

Western Worker



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WORKERS STRIKE SAN FRANCISCO!

At 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, the workers at San Francisco General Hospital walked off their jobs. Picket lines were thrown up at all entrances to the hospital and despite the efforts of the union misleaders and Mayor Alioto to delay it, the City strike was on. The story of the City Strike is important, not only because the city workers "shut down the city for 9 days" as the revisionists and conciliators tell us; and not only because "it showed the strength of the labor movement in San Francisco" as the union misleaders tell us. It is important because the different forces at play in the city strike and the questions that arose from these, are the same forces at play in the USNA and the same questions that face the entire working class - the development of fascism and the spontaneous resistance to it, the treacherous role of the union misleaders in the development of fascism and finally the question of who will lead the working class movement.

The city workers of S.F. are no exception. The striking workers are called "mis-

cellaneous employees". The majority of them are Negro National Minority, primarily women. Many of these workers are the sole support of their families. With hamburger selling at \$1.29 per pound, in a city where rents are the third highest in the nation, with inflation running at 8.4%, wages of \$350 - 450 per month just does not cut it. Add to this 1-2 hour wait in gas lines (when the service stations are open) the City openly talking about a 10% cutback in services (layoffs) and the whole Watergate fiasco, you have a potentially explosive situation.

Enter the union misleaders, who help the capitalist class within the working class movement. It is important to remember however, that they are not free to do whatever they please, they must do what they can with what they have got. What they've got is an angry membership. They're losing members. They've got a well known history of selling out, particularly since the last strike in 1970. They're involved in a jurisdictional dispute with the AFSCME local 96. Given these conditions, what must they do? They

must appear to put up a fight in defense of the rights of the working class; which they summarized in the strike demand - \$80 and a dental plan (for the whole family). We must not be fooled for a minute by these dogs. John Crowley, head of the SF Labor Council, Tim Twomey, Secretary-Treasurer of SEIU, and Dan Del Carlo, Secretary of the SF Building and Trades Council. These are the guys who called the shots and they are all Mayor Alioto's Boys. What is it then that the capitalist class and their lackeys hoped to gain by this strike?

In order to introduce fascism in this country, certain conditions must exist. In speaking of the victory of fascism in Germany, Dimitroff says "Fascism was able to come to power primarily because the working class, owing to the policy of class collaboration with the bourgeoisie pursued by the social democratic leaders, proved to be split, politically and organizationally disarmed in face of the onslaught of the bourgeoisie." (1)

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CELEBRATE MAY DAY

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by Doug Ward

Conceived in the USA 108 years ago, born in the USA 90 years ago, May Day, May 1st, became the day each year on which working people of all lands joined in massed millions to demonstrate their demands, their unity their fighting strength.

May Day was conceived at the founding convention of the Nat. Labor Union, led by William H. Sylvis, a moulder, in August, 1866. The NLU resolution declared that: "The first and great necessity of the present, to free labor of this country from capitalist slavery, is the passing of a law by which 8 hours shall be the normal working day in all States in

the American union. We are resolved to put forth all our strength until this glorious result is attained."

Probably first in the world to win the 8 hour work day were building trades workers of Australia, 1856.

From the day of its birth, on May 1, 1886, in nationwide strikes for the 8 hour day, attempts to kill May Day have been made by right-wing labor and political leaders in collaboration with employers.

Bill Sylvis died just before the 1867 convention of the NLU, at which it voted to send a delegate to the First International, which had been organized by Karl Marx; and loss of Sylvis' talented leadership led eventually to disappearance of the NLU.

In Sept., 1866, the First International adopted the NLU call for the 8 hour work day as a top demand for workers of all lands. The 1st International was officially disbanded in 1876; but on Oct 7, 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades & Labor

Union of the U.S. and Canada (later re-named the AFL), resolved in convention that: "Eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from May 1, 1886...."

During 1885, frightened employers and right-wingers in the labor movement collaborated to get some State legislatures to adopt the first Monday in Sept. each year as "Labor Day". On "Labor Day", they hoped, at "worst" workers would march in conservative led, harmless parades; at "best" would stay home. This was to be a substitute for May Day.

But, pushing ahead, the OTLU asked for and was promised support

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NOTES FROM A FACTORY

Gardco Manufacturing Company located in San Leandro, Calif., is a relatively small electrical lighting fixture manufacturing company, where the workers are subjected to a high degree of exploitation similar to that found in many small factories in the electrical industry. Especially in these days, when the so-called energy crisis is forcing the smaller capitalists out of business, small shops like Gardco have to rely on extreme exploitation of their workers in order to compete with the larger electrical companies such as G.E., Sylvania, etc..

This exploitation is plainly evident to anyone at Gardco. The whole motive of capitalist production and capitalists like Reed Gardner, John Neu and other dogs is to get more and more profit off our backs. We at Gardco can see this in recent speedups, the stockpiling of fixtures, new shifts, more injuries, foremen's meetings with the workers, etc.. All this in the name of profit. And they try to tell the workers that if we work harder, it will be in our benefit. When has exploitation ever been in the interests of the workers?

To get a better perspective on the situation at Gardco and how the advanced workers have to move in the future, let's take a concrete look at the conditions at the plant. Gardco now employs about 85 workers on two shifts. The wages are intolerably low. Starting pay is now \$2.25 an hour with 10¢ raises every 4 months. There are workers at the plant who are making under three dollars an hour who have been there well over a year. The company occasionally gives "merit raises" to workers it likes in an effort to divide the workers.

The national composition at the plant is generally mixed, with a number of Latin workers, Puerto Rican, Indian, Negro and Filipino national minority workers as well as a good number of young Anglo-American workers. Due to the extreme oppression by the USNA imperialists of the colonies and semi-colonies such as in Latin America, the Negro Nation and the lands of the Indian peoples, workers from these countries and regions are forced to come to this country in search of a better life. The capitalists take advantage of this fact by paying the minority workers the lowest wages, firing them first, etc.. For instance at Gardco, a number of hard working Latin workers who have been at Gardco for almost two years are making only \$2.90 an hour, one Mexican national minority worker was denied the status of fixture trainee journeyman for years because the company said he could not speak English well enough, when he could perform all the tasks required. The Indian welders receive the same treatment; two welders, A Hopi and a Navajo have each been there around four years and are in line for the vacant A welders job. Neither have been promoted to this position, although it has been vacant for 6 months. After four years these workers are making a little over \$4 per hour.

The same treatment is true for the Negro national minority workers. After a couple Negro national minority workers helped lead a walk-out due to no heat a year or so ago, the company along with the total aid and support of the reactionary International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) fired these workers for not paying union dues on time. Also Negro national minorities are often fired during their probationary period when Anglo-American workers are not. Recently, a Negro national minority worker was refused the truck drivers job, to which he was entitled, because of "too many absences", when anyone who can stay at Gardco for 9 months, at Gardco wages, must be "reliable".

Further, the company is very arbitrary in giving "merit raises" - generally reserving the most for Anglo-American workers. In fact, the company recently took a liking to one Anglo-American worker as soon as he was hired and in a few months he was making almost twice what some other workers do who have been there over a year. By no means however, is this treatment reserved solely for national minority workers, as Anglo-Americans are ruthlessly exploited as well, especially if not liked by the company pigs.

Many of the workers at Gardco and throughout the USNA are daily coming to realize that white chauvinism is not in our interests and are fighting against it and for the unity of the class. For example, around 6 months ago, workers of all nationalities conducted a two day boycott of a lunch wagon company, which pushed the line that all Negro national minority workers were responsible for stealing from the truck. The workers demanded that pig company Superintendent Ray Brocker hire a new lunch truck and due to the workers' pressure, this was done. This example shows to us that the unity of the working class will not come about through the Anglo-American workers cleansing their minds of so-called racism, but through fighting together against the common enemy, capitalism. The bases of this fight must be the fight for independence for all nations and peoples oppressed by USNA imperialism.

There are about six women workers at Gardco who have to endure probably the hardest, fastest work, worst conditions and lowest pay of anyone at the shop. If any of these workers missed a day they'd never hear the end of it. The bosses are always keeping an eye on them, pushing them for more production and refusing them raises when they justly ask for them. Recently, a woman worker worked for 8 1/2 months of her pregnancy, was asked to work for another full week, when she couldn't and she asked to be laid off so she could collect unemployment for her family, the company refused her request. All this in the name of their sacred profit!

In Gardco's drive for profits and to be able to compete with larger companies, it has

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COLORADO

MA BELL

"I'm sorry, your democratic rights have been disconnected." -- Ma Bell and Fascism

Every day is a struggle if you work for "Ma Bell", the telephone company. Especially if you are an operator. The work is boring and repetitive. At one job, intercepting changed or disconnected numbers, you can take over 15,000 calls in the 7 1/2 hours you are "on the board".

The working conditions are bad, with constant monitoring, harassment and degrading treatment by management. They constantly push you to go faster and faster, with the threat of dismissal if you don't. And at the same time, they listen in on you and keep records of even the slightest error-like forgetting to say, "The main number is..." Or they give you "billing errors" for not filling in exactly right the little spaces on the computer cards which record toll charges.

In most offices you have to put up a signal if you have to go to the bathroom and then sign your name and the time you went and came back...And on top of this insulting treatment, you might just wait up to a half an hour, since only one operator is allowed out of the room at a time.

The pay is so low in this job (which has always been reserved for women workers) that you can hardly make a decent life for your family, even with overtime and premium pay for working on Sunday.

It is no wonder that the workers are constantly struggling to defend their rights. Protests take many forms. For example, operators refuse to do part-time work as a "service assistant" with no extra pay when management cuts back on the paid "S.A." force. Or uniting an entire office to stop signing names to a "potty list". One operator who had been sick to her stomach waiting to "drop out" to go to the bathroom even threw up on the manager's desk.

Hundreds of grievances are filed every month on harassment, unfair suspensions and dismissals, discrimination, etc.. Like everything else in the world, though, the grievance procedure is a two-sided thing. Militant operators work to be good job stewards, not to let the company get away with anything without a protest. Their militancy and dedication to the cause of all their fellow workers is a tribute to the fighting spirit of the working class.

But only the most minor issues are settled at the first step. In most cases the grievance goes up to higher levels and few people hear about it again. And in the end, if the company doesn't feel like giving a little sop to the workers to keep them quiet, they can just say "NO" and the union

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IN MEMORY OF LENIN AND STALIN

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by Doug Ward

In Simbirsk, Russia, on April 22, 1870, a son was born to the Ulyanov family and was named Vladimir Ilyich. Looking into his wrinkled red face, the mother could not have imagined that 47 years later, as V.I. Lenin, he would lead the multi-national, multi-colored masses of the vast, backward Russian empire through revolution to creation of the world's first Socialist State.

His life's direction was soon set. At 17, a student at Kazan University, he was arrested and expelled for taking part in a revolutionary student movement. At 25, in 1895, he brought about merger of the 20-odd Marxist circles in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) into the League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class, to link up struggles of workers for their day-to-day demands with the political struggle against Tsardom.

Imprisoned late in 1895, and later exiled to Siberia, he could not attend the First Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party held in March, 1898. The RSDLP was weak, unable to unite the many anti-Czarist revolutionary factions.

In 1900, Stalin said: "... amateurishness and the parochial outlook of the circles were corroding the Party from top to bottom. Ideological confusion was the characteristic feature of the internal life of the Party." Lenin, newly returned from exile, decided to publish a country-wide newspaper, ISKRA (Spark), to link up the disconnected circles, expose and defeat the many counter-revolutionary theories that were confusing them and to develop correct theories that would unify the Party and lead to revolution and socialism.

Tsarist repression made it necessary for such a paper to be published abroad and circulated illegally throughout Russia. Lenin went abroad and began publishing in Dec., 1900. The first issue's front page predicted that "the SPARK will kindle a flame." It did!

Lenin first met Stalin at a Bolshevik conference in Tannerfors Finland, in Dec., 1905, although they had often exchanged correspondence.

The historic revolution of 1905 (which actually lasted into 1907) failed. Why it failed; how to create the kind of Party that would insure success next time; these questions Lenin dealt with extensively in following years.

On April 22, 1912, a new Party newspaper, PRAVDA (Truth) was, upon Lenin's instructions, established in St. Petersburg by Stalin, Olminsky and Poletayev. The Tsarists suppressed it 8 times in 3 years!

Germany declared war on Russia on July 19, 1914. Thus did the imperialists themselves set into motion the events that would lead to creation of the world's first socialist state.

The chaos and suffering of imperialist war, compounded by the fact that Russia was losing, soon made it impossible for the hated Tsarist regime to rule. A "liberal" government was set up, under Kerensky. Seeing that this government could not survive long Lenin returned from exile, in Switzerland, to Russia on April 3, 1917.

On Oct. 10, the Bolsheviks' Central Committee decided to begin an armed uprising. On the night of Nov. 6, Lenin arrived at the Smolny Institute, headquarters of the Revolutionary Committee, to direct the uprising. Red Guards were sent to surround the Winter Palace, where Kerensky's government had holed up. By the end of the next day, Nov. 7, all strategic points in the city were held by Red Guards. A new kind of social system had been born.

Lenin led the Party and the Government of this vast "Union of Nations" through 5 difficult, stormy years. Then, weakened by a long illness, he died on Jan. 21 1924, in Gorki village near Moscow.

To succeed Lenin at the helm of the Communist Party Soviet Union, the Central Committee chose J.V. Stalin.

The enormous burden that laid upon Stalin's shoulders can be seen from what Lenin had said in an article titled "Economics & Politics in the Era of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat", published in PRAVDA on Nov. 7, 1919 Lenin wrote:

"Theoretically, there can be no doubt that between capitalism and communism there lies a definite transition period which must combine the features and properties of both these forms of social economy. This transition period has to be a period of struggle between dying capitalism and nascent communism - or, in other words, between capitalism which has been defeated but not destroyed and communism which has been born but is still very feeble.

"...Communism in Russia... is only in its early stages... the private ownership of land was abolished without compensation for the big land-owner... practically all the big capitalists, owners of factories, joint-stock companies, banks, railways and so forth were also expropriated without compensation. The State organization of large-scale production in industry... has, by and large, already been accomplished; but

in relation to agriculture it has only just begun.... The same must be said of the state-organized distribution of products in place of private trade..." (Emphasis DW)

"...to abolish classes it is necessary, first, to overthrow the landowners and capitalists. This... has been accomplished, but ... it is not the most difficult part (of the task-DW)... to abolish classes it is necessary, secondly, to abolish the difference between factory worker and peasant, to make workers of all of them." (Emphasis-Lenin's - DW)

"...how unutterably nonsensical and theoretically stupid is the common petty-bourgeois idea... that the transition to socialism is possible 'by means of democracy' in general... democracy itself passes into an entirely new phase under the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the class struggle rises to a higher level, dominating over each and every form."

To complete the socialization of industry... to socialize the remainder of privately-owned land... to build up a network of Collective Farms and State Farms... to build rapidly a huge heavy industry, even at the bitter cost of prolonged, severe shortages of consumer goods... to defeat the swarms of upper and middle class "theoreticians" and saboteurs who fought constantly to disrupt Socialist progress... to build a Red Army, Navy and Air Force capable of defending the borders of one-sixth of the Earth's surface from an encirclement of imperialist nations... All these, and more were Stalin's tasks.

"Bloody-handed tyrant" is only one of the many foul epithets his class enemies have flung at Stalin. All those people were and are, representatives of classes the Stalin-led CPSU had to defeat in order to maintain and build socialism. cont. on p. 9

LITERATURE

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WHO IS TO BLAME?

"The Rainier Valley is the crime center of Seattle", stated a police officer at a recent local community council meeting. It is true that this area

of the city is hard hit by crime; both local businesses and the working class are the victims of the crime. The Rainier Valley has a large proportion of national minorities, Negro, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Mexican, native American and Eskimo national minorities. Also, more than half of the city's low income housing is in this part of the city. In Rainier Vista and Holly Park there are over 1500 low income units.

Much discussion of crime has taken place recently in many of the mass organizations in the Rainier Valley. On Feb. 1st, a meeting was held in response to the growing crime rate, and as the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Feb. 18th, 1974, page A3 pointed out "Angry feelings surfaced Feb. 1st in an emotional three hour meeting of 500 residents with City Council members. Amid calls to shoot criminals on the street and level low income housing projects, one local resident tried to discuss grass roots efforts to attack the causes of crime. He was shouted down, became furious and walked out."

The day following this Feb. 1st meeting, mounted police were

seen patrolling Rainier Vista. The following week, a police officer was sent to a community council meeting of a Housing project by the orders of the captain of the local police precinct. All this to establish good relations with the residents of the housing project who have been the major victims of crime for years? Of course not! This is only the beginning of a fascist attack to control the most oppressed of society. The capitalist system is in big trouble economically and politically. The bourgeoisie will do anything to make the working class bare the burden of the crisis of capitalism. They will try to divide the working class with their rotten white chauvinism, they will try to quell our revolutionary fervor, while simultaneously driving down the standard of living of the working class in order to maximize their profits. The capitalists will try to institute fascism - an open terrorist dictatorship.

Another aspect of using the crime issue in order to try to institute fascism may be the destruction of low income housing projects, or units in them. In a time when the standard of living of the working class is going down, we must fight against any elimination of housing for the working class. Already there is talk of "beautification projects" in Holly Park which would result in the elimination of 600 units.

In Rainier Vista, the crime

"experts" came up with the theory of "defensible space" - putting units in a circle so that people could watch out for each other's homes. This, too, would eliminate units. The fact that the two housing projects are located in areas near industry, ten minutes from downtown Seattle and with a view of the mountains, makes the land they stand on valuable real estate, which could make good profits for investors and real estate dealers.

We know that the working class itself is the main target for burglaries, rapes, robberies, muggings and assault. Statistics prove this. Many people in the projects are afraid - especially the many women alone with small children and the elderly. Rainier Vista community groups have been discussing this issue for a year - experts have been brought in to do studies and "Law and Justice", a government agency, has given \$37,000 in funds for crime prevention. All we can conclude is that there is no solution to crime under the present system of capitalism.

Capitalism causes vast armies of the unemployed.

Capitalism perpetuated a "drug culture" to immobilize a revolutionary proletariat.

Capitalism steals one third of our wages to kill peoples of other nations in imperialist wars.

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NEW MEXICO

INCREASED FASCIST ATTACKS

As the economic crisis, we are now entering, intensifies, so does the drive toward fascism. We must remember that the open terrorist dictatorship of fascism is only a means to the capitalists' goal of ever-greater profits. In order to survive, the capitalist system must constantly increase its profits. But also by its very nature, capitalism brings about increasing serious crises of over production. During these economic crises, maximum profit making becomes impossible by means of the old methods, so the capitalists attempt to bleed the workers white. And when the workers rebel, the answer of the capitalists is even more fascism. In New Mexico, we can see this process very clearly.

New Mexico, however, is part of the Southwest, an area especially oppressed by the imperialists. The imperialists take advantage of the fact that

there is a diversity of minority nationalities in the Southwest - Mexican, Indian, Negro as well as Anglo-American - and they turn these groups against each other, keeping the working class divided. The open chauvinist terror of fascism is being displayed more and more in New Mexico.

Rito Canales and Antonio Cordova, members of the Black Berets (a Mexican National Minority militant group), were murder-

ed by police two years ago. In a recent law suit brought against the police by Canales' brother Daniel, it was found that Rito's "civil rights were not violated, that the officers acted in good faith...." These are the kinds of chauvinist, fascist acts which the ruling class uses to try to keep the revolutionary struggle down.

And recently at Crownpoint, New Mexico, two Navajo Indian women were sterilized and their children taken away from them. The reason: because the children were "illegitimate"! With the similar case of the forced sterilization of two Negro girls in Alabama (see People's Tribune, July, 1973), this chauvinist act is an indication of the especially rapid increase of fascism in the oppressed area of the Southwest and the increased terror and violence in the Negro Nation.

The educational system is one of the main areas in which the capitalists try to divide the working class by means of racial chauvinism. In the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) boarding schools in New Mexico, the culture and language of Indian children is distorted or completely suppressed. Textbooks are used in both BIA and public schools which refer to American Indians as "heathens who needed to be savaged" and "savages who beat out the brains of white babies." Navajo

children have been made to stick their heads into toilets, as punishment for speaking their own language! Recently, one young Indian boy died from exposure while trying to escape from one of the BIA schools.

Fascist tactics are not limited to the BIA schools. Detectives, city police and "security aides" are constantly present at Albuquerque's high schools. They spread-eagle students against their cars, frisk them and search their cars. School administrators search students' lockers when the students aren't around. And when over 500 staged a walkout at one high school to protest these conditions, the City responded by sending 15 undercover police on campus.

We also see the rise of fascism in the New Mexican factories in many of which private police forces have been installed. This is true of the Singer-Frieden business machine plant in Albuquerque, which also uses TV cameras to watch its employees' every move. At the Bell jewelry plant, which hires Indians to run some of its machines so that the claim can be made that the company produces "Indian Jewelry" a special staff of managers has been brought in to keep an eye on worker dissent and keep it at a low level. And at the Levi-Strauss pants factory, the mana-

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RONNIE RIDES AGAIN

"It's too bad they can't have an epidemic of botulism!"--- so spoke Ronald Reagan to a group of Republicans in regard to those people accepting food from the People In Need Program, operating in San Francisco, on money donated by the Hearst Family, as a result of the demands of the SLA in order to obtain the release of their kidnapped daughter Patricia.

Our erstwhile governor, who is supposedly the elected representative of the people here in California, betrays his real feelings for the very people in whose interest he is supposed to govern. He would do the callous disregard of the needs of the people by their rulers one better than Marie Antoinette, who bade the hungry French masses to eat cake if they had no bread. He would see the hungry fed poisoned food:

Who are these people he has branded as immoral for accepting the food? They are women desperate to feed their children, the old and disabled, the unemployed, people struggling to stay alive on the inadequate pittance allotted them in a period of continuously rising prices and high inflation. Nay, dear Ronald, the immorality is yours! Yours for your genocidal wishes, for your closing of much needed state mental hospitals, for your welfare cutbacks, for your great efforts on behalf of your friends and mentors -- the oil and insurance



magnates -- at the expense of the general public who you supposedly serve.

Your defense of this vicious statement has been that it was a joke and indeed your listeners did laugh in response to your words. Well, the Nazis joked I'm sure about their lampshades made from human skin and their guests must have laughed in response but they are not laughing now! You and your fellow fascists will not laugh long because the working class of this country is not going to forget your words as you so fervently hope they will by the time the presidential elections roll around.

Yes, Mr. Reagan, the working class understands your wish to see the hungry dead and buried for then they would pose no threat to you and your bourgeois friends as you gorge yourselves at \$100.00 a plate dinners. With eyes and ears closed in death they could not learn that there is a way out of hunger and despair--a way that has been taken by millions of the world's oppressed people--in Russia, in China, in Albania. That way is to build a true multinational Communist Party. That way is to overthrow the inhuman profit hungry bourgeois class you represent! That way is to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat! That way is SOCIALISM!

THE TASKS BEFORE US

The unfolding National and International crisis that USNA imperialism finds itself in, is unprecedented in the post W.W.II era. The crisis of overproduction is rocking the capitalist world, forcing country after country to scramble for a shrinking market. The detente Nixon and Kissinger are struggling so hard to keep with the Soviet Union, is clearly revealing its contradictions and limitations. Europe despite England and Germany is beginning to exert a more independent role of the U.S. in international affairs. The situation in the Middle East obviously can not and will not be settled by a mere disengagement of troops.

The only solution Nixon and the big monopolies have for the steepest rise in the cost of living since the 1940's is even higher prices. The political crisis around Watergate is exposing more and more the connection of the big monopolies to the government.

The moves of the big business interests and their political stooges to force the workers to pay for this crisis is becoming more and more obvious. We have to use the Western Worker in a real way to counter the fascist offensive. We have to lead the struggle in California against the new work rules which are taking away the 8 hour day from hundreds of thousands of

workers. And will surely be followed by similar "rules" in other states. We have to expose and struggle against the \$100,000 a month campaign of the Teamster Union to bust the United Farm Workers. We have to fight against the immigration policies of the government, which force a large number of Mexican workers to live in constant fear of being deported. We have to fight against the rising prices that are fattening the corporations profits and driving our standard of living down.

We are facing the coming May Day, 1974, in an atmosphere of increased preparations for war, and the growing possibility of a fascist takeover in the USNA.

This situation has to be met by a new style of work. By a style of work that will broaden our influence in the working class. Our old style of work of solely internal struggle and individual contact work is no longer sufficient. We must begin to integrate the advanced workers into the propaganda network of the CL. We must begin to rely on the advanced workers to spread the theories of Marxism-Leninism and to help organize the working class. We have to learn how to use this network to spread our influence over as many factories and working class communities as possible.

The tasks ahead of us are

clear: to build Factory Nuclei, to prepare for the Congress in September and the formation of a new Communist Party in the USNA and to get in and lead the struggles against fascism in this country.

The Communist League in the Western Region must face up to these political tasks. We must carry forward in a determined manner our campaign to win the Vanguard of the Proletariat to the cause of Communism!



MAY DAY

cont. from p. 1

by the older Knights of Labor and intense preparations were made for the coming great event. Then the K of L reneged and tried to sabotage strike preparations. But, on May 1, 1886, 500,000 workers struck in cities across the land.

Chicago was the militant center. There, strikers were at once attacked by combined employer-city police forces. Angered, many workers struck. On May 3, police killed six and wounded many other strikers at the McCormick Reaper Works.

On May 4, a massive demonstration of protest gathered in Hay Market Square. Police attacked the demonstrators. A bomb exploded and killed a policeman. Four strike leaders - Parson, Engel, Spies, and Fischer were arrested, framed and hanged. During the rest of 1886, employers conducted a vicious counter-offensive against unions.

The former OTLU, now named the AFL, in convention at St. Louis in 1888, voted to renew the 8 hour day battle with a nationwide strike to begin May 1, 1890. But, at the 1889 convention, the right-wing, led by Sam Gompers, castrated the plan by ramming through a decision that on May Day, 1890, the Carpenters alone would strike; if they were successful, other unions would strike later!

The 2nd International, formed in Paris on July 14, 1889, on that date decided to join the AFL in adopting May 1, 1890, as the day to renew the battle for the 8 hour day.

On May Day, 1890, Carpenters were joined in their strike by other building trades unions and supporting demonstrations were conducted throughout the country and the world. The 8 hour day wasn't won on any wide scale. The struggle continued, through many ups and downs, for more than 40 subsequent years. The 8 hour day was not universally established in the USA until the National Recovery Act of 1933 was passed. Even then, many workers were excluded from its coverage; and to this date, some still are.

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From behind prison bars, in 1896, Lenin wrote and smuggled out a brief, hard hitting May Day leaflet for the workers of St. Petersburg. A month later, widespread strikes broke out in the textile industry; many workers credited the leaflet with having inspired them to strike.

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After the USA entered WWI, in 1917, Left Socialists did not discontinue May Day demonstration. On the contrary, they became special days of protest against WWI.

Having had little success in substituting Labor Day for May Day, the AFL right-wing collaborating with Congress and GOP Pres. Herbert Hoover, arranged in 1928 for May 1 each year to be designated as national Child Health Day! Now, said their convention report, "May 1 will no longer be known as either strike day or Communist Day".

But, on Oct. 28, 1929, the thunder of the Great Crash drowned out their feeble cries for "child health day". May Day, 1930, was still every much a day of militant unity and protest. The size and power of the annual demonstrations grew with each succeeding year.

I have taken part in a May Day demonstration of some kind, somewhere, every year since 1932. Two stand out especially vividly in memory. May Day, 1973, in Paris, will have to wait to be told about another time. Allow me to tell you now of May Day in N.Y. city, 1935.

250,000 people marching in solid ranks, curb to curb, down Broadway to a Union Square reviewing stand. Ranks upon ranks upon

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GARDCO

cont. from p. 2

been forced to greatly speed up production in recent months. With this speedup naturally comes injuries to the workers. In one week alone, a few months back, two workers had their fingers smashed in the punch presses. One worker's fingers were mashed by the machine, severing two at the tips. Ray Brocker, scum plant superintendent, immediately picked up portions of the severed fingers and flushed them down the toilet before anyone knew what happened. This attempt to destroy evidence of the company's crime prevented any possibility of the worker's fingers being grafted together and showed the company's lack of concern for the needs of the workers. The company of course puts on a show of caring for the workers' safety, such as sending certain workers to a first aid training class for one day, knowing full well that more first aid will be needed in the future. The company's only real concern, of course, is their insurance rates and most importantly, Gardco cannot make profits off of our production unless we are there to produce.

As Mao Tsetung has aptly stated: "Wherever there is oppression, there is resistance." The workers at Gardco have had a recent history of real fight back against the conditions at the shop. For instance, one day in late 1972, while the bosses were comfortably warm in their offices, the workers were freezing because of cold weather and lack of heating. The workers knew that nicely asking the company for heaters wouldn't do,

so over half the plant walked out without waiting for the sell-out union misleaders to tell us to work it out through other ways. The next day, new heaters were installed, although the plant is still cold in many parts. The boycott of the lunch truck mentioned earlier is another example of the struggle of the workers at Gardco, showing the strength in the unity of the class.

At present, the whole factory is in motion around the upcoming contract dispute. The new contract at Gardco is due for negotiation this coming July. The workers at Gardco are presently under a three year contract which sold out almost every imaginable demand and right of the workers. With inflation rising over this three year period, the wages represent barely subsistence wages for many workers and their families. The workers naturally ask the question, "how could the company force such a rotten contract down the workers throats"? The reason is that the International Brotherhood of Electrical workers represents the interests of the capitalists and not the workers. The leadership of the IBEW acts as an enemy from within, or a wolf in sheep's clothing to protect the interests of the capitalists while pretending to represent the interests of the workers. From the international on down to local 2131, the leaders of the IBEW have consistently sold out the interests of the workers. The last Gardco contract gave the workers a starting rate of \$2.11 with slight raises per year. This contract was "negotiated" by three IBEW "bigshots" within the plant, Steve Price, Marcos Mendietts and Norman McClindon. They sold the masses of the workers out, while themselves receiving nice bribes of sub-forman jobs, etc. for their services to the capitalists.

The workers are presently seeing to it that the same state of affairs doesn't exist again. The workers at Gardco have learned by their own bitter experience that to succeed we have to cast off all the chains of capitalist leadership such as believing in the good will of the company or allowing the union misleaders to sell us out again and take the initiative in this economic struggle into our own hands so that we "call the shots". The workers have successfully organized a drive to get a grievance committee set up for the first time and are moving to kick out or isolate the sell-out shop steward and replace him with numerous stewards, of all nationalities both men and women, who will represent the workers' interests in the upcoming contract fight. This has been done successfully, in spite of the company's scare tactics and "red baiting".

Communists and advanced workers must carefully examine this struggle, take a serious attitude towards it and develop Bolshevik tactics to guide it and raise it to a higher level.

We must instill the workers with socialism, patiently and continuously through every step

cont. on p. 8

S.F. Strike cont. from p. 1

Though the Social Democrats don't control the trade unions here like they did in Germany, the union misleaders are playing a somewhat similar role with their class collaborationist policies. Political disunity and organizational weakness are the very problems faced by the USNA working class. In its need to introduce fascism, the capitalist class will use every opportunity to further intensify this situation. It is in this light that the city strike and the role of the union "leaders" must be seen.

The capitalist class thru the union misleaders used this strike as a way of furthering the disorganization that existed within our class. From the beginning (including the period immediately preceding the strike) they made little attempt to organize broad rank and file participation. Few meetings were held, there was scant leafleting and little communication to the rank and file. During the strike, this situation escalated. Consistently, the workers pushed for clarity of policy, information regarding laws, informed picket captains etc. Consistently, the union "leaders" promised to get things together. Consistently, they let us down. The significance of this becomes clear if we look again to S.F. General Hospital. Striking a hospital is a little different than striking a factory. You don't "shut it down". In fact the unity of the class depends upon the strikers allowing at least emergency services to continue. This policy could have been easily implemented. The union could have drawn up a list of those workers who were needed to keep emergency

Ma Bell cont. from p. 2

has to close the grievance or be forced into arbitration.

No wonder that many workers get disgusted and disillusioned. It is clear that the main thing right now about the grievance procedure is how it works against us. It keeps all our protests inside boundaries that are acceptable to the company, to the capitalist class as a whole. They know that as long as we're just sitting in meetings, trying to convince them to be "fairer" to us, they can keep on exploiting our labor, getting rich off of us, with few complications. We are at work: that is the only thing that is important to them.

This was really shown when two summers ago (1972) operators took up the weapon of the wildcat strike. Not only the operators, mostly women, of all nationalities, but also workers in the plant section of the company, mostly men, went on strike against the discrimination that was being used against Negro women operators. The company quickly turned to the courts -- that part of the state that serves the whole capitalist class in keeping all workers down. In no time, they had an injunction against any more wildcat strikes.

This means that if we walked out they could break the union financially with tens of thousands of dollars in fines, put the union officers in jail and force job stewards to either help break the strike or put them in jail if they didn't.

Of course, they'll tell us we have the right to strike -- on July 17th at midnight -- when they

services running. Passes could have been issued, or a list kept of the names of these workers so that they could have crossed the picket lines without any problems. This list was crucial so that the striking workers could distinguish workers who were needed -- from scabs. Every day the strikers pushed for such a list. Every night the union misleaders promised it "tomorrow". Every tomorrow -- no list. The result, many scabs crossed the lines because no one knew who was really scabbing. This caused extreme demoralization of the workers on the lines. Lack of clarity, diffuseness and indecisiveness were pushed by the union misleaders in order to maintain leadership and to keep the striking workers from getting organized. This disorganization of the class is exactly what the capitalist class needs. For it keeps us from being able to fight fascism effectively.

The strike was also used by the capitalist class to further deepen the divisions within the working class. They used their media to try to isolate the striking city workers from all other workers. And they used their labor lieutenants to sharpen the divisions among the striking workers. Television news showed shot after shot of patients being transferred out of the hospitals. And who did they blame it on, why the hospital workers? Many column inches of newspaper were devoted to talking about the hardships experienced by old folks because the buses weren't running. And who did they blame it on, the Muni Drivers? The lies and slander reached their peak around the question of the sewer plants. The City claimed that closing the sewer plants was a health hazard. Their own Director of Public

can plan and prepare for it. For example, in Denver they are cutting out all hotel and motel traffic to computers TWO DAYS before the contract expires.

These "planned layoffs every three years with no unemployment benefits" are just a small inconvenience to them in keeping up the front that we do have the right to withhold our labor power. But ask any operator who was on strike three years ago -- she'll tell you that we were forced back to work by the union and the company even though we knew we were getting sold-out in the contract.

What the injunction against wildcats means day to day and year to year is that the capitalist class has, through its state, taken away our right to strike. This is just one step of the preparation for fascism in this country. It fits right in with the president's emergency powers, the lowering of our standard of living, filling the Supreme Court with reactionaries and putting military men (out of uniform) in the powerful positions of the government.

The capitalist class gives us certain rights, but under their complete control. This is the bourgeois "democratic" form of dictatorship. But when the economic crisis really comes and masses of workers begin to revolt, they won't hesitate to take these few rights away and substitute a dictatorship of police and terror to control us.

Then our only choice will be total slavery or prison and

Health, Dr. Francis Darry, said it was not. In fact the sewer plants are closed approximately 80 days of the year due to rain. The "Ecology" Groups were going wild because of the raw sewage which they claimed was polluting the bay. Then, 5 days into the strike, in full collaborationist style, the union misleaders decided that the City was right and allowed supervisors to re-open the plants. (Although the supervisors could have worked the plant during the whole strike.) Within the strike itself, the Trojan Horses (the union "leaders") performed in grand style. They consistently pushed divisions between those on the lines and those who were at home. "Whatever happens" they would say, "you can blame it on your fellow workers who didn't care enough to come out and picket. Another favorite of theirs was the division between the lowest paid workers, the miscellaneous workers who initiated the strike and who were its brain, heart and backbone and the Bus Drivers who are higher paid and played a supportive, though important role. "If you can't get it together here" they'd say, "how can you possibly expect the drivers to support you. After all they're losing \$50.00 a day." The division between the more skilled, highly paid construction workers and the miscellaneous city workers was driven home in a living way. Though Dan Del Carlo, Secretary of the Building and Trades Council was on the union negotiating team, he refused to pull his workers off a construction site at the hospital, thereby allowing them to cross the line.

The result of the divisions pushed, lack of organization and
cont. on p. 8

death. Workers in Nazi Germany learned this and millions of workers are suffering today under fascist governments in the colonies of US imperialism.

IF WE WANT TO DEFEAT FASCISM, WE HAVE TO TAKE UP THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IT WHILE IT IS IN ITS PREPARATORY STAGES.

What leadership has our union given us in this struggle. They push to keep everything inside the grievance procedure, telling us we can pin our hopes on some "great arbitrator in the sky". They tell us we should trust the courts -- the capitalists' courts to defeat the injunction against wildcats and the Colorado Peace Act which prohibits closed shops. OR we can give parties and talk to legislators to get them on our side, when everyone knows that they never would have been elected if they didn't have the money of the capitalist class behind them and both their parties, republican and democratic.

Workers are beginning to see that this road leads nowhere. Every time C.O.P.E. (the Committee on Political Education which tries to exert pressure on this or that bourgeois politician) is brought up, it is met with guffaws and comments like: "You think you're going to take on the oil companies with \$50,000.00?"

Union members voted more than their usual monetary support last year for a strike to organize a union in a plant controlled by

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SF Strike

cont. from p. 7

confusion, is that the capitalist class was able to isolate the most advanced workers. Those workers who walked the picket lines 12-20 hours a day in the rain, those workers who had their whole families out on the lines with picket signs, those workers who brought food for everyone so that the strike could keep going, those workers who walked 8 hours at the hospital, then on to the "Muni Barns" for another 8 hour stint, home for 4 hours of sleep and then down to the docks at 5am to set up the lines there. Those workers who stepped forward ready to lead their class, were set up and sold-out by the henchment for the capitalists, the union MISLEADERS:

What then are the lessons that the working class can draw from this strike? Firstly, we must have a political party that truly represents the interests of our class. We do not need the union "leaders" who sold out our strike (we got \$45 and 1/5 of a dental plan). We do not need the labor (AFL-CIO) bureaucracy that divided and disorganized us so as to set us up for fascism. We do not need "liberal" politicians like Mayor Alioto. Alioto got his start in politics by busting the Fisherman's Union. He then sprang to fame as the head of the

S.F. Redevelopment Agency which effectively wiped out 2 of the largest working class communities in San Francisco. And now he steps forward as the "champion" of the rights of labor. No we don't need leaders who are one day threatening to arrest us and the next saying that policemen should not be used to settle labor disputes. (Ha Ha!) We need a party with propaganda teams that can get out leaflets exposing the lies that the capitalist media spreads. Leaflets that point out that it is the capitalist that doesn't care about the patients in County hospitals. Otherwise, they would hire enough staff, and enough money for equipment in order to give the workers the decent health care all year round. Leaflets that show that it is the capitalist class that doesn't care about the environment. The garbage that flowed into the bay during the strike doesn't hold a candle to the industrial pollution that pollutes our bay daily. We must have propaganda to show the workers that it is the capitalist class that doesn't care what happens to old folks. Otherwise, they wouldn't force them to live on fixed incomes while inflation skyrockets. We must have a party that can set up study circles to teach Marxism-Leninism to the advanced workers who step forward to lead their class.

Footnote

1. Dimitroff, United Front Against Fascism.

CRIME

cont. from p. 4

Capitalism robs us of the value we create on the job.

Capitalism creates a government of ruling class criminals of the caliber of Nixon, Ford....

Who is the real criminal? The junkie who rips off your T.V. set or the system which robs us of a decent way of life, of food of health, of education and housing! Capitalism is the crime against the vast majority of workers. The only way we can solve "crime on the streets" is to wipe out crime in the White House, crime in the Pentagon, crime in the banks and establish a system of socialism, where the proletariat runs the government, where the production is in accordance with the needs of the people and not the desire of capital for maximum profits.

History has proven that the criminal system of capitalism cannot be wiped out without the guidance of a general staff, a conscious Marxist-Leninist Communist Party to lead the army of the working class to victory over the bourgeoisie.



MA BELL

cont. from p. 7

the Coors family (of Coors beer fame) which is a major spokesman for the anti-working class, pro-fascist forces in Colorado and the whole country. They also showed their support for the struggle of the farmworkers by large donations to the UFW.

A resolution was passed unanimously calling for President Nixon to resign and for new elections to be held. Workers voted to go beyond the grievance procedure and take legal action against the company's secret police (the security department), which is searching lockers, interrogating operators and, some say, even tapping phones of active unionists on the pretext of investigating illegal drugs. At the same meeting, they enthusiastically supported the miners in Harlan County, Kentucky, in their militant fight to organize mine workers in Appalachia.

We have to go beyond these few instances, though and begin to ORGANIZE the struggle against fascism. As members of the working class, we face a capitalist class that controls us politically as well as economically. And we have to take up the POLITICAL struggle against them. This means using every means at our disposal from the grievance procedure to leaflets, meetings, protest demonstrations and our strikes to expose them, what they are doing to us now and what they have in store for us: fascism and slavery. We need to organize a general staff that will tie all the little droplets of struggle into a torrent of revolution.

Fascism

cont. from p. 4

gers recently called in security police to harrass a group of communist workers who were legally passing out leaflets to the Levi employees.

The City of Albuquerque as a whole has increased the size of its police force tremendously and recently tried to merge the city and county police for "more efficient (more fascist) law enforcement." This merger attempt was voted down by city and county residents. If police terror is becoming "more efficient" in New Mexico, it is also becoming more open. An Albuquerque City policeman, fired for pistol-whipping a man, threatening to castrate him and tying a bed sheet around his neck and threatening to hang him, stated publicly that, "It was not improper. We have been doing the same thing for a long time." This is undoubtedly true, but open admission of such police brutality by the police themselves is another sign of rising fascism. And last but not least, the new City Commission Chairman, Ray Baca, formerly held the job of training the fascist Brazilian police in advanced techniques of torture and murder. He is therefore well equipped to do the same job in Albuquerque, for the same purpose: that of keeping down the struggle of the working class and oppressed peoples for preservation of their democratic rights.

It is clear that the ruling class is pushing fascism in every area of its evil capitalist system. Thus to stop the drive toward fascism, we have to do battle with capitalism itself. And the only way to do this is with a highly organized working class, fighting together with the oppressed peoples in an anti-fascist

united front under the leadership of a multi-national Communist Party.

GARDCO

cont. from p. 6

of the movement showing the connection between their struggle and the imperialist system as a whole, by consistently bringing socialist literature to the workers, by making vivid political exposures of the whole economic and political system and by concentrating this activity towards the most advanced workers through the consolidation of factory circles. The building of factory circles must be seen as the key link in our work at Gardco and any other factory. It is through these circles where the advanced workers are instilled with socialist ideas, learn the workings of the system and act as a base to influence the rest of the shop - to make EVERY FACTORY OUR FORTRESS!

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MAY DAY

cont. from p. 6
ranks of workers behind their union banners...veterans of WWI, some cripples, in their over-seas caps...a contingent of Irish and another of Scottish workers, both in kilts, behind their respective bag-pipers...from the Harlem ghetto, massed thousands of white-robed followers of the religious leader Father Divine...And a contingent from my own union about which I must say a few special words.

Most passenger ships then required licensed officers to wear uniform, as did some freight ships. In addition, many such men were at the same time officer members of the US Naval or Coast Guard Reserves. In our contingent, all marchers wearing uniform were placed together in the front ranks.

As we drew near to a street corner, I saw standing there a group of five German naval personnel - 2 officers and 3 enlisted men. "Hitlerites" I thought. As a challenge, as we drew up to them I raised my arm in a clenched fist "salute". I was astounded when first one of the officers and then quickly the other 4 men stood to attention and returned the salute! For them, fool-hardy? Yes, certainly. If some rat photographed the incident and turned the photo over to German authorities those men were in lots of trouble. But, the true meaning of May Day was affirmed; and the incident taught me, unforgettably never to pass judgment upon any person until knowledge is at hand to justify the judgment.

Already moving to the right before WWII began, counter-revolutionary social democrats in control of the CPUSA used the war as an excuse to help the AFL-CIO rightists abolish May Day demonstrations. "During the war, the working class everywhere observed May Day by staying on the job and producing the weapons...", said Alexander Trachtenberg, a member of the CPUSA Nat. Committee, in a 1947 pamphlet.

We who were using "the weapons" would not have felt any difference, in supplies, if on just one day each year our class brothers and sisters at home came into the streets to unitedly demonstrate their struggle against Fascism and to tell us they were still protecting our rights as workers for the day when we would come home. As it was, many men over seas developed a bitter feeling that at home there was more interest in over-time and "patriotic" speeches than in getting the way over with.

WWII is long past, but in the USA counter-revolutionary social democracy still dominates and celebration of May Day is at a level not much higher than that of Ground Hog Day. When, once more, we travel the road of expansion without limit and prosperity without end; when Thank God we are walking down that "peaceful path to socialism" - who needs May Day?

Say it Loudly and Clearly:
We, the Whole Working Class of
the Whole World, Need it BADLY!

Inflation...unemployment...
reduction of living standard...

LENIN and STALIN

cont. from p. 3
The foes of socialism were numerous, clever and pitiless. They fought "for keeps"; whoever expected to defeat them had to fight "for keeps", too. No doubt errors, excesses, injustices were committed in the course of the years-long struggles. These occur in every war.

Not Stalin alone, but the Political Bureau, Central Committee and Congresses of the CPSU developed and carried out the policies of 1924-53. That they were, in the main, correct policies is proved by the fact that they successfully carried forward, along the Lenin-charted path, the transition to socialism.

On Stalin's gravestone should be inscribed: Under his leadership, Socialism was established irrevocably in the USSR.

My wife and I visited Lenin's Tomb and Stalin's grave in the burial place of the greats of international Socialism between the Tomb and the Kremlin wall, in the Spring of 1973.

The waiting line begins to form about 8 am, regardless of weather, as it has every day since Lenin was first entombed (except when Moscow was under siege during WWII.) It is at that time 6 to 8 blocks long and grows longer as the day wears on. We arrived at 8:30 am, but had to stand in line

in a pouring rain for 3-1/2 hours, waiting our turn. From 9 am, to 1 pm., only foreigners are admitted; from 1 pm to 6 pm, only Soviet citizens. After passing through Lenin's Tomb, those who wish continue through an entrance to the graveyard where Stalin rests in a special plot. It is a custom that they who wish to especially honor someone will remove any medals or decorations they may be wearing, and leave them atop that grave. At about 12 noon, when we arrived, Stalin's grave already was literally carpeted with medals and decorations.

Once he lay beside Lenin in the Tomb. The counter-revolutionary liar and clown, Krushchev had him moved to a village graveyard. After Krushchev was booted out in disgrace, the PolitBuro had Stalin moved back to where he now rests. Half-way to where he belongs, beside Lenin; half-way to where one day (not too far off, I believe) the Marxists-Leninists of the USSR will see that he is returned.

Let the living Krushchevites, the Solzhenitsyns and all such scum, wet the world with tears shed for their failure to destroy socialism.

On March 5, the poor and oppressed should mourn the death of Stalin on that sad day in 1953; and on April 22, we should rejoice as nearly all Soviet citizens do, that Lenin came into the world on that great day in 1870.



J.V. STALIN

V.I. LENIN



pollution of the air we breathe and the water we drink...the threat of WWII (probably atomic) chaotic waste of raw materials already in short supply...all these and others like them, are international problems, needing international solutions, by the only class able to act unitedly on an

international scale - the working class, US.

It will not be easy, and it will take time; but now is the time to begin, to revive May Day and make it live forever as the day of working class unity, in struggle to save and improve the world we live in.

MAY DAY

cont. from p. 1

by the older Knights of Labor and intense preparations were made for the coming great event. Then the K of L reneged and tried to sabotage strike preparations. But, on May 1, 1886, 500,000 workers struck in cities across the land.

Chicago was the militant center. There, strikers were at once attacked by combined employer-city police forces. Angered, many workers struck. On May 3, police killed six and wounded many other strikers at the McCormick Reaper Works.

On May 4, a massive demonstration of protest gathered in Hay Market Square. Police attacked the demonstrators. A bomb exploded and killed a policeman. Four strike leaders - Parson, Engel, Spies, and Fischer were arrested, framed and hanged. During the rest of 1886, employers conducted a vicious counter-offensive against unions.

The former OTLU, now named the AFL, in convention at St. Louis in 1888, voted to renew the 8 hour day battle with a nationwide strike to begin May 1, 1890. But, at the 1889 convention, the right-wing, led by Sam Gompers, castrated the plan by ramming through a decision that on May Day, 1890, the Carpenters alone would strike; if they were successful, other unions would strike later!

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GARDCO

cont. from p. 2

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As Mao Tsetung has aptly stated: "Wherever there is oppression, there is resistance." The workers at Gardco have had a recent history of real fight back against the conditions at the shop. For instance, one day in late 1972, while the bosses were comfortably warm in their offices, the workers were freezing because of cold weather and lack of heating. The workers knew that nicely asking the company for heaters wouldn't do,

so over half the plant walked out without waiting for the sell-out union misleaders to tell us to work it out through other ways. The next day, new heaters were installed, although the plant is still cold in many parts. The boycott of the lunch truck mentioned earlier is another example of the struggle of the workers at Gardco, showing the strength in the unity of the class.

At present, the whole factory is in motion around the upcoming contract dispute. The new contract at Gardco is due for negotiation this coming July. The workers at Gardco are presently under a three year contract which sold out almost every imaginable demand and fight of the workers. With inflation rising over this three year period, the wages represent barely subsistence wages for many workers and their families. The workers naturally ask the question, "how could the company force such a rotten contract down the workers throats"? The reason is that the International Brotherhood of Electrical workers represents the interests of the capitalists and not the workers. The leadership of the IBEW acts as an enemy from within, or a wolf in sheep's clothing to protect the interests of the capitalists while pretending to represent the interests of the workers. From the international on down to local 2131, the leaders of the IBEW have consistently sold out the interests of the workers. The last Gardco contract gave the workers a starting rate of \$2.11 with slight raises per year. This contract was "negotiated" by three IBEW "bigshots" within the plant, Steve Price, Marcos Mendietts and Norman McClindon. They sold the masses of the workers out, while themselves receiving nice bribes of sub-forman jobs, etc. for their services to the capitalists.

The workers are presently seeing to it that the same state of affairs doesn't exist again. The workers at Gardco have learned by their own bitter experience that to succeed we have to cast off all the chains of capitalist leadership such as believing in the good will of the company or allowing the union misleaders to sell us out again and take the initiative in this economic struggle into our own hands so that we "call the shots". The workers have successfully organized a drive to get a grievance committee set up for the first time and are moving to kick out or isolate the sell-out shop steward and replace him with numerous stewarts, of all nationalities both men and women, who will represent the workers' interests in the upcoming contract fight. This has been done successfully, in spite of the company's scare tactics and "red baiting".

Communists and advanced workers must carefully examine this struggle, take a serious attitude towards it and develop Bolshevik tactics to guide it and raise it to a higher level.

We must instill the workers with socialism, patiently and continuously through every step

cont. on p. 8

S.F. Strike cont. from p. 1

Though the Social Democrats don't control the trade unions here like they did in Germany, the union misleaders are playing a somewhat similar role with their class collaborationist policies. Political disunity and organizational weakness are the very problems faced by the USNA working class. In its need to introduce fascism, the capitalist class will use every opportunity to further intensify this situation. It is in this light that the city strike and the role of the union "leaders" must be seen.

The capitalist class thru the union misleaders used this strike as a way of furthering the disorganization that existed within our class. From the beginning (including the period immediately preceding the strike) they made little attempt to organize broad rank and file participation. Few meetings were held, there was scanty leafletting and little communication to the rank and file. During the strike, this situation escalated. Consistently, the workers pushed for clarity of policy, information regarding laws, informed picket captains etc. Consistently, the union "leaders" promised to get things together. Consistently, they let us down. The significance of this becomes clear if we look again to S.F. General Hospital. Striking a hospital is a little different than striking a factory. You don't "shut it down". In fact the unity of the class depends upon the strikers allowing at least emergency services to continue. This policy could have been easily implemented. The union could have drawn up a list of those workers who were needed to keep emergency

services running. Passes could have been issued, or a list kept of the names of these workers so that they could have crossed the picket lines without any problems. This list was crucial so that the striking workers could distinguish workers who were needed - from scabs. Every day the strikers pushed for such a list. Every night the union misleaders promised it "tomorrow". Every tomorrow - no list. The result, many scabs crossed the lines because no one knew who was really scabbing. This caused extreme demoralization of the workers on the lines. Lack of clarity, diffuseness and indecisiveness were pushed by the union misleaders in order to maintain leadership and to keep the striking workers from getting organized. This disorganization of the class is exactly what the capitalist class needs. For it keeps us from being able to fight fascism effectively.

The strike was also used by the capitalist class to further deepen the divisions within the working class. They used their media to try to isolate the striking city workers from all other workers. And they used their labor lieutenants to sharpen the divisions among the striking workers. Television news showed shot after shot of patients being transferred out of the hospitals. And who did they blame it on, why the hospital workers? Many column inches of newspaper were devoted to talking about the hardships experienced by old folks because the buses weren't running. And who did they blame it on, the Muni Drivers? The lies and slander reached their peak around the question of the sewer plants. The City claimed that closing the sewer plants was a health hazard. Their own Director of Public

Health, Dr. Francis Durry, said it was not. In fact the sewer plants are closed approximately 80 days of the year due to rain. The "Ecology" Groups were going wild because of the raw sewage which they claimed was polluting the bay. Then, 5 days into the strike, in full collaborationist style, the union misleaders decided that the City was right and allowed supervisors to re-open the plants. (Although the supervisors could have worked the plant during the whole strike.) Within the strike itself, the Trojan Horses (the union "leaders") performed in grand style. They consistently pushed divisions between those on the lines and those who were at home. "Whatever happens" they would say, "you can blame it on your fellow workers who didn't care enough to come out and picket." Another favorite of theirs was the division between the lowest paid workers, the miscellaneous workers who initiated the strike and who were its brain, heart and backbone and the Bus Drivers who are higher paid and played a supportive, though important role. "If you can't get it together here" they'd say, "how can you possibly expect the drivers to support you. After all they're losing \$50.00 a day." The division between the more skilled, highly paid construction workers and the miscellaneous city workers was driven home in a living way. Though Dan Del Carlo, Secretary of the Building and Trades Council was on the union negotiating team, he refused to pull his workers off a construction site at the hospital, thereby allowing them to cross the line.

The result of the divisions pushed, lack of organization and cont. on p. 8

Ma Bell cont. from p. 2

has to close the grievance or be forced into arbitration.

No wonder that many workers get disgusted and disillusioned. It is clear that the main thing right now about the grievance procedure is how it works against us. It keeps all our protests inside boundaries that are acceptable to the company, to the capitalist class as a whole. They know that as long as we're just sitting in meetings, trying to convince them to be "fairer" to us, they can keep on exploiting our labor, getting rich off of us, with few complications. We are at work: that is the only thing that is important to them.

This was really shown when two summers ago (1972) operators took up the weapon of the wildcat strike. Not only the operators, mostly women, of all nationalities, but also workers in the plant section of the company, mostly men, went on strike against the discrimination that was being used against Negro women operators. The company quickly turned to the courts -- that part of the state that serves the whole capitalist class in keeping all workers down. In no time, they had an injunction against any more wildcat strikes.

This means that if we walked out they could break the union financially with tens of thousands of dollars in fines, put the union officers in jail and force job stewards to either help break the strike or put them in jail if they didn't.

Of course, they'll tell us we have the right to strike -- on July 17th at midnight -- when they

can plan and prepare for it. For example, in Denver they are cutting out all hotel and motel traffic to computers TWO DAYS before the contract expires.

These "planned layoffs every three years with no unemployment benefits" are just a small inconvenience to them in keeping up the front that we do have the right to withhold our labor power. But ask any operator who was on strike three years ago - she'll tell you that we were forced back to work by the union and the company even though we knew we were getting sold-out in the contract.

What the injunction against wildcats means day to day and year to year is that the capitalist class has, through its state, taken away our right to strike. This is just one step of the preparation for fascism in this country. It fits right in with the president's emergency powers, the lowering of our standard of living, filling the Supreme Court with reactionaries and putting military men (out of uniform) in the powerful positions of the government.

The capitalist class gives us certain rights, but under their complete control. This is the bourgeois "democratic" form of dictatorship. But when the economic crisis really comes and masses of workers begin to revolt, they won't hesitate to take these few rights away and substitute a dictatorship of police and terror to control us.

Then our only choice will be total slavery or prison and

death. Workers in Nazi Germany learned this and millions of workers are suffering today under fascist governments in the colonies of US imperialism.

IF WE WANT TO DEFEAT FASCISM, WE HAVE TO TAKE UP THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IT WHILE IT IS IN ITS PREPARATORY STAGES.

What leadership has our union given us in this struggle. They push to keep everything inside the grievance procedure, telling us we can pin our hopes on some "great arbitrator in the sky". They tell us we should trust the courts -- the capitalists' courts to defeat the injunction against wildcats and the Colorado Peace Act which prohibits closed shops. OR we can give parties and talk to legislators to get them on our side, when everyone knows that they never would have been elected if they didn't have the money of the capitalist class behind them and both their parties, republican and democratic.

Workers are beginning to see that this road leads nowhere. Every time C.O.P.E. (the Committee on Political Education which tries to exert pressure on this or that bourgeois politician) is brought up, it is met with guffaws and comments like: "You think you're going to take on the oil companies with \$50,000.00?"

Union members voted more than their usual monetary support last year for a strike to organize a union in a plant controlled by cont. on p. 8

SF Strike

cont. from p. 7

confusion, is that the capitalist class was able to isolate the most advanced workers. Those workers who walked the picket lines 12-20 hours a day in the rain, those workers who had their whole families out on the lines with picket signs, those workers who brought food for everyone so that the strike could keep going, those workers who walked 8 hours at the hospital, then on to the "Muni Barns" for another 8 hour stint, home for 4 hours of sleep and then down to the docks at 5am to set up the lines there. Those workers who stepped forward ready to lead their class, were set up and sold-out by the henchment for the capitalists, the union MISLEADERS!

What then are the lessons that the working class can draw from this strike? Firstly, we must have a political party that truly represents the interests of our class. We do not need the union "leaders" who sold out our strike (we got \$45 and 1/5 of a dental plan). We do not need the labor (AFL-CIO) bureaucracy that divided and disorganized us so as to set us "up for fascism". We do not need "liberal" politicians like Mayor Alioto. Alioto got his start in politics by busting the Fisherman's Union. He then sprang to fame as the head of the

S.F. Redevelopment Agency which effectively wiped out 2 of the largest working class communities in San Francisco. And now he steps forward as the "champion" of the rights of labor. No we don't need leaders who are one day threatening to arrest us and the next saying that policemen should not be used to settle labor disputes. (Ha Ha!) We need a party with propaganda teams that can get out leaflets exposing the lies that the capitalist media spreads. Leaflets that point out that it is the capitalist that doesn't care about the patients in County hospitals. Otherwise, they would hire enough staff, and enough money for equipment in order to give the workers the decent health care all year round. Leaflets that show that it is the capitalist class that doesn't care about the environment. The garbage that flowed into the bay during the strike doesn't hold a candle to the industrial pollution that pollutes our bay daily. We must have propaganda to show the workers that it is the capitalist class that doesn't care what happens to old folks. Otherwise, they wouldn't force them to live on fixed incomes while inflation skyrockets. We must have a party that can set up study circles to teach Marxism-Leninism to the advanced workers who step forward to lead their class.

Footnote
1. Dimitroff, United Front Against Fascism.

CRIME

cont. from p. 4

Capitalism robs us of the value we create on the job. Capitalism creates a government of ruling class criminals of the caliber of Nixon, Ford....

Who is the real criminal? The junkie who rips off your T.V. set or the system which robs us of a decent way of life, of food of health, of education and housing! Capitalism is the crime against the vast majority of workers. The only way we can solve "crime on the streets" is to wipe out crime in the White House, crime in the Pentagon, crime in the banks and establish a system of socialism, where the proletariat runs the government, where the production is in accordance with the needs of the people and not the desire of capital for maximum profits.

History has proven that the criminal system of capitalism cannot be wiped out without the guidance of a general staff, a conscious Marxist-Leninist Communist Party to lead the army of the working class to victory over the bourgeoisie.



MA BELL

cont. from p. 7

the Coors family (of Coors beer fame) which is a major spokesman for the anti-working class, pro-fascist forces in Colorado and the whole country. They also showed their support for the struggle of the farmworkers by large donations to the UFW.

A resolution was passed unanimously calling for President Nixon to resign and for new elections to be held. Workers voted to go beyond the grievance procedure and take legal action against the company's secret police (the security department), which is searching lockers, interrogating operators and, some say, even tapping phones of active unionists on the pretext of investigating illegal drugs. At the same meeting, they enthusiastically supported the miners in Harlan County, Kentucky, in their militant fight to organize mine workers in Appalachia.

We have to go beyond these few instances, though and begin to ORGANIZE the struggle against fascism. As members of the working class, we face a capitalist class that controls us politically as well as economically. And we have to take up the POLITICAL struggle against them. This means using every means at our disposal from the grievance procedure to leaflets, meetings, protest demonstrations and our strikes to expose them, what they are doing to us now and what they have in store for us: fascism and slavery.

We need to organize a general staff that will tie all the little droplets of struggle into a torrent of revolution.

Fascism

cont. from p. 4

gers recently called in security police to harass a group of communist workers who were legally passing out leaflets to the Levi employees.

The City of Albuquerque as a whole has increased the size of its police force tremendously and recently tried to merge the city and county police for "more efficient (more fascist) law enforcement." This merger attempt was voted down by city and county residents. If police terror is becoming "more efficient" in New Mexico, it is also becoming more open. An Albuquerque City policeman, fired for pistol-whipping a man, threatening to castrate him and tying a bed sheet around his neck and threatening to hang him, stated publicly that, "It was not improper. We have been doing the same thing for a long time." This is undoubtedly true, but open admission of such police brutality by the police themselves is another sign of rising fascism. And last but not least, the new City Commission Chairman, Ray Baca, formerly held the job of training the fascist Brazilian police in advanced techniques of torture and murder. He is therefore well equipped to do the same job in Albuquerque, for the same purpose: that of keeping down the struggle of the working class and oppressed peoples for preservation of their democratic rights.

It is clear that the ruling class is pushing fascism in every area of its evil capitalist system. Thus to stop the drive toward fascism, we have to do battle with capitalism itself. And the only way to do this is with a highly organized working class, fighting together with the oppressed peoples in an anti-fascist

united front under the leadership of a multi-national Communist Party.

GARDCO

cont. from p. 6

of the movement showing the connection between their struggle and the imperialist system as a whole, by consistently bringing socialist literature to the workers, by making vivid political exposures of the whole economic and political system and by concentrating this activity towards the most advanced workers through the consolidation of factory circles. The building of factory circles must be seen as the key link in our work at Gardco and any other factory. It is through these circles where the advanced workers are instilled with socialist ideas, learn the workings of the system and act as a base to influence the rest of the shop - to make EVERY FACTORY OUR FORTRESS!

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MAY DAY

cont. from p. 6
ranks of workers behind their union banners...veterans of WWI, some cripples, in their over-seas caps...a contingent of Irish and another of Scottish workers, both in kilts, behind their respective bag-pipers...from the Harlem ghetto, massed thousands of white-robed followers of the religious leader Father Divine...And a contingent from my own union about which I must say a few special words.

Most passenger ships then required licensed officers to wear uniform, as did some freight ships. In addition, many such men were at the same time officer members of the US Naval or Coast Guard Reserves. In our contingent, all marchers wearing uniform were placed together in the front ranks.

As we drew near to a street corner, I saw standing there a group of five German naval personnel - 2 officers and 3 enlisted men. "Hitlerites" I thought. As a challenge, as we drew up to them I raised my arm in a clenched fist "salute". I was astounded when first one of the officers and then quickly the other 4 men stood to attention and returned the salute! For them, fool-hardy? Yes, certainly. If some rat photographed the incident and turned the photo over to German authorities those men were in lots of trouble. But, the true meaning of May Day was affirmed; and the incident taught me, unforgettably never to pass judgment upon any person until knowledge is at hand to justify the judgment.

Already moving to the right before WWII began, counter-revolutionary social democrats in control of the CPUSA used the war as an excuse to help the AFL-CIO rightists abolish May Day demonstrations. "During the war, the working class everywhere observed May Day by staying on the job and producing the weapons...", said Alexander Trachtenberg, a member of the CPUSA Nat. Committee, in a 1947 pamphlet.

We who were using "the weapons" would not have felt any difference, in supplies, if on just one day each year our class brothers and sisters at home came into the streets to unitedly demonstrate their struggle against Fascism and to tell us they were still protecting our rights as workers for the day when we would come home. As it was, many men over seas developed a bitter feeling that at home there was more interest in over-time and "patriotic" speeches than in getting the way over with.

WWII is long past, but in the USA counter-revolutionary social democracy still dominates and celebration of May Day is at a level not much higher than that of Ground Hog Day. When, once more, we travel the road of expansion without limit and prosperity without end; when Thank God we are walking down that "peaceful path to socialism" - who needs May Day?

Say it Loudly and Clearly:
We, the Whole Working Class of the Whole World, Need it BADLY!

Inflation...unemployment...
reduction of living standard...

LENIN and STALIN

cont. from p. 3
The foes of socialism were numerous, clever and pitiless. They fought "for keeps"; whoever expected to defeat them had to fight "for keeps", too. No doubt errors, excesses, injustices were committed in the course of the years-long struggles. These occur in every war.

Not Stalin alone, but the Political Bureau, Central Committee and Congresses of the CPSU developed and carried out the policies of 1924-53. That they were, in the main, correct policies is proved by the fact that they successfully carried forward, along the Lenin-charted path, the transition to socialism.

On Stalin's gravestone should be inscribed: Under his leadership, Socialism was established irrevocably in the USSR.

My wife and I visited Lenin's Tomb and Stalin's grave in the burial place of the greats of international Socialism between the Tomb and the Kremlin wall, in the Spring of 1973.

The waiting line begins to form about 8 am, regardless of weather, as it has every day since Lenin was first entombed (except when Moscow was under siege during WWII.) It is at that time 6 to 8 blocks long and grows longer as the day wears on. We arrived at 8:30 am, but had to stand in line

in a pouring rain for 3-1/2 hours, waiting our turn. From 9 am, to 1 pm., only foreigners are admitted; from 1 pm to 6 pm, only Soviet citizens. After passing through Lenin's Tomb, those who wish continue through an entrance to the graveyard where Stalin rests in a special plot. It is a custom that they who wish to especially honor someone will remove any medals or decorations they may be wearing and leave them atop that grave. At about 12 noon, when we arrived, Stalin's grave already was literally carpeted with medals and decorations.

Once he lay beside Lenin in the Tomb. The counter-revolutionary liar and clown, Krushchev had him moved to a village graveyard. After Krushchev was booted out in disgrace, the PolitBuro had Stalin moved back to where he now rests. Half-way to where he belongs, beside Lenin; half-way to where one day (not too far off, I believe) the Marxists-Leninists of the USSR will see that he is returned.

Let the living Krushchevites, the Solzhenitsyns and all such scum, wet the world with tears shed for their failure to destroy socialism.

On March 5, the poor and oppressed should mourn the death of Stalin on that sad day in 1953; and on April 22, we should rejoice as nearly all Soviet citizens do, that Lenin came into the world on that great day in 1870.



J.V. STALIN

V.I. LENIN



pollution of the air we breathe and the water we drink...the threat of WWII (probably atomic) chaotic waste of raw materials already in short supply...all these and others like them, are international problems, needing international solutions, by the only class able to act unitedly on an

international scale - the working class, US.

It will not be easy, and it will take time; but now is the time to begin, to revive May Day and make it live forever as the day of working class unity, in struggle to save and improve the world we live in.