

*Given out by Sub- at Party Building Conference June 1977*

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIALISM

*our introductory study  
for adv. workers*

OUTLINE OF  
STUDY GROUP:

Remember this is flexible, can be changed according to the interests of the people in the group. The readings for some of the sessions might be changed.

I. INTRODUCTION: This is a get-acquainted session. We will discuss how capitalism has personally affected each of our lives. People should come prepared to share personal experiences (ex. growing up, on the job, by racism or sexism.) We'll give an article from Up from Under of how capitalism affected one black woman's life to give an idea of how to do this. We'll also discuss the proposed outline and change it to fit our needs.

II. THE BASICS OF CAPITALISM (3 sessions)

(1) Discussion will focus around the basic fact of capitalism--that the interests of working people and the interests of the capitalists are completely opposed. We will attempt to define class and discuss why class struggle exists under capitalism. We shall talk about how the capitalist economic system works--how companies make profit, why we have inflation, unemployment, depressions, monopolies, etc.

Readings: Introduction to Socialism: 23-34.

Opt. "The economy: A Recession for Blacks"

(2) The second session will discuss the role of the government under capitalism - how the government is a tool of the ruling class used to keep things as they are, and how the state uses police, media, laws, education to maintain rule of the capitalists.

Readings: Introduction to Socialism p. 36-38

"76 Race, Whose Candidates are They" Guardian, Mar. 24 '76  
Soldiers and Strikers: 1 Or 2 selections, best are  
"Railroad Strike of 1877 and "Postal strike of 1970)

(3) Imperialism - the current stage of capitalism: We will discuss why it is necessary from the capitalists' viewpoint, and how it affects our lives and the lives of people in countries under imperialist control. We'll also discuss the question of foreign imports and how it affects our jobs.

Readings: Introduction to Socialism: 34-36.

Either International Runaway Shop: 1-21 or  
Detroit to Durban

III. WORKERS' STRUGGLES (2 sessions)

(1) A brief history of the labor movement in the U.S. since 1900, and a discussion of the organizing of the first industrial unions, and the role played by Communists.

Film: Union Maids

Readings: One of the following (people give reports)

"The CIO and the Black workers, 1935-39 from Foner's

15  
Organized Labor and the Black Workers, 1619-1973); "Walter Reuther" chapter from Brother Bill McKie: The Great Flint Sit-Down Strike.

Afterwards, we discovered that the best thing to give everyone to read about history of labor unions was Pwoc's paper The Labor Bureacracy-The Misleaders of Labor (We had a member of SUB give a report on this).

(2) A discussion of the importance of the trade union movement, how it fits into the long-range struggle for socialism, and why Communists work to build the trade union movement. Also a discussion fo what are/should be the efforts of people in the group to build rank and file struggles where they work.

Readings: PWOC's paper Trade Unions: Class Struggle and Class Collarboration.

#### IV. RACISM AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IT: (2 sessions)

(1) How racism is a result of capitalism: the particular oppression of black workers in the US.

Readings: Racism and the Workers' Movement p 1-17

2 reports: "From Slavery to Freedom" chapt 1. of Org. Labor and Black workers and Chapt. 9-From

(2) A discussion of building black and white unity and the struggle against racism, and the role of Communists should play within this struggle.

An exercize (game) to show how competition between black and white gets nowhere, cooperation, brings benefits.

Readings: Racism and the Workers' Movement pp 19-39

Elast Purance by Vince Copeland ( an excellent example of black and white unity in struggle a report from chap. 9 of Let me Live about a black man's encounter with white Communists struggling against racism.

#### V SEXISM AND THE Women"s STRUGGLES: (1 session)

(1.) A discussion fo how sexism is a result of capitalism, what oppression working class women face today. We may also have some discussion on women workers' struggles.

Readings: different s&ections from Up from UNder according to where individual people in class are.

#### VI. THE BASICS OF SOCIALISM: (2 or 3 sessions)

(1) How a socialist country, society works - how it functions economically, and how the basis for the above problems under capitalism for workers, minorities, and women are eliminated. We might also discuss some of the myths about socialism.

Readings: Introduction to Socialism p 60-74

Each person will read one of the following-  
Workers in Cuba, Cuba-No Place for Racism by SUB or Goldflower Story.

(2) This sessions will focus around how we get to socialism- concpets around the necessity of violent revolution, the Communist Party, the dictatorship of the proletariat. WE will also discuss what SUB does and where we go from here.

Readings: pg. With Fidel p 81-86, PWOC's forum on party-building p 1-5. "Dictatorship of Prel." Stalin's Foundations of Leninism