

the DEMOCRATIC LAWYER

Political Newspaper
of the Communist Labor Party
Fraction of the National
La Raza Law Students

LAND AND EQUALITY

"Viva Atzlan!" "Our fight is here, not in Vietnam!" "Workers and Oppressed People of the World Unite!"

These were some of the cries of the Mexican national minority, supported by Negro and Anglo-American workers, at the Chicano Moratorium, five years ago. The Mexican national minority community condemned the imperialist war and their brutal oppression. Fresh in the memories of the workers who attended that demonstration were the murders of Beltran and Guillermo Sanchez. Fresh in our memories today are the brutal shootings of Texas farmworkers, exercising their right to organize into unions.

Since the Chicano Moratorium, the struggle of the Mexican national minority worker has been elevated to a new level. Openly attacked by the brutal arm of the USNA state and extra-legal groupings, the struggle of the Mexican for his land rings throughout the Southwest. No longer does the Mexican worker accept the passive non-violent tactics of a Cesar Chavez; nor will the Mexican worker submit to the brutality of the Texas Rangers and melon growers.

The recent attacks on the farmworkers in Texas and their response to them bare testimony to the rising political consciousness of the Mexican worker. For the importance of the Texas farmworkers' struggle goes far beyond the drive for unionization. It is tied to and a part of the struggle to free the Southwest from the bloody grasp of USNA imperialism. It is the struggle for regional autonomy.

Since the expansionist drive by the USNA into the Southwest, the development of virtually every major industry in the Southwest has been based on the exploitation of the Mexican national minority worker. The growth of agriculture in Texas (with the third largest population of agricultural workers in the USNA) and in the rest of the Southwest would have

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EQUAL RIGHTS NOW!

(This is the position that the Democratic Lawyer presented at the National Lawyers Guild conference in Houston, Texas **last** month. We feel that it is applicable to the work of La Raza National Law Students Assn. if readers substitute "LRNLSA" for "Guild" in the article).

What is the political role the NLG has to play in the struggle against reaction that is sweeping the land? To paraphrase Lenin, the petite-bourgeois becomes progressive when it abandons its own class interests and adopts the political stance of the proletariat. This is so because it then fights in the interests of the most oppressed and exploited class in society. Consequently, the goals of the Guild, a progressive organization, should be to aggressively defend the democratic and economic rights of the working class, particularly the most oppressed sections of the working class, the national minorities (For "What Are National Minorities?" see PAGE 3 Vol. 2 No. 10, Peoples Tribune) - Negroes, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and Filipinos; and also the poor Anglos, especially Appalachians. At this critical junction in the history of our country, the question of working class unity against fascist repression is of paramount importance for all progressives. Recent reports indicate that in 1974 people living below the poverty level of \$5,038 were 30% of all Negroes, 23% of all Spanish-speaking people and 8% of all Anglos. A total of 24.3 million people. There is no reason to

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been impossible without the reserves of cheap labor that the Mexican represented.

Today, the Mexican national minority labors at the heart of the industrial proletariat in the Southwest, in mining, railroads, refineries, canneries, cotton mills and garment factories. They make up the bulk of the workers exploited in the small, unorganized shops of the Southwest, doing the dirtiest and lowest paid work with the least security.

The USNA imperialists have tried to deny the Mexican national minority workers their cultural heritage and language. Schools, hospitals, governmental agencies, all function in English. Mexican children are punished for using their own language in the schools.

The Mexican national minority averages 4 to 5 years less schooling than Anglo-Americans in the region. Their functional illiteracy rate (0-4 years of schooling) was seven times that of Anglo-Americans in 1960, and twice that of other minorities.

In 1960, the life expectancy of a Mexican national minority worker was 56.7 years, as compared to 67.5 years for an Anglo-American. In 1967

the life expectancy of a Mexican national minority migratory worker was only 49 years!

Poverty and the denial of their civil rights is the lot of the Mexican national minority workers. The Texas Rangers, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS or Migra), the Border Patrol and various vigilantes wield the club and the gun for the imperialist oppressors. Whole town massacred in their beds, strikers left to die in the hot desert sun, militant labor leaders and strikers deported by the hundreds and thousands - this is how the imperialists have dealt with the workers' struggles in this oppressed region.

Facing hardship and death, the Mexican national minority toilers have always been staunch fighters against imperialism. From the outset, the Southwest was not conquered easily. Mexican workers and farmers fought alongside freed and runaway slaves against the expansion of slavery into their territory. And the chauvinist myth of the Mexican "bandito" remains today, as a result of and obscuring the true history of Mexican fighters who would not give up the battle to recapture their land.

As industrialization began, so did the trade union movement; the first attempt to organize agricultural workers was in 1883. The movement of Mexican national minority miners, railroad workers, and cannery workers reached a peak in the 1920's and 30's, when tens of thousands of workers, struck and battled police, especially

in New Mexico and California. Today the Farah strikers, the miners of Silver City, Santa Rita and Gallup, New Mexico and Magma, Arizona, the steelworkers of Corpus Christi who have taken up the fight for bus-

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EQUAL RIGHTS cont.

believe this situation has improved since 1974.

The Guild is an important element in the struggle against fascism. Incipient fascism is the social force that currently threatens the working class and all social progress. This vicious tool of capitalist rule must inevitably attempt to assume state power as the economic crisis intensifies. To accomplish this the working class, the natural opposite of capital must be driven to a yet lower standard of living. The national minority section of the class is key in this drive of the fascists because it represents the front line of proletarian militancy. The question of equality for national minorities permeates every social question from the right to abortion to job seniority, unemployment, education, women's rights, etc. At present the conscious fascist forces are attempting to disrupt the labor and progressive movement by driving deeper the wedge of white chauvinism that already exists within the working class. Attacks against school integration have been an organizational springboard for the blood-soaked K.K.K., the Wallacite-type populists, and the John Birch Society. The sustained anti-bussing violence in Boston is evidence that these organizations are well organized and financed. Those who have seen ROAR operate can tell you that they are not an ordinary "concerned citizens" community group but a dangerous embryo of Anglo-American facism.

The Guild has played a commendable role in fighting for the democratic rights of national minorities but it's obvious we must escalate our activities in this area. The Guild can become the vanguard of the legal profession in building a solid defense against this fascist repression. We must be clear that although the main thrust of fascism is aimed at the proletariat it also moves to crush opposition by progressive forces in all classes. The Guild must thus start working closely with other progressive-liberal

What Are National Minorities?

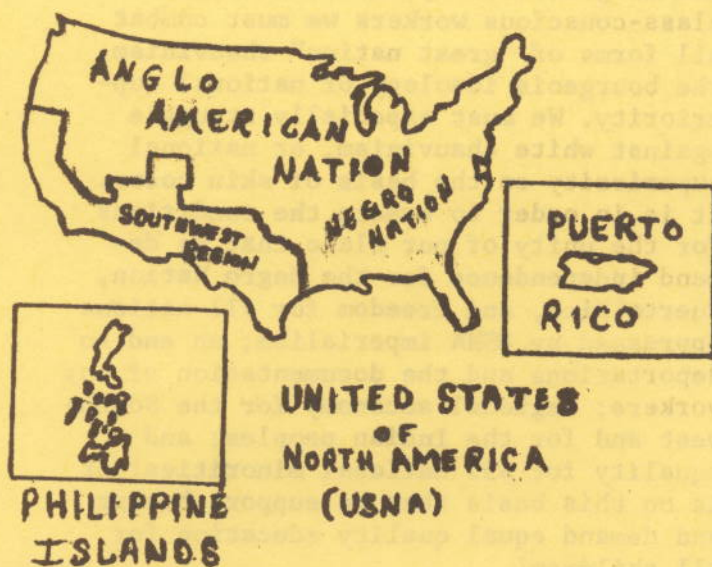
During the era of imperialism, one of the divisions of the world is into oppressed and oppressor nations. The oppressed nations are the source of superprofits to their imperialist oppressors who enforce their economic stranglehold and political domination of the weaker nations with military force. Under direct colonization, the imperialist power maintains total control over the exploited nation. There is no independent state. Thus, Lenin characterizes "national" uprisings within colonies as "an uprising aimed at the achievement of political independence of the oppressed nation, i.e., the establishment of a separate national state." (A Caricature of Marxism, CW, Vol. 23, p. 55)

The USNA is a multinational state, comprised of the imperialist oppressor nation, the Anglo-American nation (which consists roughly of the northern east, mid-west and western regions); its direct colonies, the Negro Nation and Puerto Rico; the oppressed Southwest region; and the Philippines, in fact a direct colony with a separate sham "state" tied openly and directly to the USNA imperialists.

As a result of imperialist oppression and exploitation, the standard of life in the colonies is driven ever downward, forcing the colonial peoples to flee impoverishment and starvation by emigrating to the oppressor nation in search of a better life. This emigration from a direct colony such as Puerto Rico and the Negro Nation is unhampered by legal hindrances; no papers are necessary, as the colonial peoples are a part of the same state. In fact, the imperialists often encourage these migrations in order to flood the labor market with "cheap labor" and thus drive down the wages of the Anglo-American proletariat.

A national minority is a person who has emigrated from a direct colony to its own imperialist oppressor nation. Irish workers are a national minority in England, but are a national group in the USNA, where the national minorities are only those people who come from the direct colonies of USNA imperialism. Thus, within the Anglo-American proletariat only four groups of workers are national minorities--those from the Negro Nation, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and the Mexican national minority from the Southwest region.

Why do we refer to some Mexican workers as a national minority, when Mexico is not a direct colony of the USNA? We do so only in regard to the Southwest region, which formerly was a part of Mexico, is a conquered territory, and was annexed by the USNA imperialists at gunpoint. Mexican workers in and from



the Southwest region are a national minority within the Anglo-American proletariat. However, Mexican nationals, workers from the state of Mexico itself, are not a national minority in the Anglo-American proletariat; thus, when we refer to workers from Mexico we refer to them as "Mexican national workers."

Within the oppressor nation, the national minorities are subject to special oppression because of the colonial status of their homeland. This special oppression reinforces the oppression of the colonies and acts as a stopper to prevent too many of the colonial workers from emigrating.

In 1870 Marx wrote of this phenomenon in relation to Ireland and England:

"Every industrial and commercial centre in England now possesses a working class divided into two hostile camps English proletarians and Irish proletarians. The ordinary English worker hates the Irish worker as a competitor who lowers his standard of life. In relation to the Irish worker he feels himself a member of the ruling nation and so turns himself into a tool of the aristocrats and capitalists of his country against Ireland, thus strengthening their domination over himself. He cherishes religious, social and national prejudices against the Irish workers. . . . This antagonism is artificially kept alive and intensified by the press, the pulpit, the comic papers, in short by all the means at the disposal of the ruling classes. This antagonism is the secret of the impotence of the English working class, despite its organization. It is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power." (Letter of Karl Marx to Meyer and Vogt, April 8, 1870)

The same may be said today. The strength of the imperialists lies in the historic division of the Anglo-American

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proletariat along national lines. This is the result of imperialist bribery, and is justified by white chauvinism. As class-conscious workers we must combat all forms of "great nation" chauvinism, the bourgeois ideology of national superiority. We must especially struggle against white chauvinism, or national superiority on the basis of skin color. It is in order to create the conditions for the unity of our class that we demand independence for the Negro Nation, Puerto Rico, and freedom for all nations oppressed by USNA imperialism; an end to deportations and the documentation of any workers; regional autonomy for the Southwest and for the Indian peoples; and equality for all national minorities! It is on this basis that we support busing and demand equal quality education for all children!

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bar associations (ACLU, NCBL, NBA, La Raza L.S.A., ATLA, etc.). With the ugly face of facism showing itself at every corner of the country we can no longer go it alone. Real unity must be forged with these organizations.

It's crystal clear that the front line of defense of everything progressive in our country is the defense of the national minorities, particularly the Negro people. The Negro worker as a section of the proletariat is not only at the heart of industry and production but has been in the forefront of the struggle for democracy for decades. As progressives we must see the Negro worker as our front line of defense against facism. If we allow our front line to be penetrated by facism then we will be persecuted for years.

We of the C.L.P. propose a defensive apparatus against facism, a body comprised of individuals and organizations whose unifying aim is the struggle for democracy and equal rights for national minorities. We propose an Equal Rights Congress (E.R.C.). We envision such an organization playing an important role in the legislative and legal arenas as well as laying a foundation for a mass struggle against the K.K.K. and other fascist groups. The E.R.C. would dissolve the mistrust between Mexicans and Negroes, etc. which is the natural outgrowth of reactionary bourgeois cultural nationalism.

We must be clear that we in

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ing, the California farmworkers, the Texas melon strikers, and many more carry on this militant tradition. It is a testimony to the bravery and spirit of the vanguard of the proletariat in the Southwest.

One of the most important aspects of the struggle of the Mexican national minority is the division that the imperialists have sown, and the labor misleaders have played on, between the Mexican and Negro workers. If we are to talk seriously of winning the battle against USNA imperialism, we must address ourselves to the crucial question of unity of the working class — and more specifically the unity of the vanguard of the proletariat. The national minority workers are at the heart of that vanguard, because they compose a large section of the unskilled and semi-skilled workers. Rarely a day passes without a slanderous attack by the nationalities upon one another. We noted some months ago how some Negro newspapers in Los Angeles had supported deportations and thus attacked the undocumented Mexican national workers. This division must be combatted by exposing the source of all oppression, imperialism, which can only be ended with the overthrow of this system. The unity of the Mexican and Negro workers is key to the unity of the proletariat.

the C.L.P. don't want to "build" an Equal Rights Congress from nothing but rather unite those organizations that are already waging the struggle. We reject any contention that such a Congress will be merely a C.L.P. "front" — to the contrary, we will fight all sectarianism that prevents this Congress from becoming a democratic organization encompassing thousands of people struggling for the Constitutionally guaranteed right of every national minority to equality and the "pursuit of happiness".

The time of well meaning words, sweeping generalities and big talkers is over, a look at Boston and Louisville demonstrate the fascists are not fooling around. Facism has a narrow social base which accounts for its violence but they are attempting to expand with their white chauvinist line. Our opportunities to build a solid defense are ripe, we all have the duty as progressives and revolutionaries to fight for equality for national minorities and not give an inch on that position. Democracy is not a given in this country — it must be fought for. The National Lawyers Guild should join us in this righteous struggle!

WHAT IS THE CLP?

The CLP is a multinational Marxist-Leninist Communist party of militant struggle for proletarian revolution in the USNA. All those who will wholeheartedly join in this struggle can be members. We are a party of militant struggle against all national privilege, a party of militant struggle for the independence of the Negro Nation, regional autonomy for the Southwest, independence for Puerto Rico, freedom for all oppressed nations and peoples, especially those oppressed by USNA imperialism. We are a party of militant struggle against the drive towards fascism and war of the USNA imperialists. We are a party of militant struggle for equal rights for women and the youth. We are a party which fights for the immediate needs of the people as we strive toward the historic goal of our class-socialism. We are a multinational party of revolutionaries based in the shops and factories throughout the USNA. Independent Communist work in the factories, conducted by our factory nuclei, is the basis of all our activity.

We are a party which studies and puts into practice the science of Marxism-Leninism as a sure guide to action. We are a section of the world-wide proletarian army that is bound to overthrow and destroy all imperialism and reaction. We have picked up the banner of revolutionary struggle of the Third International, which has been discarded by the CPUSA.

The Republican and Democratic parties are both gangs of thieves, office seekers, demagogues and vested interests. They are both parties by and for the rich, united in exploitation and oppression of the people in the USNA and around the world. The rule of either of them is the rule of the bourgeoisie, which has brought war, unemployment, inflation, national oppression, moral degradation and suffering to the people of the USNA and the world, while bringing wealth and power to the rich USNA imperialists. Since Franklin Roosevelt, the Democratic party in particular has put itself forward as the "party of the people," the "party of labor," the "party of the Negro people." But it was John Kennedy who first sent USNA troops to Vietnam and who tried to destroy the Cuban revolution with the Bay of Pigs invasion; it is the "Democratic" party that directly dominates the Negro Nation and most of the big city machines; Johnson and Humphrey were the great "liberal" leaders that invaded the Dominican Republic and sent 500,000 troops and innumerable bombs to Vietnam. The Republican party's record with Watergate, Agnew taking bribes in the Vice-President's office and now Ford threatening intervention in Portugal and North Korea, is no different. Both parties are the servants of imperialism. They have 1001 faces, but behind every one is the iron fist of enslavement.

The CPUSA is a party that has betrayed its revolutionary heritage. The

gang of traitors at its head has betrayed its class and the thousands of honest revolutionaries in its membership that were attracted to the CPUSA by its false promises. They have rejected revolution. They have repudiated the dictatorship of the proletariat. They deny that the Negro Nation exists. Their program calls for alliance with the liberal bourgeoisie as the "lesser evil" as the best hope for the working class. Their ranks are riddled with police agents. Their constitution prohibits the membership of anyone who stands for revolution.

There are no other political parties in the USNA today. The Trotskyites in all their many forms, from the "Socialist Workers' Party" to the "National Committee of Labor Caucuses" are not political parties at all, but are the direct agents of the state. They are gangs of thugs, traitors, dope-pushers and cops.

The gaggle of "left" groups in all their variety are weak, isolated sectarians interested mainly in blowing their own horns. They put out much talk but little action; much theorizing, but little theory. They find much greater strength on the campuses than in the factories. They are separated from the historic Communist movement as can be seen by the fact that they call themselves the "young communist movement" as if a movement 125 years old can be called young. They are incapable of leading the working class to victory.

In 1927, Stalin put forward 12 points by which to measure the Bolshevization (or revolutionizing) of the Communist parties. We are striving to implement these points today. They are a sure yardstick for measuring revolutionary parties. They are as follows:

1) The Party must regard itself not as an appendage of the parliamentary electoral machinery, as the Social-Democratic Party in fact does, and not as a gratuitous supplement to the trade unions, as certain Anarcho-Syndicalist elements sometimes claim it should be, but as the highest form of class association of the proletariat, the function of which is to lead all the other forms of proletarian organizations, from the trade unions to the Party's group in parliament.

2) The Party, and especially its leading elements, must thoroughly master the revolutionary theory of Marxism, which is inseparably connected with revolutionary practice.

3) The Party must draw up slogans and directives not on the basis of stock formulas and historical analogies, but as the result of a careful analysis of the concrete internal and international conditions of the revolutionary movement, and it must, without fail, take into account the experience of revolutions in all countries.

4) The Party must test the correctness of these slogans and directives in the crucible of the revolutionary struggle of the masses.

5) The entire work of the Party, particularly if Social-Democratic traditions have not yet been eradicated in it, must be reorganised on new, revolutionary lines, so that every step, every action, taken by the Party should naturally serve to revolutionise the masses, to train and educate the broad masses of the working class in the revolutionary spirit.

6) In its work the Party must be able to combine the strictest adherence to principle (not to be confused with sectarianism!) with the maximum of ties and contacts with the masses (not to be confused with khvoztism-tailism!); without this, the Party will be unable not only to teach the masses but also to learn from them, it will be unable not only to lead the masses and raise them to its own level but also to heed their voice and anticipate their urgent needs.

7) In its work the Party must be able to combine an uncompromising revolutionary spirit (not to be confused with revolutionary adventurism) with the maximum of flexibility and manoeuvring ability (not to be confused with opportunism!); without this, the Party will be unable to master all the forms of struggle and organisation, will be unable to link the daily interests of the proletariat, with the fundamental interests of the proletarian revolution, and to combine in its work the legal with the illegal struggle.

8) The Party must not cover up its mistakes, it must not fear criticism; it must improve and educate its cadres by learning from its own mistakes.

9) The Party must be able to recruit for its main leading group the best elements of the advanced fighters who are sufficiently devoted to the cause to be genuine spokesmen of the aspirations of the revolutionary proletariat, and who are sufficiently experienced to become real leaders of the proletarian revolution, capable of applying the tactics and strategy of Leninism.

10) The Party must systematically improve the social composition of its organisations and rid itself of corrupting opportunist elements with a view to achieving the utmost solidarity.

11) The Party must achieve iron proletarian discipline based on ideological solidarity, clarity concerning the aims of the movement, unity of practical action and an understanding of the Party's tasks by the mass of the Party membership.

12) The Party must systematically verify the execution of its decisions and directives; without this, these decisions and directives are in danger of becoming empty promises, which can only rob the Party of the confidence of the broad proletarian masses.

In the absence of these and similar conditions, Bolshevization is just an empty sound.

Our Party, the Communist Labor Party stands for the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. We aim to take up the historic task of the proletariat. We call upon all who are for proletarian revolution to join us!

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION...

What is The Democratic Lawyer? It is the political newspaper of the Communist Labor Party fractions in the National Lawyers Guild and the La Raza National Law Students Association. (Fractions are groups of Communists and close contacts who work within a given organization to politically influence it). Just as our newspapers the People's Tribune and Tribuno Popular are the voice of the Central Committee in general, likewise The Democratic Lawyer is the voice of the CLP addressed to the particularities of the NLG, the L&NLSA and their members.

Most of our Party's similar "shop papers" are produced on a weekly or bi-weekly basis and distributed secretly within the workplace. Frequent publication gives the paper the opportunity to speak often to the workers on not only issues of general political interest, but also speci-

fics of the class struggle in the given workplace. We could not follow this general format given that we only intend to produce the paper to present our position at national conferences, for now.

We are not only addressing ourselves to "Leftists", but wish to provide a Communist analysis for all the democratic forces in the Association. A shop paper, however, is not to be an abstract thesis on revolution, but is supposed to inform its readers of issues practically and immediately relevant. Thus, we included the "Equal Rights Now!" article.

We welcome and invite contributions and comments from friends and interested people. We also urge you all to subscribe to the People's Tribune and/or Tribuno Popular. For more information about our Party and how you can join -- or for a subscription to the PT and TP -- write us at:

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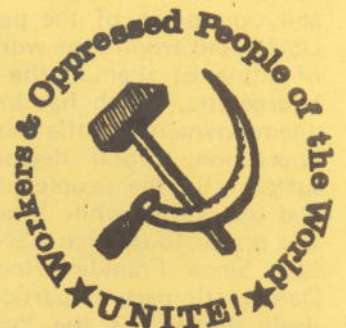
or:

LAWYERS
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The POLITICAL PAPER of the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY of the UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

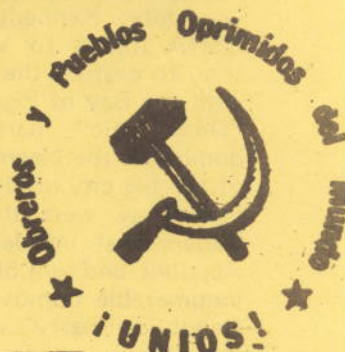
"The Communist's ideal should not be a trade-union secretary, but a tribune of the people, able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression." Lenin



El Periódico Político del PARTIDO COMUNISTA LABORAL de los E.U.N.

TRIBUNO POPULAR

"El ideal del comunista no debe ser el de secretario del gremio obrero pero el de un tribuno de la gente, listo para actuar contra toda manifestación de tiranía y opresión." Lenin



WORKERS & OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD UNITE!

THE WESTERN WORKER

