

It's an Insurance Company Rip-Off

Clinton's Killer "Health" Plan



York/Medichrome

After months of secret meetings, speechifying before endless seminars, outright lies, and craven backpedaling before the powers of the medical establishment, Bill and Hillary Clinton unveiled their vaunted "health" care plan earlier this month in a carefully engineered megaleak to the press. While Clinton plays to popular outrage over the catastrophic state of the American health care system, pretending that his aim is to extend coverage to all, his real patient is Wall Street's profit margin.

From price-gouging pharmaceutical companies to hospitals to insurers, the medical industry is already one giant rip-off. For the 37 million people who have no insurance, medical care—from the most minimal preventive treatment to the direst life-threatening emergency—is an unaffordable luxury. Tens of millions more either have inadequate coverage or are forced to wait all day in overcrowded clinics or get shunted off to understaffed, squalid public hospital emergency rooms. Even those who have health insurance live in fear of being laid off from their jobs, knowing that they could end up having their life's savings wiped out by one short hospital stay. The present system of "wealth care USA" means that workers suffer one of the highest rates of job injuries and industrial diseases in the world, and black children in Harlem die

We Need:

- Free, Quality Health Care for All
- Free Abortion on Demand
- Massive Funding for AIDS Research and Care

of measles and malnutrition. The health care crisis is so bad that even mainstream commentators now regularly point out that the U.S. and South Africa are the only two industrialized countries in the world without a national health system of some kind. The racist connection is no coincidence. Blacks and Hispanics in the U.S. are two or three times less likely

to have health insurance than whites. Infant mortality among black children is more than double what it is for whites. While blacks have a much higher incidence of heart attacks, they have far less access to cardiac bypass operations. Meanwhile, the AIDS epidemic and the resurgence of "diseases of poverty" like TB ravage the gay population and the

people of the ghettos and barrios, consigned to death by this bigoted, racist ruling class.

For all the hype about "universal health coverage," Clinton's "managed competition" scheme is designed by big business for the benefit of big business. Speaking in August, Clinton railed that too many people were getting "a free ride out of the present system." "Big business," reports the *New York Times* (11 September), "is one of the biggest boosters of the President's approach today." It's not hard to see why.

• The Democrats' proposal will mean a massive assault on health care benefits won through hard-fought union struggles. By mandating a limit of 7.9 percent of payroll costs for medical contributions, the plan would put *billions* into the coffers of corporate giants like

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Virginia Court Takes Child From Lesbian Mother

On September 7 a Richmond, Virginia circuit court judge ordered Sharon Bottoms' two-year-old son Tyler taken away from her, simply on the grounds that she is a lesbian. For thousands of gay parents raising children, the decision sends shock waves across the nation. Do gay parents have any rights at all to their children? Apparently not in Virginia, one of four states which legally deem gay parents "unfit." Two states, New Hampshire and Florida, bar gays outright as adoptive parents. A nationwide patchwork of reactionary state anti-homosexual and anti-sodomy laws make it a nightmare gamble as to when and where gays may suddenly find them-

selves entangled in the clutches of the law, their livelihoods and families at risk.

In the case of Sharon Bottoms, Judge Buford Parsons Jr. ruled that she was an "unfit parent" because her homosexuality violates Virginia's sodomy law, one of the most severe still on the books. He turned her son Tyler over to his grandmother, forbidding Sharon to see him except twice a week, and never in her own home or in the presence of her companion April Wade, who has helped raise the child for much of his young life.

The couple, both working-class young women who have fought hard to build a decent life for themselves and for Tyler, are determined to continue the fight.

Sharon Bottoms (left) with her companion April Wade and photo of Sharon's son Tyler.



Brit/Richmond Times Dispatch

"I'm a good mother. I'm a good person," says Sharon. "I don't understand why, if you're gay or lesbian, you don't have the same rights as anyone else." The Virginia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which has been providing legal counsel to the embattled mother, has said it will almost certainly appeal the case to the Virginia Supreme Court.

The court system is already rigged against them. After all, the Virginia Supreme Court in 1985 declared that homosexuality in and of itself is sufficient reason to lose custody of your child. Only a few decades ago Virginia's "miscegenation" laws were still on the books—that infamous legal racism which outlawed interracial sex. In 1986, Georgia's Supreme Court upheld its state sodomy law, in the *Bowers v. Hardwick* case, where two men were convicted of sodomy for consensual sex in the privacy of the home.

The bigoted and racist social climate hasn't qualitatively changed since the "Reagan years." As we have pointed out in the fight over open gays in the military—a simple democratic question—that supposed "friend of gays," Bill Clinton, has repeatedly capitulated to right-wing bigots, because of their common support of "family values." The

institution of the family is the basic social unit of bourgeois society and a bedrock of conservatism, reinforced by religious ideology, and as such it is enforced by the capitalist political and legal system. In the name of upholding "family values," the Virginia Court didn't hesitate to rip up Sharon Bottoms' family and take a two-year-old child away from his mother.

Anti-sodomy laws are vicious weapons against those who "deviate" in any way from the monogamous heterosexual family. Sexuality, personal living relations and whether or not to have and raise children are among the most intimate and sensitive questions—areas in which the state has no business intervening. We fight for the abolition of all anti-gay and anti-sex laws (including "age of consent" laws) as part of our working-class socialist struggle against the grip of the patriarchal family, the capitalist state and profit system. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 that established workers rule smashed the hideous all-sided reaction of the tsarist empire. The communists soon abolished all laws against homosexuality and the shameful distinction between "legitimate" and "illegitimate" babies, as part of their efforts to liberate women and open the road to human freedom. ■



TROTSKY

For Revolutionary Leadership of the Labor Movement

The American union movement is reeling under the blows of more than a decade and a half of capitalist offensive. During the late 1920s, in a period with striking similarities to today, James P. Cannon, the Communist leader who became the founder of American Trotskyism, wrote of the treachery of the job-trusting AFL skilled trades tops and the need for class-struggle organizational forms and leadership to organize the unskilled workers



LENIN

in basic industry, foreshadowing the explosive rise of the industrial unions of the CIO in the 1930s. What's needed today is to sweep out the pro-capitalist AFL-CIO labor traitors and forge a revolutionary leadership in the course of sharp class struggles. As Trotsky emphasized in his last writings, in this epoch the unions can either be "secondary instruments of imperialist capitalism for the subordination and disciplining of workers and for obstructing the revolution," or under the leadership of the Fourth International they can "become the instruments of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat."

In recent years, the AFL unions, retreating before the assaults of the employers, have been declining in numbers and narrowing their base even more to skilled workers. The smashing of such unions as the steel workers, packinghouse workers and railroad shop crafts has robbed the AFL of a large mass of unskilled and semi-skilled workers who were a source of strength and a reservoir of militancy. This has wrought a profound change in its basic composition. The disintegration of the United Mine Workers union tremendously accelerates this process and raises very sharply the whole question of the future course and development of the American labor movement.

One of the hallmarks of the AFL unions under the leadership of the dominant bureaucrats has been an absolute incapacity for struggle against the open shop offensive. The policy of resistance has been replaced by the theory and practice of retreat and surrender; the "labor" leaders appeal for the right of the old organizations to exist in company-unionized form, by consent of the employers, as agencies of efficient production.

This course corresponds with the policy of the ruling bureaucracy. These bosses of the unions not only present no fighting program for the safeguarding of the unions, but openly and systematically sabotage every impulse in this direction coming from the rank and file. Their crusade against the Communists and the left wing is a part of their policy of erecting barriers against the unskilled and unorganized workers and of stamping out the remnants of militancy in the existing unions in order, as they hope, to render them acceptable to the employers.

A degeneration of class spirit in the old unions is the inevitable outcome of such a course. An inability to defend the existing unions and labor standards and an incapacity to organize the unorganized workers—the key to the future of organized labor in America—follow from it....

The growing unrest of the workers in many industries and their increasing readiness for struggle brook no delay. The future of the American labor movement is bound up with this question.

—James P. Cannon, "Trade-Union Questions" (July 1928), in *James P. Cannon and the Early Years of American Communism* (1992)

Clarification on the Vietnam War

In the article "Clinton's Hit Squad in Somalia" in our last issue (WV No. 583, 10 September), there is a reference to the Vietnam War as a "national liberation struggle," followed by a sentence referring to "a new colonial occupation" of Somalia. However, the Vietnamese struggle cannot be summed up as just a "national liberation struggle," and the situation in Somalia today is very different. This is not just an "academic" or historical question but touches on hard-fought programmatic differences between Marxists and opportunist pretenders.

When the south of Vietnam during the 1960s and early '70s was occupied by U.S. imperialist troops holding up a puppet capitalist regime, the question of the national emancipation of the south was posed pointblank; at the same time the deformed workers state of the north, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), was under direct imperialist military attack. The outcome of the national liberation struggle in the south hinged on the outcome of the war to defend the DRV against imperialist attack and the struggle to extend the *social revolution* throughout all of Vietnam and Indochina.

At the time of the 1973 Paris "peace" accords, we noted that despite withdrawal of U.S. forces, the real issues of the civil war remained unresolved and it was necessary to "carry the struggle against the forces of colonial and capitalist rule through to a victorious conclusion." The Vietnamese struggle con-

firmed Trotsky's theory and program of permanent revolution. We pointed out:

"In the present epoch, the weak bourgeoisies of backward countries, closely intertwined with imperialism and mortally afraid of an agrarian revolution which would sweep away their dominion, are incapable of carrying out the national and democratic tasks of the bourgeois revolution. Today these tasks can only be carried out by the dictatorship of the proletariat.... [The Vietnamh/ NLF/DRV, forced to rely on workers and peasants against imperialism, must acquiesce to certain revolutionary measures if they are to mobilize the masses. These fundamental characteristics of the epoch have made the Vietnamese war from the beginning a social revolution, with the workers and peasants on one side and the bourgeoisie ('national' and imperialist) on the other."

—"The Civil War Goes On," WV No. 16, February 1973

We insisted that revolutionaries must take sides in the *class* war in Vietnam for national liberation and social revolution against imperialism. While calling for proletarian political revolution against the Stalinist regime in the north, which had more than once sold out for the chimera of "peaceful coexistence" with imperialism, we called for unconditional military defense of the DRV and military victory of the DRV/NLF in the south, and raised the slogan "All Indochina Must Go Communist!" We hailed the heroic April 1975 victory of the Vietnamese workers and peasants.

This was very controversial at the time. While many New Leftists gave *political* support to the Vietnamese Sta-

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DIRECTOR OF PARTY PUBLICATIONS: Liz Gordon

EDITOR: Jen Norden

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Joan Parker

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Karen Valdez

EDITORIAL BOARD: George Foster, Frank Hunter, Jene Kerrigan, Len Meyers, James Robertson, Joseph Seymour, Alison Spencer, Marjorie Stenberg

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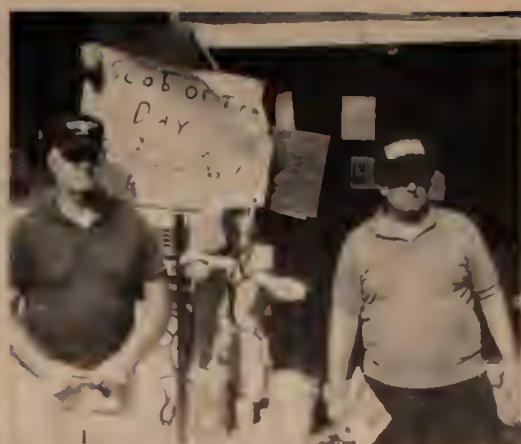
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Boone County miners and their families rally in Danville, September 3 (left). Manning picket lines at Eastern Associated's Prenter mine (right).

WV Photos

Showdown in West Virginia Coal Fields

Miners: Mobilize to Run Out the Scabs!

BOONE COUNTY, West Virginia—At the struck Motts Creek No. 7 mine in Twilight, West Virginia, Eastern Associated coal bosses are preparing for all-out war. A helicopter pad has been installed. A disabled miner in Twilight told *Workers Vanguard* that huge tents to house scabs, complete with kitchens, are visible behind fortifications built of crib blocks, big support timbers used in the mines. Peabody Coal (Eastern's parent company) and the other coal bosses are getting ready to hire scabs on a scale not seen in years to try to break the seven-month-old "selective strike" by 17,000 members of the United Mine Workers.

The companies have hired Vance International goons, notorious as scabherders, and have been using management personnel to mine coal for weeks. Now they are running ads in local papers for "additional personnel to restore production." And the government is mobilizing to enforce the scabbing. Labor board charges and anti-picketing injunctions are sprouting like ramp onions in spring. Paul Nyden of the *Charleston Gazette* (19 September) reports that "federal agents are moving into the southern coalfields this week."

The future of the UMW is on the line. The Trumka bureaucracy's program of begging for a "partnership" with the bosses has decimated the miners union, the historic shock troops of the American labor movement. Today it's do or die: miners must mobilize by the thousands to drive out the scabs and shut down production throughout the coal fields.

Over Labor Day weekend, *Workers Vanguard* traveled to rallies in Districts 17 and 31, where miner after miner told us of their hatred for the defeatist "selective strike" strategy which has knifed the miners, from A.T. Massey in 1984-85, through Pittston in 1989 to today. Miners know that striking a handful of mines at a few companies will never beat back this concerted attack by the coal bosses. Even at struck mines and preparation plants, rail cars and trucks roll out past the picket lines. Meanwhile, non-

targeted companies are filling any coal orders that aren't met. At a September 4 rally in Camp Muffy, near Morgantown, one miner shouted at Trumka, "We're going to stop them from moving coal!"

But despite the deep anger across the coal fields, there has been no break from the Trumka bureaucracy and its disastrous policies. *In order to save the union, militants must seize control of the strike.* Mass meetings must be convened in every district to elect authoritative strike committees that will pull out all the miners, sending out roving pickets to spread the strike to unorganized mines and appeal to workers on the railroads, at the docks, power plants and steel mills to stand with the UMW and refuse to handle a single ton of coal.

The Trumka bureaucracy is tied to the bosses' politicians, cops, courts and labor boards. Miners need a class-struggle leadership that will fight for complete independence of the union from the capitalist state. Militants can appeal to a long tradition in the coal fields of bringing out the entire UMW in defiance of the government's anti-labor legal arsenal, from the injunctions of the coal company judges to the Taft-Hartley law. A mobilization to defend miners' jobs, organize the unorganized and win back their "cradle-to-grave" health care could spearhead a fight for all the oppressed against the giveback/cutback assault. From West Virginia to South-Central L.A., we urgently need a workers party fighting for a workers government!

Trumka's "New Compact"

Trumka came to West Virginia on Labor Day weekend in a bus tour of the coal fields from Virginia to Illinois. At a District 17 rally in Danville, he blustered that "the coal operators will not run one pound of coal"...and then preached the gospel of Gandhi: for miners to lie down in front of scab coal trucks!

Miners aren't interested in lying down before the bosses, their judges and strike-

breaking injunctions. The average UMW miner is 46 years old—this strike is a life-or-death battle to defend the only union job they'll ever have. And strikers remember what Trumka's civil disobedience got the Pittston miners during their 1989 strike: 2,000 arrests, \$52 million in fines, and a sellout where UMW tops gave the company \$10 million in union dues! Trumka's idea of a fight is to wear his camouflage tie to Capitol Hill in Washington and hobnob with the Democrats.

Behind the strategy of the selective strike and civil disobedience lies Trumka's political program of "labor-management" cooperation to enable "America to compete economically in the global marketplace of the future" (*Charleston Gazette*, 6 September). This Labor Day column by Trumka is straight out of the Clinton White House's campaign for the "Workplace of the Future," a future that does not include unions.

Trumka and the rest of the company agents running the unions are pledging to police the working class, getting fewer workers to produce more profit. This is exactly what has happened in coal, where productivity has gone from 1.4 tons per man-hour in 1979 to almost 4 tons today. Less than 30 percent of coal mined is union. The "future" Clinton has in mind can be seen in the deadly conditions at small, non-union mines across Appalachia, where over two dozen miners have been killed this year.

It can be seen in the "interim agreement" for 7,500 miners at four operators in the Independent Bituminous Coal Bargaining Alliance, which Trumka claims will "end the traditionally hostile relationship between miners and coal operators" (*Labor Notes*, August 1993). In exchange for some jobs at new mines, the union tops have "agreed to help management improve the competitive position of its operations"—and cut even more jobs! Miners at Drummond coal, outraged that there would be no ratification vote on this agreement until the BCOA strike is settled,

staged a wildcat strike in July.

As Trumka pushed civil disobedience on September 3 in Boone County, U.S. District Judge Dennis Knapp in Charleston issued an order to curtail picketing at Eastern Associated and Arch Mineral mines in the area. This is the same Judge Knapp who declared that the June 1989 walkout of 43,000 miners in defense of the Pittston strikers was "illegal." Trumka and Co. dutifully ordered the miners back to work. Now, the UMW tops have ordered strikers to do nothing as the coal companies built barracks at the Montcoal mine, stocked scab supplies at an Eastern warehouse in Nitro, and even used union railworkers on CSX to bring them in.

But many strikers and supporters know they have to stop the scabs. Wanda Blevins, the president of a Boone County women's auxiliary, said "we women have to do it." On September 15, 200 people massed at the gate to Eastern's Prenter mine; 14 federal marshals quickly arrived to post the court injunction on the picket shack. There have been reports of scab trucks and rail cars losing their loads of coal in Pennsylvania and Illinois. As the miners' tempers begin to boil, Clinton's Secretary of Labor Reich has brought in a "special" mediator, William J. Usery, who Bush brought in to broker the sellout of the Pittston strike.

In the 110-day coal strike of 1977-78, miners faced not only the coal operators and strikebreaking Taft-Hartley injunctions of Democratic president Jimmy Carter, but also the backstabbing betrayals of their pro-Labor Department "leaders," the Arnold Miller regime. The miners burned the injunctions and ripped up one sellout "contract" after another, but eventually the "united front" of coal company fat cats, Democrats and bureaucrats wore down their resistance. As we wrote in our pamphlet *The Great Coal Strike of 1978*, the miners and all workers must "break through the limits imposed by pro-capitalist leaders, the employers and the state" to oust the bureaucracy and build a workers party. ■

linists—a popular chant was "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh—NLF is gonna win"—also active in the "antiwar" movement at the time were some anti-Soviet social democrats around the "International Socialists" (I.S.), which grew out of the Berkeley-based Independent Socialist Committees led by Hal Draper. Given their view that the Soviet Union was a new form of "bureaucratic collectivist" class society, the I.S. should logically have refused to side militarily with a Soviet-allied NLF/DRV, in keeping with their usual stance for the (mythical) "third camp" between Stalinism and imperialism. But not wanting to be so

far to the right of the student activism which was sweeping the campuses, as the war dragged on the I.S. came out for "the victory of the NLF over the U.S. and its puppets." Its excuse: "self-determination for the Vietnamese." Thus the I.S., lacking the courage of its anti-communist convictions, found it very convenient to separate the fight for national liberation from the social revolution in Vietnam.

Today, the slimy tradition of the I.S. is carried on by the International Socialist Organization, a group of social-democratic pinks who follow the views of Tony Cliff in Britain, who described

the Stalinist-ruled workers states as "state capitalist." When the Soviet Union was threatened with real capitalist counterrevolution, with Yeltsin's August 1991 pro-imperialist counter coup, these "third campers" happily hopped onto Yeltsin's barricades, proclaiming the "Russian Revolution of 1991" (see "What Is the ISO Afraid Of?" on page 5). During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, these "yellow ribbon socialists" offered up Richard Nixon's slogan "No More Vietnams" (an appeal for an "antiwar" section of the American imperialist ruling class).

And now as the victory of counterrevolution in the ex-USSR and East Europe

leaves the Cuban deformed workers state dangerously exposed to the wrath of Yankee imperialism, what does the ISO do? At a demonstration called by the ISO in Boston on September 11 over U.S. terror in Somalia, they shut down their own demonstration—five minutes after it started!—when Spartacist participants initiated a chant in defense of the Cuban Revolution. We say: Vietnam was a victory! Stalinism is the gravedigger of revolutions—For socialist revolution to sweep away capitalist counterrevolution! Defend Cuba and Vietnam against imperialism and counterrevolution! For world socialist revolution! ■

Young Spartacus

Capitalism Is Hell for Minority Youth Clinton's Boot Camps

Jobs for All! Black Liberation Through Socialist Revolution!

Life for youth today sucks royally. High schools function more as holding pens than institutions for learning. Working-class and minority youth who make it out of high school can rarely afford college. If they're really lucky, they get a loan from Uncle Sam and then use a college degree to flip burgers at non-union jobs to eke out a "living" while trying to get out of hock to the government. Unemployment rates for black male youth now top 50 percent and the cruel pathologies of ghetto life enforced by the systematic racism of this society mean that some 25 percent of black men in America are caught in the wheels of the capitalist "justice" system—i.e., in prison or on parole. This society is rotten to the core, but its commander in chief, Boss Clinton, says the problem isn't the system, it's the kids.

Teenagers beware—President Clinton is on a move to "reclaim America's youth" by herding high school dropouts into National Guard boot camps and forcing high school students to perform "mandatory community service" to earn a diploma. "Education" in the USA has plunged from the "three R's" to the three S's: *slammers, soldiers and slavery*. Clinton aims to conjure up images of FDR's New Deal or JFK's Peace Corps, but his "youth at risk" agenda more resembles Hitler's youth movement. An aide to Georgia Democrat Sam Nunn, a big-gun backer of boot

camp, spilled the beans on the bourgeoisie's goal of broadening their creeping police state: "To put it undelicately, this is a way for the National Guard to create a role for itself in the 21st century. It's a post-cold war response" (*New York Times*, 11 August).

Liberal pacifists wanted a "peace dividend" and Clinton is giving it to 'em in the form of domestic militarization of youth. Some \$57.5 million was forked over by the Defense Department to set up ten "National Guard Youth Corps" boot camps. And \$10 million of that is specifically channeled to the California Guard for work in Los Angeles—the city that hlew a gaping hole in the "New World Order" with the multiracial upheaval of disenfranchised youth outraged by the acquittals of the cops who beat Rodney King.

At that time, President Bush deployed the National Guard to beat back thousands of young people with a massive show of police-state force. Now Clinton wants to get youth into uniforms—to shoot women and children in Somalia and be put on the front line for the ruling class against labor strikes and protests at home. Illinois governor Jim Edgar launched his state's boot camps for youth with a blunt statement: "It is far better to have the guard members teaching self-discipline, fitness, family responsibility and other skills than to have the Guard restoring order to neighborhoods torn asunder by civil war" (*Peoria Journal-Star*, 12 June).

Even youth who don't volunteer or get shoehorned into Clinton's boot camps can't escape government regimentation of their lives. At least 17 states currently mandate some form of unpaid "community service" as a graduation requirement from the public school system. "Some Students Call It Slavery," headlined a Waterbury, Connecticut newspaper. Bob Moore, a spokesman for the Maryland



High school equivalency boot camp inmates drill. Clinton's plan for regimenting youth with no future under capitalism: slammers, soldiers and slavery.

State Teachers Association, said: "Lincoln must be turning over in his grave. Why? He freed the slaves. Emancipation Proclamation, remember?"

Big Brother Is Watching You

The youth boot camps accept 16- to 18-year-old volunteers who pass a drug test and are not presently "involved with" the criminal justice system (i.e., not currently in prison or on parole). After five months of indoctrination—seven hours of military-style classes and drills every day—camp inmates who complete the requirements for a high school equivalency diploma are promised \$2,200. But the money must be used to find a job (there aren't any) or spent on a college training course (which costs so much it'll be gone in a jiffy). Boot camp inmates are also obliged to sign a "contract" with a Guardsman "mentor" who is given control over withdrawals from the youth's stipend account and snoops as a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" on a boot-camper's life for a whole year after their release! Housed on military bases, inmates leave only for authorized activities, "such as church services" (*Tulsa World*, 10 July).

Yet conditions are so desperate for working-class and minority families that, in Illinois alone, there were 1,000 calls from eager parents to the National Guard's toll-free number in the program's first 24 hours. The reason? Unfortunately, a lot of people buy the lie that the virulently racist but disproportionately black and Hispanic armed services are "equal opportunity employers"—and military hype about "discipline" and "self-esteem" is peddled as an answer to the hopelessness of youth who have been completely cast off by this society.

Clinton's program is a cruel hoax aimed at blaming the victims for their own oppression and then transforming them into thugs for the capitalist exploit-

ers. In addition to the boot camps, Clinton is pushing a "National Service" program that promises young people loans for college tuition if they enlist in the agencies of state repression: "We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new police corps, that will walk beats, and work with neighborhoods and build the kind of community ties that will prevent crime from happening in the first place" (*New York Times*, 2 March).

For Clinton to denounce "crime" is obscene. This Democratic war criminal unleashes heavily armed U.S. troops to slaughter Somali women and children, while racist cops in the ghettos and barrios routinely and wantonly attack blacks and Latinos—witness the police murder of Malice Green in Detroit and the beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles, among many others. A socialist revolution that expropriates the wealth from the capitalist class and creates a planned, collectivized economy and *jobs for all* is the real answer to crime which is endemic to a society divided between the haves and the have-nots.

As for the National Guard, let's not forget Kent State, 1970: four Vietnam antiwar student protesters were gunned down on a college campus by National Guardsmen (who were sent to the campus after being deployed against a national Teamsters strike). And we will not forget the 1968 murders at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, when three black college students were slain by state troopers backed by the National Guard.

We say: Not one man or woman, not one penny for the imperialist army! The ones who need the hoot are Clinton and the viciously racist ruling class he represents! That's a job for the working class, and if you're interested in joining the fight, enlist with your local Spartacus Youth Club today! ■

SPARTACIST LEAGUE/U.S. LOCAL DIRECTORY

National Office: Box 1377 GPO, New York, NY 10116 • (212) 732-7860

Atlanta
Box 4012
Atlanta, GA 30302
(404) 521-9338

Boston
Box 390840, Central Sta.
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 492-3928

Chicago
Box 6441, Main PO
Chicago, IL 60680
(312) 663-0715

Cleveland
Box 91037
Cleveland, OH 44101

Detroit
Box 441043
Detroit, MI 48244

Los Angeles
Box 29574, Los Feliz Sta.
Los Angeles, CA 90029
(213) 380-8239

Madison
Box 1492
Madison, WI 53701

New York
Box 444, Canal St. Sta.
New York, NY 10013
(212) 267-1025

Norfolk
Box 1972, Main PO
Norfolk, VA 23501

Oakland
Box 29497
Oakland, CA 94604
(510) 839-0851

San Francisco
Box 77494
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 777-9367

Washington, D.C.
Box 75073
Washington, D.C. 20013
(202) 872-8240

TROTSKYIST LEAGUE OF CANADA/LIGUE TROTSKYSTE DU CANADA

Toronto
Box 7198, Station A
Toronto, ON M5W 1X8
(416) 593-4138

Montréal
C.P. Les Attributs
B.P. 32066
Montréal, QC H2L 4V5

Vancouver
Box 2717, Main P.O.
Vancouver, BC V6B 3X2
(604) 687-0353

State Department "Socialists" Call the Cops— Down with Anti-Communist Exclusion! What Is the ISO Afraid Of?

Question: What "socialist" organization physically assaults socialists, excludes communists from "public" forums and asks the capitalist police to patrol their meetings?

Answer: The International Socialist Organization! The ISO, an organization of pale pink thugs who hailed the collapse of the Soviet Union, is now bustling around American campuses posturing as the "socialist alternative" and excluding genuine communists from their meetings. Even as the New York Spartacus Youth Club was handing out a leaflet protesting the ISO's anti-communist exclusion policy at Columbia University, the ISO branch in Austin, Texas called on campus and city cops—armed enforcers for the capitalist state—to keep Spartacists out of a forum titled "Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx."

Question: What does an ISO member wear to an anti-communist exclusion carried out by Texas cops at his behest?

Answer: A "Fight Police Brutality" T-shirt!!!

Question: How can you keep your campus safe from con artists peddling a fake "socialist alternative"?

Answer: Read and use the leaflet reprinted below!

Columbia students who expected to find an introduction to socialism at the International Socialist Organization (ISO) forum on September 8 instead found themselves in a meeting that genuine socialists were barred from entering. ISO members stood at the door with their arms crossed and forcibly excluded three members of the Spartacus Youth Club who had been leafletting for a public forum in defense of the Cuban Revolution and discussing the political differences between our Trotskyist party and the reformist ISO. A young woman who witnessed what was going on said to one prominent goon, "OK, I get it, they want to come in and you're the bouncer!" Who needs "socialist bouncers"?

After years of making "anti-democratic Stalinism" their excuse for siding with U.S. imperialism against the Soviet Union, the ISOers lifted a page from Stalin's book of tricks to exclude the Trotskyists. Or perhaps it's the Clinton regime, whose beat the ISO shuffles to (check out the pathetic "Clinton Watch" in *Socialist Worker*), that's rubbed off on these fake socialists. Just as Tipper Gore made a career out of rating rock music and slapped warning labels on albums deemed too "explicit" for youth, now the ISO appoints itself the campus guardian against explicit communists like us. Ask yourself, did you leave home to be policed by a gang of *in loco parentis* "thought cops"?

Exclusionism is soft-core violence. At the root of the ISO's gangsterism is the sharp contradiction between their real right-wing appetites and their professed socialist beliefs. They present themselves as the "socialist alternative" but in every conflict between U.S. imperialism and the former Soviet Union these "State Department socialists" sided with the CIA. They hailed the CIA-funded Islamic reactionaries in Afghanistan, they were cheerleaders for Polish Solidarność (a company "union" only Ronald Reagan could love and which today is eliminating abortion rights for women and forcing religious "education" on public school children), and they gleefully proclaimed

the collapse of the Soviet Union to be "the Russian Revolution of 1991." Capitalist counterrevolution in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has meant untold misery for the working masses of those countries—poverty, homelessness and starvation amid an onslaught of nationalist fratricide. Now that the unifying thread of anti-Sovietism no longer mutes their rivalries, the imperialist powers are trying to tighten the screw of exploitation on workers and minorities "at home." This is the "New World Disorder" which the ISO welcomed by crowing over the "death of communism" and which we Trotskyists of the Spartacist League, *uniquely*, fought against.

Substituting the fist for socialist consciousness has become a real method for the ISO. The ISO is the American offshoot of the British Socialist Workers Party (SWP), whose leader, Tony Cliff, broke from the Trotskyist movement in 1950 when he lined up with U.S. and British imperialism in the Korean War. These people don't believe in socialist revolution. In Britain they engage in pressure politics on the strikebreaking, pro-imperialist Labour Party, and in the U.S. they are a tail on Clinton's Democratic Party. Today this lot is so pumped up with the lie of the "death of communism" that they are noticeably stepping up their brutal physical assaults against their competition on the left. Our comrades in Britain have endorsed an appeal issued by other victims of SWP thuggery for a united-front commission of inquiry. In Toronto, the ISO's Canadian goons picked up a small female comrade of ours and slammed her, spreadeagled, into a metal door divider to exclude us from a public meeting last August. The ISO's political cowardice and bully boy tactics must be brought to a swift halt through condemnation, exposure, and a stalwart defense of democratic rights within the left.

The history of the left and the workers movement was one of spirited and open political debate until Stalinism (what Trotsky called "the syphilis of the workers movement") usurped political power and perverted the internationalist goals of the Bolshevik Revolution. We Trotskyists think that it is through workers democracy, the clash of opinion and test of action among various forces claiming to be socialists, that political clarity can be achieved and a Leninist party will be forged to intervene in social struggle. Our work, history and views are available for public scrutiny in carefully indexed bound volumes of our press going back to our inception as a political tendency.

It is no accident that the ISO went into a frenzy over our leaflet defending the Cuban Revolution. While the ISO shrugs at the American bourgeoisie and says "Cuba has nothing to do with socialism," we Trotskyists fight for an international extension of the revolution against the American rulers, including here, in "the belly of the beast." The Spartacist League was forged in a fight for defense of the Cuban Revolution against U.S. imperialism, while simultaneously fighting for a workers political revolution against the Castro bureaucracy. Today Clinton is outdoing Bush with an anti-Cuba blockade that is aimed

sive" vs. "reactionary" peoples and big powers vs. small. Thus the ISO claims it would defend the Caribbean sardine from the Yankee shark, but with "defense" from the ISO, the Cubans—and anti-imperialist North American youth—don't need enemies! Last Saturday, when the Spartacus Youth Club raised chants in defense of Cuba at a Boston protest called against the U.S. bombing of Mogadishu, the ISO abruptly ended the demonstration! We also saw what "defense" means to these fake leftists during the Persian Gulf War. Before the shooting started, the ISO claimed their position was "victory to Iraq," but



Toronto, August 1992: Picket line protest against International Socialists' thuggery.

at literally starving the Cuban people into submission. With the demise of the Soviet Union, the U.S. imperialists hope to finally restore Cuba to the days when it was a playland for Mafia gangsters and rum-runners like the Kennedy clan. By every measure—food, fuel, medicine, electricity—conditions are desperate. Now Castro is trying to buy time by selling off the very gains of the Cuban Revolution—the collectivized, planned economy is undermined through "joint ventures" and the introduction of the American dollar threatens capitalist counterrevolution from within, with the corresponding growth of social inequalities that have been unknown since capitalism was overthrown in this island nation. Cuba cannot stand alone!

Unable to see the *class line*, the ISO often substitutes the rhetoric of "progress-

when the war commenced, they buried their line under a blanket of yellow ribbons in the patriotic "Campaign for Peace" march, which called for United Nations sanctions to starve the Iraqi people, women and children first. In contrast, the Spartacus Youth Clubs built contingents for antiwar mobilizations around the clear political demand "Defeat U.S. Imperialism! Defend Iraq!" and we exposed the United Nations as nothing but a fig leaf for the reactionary global appetites of American imperialism.

On the domestic front, where the crucial question for revolutionaries is the struggle for black liberation, the ISO is a blank space in history. We Spartacists have initiated and organized mass labor/black mobilizations that have stopped the race-hate terrorists of the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazis from Philly to Atlanta to Chicago and San Francisco. The ISO stayed home. Even something as elementary as the right of black people to eat in the same restaurants as whites is a bridge too far for the ISO to cross. This summer the Spartacist League initiated protests coast to coast against Jim Crow racism at the Denny's restaurant chain—and the ISO was again a no-show. Where they do raise their heads, they're on the wrong side. At an anti-fascist mobilization in Vancouver in January, the ISO's comrades actually linked arms to bolster the line of cops to keep protesters from going after the skinhead thugs!

What kind of "socialist alternative" could be offered by an organization which championed capitalist counterrevolution abroad and won't fight racist reaction at home? For years, the ISO has

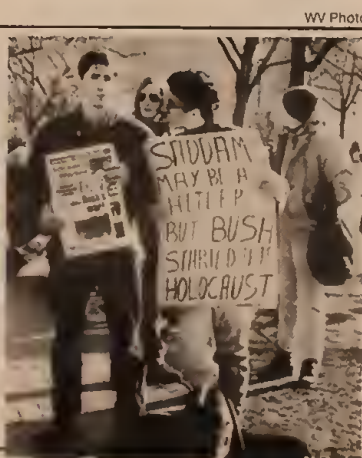
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Socialist Worker

October 1990

...ing with political opposition to Saddam, to the dictatorship, to the repression of trade unions and the oppression of the Kurds.
If we support Iraq should we then campaign and agitate under the slogan "Victory to Iraq?"
This would be a serious tactical error.
In the first place it would sow all sorts of confusion in our audience, who would not, from the slogan, be able to make a distinction

ISO cynically claimed to defend Iraq in Gulf War, but to say so out loud would be a "tactical error," standing in the way of "unity" with the yellow ribbon (American-chauvinist) "peace movement."



MEXICO CITY—Twenty-five years after one of the most savage mass murders in modern Latin American history, the spectre of the Tlatelolco massacre continues to haunt Mexican society. On 2 October 1968, the Plaza of Three Cultures in Mexico City's Tlatelolco housing project ran red with the blood of hundreds of student demonstrators who were shot down by police and army troops for the "crime" of demanding elementary democratic rights. Today, young people who weren't even born in 1968 demonstrate and chant "October 2nd will never be forgotten!"

A popular film, *Rojo Amanecer* (Red Dawn), depicts the events that rocked this country on that autumn afternoon. Two red flares from an army helicopter gave the signal for elite troops to open fire in cold blood on the dispersing students. Soldiers, who had hidden among the plaza's eerie Aztec ruins, emerged to hunt student "subversives" door to door through the housing project, dragging them off to be tortured and "disappeared" (the "lucky" ones were jailed for years). Even young children found among the demonstrators were shot dead. The media poured forth a torrent of lies about the government's "patriotic defense of the nation" against "agitators" and "terrorists." Ordinary citizens of the capital city were shocked into the beginnings of political awareness by the frenzy of bloodletting unleashed by a government that cynically claimed to represent the "continuity" of the 1910-17 Mexican Revolution.

Nobody knows how many people were murdered on that day 25 years ago, though they certainly number in the hundreds. Rumor has it that many of the bodies were taken away and burned, including those of the wounded who were finished off with a pistol shot to the head. The ruling class of Mexico wants no probing questions on what happened in Tlatelolco. At most October 2 is supposed to be a long-ago "historical event," as buried in sanitized myth as the figures of 1910 peasant revolutionary leaders Emiliano Zapata and Francisco Villa, assassinated by the Mexican bourgeoisie and then turned into icons for hypocritical commemorations on official holidays. The government's concern to keep "control" over the past was underlined this year when textbooks for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students were canceled in part because the Secretariat of Education wants to keep a veil of silence over the 1968 massacre. A government spokesman said that the rejected texts had "a pessimistic tone in evaluating our historical process."

With the October 2 anniversary drawing near, the pro-government magazine *¡Siempre!* (8 September) ominously hissed that those who "seek to appoint themselves judges of the past" are trying to "destabilize the nation." This warning was aimed at surviving leaders of the 1968 student movement who have joined with liberal intellectuals in a "Commission of Truth" to raise the elementary demand that government and army archives on the massacre be opened, as well as reformist calls that the perpetrators be tried in the courts. These calls are particularly utopian given that the courts belong to the same capitalist government of the PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) that ordered the massacre, and that has stayed in power since the 1920s through a combination of repression, nationalist demagoguery and government control of most worker and peasant organizations. This government is increasingly starving Mexico's working people in order to pay debt service to Wall Street banks, as Mexican capitalists stake everything on the "Free Trade Agreement," through which U.S. imperialism plans to take over even more of the Mexican economy, to build a "Fortress North America" in

Tlatelolco, October 2

The 1968 Massacre of Mexican Students



Ediciones Era photos

Students from Mexico City's Polytechnic Institute under the guns of regime's troops. Hundreds of leftist youth were gunned down in Tlatelolco massacre.

the face of increased competition from Japan and Germany.

The Shock Waves of 1968

In 1968 Mexico City, the host of the summer Olympic Games, was to be a showcase of capitalist "order" under the despotic regime of President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz. The Mexican bourgeoisie and its U.S. overlords were afraid that as heroic Vietnamese fighters were defeating the imperialists in Indochina, Uncle Sam's own "backyard" would be "destabilized." 1968 was the year when ten million workers took over the factories in France, in strikes touched off by student demonstrators protesting police repression and sympathetic to the Vietnamese. The shock waves were soon to extend to Rome, Tokyo and Berkeley, and all the way down to the Argentine city of Córdoba, where workers rose up against the military dictatorship.

In those days in Mexico, having long hair or getting caught kissing in the park was enough to get you beaten and arrested

for "violating morality." The mass student movement was ignited in protest against the savage attack on students by blood-crazed riot police who had intervened in a fight between two groups of high school students. Soon after, July 26 marches in solidarity with the Cuban Revolution and against police brutality were attacked, leading to broader protests, which brought further repression. Soldiers used a bazooka to blast their way into a vocational school where student protesters had taken refuge; troops occupied the huge National University campus and the Polytechnic Institute in Mexico City.

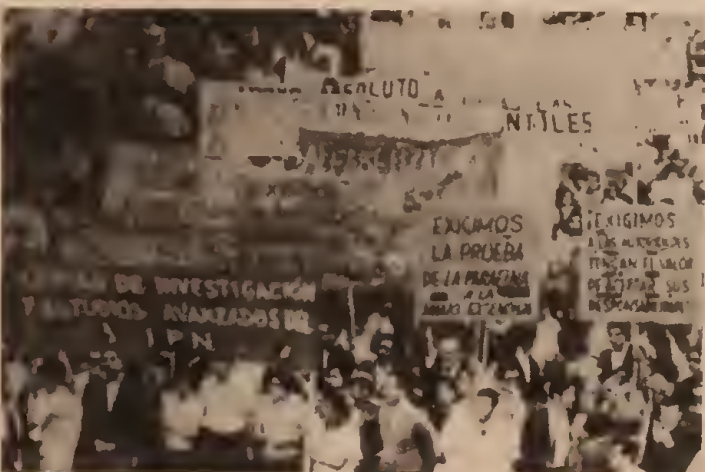
The National Strike Council, uniting representatives from 150 schools, was formed to coordinate protests demanding the freeing of arrested students (and later expanded to include all political prisoners, such as railway workers leaders jailed ten years earlier for leading a militant strike); compensation for injured students and the families of those killed; abolition of the special riot police

force; firing of the Mexico City police chiefs; and abolition of the infamous Article 145 of the penal code prohibiting "social dissolution" (subversion). (Veteran Mexican Trotskyist Octavio Fernández has told us Article 145 was drafted in 1941 largely to suppress "Trotskyist agitation" among the working class during World War II.) The student strike council demanded a "public dialogue" with the government on these issues. The high point of the movement occurred in mid-August, with marches of 150,000 and then 300,000 to the Zócalo, the central city square in front of the presidential palace.

Yet even the biggest student marches could not force the government to back down. The working class—and Mexico has one of the largest in Latin America—is the social force with the power to bring capitalist society to a grinding halt. Wide sectors of the working people sympathized with the students, whose marches were joined by groups of parents and housewives, a few peasant organizations and small "independent" unions. Some student activists made attempts to reach out to the factories. But the key sectors of the working class, chafing under the reign of PRI-appointed union heads who smashed all dissent with armed goon squads, could be mobilized only through a struggle which went beyond the limited democratic demands, student-centered strategy and reformist-nationalist illusions of the protest movement.

As we noted on the tenth anniversary of the massacre: "What was desperately lacking in the Mexico 1968 student struggles was a leadership with a broad revolutionary program that could mobilize the workers in a struggle for power and appeal to the impoverished peasant masses for support" ("Mexico City 1968: Student Protesters Massacred," *Young Spartacus* No. 67, October 1978). The anti-revolutionary role which

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Ediciones Era

Student and worker unrest exploded in Mexico in 1968.

Spartacus Youth Clubs Protest

U.S. Massacre in Mogadishu



Spartacus Youth Club member speaks at Columbia University protest against U.S. war crime in Somalia.

On September 9, U.S. Cobra helicopters fired their 20mm guns into a crowd of women and children in Somalia's capital. Eyewitness reports from the scene of this U.S. war crime describe a highway of death—the raw seepages of up to 200 human bodies, mainly civilian women and children, lay splashed across a Mogadishu street. U.S. Army Major David Stockwell made a chilling statement to a world horrified by this slaughter: "There are no sidelines or spectator seats. The people on the ground are considered combatants." In other words, every African baby is a "legitimate" target for the kill-crazy "peacekeepers."

Chanting "From Waco to Mogadishu, Clinton is a racist murderer!" Spartacus Youth Club (SYC) members swung into action to protest the carnage wrought by U.S. imperialism. As we have consistently and uniquely pointed out since the imperialist troops landed in Somalia in December, "famine relief" American-style means "let 'em eat bullets." Other left groups, from Workers World to the International Socialist Organization,

criminally masked the nature of the imperialist intervention in Africa by pleading for the U.S. (in UN drag) to deliver "food, not guns."

At a September 14 rally initiated by the SYC at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Howard sophomore William Gruen succinctly stated our position: "The Howard SYC calls for the U.S. to get out of Africa. Period!!!" Spartacus Youth Club spokesman Jeff London, whose speech is reprinted below, explained the role of imperialism in Somalia and pointed to the need for a revolutionary internationalist struggle in defense of black rights at home and abroad.

* * *

This mass murder is just the latest in the recent escalation of use of force by the barbaric, bloodthirsty and racist rulers in this country. The wanton slaughter of countless unarmed Somali men, women and children by U.S. imperialism proves beyond any doubt that the purpose of the military presence is not to feed

starving black Africans, even under the code name "Operation Restore Hope." It looks more like "Operation Restore Bloody Colonial Occupation!" Just yesterday, there were reports of tanks firing into an occupied hospital, killing at least 25. So one is left asking, "What does the mowing down of defenseless civilians have to do with 'humanitarian relief,' or 'ensuring the flowering of democracy,' etc., etc." *Nothing!!*

It was the Spartacist League that denounced this fraud from the outset, saying an aim of the occupation is to set up a permanent military installation, strategically situated astride the sea lanes of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, providing a forward base for intervention in the Near East. *U.S. out of Africa! U.S. global cops out of Somalia!* We also pointed out that the imperialists are trying to play this role on top of a debt-ridden financial structure and a population whose living standards have been driven down for the past two decades.

This chronically racist government is trying to assert its global leadership

through a massive military apparatus resting on a decaying economic base. No longer able to compete effectively with its main capitalist rivals, Japan and Germany, and after their insane anti-Soviet war drive, which led the ideologically bankrupt Stalinists to strangle the remaining gains of the Russian Revolution, American imperialism is now driven to use the Pentagon war machine to carve out its own exclusive trade zones and spheres of exploitation. To see that this job is done properly, the ruling class has secured for the job of Commander in Chief the racist executioner and Arkansas redneck, Democrat Bill Clinton. And he served notice last April in Waco, Texas, that if you get out of line and in the way of his aims, you'll pay.

Over the past decade, the only thing U.S. imperialism had to offer in reasserting its "superpower" status was military adventures on the cheap against poor Third World countries—the pillage of Grenada, the terror bombing of Qaddafi's Libya, the "turkey shoot" in Operation Desert Slaughter in Iraq, and now the murderous occupation of famine-stricken Somalia. But these cops of the world cannot reverse their decline by taking over small and impoverished Central American or African countries. The Pentagon's military power can change the real balance of economic forces in the world only if it is successfully directed against Japan in Asia and against Germany in Europe. In other words, another world war, only this time it will begin where the last one finished—with nuclear weapons.

These rapacious monsters must act as cops of the world today because the bloodsucking Wall Street banks and the profit-gouging Fortune 500 corporations exploit the working people of the entire world, from South Korea to South Africa, and from Central America to Central Europe. Only when our capitalist masters are smashed by the multiracial working class, allied with the black, Hispanic and Asian poor, can the drive toward a new world war be halted and the enormous productive capacity of this country be made to serve the genuine interests of all humanity. *Imperialist troops out now!* ■

Spartacist Events

Spartacist League Forums

New World Disorder and the Collapse of Stalinism Cuba in Peril

Bureaucratic Castro Regime at a Dead End— Defend Cuba Against Imperialism and Counterrevolution!

Eyewitness accounts—Speakers recently returned from Cuba

Speaker: Marjorie Stenberg,
SL Central Committee

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Emerson Hall, Room 305
Harvard University, Cambridge
For more information: (617) 492-3928

Speaker: Tom Coburn,
Spartacist League

Thursday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.
School of Management, Room 426A
Boston University
For more information: (617) 492-3928

BOSTON

Fall of USSR Unleashes Poverty, Nationalist Bloodbaths Anti-Immigrant Frenzy Sweeps Europe, U.S.

New World Disorder

Speaker: Ed Clarkson, SL Central Committee

Saturday, October 2, 7:30 p.m.
For more information: (312) 663-0715
Regency Room, Blackstone Hotel
636 S. Michigan Ave. (at Michigan and Belbo)

CHICAGO

Spartacist League Forums

From California to Berlin

For Workers Struggle Against Anti-Immigrant Racism

Speaker: Joseph Seymour, SL Central Committee

Friday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.
145 Dwinelle
University of California, Berkeley
For more information:
(510) 839-0851 or (415) 777-9367

BERKELEY

Friday, October 8, 7:30 p.m.
Yablon Cultural Center
7213 Beverly Blvd.
(west of La Brea)
For more information: (213) 380-8239

LOS ANGELES

Trotskyist League/Ligue Trotskyste Forums

Somalia, Iraq, Balkans Imperialist Butchers: Hands Off the World!

Speaker: Oliver Stephens,
TL Central Committee

Friday, October 1, 7:30 p.m.
Room L3, Britannia Community Centre
1661 Napier St. (off Commercial)
For more information: (604) 687-0353

VANCOUVER

Speaker: Andrew Shilling,
Trotskyist League

Saturday, October 2, 7:30 p.m.
St. Paul's Centre
427 Bloor St. West (west of Spadina)
For more information: (416) 593-4138

TORONTO

As Crowd Stands By Skinhead Racists Beat Black Woman to Death

Orange County, California

LOS ANGELES—It was broad daylight in the parking lot outside the mall in the Orange County community of La Habra when Tina Roxanne Rodriguez, a black mother of four, was savagely beaten to death by two white racists September 2. Mrs. Rodriguez was a passenger in a car which had been cut off by a speeding stolen vehicle. When she got out of the car to protest, she was set upon by two young white women, one an avowed fascist skinhead. Screaming racist slurs, they delivered a barrage of frenzied blows, pummeling Tina Rodriguez to the ground and repeatedly smashing her skull against the curb. This gruesome murder was witnessed by a largely white crowd of 30 people who looked on—*never lifting a finger* to stop this heinous attack! Tina was left to die in a pool of blood as her three-year-old daughter watched in horror.

Tina Rodriguez's tragic death comes barely a month after the highly publicized "discovery" by federal agents of a fascist skinhead plot to bomb the oldest black church in L.A. But the news of this brutal racist murder has been consciously buried by the bourgeois media in Los Angeles and Orange County in a conspiracy of silence which holds black life in contempt and gives the green light to future fascist attacks.

Both of the racist killers have been arrested, one as she confidently swaggered into the La Habra police station the next day on other business, but to



Tina Rodriguez
with her family.

date they have only been charged with involuntary manslaughter and "committing a felony against another because of race or color" ("La Habra Star" supplement, *Orange County Register*, 9 September). This was wanton racist murder!

La Habra, a racist enclave on the north end of Orange County, has an even smaller number of blacks than the county as a whole—less than one percent. Rusty Kennedy of the Orange County Human Relations Committee told *WV* that this was the same general area where a Chinese American youth was beaten by a gang of skinheads last year. More recently a contingent of Latino high

school students from La Habra were among a group of 300 youth who were sprayed with pepper gas and clubbed by Fullerton police during a demonstration/walkout over the lack of Latino teachers at their schools and the absence of any classes on Chicano subjects.

Workers Vanguard reporters went to La Habra and spoke to Mila Ramirez, the manager of a hair salon in the mall, who ran out to help after the driver of Tina's car had rushed into the shop begging for assistance. But she was too late. One witness commented, "I am so shocked, I can't believe it. It's like something that would happen in downtown

L.A." (*Whittier Daily News*, 4 September). But when Reginald Denny was brutally beaten in South-Central Los Angeles following last year's acquittals of the racist cops who beat Rodney King, Denny was rescued by black neighborhood residents who came out of their homes to save him after seeing live coverage on TV of the hideous assault!

With four children, ages 3 to 10, Tina Rodriguez had been forced on welfare and faced eviction after recently separating from her husband. This integrated couple had met in Tina's native Kentucky, where Jorge Rodriguez had been stationed in the military. Tina had recently talked of returning to Kentucky. Those hopes were dashed on September 2.

The tide of racist terror in this country permeates the Los Angeles area as the LAPD bigots-in-blue continue their rampage against the beleaguered black and Latino masses. The killers take their cue from the kid-glove treatment for the cops who beat Rodney King, and an L.A. mayor and city council trying to one-up each other on how fast they can get thousands more cops on the streets. Now the "Police Protective League" plans a provocative demonstration in front of the L.A. city council meeting this week, demanding higher wages for terrorizing the city.

It is urgently necessary that the power of Los Angeles labor—unions such as longshore, aerospace, city workers—be mobilized in defense of the besieged minority populations in Southern California. In the midst of the racist anti-immigrant hysteria campaign whipped up by capitalist politicians trying to divert anger over the economic depression ravaging the state, the integrated labor movement has the power to crush the skinhead/Klan vermin in the egg. Last year's strike by heavily Latino drywall construction workers seeking to organize a union repeatedly took on the racist powers that rule the reactionary bastion of Orange County.

In building a revolutionary party that champions the cause of all the oppressed, the racist murder of Tina Rodriguez must be seared into the memory of the working class. Vengeance for the victims of cop and fascist terror will come when the power of the capitalist class and their racist attack dogs is smashed by a social-revolution that will thoroughly clean out the rats' nests of reaction. ■

The ISO...

(continued from page 5)

peddled the obscure theory of "state capitalism" to describe the former Soviet Union and other Stalinist-ruled countries. But if these countries were capitalist, Germany's bourgeoisie, for example, wouldn't need to reintroduce private capitalist ownership in the former DDR. "State capitalism" is not really a "theory" but an *appetite*. The purpose of all efforts to define the USSR as a new form of capitalism was nothing other than to create a justification for support to one's "own" "democratic" bourgeois-

sie. You don't even have to be a Marxist to understand that the rise of mass unemployment, skyrocketing food prices, the destruction of childcare and the rise of racist anti-Semitic violence in the former Soviet Union is a step backward to the days before the Russian Revolution of 1917. You do have to be a communist to understand and defend the gains that were made and to know what to fight for now.

If you're looking for the real communists, check out the Spartacus Youth Club. If you want to do something about the racism and oppression endemic to this system, if you want to eliminate the threat of imperialist war and nuclear annihilation, join us!

New York Spartacus Youth Club
15 September 1993

Mexico 1968...

(continued from page 6)

fake-socialist groups can play was shown by the Mexican left organizations at the time. The People's Socialist Party (PSP), which supported the government outright, appealed to Mexican nationalism and ludicrously blamed the protests on "CIA agents." The reformist Communist Party (PCM) sought to channel activists into legalistic reform schemes and an alliance with a nonexistent "progressive bourgeoisie." And the small New Left, Maoist and pseudo-Trotskyist

groups bolstered illusions in everything from "student power" to guerrilla warfare, leading radicals away from the working class. Tragically, when the government's escalating repression culminated in the massacre of October 2, there was not even a small nucleus of a revolutionary Marxist party to draw the lessons from this experience and point the way forward.

As the 25th anniversary of the massacre draws near, Mexico resembles a pressure cooker. The glaring inequality, corruption and repression that were the backdrop to the 1968 movement have not gone away. Far from it—workers' wages have been cut by well over 60 percent in the last ten years, starving peasants are having their lands taken away for sale to U.S. agribusiness under the "free trade" treaty, while the rich flaunt their wealth all the more obscenely as their ideologues bray that communism and the struggle against exploitation have been "buried" forever.

But the lid is not kept on by repression alone. Because the PRI is widely despised, a new nationalist party has been formed to refurbish the capitalist system: the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), headed by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, son of General Lázaro Cárdenas, the bourgeois-nationalist president of Mexico who in the late 1930s nationalized oil and railroads and built the party which became the PRI, with its control of the unions. The PRD, this "new

improved" version of the PRI, obscenely unites the victims with the executioners of 1968: the remnants of myriad left groups (including the ex-PCM), former and current student leaders, "independent" union leaders and activists from populist community groups are now in the same party headed by a gaggle of former longtime government politicians—including Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, the former president of the PRI who was a close adviser to Díaz Ordaz! The pseudo-Trotskyist (and steadily disintegrating) PRT, a section of Ernest Mandel's United Secretariat, has shed its fig leaf of "independence" and announced it is supporting the bourgeois candidate Cárdenas for president.

Against this grotesque version of the "popular front" of class collaboration, the Grupo Espartaquista de México, as part of the International Communist League, fights to build the nucleus of an authentic Trotskyist, internationalist workers party, in close collaboration with the Spartacist League/U.S. and our comrades around the world. The "free trade" rip-off, as well as the growing importance of immigrant labor in the U.S., underline how the working class needs to unite its struggles across the border, on both sides of the Rio Grande, and across the Pacific Ocean to Japan and beyond, in revolutionary struggle for a socialist society. That struggle is the most fitting monument to the martyrs of Tlatelolco and all victims of capitalist repression. ■

Spartacist League Public Offices

—MARXIST LITERATURE—

Bay Area

Thurs.: 5:30-8:00 p.m., Sat.: 1:00-5:00 p.m.
1634 Telegraph, 3rd Floor (near 17th Street)
Oakland, California Phone (510) 839-0851

Chicago

Tues.: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Sat.: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
161 W. Harrison St., 10th Floor
Chicago, Illinois Phone: (312) 663-0715

New York City

Tues.: 6:30-9:00 p.m., Sat.: 1:00-5:00 p.m.
41 Warren St. (one block below
Chambers St., near Church St.)
New York, NY Phone: (212) 267-1025

“Health” Plan...

(continued from page 1)

General Motors, who currently pay out 19 percent. Company plans will be restricted to a “basic package” of health insurance capped at \$1,800 a year for individuals and \$4,200 for families. Workers who want to maintain their existing better coverage will either have to pay the difference from their own pockets or be taxed on any additional benefits secured from employers.

• Despite Clinton’s “pro-choice” posture during his election campaign, the word abortion does not appear once in the 246 pages of the administration’s draft proposal. This would effectively gut the right to abortion for the many women whose insurance plans currently cover the operation. Mammograms will be allowed only for women over 50, and Pap smears only for those with “considerable risk” of cervical cancer, although both procedures are advised for all women over age 35. Eyeglasses and hearing aids will be deemed “nonessential” and therefore not covered; ditto for routine physicals.

• Undocumented immigrants are to be excluded entirely, while emergency rooms—which are currently their only source of medical treatment—will have their federal aid cut back. In fact, if they show up at the hospitals, they’ll probably be arrested and deported.

• Medicaid and Medicare expenditures are to be slashed by over \$200 billion in the next five years, leading to a cut in services for the poor and elderly. A National Health Board would be set up to enforce overall spending limits by, for example, denying hip replacement and cardiac bypass operations to “elderly patients in declining health” (Time, 20 September). This will also lead to more hospitals shutting down wards or closing entirely, forcing layoffs of thousands of underpaid hospital workers.

In short, Clinton’s “health” plan is a blueprint for death! And to help finance this killer program, the government intends to levy an additional \$100 billion or so in “sin taxes”—which disproportionately screw poor and working people—slapping another dollar in taxes on the price of a pack of cigarettes, for example. Meanwhile, small businesses which may now have to provide health insurance to employees threaten to retaliate with wage cuts, layoffs and speedup.

This country needs decent, universal medical care without charge, but that means ripping the health “industry” out of the hands of the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association and the profit-gouging insurance giants. And all the liberals’ talk of “single payer” national health insurance and other “welfare state” schemes is just a smokescreen to cover for the Democrats’ “health care” swindle. What’s needed is nothing less than



Health benefits are a key issue in recent labor struggles. Southern California drywall construction strikers, June 1992 (above). Striking Eastern Airlines, NY Telephone and 1199 hospital workers in NYC, August 1989 (below).



a socialist revolution that sweeps away this entire capitalist system. For free abortion and contraception on demand—For massive funding for AIDS research and care—For free, quality health care for all!

“Managed Competition”: Insurance Company Spin-Off

The current health crisis has its immediate historical roots in the economic crisis of U.S. capitalism. The bankrupt American empire has tried to make up for its economic decline vis-à-vis its Japanese and German imperialist competitors through displays of might, like the bloody slaughter in the Persian Gulf and the neocolonial invasion of Somalia. Domestically, the American ruling class has sought to restore profitability by squeezing working people and minorities harder through rampant union-busting and budget-cutting. With medical costs chewing up over \$900 billion a year—more than the entire economy of Italy—the bourgeoisie sees health care as a prime target for rationalization

as it seeks to compete in the “New World Order” era of heightened interimperialist rivalries.

By 1991, the health care crunch had gotten so severe that *Fortune* magazine (1 July 1991) devoted a special report to the “American disease” of “unchecked health care spending.” In an outpouring of “blame the victim” vitriol, this mouthpiece for Wall Street’s financial empires traced “the root of the unrivalled cost increases” to “reckless pregnancies” by “underclass mothers continuing their addiction to crack cocaine,” to “the alcohol and drug abuse of workers,” to cigarette smokers (who are preponderantly poor and working-class) and, of course, AIDS. *Fortune*’s “remedy” was to introduce “more marketplace logic into the system.”

During the ‘92 election campaign, Clinton’s emphasis on health care “reform” won widespread backing in ruling-class circles. It is no accident of history that such a wholesale assault on the working people is undertaken by a Democratic Party administration in the

name of “progress.” As part of the division of labor between the two property parties of American capitalism, the Democrats posture as the friend of the little guy as opposed to the “big business” Republicans. So Clinton window-dresses his health plan with “concern” for the plight of the uninsured, while Hillary listens earnestly to ordinary people brought in to tell their heartbreaking stories—and it’s all just photo ops for the press.

Far from being a throwback to New Deal liberalism or a halfway house to socialized medicine, Clinton’s health plan is the product of a conservative think tank dominated by the insurance monopolies. In its essentials, the scheme was first promoted by Bush and is currently endorsed by most Congressional Republicans, though there is grousing over the “smoke and mirrors” financing of the scheme. “Managed competition” is the brainchild of the Jackson Hole Group of insurance company executives, pharmaceutical CEOs, AMA top guns and hospital administrators, who concocted the scheme in a luxury ski resort in Wyoming. One of its foremost advocates is the *New York Times*, which has run no less than 35 editorials in the past two years pushing the plan, and whose board of directors is infested with insurance and drug company executives. The chief architect is Alain C. Enthoven, a longtime consultant for Kaiser Permanente, the largest “health maintenance organization” (HMO).

Enthoven brings a wealth of experience to dealing in the arithmetic of death. Coming from the Rand Corporation, he was the top Defense Department “whiz kid” in the Kennedy/Johnson Democratic administration which launched the U.S. war on Vietnam. Systems analyst Enthoven authored a study which promoted a “cost effective” nuclear arsenal for “destroying the Soviet urban society, if necessary, in a controlled and deliberate way” (cited in Fred Kaplan, *The Wizards of Armageddon* [1983]). He applied the same skills to “rationalizing” U.S. imperialism’s losing counterrevolutionary war against the Vietnamese workers and peasants, with a grisly “body count” argument that additional U.S. ground forces would not be effective in killing “all the enemy.” So enamored was Enthoven with “kill ratios” that he stayed on to serve Richard Nixon as Undersecretary of “Defense.”

Now Enthoven has brought his “more bang for the buck” approach to maximizing American capitalism’s profit margins by plugging up the sinkhole of health costs. Warning that any attempt to guarantee equal health coverage to the entire population would “come at a high price in terms of efficiency,” he bristles: “I do not believe that justice demands that everybody must have exactly the same system and style of care” (*Theory and Practice of Managed Competition in Health Care Finance* [1991]). “Justice”? The bottom line in

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"Health" Plan...

(continued from page 9)

"managed competition" is to increase profitability by squeezing health care cuts out of the working class.

This scheme is designed to place the health industry even more firmly in the death grip of the insurance vultures, particularly the five largest—Aetna, Prudential, Cigna, Metropolitan Life and Travelers—while plowing under hundreds of smaller companies. These Wall Street giants are already highly proficient at reaping profits, including through grotesque bigotry—like excluding HIV-infected people by such practices as denying insurance to people living in Zip codes "known" to be gay neighborhoods! The Big Five—who are not covered by federal antitrust laws—recently banded together to form a lobbying cartel to boost Clinton's plan.

Another big winner in "managed competition" is the extortionate Blue Cross/Blue Shield network, which makes billions of dollars (1986 net revenue topped \$43 billion) despite its supposed "non-profit" tax-exempt status. New York's Empire Blue Cross is notorious for doctoring its books in order to secure regular and exorbitant rate increases. As documented in Esmond Coleman's *The American Health Care System—Betrayed by Greed* (Vantage Press [1993]), Blue Cross's boards of directors are dominated by banking, finance and hospital executives. Blue Cross made a financial killing when it was appointed "fiscal intermediary" for Medicaid and Medicare in the mid-1960s at the behest of the AMA and AHA, assuring that padded hospital bills would be "paid with a minimum of trouble, examination, and delay" while raking off its cut.

Under the proposed system, patients would be herded into giant HMO bureaucracies like California's Kaiser Permanente, notorious for its shoddy care and contempt for the poor (it refuses to accept patients from the state's Medicaid program), where doctors are pressured by economic incentives and bureaucratic intransigence to withhold treatment. Investors have a sharp eye on these medical cattle cars as a current and future source of high profits. And Hillary Clinton is in on the ground floor, with a "blind trust" invested in health-related industries (*Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 20 May). Symptomatic of the medicine-for-profit scam, one of the highest-paid CEOs in the country is Thomas Frist, head of Hospital Corporation of America, who pulled in a cool \$127 million last year.

Medicine for Profit in Capitalist America

The grotesque inequities in medical care are a symbol of the injustice, inequality and indignity of this society. While hospitals for the rich just "dump" poor patients because the paltry Medicaid fees don't pay enough, space age equipment like the \$2 million MRI and the \$5 million PET glisten in lavish private hospital suites. Meanwhile diseases like tuberculosis have been allowed to flourish once again by a system so demented that it will not spend the relatively small sums necessary to stop this dreaded killer. As Esmond Coleman summed it up in his book, "As it stands now, unless you are a very healthy millionaire, it is not safe to be alive in the United States."

The big business, medicine-for-profit forces in the Jackson Hole Group are the updated face of the health establishment which forged U.S. health care into the greed-ridden disaster it is now. In the early years of this century, most of capitalist Europe instituted some form of national health insurance as a means of defusing class struggle. Social welfare schemes were given an added impetus after World War II and the onset of the Cold War, as part of the ideological battle with the Soviet degenerated workers state and the deformed workers states

Italy's "Rodney King Case"

Spartacist Demonstrators Defend Immigrant Youths

In Milano, Italy, on the night of August 19, two North African youths, Sfouli Salim and Channouf Mahrez, were chased, seized and severely beaten by eighteen police officers in full view of a crowd of Italian citizens, who were themselves threatened by the police when they pleaded with the cops to let the youths go. Typical of bourgeois "justice," the persecution didn't stop with the cop attack but continued in the court system, where both youths were out-

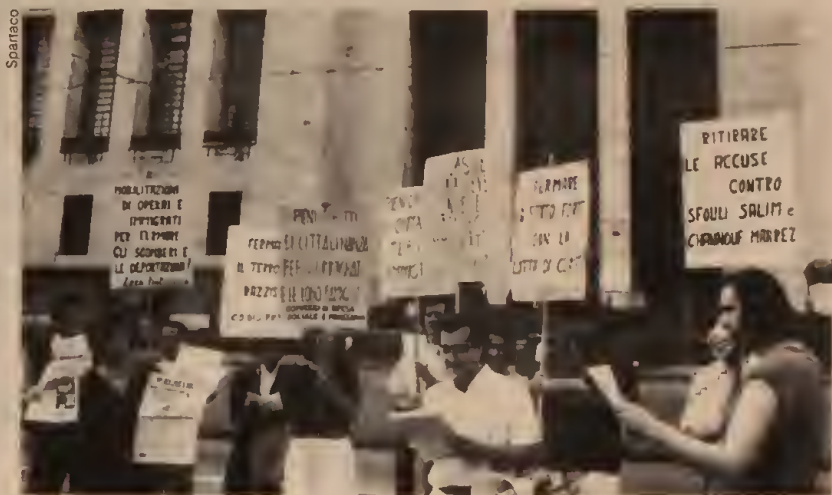
geously charged with "resisting arrest."

African immigrants are increasingly the targets of racist hatred and the scapegoats for attack as Italy plunges further into economic and political uncertainty. Our Italian comrades in the Comitato di Difesa Sociale e Proletaria and the Lega Trotskista d'Italia took the lead in combatting this wave of racist hatred and initiated a united-front defense demonstration to demand, "Drop All Charges Against Sfouli Salim and Chan-

nouf Mahrez" and "Stop the Racist Terror!" On August 25 the charges were dropped, and our comrades are proud to have been an active factor in exposing and defeating this racist frame-up.

Meanwhile, the erstwhile Stalinists of the PDS (Democratic Party of the Left) call for deportations and the ostensibly pro-communist split from the PDS, Rifondazione Comunista, calls for police action to deal with the "excessive concentration of immigrants in the urban centers"! As our comrades' leaflet stated, "The class-collaborationist politics of the sellout leaderships must be defeated through the construction of a revolutionary workers party, which includes immigrants in its ranks, and which will put an end to racist capitalism and build a workers government. Under such a government, workers tribunals will finally bring justice to the victims of racist terror!"

August 25:
Italian Trotskyists demonstrate outside Milano courthouse. Protest demanded charges be dropped against North African victims of police beating and called for worker-immigrant mobilizations to stop racist attacks and deportations.



of East Europe, where access to free, universal medical care was a right. This led to the establishment of the British National Health Service (NHS). But the American ruling class has never been forced to concede such broad welfare plans, partly because the proletariat has historically been fractured along race, ethnic and regional lines, and politically bound directly to the bourgeois parties.

A major factor in this equation of treachery is the role of the pro-capitalist labor bureaucracy. For years now health care benefits have been a major issue in strike after strike, as the bosses try to claw back union benefit plans. Yet while acquiescing to every wage cut, slashed benefit and "two-tier" wage system, the AFL-CIO executive board can't even pass a paper resolution to support women's right to abortion, let alone fight for equal rights for blacks, women and gays. Now, having helped put this governor of an open shop state into the White House, they are squandering \$4 million of unionists' dues money to join the insur-

ance tycoons in trying to sell Clinton's killer plan.

Meanwhile, the self-avowed "progressives" in the trade-union bureaucracy, like CWA vice president and "Democratic Socialist" Jan Pierce, push as an alternative to Clinton's scheme the so-called "single payer" plan. Modeled on Canada's national health insurance—where a government trust fund pays for all medical bills—this proposal also has the fulsome support of radlibs, like the *Village Voice*, and all sorts of fake-leftists from the social-democratic *Labor Notes* to the Communist Party, *Workers World* and the *Bulletin in Defense of Marxism*. In fact, the single-payer crowd is nothing but a pressure lobby on the Clinton White House. As Pierce frankly conceded: "We're probably not going to get it, but if we don't start bargaining from that position...we're going to go to a position that is probably even less than even Clinton wants to do" (*Village Voice*, 21 September).

Even taken at face value, the single-payer scheme is a bankrupt "lesser evil" accepting the dictates of the capitalist profit system and maintaining private medicine. While the Canadian system provides better general health care to the population as a whole, many people must wait for elective surgery or can't get access to expensive procedures requiring high-tech medical equipment because there isn't enough money in the tight budget. In the hands of the Clinton crowd, a "single payer" system would certainly be aimed at slashing existing union benefit plans in order to cut corporations' costs. More importantly, with an international recession and the end of Cold War, the Canadian system, like its counterparts in West Europe, is under sharp attack by the budget ax-wielders. In Britain the NHS has been virtually devastated over the past decade of Thatcherite austerity. Under capitalism, the social equation is always subject to recalculation; in the absence of social struggle, even the most minimal gains are swept away.

The fight for decent health care cannot

be separated from the struggle for gay rights, for women's rights, for full citizenship rights for immigrants, for black equality. What happens first to AIDS patients will happen next to leukemia patients. While the capitalists have their eye on the bottom line, budgetary considerations are often not even the main factor in bourgeois opposition to socially beneficial measures like distribution of condoms in schools to help combat the spread of AIDS or making contraception available to young women who don't want to get pregnant. Such relatively inexpensive measures have met with widespread opposition in ruling-class circles because they run against their "blame the victim," racist and anti-sex ideology which serves to bolster fundamental institutions of capitalist rule like the family and organized religion.

The struggle for decent health care exposes the gaping holes in all the pathetic patchwork reform schemes advocated by liberal social workers, social democrats and the like. In a system based on exploitation and the immiseration of ever greater layers of the population, in which minority youth are confined to ghetto hellholes with no prospect of an education or a decent job, no health insurance plan can assure the health of poor and working people. As we wrote in "Wealth Care USA" (*Women and Revolution* No. 39, Summer 1991):

"Health means much more than shots and pills and surgical knives: it is a decent place to live; plenty of good food to eat; knowledge of human biology; air clean of pollution; safe, decent working conditions; the principles of public health rigorously applied. Medicine can't save lives ruined by poverty and malnutrition."

The crisis of health care will end only with the triumph of a socialist revolution laying the basis for a society which will abolish exploitation and social oppression. When the workers are in charge of this planet, the only limits on human health will be scientific—and these will be constantly enlarged by thoughtful, energetic research. ■



Bay Area Spartacists in clinic defense call for free health care for all.

S.F. Demo...

(continued from page 12)

its colors, cannot begin to embrace its own class liberation without first militantly defending democratic rights of the foreign-born!"

Valerie West of the Partisan Defense Committee read a protest statement addressed to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and to Democratic president Bill Clinton, demanding the immediate release of hundreds of Chinese immigrants who have been imprisoned under brutal conditions in California (see box). The demonstration was given prominent coverage on a local Chinese-language TV broadcast, with chants ringing out in the background: "They made it here—Let them stay! Free the Chinese immigrants now!"

The Clinton White House has rallied every former presidential has-been—from Gerald Ford to Jimmy Carter to George Bush—to push for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which would provide an untrammelled field for imperialist exploitation south of the border. In opposition to this "free trade" rape of Mexico, aimed at strengthening the power of U.S. imperialism against its European and Japanese rivals, demonstrators raised the call: "For Socialist Revolution from the Yukon to the Yucatán!"

Speaking for the Spartacist League, Jorge Ramirez said: "The union misleaders who have sacrificed our jobs and betrayed every strike on the altar of class collaboration want you to oppose NAFTA with the chauvinist rationale that it will 'steal our jobs.' In opposition to this social-patriotic filth, we call for a proletarian internationalist fight against the U.S. imperialists' NAFTA plan. We call for class struggle on both sides of

the border. We call for uniting U.S. labor with the Mexican workers of the *maquiladora* belt, against their common class enemy!" Ramirez' remarks were punctuated by protesters' chants of "Asian, Latino, black and white—Workers of the world unite!" and "The working class has no nation! Defend the right of immigration!"

In contrast to this demonstration of working-class internationalism, another demonstration the same day nominally in defense of immigrant rights had as its central slogan the social-chauvinist appeal: "You Can Deport Immigrants—But You Can't Deport the Recession"! Called by the Latino Civil Rights Coalition, this rally was headed up by a variety of social service organizations which make their living from immigration. Not surprisingly, the main speakers were representatives of the SF Board of Supervisors.

Pandering to backward prejudices against "illegal aliens" to be found as well among minority communities, Hispanic SF supervisor Susan Leal told the crowd of several hundred gathered at City Hall, "None of us here is advocating illegal immigration. What we oppose is the scapegoating of our community." In short, those who have made it in the "land of opportunity," having found themselves a seat in City Hall, don't want their chances cramped by desperate "illegal aliens."

Bringing up the rear of this demonstration was something called the "Sin Fronteras/Break Down the Borders Contingent," whose sponsors included the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL). Seeking to justify their opportunist tailing after the "you can deport immigrants" crowd, RWLers at the University of California, Berkeley vociferously denounced members of the Spartacus Youth Club as "sectarians" who were

PDC Condemns Jailing of Chinese Immigrants

The following letter was sent by the Partisan Defense Committee to denounce the continued imprisonment of Chinese immigrants, whose seizure last May was protested by a PDC-initiated demonstration outside the San Francisco INS office.

13 September 1993

District Director
Immigration and Naturalization Service
San Francisco, CA

We protest the incarceration and brutal treatment of hundreds of Chinese immigrants in the Kern County jail. These include those who arrived in San Francisco last May aboard the freighter *Pai Sheng*. We denounce this despicable treatment and demand their immediate release!

Reports have leaked out of desperate protest including a three day hunger strike by as many as 60 prisoners some of whom have been subjected to solitary confinement. There are also complaints that prisoners are unable to retain attorneys because INS agents confiscated papers containing relatives' phone numbers. This is an outrage!

These Chinese prisoners are victims of a viciously racist policy of incarceration for immigrants whose appeals are pending. Bill Clinton and his National Security Council recently ordered this policy, now being executed by the well-hated INS. Across the country immigrants are being made the scapegoats of a bankrupt economy by the two parties of capitalism, represented in California by Republican Governor Wilson and Democratic Senators Boxer/Feinstein, who have revived 19th-century-style "yellow peril" hysteria. This is pure racism, of a piece with the Coast Guard blockade of black Haiti. At the same time anti-Communist Cuban plane hijackers are welcomed to Miami.

Down with the Clinton/INS incarceration of the Chinese immigrants. Release them now! With great hardship, they got here—let them stay here!

The Partisan Defense Committee

cc: Bill Clinton, The White House
U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service,
Washington

counterposing themselves to the "community movement." But as is so often the case with the RWL's "movements," they are indistinguishable from the bourgeois Democratic Party swamp, in this case rather grotesquely so. To this we are indeed unremittingly counterposed.

As Kathleen Harris of the SYC put it in her speech to the SL/LBL protest: "In opposition to leftists who peddle illu-

sions in the Democrats, we know we must build a revolutionary workers party that fights all forms of oppression and will take this whole rotten capitalist system apart and build a rational, socialist society. For full citizenship rights for all immigrants! Only under socialism can we have a world without borders." In this spirit the demonstration ended with the singing of the *Internationale*. ■

Alabama Strikers...

(continued from page 12)

across the picket lines, while strikers have been baited and provoked by scabs and then arrested. Keith Cain was almost killed once before, on August 29, when a scab trucker carried him on the hood of his truck down Interstate 65. Cain was arrested but the scab wasn't charged.

As the company and cops work hand in hand, the USWA International and District bureaucrats are on their knees, begging the same "law enforcement authorities" who outlaw pickets to "see that justice is served." International USWA president Lynn Williams' only response to the brutal murder of Cain and Fleming was to announce that Steelworkers at other National-Standard plants would wear black armbands! The death of these union brothers was for Williams just an excuse to plead anew for the *anti-labor* "striker replacement bill" which would put *all* strikes under binding arbitration by the bosses' government.

National-Standard plants in Niles, Michigan; Corbin, Kentucky and Mishawaka, Indiana *must honor their fallen brothers by shutting down these union-busters, now!* A victory in Alabama could spur the organization of National-Standard's non-union plant in Stillwater, Oklahoma. But the USWA tops have sabotaged any solidarity, even forcing strikers at the Corbin plant back to work without a contract a week before the Columbiana strike.

Betrayal at Bessemer

The 14,000 members of the Steelworkers in Alabama are under siege. USX's Fairfield steelworks is a shell of the former plant, employing only 2,400

workers. Small USWA locals like Columbiana are threatened by scabberding. The murder of these union martyrs follows closely on the heels of the strike by black and white workers at Trinity Industries in nearby Bessemer. Local 9226 at Trinity was out for eight months in a battle against company union-busting at the old Pullman rail car plant.

Last October, strikers won a pitched battle with strikebreaking goons from the Special Response Corp. who have terrorized strikers from the West Virginia coal fields to the New York *Daily News*. But USWA tops ground the strike down, with the District bureaucrats imposing a return to work on June 4 and abandoning 57 of the best militants, who have been fired. Twenty-five workers face criminal charges, at the insistence of the black Democratic Party mayor of Bessemer. Dne fired worker told WV: "We had the strike won. We kicked their ass. The union sold us out."

Throughout, the counterfeit "socialists" in the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party backed every betrayal by the bureaucracy. The CP's *People's Weekly World* (31 July) shamelessly labeled the stab-in-the-back at Bessemer a "victory." The SWP, which *hailed* an earlier court injunction curtailing picketing (*Militant*, 30 October 1992), has continued its capitulation to the union tops, covering up their betrayal of the fired workers—even as SWP supporter Raul Gonzalez was fired and sentenced to a year's probation after pleading "no contest" to frame-up charges for "unlawful discharge of a weapon." *Labor must demand: drop the charges and rehire all the Bessemer strikers!*

Organize the South, Smash Racist Terror!

The strikes in Bessemer and Columbiana illuminate the need for a class-struggle leadership that is willing to take on the capitalist politicians, their courts and cops and agents in the labor

bureaucracy. The defeats served up by capitalism's labor fakery feed the growth of the union-busting, racist nightriders of the KKK. Last year, fascists from Shelby County called the Confederate Hammer Skinheads brutally murdered a homeless black man in Birmingham.

The labor bureaucracy, loyal servants of their Democratic Party "friends," are not about to organize the black and white workers who work and die in the non-union plants across the South. To unionize deathtraps like Imperial Foods' Hamlet chicken plant means going right up against Clinton's billionaire friends, like the Walton family's Walmart and Tyson's poultry empire.

The labor traitors and black misleaders fear the mobilization of integrated labor power that is necessary to smash the entrenched racial oppression in this coun-

try, North and South. When the Spartacist League organized protests last July against the notorious Jim Crow treatment that Denny's restaurant hands out to its customers and workers, demonstrators carried signs declaring "Labor—Smash the Open Shop! Organize the South!" and "Break with the Democrats, Build a Workers Party!" The battle to break the chains of capitalist exploitation must go together with the fight for black freedom—in a struggle led by a revolutionary workers party that will avenge all the class-war martyrs.

The Partisan Defense Committee has made a contribution to the memorial fund established for the families of Keith Cain and Walter Fleming. We encourage WV readers to contribute: Cain-Fleming Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 192, Shelby, AL 35143. ■

Partisan Defense Committee Forum

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Wife of Jamal, MOVE supporter

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WORKERS VANGUARD

Walter Fleming and Keith Cain Gave Their Lives—Win This Strike!

Scab Runs Down Alabama Strikers



Walter Fleming



Keith Cain

Birmingham News photos

ATLANTA, September 18—A scab truck driver deliberately plowed into two strikers, killing them in cold blood, at the National-Standard plant in Columbiana, Alabama on September 7. United Steelworkers Local 15015 members Walter Fleming, a 55-year-old mill worker, and Keith Cain, just 23 and the father of a young daughter, were martyred at their posts on the picket line defending their union.

Strikers who witnessed the killings said that Larry Gray, the scab driver of the

For Mass Pickets to Shut Down National-Standard!



Songer/Birmingham News

Strikers surround scab's car after unionists were murdered on picket line in Columbiana.

Unionize the South!

18-wheeler, sped up as he approached the pickets, intentionally swerving into Cain (who was seated in a chair), Fleming and another striker, Wale Williams. A company guard admitted to the *Birmingham News* that Gray said "he was going to go out of there as fast as he could and he didn't care who or what he took out." Company security goons coolly videotaped the murder. Fleming was dragged for 20 yards, as the scab fled the scene and was arrested 12 miles away.

The strikers exploded in anger when scabs tried to drive out of the plant an hour later. Pickets swept aside sheriff's deputies and went after the strike-breakers with whatever they could find—sticks, rocks, iron horseshoes. National-Standard bosses and the cops

shut down the plant, fearing that workers were going to storm it. That night, workers barricaded the entrance with 55-gallon drums.

The 200 members of Steelworkers Local 15015 have been on strike against National-Standard since June 1, fighting company demands they give back over

\$7.00 an hour! As "Open Shop" Clinton and his yuppie Democrats in Washington declare that "the jury is still out on whether the traditional union is necessary," scabs and company goons think they can strike down unionists in the racist open shop South with impunity.

Yet Columbiana is just a few miles from Birmingham, and there are thousands of black and white workers in the area. National-Standard produces wire bead for radial tires, and there are nearby tire plants organized by the United Rubber Workers. In fact, Alabama has the second-largest number of unionized rubber workers outside Ohio, but URW-organized plants in Opelika and Tuscaloosa were recently forced to take major job concessions. Labor must avenge the murder of these union brothers with a powerful mobilization to win this strike. For mass pickets to drive out scabs! Steelworkers, Mine Workers, Rubber Workers—shut down National-Standard!

The murder of Keith Cain and Walter Fleming was set up by the capitalist state, whose cops and courts harassed USWA pickets while scabs were given free rein. A Shelby County judge limited the number of pickets to ten and even ordered strikers' families to stay away from the strike. He has outlawed any gathering of union members or their supporters on any public road in the county. State police have been escorting scabs

continued on page 11

S.F. Demo Protests Racist War on Immigrants

SAN FRANCISCO, September 16—Some 55 people turned out today in response to a call by the Spartacist League and the Labor Black League for Social Defense to protest the bipartisan racist war on immigrants. The protesters marched in front of Governor Pete Wilson's San Francisco office behind a banner demanding, "Down with Wilson/Boxer/Feinstein's Racist War on Immigrants! Full Citizenship Rights for All Immigrants!" As the SL/LBL call pointed out, Republican Wilson and Democratic Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer compete in whipping up anti-immigrant hysteria: as Wilson raves that immigrants should be denied social services and even wants to take away citizenship rights from children born here, Boxer and Feinstein call for sealing off the Mexican border with a wall of gun-wielding cops and troops (see WV No. 583, 10 September).

"Dixie Dianne" Feinstein made her mark as a racist years ago, when as SF mayor in the 1980s she planted a Confederate flag in the heart of the city. In response to this provocation, the Labor Black League tore down and burned this flag of slavery.

At today's protest, LBL spokesman Jeff Higgins emphasized that the aim of this latest racist assault is "to create a whole permanent category of inhabitants considered less than human, outside the perimeter of basic bourgeois democratic rights. Open calls to deny immigrants welfare, or medical care, to kick their children out of public schools, to insist on racist identity cards. During the American Civil War, Marx said that labor could not be free in the white skin until it was free in the black. I say that today the integrated American working class, in all

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WV Photo

San Francisco, September 16—Spartacist and Labor Black League supporters protest outside governor's office.