

ON THE LINE

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WAR AND THE WORKERS

War is romantic again. The theatres are once more filled with audiences, teary eyed; sobbing away as the brave, young, soldier waves longingly to his one and only love, unsure if he will ever come home from "the war." Not only movies, but books, television shows, magazines, newspaper articles; the culture of war is everywhere.

But why now---after a decade of war in Vietnam?

Perhaps it isn't all a coincidence. Perhaps there's a reason for it all? Maybe something's coming that we should be ready for?

Recently the Senate Armed Services Committee voted to reinstate draft registration. Other legislation pending, such as the latest version of a criminal law "reform" bill first

proposed during the Nixon years when it was introduced as Senate Bill 1 (S-1), will institute a variety of repressive 'emergency' measures. This all points toward one thing...mobilization for war.

Despite the signing of Salt II, despite the assurances of Carter, Brezhnev and their entourage, despite all this; developments indicate that both the governments of the US and USSR are on a reckless course that can lead only to World War III.

The leaders of both countries freely admit that this treaty will do nothing to reverse the Arms Race. In fact, it only serves to institutionalize this murderous competition, by regulating the pace.

The decision of President Carter to build the MX missile is only one example of this. It should be clear to anyone that is not caught up in the ideology of the Pentagon's state-management that this will do nothing to assure the security of the US.

The Soviets are doing the same with such things as the Backfire Bomber.



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Why are the 2 superpowers so hellbent on destruction? Are they irrational; or is there some reason for all this?

The world today has become a big chess game for the US and USSR. The Soviets have taken the lead, partly by subverting legitimate liberation movements. The Americans, have seen their world position weakened considerably since the end of the Vietnam War.

In the light of the struggle for oil and other scarce resources, this chess game becomes even more serious for the two.

In fact, a war between the two has been going on, but not with their own soldiers. The US, in particular, has used puppet forces to achieve its objectives, and rulers like the Shah in Iran and Somoza in Nicaragua. The Soviets have done the same with Cuban forces in Africa.



**"I HAVE A SINCERE DESIRE
TO END THE ARMS RACE!"**

But now this war is reaching new levels. There is a serious question as to whether it can be contained anymore; thus, the renewed interest in powerful nuclear forces.

In 1941, after more than a decade of depression, the US entered the Second World War and once again business was booming. The post World War II recession was ended by the Korean "Police Action." The Vietnam War reduced unemployment.

Given this experience, many individuals believe that war can solve our present economic crisis--the crisis of simultaneous inflation and unemployment.

Yet, no matter what these people may believe, it has become increasingly obvious that war cannot solve the economic crisis. The cost of war production in terms of lost goods and services is painfully clear given the state of American cities.

Thus, the American war-makers are not interested in the nation's prosperity, its' economic health, or the welfare of its' people--but in their own power, here and abroad.

The real struggle is not between Democratic Capitalism and Totalitarian Socialism. Capitalism is not democratic, or Totalitarianism, Socialist. The struggle is between 2 oppressive systems--and working people of both countries can only lose, no matter who wins.

Instead, students, working people, should reject the lies of the Super Powers and do everything possible to fight their moves toward war. The only war we should be interested in is the war between rulers and ruled--A war that is fought every day in workplaces, schools and communities--that is, a Class War.

--Libertarian Workers Group

RANK & FILE RESISTANCE

"Quickie Strike" Wins Demands

Workers at Automatic Data Processing's Corporate Warehouse in Clifton, N.J. recently wild-catted over working conditions, hours, completely tying up all business at this extremely busy warehouse, nearly all of their demands were met.

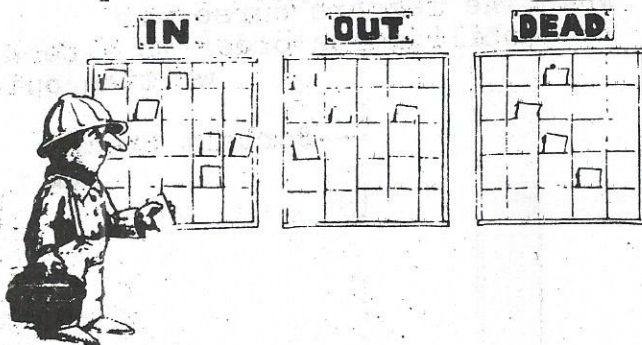
This is the first time in the history of A.D.P. that any workers successfully went on strike, won their demands and were not fired. This action of course says an awful lot for the use of the "quickie strike" to win favorable conditions and demands for workers.

Although the workers do not have a union to back them up in future battles with the bosses, they have formed an informal committee that will monitor conditions and that will present grievances to management when need be the case.

--M.M.

Soviet Scabs

Workers at the Four Continent Book Corporation at 149 Fifth Ave in Manhattan were recently confronted with a new tactic of union-busting --- Soviet scabs. The workers, members of District 65, charged that the bookstore, which is the largest retailer of Soviet literature in N.Y.C., has brought in strike breakers from the Soviet Diplomatic Corps.



"Employees of the Soviet Mission are crossing a union picket line and yet claim solidarity with the workers.. There is no question they are from the mission because they drove up in cars with Diplomatic license plates. One of them even had a chauffeur," said one striker in an interview with the "New York Times".

If this is the attitude of Soviet diplomats towards striking workers here, one can only imagine the attitudes of "Socialist" Soviet Union towards its own workers.

--S.R.

Union Democracy: 1
Bureaucrats: 0

On April 25, a three-judge panel of the Federal Court of Appeals in New York handed down a unanimous ruling that affirmed Dave Newman's removal as a steward of the Communication Workers of America Local 1101 was illegal. This was a violation of his right to free speech and a threat to other members rights. Communication Workers' Local 1101 will now have to end its stated policy of removing stewards simply because they express disagreements with union policies and programs.

While it is clearly a victory in the struggle for union democracy the union is still using stalling tactics to avoid recertifying Dave. In addition, the implications of this decision are still vague since this was a precedent case and the Telephone Workers

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Union Democracy (cont.)

Legal Defence Committee is still assessing the case and what it could mean for other stewards who may find themselves in the same situation.

Although the Libertarian Workers Group is not in full agreement with the tactics pursued by the TWLDC, we never the less support Dave and all others in their struggle for union democracy.

--M.M.



Guild Strike Solid

At midnight on April 14th, members of Local 3 of the Newspaper Guild struck the Elizabeth Daily Journal, one of N.J.'s oldest and largest dailies. The strike is over management's demands that non-union workers be allowed to perform jobs which have been covered by the Guild for over 30 years.

Management's response was classic. They immediately attempted to put out a scab publication. Advertisements for people to fill jobs vacated by strikers began to appear in the Journal's classified section. When local response was nil, management began importing scab labor from outside the area, using armed guards to protect the scabs who were putting out the paper.

The strikers responded in turn with a little direct action and self-organization by putting out their own paper, "The Community". This paper is staffed entirely

by Local 3 members. The strikers made it clear that their paper is only an interim publication that will fold when the strike is settled.

The staff of "The Community" has been very successful thus far in winning away regular readers and advertisers from the scab Daily Journal.

By emphasizing quality, community reporting and giving wider coverage to labor issues, "The Community" has gained the support of local community groups and labor organizations.

--S.P.



Bulletin Populaire

WHEN THE LEADERS SPEAK OF PEACE

The common folk know
That war is coming.

When the leaders curse war
The mobilization order is already
written out.

--Bertolt Brecht

WHITE POWER: The Resurgence of the Klan

The news flashes across the TV screen. Klansmen in Decatur, Alabama are attacking black demonstrators. The police response is to crack black skulls. The protestors fight back. All hell breaks loose. A commercial comes on.

60 seconds of violence and deadpan NBC comment. The TV makes the violence seem so harmless and far away. But the Klan is marching all over the country and Decatur is only the beginning. The Klan is a part of a whole offensive aimed at rolling back the gains we've made in recent years.

The KKK factions are organizing a around community and labor issues and are having a great deal of success. While the Klan groups may disagree with one another over tactics, they are fairly united around a hatred of minorities, progressive ideas and unions.

The Klan isn't limited to the south. Klan prison guards in New York state are visible and legally protected. The Klan is backing Brian Weber in his attempt to overturn an affirmative action program in a steel mill in Louisiana. The KKK has been leafletting workers at nuclear power plants around the country. The KKK has even gone to Great Britain.

The KKK clings to capitalist logic and strict Christian morality, adding racism and sexism along the way. They believe that black mothers should be sterilized, that unions must be stopped and that Jews should be exterminated outright. White folks, they say, should run the world.



Brian Weber, whose case might kill affirmative action programs once and for all, claims that there are pro-Klan elements in the United Steel Workers union that are backing him. I've seen burning crosses and Klan literature in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Michigan, in both rural and industrial areas. A popular Klan film shows a dead black man with KKK carved in his chest. Klan activity in the Marine Corps is tolerated by commanding officers, as the fighting in California training camps 2 years ago showed.

The Klan, of course, is having trouble. Internal divisions limit its power. Its propaganda is not aimed at key sections of the white working class. The rich men who fund the Klan and other fascist groups may discard these thugs if they are able to win ground in other ways. And these rich men fear the Klan also.

The left clings to the old analysis of racism--that racism is just introduced by capitalists to divide workers--and most of them are no help at all in fighting the Klan. The majority of left groups are ignoring serious problems in white working communities, leaving the door open for the KKK.

The problem is not just that capitalists control the media and schools. Workers can think for themselves, but do fear "outsiders" and "foreign" influence like everyone else. These fears become racist when they go unchallenged and ignored or trampled on.

Most of the left still can't talk to workers as workers and human beings. The left isn't providing the services the Klan can. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), for example, isn't attempting to talk to white workers and it

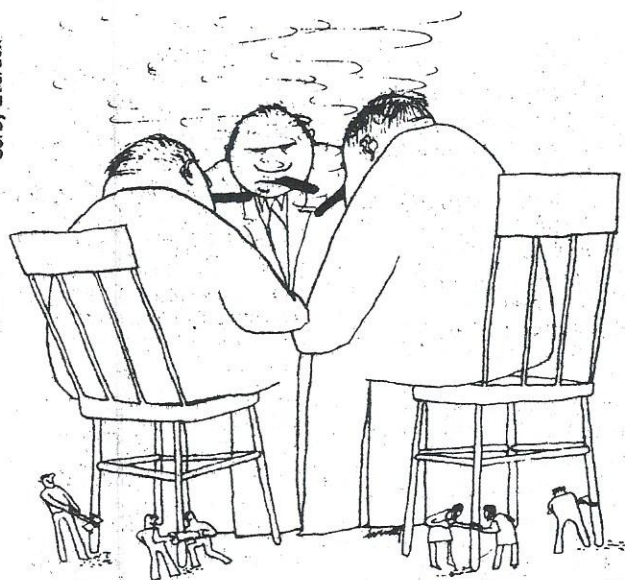
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is not defending blacks who have armed themselves in Decatur. The white left has little base in the communities in which the Klan is most active.

Detroit is an exception to this. Perhaps this is because the left here is generally a part of an on-going dialogue I hear in workplaces all around the country. Workers--white and black--are talking to one another in a way that hasn't happened in years. Blacks in Decatur are arming themselves. White workers are taking the first steps towards mutual aid. From the workplace discussions and the militant displays of anger can come new organizations capable of defeating the Klan and groups like it, abolishing racism and creating a truly egalitarian society.

--T.P.

Corby Everdell



"The best laid plans...."

The Libertarian Workers Group is affiliated with the Anarchist-Communist Federation, and is the New York group of the Syndicalist Workers Committee, which is the American group affiliated to the International Workers Association, the world federation of libertarian syndicalist organizations.

problems of orientation; attitude towards reformist labor unions; towards contracts; problems of agricultural workers; towards "marginal" movements (women's liberation, the "counter culture", ecology, neighborhood centers, schools, etc.); effective steps to organize workers without becoming "business as usual" unions.

These problems will be worked out by the new generation of militants who constitute the bulk of the C.N.T.

(Source: News from Libertarian Spain, Box 733, Cooper Station, N.Y., N.Y., 10003)

REPRESSION IN ITALY

On April 7, 1979, the Italian police arrested about 20 people, many of them members of the "Autonomia Operaia" (Workers' Autonomy) group, claiming that they were "dangerous terrorists" and charging one of them with being the "secret leader" of the terrorist Red Brigades. No factual evidence has been presented so far by the authorities, only some minor circumstantial evidence.

At the same time all demonstrations were banned and the Italian government called for 60,000 army troops to secure "strategic spots" for an indefinite period of time. This recent wave of repression (part of a larger pattern that goes back 10 years) coincides with a rise in the militancy of many sectors of the Italian working class.

Committees have been formed in Italy, France, England and the U.S. to help fight this repression. For more info:

Committee Against Repression In
Italy

159 W. 33 St. Room 1010
N.Y., NY 10001

Tel. (212) 244-4270

International News

ANARCHISTS STOPPED AT BORDER

Friday, April 13, 1960 Anarchists and 4 other individuals were arrested by U.S. Customs officials as they attempted to enter the U.S. via the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit. The 12 Canadians and 2 Americans were hauled from their cars and van, body searched and interrogated for six hours. The 2 Americans were finally released but the 12 Canadians were threatened with indefinite detention if they refused to be finger printed. Following forced finger printing the 12 were expelled from the U.S. These comrades were on their way to a conference of the Anarchist-Communist Federation of North America.



The 12 have been charged with criminal anarchy and were refused entry under the 1952 Immigration Act, with relevant sections that date back to 1901. The refusal to allow the 12 to enter the U.S. is a clear violation of the 1975 Helsinki Agreement which provides for the unhindered passage of individuals and ideas between signatory nations. The A.C.F. plans to contest the charges brought against the 12.

For more information on this case contact us or the Toronto Anarchist Group: P.O.B. 2, Postal Station "O", Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

--M.M.

SPANISH ANARCHO-SYNDICALISTS TO HOLD CONGRESS

Preparations for the first National Congress of the Confederacion Nacional de Trabajo (National Confederation of Labor -- C.N.T.) since 1936 are now under way. The first session is scheduled for October 10. The agenda is being worked out at local and workplace syndicates (local unions) and will be circulated and discussed by the membership. To expedite preparation the Secretaries of Press and Propaganda of the National Committee of the C.N.T. published the first issue of Debate Confederal, offering useful suggestions and information as well as discussion from and for all those willing to participate actively in preparing the Congress.

The Congress will consist of delegates directly chosen, not by intermediate bodies of the C.N.T., but by the workers in their local unions. The delegates will be instructed and responsible directly to their fellow workers: in short, real grass roots, face-to-face democracy.

The Congress will define the position of the C.N.T. on the great problems that the organization must face in the new situation of present day Spain:

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WHO WE ARE

We call ourselves "anarchist-syndicalists" and we have named our group the Libertarian Workers Group. We are a committee of working people and students who live in the N.Y. metropolitan area. We publish ON THE LINE because we feel that the news and experiences which come from many small battles between exploiters and exploited, powerful and powerless, must be shared if the workers are someday to win.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe that the capitalist class is unnecessary and that government (the political state and all its bureaus) is inherently oppressive. The state and the capitalist class, while not seeing eye-to-eye on everything, are built on exploitation and domination. By "stealing" from the real producers--the workers--and then selling to consumers--most of whom are workers too--the capitalist is able to make profits and keep power. Landlords and the utility companies steal from workers in a similar way. The government insures that business goes on as usual and even runs some industries. Education is bought and sold like a commodity, and students are trained for further exploitation in factories and offices. The decisions and what will be produced, how much will be charged and how goods and services will be distributed are made in a "top-down" way in political centers by bureaucrats and capitalists.

People are taught to play a passive role in society, to take uninteresting and low-paying jobs, to vote for candidates that really have nothing to offer, to experience life through television and movies and to accept racial and sexual oppression as normal. Meanwhile, thousands of people are going to jail, becoming addicts or committing suicide.

WHAT WE WANT

It is not enough, we think, to try to reform society. The exploiter-exploited relationship, protected as it is the world over by all of the governments and social institutions (churches, philanthropies, schools, etc.), must be done away with. The capitalist system, in which one person works for another's profit and then lives only to work in that framework, is full of contradictions and shortcomings. The decisions on what will be produced and distributed, on how housing and community problems will be solved, and on how natural resources will be allocated must be made by the working class on a local level through democratic organizations controlled by the rank-and-file.

Education must be democratic and non-hierarchical and must be available to all. Racial and sexual barriers must be abolished. In short, the working class must emancipate itself. We think that it can only do so by building organizations in which all workers and students can participate, and from which all will benefit. The center of the organization must be the workplace, the school, and the community.

The tactics we think are most useful are the general strike and the takeover of workplaces, schools and communities for rank-and-file control and for necessary immediate gains. Revolutionary unions and councils must be created to fight for decentralized economic planning and generalized self-management. Anarchist-syndicalism is the sum total of these objectives and offers the means by which to obtain them.

Subscriptions to ON THE LINE are \$1.00 for 6 issues. Send subs to:

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