

# "ILLEGAL"ALIENS, LEGAL EXPLOITATION

---

KILL THE RODINO BILL!

LEGALIZE THE "ILLEGAL ALIENS"!

FIGHT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS  
OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS!

FIGHT FOR THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS!

FIGHT MONOPOLY CAPITALISM!!!!

---

There are millions of immigrants working and living in this country. The law divides and brands them into "registered aliens" and "illegal aliens". Immigrant laborers, as a rule, get the most menial jobs, earn the lowest wages and do the hardest work -- and all under the constant threats of deportation. It is clear that immigrant workers are the most exploited of the American working class!

What are the positions communists should adopt towards our foreign-born class brothers and sisters?

Should they be organized in the trade unions or should they be excluded? Should they be blamed for lowering wages and taking jobs away or should we explain that it's the fault of the capitalist system? Should their status be secured and their democratic rights fought for or should they be hunted out of the country?

The ruling class throws these questions into the field of combat. A systematic, devious attack on the "illegal aliens" is now under way in the media. The wedge to divide the working class along the line of "aliens" and "American-born" is an old weapon in the arsenal of the bourgeoisie. It was used a hundred years ago in California against the Chinese immigrant workers, and immigrants of all nationalities and origins.

It was and is an effective weapon. It is no small coincidence that in the midst of the depressions and economic crises in the late 19th century, in the midst of a rising workers movement, labor misleaders such as Samuel Gompers whipped up anti-alien hatred and wide support for the first immigrant exclusion laws. Faithful lackeys of the bourgeoisie, they diverted the American labor movement away from its historic mission of the emancipation of the working class.

The anti-Chinese labor movement, aside from being a diversionary tactic of the monopoly capitalists in fear of mounting working class struggle, also served as a war dance in prelude to imperialist schemes in Asia. Dancing in feverish abandon, the labor aristocrats gave the monopoly capitalist all the propaganda they needed for conquests abroad." (Preliminary Draft on Asian National Question, part I, 1973)

It is time to blunt that weapon.

Some of the finest traditions of working class solidarity and the worst legacy of bourgeois national chauvinism in the U.S. labor movement have been forged in the struggle over the question of immigrant labor. The International Workers of the World (IWW) was a shining example of the best traditions of repudiating national chauvinism and racism, and although it practiced dual-unionism, it proved itself to be (as Lenin called it) a profoundly proletarian movement in its organizing of all workers on the basis of class solidarity in the struggle against the common enemy -- the bourgeoisie. For example, in California in 1913, the IWW organized the Durst Ranch Strike involving farmworkers from Syria, Mexico, Hawaii, Japan, Lithuania, Italy, Greece, Poland, India, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, as well as the American-born workers. In all, these workers spoke 27 different languages!

While the "Wobblies" boldly organized the most oppressed sectors of the class, the AFL led by labor aristocrats stood on the side of the ruling class. In 1903, Gompers refused to admit Japanese workers into the AFL, but Mexican co-workers stood by their class brothers and sisters and refused the charter. As late as 1926, the racist and chauvinist AFL limited membership to whites only. The spirit of this shameful legacy is perpetuated today by labor aristocrats and misleaders such as Peter Brennan.

## WHY PEOPLE IMMIGRATE

Why do people leave their homes and go to another country? Why is it that countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa suffer to see millions of their grown-up sons and daughters go? The answer is, of course, in imperialism. Invaded by "aid" and investment from the imperialist countries, the economy of most of the third world is broken apart, stunted and dislocated. Their

agriculture is reduced from self-sufficiency to cash-crops for export. Especially in Latin America, the cash-crops are grown in great plantations where the latest techniques are used. A much higher proportion of peasants are driven off land than was the case of Europe during its years of primitive accumulation. Native industry cannot absorb the displaced peasants. It is crippled by the stagnant, often shrinking, home market. Only industries for the extraction of raw materials are allowed to grow. Here the productivity is kept higher than that of the imperialist countries. The demand for labor therefore remains small. Hence, imperialism keeps the third world in a process of developing underdevelopment. As years go by, hunger and unemployment become ever increasingly a way of life. This is why people have to pack up their bags and migrate.

Once landed in the United States, the immigrants find jobs specially reserved for them. Due to the uneven development of capitalism, certain sectors of the economy always lag behind. The fruit and vegetable growers, garment, electronic and service industries, in this country are in this situation. They cannot keep up with the expected rate of profit without lengthening the working hours, speeding up work and cutting wages below the socially recognized minimum. In short, they survive by superexploitation. This is, of course, an open challenge to the hard-won democratic rights of the working class. Therefore, immigrants, whose legal status can be twisted and turned at will, are super-exploited and harassed.

This is why the ruling class invented the scheme of deliberately withholding legal status to a large section of the immigrant workers. Therefore, immigrants, whose legal status can be twisted and turned at will, are preyed upon when ever it's convenient for the capitalists.

They let the immigrants come across the border, press them into factories and fields of super-exploitation, lock them in shacks and ghetto tenements, refuse them all public aid and social benefits, exclude them from every political and economic struggle, and

---

"Our duty as Communists... is to link up firmly the immigrant workers with organized labor to fight for their democratic rights and to educate the whole working class to the real nature of monopoly capitalism..."

---

Workers protest bourgeois media's devious attacks on "illegal" aliens in New York City.

---

discipline them with deportation. In times of economic crisis, the swollen army of the unemployed is forced to take up the posts of the "illegal aliens", to be super-exploited in their stead. The latter may simply be sent "back-to-where-they-came-from" again, in the name of legality. The "illegal aliens" are illegal in every respect except to be hired when needed for exploitation. To bare the plot to its essence is to bring to light the hypocrisy of bourgeois legality.

#### REVISIONISM -- OPPORTUNISM AND CHAUVINISM

Yet we hear the revisionist "C" PUSA and social-chauvinists echo the cry and use the bourgeois concept of "legality and illegality" to drum up support for the Rodino Bill, which is but a component part of this whole scheme. The revisionist "C" PUSA is misleading the working class, covering the real class character of bourgeois "legality and illegality."

To think otherwise, to mouth the legal jargons of an immigration cop, to think super-exploitation will go away once the "aliens" are hunted down, to divide the working class along the line of "aliens" and "American-born" is a crass sellout in the interests of the ruling class. It is social-chauvinism shamelessly on display.

Egged on and supported by the revisionist "C" PUSA and "friends" like Kennedy, labor misleaders like Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers try to trap their members and all immigrant workers with bourgeois-liberal riddles that preach "guarantees" of "democracy".

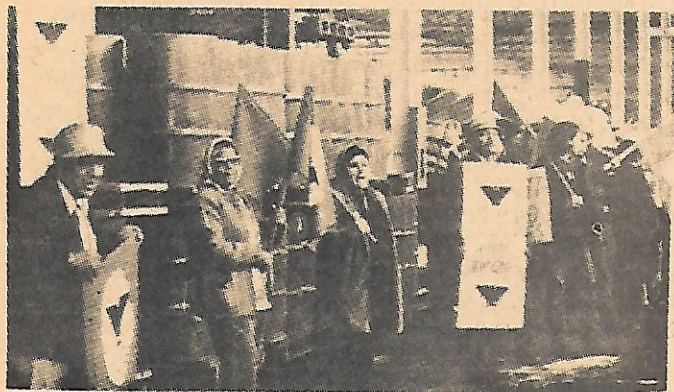
Under Cesar Chavez' misleadership, the United Farm Workers were forced to say:

The position of the UFW is undaunted-- the 'illegals' must either be granted full democratic rights including the right to join a union of their own choosing, or they must go.

This echoes both the historic wording and the thrust of Gompers "the Chinese must go." It is outrageous that UFW, a union founded by Chicano and Filipino workers



who played a vanguard role in the American working class movement (many who are "illegal" because of racist immigration policies) are forced by misleaders to launch a "nationwide drive to remedy the 'terrible problem of 60,000 to 70,000 illegal Mexican and Filipino workers' on the West Coast."



*Farmworkers picket in front of surplus oil drums filled with Gallo concentrate*

The link between the Chicano national movement and the farmworkers movement fuses the powerful potential of the struggle against national oppression with the driving force of the proletariat. However, now the combined forces of "liberal" politicians, the revisionist "C" PUSA and the union misleadership seeks to disarm and divide the movement. Their campaign centers on the Rodino-Kennedy bill which would fine companies for "knowingly" hiring illegal aliens. But unlike the openly chauvinist, reactionary misleaders like George Meany, their bill is packaged in UFW's "liberal rhetoric" of "opposing workers crossing an international boundary to break a strike."

Why does Chavez suddenly "discover" that "illegal aliens" are super-exploited and can often be used as strikebreakers? When he says himself that over half of the California farmworkers may be illegal, why does he call these brothers and sisters who built the UFW "SCABS"?

In our struggle against the real enemy -- the bourgeoisie -- we must stop all scabs, and all forces which betray the unity of the working class... but we define scabs and enemies by which side they fight for NOT by their status by law. Our duty as communists, as distinguished from trade union secretaries, is to link up firmly the immigrant workers with the organized labor to fight for their democratic rights and to educate the whole working class to the real nature of monopoly capitalism in the process of the immediate struggle.

We fight our class enemies by building strong rank-and-file organizations and unions fighting in the real interests of workers. The sweet-talking reformers, and even some "communists" like the "C" PUSA, play middle-of-the-road roles and are therefore the most dangerous. They blunt the bitter edge of the most racist, fascist advocates of the bourgeoisie and labor reactionaries, -- channeling the struggle into blind allies. They would straitjacket the most politically conscious and militant labor movement into the confines of bourgeois legality!

And here, it is precisely those misleaders like Chavez, who once expressed the just aspirations of the oppressed farmworkers and Chicanos, -- who captured the mass sentiment of militant workers, -- who has now proven to be one of the better defenders of the bourgeoisie than the bourgeoisie itself. Why? Because within the imperialist state, union misleaders serve as social props of the bourgeoisie -- pushing the opium of bourgeois ideology, of "reformism", of "practicality", and "immediate interests". They cleverly divert the blows of the militant rank-and-file struggles keeping the heat off of the troubled, dying capitalist class.

The labor aristocrats and the revisionist "C" PUSA only tail after the demands of the bourgeoisie and labor misleaders in order to opportunistically seize the reactionary superstructure of the labor movement. The revisionists only worship the "immediate", "practical" and assumed interests of the labor movement -- to sacrifice the real and fundamental interests of the working class.

Even the U.S. imperialist bourgeoisie, at times, knows how to subordinate its immediate policy to its long-term political line. Even Goerge Meany, one of the most chauvinist spokesmen of all, anticipated the later positions of the State and Justice Departments, to waive immigration restrictions for the "Vietnamese refugees" and demanded that there be no limit on the offer of sanctuary to "not just orphans and refugees" but "people who've been on our side." It takes no difficulty to teach even the old chauvinist dog, Meany, the latest tricks on the issues of the day as to "how to take politics in command." You'll always find them easily adapting themselves, even momentarily "dropping" their chauvinist platforms, to promote the long-term interests of the imperialists. Even this, in contrast, puts our "militant", "progressive-minded leaders" into shame!

Along with the "militant" labor leaders, the sham "communists" like the "C" PUSA take from revolutionary theory, from Marxism, only what is acceptable to the bourgeoisie -- "practicality", "peaceful transition to socialism", and "advanced democracy", etc. -- and discard all that is unacceptable, -- proletarian internationalism, the struggle for democratic rights in a revolutionary way, and fighting beyond the bounds of legality.

As Lenin so aptly put it, -- "the petty bourgeoisie fights for the reformist 'improvement' of imperialism, for adaptation to it, while submitting to it." (Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky, *Collected Works*, Volume III, p. 114).

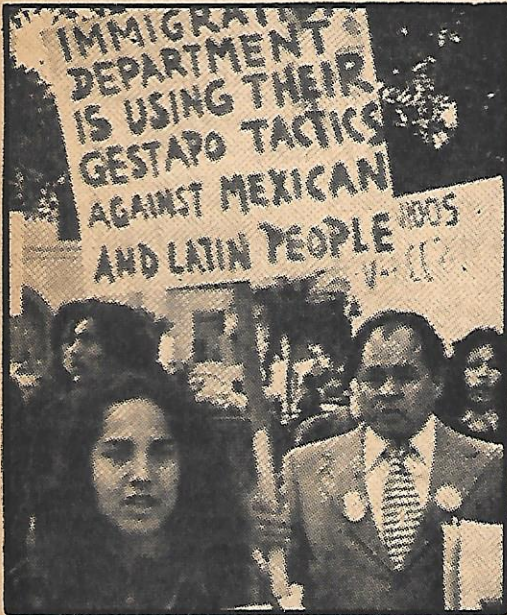
And at this point of the economic crisis, the "misleaders" and revisionists are being used by the bourgeoisie to help whip up "immigrant scares" -- to blame the economic and political crisis on immigrant workers. This is objectively how they are collaborating with the imperialists today!

## OL's REVISIONIST POSITION

The OL is against the Rodino Bill, but it is clear that they too are hopelessly bound by the chain of the bourgeois riddle of "legality" and the trap of "democracy". In an article on August, 1974 Call, --"Deportations: Another Weapon in War on Workers", --they concluded by saying:

The movement to defend the democratic rights of immigrant workers must be built as one more weapon in the 'Dump Nixon Movement to Stop the Fascist Tide'... The upcoming demonstrations against immigration repression and other fascist policies of the Nixon administration is an important part of this task.

The immigration policy of the bourgeoisie and immigration cops serves as the employment agency for the bourgeoisie, for both the "conservative" and the "liberal". They make workers enter and leave as a function of the economy's cycles and needs. The OL acts like they don't understand this whole question, and instead, they call the latest deportation campaign the "fascist policy of the Nixon administration". As if this imperialist policy is a preferred policy of Nixon, at his will, and thus, should be used as a particular indictment of the "Nixon Administration"--and not the whole bourgeoisie. Here it clearly reveals the OL's illusion about bourgeois democracy in general and about the liberal bourgeoisie in particular. For their information, the Rodino Bill is co-sponsored by Kennedy, the representative of the liberal bourgeois imperialists in this country. And this fact, the OL just lightly ignored!



In the same article they tell us, "What might seem at first glance to be in the interests of U.S. workers, the Rodino Bill, ... is in fact a deceiving

trick which will actually result in further weakening the struggle of all workers." Why? Because, they continued--"In the first place, this bill would not stop the flow of 'illegal' workers to this country... Secondly, the Rodino Bill will not really prevent employers from hiring 'illegals' (our emphasis)." So, the Rodino Bill is ineffective. Perhaps the OL can sponsor a bill to Congress to "unparalyze" it so it would work, so it would stop the flow of "illegals" and it can prevent employers from hiring "illegals"! The OL, just as the "C" PUSA, is hopelessly trapped by the same game of bourgeois democracy, by the illusion of reformability of the constitution and law. This is where OL's petty bourgeois private worries and nightmares, --their longing for absolute and "abstract" freedom that this "democratic" country has bestowed upon them, might one day be taken away from them by brutal proletarian revolution--comes out loud and clear! That's why they cannot believe in what Lenin said--that bourgeois democracy is the best shell for bourgeois rule, that "bourgeois democracy, although a great historical advance in comparison with medievalism, always remains, and under capitalism is to remain, restricted, truncated, false and hypocritical, a paradise for the rich and a snare and deception for the exploited, for the poor."

## INTERNATIONAL SCOPE OF THE QUESTION

Today, this immigrant workers' question is not a "unique" question in the U.S. It has an international significance. In the Western European capitalist countries, for example, 20-30% of their total workforce is comprised of workers from Asia and Africa. It is already an integral and indispensable part of the present-day monopoly capitalist economic system.

During the capitalist "up" cycles, the third world has suffered from a "brain-drain" phenomenon which has severely damaged the Third World countries' economic development and independence. But then, there were no cries of "legality and illegality". But during these periods, there were no immigrant scares and no Rodino Bills.

But what are they going to do, during the next "up" of the U.S. economy's upset, when Rodino tears up the Rodino Bill? ? ? ! !

---

KILL THE RODINO BILL!

LEGALIZE THE "ILLEGAL ALIENS"!

FIGHT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF  
IMMIGRANT WORKERS!

FIGHT FOR THE UNITY OF  
THE WORKING CLASS!!!!

FIGHT MONOPOLY CAPITALISM!!!

---