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Workers, Students Unite: Link Racist Budget Cuts to Obama's Wars



H.S. Students Stand Ground, Lead Walkout

LOS ANGELES, March 4 — At 7:15 A.M., about 100 teachers, staff and students rallied today in front of the high school where I work as a part of a national call to action to protest budget cuts in education. We carried signs, chanted and distributed information to parents.

The majority of the teachers in our school district have wanted to strike since the end of the last school year. Last year we lost almost 3,000 teachers and more than 1,500 staff positions to mass layoffs district-wide. Consequently, class sizes have increased, counselors have more students to program, school office staff had their workloads doubled, janitorial duties became impossible, the classrooms have been left dirty and school supplies have long since been used up without being replaced.

The teachers and staff at the school sites are angry, but the union has repeatedly backed down from confronting the district. They keep repeating that "We have to work together in order to deal with the results of the current economic crisis." In the schools that means we must accept the cuts, take on an impossible workload and watch our students suffer while the district bureaucrats spend money on million-dollar security systems and "consultants."

It's always the same story under capitalism. The working class must work harder with fewer resources while the rich bosses get richer. If we ask for support, they hire someone to "research" how to make us work even harder with still less resources. All this is heaped on an overwhelmingly black, Latino and Asian student population suffering these racist cuts while hundreds of billions are spent on Obama's imperialist Mid-East and Asian wars — in which they hope to use these youth to kill and die to maintain their oil empire.

8:00 A.M. — As the teachers and staff walked back into school to begin the school day, many students stayed outside to continue the rally. They were organized and motivated, even marching through the school buildings convincing other students to walk out of class to join them in a rally and march. The teachers were so proud!

The administrators, security and police harassed the students as they demonstrated, but they stood their ground and refused to return to class until the end of second period. Even though the school itself wasn't shut down, it really taught them a lot of lessons. They learned how to organize and what to expect from the state apparatus when they start fighting back. Many of my students returned to class energized and confident that "next time will be even better."

3:00 P.M. — Many students and teachers were inspired by the morning's events, but it was difficult convincing anyone from my school — in the city's southern section — to travel all the way downtown to march with the colleges and unions. More than 5,000 people demonstrated that day throughout the city.

I'm continuing the struggle with my coworkers and students by working to build a worker-student alliance with the staff on campus and other workers from transit and industry. We will build on the actions and bring into this struggle the ideas of communism: class consciousness, working-class power and the urgent need for revolution.

Red Teacher

Hundreds Sit In at UCLA

LOS ANGELES, March 4 — Today several hundred students rallied and sat in at UCLA's administration building, backing the state-wide March 4th day of action against education cut-backs. Leading up to March 4, discussion within the student groups organizing for it exposed the cuts to the state budget and public education as being essentially racist, since they disproportionately affect low-income working-class black and Latino students the most.

These cuts in public education were linked to the U.S. ruling class's need to devote hundreds of billions of dollars to bail out its financial system and for imperialist wars that mass murder our working-class brothers and sisters in the Middle East and Central Asia. A speaker at the main rally declared, "A capitalist system that bails out the banks and funds imperialist wars for oil" must be destroyed!

The same speaker also said the state cuts writing and retention programs on university campuses while exempting military research labs like U.C. Berkley's Lawrence Livermore Lab and UCLA's School of Engineering Center of Innovating Nanoscience for Defense. Therefore, students must realize when defending "public education" against privatization that public universities are also an essential part of the U.S. imperialist infrastructure.

The struggle to explain the racist nature of the cuts impelled two young black women to speak at a teach-in (during the sit-in held just outside the Chancellor's office) about the need to build multi-racial unity against racist attacks on working-class black and Latino students. These comments were especially important in lieu of the student fraterni-

ty at UC San Diego that recently held a sarcastical-themed "Black History Month" party in which it celebrated racist portrayals of black people. Soon afterwards a noose was hung from a tree, further highlighting the racism existing on public university campuses.

Today there were also efforts to occupy buildings, a popular tactic lately at California universities. But the sit-in at the administration lasted longer than expected, so no buildings were occupied. However, these events have contained confused politics that don't clearly explain the purpose of occupations. This time there were many discussions at several meetings analyzing the university's role in supporting imperialism and capitalism by generating racist ideology and war research.

Students concluded that strategic occupations of buildings conducting such research would disrupt the university's ability to produce for war and fascism while also making a political statement about the tie-in between the cuts and imperialist war. PL'ers are active within this movement to win students to see that the only solution to the crisis-caused cutbacks is to smash capitalism and fight for communist revolution.

Much has been learned in organizing the March 4 events. Mobilizations of students and workers are positive, but fulfilling their revolutionary potential can only occur through consistent ideological struggle for a communist analysis of the racist nature of capitalism and its natural connection to imperialism. PLP's effort to organize students to fight back must be oriented to see the limits of reform and the ultimate need for communist revolution. ☺

**More on March 4
Day of Protest
pages 4-5**

To Meet Domestic Crisis and Bosses' Wider Wars: Rulers Seek More Direct Fascist Control of Gov't

The scandal involving NY State Governor David Paterson is far broader than the Empire State. It represents the attempt by the main section of the capitalist class to exercise more direct control of the government — a hallmark of fascism — in order to serve its needs domestically and its war-making abroad. Meanwhile, it exposes its electoral system as a farce and reveals once again that choosing "black representation" (Paterson is the state's first black governor) merely continues the rulers' racist oppression of the whole working class, black and white.

Shocking political scandals, like Watergate and the Clinton-Lewinsky affair, generally reflect power struggles among competing capitalists with stakes far graver than the alleged offenses. The case of New York's embattled governor follows the pattern. His misdeeds — trying to free an aide from an assault charge, and accepting free World Series tickets — are relatively minor. His real crime, according to the liberal-imperialist bosses' NY Times editorial (3/3), lies in failing to correct a "dysfunctional and frequently corrupt Legislature."

son resign if things get too ugly, reminded readers that "Lieutenant Governor Richard Ravitch is highly capable." Ravitch is also highly loyal to the imperialist rulers. Days later (3/11), a Times editorial trumpeted his "way to bail out New York."

Ravitch's scheme involves selling bonds to the likes of JP MorganChase and Goldman Sachs and creating "an independent board of highly-respected private citizens to assess the progress toward a balanced budget." This panel could only represent the bondholders. Ravitch aims ultimately at anti-worker "painful but necessary budget cuts."

Titans of capitalism inspire (and pay) him. "Ravitch has approached the Rockefeller Foundation [and] the New York Community Trust... to provide research grants to...support his work." (NY Daily News, 12/15/09) The friendly-sounding Community Trust in fact comprises ruling-class predators like JP MorganChase, Citigroup, and Bank of New York.

Boston Model: Bankers, Other War Profiteers 'Advising' Politicians

Ravitch's empowered "respected citizens" would closely resemble the newly-formed Massachusetts Competiveness Partnership (MCP), which soon will be "providing advice to Beacon Hill lawmakers." The Times-owned Boston Globe editorialized (3/8) that the partnership "brings hope for a new era of civic leadership." (Our emphasis — Ed.)

This shadow state legislature boasts Raytheon chief William Swanson and State Street Bank CEO Ronald Logue as directors. Raytheon, a leading "merchant of death," sells the Pentagon much of its indiscriminately murderous missile systems. Arch-imperialist State Street holds over \$10 trillion in global assets in custody, including many so-called "sovereign" wealth funds of foreign governments. The Globe favorably likened MCP to the "Vault," a similarly unelected, anti-working-class, banker-led group that dominated policy in the 1960s and 1970s.

Replacing Paterson with such "civic-minded reformers" would only strengthen the war-making imperialists. The Albany circus, like Obama's shattering of his anti-war campaign promises and his protection of bankers at the expense of increasingly unemployed workers, exposes the futility of voting.

All politicians serve one capitalist faction or another. True freedom from exploitation can only follow a worker-led communist revolution that destroys the profit system and its billionaire parasites. This is PLP's long-term goal. ☪

OUR FIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY
P.O. Box 808 Brooklyn NY 11202
• www.plp.org
• email: desafio.challenge@gmail.com
• blog: challengenewspaper.wordpress.com
• 718-630-9440

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The Rockefeller-led dominant faction — and its servant Obama — that the Times represents, faces exploding military expenses for its widening wars amid domestic economic catastrophe, especially its racist super-exploitation of black and Latino workers. It needs swift enactment of job- and service-slashing state budgets along with tax hikes.

But Paterson hasn't managed to squash organized opposition from smaller, "business-as-usual" bosses who have no stake in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan or Saudi Arabia. Their leader is anti-tax magnate Tom Golisano, who owns a payroll-services firm tied to small businesses. Last year, Golisano created a logjam in Albany by bribing two Democratic state senators, Hiram Monserrate and Pedro Espada, to turn Republican.

Warmaking Bosses Target Ineffective Gov

At first, the imperialist wing enlisted liberal New York attorney-general (and former Kennedy-in-law) Andrew Cuomo as Paterson's grand inquisitor, either to oust him or, at least, get him to toe the ruling-class line. But Cuomo's gubernatorial ambitions created a blatant conflict of interest. So, Cuomo has handed the Paterson prosecution to "independent counsel" Judith Kaye. Some "independent"!

The state's former Chief Judge, Kaye now works for the top ruling-class law firm Skadden Arps, which "ranked first among law firms representing Fortune 100 companies" in 2009, according to the National Law Journal. Thus, Kaye's clientele includes Exxon Mobil, Chevron, JP MorganChase, Citigroup, Halliburton and other beneficiaries of Obama's ever-expanding war efforts.

Domestically-oriented banks were rankled by Paterson predecessor Eliot Spitzer's pro-imperialist, wartime regulation regime which disciplined those Wall Street banks that, in pursuit of immediate profits, were completely disregarding the long-range interests of their class, leading to economic chaos. This gang brought Spitzer down by exposing his prostitute habit. Now the defenders of the U.S. overseas empire are striking back.

Ravitch Plan for Rulers' Rescue: Sell State to Banks, Give Unelected Capitalists Open State Power

The Times editorial, demanding that Pater-

Why Articles Are Not Signed

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



Anti-Racists Disrupt Fascist Meeting on 'Illegal Immigration'

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD, Feb. 25 — When Karl Marx said "Workers of the World, Unite!" he was declaring that the borders between countries were bosses' tools to divide workers. Communists call for the abolition of all borders as part of unifying the working class worldwide. Nowhere was this goal more needed than at today's racist town hall meeting, (organized by "People for Change" and "Help Save Maryland"). It was designed to launch a grassroots movement of black and white people to attack immigrants, especially undocumented workers, blaming them for the effects of the economic crisis of capitalism that all workers are facing. PLP'ers and friends declared, "No way!"

We came early and passed out flyers entitled "Stop Racist Attacks on Workers with Militancy and Multiracial Unity," freaking out the organizers who expected no opposition and wildly threatened to have us arrested by "the police ringing this area." This assumption that the police would protect them shows how the capitalist system supports these kinds of disgusting racists. As U.S. rulers face increasing competition they are paying for their wars on the backs of the workers — and dividing workers by winning blacks and whites to attack immigrants helps keep all workers from seeing who their real enemy is.

We also distributed a flyer called "10 Myths about Immigrants" that refutes the lies that undocumented workers don't pay taxes, "bring disease," "are criminals" and are a drain on educational and health resources. The truth is that undocumented workers pay more taxes than others and are horribly underpaid and exploited. They are closer to the condition of exploited slaves in the 19th century.

The panel consisted of black and white speakers whose program is already enacting racist policies in the public policy arena (see Box). Roy Beck from Numbers USA is a lawyer who specializes in helping businesses get rid of undocumented workers. In his campaign D.C. mayoral candidate Leo Alexander scapegoats undocumented workers for the lack of jobs for low-income black workers. A former social worker on the line-up spoke of having been fired

from her job for refusing to help immigrant women with babies get food stamps.

We interrupted her speech, demanding to know "Did she want those babies to starve?" A lawyer explained the "rights" citizens have to turn in undocumented workers to the Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and encouraged the audience to do so. The last speaker was from Help Save Maryland, whose sole purpose is to sow hatred for undocumented workers and lobby for racist laws against them. They are even proud of being on the Southern Poverty Law Center's list of extremist groups!

The 50 people in the meeting hall included six journalists and 12 politicians. Our members peppered the panel with sharp questioning, led off by a PLP'er who boldly condemned the panel, declaring, "I have worked my whole life to bring black and white people together, but this meeting feels like a Ku Klux Klan meeting." The racists heckled her, but we demanded that she be allowed to speak. A panelist told her that she should take her "illegal immigrant" friends and go to Central America and make a revolution, to which she hotly responded that she'd be pleased to make revolution anywhere!

Our questions and comments exposed the lies that problems of taxes, criminality, bad schools and poor health care were because of undocumented workers, and demonstrated that the capitalist system and Wall Street were to blame, not the Latino workers the racists wanted to blame and deport.

A black friend declared that what the anti-immigrant speakers were saying about Latinos was exactly the type of racist statements made about her during the Civil Rights era. She was particularly shocked at the depth of anti-immigrant hatred espoused by the black people in the room. The organizers, she said, were trying to scare people with undocumented workers as the bogeyman.

To fight back against this fascist organizing we cannot rely on the leaders of liberal mass organizations like CASA de Maryland that limit their struggle to reforms and working within the system. Our friends in CASA tell us not to confront these racists

but to work with "friendly" politicians, even though this strategy is already failing badly. These liberal politicians, from Obama down to local leaders, push anti-immigrant legislation to help the bosses divide and rule. They can be even more dangerous than the open racists because they can deceive workers about their good intentions as they sign the laws that further attacks on our class brothers and sisters.

We can win through communist organizing and relying on workers to understand that their interests lie in fighting for a communist future of equality that can be won only by a united, anti-racist, working class. We can advance by fighting racist cutbacks in health, education, and jobs, through door-to-door campaigns, and by educating our base and the broader masses that such struggles can make gains only by identifying the capitalist class and state as the enemy, not our brother and sister workers regardless of their status, ethnicity, "race," or place of origin. ☸

Bosses' Anti-Immigrant Attacks in the Washington, D.C. area

- Banned Maryland driver's licenses for undocumented workers.
- Stopping special educational services for undocumented (read Latino) children — Prince George's County just laid off 120 parent/community liaison/translation workers!
- Using "E-verify" to stop undocumented workers from getting jobs or setting up bank accounts in Maryland and the District of Columbia — major lobbying and campaigning underway!
- Eliminating in-state college tuition for undocumented families — done in Virginia, under consideration in Maryland.
- Eliminating health care for undocumented workers except for the emergency room.
- Eliminating food stamps and welfare payments for families with an undocumented parent — even when the children are citizens.

Multi-racial Solidarity A Winner for Airport Workers

MIDWEST AIRPORT, March 8 — After all the lies, intimidation, and harassment, the metro-area and airport cleaners won their battle! SEIU members made signs on February 27 as the strike was to begin on March 1. The cleaning bosses saw this was really going to happen so they sent their lead negotiator to meet with the union rank-and-file Bargaining Committee. After 18 hours of nonstop negotiations they came to an agreement late Sunday night: better health insurance plus three raises separately over three years and equal pay for black cleaners.

The cleaning bosses' last BS proposal, before they saw the workers were serious, was sent in a letter passed out by supervisors and managers to airport cleaners. The union steward read it and ripped it up in front of his supervisor and coworkers. He told the supervisor to his face, "this is baloney!" His coworkers agreed!

There were sharp political discussions with airport workers around CHALLENGE and the need to strike for a short-term reform, but with the goal for long-term class struggle for communist revolution, and to create an anti-racist, anti-sexist society. Our CHALLENGE readers at the airport also struggled sharply with coworkers who were going to cross picket lines out of fear of the bosses. Many minds were changed.

After threatening to take action, with multi-racial union members' support, metro-area black workers, who were paid \$2.50 less than Latino and white cleaners, won back pay and the same wages as the other cleaners. However, because workers live under capitalism their small victory still does not eliminate our problems.

An increase in wages does not change that the workers are exploited to create profit for the bosses. In the end, the unions work for the bosses, and won't fight for what workers truly need — a world run by workers for workers. Maintaining capitalism means small gains inevitably get taken away.

We have a few Latino union members who are in danger of losing their homes after taking out subprime loans before the U.S. economic crisis hit. Now the banks want to foreclose on their homes. Capitalism does not work. The airport struggle made the political ideas of PLP a little clearer for a few airport workers. Also, we built a CHALLENGE study group out of our political struggle.

We received political support from as far away as workers at Kennedy Airport in New York, who showed their support with offers of union support and money. This anti-racist and political solidarity is greatly appreciated.

One thing about the metro-area and airport fight-back that many people have commented on was the multiracial unity which cut across racial, national, and language lines. Women took the lead in organizing resistance to the racist anti-working-class attacks.

The international working class has a long way to go in our battles ahead for a new and better society and world, but PLP will be there to lead our class onto victory! March on May Day for communism! ☸



NYC Workers, Students March, Unite to...

'Cuts Are For War!'

NEW YORK, NY, March 4 — "No Cuts, No War, The Cuts are for the War" was shouted with all the rage that Asian, Latin, black, and white workers, students, and teachers could channel into their voices against the bosses' racist attacks. The ruling class is waging war on the working class in order to pay for their imperialist wars.

They are further segregating schools by cutting the budgets and shutting down schools, opening charter schools in their place. This will make it difficult for working-class youth to go to a school in their own neighborhood. New York City bosses are threatening to cut free student Metrocards (bus and train fare cards), which would prohibit the vast majority of working-class students from going to schools outside their home neighborhood. However, they are in fact unlikely to cut the Metrocards. By "giving in" on that issue, the bosses can argue that we must accept a different cut instead. They will try to win our class to not just accept other cuts, but even to support and be grateful for them.

We must build working-class unity to fight the bosses. Understanding that any attack from the ruling class hurts our *whole* class means never accepting a single budget cut on the backs of a different group of workers. Even though it is small, today's fight-back is just the beginning as communists know that a quantity of actions transforms into a qualitative change.

Even if the protests now are largely liberal-led, that too will change as PL continues to grow in the schools, community centers, unions, churches, transportation, and industry. Today we were able to bring and lead many to carry our banners, accept our leadership, and join in our chants, but tomorrow it will be hundreds of thousands.

PL professors, teachers and students brought their co-workers, students, and fellow students to the protest outside of Governor Paterson's office. This ruling class puppet, just like Obama, is carrying out the open assault on our class that

the ruling class demands. In order for a ruling class to attack the rulers of another country, they must attack and control their own working class even more viciously. These assaults on our class are directly related to the needs of capitalism to create profit. The same banks that got almost a trillion dollars in bailouts, are now making even more money off of the Metropolitan Transit Authority's (MTA) assault on the students, while workers suffer.

Several of PLP's chants called for communist revolution, but the one that championed class war was carried on for several blocks as we marched from Patterson's office to the MTA public hearing.

These hearings enable the ruling class to maintain their illusion of "democracy" so crucial to their holding state power in the U.S. The myth of democracy is grounded in the belief that we are all given a voice in the power structure's decision-making. Of course, when the march arrived at the hearing, they tried to keep us all out!

When the protest of several thousand students and teachers arrived at the hearing, they met another protest of several thousand transit workers already rallying there. Some of the workers had leafleted a PL'ers' high school with flyers that expressed solidarity with students. These workers have shut NYC down before and are a crucial force for revolution. The kkkops put



the mainly student-teacher protest in one pen, and did everything that they could to keep them divided. Instead of joining the Transit Workers Union protest, many of the liberals went home when they found out that they couldn't get into the MTA hearing! Instead of organizing to join the workers themselves, their narrow politics of using the hearing to voice dissent was primary.

The bosses' crisis will deepen, as they continue to try to make more and more profits off of the working class's misery. More hospitals, schools, and jobs will be lost in the oncoming months as the depression deepens. The oil wars will continue. The recent conquest of Haiti and the seizing of Marja in Afghanistan are just hints of what's to come next. PL'ers must take advantage of each opportunity to rebuild the international communist movement. The protests in NYC, though largely ignored by the bosses' media, are a good sign, but only communist revolution will provide the education and transportation that the working class needs. ☘

Queens College: 'Where the hell did our funding go?!'

QUEENS, NY, March 4 — Chanting "Hey, Hey, Ho, Ho, Where the Hell Did Our Funding Go?!" and "Fight, Fight, Fight, Education is a Right!," 75 students at this City University of

New York college rallied and marched across campus to protest the proposed \$104 million in budget cuts. At the rally, students spoke eloquently about how difficult it was for those from working-class families to afford the current tuition, especially during a recession, when parents have lost jobs or seen the value of their homes diminish. Increasing tuition would only make it harder and force some students to drop out. The percentage of black and Latino students at Queens College has dramatically decreased due to the budget cuts.

The national leadership of the March 4 protests — not wanting to upset the leadership of the Democratic Party — refused to link the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with cuts in education. However, students

at our rally were outspoken in denouncing the spending of a trillion dollars a year on wars of occupation.

Three days before the rally, we had a teach-in (see next page) in which student and faculty panelists tied budget cuts and tuition hikes to three phenomena: (1) the very rich control both major parties and are thus able to keep their taxes at historically low levels; (2) in order to maintain its global dominance, U.S. capitalists are committed to controlling the oil-rich Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea regions and will spend trillions on wars of occupation there; and (3) capitalism is in crisis and is lowering the already low standard of living of working people.

These are their plans. The plan of Progressive Labor Party is to build a revolutionary organization that not only actively participates in today's defensive battles against cutbacks but at the same time builds an offensive force capable of smashing capitalism and establishing a communist society. We work in mass organizations with the understanding that many of their dedicated members of today will one day be the committed revolutionaries of tomorrow. ☘



...Blast Bosses' School Budget Cuts

PLP's Politics Center of Teach-in

QUEENS, NY, March 1 — Today, students, faculty and staff at Queens College CUNY hosted a teach-in entitled "War and Public Education." While slated to build support for the March 4 "Day of Action," its strong point was linking the budget cuts and tuition hikes to the capitalist crisis and imperialist war, issues ignored by the reformist coalitions that organized the NYC protest. PLP'ers who've been active in antiwar activities here organized this focus and put PLP politics at the center of the discussion.

In the first panel, a long-time Sociology professor defined war and crisis, stimulating much discussion. An English student and regular CHALLENGE reader followed, tying the U.S. imperialist invasion of Afghanistan to the budget cuts at CUNY with a Marxist critique of capitalism, emphasizing the need for revolutionary politics.

A Vietnam veteran concluded the analysis, exposing the parasitical tactics of recruiters who are increasingly appearing on our campuses to convince especially black and Latino students to die for U.S. imperialism. They're forced to leave school because of rising tuition. The vet emphasized resistance to recruiters' dubious tactics, urging soldiers to organize among their ranks and join the growing antiwar movement.

The second panel featured two PLP members who focused on the international aspects of war, crisis, and public education. The first speaker, a PL'er, gave concrete examples of the neoliberal global capitalist crisis and the growing privatization of public education and emphasized how inter-imperialist rivalry fueled the crisis of public education, stressing the need to fight the racist budget cuts and U.S. imperialist interests.

The second speaker discussed the teachers' resistance movement to the 2009 coup in Honduras in June 2009, which overthrew Manuel Zelaya, a corporate lackey. Nevertheless, his overthrow

symbolized U.S. intervention in Central America, leading many teachers, intellectuals, and students to join in the struggle against the coup, favoring Zelaya's return. While the speaker emphasized the post-coup repression of teachers and activists, and their resistance to the military dictatorship, overlooked was Zelaya's complicity with capitalist interests in Central America and the imperialist dogfight that oppressed Honduran workers, students, and teachers (see CHALLENGE, August 2009).

The panel ended with a moving discussion by a PLP member, linking U.S. imperialism to the recent "unnatural" disaster in Haiti and the necessity to build a revolutionary party through continuous solidarity with workers and teachers, in Haiti, here and worldwide.

A short film followed entitled, "Why Are We in Afghanistan." It reviewed the history of U.S. imperialism's worldwide aggression, especially in Central Asia. Her introduction exposed Obama's expansion of the war machine in Afghanistan, aiming to contain U.S. rival capitalists, namely China and Russia. She also revealed how the U.S. military has built bases along the constructed TAPI pipeline, exposing U.S. rulers' interests beyond the "war-on-terror" rhetoric.

The final panel emphasized strategies

for fighting back. Three speakers, a Lehman College student, a Queens College English professor and the Vietnam veteran, characterized certain aspects of how to build a movement on our campuses: by creating stronger links between faculty and students, by emphasizing racism at CUNY from the 1970's to the present, and by encouraging student-veterans to join antiwar organizations.

Many antiwar students and faculty engaged in discussing ways to use the theory and practice of revolutionary communist politics and build a strong movement on our campuses and beyond. PLP's politics guided the wider discussions, enabling the growing solidarity among the members and organizers to unite more than in the past, deepening the potential of a communist future. ☺



March 4th rally at Queens College

Hunter College: Angry Students Walk Out, Smash Office Doors

New York, NY, March 4th — Joining with the national day of actions at Hunter College we had a walkout to protest the proposed budget cuts. Then we were greeted by about 500 cops. The cops were forceful and hit a couple of students as they were setting up the metal pen to restrict our protest. The rally spread over to the financial aid office as angry students smashed the doors. After the action on our campus we went to a larger demonstration and march from the governor's office to the MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) headquarters. At the protest we met up with other schools in the university as students and professors united in protesting the racist budget cuts, which would slash financial aid and hike tuition. Capitalism attacks students on every level and the only way to get a real education is to fight for a classless world based on putting workers' needs first and eliminating bosses and their profits. ☺

PolySci Club Gets Real Education

Our school's newly-formed Political Science Club exhibited lots of excitement for the March 4th "Defend Education" rally. Rightfully angry about the racist cuts, students, mainly black and Latino, are seeing tuition hikes, financial aid cuts and free student subway cards endangered, while the banks are getting billions in bailouts and the rich just keep getting richer.

The club produced a leaflet with a cartoon showing Wall Street executives making out like thieves while education funding is being slashed. PLP members in the club are helping to develop a fundamental understanding of how capitalism works, of how the capitalist crisis is being heaped upon workers' backs, and what it will take to defeat it: communist revolution.

Today, March 4, we met in front of the school President's office and then marched to the subway station to join the rally with thousands of other angry students and teachers at Governor David Paterson's office. New York's first black governor is leading this racist attack. No matter what color their skin, the politicians' job is to push racism in all its forms. (Likewise, our college president, a black woman, has let our campus — where students are mainly black and Latino and more than 60% female — fall into disgusting disrepair.)

We joined the march to the MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) public meeting, chanting the entire way, "The Workers, United, Will Never Be De-

feated!" and "Asian, Latin, Black and White; Students and Workers must Unite!"

Afterwards we discussed the activity over dinner. Many were unhappy about how the cops kept us penned in and contained. Part of our group had been cut off from the main rally by a line of cops; this sparked a good discussion at our first club meeting later.

When a student asked whether we should've tried to break past the cops to the main rally, a PL'er suggested we draw some lessons learned from the Stella D'Oro struggle about when and how to go against the cops. In that fight, plans were made beforehand and support for opposing the cops was solidified. When time came, we succeeded in getting past their barricades, right up to the factory gates. In the discussion, the PL'er suggested we recognize the cops' role as protectors of Paterson and the MTA bosses and our role as a force to battle them.

We're planning a teach-in on the Haiti earthquake. The Party will be there with a communist analysis, bringing revolutionary ideas into the mix. ☺

LETTERS



'Human Rights' Panelists Spout Bosses' Line

The Roosevelt House is the Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, the largest college in the CUNY system in New York City.

Last month, a class of mine went to an all-day forum on the New Deal (Roosevelt's attempt to save capitalism by making concessions to the working class in the 1930s) and how its policies have held up more than half a century later.

The specific section we attended was an analysis of how Barack Obama has dealt with "human rights issues" within his first year of his U.S. presidency. Human Rights Watch's Executive Director, Kenneth Roth, and several Hunter College faculty gave the analysis. It also appears in the March/April issue of *Foreign Affairs*, a newsmagazine published by the Council on Foreign Relations — one of the bosses' main think-tanks.

Not only did Roth not address the inevitable and indefinite occupation of Haiti (see *CHALLENGE* editorial, March 3), but his suggestions for Obama were solutions for the oppressive ruling class to adopt certain "policies," not for workers around the world to demand their "rights" (...or take power?). The most potent of Roth's suggestions was to stand up to inter-imperialist rivals Russia and China, a rivalry PLP has consistently said is the main contradiction in the world today.

If the oppression of workers is fought by giving money to international aid, fighting for policy through crap NGOs, or by voting for this president or that, then workers around the world will continue to suffer.

Pointing out these contradictions in the ruling class is important for building May Day, 2010. Obama and his cohorts are no class friends of ours, and we need to continue the fight for international workers' power, the real struggle for human rights!

Red Student

9/11 Truth Movement: A Right-Wing Creation

Responding to letters in *CHALLENGE* regarding the 9/11 Truth Movement: After having dealt with people in this Movement for six years, certain things have become clear.

The Truth Movement (TM) is not just about denying Al-Qaeda's role in the 9/11 attacks, but is about bringing an elaborate and reactionary conspiracy theory into the mainstream. Immediately after "proving" that 9/11 didn't happen as the government said it did, a counter-story was needed to explain these events.

This story, largely provided by Alex Jones and his modest media empire in Austin, TX, doesn't focus on important details the press omitted, like the U.S. role in the Soviet/Afghan War or the U.S. occupation of Saudi Arabia during the first Gulf War. Rather it recasts the tired, old Protocols of Zion myth, designed to attack the Russian Left prior to the Russian Revolution, with a new façade featuring Illuminati, "Socialist" bankers and "Globalists." The further you dig into this ideology the more the "Zionist conspiracy" myth begins to show its ugly head again.

Borrowing heavily from the Protocols and from the racist novel "The Turner Diaries" (regarding the fantasy of a Globalist-inspired U.S./Mexico border war among other things), it's no surprise that these "Truther" websites have become favorite hangout spots for Holocaust deniers, John Birch Society members and other right-wing nuts. There is no good, bad, and ugly side of the TM, only an ugly and uglier side with many innocent people caught in the middle.

Another side to the TM is that 9/11 was "an inside job." Like those who claim a Roosevelt conspiracy in the Pearl Harbor attacks, the need seems to come from an underlying belief in U.S. invincibility. People in the TM constantly state that it's inconceivable for the military to have been caught off guard, unable to scramble fighter planes to the defense, or that it's crazy to believe U.S. intelligence agencies could be outwitted by Arab terrorists.

But we've learned from the past decade that the U.S. military really isn't the invincible fighting

machine Hollywood would have us believe, and U.S. intelligence agencies really aren't all that efficient.

Fortunately for a communist party that believes in revolution, the U.S. is not run by an omniscient X-Files-style cabal of men in the shadows able to maintain a decade-long conspiracy of silence involving thousands of people. Rather these are mortal men and women who, because of their own internal weaknesses, were caught with their pants down that day. Promoting the idea of an invincible, omniscient ruling class can only breed cynicism and is not historically accurate or scientifically sound.

In *CHALLENGE* (3/17), a letter noted there was no longer a debate over 9/11 because "reputable experts" have claimed the events could not have happened as described. This is a misleading, unscientific approach to this event. The author fails to note that while a few people adopt this view, the vast majority of experts agree with the official version of events: planes flown by terrorists brought down the Twin Towers and crashed into the Pentagon. Evidence of this is in the "Popular Mechanics" book, "Debunking 9/11 Myths" as well as in a shorter article on their website and in the internet film "Screw Loose Change: Not Freakin' Again Edition." It's available on a google video debunking the TM internet film "Loose Change."

Yes, there are some experts who question the 9/11 story, but there are also some scientists who deny global warming, some historians who deny the Holocaust and some doctors who deny smoking is bad for you. In all of these cases, these "experts" represent an extreme minority and should be treated with a bit more skepticism.

While there are some honest people caught up in the TM, we should recognize that the TM is not your standard social movement with a right, left and center. Rather it's a group overrun, and led, by right-wing extremists with an agenda to act as a Trojan Horse to bring their ideas into the mainstream. Their front group represents a minefield of potential pitfalls for anybody seeking to get involved and should be approached with only the clearest sense of what these people are about and how they operate.

Red Beard

Unite to Fight Charter School Attack

The son of one of our comrades has had a basically good experience at his elementary school which is now being taken over by a charter school that's been given space in the same building. Our student's school has less and less space now: Each class is confined to one room all day. There's no room for private special-ed sessions. The guidance counselor is forced to work in a closet. Children only get phys-ed one day a week; the gym teacher has been exsessed. Class size is already rising — 30 students per teacher in one room.

Non-charter schools are being forced to compete with the charters for resources that are shrinking because of massive budget cuts. Teachers and parents are taking the lead in outreach to keep enrollment high to prevent closings. This unity is good, but this strategy takes the heat off the system. The bosses fear that city-wide parent-teacher unity could lead to general demonstrations and a strike that could end the Department of Education's union-busting, divide-and-conquer strategy.

Three of our

comrades are working with 12 other parents and two teachers. We will help, with open houses for new students and outreach to current families for a rally backing the school. But the most important thing we are doing is sharing *CHALLENGE* one-to-one, especially the article indicting charter schools as a racist strategy to enforce cutbacks for most students and to train a small elite in the technological skills needed by expanding U.S. imperialism.

We want to win parents, teachers, and students to an outlook of city-wide struggle against all closings and a fight for resources to meet all children's needs. But the main victory will be to get to know as many parents and teachers as possible, sharpen political discussion with them, and bring many of our new friends to May Day. This will help them see more of the big picture, of how communist revolution is the only way to ever meet the needs and aspirations of all the world's workers.

A Comrade

'DREAM Act' A Trap for Immigrant Youth

In a further effort to build support against fascist attacks on undocumented workers, I attended a screening of the documentary "Papers." It is about students who are in high school, or have graduated high school, without documents. They arrived here at a young age with their parents, who were hoping to create a better life for themselves and their children, but now the students can't apply for federal loans or get a legal, good-paying job. They graduate from high school and have no place to go.

Unfortunately, the conclusion of the movie is to fight for the DREAM Act, which includes the fast track to U.S. citizenship of having students go into the military and fight the bosses' wars. A neat way for the bosses to trap young immigrants into their war machine!

About 30 people attended the screening. I passed out fliers, "Stop Racist Attacks on Immigrant Workers with Multiracial Unity," to those in attendance.

The documentary was made by Graham Street productions (www.grahamstreetproductions.com). I think we should look out for these types of movies. We could easily give a short speech, and pass out fliers or *CHALLENGES* to the audience before the show starts. These days there are no ushers and the screens are very isolated from each other. These types of movies will generally attract a group of people who will mostly be pro-immigrant and against racism.

D.C. Red



Protestors clash with riot police during a demonstration in central Athens, Greece, on March 11, 2010. Thousands of demonstrators gathered to protest the over \$6 billion package of austerity measures announced by the Greek government last week to overcome the financial crisis.

France: Mass Strike By All Workers Needed to Back Immigrants' Walkout

PARIS, March 11 – Demonstrations and negotiations alternate as 6,000 striking undocumented workers battle for “legalization.” This struggle is a significant anti-racist one, given the fact that the strikers represent masses of predominantly African immigrants fighting their racist bosses’ super-exploitation. While the workers’ immediate goal is “legalization,” the key to real victory remains winning masses of workers to understand the long-term need to destroy capitalism — the source of all exploitation — and the bosses’ borders. Only communist revolution can achieve that goal by eliminating bosses and their profit system.

Yesterday, 1,000 undocumented strikers marched in Créteil, eight miles southwest of Paris, demanding “legalization.” A huge banner urged equal rights for immigrants.

Recently rallies were organized in the Paris suburbs of Nanterre, Evry and Bobigny. French urban geography is the opposite of the U.S. Here, the rich inhabit the core cities with the poor relegated to projects in the outlying suburbs.

For several months, strikers occupied the municipal tax office in the Paris suburb of Vitry-sur-Seine.

On March 8, bosses of companies employing thousands of undocumented workers and five unions presented the text of a “common approach” to the Minister of Labor, ostensibly to “pressure” the government to “legalize” immigrant workers. This “strategy” contrasts sharply with the actions of rank-and-file workers: striking, demonstrating and occupying government buildings.

However, the rank-and-file strikers face a crucial problem. With their action now in its sixth month, and despite donations from other workers and unions, their financial situation is becoming more desperate. Due to a split between the smaller bosses (who can less afford to do without even small groups of immigrant workers) and the big bosses (who can more easily withstand the absence of a few workers), compromises are being sought between union

negotiators and the struck companies.

Mass Strike Of ALL Workers Needed

The “common approach” may very well produce a “compromise” that, in exchange for partial “legalization” for some workers, would freeze out those workers on the “black market” who are paid cash in hand as well as the mostly women personal care providers. To battle such a concession, and buttress their situation, the strikers would need the mass mobilization by the citizen workers to walk out and shut production on behalf of the immigrant workers. This would unite — and benefit — the whole working class since it would reduce the ability of the bosses to use one group against the other.

The bosses will never agree to end the super-exploitation of immigrants, which contradicts their drive for maximum profits. The bosses and the politicians are on the same side. And the union leaders, in seeking “common ground” with the bosses, rather than organizing the mass of unionized citizen workers to join the immigrant workers on the picket lines, end up defending capitalism’s “negotiations” and the concessions it produces. They are saying the workers and the bosses have common interests, masking the fact that it’s the bosses’ government.

‘I’m here, I’m staying, I will not leave!’

On March 6, 6,000 people marched here from the Place de la République to the Immigration Ministry demanding “legalization.” Signs read, “No to exclusion, abolition of racist and xenophobic laws!”; and, “For the legalization of all the undocumented!” T-shirt slogans included, “I’m here, I’m staying, I will not leave!” They chanted, “Documents for all!” The same day 50 people rallied in Nîmes, in southern France.

On March 5, undocumented workers and their supporters rallied in Bordeaux, demanding extension of the “legalization” procedure to all undocumented workers. Under French law, those in France for a certain time, with employer “approval,” and who work where there is a chronic labor shortage,

can be “legalized.”

In Bordeaux this means construction and restaurant workers can be “legalized” but not nurses’ aides, even though the employment bureau has vacant jobs for them. The workers’ collective condemned the exclusion of Algerians and Tunisians, who supposedly benefit from a specific law but whose treatment is even more arbitrary.

‘We Are All Immigrants’

On March 1, 3,000 people rallied at the Paris city hall, part of the “day without immigrants.” Organizers called on immigrants to cease working and consuming that day to show that companies, shops, government offices and schools cannot operate in France without first- and second-generation immigrants. Similar protests were held in Lyons, Marseilles, Rennes, Rouen, Strasbourg and Toulouse, reflecting the fact that this movement is not restricted to Paris.

The Paris demonstrators had a banner reading “We are all immigrants!”

The demonstrations are building for a protest march to Nice on the French Riviera, at the France-Africa summit, May 31-June 1.

This five-month strike of undocumented workers highlights PLP’s call to “Smash All Borders!” Historically, all bosses use their militaries to establish borders. They then exploit workers in poorer countries, forcing the latter to immigrate to the richer ones where the bosses can extract super-profits, using racism and deportation threats, lowering standards for all workers.

Only with communist leadership — exposing the “nationality” fraud — can workers unite across all capitalist borders, internationally defying the bosses’ divide-and-conquer strategy. This prepares the ground for a communist revolution to destroy capitalism and free all workers from the system’s oppression in a worker-led society. ☺

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

Obama endorsed whole-school firing

NYT, 3/7 — A Rhode Island school board’s decision to fire the entire faculty of a poorly performing school, and President Obama’s endorsement of the action, has stirred a storm of reaction nationwide....

“I ripped the Obama sticker off my truck,” said Zeph Capo...who trains classroom teachers. “We worked hard for this man, we talked to our neighbors and our fellow teachers about why we should support him, and we’re having to dig the knife out of our back.”

....Anthony J. Mullen, an instructor at the Arch School in Greenwich, Conn., who is the national teacher of the year, said he supported the notion of establishing more accountability in schools, “But what kind of accountability are we talking about?”

“This ‘off with their heads’ mentality,” he said, “it’s a bloodthirsty mentality.”

Antibiotics = farm profit; people die

NYT, 3/7 — Now we’re seeing increasing numbers of superbugs that survive antibiotics. One of the best-known — MRSA, a kind of staph infection — kills about 18,000 Americans annually. That’s more than die of AIDS....Routine use of antibiot-

ics to raise livestock is widely seen as a major reason for the rise of superbugs. But Congress and the Obama administration have refused to curb agriculture’s addiction to antibiotics, apparently because of the power of the agribusiness lobby....

...70 percent of antibiotics are used to feed healthy livestock....agricultural use of antibiotics produces meat cheaper. But...the price may be an enormous toll in human health.

Big biz gets loopholes in ‘good’ laws

NYT, 3/1 — ...More than 1,500 major pollution investigations have been discontinued or shelved in the last four years....

...117 million Americans get their drinking water from sources fed by waters that are vulnerable to... Clean Water Act [loopholes]....

“Cases now are lost because the company is discharging into a stream that flows into a river rather than the river itself...”

Very tough time for older women

GW, 2/26 — Since 2007 the unemployment rate among [U.S.] women over 55 has almost doubled and their chances of finding new jobs are as minimalist as the social security checks that await them....

...17% of all single women over the age of



60 have incomes below the federal poverty level (which stands at a ridiculously low figure of \$10,830 per year)...All told, approximately 37% of single women over 60 are poor.

It’s no surprise really that women do so badly in retirement as the odds are neatly stacked against us. We work fewer years than men due to caregiving duties and get paid less for our troubles.

On the flip side we tend to live longer, though it would be nice to be able to afford toilet paper and whatnot in those bonus years. ☺

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE ONLINE:
www.plp.org

Comprehensive Immigration Reform: The Liberal Face of Fascism

Racist Immigration Enforcement is the present reality of U.S. immigration law. "Comprehensive Immigration Reform" (CIR) is what U.S. rulers are using to cover up and increase racist and fascist attacks on immigrant workers. This means rapidly increasing mass arrests of undocumented workers, ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) police raids on homes, jobs, military bases, bus stations and highways, all leading to mass detentions and deportations. These "enforcement programs" have many names. The new ones are called the "Criminal Alien Program" and "Secure Communities." Police in every city and county are either deputized as ICE agents or are cooperating voluntarily.

This liberal face of fascist enforcement — the campaign for CIR to create a "path to citizenship" — is attracting thousands of anti-racist workers and students to support it. Millions have already marched for immigrants' rights. In one southern city, after a mass parish meeting with over a hundred people, the Catholic Church leadership forbid further meetings unless all speakers were approved by the church. Some people at the meeting exposed CIR for building fascism and racism. Many had come to the meeting wanting to ally with immigrant workers. Misleaders insisted that the only purpose of the meeting was to convince those already friendly to immigrants to send postcards to their congressmen in support of CIR.

U.S. rulers need CIR so they can force immigrant youth into the military to fight their widening imperialist wars. The last CIR bill in Congress contained the "Dream Act", which would use the promise of legalization to trick these youth into giving eight years and maybe their lives to the military.

They also need it to expand fascist labor policy in the workplace. CIR in its current form would set up a massive databank called E-verify. All newly-hired workers, both citizens and non-citizen, would have to undergo background checks on their status just to get a job. Since 9/11, the U.S. government has computerized and centralized searching of everyone's records — not just immigrants — so that even prior marriages in Mexico 20 years ago, or a minor arrest in California in the 1970s, will show up and provide a basis for deportation or denial of work.

CIR's promise of "legalization" will keep the bait sweet enough to continue to attract millions of workers into a temporary-worker status under the watchful eyes of government agents. Immigrant workers are victims of racist super-exploitation, which impoverishes the whole working class by creating a "reserve army of the unemployed," which the bosses use as a club over the heads of all workers, including white workers. The CIR will tie immigrant workers to their jobs by making their temporary status contingent on continued employment. This policy means that workers who fight back against rotten conditions risk deportation.

Risking deportation, strikes, demonstrations, jail and getting fired are some of the necessary steps millions of anti-racist immigrants and non-immigrants will have to take to free our class from the bondage of capitalist wage slavery. The alternatives the bosses' offer lead straight to the barracks, the battlefield and an early grave. Redressing the exploitation of immigrants ultimately requires a revolution, under the red flag of communism, that destroys the national borders capitalists put up to protect their profits by force. ☛

Conference on Haiti Exposes Media Lies

BROOKLYN, NY, February 23 — Over 200 students, staff and community members from Long Island University participated today in a conference on the situation in Haiti, organized by faculty members. Reports were given by several people who had gone to Haiti since the earthquake, including an LIU student who works as an EMT.

The reports countered the lies and distortions from the press that had spread racist stories of people fighting over food. The eyewitness gave a different picture, of many people helping each other even as they struggle in unbelievably difficult circumstances. The reports also made clear that the U.S. military and UN soldiers there are not helping more people get food and other needed supplies.

PLP members distributed CHALLENGE at the conference and spoke to some of the participants about how capitalism is to blame for the deaths of 200,000 Haitian workers and about the need to build the fight for communism all over the world.

In addition to the eyewitness accounts there were panels on the future of Haiti. During one, several members of the audience made the point that the U.S. military is there to put Haiti more firmly under U.S. control and that people in the U.S. and Haiti should unite to fight against the U.S. military invasion. ☛

Capitalism's Racist Unemployment: No End to Joblessness — Without Communist Revolution!

It appears that capitalism's Great Recession has created such long-term unemployment that it is leading to "a crisis of historic proportions," says the policy director of the National Employment Law Project. (NY Times, 2/21)

Of the 15 million "officially" unemployed, 6.3 million have been out of work for more than six months, the highest total since such numbers have been tracked (1948). It is already double the amount of the previous worst record, in the 1980s.

But that's only half the story. That 15-million figure doesn't include another 15 million who can't find full-time jobs or have given up looking, so the long-term jobless number is far more than 6.3 million.

No wonder the NY Times, the capitalists' leading mouthpiece, laments that "even a vigorous recovery is likely to leave an enormous number out of work for years."

Already between the 8.4 million jobs lost in this Great Recession plus another 2.7 million needed just to absorb new entrants into the job market, the economy would require over 11 million new jobs just to get back to when the collapse started in December 2007 (which even then was not full employment). That means "more than 400,000 new jobs a month for three years — wildly in excess of even the most optimistic projections." (NYT editorial, 3/6)

With all the phony talk of a "recovery" starting (and admittedly a "jobless recovery" at that), even the Times confesses (3/6) that, "The job market may be hitting bottom, but it seems likely to remain mired there." And the jobs that have been lost are "unlikely to return" — ever.

In effect the Times virtually admits what CHALLENGE has been saying repeatedly; it's the profit system that is grinding workers down: "Large companies are increasingly owned by institutional investors who crave swift profits,...often achieved by email: desafio.challenge@gmail.com

cutting payrolls." This is exactly the fate that befell the Stella D'Oro workers when an investment company bought the bakery and then sold it when they decided they could make a hefty profit.

Now we can also see the monstrous effects of Clinton's "welfare reform." Their rationale for cutting off millions was that it would provide "incentive" for recipients to get jobs. But what happens with a "work-based 'safety net' without any work"? More jobless and destitute workers, and not even eligible for unemployment benefits.

So this is what capitalism has brought to the working class, a bottomless pit of unemployment, foreclosed homes, one of four children going to bed hungry. This is even twice as horrific for black, Latino, immigrant and Native American workers, who because of the system's inherent racist discrimination, suffer twice the jobless rates of white workers.

In the Great Depression of the 1930s, when

one-third of the working class was on the street, communists led a national movement of the unemployed and organized the basic industries, winning unemployment insurance, welfare and the 40-hour week. But now we see that, as always under capitalism, its economic crises inevitably reverse those reforms.

Communists in the Progressive Labor Party must take up the mantle to organize masses of workers into an anti-capitalist movement that not only fights this insidious racist unemployment — which will be lasting for years and years — but points out to workers that only the destruction of the profit system can end this hellhole of capitalism, something the old "Communist" Party failed to do. Such a movement can become a "school for communism" whose goal would be a society run by and for workers, without bosses, profits, racism and oil wars, a society in which every worker will have a job and work for the advancement of our class. That's communism. Join us! ☛

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