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Thanksgiving Fund

Financial Crisis Threatens SLP

The Socialist Labor Party is in imminent danger of financial collapse. The monthly deficits that have accumulated over the last 24 months have not been eliminated by the voluntary contributions of the party's membership and its many friends. The danger has been reported to the membership at intervals during that time and to the readership of *The People* in past issues. At the party's National Convention last June, for example, the National Secretary summed up the facts in the following brief paragraph:

"On January 1, 2001, the SLP had cash reserves of \$153,832.00. As of April 30, those reserves had fallen to \$128,711.00, meaning that expenses had exceeded income by about \$25,120.00. At that rate of depletion—about \$6,280.00 a month—the deficit will reach \$75,360.00 by the end of the year and the Party's cash reserves will be reduced to \$78,470.00. Carry similar monthly deficits over to August 31, 2002, when the lease expires, and the Party's cash reserves could be reduced to a mere \$28,230.00, or less. The implications are clear."

Since that was written the party's cash reserves have continued to slide. By the time this issue of *The People* reaches most of its readers it is anticipated that those reserves will have slipped below the \$100,000 mark.

Why are we telling you all this?

Because those are the facts.

Because without a clear understanding of those facts and their implications being known the SLP cannot expect its members and friends to meet this crisis with the same mature sobriety and determination with which they have pulled the party through similar crises in the past.

Because the future of the SLP and its official journal, *The People*, rests in your hands.

With this issue, *The People* launches its annual Thanksgiving Fund appeal. No specific goal has been set for the fund. The goal cannot be set in dollars and cents. The goal is to rise to the immediate crisis, then to pause and take stock of our collective efforts before pushing on to the next plateau. As the National Secretary expressed it in his report to last June's convention:

"For now we have no expectation of over-

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SEPTEMBER 11

Socialists Condemn Terrorist Attacks

The Socialist Labor Party unqualifiedly condemns the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

The SLP and its members deplore the wanton massacre of innocent men, women and children. We denounce the individuals, group or groups who perpetrated those despicable deeds and whatever perverted motive prompted them to commit them. There is and can be no justification for such barbarous crimes.

The members of the SLP extend their heartfelt sympathies and condolences to all those whose families were shattered and whose lives were forever changed.

We grieve for the thousands of working men and women who were robbed of their lives.

We are horrified and aghast as we contemplate the anguish of the hundreds aboard the hijacked airliners who knew they were about to die.

We are revolted by the unspeakable cruelty that went beyond cold-blooded murder and forced thousands trapped in the twin towers of the World Trade Center to suffer the torture of impending death through agonizing moments of fear and despair.

We are shaken as we try to imagine what thoughts must have run through the minds of the hundreds who could be seen clinging to the sides of the World Trade Center towers as they began to realize that they were doomed—those whose lives were snuffed out when the first tower collapsed, those in the second tower who then saw

their own imminent fate unfold before their very eyes, those who were trapped and burned alive deep inside those towering infernos, and those who were forced to leap to their deaths.

We grieve for the children, for those who died, for those who lost parents, and for those who must live forever scarred by the ghastly images that shattered their innocence long before they were prepared.

We despair at the sorrow and the feelings of helplessness that must surely have overwhelmed those who said their farewells over cell phones without the solace of a final embrace.

The SLP and its members salute the heroic workers who risked, and in many cases sacrificed, their own lives in their efforts to pull others from the ruins of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Let those acts of heroism and sacrifice stand as a monument to the virtues of human nature and as an imperishable condemnation of those who have maliciously labeled the American worker as self-indulgent, lazy and of no account.

And we salute the thousands of working-class men and women in New York and Washington, D.C., who voluntarily stepped forward to help the firefighters, rescue workers and police as they struggled against time and the treacherous ruins for the sake of others with whom their only bond was the bond of humanity.

Perhaps it was only natural in the heat of the moment that millions of ordinary citizens should think of shoot-

ing first and asking questions afterwards. The motives behind the attack of Sept. 11 could not interest anyone when the horror was fresh and the danger of further attacks seemed imminent. Socialists have ever stood by the right of a nation to defend itself against foreign attack.

Those who perpetrated these unspeakable deeds and inflicted so much suffering have damned their cause in the hearts and minds of every sentient human being regardless from where on earth they may have viewed the horrible televised scenes placed before their disbelieving eyes.

At the same time, the SLP and its membership condemn the reckless and irresponsible capitalist "news" media, which, under the guise of keeping the public informed, flooded the airwaves and cluttered our doorsteps with images and a torrent of words designed to inflame racist passions and fan them into demands for war and for revenge.

Furthermore, the SLP condemns the war-mongering and opportunistic politicians of the Democratic and Republican parties who appear bent on desecrating the memory of all those who died so horribly on Sept. 11 with mindless demands to shed the blood of even more innocent men, women and children in far-off lands.

We are repulsed by the hypocrisy of those political leaders who wave the flag and invoke the cause of "freedom" even as they move to undermine or abro-

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Capitalist Greed Rears Ugly Head After Disaster

By Carl Miller Jr.

The motive force behind the capitalist system is the constant search for opportunities to make big profits, particularly under the worst circumstances. Even during times when people should put aside greed to help their fellow human beings, there are those who seize on the most unpleasant of situations to make an extra buck. Capitalism makes the worst of times even worse for those who must, because of extraordinary circumstances, pay inflated prices for goods or services.

Immediately following the terrorist attack on the United States one of these golden opportunities presented itself, and many greed-driven businesses took full advantage of it. In the atmosphere of fear and uncertainty over the availability of gasoline and other essentials, many Texas businesses saw a chance to "clean up" by preying on people who, because of the extreme situation, had no choice but to pay highly inflated prices for needed goods and services.

In a Sept. 13 *Houston Chronicle*

article concerning price gouging, the Texas attorney general's office reported receiving hundreds of complaints of unfair pricing practices during the presently ongoing crisis. "We've had confirmed reports of up to \$5 a gallon for gasoline and unconfirmed reports as high as \$7," said Texas Attorney General John Cornyn. These price increases were not because of any major jump in the wholesale price of gas. "Our wholesale prices increased approximately 8 cents per gallon Tuesday in our Texas markets," said Marc Palazzo, a spokesman for Koch Petroleum Group, but that hardly justified the massive increases posted by many gasoline retailers.

Prices at the gas pumps were not the only area where price gouging was evident. Travelers, stranded by the grounding of commercial airline flights by the FAA following the terrorist attacks, found that the prices they were forced to pay for hotels and rental cars weren't exactly in line with the market either. "As far as hotel rooms go, we've heard double the

usual rates," Attorney General Cornyn said. "We've had rental cars go as high as \$460 a day in Austin. That was after all the planes had been grounded and people [were] wanting to get home." Nothing like a captive market to garner favorable profits.

Of course, these numerous complaints force the state to become involved. One of the jobs of the capitalist state is to intervene in situations to make sure one capitalist doesn't have an unfair advantage over another, to ensure a "level" playing field in the game of capitalism. Texas Gov. Rick Perry demonstrated this by what the *Houston Chronicle* described as

"a 'limited purpose' disaster to help strengthen enforcement of the state's deceptive trade practices act." In a statement directed at those who might try to profit from tragedy, Gov. Perry warned: "I will use the full force of our state government to stop that."

Capitalism has demonstrated time and time again its inability to meet everyone's needs, especially in times

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Construction Anarchy, Profits Behind Lack of Worker Safety

By B.B.

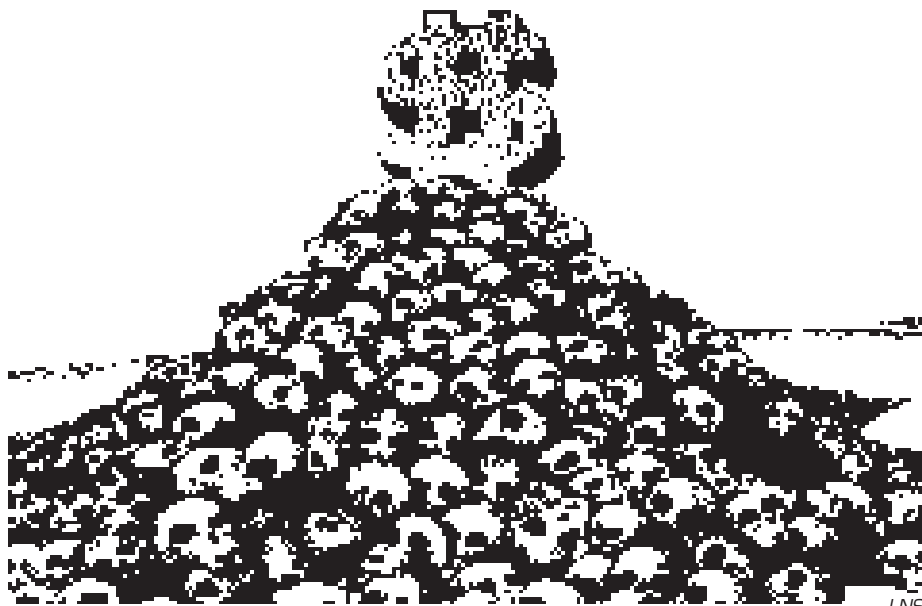
The image of President Bush standing at the edge of the devastation where the twin towers of the World Trade Center once stood, and of his hailing the heroism of construction and rescue workers who were working to clear away very dangerous debris and to find survivors, brought to mind a front page article from the *Dallas Morning News* of Sept. 9, just two days before the tragic events of Sept. 11.

In that article, *Morning News* staff writer Katherine Yung reported on hazardous working conditions in the construction industry in Texas, the state where President Bush presided as governor for nearly six years.

What Yung found is that 151 construction workers died on the job in Texas last year, and that 1,206 lost their lives at construction sites in the state over the last 10 years. What she concluded is that construction workers in Texas are more likely to die while at work than are construction workers in any other state. The fatality rate among construction workers in Texas is the highest in the country.

Construction work fatalities affect primarily Hispanic immigrant workers. Many have gravitated towards the construction trade, partly because of the low skill and language requirements, but also because the prospects for steady employment seemed certain in what appeared to be an insatiable construction boom over the past decade. Indeed, Hispanic workers make up 46 percent of the construction workforce, not including undocumented workers. Texas "would fall on its face" if it were not for these workers, according to an authoritative source.

"In sharp contrast to a decline nation-



LNS

ally, fatalities set a record last year, jumping 26 percent from 1999 and 5.6 percent ahead of the 1998 peak." The rate, which incidentally does not cover maiming and debilitating injuries, makes the Texas' "rate about 50 percent higher than the national rate."

Concern among industry "regulatory" bodies was summed up by John Miles, Texas OSHA's top official, who described declining safety as "atrocious." He should know. Such agencies have, at best, glossed over conditions in an industry woefully lacking in safeguards for workers.

Indeed, construction site inspections are down by one-third from a decade ago, and those that are made are "focused on larger companies, which generally have better safety records than the smaller contractors."

Texas OSHA operates in a token capacity with a skeletal staff of 158 inspectors, no more than it had in 1992. Safety citations today are described as "rare" in

comparison to 1990, when 5,000 citations were issued to companies that failed to post safety guidelines.

Miles declared that "there's no way you can be on every job site," adding "OSHA needs to make sure cases it does tackle will stand up in court, if necessary." He claimed that they are now pushing quality rather than quantity. Refuting this, Danny Tilley, executive vice president of the AFL-CIO's Texas Building and Construction Trades Council, countered, "Nobody's enforcing the OSHA laws," an observation that is endemic to this body.

Underlying the lack of enforcement is not only the parsimonious character of the capitalist state in funding the oversight bureaucracies that are supposed to assure safe workplaces, but the general anarchy that exists within the industry. Domestic construction consists of innumerable fly-by-night cockroach capitalists who, in turn, employ innumerable fly-by-night subcontractors.

One final point. When a society has reached the stage of putrescence that outmoded capitalism has achieved today, reforms become concealed measures of reaction that tend to palsy the striking arm of labor, and confuse and delude the workers. When a revolution is pending, as De Leon reminded us, and for whatever reason is not accomplished, reaction is the alternative.

Today, of course, the alternative is even worse. Despite the highly touted Clean Air Act reform of 1990, for example, we now face the threat of global warming. Despite the Soviet collapse of 10 years ago, the world still bristles with nuclear missiles and we still face the threat of nuclear conflagration. A social order that demands such a life support system to keep itself alive is a threat to all of humanity. Pull the plug!

pants of the dilapidated building raised their voices and denounced the engineers as "alarmist" and their supporters as "malcontents." Suppose they called instead for some plumbing repairs, a new paint job and a little plastering patchwork.

These voices, calling for external changes only, are the voices of reform. The demand for a solid new structure is the demand for revolution.

The parable is not far fetched. Capitalism today rests on a foundation that is rotten through and through. It is beyond repair, and to prolong its existence is to run the terrible risk of atomic war or environmental catastrophe. Yet that is what reforms tend to do—prolong the existence of capitalism. They raise the false hope that somehow capitalism can be made tolerable for the workers and they divert attention of inquiring minds from the only real solution, i.e., the dismantling of capitalism and the building of socialism.

"Revolution," wrote Ferdinand Lassalle, "means transmutation, and a revolution is, accordingly, accomplished wherever...an entirely new principle is substituted for what is already in effect. A reform, on the other hand, is effected in case the existing situation is maintained in point of principle, but with a [supposedly] more humane...working out of this principle."

Question Period

Why does the SLP lay such stress on the difference between "reform" and "revolution"?

The SLP lays the greatest stress on differentiating between "reform" and "revolution" because if this difference is not understood by the American workers, they will surely be sidetracked from their historic mission by reform, and thus led to their undoing.

Reform means patchwork, tinkering with externals without changing the internal mechanism. It is an attempt to cope with the effect without touching the cause.

Revolution, on the other hand, means a thoroughgoing internal change. It means the complete elimination of the cause of the evils complained of, and the creation of a new social organization.

To illustrate with a simple parable: Suppose we all lived in a structure that some of us believed was beyond repair and should be replaced by a new, soundly constructed building. Suppose we called in some engineers who, after making a careful inspection, reported that the foundation was rotten through and through, that the whole building was hopelessly infested with vermin, that it should be condemned without delay and that the occupants should be removed for their own safety.

Suppose, then, that some of the occu-

Between the two rages an incessant war over their contractual obligations, and workers' safety is frequently ignored.

Large, more capital-intensive contractors engaged in commercial and institutional construction are concerned about safety, but not out of love and concern for workers' lives. On-the-job injuries and deaths cut into their profit margins. "A single death can cost a contractor \$900,000 to \$1 million, estimates David Bilbo, a professor of construction science at Texas A&M University," the *Morning News* reported.

Concern for profit, and scoring political points among Latino residents more than that of human life, is what is motivating the Texas state legislators to consider "expand[ing] worker rights" "Each serious construction accident affects 65 people, from coworkers and family members to lawyers and insurance managers."

Workers' safety in the construction industry has never been what it should be under the tyranny of capitalist production and its economic dictatorship over the working class. How can it be when profit is the primary consideration?

What a rational society demands is production for use and democratic control over the conditions of the workplace. That can only be realized with the socialist reconstruction of society along the lines called for by the Socialist Labor Party. When established, it will be the job of the democratically elected members of the construction industry's Socialist Industrial Union Congress, a functioning part of production itself, to create the conditions for construction workers' safety. The profit system will enter the museums as an incredible curiosity that future generations will find as incomprehensible as capitalists today find production for use.

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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U.N.'S DURBAN CONFERENCE

WCAR Targets Racism, Socialism Needed to End It

By Ken Boettcher

The United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR), held in Durban, South Africa, came to an end just two days before the tragic events of Sept. 11. In the aftermath of that terrorist nightmare, news of the conference quickly evaporated from the major media. It was fated to do so anyway.

Days earlier, the announcement of Secretary of State Colin Powell that the United States would withdraw even the low-level delegation it had sent to the conference promised to create something of a stir. As one *Washington Post* article put it, "There must be a better way to win friends and influence nations than walking out of conferences....But the Bush administration seems unable or unwilling to demonstrate to the world that it can find that way."

Actually, in view of past precedents set by the U.S. government, it's surprising that the Bush administration sent any delegation at all.

"The U.S. government's withdrawal from the third World Conference Against Racism is consistent with its role in the two previous international conferences on racism. It boycotted those, too," as a report on the Web site of the South Africa Independent Media Center observed.

The first WCAR was in 1978, and no delegation was sent by the Carter administration. The second was in 1983, with apartheid up for discussion. The Reagan administration sent no delegation to the conference even though Congress, seeking to clean up U.S. capitalism's international image, had forced the administration to approve the decision of the U.N. Security Council to impose economic sanctions against South Africa.

This year, the U.S. objection was that many Third World nations were calling for any statement or action plan emanating from the conference to include language that equated Israel's treatment of the Palestinians with apartheid and for apologies from the United States and European nations for centuries of the slave trade.

The reasons why those demands didn't sit well with the U.S. delegation are obvious. Israel is, at least at present, the main proxy for U.S. capital in the oil-rich Middle East. And the capitalist

class stands virtually united in its fear of the economic impact that might result from issuing any explicit apology for slavery. The vision of a mountain of lawsuits or other demands for reparations—possibly successful—is too much for our poor capitalists to bear.

They needn't have worried. In fact, they probably didn't. The document finally approved by the conference, thanks largely to pressure from European Union countries, merely "agreed...to condemn the slave trade...and to voice concern for the 'plight of the Palestinians under foreign occupation,'" as *The New York Times* noted. The representatives of the capitalist countries of the EU, which is reportedly more dependent upon Middle East oil than the United States, were also against any potentially costly apologies for slavery. In these two matters they stood in nicely for the absent representatives of U.S. capital.

The "program of action" agreed upon by the nations that signed the agreement calls "upon all states, in opposing all forms of racism...to take effective [but nonbinding] measures to prevent the emergence of movements based on racism and discriminatory ideas."

But it is the fate of such agreements, when they can be made, to make little difference. Socialists contend that there are no "effective measures" capitalist countries can take that can truly end



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racism and discrimination. Not that there aren't ways that these social phenomena can be fought. There are. But they require getting rid of capitalism.

You see, it was capitalism itself that historically transformed ethnic differences into institutionalized racism. Its rise fostered, and was in turn fueled by, the institutionalization of chattel slavery from the 16th through 19th centuries. After the abolition of slavery in the United States, racism was reinstitutionalized by "Jim Crow" laws that

ALWAYS EXPENDABLE

Temp Workers Disappear From Silicon Valley

By Sally Lehrman
©Pacific News Service

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Throughout the industrial neighborhoods of California's Silicon Valley, women and men in blue smocks head out the backs of buildings at noon, midafternoon and early evening. But what once was a torrent has now slowed to a trickle.

Temporary manufacturing workers propelled Silicon Valley's rapid expansion, helping to boost the region's output of goods and services by 32 percent last year alone. Working through staffing agencies or hired directly, these primarily Asian and Latino immigrant workers assembled chips, built printers and packed products for shipping. Most made between \$8.50 and \$15 an hour.

In a volatile industry, temps are valued for their expendability. When the bottom fell out of the high-tech economy, they were the first to go. Layoffs have been severe in manufacturing, administrative support and even housekeeping, according to the temporary agency Manpower, Inc.

"Temporary workers? There are none," says one worker, having lunch with several colleagues under a tree outside a San Jose contract assembly company. He explains that the company's temporary staff of PC board assemblers, shippers and receivers—more than half the building—was let go a couple of months earlier. While this young man and his friends still have their jobs—for now—they caution that no one is really "permanent." Their jobs are categorized as "regular," a term which carries no promise of security.

As Silicon Valley expanded over the past decade, most of the new jobs created were contingent in nature, says Chris Benner, a specialist in economic geography at the University of Pennsylvania.

Temporary, part-time, self-employed and contract workers took positions at every level, from assembly to engineering. While some found the flexibility attractive, nationally more than half such workers said they would prefer a permanent job, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

During Silicon Valley's production peak, companies maintained up to 30 percent of their workforce on a temporary basis says Priscilla Azcueta, vice president of professional services for Manpower, Inc. in San Jose. When these workers lost their jobs, they had no safety net. Many have been unable to get unemployment benefits because their jobs were too brief to qualify them.

Firing temps en masse has allowed some companies to stave off cuts to their permanent workforce. Semiconductor equipment makers recall the days when workers were hard to find and sales were booming—by 80 percent as recently as 2000. According to Risto Puhakka, vice president of operations for VLSI Research in San Jose, many executives regretted having fired permanent staff in 1998, when sales slumped by 25 percent, and don't want to make the same mistake again.

Temporary workers not only bear the brunt of the economic downturn, they may also be left with lingering, untreated health problems as a result of their duties. Electronics workers breathe in dozens, sometimes hundreds, of chemicals at once, says Joseph La Dou, an expert in occupational health who has followed the electronics industry for 30 years.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, about three times as many semiconductor and electronics assemblers lose work because of exposure to caustic, noxious and allergenic substances

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established segregation and disenfranchised blacks, and by the propaganda of racist ideology. These measures were clearly intended to drive a wedge between white workers and newly proletarianized former slaves.

Today the capitalist class continues to benefit from racial animosities within the working class.

That is so because capitalist ownership of the means of production forces workers to compete with each other for jobs, housing, education, health care and so on. Racial animosities and myths are reinforced as workers of different races are pitted against each other in that competition.

The capitalist class has an obvious interest in fomenting and promoting racism. The division of the working class makes it easier for capitalists to lower wages and thwart organizing. It also makes it easier for the capitalist class to curtail workers' rights so as to rule more easily.

Racism serves to uphold capitalism; it is therefore not in the interest of the working class. To successfully end the class struggle and capitalist exploitation, workers need the greatest possible unity and solidarity against their capitalist exploiters.

Many workers almost instinctively resist racism as immoral, inhuman or irrational. Yet racism persists, dividing the working class, because there remains a material basis for it. By understanding the ties between racism and capitalism, and demonstrating that all workers can materially benefit by uniting across racial lines, classconscious workers can more effectively help break down racist attitudes within their class.

For example, the inequalities that exist between black and white workers can foster the false notions that white workers enjoy privileges that they need to fight to maintain, or that black workers' primary interests lie in struggling as blacks rather than as workers.

These perceptions cloud the facts that the entire working class is exploited and oppressed and that racial discrimination is a consequence of class divisions, not the other way around. Moreover, the inequalities that exist within the working class are small compared with the huge gulf that separates the working class from the capitalist class.

In addition, since capitalism is the root cause of racism, it follows that the fight against racism can be won only by winning the broader struggle for socialism.

Once socialism is established, the material basis for racism will be gone: The economy will be organized to satisfy all society's wants and needs and to produce an abundance for all; cooperation for the common good will replace competition and the pursuit of narrow self-interest; and true equality of opportunity will exist in all spheres of life.

Although racism cannot be fully eradicated until socialism is established, the struggle for that society will necessarily make more workers classconscious—and therein lies the best possible means of fighting racism in the present. Socialism could eradicate racism in a few years. At the rate they are going, it would take a hundred U.N. "conferences against racism" to even superficially affect this evil—if at all. Which path do you choose?

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Dynamics of Terror

President Bush, in a Sept. 15 radio address on the planning of a U.S. response to the terrorist attacks four days earlier, "explained" the reason behind the tragedy. "Great tragedy has come to us," he said, "and we are meeting it with the best that is in our country, with courage and concern for others. Because this is America. This is who we are. This is what our enemies hate and have attacked..."

Equally vague "explanations" echoed across the airwaves of the country, telling us that "what the terrorists attacked was American freedom," or that it was "mindless terrorism."

It takes nothing away from an appreciation of the freedoms that still exist in the United States, or from the courage and concern for others that thousands of workers have selflessly shown in their efforts to rescue survivors and clean up the horrific mess caused by the terrorists' cowardly attack, to note that such "explanations" offer no understanding of the dynamics of modern terrorism.

It does nothing to bolster the demands or cause of the terrorists to note that the terrorists have made demands—on earlier occasions if not today. Those demands reveal the reasons for their anger—though only their blind allegiance to a despotic, theocratic movement can explain their callous ability to justify any ghastly means in seeking their ends.

As a report on Osama bin Laden's sympathizers in the *Seattle Times* put it after the U.S. embassy bombings in 1998, "The militant groups now threatening to attack U.S. interests around the world share a sense of rage at what they consider American interference in their cultures, U.S. manipulation of their political leaders and American troops defiling Muslim land near the holy cities of Mecca and Medina."

Most want an end to the U.N. embargo against Iraq, an end to Israeli stonewalling on a Palestinian state, an end to U.S. arming of the Israeli forces that have oppressed Palestinians for so long, an end to long-standing imperialist control over the region that has resulted in lower oil profits for Arab economies and growing unemployment and poverty throughout the region. What they want, in other words, is

a rollback of Western imperialism in the region.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslims have died as a result of U.S. actions or policies in Iran, Iraq, Egypt, the Palestinian region and other Arab states over the past 50 years. The United States, by virtue of its historical evolution into the leading Western imperialist power, as well as by the specific decisions of its political rulers that have contributed to this massive loss of life, is a logical target for their anger.

The illogical terrorists, however, not only assume their ends justify any means, they also do not differentiate between those who rule and those who are ruled in America.

The political representatives of the U.S. capitalist class are now making plans to deal with this virulent and ruthless strain of terrorism. In his Sept. 15 radio address, President Bush said, "We are planning a broad and sustained campaign to secure our country and eradicate the evil of terrorism." But there is little reason to hope that the "series of decisive actions against terrorist organizations and those who harbor and support them," which Bush said are in the works, will actually end terrorism.

That is because such "decisive actions" will no doubt make the same mistake as the terrorists of Sept. 11: They will not differentiate between those responsible for the violence and those who merely live in nations whose political rulers aid and abet the terrorists. They will, in short, unleash more of the state terrorism that has been visited upon the Middle East for decades, and invite more "mindless terrorism" from desperate Islamic masses.

The pendulum of terrorist violence will keep swinging back and forth until the working classes of the world wake up to the need to do away with class rule and the conflicts it breeds by establishing a worker-owned and -controlled economic democracy. That is the only kind of society that can wipe out the material basis of such conflicts forever by ending economic competition, establishing production to serve human needs rather than profit, and resulting in the consequent production of an abundance for all and the universal peace that will accompany it.

—K.B.

Shadowy Figures

The privately owned and controlled means of communication in the United States have seen to it that U.S. workers know more about the shadowy figures who attacked the United States than the other terrorists.

Which other terrorists? The ones responsible for the state terrorism the U.S. government brought to much of the world during the 20th century—the ones who, together with the ghouls of reactionary theocracy, stirred the pot that served up the terrorist nightmare of Sept. 11.

Daniel De Leon once observed that "the political heads of the capitalist class move as their masters, the capitalist class, pull the strings. According as the strings are pulled, presidents and kings, congresses and parliaments, shut their eyes to infractions of the law, or rattle their sabers. Obedient to capitalist dictation, laws are superseded, or passed; and war clouds are pulled upon the scene or pulled off."

U.S. forces have, over the past 30 years alone, been responsible for the assassination of a democratically elected president in Chile and the putting in power of a fascist dictator, Gen. Augusto Pinochet. U.S. aid has bolstered dictatorships in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala; in Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq; in Indonesia and the Philippines; and bolstered continued Israeli

repression of the Palestinians—to name only a few of the "strings" pulled by U.S. capital in places where its material interests were threatened.

We may occasionally hear from or about the head of a U.S. corporation that has somehow gotten its hands dirty in such goings-on. But almost never do we hear anything about the shadowy figures who control these corporations—the individual capitalists who merely own stock and never seem to get their hands dirty.

Some no doubt know all about the dirty work performed by their proxies, the CEOs and managers. Some may actually make their own calls to political puppets who they expect to "call out the troops" to protect their private interests.

Some—we almost said many, but there are not many of them—don't even know what they own. They merely collect dividends each quarter and trust to hired brokers to invest in other "properties" and multinational corporations through which they may extract even more from workers—like vampires living off the blood of the working class, at home and abroad.

Whether they are conscious of their provocative role or not, as direct beneficiaries of state terror, the shadowy individual figures of the capitalist class share responsibility for the bloodshed on Sept. 11. —K.B.

A De Leon Editorial

The Finger of Guilt

Nothing can justify or excuse the heinous acts committed in New York City and Washington, D.C., on Sept. 11—murderous acts that took the lives of thousands of working-class men and women. However, many times the number of workers who perished in the ruins of the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon have died in the factories, mills, mines and other workplaces of America—all of them victims of an industrial reign of terror waged in the name of profit. The finger of guilt President Bush has pointed at the perpetrators of the crimes of Sept. 11 drips with the blood of millions of American workers.



The National Honor

(*The People*, March 6, 1898)

No man, do he what he may, can lay upon another that dishonor that a man can lay upon himself; a man's honor is in the keeping of himself, not others. As with individuals, so with nations. A nation's honor is not in the keeping of others. It is not the conduct of other nations that honors or dishonors another; a nation stands honored or dishonored by its own acts at home. The application of these irrefutable principles are just now timely.

In the harbor of Havana several hundred United States marines have recently met their death.¹ Let the worst imaginable be imagined: Let it be imagined that the Spanish government itself was guilty of the stupidity of encompassing the death of these men; that it conceived, planned and executed the dastardly deed. Such action, as far as the United States is concerned, is an insult to us, no doubt. But who and what is that government that is to redress the wrong done to our honor? Upon its own character depends its fitness to demand and execute redress. Is it fit?

The government of the United States represents, not our people, but a small minority thereof; it represents not the honor, the industry, the sinews of the nation; it represents the nation's dishonor; it represents the capitalist class exclusively, i.e., a felon class. As the representative of that class, the present government is from head to foot red with the blood, not of a few hundred, but of thousands upon thousands of the nation's veterans of labor—male, female, and infant—whom in mines, railroad yards, mills and shops it daily blows up, kills, mutilates and starves by slow degrees. The class that government represents is

even now in the prisoner's dock at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., for the wholesale murder of workmen, and by its strumpet press it is doctoring the evidence in such manner as to make the criminals innocent and the innocent criminals, thereby adding insult to injury.² Can so disreputable a government, with no honor of itself to guard, truly avenge the insult done to our flag?

No!

Whatever insult comes to us from abroad can, in the very nature of things, be avenged only when that class, together with all its war-crying heelers of all degrees, has been overthrown, and its working class, its only honorable part, and that part the overwhelming majority, has attained power by capturing the government.

The redress of whatever insult falls upon us from abroad must, in the very nature of things, be postponed to that day when we can settle scores with the nation's domestic insulters, the now ruling capitalist class, for all the insults it is daily and brazenly heaping upon the people.

By all means, let us resent the insults to our nation, and labor to avenge her.

¹The U.S. battleship *Maine* sank in Havana harbor Feb. 15, 1898, following an explosion, with the loss of 260 men.

²In September 1897, a sheriff's posse in Hazleton, Pa., opened fire on a group of unarmed, peacefully assembled miners, killing 19 on the spot and seriously wounding several others. Many of those killed and wounded were shot in the back. Despite this cold-blooded murder, the capitalist press praised Sheriff Martin, who led the posse composed of mine owners, their families and their lackeys. Martin's powerful allies obstructed efforts to bring him and his accomplices to trial.

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.

Congo Chaos Linked To High-Tech Profits

"The social anatomy of the capitalist class requires struggle. The law of existence of the working class is fraternity. The law of existence of the capitalist class is: 'Each man's hand against all men's throats.'"

—Daniel De Leon

By B.B.

Capitalism's inherent tendency to foment conflict and war has been demonstrated many times in many places. Africa, victimized as it has been by centuries of colonialism and imperialism, is no exception.

Today it is particularly evident in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the huge artificially contrived state in the heart of the continent that is verging on total collapse. This was made clear by an article in the Aug. 12 issue of *The New York Times Magazine* entitled "The Dirt in the New Machine." Its author, Blaine Harden, exposed the rape of the eastern Congo through the extraction of a vital mineral used in the production of high-tech electronics equipment by such corporations as Sony, Nokia and many others who posture as the harbingers of advanced social and environmental concepts.

One of the enormous number of problems plaguing the DRC centers on the mining of coltan, a mineral that abounds in the Okapi Faunal Reserve, which is situated in the Ituri rain forest in the extreme eastern section of the country.

This mineral is three times heavier than iron but lighter than gold and processed similarly to gold by panning, requiring copious amounts of water. It is a messy, backbreaking job requiring little skill; hence it has drawn tens of thousands of impoverished workers from the region.

Coltan, when refined "in American



and European factories, becomes tantulum, a metallic element that is a superb conductor of electricity, highly resistant to heat," Harden explained. "Tantalum powder is a vital ingredient in the manufacture of capacitors, the electronic components that control the flow of current inside miniature circuit boards. Capacitors made of tantalum can be found inside almost every laptop, pager, personal digital assistant and cell phone."

Coltan had been selling for \$80 a pound during the "glory days" of high-tech expansion. With the current glut in the industry, its price has plummeted to \$8. However, this has not prevented continued habitat destruction, environmental degradation and conflict centered about the mining of the substance.

Eastern Congo has a population of about 20 million people and contains extensive animal habitat. Among the animals there are 10,000 forest elephants, 4,000 okapi, 13 species of monkeys, and until recently 8,000 lowland gorillas (now

estimated at less than 1,000—it seems the miners have indiscriminately killed all kinds of game, including gorillas).

In addition, about 10,000 Mbuti people have traditionally lived off of the forest bounty and apparently settled into a balanced relationship with their environment. But their existence also is threatened because mining operations have clear-cut extensive stands of the giant eko tree that comprises the forest canopy. Eko flowers attract honeybees, whose product the Mbutis harvest.

Miners live in squalid makeshift camps where they are threatened with disease. They are charged exorbitant prices for food and shelter by "entrepreneurs," and by brothel operators who sell female favors in exchange for coltan. This dismal scene is similar to what can be found in other tropical areas from Indonesia to Brazil. In each the motivation is profit generated from the extraction of raw materials.

However, the difference in the Congo

is the collapse of state control and the anarchy that has descended upon the country. Marauding bands of well-armed adventurers from Uganda and Rwanda operate freely along with local predators. Monthly deaths due to disease total 72,800, according to an assessment by the World Health Organization.

"A scalding report that was presented this spring to the United Nations Security Council said that coltan perpetuates Congo's civil war," Harden wrote. "The report said...that the war 'has become mainly about access control and trade' of minerals, the most important being coltan."

"Adversaries and enemies are at times partners in business, get weapons from the same dealers and use the same intermediaries," Harden added. "Business has superseded security concerns."

Probe any current Third World conflict today, and behind it stands the ghostly shadow of capitalist imperialism past. The case of the Congo is one of the most onerous. Belgian King Leopold II brutalized the country to the tune of 5 to 8 million Congolese who were killed in the process of enforcing the quotas for rubber and ivory! After the Belgian tyrant's departure, 50 years of colonial domination followed, ending in the 1961 CIA-orchestrated assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the first democratically elected head of state in the country's history. Then followed U.S. support of billionaire dictator Mobutu Sese Seku who "set a poisoned table for the chaos that followed his eventual overthrow in 1997."

Since the infamies of coltan mining surfaced, high-tech corporate gentry have been scrambling to disassociate themselves from the Congo malaise lest their 21st-century environmental images are besmirched. A report to the U.N. Security Council calling for an embargo on the export of coltan and other raw materials from the Congo, Uganda and Rwanda led Belgian Sabena Airlines to declare that it will no longer ship coltan. Nokia and Motorola have demanded that their suppliers not use coltan that is illegally mined in the Congo. Kemet of Greenville, S.C., and Cabot of Boston, the first and second largest manufacturers of tantalum, declared coltan from the region to be off limits.

Such efforts seeking the "moral high ground" come precisely at a time when a glut of tantalum exists on the world market, reflecting the depression that has seized the high-tech industry worldwide. How convenient!

The U.N. embargo on coltan from Uganda and Rwanda has not gone into effect. Even if it did it does not cover the DRC.

There are some who have no selfish material interest in coltan who oppose or are indifferent to outside efforts to rein in the trade and the havoc it wreaks in the DRC. Some of these are dedicated to the preservation of the environment and the natural habitat. Others simply want a Congolese solution to the country's problems because past interference is at the root of the country's present problems.

There are those who assert that some employment for the impoverished people of the region is better than none. Their perception of the options is unfortunately constrained by the notion that capitalism is the natural order of things. They fail to understand that the problem does not lie in good people or bad; good government, or bad; good policies or bad; proper controls or no controls.

The problem is inherent within the very nature of the system of private ownership of the means of wealth production that exercises global domination, and whose sole motivation, production for profit, engenders war, chaos, environmental destruction and disease. This is capitalism's sepulchral benefice, its "horn of plenty."

Will India Become Another China?

By Diane Secor

India Planning and Divestment Minister Arun Shourie recently complained that India's government is not repressive enough toward workers and is not making enough concessions to foreign capitalists.

Shourie claimed that China and Vietnam were winning the race to lure foreign investors and that India was falling behind. According to an article posted on Aug. 26 by rediff.com, an online search engine and news service, Shourie said:

"China executes 12 people a day. We can't even prosecute someone for [electric] power theft....China has no trade unions in special economic zones, workers who work eight-hour shifts promise to work for 12 hours if need be at the same wages, and you have hire and fire. If the MPs [members of Rajya Sabha, India's parliament] agree to this, India will overtake China....Vietnam has a tax rate of 35 to 42 percent for domestic firms but brings this down to 10 percent for firms with foreign investment. However, if you invest your repatriable profit back in Vietnam, you get full tax rebate....We all know that China's agriculture productivity is much higher than ours, but do we know that almost all cotton in China is BT cotton [a genetically modified strain] from Monsanto? We've thrown out Monsanto."

The "reforms" Shourie and other Indian politicians are after are meant to please foreign capitalists who invest in India. What they would boil down to if enacted would be:

(1) Greater state repression of workers and offering foreign investors a union-free, strike-free, docile workforce that can be more intensely exploited.

(2) Giving foreign investors more control over the enterprises that they invest in and permitting the massive lay-off of workers to make these companies more "competitive."

(3) Offering more government subsidies and tax breaks to foreign capitalists who set up shop in India.

(4) Allowing the takeover of major sectors of the economy by foreign firms, such as Monsanto, and allow the flooding of domestic markets with cheap imports.

Shourie claimed that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and other leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party, which dominates the National Democratic Alliance government, support the "reform" agenda. However, he also complained that opposition within the government has slowed efforts to enact and implement these reforms.

Opposition within the Indian government to some of these "free market" economic reforms reflects the various schisms and competing interests within India's ruling class. Although the dominant factions of the ruling class presumably would benefit from more foreign investment, some local capitalists almost certainly would be driven out of business.

Companies based on more "traditional" tools and methods of production cannot compete with foreign firms, which have access to more advanced technol-

gy. Thus, opposition to reform from within the ruling class does not stem from any concern over the threatened rights of the country's working class.

India is not as despotic as China, where workers who protest are thrown into *lao-gai* labor camps. (See *The People*, September 2001.) Strikes are commonplace, and the freedoms of speech, press, assembly and to form unions still exist. Nevertheless, there is government repression of Indian workers, and it seems to be increasing as India's government is under pressure to kowtow to the demands of foreign capitalists.

An example of this increased repression occurred last month, when 100,000 teachers from Gujarat went on strike demanding wage and transport allowances increases.

The government ordered an end to the strike and, as reported by Ananova.com, invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act, which "means employees can be arrested and charged if they fail to return within three days." Another Ananova report said that 450 of the striking teachers were arrested when they "shout[ed] antigovernment slogans." They were later released and warned "not to breach the peace again."

The fact that these strikes continue in spite of laws and government repression demonstrates that India's working class will not be easily cowed. However, Shourie's statements reflect a tendency in India's government to try to create a more docile workforce, which can be more readily exploited by foreign capitalists who invest in that country.

SLP Field Reports

SECTION CLEVELAND

The section advertised its discussion group in three issues of the *Free Times*, an off-beat publication in Cleveland, and one issue of *The Plain Dealer*. We also rented a meeting room at a Days Inn just south of Cleveland for the first and last Sundays in July. Five people attended each meeting, including two college students and two other nonparty members. Good discussions were held at each meeting and the students accepted *People* subs. We also received two phone calls regarding the meetings. The callers did not attend, but one accepted a subscription. The responses we had were from the *Free Times* ad. No response came from *The Plain Dealer* ad.

The section had a booth at the Slavic Village Harvest Festival on Fleet Ave., in Cleveland, Saturday, Aug. 25, and Sunday, Aug. 26. In the past, dozens of people stopped at the booth to ask for

information, to ask questions, make comments or to argue. It is a wonderful opportunity to talk to people about our program. This year the Saturday session resulted in six subscriptions for *The People*.

The Sunday date resulted in no subs. It rained six separate times. Four times there were light sprinkles, and we had to clear all the material from the tables because the wind blew the rain under the tent. One time it rained fairly hard for about 20 minutes, and one time there was a heavy down-pour. People crowded into the tent during those two heavier rains. There was so much confusion most of the day that we weren't able to get any subs. Some of the leaflets and *Peoples* unavoidably got damp or wet, but about 250 *Peoples* were passed out on both days, besides several hundred leaflets and Socialist Studies.

The reaction of passersby to the display and the material was

the usual. We were called commies and told to go back to Russia. There were glares and scowls and thumbs down. Nevertheless, a steady stream of people came to the booth, talked, asked questions and were curious and sympathetic. Comrade Ray Simmons repaired several SLP signs about 2 feet by 4 feet in size, two of which were hung on the tables in front of the tent. One of the signs has a large red arm and hammer symbol on it, and apparently some people mistook it for the communist hammer and sickle.

Nonetheless, it was a wonderful experience. There were questions, comments, discussions, and some arguments and hostile remarks.

The two college students who were at the July meetings also were at the Street Fair on Saturday for five or six hours. They were very helpful distributing leaflets.

Robert Burns, Organizer
Section Cleveland, SLP

255075100 years ago

(*Weekly People*, Oct. 2, 1926)

The Illinois State Bureau of Industrial Accident and Labor Research has just made public a report on industrial accidents in industries covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act of Illinois, and the figures it reveals are, to say the least, appalling. The research covers the eight-year period from 1917 to 1924, and what we learn is that "peaceful" industrial pursuits in Illinois are more destructive than the worst war in history.

During this eight-year period, 4,451 persons were killed during their employment in industries covered by the Compensation Act,

which excludes many, notably farming and railroading—the latter and related industries because the employment involves interstate commerce. On the estimate of an average of two persons being left dependent by each fatal accident, nearly 9,000 persons lost their means of support.

During the same eight-year period, 365,267 persons were reported under the act as injured. In 1923 alone, which was the peak year, 61,810 persons suffered injuries that kept them from their employment at least eight days. 1925, however, is expected to out-top even 1923, but as the figures are not yet complete that year is

not included.

The full horror of this situation is brought out by a comparison with the World War. During the war 4,266 Illinois soldiers were killed: the industrial battlefield of the state has in eight years taken nearly 200 more—excluding many dangerous industries. Also during the war 13,794 Illinois soldiers were reported wounded; while one single industrial year claimed more than 61,000 victims. In other words, Illinois industries produce in each year four times as many casualties to its population as did the entire World War.

Is it not nearly time for the workers to cry halt?!

letters to the People

Not a Marxist, but...

I am not a Marxist, but I do have a great deal of sympathy for working people. I have worked in the service industry for years, primarily in the South. North Carolina treats its working people like slaves, which for all intents and purposes they are.

The state's "right to hire, right to fire" law gives "capital" a license to dominate. Also, the state's constitution prohibits the people from initiating a ballot referendum. Everything has to come down from the state legislature.

Working conditions in many plants in North Carolina are abysmal: filthy, dangerous, hectic places where working people must either put in long hours or take a second job to have a decent standard of living. Many middle-aged people appear to be 15 to 20 years older than what they are.

Social conditions are little better. Police routinely set up roadblocks for license or seatbelt checks as a means of fleecing the public for cash. During my stay in the state, a "click it or ticket" campaign netted over \$300,000 in a week! In Greensboro, federal agents and local police shake down Greyhound passengers traveling from New York to Atlanta. Probable cause

doesn't exist in North Carolina.

I don't agree with everything your organization stands for, but I believe free expression is important and that this country's media is biased in many respects.

James Dillon
Las Vegas, Nev.

Pitching In

I've arranged to have \$40 deducted from my biweekly paycheck and directly deposited into the SLP's checking account. I know it's only peanuts, but perhaps if we can encourage other younger comrades who are getting a regular paycheck to do the same we may provide some relief to the organization until a more substantial solution is found.

Chris Camacho
Miami, Fla.

Letters meant for publication should be brief and on subjects likely to be of interest to our readers. Anonymous letters are not printed, but names are withheld upon request.

Get Subs!

activities

Activities notices must be received by the Friday preceding the third Wednesday of the month.

OHIO

North Royalton

Social & Discussion—Section Cleveland will hold a social and open discussion on Sunday, Oct. 28, at 9626 York Rd., North Royalton. Begins at 1:30 p.m. Refreshments served. 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>. The general public is invited.

TEXAS

Houston

Discussion Meetings—The SLP group in 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 713-721-9296, e-mail houstonslp@lycos.com or visit the group's Web site at <http://houstonslp.tripod.com>.

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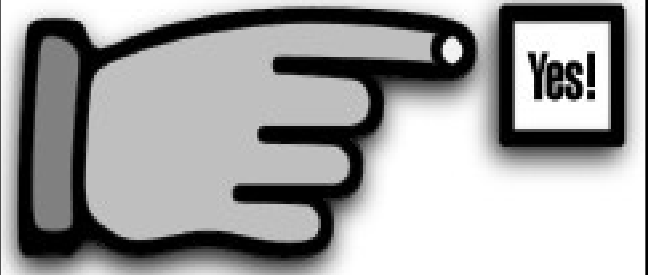
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NATIONAL OFFICE,
SLP, PO Box 218, Mtn.
View, CA 94042-0218;
(408) 280-7266; fax
(408) 280-6964; e-mail:
socialists@slp.org;
Web site: www.slp.org.

ALBANY, N.Y.

SLP, P.O. Box 105,
Sloansville, NY 12160-
0105.

ATHENS, TENN.

E-mail: iluvhumanity@
yahoo.com.

CHICAGO

SLP, P.O. Box 642,
Skokie, IL 60076-0642.

CLEVELAND

Robert Burns, 9626 York
Rd., N. Royalton, OH
44133. Call (440) 237-
7933. E-mail: j.oneil@
worldnet.att.net.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.

Call (512) 991-0287.

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Call Bernie at (972) 458-
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DULUTH

For information, call Rudy
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EASTERN MASS.

Call (781) 444-3576.

HOUSTON

Call (713) 721-9296.
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tonslp.tripod.com. E-
mail: houstonSLP@
lycos.com.

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MIAMI

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06457. Call (860) 347-
4003.

MINNEAPOLIS

Karl Heck, 5414 Williams
Ave., White Bear Lake,
MN 55110-2367. Call
(651) 429-7279. E-mail:
k57heck@cs.com.

MILWAUKEE

SLP, 1563 W. Rogers St.,
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E-mail: milwaukee@
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AUSTRALIA

Brian Blanchard, 58
Forest Rd., Trevallyn,
Launceston, Tasmania
7250, Australia. Call or
fax 0363-341952.

CANADA

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

SLP, 1550 Laperriere
Ave., Ottawa, Ont., K1Z
7T2. Call Doug Irving at
(613) 728-5877 (hdqtrs.);
(613) 226-6682 (home);
or (613) 725-1949 (fax).

VANCOUVER

SLP, Suite 141, 6200
McKay Ave., Box 824,
Burnaby, BC, V5H 4M9.

UKRAINE

Sergiy Skubenko, 42,
10/1 Pryvokzalna Str.,
04116 Kiev, Ukraine
SS. E-mail: escort
71@hotmail.com.

...Terrorist Attacks

(Continued from page 1)

gate the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the American people.

President Bush says that the terrorist acts of Sept. 11 were acts of war and that the country is now in a state of war against terrorism. He has presented the conflict as one of "good versus evil" and pledged to "eradicate terrorism's networks." But no intelligent person can accept such simplistic "explanations." Such assertions merely show that the president and his advisors are woefully uninformed and inept, or that they have chosen to conceal a more complicated truth behind a shroud of mysticism.

The human wretches who committed those foul deeds were not bent on suicide and murder for their own sake. They were missionaries in service to a cause, religious zealots, political fanatics, or both.

But terrorism itself isn't a country or even a cause. It is a method, a means to an end, a tactic employed in pursuit of some goal. Terrorism is not something that can be tracked down, flushed out of its lair and eradicated.

To end terrorism it is essential that the motivation that prompted men to commit the heinous acts of Sept. 11 be understood. Obviously no one believes that the men who committed those crimes acted out of purely selfish personal motives. Indeed, nothing in this world happens in a social vacuum. It is at best naive to contend that the terrible events of Sept. 11 were unprovoked, regardless of how completely unjustified and indefensible they were.

There are those who suggest that the motive behind the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon was revenge for the countless acts of equally dreadful terrorism and butchery perpetrated by the United States. They presume to know what was on the minds of the men who commandeered the airliners and rammed them into the targets chosen or chosen for them on Sept. 11. In truth, however, the men directly involved did not disclose their motives and their surviving confederates have not spoken out to claim responsibility for the crimes. What those motives were can only be a matter of speculation.

Nonetheless, it is true that capitalism has destroyed many more lives and caused much more devastation in pursuit of profit and power around the world than occurred in Manhattan and Washington, D.C., on Sept. 11.

It is also true that capitalism has devoured many times the number of American lives in pursuit of its material goals than were snuffed out on Sept. 11—not only in foreign wars and lesser military adventures—but in the factories, the mills, the mines of our country.

The roots of terrorism in the modern world will not be found in the mountains of Afghanistan. They are embedded in the soil of a social system that bears terrorism as one of its fruits. Rooting out terrorism, whether perpetrated by a political state armed with sophisticated weapons or by some sect of self-anointed avengers, will take much more than a few bombs tossed in the wrong direction. The root of terrorism in the modern world is capitalism, a system that "fosters civilization, and yet... incites to barbarism," as Daniel De Leon once observed. There is no need to track down terrorism, but the need to root it out is urgent.

funds

(Aug. 17-Sept. 7)

Thanksgiving Fund

SLP Group of Minneapolis (\$295):
Karl Heck \$100; Irene Schelin \$60;
\$25 each Steve Druk, Ross and Norma Schelin; \$20 each Glenn Schelin, Lila Holmdahl, Robert Jensen; Harvey Rodich \$15; \$10 each Bill Prinz, Donald Donaker, Ewald Nielsen; A. Eiden \$5.

Total: \$320.00

Press Security Fund

Section Cook County, Ill., \$100; Sol Berman \$22.34; Henry Coretz \$20; Phillip Grandstaff \$15; Jim Comerford \$10; Richard Wilson \$8; Anthony ARico \$7; Frank Rudolph \$5; Ronald G. Spangler Jr. \$2.

Total: \$189.34

SLP Sustainer Fund

Robert Burns \$150; Bernard Bortnick \$100; \$50 each Joseph McCabe, Carl C. Miller Jr., Karl H. Heck; John-Paul Catusco \$48; Section San Francisco Bay Area: Jennie Seekford \$42; Donald J. Donaker \$25; Lois Kubit \$10.

Total: \$525.00

Leaflet Fund

Reynold Elkins \$15; \$2 each Aaron Robertson, Daniel B. Lazarus.

Total: \$19.00

2001 National Convention Banquet Fund

Jack Blessington \$100. (Total)

...Temps

(Continued from page 3)

as do manufacturing workers in general—including those in the coal and petrochemical industries.

These health hazards are exacerbated by the fact that temp workers rarely have health coverage. According to a February 2001 survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only about a fifth of temporary employees have employer-provided insurance.* Among those who work through temporary agencies, a scant 11 percent have such coverage.



Ignacio Torres worked as a temp in the San Jose area. "There was no health coverage," he recalls. "If you got sick, you might get laid off." Torres managed to move on to full-time employment.

But as the Silicon Valley economy continues to crumble, few former temps are likely to be so lucky. "Many of our workers are depressed," says Raquel Santo, a program director at the Santa Clara Center for Occupational Safety and Health. "They don't know what kind of job they can get now."

*Health insurance is "employer provided" in the same sense that the cotton clothing worn by African-American slaves was planter provided. The cotton was stolen. So is the wealth that capitalist employers use to arrange for employee health insurance. It comes from what Karl Marx called surplus value, which is that part of labor's product that is not returned as wages. Capitalists find it cheaper to buy health care in bulk than to pay workers higher wages. This enables capitalists to keep a larger share of what labor produces. Not content with this, the capitalists and their apologists add insult to injury by calling this a "benefit" to the workers, when what it is really is a premium on the fundamental theft embedded in the wage-labor system.—*The People*.

Socialism vs. Anarchism

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...Financial Crisis

(Continued from page 1)

coming all the Party's financial problems, only of meeting the immediate crisis by eliminating the deficits and gaining some ground toward building up the cash reserves to a point where we can look forward with more optimism than can be easily supported at present." Please use the coupon on page 6

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THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY OF SOCIALISM

Revolutionary Program

The Socialist Labor Party has a twofold program for building a socialist society. What follows is a brief summary of its main points.

POLITICAL ACTION

To establish socialism, political unity under the banner of a mass political party of labor is needed. The role of the party is to educate workers to the need to abolish capitalism, to agitate for the formation of class-conscious industrial unions, and to express the revolutionary mandate of the working class at the ballot box. The party must also aim to capture and dismantle the political state—the present territorial form of government—and thus pave the way for a new form of government, a participatory democracy based on industry.

ECONOMIC ACTION

To establish socialism, workers must unite as a class, by organizing new unions. These democratic, rank-and-file-controlled unions, built along the lines of industry, would not only fight day-to-day battles for better wages and conditions. Based on the principle that the working class is involved in a class struggle with the employing, capitalist class, a struggle that cannot be ended under the capitalist system, a Socialist Industrial Union movement would be motivated by a higher goal: replacing capitalist ownership of the industries and services with social ownership and democratic workers' control.

Thus, while fighting day-to-day battles, these unions would move toward that goal, mobilizing workers' real strength as the sole productive class in society by building the greatest possible unity and solidarity. When the majority of society is in favor of socialism, the Socialist Industrial Union would back up the decision made at the ballot box by taking, holding and operating the industries and services of the land in the social interest.

Socialist Industrial Unions would then become the governing bodies of socialist society. We would have a truly democratic government in which society's useful producers would be in control of their own economic security and well-being.

NOT A BLUEPRINT

The chart below is not a blueprint. Rather, it is intended to illustrate graphically the principle upon which Socialist Industrial Unionism and the future socialist industrial democracy rest, using the auto industry as an example. A similar chart could be used for any socially necessary industry or service. A chart at the upper right depicts the flow of representation in socialist society.

The Socialist Industrial Union unites workers for the establishment of socialism. And it provides the governmental framework through which to organize and administer social production for the benefit of all the people. Council members at every level of government will be elected from industrial constituencies which coincide with the subdivisions of the integral industrial union of all the useful producers. This industrial self-government of the producers provides a viable means for society to operate the economy collectively and democratically, without social classes or any form of state oppression.

Revolutionary Act

The revolutionary ballot will establish the right of the people to establish socialist society.

The Socialist Industrial Union will create the power to back up that right.

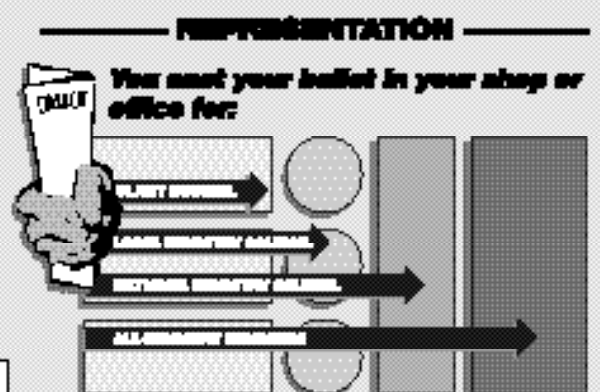
"Industrial unionism is the Socialist Republic in the making; and the goal once reached, the industrial union is the Socialist Republic in operation." — Daniel De Leon



New Society

After the revolution, the administration of all production and distribution will be the function of the democratically elected Socialist Industrial Union government.

As industry is organized for production, so will be the administration of the new socialist society:



Socialist Industrial Unionism is the only certain safeguard against bureaucratic usurpation. In socialist society final authority will rest with the rank and file of useful producers.

The useful producers will elect administrators and representatives to all levels of government, and they will have the easily and immediately exercisable power to recall and remove any administrator or representative who, in their judgment, fails to serve their interests in office.

The Socialist Industrial Union, in firm possession of the industries and services of the land, will insure that all power remains in the only safe place for power to be—with the rank and file of society's useful producers.

Today, in the procapitalist unions, union bureaucrats are almighty, and union members are virtual subjects. But in the Socialist Industrial Union each individual worker will have an effective voice as well as a vote in everything from the operation of the workplace to the administration of society.

This will be a social organization in which the people who do the work will have complete democratic control of their tools and products—thus production will at long last be for use and the benefit of all.

THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIALIST INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

