

March on May Day, International Workers' Day! Help build an independent political movement of the working class!

On May 1, 1886, U.S. workers gloriously stood up in a general strike for the 8-hour workday. Workers around the world identified with this inspiring struggle of American workers against the lords of capital, and since 1889 the most class conscious workers everywhere have commemorated May Day with meetings, protests, strikes and other mass actions to help advance the working-class struggle. Today, with the capitalists and their governments continuing to strip the working people of almost every political and economic gain they have made through generations of struggle we should continue this great tradition in the streets of Seattle. Let us unite to build a movement that stands up for the most oppressed, a movement that fights against economic privation, a movement that aims at overthrowing the modern-day source of exploitation, oppression, and ruin of the earth--an independent political movement of the working class!

Stop the deportations! Full rights for all immigrants!

The immigrant rights movement shows why political independence is needed:

In response to the huge immigrant rights demonstrations of 2006-2007, Obama and the Democrats said they would pass "comprehensive immigration reform" if they were elected, while the Democrat-allied trade union officials and mainstream immigrant rights groups who spoke at rallies *hid* the fact that the Democrats' reform bills were filled with outrageous attacks on immigrants. But due to conflicts between the varied capitalist interests the Democrats were trying to serve, this reactionary legislation fell apart, although the Democrats controlled both houses of Congress. And now, with the Republicans controlling the House, any "comprehensive reform" would surely be even worse.

But the Democrats did accomplish one thing--Obama has become the biggest deporter in U.S. history: the "deporter-in-chief." The Democrats have acted this

way because they fight for the interests of the rich just as much as the Republicans do--although more deceptively--and it's very profitable to super-exploit immigrant workers when they have no rights and live in fear of deportation. This inhuman situation for migrant workers is also then used by the employers to drive down the wages and conditions of all workers. Hence, workers of all nationalities should help build the movement to stop all deportations, support the hunger strikes by immigrants locked up in detention centers, and continue to build the movement for full rights for all immigrants!

The fight for higher wages, including a \$15-an-hour minimum wage

The riches of the owners and executives of the giant corporations have sky-rocketed while the real wages of the workers have been stagnant or declining for decades. Why? The last big U.S. strike wave was in 1970-71! Then, beginning in the late '70s, in the name of "saving jobs," the capitalists began a bipartisan offensive to demand worker concessions. And the trade union leaders have been part of this anti-worker onslaught. Thus, while Boeing has been making record profits and has a record backlog of orders, when it threatened to move production of the 777X to a lower-wage part of the country, the top leaders of the IAM ganged up with the state Democratic Party officials to give Boeing more state aid and impose an atrocious 10-year contract on Boeing machinists. Moreover, Boeing can still outsource and subcontract work to low-wage locations, and is doing so. (See the leaflets at <http://communistvoice.org/New.html> for more on the Boeing events.)

To resist and reverse this capitalist economic onslaught is going to require a revival of the strike movement, and that is going to require workers taking matters into their own hands to build organizations independent of and against the Democrats and the present trade union apparatuses in order to fight for class-struggle policies within the

present unions, to organize wildcat strikes when feasible, and to organize the completely unorganized workers (93% of workers in the private sector) into unions.

Such a class-struggle perspective must also be at the heart of the struggle of low-wage workers for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage. Both parties in Washington oppose this increase. (For example, with the Republicans now controlling the House and the movement for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage developing, Obama has come out for a miserly \$10.10 an hour minimum.) But since the \$15-an-hour demand is so popular, various local Democrats go along with the \$15 slogan while demanding many exceptions be made to it. And in this regard, it's notable that the SeaTac \$15-an-hour measure exempts parking lots with as many as 100 spaces and 25 employees, while a judge has ruled that the airport can just ignore the law! Thus, real strikes and other mass actions are still going to have to be organized, and the labor bureaucrats cannot be relied on to do that. The new activists in motion are going to have to rely on themselves, while realizing the protracted nature of the fight they're taking up.

May Day is a revolutionary holiday!

Economic crises, super-exploitation of immigrant workers, unceasing battle by the capitalists and their political parties to drive down the wages and conditions of the working class, racial and sexual discrimination, militarism, wars, and destruction of the ecosystem all go hand in hand with the capitalist system of production. But because of its place in the

system of production, the historical mission of the working class is to sweep aside the capitalists, landlords and other bloodsuckers who ultimately live off the workers' labor power, and to replace capitalism with a socialist society, a society in which the liberated people plan and run production to serve their needs--including protecting the needs of nature.

And in close connection with developing the current mass struggles, part of building the socialist movement is exposing the treachery of the pseudo-socialists (revisionists) who undermine the class struggle by working to chain the working class to the coat tails of the capitalists' Democratic Party and labor bureaucrats in this country, and their brethren globally: e.g., the revisionist South African "Communist" Party, which tried to justify last year's Marikana massacre of striking black miners by the ANC government; the revisionist Cuban government, which has slashed over 109,000 health care jobs as part of its neo-liberal program of austerity and privatization; the Chinese revisionists, who almost daily send the police or military to crush strikes and pollution protests while the exploiters enrich themselves. If any of that represented socialism, who would want it? Moreover, even at their best, trade unions are but a rudimentary form of working-class organization. Thus, building an independent workers' movement requires organizing many other kinds of organizations in the course of the class struggle, including, first and foremost, a truly working-class political party.

Long live May Day, fighting holiday of the world's workers!

International Workers Day march and rally

Thursday, May 1, 2014 March departs at 3:00 p.m.

611 20th Ave. South in Seattle (behind St. Mary's Church)

Sponsored by El Comité and the May 1st Action Coalition

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