

IN BOSTON - REVOLUTIONARY STORM ASSAULTS RACISTS AND REFORMISTS

Ever since the violence erupted in Boston over the court-ordered busing plan, people's attention has been focused on this struggle, but answers have not been forthcoming. We have gotten either confusion or distortion from the media and from a lot of revolutionaries involved in the work there. Why? One, because they are not explaining what the heart of the problem is; two, they are not then showing the inter-relationship between this situation and the general decay of world imperialism; and three, correct solutions and corresponding tactics have not been forthcoming.

The heart of the struggle in Boston revolves around the struggle for democratic rights in the education of Black, Latin, and white workers in general, and the struggle for self-determination and democratic rights for Black people in particular.

MONOPOLY CAPITALISTS ATTACK WORKING CLASS

The U.S. imperialists have been desperately trying to make up for their worldwide crisis by throwing the burden of their crisis on the backs of the American people, especially the working class and oppressed nationalities. As the financial crisis grows and as world markets for the imperialists shrink due to the victories of national liberation struggles around the world, the contradiction between capital and labor within the U.S. sharpens. The ruling class squeezes more profits out of the working class; and a general impoverishment and lowering of the living standard of the working class takes place as wages are cut and kept to the lowest minimum possible while prices and profits shoot upward.

Tremendous mass unemployment is created as shown today by the mounting layoffs in steel and auto. In response, the struggles of the working class intensify with an ever-increasing number of strikes, for example the Coal strike today, work stoppages, wildcats, and direct confrontation with the union bureaucrats, management and the state.

Black and Latin people feel the effects of the crisis in a double way--as members of the U.S. working class, and as oppressed nationalities, always the last hired and the first fired. The Black liberation struggle is growing again and this is a manifestation of the intense political and economic crisis gripping U.S. imperialism.

As part of the general crisis and cutbacks, the education of the working class is seriously affected. There's less money for education and the political rights of the people are taken away as the imperialists tighten up on the working class. The education of the working class as a whole is deliberately inferior to that of the upper class.

Why is this? Under the system of monopoly capitalism, the purpose of education is to maintain the minimal educational level necessary for working people to continue working in the factories for the capitalist bloodsuckers. As a whole, working people are faced with the struggle for quality education which means: the right to have a say in the education of our children; the right to have representation of parents in determining courses including bilingual programs, courses in working class history and Black and Latin studies, the right to run the schools, including hiring and firing; the right to attend the schools of our choice; and the right to the most complete, scientific education available in the society.

In the Boston issue, within the overall struggle of the class, the primary aspect is the fight of Black people for their democratic rights and self-determination. Because of the dual oppression of Black people, the education is clearly third-rate. In this struggle for democratic rights and self-determination, white chauvinism and reaction has come out blatantly as a despicable and dangerous trend and obstacle to the struggle of Black people and the entire working class. Fascists and opportunists have promoted and organized on the basis of this ideology, and Black people have fought back.

The key issues then in the Boston struggle are the fight for quality education, the struggle of Black people for self-determination and democratic rights and the right of Black people and all oppressed nationalities to organize in self-defense against fascist repression and against white chauvinism.

TACTICS OF RULING CLASS AND THEIR LACKIES

It's clear that the educational problems of the working class and Black and Latin people aren't met by "forced integration"--busing children from one inferior school to another. Always, we uphold the right of parents to voluntarily send their children to any school they chose.

While there are certain demands we must make to better the education of our children, we understand that only proletarian revolution will establish a society that will meet the needs of the working class and the oppressed nationalities.

The ruling class, aided by opportunist forces, is trying to confuse and distort what's really happening in Boston and trying to divert the working class and oppressed nationalities away from revolutionary struggles against the ruling class. They've done this in different ways--either by promoting busing and "integration" as the "solution" to the educational problems or by opposing busing and "integration," promoting white chauvinism and fascism. Neither one is the answer of Marxist-Leninists to the problem and yet within the communist movement, forces have tailed after one bourgeois plan or another.

The present struggle for quality education dates back to 1954 when the Supreme Court decision in the Brown vs. the Board of Education overturned the previous ruling of 1896 which said that school facilities could be "separate but equal." The bourgeoisie's solution to the problem of inequality in education was "forced integration," promoting white chauvinism and opportunism to keep the working class divided and powerless, and to sabotage the struggle for self-determination in the South.

In the meantime, similar struggles developed in the North and the fight for self-determination and democratic rights developed further. In the North, the struggles in education were also around inferior, separate and unequal education. The problem facing the liberals was, how was the education to be "integrated" when the communities were segregated? Again the root of the problem was sidetracked on the road to reform.

"The struggle of Black people in the U.S. for emancipation is a component part of the general struggle of the people of the world against U.S. imperialism, a component part of the world revolution." (Mao-Tse-Tung)

The role of the Black bourgeoisie has been to support busing as the solution to the educational needs of Black people. Today in Boston, the Black bourgeoisie and other opportunists are leading demonstrations calling for 'integration through non-violence,' just as they have done historically.

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They tail after the U.S. monopoly capitalist class, trying to gain leadership of the struggle of Black people to do their part to deter revolution.

On the other hand, the fascist forces are doing their dirty work. From the first day the buses, carrying Black and Latin children, went into South Boston, they were met with the opposition of mobs of reactionary whites. Signs like "Nigger go home," "This is KKK country," were scrawled on the walls of the all white neighborhood. Fascists like Louise Day Hicks and John Kerrigan, backed by big financial interests like banking and real estate, were joined by the KKK.

The KKK went into the Black and Latin community and shot up the housing project, Columbia Point, including the Day Care Center. The people were ready and organized and returned their fire. The people responded with self-defense. As a result, Mayor White dispatched 300 police-gestapo-equipped with M-16s and M-1s to occupy the Black community. For days, they ransacked and looted the homes of Black people, attacked and beat up tenants supposedly in search of weapons. The Mayor understood that it was dangerous to the ruling class to have Black and Latin people with guns talking about self-defense and used the issue as a way to intensify fascist repression on the Black community and as a way to curtail the right to public assembly, and bring about curfew laws.

"CP" TAILS BOURGEOISIE

As mentioned earlier, many different forces have been involved in the Boston struggle. In looking at the different treacherous political lines on the present busing issue that are diverting the struggles of the masses from revolutionary struggle, the bankrupt line of the "CP"USA(R) must be hit hard and shown how they are doing the dirty work of the bourgeoisie. It's important also because a number of organizations say the "CP"USA is thoroughly revisionist but on political line and work around

this struggle there has been similarity of positions.

In their newspaper, the "Daily World," they recently put forth their line for integration, the same political line they have been running for decades. This political position is national chauvinist and liquidates the struggle of Black people to integration. The concrete requirements of the Black liberation struggle are not only for equal rights but for self-determination. Further, their line "5,000 people march singing 'we shall overcome'" at a recent rally and the frontpage story building up Coretta King brings flashbacks of the worst of the 60's and how these opportunist dogs help sell the struggle of Black people down the river. They tail the Black bourgeoisie and deny Black people their right to self-determination and full democratic rights. The struggle against opportunism and revisionism must be battled all the way in word and deed and not by conciliating with revisionism and betraying the interests of the masses.

OPPORTUNISM AND REFORMISM WITHIN THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

Let's now examine some of the positions coming forth from the Communist movement. The position of the Revolutionary Union objectively winds up with the KKK and the reactionary forces. They say "stop the busing plan," as does the KKK. Further, they say they unite with the correct aspects of the fascist forces opposition. The line of the reactionary forces is white chauvinist, racist, reactionary and anti-working class. How can communists unite with that?

The RU has no difficulty uniting with these reactionary forces because of their own stance on the national question. They don't believe that Black people have a right to self-determination, and are national chauvinists themselves. They sink further into opportunism and reformism in their failure to take socialism, Marxism-Leninism and advanced ideas particularly to the white workers who are under the influence of

fascist leadership. They then accuse anyone who disagrees with their reactionary stance of being "anti-white workers" and falling into "narrow nationalism" to cover up the fact that they are tailing after the reactionary forces and the bourgeoisie.

It's clear that we must fight for the unity of the class and win over the masses that are under the influence of the opportunists. The PRRWO believes the way we do this is by putting forth clear principles like self-determination for Black people, by fighting the chauvinism of the oppressor nation and by organizing concretely for the unity of the class and for a Communist Party to struggle for proletarian revolution.

The position of the Guardian is similar to the OL. They raise the right of self-determination of Black people only to knock it down and reduce it to the right to "integration," the "right to protect and develop national culture." They wind up tailing the Black bourgeoisie which has been raising "integration" for decades. They slander the revolutionary efforts of such fighters as Malcolm X. They unite with the Black bourgeoisie represented by the NAACP and other forces on their bankrupt demand for "integration" and also on their demand for federal troops to be brought in.

As communists, we must sum up history and draw lessons from past experience and struggles of the masses. The line of equating the right to self-determination and the struggle for democratic rights to "integration" is nothing but the same dirty garbage promoted among Black people in the last decade by the Black bourgeoisie, the "CP"USA and other opportunists. This line leads to diverting the revolutionary struggle of Black people on the road to reformism. They also try to cover their line by saying that anyone who disagrees with the busing plan is in the camp of the KKK.

The negative example of RU
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on the one hand and the OL-Guardian on the other does some good in terms of what not to do. We are not able, being removed from the actual struggle, to speak specifically on tactical questions arising in the Boston struggle which comprise the art of communist leadership, but we can speak generally.

WHAT ROAD FOR REVOLUTIONARIES?

Any plan of action put forth by revolutionaries must be one that puts us in the heat of the struggle on the side of the oppressed, and in this case it quite obviously means to be with Black and Latin working people. But we must proceed from that position along a proletarian internationalist viewpoint, fighting the opportunist "Toms" who would lead us to mild reforms, and reactionary positions that would have us attack all whites as Kerrigans. We, in the PRRWO believe, in other words, that white, Black and Latin workers - the class as a whole - must be united to fight for the right of self-determination and the democratic rights of the oppressed nationalities. Also, the entire class must uphold the right of self-defense against fascist attacks. White, Black and Latin revolutionary activists must educate the class as to why this must be done if our fight for the best education possible for all working children is to be effective.

If this is to be meaningful, however -real- revolutionaries must have organized a base, gained respect of at least the advanced members of the class, and this entails work. Work of

a kind that many white communists in particular have shirked, some under the not-so-slick guise (a la RU) of claiming "narrow nationalism" of people of color as the "main deviation" on the national question in the U.S., thereby making mockery of Lenin's and Stalin's guidelines on this question. This is nothing but a cover and encouragement for the racism and national chauvinism of the RU and white reactionaries. OL does not take up the slack either. In Boston, as in similar situations that have occurred since the 60's, white workers are being left without revolutionary leadership.

The aim of revolutionaries must be to isolate and defeat all opportunists, bourgeois, Black lackeys, sham communists, etc., unite the people, and, in the heat of the struggle, train the best who come forward. We must take Marxism-Leninism to the advanced, arm them with the science of class war; and raise the consciousness of the need for proletarian revolution - that the political, economic, and social needs of the toiling masses can never be met under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. The signs of future struggles have already been seen, as the righteous self-defense stance in the Black community shows, which we fully support.

For this busing controversy is only one issue; the relation to this and all the mess of the American system must be exposed, new fighters recruited to our ranks. This struggle in Boston clearly illustrates the lack of leadership and why the working class must have its Communist

party.

In short, we must not be narrow-visioned, but have broadness of mind; this fight must be developed and built for the many battles yet to come.

"Racial discrimination in the U.S. is a product of the colonialist and imperialist system. The contradiction between the Black masses in the U.S. and U.S. ruling circles is a class contradiction. Only by overthrowing the reactionary rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class and destroying the colonialist and imperialist system can the Black people in the U.S. win complete emancipation.

The Black masses and the masses of white working people in the U.S. share common interests and have common objectives to struggle for. Therefore, the Afro-American struggle is winning sympathy and support from increasing numbers of white working people and progressives in the U.S. The struggle of the Black people in the U.S. is bound to merge with the American workers movement, and this will eventually end the criminal rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class." (Mao-Tse-Tung, Statement in Support of the Afro-American Struggle)