

# RALLY COMRADES!

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VOLUME 17, EDITION 3 – May/June 2007

## Strengthen the League, Prepare for Struggle

League of Revolutionaries for a New America holds its 6th Convention

Today, at our 6th National Convention, we stand on the edge of new dangers as well as new opportunities.

The economic revolution is taking our country toward a critical juncture. New instruments of production are being introduced into the productive process. Often times we point the finger towards the manufacturing sector, but jobs in other sectors are being eliminated as well. No job is safe. Labor-replacing technology is destroying the world we have known, and throwing our class into misery and poverty.

Since our last convention in 2004, the collapse and bankruptcy of Delphi Corporation has become the leading edge of the crisis in auto, including auto parts suppliers as well as the tumbling Big 3. We have witnessed the dying of the old industrial cities as workers flee the devastation produced by the economic downturn and we all join the contest of the race to the bottom. The entire Midwest, and particularly Michigan and Ohio, are being devastated.

With more and more being privatized, we are faced with even more corporate control over our lives. Corporations today do everything – they fight wars, fly pilot-less air crafts, collect military intelligence, collect income taxes, oversee Medicare accounts, even work up government agency budgets and take the minutes at federal policy meetings.

Hurricane Katrina blew the cover off the façade of the “New South” and exposed the poverty and living conditions there to the world. The winds and floods even blew away the controls of the major media networks: individual news reporters were so moved that they finally told the truth. Since then there has been a blackout. There are the usual anniversary stories about the hurricane, but these stories never talk about the unabated corporate take over or its impact on the people of the South.

As the capitalist class spreads war and violence around the world, the polarization between wealth and poverty is reaching unprecedented proportions. At home, a whole new category of poverty has been created – those in severe poverty. It includes over 16 million people, of all colors

and nationalities.

Resistance is growing in the wake of this developing crisis. In the last year, for example, the country witnessed the birth of a new immigration movement of unprecedented proportions. Millions marched on last May Day as the ruling class sought to make criminals of all undocumented workers and those who aided them. The ruling class is fully aware of the power of the people when they have had enough and begin organizing for what is truly theirs. After all, this is a country of immigrants and revolutionaries.

### RULING CLASS PREPARING TO CRUSH OPPOSITION

Beginning in the era of J. Edgar Hoover the ruling class began consolidating and legally preparing its power for an imminent clash with the workers of this country. They have created policies and passed legislation that together have created the legal wherewithal for them to crack down on any attempt to thwart the goals of the ruling class. The Internal Security Act of 1950, more commonly known as the McCarran Act, was the centerpiece of these efforts. The McCarran Act gave the FBI and the federal government sweeping powers to investigate and confine US citizens in detention camps. Although it had been formally repealed in 1971, Senate hearings in 1975 disclosed the designs of the federal government to monitor, infiltrate, arrest and incarcerate a potentially large segment of the American society, including granting the US Attorney General sweeping powers to detain and confine those considered “dangerous to public peace and safety”.

In 1982, the Reagan Administration built upon these developments and empowered the head of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to take control of the internal infrastructure of the United States and suspend the constitution once the President had declared a state of emergency. The steady development of highly specialized surveillance capabilities, combined with the exploding computerized information technologies have enabled a massive data base of personal information to be developed on millions of unsuspecting American citizens. (For more information, see, David Burnham, *Above the Law*, 1996)

This is all in place awaiting only a presidential declaration to be en-

forced by both military and civilian police. The latest of these acts to control the population is the Patriot Act. The Patriot Act is really a rehash and strengthening of the McCarran Act of 1950.

So what is the difference? In 1950 the U.S. economy was expanding, the working class was becoming more patriotic and more anti-communist. 2007 finds the economy polarizing and the workers beginning to stir politically. In 1950 these bills were a precaution. Today these laws are an aggressive weapon for the establishment of American fascism.

### REORGANIZING FOR OPPORTUNITY AND DANGER

At this, our 6th Convention, we made decisions that will determine what our organization will be under these conditions. We are going to consciously create an organization to defend our class interests during the worst of times—while hoping for the best.

As long as there was no practical movement for communism, the communist movement had to be composed of ideological and theoretical communist organizations. Such organizations necessarily became self-contained groups of leaders and followers. Leading bodies became popularity contests that were responsible only to themselves. Clearly, with such a change in the actual political situation, that type of organization has become obsolete.

In order to become an effective or-

ganization we cannot be a group of like-minded people. We must become a real organization that has a single purpose and every individual comrade must have a specific and concrete assignment that is an aspect of carrying out that purpose. This applies to every comrade and to every committee of the organization. As with any serious political or economic organization there must be evaluation and check up on these individual assignments.

We must create an organization that is horizontal politically and vertical organizationally. The catch is that in order to be politically equal we have to be equal politically. Every comrade must master his or her craft. Organization means authority. The question boils down to authority to do what? That authority is limited to the will of the majority as expressed in our Convention.

Above everything else, at this moment, the collective need of the organization is to grow. Through our participation in the mass struggle we have and will meet literally thousands of revolutionaries whose practical work makes them candidates for the League. We must recruit on the basis of that practical work and have a consistent educational program to raise them to the level of communists.

We are in the turning point of world history. New conditions mean we will make errors. The fatal error is to become passive. It is in this sense that we must boldly move forward to strengthen our structure and prepare for the struggle.

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# Polarization, the Rise of New Parties and the Battle for Class Interests

Revolutionaries face complex and challenging problems at this stage of the revolutionary process. In every arena and in every struggle the revolutionary movement is blocked by the influence of the Democratic and Republican parties over the minds of the workers, their domination of the political terrain, and their ability to use their influence and wealth to divert the social struggle away from its aims. They frame every struggle as a fight over apparently opposing views, each one of which serves the policies and interests of the capitalist class they represent. Nothing can be achieved without breaking this control over the political thinking and political organiza-

tion of the workers.

This hold seems unshakeable, but is it? The domination of the two political parties – and the capitalist class they represent – is being eroded by a force larger than all their wealth or petty control over this or that institution or leader. Transformation always begins with the introduction of something new that breaks up the old and forces it on a path to something qualitatively new and different. In society, this begins with a qualitative change in the economy. Today, the steady implementation of labor-replacing technology constitutes that new quality. Its results are profound, attacking the way society is organized at its very root, and initiating a process of polarization and destruction of the complex relations that hold society together. Starting first within the economy, then spreading to society, the effects of this transformation are beginning to have an impact on political life.

Today, we are seeing the embryonic beginnings of the destruction of the political relations which have tied the workers to the capitalists. The existing two-party system is much broader than the Democratic and Republican parties. It includes the institutions at every level of society through which each of these parties work to advance the interests of the capitalists and the leaders they rely upon to distract and divert the workers from their class interests.

A social movement is arising in response to worsening conditions. This movement finds itself increasingly politically irrelevant to the conduct of capitalist affairs. The struggle for some form of political resolution is inevitable, but the nature of that resolution is not. New parties will emerge to give voice to the resolution of the problems faced by society, but the character of those parties — what and who they represent, and where they seek to take society — will be the result of a battle for the consciousness and clarity of the workers, and the fight for the strategic orientation and proper tactics that make that possible.

## PARTIES CHANGE AS CAPITAL DEMANDS

Widespread ownership of property has been a feature of American society almost since its inception. As a result, the ruling class has had to develop political mechanisms which allow for broad political participation among the American people. It expands that participation - as necessary - to achieve its overall aims. This participation has always been limited to siding with this or that representative or policy of the capitalist class.

Political parties have been formed,

reformed, and realigned throughout U.S. history to meet the changing needs of the capitalist system. Every stage of economic development in America – the shift from the mercantilist trading economy of early America to one based on the rapid growth of slave capital, to the battle between the interests of the slave economy and the rising demands of industrial capital, to the emergence of the demands of international finance – brought forth new parties, or forced existing parties to transform themselves in line with the needs of capital. Upon each new foundation the parties stabilized themselves and took on responsibilities for politically corraling and managing different sections of the American people.

Throughout these different stages of the development of political parties, one factor remained constant: capital needed labor. Workers had to work and buy commodities, and in one way or another, the capitalists had to calculate this necessity into any political equation. Managing and controlling the workers took many different forms during the different periods of American history, but throughout U.S. history the expanding economy formed the material foundation for the capitalists to offer tangible benefits to a broad section of the American people. On the basis of an expanding economy rested an entire mechanism of political control, including the political party system, the influence of numerous leaders upon whom the capitalists relied, and ideas about the nature of American society and its political system.

Together, the expanding economy and the capitalists' means of political control gave life to the idea that classes do not exist in America, and sustained the conclusion that workers' interests were the same as the capitalists. It also helped to guarantee that even when the workers were forced into motion by the ups and downs of the economy the capitalists could make use of these ideas, and channel that energy in a direction that ultimately benefited the capitalist system.

## TRANSFORMATION OF DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES

Once again the needs of capital are changing, and the process of parties transforming themselves is underway. Globalization inevitably generalizes the crisis that electronics initiates at the heart of the capitalist system. As the nations of the world are pulled and reshaped by the demands of the global economy, they are thrown into fierce competition with one another on the global stage, while at home they must control and manage their own burgeoning new class of poor.

In times of polarization, when the bonds start to rupture and open the possibility of something new, the qualitatively new conditions will set the conditions for the rise of new parties, but their formation will be a result of the battle for the hearts and minds of the class – this is as true for the fascists as it is for the communists.

Both the Democratic and the Republican parties are transforming themselves to protect and advance the globalization of the economy under the domination of the U.S. and in the interests of those who profit from it – the transnational mega-corporations, transnational financiers and speculators, and the circuits of production and distribution under their control. What differences exist between the parties today are largely over *how* the interests

of these global forces will be advanced and protected.

The two-party system of today will not simply proceed by making quantitative adjustments to its current form, but will polarize, that is, it will undergo the process of splitting, destruction and opening the way for the formation of something new. We have seen this happen in our own history. Prior to the Civil War, the two-party system fractured and a variety of parties emerged, together representing the complex of forces battling to enforce their ideas and solutions to the problems posed by developing industrial capitalism. The Republican Party – representative of the new industrial order – emerged triumphant after the war, twinned with the transformed Democratic Party that took as its task managing broad sections of the defeated South. By 1876 and the Hayes-Tilden agreement, Wall Street controlled both parties.

This time the process is taking place under qualitatively different conditions.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

**Rally**  
to bring back together and put in  
a state of order, as retreating  
troops [to return to attack]

**Comrade**  
a person with whom one is allied  
in a struggle  
or cause

In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for the revolutionaries by indicating and illuminating the line of march of the revolutionary process. It presents a pole of scientific clarity to the conscious revolutionaries, examines and analyzes the real problems of the revolutionary movement, and draws political conclusions for the tasks of revolutionaries at each stage of development in order to prepare for future stages.

It is a vehicle to reach out and communicate with revolutionaries both within the League and outside of the League to engage them in debate and discussion and to provide a forum for these discussions. Articles represent the position and policies of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

Editor: Brooke Heagerty  
Editorial Board: Cynthia Cuza,  
Nicholas M<sup>c</sup>Querrey,  
Nelson Peery



Reach us at:  
**Rally, Comrades!**  
P.O. Box 477113  
Chicago, IL 60647  
rally@lrna.org  
www.rallycomrades.net



Labor-replacing technologies cheapen the value of labor power as robotics and automation make the same commodity for a fraction of the cost of human labor. Whether working or not, human beings, and therefore human life, is becoming worthless within the capitalist system. Layoffs, declining wages, the growth of slavery, and the spreading social ills – all are expressions of this process and affect a wide range of the American people, regardless of party affiliation.

Inevitably, these conditions are giving rise to a growing social struggle. Although it is still dispersed and somewhat spasmodic in its response, as most social movements are in their beginnings, its significance lies in its qualitatively new character. Forced into motion by specific issues – health care, immigration, education – these different strands of social discontent share the same problems – the destruction of the society that provided them with the means to live – and are driven by the same necessity to survive. Better working conditions and better pay are no longer the only demands. A growing section of society finds itself forced to organize itself and fight for even the basic necessities of life – water, food, heat – a situation that most find inconceivable in the richest nation in the world.

Faced with the complicity of the Democratic and Republican parties in the aggressive destruction of the “pact” between the classes, this complex of social forces is beginning to find it difficult to live with the real-life consequences of the parties’ actions. This is expressed in the growing instability and conflicts within the political parties as one constituency after another is cut adrift, as well as in the growth of “independents”, and in the instability of the so-called swing voters. It is expressed in the calls from the right and the left to break from business as usual and form new parties. This is not the back and forth of politics as usual. It is the inevitable result of the

process of polarization and destruction we have described, and the beginnings of the struggle to establish the means of resolution on a new foundation.

### CONSCIOUSNESS OF CLASS INTERESTS

The central problem for both the Democratic and Republican parties today is that as they abandon greater sections of the American people the increasing social polarization and the discontent creates the conditions for political polarization, making the parties’ respective roles in controlling different sections of society increasingly untenable. On the one hand, the ruling class and its parties must still appeal to the workers to sanction their policies. On the other hand, the objective changes make it impossible to back up these appeals with solutions that can return the American people to a stable standard of living.

With little material improvement to offer, the parties increasingly come to rely on ideological appeals. Each party, with its own particular brand of populism, seeks to use the developing social struggle to group the different sections of society under the banner of the capitalists, and to shape and use the social motion to achieve their goals. Ultimately, the capitalists’ goals means mobilization of a section of society for a fascist solution, as this is the only option open to them if they are to maintain

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their rule.

The central problem for the arising social movement is its limited awareness of its strengths and, as a result, its scattered and disparate nature. It does not yet see that the foundation of its strength lies in the new class forming within its ranks.

This idea of a “new class” is difficult to grasp, yet new classes have emerged at every revolutionary turn of history and served as the human and social force that has determined the character and direction of the new society. Today, this growing new class of poor – marginalized from production, labor cheapened by the advent and spread of robotics, and forced to fight for every crust – defies the old definitions and categories. It must work to live, but it can no longer live by its work. It is stratified and divided along lines of race, gender and party affiliation, yet the effects of labor-replacing technology is to reduce all those who must labor to the same level, and to erode all past objec-

tive differences. It clings to a sense of self that once had meaning, but now it finds that everything it once knew or held dear is being swept away. The old bonds are being broken, setting this developing class loose to make its own way in the world.

Its practical demands – for housing, health care, food, water, and for work – are the central component determining the character of the social struggle today. The capitalists cannot and will not provide this; the new class cannot survive without it. It has no choice, as a class, but to fight for its interests, and barred from that, to overturn society and reorganize it in a manner that guarantees that the wherewithal for life is provided to all.

We have used the words objective and inevitable. But these words only indicate direction, not outcome. There is a difference between the objective reality of a thing, and the understanding needed to do something about it in order to accomplish a desired goal. This “subjective” aspect of the process makes all the difference, and this is where revolutionaries concentrate their efforts. The key battle today is over the resolution of society’s problems. The decisions that are made, opinions that are held, and actions taken are rooted in and guided by ideas, thinking, perspective and outlook.

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capitalist class, and on that foundation, form itself *politically* into a party that fights to resolve society’s problems in the interests of the new class.

### TASKS OF REVOLUTIONARIES

In times of polarization, when the bonds start to rupture and open the possibility of something new, revolutionaries can make a difference. The qualitatively new conditions will set the conditions for the rise of new parties. Their formation will be a result of the battle for the hearts and minds of the class. This is as true for the fascists as it is for the communists.

Widespread and more open fascistic propaganda is bound to accompany the growing polarization in society (already in embryo among the neo-confederates, anti-immigrationists, theocrats and various other groupings of the extreme right) reinforced and made respectable by previous years of conditioning. Without the dissemination of commu-

nist propaganda deep into the heart of the developing movement, the populism of today will seem like nothing compared to the very real possibility of the rise of an openly fascist party backed by a section of the workers.

Revolutionaries face complex and challenging problems. They must devise and implement practical and concrete steps to influence and develop the consciousness of the workers along the path that will resolve the problems of society in the interests of humanity. Only through consistent application of the program of the new class to every problem can the struggle be directed along that path. In the course of the struggle to implement that program, workers will develop consciousness of their class interests. Through the consistent work of revolutionaries, the new class can be formed into a force that understands and operates in accordance with its independent class interests, a class with a vision of the possibilities presented by the transformative qualities of today. It will grow into a force that is capable of forging new political formations representing those interests, and carrying through with the transformation of society.

*Errata: In the March/April 2007 issue of Rally, Comrades it was stated that the Watts Uprising took place in 1968. The correct date is 1965.*

# Populism in America

*Editor's note: Excerpted from the March 2005 report of The LRNA Steering Committee.*

America is heading toward a class confrontation. Every facet of society is beginning to polarize. Underlying it all is the qualitative change in the economy and the resulting antagonism between wealth and poverty. Polarization — the separation and destruction of the bonds that hold a process together — is a focal point for revolutionaries. Social transformation cannot take place without it. The polarization we are seeing today offers the opportunity for a historically new class movement for a cooperative world. For the process to reach fruition revolutionaries must provide the ideology, vision and scientific strategy needed to break the myriad of ideological and organizational bonds that tie the class to capitalism, freeing it to become a class for itself. This quantitative stage of the revolutionary process will be expressed in the class breaking its acceptance of capitalism and creating its own political party. Populism remains one of the main ideological weapons the rulers are using to prevent this from happening.

## POPULISM IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The most important aspect of U.S. populism is its non-class outlook. This idea is based on the proposition from the 1776 Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal” and it has been reinforced by the specific history of the U.S.. This history has included political movements for reform in which sections of different classes have found themselves in temporary political alliances.

The kernel of populist ideology is the idea of “the people” fighting some big institution like the banks, the rich, and the government bureaucracy. Populism groups together sections of the capitalist class, the “middle class” and the workers under one banner. Ideologically, populism is never directed against the capitalist system. It rejects the idea that the working class has interests absolutely hostile to those of the capitalist class.

The movement most commonly associated with the rise of populism is the struggle of the small farmers from the 1890s through the 1930s. Their fight was directed at the railroads, large banks, and large agricultural commodity corporations. It was a movement of poor farmers, small rural businessmen, and some sections of the working class.

The populist movement during this period showed all the dangers that populism held for a revolutionary movement. While some sections of this movement were quite progressive and militant in opposition to the banks, railroads and stock exchanges, they never

fundamentally challenged capitalism as a system. Populism in the main was an all-class white unity movement. The populist movement was incorporated into the Democratic Party during the New Deal and the years following World War II.

When the capitalists deal with the workers today, they appeal to that complex of populist ideas that have been entrenched in the U.S. experience. In this sense, populism is not one of many “ruling class ideologies,” but is rather a central means by which the workers are politically manipulated to achieve the capitalists’ ends of either attacking other capitalists or getting the workers to attack one another, or both.

Today the economic factors — the growing and irreversible polarization of wealth and poverty brought about by labor replacing technology, the inevitable motion toward an economic crisis, the growth of other countries which seek to undercut the U.S. position, the formation of a new class of dispossessed in the U.S. and across the world — are combining to create an extremely volatile situation. As the U.S. aggressively attempts to impose its will on the world stage, it must crack down at home to guarantee the American people do not resist the capitalists’ plans.

Globalization has spelled the end to any progressive all-class or cross-class movement. President Bush’s bringing “democracy” to the world is the current ploy to adapt to the needs of global capital. It is the same ploy at home in the U.S. — democracy without liberty and equality — without equal access to food, housing, health care or other means of life.

By itself populism has no magical power to influence the mass movement. Populism under conditions of capitalist expansion was different than populism under the present conditions of impending economic crisis. Populism was an ideology based on reformism when reforms under capitalism were possible. While it is still possible to beat concessions out of the capitalists (and important to do so), these victories are temporary. U.S. capitalism today, locked into deepening crisis, offers no more reforms. The qualitative changes in the economy, the polarization of wealth and poverty and the widespread social destruction demand that the capitalists create a different form of populism. The goal of populism today is to build unity against the new revolutionary class.

We have entered the period of class war. Any attempts to do away with the class character of the emerging struggle are ploys of fascism. Populism is a political tactic of the capitalist class. It is their class response to the growing spontaneous movement, their attempt to prevent political polarization.

## HOW POPULISM IS EXPRESSING ITSELF TODAY

The Democratic Party is reviving itself within this changing environment as the command center of populism. They intend to use populism to confuse and control the leaders of the growing movement. The Democrats aim to prevent political polarization and the consciousness of the urgent need for a class party. The drive of the rulers to destroy all remaining social programs, along with the rapid pace of fascism, makes their activity a threat to the survival of the class.

This is not the Roosevelt period where the laws of capitalist development were based on the quantitative expansion of the market. Then, the Roosevelt grouping extended social bribery to insure loyalty when the war broke out. Roosevelt’s New Deal gave them control over the growing movement and an ideological weapon to use against the increasingly popular ideas of socialism. The working class has been socially, politically and organizationally tied to the twin parties of capital ever since, and through them to the rulers. Today, social bribery is ending. The Democrats, in this period, have only populism to offer the workers. They are trying to craft it to fit the needs of this new period.

Each time the class expresses itself independently, Democrats move in to contain things. The struggle is narrowed, often destroyed by painting it as ethnic rather than as an attack on the class and all of society. A class party can be built out of all these struggles today, and the Democratic Party knows this.

There are many social forces maneuvering within and outside of this process, debating everything from which way for the trade unions, to what kind of poverty movement there will be, to whether a workers’ party is needed. The real question is, which ideology — capitalist or communist — will express and guide this movement? This is the crucial question and what polarity is about. It is the opportunity to introduce new ideas.

No matter what the rulers or their agents within the class do they cannot address the underlying problem — the economic revolution, the growing poverty and the emergence of a class of impoverished who have no future in the capitalist system. The capitalists seek to keep this class ignorant of its real interests and mislead it with populist propaganda. Revolutionaries, on the other hand, disseminate the necessity for them to identify with their class and to be conscious of their program of communism.

The rulers and their twin parties may bicker over how to maintain their wealth in a changing world, but they are unified in the need to crush any political motion that is independent of them. There is no progressive left wing of the Democratic Party. It is a capitalist party

and its program is no different than the Republicans. But in the absence of targeted communist agitation that points the workers toward the next step and propaganda that brings a vision of the new world, the treacherous role of the Democrats and their misleaders can only intensify.

As the history of populism shows, the capitalists are skilled in capturing discontent and turning it into a movement that destroys itself and keeps private property intact. In America, every impulse toward an independent motion has eventually been taken over by the capitalists. Fascism is on the horizon as the ultimate means by which the rulers intend to contain the growing struggle for survival. The only hope is the formation of a class party that becomes an organizing center for the ensuing class battles, and the formation of an organization of revolutionaries that can ensure the future of the movement.

## TASKS OF REVOLUTIONARIES

Our strategy is to make the class conscious and our tactic is to break the workers away from the Democratic Party. We do not throw the blow directly at Bush. We throw our blow at the center of gravity — those who have gained through bribery the organizational, political and ideological control of the workers, those who have the potential to prevent the struggle from unfolding. The Democratic Party’s weak link is those misleaders who connect the class to the Party and through it to the capitalist institutions and ideology (superstructure). These misleaders are vulnerable. A class party that becomes an organizing center of the class can help break those bonds.

But times demand that we get specific. We do this by demonstrating that we have answers to the practical problems workers are struggling with, and use our press as a weapon to lead and reach the revolutionaries. We must ensure that our agitation and propaganda in every instance proceeds from the interests of the class. Everything we say and do must facilitate the growing political polarity.

# The Program of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America

*The League adopted the following program at its 6th Convention.*

The United States of America — indeed the entire world — is in the throes of epochal economic revolution. Transformation from electro-mechanical industry requiring human labor to operate gigantic means of industrial production to digitally controlled production requiring little or no human labor is the determining content of our time.

The qualitatively more efficient means of electronic production greatly lowers the cost of production of the basic necessities of life. This makes possible an economic paradise of abundance for all. Under capitalism, however, it leads to the falling price of labor power and fastens the chain of poverty, exploitation, and stultifying toil ever more tightly upon the worker.

Just as the steam engine created an industrial working class that replaced the existing manufacturing class, electronic production is creating a new class of workers. This new class consists of

employed and unemployed sectors. The employed sector — the part-time, contingency, below minimum wage workers — is already over a third of the work force. This employed sector of the class is constantly drawn into the growing unemployed sector that ranges from the structurally unemployed to the absolutely destitute, homeless workers.

The new class cannot solve its economic problems without the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need. For the first time an objective communist economic class is forming to become the foundation for a communist political movement.

Globalization creates this new class everywhere. Global unity is the condition of its national emancipation. The League extends its hand of comradeship around the globe.

Wage-less electronic production is antagonistic to capitalism, which is based on the buying and selling of labor power. This antagonism is economically, socially and politically polarizing so-

ciety, making social and political revolution inevitable. A new fascist state form, the naked rule of corporate power, is arising to oppose this motion. Society must take over these corporations or these corporations will take over society.

Tens of thousands of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League's mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem. The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, health care and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a co-operative society. Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

The new class must have political power to achieve these goals. In the ef-

fort to achieve this political power the League supports all political organizations and sections of society that fight against the growing poverty, social and ecological destruction, fascism and war.

In spite of worsening economic conditions, nothing can be accomplished until the American people hold a vision of where they want to go and what they want to be. Creating and imbuing them with such vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization.

Destruction of the ecology, the growing threat of nuclear war and looming pandemics are calling the very existence of the human race into question. The battle is class struggle. The war is for the existence of humanity. We in the League face the future with confidence. We call upon all revolutionaries to abandon sectarian differences, to unite around the practical demands of the new class and to secure that imperiled future.

## Editorial: The Human Mind — Key to Revolution

Humans learning to create fire by friction laid the foundations for an entirely new world. No longer bound (or protected) by the natural laws of the animal kingdom, mankind had to learn to think. The long painful bloody journey from superstition to science is what human history is really all about. The women and men who struggled to understand the social significance of their ever-changing economic environment are the heroes of that history.

As science emerged, outstanding thinkers struggled to apply scientific methodology - so successful in understanding the physical world - to understanding the evolution of society. Once it was understood that humanity's visions and beliefs were essentially the result - rather than the creator - of the real world, it was possible to develop a social science. Belief that the social order of exploiter and exploited was the natural order of things could be and was challenged. On the basis of social science it was possible to think creatively -

to project what is possible under what conditions. In this way science transformed socialism from an unattainable dream into an attainable practical goal.

Creative thinking does not mirror reality. It is abstract from and ahead of reality. No scientific projection can fully account for the millions of objective and subjective factors that shape and determine a future reality. Therefore, there are bound to be errors. As scientific thinkers projected new possibilities or probabilities, a tendency developed to form cults of true believers around their projections to protect them from these millions of factors. This, in turn, inhibited the actual development of the new, since it repressed any further new thinking.

The political revolutionary movement, which is based on vision, must merge with a scientific understanding of the social significance of the constant quantitative and qualitative development of the means of production, since they define the possibilities of that political movement. Our social and econom-

ic conditions are in global revolution. Revolutionary thinking must change and keep up with these changing conditions. However, too many revolutionaries are stuck in the mud of yesteryear and attempt to make new realities fit the theories of a passing period. This compels them to cling more stubbornly to the written word and defend it against the very thing they are fighting for - that is, change.

The heroic history-determining revolutionary movement based on the industrial worker in the mass industries is dying, because - despite their daily confrontation with a new reality - they cannot move past the scientific projections of yesteryear. This can and will happen to us unless every comrade feels obligated to intellectually contribute to the development of the movement.

When it becomes acceptable to answer questions with a quote from an outstanding thinker rather than a concrete examination of a concrete problem, then that is no longer science. When ideology takes the place of theory

as a guide to action, then the political movement has become separated from the practical activity of the class. When organizations are built around and restricted to the thinking of individuals, then the cause is lost.

Global society has begun a leap comparable to the conquest of fire. Somewhere, a Capital for this epoch must be written. Development does not mean abandoning the old. It means absorbing and moving beyond it. History shows us that even a small organization of intelligent people, who have truly freed their minds of dogma and are willing to contribute their intellectual capital, are capable of using the vast social energy generated by economic revolution to create a new world.

Karl Marx, undoubtedly the world's greatest revolutionary thinker, summed up all of his vast writing with the statement that the only truly revolutionary instrument is the human mind. Without it, nothing is possible. With it there is no force of earth capable of stopping us.