

UNITE THE WORKING CLASS TO FIGHT THE CRISIS!

THOSE WHO TAKE THE MEAT FROM THE TABLE-TEACH CONTENTMENT
THOSE FOR WHOM THE TAXES ARE DESTINED-DEMAND SACRIFICE
THOSE WHO EAT THEIR FILL SPEAK TO THE HUNGRY
OF WONDERFUL TIMES TO COME.
THOSE WHO LEAD THE COUNTRY INTO THE ABYSS-CALL RULING TOO DIFFICULT
FOR ORDINARY MEN. (AND WOMEN.)

(Poem by Bertolt Brecht.)

The U.S. working class is fighting back. Employed and unemployed workers are becoming increasingly active. The key to success is a correct class analysis. We point to the fact that 90% of the U.S. population makes up the powerful working class. 90% of us must sell our labor power to a handful of monopoly capitalists, or perish.

To effectively fight the crisis we must work to unite the working class. We constantly point out how racism and sexism divides and weakens our struggle. The material basis of racism and sexism, the lower wages and higher unemployment of minority and women workers, hurts the entire working class, lowering all our wages. We must expose as false and divisive views that imply that some workers benefit from the super exploitation and oppression of other workers. These views falsely split our class, pitting us against each other instead of unifying us to fight the crisis.

Today, many speakers will not present a clear class view of the U.S., the present crisis and the tasks facing the working class movement. Some will present views that falsely divide us and lead us up blind alleys. For this reason we are putting forward the following analysis of the crisis and a mass program to fight the crisis. We hope you will take the time to compare our view with other literature you receive today and with the views expressed by the many speakers at the rally.

Monopoly Capitalism & The Crisis:

The present economic crisis is the inevitable result of monopoly capitalism. The anarchy of production, production that is based on profit, leads directly to economic crisis. The unceasing drive for capital accumulation produces massive permanent unemployment, which economic crisis enhances. Production is curtailed and prices jacked up to produce superprofits for the monopoly capitalists, bringing further economic stagnation and inflation. The monopoly capitalists accumulate huge amounts of capital which they cannot invest within the U.S. without undermining the monopoly system of restricted production and fixed monopoly prices. They export this 'surplus' capital and seek to monopolize foreign sources of raw materials leading to higher unemployment, lower wages, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and imperialist wars. Puerto Rico is one example of U.S. colonialism and its effects.

The U.S. economy continues to show massive stagnation, with critical industries operating at as much as 50% below previous production levels. Millions of workers remain unemployed. Vital social services are being cut every day. While sales, income, and property taxes are being raised, corporate taxes are being lowered.

For the capitalists things have not been too bad. Profits jumped by 34% over last year to an annual rate of some \$140.5 billion after taxes. This has been achieved by keeping down production, raising prices, and squeezing out 10% more output per worker while laying off millions. Clearly the capitalists are shoving the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the working class.

MASS PROGRAM

EMPLOYED & UNEMPLOYED UNITE! The employers want to use the misery they inflict on unemployed workers to press employed workers harder. Only unity will defeat these dual tactics. By keeping the unemployed in the unions, dues free, mandating the unions to negotiate benefits for them, we shall insure that unemployed workers will never be used as scabs.

FIGHT LAYOFFS! Layoffs cannot be accepted as unchangeable facts. When the company announces them we can fight. We refuse to speed up, to turn out the same production and more with far fewer workers, to boost company profits while some of us go hungry. We want no overtime while our brothers and sisters are out of work.

UNION JOBS! We are willing to work at a decent wage. We demand that these jobs be created. We do not want token programs but jobs on a big scale. These must be union wage jobs with union representation. Plans to force us to work at non-union wages or for our welfare checks must be stopped. Their purpose is to lower the wages of employed workers and use us as scabs and union busters.

INCREASE BENEFITS! We need large boosts in unemployment insurance to keep up with the cost of living. Unemployment insurance must be extended to all the unemployed for as long as they are out of work. Students just out of school, unemployed workers and many state, county, and city workers are just some of those who should be receiving unemployment insurance but are not.

NO CUTS IN SOCIAL SERVICES! Faced with the economic crisis, the employers using the state and federal governments, are diverting our tax money from social services to more profitable programs for big business. Military spending, tax breaks, interest on loans, and subsidies to Lockheed Corporation are a few examples. Education, day care, food stamps, health care, etc., must not be restricted but expanded.

FIGHT RACISM-FIGHT SEXISM! The struggle against racism is a vital struggle for minority workers and the entire working class. Racism is the businessman's tactic of dividing workers along color lines and undermining their struggles. The difference in wages that the employers maintain between white and minority workers yields the monopoly capitalists billions of dollars while supporting an entire system of economic and social discrimination. The worst working conditions, ghetto housing, more blatant police repression, discriminatory school systems, are some of the forms this system takes. On these facts visible to all, the employers consciously build their racist ideology. They tell white workers to fear the struggles of minority workers. They incite black workers against white workers. Who gains? The employers. Who loses? All workers. It is no accident that in times of crisis the employers find many subtle and not so subtle ways to whip up racist sentiment.

The difference in wages and working conditions between male and female workers does not benefit men but the employers who pocket the wage differential of some 30 billion dollars per year while avoiding the higher wages an undivided workers movement could gain. The forced exclusion of many women from the work force and the restriction of others to the lowest paying jobs, reduce women to dependency on men, demoralizes at least half our strength as a class, while serving to reinforce sexist ideology.

By fighting racist and sexist conditions on and off the job we can draw the working class together and obtain better conditions for all. We demand equal pay for equal work, jobs for all at union wages, free quality day care for all who need it.

FIGHT POLITICAL REPRESSION! To implement their crisis policies, the employers must prevent us from fighting back. They introduce bills like senate bill #1, designed to bust the unions and repress all views that point the way to effective struggle. In addition, they step up the legal and extralegal harassment of those people who seek to unite the working class to fight the crisis. Both legal and extralegal attempts at political repression must be fought if we are to effectively fight the crisis.

BUILD THE PARTY

The working class wants to live in a system where there is no crisis and jobs for all—a system in which we are truly independent—where we are no longer wage slaves, where the working class rules. We want a system in which we are no longer exploited and oppressed during the best of times and thrown aside or sent to die in wars during periodic crises. Such conditions can never exist under capitalism. Right now we can fight the crisis and demand decent benefits and union jobs. We can build our unions and unemployed organizations and win some reforms to help us now.

At the same time we must build a Marxist-Leninist Party able to lead the working class in its day to day struggles, while preparing and organizing our class for the time when we can smash the capitalist state and system, establish socialism, and go forward on the road to communism.

To accomplish this task we must effectively counter the two main weapons of the capitalist class, fraud and force. Our primary task today is to counter the constant barrage of lies and mistaken views coming at us from all directions. By overcoming mistaken ideas, bourgeois ideology, we can build a strong party of dedicated revolutionaries and prepare the working class, our forces to counter theirs. On the historic moment when the capitalist system wracked by its internal contradictions creates a revolutionary situation, the working class, lead by its party and armed with class consciousness and a clear understanding of its tasks, will smash the capitalist state and system, and gain through socialism its independence for the first time in our history.

FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM!

the NEW VOICE

Written by New Jersey Friends of The New Voice
P.O. BOX 1911 New Brunswick N.J. 08901
New York Friends of The New Voice
P.O. BOX 655 New York, N.Y. 10009