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RED WORKER

The Political Newspaper of the GEORGIA COMMUNIST LEAGUE (M-L)



TWO FACED SHOW

"NIXON REBUFFED AT AFL-CIO CONVENTION IN MIAMI" "MEANY GIVES NIXON SLAP IN THE FACE." This is what many of us heard on the radio, the TV and in the newspapers about what happened when Nixon went to Florida to present the ruling class' PHASE TWO plans to the national AFL-CIO Convention.

HAS GEORGE MEANY SUDDENLY DECIDED TO FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE WORKERS AGAINST

THE CAPITALISTS? How can it be that Nixon received such a "cool" reception among a group of delegates who back home in their local unions and shops generally hold back the class struggle and try their best to establish "peace" between the workers and the employing class? HAVE THESE SO-CALLED LABOR LEADERS HAD A SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART???

RED WORKER thinks the answer is NO.

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ATLANTIC STEEL UNION FOR THE MANY OR THE FEW

Steelworkers' Local 2401 and Atlantic Steel Company have just signed a new contract. It appears to be a good contract calling for a forty cents per hour across the board raise in the first year and increased fringe benefits—in all about a 10% increase in wages per year for three years. But this forty cent wage increase doesn't even make up for the loss in buying power due to runaway inflation in the last three years.

What looks like more is less. Since 1967 the cost of living has gone up at least 25%—a quarter on a dollar. That means a worker making \$3.00 an hour needs a 75¢ raise just to catch up.

GEORGIA COMMUNIST LEAGUE WHO WE ARE

The Georgia Communist League is an organization dedicated to socialism and political power for the working class.

Our views and aims are based on the history and lessons of the working class struggle against capitalism.

Capitalism produces two *absolutely opposed* classes of people—the *working class*, which produces the wealth, and the *capitalist class*, which takes the wealth. In the long run capitalism works so that the capitalist class gets smaller and wealthier, and the working class gets larger and poorer. The system of capitalism—the system of the private ownership of the factories, mines, large farms, and other means of producing—causes mass poverty, unemployment, and low wages for workers.

The only way to abolish this conflict between capitalist and worker, wealth and poverty, is through revolution—the armed struggle of the working class to seize state power from the capitalists. With political power based on the armed might of the workers, the working class can begin to take over the factories, mines and large farms and to use *all of the wealth* produced to serve *all of the people* not just a handful of fat capitalists. This is socialism, or the social ownership of the means of production.

In order to accomplish these tasks, what is needed is a political party to lead the class—a *new communist party*. It must be a party of the working class made up of the most advanced workers who have the closest ties to the people and who hold firmly to the final aims of the class: political power and socialism.

The Georgia Communist League aims to spread these ideas to other workers and to help build such a party. We invite all workers who agree or have questions to write us.

Write us at:

Georgia Communist League
P.O. Box 50231
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Atlantic Steel agreed to the forty cent raise because they knew that we weren't really getting a raise but a cut in our *real* wages and also because they knew that anything much less than forty cents was sure to provoke a strike.

On top of this, the raise isn't even guaranteed. The Pay Board could turn it down and the union hasn't done anything to organize workers to oppose the Board. In fact, the union leaders' silence and the A.F.L.'s participation on the board must mean they accept the capitalists' regulation of wages.

So while forty cents looks like a lot, we've actually lost ground. Most workers in the U.S. won't even see forty cents. The capitalists' wage freeze is holding down wages in order to hold up profits. These big capitalists have gotten themselves into a financial crisis (which means they aren't making ever increasing profits) and are trying to make U.S. workers pay for it.

LOCAL 2401 LEADERS BOUGHT OFF

It is becoming obvious that U.S.W.A. Local 2401 does not represent the interests of most of the rank and file workers at Atlantic Steel. It represents the interest of a small portion of workers who have been bought off by the company. Though most of these workers don't get a lot more, they've accepted a few crumbs and a few privileges and in return have misled and sold out the majority of the workers.

Many of the workers in the craft and trade jobs have let the company appeal to their narrow craft and trade interests rather than look to their overall class interest—the interest of the majority of workers.

UNION SHOULD OPPOSE RACISM AND DIVIDING RATES

We want a contract that speaks for all and doesn't divide us against each other. The one half cent increase per job classification gives more of a raise to the higher paid workers. So a worker in job class #2 gets a 1 cent per hour raise (plus his forty) while one in job class #16 gets an extra 8 cents per hour. The workers in the lower job classes need the raise more and with each contract the pay difference between workers becomes greater and greater. The union should have demanded a bigger across the board raise for everybody and an additional raise for lower jobs.

The union put up a fuss about reclassifying a few motor inspector and mill wright jobs but didn't seem to push reclassifying the lower jobs upward. **Job reclassification—additional raises for the lower jobs—was a big demand in many department meetings and the union gave it up without a whimper!**

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THE HARDER WE WORK THE RICHER THEY GET

The factory owners, bankers, landlords, and retail lords want people to believe that the capitalists *earn* their profits. They want people to believe that the machines (which workers built) produce the profits. They want people to think that there can be a "fair share" for capitalists (the lion's share) and a "fair share" for workers.

These are the capitalists' lies to cover up their robbery—they do not earn a bare cent.

Labor is the only source of value. Profit is the work—expressed in money—that the capitalist steals from the worker. How is this so?

PROFIT AND SLAVERY

Under the system of slavery it was clear how the slave owner got his profit by robbing the work of the slave. The source of the slaveowners' profit was the slaves' work producing cotton, tobacco, lumber, etc. Without the slaves' labor, the slaveowners' land and equipment were worth nothing.

The slaveowner paid out of the income from the

cotton just enough to provide the barest food, clothing, and housing for the slave. He paid a little bit out for seed and equipment. The rest of the income from the slaves' work was his profit.

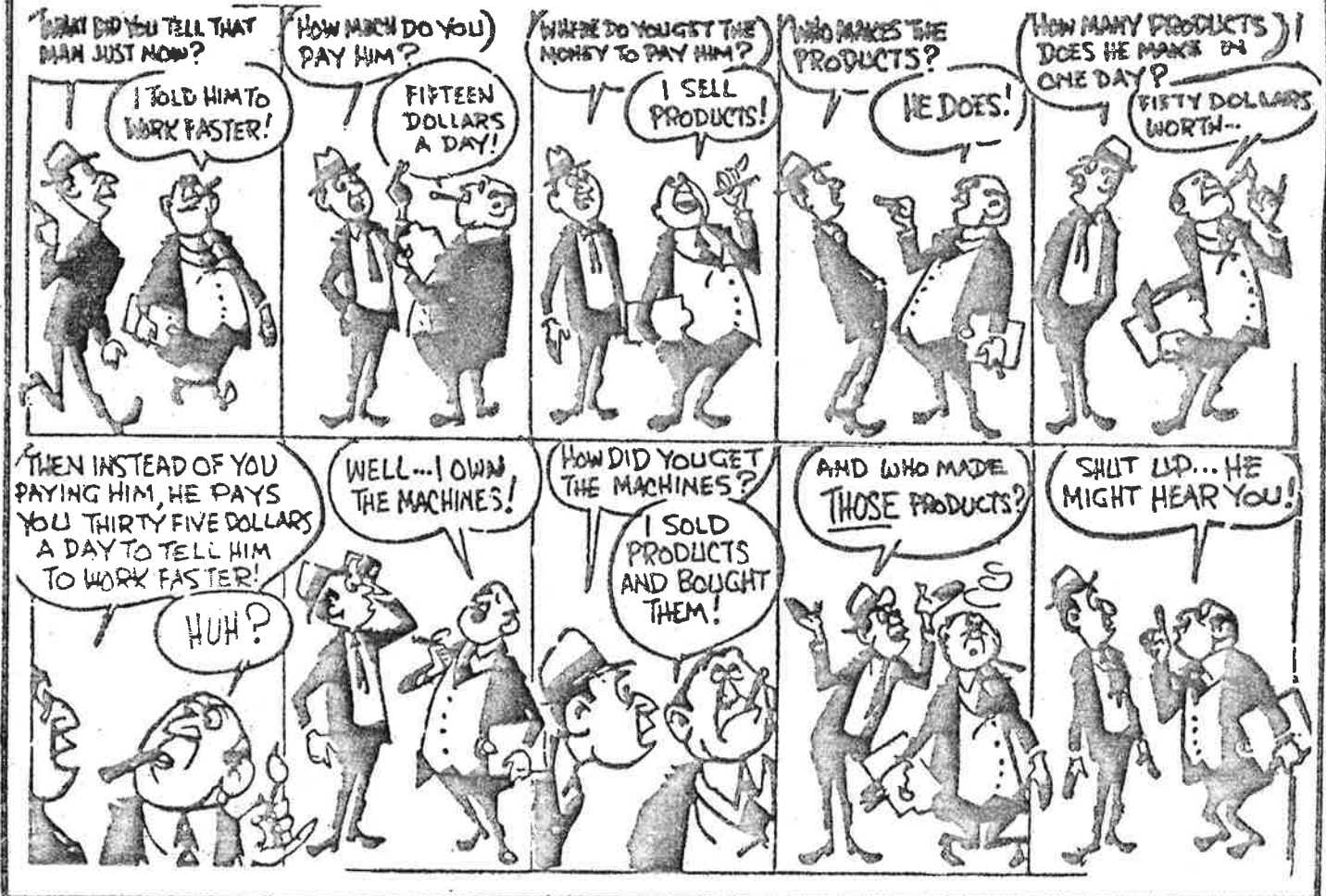
The slave might work one hour of the day to "earn" his bare living. The other 10-15 hours of the day's work went to the slave-owner's profit.

PROFIT AND WAGE SLAVERY

Capitalism is new slavery—wage slavery. The capitalist gets his profit in the same way as the slaveowner. The factory owner makes his profit from the work of the laborer. Without this work the factory owner's machine is not worth a cent.

Whereas the slave was forced to work, under capitalism the worker sells himself—or his ability to work—to the capitalist everyday. The factory owner tells the worker that he will give him, say, \$20 for his ability to work for eight hours. The capitalist does not say he will pay the worker for what his *work is worth*, but says he will pay him a wage for eight hours.

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VIETNAM NO MISTAKE WAR FOR PROFIT

The Indo-China war seems to be ending. U.S. troops are being withdrawn and casualties are lower. The government says that the U.S. "combat role" will end in February and that the U.S. "goals" have been accomplished. And to top it all off, Nixon is even saying that this is the last war the U.S. will ever fight, while the liberals still call it a terrible "mistake."

THE VIETNAM WAR IS NOT A "MISTAKE" AND THE U.S. RULING CLASS HAS SUFFERED A MAJOR SETBACK IN S.E. ASIA!

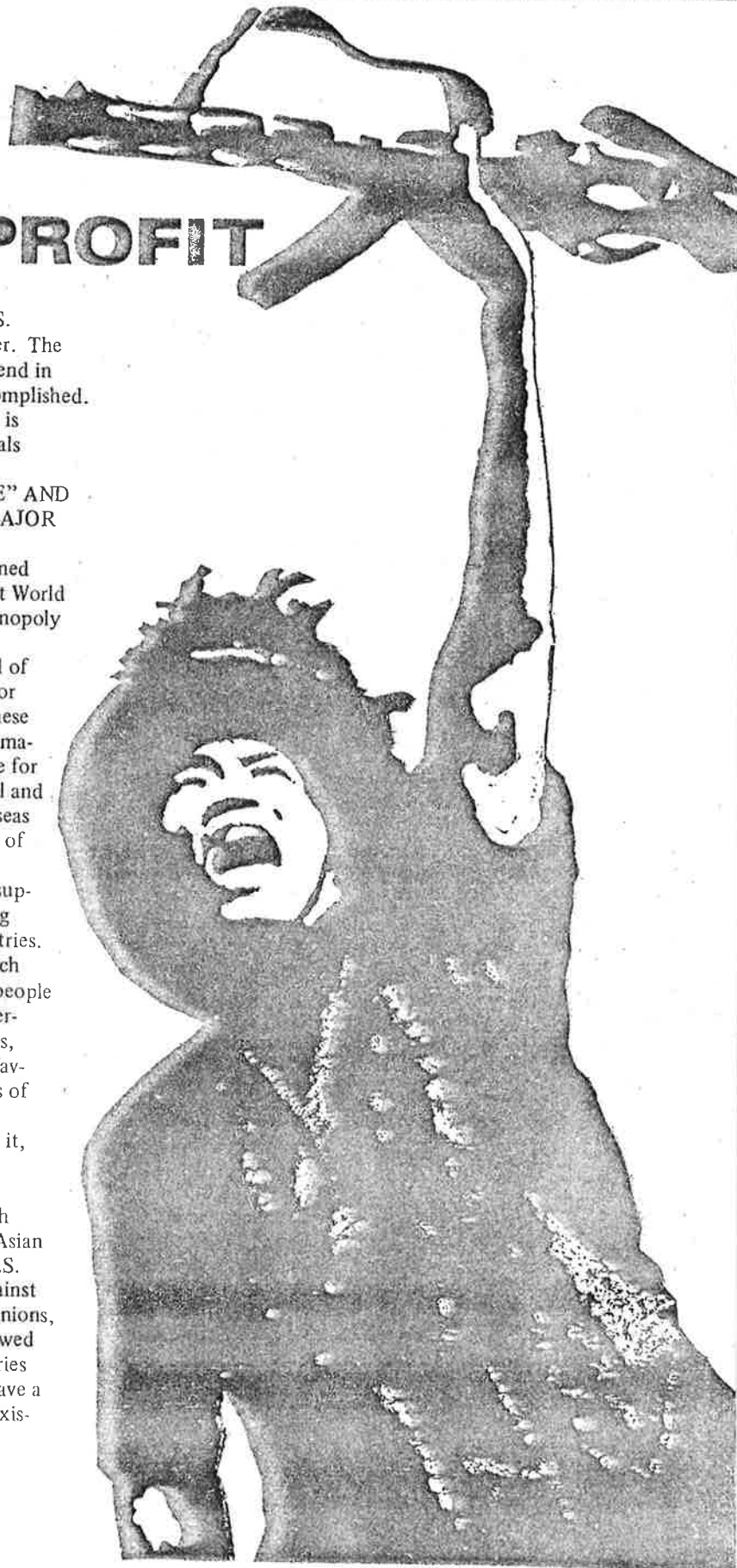
Vietnam is the result of the consciously planned policies of the U.S. government dating from at least World War II. These policies reflect the needs of U.S. monopoly capitalism.

The U.S. economy is dominated by a handful of giant monopolistic corporations whose only basis for existence is making as much money as possible. These billionaires must constantly find new markets, raw materials, and cheap labor in their ever increasing drive for profits. Some U.S. companies, such as Standard Oil and I.T. & T., get nearly 50% of their profits from overseas operations. For U.S. business as a whole, over 20% of profits come from foreign countries.

Throughout the world, the U.S. government supports unpopular, fascist governments that are willing to protect U.S. business interests in their own countries. These local rulers and the class they represent get rich from cooperation with U.S. capitalists, while their people sink deeper into poverty. The U.S. government intervenes to support its local flunkies and often arranges, through the C.I.A., to overthrow governments not favorable to its interests. All this to protect the profits of a handful of U.S. capitalists.

The Vietnam War, like the Korean War before it, is being fought to keep Asian markets and materials available for exploitation by U.S. capitalists.

U.S. imperialism's investments in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Phillipines, Thailand and other Asian countries runs to billions of dollars. In Thailand, U.S. companies get special tax credits, are guaranteed against competition, and don't have to worry about trade unions, since the U.S. supported Thai government has outlawed them. The average wage for workers in these countries is between \$30 and \$40 a month! U.S. capitalists have a lot to protect around the world, in fact, their very existence is at stake.



PEOPLE RESIST U.S. IMPERIALISM AROUND THE WORLD.

U.S. imperialism has suffered a serious defeat in S.E. Asia. Facing military and economic disaster and the growing wrath of the American people, U.S. rulers have turned to "new" policies to achieve their aims. These include Nixon's "Vietnamization Program," and the Paris negotiations, in the vain hope that the Vietnamese will give away in ink what they have paid for in blood. But these "new" efforts to impose U.S. control in Indo-China are as doomed to failure as all the "old" efforts were.

All around the world, people are resisting foreign control and exploitation of their countries. From Africa and Latin America to Asia and Indo-China, the people of oppressed nations are organizing and taking up the gun to free their countries from imperialist control. A U.S. defeat in Vietnam would be a tremendous inspiration to millions who are now fighting U.S. imperialism. It would prove that the U.S. imperialists are much weaker than they appear; "that it is the people who are really strong."

The struggles of the people of oppressed nations against U.S. imperialism and the struggles of the U.S. working class support each other. We fight against a common enemy—the U.S. monopoly capitalist class. A victory for the Vietnamese people is a victory for the American working class. It weakens the capitalists' ability to hold down American workers. For instance, the threat of the "runaway shop" to a foreign country where "labor is cheap" is one of the biggest weapons U.S. capitalists have to hold down the wages of American workers.

U.S. workers have no interest in oppressing the workers of another nation. By aiding our "own" capitalists in exploiting foreign workers, we are helping to exploit ourselves.

The struggle of the world's people against U.S. imperialism is on the rise everywhere. The struggle of the American working class against the increased rip-off of Nixon's "new economics" is on the rise. These two struggles aid and support each other. U.S. imperialism will put up a desperate struggle that may last many years, but it is the people, the American people and oppressed people around the world, who will inevitably triumph!!

COPE: NOT WORTH A DIME

Our labor union "leaders" have been talking a lot lately about Tricky Dick and his Republican administration and how we workers need to vote them out of office. They say this depression we're in is all the Republicans' fault and electing Democrats to replace them will solve the problem. They have asked us to shell out our hard-earned money for an AFL-CIO program called C.O.P.E. (Committee on Political Education), which gives the money to Democrats who are supposed to be "pro-labor."

Now we agree that the Republicans are against the working class and will do everything to keep us from revolting, but we think the Democrats are just as anxious to keep us down. John Connally, the man who came up with Nixon's economic "game plan," was a Democrat until just recently. (He switched to Republican to run for Nixon's vice-president next year.) Sam Massell, our Democratic mayor, was elected by labor and then turned on us by doing all in his power to crush the courageous strike of the sanitation workers last year. He fired the workers just for going out on strike. No doubt he fired some of the very men who voted for him because they thought he would help the workers!

The reason the Democrats just like the Republicans, can never really be "pro-labor," is that they work for the capitalist class. This class owns the factories where we work, as well as the railroads, mines, banks, insurance companies, and other major industries in this country. Since the capitalists own the factories, their interests are directly opposed to those of the workers. Our gains are their losses! So when we go to the polls, whether we vote for Democrats or Republicans, we're really just voting for our favorite representative of the capitalist class to exploit us. "To decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through parliament [congress]—such is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism . . . in the most democratic Republics."—V.I. Lenin.

If this is true, why do our union "leaders," who are supposed to represent us, urge us to give money to C.O.P.E. to help put Democrats in office? Because the labor bosses are the representatives of the capitalist class within the unions, and are selling the working class out to the "democrat" capitalists.

We see the C.O.P.E. program for what it is—a program where workers pay to elect politicians who are already bought by the capitalists. Don't be fooled! Don't give a dime to C.O.P.E.!

TWO FACED

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To begin with, what has all of Meany's bad talking and militant words meant to the working class?

Has Meany gotten off the Pay Board? Has he stuck by the side of the militant coal miners in the mountains who decided not to go back to work until they had a guarantee that their contract would go through? Has Meany taken *even one step* to prepare the working class around the country for a general strike against Nixon's PHASE TWO?

NO. Meany and Co. have not backed up their talk with *any actions*. They are resting content with making a lot of loud threats and a few small bargains, **INSTEAD OF RELYING ON THE MIGHTY POWER OF THE WORKING CLASS TO STOP THIS NEW CAPITALIST ASSAULT.**

If this is so, **WHO IS MEANY TRYING TO FOOL?** Why do these opportunists feel that they have to put up a good show against Nixon? Why all the militant talk from these cowardly men?

The reason is: **THE CAPITALIST CLASS AND THEIR NIXON GOVERNMENT HAVE TOUCHED OFF A TREMENDOUS FURY AND ANGER AMONG WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES!** Not since the Depression of the 1930s have so many people been so disgusted and so willing to stand up and fight.

Meany and Co. must put up a good show or be swept aside. Meany knows that his feeble apologies for capitalism no longer hold much water.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MARCH

As the U.S. imperialists suffer more and more defeats around the world, they have wildly stepped up their drive to exploit and oppress the workers and other people here at home. **THIS HAS UNLEASHED REBELLION AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN A BIG WAY.**

The class struggle has grown more intense. The U.S. working class (the largest in the world) last year alone staged 5,600 strikes. This caused a loss to the monopoly capitalist class of 62 million workdays, more than three times the workdays lost in 1960. Last year when 370,000 General Motors workers went on strike for two months, it caused a loss of 7 billion dollars in the gross national product. This powerful struggle is growing day by day.

More and more, Afro-American workers are playing militant and leading roles in the workers' movement. Moved by ruthless oppression and exploitation, Black people in the U.S. have fought back heroically. According to the press, there were over 600 rebellions last year alone by Afro-Americans and other national minority people (Puerto Ricans, Mexican-Americans and others). Although not yet solidly united, the struggle of the working class and the Black liberation movements in the U.S. are growing closer and closer together.

Never in the history of the U.S. have more people been opposed to the imperialists' policies of war and aggression against other countries. Hardly anyone supports the Vietnam war and huge demonstrations have been held

demanding its end. Now, even the young men whom the rich folks use as cannon fodder in Vietnam, the GIs, are rebelling in various ways against the war. It has become harder and harder for the ruling class to use our young men to fight their wars of plunder.

These are but a few examples of the growing strength of the mass movement in the United States. This is what Meany is afraid of. His base of power is getting "out of hand."

MOVE ON OVER!

George Meany is the president of the largest labor organization in the country, the AFL-CIO. He has been posing as a great labor leader for years. What kind of leader has he been? He has helped the government break strikes with laws and injunctions. He follows racist policies. Meany even supports the Vietnam war.

All these years, Meany has had one hand outstretched to the capitalist class while his other hand has been busy trying to put down the revolutionary tide. He has told the working class that our only goal should be to reform this system, making wage slavery a little more tolerable. This is the job he is paid \$90,000 a year to perform within the labor movement.

Now, Mr. Meany has put on a somewhat new face. But behind this front, he will continue to strain every muscle and use every trick to disperse the power of the working class and its allies.

This will not be tolerated much longer! The power of the masses of people must be unleashed and mobilized—not tamed and cooled-out. The fighting strength of poor and working people is the only thing which can force a defeat of PHASE TWO. And it is also this power and determination that will eventually dig the grave of this entire system of exploitation and bury it forever.



STEEL UNION

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The union's failure to fight on this point comes down especially hard on many older Black men who formerly had been unable to bid out of certain low paid, mostly all Black lines of promotion because of the company's racist promotion policies. These workers are now stuck in dead end, low paying departments. If these workers bid out of their department they'll lose all their seniority. These workers have also lost the raises from many years discrimination. For instance, one Black worker bid for a job in 1946 and was refused because he was Black. Now he is job class #6, whereas he could have been job class #13 or higher by now.

This is all the result of the company's racist policy and the company should pay for it.

Big pay differences affect all workers—Black and white. They divide workers, and benefit the company. The company should pay for this—they should be made to bring the lower jobs up to the higher and eliminate the big differences.

The strategy of divide and conquer is about the oldest trick in the book as far as the capitalists are concerned. Whether its Black and white, men and women, unskilled and skilled, the capitalists will promote and play on the mentality of one group thinking they're better than another. They will use this to divide the working class because they fear the strength of the workers acting as one!

PRODUCTIVITY COMMITTEE MEANS SPEEDUP AND SWEETHEART UNIONISM

The productivity committee will turn the union into a company union, making the union enforce discipline and speedup. The union has been forced into a position of being a policeman over the workers to help enforce speedup. (This is similar and even more blatant than the union's agreeing to incentive and tonnage rated jobs instead of an overall higher wage. Tonnage is just another form of speedup.)

Why should we increase productivity? Under capitalism the more we produce the more we get laid off. We want more pay without increased productivity. That will mean more jobs for everybody and less layoffs.

Atlantic Steel Company now has a stick to hold over the union's head at the next contract. They will say, "you didn't help increase productivity enough through the Productivity Committee as you agreed. Therefore you don't deserve a raise."

One more thing. The union made a stink about transfer rights—that was good as far as it went. But we want to know what's going to happen to the jobs that will be automated out. We want to know, will the union fight for these jobs—probably many of the lower jobs.

ATLANTIC STEEL WORKERS! UNITE!

Oppose the capitalists' strategy to divide and conquer. Fight together as one. We must run our own union in the interest of the majority of workers—that is, the interests of the working class as a whole. We must unite and oppose the company's dividing tactics and racism.

We must retake Local 2401 for ourselves—the rank and file!

THE RICHER THEY GET

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The capitalist offers a wage that is just enough to keep the worker on the job—that is, the wage will equal the amount of money that it takes the worker and family to just barely get by on. Thus the worker's wage is not equal to what his *work is worth*.

The capitalist then puts the worker to work on the machines and the raw material—say cotton. In three hours by working on the machines and raw cotton the worker changes the cotton into cloth and *adds \$20 to the value of the original cotton*. In three hours the worker has given the capitalist the equal of his wage—\$20.

Up to this point we can say that the worker worked for himself. For the next five hours the worker will add about \$33 value to the cotton by changing it into cloth. This \$33 is the capitalist's *profit*. For five hours the worker works like a slave for nothing—he is only producing for the capitalist's profit. This is wage slavery. The worker adds \$53 in value and he gets \$20 in wages while the capitalist *takes* the rest.

The capitalist's profit, then, does not come from his machines, or from his money, or talent. **Profit comes directly from the value that work adds to the product. Profit is the work—expressed in money—that the capitalist steals from the worker.**

WAGES, PROFITS, AND CLASS STRUGGLE

Capitalists are driven by their greed for higher profits. They know that when wages go up, profits go down. That's why they don't care at all about the workers and why they fight like misers to hold wages down.

This conflict between workers' wages and capitalists' profit is the cause of the *class struggle*—the struggle between the working class and the small number of wealthy bosses, the capitalist class. The working class has struggled against the capitalist class for more than a hundred years and has won many battles—the eight hour day, abolition of child labor, better wages, etc. And the capitalists have fought back with all their dirty tricks—the laws, the courts, and the police.

The *class struggle* continues and grows more heated. As long as the capitalists privately own the means of production—the factories, mines, and farms—the class struggle will exist. The capitalists fight us harder than ever today to force our wages down to the same low level. Their greed for profit makes them accept and want high unemployment and mass poverty. But the masses of workers are also fighting back harder. Our struggle against the capitalists for a little better wage should just be a preparation—a school for the real battle. It is time to do away with this conflict between wages and profits, capitalist and worker—**down with wage slavery, abolish this system of legal robbery called capitalism!**

Workers' Books

Complacency is the enemy of study. We cannot really learn anything until we rid ourselves of complacency. Our attitude towards ourselves should be "to be insatiable in learning" and towards others "to be tireless in teaching."

Mao Tse-tung,

Write for free catalog

Workers' Books
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Atlanta, Georgia 30308

The Communist Manifesto.\$.25

The founding document of Scientific Socialism by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

The State and Revolution.\$.30

V.I. Lenin's brilliant explanation of the Marxist Theory of the State.

Quotations From Chairman Mao Tse-tung.\$.35

Study Diligently for the Revolution!

COMMENTS ON RED WORKER

Last month the *Red Worker* printed some of the reactions of company officials to the paper as it was distributed at plant gates. "Management" and their various front men didn't like the *Red Worker* very much. But the reaction of workers around the city has been a lot different.

Most of the people we've talked to said the paper had a lot of right ideas—even though some didn't agree with all the points we tried to make. One person wrote in and said:

18 Nov. 1971

Dear *Red Worker*:

I'm a worker at the St. Regis plant here in Atlanta. I've been reading the two issues of the RW as they've been passed out outside the plant. Some of the articles are hard to read, but when I take some time, the paper makes a lot of sense.

When we got the first *Red Worker*, we had a discussion about the Steelworker article. Some of the workers said that that doesn't happen at all places, but I knew that that's the way it is all over.

The bosses are really upset here since the RW appeared. They are running around spying on the workers, and yesterday, they fired a young black woman 'cause they said she was a trouble-maker. That's what the bosses say. I bet it was because she was standing up to the bosses. When black workers and white workers or communists come around the bosses know that their time "bossing-it" is over.

Anyway, the St. Regis bosses are afraid everytime they see a bunch of workers talking—'cause we're usually talking about the RW!

Red Worker, keep on coming out and speaking for us.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Robbie
(a red worker)

Several other people from different plants commented that the best article was the exposure of Meany and other union sell-out "leaders" as nothing but agents of the bosses in the workers' ranks. They all generally felt it is important to have a clear understanding of how trade unions can be used to serve the interests of the working class.

We need your opinion in order to make the *Red Worker* a newspaper that can speak for and lead the working class. We need criticisms and suggestions—what is helpful and informative, what else could we include, what are the questions you'd like to see written about.

We need letters, information, and articles from anyone interested in the *Red Worker* and it's ideas.

Write us: THE RED WORKER
c/o THE GEORGIA COMMUNIST
LEAGUE

P.O. Box 50321
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30302

REVOLUTIONARY DICTIONARY

Marxism-Leninism is a science. Its goal is the victory of the working class and all oppressed people over the class that exploits and oppresses them. Like any other science, it uses certain "technical" terms. To help people better understand the terms used in *The Red Worker*, we will frequently print explanations of some of these words.

Bourgeoisie—The ruling class of capitalist society. The bourgeoisie is that class of people that owns the means of producing wealth—the factories, mills, mines, transportation, etc. They do no productive labor for society, but merely live on the profits created by the toil of working people. They are entirely unnecessary and are leeches on the backs of the people.

Proletariat—The working class. The Proletariat is the class of people who produce all the wealth of society but who own no means of production. Therefore they must sell their labor power to the bourgeoisie in order to live. The bourgeoisie could not accumulate its tremendous wealth without the labor of the proletariat. The proletariat gets only crumbs of the wealth they create, in the form of wages.