Profit Motive Created Flu Vaccine Shortage

By Paul D. Lawrence

Although there are some signs that the flu season could be mild this year, no one can be sure and the shortage of flu vaccine could still turn out to be a serious health threat. In a typical year, 360,000 Americans die from the flu and 15,000 die from flu-related complications. One infectious disease expert has warned that flu deaths could increase by 25 percent this year.

“We’re in the middle of a crisis that could have been averted,” Dr. Irwin Redlener told The New York Times. Dr. Redlener is associate dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and director of Columbia’s National Center for Disaster Preparedness.

By now, almost everyone in the United States knows that only two major manufacturers make flu vaccine. Why is that? The answer is that there is not enough profit in it. As the Times reported:

“In recent decades, many drug companies in the United States abandoned the manufacture of vaccines, saying they were expensive to make, underpriced and not sufficiently profitable. Flu vaccine can be a particularly fickle market, because the demand for it varies from year to year and companies must throw away what they do not sell because a new vaccine must be made each year to deal with the changing strains of the virus.” (Emphasis added.)

That does not mean that producing flu vaccines is not profitable; only that it is not profitable enough to suit most drug companies. Columnist Ellen Goodman put it this way: “The entire debacle comes from the fact that preventing the flu isn’t as profitable as, say, treating erectile dysfunction. The major American drug companies, who continuously tell us that their profits are for our benefit, don’t do flu vaccines anymore.”

Goodman also made another telling point: “Maybe it takes the Free Market Flu to remind us that sometimes we need a public health system as much as we need a fire department or a military.”

Goodman is not alone in her thinking. As the Times reported:

“The heart of the problem, experts say, may be that no one person or agency is truly in charge of making sure that the United States has an adequate vaccine supply. The production, sale and distribution of vaccines, particularly those for flu, are handled almost entirely by pharmaceutical companies.”

Those companies produce vaccine for the sake of profit, of course, but capitalists in droves have been abandoning the production of many vaccines. Thirty years ago, 30 U.S. companies made vaccines. Today there are five.

According to the Times, regulatory agencies...
We Are Lincoln Men


D avid Herbert Donald in this, his latest book on Abraham Lincoln, has chosen six Lincoln associates whom he has singled out as the closest friends in various phases of Lincoln’s career. Donald remarks that it was surprising to him that there were so few really close friends. Of all the many people over the years who knew and admired Lincoln and who helped him in many ways, “the evidence is overwhelming that only a handful of these friends were on intimate terms with Lincoln.”

Donald was puzzled by the fewness of these friends and concluded that the rather isolated boyhood of the young Lincoln had laid the foundation for his paucity of close, familiar friends in later life. “A boy who has no chums becomes a man who rarely has close friends.” Lincoln was also a deeply reserved person despite his noted gift for telling humorous stories. William Herndon, his law partner for 16 years, noted, “He was the most reticent and mostly secretive man that ever existed: he never opened his whole soul to any man: he never touched the history or quality of his own nature in the presence of his friends.”

The author lists as Lincoln’s first and closest friend Joshua F. Speed, a stockbroker whom he first met upon coming to Springfield, Ill., to be the law partner of John Todd Stuart, whom he became a well-to-do planter owning slaves, the two men kept up a correspondence. They gradually drifted apart on the slavery question but never differed on the issue of preserving the union intact. Speed was Lincoln’s valued contact man in Kentucky during the secession crisis and proved to be an essential actor in the effort to keep Kentucky in the union.

William H. Herndon, Lincoln’s long-time law partner and later his biographer, looked up to Lincoln who had served both as friend and mentor. Lincoln admired both the younger man’s dedication to his work and his study of the issues so that Herndon was often far better informed on many legal subjects than he was. Herndon, a dedicated anti-slavery man, supported Lincoln’s political aspirations. Lincoln in turn stood by Herndon in spite of his partner’s drinking problem and refused to take the advice of an acquaintance that he fire him on this account, stating that he knew Herndon better than anyone and intended to stick by him. For Lincoln, loyalty and support were valued above all else.

When Lincoln was elected president in 1860, he went to Washington early the following year without any intimate friends to accompany him. He had offered J. Joshua Speed a place in his Cabinet, but Speed declined. In July 1861, however, Orville H. Speed, a relative of Lincoln’s, arrived in Washington, appointed by the governor of Illinois to serve as senator, replacing Sen. Stephen A. Douglas who had died in June. Lincoln and Browning had known each other in Illinois, were politically close and liked each other. Lincoln trusted Browning’s advice and made the new senator a confidant whose wisdom he often sought. Eventually, however, Lincoln began to consider some of Browning’s views and actions rather erratic and the two men began drifting apart. By mid-1862, Lincoln had concluded that moderate measures in the war were failing and that he must take a firm stand on the slavery issue. After the Battle of Antietam on Sept. 17, 1862, when the southern invasion of Maryland was checked and the Confederate army withdrew to Virginia, Lincoln, on Sept. 22, issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation and on Sept. 24 announced his suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in the North. Browning was both shocked and disappointed and their confidential relationship ended.

With William H. Seward, his secretary of state, Lincoln was ultimately more fortunate in finding a trusted adviser. It was not easy. Seward, who had had deeply wanted to be president and who had a small opinion of Lincoln, came to Washington with a “take charge” philosophy, aiming to “manage” the president, whom he considered his intellectual inferior. In short order, Seward discovered that he had misjudged Lincoln. The new president not only could not be managed but also was his own man with good political instincts and sound managerial abilities. The two soon became good friends and confidants and worked closely together.

The two other close friends chosen by Prof. Donald are Lincoln’s two private secretaries—John G. Nicolay and John Hay—both young men in their twenties. They managed Lincoln’s office, took care of his correspondence and interceded with the numerous visitors who were constantly coming to oppose the president. They were loyal and defensive of Lincoln. In turn, Lincoln trusted them completely and treated these young men with great respect. They never betrayed his trust but kept his conversations about generals and politicians strictly confidential.

It was almost a familial relationship, for Lincoln enjoyed being a mentor to young people and his own eldest son, Robert Todd Lincoln, was often distant from his father.

Prof. Donald’s scholarship, as usual, is careful and profound, and his insights concerning Lincoln and his associates are based on new psychological and historical research. This study presents a valuable assessment not only of Lincoln himself, but also of the serious political and civil liberties problems he faced as president during a period of deep crisis in the nation’s history. Donald’s skillful literary style also makes the book a pleasure to read.
By Diane Sccor

One of the mottos of protesters of U.S. imperialism and their allies in Iraq is "Not In Our Name," as Americans. What the "Solidarity Center" has done to workers of the world "In our name," as American workers, is even more abominable.

The AFL-CIO established the Solidarity Center in 1997. According to its website (solidaritycenter.org), the Solidarity Center—which is short for American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS)—is a "nonprofit organization that assists workers around the world who are struggling to build democratic and independent trade unions."

The implication is that ACILS carries the banner of the American "labor movement" in "solidarity" with workers in other countries. Truth is, however, that there is no labor movement in America. Although the AFL-CIO claims to "represent" 13 million workers in this country, it is, to paraphrase Daniel De Leon, no more a workers' organization because its rank and file is composed of workers than the U.S. Army is.

Indeed, the AFL-CIO is largely responsible for the fact that no labor movement worthy of the name exists in the country. It is, lock, stock and barrel, an instrument of the capitalist class wholly committed to a system based on the exploitation of labor by capital. No wonder, then, that it works hand-in-glove with the federal government to further U.S. imperialist interests abroad and readily accepts financial support from other capitalist institutions to perform its beneficent services whenever U.S. corporations sniff out opportunities to plunder foreign lands and labor.

The Solidarity Center’s website frankly states that much of its funding comes from “the U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Endowment for Democracy, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Labor, the AFL-CIO, private foundations, and national and international labor organizations.” The government agencies on the list are familiar to the informed, but what is the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and who is behind it?

In Rogue State: A Guide to the World’s Only Superpower, William Blum provides some answers to this question—answers that raise some other disturbing questions about this Solidarity Center.

"Allen Weinstein, who helped draft the legislation establishing NED, was quite candid when he said in 1991: ‘A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA.’ In effect, the CIA has been laundering money through NED. The endowment has four principal initial recipients of funds: the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO (such as the American Center for International Labor Solidarity), and an affiliate of the Chamber of Commerce (such as the Center for International Private Enterprise). These institutions then disburse funds to other institutions in the U.S. and all over the world, which then often disburse funds to yet other organizations."

Foreign "labor unions" acceptable to capitalists and the AFL-CIO alike are among the foreign institutions that the NED specifically targets for funding and logistical aid. As Blum put it: "NED programs generally import the basic philosophy that working people and other citizens are best served under a system of free enterprise [and] class cooperation...."

This amounts to a systematic attempt to create foreign workers’ organizations that serve the same general purposes that the AFL-CIO serves in the United States. Thus, the general objective is to channel foreign labor movements into directions that uphold capitalist rule and which gut workers’ organizations that are based on an awareness of the class struggle.

The more specific aims of this NED-Solidarity Center program are to serve particular U.S. capitalist interests in seizing and defending world markets, access to raw materials and pools of cheap labor. When regimes become an obstacle to these ends, the Solidarity Center has played an important role in "regime change" operations in those countries.

In "Activities in Venezuela of the National Endowment for Democracy: The Evidence Speaks for Itself" (May 23), Eva Golinger reported that the "NED's own documents show that NED-funded groups were involved in the unsuccessful attempt at deposing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in 2002.

Golinger is a Venezuelan-American attorney who lives in Brooklyn and operates the venezuelafolio.info website. Her articles on the U.S.’s role in efforts to topple the Chavez regime in Venezuela, many of them based on information obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, are widely available on the Internet.

The ACILS, according to her, received NED grants to work "intimately with the Confederación de Trabajadores (CTV), the Venezuelan labor union that was notoriously involved in the preparations and execution of the April 2002 coup d’etat and subsequent destabilization campaign.... The ACILS continues to receive grants in excess of $100,000 annually for its work with the CTV."

The AFL-CIO’s Solidarity Center collaborates with U.S. capitalist interests, yet claims to represent American labor. A genuine labor union that was notoriously involved in the preparations and execution of the April 2002 coup d’etat and subsequent destabilization campaign.... The ACILS continues to receive grants in excess of $100,000 annually for its work with the CTV."

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In sum, the U.S. ruling class, being the only superpower, believes it can do anything it pleases to advance its material interests. American workers need to—indeed, have a duty to—stop such plutocratic arrogance.

Fighting Terrorism? A terrorism task force in Seattle arrested five suspects on immigration fraud charges, three for fraudulently bank accounts and ten for illegal insider trades. The Associated Press reported that "a federal law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said (Continued on page 11)
Pablo Paredes

Petro Officer 3rd Class Pablo Paredes is a 23-year-old sailor in the U.S. Navy who refused to board his Navy ship when it left Dec. 6 to deliver fresh troops to Iraq.

Paredes did not refuse further service in the Navy because of concern for his own personal safety or because of the large number of attacks on American soldiers. He refused to serve in the Navy because of the war in Iraq.

Paredes explained himself clearly when he publicly announced his intention to refuse his ship's order to leave. "I don't want to be a part of a ship that's taking 3,000 Marines over there, knowing a hundred or more of them won't come back. I can't sleep at night knowing that's what I do for a living." As the NBC report put it, Paredes "said he was young and na"ve when he joined the Navy and never imagined, in a million years, we would go to war with somebody who had nothing to do with us." "I'd rather do a year in prison in the military than do six months of dirty work for a war I don't believe in," he said.

Paredes will almost certainly receive prison time for standing up and being counted against the war. He won't be alone. Several hundred members of the U.S. military have applied for conscientious objector status since the beginning of 2003, when the Bush administration began making war preparations. If the record of the U.S. military in the Persian Gulf War is any indication, the vast majority of them will be refused and the army granted only 111 CO status requests in that war, and sent 2,500 soldiers to prison, according to a Boston Globe report.

The overwhelming majority of CO applicants are recruits from impoverished families, the working class for whom the capitalist class has limited use. The military, which recruits disproportionately in poor neighborhoods, promises them funds for college and health care and loan assistance in the future. This "poverty draft" assists the militarization of the capitalist class. But many are shot by the hooks to which the military puts their lives.

Young people of conscience like Pablo Paredes give us hope that not all will be destined to die on the altar of profit. Those who stand up and say "No!" to the capitalist war machine are in many ways not unlike a Russian officer Daniel De Leon wrote of in 1903 who, when ordered to command his troops to fire on their own men who refused—and was immediately arrested, court martialed and sentenced to death.

"For generations," De Leon observed, "people have been singing the psalms of the priests and doing the acts of dens; preaching the adorations of the prophets and doing the acts of prophets; professing Christianity and practicing devi- ltry. A new generation of those like the Russian martyrs, however, promise to end the hypocrisy.

Let us hope that Pablo Paredes is a sign of our times.

K.B.

An Unintelligent Act

The National Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act that sailed through Congress in December, and that President Bush signed into law faster than Kris Kringle could cross the Canadian border on Christmas Eve, is supposed to make America safer from another 9/11-style attack. That's how the capitalist media portrayed and promoted it, and that's what the politicians who enacted it said it would do. U.S. Sen. Susan Collins (K-Maine) put it this way: "This is how we plan to put our country and our military on a new course that will enable us to respond to terrorism with a military online in a vessel completely unthreatened by an Iraqi insurgency that is without either a navy or an air force."

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K.B.

The President's Message

President's Message (Daily People Dec. 4, 1900)

Never yet has the annual performance, known as the President's Message, reached the depth or the height of hypocrispy that did McKinley's message, read yesterday before Congress. One is accustomed to hear rehearsed in these performances the trite phrases about the country's greatness; the liberty of the people; the happiness of the working class, the industry of our idle or Capitalist Class.—to all this one has grown accustomed, attaching no more importance to it than to the commonplace of civility that are uttered even among people on unfriendly terms. But yesterday's performance outdoes all that has hitherto been done of late upon this score.

The President's message rightly gives the right of way to operations in China and the Philippine Islands. And yet, after opening with two such points, that mark a complete subversion of the country's policy, the message brazenly closes with this passage: "Our growing power brings with it temptations and perils requiring constant vigilance to avoid. It must not be used to invite conflicts nor for oppression, but for the more effective maintenance of those principles of equality and justice upon which our institutions and happiness depend. Let us keep always in mind that the foundation of our government is liberty, and that superstructure is truth.

The serving of the devil in God's livery has many exemplifications; never yet, however, was the vile performance exhibited in such unblushing style, upon such an elevated stage, or by so exalted an address.

To the tune of pretending to warrant against the "abuse of power," the national invasion of two distant and weak peoples is commended; to the tune of avoiding deeds of oppression, military operations are favored, intended only to subjugate unwilling nations; to the tune of peace, the war-drum is beaten; to the tune of liberty the chains of vassalage are forgotten; to the tune of 'justice,' our products are to be rammed down the throats of unwilling purchasers; to the tune of "our happiness," broad fields are to be opened, whence the already over-stocked Labor Market at home will be swollen by millions of "equality," the foundation is laid to intensify the economic inequali- ty that already exists among us at home.

The 'President's Message' having reached this notch, what dizzy height of perfidy can be henceforth expected from that quarter?

Socialism is the collective ownership by all the people of the factories, mills, mines, railroads, banks, etc., and that socialism is the means by which capitalism means production to satisfy human needs, not, as under capitalism, for sale and profit. Socialism means direct control and management of the industries and social services by the workers through a democratic government based on their nationwide economic organization. Under socialism, all authority will originate from the workers, integrally united in the Socialist Labor Party, whose central organization will be the National Executive Committee. This national committee, composed of workers, will elect the Central Committee; the Central Committee will in turn elect the national executive. The executive committee or state committees are representatives elected to facilitate production. Within each shop or office division of a plant, the rank and file will participate directly in formulating and implementing all plans necessary for efficient operation. Besides electing all necessary shop officers, the workers will also elect representatives to a local and national council of their industry or service—and to a central council that represents the national councils. All industrial congresses will plan and coordinate production in all areas of the economy. All persons elected to any post in the socialist government, from the lowest to the highest level, will be democratically accountable to the workers. They will not be removable at any time that a majority of those who elected them decide it is necessary. Such a system would make possible the fullest democracy and freedom. It would be a society based on the most primary freedom—economic freedom.

For individuals, socialism means an end to economic insecurity and exploitation. It means workers cease to be commodities bought and sold on the labor market and fail to work as appendages to tools owned by someone else. It means a chance to develop all individual capacities and potentials within a free community of free individuals.

Socialism does not mean government or state ownership. It does not mean a state bureaucracy as in the former Soviet Union or China, with the working class oppressed by a new bureaucratic class. It does not mean a closed party-run system that is accountable to no democratic rights. It does not mean "nationalization" or "labormanagement boards," or state capitalism of any kind. It means a complete end to all capitalistic social relations.

To win the struggle for socialist freedom requires enormous efforts of organizational and educational work. It requires building a political party of socialists to contest the power of the capitalist class on the political field and to educate the majority of workers about the need for socialism. It requires building Socialist Industrial Unions to unite all workers in a classconscious industrial force and to prepare them to take, hold and operate the tools of production. You are needed in the ranks of Socialists fighting for a better world. Find out more about the program and work of the Socialist Labor Party and join us to help make the promise of socialism a reality.
The Chicago Manifesto

January 1905, a group of 26 men and one woman met "secretly" at the American Labor Union's headquarters in Chicago to draw up a manifesto and issue a call inviting trade unionists from across the country to gather at a larger meeting to be held in the same city the following June.

The stated aim of those who attended the Chicago Conference was to reorganize the American labor movement along industrial and revolutionary lines and to challenge the reactionary "pure and simple" trades unionism of the American Federation of Labor.

The Chicago, or Industrial Union, Manifesto that came out of the January conference led to a convention of industrial unionists about an existing organization as a mark the 100th anniversary of the ChicagoManifesto by reprinting it, together with the report that Frank Bohn, the Socialist Labor Party's representative at the January conference, sent to the Daily People. The document appeared exactly as originally printed, with only the most obvious typographical errors corrected. The "volcanic rumblings" mentioned by Bohn refers to several articles, some reprinted from other publications, reporting on the growing discontent among rank-and-file workers with the AFL's brand of "unionism" and on some of the early forays into direct action among the AFL bureaucracy, and among its labor union friends, that this revolt was becoming. Two SP men who Bohn mentioned as being invited but refusing to attend the Chicago Conference were Max Hayes, editor of the Cleveland Citizen, and John Breden, editor of the Milwaukee-based Social-Democratic Herald.

The manifesto as printed in the Daily People differs slightly from the text printed in the published proceedings of the first IWW convention. The differences are incidental, however, and it appears here just as it appeared in the Daily People on "Bloody Sunday," January 22, 1905.

PRELIMINARY EXPLOSION OR VOLCANIC RUMBLINGS COMING TO A HEAD

(Daily People, Jan. 17, 1905)

(Special to the Daily and Weekly People from Frank Bohn, National Organizer of the Socialist Labor Party and the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance.)

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 13.—All readers of the Daily People have, for some time, had their ears attuned to the music of "Volcanic Rumbles." They have been aware that a storm of opposition to pure and simplified in general and to the A.F. of L. in particular, has been gathering in the West. The utterly contemptible attitude assumed by the leaders that once powerful body in these days of its hopeless degeneracy; the paralyzing effects of defeat after defeat sustained by a group of men prominently connected with the Socialist trade and labor unionists about an existing organization as a manifestation of class conscious, industrial unionism, as advocated by the S.T. & L.A. Yes, we are.

The Chicago Manifesto

The document that led to formation of the Industrial Workers of the World in 1905

The Manifesto to American Workingmen, whichcalls for a convention of all industrial, class conscious, unionists, to be held in June. To this convention the S.T. & L.A. is expected to send delegates. Some knowledge of the character of this conference and its attitude on "The Burning Question," will be helpful to members of the S.T. & L.A. in coming to a conclusion on the attitude to be taken by their organization with regard to the proposed convention.

Trautmann, in stating the general purpose of the conference on behalf of the Committee of Seven, proclaimed clearly and firmly the old toilers who do not have a word of complaint, nor a single reason why they should come to that. They are the right principles.

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Trautmann, in stating the general purpose of the conference on behalf of the Committee of Seven, proclaimed clearly and firmly the old toilers who do not have a word of complaint, nor a single reason why they should come to a conclusion on the attitude to be taken by their organization with regard to the proposed convention. This attitude on the political character of the proposed organization, prevailed with a majority of the members of the conference, because it was thought that attention was not just now. But upon the subject of re-organization upon the industrial field, "Socialists" not interested in the subject of industrial unionism are supposed to remain away from the one convention. It is to be hoped that the convention may accept all those principles which have made the S.T. & L.A. herefore the only real Socialist labor union; and make provision for a clear-cut organization along the lines marked out by the Manifesto. This will appear at once a powerful attack upon the A.F. of L. and all its defenders, including "Socialists" like Max Hayes, Berger and the Volkszeitung crew, as well as Campers and Mitchell.

One more incident—it will be seen at once that the list of signatures to the Manifesto contains the names of some men who have been most bit- ter opponents of both the S.T. & L.A. and the S.L.P. Furthermore the names of some appear who were not present at the conference, notably those of Debs and Untermann, the latter of whom has been in the past a most strenuous advocate of "boring from within." In all the discussion which is now to come, may principles and not individuals be considered as really important.

(Continued on page 8)
Bloody Sunday

A massacre outside the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg on Jan. 22, 1905, sparked the first Russian Revolution against Czarist Oppression.

On the day after “Bloody Sunday,”...

Facsimile of the Daily People for Monday, Jan. 23, 1905, the day after “Bloody Sunday.”

ST. PETERSBURG WORKERS SLAUGHTERED

Hundreds of Workers and Men Massacred in Streets of Russian Capital

PEOPLE SHOUTING “DOWN WITH THE MONARCHY”

Regiments Refuse to Fire—Cossacks and Troops Attempt to Prevent Gathering Before Czar’s Palace—Men and Women Massacred in Street Fighting—Barricades Erected in All Parts of the City—Snow Stained Red—Workers Make Demands on Czar—Father Gapon Wounded.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 22.—The streets of this city today ran red with the blood of proletarians, who, long having submitted to wretched conditions, uprose against the ruling class. Hundreds of unarmed men and women were shot down by Cossacks and troops while holding demonstrations in various parts of the city.
Some regiments laid down their arms and, when ordered by their officers, refused to fire on the defenceless gathering of workers.

The capital of Russia awoke this morning to the realization of an ominous fact. A most perfect winter day never dawned. The air was crisp and invigorating, and scarcely a cloud was in the sky. The sun illuminated the domes of the cathedrals and palaces with a golden glow, and in small groups, in the direction of the Winter Palace.

The Grand Morski and Newski Prospect were thronged with thousands, except that fewer women and children were abroad and considerably less vehicle traffic was apparent. Throughout yesterday evening and up to midnight the wildest rumors filled the air. One could hear almost a whisper of discontent, and let this be the report that the Emperor against the advice of his ministers, had decided to appear at the Winter Palace and hear from the strikers themselves.

No observer could help being struck by the solemn, determined look on every face as people, turning the corners, came within view of the palace. Necks were craned and eyes eagerly directed toward the square to see what was happening. Already crowds of many thousands were collected in the vicinity, but were prevented from entering the square by mounted troops drawn up across each thoroughfare.

All the approaches to the palace were guarded and in small groups, in the direction of the Winter Palace, workers to slaughter on “Bloody Sunday,” 1905.

Father Gapon, who led thousands of Russian workers to slaughter on “Bloody Sunday,” 1905.

Some regiments laid down their arms and, when ordered by their officers, refused to fire on the defenceless gathering of workers.

The capital of Russia awoke this morning to the realization of an ominous fact. A most perfect winter day never dawned. The air was crisp and invigorating, and scarcely a cloud was in the sky. The sun illuminated the domes of the cathedrals and palaces with a golden glow, and in small groups, in the direction of the Winter Palace.

The Grand Morski and Newski Prospect were thronged with thousands, except that fewer women and children were abroad and considerably less vehicle traffic was apparent. Throughout yesterday evening and up to midnight the wildest rumors filled the air. One could hear almost a whisper of discontent, and let this be the report that the Emperor against the advice of his ministers, had decided to appear at the Winter Palace and hear from the strikers themselves.

No observer could help being struck by the solemn, determined look on every face as people, turning the corners, came within view of the palace. Necks were craned and eyes eagerly directed toward the square to see what was happening. Already crowds of many thousands were collected in the vicinity, but were prevented from entering the square by mounted troops drawn up across each thoroughfare.

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The people

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2005

FIRST EXPLOSION
MORE TO COME

MANIFESTO
Social relations and groupings but reflect mechanical and industrial conditions. The great facts of present industry are the displacement of human skill by machines and the increase of capitalist power through concentration in the hands of a few, with which wealth is produced and distributed.
Because of these facts trade divisions among laborers and competition among capitalists are alike disappearing, and every division of labor grows less as his hours grow longer and monopolistic competition among capitalists are likewise disappearing, and every division of labor grows less productive ones wipe out whole trades and plunge new bodies of workers into the ever-growing army of tradeless, hopeless unemployed. As human beings and human skill are displaced by mechanical progress the capitalists need use the workers only during that brief period when muscles and nerves respond most intensely. The moment the laborer no longer yields the maximum of profits he is thrown upon the scrap pile to starve alongside the discarded machine. A dead line has been drawn, and an age limit established, across which in industrial death.

The worker wholly separated from the land and the toils, with his skill of craftsmanship rendered useless, is sunk in the uniform mass of wage slaves. His human condition is neither as a result of his own divisions broken by class divisions, perpetuated from outgrown industrial stages. His wages constantly grow less as his hours grow longer and monopolistic prices grow higher. Shifted hither and thither by the demands of profit-takers, the laborer’s home no longer exists. In this helpless condition he is forced to accept whatever humiliating conditions his master may impose. He is submitted to social and intellectual enslavement more than was the chattel slave when sold from the auction block. Laborers are no longer classified by differences in trade skill, but the employer assorts them according to the machine to which they are attached. These divisions, far from representing differences in skill, or interests among the laborers, are imposed by the employer that workers may be pitted against one another and forced to greater exertion in the shops with which wealth is produced and distributed.

The substance of the proposals of the zemstvo delegates is that the system of government in Russia is due to estrangement of government and people and the absence of mutual confidence, and that the unrestricted expression of public opinion is essential in guaranteed freedom of conscience and speech, and that zemstvo institutions, in which local and popular life are mostly concentrated, must be placed where they may successfully carry out their duties.

Russia we shall not regret the sacrifice, but shall bear it willingly.
for slight relief within wage slavery. It is blind to the possibility of establishing an industrial democracy wherein there shall be no wage slavery, but where the workers will own the tools which they operate, and the products of which they alone will enjoy. It shatters the ranks of the workers into fragments, rendering them helpless and impotent upon the industrial battlefield.

Separation of craft from craft renders industrial and financial solidarity impossible. Union men scab upon union men, hatred of worker for worker is engendered, and the workers are delivered, helpless and disintegrated into the hands of the capitalists.

Craft jealousy leads to the attempt to create trade monopolies. Prohibitive initiation fees are established that force men to become scabs against their will.

Men whom manliness or circumstances have driven from one trade are fined when they seek to transfer membership to the union of a new craft.

Craft divisions foster political ignorance among the workers, thus dividing their class at the ballot box, as well as in the shop, mine and factory.

Craft unions may be and have been used to assist employers in the establishment of monopolies and the raising of prices. Once a craft is made for the perpetuation of capitalism, and the misleaders of the workers with the capital-employed slave. They permit the association of workingmen bringing union cards from foreign countries should be freely admitted into the organization.

All members should hold membership in the local, national or international union covering the industry in which they are employed, but transfers of membership between unions, local, national or international, should be universal.

The general administration should issue a publication, representing the organization and its principles, which should reach all members in every industry, at regular intervals.

A Central Defense Fund, to which all members contribute equally, should be established and maintained.

CALL FOR CONVENTION.

All workers, therefore, who agree with the principles herein set forth will meet in convention at Chicago the 27th day of June, 1905, for the purpose of forming an economic organization of the working class along the lines marked out in this manifesto.

Representation in the convention shall be based upon the number of workers whom the delegate represents. No delegate, however, shall be given representation upon the basis of an organization, unless he has credentials, bearing the seal of his union, local, national or international, and the signatures of the officers thereof, authorizing him to install his union as a foreign country should be freely admitted into the organization. Workingmen bringing union cards from foreign countries should be freely admitted into the organization.

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...Act Threatens Liberties

(Continued from page 1)

These federal procedures are a danger to our civil liberties. The government now has the ability to secretly collect information on Americans who have not committed crimes or without probable cause. What the new law does not provide for is any protection for innocent people who may be caught in its meshes. What it does instead, as the ACLU explained, is “create a weakened civil liberties board that risks becoming the proverbial fox guarding the hen house. The board would be appointed by the president, serve at his pleasure, and have no subpoena power.”

Creating a new agency to coordinate military and civilian spying will further expand the powers of the U.S., intelligence community—a “community” whose history of defiance of and opposition to constitutional rights and civil liberties is a matter of public record. What U.S. workers can expect from the above is clear: more of the same kind of unconstitutional system. The Congress brought us the Patriot Act. What they should not expect is any greater safety from terrorism.

Bush and others who backed the Intelligence Reform Act claim that those who committed the crime of Sept. 11, 2001, hate the United States because it represents democracy and freedom. No doubt Osama bin Laden and other theocratic fanatics hate democracy and freedom. They make no secret about their ambition to turn the clock back to a time when caliphs and other monarchs who owned and controlled their territories could take away an individual’s ability to move freely from place to place or even make them unemployed until the government fixed their “file.”

The new law also provides for “a national database to allow antiterrorism agencies to access commercial and law enforcement records.” This new database would allow “collecting information on Americans who have not committed crimes or without probable cause.”

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Letters to the People

SLP’s Prisoners’ Fund
Please accept this contribution for the “Prisoners’ Fund.” Thank you for sending The People a breath of fresh air to us. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you at SLP.

Don Cuddihie Sr.,
Greer, S.C.

Some ‘Criticism’
All of the Oct. 31 articles from ThePeople that flooded into my computer were excellent. My only criticism is that the SLP’s existence in capitalist society was described in one of the articles as a “small ray of hope.” I believe, rather, that it is a brilliant ray of hope.

If those of us who understand the scientific facts behind capitalist exploitation (and the consequent host of social problems that threaten humanity’s future) hold and work together, the evolving and inevitable dissolution of capitalism itself will bring about the conditions for our success.

In all history of human life there will be no greater moment than the coming emancipation of our species from class oppression and the establishment of a rational society with abundance and freedom for all.

Having a solution in hand is a magnificent first step. Keep marching! ABCAPC

Via email

Holiday Wishes
Please renew my subscription to your great paper, ThePeople. I look forward to it as this is one paper that tells the truth. Keep up the good work and have a great holiday season.

Richard L. Vobornik
Superior, Wis.

A Word for the Soldiers
At the time I am writing [Oct. 18] there has been a lot of news from Iraq about the 38 American soldiers who refused to carry out an order that put them in grave danger—that is driving a very unsafe convoy. Of course, this is a tip of the iceberg of the suffering American military people in Iraq and their families are going through. Why is Commander-in-Chief George W. Bush so indifferent to the suffering of these people? Why is he indifferent to this great loss of American life? Is the loyalty to the New World Order greater? Is the supremacy of the U.S. dollar more important? Is it all more important? Raymond Solomon

Forest Hills, N.Y.

Freedom of Conscience
Some men and women are being called up for their second and third tours of duty in Iraq and they don’t like it. There are families to share love and care with and bills are mounting. Some believe it’s just not right and they want to make things right.

In actuality these are wages slaves to be used as “cannon fodder” in the interests of U.S. capitalism in the region. They do not know this but hopefully they will one day.

If they say it’s not fair to go back to Iraq or Afghanistan they’re right. If they say it’s not morally right they’re right; Dan, Kirk, Scott, Zach are right.

Each human being has a different level of social consciousness dependent upon their upbringing and experiences in life. The state is never right for it is an organ of the capitalists. The state, the working class realizes this the better off we all will be.

In the meantime any act that strikes the human heart and mind in a negative way is a birth in conscience. It allows us the possibility of a better future and an end to slavery with the growing darkness of fascism.

J ohn S. Gale
Phoenix, Ariz.

(Continued from page 3)

ACTIVITIES

CALIFORNIA

Discussion Meetings—Section San. Francisco Bay Area will hold the following discussion meetings:

Oakland: Feb. 12 & March 12, 3-5 p.m., Rockridge Public Library, Community Room, 5366 College St; Santa Clara: Jan. 22, Feb. 19 & March 19; 130-4 p.m.; Santa Clara Public Library, Sycamore Room, 2635 Homestead Rd.

San Francisco: Feb. 26 & March 26, 1-3 p.m., San Francisco Public Library, Conference Room, Grove & Larkin streets.

For more information, please call 415-280-7266 or email slpsfba@netscape.net.

ILLINOIS

Rock Island—A series of moderated discussions on socialism will be held on the following Saturdays at the Rock Island Public Library, Community Room, 401 19th St.: Jan. 22, 2-2:45 p.m., “What is Socialism?”; Feb. 12, 2-4 p.m., “History of Socialism”; March 5, 2-4 p.m., “Basic Marx.”

OHIO

Discussion Meetings—For information about upcoming discussion meetings in the Cleveland or Columbus areas, please call 440-237-7933.

OREGON

Portland: Discussion Meetings—Section Portland will hold the following discussion meetings from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Portland Main Library, SW Yamhill & 10th: Saturday, Jan. 29, “The Trillion Dollar Social Security Hustle.” Saturday, Feb. 12, “Perpetual Change in the Economy—Lost Jobs That Won’t Come Back.” For more information call Sid at 503-226-2881 or visit the section’s website at slp.pdx.home.mindspring.com.

SLP’S Prisoners’ Fund

Sharri Cronk

December 2004

Dear SLP Prisoners’ Fund,

I am writing to you to offer support for the ongoing prisoner support efforts of SLP. In the October 2004 issue of The People, you mentioned the SLP Prisoners’ Fund in your call for donations. As an organization committed to the struggle for a new society based on the principles of socialism and freedom from exploitation, I believe that supporting the efforts of organizations like SLP’s Prisoners’ Fund is essential.

SLP’s Prisoners’ Fund is a dedicated group of individuals working to support political prisoners who are imprisoned for their beliefs and actions. They provide resources such as books, educational materials, and financial assistance to help prisoners maintain connections with the outside world and continue their fight for justice. The work of SLP’s Prisoners’ Fund is vital in ensuring that political prisoners are not forgotten and that their struggles are heard.

Your contributions to SLP’s Prisoners’ Fund will help them continue their valuable work. The funds will be used to support political prisoners in a variety of ways, including providing them with necessary items, offering educational opportunities, and helping to maintain connections with their families and communities outside of prison.

I encourage you to consider making a donation to SLP’s Prisoners’ Fund. Your support will be greatly appreciated and will make a tangible difference in the lives of political prisoners. Together, we can continue to build a world that is more just and equitable for all.

Thank you for your attention to this important cause.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Israeli-Palestinian Dispute

Conflict Enters New Stage
With Death of Yasser Arafat

By B.B.

After a prolonged isolation in his headqua-

ters in Ramallah, Yasser Arafat, chairman of
the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)
and president of the Palestinian Authority
(PA), took ill and was rushed to a French mili-
tary hospital near Paris, where he died on
Nov. 11. The news of the death of the 83-year-
old leader stunned the world.

Arafat became a key figure in theresolution
of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, seemingly to
experience a sudden revival. At least that may be
what the Bush administration was thinking when
it sent outgoing Secretary of State Colin
Powell to test the waters in Jerusalem and
Ramallah.

In Jerusalem, Powell met with Israeli Prime
Minister Ariel Sharon before crossing the
Jordan to confer with Palestinian leaders in
Ramallah, among whom were the newly elected
chairman of the PLO, Mahmoud Abbas, and
the interim president of the Palestinian Authority,
Raufi Fattouh.

The timing of Powell's visit underscored the
debate engulfing the Anglo-American mili-
tary adventure in Iraq, an adventure that,
among other things, has stoked the fires of
Islamic fanaticism and hostility throughout
the world.

The notion afoot in Washington is that a
resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
would palliate the nationalist impulses ben-
efiting the Islamist movements in both
Gaza and on the West Bank. Since the 1967 war, successive Israeli governments
have sought to establish what they call "facts on
the ground" in both Gaza and on the West Bank.

On the West Bank, this policy has meant
building permanent Israeli settlements, often-
ecessarily for security but that fragment the
land area of any future Palestinian state.

The settlement policy also has produced an
entrenched, unnationalistic political base
among those who have been enticed to move into
Palestinian areas. The "settlers" have been
among the most vociferous supporters of Likud
and Sharon until recently, when they began stag-
ning protest rallies against a Gaza withdrawal.

Sharon's game is transparent. Having long
declared that Yasser Arafat was the primary
obstacle to a negotiated settlement of the
Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Sharon has
sought to impose a "settlement" that pla-
cates nationalistic impulses and religious
fanatism. The Bush administration has sup-
ported this stance.

However, the situation has changed. In
November, Mahmoud Abbas succeeded Arafat
as chairman of the PLO. He also is
Washington's preferred candidate for president
of the PA in elections scheduled for Jan. 9.
Indeed, one reason for Powell's visit was to
impress leaders on both sides with the U.S.'s
wish that nothing be allowed to interfere with
the elections as scheduled.

Whether Abbas can live up to U.S. expectations
is an open question. Abbas is described as a mod-
erate who favors ending the intifada that has
ragged since 2000, suicide bombings and all armed
resistance against the Israeli occupation. His abil-
ity to hold together feuding militant groups and
their petty chieftains is far from certain. He could
not stand up to or outwit Arafat during his brief
stint as prime minister a few years ago. He has
inherited Arafat's title as chairman of the PLO,
but not Arafat's popularity among Palestinians.
At least one poll taken before Arafat's death
placed Abbas last among several prospective suc-
cessors for the PLO leadership.

Nor is the Israeli position any more tenable.
Apart from everything else, the Israeli state
is caught in an intractable contradiction that is
meant to be a racially democratic state.

Israel was to be a homeland and a refuge for
the Jewish people. It was created after German
persecution perpetrated the Nazi Holocaust and
in response to anti-Semitism generally. It was
meant to be a Jewishly democratic state.
The two things—theocracy and democracy—are
incompatible. To maintain its Jewish character a political plurality of Jews is assumed.
To some extent, this has been done by
creating a Jewish majority and a non-Jewish
minority. But is this not also a sign of the domi-
nantly Arab legislative body if a democratic
basis is to be maintained, or widespread
suppression to prevent that outcome will ensue.

A resolution to this decades-old conflict
cannot be found simply by installing a more mod-
erate spokesperson for the Palestinians or a
more compromising Sharon. Such a resolution
would be temporary at best. The solution can-
not be found within class-divided society or
within blinding and narrow political and
national conceptualizations.

The only basis for peace between Palestinians
and Israelis lies in their working classes. Mutual
recognition of their common interests as exploit-
ed workers within capitalist society must com-
mel them to end wage slavery and abolish capi-
talism. They both comprise a part of one true
nation, that of the exploited workers of the
world. Palestinian and Israeli workers must link
arms in a unified organization whose goal can
can only be putting an end to capitalist exploita-
tion and establishment of a socialist society in
which they will both enjoy the full fruits of their labor.

...Flu Vaccine

(Continued from page 1)

may have inadvertently contributed to the prob-
lem. In 1999, a new system to regulate the quali-
ty and safety of vaccines took effect. Again, drug
companies decided they could not make sufficient
profits by producing higher quality and safer vac-
cines.

That "new system" was not particularly effective
in preventing the bacterial contamination of vac-
cine made by Chiron, the company that caused the
shortage. Nonetheless, if not mistakes, by the Food
and Drug Administration played a huge role in
containing this.

Chiron had previously promised to fix similar
problems found in 1999, 2001 and 2002. Yet, in
June 2003, an FDA team found 20 problems, most
dealing with contamination. Even so, the FDA said
nothing.

The inspectors had at least recommended citing
Chiron with a formal warning. Despite Chiron's
record, the inspectors' bosses asked Chiron to cor-
rect the problems voluntarily.

Even after Aug. 25, when Chiron admitted the
contamination of several million doses of vaccine
within days, the FDA did not make a new inspection.

Apparently, that is how the FDA believes problems
are voluntarily fixed.

Making matters worse, according to a
Government Accountability Office report issued
Sept. 28, "there is no system in place to ensure that
seniors and others at high risk for complications
receive flu vaccinations first when vaccine is in
short supply.

The flu also has an impact on production and,
and hence, profits. Employers usually buy up 10 million
to 20 million flu shots for workplace clinics to keep
downtime at a minimum. Another expert said that
the average worker loses 1 to 1.5 days of work each
year due to flu, but that could double this year.

Looking ahead, matters could get much worse.

The World Health Organization has sounded
alarms over the lack of preparedness for when the
next pandemic occurs.

When that pandemic comes along, health workers
will need to administer billions of doses of vaccine
in just a few weeks, compared to the 300 million doses
in regular flu seasons. A pandemic could spread world-
wide in fewer than six months. It could infect 30 per-
cent of the world's population and cause one percent
to die. No one knows for sure what the pandemic
virus would be, and drug companies would lose mil-
lions of dollars if they produced vaccine for the wrong
virus.

To capitalists, property and profit are more
important than life itself—more important certain-
ly than the lives of the millions, and possibly bil-
lions, of people who are at the mercy of the drug
industry. It is almost superfluous to say that the facts
demonstrate that replacing capitalism, world-
wide, has become a necessity.

Socialism is the logical replacement. "What is
socialism?" is a rehearsed question whose answer
just never seems to be developed. (See page 4)

Allowing capitalism to continue is unthinkable.