

# CHALLENGE

*The Revolutionary Newspaper*

GI  
Special

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

## GI'S STRUGGLE AGAINST ARMY

Bosses Use Racism -  
Unity Beats Brass



FROM THE LAST HARASS, FT. GORDON

**Army is the Bosses Tool Against the Workers!**

## WORKERS VS BOSSES, RACISM & ARMY

The U S Government is the tool of the big corporation owners in their struggle against American workers. The bosses are always trying to keep wages low, to speed up the work, and increase prices and rents--to squeeze more profits from the working class. They protect themselves from the workers with coops and troops. But more and more soldiers are fighting back against the way the bosses use them to suppress other workers and the ways the Army oppresses working class soldiers to force them to fight against their own class interests.

The bosses need the Army because workers fight sharply for better conditions. Black workers in Newark, Detroit, Cleveland and many other cities have led rebellions against the landlords, merchants and factory bosses who cause and profit from the poverty of the ghettos. U. S. workers, often with blacks in the forefront, are in the middle of a massive strike wave.

The bosses' control of the state gives them many weapons against this workers' rebellion. They call out the coops, get court injunctions and send in phony "neutral" arbitrators. But when all else fails, they play their trump card--the Army.

In just the past few years the bosses have used the Army against the Memphis sanitation strikers, black rebels in Detroit and Newark, black students in North Carolina and white workers in the Groton, Conn., shipyard.

The Army needs lots of man-power to keep down U. S. workers at the same time that they defend the bosses from workers overseas. (The 101st Airborne Div., for example, had to postpone its departure for Vietnam in order to suppress black workers in Detroit.) BUT THE BIG BOSSES DON'T WANT TO DO THE FIGHTING. INSTEAD THEY DRAFT WORKERS -- SO THAT WORKING CLASS G.I'S END UP FIGHTING OTHER WORKERS WHILE THE BOSSES SIT HOME AND COUNT THEIR LOOT.

VIETNAM IS A BOSSES' WAR

The U.S. bosses also use their Army abroad to guard their profits. They build thousands of factories all over the world



Army vs. black workers in Detroit, 1967

and make even bigger profits than at home by paying starvation wages. In Saigon the maximum wage is \$1.40 per day. Electronics workers in U.S.-owned factories in South Korea get 88¢ per day. U.S. bosses and diplomats ally with landlords who take from 50% to 75% of the farmers' crops.

When Vietnamese workers and farmers organized a war to kick out the U.S. bosses and their puppets in Saigon, the bosses sent in the Army to protect their property and profits. U.S. corporations need Vietnam as a strategic military base to defend their factories and super-profits in India, Thailand, Indonesia, etc. When U.S. workers fight for higher wages, the bosses can "run away" to these countries where the Army smashes workers' organizations and keeps labor cheap. U.S. workers and GIs are hurt by this bosses' war. DRIVE THE U.S. OUT OF VIETNAM NOW. NO DEALS. NO NEGOTIATIONS.

RACISM HURTS ALL WORKERS --MEANS EXTRA PROFITS FOR THE BOSSES

The bosses make their profits off the sweat and toil of all workers, but even more from black and Puerto Rican workers. These workers are forced into the hardest and lowest-paying jobs, paid less for equal work, have the highest unemployment and get the worst housing and education. The bosses make over \$22 billion in extra profits from

THE U.S. ARMY IS A BOSSES ARMY. IT IS USED TO SUPPRESS WORKERS AT HOME AND ABROAD. BUT THE BOSSES DON'T FIGHT: THEY DRAFT WORKERS TO FIGHT FOR THEM. WORKERS IN THE U.S. ARMY ARE FORCED TO FIGHT THEIR CLASS BROTHERS IN VIETNAM, AROUND THE WORLD. AND AT HOME, PARTICULARLY AGAINST BLACK WORKERS.

the wage difference between black and white workers plus what they get from exorbitant rents and credit charges. When any workers strike, the bosses threaten to replace them with others who need work even at the low wages the bosses are offering. FAILURE TO FIGHT THE EXTRA-EXPLOITATION OF BLACK WORKERS WEAKENS THE STRUGGLES AND LOWERS THE WAGES OF ALL WORKERS.

Because of their special oppression, black workers have been fighting hardest against the bosses. (A majority of arrested rebels in Detroit were employed workers, many in the auto plants). The bosses know they would be in serious trouble if white workers followed this militant leadership of the blacks. To guard against this, the bosses use their control of the schools and newspapers to spread the racist lie that the conditions in which black workers live are "their own fault". In fact, these conditions are caused by the bosses' greed for higher profits. They say that the black rebellions are "aimless anti-white violence." In fact, the rebellions are conscious and courageous attacks on the landlords, merchants, credit agencies and industry bosses who get rich off of ghetto poverty and on the cops who protect them.

WHITE WORKERS MUST REJECT THESE RACIST LIES AND UNITE WITH BLACK WORKERS. ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN REAL BLOWS BE STRUCK AGAINST THE BOSSES.

#### RACISM IN THE ARMY

The racist super-exploitation of black workers carries over into the Army. Black GIs are 10% of the Army but account for 40% of front-line troops and 20% of combat deaths. They are generally given harsher punishment (stockade rather than Article 15). In the same way that black workers in the factories are leading the fight against the bosses, black GIs fight hardest against the brass.

Hundreds of black GIs at Ft. Hood refused orders to go to Chicago to keep "order" over rebellious black workers. The mostly black inmates of the Long Binh Jail -- imprisoned for being AWOL from combat, refusing orders, etc. -- burned it to the ground and killed its main officers.

GIs MUST SMASH THE RACIST IDEAS AND

PRACTICES WHICH KEEP THEM DIVIDED AND PREVENT A POWERFUL UNITED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ARMY.

#### GIs ARE FIGHTING BACK

1) 56,000 GIs deserted in 1968. 23,000 are still at large. This equals one combat division and several large support units.

2) the AWOL rate has doubled in the last two years. In 1968 10% of the Army's 1,500,000 men went AWOL.

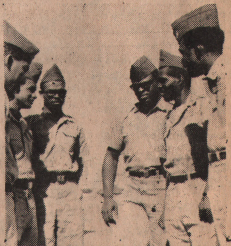
3) In Vietnam GIs have killed thousands of their officers rather than obey the bosses' orders. Whole companies have mutinied.

4) Almost 300 U.S. soldiers went over to the other side in May 1968 alone. More than half were black.

5) Re-enlistment rates dropped by half from 1967 to 1968 with worse expected this year.

6) GIs now put out more than 60 anti-war, anti-brass newspapers.

7) GIs are seeing through individualist and pacifist protest and drug-escapism and starting to fight the army in a pro-working class way.



Black GIs from Ft. Hood refused racist order to put down black Chicago workers.

OUR JOB - AS WORKERS WITHIN THE BOSS' ARMY IS TO FIGHT THE BOSS' RACISM AND ANTI-COMMUNISM. TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR WORKERS AROUND THE WORLD. AS IN VIETNAM, ONLY WHEN WORKING PEOPLE CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT CAN WE END ALL OUR MISERY. WE MUST UNITE WITH OUR CLASS BROTHERS - THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS OF THE WORLD!



Army tries to intimidate Memphis strikers

### RACISM VS. INTERNATIONALISM

When workers of different countries write against the class of bosses who exploit them all, we call that working class (proletarian) internationalism. British and French soldiers and sailors showed proletarian internationalism when they refused to fight against the Russian workers' revolution and turned their guns on their "own" officers.

How do the bosses get us to fight in Vietnam against our own class brothers, workers and farmers? By teaching us racism. The brass tell us that Vietnamese are "inferior", "Gooks and Dinks". TV shows the poverty in which Viet farmers live and calls it "the way they want to live". They never show us the landlords who take 75% of the crop and make him poor.

If we lived in Vietnam, the only way we could win a better life for our families would be to fight to kick the U.S. bosses out. Here in the U.S., WE FACE THE SAME FIGHT. GIs must smash the bosses' racist ideas and join workers of all countries against all the bosses.

### WHAT IS CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is the monthly newspaper of the Progressive Labor Party. It has articles reporting struggles in shops, communities, schools and the Army. We feel CHALLENGE can be a weapon in struggle against the bosses and brass, because it spreads the lessons others have learned in struggle. We encourage all GIs to subscribe to CHALLENGE, write letters commenting on its contents and send in letters and articles about conditions struggles they are involved in.

### WHAT IS PROGRESSIVE LABOR?

Progressive Labor Party is a Marxist-Leninist (communist) party. Among our members are black and white workers in shops and offices, teachers, welfare workers and clients, students in schools and colleges, and GIs. We have been involved in many rank-and-file struggles for better wages and working conditions, for improved social services and against the imperialist war in Vietnam.

Members of PLP in the Army join with their fellow GIs in struggles against racism, and against the traps that the bosses set for the GI movement (pacifism, drugs, etc.) A PLP member played a leading role in the Last Parass, a GI newspaper at Ft. Gordon, Ga., which involved dozens of GIs in exposing and fighting the war and racism.

As communists we help build all these struggles, but we don't think the bosses will ever stop trying to take back the limited gains workers win. As long as the bosses control the state they will use it against the workers. We think workers must make a revolution and set up a state of their own -- Socialism.

We think millions upon millions of workers can be won to see this need in the course of years of collective struggle against the bosses.  
WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE.

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