. The only reason some laws have changed is due to the actions of people, led by women who experienced these horrors, and their support collective. These comments were very well received, and led to Progressive Labor Party members talking to people further as we socialized after the gathering. Violence against women, and sexism over all, is a tool of the capitalist class that we have to attack openly and with other workers. To eliminate sexism means we must fight for communist revolution!

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Stalingrad: communists defeated the fascists

Continued from page 8

It was in that city that workers, men and women, were won to the necessity of defending their new workers’ society. They voluntarily remained at their machines making tanks for the battlefield just outside their factory while bombs fell all around them. If ever an example is needed of the communist spirit, it is Stalingrad. These defenders had courage, sacrifice, determination and camaraderie—what a boundless sea of what’s best in humanity! The Soviets destroyed three fascist armies, causing 1.5 million Nazi casualties.” (CHALLENGE Supplment, May 17, 1995.)

During the entire World War II, more than 70 percent of the active fascist troops in Europe were fighting the Red Army. While the U.S. and British imperialists’ initial strategy was to wait it out and to come in for a quick victory, the Red Army and the communist-led partisans actually fought fascism.

Fight fascism with communism

When the Allies landed in Normandy in 1944, only three Nazi divisions faced them, because more than 100 Nazi divisions from all over Europe had to be rushrd to Belarus and the South Ukraine where the Red Army had crushed all the fascist forces.

The Red Army, organized and led by communists, smashed the Nazi and fascist forces. The Soviet working class and Bolshevik Party saved the world from fascism! All this was accomplished under the leadership of Joseph Stalin. No wonder he is hated and lied about by world capitalists and their fakers to this day.

Unfortunately, due to internal weaknesses, the world communist movement turned away from the goal of overthrowing capitalism through revolution and from reliance on the working class. After Stalin’s death in 1953, under phony communist leadership, Soviet leaders introduced more and more capitalist economic policies. These gradually eroded the foundations of the world communist movement, turning the Soviet Union into just another state capitalist and imperialist power.

Nevertheless, the defeat of fascism in World War II by the working class shows us confidence in the working class, whose best is brought out by communist leadership. Let us take a long, hard look at each other and ourselves, correct our weaknesses and fight harder against the class enemy.

We have many battles to fight in an uphill struggle if humanity is to be liberated from racism, imperialist war and capitalist oppression. But fight these battles we must if we want an egalitarian society and carry on the legacy of our Soviet comrades of the Second World War.

The Bolshevik Revolution

The Bolshevik Revolution of November 7, 1917, is the most important single event of the 20th century. The working class across Russia, allied with the oppressed peasants, seized state power and held it for decades. The Bolshevik Party (name of the Communist Party of Russia) led the workers and peasants to defeat Russian and foreign armies that tried to overthrow them in a hard-fought four-year civil war (1917-1921).

From 1921 to 1941, the Bolsheviks – now under the leadership of Joseph Stalin – ended many remnants of capitalism, and collectively agriculture to stop the endless series of devastating famines.

They outlawed racism! Black intellectuals from the U.S. like poet Langston Hughes, actor and singer Paul Robeson, and many others, praised the racial egalitarianism of the Soviet government and workers. The Bolsheviks also led the Communist Party USA to make the fight against racism primary in all its struggles, a pillar that PLP continues and advances today.  

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.
Comrade Mark Shapiro, one of the original members of the Progressive Labor Movement (PLM) and the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), died on January 12 at 78. Mark was a communist whose life influenced his participation throughout the working class and encompassed both mental and manual labor. Married to Ann, a PLP comrade, Mark was a General Motors auto worker, a railroad brakeman, a high school and college teacher, a father to Daniel and David, a grandfather to four grandchildren, and a father to two foster daughters, a musician who belonged to several bands and played the clarinet — his high school yearbook portrayed him as the “Benny Goodman of Weaver High.” Being a “bider” and his wife Ann are members of the Hartford, Connecticut Audubon Society, while serving as a political leader among hundreds of workers and youth. Truly a communist “for all seasons.”

Perhaps Mark’s most significant contribution to the working class was his uncovering of one of the most vicious racist frame-ups of the 1960s, the George Whitmore case. The U.S. Supreme Court cited it as “the most conspicuous example of police coercion in the country” in its 1966 decision which became known as the Miranda ruling, to possibly protect those arrested from being coerced into false confessions.

After his auto and railroad jobs, and having obtained a masters degree in physics at Columbia University, Mark began teaching science in New Jersey and later moved to Connecticut where he taught physics at Wesleyan University among other colleges in the area and social studies at Trinity College and Prince Tech.

He had been born into a communist family in Albany, N.Y. His parents had been blacklisted during the McCarthy witchhunts. This background led him to join Progressive Labor Movement in 1963 and later the Progressive Labor Party (PLP). Mark became a member of PLM’s first trade union club and of the staff of CHALLENGE. He put his great sense of humor to work, writing the paper’s first humor column, “Marksmanship.” Years later his son said he liked to brag that the first big anti-Vietnam War protest in New York City was organized in his living room.

Mark exposes the racist frame-up of George Whitmore

On August 28, 1963, two white professional women were murdered in Manhattan which the media labeled the “Career Girl Murders.” At that very moment George Whitmore, a young Black man, was in Wildwood, N.J. sitting with a dozen very moment George Whitmore, a young Black media labeled the “Career Girl Murders.” At that moment George Whitmore, a young Black man, was in Wildwood, N.J. sitting with a dozen people in the United States had been stripped of basic civil and human rights, including… the right to be free of legal discrimination in employment, housing, education and basic public services. National white nationalist movements are operating openly and online in many of our communities; they’re celebrating mass killings…. In the 1980s and 90s, Democratic and Republican politicians leaned heavily on the racial stereotypes of “crack heads” (and “crack bays”) to mobilize public support for the War on Drugs, a get-tough movement and a prison-building boom.

Today—the game remains the same. Public Enemy No. 1 in the 2016 election was a brown-skinned immigrant, an “illegal,” an “terrorist”…. Trump’s claims were demonstrably false (but) did not impede his rise, just as facts were largely irrelevant at the outset of the War on Drugs…. Back then…whites were equally likely, if not more likely, than people of color to use and sell illegal drugs [but] Black people were still labeled the enemy…. Black people charged with possession of crack in inner cities were still punished more harshly than white people in possession of powder cocaine in the suburbs.…. Criminalization of immigration in the United States [has] resulted in a new class of “illegal immigrants” and “aliens” who are treated like “felons” or “criminals.” Immigration violations…. once treated as minor offenses are now crimes…. routinely prompt one of the nation’s most devastating sanctions — deportation.…. Mass incarceration and mass deportation…. both have expanded the coffers of some of the enormous profits to be made in controlling, exploiting and eliminating human beings.….Erecting a Democratic president or more Democratic politicians….like Bill Clinton only escalated this discrimination.
February 2 is the 77th anniversary of the Battle of Stalingrad (1943), the turning point of World War II. It was when the communist Red Army defeated the Nazis, proving that fascism can be defeated.

The Bolsheviks organized the Soviet working class to build a mighty Red Army for the wars that they knew would come either from the fascists – Hitlerite Germany and militarist Japan – or from the big imperialist powers, Britain and France.

In June, 1941, the fascist German, Italian, and Finnish armies did invade the Soviet Union, with hundreds of thousands of troops from other fascist countries (Hungary, Spain, Rumania) and German-occupied countries (France, Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Holland).

German Blitzkrieg gets unpleasant surprises

The German “Blitzkrieg” (lightening war) tactic was to punch through defense lines with paratroopers, tanks and mechanized infantry, and loop around, cut off, and capture the encircled enemy troops. Hundreds of thousands of Soviet soldiers were taken prisoner in the first few months. But many continued to fight, forming partisan bands behind the fascist lines.

On October 8, 1941 the Nazis announced: “For all military purposes, Soviet Russia is done with.” But the Nazis had never met fighters like the Soviet troops. “The Russian troops ... [are] in striking contrast to the Poles and the Western Allies,” wrote the Nazi commanding general. “Even when encircled, the Russians stood their ground and fought.”

Stalingrad

The Nazis aimed an offensive south at Stalingrad, center of the critical remaining war production, and the southern oil fields. Without supplies, the Soviets would have to surrender. The Nazis drove the Red Army from the open fields into Stalingrad itself. Then the Nazis pushed into the city.

The Soviet 62nd Army fought to the death for literally every building in the city. Their orders from Supreme Headquarters were “Not one step back.”

Their mission was to buy time for a counter-attack. Every day brought a new crisis. The Nazis had captured 80 percent of the city. The Bolsheviks based their defense on three large factories, a housing project, a hill, and a boat landing where supplies and reinforcements landed and wounded were evacuated. At their backs was the Volga River. On the far bank was their artillery support.

The Nazis pushed forward. The 62nd Soviet Army was cut in two. Chuikov, the Soviet commander of Stalingrad, then ordered his fighters into the factories themselves. Nazis and communists fought among mazes of machinery. Chuikov organized groups of six to eight with hand-to-hand combat training. The heroic workers continued production at the tank factory. They drove each newly built tank directly from the assembly line into battle.

Red Army launches attack

Finally, in January 1943, preparations for the counterattack were complete. The Red Army launched a counter-attack with over a million well-armed reserves striking from the north, west and south in huge pincers. Outflanking and outfighting the Nazis, they linked up, encircling the Nazis, who had encircled the 62nd Army.

On February 2, 1943, the Battle of Stalingrad ended, marking the turning point of World War II and the beginning of the end of the Nazis. Today as the imperialists prepare for more wars for oil and to re-divide the world, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is fighting to rebuild the international communist movement, this time to crush all the war makers with communist revolution:

Here (in Stalingrad), heavily outnumbered and outgunned, Soviet defenders fought battles house-to-house.

Soviet soldier waving the Red Banner over the central plaza of Stalingrad

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