

the People

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SLP Needs More Help From Readers

President Bush asked Congress to appropriate billions of dollars to pay for the war on Iraq and for billions more to rebuild some of what American capitalism's war machine has destroyed.

Capitalists are always reluctant to pay for anything unless it's an "investment" that's sure to bring a larger return. But with U.S. forces firmly entrenched in Iraq, with its army and marines standing guard over that devastated country's oil wells, President Bush met with no significant resistance. The investment is small when compared to the profits that American corporations now stand to make.

The SLP also spent heavily before and during the war. It couldn't spend billions to speak out in opposition to the invasion and to explain what workers can do to stop such abominable crimes from ever again being committed in the name of our country and its people. It couldn't compete with the millions the mass media spent to make sure that American workers got the "right" impression about the war and its aims. The SLP doesn't have that kind of money, or even one-tenth of just one of those millions.

Despite the precarious state of its finances, the SLP spent what it could—and would have spent more if needed—to print and get the SLP's message out. As the national secretary said in a letter to the party's membership in February: "With the country on the verge of war it was plain that the SLP was duty bound to speak out and to reach out as far as possible."

With the help it received from readers of *The People* and from other supporters, 40,000 copies of the leaflet—*Why War on Iraq? It's Not (All) About Oil!*—were printed, shipped and distributed since our last issue.

We are grateful for all the help the SLP received. Unfortunately, however, not everyone who could help distribute the leaflet could help us recover the expense. We aren't complaining. We know that unemployment is up and that times are tough for the working men and women who sustain the SLP.

The "good news," the national secretary said in his letter to the party's membership, is that such a large number of leaflets were put into circulation on such short notice. "The bad news," he added, "is that printing that leaflet and getting it into circulation cost money.

"That would not be so bad if the money it cost had been replenished," he continued. "Many of the members and supporters who received the letters [asking for help] sent contributions, even some who did not order leaflets for themselves. That will help. Overall, however, contributions to party funds in February were dismal. Although expenses were held to less than \$8,800.00, which included publication and mailing of the March-April issue of *The People*, contributions came to

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U.S. Invasion Plunges Iraq Into Chaos and Ruin

The U.S. invasion of Iraq is complete. Saddam Hussein and his regime are gone. No weapons of mass destruction were used by the Iraqis, but massive destruction was caused by the weapons used by the U.S. Thousands of Iraqis are dead or maimed. The country is in ruins. Its petty bourgeois class of shopkeepers have been plundered by looters and millions of workers have lost their livelihoods. Against this background, American corporations are clamoring for contracts to profit from reconstructing the country and to take control of its oil fields. And still the Bush administration denies that the invasion and conquest of Iraq had anything to do with taking control of Iraq or its oil.

Apart from the profit gains that U.S. oil companies are certain to reap from Iraqi oil, there may be an element of truth in those denials. It may be that American capitalism as a whole does not need that oil for its own immediate uses. However, the United States has as much interest in controlling the flow of oil out of Iraq and the Middle East generally as it ever did during the Cold War. As Charles V. Peña, a senior defense policy analyst at the Cato Institute, summed it up last fall:

"Even if going to war against Iraq is not completely about oil (weapons of mass destruction are much scarier), it's impossible to ignore and even more foolish to think it's not an important factor: Would this debate [about Iraq] be taking place if the country in question was in sub-Saharan Africa? After all, the Defense Department claims 12 nations with nuclear weapons programs, 13 with biological weapons, 16 with chemical weapons, and 28 with ballistic missiles as existing and emerging threats to the United States. But only one of those countries sits atop the second largest oil reserves in the world. Just remember the adage: Follow the money—or in this case, the oil." (*Chicago Tribune*, Sept. 20)

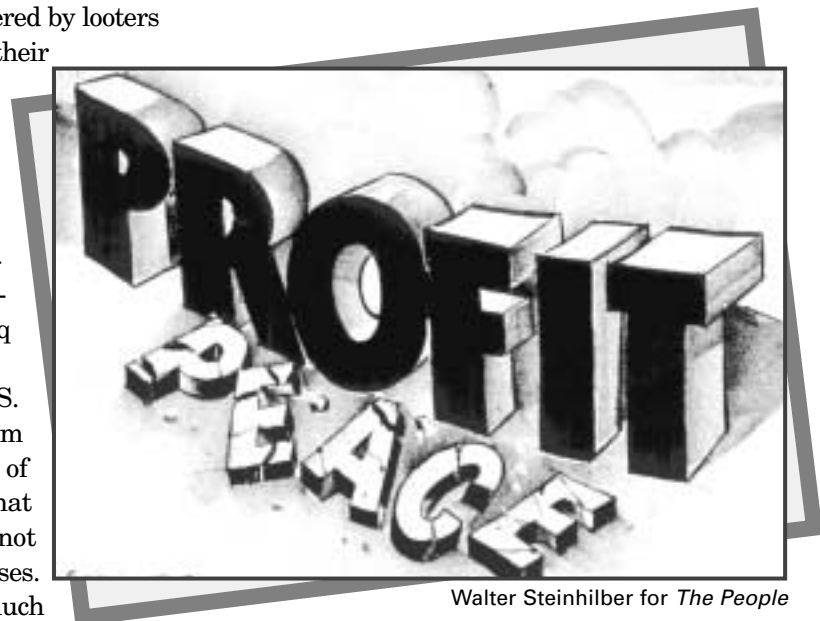
Controlling the Flow of Oil

During the Cold War the United States struggled incessantly with the Soviet Union to dominate the Middle East and its oil. Only the threat of a nuclear war and "assured mutual destruction" prevented the conflict from breaking out into open warfare. Now that the competitive threat posed by the old Soviet Union is gone, the U.S. stands alone as the world's economic and military super power. But that does not mean that all threats to its dominate position in the global economy have disappeared. New rivals have arisen to challenge American capitalism and they must be dealt with.

Saddam Hussein was not one of those rivals. Whatever his ambitions for power and influence in the Middle East may have been, Iraq had neither the industrial base or the military strength to rival the United States. The real threats posed to U.S.

hegemony come from Western Europe and China, but their hopes for becoming the equals of the U.S., and possibly of supplanting it, hinge on access to the oil they need to fuel their growing economies.

As reported by the Inter Press Service last October:



Walter Steinhilber for *The People*

"The U.S. is mixing its interest in oil with the global fight against terrorism, leading French analysts say.

"Plans to overthrow Saddam Hussein have little to do with the fight against terrorism, said François Lafargue, professor of geopolitics at the University of Saint-Quentin in Paris, and an expert on Iraq. Control of the world's main oil reserves are the chief strategic objective, he said.

"The Middle East produces 65 percent of the world's oil, and Iraq is known to have the second-largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia.

"Experts believe that Iraq, which has not been intensively explored, could produce far more. Iraqi oil is also cheaper to produce. A barrel of oil costs 70 cents in Iraq, and up to \$8 in Central Asia, Mr. Lafargue said.

"By controlling the oil fields in the Middle East, the U.S. would obtain a huge leverage on countries dependent on foreign oil, especially the People's Republic of China," Mr. Lafargue said. "By the year 2020, China will have to get half its oil imports from the Middle East." The U.S. wants to curb China's military and political ambitions, most experts agree.

"The U.S. is not primarily interested in Iraqi oil for itself, Mr. Lafargue added. 'Less than a third of oil consumed in the U.S. comes from the Gulf,' he said. The main suppliers to the U.S. are Latin American and sub-Saharan African countries such as Mexico, Venezuela, Angola and Nigeria, he argued."

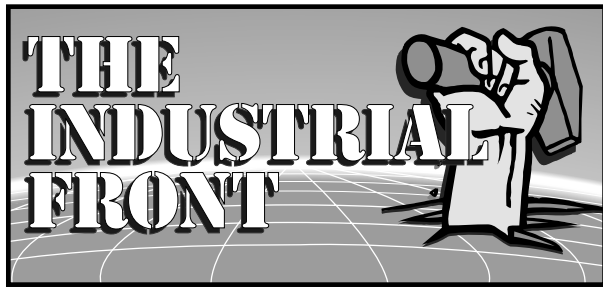
Euro vs. Dollar

Another factor that may have influenced the Bush administration to invade Iraq is be the rise of the euro and the challenge it poses to the U.S. dollar.

The euro, of course, is the new currency of the

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Yale Workers Strike

The eighth strike at Yale University since 1968 occurred in March, when members of four labor organizations went on a five-day strike for better wages, working conditions and pensions, but to no avail. Organizations representing more than 1,800 hospital workers and 1,000 graduate teaching assistants want the university to acknowledge their right to organize into unions and then to "recognize" those unions.

More than a month later, unions representing Yale's 2,900 clerical workers and its 1,200 cleaning, dining hall and maintenance workers are still in negotiations with the university. Yale wants to lock them into a 10-year contract and is resisting any attempt by graduate teaching assistants and hospital workers to organize. At last report, negotiations between the university and the two existing unions were bogged down in their 13th month despite the five-day strike. Workers' pay in the two unions has been effectively frozen since January 2002.

Take Back Your Time

The New York Times published a piece by a promoter of the observation by workers of something called "Take Back Your Time Day" on Oct. 24.

Oct. 24 is symbolic. It will fall exactly nine weeks before the end of the year. Nine weeks is the amount of time that American workers work beyond that worked by workers in Western European countries, according to figures from the United Nations' International Labor Organization.

The goal of "Take Back Your Time Day" is "to encourage Americans to lead more balanced lives," as the writer put it. The average American worker reportedly puts in 199 more hours of work than in 1973 despite an increase in productivity of almost 200 percent.

"The harmful effects of working more hours are being felt in many areas of society. Stress is a leading cause of heart disease and weakened immune systems," said the author of the *Times* piece. "Consumption of fast foods and lack of time for exercise has led to an epidemic of obesity and diabetes. Many parents complain that they do not have enough time to spend with their children, much less become involved in their community. Worker productivity declines during the latter part of long work shifts."

The article recommends that American workers should reflect on the importance of values other than producing and consuming. The SLP, on the other hand, maintains that workers should reflect on organizing themselves, not only to beat back the increasing demands of the capitalist class that have forced them into this permanently worsening rat race, but also to end the class struggle by abolishing capitalist ownership and control of the industries and services altogether.

Airline Pensions Crisis

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC), the quasi-agency set up by the federal government to handle the problems that occur when capitalists default on their promises to pay workers' pensions, is reportedly "fretfully watching the airline industry and proposing changes aimed at stemming the tide of pension defaults." Last year was the agency's biggest loss—\$11.4 billion—ever, thanks to the collapse of the steel industry in recent years. "That pool of red ink was five times larger than any in the 28-year history of the agency," reported *The Dallas Morning News* recently.

As the airline industry downturn persists in the aftermath of Sept. 11 and the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) crisis, the PBGC "fears a dominolike collapse of a large portion of the airline industry, as carriers seeking a level playing field follow each other into bankruptcy court and unload their burdensome pensions."

One bankruptcy judge has already tentatively approved a plan under which the PBGC will assume responsibility for the pensions of pilots at US Airways Group Inc. According to the *Morning News*, United Airlines "has asked for another six months to come up with a bankruptcy reorganization plan that is expected to include the abandonment of its pension plan to the PBGC."

That could mean big trouble for the PBGC, and in turn for thousands of workers whose pensions may end up being "guaranteed" by an agency that, by its own estimates, is facing a potential tidal wave of defaults in the airline and other industries. "The PBGC estimates that the total underfunding in defined-benefit [pension] plans now exceeds \$300 billion," said the *Morning News*.

—K.B.

Whose September 11?

By B.G.

The Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the United States, which killed more than 3,000 civilians, had a tragic parallel on that exact date 28 years earlier.

On Sept. 11, 1973, a military coup deposed President Salvador Allende Gossens of Chile. The Chilean army, navy and police force had issued an ultimatum to the president that he resign by noon on Sept. 11. Allende, democratically elected in 1970, refused. The military then went into action, laying siege to the presidential palace in Santiago with heavy artillery fire. When that did not produce the



Nicholas/Iconoclast/LNS

desired result, warplanes bombed the building and the presidential home, about a mile away.

Soldiers claimed they found Allende dead of a self-inflicted gunshot when they entered the presidential palace, though he may have been killed as they stormed into his office. The truth about Allende's death may never be known, but there is no doubt about the murderous vengeance Chile's military took on Allende's supporters after the coup.

A junta headed by Gen. Augusto Pinochet replaced Allende's government. It immediately began rounding up and executing Allende's Cabinet ministers and political followers, as well as people with

known democratic views. A couple of days after the coup, Amnesty International reported that a doctor in Santiago said there were 5,000 dead and 1,000 wounded people in his hospital alone. It was only the beginning of a continuing horror for Chile.

Immediately after the coup, the junta began laying the foundation for a vicious fascist-style dictatorship that would last for a generation and subject Chileans to unbelievable brutality.

Over the years, thousands of "suspects" mysteriously disappeared as the government rounded up and killed persons they felt were not attached firmly enough to the Pinochet regime.

At the time of the coup, various American newspapers reported that the U.S. government was just a disinterested observer of the situation in Chile. *The New York Times*, for instance, in a dispatch from Washington, D.C., dated Sept. 11, 1973, and published Sept. 12, noted: "United States officials were not surprised by the Chilean armed forces' revolt today, but they declined to comment for the record, to avoid even a hint of commitment to the overthrow of President Salvador Allende Gossens or involvement in it."

This was surely the understatement of the century. Now we know that the junta came to power with the approval and help of the U.S. military and of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Why such hostility against Allende? It was because his agrarian reforms and his nationalization of some industries threatened capitalist interests in Chile, and because he received Cuban President Fidel Castro on a state visit. The United States,

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Do You Belong?

Do you know what the SLP stands for? Do you understand the class struggle and why the SLP calls for an end of capitalism and of its system of wage labor? Do you understand why the SLP does not advocate reforms of capitalism, and why it calls upon workers to organize Socialist Industrial Unions?

If you have been reading *The People* steadily for a year or more, if you have read the literature recommended for beginning Socialists, and if you agree with the SLP's call for the political and economic unity of the working class, you may qualify for membership in the SLP. And if you qualify to be a member you probably should be a member.

For information on what membership entails, and how to apply for it, write to: SLP, P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218. Ask for the SLP Membership Packet.

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Spoils of War

American Companies Poised To Plunder Post-Saddam Iraq

By B.G.

The war against Iraq had scarcely begun when numerous capitalistic entrepreneurs began lining up to claim a share of the plunder in a post-Saddam Hussein Iraq. There are billions of dollars to be made in such an enterprise. Even if Iraqi oil wells are damaged in the war the damage would only prove to be a boon to foreign firms eager to do the cleanup.

As far back as January, the voice of American capitalism, *The Wall Street Journal*, noted that a war against Iraq "would offer the oil industry enormous opportunity should a war topple Saddam Hussein." Who would profit most among these eager companies? The *Journal* noted that "the early spoils would probably go to companies needed to keep Iraq's already rundown oil operations running, especially if facilities were further damaged in a war. Oil-services firms such as Halliburton Co., where Vice President Dick Cheney formerly served as chief executive, and Slumberger Ltd. are seen as favorites for what could be as much as \$1.5 billion in contracts."

The British, who have contributed a considerable fighting force to the war, are disturbed that the United States seems to be keeping the postwar rebuilding contracts solely for American firms. Even before the shooting began, the United States Agency for International Development solicited bids totaling \$900 billion for rebuilding hospitals, schools, seaports, airports and other infrastructure, but only from American firms, such as Bechtel Group, Fluor and Halliburton.

No end annoyed by this, the British insist that both British firms and the United Nations must be involved in the reconstruction efforts in Iraq. This includes not only British petroleum compa-

nies but engineering firms such the British company AMEC, which helped to rebuild the damaged Pentagon building and extinguished oil well fires in Kuwait after the Gulf War.

Not to be outdone in this ongoing Iraq controversy, French President Jacques Chirac has now spoken out in opposition to a proposed British idea for a U.N. Security Council resolution that would approve of the United States and Great Britain as governors of postwar Iraq. At the March 20 meeting of the European Union, its leaders opposed any American-led administration over Iraq but did approve of having the United Nations play a central role.

Even this was too vague for Chirac, who felt that a resolution on Iraq by the U.N. Security Council

might be indefinite enough to make the United States and Great Britain the de facto administrators of Iraq. "France would not accept a resolution tending to legitimize the military intervention and giving the Americans and British the power to administer Iraq," he complained.

If Chirac has his way, then presumably the eager capitalists who are salivating over the profits to be made in a postwar Iraq must go hat-in-hand to the United Nations to beg for permission to pursue their dreams of wealth in a war-torn nation.

The United States has placed retired army general Jay Garner in charge as viceroy of Iraq while the country is being rebuilt. Reconstruction could take years or even decades to complete. Despite an emphatic denial by President Bush that the United States plans a prolonged military occupation of Iraq, and repeated assertions that Iraq's oil belongs to the Iraqi people, many Arabs believe that the United States will take full advantage of its position to loot the country of its natural wealth.

Arab ruling classes promptly denounced the choice of Garner as an enemy of the Arabs and a tool of Zionism because of his ties to something called the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. Apparently Garner is one of 40 former military officers who two years ago signed a letter that placed the blame for the Palestine-Israel conflict squarely on the Palestinians and accused Palestinian leaders of "filling their [Palestinian children's] heads with hate..." Regardless of what one might think of the Palestine-Israel conflict, the choice of Garner to head up the military occupation of Iraq can hardly be viewed as a conciliatory gesture toward Arab sentiments.

Thus do the leaders of the political states and their capitalist constituents fight over the spoils of war.



Censorship Impeding Scientific Progress

By Paul D. Lawrence

Like the Midas touch in reverse, capitalism debases all that it touches. Consider the decision in February by the editors of 20 leading scientific journals, including *Science* and *Nature*, to censor articles they believed might compromise "national security," regardless of the articles' scientific merit.

Scientific research is heavily dependent on the publication of results so that other scientists can confirm or disconfirm that research. Without this process, progress in science would be seriously impeded.

Not all scientists agree with this censorship. According to *The New York Times*, Stanford biolo-

gist Stanley Falkow expressed concern that a little censorship could lead to more. "I'm waiting for someone to say, 'Let's not release any genomic information' [on potentially infectious agents] because that might help bioterrorists," Falkow said.

On the other hand, Ronald M. Atlas, president of the American Society of Microbiology, is an enthusiastic supporter of such censorship. "I don't want to be responsible for the deaths of Americans or anyone else," he said.

Such concern is a bit tardy. Scientists have long collaborated with developing state-sponsored weapons of mass destruction. Consider, for example, current concern about the use of smallpox virus as a bioweapon. After smallpox was eradicated in the 1970-80s, the United States and then-Soviet Union retained samples of smallpox virus. Since smallpox vaccine is not made from smallpox virus, but a related virus, there was no good reason to retain the deadly virus. Its only likely use was as a bioweapon. Whether any so-called terrorists obtained virus from these stores is uncertain for others could have retained virus for their own nefarious purposes. Yet many American and Soviet scientists had no qualms about collaborating in their ruling classes' plans for biological warfare.

Then, too, during World War II many of the world's most preeminent scientists worked on the Manhattan Project, which enabled the United States not only to develop but also use nuclear weapons. Few of them have ever expressed regrets about developing the ultimate weapons of mass destruction. Indeed, many, like the notorious Edward Teller, the so-called father of the hydrogen

bomb, are proud of their role in developing these unspeakable weapons of mass murder.

As long as class rule continues, science will be corrupted and scientists enlisted in efforts to develop weapons rather than make discoveries that will benefit society. Considering the remarkable scientific advances made nonetheless during the last century, the possibilities for advancing human welfare are virtually unlimited once workers replace capitalism and other forms of class rule with socialism.

Until then, ongoing weapons research will divert scientific labor from undertakings benefiting civilization to those threatening its very existence. Scientists are largely members of the working class. It is imperative they join in the class struggle for socialism to save the human race rather than continuing enterprises that could destroy it.

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Democracy: Past, Present and Future

By Arnold Petersen

This pamphlet shows what democracy meant to the slave-owning class of ancient Athens, what it means to America's capitalist class and what it will mean to the emancipated workers under socialism.

80 pages—\$1.50 postpaid

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Forget It!

More than 2 million jobs have disappeared over the last two years, and the way it looks now many more will disappear this year. In February and March alone, more than 400,000 workers lined up to collect their first unemployment checks.

Indeed, things have gotten so bad that all of last year's talk about a "recovery" coming sometime this year has disappeared. Even last year's chatter about a "jobless recovery"—whatever that may have meant—has faded away, filed under F for "Forget it!" These days all but capitalism's most brazen apologists and cheerleaders have given up on their former pretense of seeing better times just ahead. Today all their chitchat is about a "double-dip recession."

"The United States is winning the war" on Iraq, as *The New York Times* put it in April. "But the news on the economic home front is bad and getting worse."

The problem, according to capitalism's "economists" and its mass media, is that capitalists are not doing their part. "To get things going again," said one economist cited by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "we need to see business spending."

That refrain recurs almost everywhere. Pick up any newspaper or magazine and you are bound to find at least one article that says essentially the same thing. "The question is how soon they [businesses] will be comfortable taking risks," is how the Knight-Ridder news service put it.

That view of things is not limited to *The New York Times*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, or such Knight-Ridder newspapers as the *San Jose Mercury News*. It is not even limited to the United States. The same theme has been taken up internationally.

"A collapse in business spending on plants and equipment led the economy into recession in 2001," is how Reuters, the British news service, expressed it. "Economists say a pickup in business investment is needed to ensure a broad-based, sustainable recovery."

The best that can be said about this line of reasoning is that it has things upside down and backwards. The economy is not "bad and getting worse" because capitalists are not "comfortable taking risks." Capitalists are not "comfortable taking risks" because the economy is "bad and getting worse." Better say it was the orgy of "spending on plants and equipment" in the 1990s that led to the current problem.

Better say it was the tsunami of capitalist greed and speculation of the 1990s that led to the present glut of markets and the massive destruction of jobs.

Better say it was the natural operation of capitalism that led to the present fix that workers are in.

Fact is that the working class, not the capitalist class, is taking the real risk by continuing to tolerate a system ruled by a class that gambles their jobs as if they were so many chips in a game of roulette.

Job security for workers is something the hurly-burly of capitalist production does not allow.

The 'Job Market'

Everyone knows that capitalism produces for the market. Everyone knows that the law of supply and demand is the be-all and end-all of capitalist economic dogma. Where demand is high and supplies are short prices rise and capital rushes in. Where demand is slack and supplies are high prices fall and capital rushes out in search of greener fields. How does this play itself out on the "job market?" Let's see.

No one denies that jobs are in short supply or that the demand for them is high. So why is the supply drying up when the demand is high and going higher?

The answer is that the "job market" is a myth, a piece of verbal acrobatics designed to razzle-dazzle workers and create confusion about their real place in the capitalist scheme of things. It does not exist.

There is no market where workers go shopping for jobs, and certainly not the lowest bargain-priced jobs they can find. There is, however, a market where the worker appears, not as buyer, but as seller. What the worker is selling is labor power. The shopper is the capitalist. These days, however, the supply of workers is larger than the capitalists' demand for them.

The law of supply and demand is valid enough. It works on one market much as it does on any other market. The labor supply being way up and the capitalist demand for it being way down, prices (wages) are headed where prices always go when the supply is greater than the demand.

That's how the law of supply and demand is playing itself out on the market—not the so-called job market, but on the *labor market*.

A De Leon Editorial

Imperialism At Work



American capitalism brought "freedom" to the Philippines in 1898, then entrenched itself for nearly 50 years. Lured by oil, tempted by the strategic advantages it has gained and the profits to be made from rebuilding a devastated country, will it do the same in Iraq? President Bush says "no," but history says "yes."

Ramrodding Freedom

(*The People*, Feb. 12, 1899)

Last week's battle of Manila is said to have cost the lives of over 5,000 Filipinos. These men had a notion that the country of their birth is their own. Arms in hand, they resisted the Spanish yoke, and succeeded to the extent that Spanish sovereignty over the whole archipelago never was more than a nominal fact. A quarrel broke out between their tyrant and a foreign nation. They looked with joy at what seemed divine interposition, and aided the United States to drive out Spain. Freed from Spain, they imagined themselves freed from all foreign yoke. Not so. Our capitalist government forthwith claimed possession by "conquest," and assumed the role of a dispenser of freedom in a style quite its own. "These Filipinos," our government claimed, "do not know what freedom means; we must teach them." The teaching is now going on; the first lesson has been given. With the ramrod as instrument, "freedom" is to be jammed down the throats of the insurgent patriots whom our expansionist capitalists insult with the name of "insurgents."

But the freedom-ramrodding process is not going on in the distant Philippines only. For every Filipino slaughtered beyond the Pacific a workingman is slaughtered, or the foundation is being laid for his being slaughtered, right here in the United States. Over the prostrate bodies only of the "insurgent" Filipinos can our government march to the establishment of its peculiar "freedom"-promoting social system in that archipelago. The establishment of American factories in the Philippines is equivalent with a leveling process of wages here that will be given the name of "equalization" but which in fact spells *murder*.

Murder? Yes or no, as the case may be.

Yes, if socialist teachings do not gain upon capitalist falsehood, and the masses of the workers are kept in the delusion that the capitalist system is for all time;

No, if socialist teachings outstrip capitalist falsehood, and the masses of the workers, awakened to the sense of the dignity and duty of their class, rise in their might and mop the floor with the capitalist class by flattening them out with the socialist ballot.*

*This was written before the SLP developed its Socialist Industrial Union program.

what is socialism?

Socialism is the collective ownership by all the people of the factories, mills, mines, railroads, land and all other instruments of production. Socialism means production to satisfy human needs, not, as under capitalism, for sale and profit. Socialism means direct control and management of the industries and social services by the workers through a democratic government based on their nationwide economic organization.

Under socialism, all authority will originate from the workers, integrally united in Socialist Industrial Unions. In each workplace, the rank and file will elect whatever committees or representatives are needed to facilitate production. Within each shop or office division of a plant, the rank and file will participate directly in formulating and implementing all plans necessary for efficient operations.

Besides electing all necessary shop officers, the workers will also elect representatives to a local and national council of their industry or service—and to a central congress representing all the industries and services. This all-industrial congress will plan and coordinate production in all areas of the economy. All persons elected to any post in the socialist government, from the lowest to the highest level, will be directly accountable to the rank and file. They will be subject to removal at any time that a majority of those who elected them decide it is necessary.

Such a system would make possible the fullest democracy and freedom. It would be a society based on the most primary freedom—economic freedom.

For individuals, socialism means an end to economic insecurity and exploitation. It means workers cease to be commodities bought and sold on the labor market and forced to work as appendages to tools owned by someone else. It means a chance to develop all individual capacities and potentials within a free community of free individuals.

Socialism does not mean government or state ownership. It does not mean a state bureaucracy as in the former Soviet Union or China, with the working class oppressed by a new bureaucratic class. It does not mean a closed party-run system without democratic rights. It does not mean "nationalization," or "labor-management boards," or state capitalism of any kind. It means a complete end to all capitalist social relations.

To win the struggle for socialist freedom requires enormous efforts of organizational and educational work. It requires building a political party of socialism to contest the power of the capitalist class on the political field and to educate the majority of workers about the need for socialism. It requires building Socialist Industrial Union organizations to unite all workers in a classconscious industrial force and to prepare them to take, hold and operate the tools of production.

You are needed in the ranks of Socialists fighting for a better world. Find out more about the program and work of the Socialist Labor Party and join us to help make the promise of socialism a reality.

Global Warming

Why U.S. Capitalism Ignores Signs of Impending Disaster

By Bruce Cozzini

The phenomenon of global warming is an established fact to reputable scientists, and it poses a threat to the global environment that must be addressed. To the Bush administration and the rapacious capitalist interests it represents, however, controlling global warming represents a threat to capitalist "economic growth" and the immense profits generated by the fossil fuel industry. They are unilaterally fighting attempts to control it, just as they are waging war to maintain control over sources of oil in the Middle East.

"Global warming" is the term used to describe the unnatural increase in worldwide average temperatures caused by the generation of so-called greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide. These gases trap the infrared radiation of the sun inside the Earth's atmosphere in much the same way that the glass of a greenhouse does. They come primarily from the burning of fossil fuels, coal, gas and oil, i.e., from the principal sources of energy used to generate electric power, fuel transport and provide heat.

Atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases have increased "by more than a third since the start of the Industrial Revolution," according to Andrew C. Revkin of *The New York Times*. They are expected to be twice preindustrial levels by the end of this century. Experts have concluded that these gases are responsible for most of the warming trend of the last 50 years.

Extensive research over the past two decades has demonstrated not only the existence of the phenomenon, but also the current and future ecological and economic impacts it will have. A recent National Research Council report concluded that "human-induced warming" will continue throughout this century unless brought under control. With allowance for uncertainties in climate models, the report predicted warming by 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100, according to David Perlman, science editor for the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Perlman also noted that events of the past year have provided major impacts at current levels of warming. Many of the clearest effects are in the arctic, where measurements showed that the sea ice had shrunk by nearly 500,000 square miles, leaving the lowest cover in centuries, according to records of Icelandic fishermen. Greenland's ice cover is also melting at rates greater than previously recorded. If it all melted, it could raise ocean levels about 23 feet.

A string of warmer-than-normal years is leading to long-term effects. The world average for 1998 was 58.41 degrees Fahrenheit, and 58.35 in 2002, as compared to the long-term average of 57.2 degrees. Glaciers and permafrost are melting rapidly in the Alaskan arctic, and trees and shrubs in the northern tundra are encroaching into areas that were previously too cold. Instead of the normal snow, torrential rains battered the Kenai Peninsula in late November, washing out bridges.

In Europe, rain-driven floods last summer struck dozens of major cities, including Hamburg, Dresden and Prague, causing more than \$33 billion in cleanup costs, according to Michael Northrup of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. This is on top of \$150 billion in damages from flooding in the 1990s. The Thames River barrier in England, built to protect London and central England from storm surges and high tides, had to be closed 23 times in the winter of 2000-2001, compared to the normal two or three times a year. As sea levels rise with global warming, the barrier will no longer be enough, and some 750,000 people will be vulnerable to flooding.

Not surprisingly the European Union favors controls on greenhouse gases. The EU strongly supports the Kyoto Protocol of 1997, which proposed reduction targets in greenhouse gas production of 6 to 8 percent below 1990 levels by industrialized nations by 2012. Russia is expected to sign on this year. The only industrialized nation to hold out is the United States, which is the world's largest producer of greenhouse gases. U.S. production of greenhouse gases is now 11.9 percent above that of 1990, and it is increasing its production.

Early in his term of office, Bush rejected the

"Scientific advisory committees do not exist to tell the secretary what he wants to hear but to help the secretary, and the nation, address complex issues," the scientists said in their *Science* magazine editorial. "Regulatory paralysis appears to be the goal here, rather than the application of honest balanced science," they concluded regarding administration policies.

Internationally, the United States has fought against regulations that would limit greenhouse gas production. At an energy conference in South Africa last September, for example, the United States and oil-producing allies Saudi Arabia and Venezuela pushed through provisions that preserved dependency on fossil fuels and blocked time-based international goals to develop renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, in developing countries. Proposals by Britain, the EU and many developing countries favored increasing the proportion of energy from renewable sources from 2 percent to 15 percent by 2015. The United States opposed any deadlines.

Similarly, U.S. recalcitrance on setting finite goals at a climate change meeting in New Delhi in November forced participants to focus on ways of "dealing with" the results of global warming.

Adaptation to climate changes is not an option to the EU or Britain with their high population densities and already overburdened flood control systems. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Bush's main ally in the war on Iraq, has rebuked him for rejecting the Kyoto accords while reaffirming his own support for them and pledging Britain to a 60 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by midcentury. Blair characterized environmental degradation and climate change as "just as devastating in their potential impact" as weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, noting that "there will be no security if the planet is ravaged."

Britain and the countries comprising the EU are also capitalist, of course, and it would be naive to believe that their interest in global warming is purely altruistic.

Before the EU ratified the Kyoto Protocol, proponents of the treaty held out the prospects of significant economic benefits as an inducement for ratification. Two reports from the World Wide Fund for Nature in July 2001, for example, suggested that European and Japanese capitalism would gain important competitive advantages and profit opportunities by ratifying the treaty even if the United States did not. Its report on Europe concluded "that an 'early' start with climate change policies could lead to substantial cost reductions for Europe in the future" and "that the GDP of the United States could decrease by around \$45.5 billion, or about 0.6 percent, primarily as a result of its machinery industry not being driven to innovate."

Regardless of what motivations lie behind British, EU and Japanese capitalism's interest in addressing the threat posed by global warming, the effects of the phenomenon are being felt. So far this year, Revkin reported, "unusual weather has been blamed for 9,400 deaths and \$56 billion in damages" around the world. For Bush and his capitalist supporters, however, the fight to maintain American control over how energy is developed and used is apparently equivalent to war. Unilaterally fighting the rest of the world, and stifling the opinion of internal opponents, they are willing to sacrifice the welfare of the people of the planet for energy hegemony and the profits that go with it.

The potential disaster of global warming becomes inevitable as long as capitalism, with its insatiable drive to profit, continues.



Kyoto Protocol, claiming it would harm the U.S. economy. Last year he came up with his alternative plan, which is to do nothing. He has called for a decade of "research" on the problem before doing anything about it, other than suggesting voluntary efforts to control emissions.

However, a panel of experts convened this year by the National Academy of Sciences at the administration's request noted that the administration's call for more research "seemed to rehash questions that had already been largely settled," as Andrew C. Revkin expressed it in *The New York Times* of Feb. 26. "Stuff that would have been cutting edge in 1980 is listed as a priority for the future," one author of the panel's report noted.

If the administration's past behavior is a guide, the report of this panel will be ignored. Wherever expert testimony on environmental, medical, or even military issues, contradict the administration's views, the administration responds by stacking advisory panels with those who agree with it.

A group of research scientists who signed an editorial in the Oct. 25 issue of the journal *Science*, noted that Secretary Tommy Thompson of the Department of Health and Human Services had disbanded committees on human research protections and genetic testing that had suggested solutions that differed from the administration's agenda. Thompson also stacked committees on environmental health and childhood lead poisoning prevention with scientists representing polluting industries and organizations opposing public health and environmental regulation.

...U.S. Invasion

(Continued from page 1)

European Union. Two years ago Saddam Hussein stopped selling Iraqi oil for dollars and started selling it for euros. The Iraqi move posed a threat to the dollar as the dominant world currency, a threat that could undermine U.S. capitalism's dominant role in the global economy. The fear was that more oil-producing countries, such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, would follow Iraq's example. As one writer explained with regard to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries:

"If...OPEC were to decide to accept euros only for its oil (assuming for a moment it were allowed to make this decision), then American economic dominance would be over. Not only would Europe not need as many dollars anymore, but Japan which imports over 80 percent of its oil from the Middle East would think it wise to convert a large portion of its dollar assets to euro assets (Japan is the major subsidizer of the U.S. because it holds so many dollar investments). The U.S., on the other hand, being the world's largest oil importer, would have to run a trade surplus to acquire euros. The conversion from trade deficit to trade surplus would have to be achieved at a time when its property and stock market prices were collapsing and its domestic supplies of oil and gas were contracting."

No doubt the rise of the euro does pose a concrete danger to U.S. capitalism—and not only to the U.S. oil industry. Two years ago the euro wasn't worth a continental, as they used to say. Today a euro exchanges for \$1.08.

Global Peace and Harmony

The war on Iraq had nothing to do with Saddam Hussein or with "weapons of mass destruction." It was not about the Baath Party, dictatorship, democracy or bestowing "freedom" on the people of Iraq. All that was only a part of the charade to muddy the waters and keep the working class confused about capitalism and its imperialist ambitions. Nonetheless, the working class is the only force that is capable of ending capitalism and establishing a new social system in which the peoples of all nations can live in peace, harmony and cooperation.

Dangerous as war and imperialism are, they are only byproducts of the capitalist system. The Socialist Labor Party calls upon the American working class to keep its eyes fixed on the capitalist system that produces these threats. It calls upon the workers of America to join with the SLP to organize their potential political power to demand an end to the system that breeds war and imperialism, and its potential economic power by means of the Socialist Industrial Union program to take, hold and operate the means of production and distribution democratically to supply the needs of the nation.

...More Help From Readers

(Continued from page 1)

less than \$2,850.00. Accordingly, the deficit for February came to about \$5,950.00. That must stop. Monthly deficits of any amount are a serious threat to the SLP, but if they continue at the February level they will wipe out the party's cash reserves by the end of the year. Please, comrades, do not let that happen. Do not let a month pass in which you do not contribute to a party fund. The SLP's future depends on it, and everything else depends on the future of the SLP."

We appeal to every reader of *The People* to step up their financial support and to make regular monthly contributions to the SLP if they can. With your support the SLP will accomplish its mission. Without it the future of the country and the world will be decided by a profit- and power-hungry ruling class cocky with "success" and confident that it has a free hand to plunder the earth.

Please use the coupon on this page to get started—and ask us to send you an SLP sustainer card.

FUNDS

(Feb. 15—April 4)

Daniel De Leon Sesquicentennial Fund

Marie & Ray Simmons \$2,000; Jennie Seekford \$1,000; Jack Radov \$500; Joan Davis \$400; Irene Schelin \$300; Karl H. Heck (In memory of Comrade Genevieve Gunderson) \$200; Glenn Schelin \$188; Anonymous \$103; \$100 each Jim Tennyson, Phyllis Emerson (In memory of my mother, Pauline Fisk); Troy Phipps \$59; \$50 each Anonymous, Harvey K. Fuller, John Houser; James & Nancy Kniskern \$46; Daniel Brian Lazarus \$40; Paul D. Lawrence \$37; Section Cook County, Ill., \$34.32; \$25 each Edwin Samples, Rafael Falcón, Tillie Wizek.

Merle G. Krause \$21; Leonard Kitts \$20; Rosemary Gale \$15; Marshall G. Soura \$12; \$10 each Col. Don Shepherd, Daniel H. Harrington, Harry Gibson, Joseph Bellon; T. McGregor \$9; \$7 each D. Borowsky, Marotte; Leonard J. Cirino \$6.98; \$5 each Henry Coretz, Ruth Sprout; Paul D. Lawrence (In memory of Nathan Karp) \$2.

Total: \$5,482.30

SLP Sustainer Fund

\$300 each Bernard Bortnick, Robert Burns; Carl C. Miller Jr. \$140; \$100 each Chris Dobreff, Michael Preston; Archie Sim (amount represents number of years as an SLP member) \$68; \$50 each Archie Sim (In memory of Joseph C. Toth), Frank & Margaret Roemhild, Lois Reynolds; Clayton Hewitt \$30; Section San Francisco Bay Area: William Kelley \$20; Lois Kubit \$15; \$10 each Jill Campbell, Steve Littleton; Section Wayne Co., Mich., \$5.

Total: \$1,248.00

SLP Leaflet Fund

Marie & Ray Simmons \$500; \$200 each Chris Dobreff, Roy K. Nelson; \$100 each Dr. L. Miles Raisig, Gerald M. Lucas, Jim Tennyson, Walter Vojnov, William Kuhn; Donna Meyer \$95; \$50 each A. Econom, J. Blessington, Michael Preston, Robert Ormsby; \$25 each Albert Bikar, Albert C. Goldberg, Anonymous, Blake Bearden, D.M. Giachino, Dawn Moore, John & Mary Brlas, Keith Wood, Lloyd A. Wright, Marty Radov, Paul L. Wolf, Phillip Colligan, R. Brunson; Richard Wilson \$24; \$20 each Bill Conklin, D. Goodsaid, Frank J. Kennedy, Sophia Carevich; Richard H. Cassin \$15; William B. Scanlan \$12.

\$10 each Albert Evenich, C. Hensley, Charles L. Gerhard, Costanzo A. Rufo, Darlene Clements, Dionisio Villarreal, Gene Tagle, Harold Madsen, Harry Buskirk, Harry E. Gibson, James B. Buffalo, Joseph J. Frank, Juliette Jackson, R. Hofem, Rafael Falcón, Richard F. Mack, Robert A. Nash; \$5 each Clayton Hewitt, Donald F. Cuddihee, Earl L. Shimp, Frank Cline, James Pandaru, Jill Campbell, John Stewart Gale, Lois Kubit, Philip Sullivan, Roberta Diamond, Sid Rasmussen; Richard L. Vobornik \$2; \$1 each Don Patrick, Mr. George T. Gaylord, R.C. Moody, Walter K. Bagnick.

Total: \$2,382.00

Press Security Fund

Sid Fink \$25; Bob V. Pasalich (In memory of George Pasalich) \$15.

Total: \$40.00

SLP Emergency Fund

\$25 each R.E. Langh, Matthew Rinaldi; Dimitre Eloff \$50.

Total: \$100.00

Socialist Labor Party

Financial Summary

(Jan.-March 2003)

Bank Balances (Jan. 1).....	\$86,643.95
Expenses (Jan.-March).....	27,940.82
Income (Jan.-March).....	28,740.35
Bank Balances (March 31).....	87,506.82
Surplus 2003 (as of March 31).....	862.87

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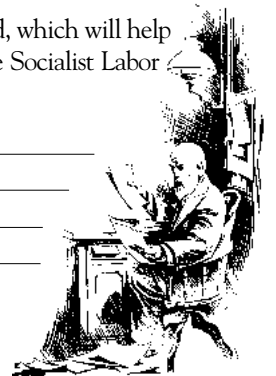
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OHIO

Columbus

Discussion Meetings—Section Cleveland will hold discussion meetings at the Columbus Main Library, Conference Room 1, 96 S. Grant, Columbus, on Sunday, May 18, from 1–2:30 p.m., and on Sunday, June 22, from 1–3 p.m. For more information please call 440-237-7933.

Independence

Discussion Meetings—Section Cleveland will hold discussion meetings at the Days Inn, 5555 Brecksville Rd., (just south of R17-Granger Rd.), Independence, on the following Sundays: April 27, May 11 and June 29. All meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments served. For more information please call 440-237-7933.

OREGON

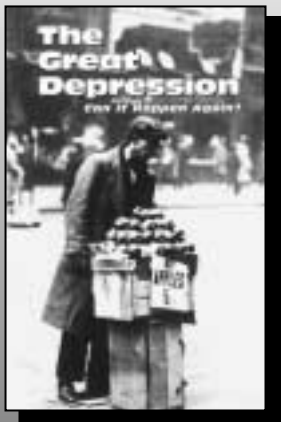
Portland

Discussion Meetings—Section Portland holds discussion meetings every second Saturday of the month. Meetings are usually held at the Central Library, but the exact time varies. For more information please call Sid at 503-226-2881 or visit our Web site at <http://slp.pdx.home.mindspring.com>.

TEXAS

Houston

Discussion Meetings—Section Houston holds discussion meetings the last Saturday of the month at the Houston Public Library, Franklin Branch, 6440 W. Bellfort, southwest Houston. The time of the meetings varies. Those interested please call 281-838-0008, e-mail houstonslp@ev1.net or visit the section's Web site at <http://houstonslp.tripod.com>.



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letters to the People

The Space Program

Am so glad that you're back publishing your newspaper. For years I have questioned why our country has placed so much importance on the space program, so you shed a lot of light on this matter when you stated in your last paper ["Two Tragedies," March-April issue] that NASA's shuttle program was designed to strengthen U.S. military and intelligence capabilities, to help stimulate the crisis-ridden U.S. economy like other military spending, to find new sources of raw materials, and to research and implement new manufacturing and communications processes for the benefit of U.S. capitalists. I had suspected that NASA's program was never intended to benefit the interests of science and humanity. You cleared up that matter for me. Thank you very much!

Ruth Sprout
White Cloud, Mich.

Iraq and Lebanon

I think there are parallels between the current invasion of Iraq and that of Lebanon over two decades ago. In 1982, the Begin-Sharon duo launched an operation in Lebanon, code named "Operation Galilee," with an intent of ridding Lebanon of "terrorism." The war reached the gates of Beirut, the Lebanese capital. That resulted in the Shatilla and Sabra attacks and the fragmentation of Lebanon along sectarian lines that worsened the civil war in that country already in progress. It seems history is repeating itself in Iraq. The Bush-Rumsfeld duo may find out that it is much easier to win a war than maintain the peace, as Iraq could as well disintegrate into feuding factions such as the Kurds trying either to reassert their so-called decade-old "independence" or secede from Iraq altogether, an aspect that whoever succeeds Saddam Hussein may not entertain. Then there are the Marsh Arabs, Shiite and Sunni factions, in addition to the multifarious factions that may try to fill in the gap left by the collapse of the central government. Hence, we may be looking at the "Lebanonization" of Iraq with all its insidious ramifications.

Stephen B. Isabirye
Flagstaff, Ariz.

Capitalist Imperialism

I think you have written a very good article ["More Than Oil at Stake in Dispute With Iraq," March-April issue] because not everything behind all this war fever is oil: it is the imperialist nature of capitalism, its natural law of going into a constant crisis, the contradiction between social production and private appropriation. The problem is the capi-

talist mode of production. It is true that before every major war the people have protested and the protests have not affected the war policy of the government. When the antiwar movement is able to visualize that the problem is capitalism, then capitalism will be dealing with a hot potato.

Marcos Colome
via e-mail

Laid Off

I am glad that the publication of *The People* is back. I joined the ranks of the unemployed last April [2002] due to the downturn in the aerospace and airline industries. I would like to send \$5.00 to extend my subscription and 25¢ for the booklet *War and Unemployment*, and the rest to help the paper. Thank you.

Wendell Wettland
Mountlake Terrace, Wash.

Tolstoy and Chechnya

Good news to see you back in print, even if you can't print as often. Am sending a contribution. Can't afford more because my real estate taxes have more than doubled in the last year.

NOTE: Anyone interested in Chechnya should read Tolstoy's early novel, *The Cossacks*. Tolstoy was with the army in the Caucasus in 1851, when Russia had already been fighting Chechnian forces for 50 years. Now it's more than 200 years.

Harvey Fuller
Mystic, Conn.

Missed *The People*

Your SLP newspaper is the only mail I look forward to receiving. I sure as hell missed the paper when you ceased printing it a few months ago. Glad you're back. I will make it a point to donate \$10.00 per month from my Social Security check. Keep telling it the way it is!!

Richard F. Mack
Kalamazoo, Mich.

Welcome Back!

I am writing to tell you how happy I was to receive my copy of *The People* and to see your fine newspaper again as I feared that you were gone for good. I am sending you a small donation [\$10.00] to help you keep publishing. I hope that you are in good health and that you will live long enough to see real socialism in this great country of ours. Keep up the fight and never give up the battle. Thank you for keeping me happy and posted. I wish you success.

Joseph Bellon
Brooklyn, N.Y.

255075100 years ago

The Rosenberg Case

(*Weekly People*, June 27, 1953)

As this is written, the Supreme Court of the United States has just announced its 6 to 2 decision to cancel the stay of execution of the sentence of death on Ethel and Julius Rosenberg that was issued by Justice [William O.] Douglas June 17. Unless President [Dwight D.] Eisenhower responds to clemency pleas, as seems unlikely in view of his earlier rejection of similar pleas, the United States will take a step that, as we said in our editorial Jan. 24, represents "a savage and ominous departure from American practice and tradition." The Rosenbergs will be the first American nationals ever to be executed by the United States for espionage.

The weird last-minute legal developments in the Rosenberg case, and the capitalist reactions to these legal developments, shed a harsh but revealing light on capitalist law and the political character of the government's case against the Rosenberg couple.

The capitalist class seeks by various means to inculcate a reverence for law among the ruled, but capitalists themselves are without such reverence. They know where laws come from and how they are made. The capitalists are aware that law is what De Leon said it was, i.e., a club in the hands of the capitalists' executive committee.

The discovery by an obscure lawyer, who was not even a defense counsel, of a legal flaw in the death sentence passed on the Rosenbergs, and the subsequent action (a courageous one in view of the lynch-hysteria atmosphere) by Justice Douglas of issuing a stay of execution until this "substantial" question of law could be resolved, had confronted the capitalist executive committee with an embarrassing dilemma.

It could carry out the death sentences as the hysteria-ridden capitalist class demands. (The demands that Justice Douglas be impeached for doing what was his plain duty reflect this hysteria.) But if it did, no amount of subsequent rationalization would resolve the grave doubts that had been raised in the public mind. Capitalist law would then be the more easily seen for what it is—a club that the capitalists use when it suits

them, but for which they have no real reverence. Moreover, if the death sentence were carried out, legal abracadabra would lose much of its effectiveness in screening the political motives of the Rosenbergs' executioners.

On the other hand, were the capitalist executive committee to acknowledge that an error had been made, it would not only invite the angry recriminations of the capitalist class; it would also make a laughing stock of the courts and of government prosecutors who pretend to such sapience, yet did not even know that a law passed by Congress in 1947, dealing with atomic espionage, specifically states that the sentence of death can only be imposed when recommended by a jury.

In the first instance it is the law that loses "face," in the second, the administrators of the law.

The decision of the Supreme Court majority was to expose the law and bow to the demands of the capitalist class. It is a logical decision in view of the decadence of capitalist society, and the retreat of the capitalist class from the principles of classical bourgeois liberalism to those of liberty-throttling absolutism.

[*The Rosenbergs were tried in 1951 under the Espionage Act of 1917, which provided the death penalty for passing information to an enemy power in wartime. They allegedly passed atomic secrets to the Soviet Union starting in 1944 when the United States was at war with Germany, Italy and Japan. The Soviet Union was a U.S. ally in that war, but the undeclared (though no less real) Korean War had started when the couple was arrested and brought to trial. The Rosenbergs were sentenced to death by Judge Irving Kaufman. The final appeal against their executions was based on the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, under which only a jury could order the death penalty in espionage cases. Justice Douglas ordered a stay of execution during the Supreme Court's summer recess, but Chief Justice Fred Vinson hurriedly reassembled the court on June 19, 1953. The court overruled Douglas' decision and the executions were carried out later that day at Sing Sing prison, Ossining, N.Y.—Editor.]*

The Origin of Saddam's Dictatorship

By B.G.

How does a trusted friend and ally—someone like Saddam Hussein of Iraq, for instance—metamorphose into a hated enemy and pariah? One has to be aware of the twists and turns of U.S. foreign policy over the past 40 years to understand the background of the present war to topple his regime.

In 1963 the Iraqi leader was Abdel Karim Kassem, an army general who had led a coup against the Iraqi monarchy five years previously and had installed a harshly repressive regime in his country. Nonetheless, Washington administrators over the years tolerated him until he began to increase his army and armaments, threaten the oil interests of Western countries, threaten Kuwait and make attempts to diminish the U.S.'s dominant status in the Middle East.

By that time, President John F. Kennedy and the Central Intelligence Agency decided that Kassem had to go. CIA agents in the Middle East began to cultivate anti-Kassem opinion in the leading cities of Egypt, Syria, Iran and Iraq itself. Using Kuwait as its clandestine Middle East headquarters, the CIA orchestrated growing opposition to Kassem, encouraged the budding rebels and armed the Kurds.

As their instrument for carrying out the coup in Iraq, the CIA chose the small Iraqi Baath Party—an authoritarian group that had significant influence in the Iraqi army. The coup came on Feb. 8, 1963, and was accomplished by a startling blood bath. The CIA had provided the Baathists with an extensive list of suspected Communists and “leftists,” including hundreds of intellectuals and professionals in the country. The Baathists obligingly carried out an orgy of murder that included not only doctors, lawyers, teachers, politicians and other professionals and intellectuals, but also members of the military.

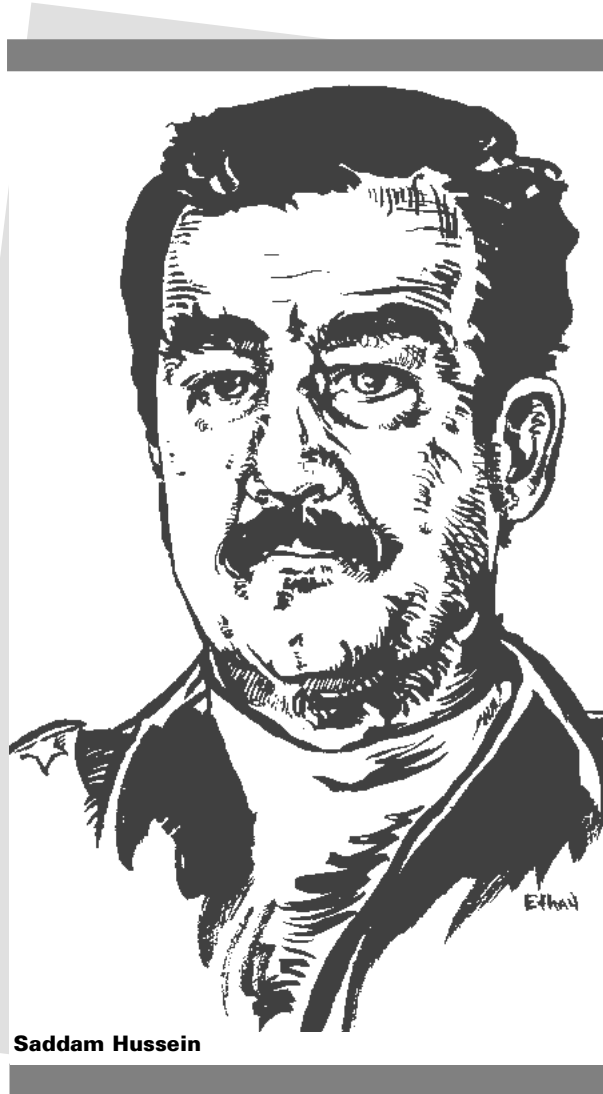
The United States then gladly sent arms to their friends in the new Baathist regime, and these arms were used against America's former friends, the Kurds, with nary a complaint from Congress or anyone else in Washington.

The Baathists were duly grateful to the United States and opened up Iraq's borders to such Western oil companies as Mobil, Bechtel Group and British Petroleum.

During this period, Saddam Hussein was only a 25-year-old lieutenant and not a major Baathist figure.

By 1968 the Baathist government was in a state of turmoil as its leaders vied for control,

and another coup was brewing. The CIA backed Gen. Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr who came to power without extensive bloodshed. It was a fateful coup nonetheless, because it promoted the fortunes of al-Bakr's kinsman, Saddam Hussein. When Hussein finally did become ruler of Iraq, the United States considered him a friend and ignored the severe and brutal oppression of his regime. As long as he did not challenge American strategic and political interests, or interfere with American business, he would remain a friend.



Saddam Hussein

Ethan Houser for *The People*

When Iraq under Hussein attacked Iran in the 1980s, Washington sided with Hussein, providing him with military assistance and military intelligence. Why? Because the United States had lost its position in Iran with the “Islamic revolution” and the overthrow of Shah Pahlevi. The United States also was humiliated by the Iranian students who invaded the American Embassy in Tehran and held American diplomats hostage for months during the latter part of the Carter administration. This was done with

the tacit compliance of the new theocratic Iranian government that had overthrown the shah. Even though no American diplomat was killed or seriously harmed during this kidnapping period, and all were released in January 1980, still the U.S. government could not easily accept the loss of its former position in Iran or live down the humiliation of the hostage event. In addition, the Cold War was still on and the Soviet Union was still a rival for influence in the Middle East. With its loss of influence and strategic positioning in Iran, the United States readily allied itself with the tyrant Saddam Hussein.

No one can even remember any American government complaint when Hussein gassed the Iranians during his war against them. Washington then did not thunder against “weapons of mass destruction.”

President Ronald Reagan, in the 1980s, sent his Mideast envoy, Donald Rumsfeld, to Baghdad to greet Hussein on behalf of the American government, and the two shook hands cordially and smiled. In March, NBC-TV's “Today” show presented old newsreels of the early days of the U.S.-Iraq friendship period, including the Rumsfeld-Hussein handshaking incident.

Rumsfeld, now secretary of defense in the George W. Bush administration, self-righteously led the charge against Saddam Hussein and his “weapons of mass destruction.” How times have changed!

Hussein was the same tyrant he was at the time he came to power, when he tortured and killed his own people, when he gassed the Iranians, when he was developing weapons of mass destruction. At what point in the thinking of the Bush administration did he suddenly morph into “The Great Satan”? Could it be that he became difficult as far as American business interests were concerned? Could it be that Hussein began thinking of himself as the emperor of Mesopotamia, and thus disturbed Washington politicians who once looked aside at his brutality? Clearly Washington saw Hussein and his megalomania as a threat to American predominance in the Middle East. If Iraq were a backward third world country whose main product was coconuts rather than oil, would the Western nations be so excited about that area?

Were it not for U.S. and CIA meddling in the area years ago, perhaps the world would never have had a Saddam Hussein to worry about and Iraq would have been spared its agony.

... Whose September 11?

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which already had been trying to overthrow Castro for years, feared the spread of Castro's influence in Latin America.

Allende was a medical doctor who once wrote a book, *Socio-Medical Problems of Chile*, in which he blamed Chile's capitalist political and economic structure for the country's widespread poverty and the health problems of its poor. When he ran for president a fourth time in 1970, after unsuccessful efforts in 1952, 1958 and 1964, he again aligned himself with the poor and the oppressed workers in his nation and was democratically elected by a plurality at the head of a Popular Unity Coalition of Socialists, Communists and liberal elements among the Christian Democrats.

International corporations also felt threatened by

Allende. The American conglomerate, International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., which had extensive holdings in Chile, openly supported Allende's political opponents in 1970 and offered a million dollars toward any plan that would thwart his election. ITT also attempted to secure CIA help in the plot.

Once elected, Allende embarked on a plan of land reform to benefit the landless workers, which dispossessed and angered the large landowners. He also nationalized large segments of the economy, including the large American-owned copper mines. Other American businesses seized or forced to sell out to the government were banking, steel, rubber, chemicals, automobiles and communications.

The U.S. government waged its own style of economic warfare against Allende's government by opposing loans to Chile by both American and

international financial organizations.

Allende's opponents also roused the petty capitalists against him—the shopkeepers and truck owners—and encouraged large-scale street demonstrations by these elements. Although he was forced to make many concessions in the months before the coup, they were not enough to satisfy Chile's capitalist and petty capitalist classes or the American corporations he had dislodged and temporarily stopped from sapping the country's wealth. The military then stepped in, ostensibly to restore order, but to give the deathblow to Allende's government.

The resulting rule of the Pinochet fascist junta proved to be a boon to Chilean capitalism and U.S. foreign policy, but one long nightmare for the Chilean working class.

Does anyone care about Chile's Sept. 11?