

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTY AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

It is the Party, putting forward communist ideas that are not limited by the bosses' laws, state, etc., that explains all of the above to workers, especially to industrial workers. The Party's members are part of this working class, recruit other industrial workers to the Party, and help lead the class struggle at the core of the contradiction of the system.

IN THIS WAY THE PARTY BECOMES SATURATED with industrial workers, with the workers who are the source of all value created in the society, who face the giants of capitalism in daily battle, who have the least illusions about "moving up" in the company. These industrial workers bring into the Party the greatest ability to fight, the most intense class hatred, drawn from a daily danger of injury and death, the most experience in union organization, and potentially the greatest power in the society (as the sit-down strikes of the 1930's proved). Without these workers, capitalist society can't function. It is against these workers that all the key capitalist "labor legislation" is directed. The Taft-Hartley 80-day strike-busting, "cooling-off" period is used mainly against industrial workers in basic industries. When rail workers strike nationally or in large number, Congress passes "emergency" anti-strike legislation usually within 24 hours.

In the Fight for State Power Part II
The Role of Industrial Workers

expropriated by the bosses. For minority workers, capitalism is doubly oppressive—as workers and as minority victims of special racist oppression. For minority women workers, this is a triple oppression, since they are also exploited as women, in addition to being victimized as minority workers and just the "ordinary" exploitation as a worker under capitalism. This super-exploitation, this super-source of surplus value, has become so institutionalized under capitalism—estimates run as high as \$50 billion extra profit in the U.S. because of racism—that it would be safe to say U.S. capitalism could not function without it. Therefore, for minority workers to see an end to racism, as well as exploitation generally, capitalism must be eliminated.

Because minority workers are the most oppressed

But the fight against racism is not something that is just in the interests of minority workers nor something that should be supported by white workers on "moral" or "humanitarian" grounds. Rather, since the existence of racism is a life-and-death matter for capitalism, it also becomes a life-and-death matter for the WHOLE working class:

1) Without unity of minority and white workers, the whole working class is helplessly at the mercy of the boss, who uses one group against the other;

(2) Racist feelings of white workers means losing the leadership potential of minority workers for the whole working class, derived from their special oppression and special need to fight the source of that oppression—capitalism;

(3) The fight against racism in the plants really drives the bosses wild, really "ups the ante" of the struggle, because it is the source of super-profits for the bosses, something they can't do without;

(4) The fight against racism occurs not just at the point of production but in all aspects of life—housing, schools, hospitals, etc.—(and have led to many working-class rebellions). Class struggle against racism outside the plants can many times determine forward movement in the plants.

The fight against racism is not just a fight by minority workers for equality and freedom but is a fight of the whole working class. Because of the existence of super-profits for capitalism growing out of the surplus value extracted from all workers, the fight against racism is inter-twined with the emancipation of the whole working class. Racism can't be ended without the destroying of its source—capitalism—and the working class as a whole can't liberate itself without unity and without the leadership of minority workers.

Therefore, what was said about bringing industrial workers into the Party goes "double" and "triple" for minority workers: more minority recruits from industry; more in the leadership of the Party; more on the National Committee.

Fighting racism and fighting for leadership by minority workers are absolutely essential to the whole struggle for socialism, to defeat the ruling class' dictatorship and replace it with the dictatorship of the proletariat, a dictatorship over the bosses.

(Next Issue: Revolution Means the Working Class Taking State Power; the Role of the Struggle for Reforms).

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Given this central role played by industrial workers, the majority of the Party must be composed of industrial workers, with a majority of the Party's leadership also made up of industrial workers.

THE CENTRAL ROLE OF MINORITY WORKERS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM

Within the main contradiction of capitalism stands the "Achilles heel" of the system, the super-exploitation of minority workers. While all workers are exploited, minority workers—as a group—receive less wages, work longer hours, have the worst, hardest and lowest-paying jobs and have the least job security (last hired, first fired, leading to double employment rates of white workers). All this adds up to "super-profits" for the capitalists off the super-exploitation of minority workers who make an extra special "contribution" to the surplus value

section of the working class, they often take the lead in the struggles against the boss, and then are joined by white workers. This has been true in the auto and steel plants, in many of the big strikes of the 1960s and early 1970s (the postal strike, the Newport News Shipbuilding strike and rebellion, the Memphis sanitation strike, etc.). What is even more important for the working class—and more dangerous to the bosses—is the growing percentage of minority workers in the basic industries, especially auto, steel, transportation and communication. The majority of many auto locals are made up of minority workers. A sizeable minority of most steel locals is composed of black and Latin workers. (It was no accident that, aside from strikes, the only time that Detroit auto assembly lines were shut down by working-class action was during the Detroit ghetto rebellion, so large is the percentage of black workers in that industry, and so threatened did the auto moguls feel).



Smash the Bosses' Bicentennial FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM Smash Racism

For International Working Class Solidarity:

MARCH ON MAY DAY

Saturday, May 1st

1: PM at 13th & Connecticut
 March endorsed by
Gary AFSCME Locals 1006 and 1164

Delano

Car Caravan to Delano leaves San Francisco PLP Office: 491 Guerrero St. (at 17th St.) from 4-7 PM on Friday, April 30th.

Tickets: \$4 Employed
 \$2 Unemployed

For outdoor May Day Rally in Ellington Park at 9:AM then on to ...

Los Angeles

at 1:PM on Broadway and 3rd St. for MARCH!

Philadelphia

Assemble at: Washington & 3rd at 11:AM for MARCH to Slavery Bell

Houston

Rally in Hermann Park at 12 NOON MARCH to: Ben Taub Hospital

For more information contact Progressive Labor Party in your area.