

# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 16 OF 16

FOLDER 21

TEACHERS

# TEACHER'S TRIBUNE

Issued by the teacher's section of the Communist Labor Party of the U.S.N.A.

Sept. 2, 1975

## WHY WE CAN'T STRIKE

Two years ago Detroit teachers came together for a very different meeting, a meeting to take a strike vote made necessary by the Board's intransigence. Today we are here with the union's recommendation of submitting to the Board's proposals. How is it that in two short years we have fallen from a position of strong, united militancy to become passively cynical?

Basically there are three reasons for our fall: (1) a bankrupt union leadership that put more faith in an arbitrator's decision than in our unity, (2) greater isolation of teachers from other workers, and (3) a continually more aggressive attack on all working people's wages and working conditions.

We must place the blame for all three of these conditions squarely on the shoulders of Mary Ellen Riordan. First of all, it was Mary Ellen's vote that broke the deadlock in the executive board and sent our last contract to binding arbitration. Similarly, it was Mary Ellen and her lackeys who spearheaded the drive to discourage any community support during the 1973 strike. They even went so far as to refuse to cooperate with a lawyer who said he could easily get a reversal of the decision to deny food stamps to striking teachers! This and many other incidents where the teachers were shut off from the community's support is the second level of Mary Ellen's contempt for the rank and file.

Thirdly, the teachers' struggle cannot be seen in isolation from the other battles waged by the working class, and especially from other teachers' struggles. On the heels of the Detroit settlement came the Crestwood and Garden City decisions. In all three situations, Mary Ellen and other MEA and MFT leaders failed to organize proper support and thus stifled the militancy of the rank and file. Then, as the world-wide economic crisis deepens, the city workers in Detroit were laid off by the thousands this past year; and next year the U.A.W. contracts are due for negotiation. We raise these examples to show one thing: we as working people are under attack all along the line. And every time one of us submits, it gives the capitalist class a better base from which to attack the others; why should the U.A.W. get an increase if the teachers don't, for example.

That, in essence, is what has happened to us: we have become more isolated, more divided, and now cynical. It is difficult for it to be otherwise. But one thing is still clear: the working class never had anything it didn't fight for. Sharper and sharper lines are being drawn between those who defend us and those who help the capitalists

## "WITHOUT A POLITICAL PARTY THE WORKING CLASS HAS NOTHING"

The Communist Labor Party of the United States of North America was formed one year ago because the North American working class has never had its own party which consistently fights for its own class interests, a party which isn't interested in power for itself as is the Democratic or Republican Party, but a party interested in power for the whole working class.

Our tasks are twofold: the struggle for progressive reforms and the struggle for socialism. The fight for reforms is one step in gaining freedom for the working class. The working class is being attacked day in and day out through worsening working conditions and lower and lower wages. At every turn we must fight for better conditions of life: better health care, better housing, better education, more jobs and greater freedom for the entire working class, but especially for oppressed minorities.

But fighting for reforms is like treating the symptoms without curing the illness. Under capitalism we will always have inadequate care for some, run down housing and unequal education; and of course unemployment. It is only through socialism, the victory of the wage-workers over the capitalists, that we can end the oppression created by a system where the majority of people must sell their labor to the small minority who control the destinies of millions. WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT OUR CHAINS. WE HAVE A WORLD TO WIN!

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### SEPTEMBER 6: SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

On September 6 the Coalition to Respond to the Welfare Corrective Action Plan and Economic Crisis is holding a rally at Holy Redeemer Church, 1721 Junction at W. Vernor from 12 noon until 4 pm. The rally and hearing will address the recent removal of thousands of people from both the welfare rolls and unemployment eligibility. Substitute teachers and other school employees are in the latter category due to changes in the Michigan Employment Security Act. Come to the rally and show your support for our brothers and sisters who make up the great army of unemployed.

The teachers in the C.L.P. welcome your comments. Please send any communications to the following address. All names are held in strictest confidence.

Teacher's Tribune  
P.O. Box 783 Linwood Sta.

# TEACHERS' TRIBUNE

Issued by the teacher's section of the Communist Labor Party  
of the U.S.N.A. October 9, 1975

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## CRESTWOOD! WHO'S NEXT

Since 1966 the Crestwood Teachers have been either on strike to get a contract or in the classroom without one. In 1970, a one year contract was negotiated before Labor Day, coincidentally, the board faced recall that September. The years of 1971 and 1973 found teachers on the job with no contract and no increments for both years. In 1972, a strike ended in binding "fact-finding" where the Crestwood board showed that the General Fund Equity would be reduced from \$316,000 to \$84,000 that year. The "fact-finder" chose the board's economic package, and after paying the settlement, the board ended up with a General Fund Equity of \$298,000! In 1974, after attempting to bargain a contract for a YEAR AND A HALF, the Crestwood Teachers defied injunctions and jail threats, paid fines, and finally, 90% strong, voted to remain on strike and were fired.

The MEA began the organization of support strikes in the Tri-County Area and thousands of teachers, many AFL-CIO locals and other labor forces prepared to walk out and stay out until the fired teachers were reinstated.

On Jan. 7, 1975, the day before the Tri-County snowball was scheduled to roll, the MEA leadership, without consulting its rank and file, (who had to approve the strike) decided to rely on the "justice" of the courts rather than the strength of its own membership.

Since then, every legal decision that has stuck has upheld the Crestwood board. The teachers remain fired for engaging in an illegal work stoppage, a handful have had hearings prior to firing, a few have resigned, maybe thirty have found employment elsewhere. There is reason to believe that the board has circulated a "blacklist" in an attempt to deprive Crestwood teachers from employment elsewhere. The MEA has allowed the Crestwood EA to be smashed and no doubt will unionize the scabs. The MEA has, by its lack of action, jeopardized the bargaining power of ALL public employees, and is now placing its hopes in the hands of the Supreme Court.

It is unlikely that the law of the land will support the Crestwood Teachers. If there is one thing the state does not want or need in a period of economic crisis and rising fascism, it's another organized sector of the working class standing up to fight for its rights. The fate of the Crestwood teachers clearly shows that in spite of the "professionalism" that is rammed down our throats and the bribes such as good salaries and benefits, teachers are part of the working class whose rights are under attack.

Historically, the state has enforced penalties far more severe than firing for workers who have fought for rights, better working conditions and better living standards. It is only by reliance upon the strength and unity of our membership will we ever be able to fight the state. History of such revolutionary struggle, the study of Marxism-Leninism, testifies that workers need leadership that will not sell their people out. That's why we must build communist teacher groups in every union local who will fight for reform and understand the necessity of socialism before our struggle ends. It is only when we take on the state will we truly be able to set priorities all democratic loving people want---quality education, jobs for all able workers, peace.

*Defend and support the Crestwood teachers!*

#### **BUSING: THE FIGHT FOR EQUAL EDUCATION!**

The fight for equal education has been loaded with all kinds of side-tracking concerns, some by honest mislead people but most by those in the service of the people in this country who will benefit most by keeping the working class divided and therefore unable to fight for what dedicated teachers want to provide and parents desire---QUALITY EDUCATION!

The deteriorating financial condition of this country is based on an economy which is less able each year to provide jobs for its people and the services and necessities they need. Only as we workers become politically conscious of our power and rights will we see the necessity of uniting together to fight against the deteriorating conditions that this economic system is bringing to Detroit and elsewhere.

Busing is first a fight for equality. Busing is a fight on the part of the Negro masses to send their children to better schools and break through the wall of segregation that keeps them fenced out of the social, political and economic life of this country.



Thus, through battle after battle the working class is forged into a veritable army, an army capable of not only the military and social act of overthrowing the state, but an army capable of retaining the apparatus of government in its own hands. But, of course, every army needs leaders; and in a revolutionary period, this leadership comes from the communist party, the party of the working class whose job is to organize the war, to join the different battalions of the working millions into an indestructible force, to point out the way toward socialism.

The development of such a Party does not occur abstractly. The party must fight side by side with non-party workers in the increasing struggle. It must win the respect of the workers in the increasing struggle. It must win the respect of the workers and convince them of its correctness and leadership. It is only in the daily struggle of the workers themselves that two things absolutely necessary to the development of the Party and the development of the revolution can occur: (1) the fusion of the leaders of the struggle itself and the Party and (2) correctly choosing the path from the direct experience of the masses.

Build the Communist Labor Party!

Win the Vanguard to the High Ideals of Socialism!

Workers and Oppressed People of the World Unite!

The People's Tribune Presents:

BESSIE LOU CORNETT  
of the Harlan Labor News, Harlan, Kentucky

Hear militant worker's own story how the Ku Klux Klan tried to frame her for her role in the mine workers' movement this past year. Hear her own story of what the KKK is really about. She'll tell what the Free Press won't!

Sunday

4:00-6:00

October 19th

HISPANOS UNIDOS HALL

VERNOR AND 25TH

The teachers in the C.L.P. welcome your articles, reactions, support in spreading your concerns among all teachers in community. Please send communications to the following address. All names are held in strictest confidence.

Teachers' Tribune  
c/o Emancipation Books  
12024 Linwood  
Detroit, Mich., 48206

Buy the political paper of the Communist Labor Party of the U.S.A. People's Tribune and Tribuna Popular.

## **JOBS WITH PEACE**

The **COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY (CLP)** puts forward the following demands as a basis for a united working class struggle against the present capitalist crisis:

1. A job for every worker at the expense of the military budget.
2. Support busing-- Smash the KKK, the Nazi party and all other fascist gangs; all education financed by the federal government on a per student basis.
3. End all deportations of undocumented workers.
4. No USNA military intervention in Southeast Asia or the Middle East.
5. Nationalize the energy industries.

**FELLOW WORKERS!** Our salvation is not in the Democratic or Republican parties; it is not trade union misleaders-- We must free ourselves!

**JOBS WITH PEACE!**

Busing is also a fight against second rate education for all working class children, irregardless of skin color. Why? Because the educational system in this country is based squarely along class lines. Whose children are in the elite private schools or public schools of Bloomfield Hills, Grosse Pointe? It is the children of national minorities who historically are first attacked and suffer the worst schools in our nation. The working class must unite to fight for not only equal education for all but quality education for our entire class.

All progressive people must rally behind the NAACP's exposure of the Detroit's educational system. How else will we get class size reduced, textbooks and supplies, and enrichment and remedial programs back into our curriculums? Our union certainly gives the struggle up fast enough! Both the state and the school board only despair over the deteriorating situation! But the exposure is not a solution and the solution will only come when the community organizes together to put pressure on our government federally to nationalize funding of education to guarantee equal educational opportunities for all children.

We can also support the few gains made by the DeMascio decision while exposing its inadequacies as well. Forces are working hard against even this first step, and not accidentally. Mother's Alert Detroit (MAD), Lobsinger's American Nazi Party, Wallace's American Independence Party and the Ku Klux Klan have all been on the scene organizing to maintain a division and disrupt this fight for equal education among the working class..

Historically we must understand that fascism came into power whenever there was a strong upheaval in a country and "democratic" means could not contain the unrest as the state so desired. The fascists get their way only if progressive people "look the otherway" and there is not a strong communist party clearly pointing out the danger to the working class. The C.L.P. clearly took its stands in northeast Detroit last spring and made it clear that any "fascists" attack would be countered. Thus Northeast Mother's Alert had an unexpected counter demonstration in their territory!

Teachers too must speak out! Students must be shown the difference between defending personal privilege and fighting to defend democratic rights that can be collectively won for all. School boycotts in the northeast or northwest must be exposed for what they clearly are!

Teachers can also act! MAD is holding a dinner in East Detroit, Oct. 19th at 6:30 p.m. to build a "freedom" fund. Hundreds of progressive people will be there on the outside from the shops, schools, and churches of Detroit to see who is responsible for this kind of "madness" that jeopardizes children's safety and obstructs our desire for a more decent educational system in Detroit. Act now to keep their hate from organizing more misled, Frightened Detroiters who do not know we can only get what we all want by fighting together instead of each other.

Counter Demonstrate -- We do protest!

Roma Hall

Mothers' Alert

Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30

Detroit

EMPLOYED & UNEMPLOYED: FIGHT FOR JOBS!

Many American teachers were laid off last year and didn't have jobs in September. There are 100 less teachers in Detroit this year than last and we know our class size isn't reducing. Many more graduates from colleges this year are unable to find teaching jobs like those teachers who have graduated in the last ten years. New York teachers struck because the Board of Education laid off 9,400 regular and substitute teachers in a desperate move due to New York's financial bind. But teachers aren't the only victims of unemployment due to economic crisis.

In Michigan there are at least half a million unemployed and in Detroit alone there are a quarter of a million unemployed. The type and amounts of relief offered to victims of this crisis are totally unsatisfactory. This situation stands in stark contrast to socialist countries where unemployment is unheard of and where employment is for all and is geared to the betterment of the quality of life.

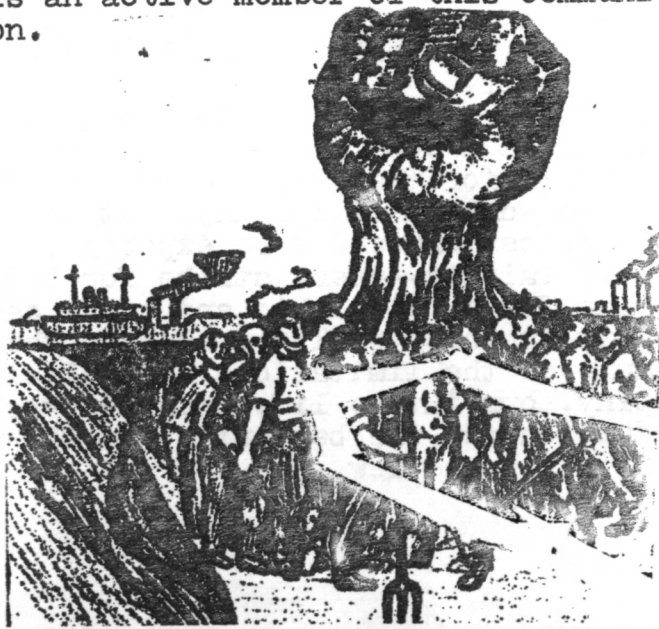
Because of this reoccurring crisis under capitalism a Michigan Unemployment Coalition has been set up to fight for reforms benefiting the employed and unemployed and to build a statewide unemployed movement.



Specifically this coalition is presenting two bills. Currently it is contacting legislators to sponsor these bills in the Senate and the House. The first bill will do away with all disqualifications for unemployment compensation if one worked the minimum number of weeks. The bill will insure an end to thirteen week waiting period and an end to disqualifications for quitting or being fired etc. Also the bill would see to it that people collecting compensation for being unemployed would receive at least 75% of their regular wages. As well the bill would outlaw all forced work programs which are an attack on welfare recipients and the whole labor movement. It will also do away with the discriminatory surdisqualification for unemployed teachers. The second bill place a moratorium on foreclosures, evictions, electrical, gas, telephone cutoffs, garnishments, raising rents or mortgage payments while unemployed. This moratorium would last through the crisis; the definition of crisis would be whenever there is 5% unemployed in a given locality.

We, as teachers must support these bills and publicize them to other working people. We should also get community organizations to support them and demand immediate action. Further, we must contact the members of the Senate and House to solicit their support. We must do all we can to push for reforms that will strengthen the position of working people against the ruling class.. These reforms will also further the struggle in our fight for socialism. If you can help this coalition in any way; especially if you have contacts in Lansing call the Detroit Unemployed Council 821-0206. The Communist Labor Party is an active member of this community and industrial coalition.

FIGHT  
for  
JOBS



## ROLE OF REVOLUTIONARY REFORMS

In our last issue we stated that "doing reform work was treating the symptoms and not the disease." We would like to restate this to correct the mistaken idea to which this analogy gives rise..

Stated simply it would be a damn poor doctor that sat around and looked for the cure for the common cold and did nothing for his patient's fever and chest pains! But analogies are limited.

What we are talking about is the fact that capitalist society, a society based on the buying of labor power, gives rise to a whole era of socialist revolution. The process of this revolution encompasses both the deterioration of the capitalists' governing apparatus on the one hand and the development of the proletariat on the other.

As these two classes come face to face time and time again, whether in battles over working conditions, wages, democratic rights---at each juncture the conflicting interests of the two classes stand out more sharply.

Just as we are experiencing now, capitalist production leads to deeper and deeper crises. In each of these crises, the contradictions between the two warring groups--capitalists on the one hand and proletarians on the other--become sharper and sharper until the stage is set for the final victory of the workers, the battle over the control of the state itself.

But this era of revolution is a long and tedious affair which requires a constant battering of the state by the workers--a struggle for the just demands and democratic rights for which we work so diligently. At the same time, the working class gains more and more experience from every foray against the capitalists--every strike for better wages, every mass meeting for equal rights and every campaign to better the society in which we live; each of these offers a naked example of the limitations of capitalism and a glimmer of our destiny, our future life when the working class will organize production for the betterment of the many rather than for the profits for the few.