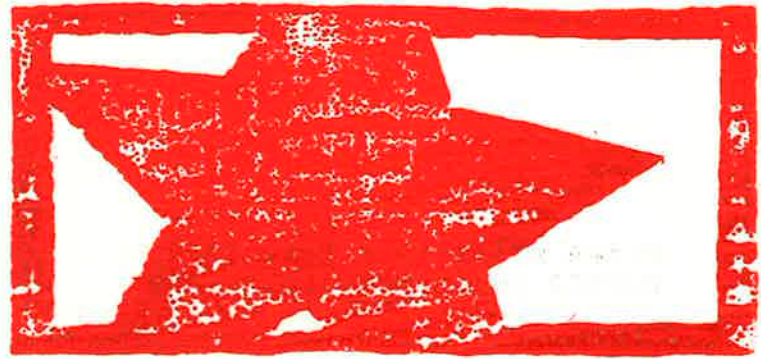


STATION DEPARTMENT
500 NEW YORK

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**workers
with
no names
illegal aliens in the
U.S.**

by
THE AMERICAN WORKERS PARTY



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introduction

This pamphlet is about "illegal aliens" - undocumented immigrant workers. The problems faced by these workers and all other workers affected, have their basis in "imperialism".

Imperialism is the modern stage of capitalism, which is the present form of the economy in the U.S. Under imperialism, huge monopoly corporations not only dominate their own country, its economy, government and workers, but they extend their exploitation and domination systematically and internationally - to other countries.

The development and "progress" of capitalism is uneven - it benefits some of the people (the rich) and exploits the vast majority of the people (the workers and poor).

Imperialism, as a stage of capitalism, has the same effect upon nations - some benefit and become rich, some are exploited and kept from developing.

It is imperialism itself which uproots workers, forcing them to migrate from

the farms to the cities, from agricultural to industrial regions, from less developed countries to imperialist countries, in search of a livelihood.

The "flip side" of this particular feature of imperialism is characterized by the "runaway shop".

It is imperialism which is responsible for exporting jobs in the form of runaway shops, and importing labor in the form of immigrant workers, both "legal" and "illegal".

It is imperialism which produces this uneven, chaotic flow of jobs (employment opportunities) and labor (workers) among nations, without regard for those most affected - the workers.

We will attempt to explain how this happens and what workers can do about it.

illegal aliens: who are they?

Present estimates are that there are five to ten million "illegal" or undocumented aliens living in the United States. These human beings - some with families, some sending money back to their homelands to support their families, and others seeking a life freer from poverty and misery, or political asylum - are all without proper papers allowing their presence in the U.S.

Politicians have raised the spectre that these "illegals" are taking jobs from Americans. Workers standing on unemployment lines often join the chorus "Save the jobs for Americans." The press and tv have generally supported the cry "Send them back to where they came from." Yet the "illegal" in our country fulfills a function that in fact is essential to the capitalist economy of the U.S.

They perform the lowest-paid, menial, unskilled jobs that are generally rejected by American workers.

Because they are mostly unorganized, legally unprotected and discriminated against, they are forced to work for wages lower than the average American-born worker. Exploitation of these

workers' cheap labor by the capitalists provides a source of super-profits, without which the capitalists would not be able to expand and make even more profit and continue to be capitalists.

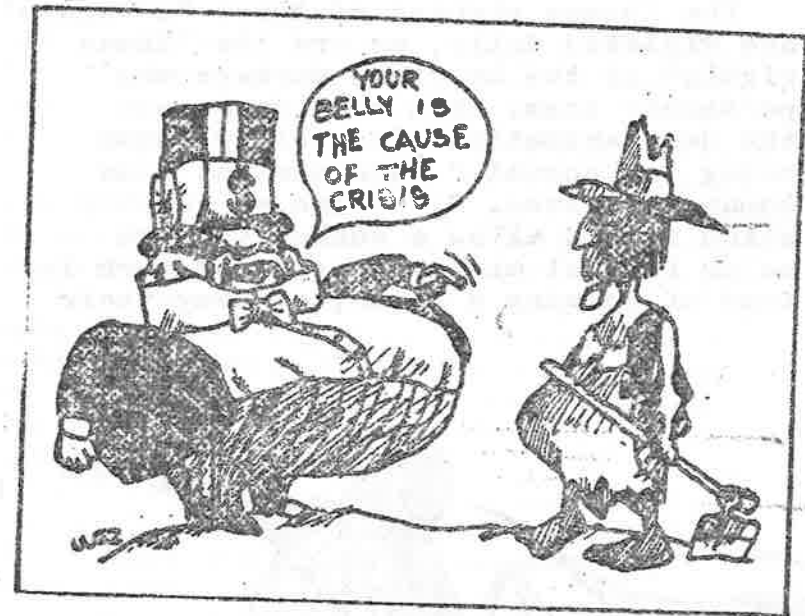
In 1965, approximately 128,840 "deportable aliens" were found in the U.S. by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). There has been a steady increase of undocumented immigrant workers, which peaked in 1974, at 788,145.

In 1975, the latest figure available, there were 766,600 deportable aliens found, a decrease of 2.7% from the year before. Yet there was a 25% increase in the number of aliens actually deported by court order during the same time. (18,750 in 1974, 23,438 in 1975)

These undocumented workers, recruited or otherwise encouraged to immigrate to the U.S. and exploited by the corporations during times of economic expansion, are made scapegoats and blamed for the high unemployment rate in times of recession.

Few jobs are taken by the "illegals" that are sought after by American workers. The farm laborer, the ditch digger, the porter, the worker in marginal industries, the garment shops, etc. are the jobs that most "illegals" fill. They are the minimum wage and sub-minimum wage worker, afraid to complain, afraid to apply for unemployment insurance (though entitled) or disability

insurance, living in the worst housing, ghettoized and discriminated against because of color and language.



The situation of undocumented foreign workers is not an American phenomenon alone. The statistics of unemployed in European nations do not count the migratory worker, i.e. the Greek, Turkish, African, Italian or Portuguese worker in West Germany, Belgium, Switzerland or France. These uprooted foreign workers fulfill the same necessary function for European capitalism as they do for the present American economy.

These men and women, when laid off, are herded into railroad trains and shipped out of the country like cattle. The migratory worker cutting cane and harvesting bananas on the islands of the Caribbean is left to starve without return fare to his or her native island when the harvest is over. All these

people around the world are the "illegals." The heartlessness of the corporate owners, the capitalist class, is not an exclusively American characteristic.

The "human rights" of these "illegals" are violated daily, as are the "human rights" of the American workers who persecute them. Each time we accept the dehumanization of a fellow human being as "normal," we are a bit less human ourselves. Each time we quietly stand by and allow a worker to work below federal minimum wages, or work in fear of joining a union, or deny their

happy to exploit us no matter what country we come from. This violation weakens the struggles of all workers in all countries.

When the capitalists "go international" and the governments of capitalist countries follow an imperialist policy of intervention in the affairs of other nations, it is time for workers of all nations to ask themselves where their real interests lie. Are the interests of workers international? Or are workers' interests limited to national interests?

In other words, should workers of all nations stand together in a truly international spirit of solidarity, against an increasingly international capitalist class? Or should workers of one nation divide themselves against workers of another nation and thus weaken their own fight against bosses who themselves don't care what country they're in?

We communists believe that the tie that binds workers of all nations together is much stronger than the tie that binds the workers of one nation to the bosses of the same nation.

The fancy words we communists give to this "tie that binds" is "International Proletarian Solidarity." One meaning of this in practice is to act to protect the rights of "illegals" living in our country.



'Some of my best friends are "illegal aliens." Who else would do such miserable work so cheap?'

name while hiding behind somebody else's name and social security number just because they are not "American", we violate the tie that binds workers of all nations together in their common struggle against bosses who are



these migratory workers would be a big step forward for both. However, the courting stage between these unions is not yet complete, primarily due to the hesitancy of the American unions.

Unfortunately, as the New York Times reported in the summer of 1978, some of the leaders of the Mexican farm workers were arrested for violating Mexican labor laws, i.e. for organizing these migratory and Mexican farm workers. The silence of the American labor movement is deafening regarding the imprisonment of their trade union brothers. Only a handful of organizations, mostly on the West Coast, even acknowledge the repression of trade unionists in Mexico. Our silence belies the constant refrain among communists and socialists that calls for "International Proletarian Solidarity."

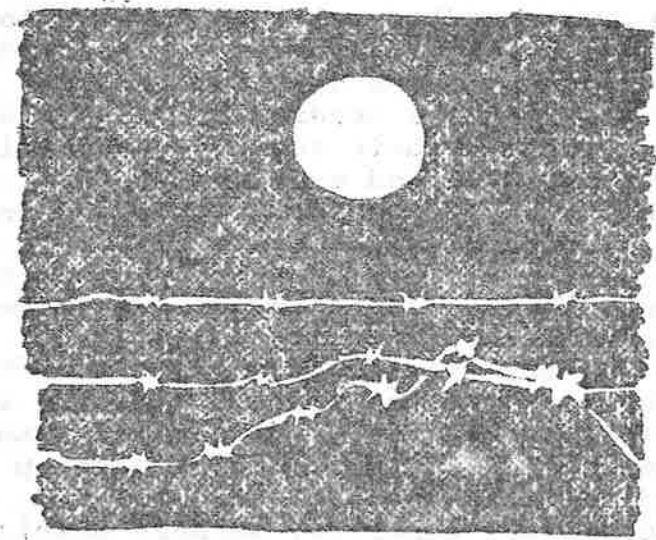
labor's response



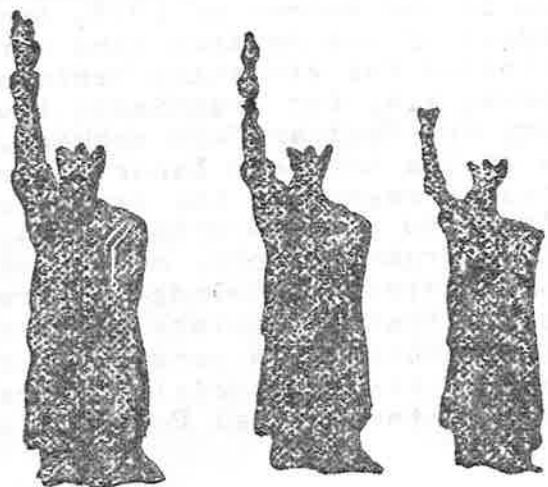
Labor unions have finally begun, in small part, to acknowledge their responsibility to these "illegals." Cesar Chavez, of the United Farm Workers, has finally changed his position in regard to these workers, recognizing

that these "illegals" are the soul of the farm worker. Without welcoming them into his union he is providing a vast reservoir of scab labor for the farm owners. It has been shown that the interest of farm workers is to bring these "illegals" into their unions and guarantee union wages and security to these men and women.

Mexican unions and organizations have extended their hand in cooperation. A pact between the Mexican workers' unions and the United Farm Workers pledging mutual cooperation and protection of



The International Ladies Garment Workers Union has issued a manifesto demanding that "illegals" be allowed to work and live in the country which extended its arms to "the tired, the



poor, the huddled masses, yearning to breathe free." They have protested the raids on the shops by the Department of Immigration, the herding of "illegals" into vans and their summary deportation. They have demanded equal wages and working conditions for all workers in shops, regardless of their status as "legal" or "illegal." This approach has helped their present organizing drive in southern California.

However, this is only the tip of the iceberg. Almost 60% of all garments sold in this country are made abroad in non-union shops with the worst sweatshop conditions imaginable. In Korea and other Asian countries, workers practically live in the factories, working six and seven days a week, eating in the company

cafeteria, sleeping in large dormitories, earning 20¢ per hour.

An example of the magnitude of the runaway shop problem is shown in a survey by Business International, a consulting agency for multinational corporations. The companies used in the sample increased jobs overseas by 33%, while new jobs in the U.S. rose a mere 3% from 1969 to 1973.

In Central America the U.S. garment bosses make deals with resident generals and civilian politicians to manufacture clothing at 30 to 80 cents per hour. Similar working conditions exist in most South American countries.

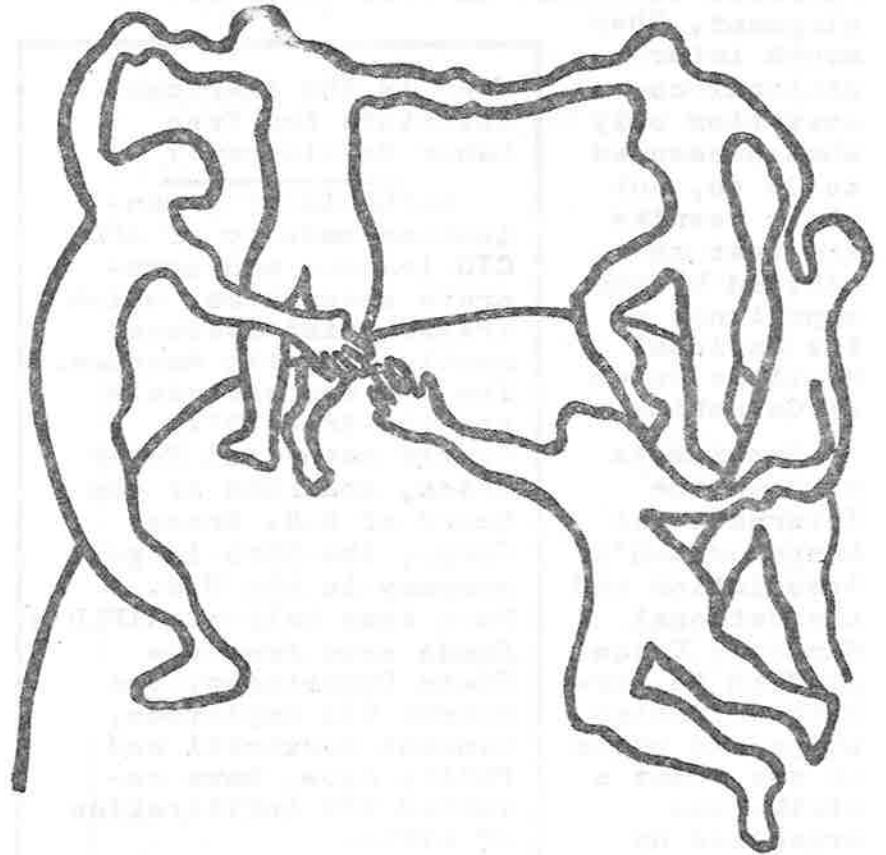
National unions in these countries must fight the fear of the workers, the terror of the military, and the absentee multinational employers in their struggle to raise the wages and improve the



... And finally, I'd like to thank Consolidated Amalgamated for making this coup possible."

working conditions of their people.

In America, the home of these multi-national corporations, the trade unions usually call for quotas on imports. The answer is NOT quotas. The answer is multi-national organizational efforts by American trade unions with those of other nations. The answer is worker solidarity, the same principle that we use within one shop, within one union, within the entire labor movement in the country. This principle must be extended to include of the workers of the world.



In spite of the urgent need for international union cooperation in the fight against the huge multi-national corporations, today the AFL-CIO has withdrawn from almost all international trade union bodies and congresses. They cooperate with the State Department and are infiltrated by the CIA through the American Institute of Free Labor Development. They mouth international cooperation only when pressured to do so, but their results are best exhibited by the experience of the National Maritime Union of Columbia.

Presidents of both the International Longshoremen's Association and the National Maritime Union pledged to boycott Columbian ships and ports in the event a strike was organized by Columbian sailors. Indeed a strike developed, and when these two American unions were called upon to fulfill their

What is the American Institute for Free Labor Development?

AIFLD is an organization made up of AFL-CIO leaders and corporate executives, which trains union leaders, mostly in Latin America. The two top officials are the AFL-CIO's George Meany and Peter Grace, chairman of the board of W.R. Grace Corp., the 50th largest company in the U.S. More than half of AIFLD's funds come from the State Department. Two former CIA employees, Vincent Marchetti and Philip Agee, have revealed CIA infiltration of AIFLD.

The North American Congress on Latin America has accused AIFLD of attempting to "undermine the militancy of the Latin American labor movement."

the American unions would honor the strike if they would pay the wages of the American workers respecting their picket lines and strike. This is one instance among hundreds experienced by unions in other nations seeking cooperation in their struggles with multinational corporations.

The official position of the AFL-CIO on "illegal" immigrants is that they take jobs away from Americans and that legal restrictions on them should not be relaxed.

In recommendations for the platforms of the 1976 Democratic and Republican parties, the AFL-CIO says:

Besides narrowing employment opportunities, their willingness to accept low-paid jobs, as well as "sweatshop" conditions, directly undercuts area wage and working standards, making unionization of non-union shops difficult, if not impossible. Illegal aliens are also often employed as strikebreakers in labor disputes, thus weakening collective bargaining rights of union workers.

Is this also the policy of the AFL-CIO toward unorganized workers, women and minority workers, who are in similar situations? The experience of the labor movement in this country proves that the solution is to organize the unorganized, not blame the victim.

the struggle

Today, major American corporations have opened plants just south of the border, employing thousands of Mexican workers at \$1.20 per hour. Going to the

what is

In the development of capitalism, smaller companies are continually bought out by larger ones and monopolies are formed. In the U.S. today we see huge corporations such as AT&T, Exxon, General Motors, undersell and out-produce their smaller competitors in "free trade", and then turn around to fix prices and eliminate competition in this monopolistic system.

The drive for ever-higher profits takes these monopolies around the world in search of more markets, cheaper labor and cheaper raw materials. These monopolies, in combination with banks, control more and more of the world's capital (money, machines, technology, which are used to make more capital). This "finance capital" is then used to control more and more of the world's production and economic development.

In addition to exporting goods (Coco

South of our country did not provide a sufficient return for their insatiable desire for super-profits. This is only one example of imperialism as practiced by American corporations.

Imperialism, as we have noted, is the penetration, often to the point of domination, of foreign economies, by another nation's monopolies, through the export of profit-making capital. (see below) The United States is the leading imperialist nation today.

Mexican unions have approached some American unions requesting aid in their organizing drives. These contacts have been on a rank and file and lower echelon full-time trade union level. The World Federation of Trade Unions indicated it would try to become a vehicle of co-operation between the national unions involved, but to this day, they too have

imperialism?

Cola was famous as one of the world's first universal products), the industrial-financial monopolies now export capital (setting up factories - "runaway shops", investing in foreign industry, sending technicians overseas). By their power to pick and choose what countries and industries get the capital, these monopolies actually determine the economic development of those countries.

Historically, this development has been to the detriment of the people of that nation, since imperialist corporations will develop only whatever industry is most profitable. For example, imperialism has made the Caribbean Islands dependent on sugar cane production, to the neglect of other industry needed by the people. It is equally as detrimental to the workers in the imperialist nation since only the corporations reap the profits and the workers, meanwhile, have to compete for jobs internationally.

been nothing more than a center for anti-imperialist rhetoric. (However, of all international bodies, the WFTU presents the best possibility of making the struggle against multi-national corporations a reality, if we can ever get them off their rhetoric and into action.)

The struggle against American imperialism must take place on the shop floor and in the union hall. It is the responsibility of American workers, through their unions (local unions at first and then the internationals), to demand co-operation with other national trade unions in the organizing of workers employed by the multi-national corporations in foreign nations.

The problems of runaway shops, "illegal" immigrant workers, etc., the products of imperialism, should be discussed on the shop floor and in the union hall. American workers cannot afford to go on trusting the solutions offered by politicians who are the pawns of the multi-national corporations. These politicians solve problems in the interest of the corporations, not in the interest of the workers.

The fight for the rights of "illegals" is, therefore, a multi-phase struggle.

One, for the legal right for all workers to work in any nation free from fear of deportation and discrimination.

Two, a fight on the part of American workers to safeguard their own wages and working conditions by bringing all workers, "legal" and "illegal", into their unions, not by persecuting them. To repeat, the experience of the labor movement in this country tells us to organize the unorganized.

Three, the struggle in all nations with the co-operation of unions in the

United States, the dominant imperialist power, to organize workers of all nations, raising their wages and improving working conditions through international co-operation. Indeed, the way to fight runaway shops is to organize all workers in such multi-national firms.

Four, it is in the joint action of multi-national unions that International Proletarian Solidarity becomes meaningful to the working class of all nations. It is in international co-operation among unions that workers can begin to see the effect that the working class can have when it unites in its struggle against the power of the corporations.

Five, the struggle for socialism, as the only solution to these problems for the working class. The struggle for socialism will go to the heart of the problems of "illegal aliens". It is imperialism which causes these problems, and it is socialism which will solve these problems by eliminating the cause - imperialism.

Why socialism? (conclusion)

Capitalism forces workers to compete against each other for jobs, for a livelihood. Workers are continually being thrown out of work because of automation. Skilled trades are being made obsolete by assembly-line type division of labor. There are fewer jobs and more people who need jobs - thus increased competition. The competition among workers for jobs makes their "price" (their wages and living and working conditions) go down.

The goal of trade unions under the present economic system of capitalism in the U.S. is to organize the workers to defend their jobs and raise the "price" of their labor power (by squeezing a little more from the owners).

But when companies pay workers more, their profit rates decline. (A profit rate is the ratio between what the companies - the capitalists - pay out to workers and what they keep for themselves - the profit.) If capitalists cannot maintain an increasing profit

rate, through expansion of capital (the money, machines, technology, etc., which is used to make more capital) and markets, and through increased productivity of workers (fewer workers producing more goods), they cannot remain capitalists. They cannot "stay in business".

The goal of trade unions is to reduce competition among the workers themselves, to help workers stand together as one in their struggle with the bosses to raise their "price".

When trade unions operate effectively, when they do the job of protecting and advancing the workers' share of the capitalist pie, when the workers' "price" goes up, the capitalists, in order to "stay in business", bring in other workers at a lower wage, or move their plants to areas where there is unorganized cheap labor. Thus competition among workers is not eliminated, it is spread. Workers now compete on an international scale.

Unions can have some influence on government policy. They can demand that "illegals" be given the same legal rights as other workers. They can demand that companies compensate the workers for lost jobs when they shut down and leave an area. Unions working together internationally can put pressure on the multinational corporations and take some of the pressure off workers.

But unions in and of themselves cannot completely eliminate competition among workers because unions under capitalism can only seek to defend the workers' jobs and raise their "price", which itself leads to more competition. Unions under capitalism are limited to the terms of capitalism and try to "make do" under those terms.

When workers stand together and demand better wages and working conditions, which is their only chance for survival, corporations will look elsewhere for cheaper labor - to the unorganized regions of the world. Or they will import unorganized labor - recruit foreign workers, whom they discriminate against in order to keep under-paid. The competition for jobs from the unorganized workers will bring down wages until the workers are brought into the unions and their standards are improved. Then the cycle repeats.

A vicious cycle.

The two-fold problem of "illegal aliens" and "runaway shops" is caused by this system, imperialism, a development of capitalism, and imperialism's constant search for more profits.

The real solution for the working class for these problems is to eliminate all competition among workers. But this cannot be done as long as there are capitalists who must increase their profit rates in order to "stay in business." This cannot be done under the capitalist system in which corporations own and therefore have full rein over the tools of production and can control and determine production.

The only real solution for the working class is to get rid of this system entirely, and replace it with a new system, socialism, in which the working class controls society and runs it in the interest of the vast majority of people - the workers.

the american workers party: who we are

The American Workers Party is an American communist organization.

We believe that the American working class is at odds with the capitalist class on every major issue because the basic problems of the working class cannot be solved under capitalism.

We believe that capitalism cannot provide a safe, productive, meaningful life for all, and that the continued existence of capitalism is increasingly dangerous to the world's people.

The American Workers Party is a political organization based on democratic principles and disciplined methods which seeks to join with other political organizations to unite the working class - men and women, black, white and Hispanic, young and old - in its fight against the injustices of the capitalist system.