The expansion campaign, propulsioned by political, capitalist economists, media columnists, commentators and other procapitalist elements continues unabated. According to these elements, capitalism's "new economy" just continue to explode and have an impact on all important areas of the U.S. economy.

It's a "new economy," they say, and everybody is making it during this decade of expansion. What prompted 77,000 people to go to Seattle was not so much the democratic principles they were taught should affect their lives, and the lives of people all over the world, as not made according to the principles of democracy a reality.

What prompted 77,000 people to go to Seattle was the principle of the SLP. By demonstrating the principles of democracy, but deprived of a voice in the political process, it has drawn for the first time from under the chains to lose.

Instinctively, the people who went to Seattle understood that the most important decisions affecting their lives, and the lives of people all over the world, are not made according to the democratic principles they were taught should be the cornerstone of government.

Government ought to be "of the people, by the people, for the people," to borrow a phrase from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. It ought to derive its powers from the consent of the government, and be accountable to the people in the economic and industrial decisions that affect their lives.

What prompted 77,000 people to go to Seattle was the instinct of people nurtured on the principles of democracy, but deprived of a voice in the political process, it has drawn for the first time from under the chains to lose. The Seattle Police Riot

Socialism’s Answer To Global Capitalism

In the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, the labor reactionists, it has drawn for the first time from under all those who are knowledgeable in the program and principles of the SLP. By demonstrating the soundness, the workability, and the desirability of a labor movement built on the principle of socialism.

The principle that government should be democratic, and that the realization that governance of the economy is despotic, marks progress toward the full realization that government should be based on the economy and that the principle of democracy uttered by Jefferson and Lincoln should be applied. That is precisely what the Socialist Labor Party and The People have been advocating for more than a century.

By demonstrating the principle of democracy, but deprived of a voice in the political process, it has drawn for the first time from under the chains to lose.

By B.G."

This new book by historian Laurence M. Hauptman describes the development of exploitative capitalism in the early American Republic, specifically in New York State. The experiments of this budding capitalism were the state transportation interests and the land companies. Hauptman is known as the financier of the revolution. They had a host of zealous supporters, eager to dispossess the Indians of the Iroquois Confederacy, who occupied the entire area west of the Mohawk River and the frontier post of Fort Stanwix (now the city of Rome, N.Y.).

Besides land speculator Robert Morris, there were the Holland Land Co., the Phelps-Gorham and the Ogden Land companies. These interests possessed the Iroquois by fraud, bribery, intimidation of Indian factionalism, use of liquor and illegal purchases.

At the end of the American Revolution, "the Iroquois were weakened and split," as Hauptman points out. Most of the Iroquois had supported the British, who abandoned them after the war. Most of the Iroquois and Oneidas had supported the Americans, who now preyed upon them to obtain their lands. The Oneidas, nearly destitute and still suffering from the burning of their main village by the British-allied Iroquois during the war, were the first to feel the blow of the ax from the canal companies interests and from New York State politicians to sell large areas of their country in exchange for pittance payments that would provide only temporary relief to them.

The Senecas in the far western region of what is now New York State lost even more of their land than the Oneidas as a result of the manipulations of the various land company agents. The most notorious and corrupt of the land negotiations and "treaties" took place in this area from the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1779 to the "treaty" of 1826, which separated most of Seneca lands from New York State, including the reservation of the Mesh Wiya nation in the Iroquois Confederacy. This type of fraud was later perpetrated at the notorious treaty of 1838, which further drastically reducing Seneca land holdings, including the confiscation of their largest reservation.

This practice of steadily separating the Iroquois from their land in return for the paltry payments that would temporarily ease their poverty gave these early capitalists the land they coveted to enrich themselves. Western New York was now opened up to the building of turnpikes and canals, notably the Erie Canal and its branch canals, and later the railroad. A flood of white squatters eager to buy hizo properties from the land companies was followed by the emergence of a whole string of new towns and cities, giving further impetus to capitalist enterprise. "The coming of the railroad to the southern tier of New York was quickly followed by a large number of white squatters moving onto the Allegany Seneca Reservation and the establishment of towns within Indian lands, all without the permission of the Senecas. These developments enriched many but overwhelmed the Iroquois and further intensified Indian poverty. Most of the Oneidas migrated to Wisconsin and Canada in search of a peace and a new life. New York State politicians actively pressed all Iroquois to move out of the state and go west, but with only minimal success. New York State today still has the largest Indian population east of the Mississippi River. And the Iroquois still regard the state as their ancestral home. Hauptman's research is wide ranging and impeccable, and his narrative style is most readable as it reveals the methods used to dispossess one population in favor of another. The book is highly recommended reading.
Socialism’s Answer to Global Capitalism

(Continued from page 1)

Political and economic problems of world capitalism

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The People

Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization.

They won’t be alone.

Dozens of organizations, the AFL-CIO’s ‘labor reactionaries’ among them, are expected to send thousands of people to Seattle to stage a demonstration objecting to the way the WTO conducts its affairs. President Clinton referred to all of them in unmistakable underlining tones during a speech he gave at a Harley-Davidson motorcycle plant in Pennsylvania on Nov. 10.

“Every group in the world with an ax to grind is going to Seattle to demonstrate,” he said, and he added that he hoped they would.

Clinton and others made something similar at a press conference on Oct. 14. He said he

yesterday, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney had this to say: “The World Trade Organization, founded five years ago, is the capstone of the corporate-dominated world marketplace—it oversees and enforces the rules of the global economy, arbitrates trade disputes, and claims the authority to challenge state and national laws that conflict with its rules—rules that protect corporate interests, not people.”

Sweeney denies that the AFL-CIO’s concerns have anything to do with differentiating between trade versus protective tariffs, despite the AFL-CIO’s stand on NAFTA and similar capitalist trade agreements. “This is nonsense,” he told colleagues at a debate that was about free trade or protection, engage-

ment (with China) or isolation. We all know we are part of a global economy.”

The real debate isn’t about free trade or protection,” he added, “but over what are the rules for that economy and who makes them—not whether to engage China, but what are the terms of that engagement, and whose values are to be represented.”

Pursuing this line of thought, Sweeney went on to say: “Global corporations have defined the global market and dominate it. They enlisted governments to slash regulations, free up capital, open up markets, [and] guarantee investment. They made the rules and cut the deals.”

Well, of course they did. What did Sweeney expect? “International trade agreement are precisely that—agreements on tariffs and trade. They are not an agreement on jobs or wages, on unions or on workers’ rights. They are not conceived and are not designed to protect the American working class, or the workers of any other country. They are conceived and designed to protect the interests of the capitalist owners of huge corporations. Yet, from all the back-and-forth on the World Trade Organization set up to enforce and improve on rules and regulations promoting global capitalism one would think the whole debate centered on what is best for workers.

Indeed, while Sweeney was speaking to the National Press Club on November 9, half of the Democrats in the House of Representatives were sending a letter to President Clinton in which they made arguments similar to those of the AFL-CIO. In that letter they said:

“Through the WTO, rights of business have been greatly expanded in the form of tariff reductions, trade liberalization, curtailment of government purchasing prerogatives and intellectual property protections.

“But not a single worker protection, child labor prohibition, minimum wage increase or workers’ union bargaining collectively has been achieved or even protected through the WTO.”

Sweeney and the congressional Demo-

crats are right when they say that some develop-

ning countries, China among them, are undemocratic, persecute and imprison trade unionists and prevent workers from organizing themselves for the trade union goals of better wages, better working conditions and elections with their economic masters. What of it?

Even in America—democratic America, where unions may be broken with virtual impunity, where workers are routinely fired for trying to organize themselves, where the police are frequently called out to harass picket lines and protect capital-

ist interests, and where the state will occa-

sionally step in to destroy a union, as was done with the air traffic controllers union by the Reagan administration—and even in democratic America workers have no more say over international trade agreements than they have over anything else does not change the fact that the union does not have a say over international trade agreements.

Workers do not own the state or the in-

dustries, and they have no meaningful say over either of them. That is as true in that the state of St. Louis or Massachusetts anywhere else in the world. The weight of working-class numbers counts for noth-

ing except as it is the mood and an indicator of when it is time to go a little easier on them.

As noted a moment ago, and in an edi-

torial on this very issue a moment ago, the current issue of The People, many groups have is-

ued calls for workers to come to Seattle to join the protest, most of them under the banner of protecting the environment or “socially responsible investing.” The Web site of the Seattle WTO-Mobilization calls out to the Globalization says, “We are a group of interna-

tional, national and Seattle groups who have come together to oppose the de-

struction of the world economy by untrammelled free trade promises.” It en-

couraged workers “to come to Seattle to be an active part of the movement for a just development of civil society in the assessment of the impact of the WTO on people, govern-

dments and the environment.”

While The People’s AFL-CIO spoke of working families coming together “at Seattle’s Memorial Stadium to make their voices heard for new rules to make the global economy work for working families.” “This,” said the AFL-CIO, “is the best opportunity working families have in decades to change the rules for international trade and investment and stop the global race to the bottom.”

Is it really?

Even the WTO meeting—or the demonstrations outside—are the “best opportunity...to change the rules for international trade and investment,” such chants. This is not to deny that some U.S. industries are shipping production and jobs overseas and cloaking themselves in the dress of their supposed “foreign” competitors. Nor is it to deny that international capital, “untrammled” by any sort of government regulation, is virtually the only thing left to reduce our remaining forests to barren land-

scapes and speed up other environmental degradation. That multinational capital has a pres-

tence of both our lives and our very selves. Let us forget, American capitalism was built behind a wall of 19th-century protective tariffs, and that was the character in which it stripped most of our forests and much of our other natural resources away. Likewise with massive dislocations for...
Most accounts have the police first violating the peace. In fact, despite what one account says was “agreement of 70,000 people” who were involved in the protests, only a handful were reportedly involved in window-smashing and graffiti-spray. Of course, the video evidence that the Seattle police began only after police began using pepper spray and rubber (plastic) bullets against the protestors and the protestors began, it was used as police as a rationale to break the heads of all protestors, peaceful and violent alike.

Even King County Sheriff David Reichert and unnamed Seattle police officers blamed the city’s police chief and mayor for much of the vandalism and scattered violence that occurred on Nov. 30. Many criticized the indiscriminate firing of tear gas and rubber bullets, and charged that “criminals” in the area, shoppers and residents were swept up in the arrest of more than 500 people Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 as an “inflexible Press am new intro.”

What all the above plainly shows is that, despite its democratic pretenses, the capitalist state remains will, apparent, well and capable of turning its armed forces on the heads of its own people, at any time, at the order of others.

To enforce “order” as its sees it, the ruling class hones its weapons, which it draws from the working class and bedecked with brass buttons, boots, nightsticks, guns and other symbols of authority to its dirty work.

These are the police, one of the armed branches of the political state. But when those who wield the rule of class and police power, the working class too much of an insight into the true function of the police. When meants both the jobs heads start to roll, and the ruling class takes refuge behind commissions and inquiries to fix the blame by deterring attention from itself and its thoroughly rotten system. So it has always been, and it is so in Seattle.

Indeed, Seattle’s police chief has already resigned in the wake of criticism of his department’s response in the B-Roll scan for more data. Finally the police officers used against the WTO from Nov. 29 through Dec. 1, described as meaning centuries, periods of 50 years or longer, for the people of this world will never succumb.

The 1909 reenactment at West Duxbury, Mass., to the homes they from. Three hundred Triune Immersionists, the promise of socialism a reality. Warner, he is not. The me-

But the day and generation passed away, and all these things were not fulfilled. To accomplish these things, and to give the seront a role, it was used by police as a rationale to review police handling of the demonstra-

The groundwork for a more permanent solution for the world’s paradise is thus set for a commission to review police handling of the demonstra-

A De Leon Editorial

Doomsday – Again

Newswear says that 18 percent of Americans believe they will live to see the “Second Coming” — if not on Jan. 1, 2000, then not many years into the 21st century — and that 239 Web sites are devoted to “seculo-scientific” study of the date. That shows how far science has advanced over superstition since Jan. 1, 1000, when virtually all of Europe expected the world to end.

The People

The Washington Police Riot

Of all the human props of the political state, the police prop is the most menial. The word is a double entendre for a situation in which he who does, he does under immediate order from superiors upon whom he is bound to obey. The soldier is a blindly obedient tool—a menial he is not. The me-

Socialism is the collective ownership by all the people of the factories, mines, mills, railroads, land and all other instruments of production. Socialism means production to satisfy human needs, not, as under capitalism, for sale and profit. Socialism means direct control and management of industries and services by the workers who produce, through a democratic government based on their nationwide economic organization.

Under socialism, all authority will originate from the workers, integrally united in Socialist Industrial Unions. In each workplace, the rank and file will elect whatever committees or representatives are needed to facilitate production. Within each shop or office division of a plant, the rank and file will participate directly in formulating and implementing plans necessary for efficient operation.

Besides electing all necessary shop officers, the workers will also elect representa-

Newton, though the streets and flags waving the catalyzing that was to work out. The world would no longer have a future for a future that wasn’t going to be. The stream of human endeavor lay choked by the obstacle of an expected doom. The life they planned was over. They had to live day by day, hour by hour. As they clearly did in Seattle, do their cow-

The consequences of such a belief are every imaginable. As the year 2000 ap-

rally being laid. For decades, Congress, well as economic—dictatorship is continu-

What is socialism?

Socialism is the collective ownership by all the people of the factories, mines, mills, railroads, land and all other instruments of production. Socialism means production to satisfy human needs, not, as under capitalism, for sale and profit. Socialism means direct control and management of industries and services by the workers who produce, through a democratic government based on their nationwide economic organization.

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What is socialism?
The ‘Living Wage’ Illusion

By Nathan Karp

Thirty-three years ago when a U.S. Senate bill to raise the federal minimum wage was being debated, George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, told the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee that raising the ‘legal’ minimum was “the most important single step that can be taken to wipe out poverty.” Meany completely ignored that during the 33 years preceding his statement the “legal” minimum wage, despite periodic nominal increases, did not wipe out the blight of poverty. In 1967, Senator Robert F. Kennedy added that the same has proven true during the 33 years since Meany’s contention, even though the minimum wage has been increased several times, from $1.25 in 1968, when Meany died, to its present level.

The current federal minimum wage of $5.15 has been in effect since September 1997. Raising that minimum is currently being considered again—this time on two fronts. Recently the Senate passed a Republican-backed proposal to raise the minimum wage $1.00—not right now, but by “early 2002.” It would be done in three stages—$1.00 on March 1, 2000; 35 cents on March 1, 2001; 30 cents on March 1, 2002. However, even these piddling increases did not become law, in part because the Senate was under the same leadership as the Senate that had just passed the minimum-wage bill. The congressmen that supported the minimum-wage bill to think that it would be their last chance to increase the minimum wage and make it more difficult for individuals to renounce all their debts when filing for bankruptcy. All in all, the possibility of a raise in the minimum wage was once again on the horizon. It is important to be seen if or when it will come up for consideration in the next Congress.

The title of Arnold Petersen’s Democracy—Past, Present and Future clearly implies a concept of development. It is not one that postulates a beginning, maturity and death. It provides the democratic process in terms of evolution as humanity evolved as a social being, and as its means of livelihood and wealth production evolved from the primitive to industrial. We know that in our own country the travails of the gens (commonly called “clan”), or producers of the socialist society.

The history of human development from the nonpolitical, communistic society of primitive life to the beginnings of private property and class-ruled society tells us that democracy—political democracy—was necessary at the latter stage of development, too.

The author’s story of Solon, Cleisthenes and the ruling-class democracy of ancient Greece, like the story of the Roman republic’s development, presents us with a story of historic necessity. Athens could rule as a democracy only as long as the democratic and democratic society of socialism. The knowledge and logic engendered have proved totally inadequate to the task.

The people of primitive society could not have survived without the democracy of the gens (commonly called “clan”), or without their primitive communism, with its obligation of all to contribute to the common store of the requirements of life. The history of human development from the past, present and future.

Despite the parasitism implicit in the few having more than the many, and in ruling the many as the means of holding onto and increasing their wealth and relative security, the inequality did provide the leisure for some (including surrogates for the possessors of wealth) to develop art, literature, history, mathematics, mechanics, and so on, leading to the accumulation of knowledge and to a further development that, in turn, led to the real and potential development of science and technology.

Capitalism, as Marx and Engels said, produced wonders that surpassed the wonders of the ancient world. But its wonders of manufacture and commerce produced the monstrousness of capitalist war, of almost universal exploitation and of insecurity. It proved to be far less wasteful of humanity than Rome was of the people its ruling class robbed, enslaved and killed.

Capitalism’s development led by its industrial revolution to the social need for a new economic and democratic order. It also led to this by its retrogressions from the idealism of political revolutions and of the social revolution. The evolution through thousands of years to this need for socialism is told in this work, capped by the author’s explanation of how democracy can be revitalized through government socialism. The knowledge and logic called upon to tell this story of humankind and its society, and to tell it with realistic hope rather than with despair, are products of Marxism-De Leonism. Studied, this work can help to raise the reader’s sights to the certainties of the cooperative and democratic societies of socialism. The certainties include the raising of humanity’s stature, the solution to its problems of survival, and the development of the institution of the means—through Socialist Industrial Unionism—of governing itself so that never again will people rule and exploit each other.

The reader will note in studying this work that its discussions of the particular problems at the time of its original publication on the eve of World War II are as timely now as they were then.

The reader will, therefore, learn about the means necessary to solve the problems as about the past, the present and the future course of democracy, and of society. By learning these lessons well, the reader can become a more potent link in the evolutionary, revolutionary, and chain of action that will lead to a better social world.
The Disturbing Undertone of ‘Realistic’ TV Shows

By Don Patrick

The popularity rating of today’s TV courtroom police and law “enforcement” shows carry a disturbing undertone.

The immediate role of the Socialist Labor Party (SLP) is to help workers in their struggle against the forces of capitalism and to enhance its ability to reach and capture the state organizations: A political party—

In making the point that the unions are getting workers the raise. The real facts are that when the demand for labor goes up, at least until what might be called a temporary phenomenon, the market price of labor will also go up. The union agreement stipulating a wage increase under those conditions is simply a joint union-employer acknowledgement of those economic phenomenon.

These, however, are not ordinary times. Many of the union-employer contracts negotiated today stipulate the elimination of jobs in exchange for wage gains. Negotiating a 3 or 4 percent increase in wages over the life of a contract of four or five years’ duration, while wiping out 100 or more of the wages formerly paid the unionized job, the unions could not protect, helps put the unions’ boasts about higher wages into perspective.

In making the point that the present procapitalist unions help to hold wages down, the SLP argues for is the creation of a real working-class union, and one based squarely on working-class interests.

Finally, the significant thing about union members’ attitudes is not that a majority of them are still taken in by the faked-union promises; the significant thing is that the far larger majority of nonunion workers appear to have rejected the unions’ claims.

...Socialism’s Answer

(Continued from page 8)

prevail or dissuade with continuing “under the TV screens” — but really capitalism’s system—of corporate-managed trade, economic efficiency, reflected in short-term profits, devastating all other values.

Capitalism is rapacious and hostile to all those “other values” by its nature. Something more decisive must be done, and the Socialist Labor Party believes that its program offers the strategy and tactics through which these “other values” can be realized.

That program—Socialist Industrial Unionism—has revolutionaries and organizers who calls upon workers to form their own class-wide political and economic organizations: A political party—

• to promote classconsciousness among workers while advancing a complete revolutionary change from capitalism to socialism;

• to urge into being a revolutionary economic organization embracing all workers;

The immediate role of the Socialist Labor Union of class-wide economic organization workers in desperation, never once explaining what drove the “criminal” to antisocial acts. (Often it is unemployment.)

They never once portray corporate or white-collar crime. When was the last time you saw the police pursue a crooked stockbroker or industrial polluter? America’s TV shows like “Law and Order” and “NYPD Blue” preach neoconservative ways to manipulate us: Police and prosecutors routinely ignore constitutional protections with illegal arrests, searches and seizures.

“Walker, Texas Ranger” has the very same pLOT-plex over every week: Violence solves everything.

Under a dishonest dramatic cover of “humanizing” police, procurers and judges, all of these TV series are skillfully scripted to hypnotize us into false values. They want us to fear each other. Commercial television is a fact of American pop culture. It’s not truth. So long as you realize this, you and your children will be free to think your way out of this dead

...activities

Activities notices must be received by the Monday preceding the third Wednesday of the month.

OREGON
Portland
Discussion Meetings—Section Portland holds discussion meetings every second Saturday of the month. Meetings are usually held at the Central Library, but the exact time varies. For more information please call Sid at 503-226-2381. The general public is invited.

People Waking Up!

Enclosed please find something for the Christmas Box and some additional for 1,000 SLP leaflets.

I have passed out 20,000 or more SLP leaflets so far the last couple of years in Olympia and surrounding cities. People, I believe, are waking up.

Keep up the good works.

Milton Poulos McClearny, Wash.

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To Support the SLP’s Socialist Education Fund

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We have looked at the “bright side” of the economic picture as drawn by the media, but the picture is not there. There are some 28.5 million workers between the ages of 18 and 64 earning less than $8 an hour? How come over 14 million children are underfunded? How come decent housing for millions of workers in major industries is as scarce as someone else’s misery.

Profits are doing well too, although how come over 14 million children are underfunded? How come decent housing for millions of workers in major industries is as scarce as someone else’s misery.

Our Thanksgiving Fund

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workers. These, too, are a feature of the capitalist system, not just a by-product of one trade policy that would be absent under another trade policy.

Not many capitalists today cry out for protection of steelworkers and keep dumping off U.S. markets. That is because American capitalism, by and large, is modern enough to dispose of it all. It is more competitive because American labor, on the whole, is still the most productive on Earth, which is only another way of saying that American workers make American labor more efficiently than any of its rivals.

There are exceptions, such as the steel industry, of course, and where deemed expedient the government has made, retained or restored certain protective measures. However, that is not a foundation for the conclusion that such measures protect American jobs. Sticking to steel, according to the refrain sung by the AFL-CIO and steel capitalist duo, the 10,000 steelworkers who lost their jobs over the last year would not have lost them if not for Japanese and other foreign steel being “dumped” onto the American market. Fact is that over the last 25 years or so, the U.S. steel industry has done everything it could to replace its entire steel production with new technology specifically designed to eliminate jobs, reduce labor costs and place itself on a more competitive basis, i.e., to become cheaper and as cheap as any cheap and dumpable and as any cheap and dumpable could be. And in the doing, it took those large sections of this Pennsylvania and other states of the “industrial corridor” into a “Rust Bowl” that was the Ukraine and other states of the “industrial corridor” into a “Rust Bowl” that was the Украины and other states of the “industrial corridor” into a “Rust Bowl” that was the Ukraine and other states of the “industrial corridor” into a “Rust Bowl” that was the Ukraine and other states of the “industrial corridor” into a “Rust Bowl” that was the linebacker and the “dumpable steel could be. And in the doing, which means that American steelworkers who lost their jobs over the last year would not have lost them if not for Japanese and other foreign steel being “dumped” onto the American market.

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President Clinton said about the new pact creating “unprecedented opportunities for American farmers, workers and companies to compete successfully in China’s market,” ABCNEWS.com reported that, “Ordinary Chinese fretted that foreign competition would destroy jobs by pushing tetering state firms to the edge,” while “India, Beijing, despite anxiety over jobs, nevertheless looked forward to cheaper and better goods, especially cars.”

Are Chinese workers—and by implication, the workers of other developing countries—right to worry about losing their jobs to cheap American imports produced by cheap American labor? Yes, they are, and that fear was confirmed on Sept. 6 when the International Labor Office in Geneva issued a press release announcing a new study showing that American workers work longer, produce more and do it for less than the workers of any other country in the world. Here is some of what the ILO had to report:

“U.S. workers put in the longest hours on the job in industrialized nations, clocking up nearly 2,000 hours per capita in 1997, the equivalent of almost two working weeks more than their counterparts in Japan where annual hours worked have been gradually declining since 1980, according to a new statistical study of global labor trends published by the International Labor Office...”

The ILO press release went on to say that:

“The study examines 18 Key Indicators of the Labor Market (KILM), including labor productivity, labor costs, unemployment and underemployment and hours worked. It shows that the U.S. pattern of increasing annual hours worked per person has continued since 1980, approaching 1,883 in 1980, an increase of nearly 4 percent... runs contrary to a worldwide trend in industrialized countries that has seen hours at work remaining steady or declining in recent years.”

That was not all the ILO had to report. Jeff Johnson, who was identified as the ILO “labor economist” who led the research team, was quoted as saying this:

“Currently the U.S. worker works more hours than his or her counterpart in other industrialized countries, and he or she also leads the way in underemployment.”

“He added that ‘in 1996, the U.S. outsourced Japan by nearly $10,000 (USD) in terms of value added per person employed and this trend has continued, with Japan being worked by nearly $9, but in recent years workers in Japan have been rapidly closing the gap.’”

“A similar situation prevails vis-a-vis the U.S.’s largest trading partner, Canada, where labor productivity is increasing at a rate far exceeding the increase in hours worked per worker... In terms of value added per worker worked in 1997, U.S. workers outperformed their Canadian counterparts by more than $850.”

“According to Johnson, ‘The productivity race is like a never-ending marathon in the U.S. worker today is running uphill, never picking up speed with the U.S. in their sights.’”

It should be noted that the ILO also reported that this “productivity gap is rapidly widening—and we all lose.” It is closing because modern technology, applied to industry, is rapidly spreading from the industrialized to the industrializing countries.

In the current issue of The People we express our suspicion that if Karl Marx were reawakened today, he would be head with regret over these developments while giving a reluctant nod of approval. Marx would bow his head with regret while nodding his approval because he understood that the growth of 19th-century capitalism into the world capitalism of the 21st century was inevitable—short of a socialist revolution. Short of that, Marx knew that unfettered capitalist competition on a world scale would translate into a ruthless increase in the exploitation of the working classes of all countries.

Yet, he might have nodded his approval because he knew that capitalist societies, as Karl Marx realized, were continually force workers to understand that capitalism had to be replaced before it reduced them to a state of utter desperation. As Karl Marx said, “The working classes must懂得 “Chinese coddled.” As he put it: “Generally speaking, the protective system in these days is conservative, while the free trade system works destructively. It breaks up old nationalities and carries antagonism of proletariat and bourgeoisie to the utmost point. In a word, the free trade system hastens the social revolution. In this revolutionary sense alone... I am in favor of free trade.”

The Socialist Labor Party cannot stop world capitalism from creating even more misery on a global scale than it already has. Only the working class can do that. What the SLP can do, however, is hasten the day when workers will come to the realization that they must save themselves through a socialist revolution. The SLP can do that provided it receives the full support of all those who appreciate the urgency of the times and the necessity of a world socialist revolution.

The United States—not its working class, and certainly not its ruling class—constitutes the capitalist class, or the working class of any other country, from class oppression. That is what Karl Marx said. What the world working class can do to help that process along, however, involves more than demonstrating—as