

California's Budget Crisis . . . you gonna let 'em punk you ?

As of 2007, California's gross state product (GSP) is about \$1.812 trillion, the largest in the United States and is responsible for 13% of the US gross domestic product. According to the January budget documents, California has a revenue shortfall of \$14.8 billion in the current fiscal year (2008-09) which will increase to a \$41.6 billion shortfall by the end of 2009-10.

While the rest of us struggle to pay for school, rent and food, California's top five capitalists make BILLIONS in profit. In 2007 . . .

- Chevron made over \$17 billion dollars in PROFIT.
- Wells Fargo made \$8.4 billion in PROFIT.
- Hewlett-Packard made \$6.1 billion in PROFIT.
- McKesson made \$913 million in PROFIT.
- Safeway made \$888 million in PROFIT. *
- That's \$33.3 BILLION in PROFIT stolen from us!

*<http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune500/2008/states/CA.html>

Reality of Public Education

2,300 teachers are getting laid off in LA. 41 construction projects at 23 CSU campuses have been stopped due to the budget crisis, including the SFSU library!

CSU student fees will increase by 10% when this budget is adopted. It will be the seventh fee hike in eight years- fees will have gone up by 135% since 2002. This budget is going to cut \$87.5 million to need-based financial aid and the elimination of the Competitive Cal Grant program entirely.

Capitalist Education vs. Student Unity and Power

Only when the students and workers organize against the priorities of the government and the economy can we see access to quality education. Education is commodified for the needs of the capitalist economy - it works against us not for us. The question is: when will we organize against these attacks? When will we challenge the system that "educates" us to be cogs in their profit-driven machine?