

SPECIAL FARMWORKER ISSUE

Capitalism in the Fields

Cause of Misery And Unemployment

BUILD UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEES!

We call ourselves "campesinos" in Spanish. But in truth, we are rather the sons and daughters, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the small peasants who worked the land.

Today we are members of history's most thoroughly revolutionary class. We are the rural, the agricultural proletariat.

Each day, every day of the year that we can find a market for it, we sell the only thing we have of real value - our ability to work in the fields. And every day the capitalist grower bleeds our labor dry, exploits his profit out of us.

Our labor in the vineyards, the fields, the orchards, the rice paddies feeds the millions of our country. We harvest the cotton, the tobacco and all the other agricultural raw materials used in production.

Once we labored on small farms. In 1930 the labor of one agricultural worker fed only 10 people.

But in 1960, the labor of one of us fed 25 and today each of us feeds

FIGHT FOR JOBS!

48 people. Yet we go hungry ourselves and see our children undernourished.

Our work has always been the most brutal, the most oppressive, the most exhausting. The economic laws of capitalism, the drive for maximum profit, keep agricultural production more backward than industrial production. And for this we must pay with our bodies, our health, our lives and the lives of our children.

Because we face the most miserable living and working conditions, our ranks are made up mainly of those sections of the working class that are everywhere the most exploited and oppressed: women, youth and the national minorities.

In California and the Southwest the cries of "Huelga" and "Viva la Causa" testify to the role of the Spanish speaking workers in our struggle. But alongside the Mexican and Filipino national minorities among us and the

(cont. on p.2)

Workers & Oppressed People of the World UNITE!

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August 15

Continue the Struggle for Unity!

UFW Convention

Stop Deportations!

The Communist Labor Party greets this convention of the United Farmworkers of America as a milestone in the struggle of our class. It represents the culmination of one stage in the farmworkers' struggle - the winning of the right to union elections in the fields of California. We greet the coming together of thousands of farmworkers to discuss and decide the next steps in their struggle for a decent life. As Communists, we would like to lay before the farmworkers our analysis of the steps necessary to move that struggle forward.

Marx spoke of the workers struggle to organize and unite to bargain with their employers. He pointed out that in relation to the struggle for com-

plete emancipation, the real benefit that comes from the union movement is the ever increasing unity of the workers themselves.

The farmworkers have begun to achieve this kind of unity. In the next months and years, the struggle will continue in the union drive. If we fall for the chauvinism of the imperialists and fight only for the workers of the USNA, rejecting the internationalist struggle for the

workers from the colonial nations, we are doomed to failure.

Union organizers in the fields are signing up both documented and undocumented workers. This is the beginning of the recognition of this truth.

But the practice of assigning blue cards to undocumented workers and then giving the bluecarded workers the lowest seniority for hiring, undermines this gain. It means not fighting for the full recognition of the undocumented workers and their full rights as union members. It sacrifices the undocumented workers first to unemployment instead of fighting for their equality and for jobs for all workers.

The opportunism of saying to these workers, "sign up and fight for our union" and then limiting their rights and benefits, limiting the union's support of them, will divide and weaken the union for the struggles ahead.

Real unity can only be built as documented workers fight for all the rights - in the union and for full civil rights - of the undocumented workers. For only then will we assure that the workers from Mexico fight side by side with their fellow workers from the USNA.

It is not the Mexican workers in the USNA who are responsible for unemployment and the crisis of capitalism. They come to this country because imperialism has condemned the working class and

(cont. on p.2)

Read the
**PEOPLE'S
TRIBUNE**

Support Texas UFW

The fight for jobs and decent standard of living is occurring throughout the USNA. One of the focal points of this struggle is the efforts of the farmworkers in Texas to create a closer unity between documented and undocumented workers. The goal of this struggle is the union recognition of all the workers, both documented and undocumented.

In Texas, the fight is going on in a hostile atmosphere, this being one of the poorest and most oppressive

areas in the USNA.

The wildcat melon strike in May began the first farmworker strike in the Rio Grande Valley since 1967.

Eleven farmworkers were wounded by a grower's shotgun; this did not stop the struggle but pushed it forward. The melon strikers need our moral, financial and political support. Send letters and contributions to: Texas Strike Fund, Box 1493, San Juan, Texas.

Cause of Misery

(cont. from p.1)

minorities from the countries of Latin America, labor the Arabs, Hindus, Indian peoples, minorities from the countries of Asia, the Negro national minority and the poorest Anglo-American workers.

In the West we are only about 3/4 of a million. But as we join hands with the farmworkers from Texas and across the South, we are a million and a quarter more - the vast majority of us the Negro people of the Negro nation and the South.

Our hands reach north and east to the million and a half more - Mexican, Negro and Puerto Rican national minorities and other Anglo-American and immigrant workers in agriculture across the USNA. We will let no one divide us from each other. For our movement is one, our cause is one - the cause of the working class.

The twin burdens of oppression that we bear as workers and as people from colonial nations living in the imperialist country, weigh down on us and double our hatred for the imperialist class which is the enemy of every worker.

We labor in primitive conditions. But the laws of the development of capitalism have turned the small farms into factories in the fields. The big banks of "agri-business" have gobbled up the small farmer. These finance capitalists have consolidated and centralized farming and have been able to introduce a certain level of mechanization to increase their profits.

And yet we are paid less for our labor than workers in any other occupation. And more mechanization has meant nothing to us but more unemployment.

The giant monopolist growers cry for their profits and say they cannot "afford" to give us a decent

wage, year-round employment or the standard of living all workers deserve. Well, if they can't do it, someone else will have to. And that someone will have to be the workers themselves.

Nationalization of Agriculture

The growers can no longer feed those of us who work for them. Agriculture is so concentrated that it is ripe for nationalization. Part of our struggle must be to fight to see that this takes place.

The state should run agriculture - but NOT to keep the growers' and the bankers' profits intact. No! We must struggle to see that nationalization is carried out in the interest and under the control of the agricultural workers, in the interest of the entire working class.

This struggle can organize and develop our ranks for the battles ahead. Through it, we can raise the question of the state and the capitalist class it serves. We can lay the problems we face at the feet of the government, where they belong.

We can raise for all to see that capitalism is no longer capable of meeting society's needs and that only the proletariat, in the name of all society, can provide the solution to the problems we face. Socialism is the only road for us.

The Fight for Jobs

The road to socialism is not an easy one. Our unions, as important as they are to us in determining the conditions under which we sell our labor power, cannot lead us along it. The solutions we seek go beyond the trade unions and call into question the whole system of exploitation of labor itself.

We may win unionization in the fields. But the fascist military dictatorship the capitalist class is

preparing could and would smash the unions with terror if we are not prepared to stop it.

We may win \$3 or more an hour for our work. But mechanization is already robbing us of jobs. Mechanical grape pickers and lettuce harvesters are being developed which could replace our skilled hands and trained eyes. The capitalists will use these as it becomes profitable and "union scale" will mean nothing to the millions of unemployed.

Our unions are one of our weapons against the capitalists. Unemployment Committees and Councils are another. Unemployment Committees are becoming more and more important with the growth of the economic crisis and the move toward fascism. They will be able to fight for us on every battlefield, wherever we are attacked.

But who will lead this struggle? Whose hand will wield these weapons? We will only be successful if they are in the hands of the class-conscious workers, the vanguard of the proletariat which understands its role in the struggle for socialism and is organized in the revolutionary party of our class, the Communist Labor Party.

It is up to us to build the party and the struggle for socialism. For us in the fields, on the ranches this means we must build groups of workers which study and apply the science of Marxism, the science of socialism to our struggles.

Only from such a base of strength and with such leadership can we insure that, in the every struggle we are in, we remain independent of all the influence of the bourgeoisie, which strives to preserve capitalism and that we move on the most direct route to our emancipation.

Led by our revolutionary political party, the vanguard of our class, we will be able to travel the road to socialism, to society run by the workers - on the farms, in the factories - one working class!

Convention

(cont. from p.1)

peasantry of their homeland to poverty and hunger. They are only fighting for their own survival and that of their families in coming to work here. Each one of us would do the same.

Because of the situation they have created, the imperialists are able to force some of the undocumented workers to scab on our strikes and the imperialists use the weapon of deportation to keep them from fully supporting our struggle. Is our answer to force them back to Mexico? That only assures that they remain a reserve of strength for the imperialists.

No! Let us fight for the workers from Mexico! Let us win them to be our reserves. The UFW organizing drive in south Texas has been an example of this. As they organized at the border on the bridges across the Rio Grande, thousands of workers joined the union in support of the melon strike in one day. Of course, the growers and the state responded with terror. But such class unity can not be broken with terror.

Our union is one of the most important mass organizations of our class. It gives us strength in the fight for economic benefits. We must not let the bourgeoisie destroy it by dividing our ranks with their ideology of chauvinism.

Workers have no country! Our allegiance is to our class!

Fight for the rights of the undocumented workers! Fight for Jobs for all!

Stop Deportations! Open Borders!

JOBS WITH PEACE



SUBSCRIBE TO THE WESTERN WORKER

Our party, the Communist Labor Party of the USNA, publishes two newspapers in addition to the Western Worker/Obrero del Oeste. The People's Tribune is our national political paper in English. The Tribuna Popular is our central organ in the Spanish language. Our pages are open to you for contributions and letters. We will gladly help you in distributing our press.

Throughout the country our Party is playing a leading role in the formation of Unemployment Committees and Councils and in the fight for jobs. We are anxious to give advice and aid to workers who can see the crucial importance of this struggle and want to enter into it.

For more information on our Party, our press and the working class movement, write:

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