Emergency Fund

through for one year beyond the end of the year. People were back to where they were on Jan. 1, 2001. We shut the headquarters down. It would also happen it would also become necessary to look for other work. If that is allowed to happen, it will be necessary to close the headquarters and to discontinue into a new lease it will be necessary to close the headquarters and to discontinue

sufficients to stop, at least temporarily, the ground has been cut out from under it. It has adapted. The cheap commodities that Marx described as the cannon that would knock down all Chinese Walls of resistance in capitalisms's march toward creating a world after its own image found no great obstacle to overcome in Islam. That, too, was accomplished long ago, and if the transformation is incomplete, the decision moment that made the result all but inevitable occurred 100 or 150 years ago.

short, not much has changed since Sept. 11. Indeed, the war that the United States unleashed on Afghanistan in the weeks and months that followed underscore and confirm it.

The videotape that, for many, confirmed that Osama bin Laden was the perverted mastermind who hatched the diabolical plot that brought Sept. 11 about, provides nothing more than

the party's 28th National Convention nominated Fisher as the SLP's candidate for president of the United States. His running mate was Genevieve Gunderson of Minneapolis. The Fisher-Gunderson ticket appeared on the ballot in 12 states and was credited with 53,821 votes, the largest vote ever received by a national ticket of the SLP.

After retiring from the cleaning and dying industry, Fisher and his wife Ruth moved to Arizona in 1979, where he was instrumental in organizing the SLP's candidate for state and local office in Illinois. He was the SLP candidate for U.S. senator from Illinois in 1970.

In 1972, the party's 26th National Convention nominated Fisher as the SLP's candidate for president of the United States. His running mate was Genevieve Gunderson of Minneapolis. The Fisher-Gunderson ticket appeared on the ballot in 12 states and was credited with 53,821 votes, the largest vote ever received by a national ticket of the SLP.

SLP Launches Emergency Fund

The SLP is confronted by a financial crisis that is not easily overcome.

Friends of The People who have kept abreast of the problem have been responding in ways that demonstrate the need for contributions printed in recent issues. Their responses have been sufficient to stop, at least temporarily, the monthly deficits that had reduced the cash reserves of the SLP to a dangerous level—so dangerous that the party's ability to maintain its national headquarters and continue publication of The People were—and still are—in doubt.

As can be seen from a financial report printed elsewhere in this issue, income from all sources for the first half of 2001 was $16,761. Most of that income—about $11,250—came from contributions to several party funds. Combined with contributions received during the preceding two months, nearly $31,000 in contributions have been received since our first appeal was printed in the October issue. It is our aim to raise a minimum of $125,000 in contributions by Aug. 31.

Why Aug. 31, and why $125,000? There are two primary reasons.

First, Aug. 31 is the date on which the lease on the party's national headquarters will expire. Long before then, a decision must be made on trying to negotiate an extension of the current lease or on locating new facilities that the party can afford. However, if the party's cash reserves are insufficient to enter into a new lease it will be necessary to close the headquarters and to discontinue publication of The People.

Second: It will be impossible to keep our tiny staff on payroll. They will be forced to look for other work. If that is allowed to happen it would also become necessary to shut the headquarters down.

The $125,000 in contributions we hope to raise would bring the party's cash reserves back to where they were on Jan. 1, 2001. We believe that would be sufficient to see The People, the headquarters and the staff through for one more year.

This one thing: You never know, and if you do, you should know your arithmetic, that the absolute minimum needed to see the headquarters through for one year beyond the end of the current lease. As indicated, however, certain decisions must be made long before Aug. 31. We must have reason to feel confident that

Antiterrorist Effort Gives Big Breaks to Capitalists

By Carl Miller Jr.

During capitalism's past wars, the government pursued policies designed to hide the causes of war and protect the interests of those who stood to gain the most from such international conflicts. Among these policies were so-called excess profits taxes on businesses so that people didn't get the impression that capitalists were "profiting" from the war effort. It did this to shore up or (whip up) support for the war effort and to keep the working class from resisting the expansion of the effects of its blood on far-away battlefields.

Now that we face a "war on terror" that is undermining economics, the government seems intent on reversing the old pattern by giving tax breaks and benefits to the capitalist class. The economy showed signs of downturn long before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. Some economists say the economy has been in a recession since last March. Job growth had stalled and manufacturing had been in a downward spiral for over a year. More than 1 million manufacturing jobs disappeared between March 2000 and September 2001. There is little doubt that the attacks made a bad situation worse.

The airlines were the first to benefit from wartime corporate welfare. Shortly after the attacks, Congress passed a $15 billion bailout to shore up the sagging industry. Even now an economic "stimulus" package is being debated in Congress to put more money into the pockets of big businesses in hopes of getting the economy moving again. It is a sure bet that very little in the way of assistance will find its way down to those who need it most, the workers who lost their jobs because of a recession, the impact of which has been exacerbated by the attacks of Sept. 11.

The 100,000 or so airline workers who have lost their jobs provide one example. Congress failed to appropriate as much as a dime to help them get back on their feet.

In October, the House passed a $100 billion corporate assistance package that would allow huge tax deductions for investments that big companies would probably make anyway. It would also make it easier for them to shelter their ill-gotten gains in offshore tax havens and offer billions in refunds to profitable corporations. It is not only the companies who benefit from this package, but the wealthy who own them.

Another part of this bill accelerates tax cuts for the richest taxpayers, bringing their effective date forward from 2006 to 2002. According to estimates by Citizens for Tax Justice, the majority of the tax breaks would go to the richest one percent of taxpayers and almost 75 percent would go to the top 10 percent. The rationale used by the Bush administration to justify this program is that it would encourage companies to invest, expand their operations and hire more workers, hopefully with the result of ending the present recession. However, there is no evidence that corporate breaks of this sort ever had the desired effect.

Such programs show whose interests are important under the system (Continued on page 7)
Private Capital Eyes Workers’ Social Security Funds

By B.G.

When Social Security, the national retirement program, was instituted in the 1930s Republicans in Congress were overwhelmingly opposed, not because of the inadequacies of the system but because of their opposition to government involvement in social programs, which were conceived by them to be the realm solely of religious organizations and charities.

Times have not changed much. The ultraregressive Republicans who now predominate in Congress and the White House are still trying to dismantle Social Security and turn at least a portion of it over to corporate enterprises. During his campaign for the presidency, George W. Bush continually advocated giving workers the right to invest 2 percent of their personal Social Security deductions in the stock market, which supposedly would pay higher returns than the U.S. government bonds in which Social Security deposits are now invested. The stated reason was to give retirees a more lucrative income. The real reason was to ease these funds away from a government program and to enrich the financial industry. It is a blend of a huge campaign contribution to candidates for public office.

The Social Security Commission, set up to examine ways to privatize Social Security, has now issued the report that Bush would point to, that he will not, of course, require, workers to invest part of their Social Security deductions in stocks and bonds and, as a result, relinquish some of their retirement benefits.

Option one would permit workers to invest up to 2 percent of their Social Security payroll deductions in the stock market. The Bush administration has said that they have their current scheduled benefit reduced.

Option two would permit workers to invest up to 4 percent of their Social Security payroll deductions in a maximunum of $1,000 a year. This plan would reduce substantially a person’s retirement benefits by capitalizing them, not according to annual wage growth as is currently done, but by price inflation, which is generally lower. Supposedly, this plan would improve retirement benefits for the poor. Option three would allow something like the present 401(k) program. Workers would contribute up to one percentage point in earnings beyond current payroll deductions, and this would then be matched by 2.5 percentage points of their payroll deductions, to $1,000 maximum. This plan would supposedly increase benefits for the poor.

If all this sounds confusing in print, just wait until the poor workers are thrown upon their own device to invest a portion of their payroll deductions in the stock market. How do they tell which companies are financially sound, which are weak, which companies are run by scoundrels, which will have catastrophic losses somewhere down the road? The average worker does not know a stock from a bond, or cannot sort out the various varieties of federal government bonds, notes, bills, Ginnie Maes, Fannie Maves, etc., municipal bonds or commercial does know not what a callable bond is, does not know a put from a call, does not know what short selling is, does not realize how much of a stock broker’s bond broker’s commission comes out of the worker’s investment. Will the worker-investor be alert enough or knowledgeable enough to know when a broker is overcharging his or her account to increase broker commissions?

Capitalist economy goes through booms and bust periods. When Republicans in the year 2000 began advocating the privatization of Social Security, the stock market was in the stratosphere, puffing up dizzying prices on stocks, many of which represented companies that had little or no earnings, such as the dot-com technology companies, and some, like the energy company Enron, that were engaged in questionable fiduciary practices.

Today, the stock market is in the sewers, dragging many investors down with it; and some economists are even bold enough to say that the United States is presently in a recession. What happens when the commercial investments in a person’s pension fund shrivel up?

Not only is the average worker not sophisticated in investment matters, many of the superrich, who supposedly should know all about it, are also innoscent at the game. Take the Beller family of New York City, for instance. Robert A. and Renee Beller, owners of a family oil dynasty and noted philanthropists, had invested nearly $2 billion (yes, billion) in Enron. Enron’s bubble suddenly burst and its stock is now not only worth next to nothing, but the company is wallowing in bankruptcy. The Bellers aren’t exactly going to the poorhouse as a result, but they are a lot lighter in the wallet.

But what about a few thousand (or million) humble workers who would have had a substantial portion of their investment funds invested in a supposedly unsinkable company like Enron? Perhaps they could all say, “Gee, thanks, President Bush!”

Recession Fallout: Mexico’s Border Workers Rebel

By David Bacon

W hen the economic downturn, the omnipresent signs soliciting workers on factory gates in border industrial parks have disap- peared. And greater competition among workers for the available jobs is pushing workplace rules and regulations of the workers, as some hoped they would.

The economic situation has chal- lenged many Mexican families. A survey spring by SEDEPAC, a barrio organiza- tion, found that $150 a week to provide U.S. and global companies.

Don’t you ever know something or stay in these HIGH CRIME neighborhoods

(Continued on page 7)

Do You Belong?

Do you know what the SLP stands for? Do you understand the class struggle and why the SLP calls for an end of capitalism and of its system of wage labor? Do you understand why the SLP does not advocate reforms of capitalism, and why it calls upon workers to organize Socialist Industrial Unions?

If you have been reading The People steadily for a year or more, if you have read the literature recommended for beginning Socialists, and if you agree with the SLP’s call for the political and economic unity of the working class, you may qualify for membership in the SLP. And if you qualify to be a member you probably should be a member.

For information on what membership entails, and how to apply for it, write to SLP, P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218. Ask for the SLP Membership Packet.

Blizzards?

If you find yourself tramping through rain, sleet and snow to get your copy of The People: Wouldn’t it be easier to enter a subscription? And one for a friend? Use the subscription coupon below.
Workers’ Health Care Benefits Pounded by Mounting Layoffs

By B.B.

A n article printed in The New York Times in November reported that nearly two-thirds of all "Ameri- canos" under 65 get insurance through their employers, meaning that the loss of a full-time job can quickly translate into the loss of health benefits. (See page 12.) Consequently, as layoffs sweep the economy, more workers are succumbing to the unsettling condition of hav- ing no coverage at all.

A 1986 federal law allows workers to continue the coverage they had with their former employers, provided they can pay the full premiums. However, the costs—as much as $500 to $600 a month for coverage of a family, according to the Family Foundation—can be prohibitive when there is no income to draw on.

In addition, an already sagging Medicaid program is facing collapse. Declining tax revenues because of the economy, the Times cited "authorities" as saying, "rising health care costs and an economic downturn that has added to the Medicaid case load because of layoffs all make for a dangerous combination."

In addition, several political quickbites have broken out between Democratic and Republican members of Congress seeking (each in its own way) to portray the economy's wealthier families' mountains of profit against possible inroads by the "great unwashed." That can be assumed they mean their wealthy constituents. Republicans, notorious for doing out welfare to needy capitalists and tottering corpora- tions, view the Medicaid program would ossify into a permanent fixture and, as such, could become a visible symbol of Democratic accom- plishment and thus not anger up for contesting future elections. This coinci- des nicely with their panacea, which is to pass the buck to the states in the form of billion to $2 billion a year they may.

Meanwhile, there is a thing with the acronym of "Cobra," or innocuously "Coordinated Omnibus Budget Reconcili- ation Act of 1986. This piece of legis- lation was supposed to unemp- lloyed workers to cover the costs of health insurance for a nominal sum.

For one worker, a woman whom the Times described as a single mum, the $153 weekly unemploy- ment check may cover health insurance. For others, the meager earn- ers employed in small businesses of 20 or less, they aren't even eligible. For workers losing their job, the cost of health coverage may go from $200 to $1,300.

While academics speculate, politi- cians maneuver and health insurers jockey for advantage, millions of work- ing families are suddenly cast out into destitution, unable to obtain the most basic health care services because the "great unwashed" are no longer there for them.

In many ways, transnational corpora- tions virtually govern the states in which they operate, says Samuel Morales of the Confederation of Unions (CUT), the country's largest union feder- ation. "In and outside Colombia, it's become a crime to speak out forcefully against them. Everyone is too afraid to get close to the paramili- ary, if he has a history of breast cancer, nom- inal means $173 monthly. For another worker, a woman who the Times described as a single mum, the $153 weekly unemploy- ment check may cover health insurance. For another worker, a woman whom the Times described as a single mum, the $153 weekly unemploy- ment check may cover health insurance. For millions of work- ers, families are suddenly cast out into destitution, unable to obtain the most basic health care services because the "great unwashed" are no longer there for them.

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A president of the United States has just assumed what amounts to dictatorial power to wage war, or to come close to it, according to the columnist William Safire in November, after President Bush authorized secret military trials of terrorism suspects.

In the same fashion, the FBI has continued, “We are letting George W. Bush get away with the replacement of the American rule of law with martial law,” said the FBI’s top lớnalphatex, though he had nothing sensible to say beyond that.

On Sept. 11, social and political landscape is being rapidly reshaped by the Bush administration—perhaps not coinciding with the capitalist class, in the face of the economic crisis in two headed, headed by that administration that attained power, more by a justice than any ‘popular will’ the capitalist class normally buys for candidates of the twin parties of capitalism.

Past, gradual erosion of the social and political landscape, and its police agencies on individual rights and liberties, conducted under the mandate of “wars” such as those against drugs and terrorism, served as reminders of the Constitution.

As William O. Douglas said: “A night filled with the bright beams of lights that suddenly flicker out and the world is reduced to darkness.” In both instances, there is a twilight when everything remains seemingly unchanged. And at such a time that all that must be most out of change in the air—however slight—but we become unwitting victims of a social revolution.

Things are no longer “seemingly unchanged.” The establishment of secret trials cemented the twin parties of capitalism.

Regrettably, our own government has clearly set aside evidence judged by secret military panels who secretly sentenced those convicted to incarceration in the pen of the indicator of a trend. It is the establishment of a new world order of justice.

One of the keys to that order is the establishment of secret military trials, the administration has many of its buildings already in place.

A regime based on a new order means to end freedom to seek to their rights in the same direction and direction—what is being called the Patriot Act and its increased powers for surveillance and counterintelligence, and Bush has already established secret military trials. In secret military trials, the administration has many of its buildings already in place.

In order to win, we must be decided by the establishment of independent, class-conscious workers and political organizations. It means that it continues to exist in place and that it remains an open question.

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next COINTELPRO?

Early last month, The New York Times reported that, as it is often the case in certain government agencies, they failed to come out with any “popular will” the capitalist class normally buys for candidates of the twin parties of capitalism.

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Capitalism & Species Extinction

By B.B.

"If money, according to Augier, 'is the life blood of capitalism,' it is the life blood of species as well. It is the only species on Earth bumbled by a compulsion so powerful that it allows the capitalist class and its servants—in politics, in academia, in the media and in the pulp—to disavow the impact of their stewardship of the globe.

Scientific American graphically illustrated this fact in its November issue, with an article by W. Wayt Gibbs. In his article "On the Termination of Species," Gibbs reported on a Society for Conservation Biology conference held at Hilo, Hawaii. His report mentions many problems confronting the planet's dwindling natural resources.

Although Gibbs does not mention capitalism by name, the problems he cites result from the chaotic effects of capitalism. What's more, the profit motive has mangled the natural world and is indeed a species extinction problem.

Gibbs states: "Humans appear to be causing a cataclysm of [species] extinctions more severe than any since the one that erased the dinosaurs 65 million years ago...."

"Harvard University biologist E.O. Wilson cites extinction estimates that between 1 and 10 percent of species are extinguished every decade, at least 27,000 a year."

"Michael J. Novacek, AMNH [American Museum of Natural History] provost of science, wrote in a review... that "figures approaching 30 percent extermination of all species by the mid-21st century are not unrealistic."

"A 1996 survey of biologists found that "90 percent believe" that a third extinction is in progress and "a third of them expected to lose 20 to 50 percent of the world's species within 30 years."

"John Alroy of the University of California at Santa Barbara noted "over the past 200 years, the rate of loss of mammal species has been 1,000 times higher than natural."

"Even skeptics concede that an extinction rate of 0.15 percent per species per decade, is "not a catastrophe but a problem—one of many that mankind still needs to solve."

The magnitude of the approaching destruction is incalculable, referenced by figures such as "humans," and "mankind" notwithstanding. They are a part of the shroud and an attribution that defies guilt from capitalism to the hazy realm of people everywhere. This is not dissimilar to blaming species destruction on "original sin." Similarly, sophists will argue that specific extinction has always been with us, which is an argument Socialists are accustomed to using from capitalist sources about the poor. But begging the question does not answer it.

Species extinctions are an ongoing process since the appearance of life on the planet and are indeed a part of the evolutionary process itself, socioeconomic as well as natural. Whether caused by catastrophic meteorites, intentional stock ownership does not make a worker a capitalist. The worker must still work to live.

In short, the working class includes the overwhelming majority of the populace, and except for the capitalist class, or those who may perform a useful dual role, it includes all the socially useful members of society.

By way of contrast, the distinctive features of the capitalist class are these:

- It's members (1) own none of the means of social production; (2) must sell their labor power for a price, which is given the special name of "wages," to live; (3) perform all socially useful labor; and (4) have no voice in the disposition of their product.

This definition includes workers who wear white collar, blue collar, or no collar at all. It includes so-called professionals, whose wages are given the obfuscating name of "salaries." It includes workers who have been hired or bludged by employers into buying a few shares of stock. Capitalist propagandists to the contrary notwithstanding, such times higher than natural."

"...What will happen to fig trees...if it leads to the single particle of population that pollinates every one of its 900 species? Or to the 79 percent of canids, or all the Samoan rain forests if hunters kill off the flying foxes on which they depend? Part of the reason so many conservationists are so fearful is that they expect the arrows of entire ecosystems to fall once a few "keystone species" are removed."

"The capitalist" as noted in the article to "Why Biodiversity Doesn't (Yet) Pay," Australian naturalist Ebbie Nielsen is quoted as saying of the moral panic that has surrounded biodiversity in countries on biodiversity: "In developing countries the economic pressures are so high, people use whatever they can..." The "ecologist" Geoffrey Heal of Columbia University was paraphrased as noting: "Economists are only interested in assigning values to things for which there are markets..." Apparently, biodiversity is excluded.

"Yet, there can be no reconciliation and assured a future between exploited and exploiter. Under capitalism, nature is narrowly framed in terms of the commercial value of species, e.g., timber, pulp, extraction of drugs and pharmaceuticals, etc. Biologists and scientists in general will need to be redefined because the distinction need to overcome their aversion or reluctance to examine the cause of accelerated species death inherent under capitalism and make common cause with the working class of whom they are a part. They need to become Socialists in the way they view the world.

The capitalist class and its supporters either do not know or do not care what effect their precious systems have on the world and the varied but dwindling forms of life that inhabit it. The working class, however, has the power—and more important, the responsibility—to wrest control of the world from its pillagers. As Marx put it: people..."In the industrial epoch...our economic form of society, private ownership of the globe by single individuals will appear as absurd as private ownership of one man's body. Either as a rule over a whole country or even as a rule over the whole of the globe. They are only its possessors, its usufructuaries, [and, like boni patres]..." they must hand it down to succeeding generations in an improved condition."

To avert the unnatural extinction of more species—perhaps even the human species—the economic system of the United States must be changed to one based upon cooperation and use, not competition and profit. This change is summarized in these pages by the Socialist Labor Party that demands the most recent reconceptualization of the world: Otherwise, species extinction is assured.
Seventy-five years ago, in Jan-
uary, 1927, the Coolidge adminis-
tration brought the country to the brink of war over an incident involving a con-

due in Nicaragua and Mexico’s decision to nationalize its oil resources and large land-
holdings. This led to an intervention by the United States in May of 1926.

In the end, war with Mexico was averted, primarily because of oppo-
sition from powerful interests within the U.S. ruling class. How-

ever, on Jan. 13, 1927, when war with Mexico still seemed imminent, the American Federation of Miners (A.F. of M.) adopted a resolution condemning the Coolidge administration and the imperi-
alist financial and oil interests of Mexico.

As indicated, the SLP was not alone in opposing the administra-
tion’s policy. In December, the Miners had delivered a lengthy speech on the Senate floor in which he reviewed the history of Nicaragua and sharply criticized the administration. Borah was a reactionary politi-
cian with presidential ambitions who had already embraced efforts to railroad William D. Haywood, and other leaders of the Western Federation of Miners, on trumped-up charges of having ordered the assassination of a for-
mer Idaho governor in 1906.

In short, Borah was no “friend of labor,” and he probably had even less regard for the peoples of Nicaragua and Mexico than he had for the miners and other work-

ers of the United States.

Nonetheless, Borah was an anti-

imperialist, and in the course of his address on the Senate floor he acknowledged that it is timely and worth reminding ourselves of in the present war atmosphere.

“In 1909, the ‘Bolshevik’ and accused of at-

tempting to ‘export revolution’ to its southern neighbor. The real rea-
son for threatening war, however, was that U.S. financial and oil interests were menaced by Mex-

ico’s decision to assert control over its own natural resources.

As the crisis unfolded, the U.S. Marines were sent into Nicaragua for a second time within a year, which contributed to the rebellion led by Augustin Sandino (from whom the later Sandinista move-

ment took its name).

In January, 1927, emphatically pro-

testing against any contemplated war with Mexico, the A.F. of M. “RESOLVED, That we call upon the United States in that this coun-

try is the duty of every true patriot, to refrain from all forms of aggression or any policy of the Central American rulers at times act; but, at any rate, whether he was a despot or a tyrant, or had nothing to do, or ought not to have anything to do, with a policy of the United States. The people of Nicaragua have just as much right...to have a despotic form of government as they have to have a republic; and we have no right to interfere with them in regard to that condition of affairs...than we have a right to interfere with any other social pouvoir which might choose to set up that form of government. If we can but realize...that in dealing with powerful na-
tions, we will have no trouble in finding our light along the path-
way of duty in this matter.”

No doubt Sen. Borah and other ruling-class elements had their own reasons for wanting to frustrate the ambitions of foreign interests behind the Coolidge administration’s threats against Nicaragua. Nevertheless, the principle involved is correct, regardless of who may happen to cite it. “The devil can cite scripture for his pur-
pose,” just as Shakespeare said.

That principle—the right of nations to self-determination—is implicit in our own Declaration of Independence from Great Britain, and in that of any group of people of a government a “principle that it cannot and will not tolerate...a system that breeds those conditions.

This is my contribution of $______ for the SLP Emergency Fund. (Make checks/ money orders payable to SLP)

I pledge $______ I will pay this pledge by __________ (date).

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The De Leon Online section of the SLP’s official Web site now features the largest collection of edited Web-based material. Writers for the site include Daniel De Leon that can be found anywhere on the Internet. Recent additions bring the number of separate editors to 11 and the number of speeches and debates to 12.

The recent additions include the 1901 speech on nationalization; the 1902 speeches, Plebs Leaders and Leaders and The Warning of the Grachi, which together come from The Times Pages from Roman History; and De Leon’s 1906 address, Marx on Marxol. Two of De Leon’s famous de- bates have also been added. They are the 1912 De Leon-Carmody Debate, also known as Socialism vs. Capitalism, one of the most significant debates of 2013 De Leon-Berry Debate, which was printed in pamphlet form as Capitalism vs. Socialism. The collection of 11 editorials published as Capitalism Means War has also been added. Visitors to the SLP Web site will find other interesting additions. One is The People’s review of Anthony Lukács 1997 best-seller, Big Troubles for Little Money, in the SLP History section under a heading of “Class Struggle in the Old West.”

...Murders at Coca-Cola

(Continued from page 2) Colombia, they’re called the army’s “sixth division.”

 despite the wave of death and violence, U.S. and foreign armed forces have grown rapidly. Under Plan Colombia, the United States has funneled over $1 billion into the country, on the one hand by training and equipping military forces.

Paez says the U.S.-funded drug war is a pretext for protecting transnational investment. “Plan Colombia’s objective is the elimination of move- ments for social change in our coun- try. That creates a more favor- able environment for the exploita- tion of our natural resources and our labor power.”

One objective of the Coke case is to pressure the Colombian and U.S. governments to comply with the conventions of both the Interna- tional Labor Organization and the Geneva Accords on Human Rights. But Colom- bian unions would also like to see those responsible for the mur- derers brought to justice.

...Border Workers Rebel

(Continued from page 2) from the pols. Many who had been fired for independent union activity weren’t permitted to vote at all.

Predictably, the independent union lost.

“The Euro election strips away any idea that the NAFTA process can protect workers rights,” said Martha Ojeda, director of the C-U-si- on for Justice in the Maquiladoras.

But labor unrest and organizing has continued. This spring, Torreon’s labor board, Jesus Campos Linas.

“arbitrarily designated as a union officer on the legal vote at all. Nevertheless, every- employee was fired for independent union activity, he said.

...Big Breaks

(Continued from page 1)... Big Breaks

...Border Workers Rebel

(Continued from page 2) alarming, and in humanity’s best interests, and in humanity’s best interests, and in humanity’s best interests. The collection of 11 editorials published as Capitalism Means War has also been added. Visitors to the SLP Web site will find other interesting additions. One is The People’s review of Anthony Lukács 1997 best-seller, Big Troubles for Little Money, in the SLP History section under a heading of “Class Struggle in the Old West.”

...Fund

(Continued from page 3) the $125,000 goal will be reached. But, according to Ray, one of the sub- goals is to extend the current lease or to investigate the possibil- ities for relocating the headquarters.

Ray has no idea how much more progress be made toward the $125,000 goal during the next two months than was made during the two months following January. But the organization is hopeful.

Please contribute as generously as you can to the SLP Emergency Fund being launched with this issue.

Consider making a regular monthly contribution to the SLP Emergency Fund.
THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY OF SOCIALISM

Revolutionary Program

The Socialist Labor Party has a twofold program for building a socialist society. What follows is a brief summary of its main points.

POLITICAL ACTION

To establish socialism, political unity under the banner of a mass political party of labor is needed. The role of the party is to educate workers to the need to abolish capitalism, to agitate for the formation of class-conscious industrial unions, and to express the revolutionary mandate of the working class at the ballot box. The party must also aim to capture and dismantle the political state—the present territorial form of government—and thus pave the way for a new form of government, a participatory democracy based on industry.

ECONOMIC ACTION

To establish socialism, workers must unite as a class, by organizing new unions. These democratic, rank-and-file-controlled unions, built along the lines of industry, would not only fight day-to-day battles for better wages and conditions. Based on the principle that the working class is involved in a class struggle with the employing, capitalist class, a struggle that cannot be ended under the capitalist system, a Socialist Industrial Union movement would be motivated by a higher goal: replacing capitalist ownership of the industries and services with social ownership and democratic workers’ control.

Thus, while fighting day-to-day battles, these unions would move toward that goal, mobilizing workers’ real strength as the sole productive class in society by building the greatest possible unity and solidarity. When the majority of society is in favor of socialism, the Socialist Industrial Union would back up the decision made at the ballot box by taking, holding and operating the industries and services of the land in the social interest.

Socialist Industrial Unions would then become the governing bodies of socialist society. We would have a truly democratic government in which society’s useful producers would be in control of their own economic security and well-being.

NOT A BLUEPRINT

The chart below is not a blueprint. Rather, it is intended to illustrate graphically the principle upon which Socialist Industrial Unionism and the future socialist industrial democracy rest, using the auto industry as an example. A similar chart could be used for any socially necessary industry or service. A chart at the upper right depicts the flow of representation in socialist society.

The Socialist Industrial Union unites workers for the establishment of socialism. And it provides the governmental framework through which to organize and administer social production for the benefit of all the people. Council members at every level of government will be elected from industrial constituencies which coincide with the subdivisions of the integral industrial union of all the useful producers. This industrial self-government of the producers provides a viable means for society to operate the economy collectively and democratically, without social classes or any form of state oppression.

Revolutionary Act

The revolutionary ballot will establish the right of the people to establish socialist society. The Socialist Industrial Union will create the power to back up that right.

“Industrial unionism is the Socialist Republic in the making; and the goal—and reached, the industrial union is the Socialist Republic in operation.” — Daniel De Leon

New Society

After the revolution, the administration of all production and distribution will be the function of the democratically elected Socialist Industrial Union government.

As industry is organized for production, so will be the administration of the new socialist society.

Socialist Industrial Unionism is the only certain safeguard against bureaucratic usurpation. In socialist society final authority will rest with the rank and file of useful producers.

The useful producers will elect administrators and representatives to all levels of government, and they will have the easily and immediately exercisable power to recall and remove any administrator or representative who, in their judgment, fails to serve their interests in office.

The Socialist Industrial Union, in firm possession of the industries and services of the land, will insure that all power remains in the only safe place for power to be— with the rank and file of society’s useful producers.

Today, in the procapitalist unions, union bureaucrats are almighty, and union members are virtual subjects. But in the Socialist Industrial Union each individual worker will have an effective voice as well as a vote in everything from the operation of the workplace to the administration of society.

This will be a social organization in which the people who do the work will have complete democratic control of their tools and products—thus production will at long last be for use and the benefit of all.

THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIALIST INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

All the industries and services will be represented.