

EDITORIAL: PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

Everyone can see that police repression and a basic political split has caused the revolutionary movement in this country to falter. The unity that revolutionaries across the country once had with the leadership of the old Black Panther Party has broken apart. People have become isolated from revolutionaries. Area organizations and community struggles suffer from localism. Revolutionaries are not developing ideas that can spark revolutionary struggles like the concept of community control by the BPP did in 1966. There is no systematic communication or coordination of struggle throughout the U.S. We do not even have a newspaper that carries revolutionary news analysis and theory to numbers of people across the country.

That isolation is why this paper was started. By itself a nation-wide paper will not solve the problems of the revolutionary movement. But, it is part of the solution. Specifically, it is an organizing tool for local struggles and a coordinating tool for regional and national struggles. It provides revolutionary information and analysis. It is a communication network independent of the bourgeois media. Lastly it is a forum to discuss the major problems and tasks of the revolution. All of us won't necessarily agree with everything that's printed, but we all think that the ideas are deserving of serious consideration.

The people who started this newspaper reflect the purpose of the paper. We are mainly TW revolutionaries with some white revolutionaries. All the people on the paper are engaged or in contact with revolutionary practice. Many have been or are members of revolutionary organizations. Most of us are Marxist-Leninist. Most of us believe that building fighting national liberation fronts is primary now. Some believe that a multinational revolutionary party is critical. All of us agree on the following political principles:

1. Third World National Liberation are struggles are the leading element - of the developing Socialist Revolution in the United States.
2. The white working class is presently a potential ally of national liberation struggles. But due to the ideology of racism, they lag the rest of the revolutionary movement and could even become a force for fascism. It is the duty of revolutionaries, especially white revolutionaries, to work for the awakening of the white working class into a positive force for revolution.
3. The revolution is and will be a political, economic and armed struggle.
4. Inside the national liberation struggles and the general revolutionary movement, the revolution will be led by an alliance of working and poor people and in their interests.

Instead of writing a letter to explain our politics and the purpose of the paper, we decided to put a practical example in people's hands. This first issue is meant to be an invitation to whoever sees the paper to contribute to its development. The success of this paper depends totally on the amount of active participation by progressive people who agree with our basic principles. We want SEIZE THE TIME to become a national newspaper as soon as possible, so that it can make a contribution to building national liberation struggles and socialism.

We ask that people and organizations consider exchanging, subscribing and/or distributing papers. We welcome news reports from people's struggles, articles, letters, poems, artwork and cartoons. Please let us know about news services, information bureaus or newspapers from anywhere in the world that you think we should use. People make the revolution!



"A newspaper is not only a collective propagandist and collective agitator, but also a collective organizer. In this respect it can be compared to the scaffolding erected around a building in construction; it marks the contours of the structure and facilitates communication between the builders, permitting them to distribute the work and to view the common results achieved by their organized labour."

LENIN

WHAT WE BELIEVE: REVOLUTION IN AMERICA

Wherever there is oppression, there is resistance. Countries want independence, nations want liberation, and people want revolution. This has become the irresistible trend of history.

- Chinese Communist Party

The people of the world have enjoyed great successes since WWII in their struggle for social and economic revolution. The People's Republic of China has been established for over 25 years. Korea, Vietnam, the rest of Indochina, Cuba and Guinea-Bissau have waged successful wars of national liberation. Most countries in Africa have won political independence. Progressive socialist governments have been elected in Chile and other countries.

But the successes of the people have hurt the Rockefellers, Mellons, Fords, Rothchilds and Duponts for the world. Their system of world-wide capitalism weakens everytime a leftist government nationalizes mines and nullifies debts. It weakens everytime it spends billions for wars that force tin-horn dictators onto unwilling Third World nations. It weakens everytime the National Guard must put down Black Rebellions and break up truckers' blockades in America.

Capitalism feels itself weakening. So it tries to increase the flow of its lifeblood, money. It tries to take more profit from the toil of the world's people. The Arab peoples have grown rebellious of Euro-American interference in the Middle East. The Arabs decided to withhold the oil that Euro-American companies took for almost nothing for so long. America suddenly wakes up to find itself dependent on black wealth no longer under its control. So oil companies increase their prices and profits while withholding vast reserves of oil. Nixon tells workers to be more productive and less comfortable.

The "energy crisis" is born. The military gets all the fuel it needs for limosines, Air Force One and Thieu's army while homes are blacked out, schools are closed and workers laid off.

Countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America win political and even military independence. They threaten to withdraw from trade arrangements and demand more for their resources and labor. So capitalism responses neo-colonialism and sub-imperialist countries (Brazil, Israel, Iran and South Africa) which threaten their immediate neighbors with invasion and economic control.

Everywhere that international capitalism was weakened by people's victories it has attempted a comeback by more vicious or more disguised means. And everywhere that people have understood this new form of oppression and have become united for struggle, the people have won even greater victories. So the trend of history is towards the fall of international capital and the rise of revolution.



But the course of revolution is not smooth. The success of national liberation in Guinea-Bissau is tempered by the failure of elected socialism in Chile. The people of Chile went by all the rules of parliamentary democracy. American companies couldn't complain about a handful of armed communists violently seizing "their" copper mines. Yet when challenged by Chile's successful and legal attempt at economic self-determination and internal reform, American interests and their puppets dropped the mask of "free" market exchange and democracy. The massacre of leftist Party members, students and workers began. The viciousness of the repression is matched only by the defenselessness of the people. The lesson clearly is that the struggle for liberation must be waged militarily as well as politically and economically. Capitalism will always resort to violence, and the people must be prepared for its certainty.

In this country, the resistance has barely begun, and already we have seen assassination, torture and imprisonment used by city police departments and federal agencies to put down resistance against fascism, racism and exploitation.

CONT. PAGE 7



VIETNAM WILL WIN

The revolutionary movement in America began in the early sixties with the civil rights movement against racial oppression of Blacks. It grew with a popular understanding that oppression and inequality were basic to the American way of life. Malcolm X spoke on the Ballot or the Bullet in 1964 and was assassinated later that year, Watts burned in the first long hot summer of 1965, East Los Angeles and other cities in the Southwest (Aztlán) were also having their hot summers. The Brown Berets, Denver's Crusade for Justice and the Puerto Rican Young Lords Party were founded in the late 60's. The anti-war movement grew with America's youth. Through their involvement in the anti-war movement, some whites gained an understanding of the total American system of oppression and allied themselves with the struggles of Third World people within America as well. The Black Panther Party was founded in 1966. In 1967 the US government was forced to send paratroopers to put down the Detroit Rebellion.



NATIONAL GAURDSMEN IN DETROIT 1967

1968 was a high point for the struggles of people in America. In April, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, and over 125 cities exploded in angry rebellion against this latest act of repression. These riots and other demonstrations won unprecedented concessions. The anti-war movement was forcing changes in American foreign policy. BPP chapters spread like wild-fire across the country. They provided unified leadership and nation-wide communications for the entire US movement. During this time, the first national Chicano youth conference was held in Denver, Colorado. It united hundreds of individuals and groups to declare themselves the nation of Aztlán.

1968 also signalled the decision of the US government and business that "things had gone too far". People had gotten away with too much. Law and order Nixon was engineered into the Presidency. In the next five years, poverty programs were cut and altered to only serve business. Schools were filled with police and detective squads. Bebe Rebozo's Mafia began massive infusion of CIA dope into TW communities. The number of arrests and police murders of TW people jumped. Profits enjoyed their largest increases ever while inflation and unemployment jumped. The economic control phases began with the approval of giant companies like GM. 1968 also was the year that systematic repression of every major revolutionary action and organization began. That spring J. Edgar Hoover directed the FBI to "expose, disrupt and neutralize the New Left Movement," and to "prevent the development of a Mao-mao type Black nationalist revolution in the United States."

That spring National Guard units and paratroopers were used to crush the Black Urban Rebellions. Only Vietnam hardened paratroopers were able to contain the uprising. That year the Oakland police murdered BPP's L'il Bobby Hutton and arrested Huey P. Newton.

In the next five years, the BPP split and catalyzed a split in the entire movement. The police repression made clear that revolution was a life and death struggle between the rulers and the ruled, not a game. The choice had to be made to either make revolution or to play with reform. Faced with that choice, the Young Lords Party, The Chicano Revolutionary Party, the Revolutionary Union, Vencemos, the Brown Berets, Red Guards, etc. either split or disbanded. Other organizations were heavily infiltrated or repressed like VVAW and Republic of New Africa. The success of police repression has proved that capitalism and imperialism are still stronger than the revolutionary movement.

Meanwhile, the revolutionary movement proved that it had three serious weaknesses. The young movement thought it could stand the world on its head in a few short years. They were not prepared for a long struggle that required building the unity of all revolutionary people. Many people became discouraged and tired. Others made careless mistakes that put themselves in the hands of the police. The "revolutionary lifestyle" became isolated from the life of working families.

The other two problems are closely related. Many organizations have split over differences on the role of national liberation struggles and the role of armed struggle in America. On the one side is the insistence that the struggles of TW people are a smaller or secondary part of the general working class struggle. These people condemn revolutionary nationalism and the concept of urban guerrilla warfare. They downplay the importance of the Black Urban Rebellions and say that the masses can not grasp even the concept of armed struggle until years in the future. These people are the Oakland BPP leadership, Revolutionary Union, the old Communist Party, Trotsky-ites and groups dominated by them (i.e. Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers' Organization, formerly part of the Young Lords, now under RU's wing).

On the other side is the insistence that recent history proves that the struggles of Third World people for national liberation from imperialism are the leading element of the revolutionary struggle. These people quote Mao that, "in wars of national liberation, patriotism(ed. note:



nationalism) is applied internationalism." They stand opposite to the first side on every major question from defending captured BIA members to the role of oppressed people's culture and how to deal with the reactionary Teamster's Union. Although this paper has no organizational allegiances, we agree with this side of the split.

We are revolutionary nationalists. We are for building socialism and completely smashing the corporate fascist state. Imperialism(monopoly capitalism) and racism are the twin pillars of the fascists' empire. The monsters of capitalism must be destroyed before they destroy our people. We hope this paper can contribute to the future development of theory, strategy and organization of the Revolution and benefit the lives of oppressed people everywhere.

Comrade Ho Chi Minh inspired the people of Vietnam to battle 30 years ago with these words, "Revolutionary Fighters, the hour has struck. The fighting spirit of the people is displayed before you! Let us rise up quickly! Unite with each other, unify your action to overthrow the imperialists. Victory to the World Revolution! "

Free the People
SEIZE THE TIME



ORGANIZATIONS + NEWSPAPERS

Please consider using the center section of this paper as an insert supplement to your own local paper. If you are interested, write us about the number you want and feel free to make suggestions about future content and size. We plan to have a center section in every issue.

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