

RALLY COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

The Politics of Bipartisanship: Clearing the Way for the New Economy

Everyone understands that our country is approaching a certain political nodal line. What is the process of political development? First comes the objective foundation for change, then the scattered spontaneous reaction to this new emerging change, then comes the discussion, debate, and consolidation of ideas about that change, and out of that comes an organized effort to adjust to the new reality.

The economy develops on a more or less spontaneous basis. Politics has to be conscious. It has to clear the path for the spontaneous development of the economy.

The drive toward "bipartisanship" today is the political expression of something new taking place in the economy. The ruling class needs a political motion to clear the lumber out of the way so it can move forward. They are laying the foundations for a new political movement that is based on the interests of corporate power that is completely merged with the state.

The confusion we see in Congress and in politics in general is an expression of the changes that are taking place in the economy, and the need for the political relations in this country to be adjusted to the new situation.

OPENING DOOR TO NEXT STAGE

There is a good deal of fumbling around about how to go about this. But in the midst of all the confusion and opposition among Democrats and Republicans and the combined opposition from the right wing of both parties, there are some who are seriously trying to open the way for the new economy.

President Obama has been in the forefront of the call for bipartisanship. He is attempting to establish bipartisan commissions on everything from fiscal regulation to health care to jobs. Most recently, Congress voted down his proposal for a bipartisan commission on deficit reduction, but he has decided to move ahead with it through executive order.

What is the meaning of these calls for bipartisanship? The American people didn't vote for Republicans and Democrats. The majority voted for a Democratic Party program. Today, the insistence on governing through bipartisanship is an expression of the spontaneous striving and impulses for the realignment of the political relations in

this country in order to open the doors for the development of the economy.

This is being expressed politically as the spontaneous merging of the center of the Democratic Party and the center of the Republican Party. In this process, the left and right wings of those parties are drifting away from them.

By constantly demanding the merging of the center of the Republican and Democratic parties President Obama is leading this

over the U.S. political structure. Of course, there have been impulses in this direction before, but it has never been as open.

One of the most important things that has happened in the Obama administration is the Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* Docket No. 08-205. That ruling allows corporations to operate on the level of an individual citizen in contributing to the makeup of the Congress and the Presidency. It just so happens

corporate control. It happened after the Civil War, it happened during the 1920s, it happened again in the 1930s, and it happened again after WWII with Henry Wallace and the Peoples' Progressive Party.

Parties don't come about because somebody wants them. They come about as an expression of changes in the economy and society, and the formation of a new foundation. First comes the need for something to happen. Then there is a striving for it to happen. But it can't happen unless there is a political motion that makes it possible.

Today, resistance is coming from the "right" and from the "left." As the centers of the two main parties increasingly merge, there will be a left wing that develops out of that merging that will take the form of a motion toward a third party. It will not be a workers' party, that is, a party that reflects the class interests of the workers. It will be one that attempts to restore things as they were, to bring about the "good old days." It will not be talking about changing the productive relations of the country.

But the third party is an absolutely indispensable stage in the revolutionary process. It will serve to further develop the consciousness of the separate interests of the masses of American people against those of corporate interests. It is a necessary and inevitable step toward a workers' party and the embryonic form of political class consciousness it represents.

But first of all the mass of American people have to become disillusioned with bourgeois politics. Right now, the idea that political parties represent all classes, that there is a national interest that all classes share together, is widely held among the American people. A workers' party can emerge only when the national interest becomes expressed as class interests, when the well-being of America is absolutely expressed in the well-being of its working people.

We are reaching a new stage of American history. Never before have we witnessed such an open naked move for corporate power as is going on today. The process must move through its stages, but the foundation for a workers' party is beginning to form. Revolutionaries must help to clear the path.

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process of political realignment.

Under today's conditions, bipartisan means a new idea. New ideas are scatterings of the old and they are parts of the new. A new idea or a new apparatus does not spring afresh. It is part of the old and part of the new, and it develops by step by step ridding itself of the old. It is not as if something new all of a sudden occurs. We understand that qualitative development depends on the introduction of something new, that something new is always rooted in something old. It is a quantitative development of the new within the old that creates the crisis that allows for the sublation that creates what we call the new.

Anything new begins with the destruction of the old forms. The Republican and Democratic parties are not dying, but we are seeing the actual formation of something new in Congress. When people hear the word bipartisan, they usually think of temporary alliances over specific issues. That is what the word has meant in the past. The bipartisan commissions that they are now attempting to form are a relatively permanent alliance between a sector of the Republican Party and a sector of the Democratic Party.

These changes are to facilitate the thorough open domination of corporate interests

that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John G. Roberts is thoroughly conservative, if not fascist, and was positioned on the Court during the Bush administration. Such a situation does not simply happen. The situation evolved so that Bush could appoint someone, who then under evolving conditions, could open the way for a ruling that provides the ruling class with a way to go about furthering the merging of the corporations and the political structure of the U.S. state in the interests of the capitalist class.

All branches of the government are involved. We see it in the Congress, in the Supreme Court, and in the way the Presidency itself is forced to make these compromises. But these compromises are essential for the ruling class if they are going to open the door to the next stage of the process.

POLITICAL RESISTANCE IS INEVITABLE

Anytime there is forward motion, there is resistance. We can see this throughout American history. Every time there has been a step forward in the consolidation of the corporate control of the country, there has been a rise, at least an attempted rise, of a third party to counter that motion toward

Political Struggle Requires Understanding of Class and Strategy

The word “political” has different meanings depending on circumstances. Most commonly, in a representative democracy, it refers to the political activity of elections and legislation. It has also come to mean manipulative or dishonest in both government and personal relations. And some people say, “everything is political,” which doesn’t tell us much.

When revolutionaries speak of the struggle for political power, they mean the struggle of one class against another for control of the economic and social life of a country. Ever since humans organized themselves into communities for agricultural production, human society has been divided into classes with a minority holding control over the land, resources and means of production, and exercising control over the rest of society. Today’s capitalism is the culmination of that process.

The struggle against the dominant class has many stages and doesn’t become a political struggle until the working class understands itself as a class and its interests as separate from the dominant class.

This class-consciousness doesn’t come automatically and spontaneously through the struggle itself but comes from the activ-

ity of revolutionaries. The process at this time in this country is in its earliest stage. To develop a strategy to bring the class to the stage where it can wage a successful struggle for political power, revolutionaries must understand the process of social and politi-

cal change, and American history.

The fight for what they need to survive will more and more force the workers to confront the question of who holds political power. A strategy and an approach that politicizes and educates from within the broad awakening to develop consciousness of class is no longer a theoretical issue, but a practical necessity.

cal change, and American history. Classes are groups with common economic interests that can act politically to achieve changes beneficial to their interests.

During periods of stability, when the legal and political system – governments and the state – conforms to and supports economic progress, legislative and electoral politics allows for changes and adaptations

in the system. These occur, often accompanied by social and political turmoil, but without threatening the system itself. American history is full of examples: the Presidency of Andrew Jackson (1829-1837) and the establishment of the Democratic

Party, the “trust-busting” of President Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909), women’s suffrage and the 19th Amendment (1920), the New Deal of the 1930s, the passage of the Wagner Act in 1935 and the legalization of unions, the victories of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, and the “Reagan Revolution” of the 1970s. These changes were in line with capitalism’s need to adapt and expand.

The struggle develops over how to solve the practical concrete problems of society. Taxation and representation were the focus in the period of the American Revolution. Slavery and all its economic and social consequences tore American society apart during the Civil War period. Today, the basic questions of survival – jobs, food, shelter, health care and education – are being debated across the country and drawing people into struggle.

EARLY STAGE OF STRUGGLE

The deepening economic crisis is forcing the ruling class to demand that the government nationalize some aspects of the economy in order to protect its profits and the system of private property itself. The different economic interests of different classes and strata are becoming clearer as those in power act to protect their interests at the expense of the rest. Because capitalism will not provide for a working class it no longer needs, nationalization in the interest of the working class with the government taking over and providing for basic human needs – jobs, schools, housing, health care – is becoming a question of survival for ever larger sectors of society. It is on this battlefield that the class will be formed politically – with consciousness and capacity to fight in its own class interests.

Tens of thousands are beginning to grasp that the capitalist system itself is the problem. While the objectivity of where history is going sets the stage, most people don’t yet understand how the battle lines are being drawn or see their interests as class interests.

The ruling class attempts to turn one section of the working class against another by advancing the vain hope that the lot of the dispossessed may improve as the capitalists continue to plunder. The reality of falling wages, rising unemployment, state and local fiscal crises, and the end of stable jobs thwarts any strategy of trying to win concessions and gain some measure of justice, or a little less suffering, from a collapsing system.

The fight for what they need to survive will more and more force the workers to confront the question of who holds political power. They cannot recognize, act on, or develop strategy and tactics without the consciousness of their own class interests, and the need for a political solution to the problems they face. A strategy and an approach that politicizes and educates from within this broad awakening to develop consciousness of class is no longer a theoretical issue, but a practical necessity.

HISTORICAL TURNING POINTS

At certain junctures of history, fundamental changes in the economy occur. Old classes are destroyed, new classes form, and the old order is unable to accommodate new realities. These transformations occur throughout history, such as, the transition from agriculture to industrial production with its political expressions in the Glorious Revolution in 1688 and the establishment of parliament in England, the American and French revolutions in the late 18th century, and the American Civil War of the 1860s. We are in such a period of transition and transformation now, from industrial production to electronic production.

In such periods, a new way of organizing society, a new system of power relations is called for. The old system is unable to adjust to the changes brought about by economic progress. The new has yet to be constructed. As the conflict plays out in the legal and political system and in society, these junctures of history are periods of profound instability. All of society is drawn into political struggle, the struggle over which class is going to hold power and organize society in its interests.

The political struggle to determine which class will hold power to organize society is only possible in such times of transition.

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

Rally, Comrades! is the political paper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. 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.

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