LAND AND EQUALITY

"Viva Atzlan!" "Our fight is here, not in Vietnam!" "Workers and Oppressed People of the World Unite!"

These were some of the cries of the Mexican national minority, supported by Negro and Anglo-American workers, at the Chicano Moratorium, five years ago. The Mexican national minority community condemned the imperialist war and their brutal oppression. Fresh in the memories of the workers who attended that demonstration were the murders of Beltran and Guillermo Sanchez. Fresh in our memories today are the brutal shoot- ings of Texas farmworkers, exercising their right to organize into unions.

Since the Chicano Moratorium, the struggle of the Mexican national minority worker has been elevated to a new level. Openly attacked by the brutal arm of the USNA state and extra-legal groupings, the struggle of the Mexican for his land rings throughout the Southwest. No longer does the Mexican worker accept the passive non-violent tactics of a Cesar Chavez; nor will the Mexican worker submit to the brutality of the Texas Rangers and melon growers.

The recent attacks on the farmworkers in Texas and their response to them bare testimony to the rising political consciousness of the Mexican worker. For the importance of the Texas farmworkers' struggle goes far beyond the drive for unionization. It is tied to and a part of the struggle to free the Southwest from the bloody grasp of USNA imperialism. It is the struggle for regional autonomy.

Since the expansionist drive by the USNA into the Southwest, the development of virtually every major industry in the Southwest has been based on the exploitation of the Mexican national minority worker. The growth of agriculture in Texas (with the third largest population of agricultural workers in the USNA) and in the rest of the Southwest would have

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in New Mexico and California. Today the Farah strikers, the miners of Silver City, Santa Rita and Gallup, New Mexico and Magma, Arizona, the steelworkers of Corpus Christi who have taken up the fight for bus... Continued 84

believe this situation has improved since 1974.

The Guild is an important element in the struggle against fascism. Incipient fascism is the social force that currently threatens the working class and all social progress. This vicious tool of capitalist rule must inevitably attempt to assume state power as the economic crisis intensifies. To accomplish this the working class, the natural opposite of capital must be driven to a yet lower standard of living. The national minority section of the class is key in this drive of the fascists because it represents the front line of proletarian militancy. The question of equality for national minorities permeates every social question from the right to abortion to job seniority, unemployment, education, women’s rights, etc. At present the conscious fascist forces are attempting to disrupt the labor and progressive movement by driving deeper the wedge of white chauvinism that already exists within the working class. Attacks against school integration have been an organizational springboard for the blood-soaked K.K.K., the Wallace-type populists, and the John Birch Society. The sustained anti-bussing violence in Boston is evidence that these organizations are well organized and financed. Those who have seen ROAR operate can tell you that they are not an ordinary "concerned citizens" community group but a dangerous embryo of Anglo-American fascism.

The Guild has played a commendable role in fighting for the democratic rights of national minorities but it's obvious we must escalate our activities in this area. The Guild can become the vanguard of the legal profession in building a solid defense against this fascist repression. We must be clear that although the main thrust of fascism is aimed at the proletariat it also moves to crush opposition by progressive forces in all classes. The Guild must thus start working close... with other progressive-liberal
What Are National Minorities?

During the era of imperialism, one of the divisions of the world is into oppressed and oppressor nations. The oppressed nations are the source of superprofits to their imperialist oppressors who enforce their economic stranglehold and political domination of the weaker nations with military force. Under direct colonization, the imperialist power maintains total control over the exploited nation. There is no independent state. Thus, Lenin characterizes "national" uprisings within colonies as "an uprising aimed at the achievement of political independence of the oppressed nation, i.e., the establishment of a separate national state." (A Caricature of Marxism, CW, Vol. 23, p. 55)

The USNA is a multinational state, comprised of the imperialist oppressor nation, the Anglo-American nation (which consists roughly of the northern east, mid-west and western regions); its direct colonies, the Negro Nation and Puerto Rico; the oppressed Southwest region; and the Philippines, in fact a direct colony with a separate sham "state" tied openly and directly to the USNA imperialists.

As a result of imperialist oppression and exploitation, the standard of life in the colonies is driven ever downward, forcing the colonial peoples to flee impoverishment and starvation by emigrating to the oppressor nation in search of a better life. This emigration from a direct colony such as Puerto Rico and the Negro Nation is unhampered by legal hindrances; no papers are necessary, as the colonial peoples are a part of the same state. In fact, the imperialists often encourage these migrations in order to flood the labor market with "cheap labor" and thus drive down the wages of the Anglo-American proletariat.

A national minority is a person who has emigrated from a direct colony to its own imperialist oppressor nation. Irish workers are a national minority in England, but are a national group in the USNA, where the national minorities are only those people who come from the direct colonies of USNA imperialism. Thus, within the Anglo-American proletariat only four groups of workers are national minorities—those from the Negro Nation, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and the Mexican national minority from the Southwest region.

Why do we refer to some Mexican workers as a national minority, when Mexico is not a direct colony of the USNA? We do so only in regard to the Southwest region, which formerly was a part of Mexico, is a conquered territory, and was annexed by the USNA imperialists at gunpoint. Mexican workers in and from the Southwest region are a national minority within the Anglo-American proletariat. However, Mexican nationals, workers from the state of Mexico itself, are not a national minority in the Anglo-American proletariat; thus, when we refer to workers from Mexico we refer to them as "Mexican national workers."

Within the oppressor nation, the national minorities are subject to special oppression because of the colonial status of their homeland. This special oppression reinforces the oppression of the colonies and acts as a stopper to prevent too many of the colonial workers from emigrating.

In 1870 Marx wrote of this phenomenon in relation to Ireland and England:

"Every industrial and commercialcentre in England now possesses a working class divided into two hostile camps—English proletarians and Irish proletarians. The ordinary English worker hates the Irish worker as a competitor who lowers his standard of life. In relation to the Irish worker he feels himself a member of the ruling nation and so turns himself into a toil of the aristocrats and capitalists of his country against Ireland, thus strengthening their domination over himself. He cherishes religious, social and national prejudices against the Irish workers... This antagonism is artificially kept alive and intensified by the press, the pulpit, the comic papers, in short by all the means at the disposal of the ruling classes. This antagonism is the secret of the impotence of the English working class, despite its organization. It is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power." (Letter of Karl Marx to Meyer and Vogt, April 8, 1870)

The same may be said today. The strength of the imperialists lies in the historic division of the Anglo-American
proletariat along national lines. This is the result of imperialist bribery, and is justified by white chauvinism. As class-conscious workers we must combat all forms of "great nation" chauvinism, the bourgeois ideology of national superiority. We must especially struggle against white chauvinism, or national superiority on the basis of skin color. It is in order to create the conditions for the unity of our class that we demand independence for the Negro Nation, Puerto Rico, and freedom for all nations oppressed by USNA imperialism; an end to deportations and the documentation of any workers; regional autonomy for the Southwest and for the Indian peoples; and equality for all national minorities! It is on this basis that we support busing and demand equal quality education for all children!

Bar associations (ACLU, NCBL, NBA, La Raza L.S.A., ATLA, etc.). With the ugly face of fascism showing itself at every corner of the country we can no longer go it alone. Real unity must be forged with these organizations.

It's crystal clear that the front line or defense of everything progressive in our country is the defense of the national minorities, particularly the Negro people. The Negro worker as a section of the proletariat is not only at the hear of industry and production but has been in the forefront of the struggle for democracy for decades. As progressives we must see the Negro worker as our front line of defense against fascism. If we allow our front line to be penetrated by fascism then we will be persecuted for years.

We of the C.L.P. propose a defensive apparatus against fascism, a body comprised of individuals and organizations whose unifying aim is the struggle for democracy and equal rights for national minorities. We propose an Equal Rights Congress (E.R.C.). We envision such an organization playing an important role in the legislative and legal arenas as well as laying a foundation for a mass struggle against the K.K.K. and other fascist groups. The E.R.C. would dissolve the mistrust between Mexicans and Negros, etc. which is the natural outgrowth of reactionary bourgeois cultural nationalism.

We must be clear that we in the C.L.P. don't want to "build" an Equal Rights Congress from nothing but rather unite those organizations that are already waging the struggle. We reject any contention that such a Congress will be merely a C.L.P. "front" - to the contrary, we will fight all sectarianism that prevents this Congress from becoming a democratic organization encompassing thousands of people struggling for the Constitutionally guaranteed right of every national minority to equality and the "pursuit of happiness".

The time of well meaning words, sweeping generalities and big talkers is over, a look at Boston and Louisville demonstrate the fascists are not fooling around. Fascism has a narrow social base which accounts for its violence but they are attempting to expand with their white chauvinist line. Our opportunities to build a solid defense are ripe, we all have the duty as progressives and revolutionaries to fight for equality for national minorities and not give an inch on that position. Democracy is not a given in this country - it must be fought for. The National Lawyers Guild should join us in this righteous struggle!
WHAT IS THE CLP?

The CLP is a multinational Marxist-Leninist Communist party of militant struggle for proletarian revolution in the United States. It is one of the principal parties of the CPUSA and an internationalist party of revolution. The CLP is a party that has played an important role in the development of the Communist movement in the United States.

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The entire work of the Party, particularly if Social-Democratic traditions have not been exorcised, but rather have been inculcated in it, must be reorganised on new, revolutionary lines, so that every step, every action, taken by the Party could not only serve to revolutionise the masses, to train and educate the broad masses of the working class in the revolutionary spirit.

In its work the Party must be able to combine the strictest adherence to principle (not to be confused with sectarianism!) with the maximum of tact and contacts with the masses (not to be confused with khvodneb) - that is to say, that the Party will be unable not only to teach the masses but also to learn from them, it will be unable not only to lead the masses and raise them to its own level but also to heed their voice and anticipate their urgent needs.

In its work the Party must be able to combine an uncompromising revolutionary spirit (not to be confused with revolutionary adventurism) with the maximum of flexibility and manoeuvring ability (not to be confused with guile). For the implementation of this, the Party will be unable to master all the forms of struggle and organisation, will be unable to link the daily interests of the proletariat, with the fundamental interests of the proletarian revolution, and to combine in its work the legal with the illegal struggle.

The Party must not cover up its mistakes, it must not fear criticism; it must improve and educate its cadre by learning from its own mistakes.

The Party must create a nucleus for its main leading group the best elements of the advanced fighters who are sufficiently devoted to the cause to be genuine spokesmen of the aspirations of the revolutionary proletariat, and who are sufficiently experienced to become real leaders of the proletarian revolution, capable of applying the tactics and strategy of Leninism.

The Party must systematically improve the social composition of its organisations and rid itself of corrupting opportunists and ineffective orators with a view to achieving the Party's main task.

The Party must achieve iron proletarian discipline based on ideological solidarity, clarity concerning the aims of the movement, unity of practical action and an understanding of the Party's tasks by the mass of the Party membership.

The Party must systematically verify the execution of its decisions and directives; without this, these decisions and directives are in danger of becoming empty promises, which can only rob the Party of the confidence of the broad proletarian masses.

In the absence of these and similar conditions, Bolshevism is just an empty sound.

Our Party, the Communist Labor Party stands for the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. We aim to take up the leadership of the proletariat. We call upon all who are for proletarian revolution to join us!
BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION...

What is The Democratic Lawyer? It is the political newspaper of the Communist Labor Party fractions in the National Lawyers Guild and the La Asa National Law Students Association. (Fractions are groups of Communists and close contacts who work within a given organization to politically influence it). Just as our newspapers the People's Tribune and Tribuno Popular are the voice of the Central Committee in general, likewise The Democratic Lawyer is the voice of the CLP addressed to the particularities of the NLG and their members.

Most of our Party's similar "shop papers" are produced on a weekly or bi-weekly basis and distributed secretly within the workplace. Frequent publication gives the paper the opportunity to speak often to the workers on not only issues of general political interest, but also specifics of the class struggle in the given workplace. We could not follow this general format given that we only intend to produce the paper to present our position at national conferences, for now.

We are not only addressing ourselves to "Leftists", but wish to provide a Communist analysis for all the democratic forces in the Association. A shop paper, however, is not to be an abstract thesis on revolution, but is supposed to inform its readers of issues practically and immediately relevant. Thus, we included the "Equal Rights Now!" article.

We welcome and invite contributions and comments from friends and interested people. We also urge you all to subscribe to the People's Tribune and/or Tribuno Popular. For more information about our Party and how you can join -- or for a subscription to the FT and TP -- write us at:

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P.O. Box 72306
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P.O. Box 783
Linwood Station
Detroit, Mich. 48206

READ OUR NATIONAL PAPERS
-- PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE AND TRIBUNO POPULAR

READ OUR SOUTHWEST REGIONAL PAPER
-- THE WESTERN WORKER/EL OESTE

The POLITICAL PAPER of the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY of the UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

"The Communist's ideal should not be a trade-union secretary, but a tribune of the people, able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression." Lenin

El Periódico Político del PARTIDO COMUNISTA LABORAL de los E.U.N.

TRIBUNO POPULAR

"El ideal del comunista no debe ser el de secretario del gremio obrero pero el de un tribuno de la gente, listo para actuar contra toda manifestación de tiranía y opresión." Lenin

WORKERS & OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD UNITE!