

"WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, UNITE!!"

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THE POLITICAL ORGAN OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST COLLECTIVE

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S.F. MAYORAL ELECTIONS

We Marxists have always taught that the capitalist electoral system is in reality a gross deception. While giving the appearance of democracy, such a system is a fraud behind which a handful of millionaires rule over the working class, the majority of our society. It makes no difference whether the candidates are Democrats or Republicans, liberals or conservatives; they all eventually fall under the power of the big capitalist bankers, industrialists, and oilmen. This general truth is proven once again as we examine the San Francisco election for Mayor.

A study of the campaign disclosure statements of the five top candidates reveal that they are all on the payroll of the S.F. millionaires: Dianne Feinstein is being boosted by big time developers Cyril Magnin and Gerson Baker. Other funds are coming in from the Bank of America, Bectel Co. and millionaire Herald Zellerbach. George Moscone, too, is on the take of Herald Zellerbach. The Bank of America and the Fairmont Hotel are also raising money for him. John Barbergelata has sold out to Kaiser Steel, PG&E and Wells Fargo Bank. John Ertola is being grubstaked by Bart Enterprises Inc., the Bank of America, Hyatt Corporation and the Diamond Syndicate of California. Milton Marks is being sustained by millionaires Mortimer Fleischecker, Mel and Richard Swig. One of his biggest contributors is Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller.

The candidates only differ in their tactics and in their demagogic appeals to the working class and petty bourgeois* voters of the city. The economic crisis of the past five years has cut deeply into the standard of living of these classes of society. It has resulted in higher prices, taxes and unemployment. On top of this, crime, decadence and other social dislocations have risen. Playing on the just concerns of the people with these problems, candidates Ertola, Feinstein and Barbergelata are appealing to the voters from the position of open reaction and fascism.** These candidates single out the city workers for special attack. The city workers are blamed for higher taxes and the economic crisis in general. It is demanded that the "outrageous power" of the unions be broken. The right to strike must be taken away; city workers must work "harder" and take a cut in pay. These candidates howl about "crime in the streets" and demand more police action. It is clear that their tactics are aimed at dividing the working class against itself (government vs non-government workers) and winning the over-taxed petty bourgeoisie to the side of the big capitalist in an onslaught against the whole working class.

On the other hand, Moscone and Marks approach the voters from the position of the liberal capitalist. They are presented as "labor's" candidates through an alliance between certain big capitalists of S.F. and the bribed, traitorous leadership of the S.F. Labor Council. This counter-revolutionary alliance is aimed at the masses of workers, poor people and national minorities of the city. Despite their slick slogans, these two are just as

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* small scale producers, professional and technical workers

** fascism in power is the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic, and most imperialist elements of finance capital (Dimitrov)

subservient to the bigwigs as the rest of the candidates. They are just as determined to keep capitalist exploitation of the workers as the other candidates. However, they, and the capitalists behind them, are convinced that the best way to rule over the workers is to deceive them, to grant them temporary concessions, preach to them the virtues of reformism and split their ranks by bribing the "upper crust" with high pay, soft jobs and government posts for their leaders. Anything and everything is done to dupe the workers and turn them away from the idea of socialist revolution.

This system of duping is appropriately called "Aliotoism", after its master, Mayor Joe Alioto. Of course, the "big stick" is not given up. The use of court injunctions and the police to break strikes, the arrest of working class militants and communists, is taken up only as a last resort in times of sharp class struggle, as was the case of the 1973 city workers strike.

At present all indications point to a run-off election between Moscone and Feinstein for Mayor in December. Given that there is no working class candidate in the election, should the workers vote for either candidate? Since the election of Feinstein would lead to an immediate fascist attack on the unions and the right to strike, it is permissible to vote for Moscone as a lesser evil. But that is all! Moscone still represents the interest of the capitalist class and it must be understood that he is an enemy of the working class who must be struggled against and not collaborated with.

This election, once again, drives home the need for the working class to have its own political party and field its own candidates for governmental office. From such offices our working class political leaders will expose the misrule of the ruling class, defend the immediate interests of the workers, and proclaim to their fellow workers that our emancipation from wage-slavery can only come about through socialist revolution. Such a party cannot be a "liberal, labor party" It must be a Communist Party. It must be composed of the most devoted, determined, disciplined and advanced representatives of the working class, armed with the revolutionary theory of Marxism-Leninism. The Party's aim must be to lead the USNA (United States of North America) working class in the capture of state power, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat (working class) and the building of socialism. The immediate task of all independent communist organizations and revolutionary workers is to come together to form such a political party based on the revolutionary line of Marxism-Leninism.

COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN DISGUISE

We must examine a most dangerous trend in the USNA today. Newsweek, in a recent article describing the capture of "SIA soldiers", labelled Patty Hearst a "captive turned commando revolutionary". Sara Jane Moore, who attempted to assassinate President Ford, is identified by the SF Chronicle as a "convert to socialism" and a participant in a "Marxist-Leninist" study group. The Examiner quotes a filmmaker who spent several weeks with the Weather Underground; "They told me: 'it's class that counts and we stand with the working class.'"

We are not concerned with individuals here but with a certain trend. A trend which is characterized by isolated individuals or small groups engaging in armed acts against the bourgeoisie (bombings, kidnappings, assassinations). Vague slogans about "socialism" or "revolution" are used to justify these acts. We feel this trend has nothing in common with proletarian revolution and Marxism-Leninism. In fact, it objectively aids the bourgeoisie as lies and illusions are spread about what revolution is and how it is made.

What is the essence of this trend? First, that by individual acts of terrorism, the bourgeoisie can be overthrown. Marxism-Leninism teaches that proletarian revolution is the overthrow of one class (bourgeoisie) by another (proletariat). Class struggle is not waged by individuals but by the masses of oppressed and exploited people.

Second, this trend maintains that it is only outstanding individuals who make history, while the masses of people are incapable of conscious activity. We know this is a false, contemptuous idea, one that belies all of history.

Next, let us state clearly that we know the bourgeoisie will resort to violence to maintain its rule. Unlike the revisionist Communist Party USA (one which runs counter to Marxism-Leninism), which peddles the line of "peaceful transition to socialism", we say that inevitably the class struggle will take the form of armed struggle. However, if this is to be successful, the

proletariat must be led by the Communist Party. Guided by Marxism-Leninism, the Party determines the correct strategy and tactics in each period of the revolutionary struggle. At some point armed struggle will be waged by a people's army, an army of the proletariat organized and led by the Party. However in the present period we are now in, the form that the class struggle takes is ideological and organizational -- the winning of the advanced workers to the cause of communism and the building of a genuine communist party.

Here lies the greatest treachery of this trend: the denial of the role of the Party and revolutionary theory. As Lenin stated, this "handful of terrorists engaged in single combat with the government doesn't educate and lead the working class." Instead, it makes a "short lived sensation" and results in "apathy and passing waiting" for the next round between the bourgeoisie and these "revolutionaries"!

We know the bourgeoisie uses all forms of trickery and deceit to confuse the working class and turn it away from proletarian revolution. Through the media which they own, the bourgeoisie portrays these anti-communist, anti-working class groups as "revolutionaries". We've seen that nothing could be further from the truth! All advanced workers must learn to recognize these groups and individuals. They must be exposed and expelled from our ranks. A decisive break must be made with this most dangerous trend!

UNITE THE WORKING CLASS: STOP DEPORTATIONS!

Recently the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has been advocating the deportation of six to seven million Mexican workers. In fact, the INS has been harrasing Mexican workers, taking them off their jobs, and even raiding their homes at all hours of the night. The denial of democratic rights and the use of fascist tactics continues to plague the Mexican worker, who is guilty of no more than searching for work to feed his family.

Let's look at why there are so many so-called "illegals" and the reason the bourgeoisie tries to blame them for the high unemployment problem. Over 40% of the working population in Mexico are unemployed and of those working the average wage is only \$900 a year. So even at the low wage of \$1.50-\$2.00 an hour, which they make in this country, you can see why this looks good to them.

Now let's look at the USNA Government. In times of economic boom the USNA Government encourages this migration of Mexican workers which forms a large and cheap labor force. During times of crisis, over-production and high unemployment, Mexican workers are rounded up like criminals and deported. The bourgeoisie is quick to say that the high unemployment is caused by these Mexican workers. In doing this the capitalists divide the workers. The capitalists are not naive; they know that a united working class can overthrow them. They continually try to disunite the workers to protect themselves.

But what is the cause of the high unemployment? As communists, we know the real reason: IT'S THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM! The bourgeoisie tries to blame the Mexican workers because they don't want to admit it's the system. The capitalist system is dying and the bourgeoisie knows it. They will try anything they can to keep their lives of leisure from being taken away from them. But as workers and communists we must not listen to the lies and deceit they try to feed us. We must expose these capitalists for what they really are: parasites. We must unite as fellow workers and demand jobs for all of us at the expense of the military budget. We must show these capitalists that they cannot attack one worker without attacking the whole multi-national working class. We must unite with all workers to form a communist party, to overthrow the capitalist state, and build socialism. Socialism -- where the workers control the state and work to build their country in their own interests. Where there is no exploitation and no unemployment.

Let us unite against the fascist attacks on our fellow workers, against the attempts of the bourgeoisie to develop national hatred, against the bourgeois system and all its evil manifestations!

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WHY STUDY HISTORY?

History is the scientific accounting of society's past. It is the analysis of the origins of human beings, of their social groupings, and of the changes in the productive forces and the relations of production.

The development and progress of society cannot be reduced to the study of a few "dominating events", or a few special individuals -- kings, generals, saviors, conquerors, etc. -- as our bourgeois education leads us to believe.

Stalin says that for history to be a real science, it must "devote itself to the history of the producers of material values--the history of the laboring masses " It must devote itself to revealing and analyzing the laws of production, the development of the productive forces and the means of production; to defining the relations of production; and to discovering and stating the laws of economic development of society. "Hence, social life, the history of society, ceases to be an agglomeration of accidents and becomes the history of the development of society according to regular laws, and the history of society becomes a science."

The science of Marxism-Leninism breaks down the entire history of human society into five major epochs, each characterized by a particular mode of production. The earliest period in the history of man is PRIMITIVE COMMUNISM (1,000,000 B.C.-3,000 B.C.). The productive forces were very undeveloped. Gathering, hunting and fishing, and simple agriculture, provided their livelihood. The means of production were socially owned. The second major epoch was SLAVERY (3,000 B.C.-400 A.D.). The productive forces included advanced metal tools and weaponry, plows for more advanced agriculture, and the concentration of large numbers of slaves who performed large-scale tasks impossible under primitive communism (pyramids, cities, roads, harbors). Society was divided into classes -- slaveowners and slaves -- and this meant the necessity for the existence of a state apparatus to maintain control over the oppressed class, the slaves. The great slave states of Egypt, Greece and Rome dominated this period. Following the slave society came FEUDALISM (spanning approximately from 400 A.D.-1500 A.D.). More advanced agricultural and handicraft techniques required a change from the old relations of production in the prior epoch of slavery. The relations of production under feudalism were that the feudal lord owned the means of production but not the serf. The serf and handicraftsmen owned their own tools and had a certain amount of personal incentive. Medieval Europe best characterized the feudal mode of production. The fourth epoch is CAPITALISM (1500 A.D.-present day). Capitalism dramatically freed the productive forces leading to the development of large-scale industrial society, such as the USNA, Western Europe and Japan. However, the means of production are concentrated in the hands of the capitalist class while the proletariat, the working class, produces all the wealth. The final epoch, SOCIALISM (the lower stage of communism), is characterized by the social ownership of the means of production, where there is no exploitation of man by man. China and Albania are currently building socialism.

The transition from one epoch to the next takes place as a result of the development of the productive forces and the changes they require in the relations of production. Stalin says, "After the new productive forces have matured, the existing relation of production and their upholders -- the ruling classes -- become that 'insuperable' obstacle which can only be removed by the conscious action of the new classes, by the forcible acts of these classes, by revolution."

We must study history because only with this scientific knowledge can we begin to wage class struggle against the bourgeoisie -- a struggle to overthrow this exploiting class and establish a society free of exploitation and oppression. This is our historic task!

WHO WE ARE

Workers' Press is written and published by the Marxist-Leninist Collective. We are a communist organization based on Marxism-Leninism, the science of the revolutionary class struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie. We aim to bring communist ideas and analyses to the working class, to broaden the outlook of fellow workers and to arm workers with proletarian class consciousness so that together we can lead the struggle against all forms of exploitation and oppression by imperialism. To do this we must organize ourselves into an independent political party to concentrate the resistance into a single fighting force. Inquiries, requests for references about articles, correspondence and subscriptions should be sent to:

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