

RALLY COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

Beginning of political struggle in U.S. calls for political approach to work

Economic crisis and government action to stabilize the economy are drawing the American people into politics. When the government began to insert itself openly and directly into the management of the economy, the whole country was pulled into political discourse — “leave it to the market,” “bailout those corporations that are too large to fail,” “nationalize” — with journalists and students, laid-off and debt-laden workers, homeowners and homeless all asking, “Where’s my bailout?”

The national public discourse is on. It is not only the academics, leftists, progressives, and news spinners, but, today mainstream America is awakening to politics beyond elections. For the first time in many generations, we see a public discourse that opens the door to political struggle over class interests.

Whether revolutionaries can seize this historical moment to add depth, vision, and class partisanship to the intensifying debate depends both on political strategy and on an approach to work that politicizes from within this broad awakening.

WHERE HISTORY IS GOING

Revolutionaries are not free to simply politicize and “revolutionize” at will. We can do so under definite economic and historical conditions. When those conditions are ripe, it is critical that we understand those conditions and seize the time.

The financial crisis spotlights society at a critical juncture. The ruling class cannot protect its property nor stabilize the economy without the government inserting itself into management of the economy and instituting nationalization in some form — partial or temporary.

At the same time, unless the government takes responsibility for the public welfare, larger and larger sections of the population will go without the basic necessities of life. Unless the Federal government guarantees health care for all, millions will suffer and die for lack of money to see a doctor. Unless the government ensures everyone’s access to the necessities of life, like education and clean running water, private industry will buy up ever broader components of the public infrastructure in cities and towns across the country and run them for the profit of the corporations.

This objective necessity of nationalization opens the decisive battlefield over whose interests the government will serve. Will the public demand nationalization in the interests of the common good? Will the class that works until its labor is no longer needed struggle for its interests to be served and protected? Or will nationalization continue to serve the interests of private corporate investors, the class that accumulates wealth based on others’ toil and their growing debt? On this historical battleground over whose interests nationalization will serve, our class can be formed politically — with the consciousness and capacity to fight in its own class interests.

This battle is already conjuring up forms that are rooted in American history. At critical turning points, when the populace had to pay for the disruptions in the economy, it aimed its anger at “the banks” or “Wall Street.” In controversies over the Bank of the United States in the early 1800s, over the gold standard in the late 1800s, and over financial regulation during the early days of the New Deal, American politics was about finance.

The current crisis is resurrecting the American anger at the financial elite. Unfortunately, along with that anger comes the danger of racial and anti-immigrant agitation reminiscent of other turning points in American history.

New ideology and political direction will not spring forth spontaneously out of layoffs, loss of health and retirement benefits, or foreclosures. But this time, there is no way forward for private property except to protect and expand the power of those who accumulate wealth off of financial speculation and the expanding debt of the working class. This time, the anger at the financial elite can also be a channel through which American politics gets infused with a sense of class interests and how to fight for them politically.

STRATEGIC OPENING

Political strategy aims at achieving or maintaining political power. It operates within the subjective side of the movement — the conscious side of the developing movement. Key to strategy is identifying your enemy’s weak points. Even this nascent stage of the process reveals a critical point of ideological vulnerability.

Today’s crisis and government action are pulling people from all walks of life into motion. But one section holds the potential to pull all others forward. The stably employed, mid-American workers have been the targets of appeals by political campaigns. They have played the pivotal role in decisive ideological shifts in the history of the country.

Appealed to as a “middle class,” this sector has been the key to the capitalists’ political strength. Although the capitalist class is less than one percent of the population, it has been able to control the entire population by controlling 30 to 50 percent through good jobs, benefits, and privilege.

With jobs and benefits already lost to technology and mobile capital, the middle-income section of the population is diminishing. The financial crisis drastically speeds up this process. Educated and organized workers are being forced out of the system and into antagonism to capital. This rude awakening from the American Dream turns what used to be a political strength for the capitalists into their potential political vulnerability.

This section is not only tied to the capitalists economically, they are also attached to the capitalists culturally and psychologically. Rapidly shaken from their secure situation, these workers can be agitated for fascism. Or their awakening can become the catalyst for the development of a class thinking and fighting in its own interests.

Previously entitled, newly dispossessed, this section of the population can be politicized rapidly to set the tone of the national political discourse. Direction depends on consciousness.

POLITICAL APPROACH TO WORK

Only by developing an approach that politicizes and educates from within this awakening can revolutionaries carry out their responsibility to develop that consciousness.

Telling a hungry man that his problem is that he has no food doesn’t do him any good. Revolutionaries today cannot stand outside the process and simply proclaim that the problem is capitalism. Any newscaster or economist can tell you the system is broken or how many people are losing their jobs, health care, and ability to feed their families.

The question before the movement is, what is to be done? Real questions call for real answers. This means politicizing every step of the way. It means propagandizing from within the actual struggle — as scattered and disoriented as it is — to push that struggle forward from within, through all its stages, toward its actual conclusion.

Pushing the movement forward from within is not an arbitrary question. It depends on where it is and where it needs to go. The struggle over how to stabilize the economy sets the terms of the debate for each scattered battle. Bailout laid-off workers and debt-ridden college students? Or, bailout the banks? Nationalize in the interests of private property? Or, in the interests of the people?

The next step forward is from scattered defensive battles to unified political battles — with the demand rising from within each scattered battle that the government take over the private resources of the key corporations and run them in the interests of the many, not the few — for the public welfare, not for private gain.

As the crisis deepens and its effects spread, government action to protect private property is transforming scattered, issue-based battles into political battles over what the government does and whom it protects. We can already see how government intervention in the auto industry — including threats of bankruptcy that could invalidate union contracts — could put the government

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Editorial: Interests of our class must determine our course

President Barack Obama called on the American people to dream and to hope for change. His election signaled a major shift in what Americans want and expect from their government. At a time when we are confronted with overwhelming problems, too big to solve on our own, we heard a promise to get us through hard times.

But no matter how much Americans respect President Obama, no matter how long we're willing to "wait and see", sooner or later we have to confront the reality that no administration can bring about the change he promised. Does this mean that we should give up our dreams? Absolutely not. What it does mean is that we cannot rely on the President or any other government leader to bring about change, that a new society can only come through the struggle for political power over control of the state. There are many stages to this political struggle, and we are only at the beginning. Our task now is to understand what needs to be done at each stage.

Revolutionaries go beyond appearances and perceptions to analyze underlying causes and effects. Most people observe that Obama is not implementing policies of

change they hoped for. Many criticize him for it, but this leads nowhere.

The state is much more powerful than the President. It is an apparatus for the systematic application of force by which one class exercises control over another. Presidents come and go, but as long as the capi-

talist class controls the state, the state is the means to dominate the workers in the interests of the capitalist class.

Obama, like Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton before him, all the way back to the first administration, is subordinate to the state whose primary instruments of control are the military and police and intelligence agencies – such as the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, U.S.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement – by the many administrative agencies and all the Federal agencies, each of which enforces a program and policies in favor of the ruling class.

Even more so than other forms of government, the U.S. Constitution ties the Pres-

ident more closely to the state than to the people who elected him by establishing the President as both the head of state *and* the head of government. In countries, like England, Parliament can call for new elections through a vote of no-confidence and bring in a new Prime Minister to reorganize the government, while the Queen remains as head of the state. In our country, the electorate has no means to change the government during the President's four year term.

What we can hope for from the best of our elected leaders, such as Cynthia McKinney, is that they use their office as a bully pulpit to expose what is really happening and to rouse the American people to a vision of a new society. This was Abraham Lincoln's strength. He changed the way the American people thought about freedom, slavery and the American nation and thus was able to make history.

The combination of the economic situation, American's aspirations for a better life, and the opportunity opened up by Obama's oratory are rousing the American people to embrace new ideas. A recent poll found that many Americans are thinking favorably about socialism. As the Obama administration continues to offer trillions of dollars in bailouts to banks and financial institutions, the American people are calling for bailouts for schools, for victims of predatory lenders, for housing and health care. As the government moves toward considering nationalization in the interests of stabilizing corporations and financial institutions, the American people are beginning to call for nationalization in the interests of the people not the corporations.

The transition between the Bush and Obama administrations gives only the appearance of stability. The underlying reality of the capitalist system is one of great economic instability, however, which will inevitably lead to political instability. The political reality of every administration is their role in guiding the government to conform to the changing conditions and demands of the corporate state.

In their move toward fascism the ruling class is promoting and using the rise of neo-Nazi and white supremacist hate groups to disarm and disorient the growing popular struggles. In the fight against fascism, revolutionaries must educate the American people to fight for a communal economic system with goods distributed according to need. There are no reforms, no waiting for Obama, no half way measures. The next step on the path to power for the people is to take up the fight for nationalization in the interests of the people not the corporations.

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We saw this in Bush's final years when, despite his dismal approval rating, the American people were powerless to prevent him from carrying out the will of the corporate state. Power rested, not in the electorate, but in powerful people who have served as loyal servants of the corporate state for decades. Former Vice-President Dick Cheney and former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, architects of extreme violations of human rights – secret prisons, torture, indefinite imprisonment without charges, and unrestricted surveillance – were merely extending policies and practices they forged during the Ford administration in the 1970's.

Obama's Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, whose autobiography is entitled, *From the Shadows: The Ultimate Insider's Story of Five Presidents and How They Won the Cold War*, was also Secretary of Defense in the Bush administration. Previously, he was Director of Intelligence for both Bush Jr. and Bush Sr. and Deputy Director of Intelligence for Ronald Reagan.

By more subtle, but equally effective means than FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's blackmail of leading politicians and government officials, such key figures and their numerous underlings in the state apparatus exercise control over the elected administrations of today.

As long as the capitalist class controls the state, the state is the means to dominate the workers in the interests of the capitalist class.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Rally: to bring back together and put in a state of order, as retreating troops [to return to attack]

Comrade: a person with whom one is allied in a struggle or cause

Rally, Comrades is the political paper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for the revolutionaries by indicating and illuminating the line of march of the revolutionary process. It presents a pole of scientific clarity to the conscious revolutionaries, examines and analyzes the real problems of the revolutionary movement, and draws political conclusions for the tasks of revolutionaries at each stage of development in order to prepare for future stages.

It is a vehicle to reach out and communicate with revolutionaries both within the League and outside of the League to engage them in debate and discussion and to provide a forum for these discussions. Articles represent the position and policies of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

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Economic Crisis: Instability leading to decisive change

This Building Block article is one of a series which explains a basic concept of the revolutionary process, challenging readers to explore its meaning for political work in today's environment.

The first step in curing a patient is to make an estimate as to what is wrong. The second step is to attempt a cure based on that estimate. In politics, as in war or medicine, if the estimate of the situation is wrong, the attempted cure will be wrong and the cause will be lost. How is this played out in the political aspects of the economic crisis today?

Too often, political groups first take a position and then carefully select a mass of statistics to uphold that position. The people have purposefully been overwhelmed by statistics that lead to confusion, rather than clarity, concerning the economy. Statistics by themselves mean nothing. To understand a phenomenon it is necessary to see it as a moment in a process - to see it as part of the entire connected stages of development. This is true whether it applies to raising a child, fighting a war, or managing an economy.

No one doubts that the economy is in crisis. What is crisis? It is a condition of instability leading to a decisive change. Crisis marks the end of one stage of development and the beginning of another.

The ongoing economic crisis should put an end to the idea that the momentary triumph of capitalism is the end of history. The idea that this system is the permanent

pinnacle of human economic achievement has become the estimate and foundation of any attempt by the ruling class to deal with the crisis. This leads to the conclusion that the basis of the crisis must be subjective and

internal to the system itself. Therefore, in their estimate, the resolution of the crisis takes us back to conditions that existed before the crisis began. This is the logic behind the nonsense that the economic crisis (which is concrete and real) was caused by "greed."

What then is the cause of the instability and what will be the decisive change?

An economy is the totality of production,

circulation, and consumption of goods and services. An economy rests on the instruments of production. An ox and a wooden plough will give you one economy, a steam engine will give you another, robotics will give you still another. The means of production are constantly evolving while the economy remains relatively stable. Each quantitative advance in the means of pro-

The quantitative changes in the means of production set the stage for a qualitative change. This, in turn, creates a critical crisis in the economy that cannot be overcome by internal adjustments. At this point the process of destruction of the economy and its reconstruction on a new foundation begins.

duction tears at the unity of the economy and its tools. This creates a minor crisis and adjustments in the economy overcome the problem. The quantitative changes in the means of production ultimately set the stage for a qualitative change. This, in turn, creates a crisis in the economy that cannot be overcome by internal adjustments. At this point the process of destruction of the economy and its reconstruction on a new foundation begins.

This process began during the middle 1970's with the introduction of labor-replacing machinery. A new term, structural unemployment, entered the economic dictionary. Wages froze as products made by robots or with very little human labor pushed commodities made by human labor out of the market. Wage-less production introduced an unknown world-wide polarization of wealth and poverty. To avoid the looming catastrophe the market had to rapidly expand. Globalization of the economy, privatization, transforming the neo-colonial world from exporting economies into consuming economies, the destruction of the Socialist bloc, and the dragging of the most economically backward areas of the world into the global economy were not enough. The steadily declining market necessitated replacing productive capitalism with financial capitalism. Money, instead of labor, became the source of profit. Financial bubbles of all sorts, graft, military adventures, Ponzi schemes, and outright robbery of the public treasury flourished in the dung heap of a dying financial capitalism. Now the crisis is entering its next stage, the deepening collapse of the manufacturing sector.

It is becoming clear that this is not a crisis within the system, but a crisis of the system itself. The stage is set for the introduction of new ideas.

Our task is clear. This moment demands an organization of propagandists to complete the process begun by the robots. Now more than ever, the future is up to us.

It Takes Money: Become an educator, propagandist and fundraiser

The moment is urgent. The ruling class is using the economic crisis to accumulate more and more money and to increase its power. By claiming their enterprises are "too big to fail," they extort money through bailouts. As corporations and government merge, the state is being transformed into a market state with the purpose of defending private property at all costs. The ruling class lives in gated communities and works in skyscrapers that grow ever taller. Meanwhile, tent cities, slums, and shanty towns are growing across the country and world.

Our class has no access to any of that bailout money, even though we need the

biggest bailout of them all – a new economic system without private property in which all share the wealth. In order to create a new society we must offer a program and vision for a new world. Creating and imbuing the American people with this vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization, the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

It takes money to develop and distribute analysis and new ideas and to build the organization and infrastructure necessary to get out the message. The League, an organization of volunteers, relies entirely on our members and the tens of thousands of revolutionaries who understand the importance

of this task.

The League must raise money. We call on all League members to rise to this challenge. We also appeal to all who see and understand the importance of the League's work to contribute in any way they can.

Money is political. It is an essential part of the League's political work and raising money must be part of every activity. It must be asked for, and asked for again and again. We cannot shy away from the question of money and pretend that we can get by without it. We must be educators and propagandists, but we must also be fundraisers.

The only way to raise money is to offer

people the opportunity to give it -- to make donations, to develop relationships with donors, to sell our politics, raise money through our political work, hold events, and pass the hat. We must take the issue of raising money seriously and do all that can be done to bring money into the League and support its work. And when we have successes we must share them and our methods.

We must face up to the urgency of the times and live up to our tasks. A key task is raising money to support the growth of the League, and in doing so, build the revolutionary process. Failure is not an option.

Contact the LRNA National Fundraising Committee at jerome@ssbuilt.com

Fascist movement gathering force

Society begins to move as the economic crisis develops. This social response then polarizes society. At this point the left and right side of the movement reach a point – a fork in the road – a polarization within their ranks. The left side of the movement begins to break between progressive and communist and the right side of the movement between reactionary and fascist.

A fascist movement is gathering force worldwide to maintain private property for the benefit of the few. This movement is emerging in response to an objective movement that is arising to organize society as a cooperative society based on the new tools. Much is at stake, and those revolutionaries who are fighting for a cooperative society need to be clear about what's arising and what it represents so that the proper tactics can be used to carry humanity to victory.

FASCIST MOVEMENT

The fascist movement is composed of many different individuals and organizations, which are not monolithic, but they all want to take the country in the same direction and have the same goals. The goals of this movement are not reactionary. Unlike the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi Party, they do not seek to restore the social and political order of the past.

On the contrary those that make up the fascist movement want to take the country into the twenty-first century organized around the new tools of production, electronics. These individuals have a vision of reconstructing America. As the productive relations between workers and capitalists are torn asunder, they see the writing on the wall. Their goal is to preserve private property, even if it's at the expense of the capitalist economic system. As the electronic revolution matures, the capitalist is becoming as outdated as the worker.

This is the crux of the social turmoil going on worldwide. The globe is caught in the throes of a social revolution. Angry masses are raging against skyrocketing food and energy prices and stagnating wages and unemployment in India, Senegal, Yemen, Indonesia, Morocco, Cameroon, Brazil, Panama, the Philippines, Egypt, Mexico and elsewhere. These protests have targeted governments' handling of the crisis, are widespread, and gathering pace. As one British newspaper observed, they "may spark a new revolution."

Millions of workers have been dispossessed of their livelihood – whether it is a small plot of land or their job in the urban centers or through wars – and have been uprooted from their home countries. Millions have been forced to migrate, leaving behind

home and loved ones to join the global workforce. They are becoming the new global workers who trek the globe in search of work. Globalized production globalizes the producer.

Migration is going on from poor countries to rich countries; from poorer countries to poor countries. It's not just transnational, but domestic too – from one region to another within one nation. This mass migration compounds the social and political problems faced in every country. The global worker within our midst is a constant re-

workers are going after. The industrial heartland of America – known as the Rust Belt – claims the highest concentration of the industrial proletariat in the country. Today, due to the electronic revolution this industrial heartland is becoming a wasteland of misery to the millions of dispossessed workers who once could count on good jobs, decent homes, affordable health care, and the wherewithal to provide their children with a college education and a stable future.

While made to feel ashamed to stand in the unemployment and food lines, and if

egory.

The tactic of white supremacy worked during the period of industry, developing nation-states, and imperialism. The material foundation existed for the ruling class to extend privileges to one section of the workers over another. The ruling class maintained the allegiance of a section of the white workers through bribery, which translated into higher wages and a higher standard of living than the rest of the workers. Electronic technology eliminates the need for workers and, as a result, the capitalists have steadily destroyed this system of bribery. Also being destroyed with it, however, are the bonds that kept those workers politically and ideologically tied to the capitalists.

The conditions are turning these workers from the political bulwark of capitalism to its weakest link. The workers – including the bribed workers – are awakening and beginning to realize they have been duped and used against their own interests. Once politically awakened they will unleash their wrath against their class enemies. This moment is objectively near.

WHICH WAY FOR AMERICA

The fascist movement is arising in America as a political response to the changes underway in society. The ruling class cannot rule in the old way and the developing fascist movement offers the means by which the masses of Americans can be turned toward supporting the ruling class in its efforts to transform society to protect its property and power.

But, they are moving against the tide of history. The new means of production confront society with the question: Either the continuation of private property with a fascist state to govern society or the creation of a cooperative society based on public property organized to distribute the abundance created by these new tools.

At times of extreme shifts in wealth and class formation, as we are witnessing today, movements surge to rally the working masses around their vision and solutions to society's problems. The big question today is which ideology will express and guide the rising movement of the workers today: an ideology that will crown a fascist movement with power, or an ideology that will crown the movement for a cooperative society?

Excerpted from Political Report of the LRNA Standing Committee, March 2009

Historically, the tactic of white supremacy has been used to divide and conquer the workers at every potential juncture of class unity.

minder to domestic workers that capital is failing worldwide.

The United States is not untouched by the widespread social turmoil in other countries. "You can't do this to people year after year – that is, upturn their lives, take away what they thought they had earned without provoking rather intense political reactions", a well known author and commentator William Greider warned in an interview with Amy Goodman, the host of the radio program Democracy Now. "People, out of their own distress and anger will organize their own politics, and they will make themselves seen and heard around this country."

Recently, Admiral Dennis Blair, the new U.S. Director of National Intelligence, emphasized this point by warning the Senate Intelligence Committee that the deepening economic crisis posed perhaps the gravest threat to stability and national security. Reports from the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI warn that "the consequences of prolonged economic downturn, real estate foreclosures, unemployment and the inability to obtain credit will create a fertile environment" for organizing from both the left and the right. (Department of Homeland Security, Right Wing Extremism, April 2009)

Such warnings are not going unheeded by either the capitalists or the revolutionaries.

FASCISM'S TARGET

The target of the new fascist movement is the same dispossessed sector of the class that the revolutionaries on the side of the

lucky, to labor in the fields picking fruit and vegetables, these newly dispossessed are now meeting their counterparts who they had been taught to see as "welfare queens" and "deadbeat dads" and "illegal." "What happened?" is a question that keeps resonating in their minds.

DIVIDING THE WORKERS

Ideology is what holds a movement together, any movement. The fascist movement is no different. How will they drum up this ideology? In the same way that German and Italian fascism had to proceed from the most violent and brutal elements of their national history, the rise of the fascist movement in America will do the same. Historically, the ruling class has used the ideology of white supremacy to rally the most bribed sector of the working class to their side. This tactic has been used to divide and conquer the workers at every potential juncture of class unity.

The isolation and oppression of the masses of African Americans is again being utilized, but under new conditions. The ruling class is attacking them, not simply because they are Black, but because they are poor. All their propaganda – that Blacks are "shiftless, can't hold a job, they have babies out of wedlock, they won't finish school, they use drugs, and they are criminally inclined" – is all to set the basis for this attack. The history of racism makes such fascist propaganda acceptable. From this stronghold, fascist propaganda can easily proceed to place the so-called white "trailer trash" and the "illegal" immigrants in the same cat-

Common economic interests basis for class unity across lines of color

Any understanding of privilege in America has to begin from a scientific understanding of American history. The social position of the white worker was created at the inception of this country as a result of the capitalists' demand for labor and the need to control its exploitation. The legal system, social institutions and the ideas of society were reshaped to divide white and black workers from one another by granting social privileges to one group over the other. The 'bribe' was made possible by the ever expanding American economy. Imperialism, and particularly post-World War II imperialism, provided the wherewithal to create and consolidate privileged upper strata of the working class who were heavily bribed and

controlled by either business unionism or a raft of 'misleaders' who tied them to the ruling class. History made this section of bribed workers predominantly white. The ideology of race was one of a set of ideas that served to buttress the economic system by unifying whites and masking the reality of class differences among them. In order to carry out this racial division, the reality of white poverty had to be covered up. Poverty was made to appear "black", and poverty among whites was seen as a result of personal failure. Under these conditions regardless of how heroic their attempts might have been at different points in history, it was not possible for workers who were unequally exploited to unite.

The historical role of the South is pivotal

to our understanding. Violence and brutality swept the South in the years after the Civil War, fostered by the forces of the victorious Northern industrialists and financiers. These tactics were not simply aimed at keeping whites dominant. The ruling class sought first and foremost to guarantee the subjection of the South as a region, and the colonial exploitation of the Black Belt in particular. The imperialist North inherited and utilized white supremacy of the defeated South to keep it subjugated. Throughout the twentieth century, this colonial relation guaranteed that racism and its results were never uniform throughout the country. A black worker in the North was very often better off economically, socially and politically than his or her white counterpart in the

Black Belt South. Thus, it was not a simple question of all whites were better off than all blacks. It was rather a matter of the threads of history, the brutality of economics, and the demands of politics that gave shape and substance to the development of racism in the twentieth century.

We are now entering a new historical epoch. Electronics is throwing the formerly bribed workers into poverty right along with impoverished whites, blacks and other minorities. The mass of African Americans who form the core of the new class and the growing number of impoverished whites joining its ranks unmistakably have common interests which grow out of not only morality, but objective economic interests. Class unity is now possible.

Program of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America

The United States of America – indeed the entire world – is in the throes of epochal economic revolution. Transformation from electro-mechanical industry requiring human labor to operate gigantic means of industrial production to digitally controlled production requiring little or no human labor is the determining content of our time.

The qualitatively more efficient means of electronic production greatly lowers the cost of production of the basic necessities of life. This makes possible an economic paradise of abundance for all. Under capitalism, however, it leads to the falling price of labor power and fastens the chain of poverty, exploitation, and stultifying toil ever more tightly upon the worker.

Just as the steam engine created an industrial working class that replaced the existing manufacturing class, electronic production is creating a new class of workers. This new class consists of employed and unemployed sectors. The employed sector – the part-time, contingency, below minimum wage workers – is already over a third of the work force. This employed sector of the class is constantly drawn into the growing unemployed sector that ranges from the structurally unemployed to the absolutely destitute, homeless workers.

The new class cannot solve its economic problems without the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need. For the first time an objective communist economic class is forming to become the foundation for a communist political movement.

Globalization creates this new class everywhere. Global unity is the condition of its national emancipation. The League extends its hand of comradeship around the globe.

Wage-less electronic production is antagonistic to capitalism, which is based on the buying and selling of labor power. This antagonism is economically, socially and politically polarizing society, making social and political revolution inevitable. A new fascist state form, the naked rule of corporate power, is arising to oppose this motion. Society must take over these corporations or these corporations will take over society.

Tens of thousands of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League's mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem. The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, health care and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a cooperative society. Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

The new class must have political power to achieve these goals. In the effort to achieve this political power the League supports all political organizations and sections of society that fight against the growing poverty, social and ecological destruction, fascism and war.

In spite of worsening economic conditions, nothing can be accomplished until the American people hold a vision of where they want to go and what they want to be. Creating and imbuing them with such vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization.

Destruction of the ecology, the growing threat of nuclear war and looming pan-

demics are calling the very existence of the human race into question. The battle is class struggle. The war is for the existence of humanity. We in the League face the future with confidence. We call upon all revolutionaries to abandon sectarian differences, to unite around the practical demands of the new class and to secure that imperiled future.

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on collision course with the interests of the autoworkers.

The current stage of economic crisis has opened the historical battlefield of nationalization. Class interests can be fought out on this battlefield. Consciousness can be developed here. The direction of the outcome, however, is not guaranteed. Whether revolutionaries can accomplish the tasks of this moment depends on whether we connect with people's thinking where they are reacting to their own catastrophes and fighting to solve their immediate problems – connect with them so we can sum up their needs and demands and put them back out in a way that points forward toward their actual solution.

In every current and corner of social life, the immediate needs of people in the cities and towns devastated by the economy opens the door to these battles. In every battle over real and immediate needs, people can become aware of their class interests, how to fight for them, and what it will take to achieve them.

Expressed unevenly at first, the common political edge is beginning to emerge within the social struggle of people for what they need. These times call on revolutionaries to drop their separate demands and to do the difficult intellectual work within the battle for the next political step ahead for the actual movement.

Revolutionaries' approach to developing consciousness reflects what philosophy – and life itself – tells us. Growth and development cannot happen unless and until a process goes through all of its stages to reach its actual and ultimate conclusion. The first stage is well on its way. The financial and economic crisis is rapidly destroying the material basis that connected this decisive section of the working class to the capitalist class. The next steps: breaking loose from the politics and ideology of the class enemy, uniting the scattered defensive battles, and developing into a political force that can fight for its actual interests and aims.

SCIENCE, POLITICS, ART

This approach to revolutionaries' work within this political moment, then, rests on the distinction between science and the art of politics – and embraces the importance of both.

A scientific understanding of society and social change is indispensable to revolutionaries' work. It allows us to see what is new and how the foundation of society is changing. It gives us the view of the overall line of march of the revolution, the material conditions in which that is unfolding, and the actual and ultimate results of the objective movement.

Just as military battles are not won by convincing the combatants of the laws of physics, likewise it is not possible to "apply" science directly to the practical struggle. Science points to the political, strategic, and tactical considerations and conclusions that make it possible for revolutionaries to

really faced such a moment – the capitalist system in the process of destruction, a fundamental rupture of the system of exchange, the resulting discussions within the ruling class over how to stabilize the market and protect private property, all sections of society drawn into political discourse and activ-

political form. That class can go no further until it learns to fight politically in its own interests.

Thousands of well-connected, thinking, creative, and active revolutionaries are today grappling intellectually, politically, and practically with this question. They are experts on their fronts of struggles, skillful leaders in their organizations, and tireless teachers of their constituencies. They know that in order to coalesce the movement needs more than increased hardship and an ultimate general goal; it needs direction as to how to get from hardship to ultimate aim.

The challenge before revolutionaries today is a big one, and the stakes are high. Political struggle is beginning in this country. To step up to the tasks of the day, revolutionaries on all fronts need to talk with one another about science and analysis, strategy and politics – the meaning of this political moment and how to politicize this awakening and push the process ahead.

The anger and awakening are spreading rapidly – setting the objective basis for consciousness to catch up in waves and leaps. Revolutionaries need to unite their energies to accomplish their responsibilities and to answer the call of history.

ity, and a politically pivotal section of the working class whose actual interests are poised against the capitalist class and the government. No practical economic and social problem can be addressed except in the political battle over what the government will do and what class it serves.

The revolutionary process is also at a critical juncture. The government and corporations are inseparably intertwined and intermingled. They are poised to control a class whose struggle increasingly takes a

As the crisis deepens and its effects spread, government action to protect private property is transforming scattered, issue-based battles into political battles over what the government does and whom it protects.

keep the struggle on course, moving step by step, to its actual conclusion. Political struggle depends on the art of politics.

The art of politics is to rely on the objective to accomplish the subjective – that is, to rely on the changes in material conditions to accomplish a stage of the consciousness. The current awakening and widening struggle present the opportunity to develop consciousness of class and political interests.

Everything depends on thinking, creative revolutionaries.

NEW SITUATION, NEW POSSIBILITIES

The history of the American left has alternated between two equally unproductive approaches to work. One approach imitates the mass movement and makes specific demands into a question of principle. The other tries to win the reform movement to "revolutionary" – and usually ideological – positions or principles.

This flip-flop was understandable in the past because history was not yet going where revolutionaries wanted to take it. In the 1920s and 1930s, the country was still industrializing. Even during the Depression, the capitalist system was expanding. In the 1950s and 1960s, an expanded capitalist system with imperialist super-profits could grant civil rights and access into the system for women and ethnic minorities. The objective social motion was to become part of an expanding system.

That is not the motion today. Social motion today is shaped by the growing objective antagonism to capital, not the fight to reform and expand it. The capitalist system of exchange and entire economic system has broken down. An objectively revolutionary movement has begun. Bit by bit, it is being forced to direct its demands politically.

Revolutionaries in the U.S. have never

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