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A Matter Of Principle

In *The Rights of Man*, Thomas Paine wrote: "When a man in a long cause attempts to steer his course by anything else than some polar truth or principle, he is sure to be lost. It is beyond the compass of his capacity to keep all the parts of an argument together, and make them unite in one issue by any other means than having this guide always in view. Neither memory nor invention will supply the want of it. The former fails him, and the latter betrays him."

Paine, of course, was not the only historic figure to grasp the truth of this. Abraham Lincoln was another. "Important principles may, and must, be inflexible," he said.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels were no different in this regard, as shown by the following from a letter Engels once wrote to his friend Fredrick Sorge: "Every movement which does not keep the destruction of the wage system in view the whole time as its final aim is bound to go astray and fail."

Socialists—at least those guided by the principles established by Marx and Engels—agree. They know that the SLP has stood guard over those principles through thick and thin. No other organization has withstood the onslaughts of historic and other pressures to uphold those principles uncompromised. All other "socialist" groups and parties have caved in to one extent or another with reform measures—compromises that, despite their widespread acceptance by capitalism and contrary to the reform-minded "socialist" claim that they would better prepare the working class to challenge the capitalist system, have had just the opposite effect.

The SLP has stood guard over the basic principles of Marxian socialism for more than a century. It has achieved this success against all efforts to undermine its organization and to characterize it as "dogmatic" and "sectarian" by those who did compromise the Marxist principles to which they supposedly were committed.

The SLP has succeeded in this largely because its members, friends and supporters have never failed to provide it with the financial support it needs to keep hammering away. The SLP needs that kind of support now more than ever before because the need for socialist education has never been so great. That is why we have set up the *SLP Sentinel Fund* and its \$15,000 goal.

Please help the SLP in its effort to hold up the banner of the class struggle and to fight for the abolition of the wages system. Please help us in the fight to spread the socialist education needed to bring that goal closer to realization. If you understand why this must be done, then you also understand why your contribution to the *SLP Sentinel Fund* should be as generous as you can possibly make it. Please use the coupon on page 6.

U.S. Autoworkers Are At Another Crossroads

While the so-called mainstream media have the nation's attention focused on the struggle in Iraq, they ignore the fundamental struggle from which all such foreign adventures stem and which ultimately explain them. That fundamental struggle is the class struggle. Ignoring it is nothing new. Historically, the "mainstream media" and all other institutions of capitalist society not only have ignored it but also denied its existence.

Ignoring the class struggle cannot and will not make it or its consequences go away because, as Daniel De Leon once observed, "It crops up in all manner of ways...that disconcert all the plans and all the schemes of those who would deny or ignore it."

Elsewhere in this issue will be found evidence of just that. Millions of so-called middle-class Americans, meaning millions of *working-class* Americans, fear for their future. "Globalization" and the capitalist demand for cheaper and ever cheaper human labor not only has created widespread uneasiness in the nation, it demonstrates again the merchandise character of human labor within the confines of a profit-driven social system and how competition on an increasingly global labor market is working to drive wages and living standards down.

A major factor in the inability of the American working class to mount an effective resistance to

this inexorable trend is the utter bankruptcy of the so-called labor movement. Indeed, failure to put the union movement on a classconscious basis is ultimately disastrous for workers. It leaves the labor movement adrift, without any clearly defined goal and reason for existence. The plight of U.S. autoworkers provides a grim case in point.

Over the past two decades they have suffered significant wage, pension and benefit concessions, which the procapitalist United Auto Workers union promoted as the best workers could get if they wished to keep their jobs.

Since 2000, however, the UAW has failed to produce even a semblance of "job security." Despite increased foreign investment in the industry boosting U.S. jobs, total employment declined by 16 percent, with a loss of 215,500 jobs through 2005, according to U.S. Department of Commerce figures.

Since 2005 General Motors and Ford have announced plans to collectively cut at least 60,000 more jobs. Moreover, Chrysler was recently purchased by Cerberus, a private equity group known for stripping its possessions of any "fat."

According to industry analysts, the U.S. auto industry is now at a crossroads, and auto capitalists are about to squeeze workers again—per-

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. Military Spending Nearly Half World Total

By Michael James

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute says that U.S. military spending "now accounts for almost half the world total." This can be contrasted with China and India, "the world's two emerging economic superpowers," with military spending "only a fraction of the U.S.A.'s."

The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation offers the following staggering figures: 1) China is the world's second-largest military spender but the U.S. military budget is still eight times more; 2) the U.S. military budget is 35 times greater than the combined military budgets of our current so-called enemy states: Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria; and 3) these six countries, combined with Russia and China, spend only 27 percent of the U.S. military budget.

The dollar amounts for America are hard to grasp. The U.S. military will spend \$626 billion this year alone. Congress approved about \$500 billion more for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. And spending for nuclear weapons

is apparently separate, within the budget of the Department of Energy.

The Center for Defense Information sees that "The lion's share of this money is not spent by the Pentagon on protecting American citizens. It goes to supporting U.S. military activities, including interventions, throughout the world."

In truth, of course, not one dime of the billions spent goes toward "protecting Americans" and every dime of it goes to protecting or pursuing the interests of American capitalism.

The capitalist class has plenty of money for war, yet it is not a warrior class. It is a "business" class that invests in war and the implements of war the same as it invests in agriculture, manufacturing, research or the money market. It wages war when the promise of profit outweighs the risk of loss, or when the stakes are high enough to risk the gamble, as they are in the oil fields of Iraq.

American capitalism is the world's leading capitalist power. No surprise, then, that it is the world's leading investor in war and the implements of war.

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255075100 years ago

HAYWOOD ACQUITTED

Damnably Capitalist Conspiracy Against True Working-Class Unionism and Its Dauntless Exponent, Rolled in the Dust—Foiled Prosecution Wrapped in Deepest Gloom.

(Daily People, July 29, 1907)

(Special to The People)

Boise, Idaho, July 28—After 18 months' unwarranted imprisonment and a trial of over 11 weeks' duration, William D. Haywood, secretary-treasurer of the Western Federation of Miners, was this morning acquitted of the charge of murdering ex-governor Steunenberg of Idaho.

It was 7:40 o'clock [a.m.] when the foreman of the jury announced that the talesmen had reached a decision, on the seventh ballot.

There were few spectators in the court at the time. Judge Fremont Wood called the court to order, had the jury brought in, and asked the foreman:

"Have you reached a verdict?"

"We have," was the answer.

"What is it?"

"NOT GUILTY!"

Instantly pandemonium broke loose in the courtroom. Cheers and shouts of congratulations were heard on all sides, and it was some time before order could be restored.

Gov. Gooding alone was mum and gloomy looking.

After hearing the verdict, Judge Wood pronounced Haywood acquitted, and restored him to liberty. Haywood, after fervidly shaking hands with his family, his lawyers and some personal friends, went over to the jurors and congratulated them. They wept as he addressed



William D. "Big Bill" Haywood.

them warmly and thankfully.

Haywood appeared unspeakably happy at the outcome, not because of his own liberty, but because of the magnificent, worldwide vindication of his organization, the Western Federation of Miners, and the principles for which he stands. His first visit was to his mother in the hospital where she was taken after her collapse in court yesterday under the strain, when the jury filed out after Judge Wood's charge.

Haywood then rushed to the home where wife and family have been staying during the trial. There he was visited by hundreds of friends, all

anxious to grasp his big manly hand in congratulation of his safe delivery from the jaws of a damnable capitalist conspiracy. Congratulatory telegrams are pouring in by the hundreds, from every quarter of the United States.

Haywood publicly expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all socialist and labor paper representatives attending the trial. In conversation with me at his temporary home here, when I questioned him about his now past trials, he would only say: "Forget it!" He presented me as a souvenir his cell card.

"The 18 months of imprisonment," said Haywood, "have been most profitable to me. I have been able to study and read books, which I never before knew existed, and I have been able to commence a course in law. This I find interesting and broadening, and will be valuable in the years to come."

Haywood expects to make a speaking tour of the eastern states soon, as soon as he straightens out his affairs, and has a rest from the great strain he has been under.

The prosecution is whisperingly consulting with Gov. Gooding as to its next moves. The defense will demand an immediate trial for [WFM president Charles H.] Moyer and [former WFM official George A.] Pettibone. The prosecution, however, is expected to nolle prosequere the cases, thus dropping like a hot potato their now exploded conspiracy. The influential Republicans here declare they will secure an injunction against the issuance of any further deficiency warrants to finance the further persecution of the innocent men.

Attorney Richardson has issued a statement charging the whole case with being a Pinkerton conspiracy, and advising the mine owners to look into the workings of the Pinkerton detective agency for the real "Inner Circle."

Thus has ended the greatest labor case ever fought out on this continent, and ended with complete rout of the capitalist class and its henchmen.

—Wade R. Parks

255075100 years ago

Aga Khan Epitomized the Rulers' 'Spirituality'

(Weekly People, July 27, 1957)

The contrast between class-ruled society's spiritual pretenses and its sordid materialism could hardly have been shown more clearly than in the July 13 statement of the director of the late Aga Khan's stables.

Explaining why Prince Karim, a grandson, rather than a son, had succeeded to the Aga Khan's role as a religious leader, the stable director—a very important person in the upper reaches of class society—told the press that the Aga Khan "had asked Aly Khan [his eldest son] to sacrifice the spiritual leadership of the Ismaili Moslem sect to keep his stables running." (The importance of the latter role may be judged by the fact that the Aga Khan won the English Derby five times.)

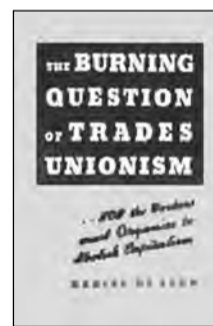
It may, of course, be said that Moslems are different from Christians and that such a choice as that reportedly forced upon Aly Khan could not happen in Christian society, where spiritual leaders are that because they have a "call" from God. But those familiar with "Christian" history will remember that the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church, and the papacy itself, was staffed by the younger (and sometimes the illegitimate) sons of the great feudal lords. In this way the Christian feudal lords passed on undivided lands to their oldest sons (as the Aga Khan passed on his personal capital to his two sons and his racing stables to one), and the younger sons (a la the Aga Khan's grandson) were materially provided for from the cash treasures of the spiritual kingdom. These cash treasures are raised, in both Christian and Moslem jurisdictions, from the donations of the faithful to "charity." The church hierarchs and popes luxuriated in the income produced from the sale of indulgences for

sins. Because of his lighter weight, the new Aga Khan will probably find a way of getting at least as much cash as his grandfather received when the latter's huge sensuous bulk was weighed against such spiritual things as silver, gold, diamonds and platinum. And, though the present stress is that the new Aga Khan will not turn out to be a playboy, he is the product of family that can well appreciate the cry of a pope: "God has given us the papacy. Now it is up to us to enjoy it!" [Attributed to Giovanni di Lorenzo de' Medici (1475–1521) upon his accession to the papal throne as Pope Leo X in 1513.]

The cry, as applied to the Aga Khan if not to the popes, is also appreciated by the "democratic," "republican" upholders of class rule and its pretensions. Thus, on July 10, *The New York Times* used its editorial voice to express the thoughts of those who ignore the contrast between class-ruled society's spiritual pretenses and its sordid materialism by implying that the greed, gluttony and venery of the late Aga Khan, though supported by religious, feudal and capitalist exploitation,

were the mere outward appearances that failed to hide the culture, kindness, charity, intelligence and progressiveness within. Such rationalizations in defense of an exotic survival in the commonplace society of Western capitalism are needed as means of avoiding basic criticism of the "spiritual" pretenses of sordid class rule.

De Leon examines every major argument—pro and con—on the union question, traces confusion on what unions can and cannot accomplish to its source in the American Federation of Labor, and outlines the general principles on which genuine and effective working-class unions can be built. One of De Leon's best.



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