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the People

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GROWERS BENEFIT

USDA Takes Surplus Off Farmer's Hands

By Paul D. Lawrence

If capitalism did not exist, it would be almost impossible to invent a system so absurd. Consider the decision by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to purchase as much as 33 million pounds of fresh frozen peaches this year. Last year it purchased 23 million pounds. In the three previous years, purchases were from 30 million to 33 million pounds.

There is, so to speak, an ongoing glut of peaches nationwide. Making matters worse, an unusually warm spring in California's San Joaquin Valley resulted in smaller fruit than usual, which retailers will not buy. Some peach growers there have left fruit unharvested.

The USDA's purchase is good for agricapitalists who grow peaches. "This is kind of like Santa Claus coming," said Charles Walker of the National Peach Council.

Blair Richardson, president of the California Tree Fruit Agreement, put the purchase into better perspective: "It's bound to be a benefit for all growers because it pulls some peaches off the market."

Why should Nature's bounty be a problem? Because under capitalism commodities, including peaches, are produced for sale with a view toward profit, that is, for their exchange value. If a commodity satisfied no human want or need, it would have no use value and would not be produced in the first place. But satisfying human wants and needs is a secondary consideration under capitalism. Production is for the sake of profit.

According to the law of supply and demand, if supply is greater than demand, prices will fall and *vice versa*. The USDA's purchase will reduce supply, hence raise prices.

What will happen to the peaches the USDA purchases and withdraws from the market? They will be *given away*. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service buys the fruit for uses that include school lunches, food distribution on Indian reservations, nutrition programs for the elderly [and disabled] and emergency food assistance," *The Fresno Bee* reported.

Those consumers are among the most impoverished strata of the working class. Some receive wages so low that they cannot support themselves and their families. Many retirees scrape by on a pittance. Others have simply been displaced altogether from the process of production because capitalism has no use for their labor power.

To sum up, the federal government, part of the political state, protects the interests of the capitalist class. To prevent agricapitalists from going bankrupt, it purchases "surplus" commodities, that is, those that

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GOP, DEMOS AND GREENS AGREE

Principles 'Not Binding' On Bush, Kerry or Cobb

Workers who want to know what difference there is between the Democrats and Republicans do not have to go far to find the answer. What it boils down to is the difference in the personalities of President George W. Bush and Sen. John F. Kerry. Beyond the smiles on their faces, the cut of their clothes and their relative abilities to form a sentence and speak it plainly, there are no differences worthy of mention.

Indeed, with the exception that capitalism lays at the foundation of both major parties, the Democratic and Republican parties do not stand for much of anything. Even the platforms in which the parties supposedly express their guiding principles are meaningless. A writer for the Associated Press put it this way on July 27, the very day on which the Democratic convention adopted its 2004 platform in Boston:

"Marching in lockstep with John Kerry's agenda, Democrats adopted a platform Tuesday that pledges an uncompromising war against terrorists, repaired relations with the world and advances on jobs, affordable health care and education.

"The days of platform fights long gone, delegates approved the document in a hasty procedure and a largely empty Democratic National Convention hall.

"Is there any discussion?" asked New Mexico

Gov. Bill Richardson, convention chairman. He didn't wait for an answer before calling a voice vote that brought a chorus of approval and only a few scattered 'nays.'

"The platform is a broad statement of principles that is not binding on the presidential candidate or anyone else. Even so, it was crafted with care to avoid conflict with Kerry's positions while accommodating the ideological range of party activists."

Ralph Z. Hallow of *The Washington Times* made a similar observation about the Republican Party on Aug. 15. Hallow reported that the Rep. Melissa A. Hart of Pennsylvania "will lead the Republican Party platform subcommittee," then added:

"The platform—a statement of principles nonbinding to the party's presidential candidate—is being prepared for approval by the party's presidential nominating team in New York."

What all this tells us, of course, is that the Democratic and Republican parties are not political parties in any meaningful sense. They are nothing more than loosely lumped together coalitions of often-conflicting "interest groups" whose lack of coherence and direction makes them ripe and ready for manipulation by rich and powerful capitalists. They are political corrals into which to herd and tame

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Foul Air Over Farm Valley

By Paul D. Lawrence

California's San Joaquin Valley has the worst air pollution in the United States. Or air quality may be amongst the worst. It depends on what is measured and for how long. A recent special education to *The Fresno Bee* cites three basic causes: topography, climate and "growing population." The first two are more or less givens. The last is falsely labeled.

Mountains surround the valley, with the majestic Sierra Nevada to the east. Hot air traps cooler air on the valley floor and, with it, pollutants.

Hot summers cook volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides in ozone. In the stratosphere, ozone, which is being depleted by various pollutants, helps protect Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. At ground level, it is a dangerous pollutant. It causes lung damage, eye irritation and respiratory tract problems. It creates smog and damages plants.

Ozone can also trigger asthma attacks. The underlying causes of asthma are considered

unknown. Various things can "trigger" attacks. The valley has an extraordinarily high rate of asthma and severe air pollution. The "trigger" versus cause question sounds something like the chicken and the egg. Without triggers, there would be no asthma attacks.

During the winter, particulate pollution is the main problem. That refers to very small particles of soot, dust and other solids plus droplets of liquids. Particulate matter too causes lung damage and eye irritation. It reduces visibility, damages crops and discolors buildings and statues.

Everybody agrees that these pollutants are bad. Agreement ends there. The only possible area for change is "growing population." But that is a feint. Human activity itself is not itself the problem. It is how that activity is carried out under capitalism. Here are released all the Furies of conflicting private interests. Each wants someone else to do something about pollution.

More than half of the ozone pollution is from

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What Kind of Freedom Is This?

By Michael James

Americans like to talk about freedom, saluting it, praising it, celebrating it and roaming the planet proclaiming to fight for it. Bourgeois politicians constantly remind us how fortunate we are to be free. Singers relentlessly pour out their hearts in tribute to freedom. However, when we overcome sentiment, histrionics, mystification and propaganda, we see very little freedom in capitalist America.

For example, we have a greater percentage of our population in prison than any other country. Daniel De Leon saw it coming clear back in 1895: "Capitalism is fast making of this country a penitentiary..." Most of our prisoners today committed nonviolent crimes. "Nationwide, nonviolent offenders account for 72 percent of all prison admissions," according to Human Rights Watch, and nearly 32 percent are drug offenders, victims of the "war on drugs," which is really a war against human beings. Addiction is a sickness and it should be regarded as a health issue rather than as a moral and criminal issue. Prohibition has been historically proven a failed policy, with the U.S. murder rate declining for 11 consecutive years following the repeal of alcohol prohibition. The war on drugs is simply racist class warfare, a pretext for warehousing those who are disenfranchised and have no meaningful role to play in this capitalist economy. America now spends more on prisons and corrections than on schools and education. What kind of freedom is this?

The average college graduate begins his or her career massively in debt with student loans. In 2000, for example, the average U.S. student graduated from college owing \$29,602. A key reason for this tragic injustice is a federal budget that annually diverts public funds away from education and other human needs and straight to the bloody coffers of the Pentagon. To make matters even worse, U.S. corporations aggressively market credit cards to college students, successfully shackling them to credit card and interest debt on top of crippling student loan debt. Some students enter lucrative professions such as medicine or law and thereby get a fighting chance of overcoming their indebtedness. The ones who are really buried alive are the graduates who enter the somewhat noble but relatively low-paying helping professions such as teaching or social work. They face a lifetime of indebtedness. What kind of freedom is this?

It is commonly known that at least 40 million Americans are not free to secure health care coverage. Many who do have coverage still have to fight tooth and nail with corporate HMOs or insurance companies, which are determined to deny benefits in order to maximize profit. It is hard to even fathom the harm done by denying medical care to human beings. For example, many of those who lack health care coverage tend to delay seeking medical attention until their condition is catastrophic. Poor African Americans, for example, develop cancers 8 percent more often than whites and have a cancer death rate 35 percent higher. When one lacks health care benefits, a sickness or injury spells financial ruin. What kind of freedom is this?

A huge number of young Americans, especially those of color, are not free to pursue education and careers. The military becomes their destination because of economic necessity. It is an economic draft. Consider the first Gulf War, for example, in 1991. Black people made up about 12 percent of the American population but comprised 30 percent of U.S. ground forces and 50 percent of U.S. female soldiers. This exploitation of our young men and women, especially those of color, is immoral, insulting and criminal.

Draft notices used to begin with this phrase: "Greetings." Capitalism now sends a circumstan-



AB CAP for The People

tial and systemic greeting to the young: "This society has no place for you. There are no meaningful jobs. There is no money for your college education. However, there are plenty of prisons if you make trouble. Your best bet is to join the military and go abroad to fight for corporate interests."

The old phrase "Uncle Sam Wants You" does not go far enough. The ugly truth is that the capitalist class is a ghoulish and merciless predator licking its lips as it devours our young. Uncle Sam wants our youth and their idealism, their energy, their bodies, their political naiveté, their simple-minded patriotism and their false consciousness. What kind of freedom is this?

Americans who sell their intellectual or physical labor power are not free to experience economic security. Precariousness, apprehension, anxiety, doubt, uncertainty and fear characterize working-class life in capitalist America. It must ever be so and can never be otherwise. The fundamental characteristic and singular purpose of capitalism is the exploitation of labor, which Marx imaginatively described as "vampire thirst for the living blood of labor" and "werewolf hunger for surplus labor." Capitalism can never resolve the class struggle. We who create wealth will never know certainty and security until we liberate the means of production and create classless society.

Meanwhile, day in and day out, the assault on the producers of all wealth continues. A book entitled *The Overworked American* states, "One of capitalism's most durable myths is that it has reduced human toil." Americans, for example, are actually some of the most overworked people in the industrial world. A comparison of paid vacation days per year, for example, shows Americans are dead last in comparison to workers in 13 European nations. What kind of freedom is this?

Our freedom to experience a healthy environment is sacrificed to capitalism's need to con-

stantly degrade and poison our environment in the name of profit. Environmental organizations that promote ecology without calling for the abolition of capitalism are pathetic and impotent. Ecology and capitalism are simply incompatible. Environmental groups are right to want a green planet but they are up against capitalism and what Marx called "the most violent, mean, and malignant passions of the human breast, the Furies of private interest." Many of these organizations are themselves the victims of capitalist cooptation, now caught up in their own marketing and self-promotion.

We are not free to learn and think because a mere handful of capitalist corporations control all of our news and entertainment. It is no exaggeration to suggest that workers should exercise caution when turning on the TV or picking up a newspaper or magazine. The price we pay for indulging ourselves with escapist entertainment or tabloid-style news is that our classconsciousness is assaulted. Marx captured the essence of capitalism with this phrase: "in providing for your pleasure, I fleece you." Indeed, capitalism's fleecing of the working class is profound and thorough because it is both material and ideological.

It is bourgeois brainwashing, even when it is subtle, as when every attitude, point of view or perspective offered in the media is bourgeois. Sometimes it is only when we stop to think about what is not being presented—such as a working-class, labor and socialist point of view—that we realize the inherent bourgeois content of what we are viewing or reading. It is only when we realize that capitalism is never questioned in the corporate media, that capitalism is assumed to be natural, superior and inevitable, that we realize that what is presented to us as neutral or objective is thoroughly steeped in bourgeois ideology. As Marx said, "The ruling ideas of each age have ever been the ideas of its ruling class." What kind of freedom is this?

We lack the freedom to live free from violence. America is one of the most violent nations on earth. Much of this violence is interpersonal

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Do You Belong?

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

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U.S. SUPREME COURT

Hiibel Ruling Undermines Fourth Amendment Rights

"I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations."

—James Madison, 1788

By Ken Boettcher

A police officer pulls up behind a pickup parked on the side of a country road. The officer walks toward a man smoking a cigarette, who walks toward the officer and says, "How's it goin' sheriff?" The officer repeatedly demands to see the man's ID. The man repeatedly refuses to give his name or ID, saying he has done nothing wrong. He is arrested and taken to jail.

The scene might seem "normal" under the former apartheid regime in South Africa, where blacks were required to carry identification at all times. It happens often in Israel's present-day apartheid-like regime, which requires Palestinians to do the same. It is no doubt common under the oppressive totalitarian "communist" regime in China, where so many U.S. capitalists find it profitable to build their factories these days. But such a thing could never become common here in the "free" United States, right?

Perhaps before Larry Dudley Hiibel was arrested in Humboldt County, Nev., in May 2000. There, on a spring day, Hiibel, a 59-year-old Nevada rancher, was smoking a cigarette outside his pickup. The vehicle was stopped alongside a rural road. According to a report received by police, a male had struck a female (Hiibel's daughter) inside the parked pickup.

Not much is clear about what happened before the police showed up. But charges of battery against Hiibel were dropped.

What happened *after* the police showed up is shown quite clearly in the police video of the arrest, which can be viewed in several formats online at <http://papers-please.org/hiibel/index2.html>. The video shows that Hiibel was arrested and taken to jail solely for refusing to identify himself. He was found guilty of delaying a public officer by refus-

ing to cooperate and fined \$250 under Nevada's "stop and identify" law.

Twenty other states already had similar laws at the time of Hiibel's arrest. Previous to the Supreme Court's ruling in his case, Nevada's law had been declared unconstitutional three times by a federal appeals court with jurisdiction over Nevada. Previous precedent—under a 1968 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, *Terry v. Ohio*, allowed police to "stop and frisk" those suspected of a crime under certain circumstances, but not to compel suspects to answer questions.

The American Civil Liberties Union asserted in an amicus brief filed on behalf of Hiibel that his refusal to identify himself "should not, by itself, establish probable cause for arrest," as an ACLU news release put it. "Nevada cannot criminalize what the Constitution protects [the

actions violate the Fourth Amendment's ban on unreasonable searches and seizures."

The majority opinion in the Nevada Supreme Court's 4-3 decision against Hiibel attempted to excuse the trampling of his rights in the context of the war on terror. "We are at war," wrote Nevada Chief Justice Cliff Young, "against enemies who operate with concealed identities and the dangers we face as a nation are unparalleled." The majority, accordingly, deemed it "reasonable and necessary" for the officer to demand Hiibel's identification. Young presumably believes that real terrorists will render their true identities when asked.

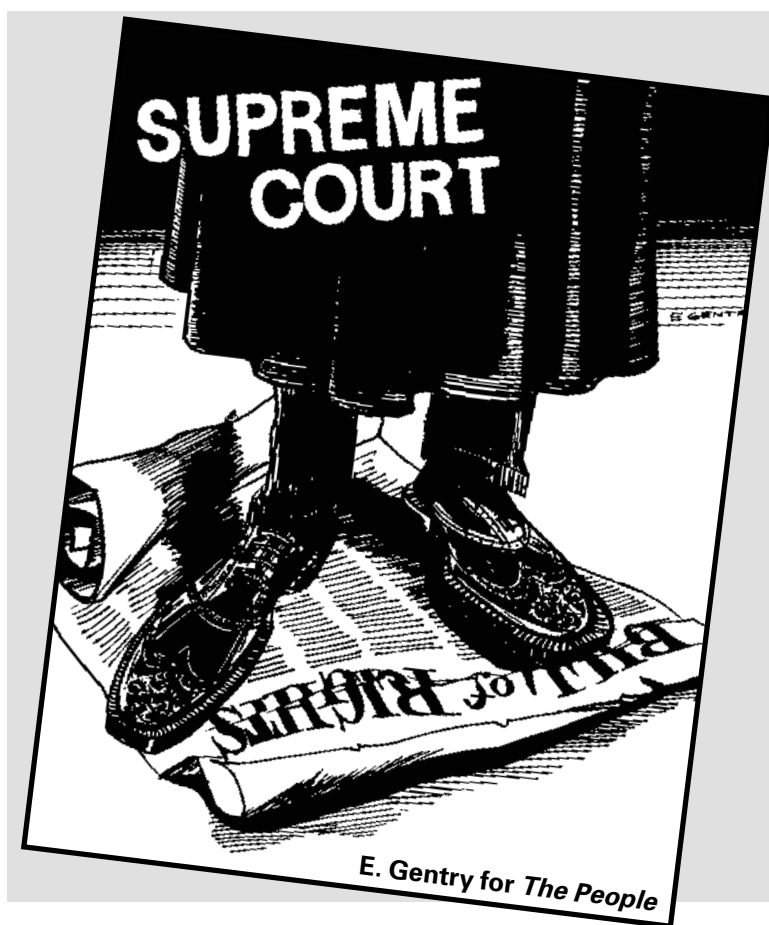
The dissenting opinion in the Nevada Supreme Court decision upholding Hiibel's conviction noted, "What the majority fails to recognize is that it is the observable conduct, not the identity, of a person, upon which an officer must legally rely when investigating crimes and enforcing the law."

Not any longer. Probable cause is now out the window. The 5-4 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court on June 21 upholding Nevada's decisions ruled that his arrest did not violate Hiibel's rights to privacy or to be free of unreasonable arrest or his protection against self-incrimination.

Accordingly, such laws now have strong impetus to proliferate. The abuses which will come from that proliferation will no doubt fall disproportionately on minorities, protesters, the homeless—or anyone who is not happy with the status quo.

The last century was punctuated with such encroachments by the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the U.S. government under the guise of fighting communism, crime and drugs. This century it is already clear, thanks to the Patriot Act, the Hiibel case and other acts, under which flag—that of "fighting terrorism"—those who seek to circumscribe civil rights and liberties will be marching in their attempts to

safeguard and promote the capitalist system and the profits and privileges of the tiny minority that benefits from it.



right to privacy]," an ACLU representative said. "And," he continued, "because Nevada has never claimed any other basis for his arrest, its

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The Wall Street Crashes

By Olive M. Johnson

(Weekly People, Nov. 9, 1929)

On Thursday, Oct. 21, after an era of unrestrained speculation that had driven prices way beyond values, the Wall Street pendulum began to swing the other way. The crazy structure built upon "confidence" sagged and then

collapsed, panic took the place of confidence and a selling wave set in that caused stock prices to slump in a nationwide stampede to unload, affecting even the most "solid" securities. Margins ceased to be margins and became chasms, and the smaller speculators, called upon to cover, dropped into the abyss, wiped off the map, destroyed, done for.

Banking consortiums were formed, the biggest guns in the banking game put their heads together to stem the tide and steady the market. President Hoover issued a reassuring statement, saying that "fundamental business," i.e., the "production and distribution of commodities is on a sound and prosperous basis"; that the temporary drop in grain prices, which "usually happens" when Wall Street gets it in the neck, is nothing to worry about because "fortunately" this year's world wheat harvest is estimated to be 500 million bushels less than that of last year, which will result in a very low carry-over at the end of the harvest this year.

This reassuring statement was made on Friday, Oct. 25, the day after the crash. It was published next day, Saturday. Then came Sunday, the "day of rest" when Wall Street worked like a beaver trying to untangle the

terrible mess it had got into. Then came Monday, Oct. 28, and the day after we are informed through the press that "stock prices slump 14 billion dollars" and that an "unexpected torrent of liquidation again rocks markets." Country banks, loaded up to the muzzle with collateral that no longer measured up to the funds advanced on it, divested themselves of their holdings in order to save their necks, from Europe came a flood of selling orders helping to complete the smashup.

We are told that it was not the little speculator who was struck by the second crash; he had been blown headlong out of the market by the cyclone of last Thursday. When the second crash came on the following Monday it was the bigger fish whose holdings had become endangered and who unloaded when hysteria seized him, causing the most gilt-edged securities to drop, drop and keep on dropping.

Of course, gambling is gambling; it neither creates nor destroys real values but it transfers them from one pocket into another, and the final result when this racket is over will be that the very big fish will have taken unto themselves what the lesser fish and the still lesser sardines have lost. The fellow with the ample money bag can now go shopping and pick up at bargain prices stocks that are bound to recover

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Papers, Please

The U.S. Supreme Court's June 20 decision in *Hiibel v. Sixth Judicial District Court*, reported on elsewhere in this issue, is now judicial history. And so too, as *The Washington Post* put it, may be your "right to remain silent," at least while you're on a public street. The *Post* also offered its editorial opinion that the Supreme Court's decision was "a bad idea"—an observation that should win the *Post* a Pulitzer for understatement of the year.

Larry Hiibel was convicted of a misdemeanor in Humboldt County, Nev., four years ago after he refused to identify himself to a deputy sheriff. Hiibel appealed against that decision to the Nevada Supreme Court on Fourth and Fifth Amendment grounds. Although the state's supreme court denied Hiibel's appeal, the Nevada Public Defender's office represented him before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to hear Hiibel's appeal attests to the constitutional significance and implications of the case, despite its seemingly humble origins in what the Nevada courts treated as a minor offense. "The U.S. Supreme Court receives more than 7,000 petitions a year and only agrees to hear about 100," according to "intellectual conservative" Allan Bormel.

Nevertheless, Bormel and other "patriots" discounted the constitutional significance of Hiibel's appeal and the Supreme Court's decision to deny it. "The sky isn't falling," he insisted. "Storm troopers aren't demanding 'your papers please!'" Yet, that essentially is what happened on Grass Valley Road, just south of Winnemucca, four years ago.

While Bormel and like-minded champions of the "American way" may not be troubled by this latest assault on constitutional liberties, others are. "If police can demand our ID by the side of a public road," the *Las Vegas Review Journal* asked, "what about in our backyards...or in our bedrooms?"

Forty percent of all states have laws similar to the Nevada "stop and identify" statute that the Supreme Court upheld by denying Hiibel's appeal. However, not even the U.S. Supreme Court's earlier ruling in *Terry v. Ohio*—a decision that authorized police to "stop and frisk" anyone whom they consider "suspicious"—empowers police to compel such detainees to compromise their Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights by answering questions or by identifying themselves.

On June 21, the Nevada State Public Defender's office deplored the Supreme Court's decision in a brief press release:

"Although we respect the decision-making process of the United States Supreme Court, we are deeply disappointed in today's ruling. A Nevada cowboy courageously fought for his right to be left alone but lost. We believe the Court's holding erodes the belief in the right to privacy cherished by so many Americans. The Court's ruling represents a loss not only for Larry Dudley Hiibel, but for the constitutional liberties of all citizens of this great nation."

—Editor

Lies About Unemployment

Benjamin Disraeli, 19th-century British parliamentarian, was reported to have said, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics." The Bush administration's distortions on unemployment illustrate the point.

On Aug. 6, government figures on employment for July were released. They showed "32,000 new net jobs added to payrolls during the month," as an article by *CNN/Money* put it. At the same time, the unemployment rate declined from 5.6 percent to 5.5 percent. The Bush administration is portraying such figures as positive. On its WhiteHouse.gov Web site, it claims that July's "jobs figures...and other recent indicators show that President Bush's economic policies continue to move the economy forward." "The economy has posted job gains for each of the last 11 months—creating 1.5 million jobs since August 2003," the Web site proudly trumpeted.

But such figures actually attest to the grim reality facing workers. For example, calculations from table B-35, *Economic Report of the President*, 2004, cited in a recent article in *Monthly Review*, showed, "At the current rate of population growth, a net gain of about 140,000 jobs per month...is needed just to keep pace with the increase in the working-age population," not counting job losses from the past or in the present that must be made up for if job prospects are not to worsen for workers.

Moreover, the Household Survey used to determine the official unemployment rate is flawed on so many counts that it is almost useless in determining the actual rate of unemployment. It doesn't count as unemployed those who have given up looking for work, nor those involuntarily working part time. It counts as employed those working without pay in family businesses and those on unpaid leave. It counts as employed any who are self-employed at a time when thousands are forced to do anything they can when they lose their jobs—including such lucrative "jobs" as washing cars in their home garages.

In its April issue, *Monthly Review* noted the essence of the decline in the unemployment rate between November 2003 and January 2004 from 5.9 percent to 5.6 percent. "With only 33,000 more people working at the end of this three-month period, the main cause for the decrease in the official unemployment figure was that over 200,000 people stopped looking for work." Further, it noted, "The total of underutilized and not utilized workers in the United States comes to around 14 million people—about 10 percent of the potential labor force."

In January even Morgan Stanley economist Stephen Roach observed, "The modern U.S. economy has never seen anything like this. Fully 25 months into this so-called economic recovery, private-sector jobs are still about one percent below levels prevailing at the official trough of the last recession in November 2001; at this juncture in the typical recovery, jobs are normally up by about 6 percent. Had Corporate America held to the hiring trajectory of the typical cycle, fully 7.7 million more American workers would be employed today."

It is quite likely that, as another article in *Monthly Review* observed, "when Election Day comes in November 2004, the U.S. economy will have fewer jobs than when President Bush took office four years before—something that has not happened since the Great Depression when Herbert Hoover was president."

The People will have much more to say on the scope of the economic crisis facing U.S. workers today. Suffice for now to note that the reality does not at all resemble the rosy view promoted by the Bush administration.

—K.B.

A De Leon Editorial

Consent of The Governed



Capitalism has historically used force and violence to squelch dissent, not only in far-off places like the Philippines and Iraq, but within the United States. Capitalist ownership of the means of production, and the ever-present threat of unemployment, serve a similar purpose today.

The Pot and the Kettle

(Daily People, Sept. 4, 1900)

The *Virginian Pilot*, a Bryanite organ, takes a Republican orator very severely to task for declaring in a speech that "The theory that there can be no just government without the consent of the governed...was finally shot to pieces by the boys in blue on the southern battlefields of the Civil War." It describes the utterance as imperialistic and intimates that only the Bryan Democracy stands for "government by the consent of the governed."¹

This might seem somewhat inconsistent to some of the 15th Amendment neighbors of the liberty-loving editor of the *Virginian Pilot*, who find that the color of their skin appears to make the Bryanites forget the "consent of the governed" doctrine.² But the Negro ex-voter would be very much mistaken. The Bryanite who dons a red shirt,³ straps on a Colt's revolver, shoulders a Winchester and hies him to the polling place is not an imperialist. He is a "consent of the governed" Democrat, who is out gunning for his black brother's consent to be governed by the untterrified, and slightly ignorant, Democracy. As long as the Negro "consents" to the governed, what boots it how his consent was secured? And even Gen. Otis⁴ cannot capture more "consents" with the Gatling gun in the Philippines than can the anti-imperialist Bryanite with his Winchester in the South.

The "consent" of the miners in Idaho was secured by the Republican McKinley and the Democrat Steunenberg,⁵ by giving the miners a liberal dose of the Bull Pen and starvation. The silent consent of the wage workers in Homestead, Pa., was secured by the Democrat Pattison⁶ and the Republican Harrison in 1892, by liberal applications of bayonets and bullets. The coal miners of Hazleton, Pa., gave their silent consent in 1897 after they were riddled with bullets,⁷ and the doctrine of "consent" recently scored another brilliant success in North Carolina when the majority "consented" to be governed by the chivalrous assassins who shout so loudly for the Declaration of Independence.

There can be no equality before the law, no equality of rights, no government by the consent of the governed, while one class owns the machinery of production in the nation.

Only when classes are abolished and the wage slave ceases to exist; only when the whole people owns the land and tools will the doctrine of the "consent of the governed" become a reality.

Until then, the Democrat and Republican who abuse use each other for violating this doctrine are only illustrating the fable of the pot calling the kettle back.

¹ During the presidential election campaign of 1900, the Democratic Party and its presidential candidate, William Jennings Bryan, claimed to oppose the imperialist war then being waged in the Philippines by President William McKinley's Republican administration. At the same time, however, the Democratic candidate and his party supported racism and violence against African Americans in the South.

² The 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which "guaranteed" African-American men the right to vote, was fiercely and often violently resisted throughout the South.

³ The "Red Shirts" were organized to resist Reconstruction and the Republican Party in South Carolina after the Civil War. They often used violence to prevent former slaves from voting and to drive them from their homes.

⁴ Maj. Gen. Elwell S. Otis commanded U.S. forces in the Philippines after the Spanish-American War and led a brutal war against the Philippines independence movement during

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what is socialism?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNIVERSITIES

Surplus of Science Grads Helps Keep Wages Down

By Bruce Cozzini

Workers at all levels in the economy are experiencing hard times lately. That includes the most educated, who typically think of themselves as professionals rather than working class. Nevertheless, they, like all workers, are subject to the ups and downs of the labor market. A recent article by Richard Monastersky in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (July 9) describes what seems to be a paradox regarding the supply of scientists and engineers in the U.S. labor market, with some experts proclaiming a shortage and others a surplus.

Indeed, capitalist spokespersons often complain that there is a shortage of trained scientists and engineers and a decline in their training. Monastersky notes, "University presidents, government officials and heads of industry have joined together in a chorus of concern over the state of science and engineering in the United States. The danger signs are obvious, they say. Fewer U.S. citizens are getting doctorates in those fields. There is increasing competition from other countries for the foreign graduate students who once flocked to the United States. And those changes come when many argue that the United States needs more technically trained people to power its economy." He adds that a May report by the National Science Board concluded "these trends threaten the economic welfare and security of our country."

Monastersky, a past winner of the David Perlman award for Excellence in Science Journalism and *The Chronicle's* chief writer on science issues, also noted that such hyperbole is nothing new. Similar predictions from the National Science Foundation in the mid-1980s "that the nation would soon lack enough scientists to fill the necessary posts in academe" proved extremely inaccurate, as over the last decade "thousands of frustrated researchers have labored in postdoctoral positions at low wages because they could not find jobs in academe or industry."

Current data also suggest the contrary to these dire predictions. Indeed, "record numbers of Americans are earning bachelor's degrees in science and engineering," Monastersky added. "And

unemployment rates in at least some sectors of science and engineering have topped the charts." Likewise, "particularly in engineering and information technology, we did not find evidence that such shortages have existed at least since 1990, nor that they are on the horizon," the RAND Corp. reported earlier this year.

While Monastersky, in true academic fashion, engages in "maybe this, maybe that" kinds of arguments in his nine-page article, several facts seem consistent. More students are graduating with higher degrees than the labor market can absorb. Many end up for extended periods in low-paying postdoctoral positions (postdocs), in some cases leaving the profession when nothing permanent arises. In 1995, 63 percent of PhDs in biomedical areas became postdocs. Last year the American Chemical Society observed "times are becoming very tough for the chemical profession" and reported that the proportion of new PhD chemists in postdoc positions increased by 10 percent between 2002 and 2003. For the first quarter of 2004, 6.7 percent of computer scientists and systems analysts were unemployed.

Those who are claiming a scarcity like to place blame on the American education system, a common right-wing whipping boy. In fact, Monastersky points out, the U.S. education system is educating too many scientists and engineers. Graduate students and postdocs are cheap labor, teaching undergraduate students

and working on the research projects that generate grant money for universities. Universities are encouraged by industry and government predictions of scarcity to continue the process.

An editorial in *Science* this year argued: "We've arranged to produce more knowledge workers than we can employ, creating a labor-excess economy that keeps labor costs down and productivity high. Maybe we keep doing this because in our heart of hearts, we really prefer it this way." Indeed a surplus is encouraged as a capitalist tactic to keep wages from rising.

Scientists and engineers like to view themselves as professionals who can enjoy exercising their creative potentials, and who should be rewarded commensurately. For capitalism, they are simply specialized workers who can create far more wealth than they are paid by performing the research and development tasks that lead to new patents and products. Whether drugs, computers or communications devices or software, new products are given monopoly rights under patent laws for limited time periods, and are thus immune for that time to the competition that limits profit in normal commodity manufacturing.

By producing a surplus of scientific and technical workers, capitalists can keep the costs of research low and increase profits still more. They can do so by hiring foreign workers on H1-B visas, by outsourcing development work to foreign countries where wages are low, or by using our much maligned education system to train more workers than are required for the available jobs. Regardless of the method, the result is increased exploitation of scientific and technical labor.

In a socialist society, on the other hand, scientific and technical workers would be represented democratically within the Socialist Industrial Union government, whether in industries like health and medicine or in research education institutions. Resources would be allocated based on the best information available and aimed toward the goals represented by social need and the spirit of scientific inquiry, untrammelled by political or commercial interests. Scientific and technical workers would have the opportunity at last to pursue their full creative potentials.

By producing a surplus of scientific and technical workers, capitalists can keep the costs of research low and increase profits.

...De Leon

(Continued from page 4)

which many atrocities were committed.

⁵ Frank Steunenberg won election as governor of Idaho in 1896 as the candidate of the Democratic and Populist parties. He also received trade union support by promising not to use force to break strikes. (The state militia had been used to break several miners' strikes during the 1890s.) When miners at the Bunker Hill Mine went on strike in 1899, however, Steunenberg broke his pledge by sending in the state militia to herd miners into the infamous "bull pens." President Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican, sent federal troops.

⁶ Robert Pattison, a Democrat, was governor of Pennsylvania in 1892 when workers at Andrew Carnegie's Homestead steel mill went on strike. Carnegie hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to send in a small army to break the strike, but when the workers repulsed the invaders Pattison, who claimed to believe that corporations were becoming "too vast and powerful," promptly came to Carnegie's assistance by sending in 12,000 state militia to break the strike.

⁷ The Hazleton (or Lattimer) Massacre occurred on Sept. 10, 1897, near Hazleton, Pa., when Luzerne County Sheriff James Martin and 150 heavily armed "deputies" recruited from the town's "professional men" and coal company guards emptied their Winchester rifles into a peaceful demonstration by 400 striking miners. Most of the miners, 19 of whom were killed and 36 of whom were wounded in the fusillade, did not understand English or Martin's order to disperse. When news of the slaughter spread and it was learned that most of the dead and wounded had been shot in the back, Republican Gov. Daniel H. Hastings sent in the state militia to protect Martin from being arrested for murder. Martin eventually was brought to trial, but a capitalist court exonerated him.

Students or Workers?

By Bruce Cozzini


Colleges and universities use graduate students as a cheap pool of labor to teach undergraduates and perform research. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in July acted to assure that the labor is cheap by blocking the right of graduate students to unionize at private universities. (*Science*, July 23)

The decision blocked an organizing drive at Brown University and reversed the position taken by the NLRB in 2000 that had allowed a successful union drive at New York University. The board is expected to rule shortly on similar cases at three other private universities. So far, the ruling does not apply to public universities, where dozens of graduate student unions have been formed.

As *Science* reports, the 3-2 NLRB majority claimed that the students' role as students takes precedence over their status as workers, warning that unionization posed significant risks "to our nation's excellent higher education system." The dissenting minority noted that the decision "overlooked the economic realities of the academic world...and leaves

graduate students without recourse in resolving labor disputes."

What *Science* does not say is that this ruling is an object lesson in the class struggle. Students need to understand that the labor market is stacked against workers, whether production workers or "professionals." Corporate power and the power of the political state work hand in hand to limit the workers' ability to organize effectively to fight exploitation. In this case, the lamest of excuses suffices to subordinate the interests of workers to those of capitalist enterprise.



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...GOP, Demos and Greens Agree

(Continued from page 1)

all sign of social discontent. They stand for everything but they stand for nothing. Accordingly, it does not matter what a political party's platform says or what "principles" it claims to have. None of that is binding on the candidates.

The Green Party likes to say that the Democratic and Republican parties and their candidates are indistinguishable, one from the other. There is no meaningful difference between them. The Green Party, however—well, now, that is a *different* story!

The Green Party assures those who visit its Web site that it really is different from the Democrats and the Republicans, and it displays a long list of "issues" to prove just how different it is.

The Democrats and the Republicans supported the war on Afghanistan, but the Green Party opposed it.

The Democrats and the Republicans support the Patriot Act, but the Green Party opposes it.

The Democrats and Republicans supported the war on Iraq, but the Green Party opposes it.

The Green Party list goes on for quite a distance, stopping only long enough to show that if Democrats and Republicans are against it the Green Party is sure to be for it.

However, there is one point on which the Democratic, Republican and Green parties are in perfect harmony. That one thing is that whatever you happen to read in their platforms, whatever "principle," policy or program the party claims to stand for isn't worth the paper it's written on or the time it takes to read. Open the G/GPUSA Web page at info@greenparty.org and there stands the "Platform of the Greens/Green Party USA." However, before the reader's eye can reach the word "Preamble" it must pass over the line that says: "This platform is not binding for candidates on any level."

Truly, then, there is no difference between the Democratic, Republican or Green parties. One day, the Green Party may serve capitalism as a safe substitute for one of the major parties. For now, however, its main contribution seems to be as chief grumbler over the failure of "liberalism" and reformism and chief

collector of the disenchanted who have fallen away from their old haunts in the Democratic Party and various "socialist," "communist" and reform-minded groups.

In one of his major addresses, Daniel De Leon said of the Socialist Labor Party that its "organization and principle are one." The principle he had in mind was the class struggle—a clear-cut recognition that the working class and the capitalist class have nothing in common and that workers must stand on their own political feet inside their own political party before they can hope to solve the problems that capitalism creates. The working class of America not only needs a political party that stands on principle, but on the principle that only the working class itself can solve the litany of social and economic problems that capitalism brings in its wake.

That party is the Socialist Labor Party. Study its principles and its program for putting them into effect.

...Freedom

(Continued from page 2)

including domestic violence, rape and murders. Capitalism's historical economic exploitation of women sets the stage for their abuse in the home. The high U.S. murder rate has everything to do with economic disparity and bourgeois values of individualism, competition, status and private property, all of which set person against person.

However, we must not allow the crime in the streets to blind us to the crime in the suites. It is the systemic or structural violence—the violence done in the name of business and profit—that produces such a horrific body count. Systemic capitalist violence includes the war against the producing class; military spending; neglect of schools, parks, libraries and communities; and rape of the natural environment. We must open our minds, expand our consciousness and see beyond the street thug to the real criminals. A textbook on psychology, for example, confirms that persons with antisocial personality disorder, which means to lack empathy, remorse and a conscience, do very well in business, politics and the military. This violent system can never produce a society that is stable, sane and safe. Again, Karl Marx reveals to us the truth about the chronic chaos of capitalist society: "All that is solid melts into air..." The result is widespread and relentless anxiety and uncertainty. What kind of freedom is this?

The point is that real freedom can only come in a different type of society, a commonwealth that produces and distributes sanely, a classless egalitarian society that has liberated the means of production and thereby given human beings the material basis for genuine freedom. The SLP's

Socialist Industrial Unionism is our blueprint for this sane society. Socialism will give us *freedom from* fear, want, injustice, war and a barbaric, criminal and outmoded economic system. Socialism will give us *freedom to* rise above material struggle and to pursue individual and collective health and happiness. Meanwhile, we are free to rebel. We are free to discard capitalism.

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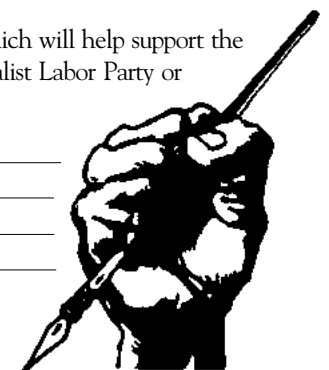
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ACTIVITIES

CALIFORNIA

Discussion Meeting—Section San Francisco Bay Area will hold a discussion meeting on Saturday, Aug. 28, 1:30–4 p.m., San Francisco Main Public Library, ground floor conference room, Grove & Larkin sts. Moderator: Robert Bills. For information about other meetings, please call 408-280-7266 or e-mail slpsfba@netscape.net.

OHIO

Discussion Meetings—For more information about Section Cleveland's upcoming discussion meetings, please call 440-237-7933.

Cleveland: Section Cleveland will have a literature table at the Slavic Village Harvest Festival on Saturday, Aug. 28, 1–9 p.m., and on Sunday, Aug. 29, 12 noon–9 p.m. The festival is located on Fleet Ave., from E. 49th St. to E. 65th St. (Cleveland's south side).

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.mind-spring.com>.

letters to the People

Political Circus

I have enclosed £30 pounds: £10 pounds to renew my subscription to *The People* and £20 as a donation to party funds.

The political circus that is taking place in America at the moment has been televised in this country. It makes sad viewing for all classconscious workers both here and in America to see such mass ignorance and apathy at this critical period in history. But the sad thing is that the people in all countries still imagine that by electing a capitalist leader to power he will lead them out of the capitalist wilderness.



Socialists have a mammoth task on hand to convince them otherwise by pointing out that industrially organized labor guided by authentic socialist principle is the only hope. All else is illusion.

T. McGregor
Glasgow, Scotland

When?

Here is our contribution for August. [\$25 for SLP Sustainer Fund.]

Margaret and I were in Ashland (21 miles south) this last Thursday and we saw a bumper sticker: a prominent U.S. flag and the words "God Bless Our Foreign Troops." How sad so many are trapped in this religious-patriotic illusion. How dangerous, too, for the rulers, mostly white men, who depend upon obedient "adult children" and loyal security forces to survive. When will enough awaken and throw off our "chains of illusion" and face up to the "ruthless realism" of existence—and then go on to develop a true human civilization, one of true freedom in the radical-revolutionary concept of freedom?

Frank Roemhild
Bayfield, Wis.

He's No Lincoln

I was amused by your column "He's No Lincoln." But do you really think the president "digs abstractions"? Certainly not abstractions like "peace," "brotherhood," "love," "sharing" or "work."

I agree with you that the United States is not yet "in the grip of fascism," but we certainly will be if "capitalism as we know it" continues. Socialism is a good word for what most of us need.

Greg Stark
Rochester, N.Y.

Death of a Salesman

I just read your "Death of a Salesman" article about Ronald Reagan. It's excellent. Please enter my subscription. My check for \$5.00 is enclosed.

Paul A. Spengler
Buffalo, N.Y.

...Wall Street

(Continued from page 3)

before long and net him a handsome profit. Such were the conditions when the Rockefellers, father and son, smilingly entered the market buying "sound common stocks"—raking in, in plain terms.



The fellow who has been cleaned out, after he has regathered what wits he may have left, will begin to save again, and after he has grown enough wool and become a regular lamb, will be ready for the next confidence game. Optimism will begin to look up, getting-rich-quick will beckon with an enticing finger, his womenfolk, anxious to do as the Joneses do, will egg him on and the speculation fever will be in full swing. Then comes another crash. He will be shorn of his wool, and then he will save again to grow a new crop—and so on and so forth *ad infinitum* until this whole loony social system comes down with a crash and gambling ceases to be a respectable occupation.

...Peaches

(Continued from page 1)

cannot be sold at a price sufficient for a large enough profit, or perhaps even to recover the costs of production. Then it gives away those commodities to members of the working class who cannot afford to purchase them in the first place.

Socialist society will know no such absurdities. The useful producers will receive the full social value of their labor and thus be able to satisfy their wants and needs. Out of the wealth produced, socialist society will make full provision for retirees and those who through some misfortune cannot work. The absurdity of "too much" food and people too poor to afford what they need will disappear.

FUNDS

(June 12–Aug. 13, 2004)
Press Security Fund

Anonymous \$500; Jack Radov \$477; Chris Dobreff \$300; Irene Schelin \$250; \$200 each Socialist Labor Party of Canada, Roy K. Nelson; \$100 each Walter Vojnov, Kay M. Lewis; Francisco Garrido \$90; Section Cook County, Ill., \$86.32; \$50 each William Walbridge, Wayne Urffer, Tony Ruiz, Robert Ormsby, Phyllis Emerson, John & Mary Petrovich (In memory of Lazar Petrovich), Harvey K. Fuller, Donald Rogers; \$45 each Marshall G. Soura, Anonymous; \$40 each Karl M. Behn, Bob Bastian; Tony Marsella \$38; T. McGregor \$37; Keith Wood \$28; Jim Comerford \$26.08; \$25 each Richard Woodward, John S. Gale; Sol Berman \$23; William E. Tucker \$21; \$20 each R.E. Langh, Michael A. Ogletree, Lawrence Hackett, Jim Williams, Bernard Bortnick, Barbara Graymont; Edward Jasiewicz \$18; Wendel Wettland \$16.50; Gregory Stark \$15; Richard Callen \$14; \$10 each Zella F. Leighton, William O'Mahoney, Steve Kellerman, Paul L. Wolf, Mike Miller, Linda Kelley, Leonard Kitts, Joe Randell, Herb Snitzer, Emil Bauman, Dorothy M. Olean, Debra Machowski, Daniel Harrington, Costanzo A. Rufo, Bruce Abraham, Arline McCarthy; \$5.20 each William Sariago, Orville K. Rutschman; \$5 each W.H. McLeod, Roberta Diamond, Marotte, Mark B. Koral, L. Bryant, Ken Jewell; Roman L. Holley \$4; Gary Hemphill \$3; \$2 each Gunnar Skollingsberg, Glenn E. Jones, Don Patrick.

Total: \$3,493.30

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Robert Burns (In memory of Esther Trifonoff) \$150; \$100 each Section Wayne County, Mich., Michael Preston, Lois Reynolds; Margaret & Frank Roemhild \$50; Richard Aiken (In memory of John W. Aiken) \$45; \$30 each Helena Stevens, Clayton Hewitt; \$25 each Juliette (Banks) Jackson (In memory of Harry Banks, 1901–2004), Archie Sim; \$20 each Steve Littleton, Jill Campbell; Lois Kubit (In memory of Conrad Gutermuth) \$10; George Gaylord \$1.

Total: \$2,531.00

Prisoner Subscription Fund

Anonymous \$45; Louise Radley \$22; \$15 each Dave Zink, Michael Preston, Willard Shapira; Lloyd A. Wright \$10; Col. Don Shepherd \$5.

Total: \$127.00

SLP Leaflet Fund

Richard Wilson \$28; \$10 each Patrick McElhaney, Ben Kraft; D. Borowsky \$9; Joseph J. Frank \$5; Chad Kyler \$3; Mr. Raymond A. Conover \$2.

Total: \$67.00

Genevieve Gunderson Memorial Fund

Paul D. Lawrence \$15.00 (Total)

Daniel De Leon Sesquicentennial Fund

\$20 each Richard Mack, Bill Romberg.

Total: \$40.00

Socialist Labor Party

Financial Summary

Bank balance (May 31).....	\$234,881.48
Expenses (June).....	12,406.88
Income (June).....	7,270.09
Bank balance (June 30).....	229,744.49
Deficit for 2004.....	\$ 51,640.87

CHINA

Olympic Rings Help Rivet Working Class' Chains

By Diane Secor

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is using its preparations for the 2008 Olympics to obscure the conflicting class interests involved and to create the impression that everybody in China is zealously supporting the road to "the gold."

Beijing's Olympic preparations have brought increased misery to millions of Chinese workers. Millions of uprooted migrant workers in particular have suffered from greater stress on family life, more dangerous working conditions, police state repression, and intense exploitation by American and other foreign capitalists.

Some striking social parallels exist between China's current rush toward industrialization and the Industrial Revolution of the 19th and early 20th centuries in the United States and the United Kingdom. Small farm owners and rural businesses cannot compete against larger and more technically advanced operations.

As small farms and traditional rural businesses collapse, large numbers of rural people are being forced into the cities in search of new livelihoods. There they join vast numbers of other unemployed migrants and urban workers to bloat overstuffed labor markets. Capitalists not only take advantage of the opportunity to hold wages down but also to force workers to accept unregulated and hazardous working conditions.

Injuries and deaths among Chinese workers are on the rise. Families are being impoverished and forced to break up, and children are being stranded and orphaned in frightening numbers.

"To build everything from sports arenas to the interiors of government offices," *Asian Economic News* reported last February, "Beijing construction firms hire poor or out-of-work countryside dwellers for 200 (\$24.2) to 1,000 yuan per month, employing from 80 million to 120 million Chinese in construction, according to government statistics."

Since family housing and public education for migrant children are generally unavailable to

migrant workers, families are forced to split up. This has led to the breakdown of familial ties and the larger social fabric of communities. Some of these children become orphans when the workers die from extremely unsafe working conditions. "China Daily reported 883,000 accidents from January through November 2003 in which about 1,170 workers were killed."

All of the flag waving and cheering cannot hide the suffering of millions of Chinese workers.

Migrant workers are also at the mercy of a powerful police state. The Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported that it is common for police to kidnap workers and hold them hostage until their families cough up the money for ransom. Moreover, labor unions outside of state control are outlawed.

Nevertheless, Beijing seems to be alarmed at the possibility of these migrant workers becoming a "strong disruptive force." According to an AFP report (Dec. 21, 2003), the regime "woke up to the plight of 120 million farmers who are treated as strangers in their own country,

exploited and despised as they take on poorly paid work in the cities." President Hu Jintao has pledged attempts to improve these conditions for migrant workers. Apart from a few cosmetic changes, however, this is just another empty promise to placate Chinese workers and international human rights advocates.

The abundance of cheap and, regrettably, docile labor has been a boon for foreign capitalists cashing in on China's drive to industrialize and its preparations for the 2008 Olympics. The AFP reported that PRC's government-controlled "unions are often powerless against the foreign companies, which employ an estimated 80 percent of all migrant workers, according to Pun Ngai, a scholar at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology."

The United States of America-China Chamber of Commerce (USCCC), according to its own Web site, "intends to offer Trade Missions which will have a different industry focus. Pollution control and infrastructure projects, particularly related to the Beijing Olympics, will be given priority." Brokers of deals between the PRC and U.S. capitalists, such as the USCCC, cover a broad spectrum of American capitalist interests and have substantial support in the U.S. political arena.

Prescott Sheldon Bush Jr., was "a founding member of the U.S.-China Chamber of Commerce and chairman of its Board of Directors," according to telecomplus.com. He also has used his other connections to broker agreements among U.S., Chinese and Japanese corporations. Bush, now technically retired from the USCCC, just happens to be President Bush's uncle.

The U.S. capitalist class and China's ruling class have substantial investments tied to preparations for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. All of the flag waving and cheering cannot hide the suffering of millions of Chinese workers. The interests of America's working class lie with the interests of Chinese workers, not with ruling-class investors and their mouthpieces. Let our motto be "Workers of the world unite!"

Foul Air Over Farm Valley

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vehicle emissions. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, which is supposed to oversee antipollution efforts, has no legal authority to regulate those emissions. The state of California and the federal Environmental Protection Agency do. When they are prodded into action, often as the results of lawsuits by environmentalists, automakers respond with their orthodox defense: "We're working on it, we can't do it just now and, if we can, automobiles will cost a lot more." That profits would be adversely affected is not openly mentioned.

Last year California enacted several laws targeting pollution from agriculture. Included was repeal of the agricapitalists' exemption from the same weak pollution-control laws applying to every other industry. Agricapitalists bitterly fought those measures, killing some bills and weakening those passed. This year, while defying the deadline to apply for permits, agricapitalists are rallying around a bond measure to help them pay for the costs of pollution control. Meanwhile, urban legislators are opposing the bond. They have different capitalist constituencies to serve.

The San Joaquin Valley has a probably unique

blend of pollution sources. The city of Fresno is one of the 40th largest U.S. cities. Urban sprawl is rife as capitalist economic "development" is planned by the private interests that profit from it. Public transit is simply inadequate. Almost anyone who has an automobile uses it.

Fresno County is the most productive agricultural county in the United States. Diesel engines for irrigation and farm equipment belch smoke into the air, whence particulate pollution. Tillage and unpaved roads create more. Under the new laws, agricapitalists are allowed to count many of the things they were doing anyway as pollution control. The air pollution control district does not consider agriculture a significant problem.

Air pollution is said to have lessened somewhat overall in the past few decades. But that is despite the efforts of the polluting capitalists, not because of them. The political state at all levels, from

local to national, and at all branches, executive, legislative, judicial and regulatory, is part of the problem. It serves the interests of the dominant plutocrats. "We the People of the United States" is meaningless unless the people are capitalists.

The San Joaquin Valley may be the worst-case scenario. It exemplifies the consequences of production for profit, competition and private ownership of the means of production. While paying lip service to pollution control, capitalists seek to protect their own interests first.

But human activity does not have to continue spewing pollutants into the environment. Under socialism, productive property would be owned by society and production would be carried on to provide for social needs and wants. There is no social need for pollution. The useful producers would have no material incentive to pollute the environment and poison themselves.

In the San Joaquin Valley, topography and climate will remain largely the same. But socialist society would reduce adverse human impact on the environment to the lowest level technology allows. It would constantly strive to produce better technologies. It would find ways to minimize the effects of pollutants it could not prevent. It would conserve natural resources. The Sierra Nevada would be as visible as often as they once were.

