

IN THIS ISSUE

War Diverts Attention From Growing Economic Crisis
Page 2

Biological Weapons Came From U.S. Arms Programs
Page 3

Editorial—Auto Plant Closures
Page 4

Indigenous Mexicans Fight for Housing
Page 8

EMERGENCY FUND

SLP Faced With Uncertain Future

Since announcing that the Socialist Labor Party is faced with a serious financial crisis last October, friends and supporters have responded with a generosity that provides eloquent testimony to the depth of their concern.

What our friends have accomplished is to eliminate the monthly deficits that had been gnawing away at the SLP's cash reserves for several years—not the deficit for the entire year, which is our goal, but for the months of October-December.

For that reason it is difficult having to report that while the financial situation has not worsened, neither has it improved.

Last month, when launching the SLP Emergency Fund, we stated that substantially more progress toward meeting our goal of restoring the SLP's cash reserves to their Jan. 1, 2001, level had to be made or it would soon become necessary to make certain decisions. Suspending *The People*, for example, is one of the painful decisions that we would prefer not to make. Another that we cannot avoid much longer is to discharge our small staff and to start on the work it will take to close down the national offices of the SLP on the theory that without a staff a headquarters would become pointless.

Painful as those decisions would be to make, they cannot be postponed beyond June 1, which will leave us with just three months to do all the things that shutting down the national offices would involve.

Those decisions have not been made, and will not be made, unless it becomes apparent that the backing and support needed to keep *The People* in print and the offices open is not likely to materialize. To repeat, however, those decisions must be made, one way or the other, by June 1.

Technically, the date for reaching the goal set for the SLP Emergency Fund is Aug. 31. Realistically, however, we must either have reached that goal or be within striking distance of it by the end of May.

The reason is that Aug. 31 is the date on which the lease on the party's national offices expires. However, the SLP must have the funds needed to renew the lease or to negotiate a new one at some new location long before then because that new lease

(Continued on page 4)

RECESSION CONTINUES FOR WORKERS

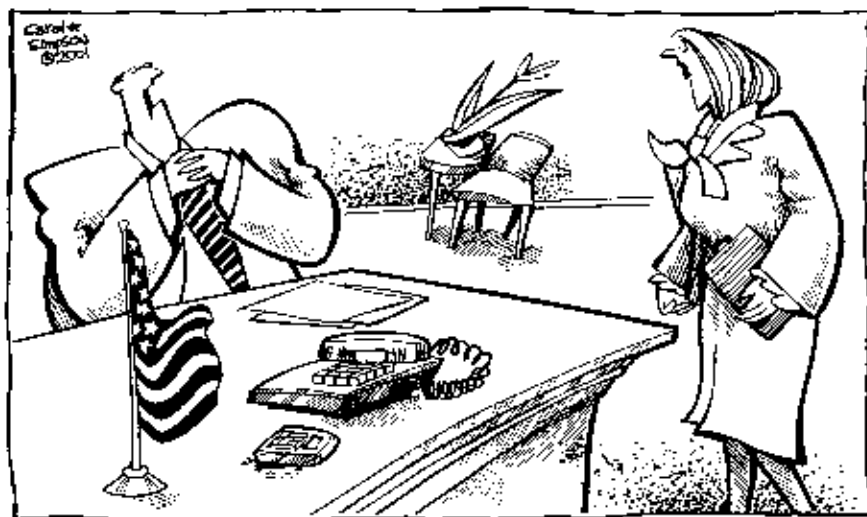
Workers Need New Economy—Build an Economy That Works!

Economic soothsayers are making vague predictions of an end to capitalism's present economic crisis. But such predictions can be of little comfort to the millions of U.S. workers who have joined the ranks of the unemployed since—or those who were already jobless when—this latest of capitalism's cyclical economic crises began in early 2001.

Moreover, the prospects are not good for any significant improvement in the economic condition of U.S. workers even in the event that corporations and other businesses do recover.

Federal officials announced on Jan. 13 that the recession is "close to being over," as *The New York Times* put it—but they didn't sound very convinced. In an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," Commerce Secretary Donald Evans said, "We're probably a little closer to the end than we are the beginning. There are signs that we are beginning to turn the corner." Even more equivocal was Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, who added, "The information we have so far in the data on economic performance is a mix but I think it's mixed toward the positive side, and I'm optimistic we're going to return to good rates of real growth." William Poole, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, chipped in with, "It is too early to pick a precise date for the recession trough, but there is a bottoming out feel to the data."

Whatever the predictions may be, there is little doubt that the economy is still in a deep crisis. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) figures show that gross national product in the third quarter declined at an



"...and send out the layoff notices with a nice American flag motif."

Carol Simpson

annual rate of 1.3 percent. Fourth-quarter figures should be similar or worse. Mass layoffs continued throughout the quarter.

According to the BEA, "New orders for manufactured durable goods in November, down five of the last six months, decreased...4.8 percent." The BEA also noted that, "New orders for manufactured goods in November decreased...3.3 percent." Industrial production also continued to fall in November, with "the rate of capacity utilization for total industry [having] declined...to 74.7 percent...7.4 percentage points below its 1967-2000 average." As *U.S. News and World Report* observed in its Jan. 14 issue, "Industrial output fell in 13 of the past 14 months through November

for a total drop of 6.8 percent from June 2000. That's the biggest slump since the 1981-82 recession."

While soothsayers thus face more than a little difficulty in putting a rosy hue to the present economic picture, the U.S. working class continues to be hit hard by the effects of the economic "downturn." Some indication of this was supplied in December by the monthly report on mass layoffs from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

"In November 2001, there were 2,699 mass layoff actions by employers as measured by new filings for unemployment insurance benefits during the month," the BLS reported. "Each action involved at least 50 per-

(Continued on page 6)

Workers Fought Losing Battle to Save Their Jobs

By Carl Miller Jr.

An article written by an official of the Communications Workers of America, Local 1365, and published in January by *Labor Notes*, tells the story of how workers at the Merrimack Valley Works (MVW) in North Andover, Mass., experienced a hard lesson. What rank-and-file workers learned from the experience is not clear, but the conclusion drawn by the secretary of CWA Local 1365 is. But first the story that led him to draw his conclusion.

For over 50 years, MVW has been the main employer in North Andover, and one of the biggest in the region. Originally part of Western Electric, the manufacturing division of Bell Telephone, it was acquired by AT&T, and then by AT&T's spinoff, Lucent Technologies.

The future seemed bright for workers at MVW. Lucent was a profitable company and employees were encouraged to put their savings into Lucent stock. The plant manager even told workers that Lucent would make

them all rich.

For a time this appeared to be the case as workers watched their savings grow at an amazing pace. But, as is always the case under the capitalist system, what goes up must inevitably come down. Lucent's stock began to slide and then finally crashed. Thousands of workers at the plant lost their entire life savings. Some workers who had reached retirement age had to keep working because they had lost their nest eggs. As it turns out, savings would not be the only thing workers would lose.

The beginning of the end came when Lucent began outsourcing many of the products produced at the plant. This was followed by the elimination of nearly 80 percent of the plant's manufacturing capacity. All the while plant management told workers that no one's job was in jeopardy: Lucent was merely changing its business strategy. Many of the workers came to work with no work to do.

With the coming of the telecom and dot-com crash came layoffs. The

market for Lucent's products evaporated, making it unprofitable to keep idle workers on the payroll. Within six months' time over 2,300 workers were released or forced into accepting "voluntary" severance packages. Along with the layoffs came news that Lucent was looking to sell MVW.

In spite of letter-writing campaigns to company executives, rallies and support from supposedly sympathetic public officials, Lucent sold MVW to Selectron, another telecommunications manufacturer. The result was that only 288 workers got to keep their jobs. Some 400 workers were kept on temporarily by Lucent, but just until the remaining work could be moved overseas.

And what conclusion did the secretary of CWA Local 1365 draw from all this?

"Without the union presence we have nothing else: no voice at work, no family-wage jobs, no dignity in retirement, no benefits, and especially no protection against the monsters like

(Continued on page 2)

War Diverts Attention From Growing Economic Crisis

By B.B.

A film from several years ago depicted a president who tried to bury damaging publicity over his sexual escapades by creating a war and whipping up a wave of patriotic sentiment. It was called *Wag the Dog*, an analogous mockery of a dog's body being wagged by its tail. The current "war on terrorism" is conveniently serving a similar purpose by diverting attention from growing unemployment across the country and in President Bush's home state.

On Nov. 16, the *Dallas Morning News* called October "the cruelest month for workers nationwide since May 1980." "Companies cut 415,000 jobs and the national unemployment rate jumped from 4.9 percent to 5.4 percent," it added.

In Texas, the jobless rate edged up to an official 5.2 percent and reflected a net loss of 27,800 jobs during the month. November was "better." It brought another increase, to 5.4 percent, and a net loss of 6,800 jobs.

Characteristically, these numbers failed to take notice of those jobless workers who have given up on finding a job and of the marginally employed. However, even the full extent of unemployment among those who meet the state's selective definition may not be

reflected in the official numbers.

The *Morning News* said that "many of the recent job cuts announced in the travel and high-tech industries have not yet shown up in the official unemployment counts." It attributed this information to Clayton Griffis, whom it identified as a labor market analyst. "He said many companies either enact those job cuts in stages, or provide extended severance benefits."

In other words, things are a lot worse than they appear.

In Dallas, joblessness was at a seven-year high of 5.8 percent. A year ago the jobless rate was 2.8 percent, which was touted as evidence of "prosperity."

Dr. Bernard Weinstein, a research director at the University of North Texas, looks for a "six- to nine-month recession with a recovery around summer of 2002," but that may simply be because he does not see himself as "a pessimist by nature."

Mr. Griffis wonders how much more spending, how many more tax cuts will the government undertake, and how long it will take such measures to energize the economy. Weinstein sought to answer such concerns by declaring that there must first be "a satisfactory resolution of the terrorist threat." "We'll never get rid of it entirely, but it has to become

manageable," he said.

Are the pundits of capital now espousing "wagging the dog" indefinitely?

There was a period of capitalist development that required war, or the destruction of productive wealth, to deliver the capitalist system from ruin. Irrational and contradictory as this sounds, such was the case on the eve of World War II, when mobilization for war and its consequences pulled world capitalism out of the Great Depression.

Now, the productive capacity of the working class has reached a point that armaments production and continuous war coexist with "peace time" production—the old capitalist dream (or nightmare) of "guns and butter" come true. The glut of "consumer goods" that the working class cannot buy occurs despite massive production for war!

The president's promise (or threat) that the "war against terrorism" is bound to go on for a long time, or "wagging the dog" indefinitely, will no longer offer the relief (if war can be called a "relief") that it once did. Indeed, the current world malaise thunders another message: Capitalism must be overthrown. It is a system that has long since made its historical contribution to the advancement of civilization. Its continued existence

not only threatens to undo those accomplishments, but everything else too. It subsists in a permanent state of crisis and destruction. Now it must be replaced by the socialist reconstruction of society.

... Lucent

(Continued from page 1)

Lucent for whom 'employees' is just another word for 'disposable inventory,' he wrote. "In this world of corporate terrorism on workers, we are simply collateral damage in a game of high-stakes business strategies where human life, families and communities are of no consideration. And until we organize all our brothers and sisters in every factory, plant, facility and location we will forever be the victims. In the end our victory must be a union recognition victory that we carry across all the lands."

In short, the conclusion drawn by the secretary of Local 1365, CWA, is that the safety of the workers depends on being "recognized" by "monsters" and "corporate terrorists"!

The fox "recognizes" the chicken for what she is, but even the chicken has sense enough to know there is no safety for chickens in being "recognized" by the fox. No wonder the AFL-CIO is in ruins.

The Socialist Labor Party also calls upon workers to organize, but not to cuddle up to the "monsters" and "terrorists" who use them up and spit out their bones as it suits them. Rather, the SLP calls on workers to organize into classconscious Socialist Industrial Unions, not simply to protect themselves from the encroachments of capitalist "monsters" and "terrorists," but to overthrow the system that makes them expendable. We call on the workers to establish a socialist society, where the exploitation of human labor, involuntary unemployment, poverty and war will become things of the past.

Study the program and principles of the SLP, and if you find that you agree with them, then join us in our fight to establish a sane society.

General Electric Forced To Clean Up Hudson River

By B.G.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has rejected General Electric's efforts to stall and stymie the removal of the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that the company, for more than 30 years, had dumped into the upper Hudson River in New York State. GE had initiated a costly lobbying and advertising campaign against the dredging, saying that this activity would stir up the PCBs that are now buried in the river's bottom and thereby repollute the river. The company also asked that water contamination standards for the dredging be set at an enormously high level, well knowing that such a requirement would inevitably lead to a level that would be impossible to maintain and thus undermine and tie up the whole project.

The EPA and its administrator, Christie Whitman, would have none of these evasive tactics and have directed that GE proceed with a job that will cost the company at least \$460 million over the years, and perhaps much more. The EPA will eventually, during the dredging process, set water standards, but in consultation with the communities along the river. The design phase of the project will take up to three years, during which time the proper type of dredging technology will be worked out to prevent resuspension of the PCBs.

Special plants to sift water from the dredged mud will also be a vital part of the project. What will happen to the 2.65 million cubic yards of river sediment once it is removed and where it will be temporarily stored and where its final

resting place will be must also be carefully worked out. The whole dredging process may take five years.

The estimated \$460 million cost, though heavy, was not GE's only objection to the project. For the company has an estimated 83 Superfund sites in other areas of the country that would eventually also come under clean-up requirements. GE would thus be exceptionally hard hit financially if required to remove all this additional pollution. Such a burden would not only deplete the company's coffers considerably, but would drive the price of its stock down and result in the flight of many of its investors. It is the company's bottom line, its financial well-being and the enormous wealth of its leading management personnel rather than any social responsibility that is obviously of primary importance to capitalism. This verity succinctly explains General Electric's 25-year battle to avoid undoing the damage it has done to humans, to wildlife, and to earth and water by boldly polluting the environment.

Tyson Foods Charged With Violating Immigration Laws

By Stephen Raper

In December, a federal grand jury in Tennessee returned a 36-count indictment charging Tyson Foods for alleged violations of certain labor and immigration laws. Among other things, the indictment accuses the company and six of its officials of paying \$6,300 for delivery of 36 or more undocumented immigrants to work at three of its poultry processing plants.

"The indictment," according to a U.S. attorney's office press release quoted by the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, "charges that the defendants at Tyson Foods cultivated a 'corporate culture' in which the hiring of illegal alien workers...was condoned by Tyson management because it was more important for Tyson to meet its production goals and to cut its costs to maximize Tyson profits than for the defendants to comply with the immigration and other laws of the United States." (Dec. 20)

The indictment also charges that Tyson Foods frequently forces the immigrant workers to meet higher production goals than other workers at its poultry processing plants, and that it forced them to work in "less human working conditions" than their American coworkers.

In addition, the *News-Sentinel* reported that company officials are accused "of helping the illegal aliens obtain false documents so they could work under the guise of being legally employable."

These are the allegations. What will become of them remains to be seen. Eventually Tyson Foods may be found guilty. If so, a few managerial heads may roll to spruce up the company's "image," and perhaps some fines will have to be paid. What of it?

The crimes Tyson Foods and some of its officials are accused of are widespread among capitalists. Agricapitalists, industrial capitalists, capitalists of all shapes and descriptions indulge in them. Getting caught, paying a fine and throwing a few

corporate bureaucrats to the wolves is part of the "cost of doing business." It is a small price to pay to keep the profits rolling in.

So much for the theory that the "rule of (capitalist) law" protects workers from the country's criminal (capitalist) class.

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Biological Weaponry Came From U.S. Arms Program

By B.B.

Arrianna Huffington, a syndicated columnist of Tribune Media Services, recently chastised pharmaceutical capitalists for opportunistically trying to reap immense profits over the current widespread fear of deadly anthrax spores and germ warfare generally. She noted that the current "rancid lobbying campaign [of drug companies] is being sweetened with the cherry-flavored rhetoric of munificent patriotism."

For example, Peter Dolan, chief executive officer of Bristol-Meyers, offered disingenuous proclamations of being a "part of the nation's defense system" and giving Bristol-Meyers "resources in a time of great need," meaning, as Ms. Huffington pointed out, raking in huge profits as a result of fears over bioterrorism.

Ms. Huffington also criticized Tommy Thompson, the current secretary of health and human services, for cutting a sweet deal for the government with Bayer to buy Cipro, a drug that reputedly prevents the early onset of anthrax, for 95 cents a pill, magnanimously reduced from Bayer's previous bargain price of \$1.77. The columnist found that the true production price was 20 cents, scandalous price gouging in her view, but in fact nothing more than revealing the amount wage labor is robbed of at the point of production.

Also cited were the hypocrisy of the pharmaceutical capitalists in their rabid hostility to generic drugs needed to fight the African AIDS plague, congressional cow-towing to the 625 industry lobbyists who have spent \$177 million currying favors over the past two years, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's favoritism toward G.D. Searle, and White House budget director Mitch Daniels' connections with Eli Lilly.

Ms. Huffington lamented that the federal government "backed the drug companies when they allowed business considerations to take priority while millions died in Africa." She's worried there may be a repeat performance here at home now that the fear of biological warfare has come to the United States. "We simply can't allow those in charge of our health and safety to abandon the public interest in favor of moneyed special interests," she said. She's concerned about terrorists "plotting to spread disease and sickness," but she's also worried that the



"Damn it Jenkins! Here's another batch demanding conscientious objector status."

Carol *Simpson

government won't be as alert when it comes to "fighting those plotting to place profits ahead of lives."

Had Ms. Huffington bothered to look a little deeper into the subject she would have discovered that "plotting" of that sort has gone on for decades with the full knowledge and cooperation of the federal government.

At the opposite pole of ostensibly protecting the nation from bioterrorism while coveting enormous profits stand the state-sponsored programs that have generated those fears. We speak of government experimentation with biological weapons.

Indeed, virtually every virulent weapon now threatening humankind was developed by those states—with the United States in the lead—that now denounce them as sinister alien threats. From nuclear bombs and missiles to chemical and biological agents, it was the major imperialist powers that conducted the research and development that produced these instruments of mass destruction. The United States, the former Soviet Union, Great Britain and France created the instruments that could extinguish all life on the planet.

Anthrax development is a case in point. Although the United States officially renounced the manufacture and the use of biological weapons in 1969, apparently a considerable amount of

fudging has been going on. The U.S. Army's Dugway Proving Ground in Utah had been turning "small quantities of wet anthrax into powder to test ways to defend against biowarfare" until 1998. (*The New York Times*, Dec. 13)

Dugway officials have been evasive about powdered anthrax production at the Utah facility. Straightforward revelations of that sort could expose the United States to accusations of violating a 1972 international agreement that bans the production of biological weapons.

According to *The New York Times*, however, one scientist told a group of military officers in 1999 that he taught personnel at Dugway how to produce powdered anthrax from wet anthrax in 1998. The scientist, William C. Patrick III, told the officers that he "made about a pound of material in less than a day." "It's a good product," he boasted. How many days did Patrick and his Dugway pupils devote to converting wet anthrax into anthrax powder? How many pounds were produced there and elsewhere before and since 1998? Apparently that would be telling, in more than one way, and so the answer is filed away in the hamper where the government keeps all of its dirty laundry, under the label of "state secrets."

The *Times* went on to report a Dugway official as saying that "no more than a few grams" of powdered anthrax are produced at the facility in any one year.

Merchants Profit From Sept. 11th Disaster

By B.G.

Both the ingenuity and the opportunism of capitalists know no bounds. New York City wholesale merchants immediately saw a golden opportunity for profit from the World Trade Center disaster. On Sept. 12, the day after the attack, they began designing Twin Tower brooches and lapel pins, patriotic lapel pins of various sorts, "We Will Never Forget" pins, American flag pins, memorial post cards and stickers, and other memorial jewelry and key rings, and sent the designs off to their suppliers in Asia. These manufacturers quickly retooled their machines and began turning out masses of these souvenir items and shipping them back to New York City, sometimes in as little as four days. The suppliers were able to ship flag lapel pins and all sizes of fabric and polyester American flags from their existing stocks to New York as soon as American airspace reopened.

T-shirt merchants in New York City began designing and turning out American flag, New York Police Department, and New York Fire Department

logos for their wares. Baseball capmakers quickly substituted patriotic designs and NYPD and FDNY logos for the logos of the local baseball teams that their caps generally carried.

Needless to say, business is booming!

There are thousands of New York and New Jersey residents who are seeking to show their patriotism, defy the terrorists, honor the dead workers, and display their solidarity with the firefighters and police who lost their lives in their rescue work at the World Trade Center. It is these prospective customers that the merchants are eagerly targeting.

In fairness, it ought to be mentioned that a few of these souvenir store operators have contributed a portion of their profits from the sale of these items to aid the families who have lost rescue workers. Unfortunately, that is not the general sentiment. One souvenir merchant remarked frankly of some store owners that "a lot of people have chosen to take advantage of people's suffering."

Some might wonder why most of these items, including American flags, are made in Asia rather than in the

What is "a few"? The *Times* helps those who may have trouble with the equation: "There are 454 grams in a pound." That is a few too many to be "no more than a few" when we remember that about two grams, the amount sent to Sen. Daschle, can "infect millions of people" if effectively dispersed.

The Army reportedly has shared its supply of the Ames strain of anthrax with other institutions, namely the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington and a sister lab, the Naval Medical Research Center. Other institutions have done similar work. The Battelle Memorial Institute, an Ohio military contractor, developed "benign substances similar to anthrax to mimic Soviet efforts to create small bombs that could emit clouds of lethal germs," according to *The New York Times*. That effort began in 1997, the *Times* noted, and was part of a secret CIA program. By then, of course, the Soviet Union had been six years in its grave.

One capitalist hand washes the other. At one end of the equation we have the genuflecting drug companies feigning protection of the nation by producing remedies for precisely those companies that, at the other end, are producing the problem! Such is the abominable "harmony" of the capitalist system. To insure its unchallenged dominion over the resources, raw materials and markets of the entire globe, the capitalist state developed the weapons it believed would guarantee its hegemony. Capitalism, however, has failed to keep these deadly genies in their bottles. Through espionage, weapons sales and other avenues, capitalism and its political state create the problem of arms proliferation that they cannot solve. Both are a menace to life on Earth.

Ms. Huffington may not see that, and that's to be regretted. Fortunately, however, the future doesn't depend on her. It depends on the working class. It is not enough to express the hope that the government will not stand idly by while corporations take advantage of tragedies and conditions that the capitalist system creates. Indeed, the government does not stand idly by. The political state is an instrument of class rule, and if the working class continues to tolerate class rule it will live in a world beset by increasingly dangerous and increasingly uncontrollable dangers to themselves and to generations yet to come.

the People
Founded April 5, 1891

The People (ISSN-0199-350X), continuing the *Weekly People*, is published monthly by the Socialist Labor Party of America, 661 Kings Row, San Jose, CA 95112-2724.

Periodicals postage paid at San Jose, CA 95101-7024. Postmaster: Send all address changes to *The People*, P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218. Communications: Business and editorial matters should be addressed to *The People*, P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218. Phone: (408) 280-7266. Fax: (408) 280-6964.

Production Staff: Donna Bills, Ken Boettcher, Robert Bills, acting editor.

Access *The People* online at <http://www.slp.org>. Send e-mail to: thepeople@igc.org.

Rates: (domestic and foreign): Single copy, 50 cents. Subscriptions: \$5 for one year; \$8 for two years; \$10 for three years. By first-class mail, add \$6 per year. Bundle orders: 5-100 copies, \$8 per 100; 101-500 copies, \$7 per 100; 501-1,000 copies, \$6 per 100; 1,001 or more copies, \$5 per 100. Foreign subscriptions: Payment by international money order in U.S. dollars.

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the People

Published by the Socialist Labor Party Established in 1891

National Secretary: Robert Bills

VOL. 111 NO. 11

FEBRUARY 2002

Auto Plant Closures

When the Ford Motor Co. recently announced that it plans to close several production plants over the next few years, Canadian Auto Workers President Buzz Hargrove responded with the lament: "The only weapon workers have ...in bargaining is our right to withhold our labor."

Hargrove was right, and the reason he was right is that the CWA and the United Auto Workers on this side of the border have gotten everything else wrong. Ridding itself of labor is precisely what Ford is after.

DaimlerChrysler, which plans to close a van production plant in Ontario, and General Motors, with similar plans to shut down a sports car plant in Quebec, have the same end in view. Ford has also named two assembly plants and two parts production plants in the U.S. as part of its labor-shedding plan.

Conditions cry out for a strong, organized working-class response to layoffs and the accelerated capitalist-class attack on workers' wages and working conditions that will come with them.

"Withholding our labor," as in a strike, is hardly a maneuver that would do the workers affected any good in the present circumstances. By stating that withholding labor was the only weapon the unions have to wield, Hargrove was using different words to say that the unions are utterly helpless and useless to help either themselves or the workers who rely on them in coming to grips with the moves that the auto companies have announced.

Did we say that the unions are helpless to help themselves? Strike that.

Unions are helpless to help themselves keep the same number of dues-paying "brothers" and "sisters" on the rolls, but that's no reason to throw out the baby after the bath water.

Indeed, the UAW is already consoling itself with the thought that once Ford gets to the other side of its restructuring the remaining workers will still be there to keep the UAW coffers full, though perhaps not brim full.

Procapitalist union leaders are the only creatures on earth who use the same tone of voice to call a retreat as they might use to call a charge. Hence, in gruff and aggressive tones, UAW President Stephen P. Yokich asserted that the union's contract with Ford

would require the company to "plan its restructuring in a way that respects the seniority rights...of UAW-Ford workers."

The most that can be said for that is that it slices, dices and divides the workers against each other in yet another way, and that the UAW has no intention of standing up for its less fortunate "brothers" and "sisters" about to get the ax.

Job security cannot exist under capitalism because the profit motive and competition *impel* capitalists to continually reduce the labor time needed to produce commodities.

Automation, speedups and other efficiency measures displace labor and enable fewer workers to produce more commodities. Older plants must be closed to make way for newer means of production. Accept capitalism and all this must be accepted.

Because production in a socialist society will be carried on not for profit but to satisfy human wants and needs, automation and other efficiency measures will not mean layoffs and hardship, but a higher living standard for all and more leisure time with which to enjoy it.

CWA President Hargrove was right when he said that the only weapon the unions have is to withhold the labor of the workers who belong to the unions. The workers, however, have a much more powerful weapon at their disposal.

That weapon is their combined strength as a class. To wield that strength, to forge it into an irresistible force, they must form a bond that will not allow them to stand by when some workers are sacrificed on the altar of profit while others are granted the "privilege" of keeping their jobs and living in fear of the next round of layoffs.

They must adopt and live by the principle that an injury to one is an injury to all, and to organize themselves in the only way open to elevate that principle from an idle sentiment into a living force.

Conditions cry out for a strong, organized working-class response to layoffs and the accelerated capitalist-class attack on workers' wages and working conditions that will come with them.

Conditions cry out for workers to organize the Socialist Industrial Unions that alone stand a chance of taking, holding and operating the economy in the collective interests of the working-class majority.

The UAW and CWA response to the burgeoning crisis for workers in the auto industry will no doubt only serve to further indict its procapitalist brand of unionism.



A De Leon Editorial

Recognition By Capitalists

Beware of "unions" that seek "recognition" by the capitalists who profit by exploiting workers' labor. The recognition that is needed is a recognition by workers that Socialist Industrial Unionism is the basic requirement of effective working-class organization.

'Recognition'

(Daily People, March 6, 1912)

By taking the stand that they did in the matter of the recognition of their union by the manufacturers against whom they were and are on strike, the IWW* silk weavers of Paterson, N.J., have made history.

"Recognition of the union by the employer!"—lo, an old-time slogan of AFL and kindred "unionisms." It is a slogan that sounds plausibly bold, plausibly in favor of the workers, plausibly sound in labor tactics, yet in fact, it is a slogan under which actual defeat has been covered, under which future defeats were insured, under which the sellout of the labor leader was promoted, and under which the enslavement of the workers could be carried on unperceived.

An instance, taken piping hot from the oven of the American labor movement, will illustrate the point.

Just about a year ago there was a big cloakmakers' strike in this city. For a while the struggle raged with unusual fury. Finally a board of arbitration was elected by the contending parties—workers and manufacturers—and the strike was settled. The protocol, drawn up by the arbitrators as the seal of settlement, contains these closing words:

"In conclusion, we wish to express our gratification at the fair and harmonious relations between the parties to the protocol, and our conviction that eventually the arrangements between employers and employees as embodied in the protocol will develop into a lasting and permanent adjustment of the relations between the employers and employees of the cloak manufacturing

industry, and will serve as a model for many similar industries."

Here we have "recognition" self-pilloried. "Recognized" by the employer, the union is made, by its representative, Mr. Morris Hillquit,** to surrender unconditionally the cause of labor. The irrepressible conflict between master class and wage slave is denied by the clause that expresses the hope of "a lasting and permanent adjustment of the relations between" the two. As a consequence, the protocol has been of benefit only to the employer and the leaders through whom he dominates the union. He is violating the protocol at all turns, while the rank and file can hardly make a turn in the shop but the same is pronounced "a violation of the protocol." It is so in all instances. The price that the union pays for "recognition" is to be sold out.

The Paterson IWW silk weavers on strike were equal to the occasion—and to the experience. Foaming at the mouth, the manufacturers, one after another, surrendered to the scale demanded by their employees, but refused to sign under the seal of the IWW. This was, in fact, a double recognition of the IWW—first, the recognition of the IWW demands, by surrendering to them; second, the recognition of the IWW organization by playing the ostrich act.

The Paterson IWW weavers, enlightened by experience, avoided nailing themselves to an empty form. Their leaders, not anxious for fraternal junkets with the employer, did not sacrifice the interests of the rank and file to a shadow. For all practical purposes the manufacturers did recognize the IWW. Not

(Continued on page 7)

what is socialism?

Socialism is the collective ownership by all the people of the factories, mills, mines, railroads, land and all other instruments of production. Socialism means production to satisfy human needs, not, as under capitalism, for sale and profit. Socialism means direct control and management of the industries and social services by the workers through a democratic government based on their nationwide economic organization.

Under socialism, all authority will originate from the workers, integrally united in Socialist Industrial Unions. In each workplace, the rank and file will elect whatever committees or representatives are needed to facilitate production. Within each shop or office division of a plant, the rank and file will participate directly in formulating and implementing all plans necessary for efficient operations.

Besides electing all necessary shop officers, the workers will also elect representatives to a local and national council of their industry or service—and to a central congress representing all the industries and services. This all-industrial congress will plan and coordinate production in all areas of the economy. All persons elected to any post in the socialist government, from the lowest to the highest level, will be directly accountable to the rank and file. They will be subject to removal at any time that a majority of those who elected them decide it is necessary.

Such a system would make possible the fullest democracy and freedom. It would be a society based on the most primary freedom—economic freedom.

For individuals, socialism means an end to economic insecurity and exploitation. It means workers cease to be commodities bought and sold on the labor market and forced to work as appendages to tools owned by someone else. It means a chance to develop all individual capacities and potentials within a free community of free individuals.

Socialism does not mean government or state ownership. It does not mean a state bureaucracy as in the former Soviet Union or China, with the working class oppressed by a new bureaucratic class. It does not mean a closed party-run system without democratic rights. It does not mean "nationalization," or "labor-management boards," or state capitalism of any kind. It means a complete end to all capitalist social relations.

To win the struggle for socialist freedom requires enormous efforts of organizational and educational work. It requires building a political party of socialism to contest the power of the capitalist class on the political field and to educate the majority of workers about the need for socialism. It requires building Socialist Industrial Union organizations to unite all workers in a classconscious industrial force and to prepare them to take, hold and operate the tools of production.

You are needed in the ranks of Socialists fighting for a better world. Find out more about the program and work of the Socialist Labor Party and join us to help make the promise of socialism a reality.

... Uncertain Future

(Continued from page 1)

agreement will have to be negotiated and settled months in advance. If the funds are not available when the time comes to hammer out a new deal on our present offices or some new facility we must be prepared to vacate the premises by Aug. 31.

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all those who have responded to the crisis. Those who have will understand when we add that it is too soon to add our congratulations on a job well done.

Please do everything you can to

help the SLP overcome this crisis. Contribute, or contribute again, to the SLP Emergency Fund; become a regular monthly contributor to the SLP Sustainer Fund; send for the booklet *Steps You Can Take to Provide for the Financial Security of the SLP*.

And when you have done all that, turn to the friends, neighbors and co-workers with whom you have shared the SLP's message and urge them to get involved. If every member and supporter of the SLP will do these things we are confident that the crisis can and will be overcome. *But you must act now.*

A PAGE FROM WORKING-CLASS HISTORY

The Paterson Silk Workers' Strikes of 1911–1912

In 1911, mill owners in the broadsilk industry in Paterson, N.J., began to introduce the four-loom system in place of the two-loom system that had been in place for years.

The lead in the four-loom direction was taken by Henry Doherty, who also took the precaution of inviting the American Federation of Labor's United Textile Workers of America (UTWA) to "organize" his mill on condition that it discipline the workers to accept "arbitration" as the means of settling disputes.

The UTWA accepted Doherty's condition. When the weavers began to rebel against the four-loom system the UTWA discouraged them. Finally, disgusted with the union and the arbitration system, the silk weavers at Doherty's mill decided to strike. Two hundred of them walked out on Nov. 10, 1911.

The strike eventually grew to include 4,000–5,000 workers from mills in and around Paterson, and it spread to milling communities in New York and Pennsylvania. To coordinate and lead the strike, the weavers turned to another union. That union was the socialist and Detroit-based Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

The strike that began in November was brought to a successful conclusion in March 1912, when 100 of the 110 mills affected reached agreements with Local 25 of the Detroit IWW. When the mill owners failed to act on their agreements, the workers walked out again, and again the mill owners came to terms.

The Paterson strike of 1911–1912, and the socialist IWW that led it, should not be confused with the unsuccessful silk workers' strike of 1913 led by the Chicago-based anarchist IWW. The 1911–1912 strikes succeeded despite repeated efforts by the anarchist IWW and

the Socialist Party (SP) to interfere with and disrupt the strike in an effort to take over its direction. After the 1912 settlements were reached, however, local members of the anarchist IWW and of the SP, some of whom had scabbed during the struggle, helped the mill owners to identify and blackball many SLP and Detroit IWW men. Local 25 of the Detroit IWW, which had led the strikes of 1911–1912, was effectively undermined by these actions, and once they were the mill owners began to renege on their agreements.

As the mill owners resumed their efforts to spread the four-loom system, workers rebelled again in January 1913. Seeing its opportunity, the Chicago IWW moved in and succeeded in planting itself at the head of the strike.

The following article from the Industrial Union News of February 1912 is the first in a series of reports on the Paterson silk workers' strikes of 1911–1912 that will be reprinted in this and coming issues of *The People*.

The Industrial Union News was the official newspaper of the "Detroit IWW." Its reports on the strike were written from the scene by Russell H. Palmer. Readers of *The People* will remember Palmer's name from our August 1998 review of Anthony Lukacs' best-seller, *Big Trouble*, which was reputed to be a history of the 1906–1907 Haywood-Moyer-Pettibone trial in Idaho. Palmer attended the trial and his daily dispatches were printed in the *Daily People*.

The series will be followed by an epilogue summarizing the history of the silk strikes and the roles of the two IWW organizations.

—Editor

STRIKE IN PATERSON

INSPIRING ACTION OF SILK WEAVERS— LOCAL OF UNITED TEXTILE WORKERS DUMP FAKIRS OVERBOARD AND ORGANIZE IWW LOCAL

Craft Unionism Indicted— The 'Golden Rule' at Work

(Industrial Union News,
February 1912)

For over 12 weeks 200 weavers employed by the Henry Doherty Silk Co. have been valiantly fighting against a four-loom system which the company was gradually introducing into its silk mills in Paterson and Lakeview (a suburb of Paterson).

A four-loom system means that one weaver shall operate four looms, whereas two looms and no more have heretofore always been considered sufficient for one weaver. But the pockets of the silk capitalists cried for greater profits and the Doherty company attempted to double the number of looms upon each weaver without even increasing the wages to any appreciable extent. The wage of a four-loom weaver was set by the firm at only \$15.40 per week, although a weaver can earn about \$13 or \$14 a week on two looms, figuring on a piece work basis.

But it is not the wages that the striking weavers are complaining about—they do not want a four-loom system at all, realizing that the physical and mental strain on the workers would be terrific, and realizing, also, that with one weaver doing the work of two, 50 percent of the weavers would be thrown out of employment (if not immediately, within a very short time) and brought into competition with the 50 percent happening to have jobs.

The argument of the firm was and is that without driving the weavers faster than ever and squeezing additional profits out of them, the firm could not exist owing to the competition going on throughout the silk industry. Pennsylvania was especially pointed out as the field from which the fiercest competition emanated.

Nothing was said, of course, about the competition for jobs among the workers.

Previous to the strike the weavers employed at the Lakeview mill (who com-

pose the majority of the strikers) were members in good standing of Local 607, United Textile Workers of America, of which the notorious John Golden is president. The weavers employed in the Paterson shops of the firm were not members of any union, having severed their connection with the above-named local about a year before the strike, owing to having received an extremely dirty deal through arbitration (which is a cardinal principal with the UTW) on a class of goods called "grenadine."

The UTW had previous to this strike a working agreement with the Doherty company, which stipulated that any change in working conditions which could not be arranged between the firm and the employees, should be subjected to arbitration, and that, if either party to the agreement, not desiring to live up to its provisions, should wish to sever relations through it with the other party, three months' notice must be given.

Soon after the Doherty company built the big new mill at Lakeview they attempted to introduce a four-loom system in the hard-silk department. Indeed, your correspondent has been told by people who ought to know that the mill was built with the purpose in view of running four looms per weaver in both the hard-silk and the soft-silk departments.

There was quite a hitch when the company tried to enforce the four looms in the hard-silk. Considerable conferring took place but the local ended by endorsing, at the behest of its leaders (President Golden, Organizer Miles and Local Organizer Hubschmitt, a Socialist Party man, who told the writer personally that the new system spelled "progress"), that first step toward the complete ruin of the textile workers of Paterson.

From that time on a rumble of discontent spread itself through the mills, and the officers of the union began working behind the scenes.

Almost immediately after the inauguration of the four-loom system in the hard-silk the firm attempted to turn the same trick in the soft-silk, but this time the jig did not work and the "obstinate" protest of the weavers, and the obviously determined attitude of the firm caused the matter to be submitted to arbitration, with a judge by the name of Cabell of the neighboring city of Passaic as third man on the arbitration board with whom the decision rested.

While the matter was pending, Mr. Doherty, on behalf of his firm, wrote a letter to Organizer Miles of the UTWA (which was read to members of the local) in which Mr. Doherty stated that if the arbitration went against him his firm would not live up to it.

The firm commenced to put the three- and four-loom system into operation in one room of the mill, and as fast as the weavers in other rooms finished their warps they were told to either go to work on three or four looms or else go home and wait till the firm found work for them. (The irony of it all!) The superintendent was gradually stopping the looms in the two-loom rooms and starting more and more looms in the four-loom department. Did the Doherty company give the three months' notice required by the contract existing between them and the UTW? W-h-a-t?! Live up to a contract when it affects our material interests so closely? "Nothing doing" said the firm. "This is our mill and we intend to exercise in it the same rights enjoyed by the silk manufacturers of Pennsylvania and New England."

And they were exercising their rights, having brought some misguided wage slaves from New England to start the abominable system going.

The weavers grew impatient and indignant. President John Golden told them that his daughter was running six or eight looms "down East." They demanded that a strike be called. Their leaders urged them to wait "and not act hastily."

Upon insisting upon an immediate strike the edifying information was imparted to them that *although they were in good standing in the local, the local was not in good standing in the national body; there was no money in the local's treasury and a strike was impossible!*

The inevitable happened. The leaders were dumped overboard, the UTWA was repudiated and under the leadership of IWW men the weavers struck both mills of the company on Friday, Nov. 10, 1911.

It took the loom-fixers, twisters and warpers, who are affiliated with the AFL-ized UTW, just six weeks to make up their minds to strike with the weavers.

In the meantime the weavers of the Hollbach Silk company, who had been the backbone of Local 607, proclaimed their independence, retained control of the old headquarters at 184 Main Street, and offered to the strikers the

use of their hall and rooms.

The action of the loom-fixers and warpers in remaining at work for six weeks after the strike was called dealt a blow of considerable magnitude to the strike at the very outset. They excused (or thought they excused) themselves by saying that the weavers did not consult them before striking; that they had certain rules to go by, etc.

Their excuse is an indictment of their craft unionism, which condemns them to scabbery upon the slightest pretext. As to their claim that they were not considered before the strike—was not the union to which all belonged given every opportunity to act? And did not the procrastination of that union result in the three- and four-loom system being instituted over the heads of the weavers?

The strikers organized themselves, held several mass meetings, the attendance of each of which was about 2,000 persons, and establishing a *Strike Bulletin*, the first number of which appeared the second week of the strike. Seven numbers have so far been published.

The money collected for the support of the strikers from AFL sources was negligible. If the strikers had been dependent upon that they would have starved to death to the last man long before this. Most of the support came from the unorganized workers of the city; from locals of the Industrial Workers of the World; from branches of the Workmen's Circle and other lodges and from the Purity Cooperative Association, a baking concern, which has contributed \$25 weekly since the beginning of the strike.

Immediately after the loom-fixers and warpers came out (they call it a "sympathy strike" on their part!) the firm declared an open shop and placed ads all over the country for scabs.

This must have frightened the loom-fixers and warpers (the chief object of these narrow craft unions being to control jobs for their members), and added to the fact that they had taken the winders on their payroll, caused them to begin to waver.

Here we have the same motives that have influenced so many craft unions in the past to act contrary to the best interests of the working class—fear of losing control of the jobs and solicited for their precious treasuries. At the end of the 10th week of the strike suspicious movements began to make themselves evident and the classconscious and uncompromising element among the strikers began to get on their guard.

After some opposition a standing committee was elected to maintain a well-beaten path between the strikers' headquarters and the office of the firm.

Followed a few days of calm and then the storm broke. The loom-fixers and warpers requested the weavers to call a special meeting for Friday evening, Jan. 26, which was done. The loom-fixers and warpers attended in a body, accompanied and led by their paid business agents, Thomas Morgan and Jim Star. Rudolph Katz was also present, the privilege of attending and having the floor having been accorded to him by the striking weavers.

Both Morgan and Star indirectly advised the weavers to call off the strike and go back on terms not one whit better than those struck against. And both speakers vehemently, directly and personally, attacked Katz, calling him a cheap labor skate, etc.

When Katz attempted to take the floor in reply the warpers and loom-fixers tried to have the weavers deny him the floor and access to the meetings because he was not a textile worker. The weavers refused to do so, and the loom-fixers and warpers attempted to disrupt the meeting and create a rough house, standing and jumping and howling like barbarians in a war dance. During this exhibi-

(Continued on page 7)

...an Economy That Works!

(Continued from page 1)

sons from a single establishment, and the number of workers involved totaled 293,074. The number of layoff events and initial claimants for unemployment insurance were the highest for the month of November since the series began in April 1995. (November 2001 contained five weeks for possible mass layoffs, compared with four weeks in each of the prior three Novembers.) Over the January–November 2001 period, the total number of events, at 18,920, and initial claims, at 2,228,945, were substantially higher than in January–November 2000, at 13,061 and 1,508,849, respectively.”

Unemployment rose to an official 5.8 percent in December, up from 4 percent a year earlier. Leaving aside for the moment the millions the official unemployment rate doesn't count, that produced an increase of 2.6 million jobless workers. The first weeks of January don't promise much better for workers this year. General Motors announced a 10 percent cut in its

For workers, the solution to capitalism's contradictions and crises is a social revolution that will sweep away the capitalist relations of production and establish working-class ownership and control of the means of life.

salaried workforce. Ford announced that a total of 35,000 workers would be cut from its workforce over the 2001–2002 period, with most of the cuts coming this year. Merrill Lynch announced 9,000 workers would be cut from its labor force. Health insurer Cigna announced it would cut 2,000 workers. And so on, ad nauseam.

To make matters worse, any recovery, as *Business Week* online put it in a special Jan. 14 report, “won't be very impressive.” “For starters,” the report said “...it's unlikely that businesses will buy a lot more computer equipment or software until the fourth quarter at the earliest. Hard-pressed managers expect to continue to hold down capital budgets—along with inventories, wages and any other reducible expenses—as they cut costs and try to boost productivity.”

“Unemployment could continue to climb,” said the *Business Week* report, “as companies push fewer workers to do more....The soft landing everyone was predicting a year ago has been anything but.” The report added that “there is evidence that rising unemployment is dampening overall wage gains”—gains which had not yet made up for a 19 percent loss in

real wages from 1973 to 1996.

Workers can expect little improvement in their collective lot even if an economic recovery does come eventually. For even when a capitalist economy is relatively healthy, the needs of millions of workers remain unmet.

The problem is that capitalism simply doesn't operate to meet the social needs of the working-class majority which creates all goods and services. Instead, it operates to satisfy the profit interests of the minority capitalist class which owns the means of production.

Capitalist production is accordingly marked by grotesque social absurdities: extreme poverty in the shadow of obscene wealth, unemployment and idle productive capacity amid widespread social needs, and vast economic crises that periodically occur when the planless, profit-motivated production under the despotic control of the tiny capitalist minority that owns them churns out too many widgets that can't be sold at a profit.

This latter scenario is perhaps the most absurd contradiction with which capitalism plagues society. Under the economic dictatorship of the capitalist class, the “sacred” market ostensibly controls production. Capitalists supposedly produce only what the market will bear. But historically this has never been the case for long. Capitalism has been plagued since its inception with periodic economic crises brought on by contradictions inherent in its basic laws of operation that subvert the theory of market control.

The market is limited by what the overwhelming majority—the great working class—is paid for its labor power. Wages are merely the price of labor power. The labor power of workers actually produces far more wealth than the wages workers are collectively paid. The capitalist class is simply not able to buy up all the great mass of products produced, a fact which periodically produces a buildup of products that cannot be sold at a profit. Moreover, the results of many individual capitalist concerns setting their production levels at the quantities they hope to sell, despite the similar plans of their competitors, compound these periodic crises.

In short, the great social calamities produced by capitalism's periodic economic convulsions can be traced almost exclusively to two of its most central tenets: competition and the exploitation of wage labor.

As long as capitalism continues to exist, these contradictions can only grow worse. Capitalism, however, isn't the only possible social system.

For workers, the solution to capitalism's contradictions and crises is a social revolution that will sweep away the capitalist relations of production and establish working-class ownership and control of the means of life. Such a socialist transformation of society would eliminate private ownership of the industries and social services as well as profit-motivated production and set up in its place a socially owned economy in which production would be carried on for use—to serve society's collective needs and wants.

It is with the objective of creating such a society that the Socialist Labor Party commends its program of Socialist Industrial Unionism to workers. Socialist Industrial Unionism offers a program by which workers can organize to effect the needed social change and to establish the framework for operating a socialist economy.

Socialist Industrial Unionism calls on workers to organize politically to challenge, defeat and dismantle the state power that the capitalist class now wields in defense of its system. It also calls on workers to organize as a class into integrated unions that would set in motion the decisive social power workers are capable of exercising by virtue of their indispensable role at the point of production.

With the revolutionary defeat of capitalism, Socialist Industrial Unions would become the administrative bodies of a society in which workers would cooperatively and democratically carry on production. Organized along the lines of the economy, they would unite all workers in each industry and then integrate all the industries at the local, regional and national levels.

The principles of workers' democracy—direct election and immediate recall of all representatives, abolition of bureaucratic privilege, etc.—would ensure that these bodies would remain under the control of the rank and file.

Socialist society would no longer be convulsed by the contradictions that are currently wracking capitalism because class divisions will have been eliminated. The motive force of production would be social use instead of private profit. The economy would be organized for the express purpose of determining what needs to be produced and how best to produce it. The only limit on production would be social needs and wants.

The allocation of resources, including human resources, would be democratically planned by a society in full control of its productive forces. There would be no exploitation nor the consequent “crises of overproduction” due to the accumulation by the ruling class of commodities which workers cannot afford to buy. Instead of the anarchy of the market, the economic decisions upon which we all depend for survival would be made democratically.

Consider what it would mean for the world and the U.S. working class if the “Recession of 2001–2002,” as it will likely be called, were ended by the collective action of an American working class determined to never again allow the absurdity of shutting down production and displacing millions solely for the sake of the profit interests of a tiny, despotic minority.

The SLP can use the help of all who understand its program in its work toward a successful revolutionary transformation of society. For those of us who are already committed to this struggle, there is no better time than now to renew our energies and forge ahead. And for those of you who have until now been standing on the sidelines, there is no better time to join the fight!

—K.B.

activities

Activities notices must be received by the Friday preceding the third Wednesday of the month.

spring.com. The general public is invited.

TEXAS

Houston Discussion Meetings—

The SLP group in Houston holds discussion meetings the last Saturday of the month at the Houston Public Library, Franklin Branch, 6440 W. Bellfort, southwest Houston. The time of the meetings varies. Those interested please call 713-721-9296, e-mail houstonslp@lycos.com or visit the group's Web site at <http://houstonslp.tripod.com>.

CALIFORNIA

OREGON

Portland

Discussion Meetings—

Section Portland holds discussion meetings every second Saturday of the month. Meetings are usually held at the Central Library, but the exact time varies. For more information please call Sid at 503-226-2881 or visit our Web site at <http://slp.pdx.home.mind->

IN MEMORIAM

George E. Cameron

George Ewing Cameron, former National Secretary of the Socialist Labor Party of Canada, died on Sept. 24. He was 87.

Cameron “discovered” the SLP relatively late in life. However, after coming into contact with the Canadian party in 1961 he quickly absorbed its principles and became a committed supporter of the SLP. He joined the Canadian party in 1969 after his retirement from a government job where at least certain political associations were frowned upon.

Once a member, Cameron never faltered in his dedication. He demonstrated that commitment many times, but never more than in 1981 when he agreed to accept the responsibilities of National Secretary.

That was a difficult time for the Canadian SLP, which had recently weathered an internal storm and bounced back to mend what had become strained fraternal ties with the SLP of America. He held the office until 1986 when declining health convinced him that he should step aside.

Cameron was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on Jan. 22, 1914. His parents immigrated to Winnipeg, Man., five years later, where he would eventually earn an MSc. degree at the University of Manitoba.

He also taught at the University of New Brunswick and Memorial University. During World War II, Cameron, an industrial chemist, was an inspector of explosives for the British government.

It should be noted that Cameron was born with muscular dystrophy, a crippling and progressive disease that was inexplicably arrested in its development, but still had its debilitating effect. Despite the limitations this burden placed upon him, Cameron was also a member of the National Arts Center Orchestra.

In short, George E. Cameron was not only an intelligent, talented, principled and dedicated man, he was also a highly courageous one.

It is with heartfelt sympathy and regret that the SLP of America extends its condolences to Comrade Cameron's loving family and his comrades in the SLP of Canada.

Help Break Our Chains!

Support the Socialist Labor Party



Emergency Fund!

SLP • P.O. BOX 218 • MTN. VIEW, CA 94042-0218

This is my contribution of \$_____ for the SLP Emergency Fund. (Make checks/money orders payable to SLP.)

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Acknowledgments will be made in *The People*. Please indicate if a receipt is desired: Yes No. (Political contributions are not tax deductible.)

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... Silk Workers' Strikes

(Continued from page 5)

tion of craft unionism many women became so nervous they were forced to leave the hall.

When the excitement was somewhat subsided Katz commenced to speak and Messrs. Morgan and Star made for the door, followed by their trusting rank and file. Immediately calls of "cowards" and "traitors," and even "scabs," came from the surprised weavers and the denizens of the closed shop halted at the door and did not leave.

Katz gave them their money's worth; no one attempted an answer, but Mr. Star was moved by the spirit of craft unionism and capitalism to say that the weavers should return to work and leave it up to each individual weaver to keep out the four-loom system! Ye Gods!

At two more regular meetings of

the weavers, Wednesday and Friday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 2, the same performance was repeated, each time the weavers standing by Katz and telling the lovers of a big union treasury that they ought to be ashamed of themselves. Many of the weavers took the opportunity to secure the floor and rub some odoriferous past history under the noses of the disrupters.

This is the proposition which the firm put up to the weavers and which the warpers and loom-fixers want them to accept:

A 10 percent reduction of wages on two looms. No weaver would be forced to run three or four looms but could do so if he desired. On the third loom 30 percent reduction and on the fourth loom 40 percent reduction in wages. Not a scab to be taken back.

These conditions are worse

than those struck against. But the loom-fixing and warping departments would probably be "closed" and, also, the awful drain on the treasury would be stopped. And there you are.

The weavers, by a large majority, rejected such a settlement and the strike is being carried on with renewed energy in spite of the attempts of the emissaries of capitalism to throw a wet blanket on the struggle of labor.

Many of the strikers have joined Local 25 of the IWW, several other shops have come into it and a flowering organization is building up.

The strikers wish to thank the IWW locals all over the country for the support given and the interest shown the strike. More next month.

—R.H.P.

Paterson, N.J., Feb. 4, 1912

... 75 Years Ago

(Continued from page 8)

idiocy of fundamentalism, which should not be permitted breathing space, can impudently flaunt its nonsense in our faces and menace the education of our children. They do not seem to mind the teaching of evolution when applied to the stars and the Earth, even if that does collide

with the account given in the Book of Genesis—at least the text of the Minnesota bill would indicate as much—but when it comes to "the descent or ascent of mankind," their childlike vanity is hurt. They can't stand that—as if it was nobler to have been fashioned directly out of dirt like any other clay pot. Yet that element

has the effrontery to meddle with education.

*An allusion to the 1925 Scopes "monkey trial" at Dayton, Tenn., where John T. Scopes, a public school teacher, was convicted of violating a state law that prohibited the teaching of the Darwinian theory of evolution in public schools.

Funds

(Dec. 13-Jan. 11)

SLP Emergency Fund

Joan Davis \$400; Joseph & Shannon Carlson \$119.29; John Houser \$95; Orville Rutschman \$30; Elliot Podwill \$20; Rosemary & John Gale \$15; \$10 each Ron Myers, Joseph J. Frank, Robert Erlitz "In memory of Nathan Karp." Total: \$709.29

Christmas Box

\$500 each E.A. Irving, Irene Schelin, Anonymous; \$300 each Manual Vurnakes, Earl Prochaska; \$200 each Jim Tennyson, Joan M. Davis; Glenn Schelin \$178; John Walbridge \$150; Philip Colligan \$125; \$100 each Marty Radov, Harvey Fuller, Harriet Dolphin, Robert K. Hofem, Lois Ann Kubit, Phyllis Emerson, Gloria Grove Olman, Roy K. Nelson, Lois Reynolds, Bill Kelley, Karl H. Heck, George & Elva Frenoy, Kay Lewis; \$50 each Joseph C. Massimino, William E. Tucker, Avi Bortnick, Keith Wood, Robert F. Jensen, Louise Radley, Nick York "In memory of Genevieve Gunderson," Dimitre Eloff, Mike Ogletree, Dimitre Eloff, David J. Burns, Dr. L. Miles Raisig, Ben Kraft.

John-Paul Catusco \$45; Lawrence Hackett \$40; \$35 each William B. Scanlan, Jim Kane; Herbert Joyce \$28; \$25 each Mr. & Mrs. Harry Louik, David J. Tierney, Ron Somerlott, John Hagerty, Richard Deshaies, Robert Varone, David A. Wurdeman, Donald L.H. Scott, Lloyd A. Wright, Joseph T. Longo, Blake Bearden, Richard Woodward, Harry C. Segerest, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Burdua, Michael Preston, Frank & Betsy Kennedy, Willard H. Ryman, Thomas L. Throop, Robert Burns, Jennie Seekford, Barbara Graymont, Steve Druk, Margaret & Frank Roemhild; \$20 each Leonard Kitts, Emil & Jackie Bauman, Sarah Haggard, Randolph Petsche, Bill Conklin, Tom Sanchez, Patrick B. Moxhet "In memory of Diana Lynn Holzhauser," Evangelia Pahas, Robert Hatch, Mona Fraser, Jill Campbell & Steve Littleton, Dawn Moore, Bob Bastian, William D. Meadows, Rosanne S. Hostnik.

John M. Lambase \$17; \$15 each Donna Meyer, Thomas McEvoy, Bob Pasalich; Olaf Mend \$12; \$10 each Denise Jacobsen, Mary & Frank Prince, Anthony Perrotta, Irene Oppenheim, Joseph W. Wood, Mark McGrath, Keith Ocamb, Frank Bell, Emilia Grombala, Frederick L. Koenig, Anna Cantarella, Robert A. Nash, Charles L. Gerhard, Richard Mack, Mike Arcus, Edward Killian, Muchugia Mwasi, George E. Gray, Robert M. Garavel, Martin DeBella, James Lehner, Harvey P. Kravitz, Joseph Wood, Chester Skakun, Daniel Goodsaid, Harry Buskirk, Kenneth E. McCartney, Frank Rudolph, Dagfimm Sjoen, Robert Dougherty; \$8 each David Melamed "In memory of Genevieve Gunderson," Stephen A. Raper; \$5 each James D. Freeley, James Pandaru, Jack Lally, Diane Secor, Stefan Hawkins, Dan Axenty, Alphonse Eiden, Costanzo Rufo, Raymond Jones, Albert Perez, Marotte; Don Patrick \$4; Glenn E. Jones \$3; Richard Wilson \$2; \$1 each Craig L. Kysar, Anonymous. Total: \$6,417.00

Genevieve Gunderson Memorial Fund
Bernard Bortnick \$300; Howard Hecht \$25; Curtis Raisig \$10. Total: \$335.00

SLP Sustainer Fund

Karl Heck \$150; \$100 each Michael Preston, Bernard Bortnick, Chris Dobreff; Carl C. Miller Jr. \$50; Clayton Hewitt \$30; Section San Francisco Bay Area: William Kelley \$20; Section Wayne County, Mich. \$15. Total: \$565.00

Press Security Fund
"In honor of Louis Fisher" (\$500): Nina & Alan Dordek; Jack & Clare Fisher; Amy, Eileen & Andrew Dordek; Glenn & Benjamin Fisher; Chris Landgraff; Olivia Landgraff; Steve Dolinsky, Madeline Dolinsky & Max Dolinsky. \$50 each Ruth & Elaine Robbins "In memory of Louis Fisher," Marty Radov; Judy & Byron Pollock "In memory of Louis Fisher" \$35; \$25 each Martyn Witter, Matt Casick, Keith Wood; \$20 each Karl M. Zwicker, Ilhan Mimaroglu; \$10 each E.J. Pacharis, Marvin Ronis, Jon Gardner, John E. Kerr, Daniel Connelly; Arthur Fitz-Gerald \$5.20. Total: \$805.20

Socialist Labor Party
Financial Summary
(Dec. 1-31, 2001)
Expenses \$11,259.91
Income 10,915.27
Deficit for Dec. 344.64
(Jan. 1-Dec 31, 2001)
Expenses 143,905.47
Income 95,580.91
Deficit for 2001 \$ 48,324.49

Workers and the 'Workerless' Economy

By Robert Bills

- Technology & Sociology •A 'Workerless' Economy
- SLP Sounded the Alarm •The 'Knowledge Class'
- It's Still Capitalism •Capitalism or Socialism

8 pages — 50¢ postpaid

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS
P.O. Box 218
Mtn. View, CA 94042-0218

... De Leon Editorial

(Continued from page 4)

from manufacturers but from the working class does the IWW sue for recognition. They decided to ignore the manufacturers' refusal to recognize the IWW.

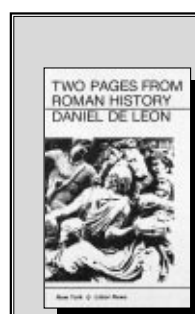
The Paterson IWW weavers planted themselves by their decision upon ground on which a victory cannot be turned into a defeat; upon ground that protects them against AFL sellouts; upon ground on which no future shackles, except such as their own negligence may forge, can be forged against them.

The sun insists not upon formal recognition. It enforces the same de facto. The declaration of the IWW weavers on strike, made at their monster meeting of the second of this month, is a new note in the labor movement of the land, uttered deliberately, free from the luridness of anarchy. It is a notification that the IWW places its dependence, not upon the smiles of the master, places its dependence solely upon the working class.

and threw out the political clause from the preamble of the IWW's constitution. The socialist elements in the IWW then set up headquarters in Detroit, and for a number of years there were two organizations calling themselves "IWW." The IWW that led the silk workers' strike discussed by De Leon was the socialist or "Detroit IWW." "The Chicago IWW," as the anarchists' organization came to be known, barged into the Paterson strike, depending on the notoriety of William D. ("Big Bill") Haywood in its attempt to take over the strike and the strikers.

*Morris Hillquit (1869-1933) was a leading figure in the conspiracy to split the socialist movement in 1899 and to set up the reformist "Socialist Party" (today's SP-USA) in opposition to the revolutionary SLP. He was a corporation lawyer, as well as a lawyer for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and other unions. According to the *Biographical Dictionary of American Labor*, edited by Gary M. Fink and published by Greenwood Press, Hillquit "was a member of the negotiating committee that secured a settlement in the 1910 cloakmakers' strike and led to the Protocol of Peace, which provided for conciliation machinery in labor disputes in the garment industry"—the same protocol that De Leon refers to in this editorial. The quality of Hillquit's "socialism" is displayed by the insidious notion that "capital and labor are partners" implicit in the protocol of the contract he drew up. Nevertheless, Hillquit is still presented as a "Socialist authority" by historians.

*The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) was founded in 1905 on a socialist revolutionary basis. In 1908, however, an anarcho-syndicalist element, using strong-arm methods, captured the organization's convention



An analysis of the so-called labor leader, or "labor lieutenant of the capitalist class," and a comparison with the ancient Roman plebs leader. A masterpiece of social portraiture and a study in revolutionary strategy and tactics. Contains also the famous "Ten Canons of the Proletarian Revolution."

120 pp. — \$3.50 postpaid

New York Labor News
P.O. Box 218
Mountain View, CA 94042-0218

BAJA BATTLE

Indigenous Mexicans Fight for Housing

By David Bacon

©Pacific News Service

ENSENADA, BAJA CALIFORNIA—Mexican President Vicente Fox won election in part because he promised, in the wake of the Zapatista rebellion, a new era of respect for the rights of indigenous communities. But his own National Action Party, which has governed the Mexican state of Baja California for almost two decades, stands accused of treating indigenous communities as a source of cheap labor for the state's big ranchers and arresting activists when they demand basic housing and government services.

The fight is not just in Mexico. Because tens of thousands of workers from the indigenous communities of the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca now labor in U.S. fields from Florida to California, protest against Baja authorities is coming from this side of the border too. Another reason the issue spills over: indigenous workers in Baja California pick the tomatoes and strawberries found in U.S. markets in early spring.

Throughout desert valleys here, landless migrant families who come to harvest the fields are squatting on federal land, trying to build permanent homes. Housing is simply not available, they say,



for all the indigenous Mixtecs, Zapotecs and Triquis who arrive to make up Baja California's agricultural workforce.

Police have jailed two of the state's best-known organizers of the migrant farmworkers, deeming them threats to the social order, and warrants have been issued for more than a dozen others. Almost all are members of migrant indigenous communities.

In May, Beatriz Chavez, leader for two

decades of the Independent Confederation of Farmworkers and Peasants (CIOAC) in the agricultural valley of San Quintin, was arrested by state Judicial Police. In December, Triqui community leader Julio Sandoval was picked up in Maneadero, a farm town just south of Ensenada.

Both were accused of leading illegal land occupations and remain imprisoned in Ensenada.

Organizers say that racism against indigenous migrants has become official government policy. "There's a crisis of justice in Baja California," says Julio Cesar Alonso, another CIOAC leader, "in which the leaders of social movements in this state are being systematically jailed." Alonso, too, is on the arrest list.

Reaction to the jailings has spread to Oaxacan communities in California, provoking outraged letters and telegrams to Baja California Gov. Eugenio Elorduy. "The policies followed in Baja are being dictated by big ranchers who don't want to see any kind of organization among indigenous communities," says Rufino Dominguez, coordinator of the Oaxacan Indigenous Binational Front office in Fresno, in California's agricultural heartland.

Baja ranchers remember strikes led by Oaxacans in Sinaloa and Baja's San Quintin Valley during the 1980s, reckons Dominguez, "and they're afraid that any kind of organizing effort is eventually going to lead to the same thing."

Chavez, the state says, led migrant farmworkers from the Ejido Graciano Sanchez onto land owned by the government. Sandoval is accused of seeking to double the size of a migrant settlement onto adjacent federal land.

After the Mexican revolution of 1910, a principle of national law maintained vacant federal land could and should be used to house those who had no land or shelter. But beginning in the 1970s, as the government implemented reforms dictated by the World Bank and other international lenders, and prepared to enter the North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Canada, traditional protections for the time-honored land occupations disappeared. An agency established to buy vacant land and sell it to the poor has not worked, charge the activists, putting families who participate in greater debt.

Meanwhile, land hunger on the peninsula remains intense. In Maneadero and the San Quintin Valley, thousands of workers are brought in every year from Oaxaca indigenous villages to meet the labor needs of large growers.

Wages remain low, making the strawberries and tomatoes cheap, even as ranchers' profits remain high. "While some workers can earn 80 pesos a day [about \$8] in the fields," says Domiciano Lopez, a San Quintin community organizer, "a kilo of meat costs 38 pesos in the local market—half a day's wages. Families here eat meat once a month."

Pressure grows because indigenous families are attempting to escape miserable conditions in work camps. Typically, families are crowded into single rooms, often with dirt floors and inadequate water and sanitation. Over 20,000 landless families live in San Quintin, for instance, but in the eyes of state and local authorities, they remain strangers.

In 2000, Mixtec activist Celerino Garcia ran for election as a federal deputy, as the candidate of grassroots organizations that sought to bring attention to the need for housing. Garcia didn't win, but the thousands of votes he received demonstrated growing anger among workers and the homeless. Last spring, activists sat in at municipal and state offices, and even blocked the main highway that connects the U.S. border with the south of the peninsula.

Then began the current wave of warrants and arrests, which shows no sign of abating.

"The struggle for housing has a long history in Baja California," Dominguez says. "It includes land occupations, because the government has never been willing to make land available in a legal way." When the legal avenues are shut off, barrio residents say, direct action is their only choice.

Question Period

Under socialism, can a worker be dismissed from a job for misbehavior, for breaking rules and regulations, or for other misconduct?

It must be understood that the discipline of workers under socialism will be something quite different from their discipline under capitalism. Discipline, of course, is essential under conditions

of cooperative labor, and the failure of one worker to obey rules and regulations can adversely affect the work of many. But the application of the discipline under socialism will reflect the humanity, enlightenment and democracy of socialist society. Today, under capitalism, when the capitalist is master, discipline is enforced with an economic whip that private ownership places in

the capitalists' hand. The worker is economically dependent, hence vulnerable to the threat of dismissal. Fear of dismissal—of being "fired"—usually suffices to persuade the worker to obey the rules. More, it usually suffices to impose a subservient pattern of behavior on the workers, which tends to be injurious to their personalities.

But under socialism the element of subservience will disappear. In the first place, the rules and regulations will not be arbitrarily imposed by a master; they will be drafted by the workers themselves, democratically, and with the understanding that obedience to such rules and regulations is essential for the common and collective purpose. Perhaps the workers will collectively prescribe penalties for infractions of the rules. Possibly they will find this unnecessary. But if it is necessary, they will do it. Moreover, since the workers are collectively affected by infractions, they will make sure that the rules are enforced and the penalties, if any, applied. In other words, socialism is not anarchy. It is order and efficiency for the common end of producing the greatest possible abundance with the least expenditure of effort.

How far could or would democratically imposed penalties go under socialism? Certainly not so far as to threaten to cut off the source of livelihood of a worker. It may be necessary, in the interest of the collective group, to replace a worker who habitually violates the rules. But the replaced worker would have a wide choice of occupations; economic opportunity would not be closed to the replaced worker.

Meanwhile, the educational forces of socialist society will stress the importance and advantages of discipline in collective effort. And the complete person, the person most admired and respected, will be the one who sets an example in disciplined behavior. In Marx's language, people will have stripped off the fetters of their individuality in disciplined cooperation and developed the capabilities of the species.

255075100 years ago

Fundamentalism in Minnesota

(Weekly People, Feb. 5, 1927)

Gerald R. Winrod, a fundamentalist from the enlightened State of Kansas, came to Minnesota and at the First Baptist Church of that city gave a public reading to the anti-evolution bill, the product of Dr. W.E. Riley, which is to be submitted to the Minnesota Legislature, or by this time has been submitted for all we know, that is, if some legislative moron can be found to father the thing.

The bill provides that violations are punishable by fines running from \$50 to \$200 but no jail sentences are apparently included, although these ought to be part of every law as an alternative at least in case some stubborn evolutionist refuses to be relieved of his dollars. The essence of the bill is contained in Section 1, which reads: "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it shall be unlawful for any teacher or instructor in any public school, college, state teachers colleges, or University of Minnesota, supported in whole or in part by the public education

funds of the State of Minnesota, to teach that mankind either descended or ascended from a lower order of animals." Section 2 thereupon makes it unlawful to use any textbooks teaching the same pernicious doctrine; Section 3 provides for the fines; and Sections 4 and 5 simply round up the measure in the usual way.

Has this attempt of the obscurantists to Tennessee-ize* Minnesota any chance of success? Perhaps not, at least not yet, though there is never any telling what may happen in these Benighted States of North America. The very fact that such a measure can be introduced in a state like Minnesota without being off-hand laughed out of court is significant; it shows that the wave of reaction is running high. The entire universe abounds with millions of facts attesting the soundness of the theory of evolution, cosmic, geologic, biologic, and on no other theory can that which surrounds us and of which we are a part be explained, yet so low is the intellectual level of the mass that the

(Continued on page 7)