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14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
August 27, 1971

LOS ANGELES

Milt Alvin

Dear Milt,

Your letter of August 18 was copied and distributed to the Political Committee, which is discussing the topic raised in your letter.

We decided to print The Militant as scheduled, with major coverage of the wage freeze. This issue will feature a statement on the wage freeze by Linda Jenness; you should have received a copy of it.

Comradely,

Barry Sheppard

Los Angeles, Calif.  
August 18, 1971

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Political Committee

Dear Comrades:

The events of the past few days mark the end of the 25-year period of prosperity in this country based upon war spending and exploitation of less-favored and undeveloped countries as well as the poorest sections of the American workers.

Nixon's sudden move to freeze wages, prices and rents for 90 days also marks the end of the long period of equilibrium in the class struggle which was based upon this prosperity.

From now on American imperialism will intensify the exploitation of all workers. Those who have escaped the worst aspects of capitalism for the past quarter century, the better organized and better paid workers, will now feel the lash that has hitherto been used only on the unorganized and poorer workers.

The 90-day period of the freeze cannot possibly solve the problems of the capitalists. It is only a trial period and will be extended, perhaps made permanent and even more drastic. Compulsory arbitration of labor disputes will very likely be put before Congress.

The most basic rights of the workers are now put in jeopardy: the right to strike; to struggle for improvements in living standards; even to maintain gains won up to now.

The first response of union leaders indicate only verbal opposition to Nixon's move. But in the ranks the response will be far more militant. A rapid spread of the present radicalization to wide sections of the working class is a distinct possibility in the immediate future.

Democratic leaders in Congress have already accepted Nixon's move and have thereby taken an open anti-labor stand.

The response of our opponents among left-wing and radical elements is not known to me at this writing.

The events indicate a turn in our activities towards the workers. I hope it is possible to get out THE MILITANT even in a very small edition dealing with only this one question, during the vacation period. This is important for the orientation of our party.

Comradely,

*Mit*  
Milton Alvin