Health care is part of the value of labor power. Health care is necessary to produce, maintain and reproduce labor power. In other words, without access to adequate health care the quality of life for workers and their families will be poorer. They will suffer needlessly from conditions that could be prevented and treated with adequate health care they will endure needless pain and suffering. They will die younger. Above all, they will not be able to obtain employment that will provide the other necessaries of life for themselves and their families.

Health care in the United States is in a critical condition. The word “crisis” may be indiscriminately used in our society.
‘Our Final Hour: A Scientist’s Warning’

OUR FINAL HOUR: A SCIENTIST’S WARNING: HOW TERROR, ERROR, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER THREATEN HUMANKIND’S FUTURE IN THIS CENTURY—ON EARTH AND BEYOND, by Sir Martin Rees, Basic Books of Massachusetts, publisher, 2003; 228 pages. Please order from bookseller or publisher.

By B.Y.B.

In his latest book, Our Final Hour, Sir Martin Rees, internationally renowned astrophysicist and cosmologist, gives humanity a 50-50 chance of surviving the 21st century. Rees believes that scientific developments are outpacing society’s ability to maintain control over them and that certain of these advances could destroy the world by miscalculation or mistake, particularly by falling into the hands of unscrupulous groups or individuals. Rees also believes that modern society is ill equipped to contend with certain extraterrestrial threats, such as mammoth asteroids that could hit the Earth, and that some scientific developments may pose an equal threat to the cosmos itself.

One of the threats that Rees identifies is that of a nuclear catastrophe. That threat is still high and will remain high during the 21st century despite the end of the Cold War. “Nuclear weapons can be dismantled,” he wrote, “but they cannot be uninvented.” The danger of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of “rogue states,” or into the hands of “individuals” who would “be able to trigger catastrophe,” poses a greater because uncontrollable danger.

In Rees’s view, however, even that is not the greatest danger. During the 21st century, he believes, “the nuclear threat will be overshadowed by others that could be as destructive, and far less controllable.” He cited several:

- A reversal of the Gulf Stream resulting from environmental destruction that could plunge northern Europe into Siberian weather conditions.
- Continuing degradation of biodiversity brought on by global warming and habitat destruction that already is killing off plant and animals at an alarming rate. (Before human intervention, one species in 1 million became extinct annually. Currently species are disappearing at the rate of one in 1,000 annually, with incredible acceleration over the past two centuries.)
- The possibility of dust-sized, self-replicating nanorobots designed to chew through organic matter and turn the biosphere into a lifeless “gray goop” could be on the computer screen of some lunatic scientist.
- Certain experimental uncertainties as exemplified by the gravitational wave detector devised by Stanford University scientists. (This device is a one-ton metal bar that has been cooled to 459 degrees Fahrenheit, the coldest large object in the universe, the effects of which are unknown.)

Unfortunately, Rees’s study of the most distasteful threats in the universe does not qualify him in social science. Indeed, this is the weakness in the author’s otherwise excellent assessment of the increasingly harrowing conditions that threaten humankind. He fails to see that the chaos around him is the uncontrolled nature of a science totally beholden to competing ruling-class nations that jealously vie for the control of world markets and sources of raw materials.

As long as capitalism exists, a global race to find the cheapest labor will continue. Only true socialism, where production will be for the use of all instead of the profits of a few, will put an end to this insanity.

...Wal-Mart

(Continued from page 1)

one month’s back wages.”

No genuine unions, no strikes, low wages and a police state hand to crush workers who resist. These conditions allow a bonanza for Wal-Mart and other U.S. firms who profit from human exploitation. But that’s not the worst of it, according to the National Labor Committee and China Labor Watch report. Conditions in prison factories, where Wal-Mart products are made, are far worse than at the He Yi factory. Investigative reporter “Greg Palast reports that Chinese dissident Hongda Wu discovered, in 1995, that Wal-Mart was contracting prison ‘slave labor’ in Guangdong Province.” Hongda Wu himself suffered for 19 years as a prisoner in this slave labor system.

In general, American capitalists have taken advantage of China’s abundant cheap labor backed by the U.S. state as the executive committee of America’s capitalist class. Those, such as Wal-Mart, with more specific ties to powerful sectors of the U.S. and PRC ruling classes have the edge.

Do You Belong?

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

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

The Burning Question of Trades Unionism

De Leon examines every major argument—pro and con—for and against, the form and function of trade unions. He concludes that there are no unanswerable objections to the existence of trade unions, that they can be an effective force within capitalism to the benefit of working class unionists.

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Bush Oversees Decline In Water and Air Quality

By Ken Boettcher

President George W. Bush asserted in the second presidential debate that he was “a good steward of the land.” “The quality of the air’s cleaner since I’ve been the president,” he daimed. “Fewer water complaints since I’ve been the president,” swaggered Bush.

Bush’s claim prompted a reality-check article in Knight-Ridder newspapers. It’s not difficult to understand why. The facts, as the article pointed out, show that if the nation had more “good stewards” like Bush it wouldn’t need any environmental agencies.

“On Bush’s watch,” said the article, “America’s environment deteriorated in many critical areas—including the quality of air in cities and the quality of water that people drink—and gained in very few.”

Government and university data show that, among other things, the Bush administration “ordered dozens of sweeping changes to existing environmental policies, usually to benefit business interests. It reversed the government’s [painfully slow] course on global warming, power plant emissions, roadless areas of national forests, environmental law enforcement and agricultural run-off.”

During the Bush administration’s tenure in office, the number of civil citations against polluters decreased by 57 percent. There were 17 percent fewer criminal prosecutions of polluters. Warnings against the eating of fish from rivers increased by 200 percent; those against the consumption of fish from lakes rose 39 percent. Beach closings due to pollution increased by 26 percent.

During the same period the number of asthma attacks rose by 6 percent. That too is under-stated, given that while statistics show “that major air emissions dropped 9 percent nationwide over the first three years of the Bush administration...the number of times that air in U.S. cities was declared unhealthy increased from 1,525 in 2001 to 1,693 in 2003, and 2,035 in 2002.”

The inspector general of the Environmental Protection Agency recently issued a report, which said “national air-emission reductions don’t accurately reflect the stagnating pollution levels in metropolitan areas.”

Perhaps most noteworthy for workers and their families everywhere in the United States is that Bush did not change. The federal government’s record on Superfund site cleanups. Superfund sites, the nation’s most hazardous pollution sites, were ostensibly intended for cleanup under the government in the Superfund program.

The federal government’s record on Superfund site cleanups is hardly stellar, but under the Bush administration it hit new lows. According to a recent report by the Sierra Club, during the Bush years, “The rate of cleanups [fell] by half compared with the late 1990s.”

Presently, according to the report:

• “Human exposure to health-threatening chemicals is not under control at 111 Superfund sites.”

• At another 158 Superfund sites, EPA has insufficient data to determine if human exposure is under control.

• “Migration of groundwater pollution is not under control at 251 Superfund sites.”

• “The large number of federal facilities where human health exposure and ground water pollution is not controlled demonstrates that environmental protections should apply to the federal government just as they do to everyone else.”

Kerry might slow the destruction, but he cannot stop it. It is inherent in the capitalist rational-capitalist system of production, which Kerry supports. Environmental degradation can be counted on to continue no matter which capitalist party wins “stewardship” of the economy and the environment along with it.

Under capitalism, the small minority that owns and controls the industries and services—the capitalist class—makes all production decisions. This is as true for large corporations, where layers of management are ultimately responsible to the principal stockholders, as it is for smaller, individually-owned or family-run companies, where capitalists more often are directly involved in the decision-making process. Managers and owners make their decisions to serve only one goal—maximizing profits. That is where the pollution problem begins.

From the capitalist point of view, it is generally less costly, and therefore more profitable, to simply dump pollutants into the environment and possibly pay fines than to invest in pollution-control equipment or pollution-free processes. Little if anything is done to prevent pollution at its source.

Likewise with regard to every aspect of their economic activity. Socially harmful decisions are made because, one way or another, they serve to enhance the profit interests of the capitalists involved.

Capitalist-class control of the economy also explains why government regulation is perennially lax. The government is essentially a capitalist institution. Politicians—Republican and Democratic alike—though elected by the general public, are financed, supported and desirably influenced by the economic power of the capitalist class. That economic power also generally holds sway over the bureaucrats appointed to the regulatory agencies. Consequently, though an individual capitalist polluter occasionally may be called to task, rarely are they punished as a group. And even when social circumstances force the agencies to take some action, the high cost of environmental cleanup is a virtual guarantee that any cleanup undertaken will proceed at a snail’s pace—just enough to give the appearance that “something is being done.”

Clearly, if the nation is to have a healthy and safe environment, it is up to the working class, the majority of people who actually produce society’s goods and services and operate its industries, to take action. The action we must take is to organize, politically and industrially, to abolish the material source of the crisis by building an entirely new social system.

That new social order must be one in which society itself owns the industries, and in which the workers would control and operate them democratically through our own organizations based in the workplace.

Such a society—a socialist industrial democracy—is what is needed to solve the environmental crisis. By replacing capitalist control of the means of life and the profit motive with a democratic, socialist industrial order, it would produce to meet human needs and wants, the necessary resources and labor could be devoted to stopping pollution at its source and better cleaning up the damage already done.

On the environmental front alone, capitalism and its profit motive are bringing us to the brink of disaster, and time is running out to take corrective action. It is time to join in the only effort to save the environment that can possibly succeed—the movement for socialism!
“The characteristic weakness of the proletariat—at its economic dependence—renders it prone to lures. It, the least favored of all historic revolutions, cannot be too forcefully held up. This important lesson is repeated whenever it is not remembered. It, the least favored of all historic revolutions, is, therefore, the key to the whole situation. At the same time, it supports the argument for any arrangement of the labor market itself. The FSLA also set the minimum wage at 25 cents, and the capitalist state has been so resistant to revising this figure as to deserve the label of "capitalist" by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and all its later revisions. In fact, the FLSA never applied to all workers and workers and deflect their attention from the possibilities offered by more a radical change.

The Bush Administration's attempt to "take away" what the political state "gave" Depression-era workers is not the first such attempt and will not be the last. President Bush also announced in August that he wanted further revision of the overtime rules. This came about because of the new Aug. 23 rules. They would allow the substitution of "comp time" for time-and-a-half overtime pay and establish a "flextime" provision. Both were offered as supposedly "family friendly" changes.

However, Bush's "comp time" substitution would amount to time off at employers' discretion, making overtime cheaper for employers. It would no doubt lead to more mandatory overtime. Both longer hours and more unpredictable work schedules would result for workers. The "flextime" provisions would mean, for example, that workers might work 50 hours one week and 30 the next, with no overtime pay for the first.

As state and federal overtime regulations are modified or eliminated, the opportunities for employers to increase the length of the workday or workweek for workers there are no benefits in a return to conditions where explorers once again unilaterally determine the length of the working day. The illusion of a shorter workweek or paid time off is no compensation for a steady diet of longer workdays that can and will lead to increased fatigue and otherwise undermine health and welfare.

Reversing the tide requires that workers stop supporting reforms and reformers. Reforms have been tried, and they have proved to be no "guarantees" against the ill effects of capitalism at all. Workers must build their own revolutionary labor movement that would not look to capitalist government for a shorter workweek or a normal time and the like. Rather, it would win and enforce such gains because of its own organized strength on the economic field. At the same time, it would be organizing toward the higher goal of abolishing capitalism and establishing a socialist system under which no one would be denied the opportunity to work and everyone could enjoy the abundance and greater leisure time that methods of production make possible, but that capitalism now prevents.

IBM Worker Loses Battle With Cancer

IBM Worker Loses Battle With Cancer

By Bruce Cozzini

James Moore died on Oct. 8 after a nine-year battle with non-Hodgkins lymphoma and a much shorter battle with his former employer, IBM. The San Jose Mercury News story reporting the death of the 63-year-old former IBM worker portrayed him as an exemplary person, a good father, husband and worker. He was more than that. He was a courageous man who did not want to believe that IBM had knowingly exposed him to toxic chemicals. As his wife, Louella, said: "He was total IBM. They did no wrong. They took care of their people." He liked how it was a family-oriented company. But he did come to realize that he had been working in a hazardous environment that workers endured at IBM's disk drive plant in San Jose.

When the evidence finally convinced him that IBM was not only responsible, but had kept the truth from him, he felt betrayed by a company he had trusted. Although undergoing treatment for his illness in a hospital in Oklahoma, Moore persevered, knowing how important it was to raise the issues of workplace toxic contamination on workers' health. The suit "was never about the money," Moore's daughter, Debbie, told the Mercury News. "He was not aware of the chemicals and not told back when he was working how to protect yourself. He wanted the awareness to be made more public—taking away at its provisions. The Bush administration's attempt to "take away" what the political state "gave" Depression-era workers is not the first such attempt and will not be the last.

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U.S. Juggles the Numbers To Hide True Jobless Rate

By Ken Boettcher

Appearances can be deceiving, and frequently are, when they involve unemployment statistics. Take the official unemployment rate of 5.4 percent for August and September, for example.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) cites an “unemployment rate” in its monthly report on employment. This is the official rate reported in the major media and parroted by pundits and politicians. This official rate is far below the real unemployment rate, however, because it does not include those who are unemployed.

The official rate excludes those who work part time but want full-time work. One hour of paid work per week is all it takes for a worker to be counted in this category. The BLS calls these workers “part time for economic reasons,” whatever that may mean. It does not count them as unemployed, but it said there were 4,452 million of them in September.

The official unemployment rate also excludes workers who still want and are available for a job, but who have lost hope and have stopped looking. The BLS says these workers are “marginally attached to the labor force.” It does not count them as unemployed because they did not seek work in the four weeks preceding the BLS’s monthly survey. In September, the BLS reported 1.6 million workers in this category, including 412,000 it classifies as “discouraged” because they had given up hope and were not looking for work in the four weeks preceding the BLS’s monthly survey. In September, the BLS reported 1.6 million workers in this category, including 412,000 it classifies as “discouraged” because they had given up hope and were not looking for work in the four weeks preceding the BLS’s monthly survey. In September, the BLS reported 1.6 million workers in this category, including 412,000 it classifies as “discouraged” because they had given up hope and were not looking for work in the four weeks preceding the BLS’s monthly survey.

Adding workers that the BLS classifies as “part time for economic reasons” and as “marginally attached to the labor force” to the 8.003 million workers the BLS reports as unemployed gives a more accurate—and much more grim—figure of 14.055 million unemployed workers and an unemployment rate of 9.4 percent.

It would be even more accurate to include at least 1.6 million workers classified as “not in the labor force” because they are in prison or in military service and “mislaid” from a BLS report issued in September 2003. That report showed that the number of all U.S. men from 25 to 54 and 65 and older who described themselves as retired and not looking for work rose from less than 6 percent in 1991 to over 10 percent in 2003.

A truly accurate unemployment rate might also include some of the rising number of disheartened workers who have been added to the Social Security disability rolls and thereby removed from the labor force. According to an article entitled “Laid Off Workers Swelling the Cost of Disability Pay” in The New York Times on Sept. 2, 2002, the number of people on Social Security disability rose by nearly 100 percent between 1990 and 2002, to nearly 6 million. Between January 2001 and September 2002, almost 400,000 were added to the disability rolls.

Official unemployment in the United States is far more extensive than the official figures let on. To be sure, the BLS’s monthly report does include a more accurate estimate of the real unemployment rate. In its September report, this data can be found on page 15, in Table A-12, titled “Alternative measures of labor underutilization.” The measure called U-6, for example, includes those officially unemployed “plus all marginally attached, plus all employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.”

While an occasional reference may be made in the major media to these “alternative” measures of unemployment, the sound bytes and quotations that pervade the print, radio and television news reports that influence U.S. workers every day almost exclusively cite the fictional official unemployment rate.

The shell game is hardly new. It has been going on for decades. Occasionally one among the major media outlets may actually gratuitously throw in a report on the shell game itself. However, the parties involved keep arrogantly playing the game by consistently and steadily hammering U.S. workers with the fictitious official rate, despite the monthly availability of more accurate measures.

The reason for the game is plain. It serves to downplay the serious problem that growing permanent unemployment is. It also serves to distract attention from the gradual unraveling of the American capitalist system, the origin of the problems convulsing the U.S.—as it has in all advanced capitalist countries. It also allows politicians of all stripes to make the most of small changes in the official rate that have no bearing at all to do with the real level of unemployment.

Capitalists and those in their government may presently find it easy to sweep data on the real extent of misery among workers under the rug. But it is a system that will not be left to gather dust forever. The capitalistic system that causes unemployment.

Capitalism Wins 2004 Election By Default

By Paul D. Lawrence

The loser in the November election was the working class. Although the election had not occurred at The Peoples press time, the winners will have been the candidates of the capitalist class. Substantive differences between Democrats and Republicans are nonexistent. Libertarians, liberals and conservatives, and economically, then they will not defeat capitalism and will never establish socialism. If capitalism collapses, workers’ intuitive measures of self-defense will not succeed. What would lie ahead is nothing like fascism, industrial feudalism or even a new Dark Ages. The progress of humankind could be arrested for centuries. Amidst this gloomy scenario one small ray of hope exists. The Socialist Labor Party, albeit battered, continues to struggle for socialism—to educate and then to organize the working class.

The leadership of The People far exceeds the membership of the Socialist Labor Party. The question is why.

Why are you, dear readers, holding back? You recognize that a search for work at their age arguably result primarily from capitalism’s lack of opportunities for all. A more accurate unemployment rate would also add workers forced to take early retirement who recognize that a search for work at their age would be futile and who are therefore trying to make ends meet on their retirement or severance package plus Social Security payments. This group is not often surveyed, but its significance may be sur-

Further, many are in prison for crimes that are essentially economic in nature and that arguably result primarily from capitalism’s lack of opportunities for all. A more accurate unemployment rate would also add workers forced to take early retirement who recognize that a search for work at their age would be futile and who are therefore trying to make ends meet on their retirement or severance package plus Social Security payments. This group is not often surveyed, but its significance may be sur-

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The reason for the game is plain. It serves to downplay the serious problem that growing permanent unemployment is. It also serves to distract attention from the gradual unraveling of the American capitalist system, the origin of the problems convulsing the U.S.—as it has in all advanced capitalist countries. It also allows politicians of all stripes to make the most of small changes in the official rate that have no bearing at all to do with the real level of unemployment.

Capitalists and those in their government may presently find it easy to sweep data on the real extent of misery among workers under the rug. But it is a system that will not be left to gather dust forever. The capitalistic system that causes unemployment.

The loser in the November election was the working class. Although the election had not occurred at The Peoples press time, the winners will have been the candidates of the capitalist class. Substantive differences between Democrats and Republicans are nonexistent. Libertarians, liberals and conservatives, are virtually nonexistent. Their differences are as meaningless as different sitting positions under the poisonous upas tree of capitalism.

Worse, the capitalist victory was by default. If workers do not become class conscious and economically, then they will not defeat capitalism and will never establish socialism. If capitalism does not work. It is an obstacle to social progress, a barrier to the advancement of knowledge, and a source of ever-increasing misery. The reason for the game is plain. It serves to downplay the serious problem that growing permanent unemployment is. It also serves to distract attention from the gradual unraveling of the American capitalist system, the origin of the problems convulsing the U.S.—as it has in all advanced capitalist countries. It also allows politicians of all stripes to make the most of small changes in the official rate that have no bearing at all to do with the real level of unemployment.

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Which Party Is Right?

(Daily People, July 24, 1904)

Mr. Chairman, workingmen and workingwomen of Providence: The gentleman who just preceded me said that, if there were no prohibition ticket in the field, he would vote for the Democratic Party. I say that, if there were no Socialist Labor Party in the field, I would vote neither the Provisional, nor the Democratic, nor yet the Republican nor any other ticket, but would stay at home and save my shoe leather. And I shall show you why you should do likewise, all other parties being worthless.

The representative of the Republican Party told you, amidst invocations to Americanism and to Lincoln, that there were no classes in our land. And the representatives of the Democratic and Provisional parties did likewise, only varying the theme with invocations of Jefferson and of humanity. A strange contradiction! It is, accordingly, utterly un-American to observe society so loosely as to fail to perceive facts that underlie it, or, perceiving their existence, to shut the eye to them. Of the score of more or less obvious sets of facts that go to prove the existence of the classes—the working class and the capitalist class—I shall take the most obvious for the occasion.

Language is like current coin. It passes current in the measure that it utters a truth. Take for instance the saying “as crooked as a ram’s horn.” Everybody knows what that means. Why? Because such a thing as a straight ram’s horn is unknown. The fact of the crookedness of rams’ horns is reflected in the utterance; and as the horn is crooked, the ram is under accusation of being crooked. In a market, consequently of being merchandise. That is the badge of labor under the existing social system. The same is true of all the splinter parties that have detached themselves in the same way. By advocating facts, let us weigh the present fact. What flows from the class quality of the workingman? His class quality is that of merchandise. As production is conducted by individual capitalists, or Jefferson toiled? Is it human? Is it humane? [The Democratic Party invoked the memory of Jefferson; the representative of the Democratic Party invoked the memory of Lincoln; the representative of the Prohibition Party invoked the memory of Jefferson; the representative of the Prohibition Party invoked the memory of Lincoln; the representative of the Republican Party invoked the memory of Jefferson.]

Take another iniquity. Under the capitalist system labor is even worse off than merchan-
in the plants of the capitalist masters, especially in the railroad service. What does that mean? For the reasons I mentioned before, the workingman is rapidly worn out. So well known is the fact that the saying has become general: "If a workingman reaches 40 years of age take him out and shoot him; he is too used up to be of further service, and he is too poor to take care of himself." It is this used-up human material that is called "deadwood" and is removed. And by whom is it supplanted? By the generation of its own children! These are fiendishly puffed up with the vanity of being "husbanders of the earth" and the like, in ignorance of the fact that they will soon be "deadwood" themselves. Thus, puffed up with vanity, they stuff themselves with ignorance, and dehumanized, the son "hustler" is instigated to drive off his "deadwood" parent. [A voice: "They are doing that very thing here in Providence!"] And everywhere else, my friend. Is it that what Lincoln strove for, or Jefferson aimed at? Is it human? Is it humane?

With the single exception of the Socialist Labor Party, all other parties—Republican, Democratic, Prohibition, or whatever other name they sail under—uphold the capitalist system of production. They either uphold it directly, or they uphold it indirectly by fusing with parties or elements that uphold capitalism. The Socialist Labor Party alone demands the unconditional surrender of the capitalist class; it alone is deserving of the support of the working class, because it alone utters the program and pursues the tactics to the certain emancipation of labor.

Obviously capitalism must be overthrown. Obviously any and every political party that approves of the capitalist system must be voted down. The question is: What to vote them down with? The feature of capitalist society lies in the chattel or merchandise character that it stamps upon an increasing majority of the people, and that feature is brought about by the private ownership of the means of production and the machinery with which to work. The private-owning few become masters; the masses, deprived of these essentials of work, become chattels, become merchandise. In order to prolong the ignorance of the masses on that question, the Democratic Party, by talking "political freedom," draws attention away from the real issue; it contributes with the Republican and other parties to prolong the ignorance of the masses on that great, the economic issue; and it induces the workers to aim their blows in the air.

The representative of the Republican Party did not resist the progress of capitalism. He who seeks political freedom intelligently, must seek it via economic freedom. Not all the declarations in favor of political freedom made by the Democratic Party amount to anything in view of the party's capitalistic industrial foundation, which it shares with the Republican Party. Now this is false. Beyond Westernly lies vast domains. And so do vast domains of social growth lie beyond capitalism. The race has traveled up to capitalism. We are all at that Westernly. The capitalist would have us stop there. The Socialist recognizes that we cannot, and he urges the further move towards socialism. Capitalism has led society up to the point of realizing the productivity of cooperative labor. But seeing that capitalism halts at the frontier of possession, socialism urges society to march onward so as to square the possession of the requisites for work with the system of work. The system of work has become collective, collective, accordingly, must also be the system of ownership of the requisites for work. The capitalist mind would leave in the present dislocated social system—collective labor and private ownership of land and capital. The Socialist sees beyond—beyond Westernly. His horizon is not bound by the present.

The representative of the Prohibition Party deplored the vast quantities of corn that was being turned into whiskey, and he declared that if it was turned into loaves of bread there would be more to eat. I ask, for whom to eat? We have in the gentleman's declaration another evidence of the fallacy of the capitalist mind and its parties. More loaves of bread by no means implies more food for the workers. There are today more trousers, shoes, coats, houses, etc., etc., but the workingman does not get the increase. Under the capitalist system the workingman is a merchant. Consequently what he gets is determined, not by the quantity of good things, but by his price in the labor market, and that price I have shown you is and must be a declining one. Bake more loaves of bread, and the workingman will have not one more loaf. It is no longer a question of production; it is now a question of distribution.

Whether the capitalist knows the fact or not, it makes no difference whether he resists the progress of civilization out of ignorance or out of class interests. The important fact is that he does so resist. Production is today physical. Under such conditions the continued crucifixion of the working class is no longer a "social necessity." If every able-bodied man could produce an amount of wealth equal to what it would today take $10,000 to purchase. But this is impossible under a system of private ownership of the means of production and the resulting system of production for sale and not for use.

The abolition of that system is proposed and systematically pursued only by the Socialist Labor Party. For this reason am I a Socialist. For this reason do I recommend and urge all workingmen to turn their backs to all other parties, and to plump their votes for the Socialist Labor Party.
...Facts About Economy

(Continued from page 1)

“A Bush-Cheney '04 ad claims Kerry would raise taxes on 900,000 small businesses and hurt jobs.” But it counts nothing—higher salaried person who has even $1 of outside business income as a “small business owner”—a definition so broad that even Bush and Cheney have guilted most Americans. In fact, hundreds of thousands of those ‘small businesses’ have no jobs to offer.” (Emphasis added.)

That is true, as far as it goes, but it does nothing to help the working-class here. And to think out our society is structured, how it works and why it doesn't work very well for the working-class majority.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 5.7 million companies or firms operating in the country in 2001 with just over 115 million people on their payrolls. The bureau also reported that 17,855 of those firms employed 500 people or more and that the total number of employees on those larger payrolls was 57.7 million. The other companies, employing fewer than 500 workers, had 57.4 million people on their payrolls. (The bureau added that there were 5.5 million companies in their payrolls. However, 703,837 of those payrolls were 5.7 million. The other companies, employing fewer than 500, had 5.4 million people on their payrolls.)

The bureau also quoted Giovani Coratolo of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, which handles federal bankruptcy filings. “Of that total, one 1.47 million were personal bankruptcies and 96 percent from the same period the previous year.”

Middle Class or Working Class?

President Bush and Sen. Kerry also had much to say about what they call the “middle class.” What this so-called middle class is, however, no one seems to know. As FactCheck.org put it:

There is no standard definition of ‘middle class,’ so we looked at households with pre-tax income of between $25,000 and $75,000—a group occupying roughly the middle half of the Census income distribution tables… The group grew smaller during the economic recession of 2001, and the initially slow recovery of 2002. Now the Census figures indicate it continued to decline in 2003, and while in the same period the middle group were moving up, a larger portion were moving down.”

In truth, however, any attempt to define social class in terms of income, rather than the source of their income, is a distortion of fact. In truth, the “middle class” is a fiction. But it is a fiction that is being effectively used to obscure the true state of social affairs. Like most myths, it has some historic basis. If the term “middle class” is traced back to its origin we learn that it was once validly used to designate the rising capitalist class of Europe at a time when that class still found itself placed between two other social classes—between feudal aristocracy (or its remnants) above and the proletarian mass below.

Here in America, during the 19th century, the term “middle class” gained currency as a designation applied to the lower layers of the capitalist class—that is, to the small manufacturers, shopkeepers, artisans and farmers. It is easy to see why it was accorded a reverential social category on which it was hung—the category of the small, independent entrepreneur—was for a considerable period, quite relative, numerous, and played an important role in the formative years of the American Republic.

Today, as FactCheck.org’s “$1... small business owner,” the millions of zero employee “businesses” and the soaring number of bankruptcies attest, the small independent entrepreneur is a virtual fiction in the United States. The millions who depend on wages for their living, or who have lost their jobs, and have desperately tried to convert themselves into a “business,” hardly qualify to be called a “middle class.” They are of the working class, and are struggling to maintain the overwhelming majority of the country’s population. But the “fact checkers” failed to point this out.

Fact and Fiction

Separating fact from fiction in the presidential campaign requires more than separating the lies that the major parties and their candidates fling at each other. It requires a clear understanding of the larger distortions, and misrepresentations about the nature of the society we live in and how it functions against the interests of the majority of the American people. The whole truth is that told many years ago by President Woodrow Wilson in his book, The New Freedom:

“The masters of the government of the United States are the combined capitalists and manufacturers of the United States. It is written over every intimate page of the records of Congress; it is written in all the documents. They have the votes at the White House, that the suggestions of economic policy in this country have come from one source; not from many sources…. Suppose you go to Washington and try to get at your government, you will always find that while you are politely listened to, the men really consulted are the men who have the biggest stake—the big bankers, the big manufacturers, the big masters of control over the heads of railroads and of steamship corporations and of steamship corporations…. Every time it has come to a critical question these gentlemen have been yielded to and their demands have been treated as the demands that should be followed as a matter of course. The government of the United States is a faster child of the special interests. It is not allowed to have a will of its own.”

That is the truth—under Bush, as under previous presidents, and as it would be under Kerry. In short, capitalism is for the capital- ists, not for the working class. The truth is that society is divided into economic classes, a working-class majority and a ruling-class minority; and the lies of the capitalists and their political defenders who distort and contort this truth are their tools. They are parts of a class struggle. The final truth is that socialism is the answer to capitalism.

IBMW worker

(Continued from page 4)

June of 50 toxic chemical lawsuits by former workers at IBM’s manufacturing plant in San Jose. While an attorney for Moore and Hernandez said she didn’t know if their case had catalyzed these settings, she added that their courage had encouraged others to speak out. Terms of these settlements were confidential.

Many other lawsuits involving IBM workers have been dismissed or settled in the past few years. “One hundred more suits against IBM in California were dismissed after the Hernandez and Moore decision,” Mike Santarini of EETimes.com reported on Oct. 15. “But the birth defect suits brought by plaintiffs in New York were quietly settled and the terms sealed.”

Moore and Hernandez were honored on Oct. 3 at the Bay Area Toxics Coalition’s “Standing up for themselves and others who have suffered work-related illnesses” event. We commend James Moore’s spirit in fighting the injustices that he and his fellow workers suffered at IBM. To further honor his fighting spirit, we would like to take the fight further, to its logical conclusion. The “best” of capitalist corporations operate by exploiting workers for profit, and will cut corners on safety when it will increase profits. We say end the system of exploitation; establish socialism, under which production will be for use rather than profit and will be managed democratically by the workers themselves. Under their own control they no longer will have to suffer needless injury, illness or death for someone else’s profit.

Stand Up & Be Counted

By Robert Bills

A speech by the SLP’s National Secretary urging SAP to vote against the exploitation of the principles of the SLP to join its ranks and lend their support.

8 pages—50¢ postpaid

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS
P.O. Box 218
Mtn. View, CA 94042-0218
**Bush Bypassing Congress To Push Domestic Agenda**

By B.G.

While President George W. Bush has been busy promoting and publicizing his disastrous war in Iraq and the flagging war in Afghanistan, he has used the conflicts to divert attention from his domestic agenda.

The executive branch, however, has a virtual free rein in how it goes about implementing and enforcing the laws that Congress adopts and presidential fiat is far more powerful than it is often thought to be.

An example that illustrates the points made above occurred in July 2003, when the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) bypassed Congress and published a new rule in the Federal Register, a government publication that is published every weekday and read primarily by government officials and business personnel.

This new rule published on that date pertained to the public release of auto-safety information. It was that it was exempting from public release any information on warranty claims reports from industry on safety matters, consumer complaints and other matters pertaining to auto safety in order to protect the industry from "substantial competitive harm."

Another example occurred in March of 2003, when the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration released a new regulation that amended safety rules that protect miners from black lung disease by allowing an increase of coal dust in the mines.

In May of 2003, the NHTSA threw out a proposed rule that would have required hospitals to install procedures and facilities that would protect hospital workers against tuberculosis. After the Bush administration bowed to the intense lobbying of the hospital industry despite the fact that tuberculosis has risen in 20 states in the United States.

In April of 2003, the administration bypassed Congress to impose new limits on the maximum number of hours a trucker could be allowed to drive at one time without rest. Regulations from 1999 onward had permitted 11 hours of driving without a break but increased the total number of truck-driving hours per week by 30 percent. A lawsuit by Public Citizen, an advocacy group, and other safety groups is presently pending at this writing to lower the driving hours in the interest of saving lives.

The Bush administration's favoritism toward big capital, even if it pollutes the atmosphere and destroys the land, is well known. In just the most recent of a long list of relaxing environmental rules and regulations, the administration in July threw out a Clinton administration rule putting some 300 million acres of national forest land under protection to prevent development of new roads for the use by the logging industry.

Although the courts have blocked some of the Bush administration's decisions in relaxing environmental rules and regulations against polluters of the atmosphere, the Bush people seem to be very pleased with their successes so far. Dr. John D. Graham, Bush's budget official, is very open about the very open tendency to favor big capital. "The Bush administration has cut the red tape and the paperwork," he happily noted.

There you have it. Big bucks and big business capital versus the American worker!

[The Federal Register is available online at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/—Editor]

**Drug Industry Profits Outweigh Patient Welfare**

By Bruce Cazzini

The drug industry and its alleged watchdog in government, the Federal Drug Administration, epitomize the failure of the capitalist health care system in the United States.

Recent disclosures of information regarding the dangers of heart attacks and strokes in users of the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) Vioxx has belatedly drawn the the public's focus to how drug companies value their profits above safety and how the FDA seems more interested in protecting drug companies than patients.

NSAID arthritis drugs such as Vioxx and Celebrex are among the most heavily promoted and advertised drugs in an advertising market that adds up to $3.8 billion a year according to The New York Times. (Oct. 23, 2004)

In 2003, USA Today documented a more than four-and-a-half-year span from the time cardiovascular problems caused by Vioxx were discovered until it was finally recalled. As early as March of 2000, Merck revealed that a study had shown twice the serious cardiovascular effects for patients on Vioxx than those on Naproxen, an older NSAID. At the time, Merck tried to put the spin on the results, claiming that Vioxx didn't cause the problems but that Naproxen had a protective effect. In 2000 the FDA required labeling cardiovascular information on Vioxx, and in February of 2001 recommended a label warning of possible cardiovascular effects. In September of 2001, the FDA warned Merck to stop misleading doctors about Vioxx's cardiovascular risks. In April of 2002, the FDA told Merck to add information the drug is associated with deaths. But Vioxx marketing blitz continued, as anyone with a TV can testify, without a hint of these warnings.

On Aug. 25 of this year, FDA researcher David Graham reported on a study that analyzed a database of 1.4 million Kaiser Permanente members. He found that people who took Vioxx were more likely to experience a heart attack or sudden cardiac death than those who took Celebrex, a rival drug. Graham's study connected Vioxx to more than 27,000 heart attacks or cardiac deaths.

According to Graham, the FDA did not block publication of his findings, subjecting him to veiled threats and intimidation.

Merck tried to discredit the study, claiming that only a random double-blind test could give valid results. A press release the day after the Graham report stated, "Merck stands behind the efficacy, overall safety and cardiovascular safety of Vioxx." But subsequent review of a study of Vioxx in the past year, intended to demonstrate that VIOXX, like Celebrex, could protect against recurrence of clon polyps, instead showed that 3.5 percent of patients on Vioxx suffered heart attack or stroke compared to 1.9 percent of patients on placebo. With these results in hand, Merck had little option but to withdraw Vioxx.

Through this process, the FDA did little. In Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach's opinion, "The FDA didn't do anything...They were passive here." And in terms of the promotion of drugs, whether safe or not.

The New York Times quoted an FDA spokesman who said, "There are no additional changes expected at this time in light of the Vioxx withdrawal." In fact, according to the Times, the agency is studying a proposal aimed at further

(Continued on page 12)
The People's Xmas Box

This is my contribution of $ ______ for ThePeople Xmas Box, which will help support the SLP's official journal. (Please make check/money order payable to the Socialist Labor Party of the United States and mail to P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

(Continued from page 5)

Help Them Out!

Dear Newspaper People,

I have enjoyed your gift of The People newspaper for years now but have not left prison. Texas prison does not pay me for my labor—but I am forced to labor anyway. You should punish you for not working. They write it up RTW, Refused to Work, and you are pun-
ished for it. If and when I leave prison I shall have income and will be able to pay for my subscription. I am 39 years old and have been locked up for 11 years on a 75-year sentence. Please con-
tribute to the monthly subscription. Thank you.

Kathryn Gatesville, TX

We renewed Kathryn's subscription, but we have a stack of similar requests from indigent prisoners. We can't afford them all, but you can help them out by sending a $5 contribution to our Prisoner Subscription Fund. Send to The People, P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218.

The cutback of health care coverage is part of the increasing vicious class assault of the capital-
ist class on the working class. Competition and the falling rate of profit, matters that need not be dealt with here, impel the capitalist class to do that, even though it is in the interests of capitalists to have healthy workers whom they can exploit.

United States

1. Publisher: National Executive Committee, Socialist Labor Party, 661 Kings Row, San Jose, CA 95112-2724

2. Managing Editor: Robt. Bills, 661 Kings Row, San Jose, CA 95112-2724

3. Filing Date: Aug. 29, 2004

4. Acting Editor: Robert Bills

5. Web site: www.slp.org

6. E-mail: jdirving@sympatico.ca

7. Phone: (780) 444-3576

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office:

   661 Kings Row, San Jose, CA 95112-2724

9. Address of Advertisement Office:

   661 Kings Row, San Jose, CA 95112-2724

10. Owner: National Executive Committee

11. Editor: Karl Heck, 5414 Williams Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110

12. Complete Mailing Address of Advertisement Office:

   5414 Williams Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110

13. By-Laws:

   None


15. Name of the Subscription and/or Membership Program:

   The People

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the next issue.

17. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and com-

   plete.

a. Total Number of Copies (net press run) 11,100

b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation:

   Paid Subscribers

   super-

   pre-

   1,656

   1,147

   83%

   88%

   1,762

   765

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Music to My Ears

Thanks for helping survival—peace.

In the September-October issue of The People was a letter to the People about war that was music to my ears! Frank Roemhild wrote of a bumper sticker he and wife saw and didn’t like.

All the world must be kept surviving and may be creating an even better and more livable Earth for all mankind—minus war and crime.

Here is my contribution for SLP Sustainer Fund. I look forward to renewing my subscription in January 2005, so you can keep up the extraordinary work you do, as we all must.

George T. Gaylord

Tustin, Calif.

America’s Prison System

Thank you for mentioning America’s prison system in the article “What Kind of Freedom Is This?” in your latest issue.

I work as a mental health therapist in a 900-bed prison, and I have seen countless inmates who are incarcerated for months, sometimes years, for menial crimes such as DUIs, bad checks, etc. Along with their loss of freedom and disenfranchisement from capitalist society, they have other painful losses: the loss of a spouse, their children, their jobs, their homes, you name it. I deal with a lot of anxiety and depression, understand-able. Yes, it is a war against human beings. Yes, addiction is a health issue and should not be a reason to detain an individual for long periods of time; time wasted because they are getting no help at all in their addiction problems.

Thank you for making people aware of what’s going on “behind bars”; indeed, more money is being spent on incarcerating indi

viduals than is being spent on educating/rehabilitating.

For the majority of the prisoners I work with, their time in prison is simply a waste of time. The majority are not murderers, rapists, etc.—they are well-meaning adults who took a wrong turn and are paying dearly for it.

Diane Poole

Monessen, Pa.

Hibel Ruling

I am writing to compliment you on the article entitled “Hibel Ruling Undermines Fourth Amendment Rights” (September-October).

The reasoning and argumentation of the article proved both powerful and truthful. The manner in which police and the government people without cause or caution the rights of citizens in their shakedowns is ridiculously tyrannical. The author’s (Ken Boettcher) comparison to South Africa’s former apartheid practices seemed right on target. I will use this article with the students in my high school government classes. Thanks again, and keep up the good fight.

Christopher Ziller

per email

100 Percent

A truly great publication. My personal subscriptions = 100%.

Donald L. Ward

Corning, Calif.

The Environment

I love how The People reports on environmental issues. When my father was alive, he was a farmer and a factory worker who deeply loved the environment and nature. I’m always glad to help groups like the SLP who want to save our environment for future generations.

Phil Davis

Muncie, Ind.

Funds

(Aug. 14—Oct. 15)

Press Security Fund

Section Cleveland: Gail Swedky, L. Kubit, R. Burns, D. Osisky, C. Dobreff, J. O’Neill, R. & M. Simmons; Anonymous $500; George S. Taylor $478; $300 each Chris Dobreff, Irene Schelin; Walter Vojnov $100; Section Count. Ckts.: J.J. Jr. $86; $50 each Harvey K. Fuller, Robert Ormsby, Ruth Hall; Jim Plant $45; $40 each Anonymous, Yolanda Koptar; Marshall G. Saura $30; George E. Gray $26; $25 each Blake Harden, Daniel Klyk, J. John S. & Rosemary Gale; Joseph C. Massimino, Philip Colligan, Tom Sanchez, Willard B. Shapiro; $20 each Alan Taylor, David Bartle, Horace Twoford; $15 each Edwin Samples, Philip Kozael, $10 each Allen Vertake, David J. Peterson, Gordon Bennett, Gregory Kowalsky, Richard Mack; $7 each Alphonse Elden, Thomas McEvoy; Patrick McElhaney $5.60; Michael Preston $5.50; $5 each Donald L. Ward, Francis L. Payne, Glenn A. Wilson, JosephGlasson, Morton J. Diskind, Robert Diamond, Todd M. Jordon, William J. Prinz; William J. Coe $3; Robert Rodic $2.75; Henry J. Bard $2.

Total: $3,283.17

SLP Sustainer Fund

Joaquin Davis $800; Chris Dobreff $200; $150 each Bernard Borstel, Robert P. Burns (in memory of Mike Ewanoff, Robert Burns (in memory of Frank and Margaret Racche); Section Wayne County, Mich. $135; Lois Reynolds $100; Helena Stevens $70; $50 each Michael McGraw, Frank & Margaret Roemhild; Section San Francisco Bay Area: William Kelley $40; Carl C. Miller Jr. $35; $20 each Steve Littleton, J. Campbell, George E. Gray; George S. Taylor $45.

Total: $1,971.00

SLP Leaflet Fund

J. Blessington $25; Richard Wilson $15.75; J. ojeh J. Frank $5; Todd M. Jordon $1.

Total: $46.75

Agitation Fund

K. Karpozipolis $45.00 (Total)

Prisoner Subscription Fund

James Lehner $5.00 (Total)

Genevieve Gunderson Memorial Fund

Paul D. Lawrence $20.00 (Total)

Daniel De Leon Sesquicentennial Fund

Richard Mack $10.00 (Total)

Socialist Labor Party

Financial Summary

Bank balance (June 30) $22,744.49

Expenses (July–September) $28,078.77

Income (July–September) $31,984.99

Bank balance (Sept. 30) $233,650.71

Deficit for 2004 $8,743.65

ACtIVITIES

CALIFORNIA

Discussion Meetings—Section San Francisco Bay Area will hold discussion meetings as listed. For more information, call 408-280-7266 or e-mail slpsbpa@netscape.net.

Santa Clara: Saturday, Nov. 6, 1:30-4 p.m. at the Santa Clara Public Library-Central Park, Sycamore Room, 2635 Homestead Road (between Kiely Blvd. & San Tomas Exwy.). Moderator: Bruce Cozzini.

San Francisco: Saturday, Nov. 27, 1:30-4 p.m. at the San Francisco Public Library, Conference Room (ground floor), Grove & Larkin sts. Moderator: Bruce Cozzini.

Ohio

North Royalton: Discussion Meetings—Section Cleveland will hold four discussion meetings—Saturday, Nov. 14, and Sunday, Dec. 12, from 1-3 p.m. at the home of Robert Burns, 9626 York Rd., North Royalton. For more information, call 440-237-7933.

Oregon

Portland: Discussion Meetings—Portland will hold the following discussion meetings from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Portland Main Library, SW Yamhill #1, Saturday, Nov. 6; “The Current C\ntroversial Attack on Laws that Protect Our Air, Water and Land.” Saturday, Dec. 11, “Socialism in the 21st Century: How Relevant Is Marx?” For more information call Sid at 503-226-2881 or visit the section’s website at http://slp.pdx.home.mindspring.com.
**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 a socialist party, 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. Where the majority of society is in favor of socialism, the Socialist Industrial Union would back up the decision made at the ballot box by taking holding and operating the industries and services of the land in the social interest.

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

**NOT A BLUEPRINT**

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

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

---

### 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:

**Soviets**

Local and regional councils, industry-wide councils, national industry councils.

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

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

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

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

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

---

**THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIALIST INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM**

- **All Industry Congress**
  - **Mining**
  - **Public Service**
  - **Food Supply**
  - **Manufactures**
  - **Construction**
  - **Communication**
  - **Transportation**
  - **Agriculture**

**All the industries and services will be represented.**