

CLASS STRUGGLE AND THE TEACHERS STRIKE

As the teachers' strike continues to unfold, the antagonistic relationship between the capitalist class and working class becomes more evident. Each day the capitalists and their agents increase their attacks on workers, students, parents, and teachers. In response to this attack we must unite all who will struggle for the interests of the working class, into one mighty fist that will smash all the capitalists and their agents, and once and for all end all exploitation of working people by establishing a society run by and for the working class--socialism.

THE TWO GREAT OPPOSING CLASSES--WORKERS AND CAPITALISTS

Under capitalism society is divided primarily into two great enemy camps, into two opposed classes--the capitalist class and the working class. The capitalists own all the wealth and power in society. They own the factories, plants, mines, land, banks, and railroads. The working class has all the oppression and poverty. The capitalists are at all times attempting to increase their profits and wealth. They can only do this at the expense of the working class. We can clearly see the results of the capitalists' attack today--inflation, unemployment, cutbacks in health services, welfare, and deteriorating public education. With these attacks the indignation and resistance of the workers grow and they spontaneously begin to fight against the capitalists. Communists must see that this struggle goes beyond fighting for higher wages and against cutbacks, and gets at the root cause of the problems--the capitalist system.

The struggle between the capitalist class and the working class is manifest throughout society. All of the battles involving workers, students, national minorities, welfare mothers, veterans, prisoners, old people, women--all these battles reflect how the capitalists oppress the entire working class. This struggle is also manifest in the current teachers strike, and it is important that we know which forces represent the interests of the working class and which forces represent the capitalists.

TO WIN THE STRIKE THERE MUST BE WORKING CLASS UNITY

We view the deteriorating conditions of the Kansas City public schools as an attack by the capitalist class against the working class. As we said earlier, the capitalists' drive for profits can only be successful if the working class is forced to make the sacrifice. To the capitalists, the education of the working class children is not a profitable venture. Consequently, public schools are allowed to deteriorate. Capitalists invest in more profitable areas, such as spending billions for bombs and missiles to be used against other peoples of the world. Because this is an attack against the entire working class, we must analyze what forces in this strike must be united so that our struggle will be successful.

First, we must unite with the teachers and support their just strike for quality education. The demands of the teachers are demands that all workers should support, since these demands will improve the quality of education that our children receive. The rank and file teachers have waged a heroic struggle against numerous attacks and we must unite with them to ensure that their struggle is not in vain.

We must unite the students. Working class children end up as the real victims of the capitalists' attack. Many of our children finish public schools today and can not adequately read and write. The overwhelming majority of the public high schools in Kansas City are sub-standard. They are understaffed and under-equipped. There is absolutely no way quality education can take place in this situation. The students must be made aware of the causes of this deterioration. They must understand that the root cause of the problem is capitalism, and that they must join with the working class in the struggle for socialism.

We must unite the parents. The parents are justifiably angry that the school system, to which they pay thousands of dollars in taxes, does not adequately prepare their children with the necessary tools to function adequately in society. During the course of the strike many parents have come together and organized themselves into a united group. This is a good thing. However, parents can not isolate themselves from the rest of the forces engaged in the struggle. They must unite with the teachers, students, and workers to ensure real unity in our common struggle against a common enemy. Failure to build this unity will lead to grave consequences. We must oppose all those who struggle against uniting with all the forces that are struggling for working class interests, for this unity is essential.

We must unite with the workers of Local 12 who were fired for honoring the teachers' picket line. The custodians, maintenance, and cafeteria workers who refused to cross the picket lines are to be commended. Their actions show that many workers recognize the need to demonstrate our unity with our brothers and sisters in struggle. We must realize that an attack on any group of workers is an attack on all workers, and it is the responsibility of all workers to support the struggles of our brothers and sisters wherever they may be. We must fight against the attempts of the capitalists to bust the custodians and cafeteria workers union, and demand that all fired workers be reinstated.

We must unite with all workers and others who support the just struggle of the teachers. Many workers have supported the teachers by walking the picket lines and demonstrating in support of the strike. This is a good example of working class unity. And unity is the key ingredient in this current struggle. As we can see, there are many forces that can

and must be united in order to win the strike. We must build firm unity among teachers, students, parents, and all workers. No one group can win the strike alone. And any attack on one group is an attack on all groups. The capitalists and their agents will do all they can to disrupt this unity. They know that a united working class movement threatens their criminal rule. We must be clear that it is the capitalist system that should be the focus of our attack. It is this system that brings all the misery on working people. Only when we make our struggle a conscious one for socialism will we be able to achieve real victory and end the misery of the working class once and for all.

WE MUST OPPOSE THE CAPITALISTS AND ALL THEIR AGENTS

Now that we know who we must unite with, we must also be very clear on who we must oppose in this strike. As we said earlier, the capitalist system is the root cause of the problem. Consequently, we must oppose the capitalists, all of their willing servants, and all of the agents among the working class forces who represent the capitalists' interests. Who are these forces?

First of all there are the capitalists. These are the rich bosses who are the real wielders of power in society. They are the ones who deny our children quality education in order that they can reap more profits. They are the rulers of the capitalist system which is responsible for all the misery and poverty in society. We must wage a ruthless struggle against these parasites. Only when they are destroyed, and their wealth and power expropriated, will inflation, unemployment, poverty, and all the other misery of capitalism end.

We must oppose the school board. The school board members are only lackeys of the capitalists. Their role is to direct the attack against the working class for their rich bosses. They face the public, tell the lies, fire the teachers, fire the workers, and do the capitalists dirty work within the school system. Some people have tried to extricate some members of the school board because they are Black, Chicano, or women. But it makes no difference. They all represent the same interests--the interests of capitalism.

We must oppose Superintendent Wheeler. Wheeler also is a well paid lackey of the capitalists. It is Wheeler who is responsible for the sham education going on in the schools now, and who has done his best to help bust the teachers union and Local 12. Many of the community "leaders" have tried to cover for Wheeler, claiming he is on our side. The masses of parents and community residents have seen through Wheeler and these "leaders". They recognize him for what he is--a bootlicker who vigorously opposes the struggles of the working class.

We must oppose the capitalist court system. The working class must never rely on the courts for solutions to our problems. The role of courts and judges is to enforce capitalist law, and laws under capitalism only benefit the rich, propertied classes. The courts, by their jailing of teachers and threats to jail workers who support them, have shown clearly which side they should ~~XXXX~~ on in this struggle.

We must oppose those "leaders" who work among us and support the capitalists and their system. These people are the most dangerous of all because they project themselves as our leaders, and sometimes have wide influence among the masses. We call these people social props. They help the capitalists prop up capitalism by spreading illusions among the masses. For example, in the community, PUSH, NAACP, SAC 20, and others all lead people to believe that our struggle should be waged within the capitalist system--not against it. They have the masses relying on politicians, judges, ministers, etc.--people who are well-paid servants of capitalism and have no interests in struggling for socialism. Among the parents there are "leaders" who have opposed the need to support the teachers strike and also made attempts to ban communists from speaking in parents' meetings. What they fear is their own exposure, for communists only tell the truth about capitalist society and why we should struggle against it. Among the working class there are trade union bureaucrats such as George Meany and Norm Hudson. These people also mislead workers into thinking the system will work for them and vigorously oppose the struggle for socialism. All these misleaders must be driven out of the working class struggles. If it were not for their influence the capitalists could not rule for very long. Therefore they are important to the capitalists and the capitalists will do all they can to glorify them.

THE CLASS STRUGGLE WILL LEAD TO SOCIALISM

We have shown what forces lie on both sides of the class struggle between workers and capitalists. We must move to unite with those who will fight for working class interests and oppose those who interests lay in maintaining capitalism. This is the only way our struggle will be successful. We must view the teachers' strike in the context of the class struggle--the working class against the capitalists. And we must resolve that our struggle will be for socialism--a society where there is quality of life and equality among people.

SUPPORT THE TEACHERS STRIKE!!

INTENSIFY THE CLASS STRUGGLE!!

FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST REVOLUTION!!