



**AMFA Challenges
IAM's Job Protection
Racket**

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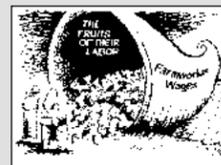
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the People

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Globalize, Or Die!

Does the rush toward globalization confirm that capitalism “*must* nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, establish connections everywhere,” as Marx and Engels declared in the *Communist Manifesto*?

Is the rush to globalize a compulsion inherent in the system, or does it simply mean that capitalists are greedy and that their search for the cheapest labor and highest profits is the driving force behind it?

Does it mean that capitalism must “*globalize*” or die, or could capitalism survive and remain viable without expanding into every nook and cranny of the globe?



These questions cannot be answered in an offhand way. Complete answers require a careful examination of how capitalism works, of the economic laws that govern it, and what effect those laws have on its operations.

Regardless of the answer, no worker can doubt that globalization is a fact, a galling fact, that is closely connected to the disappearance of millions of jobs, bloated labor markets, increased competition for work, higher productivity demands, falling wages and declining living standards.

Regardless of the answer, workers know that globalization is here to stay, and its effects also are here to stay. Globalization inevitably means even more lost jobs, even sharper competition among workers, even higher productivity demands and a downward spiral in living standards.

Yet the future depends on workers getting the right answer to these questions, and to the logical question that follows: “What can workers do about it?” Seeing to it that they get the right answers is your job, and ours. Our job is to explain how capitalism works, why it inevitably works against the interests and well-being of workers everywhere, and what the American working class can do about it. Your job is to ensure that we can do our job, by providing the financial support needed to publish and distribute *The People*. And this is no time for either of us to fall down on the job. Do your part by using the coupon on page 7, and we will continue doing ours.

‘KNOWLEDGE WORKERS’

Bracing for a Global Shift in Service Work

When automation began to revolutionize production lines in the 1950s and 1960s, apologists for capitalism were constantly reassuring workers that improved methods would eventually lead to easier working lives and more leisure time in which to enjoy an unprecedented abundance.

That, of course, is not how things worked out. Over the next few decades, leisure time and real wages fell significantly for most workers. The equivalent of an extra month of work was added between 1972 and 1996, while real wages dropped by 20 percent over the same period.

By 1996, Jeremy Rifkin of the Washington, D.C.-based Foundation on Economic Trends estimated an even grimmer future for manufacturing in an article for *The Nation*. “Within 10 years,” Rifkin believed, “less than 12 percent of the U.S. workforce will be on the factory floor....Over the next quarter century we will see the virtual elimination of the blue-collar, mass assembly-line worker from the production process” thanks to automation and globalization working together.

Rifkin and other so-called “futurists” held out hope that “knowledge workers”—those in charge of running all the technology required to coordinate auto-mation, globalization and “outsourcing” of production or administrative functions formerly handled by corporate staff—

would still have jobs and even wield some power in the capitalist economy of the future.

Now, however, there is plenty to indicate that even those involved in computer technology and services, as well as other information technologies, cannot escape the joblessness capitalism creates:

- An article in the July 2 issue of *Salon* online magazine observed that, based on present trends, “John C. McCarthy, an analyst with Forrester Research, predicts that in the next 15 years, 3.3 million U.S. service jobs, from accounting to software development, totaling \$136 billion in wages, will move offshore to countries such as India, Russia and China.”

- The same article noted that “A new study from A.T. Kearney, a management consulting company owned by Electronic Data Systems, predicts that in the next five years U.S. banks, brokerages and other financial service companies will relocate more than 500,000 jobs offshore—fully 8 percent of their workforce. According to A.T. Kearney’s research, the jobs that will move away include ‘high-end internal functions’ such as financial analysis, research, regulatory reporting, accounting and graphic design.”

- A May article in *eWeek* online magazine noted that “Many observers expected world

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‘Capitalism Is Organized Crime’

By Paul D. Lawrence

This writer sometimes wears a button that states, “Capitalism is organized crime.” These days it is difficult to distinguish a newspaper’s business pages from the police blotter. Although, as will be shown, the current round of corporate scandals is something of a red herring, it is worth noting that the following, not all breaking news to be sure, were among the crime reports on the business pages on two successive days.

- Sam Waksal, former CEO of ImClone Systems Inc., began serving a federal prison sentence of more than seven years for securities fraud and perjury.

- A subsidiary of Abbott Laboratories pleaded guilty to obstructing a federal investigation of Medicare and Medicaid overcharges and agreed to pay \$600 million in fines.

- Freddie Mac admitted underreporting profits by \$1.5 billion to \$4.5 billion over the past three years. The new CEO told a House of Representatives subcommittee that the residential mortgage provider knew “how to fix

these shortcomings” and would presumably sin no more.

- To sum up, the Associated Press reported that the Corporate Fraud Task Force has “obtained more than 250 corporate fraud convictions, including at least 25 former CEOs; charged 354 people with corporate crime; and obtained fines, forfeiture and restitution worth more than \$85 million, the [Bush] administration said.”

“Bush league” comes to mind, for all these offenses are petty larceny compared with what Socialists have called “the greatest robbery in history”—the exploitation of the working class by the capitalist class. Amazingly, the U.S. government publishes statistics that allow workers armed with a knowledge of Marxian economics to approximate the extent of that robbery. In manufacturing alone, where calculations are relatively straightforward, that robbery amounted to at least \$1.64 trillion in 2000. That is the figure of value added by manufacture as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.

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Goodyear-USWA Negotiations

Contract negotiations between Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) were under way as *The People* went to press. The outcome of the talks will affect some 19,000 workers in 14 states.

Goodyear claims it has lost \$1.3 billion over the last two years. In truth, however, the company hasn't lost a dime. What it means by "losses" is that it has too much capital tied up in unsold inventories. Worldwide overcapacity and weak demand have reduced anticipated sales and frustrated the company in converting piles of surplus value into profits.

To rid itself of unneeded capacity, the maintenance costs that go with it, and of having to dip into revenues to pay workers to produce even more for deposit in swollen inventories, Goodyear reportedly wants to close two or three U.S. plants and make other cuts "to trim as much as \$1.5 billion in costs by 2005...so it can compete with foreign plants," the Associated Press reported. The company also wants to help itself in another way. It is "demanding hundreds of millions of dollars in wage and benefit concessions" to offset the losses it claims to have sustained, the *Akron Beacon-Journal* reported.

Goodyear's USWA members have been working under the union's old expired contract since April. Negotiations that broke off in June resumed in August. The union wants pension and health benefit protections for active workers and retirees, and it "wants job security for workers at all 14 plants." What it has to offer to persuade Goodyear to keep the lights on at its white elephant production plants remains to be seen. Its options are limited, and that suggests that concessions are in the offing.

The USWA has represented Goodyear's workers since it absorbed what remained of the former United Rubber Workers in 1996.

U.S. Auto Plant Shutdowns Loom

Contract talks between the Big Three U.S. auto companies and the United Autoworkers are under way. The present four-year master contract expires on Sept. 14, and the UAW is expected to announce its target company by Labor Day for the "pattern bargaining" that has become standard practice in the industry. UAW contracts with the major auto-producing firms cover wages and working conditions for more than 300,000 current industry workers and pensions and health benefits for 475,000 retirees and their spouses.

Early indications are that all three companies are coming into the talks with big problems and bigger plans.

Ford reportedly plans to cut as many as 21,000 workers and to permanently close two assembly plants, one at Edison, N.J., and the other at St. Louis, Mo.

As for General Motors, one report noted in early August, "speculation has mounted that GM has quietly prepared a list of plants and operations it would like to close or consolidate. The list is thought to include GM's Pittsburgh [Pa.] Stamping Plant, the Livonia [Mich.] Engine Plant and another engine parts plant in Bay City [Mich.], as well as assembly plants in Linden, N.J., and Baltimore, Md."

DaimlerChrysler is reportedly already "in intense discussions on the sale of a component operation in Huntsville, Ala." It hasn't announced that it wants cuts or concessions, but the billion-dollar loss it reported in the second quarter of this year makes it clear that they are on the table. And a Chrysler spokesman has announced that "The company and the union have to find a way

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SLP Letters to the Press

'Peace Is Attainable?'

Dear Editor,

At the end of [your] Forum column, "Peace is Attainable?" (March 4), you ask, "Got a better plan?" I empathize with your passion and concern and I offer the following perspective.

Capitalism is a primitive method of economic exchange. It began to replace feudalism several centuries ago and now dominates the world. Having reached its peak a few decades ago, it has become outmoded, regressive and very dangerous.

The main components of capitalism are the *profit motive, competition, acquisition and exploitation* backed up by ever increasing massive physical defense forces. Such a system needs to expand and protect its markets and resources, and it needs cheap labor to reap big profits. Can we not see then, that the dynamic of such a system is *conflict* and the end result is ultimately war? Where else could it lead?

It is inconsistent to subscribe to and support a particular system and then protest its defining characteristics and effects. Capitalism is what it is and is inherently programmed to do what it does. No amount or form of pleading with governments or demonstrating against individual corporations or their representatives will alter the nature of the beast. And, anyway, why would we expect change to come from the establishment that benefits from the status quo?

If the world is able to survive the devastating effects of capitalism's appetites, the next progressive and truly civilized stage of human development must be genuine egalitarian, worker-controlled, scientific socialism (industrial democracy). Such a form of economic and social exchange has never existed anywhere before in the world. It will be up to the world's working people to bring about such a structure.

Americans, for example, who are truly interested in peace and "liberty and justice for all," need to educate themselves toward building an economic system based on cooperation and democratically administered social ownership of the means of production and services. The status of the world [diminishing natural resources, killer pollution, massive arsenals, ruthless rivalry and desperation of all magnitudes] demands that people wake up to this task very soon. Capitalism is on a collision course and we are all riding it to its death and ours—either by catastrophic social and environmental collapse or nuclear annihilation, whichever comes first. Who knows how much time we have to stop this madness, but at this writing, the sun is still shining, dogs are barking, birds are singing and

so I say what I have to say—in case it helps. Thank you for providing a place for alternative viewpoints. The only way to preserve democracy is to practice it.

Jill Campbell
Forestville (Calif.) Gazette,
April 18–May 16

Better System

Norman M. Parsons ("More socialism," letter May 7) is misinformed about socialism. As a member of the Socialist Labor Party, I'd like to set the record straight.

Socialism has nothing to do with universal health insurance. That can be effected—and has been in many countries—without changing the basic capitalist relations of production. These include private ownership and control of the means of producing goods and services and production for sale with a view toward profit through the exploitation of wage labor.

The government, or political state, exists to uphold these capitalist relations of production. A few reforms, such as universal health care, could serve to maintain capitalism by alleviating certain problems the private owners of industry cannot address individually.

In contrast, socialism is the collective ownership of the factories, mines, transportation systems, land and all other instruments of social production. Socialism means direct control and management of the industries and services through a democratic government based on the useful producers' nationwide economic organizations.

Such a system would make possible the fullest

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Do You Belong?

Do you know what the SLP stands for? Do you understand the class struggle and why the SLP calls for an end of capitalism and of its system of wage labor? Do you understand why the SLP does not advocate reforms of capitalism, and why it calls upon workers to organize Socialist Industrial Unions?

If you have been reading *The People* steadily for a year or more, if you have read the literature recommended for beginning Socialists, and if you agree with the SLP's call for the political and economic unity of the working class, you may qualify for membership in the SLP. And if you qualify to be a member you probably should be a member.

For information on what membership entails, and how to apply for it, write to: SLP, P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218. Ask for the SLP Membership Packet.

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AFL-CIO INFIGHTING

AMFA Challenges IAM's Job Protection Racket

By B.B.

"Let a pure and simple union go down ever so much, there always remains alive somehow a nucleus of labor fakirs to keep up its existence. Rows between the workers and their exploiters are bound to recur. At such times, the men will gather around the fakir nucleus that remained. In the hands of such scamps and ignoramuses, the men will be sold out, or at least kept in ignorance of the meaning of the conflict they are in. Thus the pure and simple union declines and revives. To prevent such revival, a bona fide, class-conscious organization must be set up. Only that can make the final quietus of the labor fakir."

—Daniel De Leon, Aug. 21, 1898

The AFL-CIO is in big trouble. That might not be news to most readers of *The People*, but the federation's troubles are starting to go beyond closing factories, lost certification elections and a rapidly declining membership. The federation's setbacks are starting to attract some competition.

The Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), for example, has been a shoofly to the International Association of Machinists (IAM) for more than 40 years. Recently, however, the IAM was obliged to sit up and take notice.

The latest wrangle came to a head earlier this year when 63 percent of mechanics at United Airlines signed election cards calling for a vote on decertifying the IAM and replacing it with the AMFA.

The IAM precipitated the trouble when it ceded \$1 billion in concessions to help United avert bankruptcy. Another factor was "the secrecy that has surrounded their current union's relationship with the airline, where it holds a seat on the board," according to AMFA national director O.V. Delle-Femine. (*The New York Times*, June 12)

When the National Mediation Board reported the results on July 14, the AMFA came out on top with 63.5 percent of the votes cast. The net result was that the AMFA more than doubled its preelection membership of 11,000 and the

IAM lost nearly 2 percent of its total membership.

Turf fights are nothing new with procapitalist unions. They have plagued the AFL from its inception in the 1880s, and they have continued since the old federation merged with the CIO in 1955. As recently as 1999, the AFL-CIO felt compelled to adopt a resolution condemning "renegade labor organizations, which seek to grow their own membership by raiding the membership of other labor organizations, cause substantial damage to all unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO and act to destroy the area standards and benefits for workers that members of the AFL-CIO have striven for decades to achieve."

west Airlines. Before the voting at United, the IAM tried to head off the change. It pointed out that the AMFA had failed to stop Northwest Airlines outsourcing to outside contractors for maintenance or from laying off large numbers of mechanics. *Teamster Aircraft Mechanics*, an online publication, reported that the "AMFA gave management a green light to subcontract up to 38 percent of the Northwest mechanic work hours to repair stations, including nonunion and foreign stations."

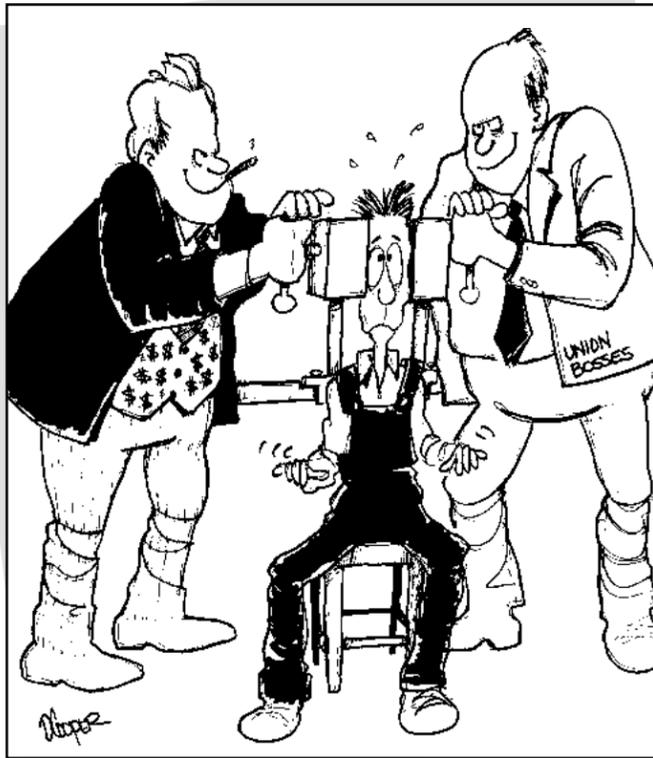
IAM officials even dug up the old saw about "dual unionism" during the fight, but without effect.

Some United mechanics may have been confused by the storm of charges exchanged by the rival unions before the vote. Although 63 percent of mechanics called for the election, and although 63.5 percent of the votes cast in the election itself went to the AMFA, less than 63 percent of all eligible mechanics bothered to vote for one union or the other. According to a press release that the AMFA issued on July 14, it "received 5,234 of the 8,239 votes cast by the 13,144 employees eligible to vote..." In short, a majority of 7,910 either voted to keep the IAM or failed to vote at all.

Nonetheless, the AMFA's win has inspired it to go after US Airways' mechanics, and is now gathering signatures. USAir recently emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy shielding.

The AMFA is also pursuing mechanics at American Airlines, who were reluctant participants in a \$1.8 billion union give-back on wages and benefits in an effort to keep that airline from a crash landing in bankruptcy court.

Before the election at United, Robert Roach, the IAM's vice president for transportation, denounced the AMFA's dues-raiding expedition and Mr. Delle-Femine for endangering United. "There's no time for grandstanding in bankruptcy," he said. Delle-Femine wasn't impressed. "Everything's competitive," he told *The New York Times*. "That's what makes this country great." Business is business, in other words, and that is precisely what procapitalist business unionism is all about.



D. Cooper for *The People*

All that is problematical when it comes to the AMFA, however, because it doesn't belong to the AFL-CIO and couldn't care less about its hands-off resolutions.

The AMFA previously dislodged the IAM at Alaska Airlines, Northwest Airlines and South-

Socialism: From Utopia to Science

I was wondering if the SLP supports any of the theories brought forth in *Utopia* by Thomas More. I understand that *Utopia* portrays more of a pure communist society, but the question for me still remains. I was also wondering if any of your theories for socialism come from Plato's *Republic*. I only ask because I am trying to trace the true source of the theories for communism and socialism. My last question: What happens to the Bill of Rights if our socialist revolution succeeds? Thank you for your time.

—Joe Stott
Night2253@...

Reply—Modern socialism owes very little to people like Thomas More, and even less to the ancients, such as Plato. Modern socialism is a response to capitalism and the social conditions that the industrial revolution created. It is not a scheme or a plan that philosophers thought up. It not comparable to More's *Utopia* or Plato's *Republic*, but a science that has analyzed the economic laws that explain how capitalism works and why its contradictions must cause it to collapse.

The best thing to read on the origins of modern socialism is *Socialism: From Utopia to Science*, by Frederick Engels. It's a small book that can be found in almost any library or decent bookstore, or you can order it from us. Engels explains who the "utopian Socialists" were and why their aspirations for a better world could never come about. He also explains the difference there is between utopian socialism and the scientific socialism of Karl Marx.

The Bill of Rights—the first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States—were adopted to protect people against the government. The Founding Fathers, including James Madison, the father of the Constitution, understood why they were needed. They understood that the rich and powerful could use the government against those who were not rich or powerful.

Socialists defend them today for the same

reason; but socialism will be entirely different from capitalism. Socialist society will not be divided between the powerful and the powerless. It will be a classless society in which the means of creating wealth (the factories, mills, mines, etc., and the natural resources of the country) will be collectively owned and democratically administered, and in which production will be to satisfy human needs rather than for the profit of a few.

Socialist government will not be political government, i.e., not a government over people, but an economic government of the people over the things they need and create by their labor (those same factories, mills, etc.). Just as the American revolution created the need for a new constitution, the new social conditions that socialism will create will also create the need for another new constitution.

The socialist constitution will not provide for electing politicians from cities, counties and states, but for the election of representatives from factories, mines and industries to an all-industrial congress. It will protect our rights, but the rights will be different in certain particulars.

They will certainly include freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, etc.; but, unlike capitalism, they will also include the right of the producers to the fruits of their labor and other rights that we are deprived of today.

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Ukraine Deception

Last month the national office of the SLP received the first of several e-mails that cast doubt on the legitimacy of the "Socialist Labor Party of Ukraine." Since then the national office has confirmed to its own satisfaction, and to that of the party's National Executive Committee, that the so-called SLPU was part of an elaborate hoax. That hoax was perpetrated on several organizations in Western Europe and the United States by the Ukrainian affiliate of a British group that calls itself "Committee for a Workers International." The CWI, which identifies itself with Trotskyism, reportedly denied any knowledge of the swindle and declared it was as shocked and repulsed by the conduct of its Ukrainian associates as the organizations that were bilked.

Although much of the evidence that has surfaced since July is largely circumstantial and primarily of a literary quality, it is substantial.

It appears that at least nine or 10 groups in the United States and Western Europe were duped by these unprincipled money-grubbers. Money is what they were after, and the SLP did send \$450.00 to help what we believed to be a fledgling SLP of Ukraine buy a used computer. From what we can tell, however, that was a mere pittance compared to what these Ukrainian Trotskyists managed to wring out of certain other organizations.

One of the European groups that fell victim to the Ukrainian schemers was the Socialist Party of Great Britain. A statement issued through the SPGB's official journal, *Socialist Standard*, summed up the scheme as follows:

"Members of this group would contact groups in the West by e-mail feigning agreement with their political position; if the groups from the West sent a delegation to the Ukraine to check, the Trotskyists concerned would assemble a dozen or so of their supporters, all of whom had been coached in the views of the group concerned. Thus, our delegates who went to Kiev in November 2001 met a group of individuals who expressed socialist views and had no reason to doubt their sincerity. Any money sent went into the coffers of the Trotskyist group. At least 10 groups seem to have been taken in by this scam including, besides ourselves, the SLP of America, the Socialist Studies group [of SPGB dissidents], and various rival Trotskyist outfits...."

The ploy was reprehensible for many reasons, not the least being that the Ukrainian affiliate of the CWI trafficked on the sympathy that sincere and dedicated Socialists everywhere have for the Ukrainian working class. As Robert Burns of the SLP's National Executive Committee explained his own feelings in the matter:

"It was very disappointing to hear of the deception of the 'Ukrainian SLP'...."

"When I read of our engagement with a Ukrainian group that seemed to be supportive of the SLP, I was very pleased, especially since the Ukrainian people had suffered so much under Stalinist Communist Party control. Between 4 and 6 million Ukrainians were supposed to have been starved to death in the late 1920s and early 1930s by the Russians. And then thousands of Ukrainians were killed by the Nazis during World War II. So I was greatly encouraged by our engagement and support of the SLPU...."

While the SLP condemns this unconscionable deception by the Ukrainian Trotskyists, and while it will do everything possible to defend itself against similar schemes in the future, it refuses to allow its optimism, its faith in the working class, or its commitment to the principles of socialist internationalism to be dampened by the experience.

[Since this was written, the SPGB has received a message from Ukraine claiming that the "World Socialist Party of Ukraine," the SPGB equivalent of the "SLPU," also was deceived by agents provocateur inside its own ranks, and that the WSPU is a legitimate organization sincerely interested in maintaining fraternal ties with the SPGB and its "World Socialist Movement." The message is posted to the SPGB's open discussion list on the Internet. It is replete with phrases and statements similar—and in some instances identical—to phrases and statements in e-mail messages the SLP received in the past.

[Readers of *The People* who also receive the *New Unionist* may have noticed such similarities in statements from the "SLPU" and the so-called New Union Party of Ukraine. When we called these similarities to the attention of our supposed friends in Kiev we were told that the leader of the "NUP" was a computer hacker who managed to reroute and doctor messages meant for the SLP before sending them to the NUP in Minnesota. However, our suspicions were aroused when certain minor variations, such as small differences in the spelling of given names, crept into some of the later messages received. Apparently the deceivers had so many baited lines out in search of pelf that they began to confuse themselves on which group should receive what message and over what signature.

[The latest message to the SPGB weaves a more intricate tale than was foisted on the SLP, but the pattern is the same and some of the language is familiar. That message has caused some SPGB members to suggest a reevaluation of the statement printed in the *Socialist Standard*, but our experience tells us that it is only another ruse. While we believe there are sincere and honest Socialists in Ukraine, and while we still are optimistic enough to hope that they will eventually discover and be attracted to the SLP and its Socialist Industrial Union program, we will take every precaution to ensure that our optimism does not get the better of our judgment the next time they are put to the test.]

A De Leon Editorial

The 'Dual Union' Ruse

The International Association of Machinists raised the cry of "dual unionism" during its recent battle with the American Mechanics Fraternal Association at United Airlines. The AMFA is no prize, but the "dual union" ruse is only meant to distract and disarm workers who are discontent with labor fakers.



'Dual' and 'Rival' Unions

(Daily People, Jan. 17, 1911)

Proceeding from the principle that testimony against one's own interest is the most reliable of testimonies, we accept as correct the Chicago, Jan. 12, despatch concerning the Garment Workers strike in that city, published on the 13th of this month by the *Vorwaerts*, the New York Yiddish organ of the Socialist Party and the AFL.

The despatch sets forth that the strikers, having rejected one proposition by the employers and having under consideration, at a large meeting at Hodcarriers' Hall, a second proposition in which the employers yielded the point of reinstating all the participants in the strike, "Comrade William Haywood took the floor. He delivered a long and sharp speech attacking the American Federation of Labor, and speaking for a new Tailors' Union, to be built upon a purely industrial plan, not upon the plan of the American Federation of Labor. Before he spoke, the people were inclined to a settlement. But under the influence caused by Haywood's speech the strikers displayed a sentiment against their own agreement, and a dissatisfaction, even a sort of rebellion against their leaders."

This is prime anti-SP and anti-AFL testimony. Inversely, it is Socialist Labor Party testimony. The facts alleged in the report shatter the AFL-SP false and "Stop thief!" cry against "dual unions!" as treason to the working class.

The outcry of "dual unions!" raised against any and every new union in a trade in which the AFL has previously set up its tent, is a cry that implies a number of falsehoods, all deadly to the labor movement. The cry implies that the AFL organizes the shops. The AFL only disorganized them. Whatever shop the AFL enters, it there dislocates the proletariat by means of contracts and other devices that disable them from presenting a united front to the employer, and compel them to scab upon one another. If the AFL can at all be said to organize, it organizes for the masters, not for the workers.

The cry implies that the AFL either has organized the trade, or is desirous, and endeavors to do so. The AFL deliberately disorganizes the trade. By means of high initiations and kindred schemes the AFL keeps the bulk of the members of a trade outside of its unions, turning them into caricatures of trusts. Whatever trade the AFL invades it ruptures the corresponding proletariat.

The cry implies that the AFL is a virile, live organization, and proof of the implication is advanced by its numbers. The AFL is a "coffin" or "insurance" association. The main thread that holds its large constituents together is the insurance they have paid in, which not to forfeit the AFL emasculates its membership with mottoes concerning the "brotherhood of capital and labor."

The cry implies that the AFL is a labor organization. The affiliation of its leading officers, in their official capacity, with the Civic Federation of capitalist magnates, and more recently its admission to its national conventions of

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what is socialism?

Socialism is the collective ownership by all the people of the factories, mills, mines, railroads, land and all other instruments of production. Socialism means production to satisfy human needs, not, as under capitalism, for sale and profit. Socialism means direct control and management of the industries and social services by the workers through a democratic government based on their nationwide economic organization.

Under socialism, all authority will originate from the workers, integrally united in Socialist Industrial Unions. In each workplace, the rank and file will elect whatever committees or representatives are needed to facilitate production. Within each shop or office division of a plant, the rank and file will participate directly in formulating and implementing all plans necessary for efficient operations.

Besides electing all necessary shop officers, the workers will also elect representatives to a local and national council of their industry or service—and to a central congress representing all the industries and services. This all-industrial congress will plan and coordinate production in all areas of the economy. All persons elected to any post in the socialist government, from the lowest to the highest level, will be directly accountable to the rank and file. They will be subject to removal at any time that a majority of those who elected them decide it is necessary.

Such a system would make possible the fullest democracy and freedom. It would be a society based on the most primary freedom—economic freedom.

For individuals, socialism means an end to economic insecurity and exploitation. It means workers cease to be commodities bought and sold on the labor market and forced to work as appendages to tools owned by someone else. It means a chance to develop all individual capacities and potentials within a free community of free individuals.

Socialism does not mean government or state ownership. It does not mean a state bureaucracy as in the former Soviet Union or China, with the working class oppressed by a new bureaucratic class. It does not mean a closed party-run system without democratic rights. It does not mean "nationalization," or "labor-management boards," or state capitalism of any kind. It means a complete end to all capitalist social relations.

To win the struggle for socialist freedom requires enormous efforts of organizational and educational work. It requires building a political party of socialism to contest the power of the capitalist class on the political field and to educate the majority of workers about the need for socialism. It requires building Socialist Industrial Union organizations to unite all workers in a classconscious industrial force and to prepare them to take, hold and operate the tools of production.

You are needed in the ranks of Socialists fighting for a better world. Find out more about the program and work of the Socialist Labor Party and join us to help make the promise of socialism a reality.

Jobless 'Recovery' Leaves Millions in Misery

By Paul D. Lawrence

The National Bureau of Economic Research, the arbiter of economic cycles, has declared that the current "recession" ended in November 2001. Cicero, the 1st century B.C.E. Roman politician, declared, "Nothing so absurd can be said that it has not be said by some philosopher." Today he might have substituted "economist" for "philosopher," for unemployment has continued to rise since the "recession" supposedly ended.

For workers, unemployment means misery. Most workers are but a paycheck or two away from hardship, if not destitution, whereas capitalist economists are paid outrageous salaries for their absurd auguries.

- About 40 percent of workers who collected unemployment insurance payments Last year were still unemployed when their checks ran out.

- Many unemployed young adults are returning to live with their parents because their unemployment payments can't fill their needs or have run out. Perhaps this is what capitalist ideologues mean by promoting family values.

- Two-income families now constitute 42 percent of all U.S. households, but both incomes

are usually needed to get by. When both workers lose their jobs, the hardship is immense.

- One survey showed that "two-thirds of all workers laid off in the last three years received no severance package or other compensation from their employers," according to the Associated Press.



- The same survey showed only 49 percent of unemployed workers who earned \$40,000 or more annually received any unemployment insurance payments. Only 35 percent of those who earned less received payments.

- Only 25 percent received extended health care coverage after layoff.

- Less than 20 percent received "help finding a job, career counseling or skill training."

That survey by researchers at Rutgers University and the University of Connecticut was titled, perhaps more appropriately than intended, "The Disposable Worker: Living in a Job-Loss Economy."

Under capitalism, workers whose labor power cannot be exploited are simply booted out. It does not matter that social needs remain unmet. It does not matter that there is hunger, poverty, environmental pollution and other social ills that workers could remedy if they controlled production. If capitalists cannot expect to realize a profit, nothing else amounts to beans.

Such abominations need not continue. They are not inherent in every possible social system. But they are inherent in capitalism, with its private ownership of the socially operated means of production and its production for sale with a view to profit through the exploitation of wage labor.

Workers can end this system and the contradiction between private ownership and social production. The Socialist Industrial Unionism program of the Socialist Labor Party shows how. Learn more about that program and join the struggle to save civilization and humanity itself!

. . . Shift in Service Work

(Continued from page 1)

events—including post-Sept. 11 nationalism and a recession-induced glut of IT [information technology] skills on the domestic job market—to stem the flow of IT jobs to offshore out-sourcers. They haven't. If anything, the exportation of IT jobs from the United States to places such as India and the Philippines seems to be increasing. Gartner Inc. has projected that, by 2005, 30 percent of all Global 2000 enterprises will be embracing the offshore or nearshore—namely, Canada or Mexico—IT outsourcing model." Even software coding and help desk functions are being exported.

- A March article in the Melbourne, Australia, newspaper *The Age*, entitled "Bracing for the Global Shift," noted that "Data communication and voice telephony costs are now so low, and bandwidth so broad, and the Internet so ubiquitous, that it is a simple matter to run an applications development center offshore. An increasing number of the world's call centers are now in India, or the Philippines, or southern Africa."

"We are now witnessing, on a global scale," *The Age* article continued, "the kind of disruption that occurred in the English countryside in the industrial revolution 200 years ago. We have long witnessed the movement of blue-collar jobs to low-cost countries; now we are seeing white-collar jobs move offshore. The dark, satanic mills of the information millennium are in the suburbs of Bangalore, Shenzhen

and St. Petersburg."

"And it is not just IT jobs; it is architects, accountants, engineers—indeed, any type of knowledge worker. If the work can be digitized, it can be exported."

Plainly, what capitalism has in store for *all segments* of the working class not only in the United States, but as the article in the Australian newspaper, *The Age*, hints, in every advanced capitalist country, is what the *Communist Manifesto* foresaw for the international working class more than 150 years ago: "Constant revolutionizing of production, uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions, everlasting uncertainty and agitation." In short, more unemployment, poverty and all the social miseries that flow therefrom.

The Age contends that workers should just get used to the idea. "This change is as inevitable as the sunrise—and the sunset. We cannot turn off the bandwidth, nor the desire and the ability of...individuals and companies in China, India and the rest of the developing world to better themselves. Nor can we eliminate, or even reduce, the desire of...organizations in the Western world to minimize their costs and maximize their profits.

"The genie is out of the bottle....There is a fundamental force at work here. Resistance, ultimately, is futile."

Allusions to *Star Trek* and the "Borg" aside, it is true that a force fundamental to capitalism is at work, but resistance need not be futile. Even the Borg had their Achilles Heel,

and so does capitalism.

Workers have a choice, and it doesn't entail denying a better life to workers in India, Russia, China or anywhere else the jobs have been going. They can fight back against the *capitalist system itself*.

To escape the Borg of capitalism, workers as a class must build a movement to *abolish* the existing system and build a new one. They must build a system under which they collectively control the industries and services, which must be placed under the ownership of all society, and administered democratically to satisfy the needs and wants of all.

Such a socialist movement will not be easy to build. The capitalist class, its politicians, media, supporting labor bureaucrats and others will resist it. But the seeming strength of those forces, and the seeming weakness of the workers, consists mainly in the ignorance workers now have of the real source of their problems. Once aware of the socialist answer to those problems, and of their potential strength as the creators of all social wealth, the workers can forge an invincible movement for real social change.

The Socialist Labor Party's program of Socialist Industrial Unionism explains what must be done—how the workers themselves can build a new society in which they will possess the power to determine their own future economic well-being. Learn more about it and then join us—help build a better world! —K.B.

Jack London and the SLP

Did Jack London have a role in Socialist Labor Party?

Matt <DixieStix ATB@...>

Reply—Yes, Jack London had a role in the SLP. He joined Section Oakland, Calif., in April 1896 when he was 19 or 20 years old, and left in 1900 when a part of the section deserted the party and went with what the SLP called the "bogus SLP." One year later that group merged with the Social Democratic Party to form the reformist Socialist Party (SP).

London's decision to leave the SLP was probably for the best. He was not much of a Socialist, as his racist and nationalist views were to attest.

His racism in particular suited him to the SP, which proposed and supported anti-immigration resolutions at International Socialist Congresses aimed at barring "inferior races" from entering



the country. Nonetheless, some lessons London learned from the SLP stuck in his mind for the rest of his life, as he confessed in his March 7, 1916, letter of resignation from the SP. An

excerpt from that letter tells the story:

"I am resigning from the Socialist Party, because of its lack of fire and light, and its loss of emphasis on the class struggle. I was originally a member of the old revolutionary, up-on-its-hind-legs, fighting Socialist Labor Party. Since then, and to the present time, I have been a fighting member of the Socialist Party. My fighting record in the Cause is not, even at this late date, already entirely forgotten. Trained in the class struggle as taught and practiced by the Socialist Labor Party, my own highest judgment concurring, I believed that the working class, by fighting, by never fusing, by never making terms with the enemy could emancipate itself...."

letters to the People

Socialist Greetings

Just a note to wish you socialist greetings and solidarity from Isham, Northamptonshire, England. I thought the May-June *People* was a real breath of fresh air, with clear and readable articles on Saddam, what is happening in Iraq and the original Sept. 11, the 1973 coup in Chile, to name but three.

It is good to know there is a gleam of uncompromising revolutionary socialism at the heart of world imperialism, and I hope this very small gesture of international working-class solidarity gives power to your comrades and friends' elbows.

I look forward to working with Socialists everywhere to bring about the world socialism revolution, sweeping away capitalist states and their rotten, nasty outdated system, to bring about a new society, a new civilization, based upon the common ownership of the whole of the world's productive resources by the whole of the world's working class, and the dawn of real human history.

Andrew Northall
Isham, England

Surprised and Impressed

I just received a copy of your newspaper *The People* and I am surprised at how much I am impressed with it. Your point that the Iraq war was not *just* about oil, but also the American dollar versus the euro. That is an excellent economic insight. As you point out, the Iraq war was also about controlling the oil market in China. Although the origin of Saddam's dictatorship is not a secret, there is an imperative to get this news, and the details of it, out to as many people as possible. And B.G.'s article, by the same name, contributes toward that end. That is one of the reasons I am making a contribution of \$100, enclosed herewith, to the Socialist Labor Party. Another reason for this contribution is that you are reminding people of the 1973 coup in Chile and the other unspeakable atrocities, of that other Sept. 11th. Finally, I did not know that the execution of the Rosenbergs was in fact illegal.

Raymond Solomon
Rego Park, N.Y.

Best Analysis Yet

The article "U.S. Invasion Plunges Iraq Into Chaos and Ruin," in your May-June issue, had the best analysis yet of the real reasons the U.S.A. invaded Iraq—"leverage on countries dependent on foreign oil, especially the People's Republic of China." I have not read this in *The Nation*, *Workers World*, *Fifth Estate*, *Slingshot*, or any other 'zines or papers to which I have access. I'm a little surprised that *The Nation* never even mentioned this, as they don't miss much. I came to the conclusion, awhile ago, that China was by far the U.S.A.'s biggest economic and political rival when I read Willem Van Kemenade's *China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Inc.*, published in 1997. Of course, I don't have access to the most up-to-date books on anything, and I have to draw my conclusions from what I can get my hands on. My feelings were further confirmed by the projected oil pipeline that is planned to be built from the Caspian Sea area oil wells, through to Pakistan and the Indian Ocean, from whence the oil is to be shipped to China. The pipeline is to be built by Unocal, and the oil is to be pumped and shipped via various U.S. corporations. It was no accident that Hamid Karzai worked for Unocal as a consultant prior to his installment as a U.S. puppet.

As much as the transnational corporations want to expand into China, they also fear China, both economically and politically. I am sure you agree that capitalism continually requires new markets to expand into and will use any means necessary to do so. Consequently, capitalism inevitably leads to imperialism because it requires perpetual expansion for its survival. Your article hit the nail on the head, as clearly the corporate-controlled U.S. government will do anything it can to keep China under control. It was quite an eye-opener for me and an absolutely brilliant piece of work. Please give my heartfelt thanks to the writer.

Rand W. Gould
Carson City, Mich.

Euro Versus Dollar

It's nice to have you back, even if only bimonthly now. Your May-June issue was *excellent*, and two articles in it on the euro versus the dollar ("U.S. Invasion Plunges Iraq Into Chaos and Ruin") and

"American Companies Poised to Plunder Post-Saddam Iraq" make the issue worthwhile, even if you had not printed anything else. *Thank you* for outstanding journalism!

Ana Lucia Gelabert
Gatesville, Tex.

Excellent!

Hope this [\$15] helps a little. The May-June issue is excellent! Keep up the good work.

Diane Poole
Monessen, Pa.

Thrilled

I'm very much thrilled you are back with your newspaper. Never get bored.

Nina Guth
Phoenix, Ariz.

Liked What He Read

Saw your paper and like what you people are doing. Here is a contribution [\$100] to help you people continue.

Smoly Fink
San Diego, Calif.

War After War

I have noticed that your leaflet about the war against the people of Iraq was completely correct.

(Continued on page 8)

OHIO

Independence

Discussion Meetings—Section Cleveland will hold discussion meetings at the Days Inn, 5555 Brecksville Rd., (just south of R17-Granger Rd.), Independence, on the following Sundays: Aug. 31, Sept. 14, and Oct. 12. Meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments served. For more information please call 440-237-7933.

Columbus

Discussion Meetings—Section Cleveland will hold discussion meetings at the Columbus Main Library, Conference Room 1, 96 S. Grant (at Oak Street), Columbus, on Sunday, Sept. 28 and Sunday, Oct. 12. Meetings begin at 1 p.m. For more information please call 440-237-7933.

OREGON

Portland

Discussion Meetings—Section Portland holds discussion meetings every second Saturday of the month. Meetings are usually held at the Central Library, but the exact time varies. For more information please call Sid at 503-226-2881 or visit our Web site at <http://slp.pdx.home.mindspring.com>.

directory

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Call (727) 321-0999.

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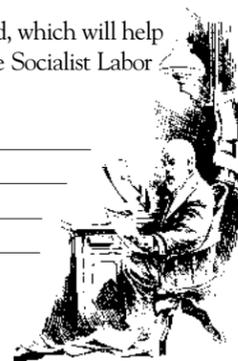
Call C. Camacho at (787) 276-0907. E-mail: redflag@coqui.net.

Daniel De Leon Sesquicentennial Fund

This is my contribution of \$ _____ for the Daniel De Leon Sesquicentennial Fund, which will help support the SLP's official journal. (Please make checks/money orders payable to the Socialist Labor Party or *The People* and mail to P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218.)

Name _____
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(Political contributions are not tax deductible.) Acknowledgments will be made in *The People*.
Please indicate if a receipt is desired: Yes No



...Organized Crime

(Continued from page 1)

The workers whose labor produced that value received \$363 billion in wages.

Value added by manufacture represents the difference between all inputs (raw materials of whatever sort, energy, value transferred by machinery, wages, etc.) and the value of manufactured commodities. In 2000, workers added value of \$2 trillion by their labor. The difference between that value and the value of wages is a rough gauge of the surplus value extracted by the capitalists. Wages amounted to 18.1 percent of the product of workers' labor, for a rate of surplus value of 551 percent.

Those were gross wages, which exclude "taxes" and other deductions that workers never see and only serve to maintain the illusion that workers, like capitalists, are taxpayers. The wages that count, the net wages that workers take home, represent something approximating the value of workers' labor power—what is needed to educate and train workers with skills for exploitation, what is needed to support them and their families and produce the next generation of wage slaves. In the past, *The People* estimated that the legerdemain of taxes could amount to 20 percent of gross wages, which would obviously increase the rate of exploitation.

Even without attempting such adjustments, the rate of exploitation has clearly been increasing. In 1972 wages equaled 29.9 percent of value added compared with 18.1 percent in 2000; the rate of surplus value was 334 percent compared with 551 percent.

Thus, it is clear that the relative share of workers' wages is decreasing and the exploitation of labor is increasing. Under capitalism that robbery of workers is perfectly legal. It is up to workers to change that by organizing politically and industrially to replace capitalism with socialism.

Much of the ruling-class concern about corporate scandals is that "investors" are being cheated. Let us be clear: "investors" by and large buy and sell existing shares in various enterprises. They don't invest money capital in production. The shares they buy and sell represent the right to share in the exploitation of workers. Thus "investors" are cheated out of the anticipated value of robbing workers. The pot calls the kettle black.

...Industrial Front

(Continued from page 2)

to eliminate the \$10-per-hour labor cost advantage enjoyed by the [nonunion] plants operated in the United States by companies such as Nissan and Honda," according to one industry observer.

UAW Strategy Revealed

The August announcement of a UAW labor agreement at Dana Corp., a parts supplier for the Big Three, plus similar agreements last year at three other industry parts suppliers—Johnson Controls Inc., Magna International Inc. and Metaldyne Corp.—would seem to corroborate a recent observation in *The Detroit News*.

"The Dana deal adds more credibility to the union's organizing strategy, which has targeted the increasing number of independent and nonunion auto parts makers that supply Big Three automakers," the motown newspaper reported. "Analysts say Ford likely pressured Dana to adopt a more union-friendly approach before the [certification] election to soften up the UAW at the [upcoming] bargaining table."

Hundreds of thousands of Big Three UAW members and retirees depending on the UAW to defend and advance their interests won't have to wait long to see just how "credible" this UAW "organizing" strategy is as far as their own interests are concerned. —K.B.

FUNDS

(June 21–Aug. 15)

Daniel De Leon Sesquicentennial Fund

Marie & Ray Simmons \$1,000; Joan Davis \$800; \$500 each Jack Radov, Anonymous; Earl Prochaska \$300; Anonymous \$215; \$200 each Chris Dobreff, Glenn Schelin, John Walbridge, Kay Lewis; Raymond Solomon (In memory of the people murdered in the 1973 Chilean coup) \$145; John Houser \$101.35; \$100 each Yolanda Koptur (In memory of Luba & Theodore Gramaticoff), Donald Rogers, Dr. Bernard Presser, F.P. Cruikshank, Gerald Lucas, Irene S. Louik, Lois Reynolds, Michael J. Preston, Rick Farwell, S.W. Andrick, William E. Tucker; Anonymous \$95; Section Cook Co., Ill., \$91.32; J. Blessington \$75; Lloyd A. Wright \$60; \$50 each Bessie Gabow, Dimitre Eloff, Earle McGue, Edith Mautner, Harvey K. Fuller, Jeff Andrews, Jim Plant, Joseph C. Massimino, Judith A. Zaccaria, Tony Marsella, Walter Vojnov, Wayne W. Urffer, William Kuhn; Paul D. Lawrence \$43.

\$40 each Daniel Brian Lazarus, The Begovich Family (In memory of Grace Hamilton); \$30 each F. Beedle, John Hagerty, Orville Rutschman; William Rickman \$28; \$25 each Albert C. Goldberg, Ben Kraft, Bill & Joan Kelley, Darwin Spaysky, Eugene J. Pacharis, Harriet Dolphin, Jennie Seekford, John P. Pisaneschi, M. Rooney, Paul Bakulski, Paul L. Wolf, Phillip Colligan, R. Collins, Richard Woodward, Robert Varone, Rudolph P. Sulenta, William H. Nace, Free Voices (In memory of Salvador Allende) \$23; Reynold Elkins \$22; Anonymous \$21; \$20 each A.T. Wanamaker, David Brannan, F. Cline, Gerald Gunderson, Gregory Fuchs, John Sherman, Joseph J. Frank, Joseph T. Longo, Leo Rainer, Randy Shields, Robert G. Rink, Roger Caron, Sarah Haggard, Sid Fink; \$15 each Harold Madsen, Henry Coretz, Maurice Greb, Morton J. Disckind, Robert A. Nash, Rosemary Gale; Richard Wilson \$12.50; \$12 each Marshall G. Soura, Sarah Rotman.

\$10 each Juliette Jackson (In honor of Harry Banks' 102nd birthday), Alphonse Eiden, Anna Cantarella, Charles Gerhard, Chester Skakun, Dora Ruggiero, Dorothy M. Kurtz, Edmund J. Light, Edward Killian, George Lovrich, Harry C. Segerest, Harry E. Gibson,

James B. Buffaloe, John L. Norris, John M. Lambase, Joseph Bellon, Ken McDouall, Kevin Stroup, L. Lela, Millard Culpepper, Randy Fleming, Richard F. Mack, Robert M. Garavel, Steve Williams, William C. O'Mahoney; D. Borowsky \$9; \$8 each Craig Maggio, Roberta Diamond; Don Patrick \$7.50; Milton A. Poulos \$7; William Sariago \$5.20; \$5 each Albert Perez, Craig Maggio, Donald F. Cuddihee, George E. Gray, H. Jung, Jack Lally, Larry Lewis, Philip F. Sullivan, Robert Jasek, William J. Prinz; George T. Gaylord \$1.

Total: \$7,916.87

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\$300 each Bernard Bortnick, Karl Heck, Robert Burns; \$200 each Chris Dobreff, Joseph Bregni; Carl C. Miller Jr. \$140; Lois Reynolds \$100; \$50 each Michael Preston, William E. Tucker; Section Wayne County, Mich. (In memory of Grace Hamilton): \$25 each section, W. & N. Carlen; Richard A. Aiken (In memory of John W. Aiken) \$45; \$25 each Frank & Margaret Roemhild, James Lehner, Lois Kubit; Section San Francisco Bay Area: William Kelley \$20; \$10 each Jill Campbell, Steve Littleton; Section Wayne County, Mich., \$5.

Total: \$1,855.00

SLP Leaflet Fund

Richard Wilson \$10; Joseph J. Frank \$5.

Total \$15.00

Press Security Fund

Raymond Solomon (In memory of the people murdered by the CIA and right-wing death squads in Central America during the 1980s) \$20; Dan Kryk \$10.

Total: \$30.00

SLP Emergency Fund

R. Hofem \$20.00 (Total)

Socialist Labor Party

Financial Summary

(June-July 2003)

Bank Balance (May 31)	\$80,146.39
Expenses (June-July)	20,403.62
Income (June-July)	13,283.46
Balance (July 31).....	73,026.23
Deficit 2003 (as of July 31).....	13,617.72

...De Leon Editorial

(Continued from page 4)

clergymen, as delegates of "Councils of the Churches of Christ" and as delegates of "Federations of Catholic Societies," notably large property interests—all this demonstrates the AFL to be an anti-labor, antiproletarian, and procapitalist concern.

To bow before such "unionism" is to desecrate unionism. Not to build "dual unions" is to abandon the field to a buffer for capitalism. The stone which the builders are refusing—the unorganized proletariat, and the proletariat disorganized in the AFL—is the only stone possible to become the headstone of the corner.

The facts alleged in the report from Chicago are

welcome symptoms that the persistent work of the SLP is bearing fruit. The superstitious reverence with which obscene capitalist interests and the labor lieutenants seek to secure for the mere word "unionism," and which pure and simple political socialism abjectly bows to as a monopoly of the AFL, has, as the SLP has long maintained, no hold among the workers: the language of bona fide unionism, which is socialism, need but to be uttered clearly and boldly, as was done in Chicago, to evoke the enthusiastic response of proletarians.

The "dual union," long calumniated, is bound to come—it is coming—the harbinger of a bona fide labor movement, as yet nonexistent in the land.

...SLP Letters

(Continued from page 2)

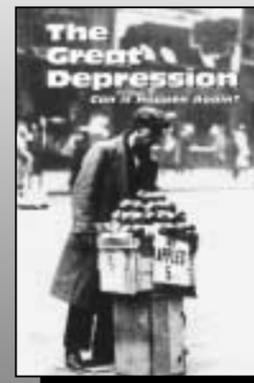
democracy and freedom. It would be a society based on the primary freedom—economic freedom. It would banish the obscene spectacle of unmet human needs amid the opulence of a handful of exploiters. Workers would receive the full social value of their labor, and no one could live off the labor of others.

Paul D. Lawrence
Fresno (Calif.) Bee,
May 13

Madison on War

"The only case in which the Executive can enter on a war, undeclared by Congress, is when a state of war has 'been actually' produced by the conduct of another power, and then it ought to be made known as soon as possible to the Department charged with the war power."

Nov. 16, 1827



48 pp. – \$2.25 (postpaid)

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- **The Depression's Inflationary Legacy**
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NEW YORK LABOR NEWS
P.O. Box 218
Mtn. View, CA 94042-0218

Poverty Amidst Plenty

By Paul D. Lawrence

Feed the Children donates food and other necessities to people in impoverished areas, generally in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It recently provided two big rigs loaded with food to an organization called Love INC for local distribution in its area. The need was substantial.

Some 300 families received food.

One boy had not eaten in five days and was dry heaving.

A 13-year-old girl, whose family lives in a camping trailer, sleeps outside in a refrigerator box.

Some families live outdoors, under bushes. Others have homes without inside bathrooms, heating and cooling.

However, the scene depicted here was not from some Third World country. It was, as reported by *The Fresno Bee*, in Tulare County, Calif.

Tulare County is the second most productive agricultural county in the nation. Supermarkets all over the United States sell vegetables from its fields. Production last year was valued at \$3.2 billion.

The contradiction of poverty amid plenty was so stark that it didn't altogether escape notice in capitalist circles. Besides its reportorial article, the *Bee* later printed an op-ed article by Sue Moore Fenske, president and CEO of the Community Food Bank in Fresno.

"We all know that no one in the Central Valley should be struggling to stave off hunger," Fenske wrote. "Unfortunately, the solutions are complex and can be expensive."

"The ultimate goal," she continued, "must be to create jobs and to improve job readiness so that

families can change their circumstances and find a path to economic self-sufficiency." Until then programs such as food banks and other giveaways are necessary to make "sure each family member has regular and nutritious meals."



Carol Simpson

Fenske was rather short on details about how any of this would happen. "When economic development corporations, the chambers of commerce, the business councils and representatives from government get together to brainstorm solutions, representatives from the nonprofit sector must be at the table," she said.

Such idealist moonshine ignores how capitalism works. Indeed, the groups Fenske believes must find solutions are representatives of the social class that is responsible for the problem.

Ironically, the food distributed to impoverished workers in giveaway programs represents the product of their own collective labor, which accumulates as unsalable commodities that are then

recycled back to some workers as charity.

That rarely happens when times are "good" and most of what is produced can be sold, or when times are so bad that production is reduced and no surpluses are available for "charitable" purposes. It only happens between the "boom" and "bust" periods that are characteristic of the irrational capitalist system, when rising production collides with glutted markets.

Capitalists rarely give anything away unless there is a social dividend in it, either for the individual capitalist seeking notoriety as a "humanitarian" or collectively on the local, state or national levels to diffuse discontent and potentially explosive social unrest.

The problem of poverty amid plenty is not simply a social problem. It is an inexcusable social crime that cannot be solved by looking for relief from the self-serving "charitable" schemes of the same capitalist class whose greed and parsimony are responsible for all social distress. Rather than "charity," workers need clarity on how capitalism turns the abundance that human labor creates into scenes similar to those described at the top of this article. Workers need to shun such schemes, which only sow confusion and sap their political and economic strength by nurturing delusions about the social system that creates widespread social hardship and misery.

As profit is the bottom line for capitalists, so for workers must be the abolition of capitalism and its replacement with socialism. Socialist production, organized, democratically controlled and carried on by the useful producers themselves, would be for use, to satisfy human needs, wants and desires. It would provide plenty for all, not for just a few.

party news

Vote SLP for Houston City Council at-Large

SLP Section Houston has nominated Comrade Thomas Elliott as its candidate for Houston City Council. We have not decided on which at-large position we will be running for, but we will be fielding a candidate in November.

We still have a couple of other hurdles to clear, one will be finishing up our local platform. Once it is completed we will post it here. The other is getting on the ballot. According to the City of Houston Web site and the City Charter, all that is required is to file within the window and pay \$500. The other method of ballot access is to gather signatures. This has its advantages but we have limited resources so we may have to go the payola route. Of course, there will probably be other unseen obstacles but we will deal with them when they arise.

I have created a campaign page on our Web site. Go to <http://houstonslp.tripod.com> and click on the City Council Campaign link in the left-hand links box.

We need your support. Whether monetary or just vocal, let us hear your opinions on this undertaking.

Carl Miller
Organizer
Section Houston

SWP 'Photo Op'

I attended a small antiwar rally on Aug. 16. About 30 people attended and I was able to say a few words on behalf of the SLP.

I wasn't aware that we were going to be allowed to speak, so I didn't prepare a speech. I simply said a few words about the origins of

war and how it is just one of the symptoms of a sick system called capitalism, etc. Comrades Miller and Elliott were unable to accompany me due to some prior commitments.

On a funny note, the mayoral candidate from the Socialist Workers Party showed up right before the protest ended and walked around with his ballot petition for everyone to sign. Of course, he got permission to speak and turned it into a campaign appearance, complete with his own photographer and plenty of photo ops. We stood out in the Texas heat and protested the occupation of Iraq for two hours and this guy shows up right before it's over and gives a campaign speech. I thought it was in extremely bad taste. So did a lot of other people.

Carl Miller
Organizer
Section Houston

NEC Recommends Postponing National Convention

The NEC recently voted to call upon the membership of the SLP to approve a recommendation to postpone the party's 46th National Convention. The NEC cited the party's financial problems, the impending expiration of the National Headquarters lease and a possible move to new facilities in support of its proposition.

The party's Constitution requires a general vote by the whole membership of the SLP to approve the recommendation. The National Office issued ballots to the sections and national members-at-large in July.

A general vote of the whole membership

takes six to eight weeks to complete. The vote will close on Aug. 25, a few days after this issue of *The People* goes to press.

...Letters

(Continued from page 6)

The so-called antiwar movement has vanished because it did not have a political line, it was directed by petty bourgeois intellectuals and romantic leaders that are defender of the democracy of the rich and the funny United Nations organization. Now everything is back to normal, the capitalist countries now are getting together to steal the natural resources of Iraq and the world and to steal more surplus value from the workers of the world. If this system is not overthrown and Marxism is not the frontal banner, we will continue having one war after the other and our children will die in vain, defending the interests of the rich people.

M. Colome
mcolome@...

TEXAS

Houston

Discussion Meetings—Section Houston holds discussion meetings the last Saturday of the month at the Houston Public Library, Franklin Branch, 6440 W. Bellfort, southwest Houston. The time of the meetings varies. Those interested please call 281-838-0008, e-mail houstonslp@ev1.net or visit the section's Web site at <http://houstonslp.tripod.com>.