

Boston busing used to divide working class

The Boston School busing plan--is a strategy which flows from the class and national oppression which is part & parcel of the system of monopoly capitalism--and is being used by the ruling class to divide the working class and set one nationality against another. That sums it up.

When the Boston schools opened on Sept. 12, thousands of white parents began a boycott of schools in some areas, especially in the South Boston neighborhood, in reaction to a court-ordered busing plan that called for busing 15,000 children, supposedly to achieve "racial balance" and desegregation.

In a rally before the busing began Sept. 9 and in subsequent rallies and public statements leading politicians made the purpose of the ruling class clear. Several members of the Boston School Committee (the school board), including chairman John Kerrigan and South Boston lawyer Louise Day Hicks, point to Blacks as attacking white working people's education. Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy "supports busing" and points to "backward, racist whites" as the problem.

WHAT'S THE REAL PROBLEM?

The busing plan pits various neigh-

borhoods and nationalities against one another and creates no real improvement at all in the schools. The plan does not distribute funds and resources more equitably, nor does it deal with the fact that there are not enough resources for all the schools in Boston!

The Boston school system is bad and getting worse--in both the white and Black working class communities, with the minority schools getting the worst. And the busing/anti-busing controversy is a perfect example of an issue which heightens the contradictions of people of different nationalities, with the goal on the part of the ruling class of getting people to fight each other for educational crumbs.

UNITY KEY TO SOLVING PROBLEM

To deal with this it is necessary to unite the people--Black and white--against our common enemy--the ruling class and its agents such as Kerrigan, Hicks and Kennedy and groups like the KKK, to fight for a better education, better school facilities, etc. for all the children. This means in the Boston situation also organizing progressive whites and Blacks to fight white chauv-

inism and narrow nationalism in their respective communities.

And within this general struggle, it is essential for everyone to fight the oppression and discrimination against Black people and other oppressed nationalities; concretely, by recognizing that schools in predominantly Black areas are generally the worst anywhere and focusing on the demand to improve them and also by fighting against discriminatory housing regulation, plan and patterns that create and further develop the ghettos and barrios.

It is important to realize that the ruling class, especially in times of severe economic and political crisis such as now, always resurrects issues like busing, to create tensions and divisions among the people so that it is harder for them to unite against the ruling class that is responsible in the first place for national oppression and the lousy education system and cutbacks.

And when not thoroughly exposed, their attempts can cause temporary setbacks for the working class, as in Boston, where there has been fighting between Black and white students in the schools and cases of older whites attacking Black people.