

14 Charles Lane
New York, New York 10014
June 12, 1978

TO ORGANIZERS, CAMPAIGN DIRECTORS, AND CIRCULATION DIRECTORS:

Dear Comrades,

The Socialist Workers Party has drafted a bill, as a proposal from our 1978 candidates, to establish full employment through an immediate cut in the workweek to thirty hours with no cut in pay and a massive public works program financed by abolishing the \$126 billion war budget. A copy of the bill is enclosed.

This sweeping proposal is the only approach that can end unemployment. We want to make special efforts to circulate and discuss it with working people.

A special supplement titled "Why Can't Everybody Have A Job? The Socialist Workers Party Proposes: A Bill To Provide Jobs For All" will appear in issue #25 of the Militant (dated June 30 and mailed June 22) and issue #13 of Perspectiva Mundial (dated July 3 and mailed June 22). An accompanying article will explain the causes and effects of unemployment and counterpose our proposal to the phony Humphrey-Hawkins "Full Employment" and Harrington "Youth Jobs" bills and inadequate Conyers "Shorter Workweek" bill.

HOW TO USE THE BILL

We think that this format, a clear statement of the causes and solutions to unemployment, can have a great appeal. We want to get copies of our proposal into the hands of unemployed workers and youth -- particularly minority youth in the high schools. We also want to circulate it among our co-workers, and other workers, in the women's movement and on college campuses.

Since this bill is a proposal by the 1978 SWP candidates, sales of the Militant and PM containing it will be a good focus for campaigning. Branches will want to order larger than usual bundles of both publications and plan a special campaign to sell them. Campaign committees could plan sales at plant gates where we have established sales, at unemployment offices or on high school or college campuses. These events could include a candidate and, where careful planning is done, the news media could be invited. It may be possible to involve independent campaign supporters.

Immediately after its publication in the Militant and PM the feature will be available in a four page tabloid reprint in both English and Spanish as a piece of campaign literature which can be used between now and November. It should be used like the "Bill Of Rights For Working People" as a central piece of campaign literature for our local campaigns.

Candidates should become familiar with the arguments and proposals and use them in speeches. Special forums can be organized specifically around the bill, or panels on unemployment in general. Co-workers and other contacts can be invited to comrades' homes for an evening of informal discussion, perhaps with a socialist candidate, around the ideas in the bill. Copies of the bill can be taken to work and used as a basis for discussion with co-workers.

The bill will also be useful at meetings and demonstrations against unemployment, especially in counterposing our position to the various Democratic Party proposals. Candidates or campaign supporters can challenge opponents to support it as a genuine solution to unemployment.

YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

This proposal will be of particular interest to youth. Branches should work closely with YSA chapters in planning out ways to use the bill to reach young people on high school and college campuses. Comrades can also use the bill to reach large numbers of unemployed youth, at events such as sign-ups for summer jobs or CETA training programs.

Copies of the reprint will be available from the National Campaign Committee at 2½¢ each or 2¢ each for orders of 1,000 or more. The enclosed order form should be used for placing orders right away.

Comradely,



Nelson Blackstock
Circulation



Bob Schwarz
National Campaign

Fill out and return to National Campaign Committee, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014

AREA _____ NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please send the following copies of "Why Can't Everybody Have A Job?" @ ~~2½¢~~ each (2¢ each for orders of 1,000 or more):

	Quantity	Price
In English	_____	_____
In Spanish	_____	_____

Total Cost _____

Enclosed is payment _____

Please bill us _____

THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY PROPOSES: AN EMERGENCY BILL TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHT TO A JOB FOR EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO WORK

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America:

Section 1: Purpose

- A. Since: The overwhelming majority of people have no other way to sustain themselves and their families except by selling their capacity to labor.
- B. Since: Working people have built up the vast wealth and productive apparatus of this country, the richest in the world.
- C. Since: Unemployment is a threat to the living standards of all workers and especially devastating to the Black community and to youth.
- D. Therefore: It is an elementary obligation of society to provide steady, useful employment at living wages for everyone who wants to work.

Section 2: Emergency relief

- A. Since: Workers deprived of a job through no fault of their own should not be driven into poverty and degradation.
- B. Therefore: All jobless workers, including youth and others just entering the labor force, shall receive unemployment compensation at full union-scale wages for the entire time they are out of work.

Section 3: Funds for jobs, not war

- A. Since: There is an urgent need to:
 - 1. Build high-quality low-rent housing, decent schools, hospitals, clinics, child-care centers, libraries, parks, public transportation systems;
 - 2. Restore our devastated cities and clean up our polluted environment;
 - 3. Provide education, health care, and other vital social services.
- B. Since: The government now squanders more than \$126 billion a year of our tax dollars for bombs, missiles, tanks, warships, and other instruments of destruction for the Pentagon and CIA, whose only purpose is to guard the profits of U.S. corporations around the world and enrich the armaments profiteers.

- C. Therefore: Spending for war shall be eliminated and those funds used to launch a \$126 billion emergency public works program to provide millions of useful jobs, expand social services, and rebuild the country.
- D. Implementation
1. All public service jobs shall be paid at union-scale wages, with full rights for workers to organize, bargain collectively, and strike.
 2. Top priority shall go to public works projects in the Black, Chicano, and Puerto Rican communities, which have suffered the worst both from joblessness and from inadequate services and facilities.
 3. Special emphasis shall be put on establishing low-cost quality childcare centers controlled by those who use them, to guarantee the right to work for women with children and to ensure adequate, professional care for future generations.
 4. So that funds go to those in need and not to high-paid "poverty executives" and rip-off "jobs agencies," the public works program shall be under the control of committees democratically elected from neighborhoods and unions.
 5. Industries now supplying the war apparatus shall be converted and retooled for socially useful production, with workers in those industries receiving re-training at full pay for the job of their choice.

Section 4: Shorter Workweek

- A. Since: Government figures show that the productivity of labor has increased at least 200 percent since 1938, when the forty-hour week became law, yet there has been no general reduction of hours since that time.
- B. Since: This steadily increasing productivity has wiped out millions of jobs, while putting billions of dollars in extra profits in the employers' pockets.
- C. Since: Shortening the workweek to thirty hours would create an estimated 23 million jobs.
- D. Since: Shorter hours would mean increased leisure time for working people to develop their talents and interests in all spheres of life.
- E. Therefore: The legal workweek shall be reduced from forty hours to thirty hours, with no reduction in weekly pay.

F. Implementation

1. Compulsory overtime shall be banned.
2. To provide a decent standard of living and to eliminate economic pressure to work overtime, all wages shall be automatically raised to compensate for any increase in the cost of living.

Section 5: Affirmative action

- A. Since: Women, Blacks, Chicanos, and Puerto Ricans have been and are still today denied equal access to skilled and higher paid jobs.
- B. Therefore: Affirmative-action quotas to end discrimination in hiring, training, and promotions shall be universally implemented and strictly enforced.

Section 6: Enforcement

- A. If any employers claim they "cannot afford" to provide jobs and comply with the provisions of this bill, their books and records shall be opened to inspection by committees of unionists, consumers, and the unemployed. In this way we can determine for ourselves the corporations' hidden profits, tax swindles, payoffs, political bribes, and kickbacks, as well as their real production statistics and technological possibilities.
- B. If any employers refuse to comply with this legislation or threaten to close their plants, those companies shall be nationalized. Their plants shall be placed under the control of elected committees of workers to oversee production and make the decisions about work speed, automation, hiring and firing, and health and safety standards.