

Poland: Workers Expose 'Socialism'

Rebel against High Prices

WARSAW, POLAND, June 26—The Polish Government withdrew its plan to raise food prices up to 69 percent. The government was forced to cancel the price increases after workers all over the country went out on strike and rebelled against increases. This rebellion, the second one in six years against price increases, proved that Poland is a capitalist country, and not socialist as it claims to be.

AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED the price increases, workers held meetings in their factories to decide what to do. These meetings turned into sit-ins and strikes all over the country. At the shipyards of Gdansk and Szczecin, workers staged sit-in. Other strikes took place at the Zerna Fiat auto plant in Warsaw and Warynski crane plant.

Workers at the Ursus tractor plant near Warsaw tore up rails and hurled metal and wooden barriers across the tracks stopping the train traffic. The 700 strikers, according to the N.Y. Times (June 26) were asked if they want to discuss the situation and they responded: "We don't need to discuss. We go back when the prices are put back." Workers sat-in the tracks. The same article quoted another worker who said: "The whole of Poland is on strike today. The Zeran car workers across the Vistula river are on strike, and men in the shipyards on the coast are also out."

In Random, a leather tanning center 60 miles south of Warsaw, demonstrators fought the police as they burned the headquarters of the revisionist "Communist" Party. During the rebellion in 1970, 20,000 workers burned the revisionist offices in Gdansk while they sang "The Internationale" (The revolutionary anthem of the international working class)

The power demonstration of the workers might force the downfall of Premier Piotr Jaroszewicz, a scape goat for the failure of capitalism here.

POLAND IS A CAPITALIST COUNTRY

The reality is that the workers here are realizing that Poland is not a country run by the working class but a capitalist country. Just a few days before

the price increases, the government ceased building public apartments opening the way for private enterprise in the building of most private dwellings. Also more than 53 percent of Poland's land is in private farms. The government is in a dilemma because these private farm owners want more money at the expense of the working class.

The workers of Poland must build a new Communist Party and fight for a real socialist revolution. Reality is proving that the Polish bosses cannot fool the workers anymore with their "socialist" cover, but, the bosses here, backed by their Soviet masters, will try again to increase prices. The only way to stop them is to fight for socialism.



SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, June 28—Strikes by bus workers, taxi drivers and a one day strike by telephone workers welcomed the two days summit meeting organized by President Ford and the bosses of the big capitalist countries. Thousands demonstrated the day the meeting began.

The Commonwealth Oil Refinery locked out 850 workers during negotiation of a new contract. CORCO, which supply 70 percent of all gasoline here, refuses to accept the union's demand for a two year contract with a dollar an hour increase per year.

Haiti: First Strike in 16 Years

PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI—The first strike in 16 years took place here in late May when 300 workers at the French-owned Cimex d'Haiti cement plant went out on a one day strike when they couldn't get a 30 percent wage increase. The workers were forced back to work after the fascist government of Jean Claude Duvalier brought in troops to break up the strike.

This was a historic struggle by the Haitian

workers. Jean Claude's father, Francois Duvalier banned all strikes during his rule, opening the way for more than 300 U.S. companies, and many more from other countries, taking advantage of the dollar a day wages paid to the Haitian workers.

Miners Strike

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA—More than 50,000 miners continue on strike here demanding 100 percent wage increases. The miners now make about \$62 a month. The strikers are also demanding the removal of the military occupation of the mines and return of dozens of their leaders who have been exiled by the rightwing government of Hugo Banzer, and the freedom of all those arrested. The government has only offered a 30 percent wage increase. Two miners and three student supporters have been killed since the strike began last month.

The government has not only occupied the struck mines, but also has shut off water and electricity to the miners' communities. Students at nine universities and workers at several factories have been also on strike in support of the miners. The strike is affecting the tin production in this country and is costing the government US\$800,000 a day in lost revenues.



Sacramento. Progressive Labor Party, joined demonstrators in a march called by a Coalition to demand the indictment of cops who murdered 14-year old Tyron Guyton.

Boston: Rank-&-File Organizes

Militant State Workers Strike Betrayed

BOSTON, June 26—Tens of thousands of Massachusetts state workers, after defying all the bosses' laws and injunctions for days and organizing a militant strike with virtually no help from the union leadership, were sold out on the third day of the strike.

ON THAT DAY A STATE JUDGE, HAVING issued every back-to-work court order in the book without success, slapped enormous fines on the treasury of the union (called the Alliance, and made up of AFSCME and SEIU) and on misleaders Doyle of AFSCME and Quirk of SEIU. Faced with a choice between their wallets or the workers, Doyle and Quirk caved in and ordered everyone back to work without any contract and without any back-to-work vote. All these sell-outs got in return for the three-day strike was a "neutral" mediator.

This cowardly sell-out stands in sharp contrast to the strike itself. Organized completely by the rank & file, it was growing more militant and spreading

with each passing day. The newspapers were hysterical about the "wildcat character" of the strike. At almost every work location there were mass picket lines to stop scabs. Sympathy strikes of state workers technically not in the Alliance sprouted across the state—among CETA workers in Boston, at Worcester State College, at U. Mass. in Amherst and at U. Mass. Medical Center in Worcester. Despite cop-inspired assaults on picketers by racists attempting to divide black and white workers, multi-racial unity prevailed (see last issue of CHALLENGE). On many picket lines, both in Boston and throughout the state, Black and Latin workers provided the most militant leadership and best organization, and white workers were following that lead. Even the bosses' newspapers acknowledged the success of the strike. In spite of every attempt of the media to discredit the strikers, there was enormous public sympathy evident to anyone who watched reaction to the picket lines.

The power of a united working class was evident to all. Laws, injunctions, cops, smear campaigns in the media were all powerless to stop the strike. Then it was sold out by the bosses' agents, Quirk and Doyle.

By ending the strike, these hacks gave up the only bargaining chip the union had at the negotiating table. The press is now reporting that the misleaders have lowered the original pay demand by 30 percent and agreed to a three-year instead of a two-year contract. Layoffs are apparently also part of this "deal."

The layoffs to which the misleaders are now agreeing are bound to be racist in character, most severely affecting temporary and provisional workers, a disproportionately large number of whom are Black and Latin. Such a racist sell-out will only weaken the union by dividing it, since minority workers will see, correctly, that the leaders have not acted in their interest. And such

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