

CHALLENGE-DESAFIO

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The Progressive Labor Party and its newspaper, **Challenge**, are dedicated to the U.S. working class and the working class of the entire world—black, Latin, white, Asian and Native American.

The only way our class can ever have a decent life is by overthrowing the bosses' governments and establishing the **DICTATORSHIP OF THE WORKING CLASS**, a system in which the workers rule and the bosses are outlawed.

When this is done, we can build a new society; a society in which working people collectively own the factories and farms: a society of socialism.

Until this is done, the bosses will continue to hold the trump card: their armies, police, and courts. The reforms we win in day-to-day struggles will be whittled away.

Progressive Labor Party members dedicate themselves to serve the people by guiding them to working-class revolution; by building deep ties among the mass of working people in their day-to-day battles; by learning to apply the revolutionary science of Marxism-Leninism—proven in decades of world-wide struggle—to the particular conditions of industrial United States.

Our newspaper, **Challenge**, strives to present the unconditional truth of class struggle so our class can learn from experience **how to win**.



PLP Leads Charge vs. Fascists

BOSTON, May 3—A gigantic blow was struck against fascism in the U.S. when over 2,500 workers and students, evenly divided between black, Latin and white, celebrated the historic international workers' holiday of May Day in a militant march through working-class Boston.

Led by communists in the Progressive Labor Party, members of PLP, Workers Action Movement (WAM)—who also endorsed the march—and a score of caucuses and unions, all sent the cry of "DEATH TO THE FASCISTS!" ringing through the skies over Boston which has become the cradle of a mass-based fascist movement centered around Louise Day Hicks' Nazi organization, R.O.A.R. (Restore Our Alienated Rights).

The marchers had picked Boston for the annual East Coast May Day march this year because it symbolizes in name and in fact the rise of a fascist movement around the busing issue directed against black working-class families but intent on destroying the unity of all workers, diverting us from fighting on the real issues of jobs, for 30 for 40, and against racism itself.

The leadership given by communists in PLP was signalled by the call to "Fight for Socialism!" which was pointed out as the real and ultimate answer for workers oppressed by capitalism and threatened by fascism. Many workers and students either joined, or expressed the desire to join, PLP or PLP study/action groups. The marchers, the majority of whom were not PLPers, graphically understood in life the leadership provided by communists and communist ideas in the fight against fascism. And they understood how communists carry on the

militant tradition of May Day by directing the organized strength of the working class against the most virulent section of the class enemy, for on this May Day, 1975, the fascists were routed in their own back-yard.

Part of a simultaneous May Day effort that saw marches take place around the continent, in Detroit, Houston, Toronto and Los Angeles, the Boston marchers began arriving in the assembly area at Columbia Point, adjacent to South Boston (the home of R.O.A.R.) at about 10:00 A.M. from Boston itself and as far away as Durham, N.C., Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, as well as later on from New Jersey, Buffalo, Connecticut, Philadelphia, Long Island and New York City. (According to the **Boston Globe**, May 4, "Police estimated that 2500 persons eventually marched.")

BOSSES DENY PERMIT FOR SOUTH BOSTON

The Boston PLP had applied for a permit to march through South Boston, where the Hicks-Kerrigan fascists have made their home base (organizing a national R.O.A.R. organization in 11 states from there). However, Boston's rulers feared the working-class unity-against-fascism message that might get across to the workers of South Boston, many of whom had greeted PLP and WAM members in March and April leafletting for May Day. So they denied the permit, "offering" instead a route through downtown Boston where absolutely no one would see or hear the marchers.

The March organizers refused to accept this dead-end, appealed the ruling, and thereby forced

the City to issue a permit for a march through the area adjoining South Boston, along Columbia Road through Dorchester, a combined white, integrated, and black working-class area, all of which was plastered with May Day posters.

However, scores of workers and students **DID** break the ban on anti-fascist demonstrating in South Boston by picketing Hicks' home in the rich section of that area earlier in the morning. Then they proceeded to the main assembly at Columbia Point. It was then that the biggest battle of the day took place, in which the fascists were routed, despite the presence of hundreds of cops, armed to the teeth.

While organizers were setting up the sound system and making preparations to receive the thousands soon to arrive, scouts on a hill nearby sighted about 75 fascists—out of a group of maybe 200—moving towards the assembly area with clubs, baseball bats and sawed-off hockey sticks. They raced to alert those in the assembly area.

March leaders immediately recognized the fascists' plan, obviously coordinated with the cops (who were applauding the fascists as they made their move): to attack the early marchers and give the cops the pretext to move in with swinging clubs, smash the sound system, and use the melee as an excuse to cancel the march as an "incitement to riot." (This was mentioned as a warning shortly afterwards by the police chief in the area to a March leader.) Then the rest of the fascists' supporters could take over the entire Mall assembly area and "greet" the main body of buses soon to

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arrive with rocks and prevent the marchers from even assembling, much less marching. But this May Day the fascists' plan was not to be.

The March leaders, especially the communists in PLP, had organized to meet the fascist threat, having recruited many members and friends in the preceding weeks into a Fighters Group which would defend the march in a militant, organized way. As the scouts arrived with the message of the impending fascist attack, Derek Pearl, a leader of PLP and WAM, took the mike on the sound truck and alerted the gathering Fighters Group: "Attack! Attack!" (See "Battle of Columbia Point").

FIGHTERS

The heroic action of these Fighters had maintained the security of the assembly area. However, the cops attempted one more foray. About 75 on motorcycles began encircling the still small group of 100 or so early arrivals near the sound truck. At that point Pearl led the workers and students in the singing of the international communist anthem, the Internationale, and the union song "Solidarity forever," as well as militant chants of "Death to the Fascists!" This united the people in a tightly-knit manner, in defiance of the cops' attempt to terrorize them. After 15 or 20 minutes, these uniformed fascists gave up and left the immediate assembly area.

Soon afterwards the main body of buses began arriving, hundreds streaming off to hear the results of this early battle and inspired to make this May Day one to remember. The Fighters Group grew, the workers and students formed into ranks six abreast with arms linked, and, with contingents of Fighters at both the front and rear.

With a sea of red flags flying smartly in the breeze on a warm, sunny spring day, the marchers stepped off in spirited fashion chanting, "Death to the Fascists!"; "30 Hours Work for 40 Hours Pay!"; "Men and Women, Black and White, Workers of the World Unite!" and "Fight for Socialism!"

ROCK THROWING

With 50 Fighters in the lead, the March approached the very hill and overpass on which the early battle had been fought. Several hundred were on the other side, including some of the fascists who had just been smashed. All they left was some cowardly rock-throwing—from a goodly distance—which landed harmlessly at the marchers' feet or on cops' heads!

The six-abreast formation never broke ranks, the Fighters Group and marshals alongside the March continued giving leadership according to plan, emboldening the marchers who were facing a constant stream of harassment from cops on motorcycles constantly gunning back and forth along the route of the march with sirens screaming,

trying to terrorize people. But this May Day these militant workers and students were not to be denied.

MARCH WAS A VICTORY

As the March wound its way for 2¾ miles up Columbia Road, bystanders began applauding, drivers of cars gave the clenched fists and honked their horns in salute. Many onlookers joined the march and hundreds bought **Challenge-Desafio**. As the march reached the integrated area of Dorchester, the rock-throwers gave up in despair over the discipline and determination of the marchers.

Scores of residents waved from apartment windows. An entire group of Spanish-speaking workers and their families came out in the street to clap and join in a chant in Spanish. An elderly Irish woman, right next door to a smiling black worker, threw out her arms as if to embrace the black, Latin and white marchers and began applauding vigorously.

By the time the marchers reached Franklin Park, the final assembly area, with the knowledge that the fascists had been defeated, the cops were prevented from canceling or breaking up this May Day. Fear had melted into the collective strength of thousands linking arms in solidarity and fighting fascists in an organized way.

The final rally heard revolutionary songs, and two main speakers, John Harris, leader of Boston PLP, and Prof. Finley Campbell, chair-person of international CAR. Harris drew some of the lessons of this historic May Day, pointing out that the

fascists' attempt to drive the anti-fascists out of Boston had been turned around, and that the success of the march meant that a new movement could be organized to unite black, Latin and white workers against fascism and for jobs. He welcomes all those present to join PLP as the revolutionary communist party who will lead this movement.

Two points made by Campbell stood out. He drew a contrast with another clash "on a bridge" at Selma, Alabama, and this one "on the overpass and hill" adjacent to the early assembly area, pointing out that at Selma the philosophy of pacifism and "turn-the-other-cheek" had enabled the fascist Alabama cops to slaughter mis-led black and white workers and their families. But here, the idea of **TAKING THE OFFENSIVE** with an organized fighting strategy had routed the fascists.

RED ARMY

This point, of taking the battle to the enemy, was underscored when he recalled that on this day, May 3, "exactly 30 years ago virtually to the hour, the Red Army entered Berlin after chasing the Nazis half across Europe and meted out the only punishment one can give to fascists—death!" The point was cheered mightily by assembled workers and students.

The 2,500 marchers then returned home, proud of the manner in which they had carried forth the glorious tradition of May Day, and confident they had added a chapter to that heritage that would put one more nail in the bosses' coffin on the road to smashing their profit system completely.



The Battle of Columbia Point

BOSTON, May 3—"Bring a bat. Hit them so hard they will never come back."—From a leaflet distributed by R.O.A.R. in South Boston on May 2nd.

Seventy-five to 100 heavily armed punks organized by R.O.A.R. were routed by a charge of less than 30 black, Latin, white men and women defending the Boston May Day March. Advance contingents of the PLP arrived at Bayside Mall in Columbia Point adjacent to South Boston at 9:15 A.M. One hundred fifty cops took up a position at the same time in the corner of the mall farthest from South Boston. Periodically cars scouting for the racist mobs gathering at nearby Columbus Park (in South Boston) drove through the Mall. Several times the racists leaned out the car and screamed, "today you're going to get it, motherfuckers."

At 10 A.M. two buses from Durham and Washington, D.C. arrived.

At 10:30 the totally white mob of racist filth waving baseball bats, hockey sticks and metal pipes hurled rocks and bottles and moved across to the top of the hill overlooking the mall. The PLP fighters in uniform, in red watch caps and **Challenge-Desafio** shirts, armed with Garrison belts, charged up the hill. The marchers defending the sound truck boomed out "DEATH TO THE FASCISTS, DEATH TO THE FASCISTS." On hearing the chants and seeing the charge most of the racists broke and ran.

Those that remained were quickly put out of action. As the ROAR fascists were fleeing, the uniformed fascists of the Boston Police Force attacked the PLP fighters from behind, beat some of us and arrested



In our next issue we will reproduce the actual leaflet distributed in South Boston on the morning of May 3 by the South Boston Citizen for Self-Defence.

four, Larry Hambrecht, Rick Rhoads, Bob Reno and Gary Higgenson. The defeated punks who had fled across the road cheered the cops and then departed for South Boston where crazed by frustration they smashed cars, buses and store windows at random. The cops threw the four arrested into wagons screaming that will teach "you to come to South Boston, you Jew bastards."

The marchers around the sound trucks continued to chant "Death to the fascists," and "Smash Racism" as the cops lined up facing them, sirens screaming and motorcycle engines revving. A PLP speaker announced from the sound truck, "We are still here; we are going to have our march. We have fought the battle of Columbia Point and we have won." A PLP fighter said later, "we ran up the hill because I knew that we couldn't let this racist scum beat up the march before most of the people arrived. We were willing to back up our revolutionary communist ideas with physical force, because we know that if we don't fight back we will be swamped by racism and fascism."

The R.O.A.R. people are ready to throw rocks at black children in school buses, but when faced with a counterattack most of them were not sufficiently committed to racism to overcome their fear. Communist ideas proved stronger than baseball bats.