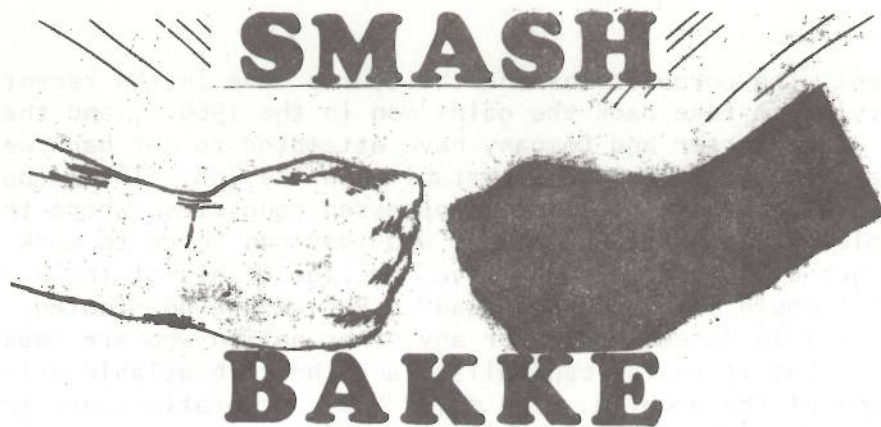


SMASH



BAKKE

The Bakke case and the concept of "reverse discrimination" is more than an example of racism in our society. Bakke illustrates the way in which this society is dealing with the fact that our economic system is going through a gradual but irreversible decline. The economic system in the U.S. is an advanced capitalist system. Modern industry has developed to full capacity within the U.S. Yet the capitalist class - the owners of large scale industry - must continue to expand its business operations in order to maintain and expand its rate of profit. There is only one way to accomplish this. The capitalists must invest their wealth in other countries whose markets and economies have not fully developed. The newer and less developed areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America have historically been subject to this type of exploitation. Thus, great amounts of money have been invested in these countries by U.S. businesses who, in order to protect their investments, employ military force and corruption of these nations' governments and political processes.

For example, in Iran, the CIA overthrew the government of Mossadegh, replacing it with America's great friend and despot, the fascist Shah. However, history tells us that wherever there is oppression, there is resistance, and today many nations once oppressed by the U.S. have been able to free themselves, partially or totally, from its domination. This has deprived the U.S. capitalist class of its license to plunder the nations and peoples of the world.

However, the transformation of the Soviet Union from a socialist country and friend of the world's people into a new capitalist country which calls itself socialist, yet which exploits and oppresses other countries for the profit of its own ruling elite, has created a new enemy of the people of the world. The Soviet Union is competing with the U.S. for whatever world markets are available, and this places more constraints on U.S. access to foreign markets. This has intensified the developing crisis of the U.S. economy.

Crisis? With profits soaring? The question is really: crisis for whom? The answer: minorities and working people. Corporate profits are up and so is inflation, but funding for health care, education and child care are way down. Jobs are getting scarcer and employer attacks against the unions are on the rise. It is in this context of a deteriorating economy that we get the theory of "reverse discrimination". The same capitalists who wreck havoc throughout the world will use this new theory to close down special admissions programs and thus force minority students to pay for the capitalists' crisis.

The capitalists know that as economic conditions worsen, there will be less money for education and, therefore, more competition for college and graduate school admissions. By getting rid of special admissions programs, they hope to pacify whites at the expense of minority students. Through this process, they will attempt to turn people of different races and nationalities against each other. More than anything else, the capitalists fear the unity of all races and nationalities who, instead of fighting each other, will turn their attention on the capitalists and demand quality education for all qualified students.

The government, the corporations and the courts have in the recent period been systematically trying to take back the gains won in the 1960's, and then a little more on top of that. Jimmy Carter and Company have attempted to cut back welfare payments, abortion rights and equal employment opportunity on the job. The corporations have been running away to non-union states and oppressed countries, where there are large supplies of unemployed and oppressed people who they can force to work for low wages. They then try to get U.S. workers to believe that the crisis of the U.S. economy could be solved if we all would only "Buy American". But we are not fooled, and we see that it is not the workers in Korea, Mexico or any other nation who are causing the economic crisis in the U.S., but it is the capitalists and their insatiable drive for profits that is at the root of the problem. The major U.S. corporations are trying to shift the burden to us by demanding take-away union contracts, speed-ups and wholesale layoffs. The courts have cut out huge chunks of the anti-discrimination laws that were won by the struggles for equality in this country. They have made it possible for employers to keep minority people in the worst paid, lowest level jobs. The courts have denied undocumented workers any civil rights and have upheld the constitutionality of the death penalty. They allow the capitalists to poison us on the job with all kinds of cancer causing chemicals, all this so that they can make more and more profits.

In this environment, the Bakke case developed. Egged on by an administrator of the University of California, Alan Bakke filed suit with the aim of destroying affirmative action programs at the U.C. Davis Medical School in particular and the universities throughout the country in general.

The Regent's response to the Bakke case has been to take a "dive". They are standing up taking the punches trying to look like they are fighting, but not hitting back with any force because they know they are supposed to lose the fight. The fix is in and the fixer is the corporate capitalism which runs the government, the courts and the universities in this country. The Supreme Court is really the bought-off referee. Each time a round ends, the Supreme Court comes down with something that they think looks fair, but in the end you know that we will lose in the courts.

They have already performed this act in the area of employment discrimination. The Supreme Court has systematically cut back the rights won by national minority people and women in the struggle against discrimination on the job. The Court, like the capitalist class generally, fears our unity and so promotes racism and sexism to keep the people divided. In times of economic crisis, the capitalists always look for scapegoats. In Nazi Germany it was the Jews. In the U.S. today, it is minority people, women and homosexuals whom the capitalists want to make the target of the anger we all feel. History shows us that at every turn, they try to put the burden on our backs. Bakke is no exception to this; but, history has also shown us that when the masses of people rise up and struggle against these attacks, the capitalists are forced to back down.

The bonus marches, the civil rights movement, the anti-Vietnam war movement are some examples of the victories we have scored in our struggle. Bakke will be another testing ground for them and for us. History has proven that we can stop them, as long as we are able to unite people of every race and nationality, workers and students, the unemployed and progressive people in all walks of life. We cannot rely on the courts, but must take this struggle into the streets, schools and factories of this country.

PEOPLE UNITE - DEFEAT THE BAKKE DECISION

FRUITVALE LAW COLLECTIVE