

the People

Published by the Socialist Labor Party

Established in 1891

VOL. 116 NO. 6

MARCH-APRIL 2007

\$1.00

Karl Marx In Kansas

Jeff Glendening is a graduate of the Leadership Institute in Arlington, Va. That's where students are taught that politicians "all understand that...it's not always what you say, but how you say it" that counts. It's one of the "effective...techniques" the school boasts of teaching.

Glendening must have been a good student. Today he is the darling of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. When taking him onto the payroll two years ago, state Chamber President Lew Ebert said his "talents are well suited to build the political organization necessary to improve the business climate in Kansas...and...to advance the business agenda at the Statehouse."

Glendening caused a minor stir in February when he wrote a statement on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce urging the state legislature not to increase the state's minimum wage from \$2.65 an hour (the nation's lowest) to something more in line with the federal minimum of \$5.15. Applying his Leadership Institute lessons, Glendening asked:

"Do we espouse the socialist teachings of Karl Marx under which Europe has been buried, or the tradition of the free market and capitalism that have proved to be the cornerstone of the strong and steady economy of the United States?"

In short, Glendening implied that Marx espoused legislation to regulate wages and those who support such things are Marxists. Sad to say, some would-be Socialists would probably agree. They call it an "immediate demand" or a "transitional measure."

Truth is, however, that Marx regarded efforts at "fixing the minimum wage by law" as "trivial" or "foolish." He said that as long as workers were "so childish as to require such bait, it is not worthwhile drawing up any program whatever..." Workers, he said, "ought to inscribe on their banner the revolutionary watchword, 'Abolition of the wages system!'"

That's the Marxist position. That's what the Socialist Labor Party stands for. It's one reason why the SLP's program is worthwhile and why all who wish to advance the cause of socialist emancipation beyond such "childish...bait" must support *The People*.

It also shows how hard it can be to explain what Marx really stood for and why cutting through it all has never been easy. But setting the record straight by following a straight course has to be done.

The SLP and *The People* believe that the only "effective technique" is "what you say," provided what you say is the truth. If that makes sense to you then please help us do the work by using the Press Security Fund coupon printed in another column and contribute as generously as you can.

Thousands More Must Die—

Fear of Defeat Pushes Bush to Prolong the War

By Michael James

The destruction, suffering and death in Iraq seem beyond comprehension. Bourgeois commentators, frantically searching for an explanation, have recently been questioning the character and mental health of George Bush.

A recent article in *New York* magazine called "The Deniers' Club," for example, blames "the psychological defense mechanism of denial" for "the unholy hell we've unleashed" in Iraq. The author, Kurt Andersen, throws a diagnostic wide net. "Concerning the war," he wrote, "the president and a significant portion of the country seem to be in denial together..."

But it is not just denial that the writer for the fashionable *New York* magazine diagnoses. He also blames the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq on arrogance. "Pathological denial and pathological arrogance combined to produce the tragedy of Iraq," he contends.

Andersen goes on to admit that he backed the war until seeing "That it would be prosecuted with such relentless incompetence..." This is a perfect example of the moral bankruptcy and degeneracy of American capitalism and its supporters. Andersen apparently would have no qualms with a competent invasion and occupation!

Anna Quindlen of *Newsweek*, never one to miss a chance to bark up a wrong tree, also looks to pres-



Keith Wood for *The People*

idential mental pathology as an explanation for the criminal atrocities in Iraq. She does not diagnose denial or arrogance but identifies the troublesome trait as "masculinity, American style."

"Those who believe the war was wrong would love to hear the president admit that it was based on faulty intelligence, that he regrets the invasion, that he recognizes that thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have died as a result, and that he intends to cease combat operations as soon as possible," she asserts.

Quindlen claims to know why Bush does not acknowledge the error of U.S. policy and withdraw from Iraq. She links the continuing U.S.

(Continued on page 6)

Study Shows Continued Effects Of Racism On Black Youth

By Ken Boettcher

Cold, hard statistics reflect the continuing effects of institutionalized racism in the United States over its evolution from slaveholding society to advanced capitalist nation. Little has been documented, however, about the lingering psychological effects of racism on its victims at a time when official wisdom often claims that racial barriers no longer exist.

A study released in February by the University of Chicago Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture seeks to change that, at least insofar as black youth are concerned. Entitled, "The Attitudes and Behavior of Young Black Americans," the study first reported the cold, hard statistics:

- In 2005, "The poverty rate for black children was 34 percent, more than twice that of whites."

- "In 2005, nearly 20 percent of black Americans 18 years and older had not completed high school, compared to 11 percent of whites 18 and older."

- "Black youth ages 16 to 19 suffered an unemployment rate of 29 percent in November 2006, more than twice that of white youth, who had an

unemployment rate of 13 percent."

- "In 2003, 3 of 1,000 white male Americans ages 18-19 were in a U.S. prison, compared to 21 of 1,000 black males and 7 of 1,000 Hispanic males ages 18-19." "Approximately 9 of 1,000 white males 20-24 years old find themselves in prison, compared to 70 of 1,000 black males and 23 of 1,000 Hispanic males ages 20-24."

Other statistics showed that blacks are far more likely to be victims of violence, contract AIDS and become pregnant as teenagers.

Facing the grim reality of their life under capitalism, more than 60 percent of black youth questioned in the nationwide study of 1,590 blacks, whites and Hispanics 15 to 25 years old said they felt racial discrimination makes it harder for blacks to get ahead. Fifty-four percent said the education blacks receive is poorer than that received by whites. Only a tiny percentage of any of the three groups thought it very likely racism would be eliminated in their lifetime—11 percent of black youth, 12 percent of Hispanic youth and 4 percent of white youth.

(Continued on page 2)

Visit our website at www.slp.org

International Women's Day—

The Courageous Elizabeth Jennings

By B.G.

On March 8 Socialists the world over salute the achievements of women in the international struggle for social equality by celebrating International Women's Day, established in 1910 by the International Socialist Congress at Copenhagen, Denmark.

The struggle of women for social equality often encounters prejudices linked to race and class as well as gender, resulting in a jumble not always easy to sort out. As an example of this mix from the early days of the United States to the present, we present the story of one courageous African American woman who challenged segregation on the transportation facilities in a certain city in this supposed land of freedom.

She was 24 years old, a hard-working school-teacher, but also the daughter of a well-known preacher and capitalist. She was born and raised in the United States, but was denied equal treatment because of her gender and her race and in spite of her petty bourgeois or middle-class upbringing.

One day she boarded a whites-only bus and refused to leave when the conductor gruffly ordered her off. The conductor—himself an Irish immigrant who had quickly absorbed the racial prejudices of the day—with the help of the bus driver

threw the woman bodily off the bus. Two determined racist workingmen against one courageous African American woman from a capitalist family!

The woman sued the private company that operated the bus line and won her case on the legal grounds that the company was a "common carrier" that was legally required to "carry all respectable persons," without regard to race.

Does this sound like Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Ala., in 1955? A bit, perhaps, but this particular incident occurred in Manhattan in 1854, and the woman's name was Elizabeth Jennings.

Jennings brought certain advantages of class to her struggle for equal treatment on New York City's omnibus lines that were not available to the enslaved or free working-class majority of 19th-century African American women.

"Jennings was well off and well connected," as explained by one account. "Her father, Thomas Jennings, was an important businessman and community leader who had associations with Abyssinian and St. Phillips, two major African American churches. As a tailor, he held a patent on a method for renovating garments and maintained a shop on Church Street." (VictoriasPast.com)

Nonetheless, Jennings' courageous stand encouraged other African Americans of the city to

organize against discrimination by the transportation companies. Through agitation and legal action by their newly formed Legal Rights Association, they were able to desegregate the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Eighth Avenue "omnibus" transportation lines by 1860. The Sixth Avenue line held out a while longer.

It may surprise many that racial segregation existed in the North as well as the South. We should remember, however, that slavery was originally an institution in all 13 of the original American colonies. We should also remember that while most slave owners were white a small number were black. Indeed, there were black slave owners in every state where slavery was legal before the Civil War. Black slave owners benefited from chattel slavery back then just as African American capitalists benefit from wage slavery today. Then as now, however, there was no escape from the ignorance at the root of all prejudice and that sometimes crosses over and helps to obscure class lines, not to mention the conflicts that go on *within* as well as *between* social classes.

Slavery was gradually eliminated by law in the North, long before the Civil War, but white prejudice against blacks remained long after the legal freedom of African Americans in the North was achieved, just as it continues today.

Let us continue to be ever vigilant against oppression and discrimination wherever they occur. Keep the torch of freedom burning brightly, lighting the way for the future generations to come! Wiping out class lines by establishing the Socialist Industrial Republic of Cooperative Labor is the key to wiping out the conflicts and prejudices that class divisions breed.



Carol* Simpson

...Effects of Racism

(Continued from page 1)

The responses of black youth in particular showed "They do feel quite alienated...like secondary citizens at times," said Prof. Cathy Cohen, who conducted the study at the University of Chicago.

Cohen, quoted in an Agence France Presse article posted at Yahoo! News, concludes, "We have a decision to make: are we going to put off dealing with this issue until it explodes or are we going to engage and think creatively about how to...expand how we think of the responsibilities of the state?"

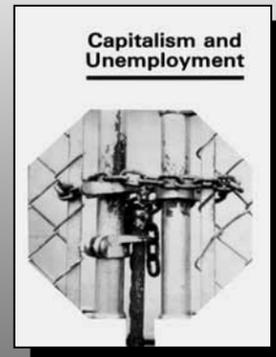
Presumably, Cohen is suggesting that the capitalist political state can play a positive role in correcting the racial inequities the system fosters. While that might not be impossible the

its competition for jobs and limited opportunities, and racial myths and stereotypes continued by reactionary pundits and politicians of the very economic system that makes these things necessary: capitalism.

"Race" has long provided capitalism with an excellent tool for keeping workers divided and fighting amongst themselves for those limited opportunities. The political state is now in the process of *strengthening* the tools it uses to repress workers and enforce the privileged posi-

tion of the capitalist class. Why would it give up one of its best tools?

Far better for workers of all colors to work together to build a *classconscious* and classwide movement that can unite them against their exploiters to forever end the system that breeds racism—before the capitalist state and its sponsors can implement their authoritarian plans for social "improvements."



61 pp. — \$1.25
(postpaid)

Traces the socialist approach to a problem capitalism has never been able to solve.

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS
P.O. Box 218
Mtn. View, CA 94042-0218

A sample copy of *The People* is your invitation to subscribe.

\$5 for a 1 year sub \$8 for a 2 year sub \$10 for a 3 year sub
 \$9 for a 1 year sub by first-class mail

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make check/money order payable to The People.

the People P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218



likelihood is that the kids have it right: if left to the political state, significant social and economic gains won't be made in the lifetime of today's black workers and their children.

The roots of racism are watered by the poverty and unemployment produced by capitalism,

Anti-Immigrant Propaganda Bolsters the Ku Klux Klan

By Ken Boettcher

Cries by capitalist politicians, pundits and labor fakers against “illegal immigration” and for “immigration reform” have never had a lasting effect on the problem of long-term unemployment under capitalism—a crisis of capitalism that serves to “justify” their rants and raves against immigration. Their demagoguery does bear fruit, however—as recent evidence attests.

In February the Anti-Defamation League issued a report entitled “The Ku Klux Klan Today.” It catalogs evidence that the Klan has “witnessed a surprising and troubling resurgence by exploiting fears of an immigration explosion, and the debate over immigration has in turn helped to fuel an increase in Klan activity, with new groups sprouting in parts of the country” that haven’t recently seen much Klan activity. (The whole report is available at <http://www.adl.org>.)

According to the report, the Klan is increasingly cooperating with other white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups to build an anti-immigration movement. In an article on their efforts, CNN.com cited figures from the Southern Poverty Law Center, a foe of the Klan. “Between 2000 and 2005,” said Mark Potok of the SPLC, “hate groups mushroomed 33 percent and Klan chapters by 63 percent.” SPLC estimates put today’s Klan membership at up to 8,000 members in 150 chapters nationwide.

It’s not the first time the Klan and groups like them have grown by targeting immigrants. As Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University at San Bernardino, put it for CNN.com, the Klan “reached peak membership at more than 4 million in the 1920s by focusing on immigration.” “Newcomers from Ireland and Germany,” Levin said, “were portrayed as Catholic usurpers invading the United States, taking jobs from native-born Americans and undermining national fabric.”

Today their target is, increasingly, immigrants from Mexico and other Latin American countries. Their cross-fertilization with other white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups and their use of the Internet to spread their propaganda deepens the threat that these racist groups, working with the foil of anti-immigrant propaganda spewed by more “respectable” racists and demagogues in Congress and the media, pose to the interests of all workers.

The crux of the matter is this: The immigration issue is a trap. The premise behind it is as simple as it is false. That false premise is that

“illegal immigrants” steal jobs from American workers. With millions of workers and their families suffering the effects of permanently high unemployment (official lies about the extent of unemployment notwithstanding), that

undocumented workers, but rather the normal economic laws of the capitalist system. Based as that system is on competition and the profit motive, every capitalist must push more and more labor power out of the process of production in order to survive in the marketplace.

The capitalist class has a vested interest in disguising this fact because, were it known, workers would understand that the solution to unemployment lies in abolishing private ownership of the means of production and establishing social ownership and democratic control. Abolish capitalism and administer production democratically in a socialist society collectively owned and controlled by all, and every bit of extra human labor power that could be had would merely benefit society by producing more to meet all human needs.

For ruling-class demagogues, blaming “illegal immigrants” for unemployment serves a double

purpose. It draws attention away from the real source of the problem—and from the socialist solution—and it serves to keep the working class divided and weakened. For the thugs of the Klan, other white supremacists and neo-Nazis, it is a means of seeking power to build an ugly system of oppression most sentient beings long ago rejected.

It is increasingly imperative that workers realize the real nature of the immigration debate and anti-immigrant propaganda, and work for a real solution to unemployment: The abolition of capitalism and class rule and the establishment of a socialist society of peace, plenty and freedom for all.



Klan members from three different Klan groups participating in a National Socialist Movement [neo-Nazi] rally in Columbus, Ohio, in Sept. 2006. From a slide show at www.adl.org.

Anti-Defamation League

false assertion may mislead workers to support a crackdown on immigration.

That would be a tragedy, not only because of the violence it would bring to many individuals, but also because of the threat such a crackdown poses to the interests of the whole working class. Any ban on hiring undocumented workers, for example, cannot be effectively enforced without some way of positively identifying the status of all workers. Thus any ban contains within it the seeds of a national identification system, or internal passports—a key feature of totalitarianism.

The principal cause of unemployment is not

From My Lai to Haditha—

Nothing New About U.S. War Atrocities

By Michael James

It was March 16, 1968, when American soldiers opened fire on peasants in a hamlet called My Lai in the village of Son My. The monument that the Vietnamese have erected there says that 504 inhabitants were murdered.

Neil Sheehan, author of a book on the U.S. war against Vietnam, entitled *A Bright Shining Lie*, wrote that the victims were “old men, women, boys, girls and babies.” Sheehan described the massacre:

“One soldier missed a baby lying on the ground twice with a .45 pistol as his comrades laughed at his marksmanship. He stood over the child and fired a third time. The soldiers beat women with rifle butts and raped some and sodomized others before shooting them. They shot the water buffalos, the pigs and the chickens. They threw the dead animals into the wells to poison the water. They tossed satchel charges into the bomb shelters under the houses. A lot of the inhabitants had fled into the shelters. Those who leaped out to escape the explosives were gunned down. All of the houses were put to the torch.”

Why remember My Lai? Because American war crimes are continuing, from Abu Ghraib to Guantanamo, from the murder of 24 Iraqi civilians in Haditha to the rape by U.S. soldiers of 14-year-old Abir Al-Janabi. They went on to murder Abir, her 7-year-old sister Hadil, her

mother Fakhriyah and her father Qasim.

The same monster that slaughtered a total of 3 million Vietnamese is now unleashed in Iraq, and the death toll there is climbing daily. The monster is American capitalism. That is the profound, essential and fundamental horror that makes possible individual horrors such as the rape and murder of Abir Al-Janabi.

Sheehan looks at My Lai and concludes that U.S. military and civilian leaders “made the massacre inevitable.” The painful truth about America is that a criminal capitalist class orchestrates a criminal economic system and designs a criminal foreign policy utilizing war as a mere business strategy. “Carnage,” as Daniel De Leon said, “is a specter that dogs the heels of capitalism.”

the People

Founded April 5, 1891

The People (ISSN-0199-350X), continuing the *Weekly People*, is published bimonthly by the Socialist Labor Party of America, 661 Kings Row, San Jose, CA 95112-2724.

Periodicals postage paid at San Jose, CA 95101-7024. Postmaster: Send all address changes to *The People*, P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218. Communications: Business and editorial matters should be addressed to *The People*, P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218. Phone: (408) 280-7266. Fax: (408) 280-6964.

Access *The People* online at: www.slp.org. Send e-mail to: thepeople@igc.org.

Rates: (domestic and foreign): Single copy, \$1. Subscriptions: \$5 for one year; \$8 for two years; \$10 for three years. By first-class mail, add \$4 per year. Bundle orders: 5–100 copies, \$16 per 100; 101–500 copies, \$14 per 100; 501–1,000 copies, \$12 per 100; 1,001 or more copies, \$10 per 100. Foreign subscriptions: Payment by international money order in U.S. dollars.

NATIONALISM: Working-Class Nemesis

Discusses the origins, development and dangers of nationalism, and what the working class must do to resist and counter nationalist rhetoric.

16 pages — \$1 postpaid

**NEW YORK LABOR NEWS
P.O. Box 218**

Mtn. View, CA 94042-0218

the People

Published by the Socialist Labor Party Established in 1891

National Secretary: Robert Bills

VOL. 116 NO. 6

MARCH-APRIL 2007

Secret Detentions

The Bush administration's refusal to sign the "International Convention for the Protection of All Persons From Enforced Disappearance" should surprise no one. The Human Rights Council of the United Nations approved the treaty last June and the U.N. General Assembly adopted it in December. Fifty-seven nations endorsed the treaty in Paris on Feb. 6.

As a press release from the American Civil Liberties Union put it, "The accord sought to bring an end to forced disappearances, used by dictatorships to secretly detain, arrest or kidnap individuals and then deny it occurred." It garnered no U.S. signature because the world's foremost practitioner of this human rights abuse today is the U.S. government itself, which innocently terms the practice "extraordinary rendition."

According to an account published in *The Washington Post* in 2005, those kidnapped under the program are secretly detained with no due process in a covert network of interrogation and torture facilities in countries where the window-dressing of official prohibitions against torture do not exist.

"Nations that eventually ratify the treaty," said one account, "would enshrine victims' rights, and would require states to penalize any forced disappearances in their countries and enact preventative and monitoring measures."

Its provisions would snag plenty of CIA agents and U.S. government officials. Since the 2001 terrorist attacks, hundreds—if not thousands—have been kidnapped under the U.S. program and sent to torture centers around the world. Originally set up to house "two dozen or so al Qaeda leaders believed to be directly responsible for the attacks," said *The Washington Post*, it soon held hundreds "whose intelligence value and links to terrorism were less certain." Now there are "many, many more who don't reach any threshold" for such links, said an intelligence official quoted in *The Washington Post*.

Even without the signatures of the United States and some of its allies known to have facilitated or participated in these human rights abuses, international legal actions are beginning to stir this witches' cauldron of "black ops." In February courts in Germany and Italy—both of which are reportedly complicit in the program—issued arrest warrants for CIA agents and others involved in kidnappings from those countries. The European Union Parliament also approved a report admonishing 15 European countries and Turkey for assisting the United States with its repressive dementia.

But to think that such actions, or the treaty, can end such abuses, is naïve. It is important to note that the U.N. treaty culminates nearly a quarter century of efforts to seek justice by those victimized in the last international wave of mass kidnappings and torture, the infamous "Operation Condor." That operation involved CIA Director George Bush Sr., Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the Nixon and Ford administrations with South American dictators in a murderous wave of "disappearances" of political opponents to U.S.-supported military regimes in Chile, Argentina and elsewhere across the Americas.

That history—indeed, that of the whole 20th century—makes it plain that such atrocities will never be permanently ended by the political states from which they spring. For that the political state itself must be swept out of existence and replaced with a new kind of government. Workers themselves must accomplish that task. They must take, hold and collectively operate the means of life, building a new kind of government that democratically administers production with one goal—the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness for all. Only such a government can completely eliminate the bloody excesses of the historical political state.

—K.B.

George Becker

Upon his death on Feb. 3, an article on Tompaine.com eulogized George Becker, president of the United Steel Workers union from 1997 to 2001, as "A Tough-As-Steel Workers' Champion." In fact, Becker was no champion of workers. He was a champion only of the kind of unionism that has utterly failed to improve the condition of workers as a class, and which promises only further failure to do so in the future.

Becker, like his contemporaries at the head of other affiliates of the AFL-CIO, presided over a *procapitalist* union at a time of rising international competition from companies with newer productive machinery or techniques than those in the United States, or with otherwise lower labor costs. The USW, like its brethren, took serious hits as a result. Why? Because these unions and their leaders, like George Becker, accept capitalism.

Throughout all the concessions and consolidations that resulted, misleaders of labor like George Becker never explained to workers how they could fight to win the class struggle by organizing workers rather than jobs on an industry-wide and classwide basis, with the objective of abolishing capitalism and establishing a workers' democracy. They merely accepted what was dished out, haggled over the details and sold it to the workers as necessary.

"George did as much as any president in our history to strengthen our union," said a press release issued after his death by the USW. That says a lot about the "strength" of such unions. The USW survived massive job cuts only by merging with the United Rubber Workers and the Aluminum, Brick and Glass Workers Union, by consolidating locals and districts—things for which Becker is now praised by the USW. But more cuts are ahead. So, in the end, is the total collapse of *procapitalist* unionism, leaving workers demoralized and with a no doubt bitter taste in their mouths for unions in general.

The mission of unionism is to prepare the working class to overthrow a corrupt and decadent capitalism and to lay the foundations for the industrial democracy of socialism. If never, ever mentioning that and instead merely seeking compromises with the capitalist exploiters makes a champion, then George Becker was your man.

—K.B.

A De Leon Editorial

From Colonialism To Socialism

Latin America's socialist revolution will come, but only after its capitalist revolution is complete.



Forgetful of Bolivar

(Daily People, Aug. 13, 1913)

Since the experience of England with the Boers, the experience has been a favorite warning to the United States on the lips of "distinguished Latin Americans" whenever these broke into print to prophesy what would happen in the event of United States aggression south of the Rio Grande. The latest Latin American, carefully introduced as "distinguished," to utter the warning is the Venezuelan Rafael de Nogales Méndez. Señor Nogales Méndez has done so in a memorial addressed by himself to President Woodrow Wilson, in which he informs the president that the United States would have on its hands the job that England had on her hands in South Africa, if the United States endeavored to run Latin America, or any portion thereof: 80 million Latin Americans would rise "as one man."

As a Latin American, especially a Venezuelan, Señor Nogales Méndez should remember Bolivar, the great Simon Bolivar, to whose prowess and abnegation, more than to any other one individual, South America owes her liberation from Spain.

When the last unhorsed trooper of [Spanish Gen. Pablo] Morillo had left Venezuelan soil, and the last batch of viceroys had been shipped back home at Callao, in Peru; when the labors of freeing the land from Spain being done, he turned his mind to the building up of the South American nation; when, then, the South American feudal lords, feeling disengaged of the overlordship of the Spanish crown, gave full rein to their feudal instincts, and turned the land into a vast Scotland during the protracted period of the clans' feuds; when he then saw his illusions crumble, Bolivar, broken-hearted, uttered the prophetic words: "This land will have to be reconquered."

Since then that has happened that seemed to give the lie to Bolivar's prophecy. Every attempt—Spanish, British, French—to retake armed possession of South American soil has been successfully fought back and foiled. Was Bolivar in error?

A series of recent events and facts answers the question.

The constitutionally elected president of Venezuela, Cipriano Castro, was unconstitutionally overthrown by a "palace mutiny," during his absence abroad, and the chief of the mutineers, Gen. Vicente Gomez, was supported in his military usurpation by the combined navies of the United States, France and Great Britain, which barred Castro's way back home and to the office to which he had been elected. Where were the 80 million Latin Americans? Did they rise "as one man"? They submitted.

(Continued on page 6)

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. It means a classless society that guarantees full democratic rights for all workers.

Socialism does not mean government or state ownership. It does not mean a closed party-run system without democratic rights. Those things are the very opposite of socialism.

"Socialism," as the American Socialist Daniel De Leon defined it, "is that social system under which the necessities of production are owned, controlled and administered by the people, for the people, and under which, accordingly, the cause of political and economic despotism having been abolished, class rule is at end. That is socialism, nothing short of that." And we might add, nothing more than that! Remember: If it does not fit this description, it is not socialism—no matter who says different. Those who claim that socialism existed and failed in places like Russia and China simply do not know the facts.

Socialism will be a society in which the things we need to live, work and control our own lives—the industries, services and natural resources—are collectively owned by all the people, and in which the democratic organization of the people within the industries and services is the government. Socialism means that government of the people, for the people and by the people will become a reality for the first time.

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, to end poverty, racism, sexism, environmental disaster and to avert the still potent threat of a catastrophic nuclear war. 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.

Sacco and Vanzetti Anniversary Nears—

Two Innocent Immigrants Condemned to Die

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the double judicial murder of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. Their electrocution on Aug. 23, 1927, at Charleston prison in Massachusetts brought to a tragic end one of the most infamous cases in American judicial history.

Sacco and Vanzetti, Italian immigrant workers, had been brought to trial in 1921 on the charge that they had committed a payroll holdup the previous year at South Braintree, Mass., during which the company's paymaster and an armed guard were killed. In the course of their trial, however, it was made quite evident that the real "crime" of which they were accused was that of being professed anarchists.

The trial was held in the hysterical atmosphere of the post-World War I "red scare." Both the judge and the prosecutor repeatedly played on prevailing antiradical emotions in their handling of the defendants and the jury.

The conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti was obtained by introducing bought-off prosecution witnesses and by resorting to just about every crooked tactic ever used by a prosecuting attorney. To none of this did presiding Judge Webster Thayer offer the least objections; instead, he abetted it.

From start to finish, the trial so flagrantly contravened due process that it provoked worldwide indignation and protest demonstrations. Funds were raised to wage a battle for reversal of the verdict or a new trial. The six-year court fight terminated in a final defeat when, on April 5, 1927, the Massachusetts Supreme Court unanimously denied a defense motion for a new trial. The following editorial on that decision by *Weekly People* editor Olive M. Johnson appeared in our issue of April 23, 1927:

SACCO AND VANZETTI

(*Weekly People*, April 23, 1927)

Feelings convicted them. Guilty or innocent there is no question but that these two men were rushed to conviction on the crest of the "red" hate wave which followed the war, the Russian Revolution and the mad scare of "radicalism" and socialism which the revolutionary wave which swept Europe brought in its train. And now that the law has got them in its clutches it refused to let go or even to retry the case for fear, evidently, that the case will serve to throw discredit upon or shake the law itself.

Those interested in justice for Sacco and Vanzetti ought therefore to be the last to appeal to feelings in their case. And yet—

Who can read the reports of last Saturday's dreadful hour in court of these two men, without feeling overwhelmed in their favor—overwhelmed even if the law in the case had established the clearest and most unbreakable chain of circumstantial evidence, which it certainly has not, let alone the new evidence and the new doubts which it has refused to hear?

Criminals, thugs, highwaymen, murderers do not speak and act like these men. If Sacco and Vanzetti are guilty of the crimes of which they are convicted and for which they are sentenced to death then, in the name of science, they ought to be allowed to live, segregated and under observation, for surely they would present the strangest problem in criminology that the world has ever seen. Radicals have been guilty of murder more than once. Anarchists, nihilists and various kinds of physical forcists have killed in social revenge and been convicted. But let it be noted it is not a "radical" murder, excusable in any creed that they might have, of which these two men are convicted. It is highway robbery accompanied by murder,

murder of a fellow workingman in fact. It is not in any way the sort of crime that the wildest and most overheated anarchists would be apt to plot. And these two men at that do not appear to be the overheated type: they are rather of the simple, idealistic type.

Sacco spoke, his eye firm, his head erect:

"I never know, never hear, never even read in history anything so cruel as this court. After



Nicola Sacco

Bartolomeo Vanzetti

seven years persecuting they still consider us guilty....I know the sentence will be between two classes, the oppressed and the rich, and I know there will always be collision between these classes....I've never been guilty, never, not yesterday, not today, not forever."

And Vanzetti spoke, quietly, philosophically, sometimes smiling as if he saw humor in it all:

"What we have suffered these seven years no human tongue can say, and yet you see me before you, not trembling; you see me looking you in your eyes straight, not blushing not changing color, not ashamed or in fear....

"I say that I not only am not guilty of these two crimes, but I never commit crime in all my life. I have sinned but I never commit crime. I have never steal. I have never kill and I have never spilled blood. I have fought against the crime, and I have fought and sacrificed myself to eliminate the crimes the law legitimates and the church sanctifies."

Looking calmly at Judge Thayer he said:

"We know that you have spoke yourself and have spoke your hostility against us, and your despicement against us with friends of yours on the train, at the University Club of Boston and the Golf Club of Worcester."

And in conclusion:

"I would not wish to a dog or to a snake to suffer what I have had to suffer for things I am not guilty of. But my conviction is that I have suffered for things I am guilty of. I am suffering because I am a radical and indeed I am a radical....I have suffered more for my beloved and for my family than for myself. But I am so convinced to be right that if you could execute me two times, and if I could be reborn two other times, I would live again to do what I have done already."

Criminals, thugs, murderers do not speak so. Only "fanatics" use that sort of language, "fanatics," that is "revolutionists" who are "crazy" enough to be ready to die for their cause—the early Christians for example.

And everybody present seems to have been thrilled by that sincerity and that "fanaticism." Even the most hard-shelled capitalist reporters are letting their emotions get the better of them, and Prof. Felix Frankfurter of the Harvard Law School, who was present, is quoted to have said afterward that he never has been more moved than by Vanzetti's speech. The sheriff himself, who can scarcely be very sentimental, is said to

have been so paralyzed by the speeches and the dreadful sentence that followed that he stood gaping, unable to realize that the thing was finished and that the judge had adjourned the court.

Only Judge Thayer was unmoved. Old and dry and hard as parchment, he is described as having sat through the stirring scene absolutely unmoved and without moving and then with "his eyes averted" he spoke the horrible sentence, "suffer the punishment of death by the passage of electricity through your body," first to Sacco and then to Vanzetti.

The reasonable legal doubt has been strong throughout. But there is something stronger, even more compelling in favor of these two simple workingmen. Not only our reason but our feelings, all our senses, rebel and refuse to accept their guilt.

The time between now and July 10 is short. Their case seems now to be in most competent hands, influential people are becoming stirred and interested. It may yet be possible to save them. Congressman Celler of New York, all else failing, has asked the governor of Massachusetts for a stay of the execu-

tion until he can introduce in the next session of Congress a measure directing the attorney general to submit his files for inspection to ascertain whether collusion to convict had existed between the Department of Justice and the Massachusetts court.

But should the worst come and Sacco and Vanzetti are executed or even just "pardoned" by the governor and given a life sentence, without a retrial to establish their guilt or innocence, the workers of the land must not allow the matter to rest. The demand must still go forth—open the records. Let us know whether it is possible in this "free" country to railroad men or women to the gallows for the crime of being radicals!!

And as long as even a shadow of a doubt hangs over the Department of Justice and the courts, how is it possible for any patriotic citizen if he be decent to rest until that shadow is removed?!

Resolution on Sacco-Vanzetti Case

**Socialist Labor Party
National Executive Sub-Committee
Demands Pardon and Thorough Investigation**

(*Weekly People*, April 23, 1927)

WHEREAS, Sacco and Vanzetti have for six years been incarcerated in a Massachusetts prison for alleged murder and are now under a sentence of death, the execution to take place during the week of July 10, 1927; and

WHEREAS, Grave doubts exist as to the guilt of these two men; and

WHEREAS, The conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti took place under circumstances that clearly point to the fact that they were victims of the anti-Red mania fostered by the politicians in control of state and federal governments during the years of the war, and the years immediately following it; and

WHEREAS, The antiquated judicial machinery in the State of Massachusetts makes it impossible for Sacco and Vanzetti to secure a proper review of the evidence used to convict them, and a careful consideration of such new evidence as has since been brought to light; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That we demand of the Governor of Massachusetts, the Honorable Alvin T. Fuller, that he exercise his power to pardon Sacco and Vanzetti, thus opening the way to a thorough investigation of all the circumstances, testimony

(Continued on page 7)

...Prolong the War

(Continued from page 1)

occupation of Iraq with testosterone and calls in a Georgetown professor, Deborah Tannen, for support. "The masculine approach in our culture is never to apologize because it indicates weakness," according to the good professor.

And so, the war is being attributed to denial, arrogance and masculine pride. These writers are mystifiers and bewilders. They serve capitalism well by offering up truly lame explanations for capitalism's crimes. They reject a systemic analysis, refusing to acknowledge that capitalism means war, endless war.

Bourgeois writers also perpetuate the propagandistic notion that there is a fundamental benevolence, decency or morality to U.S. actions. By failing to question capitalism, Quindlen concedes a benign legitimacy to U.S. foreign policy. She thinks it is only human shortcomings such as arrogance or masculine pride or denial that lead to good-intentioned excess or errors in U.S. conduct.

And talk about denial, Quindlen actually seems to entertain the notion that the president could somehow develop a conscience and suddenly withdraw from Iraq while issuing an awkward but heartfelt Texas rancher "aw shucks, gee whiz, gosh darn it, we meant well" type of apology to the Iraqi people. She laments the fact, this time by quoting George McGovern and William Polk, who said: "Alien to Americans is the idea of making amends for our actions; we do not like ever to admit that we have been wrong."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, of all people, recently served up the truth about U.S. actions regarding Iraq. "Iraq is worth the investment' in American lives and dollars," the Associated Press quoted her as saying.

...Ethanol

(Continued from page 8)

which the oxygen is depleted by nutrient-rich runoff from the Mississippi River.

So what has capitalism's market-based approach given us? Environmentally destructive farming practices that will destroy our soils (not a renewable resource), cut food production and increase food costs for workers both in the United States and the nations to which it exports food.

Using ethanol as a replacement for hydrocarbon fuels is a marginal gesture at best toward staving off the depletion of oil stocks and fighting global warming. A socialist society with production for use rather than profit would immediately seek to cut wasteful practices and apply all the research skills at society's disposal to deal with the problems of oil depletion and global warming.

...Pfizer

(Continued from page 8)

the press about the condition of Pfizer workers is that among them there is no organized effort to bring the outrages of capitalist exploitation and the firing of tens of thousands to the attention of the country. This is what true unionism should be making a big stink over, not over CEOs ripping off capitalist stockholders.

International Publishers edition—

Capital

KARL MARX

767 pp. (paper)—\$13.95 postpaid

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS

P.O. Box 218, Mtn. View, CA 94042-0218

And there you have it. The war is an investment. Reports of "sweetheart deals" and PSAs—production sharing agreements—that give huge Iraqi reconstruction and oil profits to companies such as Halliburton, Bechtel, MCI, Fluor, ExxonMobil, Shell and BP confirm the truth as spoken by Secretary Rice.

In other words, the bloodbath in Iraq is best defined by a truth that is rather banal and mundane. The criminal invasion and occupation of Iraq is, despite the death toll, merely an investment for the U.S. corporate ruling class and business as usual for American capitalism.

It is indeed "mission accomplished" for Bush and his masters of war. The death toll, over 3,000 U.S. dead and 654,965 Iraqi dead according to a July 2006 Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Al Mustansiriya University in Baghdad study, simply doesn't matter. It is only the price of doing business.

And what American citizen can honestly claim surprise or shock or disbelief at the carnage in Iraq? Have we forgotten that, not so long ago, a distinguished international war crimes tribunal found America guilty of genocide in the peasant nation of Vietnam?

Denial may be an aspect of U.S. culture. But there are two tremendous truths that cannot be denied. The first is Marxism's profound truth and continuing relevance. Marx could have been speaking today of the U.S. presence in Iraq when he wrote that the bourgeoisie seeks profit "over the whole surface of the globe" and "compels all nations, on pain of extinction" to submit to capitalism. The second truth that cannot be denied is that the U.S. ruling class is capable of committing any crime in the name of profit.

...De Leon

(Continued from page 4)

Colombian territory was dismembered by the government of the United States, despite the treaty obligation to guarantee the territory of the republic; the "Canal Zone" was seized; and the opera bouffe Republic of Panama was staged. Where were the 80 million Latin Americans? Did they rise "as one man"? So far from rising their separate governments set the seal of approbation upon the conduct of the United States, by each and all recognizing the "Republic of Panama."

These two instances are picked out of a mass of others, they being most typical, being most glaring.

Feudalism had expected a new lease of life in America when it overthrew Spain. But other social forces were in motion to prevent the consummation. As Dr. Paul S. Reinach, the brilliant professor of political science in the University of Wisconsin, and now ambassador to China, puts it in his recent work, *The New South America*, a new South America has risen from the waters. That new South America is the child of the breath of capital, and by capital the whole of South America is being reconquered. Individual Don Quixotes, living in memories of the past, may fret and fume and predict mass uprisings to the slogan of the battle cries of the War of Independence, the mass of the population of all ranks has been and is falling in line with social evolution.

Bolivar was right. Although, no doubt, the "reconquest" that he had in mind was not the reconquest that lay in the cards of social evolution, yet is it a reconquest, all the same, and emphatically so—and merrily will the conquering ball roll.

directory

UNITED STATES

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

CHICAGO—SLP, P.O. Box 1432, Skokie, IL 60076.

CLEVELAND—Robert Burns, 9626 York Rd., N. Royalton, OH 44133. Call (440) 237-7933. Email: slpcleveland@yahoo.com.

DALLAS—Call Bernie at (972) 458-2253.

EASTERN MASS.—Call (781) 444-3576.

GRAND RAPIDS—SLP, c/o Mike Kowalski, P.O. Box 68041, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-8041.

HOUSTON—Call (281) 424-1040. Website <http://houston-slp.tripod.com>. Email: houstonSLP@frys.com.

MIDDLETOWN, CONN.—SLP, 506 Hunting Hill Ave., Middletown, CT 06457. Call (860) 347-4003.

MINNEAPOLIS—Karl Heck, 5414 Williams Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110-2367. Call (651) 429-7279. Email k57heck@comcast.net.

NEW LONDON, CONN.—SLP, 3 Jodry St., Quaker Hill, CT

06375. Call (203) 447-9897.

NEW YORK CITY—Call (516) 829-5325.

PONTIAC, MICH.—Call (586) 731-6756.

PORTLAND, ORE.—SLP, P.O. Box 4951, Portland, OR 97208. Call (503) 226-2881. Web: <http://slp.pdx.home.mindspring.com>. Email: slp.pdx@mindspring.com.

S.F. BAY AREA—SLP, P.O. Box 70034, Sunnyvale, CA 94086-0034. Email: slpsfba@netscape.net.

SEABROOK, N.H.—Richard H. Cassin, 4 New Hampshire St., Seabrook, NH 03874.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.—Call (727) 321-0999.

SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA—Thad Harris, P.O. Box 830, Wise, VA 24293-0830. Call (276) 328-5531. Fax (276) 328-4059. Email jthiii@naxs.net.

AUSTRALIA

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

GREAT BRITAIN

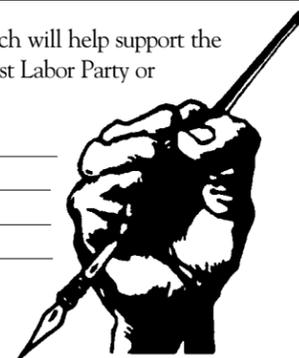
Jim Plant, P.O. Box 6700, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 0WA, UK. Email: socliterature@btopenworld.com. Fax 01279-726970.

The People's Press Security Fund

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 Apt. _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____

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



...Vanzetti

(Continued from page 5)

and evidence related to this case (even though that investigation may lead to the very doors of the Department of Justice at Washington) to the end that the guilt or innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti may be definitely established through a fair, unbiased and thorough trial; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon all subdivisions of the Socialist Labor Party, and upon all other groups of workers, to protest emphatically against this proposed judicial murder, bearing in mind that Sacco and Vanzetti have become symbolized as victims of capitalist class rule, and being further mindful that an injury to one worker is the concern of all the workers.

Adopted by the National Executive Committee Sub-Committee, Socialist Labor Party, in regular session held Thursday, April 14, 1927.

AUGUST GILLHAUS.

Chairman of Session.

PAUL HERZEL.

Recording Secretary.

ARNOLD PETERSEN.

National Secretary.

ACTIVITIES

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco: Discussion Meetings—For information call 408-280-7266 or email slpsfba@net-scape.net.

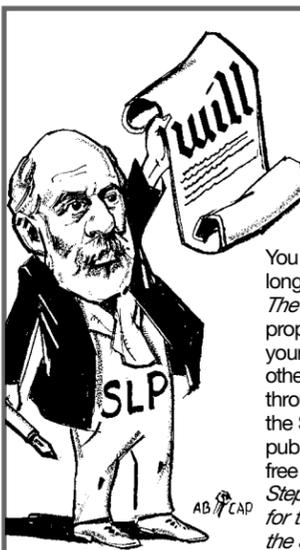
OHIO

Columbus: Discussion Meetings—Section Cleveland will hold discussion meetings on Sunday, March 4, and Sunday, April 1, 1-3 p.m., at the Carnegie Library, Grant & Oak streets. For information call 440-237-7933.

Independence: Discussion Meetings—Section Cleveland will hold discussion meetings on Sunday, March 11, and Sunday, April 22, 1-3 p.m., at the Independence Public Library, 6361 Selig Dr. (off Rt. 21 between Chestnut & Hillside). For information call 440-237-7933.

OREGON

Portland: Discussion Meetings—Section Portland will hold discussion meetings at the Portland Main Library, SW Yamhill & 10th, from 10 a.m.-12 noon, as follows: Saturday, March 24, Topic: "Oil Corporations vs. Alternate Fuels: The Story of High Pollution and High Profits" and Saturday, April 21, Topic: "Disposable Americans: The Human Cost of Capitalist Enterprise." For more information call Sid at 503-226-2881 or visit the section's website at <http://slp.pdx.home.mindspring.com>.



Steps You Can Take...

You can help provide for the long-term financial security of *The People* by including a properly worded provision in your will, or by making some other financial arrangement through your bank. Write to the Socialist Labor Party, publisher of *The People*, for a free copy of the booklet *Steps You Can Take to Provide for the Financial Security of the Socialist Labor Party*.

Socialist Labor Party
P.O. Box 218
Mountain View, CA 94042-0218

Please send a free copy of *Steps You Can Take* to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

letters to the People

Vietnam and Iraq

A recent article in *The People* stated Iraq's oil is keeping U.S. troops there. You failed to mention what kept U.S. troops in Vietnam (no doubt the profit motive in both cases). Agent Orange to defoliate the trees was used and today coffee trees are now growing on this soil. If Iraq's oil (black gold) is one reason, could Vietnam's coffee (black silver) be the other? (Is it safe?)

Walter K. Bagnick
Ecorse, Mich.

[If oil is what keeps the troops in Iraq what kept them in Vietnam? The answer is—oil. There are large deposits in the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands. That, and control over the sea lanes and air routes in that region, goes a long way to explain why the United States held out for so long and tenaciously in Vietnam. The Spratly oil is not as plentiful or easily accessible as the oil in Iraq, of course, but it would be there as a reserve in case of trouble with other and more abundant sources and as those sources began to decline. "Peak oil" is not a new idea or a new discovery. Since the Vietnam War a new appreciation of the potential of other sources, such as those in the Caspian Sea region, have overshadowed the Spratly deposits, but the United States and China still have their eye on them.]

Molly Ivins Missed the Mark

Molly Ivins, who was well known for her disre-

spect for politicians, said this: "We are the people who run this country. We are the deciders. And every day, every single one of us needs to step outside and take some action to help stop this war." I wish Molly Ivins would have said this, "We are the working class, the deciders, who run this country every day, and we need to become class-conscious to stop this war."

Marching in the streets (step outside) and telling the working class to show their protest will not stop the war. When the workers become classconscious, then they will become aware that it is capitalism that produces war and the system of capitalism must be replaced with bona fide socialism, the Socialist Industrial Union program, to prevent wars.

John M. Lambase
San Pedro, Calif.

Earth Day & May Day: Two Views of the Future

8 pages
50¢ postpaid

New York Labor News
P.O. Box 218
Mtn. View, CA 94042-0218

Funds

(Dec. 15-Feb. 16)

Press Forward Fund

Marie & Ray Simmons \$5,000; Jack Radov \$893; Section Cleveland \$500; Jean M. Jasiewicz (In memory of my husband Edward T. Jasiewicz) \$250; \$200 each Chris Dobreff, Irene Schelin, Ruth R. Hall; \$100 each Stan & Mary Jane Karp (In memory of Anne Karp and in honor of all the SLP meant to her over the years), Donald Rogers, Jim McHugh, Mr. & Mrs. Nick York (In memory of Stanley Marek), Paul Bakulski; Donna Meyer \$76; \$75 each Harvey Fuller, John & Mary P. Brlas; Jim Plant \$60; James & Nancy Kniskern \$56; \$50 each Bessie Gabow, Brian Blanchard, Carl Archambeau, Dimitre Eloff, Gene Simon, Gil Dewart, John Lambase, John S. & Rosemary Gale, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Teunion, Otis Daniels, Robert Bastian, Roger A. Stoll, Wayne W. Urffer, William E. Tucker; Phillip Colligan \$48; \$40 each John Hagerty, Peter Teeuwisen; Henry Coretz \$36.80; \$35 each Howard Hecht, Jane Christian, Marshall G. Soura, Matt Casick.

\$30 each Guido Lenaerts, Richard Deshaies, Rubinnoff Brunson, Valery Zaytsev; \$25 each Country Health Store, Doug Smiley, Edwin Samples, J. & M. Sweeney, James A. Carr, Joseph C. Massimino, Margaret & Frank Roemhild, Margaret Kay, Michael James, Michael Preston, Robert Ormsby, Roy K. Nelson, Sarah Haggard, Walter J. Leibfritz; Steve Druk \$23; Chris Townsend \$21; \$20 each Bill Bonte, Dagfinn Sjoen, Daniel Goodsaid, Ed Poll, George G. Alce, James Holt, John S. Houser, Severino Majkus, William J. Logue, William W. Zepf; T. McGregor \$18.65; Douglas Aaron, MSW \$18; George E. Gray \$16; \$15 each Albert Evenich, Debra J. Nordyke, Karl H. Heck, William Meadows; Roberta Diamond \$12; Tom Girard \$10.80; \$10 each Adam Oviatt, Anthony William Greco, Bill Conklin, Bill Ransbottom, Costanzo A. Rufo, Daniel Trinidad, Gary Hemphill, Harold Bauer, Harry E. Gibson, Harry Segerest, Helena Stevens, James H. Lehner, Joe Randell, Kenneth E. McCartney, Michael Fasce, Michael Stone, Paul L. Wolf, Richard A. Aiken, Richard F. Mack, Richard M. Shuldiner, Steve Kellerman, Warren Weston; Allen Shearin \$8; Joseph Bellon \$6; \$5 each Berenice Perkis, Cal Slack, David L. Nagel, Harry Buskirk, Lavonne Lela, William Coe, William Prinz; Richard Kulich \$2.

Total: \$10,210.25

Christmas Box

Wright W. Bonte \$50.00 (Total)

Press Security Fund

Gene Borelli \$190; T. Klepper \$100; Anonymous \$78; \$40 each Dimitre Eloff, Jerome D. Toporek, Timothy Sweeney; Jane Christian \$30; \$25 each Fred Punzo, Gene Simon; George Lovrich, June Svoboda, Sophie Carevich, Valery Zaytsev; Albert Bikar \$15; Bruce Gard \$12; A. Power, Albert T. Wanamaker, Ben Gallup, Cecilia Kelly, Curt D. Walker, Dagfinn Sjoen, Daniel Goodsaid, Diane Poole, Gerald Gunderson, Jeffrey Heuser, Mark McGrath, Richard F. Mack; Orville Rutschman \$7.20; Thomas C. McEvoy \$7; Harry C. Segerest, Henry J. Bardel, John Hagerty, Karl H. Heck, Marion Miller, Maurice Greb, S. Hawkins; William Prinz \$2.

Total: \$846.20

Prisoner Subscription Fund

Richard F. Mack \$10. (Total)

SLP Leaflet Fund

\$25 each John & Mary Brlas, Henrietta Lasher; Reynold R. Elkins \$20; Walter K. Bagnick \$10; Dimitre Eloff \$2.

Total: \$82.00

SLP Sustainer Fund

Joan Davis \$800; Bernard Bortnick \$350; Robert P. Burns (In memory of Joseph & Mary Pirincin) \$167; Robert Burns (In memory of Pete & Kay Kapitz) \$167; Lois Reynolds \$100; \$60 each Clayton Hewitt, Albert Bikar; Jill Campbell & Steve Littleton \$40; Sect. San Francisco Bay Area: William Kelley \$30; George E. Gray \$20; George T. Gaylord \$1.

Total: \$1,795.00

Socialist Labor Party

Financial Summary

We regret that the summary of income and expenses usually printed in this spot could not be prepared in time for this issue. It will appear in our next. In its place, however, we are pleased to report that the Press Forward Fund, launched in October, has topped its goal of \$20,000. We reached that goal in mid-February, six weeks later than we had hoped, but when we take into account contributions to other funds, particularly the standing monthly commitments to the SLP Sustainer Fund, income for the last quarter of 2006 was nearly sufficient for us to end the year with cash reserves of \$80,000. That was the dollar goal and we came within \$1,200.00 of reaching it before December 31 despite being able to conduct only one mailing to the readership. In view of that, the response to our appeal was especially gratifying and we take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make the Press Forward Fund a success.

ROBERT BILLS
Acting Editor

The Green Stuff—

Ethanol Better for Profits Than for the Environment

By Bruce Cozzini

The capitalist solution for any problem is “the marketplace.” Set up a scenario in which profits can be made in dealing with the problem, and the problem will go away. The problem: petroleum supplies, the source of gasoline, are becoming scarce; the end of oil may be near. The solution: blend corn ethanol (ethyl alcohol fermented from corn) into gasoline. Its political advantage is that it appears to be a “green,” renewable, environmentally friendly energy source. In truth, it is primarily a major boon to agribusiness at great cost to the environment and to workers.

The principal environmental advantage of corn ethanol is that burning it contributes less to the buildup of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, than burning gasoline. The carbon in ethanol comes from carbon recycled in plant growth. Even that, however, may be an illusion. Critics like Cornell professor David Pimentel note that ethanol production requires about 29 percent more energy than it can generate. (*Chemical and Engineering News*, Dec. 4)

Profits, however, are sizable. Including the 51¢ a gallon federal subsidy on ethanol (plus federal corn subsidies of another \$800 million to \$1.4 billion), profit margins in 2006 were above 30 percent, according to Citigroup, which expects profits will remain above 20 percent for the next decade. But these rosy predictions, circulated in rural areas, should be taken with a grain of salt.

According to Chuck Hassebrook, of the Center for Rural Affairs in Lyons, Neb., in what has been

a time of economic struggle, the ethanol plants provide a few jobs in rural Nebraska, but it “is not going to be a savior for the family farm.” He predicts it will largely benefit megafarms and will in the end leave us “with only a very few people owning much of anything and with the profits going right out of the communities and the environment damaged.”

And opportunities abound for major capital. “Venture capital is flowing into the Farm Belt, and farmers and agricultural corporations are on a roll,” as *Chemical and Engineering News* reported in referring to a biofuels conference sponsored by the Departments of Energy and Agriculture. Major players include agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Monsanto and Wal-Mart. ADM already produces one-fifth of production, and expects to increase production by 50 percent by 2008.

So much for the capitalist goodies. What about the real costs? Already it is estimated that ethanol production could account for as much as half of America’s corn crop next year, and 79 new ethanol plants are under construction. (*The New York Times*, Jan. 7) The demands on corn have been underestimated. While Citigroup in *Chemical and Engineering News* estimated a rise in corn prices from \$2.58 to \$2.90 per bushel, December spot prices, according to the *Times*, rose to nearly \$4 per bushel.

Such increases will show up in increased prices workers have to pay for food. Already they have led to price increases in Mexico in the past year that have doubled the price of tortillas, a staple food for millions of poor Mexicans, as the *Times* reported on Feb. 1.

A nutritional expert quoted by the *Times* said that the poor eat about 14 ounces of tortillas daily, for an estimated 40 percent of their protein. At the new prices, “workers earning the minimum wage of \$4 a day could spend one-third of their earnings on tortillas for their family.”

A march of an estimated 75,000 Mexicans protested the increase.

While corn price increases will not affect U.S. workers as directly, they will have a major influence on all food prices. Corn, as a major component of animal feeds, will affect meat prices. And as more and more acreage is diverted to corn, prices for other agricultural commodities will increase. A recent TV news report noted a significant increase in the price of flour; and hence an increase in bread prices. Again food price increases will most affect workers who have no choice but to work a minimum wage or below.

Lastly, increased corn production for ethanol could have devastating environmental effects. As one expert quoted by *Chemical and Engineering News* noted, “highly concentrated corn production would change Midwest farming, ending crop rotation, putting set-aside conservation lands into production, and encouraging the use of more herbicides and fertilizers.”

In larger perspective, Pimentel says that corn “erodes more soil, uses more nitrogen fertilizer, and uses more water than any other crop. ‘Corn is the prime cause of the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, which is the size of New Jersey.’” This refers to the area off of the coast of Louisiana in

(Continued on page 6)

Pfizer Dumps Thousands To Avoid Potential Losses

By B.B.

Pfizer Inc., the largest global pharmaceutical manufacturer, is cutting 10,000 workers from its payroll in an effort to combat competitive challenges from generic drugs and to minimize anticipated declines in sales and profits.

Three research sites in Michigan and two production plants in New York and Nebraska will be closed along with facilities in Germany, Japan and France in an effort to stanch a loss of \$42 billion in sales revenue.

Part of the sales Pfizer anticipated but won’t fully realize were from torcetrapib, a cholesterol controlling drug that has been linked to enough medical complications and patient deaths to force its removal from the market. Pfizer also anticipates losing patent protections over Lipitor, another of its cholesterol controlling products, by 2010. “Other patent expirations will rob [!] Pfizer of \$14 billion in revenue annually between 2005 and 2007,” Associated Press (AP) reported on Jan. 20, “and analysts said the company’s current pipeline [of new drug development] just doesn’t have the muscle to forge major sales growth.”

The same AP report noted that the pharmaceutical giant “expects to introduce three new drugs this year, but analysts predict that only one of them, an AIDS treatment, will hit \$1 billion in sales.” For that reason, the report added, “some analysts don’t see how Pfizer will replenish sales lost as blockbusters’ revenue is eroded by generic competition.”

In plain English, Pfizer has not lost a dime, at

least not yet. It simply expects to be less profitable in future and is doing what it can to minimize the decline. Barring the development of some new “blockbuster” product over which it would have a patent-protected monopoly for years to come, its choices are limited to one—slashing workers from its payroll.

The Pfizer plant closings will entail job losses for production workers, sales representatives, presumably some middle and lower level managers and possibly some research scientists. Although little information was available on what specific job categories would be affected, AP reported that Pfizer planned to cut “about 20 percent of its U.S. sales representatives—some 2,200 people...” (Jan. 20) A Bank of America analyst suggested Pfizer would save \$800 million by cutting another 30 percent of the international sales force of about 24,000 workers.

As usual, little was said about the human consequences of job cuts and, tragically, workers are not organized to resist. While the AFL-CIO has bemoaned the high salaries of corporate executives, it has shown itself useless to do anything besides grumble.

Consider its activities regarding Pfizer as reported last April in *AFL-CIO Now*. Union members, it said, held a rally in Lincoln, Neb., against a pay increase granted to Pfizer CEO Henry McKinnell. “Give It Back Hank!” was the slogan union members carried on their placards. The protest was to expose the Pfizer CEO’s greed for having received “\$6.52 million a year or a lottery-winning-sized lump sum payment of

\$83 million” and to deliver to assembled stockholders the message that he has not been a “fair” exploiter of Pfizer workers! He was taken to task for presiding over the plummeting of Pfizer stock value by AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, who pilloried “outrageous CEO pay and pensions” as hurting “working families, whose life savings and retirements are invested in companies like Pfizer.”

Outrageous as McKinnell’s cut of the pillage extracted from Pfizer workers may be, it is nothing new among this gentry nor would a reduced amount make the workers better off. What would make them better off is to receive the full value of what they produce rather than wages masquerading as a “fair day’s wage for a fair day’s work,” the flag under which business unionism flies.

Indeed, the Pfizer workers produce all of the value contained in the commodities Pfizer produces and the capitalist class sits idly by and rakes in the lion’s share while the company pays workers a “living wage.” Had the AFL-CIO brought this robbery to light that would be something. That might even have made headlines in the capitalist press. Instead, the union bureaucrats see their roles as greasing the wheels of exploitation and collecting dues as their reward for loyalty to the system. As Daniel De Leon observed, the appellation “labor” provides a “strategic power for evil on the part of the labor leader and has so far been effective.”

Hence the reason that little has been said in

(Continued on page 6)