

# Help Keep the Workers Viewpoint Weekly

November 1981  
Dear Friend,

I am writing to you about a very serious matter. The **Workers Viewpoint**, one of the few remaining progressive weekly newspapers in the U.S., is in financial trouble. We need to raise an additional \$30,000 annually. Without your financial support, we will have no choice but to cut back publication to once every two weeks. In the '80s, a weekly Marxist paper analyzing events of the day is a necessity, not a luxury.

Now, I know that you are often asked to contribute to many causes and organizations. Let me tell you why I think it is more than worth your while to become a Workers Viewpoint sustainer and help keep the Workers Viewpoint publishing weekly.

If you have picked up any newspaper or listened to network radio news in the past weeks, you have probably heard of Julian Bond's Institute of Southern Studies' report on the Greensboro Massacre. After a six-month investigation, the Institute concluded that the Greensboro police, the District Attorney's office, the klan and the nazis all had intimate ties in the assassination of five Communist Workers Party members on November 3, 1979. What is more, the Institute charged federal government misconduct in the handling of the case and seriously questions why no federal civil rights suits were filed against the murderers, who were set free by an anti-communist, pro-klan jury.

Since the day of the assassinations, the CWP and its newspaper, the Workers Viewpoint, have been reporting on the murders and the FBI's and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm's planning of and involvement in the assassinations. The CWP has taken bold actions — often standing alone — to expose the government's collusion with and use of the klan and nazis. And the Workers Viewpoint was there to cover it. To get the full story, other publications came to us. Well-known newspaper columnist and former editor of the Berkeley Barb, David Armstrong, wrote in his new book *A Trumpet to Arms*:

*Workers Viewpoint*, the weekly organ of the Communist Workers Party (CWP), published a penetrating account of the shooting deaths of five CWP members at the hands of Ku Klux Klan and Nazi Party members in Greensboro, North Carolina, on November 3, 1979. Alleging a police conspiracy with the Klan to murder CWP leaders, *Workers Viewpoint* identified inconsistencies in police accounts and collated reports from other media, enriched by on-the-spot accounts by CWP members. The CWP's interest in the events in Greensboro was evident, but their paper's disturbing report warranted a followup by other media. No follow up came, in any substantial form, until the *Village Voice* ran a cover story on May 26, 1980, corroborating all the important points in *Workers Viewpoint*. The mass media remained silent.

One of the major events in the past year involved workers at the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company in San Diego, California. Reacting to a strong rank and file movement for health and safety rights on the job, union democracy and a decent contract, NASSCO officials worked closely with the San Diego Police Department's Red Squad and the FBI to stop it. Three leaders in the yards — two of them CWP members — were entrapped by South African-born FBI informer on phoney conspiracy charges to blow up NASSCO's power transformer. The three were convicted in an atmosphere charged with red-baiting and violence-baiting reminiscent of Sacco and Vanzetti.

The CWP is involved in many of the significant class battles of the day, and to keep informed of them you must read the Workers Viewpoint.

But that is not all. The Workers Viewpoint does much more than report on the CWP's activity. In fact, the Workers Viewpoint delivers much more than news. It delivers analysis. Up to date analysis of the economy, of the international situation and of the state of many different mass movements in this country.

This is the 1980s, and it demands analysis. We live in an over-communicated society. News and information bombards us from all sides through TV, radio, and innumerable magazines and newspapers. For a paper to remain truly relevant today, providing news is not enough. People want more. Investigative reporting fills more pages in more newspapers

than ever before. T.V. shows such as Nightline are more popular than ever. The fact is, people want, and need, to know the story behind the story. On the left, only the Workers Viewpoint provides that analysis.

Information alone is not enough to survive the '80s. Events move so rapidly that it is hardly possible to keep the pace. The political scenery can completely transform overnight, and social movements are just as quickly confronted with new and pressing questions that demand answers. To recognize the opportunities and answer the questions, revolutionaries and progressive people need a weekly Marxist newspaper. Revolutionaries and progressives need the Workers Viewpoint.

Our concentration on news analysis yields results and helps make sense out of our fast changing world. Right after Reagan's election, recognizing the disorientation of the American people and their search for leadership and answers, we alone said the American people did not hand Reagan a right-wing mandate. And now, after the May 3 march on the Pentagon and Solidarity Day, every one can see it is true. And when nearly everyone was commenting on the well-oiled Reagan machinery and how he would have no problem getting his budget cuts and economic package passed, we alone forecasted the Administration's infighting, Wall Street's thumbs down vote on Reaganomics and showed how it gave the people's movement valuable time.

The Workers Viewpoint also runs regular, feature-length articles on questions of revolution and socialist construction. For example, Cynthia Lai's articles on China have examined all the major facets of the Cultural Revolution and the controversy surrounding it. Few in this country know more about China and deliver such authoritative articles. She has also written extensively about China's economy, the problems of building it up and the serious shortcomings of the country's present leadership.

Clair Holland has written about how Detroit's autoworkers, once the proud detachment of the trade union movement and now crying for quality leadership, are weathering the economic crisis. The workers speak frankly — about their jobs and lack of them, their President, their families, their desires for a better life. Their views are not uniform, nor will you always agree with them. But you will not be left unmoved by their stories.

Lastly, take our three-part series "The Origins of the McCarthy Era," by May Quan. This series, which took over three months to research and write and which is now a pamphlet, is compelling from the standpoint of history and historical interest. At a time when there is much discussion and debate over the New McCarthyism, Ms. Quan looked back into history to answer the hard questions: what caused McCarthyism? Was it inevitable? What were the weaknesses of the left which enabled McCarthyism to triumph? Her articles dispelled many myths about the 1950s and concluded that the McCarthy Era was not only full of great danger, but of opportunities as well to triumph over the reactionaries.

And so it is today. These are hard times for us all. Inflation, unemployment, political repression and other social sores — the decay of monopoly capitalism is taking its toll on everyone. Yet within this hardship lie great opportunities. There is unprecedented resistance to Reagan, and he has been beaten back on three most important fronts: El Salvador, the McCarthyite Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism and the anti-abortion rights Human Life Amendment.

These are critical times, and critical times call for hard decisions. Decisions that can change lives and the whole course of events. This decision is no exception. How important is a weekly Workers Viewpoint to you and your causes? Doesn't your life demand the analysis found in the pages of a weekly Workers Viewpoint?

Please contribute to the Workers Viewpoint, or better yet, become a regular, monthly sustainer. We have enclosed a brochure for you to look over. I am sure that you will agree with me that a weekly Workers Viewpoint is well worth supporting.

Sincerely,

*Robert Goldstein*

Robert Goldstein  
Editor