C
hanges in FBI guidelines an-
ounced in May by Attorney
General John Ashcroft will
allow the CIA and the FBI to work
together on domestic investigations.
The changes make it much easier for
the FBI to engage in counterin-
telligence programs of the sort that
were supposedly circumscribed and
brought under the “oversight” of
Congress in the mid-1970s.
Any move to make repression easi-
er should be opposed by all who
favor protecting our rapidly diminishing
civil liberties. Indeed, all who value
the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill
of Rights have no choice but to de-
fend these freedoms. The question is
how those who understand the need
can fashion an effective defense. More,
it is by fashioning an offensive, by
repression so powerful that no simi-
lar assault on those freedoms and lib-
erties can ever again be undertaken
in this country.
The federal government, often
in the name of democracy, and fre-
quently with approving nods from
 Congress and the courts, has histori-
cally trampled upon basic civil rights
and liberties in response to supposed
threats to our liberties. These moves
are justified as necessary to
protect against a repetition of the
crisis of Sept. 11. However, Sunday
school child knows that two
wrongs don’t make a right. One
wrong cannot justify another, but one
wrong may be useful to misrepresent
the motives of those who would per-
petrate a second wrong. Indeed,
that has been done repeatedly over the
last 100 years with lingering and
sometimes permanent effects on the
very rights their restricted exercise
are supposed to protect.
World War I brought with it the
Sedition Act and the imprisonment
of opponents of war for using “disloyal
language.” The social atmosphere
of World War II fostered the Smith Act,
suppression of strikes, threats of labor
conscription and the internment of
Japanese-Americans. The Korean War
and early Cold War contributed to
the passage of the McCarran Act,
which empowered the president to
suspend the Bill of Rights and impose
wholesale detentions of persons who
“probably will” engage in espionage
or sabotage.
The Vietnam War period saw mas-
ive government infiltration and dis-
ruption of antiracism, leftist and civil
rights organizations, and violent sup-
pression of protests and certain polit-
ical groups.
In the mid-1980s, the mere possibil-
ity of a U.S. war in Central America
prompted the Federal Emergency
Management Agency to draft a
contingency plan to impose martial
law. The centralization, imprisonment,
and deportation of Central American immigrants and
conscript labor in the event of “wide-
spread internal dissent or national
crisis” to the U.S. military invasion
“abroad.” FBI spying and disruption of antiracism groups was widespread even
under congressional “oversight,” which
embarrassingly failed to notice.
The attacks of Sept. 11 are being
used to justify the new repressive
measures implied by the reorganiza-
tion of the FBI. A failure to stop these
measures will certainly encourage
those who would prefer to see the Bill
of Rights reduced to mere window-
dressing to keep chipping away until
there is no more freedoms to lose or
defend.
However important it is to resist
repressive measures, the threat of re-
pression will persist as long as capital-
ism exists. Capitalism, of course,
establishes economic wealth and power
on the capitalist class, and that eco-
monic wealth and power translates into
control over the government. Whatever
guard individual capitalists may have
for their own personal freedoms,
their overriding concern is that the
capitalist class retains its power.
(Continued on page 6)

By B.B.

A recent page one report in The
Dallas Morning News (May 26)
offered readers a morass of statistics
taken from the Census of 2000. The
purpose was to assure us that the
decade of the 1990s was one of pros-
perous growth for North Texas
accompanied by an increase in pover-
ty, largely attributed to the influx of
immigrants—mostly Hispanic. It
leaves readers with the false notion
assiduously cultivated by the
capitalist class that “the poor will
always be with us”—and any how,
they just keep the rest of us so
do not count.

Prosperity is implicitly defined by
the median household income, which
came to $59,068 in 1999, up from
$50,901 in 1990, a change of 13.3 percent in 10 years.
North Dallas cities, that median
dropped from $200,901
to $101,788 for the better off, and
from $13,333 down to $4,500 for the poor.
But all but one of those 25 communi-
ties has a Hispanic name, the article
asserts, “Texas ended the decade
deeper educated, living in
larger, newer homes and owning
more vehicles.”

The article goes on to extol the
1990s as a great era of prosperity and
growth for Texas, particularly in such
communities as Highland Park, He-
bron and Westover Hills, which are
places packed with capitalists, their
managerial beneficiaries, lawyers
and high-paid professionals.
“...The percent of families living
in poverty increased during the de-
cade in 30 [North Texas] area
cities, including Dallas, and in 13 cities,
more than one in 10 families had
annual incomes below the poverty
threshold of $17,465 for a two-parent fami-
ly of four.”

After a game of statistical “catch
me if you can,” the report ends with a
comment on poverty by Larry James,
executive director of Central Dallas
Ministries, who said: “You can count
on it being underreported.”

The fact is the accumulation of
personal property such as clothes,
automobiles, homes, TVs, VCRs,
personal computers, etc., is not a gauge
of anything for the working and wage
workers residing of the states, nor
are modest increases in annual
incomes, which have historically and
dramatically declined over the past
decade; nor is plundering farmed to
by the extension of housing and sub-
urban growth an indication of pros-
perity—indeed, it is massive degen-
eration and waste.

What the report tells us is that the
capitalist class made a killing during
the 1990s, while the working class
survived in various states of insecure-
y. Another source correctly pointed
d out that the difference between those
in poverty and those in “affluence” is
a week or two of unemployment for
the former, perhaps a month or two
for the latter, and for the really “afflu-
ent” maybe three to six months.
Regardless of how thin you slice it,
however, for the vast majority a mass-
ive loss of jobs means legions of bill
collectors coming to remove what lit-
tle “affluence” they survive upon. It is
no secret that the “prosperity” we
suppose have is buoyed by a mas-
sive bubble of working-class debt.

For the working class, which com-
prises the vast majority of Texas res-
dents, true prosperity can only come
with an end to their collective ex-
ploration at the point of production
by the capitalist class. It can only

(Continued on page 7)
Stale Coke Sold To Dallas Poor

By John-Phil Catsuro

Workers at a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Dallas recently discovered a long-standing policy of redistributing expired soda to workers, mainly in largely African-American neighborhoods.

Apparently stale Coke that sat unsold on store shelves past its expiration date was taken back to the bottling plant, removed from its old cardboard packaging and placed in new boxes. The relabeled and rebottled goods were then shipped off to poorer neighborhoods for sale at discount prices.

“I knew what we were doing was not right,” said one former worker. “But the company said, ‘What are you saying? You take a delivery man for the past 14 years. ‘But every time I brought it up, I’d hear: ‘I’m the boss. You do what I say.’”

Store managers in minority neighborhoods reported that the bottler responded to complaints by sending workers equipped with new packaging and window cleaner to erase the old expiration dates from bottle labels out of sight in the stock rooms of the composting plants.

A spokesman for the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of North Texas denied the charges made by the workers and store owners, according to a report printed on May 19 by The New York Times.

The newspaper allegedly obtained that none of the workers who finally balked at what their bosses had them doing for years claimed that the expired soda posed a significant health risk. “Soda can be old enough to grow mold without causing acute illness,” it ventured to add.

“But soda past its expiration date goes flat and loses some of its taste.”

Delivery drivers and warehouse workers are not experts on health risks, of course, and were motivated solely by financial considerations. “It was a trifling $5.15 an hour.”

These attempts have been continually blocked by U.S. House of Representatives Republican whip Tom DeLay. DeLay’s romance with Saipan’s ruthless capitalist is discussed in The People’s March 1998 article on Saipan’s labor exploitation.

“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 members 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.

(Continued on page 7)
San Francisco Mayor Would Soak Laundry Workers

By Carl C. Miller Jr.

C apitulation's economic downturns wreak havoc on the working class. As these days of the anything-goes free market and once-sacred "secure" government jobs are on the chopping block, particularly at the local level, as layoffs, big and small, dot and crow-er-up or turn their bellies to the sky, tax bases start to shrink. Consequently, many city governments are cutting jobs and diverting public money to private firms, with no concern for the human costs involved.

The cuts do not affect many bureaucrats near or at the top of the bureaucratic pile, and heaven forbid that "law and order" should ever be put at risk for a "balanced budget," and outsourcing their jobs. "This is the only work we have," said one of the laundry workers, who had worked at the laundry for 15 years, and who knows, "what do we have? How do we make a living? We're all screwed up."

Brown, a consummate politician if there ever was one, can always be counted on for a small-raise-while-they-hold-their-breath wallow in the governmental ax, and he was careful to shed a few conspicuously public crocodile tears over the situation. "This is painful," he said, "to lay them off is like laying off my mother," he said. "It's painful."

The mayor's "pain" oozed like jelly from a doughnut, but he has no genuine consolation for the laundry workers. They face real pain, the pain of being without even their indecently low incomes to support themselves and their families.

There has been some behind-the-scenes politicking between Brown and unions representing more than 27,000 city workers, according to the Chronicle. Apparently his honor, the mayor, wants the laundry workers to take from their wages to pay into their pension fund to make up for some of the lost capitalist and other property taxes the city used to cover the cost. If they do that there will be no layoffs, or so says_Willy Brown. As incentive, the Chronicle noted, "the city would kick in a small raise at the end of the year.""This is the only work we have," said one of the laundry workers, "and we have to take small raise" while threatening to eliminate jobs and the totality of wages that go with them. From where will the fund come for the "small raise" if the city is so strapped for funds since the dot-dot-dot debacle that the mayor felt compelled to make his threat against the worst paid and least able to resist of all city workers? Most likely the "small raise" would come from the interest or profits the city might get from sinking the workers' contributions into some speculative capitalist scheme or other. By pooling the tiny contributions individual workers would make to the social security pension fund, the city would scrape together a tidy sum to invest in capitalist ventures in hopes of gaining a profit from the exploitation of other workers. The city would then get its dividends, from which it would drop a few pennies back into the pension fund and into the laundry workers' pockets.

Some unions have agreed to this, but others have not, among them the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) that represents the threatened Laguna Honda laundry workers. Publicly, the dissenting unions and the mayor are both saying their positions are firm, according to the report, but privately they are still negotiating.

In true-to-form trade union fashion, this matter failed to inform the rank and file about the mayor's scheme. Many workers learned of it from a reporter. Lolida Washington and her coworkers reportedly said they would be willing to pay into their pension plans if it would save their jobs, though that would lower their wages, make life even more difficult and lower their chances of deriving any benefit from a pension. Nonetheless, the SEIU remains adamant, probably on the theory that it is better to lose some dues now than to give wily Willy what he wants, thereby enabling him to try it again on a wider scale.

Bryan Uyeno, an 11-year employee at Laguna Honda and shop steward for SEIU Local 250, which represents the laundry workers, also is adamant about his support for the union's position. "We shouldn't have to give back anything we already have," he said. "The people before me fought hard to get this for us, and I'm not going to say it's all right to give it away."

What Uyeno doesn't understand is that those who went before him fought hard for the wrong thing. Had they fought for wages large enough to provide themselves with a decent living and to set aside for their retirement those in the here and now won't be in the predicament they are.

The Laguna Honda workers are worried about their jobs. Washington said, "Right now I just have to wait to find out what's happening. I thought I had a secure job, but now I don't know." Washington's coworker, 62-year-old Melba Davis, is in the same predicament. "This job is real important to me. I want to retire soon and I want to pay off my mortgage."Uyeno, who is a long-term public care facility serving the elderly, noted, "the city would kick in a small raise at the end of the year."

Men and women working in the poultry industry are among the lowest paid of American workers. Their work is exacting and repetitive. The various tasks include killing, plucking, dressing and gutting the birds. A certain portion of this lot is then left whole for masters. Other carcasses are cut into various parts and some of the parts skinned, all to satisfy the preferences of the consumers.

Because they work with food products, poultry workers are required to wear appropriate gear and clothing, including hairnets—not only to protect themselves but to protect the food from contamination by human hair, blood and bacteria, and to protect their employers from consumer lawsuits.

For years, poultry industry capital-ists have refused to pay for their workers the time it took to put on and remove this protective clothing and gear. The poultry companies had insisted that this activity was just part of their employees' personal time.

On May 9, a lawsuit on behalf of the workers began under the Clinton administration by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Administra-tion was finally won against Perdue Farms. The decision affirmed the Labor Department's contention that the "dressing and gutting" procedure was related to work safety.

The settlement was for $10 million, one of the largest reached by the department. Perdue also agreed to pay all the workers in the future for this procedure. It was estimated that workers spend eight minutes a day putting on and taking off the required clothing and gear. This would mean an extra $500 a year for each worker's unpaid work. The decision covers a period of two past years. The $10 million is to be distributed to 25,000 former and current Perdue work-ers, including the undocumented immi-grants who worked for the company.

On May 9 also, the Labor Department filed a similar lawsuit against Tyson Foods in Federal District Court in Birmingham, Ala., on behalf of the workers in its plant in Blountville, Ala.

Tyson, one of the largest poultry pro-ducers, has 65,000-processing workers.

Predictably, Tyson is promising a vig-orous legal defense. It claims that it is fully abiding by the wage and hours laws. But other federal officials have found that putting on and taking off this safety equipment was personal time, not work time, and that Tyson refused, and why would it not agree? After all, what are capitalist "labor laws" if not laws of, by and for the capitalist class?

The lawsuit against Tyson is ongoing. No capitalist enterprise ever surrenders gracefully when profits are at stake. Workers who live at the bottom of the heap, who have relatively little wealth, the company would not prosper. It is an axiom of capitalism, however, that the greatest part of that wealth should remain at the top and as little as possible should trickle down to the working class.
Little by little, the poorest half of the world's 497 richest people is now really starting to sink in. The wealth of humanity's collectively produced wealth, the 497 billionaires' wealth, is now greater than the entire wealth of humanity.

Even the reform-minded among these elements do not dare to reform capitalism, the day's growing social, economic and environmental crises cry out for a fundamental transformation of society, while reformers seek to prune the most ugly fruit of a system whose whole trunk has long been rotten and corrupt.

So-called "organized labor" also cannot be trusted to counter this influence. Based on the false principle that the interests of the capitalist class and the working class can be reconciled, these unions and their papers are the voices of the labor jokers, their spokesmen report only on the interests of those who pose as representatives of labor but have a material stake in the general system and are selling them out, in the process of selling "labor peace" to their exploiters.

The spring that ushered in the New Age did not find a world in the best of health. There is no hope for the world to change as long as there is progress, for the mode of production constitutes the economic base, the material forces of development of their material forces of production.

Thus, the history of the world is not the development of its economic wealth, but the development of its material forces of production to satisfy human needs, not, as under capitalism, for sale and profit. Socialism means government or state ownership. It does not mean a state milieu, mines, railroads, land and all other instruments of production. Socialism means government or state ownership. It does not mean a state bourgeoisie. It means a complete end to all capitalist class rule. Privately owned by and operated in the interest of capitalist class, the newspapers that we read, the programmes that we listen to, the television that we watch, the radio that we hear, all stem from the capitalist class.

The richest 497 people on earth are a tiny minority, the 0.00001% of the world's population. They own over $1.02 trillion, or more than half of the world's wealth. They are the 1% who own 90% of the world's wealth. They own the means of production, the factories, the mines, the pulpits and the educational system—providing a conduit for promoting continued capitalist-class rule. Privately owned by and operated in the interest of capitalist class, the newspapers that we read, the programmes that we listen to, the television that we watch, the radio that we hear, all stem from the capitalist class.

Socialism is the collective ownership of the people of the factories, mills, mines, 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 government or state ownership. It does not mean a state bourgeoisie. It means a complete end to all capitalist class rule. Privately owned by and operated in the interest of capitalist class, the newspapers that we read, the programmes that we listen to, the television that we watch, the radio that we hear, all stem from the capitalist class.

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 apoplectic with a government in their midst that is quite able to satisfy the workers' needs but without democratic rights. It does not mean "nationalization," or "labor-management boards," or "state capitalism" of any kind. It means a complete end to all capitalist class rule.
The authors, borrowing a phrase from tech companies such as the Goodyear and Vtech Holdings Ltd., and even low-venues. Most of those fleeing are high-workers. It's Cracked Up to Be

"Cheap Labor" Not All

It's Cracked Up to Be

By B.B.

The Dallas Morning News recently dealt a blow to the widely promoted theory that American workers lose jobs to lower paid workers abroad in a report that found a reduction in manufacturing jobs.

"The shift to Texas should come as no surprise since the American working class is the most productive in the world. The 2002 World Competitive Yearbook confirms this, compiled by the Swiss business school IMD International that lists the United States as numero uno among the nations of the world."

The strikers have been commended on all sides for the splendid fight which they have put up.

"This bit of news should steel the workers to end the system of exploitation of labor depends not only the efforts of a few exploiters."

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"This bit of news should steel the workers to end the system of exploitation of labor depends not only the efforts of a few exploiters."
...BFI's New Powers

As I said above, the establishment of these tenets, now no longer left in doubt, has been accompanied by a growing confusion of the words. Beautiful and colorful are the struggles of the movement in their various manifestations in several countries, including the United States. In none, however, does the special struggle, carried on by the American SLP, so effectively as its political movement to the integrally, industrially organized working class. As untenable as its views are the SLP's final act of battle, so unessential is the political movement for that final act of emancipation, which consists in the "faking and holding" of the productive powers of the land. It is "without affiliation" with its own army that a SLP army delivers battle. "With" and "without" in political movements, the working class, embattled in its industrially constructed economic organization, becomes a conscious and cssates the capitalist class.

SLP vs. Social Democracy

Under the Banner of the SLP

The People.
Florida Workers Take On Fast-Food Giant

By David Bacon

©Pacific News Service

ISMOKALEE, Fla.—Yo Quien Taco Bell?

The SLP works with some of the largest corporations in the world, with thousands of workers under its jurisdiction. Sometimes this is the difference between life and death.

The workers are not the only ones who suffer. In a fast-food restaurant, the wages paid to the workers are often below the minimum wage, and the working conditions are often hazardous. The SLP supports workers' rights and fights against exploitation.

In the case of Taco Bell, the SLP's work has resulted in significant improvements for the workers. The SLP's campaign has been successful in raising awareness about the working conditions in the fast-food industry, and has led to better wages and working conditions for the workers.

The SLP's work is an example of how unions can make a difference in the lives of workers. The SLP's success in the Taco Bell case is a testament to the power of solidarity and the importance of organizing for workers' rights.
**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 that coincide with the subdivisions of the integral industrial union of all the useful producers. This industrial self-government of the producers provides a visible means for society to operate the economy collectively and democratically, without social classes or any form of state oppression.

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**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:

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**THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIALIST INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM**

- **All industries and services will be represented.**
- **Local Automobile Industry Council**
- **National Automobile Industry Council**
- **Other Manufacturing Industry Council**
- **Cleveland Council**
- **Los Angeles Council**
- **Engineering, Tool & Die Assembly, Plant Council**

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**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.