

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Volume 54 No. 14

July 6, 2022

suggested donation \$1

Smash sexism, stride towards communism



Fight for communism a system where Black women will play a key role in running society, guaranteeing the safety of all.

CHICAGO, June 15—On a 100-degree afternoon, 100 students, parents, and workers marched through the south side Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago in the fifth annual “We Walk For Her” march organized to bring awareness to the Black and Latin women and girls that have gone missing because of sexist violence. This deadly sexism and racism is part and parcel of a system based on profit and exploitation.

Militant students led the action, from chants to marshaling the march. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members marched with dozens of workers and distributed fliers and CHALLENGE. Workers were receptive to our message of communist revolution and a worker-run society as being the only solution to the countless attacks that the international working class faces daily. Many took the Party’s literature and engaged in deep discussions in the blazing heat.

A system flooded with racist and sexist violence

Chicago has tragically been home to an increasing number of murders of women workers, the majority of them Black. These deaths have spanned from the South to West sides where the most vul-

nerable Black and brown working-class people live. Chicago’s long history of racist discrimination has facilitated the unsolved and forgotten fate of our working-class sisters.

The capitalist kkkops and kourts, far from protecting women workers, are some of the worst abusers, guilty of terrorizing, incarcerating, and murdering them! Having Lori Lightfoot as the city’s first Black gay woman mayor has done nothing to alter this state-sponsored violence, and no politician ever will. The bosses make billions of dollars in profits from racist and sexist super exploitation, and the role of the state is to manage and ensure that. They are not neutral, nor do they have the interests of the working class at heart.

As capitalism spirals into chaos, it has become a free for all, with violence against workers on the rise, and Black women taking the brunt. In May, a 36-year old Black woman was found chained up in an abandoned building after screaming in order to get the neighbors attention (Block Club Chicago, 5/23). Also in May, a teenager from Chicago was found by hotel workers in a hotel in Tuscaloosa, Alabama after she had been sex-trafficked (WVTM-13, 5/23). In both instances, it was not politicians, the kkkops or capitalists with many institutions at

their disposal that found these Black women; it was other workers who stood up and did something.

Black trans women workers have faced relentless attacks in Chicago, often times going missing and later found to be murdered by men who let the dehumanizing alienation and sexism abundant under the profit system to determine their actions.

A system that perpetuates violence and inequality against women and young girls should not exist. The political and economic system of capitalism is designed to do just that! In 2020, there were over 200,000 women under the age of 21 who were reported missing (Dame, 1/10).

Black women account for less than 15 percent of the U.S. population but more than one third of all missing women. The racist and sexist foundation of capitalism in the U.S. would have it no other way.

Lessons from Claudia Jones, Black communist woman leader

In 1949, revolutionary Black communist Claudia Jones wrote and published the pamphlet *An End To The Neglect Of The Problems Of The Negro*

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com

Mail
Box 8o8 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 112o2

Internet
www.plp.org

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram:
@PLPchallenge

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue \$1. One Year: \$20. Six months: \$15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 8o8 Brooklyn, NY 112o2, July 6, 2022•Volume 54 No. 14

Editorial

Colombia: ELECTORAL FARCE EXPOSES CAPITALIST CRISIS

The government of hope has arrived... We are going to develop capitalism in Colombia.

--Gustavo Petro in a June 19 victory speech

The election of misleader Gustavo Petro as president of Colombia is a desperate move by the country’s capitalist rulers to pacify millions of angry workers with empty promises of a social “transformation.” On the heels of a humiliating Summit of the Americas (see CHALLENGE, June 22), his victory reflects the U.S. bosses’ decline in their old imperialist backyard. But while every electoral circus is a lose-lose proposition for the working class, liberals and fake leftists like Petro are especially dangerous. Reforms by “anti-establishment” politicians will never meet workers’ needs. Liberal democracy is a dictatorship of the capitalist ruling class; the game is rigged to serve their interests. Capitalism everywhere is built on racism, sexism, exploitation, and violence. Only communist revolution, led by the international Progressive Labor Party, can transform society by smashing the vicious profit system and creating a world run by and for the working class. From Colombia to Haiti, from Mexico to Pakistan, workers will continue to rise up against poverty, state terror, gangster impunity, and racist inequality and need a Party like PLP to smash this system once and for all.

Racist inequality and state terror

Latin America has the highest level of economic inequality in the world, and Colombia has the worst income inequality and the least social mobility in Latin America (statista.com; Foreign Affairs, 6/19). Forty percent of the country’s population lives in poverty; 20 percent of young adults are jobless. The income gap has widened in the pandemic, especially in rural areas that are home to large indigenous and Black neighborhoods.

Enraged by the breakdown of public services, tax hikes, a plan to privatize health care, and more than five decades of civil war, hundreds of thousands of workers and students have mounted mass demonstrations, culminating in last summer’s “national strike.” At least 46 protesters were killed by Colombia’s kkkops (New York Times, 6/19). It was Petro’s job to steer the angriest workers with the least to lose—women, young people, the most impoverished sections of the working class, and Black and indigenous workers—off the streets and back into dead-end electoral politics. He did it well enough to beat Rodolfo Hernandez, a Trump-type businessman who praised Adolf Hitler and declared that Venezuelan women were “a factory for making poor children” (New York Times, 6/19). In a sign of workers’ disgust with the status quo, the old guard’s candidate, Federico Gutierrez, failed to make the runoff.

Guerrilla capitalist

Petro came of age as an urban “rebel” who refused to rock the capitalist boat. At age 17 he joined M-19, whose members “defined themselves as more reformist than revolutionary, closer to the teachings of South American liberation hero Simon Bolivar than those of Marx” (Americas Quarterly, 10/31/17). After 12 years as a noncombatant guerrilla and 16 months in jail, Petro jumped inside the bosses’ tent with both feet. Over the last three decades, mostly in Colombia’s Congress and Senate, this self-styled “socialist” has served as a willing capitalist stooge, moving steadily to the right as he got closer to real power.

From 2012 to 2015, as mayor of Bogotá, Petro fired hundreds of bus drivers, cut aid to the disabled, and closed community kitchens. Those who dared to demonstrate were bashed by Petro’s allies in the unions and brutalized by Petro’s police. Fitch, the U.S. credit agency, praised the mayor’s “conservative debt policy” (finance.yahoo.com, 6/22)—capitalist code for austerity attacks on workers.

In Petro’s latest presidential campaign, his third try, he promised big changes: land reforms, tax reforms, pension reforms, guaranteed employment, subsidies for single mothers, free higher education for all. Playing to reactionary identity politics, he recruited a Black woman as his running mate for vice president. But Petro was careful not to go too far or to alienate Colombia’s wealthy landowning elite. He promised not to expropriate private property and danced around the issue of abortion rights. To expand his voter base, he embraced allies of ex-president Alvaro Uribe, the fascist butcher who gave free rein to murderous paramilitaries and drug traffickers, and whose military slaughtered thou-

sands of civilians and dressed them as guerrillas to earn bonuses (americasquarterly.org, 1/10). A booster of clean energy, Petro said he would ban new oil projects but leave existing ones intact—enabling oil and gas producers to keep drilling through 2026, when the great reformer has promised to step down after one term (finance.yahoo.com, 6/20).

Meanwhile, splits in the Colombian ruling class—and the nature of capitalism—will place severe limits on Petro’s agenda. His minority party can be outvoted in Congress, and the country’s constitutional courts are run by judges tied to the big landowners. Colombia has a narrow tax base and is awash in debt, and Petro will need the corrupt private pension funds to keep buying the bonds that keep the government afloat. Like pathetic Jim Crow Joe Biden, Petro will struggle to push through even weak reforms. According to a political science professor at Bogota’s Rosario University, he will “have to abandon certain parts of this program....[H]e does not have a majority to implement everything he has promised” (NYT, 6/20). Or as Bruce Mac Master, president of the National Business Association of Colombia, put it: “Petro is an economist. He understands economic issues” (Financial Times, 6/19).

Capitalism is built around maximum profit for the few at the expense of the many. History shows that any crumbs the bosses give us will be small and short-lived—and taken back in their inevitable next crisis.

Playing both sides

Colombia has long been the most reliable U.S. ally in Latin America and is now the region’s second largest recipient, after Mexico, of U.S. arms (visualcapitalist.com, 5/9). Beginning in the 1960s under President John F. Kennedy, and escalating in the Dirty War waged by Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, the U.S. promoted state terror in Colombia, Guatemala, and El Salvador. According to Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa, Colombia’s former minister of foreign affairs, Washington “took great pains to transform our regular armies into counterinsurgency brigades” (Huffington Post, 3/24/14). To this day, the U.S. “war on drugs” has done nothing to constrain Colombia’s cocaine industry. But with the CIA running point, the U.S. played a central role in funding the fascist paramilitaries and death squads that targeted trade unionists, peasant leaders, human rights monitors, journalists, and other suspected “subversives” (Progressive, June 1998).

During the Cold War, when U.S. imperialism dominated the atmosphere, it sponsored coups against elected leaders who threatened its interests, from Guatemala to Brazil to Chile to Argentina. But with the rise of imperialist arch-rival China, the game has changed. Deals must be cut with politicians the U.S. might once have assassinated. With the latest wave of reformist “pink tide” misleaders now in place in Peru, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, and Mexico, and Lula da Silva mounting a strong comeback campaign in Brazil, the U.S. needs to hold on to its foothold in Colombia to slow the spread of Chinese influence in the hemisphere.

Like any good opportunist, Petro is playing both sides. While recognizing China as a strategic partner in trade and finance, he declared that the relationship between Colombia and the U.S. was “of great importance...and the historic closeness of this relationship must continue” (El Espectador, 2/6). Petro might not have been the first choice for U.S. finance capital, but the biggest bosses seem to think they can work with him. After the president-elect strongly hinted that he would name a “moderate”—possibly an ex-central banker—as his finance minister, Morgan Stanley, the multinational banking giant, heaved a sigh of relief: “In the near term, we expect the administration to look to broaden its coalition and do not foresee disruptive policy proposals” (Financial Times, 6/19). In other words, the rich will keep getting richer while Colombia’s workers sink more deeply into poverty.

Fight for communism!

The election of class traitors like Gustavo Petro can’t change the fundamental conflict between the capitalist bosses and the international working class. The only good boss is a dead one! Workers’ anger won’t be contained by a few limited reforms. In the end, only the destruction of capitalism can resolve these contradictions. Only communism can create the world we need. Onward, working class! Join PLP☛

Strike against racism, steer toward revolution!



Striking workers in transit have the potential to steer our class towards an egalitarian communist society.

LANDOVER, MARYLAND, June 15—“The bosses can’t profit when the workers unite, shut it down and shut it tight” rang out in front of the Transdev Metro Access site, located on Hubbard Road in suburban Maryland. Transit workers at Metro Access garages are fighting for a living wage and decent benefits as they prepare to strike. These frontline workers drove disabled workers to doctors’ appointments, emergency rooms and other essential trips during the COVID pandemic and continue to serve despite their lower wages and benefits compared to other transit workers.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends at Metro are involved in the day to day organizing and help provide leadership to the workers. But PL’ers are also talking with drivers to think beyond the immediate contract. We are building a force to intensify the antiracist class struggle and march towards a communist revolution, a society run by workers serving other workers instead of profit-hungry bosses.

PLP believes that strikes can be turned into schools for communism, helping to build workers’ class consciousness, to help our class brothers and sisters recognize their true labor power. However, strikes on their own will never be enough to secure worker’s future as reforms are temporary. Workers must free themselves from the treadmill of reform to smash capitalism once and for all. We, the working class, have the power to build the world we want our families to live in free from racist and sexist inequality, low wages, and racist, mediocre health care. But, this world is only possible through a class con-

scious antiracist, antisexist, revolutionary movement for communism led by PLP.

Reformism and union sellouts derail revolutionary potential

As negotiations drag on, the workers are getting ready to step up the action. ATU 689 union workers turned out in force today to support these workers with retirees, circulator, and Metro drivers joining Metro Access workers against the Transdev bosses. These are the same bosses who fought against the striking Cinderbed transit operators for 84 days in Virginia before settling (see CHALLENGE, 12/4/2019). Circulator drivers recently showed the way with a three-day strike to get a better contract (see CHALLENGE, 4/27).

The bosses have cited “short-staffing,” caused by considerable turnover rates, to squeeze the Metro Access workers further. For over half a year, they have been forced to work grueling overtime schedules – up to 58 hours weekly – to make up for poor retention rates (atulocal689.org, 2/7). As subcontracted workers, they are grossly underpaid in comparison to workers at WMATA (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority). Many of them, unsurprisingly, are Black and Latin.

According to strike organizers, they are seeking a 20-30 percent increase in overall wages for pay parity with other paratransit workers in the region, better healthcare plans, expanded vacation, and a seat at the table when management discusses rule and policy changes. But perhaps the most important demand is for the drivers to become part of

WMATA, which would immediately give them access to better wages and benefits.

Union bosses only exist to negotiate the terms of exploitation for workers. Union bosses have sent strikers back to work with pitiful contracts billed as “victories,” and even “successful” strikes do not go farther than getting larger crumbs for workers. Under capitalism reforms workers mightily fought for are easily stripped away. Moreover, bosses need racism, sexism, unemployment, and imperialist war like living organisms need oxygen. Thus, no sweeping progressive reforms will eliminate these evils because they form the bedrock of the capitalist system.

Put class struggle on the right track towards communism

When one worker described their lack of health insurance and oppressive unscheduled late pickups required by management, a comrade responded, “Wow, we really need a revolution; check out our communist newspaper CHALLENGE.

The worker took the paper and we looked over the latest newsletter on negotiations together. Some retired workers eagerly took the paper to discuss the racist Buffalo murders and think about how to get younger transit workers engaged in the struggle. Only a communist world run by workers for the benefit of all can truly free workers from this violent system that routinely sacrifices human life and the environment on the altar of profits. The PLP needs all of these workers to join the broad struggle for a communist world!☺

‘Walk for her’

Leadership of Black women workers is key

Continued from page 1

Woman! where she laid forward the argument that the struggles faced by Black women workers had been not only ignored obviously by the capitalists, but also by the left and the Communist Party USA. This racist and sexist indifference occurred despite the fact that Black women were a super-exploited labor force and gave outsized but often unrecognized leadership to the international working-class movement. Her sharp insight back then guides how we build the struggle today.

The leadership of Black women workers is key, and it holds true today when we witness their fearless fightback during the 2020 antiracist uprisings,



to the strikes in healthcare currently erupting in Zimbabwe and in textile factories in Haiti. Black women workers regularly face the most brutal exploitation and oppression under capitalism, and for this reason are a section of the working class best suited to be leaders in the fight for revolution.

PLP is organizing to build this new egalitarian communist society, but it will not happen until many more working-class people decide to rise up and break the chains of capitalism. Bold leadership is essential to fighting back, but only communism is able to smash sexist exploitation and violence at their root and establish an egalitarian society. The international PLP invites workers here in Chicago and everywhere else to join us in building this fight!☺

Pakistan: workers caught between multiple crises of capitalism

The working class in Pakistan is under attack. Inflation is rising out of control. The May inflation rate was officially over 13 percent and unofficially prices on key staples are rising at five to ten times that rate. Capitalism is utterly failing the working class, the crisis in Pakistan cannot be fixed, more war and fascism are on the horizon and the only way to combat it is by building the fight for communist revolution. We in Progressive Labor Party (PLP) are trying to give the working class leadership and courage to fight against all these evils that hold back the struggle for an international communist revolution.

The rise in inflation is being triggered around the world by the breakdown in capitalism. Beyond the official inflation rate, the prices of basic food staples in Pakistan are skyrocketing: tomatoes are up 125 percent, onions are up over 60 percent as is butter and cooking oil (Pakistan Today, 5/2). When basic necessities rise, the working class, which pays a huge part of their income toward staples, suffers inflation at an extremely high rate. In Pakistan the unofficial inflation rate is likely around 40 percent. More than 50 percent of the total population of Pakistan is living below the poverty line and it is increasing every day. The unemployment rate in Pakistan has reached 25-30 percent. According to a report to the Senate Standing Committee on Planning and Development, 40 percent of Pakistan's youth are currently unemployed even though many of them hold professional degrees!

U.S. and Chinese bosses squeeze the working class in Pakistan

On top of this crisis the big imperialists are squeezing the working class even more. The Pakistani bosses are in danger of defaulting on their in-

ternational debt. Both the U.S. and Chinese imperialists told the Pakistani bosses to get a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). To appease the IMF, the government raised the price of fuel by over 33 percent and the IMF is still not satisfied and wants the price of electricity to go up by 50 percent (Financial Times, 6/3).

Within the Pakistani ruling class competing factions are nearly at war with each other and the ruling faction is terrorizing the working class to contain fightback against the worsening economic conditions and shut down the competing faction of bosses. Recently the government arrested hundreds of supporters of former president Imran Khan's PTI party and banned Khan's planned march on the capital (Reuters, 5/24).

This is leading to a division in the rank and file of the military establishment, civil bureaucracy and judiciary. The bosses are spreading fascism to curb the pro-working-class forces along with the supporters of Khan. Both factions of bosses are using different prejudices to keep the working class fighting with each other in the name of sectarianism, nationalism, racism and so-called political parties. Whenever the working class tries to forge a united struggle against exploitation and fascism the bosses use politicians to divide the working class on the basis of personality cults and other backward ideas.

The working class in Pakistan is caught in several inevitable crises of capitalism at once. Inflation was rising under the Khan government and has continued under the new bosses. The Chinese and U.S. bosses are competing to exploit Pakistan's strategic position and their nuclear arsenal while bleeding the working class dry. The Pakistani bosses are at each other's throats and are building violent racist and fascist movements to mobilize and control the working class. Reforms or better politicians won't

solve these problems. Only communist revolution and a society based on workers' power will.

Workers must unite to smash capitalism

The working class is in search of basic food and shelter from severe weather conditions, but pro-capitalist misleaders are turning them against each other for their own interests. The working class in Pakistan is getting poorer everyday. They are deprived of basic necessities and can be prosecuted if they chant any slogan against the atrocities they are facing every day at work or at home. There are two groups of bosses fighting over the bones of the working class but both of them are against the working class. As for the middle class, it has for the most part been opportunist and has aligned themselves with both groups and supported imperialist interests by remaining in one party of capitalists or the other. They are also misleading the unions to serve the interest of the capitalist class. In the unions it is their duty to not allow poor workers to come forward and lead the real struggle for a classless society.

The capitalists are controlling our lives; they decide our working conditions, wages and our future. Their economic policies are spreading poverty, exploitation, oppression, injustice and inequality. Their social policies are based on "divide and rule" which is why they are able to keep the working class deprived of every right to live happily. They are using fundamentalism, nationalism, sexism, sectarianism, racism and terrorism to keep workers silent.

PLers in Pakistan are helping to break the chains of our workers oppression link by link. We hope to lead our class brothers and sisters on the long march towards communist revolution. Join us!

MLA caucus

Capitalism is dictatorship for workers, democracy for bosses

The Radical Caucus of the MLA Modern Language Association) organized a session, "'Democracy' in a Time of War," in recognition of the fact that workers worldwide are becoming more aware of the deadly nature of capitalist democracy and open to ideas of communist revolution. Members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) emphasized and supported the most internationalist, pro-working class ideas of this discussion, while putting forward the idea that a workers' communist party is the only way to advance the cause of workers' democracy. This session took place as part of the "Keywords project," which regularly brings MLA people together to critically examine concepts important to antiracist- and anti-capitalist struggle.

Break mental vs manual labor all workers use philosophy

Three progressive scholars briefly analyzed the term from different points of view—how Karl Marx thought about democracy, what W.E.B. Du Bois wrote about "abolition democracy" in Black Reconstruction, and how the term "democracy" is weaponized in U.S. war propaganda today. PLP was there with our MLA Radical Caucus friends as co-organizers and co-questioners. Our base at the event included professors, a K-12 teacher, a group from the PSC/CUNY left, a philosopher of art in Berlin, and a comrade who called this in from the tow-truck he was driving on Route 80: "Most working people I know are totally cynical about democracy. They, in a completely organic way, find it to be a tool of elites." This was one of the most significant statements made at the entire conference, and it set the stage for PLP to help put forward the call for organizing a party and not leaving these conversations in the realm of the purely academic.

The first presenter said that Marx doesn't discuss democracy much but does focus on the closely related keywords freedom and equality, "key features of capital's self-image" and ideology. Marx sees freedom dialectically: more of humanity is formally free under capitalism than in serfdom or slavery—which is why progressives including Marx fought against slavery and for universal suf-

frage. Liberal democracy does not liberate workers, the speaker continued, because capital first "frees" or separates workers from their own means of production. A "Marxist conception of democracy" must attack the impersonal economic domination of capital, which operates as Marx often said "behind our backs," behind the appearances of political democracy in the state. But, the speaker concluded, our project of workers' liberation from capitalism cannot avoid the terms freedom, equality, and democracy: "We must struggle to supersede capital from within capital" and reclaim the promise of democracy from its capitalist distortion and for the immense majority.

Du Bois, for his part, decried the loss of power by workers freed from slavery as Northern capitalists and former enslavers took all political power from them and smashed the Reconstruction of the South. The presenter said that what Du Bois revealed about Northern capital's racist power grab in the South was the start of U.S. imperialist racism moving to do the same thing to workers globally, across the "Global Color Line." "Abolition democracy" to Du Bois meant that any real democracy was impossible without the abolition of "property relations," that is, really, capitalism, though he didn't join the Communist Party till near the end of his life.

He ascribed the destruction of workers' power in Reconstruction to bourgeois panic at the idea of the freed enslaved people and the proletariat banding together with real power. So much for democracy when it threatens the right to own and exploit labor. The direct, personal power of the enslaver was replaced "behind our backs" by the economic domination of the owner of capital.

Workers need democratic centralism

The lively Chat brought up Mao Zedong's theory of "New Democracy," or "People's Democracy," which PLP sees as one of the roots of revisionism (abandoning communism) in the Chinese Communist Party, combated in the Cultural Revolution by views taken from the 1871 Paris Commune.

Democratic centralism needs to be explained in greater depth. What is the dialectic between mass participation and the local, on the one hand, and synthesizing leadership at the center, on the other? Here's an excerpt from a key PL document, "For Communist Economics and Communist Power"

For the "democratic" part, one meaning is that there should be full discussion of a proposal before a decision is made. Another meaning is that decisions should be made in the interests of the working class, and in a way that not only will benefit the working class, but also train more and more working-class people to contribute to the running of the society....The word "centralist" means that after a decision is made, everyone should work to carry it out, whether or not they agreed with the decision. all centralism is for the purpose of building a society free of privilege and exploitation, based on "from each according to his ability, to each according to need." and developing the consciousness of the people to be able to implement that.

See www.plp.org for the full version. There is much writing about this which we did not take up here.

We ended by noting that armed imperialist democracy turning the world into its battlefield is a living refutation of the lies and illusions widespread about democracy under capitalism. The presenter on Du Bois spoke for us all, sick of the slaughter in Yemen and Ukraine and Buffalo and Uvalde, when he said: "When people in the Global South hear the word democracy, they shudder, because they know what is about to be dropped on them is not leaflets." The work of questioning brought us together in a powerful way. It strengthened us for the fights ahead as democracy shades into fascism.

The discussion maybe brought some friends closer to seeing the need to join and build PLP. When campuses return in-person, Radical Caucus members can carry some of these insights into work on campus, such as teach-ins on the inter-imperialist war in Ukraine, where "democracy" means Javelins and Stingers and heavy artillery. A communist democracy means the working class running society based on need and commitment.☺

Part 7: Black communists in Spanish Civil War

Frank Alexander, a red leader for life



Frank Alexander, pictured right, was a life-long Black communist

This is part eight of a series about Black communists in the Spanish Civil War. In the early 1930s the urban bourgeoisie (capitalists) of Spain, supported by most workers and many peasants, overthrew the violent, repressive monarchy to form a republic. In July 1936 the Spanish army, eventually commanded by Francisco Franco, later the fascist dictator, rebelled to reestablish the repressive monarchy. Hitlers Germany and Mussolini's Italy gave Franco massive military aid.

In 1936 the International Communist Movement, called the Comintern, headquartered in the Soviet Union and led by Joseph Stalin, organized volunteers, mainly workers from more than 60 countries into the International Brigades (IBs) to go to Spain to defend the Republic. Black workers, especially Black communists, emphasized the importance of fighting racism to win anything for the working class. And they brought this antiracist fightback with them when they returned to the United States. They were building a movement they hoped would lead to communist revolution around the world. They succeeded in organizing millions around communist ideas and practices. But the movement believed that uniting with liberal bosses to defend the Republic in Spain would further the fight for communism. This was part of the united front against fascism, which resulted in only fortifying the bosses system and laid the basis for the corruption of the old communist movement.

In the Progressive Labor Party, we are against any unity with capitalists. They all have to go and the working class must rule: that's communism.

If the working class is to seize and hold state power throughout the world, Black workers' leadership is essential. That is the only way our class can destroy racism, the lifeblood of capitalism. The following is a story of one such leader, Frank Alexander.

Frank Alexander was born of a white and indigenous mother and a Black father on the Omaha Sioux reservation on February 8, 1911. The indigenous people welcomed mixed marriages, which were illegal in most of the United States. He first moved in with his younger brother, Herschel, who was in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and lived in the home of the famous communist leader Mother Ella Reeves Bloor.

A proud Black communist

Frank moved to Los Angeles, where he became active with the Communist Party, which he joined in 1931, at the age of 20. He said:

See, in those days, the Communist Party, and the YCL [Young Communist League], was a very popular body, especially in the Black communities. And so these guys had the respect of... the community as a whole ... because of the struggles that they carried on.

Frank's words debunk the idea that communism is somehow alien or irrelevant to Black workers. In fact, he was one of countless Black workers who joined the long fight for a communist world.

Organizing multiracial unity

He became involved in a Longshoremen's strike in which the bosses hired Black workers as strike-breakers.

And our idea was to discourage Black [workers] from going there as scabs and strike-breakers, despite the fact that at that time no Black [workers] were in the Longshoremen's Union at all, you see. [We] explained how it was the efforts of the bosses to separate people and in that way keep the wages down and use one group against the other. Eventually they were going to let the [Black workers] go, and they would hire the [white workers] back, and you knew that the white workers wouldn't want you in the shop if you had worked as a scab. So it was just a temporary thing, and the best thing you could do was to work with the white workers and try to educate them and fight for the rights of [Black workers] to get into the union.

...Put me on the list!

When the Spanish Civil War broke out, Frank volunteered to go to fight the fascists.

... I just knew that I wanted to go to Spain when I heard about Spain ... Because I told you that I'm the kind of person who wants to fight back, and I thought this was a way of really getting to the source. I thought the American people would learn much faster when America became involved in that struggle, that they would wise up to the problems that were here. So I figured that was the best way to show my support for

what I believed in. So when they began to talk about sending guys over there, I said put me on the list.

In Spain, Frank Alexander was assigned to the Washington Battalion. After recovering from pneumonia, he was reassigned to the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion (Canadians) and appointed squad leader of a machine-gun company.

He was wounded twice during the fighting at Fuentes de Ebro (July – November 1938). Eager to continue fighting the fascists, Alexander "deserted" the hospital where he was recuperating to rejoin the XVth Brigade.

During the fighting at Teruel (Dec. 1937-Feb. 1938), Frank and his squad were ordered on a reconnaissance patrol near the enemy's lines but were caught in the open and cut down by long-range machine gun fire. Alexander was the only man to survive the sprint back to friendly lines.

During the retreats that followed the Nationalist's rapid advance in March and April 1938, Alexander found himself behind enemy lines. After several harrowing days, including a night perched in a tree directly above an Italian encampment, Alexander made it back across the Ebro into Republican territory. Alexander was with the Mac-Paps when they crossed the Ebro during the Republic's last offensive in July 1938. However, he was wounded shortly after the offensive began and he spent the remainder of his time in Spain in a hospital. Due to the severity of his wound, Alexander was left behind when the other Americans were withdrawn. He finally crossed the Pyrenees, together with thousands of Spanish refugees and, together with them, was imprisoned by French authorities in a hastily constructed concentration camp around Perpignan where he spent several weeks until a U.S. embassy official arranged his passage to the United States.

In 1939 Alexander married Lillian Perlowe, also a Communist Party (CP) member. Because interracial marriages were illegal in California, she had to register as "Negro." During World War II Alexander served in the segregated U.S. Army with an all-Black Engineer Combat Battalion.

After the war Alexander was a full-time Communist party functionary from 1948 to 1955. He chaired the Negro Commission of the Los Angeles Communist Party and was a member of the California state committee. During the McCarthy period, Alexander endured constant surveillance and harassment. He was indicted as one of the Los Angeles Twenty-One, a group of Communist Party members charged with conspiracy. Alexander was the chief liaison between the CPUSA and the indicted CP members. The charges against Alexander were subsequently dropped but not before he had served a short jail term.

Discouraged and confused like many other communists by class traitor Nikita Khrushchev's attack on the communist leader Joseph Stalin, and then the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956, Alexander and his wife quit the CP. But he continued to support the struggle.

But I'll never be able to leave my philosophy. And I'll never be able to renege on the working class and whatever struggles they have ... I still support the movement in every way that I possibly can since the late fifties ... I was in every damn picket line about Korea or Vietnam that there was.

Fighters Frank Alexander is a testament to how communist ideas live on despite the betrayals of the old communist movement, and how the working class desperately needs the leadership of Black workers in the fight for communist revolution. ☸

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Fired for being a good teacher

This letter is to support a fellow comrade. A wonderful, bilingual, antiracist, high school teacher who has just been fired, not for doing his job poorly, but for doing his job extremely well!

The conditions that he teaches in are deplorable, racist and dangerous - made even worse since Covid-19.

- The school is severely understaffed.
 - Since September his rosters have changed like a revolving door, making consistency difficult, but he worked to create continuity by making home visits to make sure his students were OK.
- During the pandemic, this caring communist teacher - a resident of Newark, and an immigrant, ORGANIZED his co-workers to:
- Collect and deliver food to students and their families, helping the school community to be more cohesive.
 - Raised thousands of dollars for some families so that they could pay rent.
 - Went to the airport to get the siblings of students who had been released from deadly detention centers.
 - Regularly worked with a social worker to try to figure out how to help his students

He also volunteered after school for “the Big Blue Student Academy” which consists of 95 percent Black male youth who have been removed from their classes. This was important for him to find a way to learn from, and to build ties with these students who legitimately were angry.

• He organized an Amnesty International club so students could learn about imperialist war and racist borders, and that it’s never OK to kill our working-class brothers and sisters for the bosses.

He always had good evaluations, until the racist administration said this teacher did something they ruled as very dangerous. What was this dangerous thing? He REFUSED to allow students to be forced to remain outside in freezing temperatures waiting for the guards to show up. This communist teacher ushered his students into his classroom so they wouldn’t get sick. For this they put a letter in his file, and the district has now deemed this teacher as UNSATISFACTORY and he cannot be hired back into any school in the district.

PL’ers, coworkers and parents of this teacher’s students have been organizing to fight to get his job back – the working class needs him in the classroom; because as we move towards war and fascism these schools will turn into a larger fascist monster. Some students will be forced into the killing fields, while others, both immigrant and “citizen,” get swallowed up in the growing industrial prison complex feeding the same imperialist war machine.

Our number one job is to continue to follow the courageous example of this communist teacher: Apply the ideas in CHALLENGE, use it to organize and STAND UP AND FIGHT BACK! **Update: the teacher got his job back! Read all about it in the next issue!**

★★★★★

In fight vs racist shootings, demand multiracial fightback

Recently, two of us participated in the rally against mass gun killings at the courthouse in Hackensack, N.J. The very positive aspect was that it was organized by a thoroughly multiracial group of students from several high schools in Bergen County. Many of them spoke about the fear most students and their loved ones have in the wake of the

Uvalde, Parkland, and too many other massacres. They each called for action! Sadly, the event was poorly attended by primarily white supporters. We are trying to meet with the leaders of this movement to encourage wide outreach to Black and Latin communities in the county. Recently, most of the victims of these vicious assaults have been Latin and Black.

Of course, our main task is to sharpen our efforts to explain to our expanding base that such depraved, racist assaults are caused by a decaying, murderous capitalist system. Capitalism can be ended only when the working class takes the guns and turns them around to seize power. We can then build a communist society that stamps out all racist terror.

★★★★★

Working-class liberation, not rainbow capitalism

I am finishing up my second year as a club advisor for my high school’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA). Initially I took on the role because a friend left who had been doing the job and it was a vibrant club with lots of student participation. I was also concerned about at-risk LGBTQ+ youth who relied on the club for support.

In my time as advisor I have been able to have regular meetings with up to 30 students, hold events in the cafeteria that involved the whole student body, and organize student-led meetings that tackle issues such as sexism, homophobia, and transphobia.

The club has helped me to develop deeper relationships with many students and introduce more of them to CHALLENGE newspapers. We have also created a club that promotes multi-racial, multi-lingual, and multi-gender unity with bilingual meetings.

It can be difficult walking the line between being supportive of students and not encouraging identity politics. However, the fight for unity and struggle with some student leaders over the need for unity have helped to bring out pro-student, pro-working class politics.

Since there are many activities in June for pride month, it has been particularly busy lately. While there are many LGBTQ identity-based flags that students embrace, I took the opportunity when putting up flags to include the Red Flag. This led to several good conversations when students asked what the flag represents. My response was “communism and working-class unity.”

I am looking forward to further discussions with students about how we, the working class, can make things better by building a communist movement.

★★★★★

Chats at the rail: guns, laws, free speech all protected by capitalism

I’m a transit worker, and in light of the recent mass shootings, I’ve been having many discussions with my coworkers about their ideas and possible solutions.

In a group of four during our lunch one worker said, “We should just have armed guards at every school.”

I said, “What’s gonna stop them from using the guns on the students? There’s already cases of unarmed security guards using excessive force now.”

Another coworker, Dave, agreed by adding a case he read of where that happened. Another worker, Sam, said “It started with that shooter in Columbine, that started the ideology of shooting kids in schools.”

I mentioned that it’s the ideologies of hate that existed before him that he acted upon. We left and headed to clock out before we could finish. Next day during lunch,

I continued the conversation with Sam.

I told him, “This conversation about gun laws or armed guards is like treating the cough instead of the virus. It’s capitalism that needs racism and sexism, and women and Black, Latin and Asian workers seem to be the main targets of these shootings. Then in order to protect these ideas of murder in the media they call it ‘free speech.’”

Sam, who is also an ex-marine, said “We have to have free speech cause if we don’t then the country could slip into a totalitarian state.”

I told him there are many examples of countries who have been able to make racism and prostitution illegal successfully and that not making racism legal wasn’t a factor in their downfall, for example, the Soviet Union and China.” We agreed to continue this conversation later after giving it some thought.

I’m finding many of my coworkers siding with protecting “freedom of speech.” This will be my focus in future discussions, on how we can have freedom of speech but not if it hurts the working class.

★★★★★

The solution to capitalist gun violence

U.S. capitalism is the greatest producer and exporter of worldwide, racist terror and violence in history. It has been at war for 95 percent of its existence, committing genocide and slavery against Native American and African people while conducting colonial and imperialist wars. It has produced and exported guns, weapons, troops and drone strikes to protect stolen profits throughout its Empire of occupations with presently 800 military bases in over 100 countries.

Currently over 100 million refugees fleeing the mass destruction and slaughter from 60 U.S. wars since WWII are being subjected to racist harassment and accusations of terrorism from capitalist owned media. Recent U.S. racist massacres at an all Black shopping center in Buffalo, NY and at an all Latin school in Uvalde, Texas just this week are being blamed on the mentally ill but they are really the consequence of capitalism’s culture of violence to prepare their youth for war and profits. The same culture of violence is responsible for the millions, including veterans, who are homeless, living on the streets, or the 31 million without healthcare or the unemployed.

Capitalists are the real mentally ill. They have lost their humanity and have become sociopaths who rationalize that they are not responsible for their countries’ imperialist slaughters or numerous domestic rebellions opposing capitalist exploitation and violence against workers. These workers produce the very profits capitalist existence depends on and they also fight in capitalist wars against other workers. Democrats and Republicans pose as the people’s political voice, but both give 95 percent support for all war-funding legislation proposed by their capitalist masters.

The international working class can produce a prosperous living for our entire worldwide class without violence if we recognize the need to organize to end this capitalist system of inequality which uses violence for profits. Only an antiracist, antisexist, borderless culture achieved through communist revolution advocated by the Progressive Labor Party can accomplish that. It will be based on need, equality and a collective system that needs everyone and develops individual self-esteem, confidence in the collective and working class, respect for the needs of others and the satisfaction of being able to contribute our own innovations to help others and create a better world. Join us!]

GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism’s response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

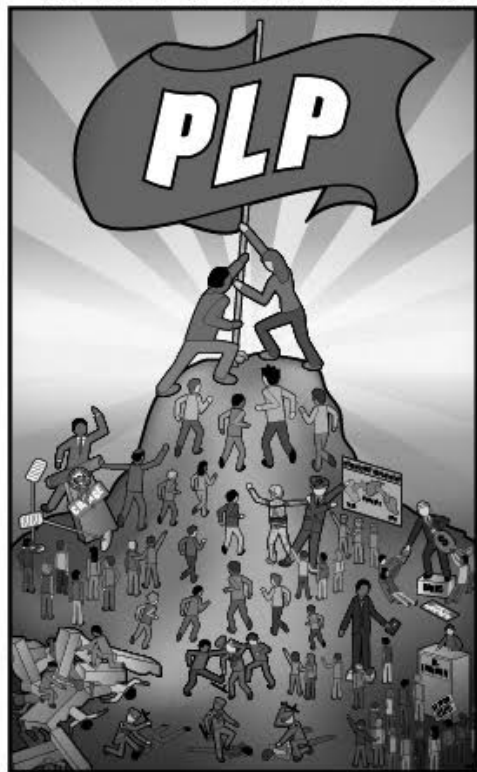
The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They’re willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

Multiracial unity in Tupelo, 1976

RACISM & IMPERIALISM!



**FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST
WORLD**
THE INTERNATIONAL

Continued from page 8

The United League, a Black reformist group, recently cancelled a march scheduled for Okolona (a town not far from Tupelo) today, because its leader Skip Robinson, essentially chickened out of the struggle. More and more people are realizing that the leadership of UL cannot stand up to the rigors of the class struggle.

Workers put themselves on the line

Respect for PLP was growing in Tupelo. Two residents of Tupelo put up their houses as collateral so that our comrade could be bailed out of jail. When the two marchers who had been wounded were treated in the hospital, they were warmly received and treated by white doctors and other hospital workers. After the march stopped to rally, hundreds of Black workers surrounded the marchers to protect them from the cops (who would have been only too glad to be trigger happy).

This was the first time a racist had been beaten by an antiracist march in Tupelo. The leadership of the UL had always guaranteed the safety of the KKK and the cops by holding back the anger and hatred of Black workers in the fight to liberate themselves from the racism they faced every day. The bosses always think that they can destroy a worker's movement by getting its leaders, but little do they know that leaders always spring up in the midst of struggle. There were many, many people right in Tupelo, and other cities North and South, and there still are today, who can develop as working-class leaders in the fight against racism and fascism, and they were and are being trained by Progressive Labor Party.

This was readily proven by the response not only of the marchers, in their determination to continue the march, not to be intimidated by the cops' harassment, but also by the tremendous support of the local people. Over 200 copies of InCAR Arrow and CHALLENGE were sold, 4 people joined



Help PLP
sustain the
fight as we
build for
communism
all over the

world. Donate by scanning the QR code or go to www.tinyurl.com/donate2plp Follow us on social media!
@PLPchallenge

InCAR on the spot. Another demonstration was planned on the spot.

The main lesson PLP learned in Tupelo, as everywhere, is to be bold. The bolder we were, the more seriously people took us and the more willing they were to respond to us. Workers understand that the system will come down hard when you try to fight it. They are also ready to understand that you only win on the offensive.

The time period is different, but there are still lots of lessons to take away. Let's be bold at our annual summer project in New York and New Jersey this year from July 6—July 13! Contact your local PL'er or email desafio.challenge@gmail.com for more info!☺



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

As imperialists build for world war, junior capitalists hedge their bets

Foreign Affairs, 6/15—Western states looked to an even broader range of countries to isolate Russia diplomatically...These efforts, however, have been less successful...35 countries—representing almost 50 percent of the world population—abstained or voted no on a March 2 resolution to condemn the Russian invasion. Western diplomats were surprised by the number of countries across the global South that refused to condemn Russia and by the sense of frustration they encountered in negotiations; one analyst characterized the Western reaction as “disappointed and a bit confused.”

Western policies have consistently locked developing countries across Africa and Latin America out of decisions that directly impact their interests. An early flashpoint was the U.S. and European failure to fulfill a decades-old promise to raise \$100 billion per year in climate change assistance.

China decouples economy to end era of petrodollar

Foreign Policy, 6/16—Chinese policymakers are increasingly convinced that the United States is determined to implement a full-fledged strategy of containment against China...Chinese officials, academics, and media rhetoric increasingly talk of self-reliance and are preparing for a forced decoupling from the United States.

While part of the likely response will be the further strengthening of China's military, the party-

state will also tighten two economic strings in its bow. It will double down on pursuing a preexisting self-reliance strategy and sanction-proof the Chinese economy while bolstering its offensive geoeconomic capabilities by reinforcing China's strategic position in global supply chains and expanding its influence in international commercial sea lanes.

Major Chinese oil suppliers, such as Russia, Angola, Venezuela, Iran, and Nigeria, now accept yuan in their oil trade with China. The Shanghai International Energy Exchange launched the yuan-based Shanghai crude oil futures in 2018...with clients from 23 countries and regions. Oil exporters could convert their yuan oil revenue into gold on the Shanghai and Hong Kong gold exchanges. This interconvertibility implies that China, the world's largest oil importer, has a complete domestic infrastructure for indirectly trading oil using gold.

Workers rebel as India's war planners slash military pay to buy more weapons

Washington Post, 6/17—India unveiled a plan this week aimed at modernizing its fighting forces to defend against external threats. Instead, it triggered a wave of violence at home.

Protesters across the country on Friday set trains ablaze, pelted officials with rocks and attacked the homes of government leaders after the Indian military announced a new recruitment policy to trim salary and pension costs...police...opened fire on protesters, according to the Hindustan Times..In several cities, protesters shut down

highways and forced the cancellation of dozens of trains...Under the new policy, called “Agnipath,” or Path of Fire, the armed forces will annually recruit 46,000 personnel under the age of 21 but will not be obligated to retain them after they finish a four-year contract. Officials argued that the scheme would induct men and women during their physical peak while reducing costs for a sprawling military...By thinning the military's ranks, proponents contend, India could buy weapons and technology to better compete against rivals such as China..

Germany's Greens Party leaders fire up the coal plants

New York Times, 6/19—Germany will restart coal-fired power plants in order to conserve natural gas, the country's economy minister announced on Sunday, amid concerns about a looming supply shortage after Russia cut gas deliveries to Europe this week...“The situation is serious,” Robert Habeck, the economy minister who is also Germany's vice chancellor, said in a statement on Sunday, laying out the steps that would be taken to ensure that more gas is available to divert into storage so the country has enough to get through the winter. They include bringing back online coal-fired power plants that had been drawn down to reduce carbon emissions, although the statement did not specify how many plants would be affected. “That's bitter, but it's simply necessary in this situation to lower gas usage,” said Mr. Habeck, a member of the environmentalist Greens Party. “The gas storage tanks must be full by winter. That is our top priority.”

Tupelo, 1976

Fight racism like a red



Despite open threats of police and Klan violence and warnings from the United League's sellout leaders, Tupelo workers and students came out to march on August 4. The spirit of the march was a sharp answer to the threats.

Worldwide, the summer months are a time of training for Progressive Labor Party (PLP). As we gear up for a summer of learning, it's helpful to reflect on past Summer Projects. The following article is a reprint from CHALLENGE in 1979.

This issue, we look at the Tupelo Project of '79. Lessons include:

★ In the face of the Ku Klux Klan and the racist capitalist government, we must be bold and have confidence in the working class to take the lead of communists.

★ Multiracial unity is our class's weapon, and the bosses' greatest fear.

★ To sustain our gains, we must grow the Party and train more Black, Latin, Asian, and white young people in leadership.

Significance of Mississippi

To many who remember the Civil Rights movements of the 1960s, Mississippi symbolizes the most extreme racism, the most brutal murders of Black workers and antiracists, and the stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan.

For Progressive Labor Party, Mississippi signified a base for revolution among Black and white workers, spreading the ideas of multiracial unity and the fight for communist ideas in the South. Today, we celebrate the heroic struggle of the Tupelo Summer Project of '79. About 100 communists and friends—Black, Latin, Asian, and white—took part in this struggle.

Though relatively small (population of 20,000), Tupelo was an industrial center with over 14,000

workers. The South was important to the ruling class as an industrial area because its carefully-nurtured tradition of racism made it the citadel of low-wage, non-union labor, where the bosses have been able to keep the working class divided and weak in order to extract extra profits.

The project showed that masses of white workers and students in Tupelo and throughout the South are winnable to antiracism.

Below is an edited excerpt from PL Magazine (Fall 1979) analyzing an aspect of the Tupelo Summer Project:

The great July demonstration

Sixty-five antiracist marchers, organized by Progressive Labor Party and its [then-mass organization] International Committee Against Racism (IlynCAR), were marching through the streets in Tupelo, Mississippi chanting, "Death to the Klan."

Shots rang through the air.

As the bullets grazed two marchers, a disciplined group of people, Black and white, rushed out of line, isolated the racist who wielded the gun, and beat him to the ground. In the fight that ensued with this Klansman, or Klan supporter, the antiracists broke his neck. While this was happening, the marchers, maintaining a tight discipline that won them the respect of Tupelo's working class, continued the march. The marchers, encouraged by the friendly faces that lined the streets

and by the workers who joined the march, were able to withstand the menacing threat of the Tupelo police, who aimed their cocked guns at them. From the start, it was clear that the racist local rulers wanted to stop this march. A new ordinance was created by the city government banning sound devices (in response to successful PLP-led rallies in the past). The police and their flunkies systematically tore down posters in the housing projects; and a permit for the march was not granted until the very last minute.

As the march gathered in front of the courthouse, the bosses' seat of power, a militant rally began, attracting a lot of people in the area who joined in chanting, "The cops, the courts, the Ku Klux Klan, all a part of the bosses' plan."

'Before I was scared, now I'm mad'

Many militant workers in Tupelo have come to see InCAR as the main mass organization that can lead workers in the fight against racism and the resurgence of fascist groups like the Klan. One Black woman worker said, "Before I was scared, but now I'm mad." This represents the feeling of many people here, that there is no longer the luxury to sit back and watch the ruling class and its flunkies hold power, that they have to get active and build a movement that has as its goal the destruction of the ruling class ideas of racism and fascism, and in the final analysis, the ruling class itself.

The political climate is changing rapidly in the South, and only groups like PLP are prepared to respond to the changes, to give leadership and organize the multiracial, antiracist fightback that is necessary to move workers to the left.

Continued on page 7

Progressive Labor Party's Annual Summer Project

JULY 6 TO JULY 13
IN NY/NJ AREA

PLers unite among workers and youth and struggle to better understand how capitalism attacks our class. We put into practice class conscious, collectivity, and struggle. This year's project is organized around police terror. Our goal is to raise our confidence that we are one world, one working class and capable of building a party to fight for communism! Join us!



CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons. The next deadline is the **Friday evening of July 1st**. Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See box on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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