

# the Socialist

Magazine of the Socialist Party USA - May, 2009 - \$2.00



**Game Over...**

## Editorial

# For Socialists Every Day is May Day

by Billy Wharton



There is a new feeling this May Day. Though not exactly a haunting specter, there is sense that the world may be on the brink of something new and significant. In one year, we have witnessed the near total collapse of a global financial system once so dominant that it motivated calls for “the end of history.” Capitalism is failing, drowning in a sea of its own debt, unable to direct the monumental strands of individual greed and unwilling to submit itself to the kind of emergency surgery it underwent in the 1930s. And now it is May Day again, a day for the victims of capitalism to gather strength through their free association and common desires for justice.

Perhaps the depth of the economic crisis can best be measured by the outburst of discussion about socialism. The term is now bandied about on a nearly daily basis in the mainstream media. Much of this has been fueled by conservatives who have continued the paranoid style of American politics by creatively discovering socialism inside of every movement of the Federal Government no matter how wasteful. Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee has led the charge by tagging Barack Obama “the world’s best salesman for socialism” and hailing the creation of “the Union of American Socialist Republics.” B-movie actor Chuck Norris boasted of thousands of right-wing cells preparing to curtail the march toward socialism.

In progressive circles, conversations have

been less bombastic but equally searching. *The Nation* presented the choice as either “Saving Capitalism” or “Re-Imagining Socialism.” Barbara Ehrenreich and Bill Fletcher Jr. were drafted to make the case for socialism and took some tepid steps away from their electoral support of Obama. *Newsweek* took a more direct approach declaring that “We are all Socialists Now.” However, their version of socialism amounted to little more than state intervention fueled by a non-descript “populist rage.”

Thankfully, May Day is about something besides the speculations of pundits. On this day workers who directly suffer under the worst impositions of capitalism claim public space to speak out about their common condition. This tradition was born as a commemoration of the 1886 Haymarket massacre in Chicago. From this point forward, the holiday served as a symbolic means to link working people across national borders in a common struggle to cast aside the social and economic limitations enforced by capitalism. Gatherings big and small – in jails, public squares and city streets – have pronounced the simple truth that working people are prevented from reaching their full human potential by a parasitic employer class.

This year, more than any in recent memory, there is much to speak out about. Our analysis always begins with the simple fact that we live in a society where 5% of the population controls 85%

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## Statement of Principles

THE SOCIALIST PARTY strives to establish a radical democracy that places people’s lives under their own control - a non-racist, classless, feminist socialist society... where working people own and control the means of production and distribution through democratically-controlled public agencies; where full employment is realized for everyone who wants to work; where workers have the right to form unions freely, and to strike and engage in other forms of job actions; and where the production of society is used for the benefit of all humanity, not for the private profit of a few. We believe socialism and democracy are one and indivisible. The working class is in a key and central position to fight back against the ruling capitalist class and its power. The working class is the major force worldwide that can lead the way to a socialist future - to a real radical democracy from below. The Socialist Party fights for progressive changes compatible with a socialist future. We support militant working class struggles and electoral action, independent of the capitalist controlled two-party system, to present socialist alternatives. We strive for democratic revolutions - radical and fundamental changes in the structure and quality of economic, political, and personal relations - to abolish the power now exercised by the few who control great wealth and the government. The Socialist Party is a democratic, multi-tendency organization, with structure and practices visible and accessible to all members.

# Socialist Says No to Florida Nukes!

by **Brian Moore**

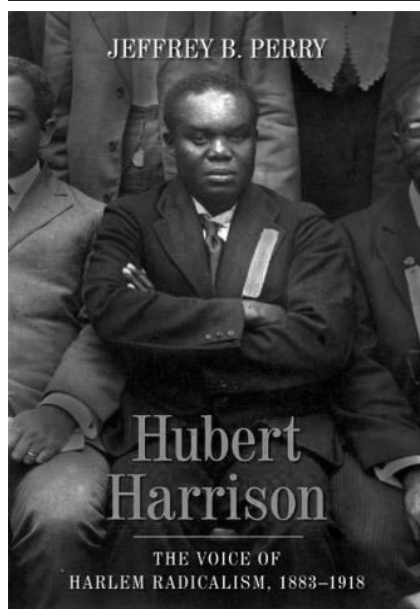
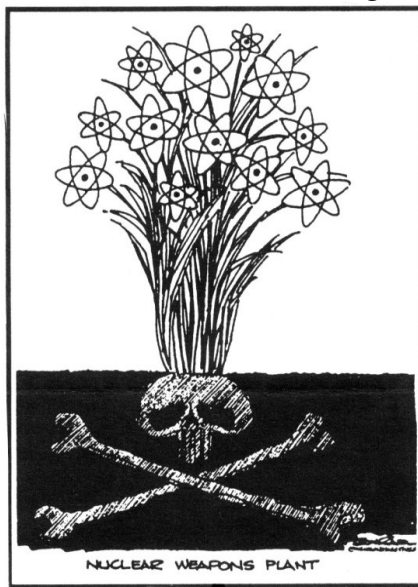
The Socialist Party USA's 2008 Presidential candidate, Brian Moore, testified at a public hearing in Brooksville, Florida, in opposition to Progress Energy Utility's proposed construction of two new nuclear reactors for southern Levy County, Florida. The project will cost seventeen billion dollars by the time it would be completed in 2017.

Moore criticized the fees the for-profit utility is charging to fund the the utility's "unwillingness to assume financial risk." Progress Energy's customers are being squeezed by increased fees as a substitute for investor, bank or Wall Street loans. Days after Moore and others expressed their dissent over the planned reactors, Prog-

ress Energy announced it was dropping its monthly electric bill increases to customers by 11%.

The company had increased charges by 24% in January but faced significant outrage from the

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Hubert Harrison was an immensely skilled orator, educator, critic, and political activist who, more than any other political leader of his era, combined class consciousness and anti-white-supremacist race consciousness into a coherent political radicalism.

His biography offers profound insights on race, class, religion, immigration, war, democracy, and social change in America.

**"Jeffrey B. Perry captures Hubert Harrison's brilliance, energy and leadership"**  
*Manning Marable*

**"Hubert Harrison is the most significant Black democratic socialist of early twentieth-century America. Jeffrey B. Perry has brought his thought and practice to life in a powerful and persuasive manner."** *Cornel West*

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Billy Wharton

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## Submissions

*The Socialist* is always looking for fresh material which highlights the struggles of the working class. News stories, first-person testimonials and all forms of the arts are welcome. Please limit letters to 500 words and articles 1,250. Submit as doc or rtf file.

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## Printing

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# Close Down The Foreign Bases, Save \$102 Billion Dollars For Human Needs

by David McReynolds



One of the things radicals do is to point out the obvious, things everyone else has taken for granted for so long that no questions are asked.

When the United States was born - and for at least a century after that - the idea of it having “foreign bases” was inconceivable. That did change, of course, with the crushing of the people of Hawaii in 1893, leading in time to the great naval base in Pearl Harbor and the annexation of Hawaii and its eventual statehood, and, more dramatically with the Spanish American War of 1898, which left the US in control of Cuba, Guam and the Philippines. Nor should one forget the US role in 1902 in creating Panama in order to build the Panama Canal, giving the US a crucial military base.

Ironically, while the passage of time has cost the US the control of Panama, Cuba, and the Philippines, the network of US military bases has expanded to nearly 800 around the world. Other nations do have military bases - the Transnational Institute suggests that while almost all the bases are US, there are few, French, British, German, and Russian bases.

Readers old enough to remember the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, when the US and the Soviet Union nearly had a nuclear exchange, can understand that if a single Russian base near the US could trigger panic, the paranoia of the Soviet Union during the long Cold War was based on the fact the Soviet Union was literally ringed by US

military bases in Italy, Turkey, Japan, Okinawa, Germany, etc., all of which created a constant fear within the Soviet Union of being attacked.

With the end of the Cold War one might have hoped for a shift away from this vast network of military bases, but they have increased in number and now, of course, include bases in Iraq and Afghanistan.

These bases might make sense if the US faced any danger of attack. But there is no danger of any kind of “usual” attack on the US. Let’s remember that the deadly attack of 9.11 on New York City could not be prevented by all the US military bases.

The Russians have no interest in attacking us or Western Europe. In the Middle East the only attacks have come from the US or from Israel against countries there. (With the exception of Saddam’s attacks on Iran and Kuwait). Our two immediate neighbors, Mexico and Canada, pose so little threat to the US that both borders are undefended.

So what are the US bases doing, scattered all over the world? They are doing something which should be obvious - they are protecting the US corporate interests. The entire crime of the US attack on Iraq had nothing to do with “weapons of mass destruction” and everything to do with the US effort to control the oil there.

This astounding network of hundreds of military bases has proven totally unable to deal with the ongoing tragedy of Darfur, of the Congo, etc. Our bases are not for peace keeping, not for the protection of our own nation from attack - they are there to defend US economic interests and we, the tax payers, foot the bill, estimated at \$102 billion by the Institute for Policy Studies.

Those who follow the politics of Japan know that the people there do not want our bases. The Okinawa bases are a subject of constant strife. We would not be poorer or less secure as a nation if we closed down the bases. It is not enough to argue that the torture of inmates at Guantanamo should cease - the US should return

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# Support US War Resisters in Canada!

by Daniel Sandate

*Daniel Sandate is the second known US war resister to be deported after having fled to Canada. After being convicted of desertion, he was sentenced to 8 months of confinement. He is now free and living in Oklahoma City.*

*Daniel's statement stresses the importance of supporting Kimberly Rivera and other war resisters facing deportation in Canada. Kimberly is currently facing deportation.*

My name is Daniel Sandate. I was, in a sense, a simple soldier in the infantry that was deployed to Iraq. When there, I was subject to IED attacks and small arms fire. Upon my return, I was still subject to these things in my mind. They never escaped me.

Within us all, there is a place that one can find solace and peace. For such soldiers as myself that relieve the horrors, such a place lays in ruins. Destroyed, this refuge is still

guarded in the night from what dreams may bring. Time alone can not set the cornerstone for rehabilitation; when said soldier is ignorantly shunned by the service branch of which he or she may serve, the consequences are dire and sometimes deadly.

Upon my return from Iraq, I was stationed at Ft. Carson, Colorado. Having being ignored for both my physical and mental ailments, I fled to Canada. In Canada, I went into hiding to avoid being found, but mostly, I was hiding from myself and the problems that I could not shake. After a serious suicide attempt, I was found and put into the system to be returned to the US Army's control. While in Canadian custody, I was promised by the US consulate in Canada that my mental

health was "paramount." With that promising hope, I found myself fighting to return to military custody.

Once I was handed over to the Army, I was tumbled through the nightmarish processes of the military criminal justice system. With my ailments still affecting and limiting my body and mind, I was still denied the services that are said to be available by my rights as a soldier. Denied despite the fact that I was not yet found guilty. Denied to mental health treatment by both the Army and the jail that housed me while awaiting the condemning court-martial.

Irreparable harm has been done. As it is, presently, I am a prime example of the Army's failure to return quality service to the ones that do serve and have valiantly served. I have suffered such harm. Not due to malicious actions, but to apathetic nec-



*US war resister Kimberly Rivera (left) & family face deportation from Canada*

glect.

With this, I ask that you support such soldiers that are in Canada. Whether they are in hiding or fighting their appeals to be able to stay (to avoid prosecution for taking part in an illegal war). There are many reasons that a soldier runs. Like a trapped and neglected animal, a trapped and neglected soldier will run. To return a soldier (or any service member) to the impersonal machine that does not care for its own is, in my opinion wrong, and morally irresponsible. Therefore, I ask that those who feel the same reach out to support these soldiers in any way they can.

In summation, I ask that I be seen as an

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# Obama at Le Jeune: Military Occupation or Soft Power?

By Billy Wharton

The war and occupation of Iraq has been a brutal affair. Casualties estimated to range as high as one million Iraqis, atrocities associated with Abu Ghraib prison and the introduction of violence to the everyday lives of millions of Iraqis all highlight the abject failure of US military ambitions. While a road away from these politics of pre-emptive strikes and military occupation is welcome, the Socialist Party USA calls for more immediate actions. We demand the immediate and unconditional removal of all US military forces from both Iraq and Afghanistan.

US President Barack Obama argued correctly during his speech at Camp Le Jeune that the military occupation of Iraq, “cannot be sustained indefinitely” and



that America could no longer see the war “in isolation” from what he identified as other national priorities such as solving the economic crisis. Yet, as the saying goes, the devil is often in the details. Obama’s plan calls for the removal of US combat brigades by August 31, 2010 but, he also intends to leave 35-50,000 US trainers, counterinsurgency troops and military advisers in the country until the end of 2011.

Troops can easily become bogged down in military disputes initiated by local armed groups or sectarian elements in the Iraqi military and police, thereby extending the role of the US military in Iraq indefinitely. Obama ignores the fundamental problems of US military occupation. The continued presence of US forces inflames regional politics, thereby providing easy support for all sorts of reactionary political projects contending for the title of fighting against the occupation.

Only the complete and unconditional removal of troops can allow for spaces to be created where the social movements and institutions necessary to create genuinely democratic resolutions can flourish.

Another important part of US disengagement from Iraq must also include economic as well as military withdrawal. Obama’s speech offered no comments about the US corporations which have carved up large sectors of the Iraqi economy. The country is filled with US contractors, corporate managers and a murky subculture of mercenaries and irregular forces. US corporate power extends from the high-profile actions of Halliburton to the less recognized activities of professional interrogators and security consultants such as L-3 Communications. Any US military withdrawal must include a US corporate withdrawal.

What Obama articulated at Camp Le Jeune was nothing less than a plan to re-organize US “soft-power” or “imperialism with an economic face” in the region. He seeks to use economic and diplomatic means to enhance a “comprehensive American engagement throughout the region.” His appointment of Chris Hill as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, a veteran of the Peace Corps, demonstrates his desire to link NGO’s activities with corporate profiteering and diplomatic negotiations. Such a transition offers little hope for either the national sovereignty of Iraq or for working people throughout the region who are interested in creating progressive political projects.

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# Why They Hate Immigrant Workers, and Why We Love Them

by David L. Wilson

On Tuesday, December 9, the anti-immigrant lobbyists at the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) held a press conference in downtown Washington, DC to promote their “Immigration Reform Agenda for the 111th Congress.” The press conference followed the new line that groups like FAIR have adopted since the financial crisis broke out last September. Undocumented immigrants “played an important role” in the crisis, FAIR president Dan Stein insisted. “[T]he recent economic downturn” has made the “fiscal cost of immigration . . . even more burdensome to the American taxpayer,” FAIR’s handout announced, warning that Congress needs to “take special care to protect the American worker by restricting the amount of cheap, foreign labor that is allowed to compete with U.S. workers.”

The press normally lavishes attention on FAIR -- an operation with professional PR people and an annual budget of nearly \$7 million -- but this time the coverage was sparse. And the U.S. workers whom FAIR was seeking to distract seemed to be focused on a different aspect of immigration on that day.

On December 9, some 200 workers at Republic Windows and Doors in Chicago were in the fifth day of a plant occupation. They had decided to stage a sit-in after management shut the business down with no severance or vacation pay and without the 60 days’ notice required by federal law. Overnight the Republic workers “became symbols for hundreds of thousands of U.S. workers facing layoffs,” according to Chicago Public Radio reporter Chip Mitchell. Politicians, including president-elect Barack Obama, scrambled to support the workers, and by December 10 Republic’s owners and its main creditor, the Bank of America, had agreed to finance a package with severance and vacation pay, along with health insurance.

The Republic sit-in may well be remembered as the first labor victory of the new crisis. But the media coverage generally missed one important fact: the majority of the workers were

of Mexican origin; the rest were mostly African Americans, Salvadorans, and Hondurans. The role of immigrants in recent labor struggles reflects the labor militancy in the countries most immigrant workers come from. In fact, by Latin American standards, the Chicago sit-in was a mild response to an illegal plant closing.

In November 2001, workers who lost their jobs in the closing of two Honduran maquiladoras (tax-exempt assembly plants producing for export) protested by taking over the Labor Ministry offices; they had protested previously by taking



over a bridge.

In December 2004, laid-off workers, mostly women, held a sit-in in front of the closed Woo Chang apparel plant in the northern Mexican state of Coahuila. They vowed to block any efforts to remove fabric and machinery unless they received the severance pay required by Mexican law.

In January 2007, dozens of former employees seized apparel and machinery from the closed Génesis Feliz Tex S.A. garment plant in Guatemala City when they didn’t receive their severance pay. A unit of the National Civil Police dispersed the crowd with tear gas, but the workers

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## **Obama at Le Jeune** *continued from p6*

The transition from military occupation to “soft-power” will not be conducted smoothly. Near the end of the speech, Obama called for a “re-focusing on Al-Qaeda, in Afghanistan and Pakistan.” This comment squares with campaign promises made by Obama to pour troops into Afghanistan and to develop a more aggressive stance toward the Pakistani government. Intensifying the war in Afghanistan will not weaken Al-Qaeda. It will merely lead to the death of more Afghans, the creation of more opponents in the region and it will perpetuate the stranglehold the military-industrial complex currently exercises on the US economy. The war and occupation in Afghanistan is neither sustainable nor a “good war.” It is a waste of human lives and social resources equally as futile as Iraq.

As socialists, we call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all US military forces from both Iraq and Afghanistan. The US government should establish a process for providing these countries with reparations and assistance which aims to repair the damage done by the US military. In addition, we call for the closure of US military bases abroad and an immediate 50% reduction in the military budget. As socialists, we strive to create a world in which the association of peoples is based on social solidarity and free choice not material desperation or military force.

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## **Every Day is May Day**

*Continued from p2*

85% of the wealth. Even this is not enough for the employing class. The lure of super-profits through speculation has drawn them, and by de-facto much of the world’s population, into a massive economic crisis. Humanity is left to deal with the consequences. In February alone, employers sent more than 500,000 workers in America to the unemployment line. The International Labour Organization estimates that as many as 230 million people will be put out of work by the end of 2009. Consequently, the UN Millenium Campaign estimates that more than 100 million more people could be forced into the deep poverty of less than \$2 a day.

Employer class spokesmen will respond by crying poverty and demanding “shared sacrifice.” May Day is the perfect moment to cut through such false declarations. For instance,

Economist Joseph Stiglitz estimates that, as a result of the economic crisis, the shortfall between what could possibly be produced and what is produced amounts to \$7 trillion (almost equal to the GDP of China). Tax structures throughout the world continue to unevenly favor the wealthy thereby allowing trillions more to be funneled into private hands. Banks and financial corporations who hold the immediate responsibility for polluting the global economy with “toxic assets” mostly escaped punitive taxation or nationalization to clean up their mess. In short, there is plenty of wealth and potential wealth which could be put to work productively. Only the profit-motive of capitalism is preventing this.

There is, however, a political and economic option available to the millions who will spill out into the streets this May Day. Democratic socialism offers the greatest hope for humanity to live in a world in which resources are used in rational productive ways to enhance the development of each individual. All of those things which make us human – good health, food, shelter, education – should become inalienable human rights. It is also time to trade in our credit cards for union cards – to begin to make demands for more wages, better working conditions and jobs in productive enterprises. Socialism will allow working people to take hold of their lives and become active creators of the future.

So, today, on May Day, we celebrate the bold acts of the last year such as those taken by workers at Republic Doors and Windows. Faced with the possibility of their employer closing the plant and denying them back-pay and severance, these workers from the United Electrical Workers union occupied the factory. The occupation and nation-wide solidarity actions forced their employer to live up to his promises. This one bold act expressed the social power and creativity of working people.

Socialists think that every day should be directed by the fighting spirit of May Day. By marching, organizing and extending bonds of solidarity we can create socialism for the 21st century from the bottom-up. Such a movement will be built to last, since it rests upon the timeless truth that it is workers who create all that is valuable in this society.



# Connecticut Socialist Challenges Ballot Access Restrictions

by Todd Vachon

As a write-in candidate for U.S. Congress in Connecticut's 2nd District in the 2008 election, I began a long and tiresome process to gain ballot access. I collected signatures to seek ballot access for Brian Moore for President and myself as the Socialist Party USA congressional candidate. After a couple of months of burdensome paperwork, bureaucratic procedures and pounding the concrete with thousands of petition pages, we fell short of acquiring the exclusionary number of petition signatures required to appear on the ballot.

The Socialist Party opted to continue both campaigns as write-in candidates. We felt it was important to offer our supporters, and other voters that do not feel they are represented by the two major parties, a real alternative at the ballot. Knowing from the beginning that write-in candidates do not win elections, we decided that it was our right to vote for candidates of our choice regardless of the outcome. What we did not expect was that our votes would not be counted.

Immediately following the election we found that many towns were reporting ZERO write-in votes. Individual voters began contacting the campaign to complain that they had written in a vote for myself and/or Brian Moore for President, but their town was still showing "zero" votes for write-in candidates.

We contacted the Elections Division at the Secretary of State's Office and various individual town clerks to complain. As a result, some numbers changed, but many towns still did not reflect the proper number of votes. We contacted the CT Green Party to see if they had similar concerns with the number of votes received for Cynthia McKinney, their write-in candidate for President, and they said that they did.


In my case, having a very small and identifiable base, it was very easy for us to locate problems. For instance, my wife and I both voted in Colchester for Brian Moore and myself, but Colchester only reported one vote. My family's hometown of Salem showed zero write-in votes until we complained. The number was increased to 4, which was still 2 shy of the six voters that

initially complained that their vote was not counted. The story is similar for various other towns including Glastonbury, New London and Mansfield. These are all definite and identifiable discrepancies. They, however, say nothing of other potential counting errors involving voters that I do not personally know. Considering that literally half of the known votes cast for my campaign were not counted certainly opens ones mind to speculation about the potential likelihood of other errors.

We of course understand that this small number of votes will not effect the outcome of the election, but it does represent the disenfranchisement of at minimum, 12 voters, and that is, in and of itself an injustice.

## Healthcare Is A Human Right

**Join us for this historic rally to demand  
that healthcare is a human right and change  
what is politically possible!**



**Statewide Rally  
12 noon  
Friday, May 1st 2009  
Statehouse Lawn  
Montpelier**

For More Information  
Including our Human Rights Day Report  
"Voices of the Vermont Healthcare Crisis"  
Visit: [workerscenter.org/healthcare](http://workerscenter.org/healthcare)

Or Contact the Vermont Workers' Center  
(802) 861-2877 or [info@workerscenter.org](mailto:info@workerscenter.org)

Leaving the past now and looking toward the future, what steps can be taken to alleviate these problems in upcoming election cycles?

First and foremost, our current ballot access laws are very prohibitive and wasteful. Countless hours and resources are expended in attempts to gain the extremely difficult goal of ballot access. Lowering the number of signatures

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## Challenge for Ballot Access

*continued from p9*

required to get on the ballot would combat this problem while still requiring a political entity to show some public support before it may appear on the ballot. HB6436 does exactly this. This bill would reduce the required number of signatures for statewide and federal offices to 1,000, a number which is on par with our neighboring New England states of Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. In addition to the provision in HB6436 to reduce the number of required signatures it might be worthy to consider allowing online petitioning in order to save paper, energy and time.

Opening the political process to more varied and diverse voices will definitely increase voter participation in our state by confronting the anti-democratic nature of a two-party duopoly which limits the scope of democracy, ultimately stifling any real progress. More options on the political menu can only enhance public discourse and increase democracy in our state and country.

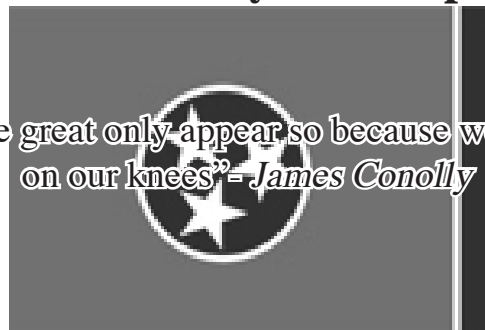
Second, in addition to a more clear write-in voting and counting procedure, I feel that stronger oversight of voting integrity would solve some of the counting problems that my supporters have encountered.

HB6441 seeks to strengthen voting integrity in the state of Connecticut by implementing more oversight, stricter guidelines and enforceable rules.

I'll conclude by reiterating that an expansion of the number and diversity of voices represented in the political arena can only enhance democracy, HB6436 would do this by giving minor parties a fighting chance to get on the ballot. Furthermore, increased oversight of the election and vote counting process to ensure the highest possible integrity of our voting process can only be a good thing. Anyone who agrees would likely support HB6441 and hope that you will.

[www.votevachon.com](http://www.votevachon.com)

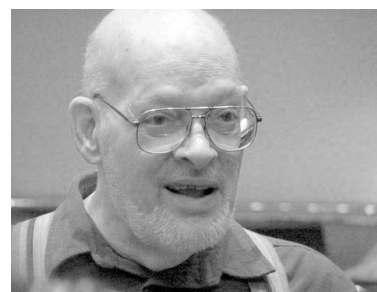
## May Day Greetings from the Socialist Party of Memphis



[www.memphisocialists.wordpress.com/](http://www.memphisocialists.wordpress.com/)  
[www.myspace.com/memphis\\_sp](http://www.myspace.com/memphis_sp)

### Rob Tucker Presente!

*Rob Tucker, SP stalwart, dies at 77*  
Robert Tucker Jr.,  
- known in the Socialist Party simply



as Rob Tucker -died on February 26 in Philadelphia, of complications following a stroke. Despite ill health, Rob made it to 2007 Socialist Party convention in St. Louis. Rob was the first editor of *New America*, the Socialist Party's weekly paper in the 1960's. He worked closely with Norman Thomas, and at the suggestion of Thomas, wrote a pamphlet on socialist medicine for the Party.

He had been active in the Socialist Party in New York before moving to Philadelphia, and was a close friend of the late Ann Rosenhaft, who served some years as National Secretary. He held a number of posts in the SP and when the Socialist Party was reorganized in 1973 Rob immediately joined it. A devout Quaker, as well as a committed socialist, Rob had a special love for the language and culture of Wales. He is survived by many friends in the Socialist Party, and by his wife of 45 years, Cornelia, and by his brother, David Tucker.

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<http://socialistwebzine.blogspot.com>

## Letter to the Editor

Comrades,

The article from the Winter 2008 issue of The Socialist by David McReynolds was problematic. Much of the article was unremarkable. The best part of it presented a laundry list of demands on the new President. What bothered me most was the statement, "That should not keep us from rejoicing in the defeat of John McCain.... [W]e will find it easier to work in a political climate where here is hope that change is possible."

This statement is completely at odds with the whole notion of the Socialist Party. Instead, the statement props up the idea that there are real differences between the two parties, that somehow, the Democrats represent a real alternative to the Republicans. If this is correct, why then what is the point of continuing the SP? If this is what we are to do, what then is the point of continuing to exist as an independent organization? Why not abandon socialism and join the Democrats?

Our party understands that no fundamental change can come about through the existing system, that the workers themselves must seize hold, not merely of the means of production, but the reigns of political power. We believe that this can only come about from an independent, workers, socialist party leading a revolution from below. We do not rejoice in the defeat of McCain, because we understand that whomever becomes President, we are still trapped in an awful capitalist system, and that whomever occupies the office of President is the enemy of working people, not just in America, but world wide. Would the slave rejoice at being sold to one master not another? No.

your comrade,  
chegitz guevara

SUN! SURF! SOCIALISM!

**The Women's Commission of the SP-USA extends solidarity to workers - men and women - around the world. May our work improve the quality of our lives and may we have access to the fruits of our own labor.**



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**With** appreciation to Greg Pason,  
**SPUSA** National Secretary on  
**INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY** for his  
tireless work all year round  
- Mal Herbert

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**THOSE WHO TALK ABOUT  
REVOLUTION AND CLASS STRUGGLE  
WITHOUT REFERRING TO EVERYDAY  
REALITY ARE SPEAKING OF AN  
ALREADY DEAD PROJECT.**

~MAY '68



**MAY DAY GREETINGS FROM THE NYC LOCAL**

socialistpartynyc@gmail.com

www.spnyc.org

**- MAY DAY GREETINGS -**  
*from the Brattleboro (VT) Area Local*  
**Regular meetings: 1:00 pm, 1st Sunday of the**  
*month Meeting Room of the*  
**Brattleboro Food Coop**  
**for information: 802-387-4060**

## Immigrants

*continued from p7*

started a fire before they left. It took firefighters two hours to put out the blaze.

Now, veterans of Latin American labor struggles can bring their knowledge and experience with them as they immigrate here. And that -- immigrant workers as potential links of transnational labor militancy -- may very well be what really motivates groups like FAIR and their wealthy donors in their anti-immigrant campaign. They say they are concerned about "cheap, foreign labor" competing with U.S. workers, but the feigned concern about labor-market competition is merely a ploy; some of their funding sources also finance assorted right-wing organizations working day and night to undermine the wages, benefits, and working conditions of all workers, including the native born. Their "immigration reform agenda" is an effort to keep U.S. workers from uniting with militant immigrant co-workers to defend their rights.

Tensions between immigrants and the native born could have derailed the struggle of the Republic Windows and Doors workers. During a period of layoffs a year ago, some African-American workers suspected they were being treated worse than the Latinos, Republic unionist Melvin Maclin told Chicago Public Radio. "They felt that they were being discriminated against because they were black," Maclin said. "And at one point they were considering calling immigration, because they were saying things like, 'This person that is working here still isn't even a legal citizen.'"

The workers were represented by Local 1110 of the progressive United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE). The union's executive board called a meeting of shop stewards to discuss and resolve these tensions. In the end the Republic workers chose to unite -- and win.

*David Wilson is the co-author of The Politics of Immigration: Questions and Answers. This article was originally run on the Monthly Review Zine @ [www.mrzine.org](http://www.mrzine.org)*

## Close Down Foreign Bases

*continued from p4*

Guantanamo to Cuba.

When the nation was economically secure, it could afford the drain of over a hundred billion dollars a year - but it is time, with the end of the Cold War, and the proven inability of the US bases to aid in making peace, to close them down, and bring the forces home.

*David McReynolds was the Socialist Party's Presidential candidate in 1980 and 2000. Among the resources available on US bases outside our borders one can check the Transnational Institute, Joseph Gerson's excellent piece in Zmagazine, of October 2003, and Chalmers Johnson's brief and effective piece of January, 2004, at [TomDispatch.com](http://TomDispatch.com) [dmcreeynolds@nyc.rr.com](mailto:dmcreeynolds@nyc.rr.com)*

**"The most heroic word in all languages is revolution" — Eugene V Debs**

**May Day Greetings**

**From Jerry Stastny, Wisconsin**



## Support US War Resisters

*continued from p5*

example of what happens when a soldier is kicked to the curb, so to speak, and is then punished for it. One such soldier that will face the same hardships is Kimberly Rivera. She is currently facing deportation and will be going through the same processes of custody that I had to endure. One way that this can be avoided is if the people stand up and shine a light on these issues that are afflicting the servicemen and servicewomen and the ones around them. I call on those with a conscience to stand up and voice their wants for radical reform to the governments that are apathetically doing these harms in the name of justice.

<http://resisters.ca>

# Socialists Confront The Economic Crisis

## Statement of the National Committee

The current financial crisis is not just a temporary setback, nor is it caused primarily by the lack of regulation in the financial sector. The collapse of the financial sector is indicative of the total failure of the capitalist economy.

In recent years, the leading recipients of the recent bailout have attempted to justify their “Washington Consensus” of decimated social safety nets, massive cuts to wages and benefits, and privatization of public services in the name of mercilessly strict adherence to the “tough love” and “sacrifice” of the “free market.” This deregulation and dismantling of any social protections was a logical step for the capitalists represented by the Republican and Democratic Parties.

The call now for regulation of the markets is a hypocritical action by those who continue to promote the “free market” as the solution to all ills. The same power brokers and politicians who demanded the near complete deregulation of the financial sector under “free market” principles, are now calling upon all tax-paying U.S. workers to “come together as Americans” and take “collective responsibility” for their boundless greed and ultimate financial failure under the very standards they themselves imposed.

Congressional Democrats, through continuous pledges to reach a “bipartisan” solution to the financial meltdown, have predictably fallen over themselves to reaffirm their reliable role as one of the two great parties of capital. As Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi proclaimed on September 26th, 2008, “We will not leave until legislation is passed that will be signed by the president. The markets need a message from us that we’re acting.” Barack Obama, who received \$25 million in campaign contributions from the financial industry during the 2008 election campaign, likewise urged a rapid, bipartisan passage of the bailout package, “in the spirit of cooperation on behalf of the American people”.

As socialists, we understand that there can no longer be any rational debate on the question of pursuing the “free market” as an alternative to the compelling urgency for a socialist transformation of society. The need of the largest capitalist firms

to wipe out competition has already led to the centralization of economic power, but in the form of private ownership of an unaccountable ruling class of professional speculators, not of working people.

If we the people are now to publicly socialize the costs of our ruling class’ disastrous practices, as our corporate politicians demand, what justification can be given for handing the very pillars of our economic security back to their private and unaccountable ownership, once resurrected?

The Socialist Party rejects the bailout of the financial sector. Instead, we propose that the government take over the financial sector, and then delegate the distribution of home loans to a decentralized network of non-profit credit unions. These institutions are far less likely to push bogus loans than the white-collar criminals that control the current financial institutions.

Under the impact of the crunch in consumer lending that has followed upon the crisis in the financial sector, the automobile industry, which has been slowly unraveling under the impact of global capitalism and a short-sighted refusal to build fuel efficient cars, has reached the brink of total collapse. The end of the U.S. automobile industry would further add to the skyrocketing unemployment that is already occurring as a result of the crash in the housing market.

The Socialist Party rejects the bailout of the automobile industry, giving billions of dollars in subsidies to corporate executives that have already demonstrated their abysmal incompetence. Instead, we need an integrated transportation program that will shift people out of cars and into mass transit. The billions in subsidies should be turned into investments in a publicly owned enterprise that would take over the factories that currently produce cars and would prioritize the production of buses, subway cars and trains for government entities. Such an enterprise would be controlled by autoworkers in conjunction with elected representatives of the communities in which these factories are located.

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# SP-USA Local Updates: Connecticut Local Update

by Jim Marra

The Connecticut Local is excited to report its participation in three activities across the state. At the request of the E.O. Smith High School's Students for International Socialism, CT Local members Todd Vachon and Jim Marra joined Dan Piper of Connecticut Socialist Action in a "Debate the Socialist" event held during early February. Denise Abercrombie, the E.O. Smith faculty coordinator for the group, along with the dedicated student membership organized a lively forum during which the socialist perspective on the current economic crisis, access to health care and higher education, and the struggle of Palestinians in Gaza against Israeli oppression were presented. As an open public debate, there was much lively discussion of opposing viewpoints, especially those centering on events in the Middle East. The CT Local provided students with partly literature and website information.

The CT Local is also partnering with other like-minded activist groups and labor unions in a "Demand the Impossible" campaign. Actions are planned to oppose the corporate bailout engineered by both Capitalist parties, to demand the immediate cessation of residential foreclosures and evictions, and the gutting of much-needed social programs as a result of the Capitalist budgetary response to the state's economic crisis.

Finally, and as always, the CT Local is beginning initial planning for its annual participation in May Day festivities on the Green in New Haven.



*Newly founded Oklahoma local bringing socialism back to the mid west!*

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## NYC Local Report

The New York City local has been engaged in organizing against the budget cuts proposed by New York's Democratic Party Governor and Republican Mayor. The cuts threaten the city's healthcare, education and transportation systems and will result in the elimination of more than 30,000 public sector jobs. We organized a demonstration in front of the house of Mayor Mike Bloomberg, who is now the richest person in New York City. Many demands have been raised in this campaign including a call for a property tax on stocks and bonds, a stock transfer tax and a millionaires tax. This campaign has also worked well with our long-term organizing in support of the creation of a National Health Insurance Plan (HR 676). State and local governments currently bear a heavy financial burden through payments for public employees healthcare and Medicare. HR 676 would shift this liability to Federal Government freeing up vital funds for local programs.

We also continue to hold monthly film screenings and organized three showings of Howard Zinn's Marx in Soho starring SP-USA co-chair Jerry Levy (see picture above). We are currently planning for major marches on Wall Street in April and intend to continue our campaign against the budget cuts.

Email us at [socialistpartynyc@gmail.com](mailto:socialistpartynyc@gmail.com)



*Socialist sunflowers grow in Kansas.*

## **Socialist Says No to Florida Nukes**

*continued from p3*

company's 1.6 million consumers.

The reduction demonstrated the effectiveness of public dissent. Moore and others continue to call for government denial of all the nuclear power permits. The Brooksville hearing was a part of the company's attempt to gain official certification for laying transmission power lines through eight central Florida counties. This is a pre-condition for its efforts to gain state and federal government approval to construct the two new nuclear plants, side-by-side.

The two reactors would be an expansion of the Crystal River nuclear plant in nearby Citrus County. The two projects would be the 33rd and 34th nuclear plants proposed for new construction in the United States. There are presently 104 nuclear plants in operation in the country, and 404 worldwide. Since the Three-Mile Island (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) accident in 1979, there has been no new construction of nuclear reactors in the country. The Levy county project would certainly open the door for a slew of new nuclear construction projects.

Moore continued in the socialist tradition of calling for the phasing out of all nuclear power, and banning the export of nuclear technology and weapons. He offered the solution of municipal ownership and local democratic control as part of developing a rational plan for using the nation's limited natural resources.

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## **Socialists Confront the Economic Crisis**

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While opposing the bailout of insolvent corporations, we also call for programs that will provide support to, and help empower individuals, families, and working people as a whole to take power away from the corporate powers that be.

We support building millions of units of low-density, high-quality, low-cost housing. We support a federally funded socialized healthcare system that would eliminate health insurance companies and be controlled by locally elected community health committees.

We support elimination of anti-worker laws such as the Taft-Hartley Act and the right of all workers, including public employees, to strike, and to organize through card check.

We support laws that would encourage the creation of worker-owned and worker-run institutions.

We support massive investment in mass-transit and alternatives to fossil fuels.

And finally we call for the immediate withdrawal of all troops from both Iraq and Afghanistan (including thousands of national guard troops which have been taken away from their families and jobs to fight overseas), slashing our military budget by at least 50%, and establishing a steeply graduated federal income tax system.

The above actions are first steps that would improve working people's lives, bring the thousands of troops overseas home, raise hundreds of millions of dollars for education and social services, and take the tax burden off of low and moderate income individuals and families.

The only solution to the current economic crisis is to move quickly to a socialist society, a society based on cooperation, equality and justice, where the means of production in their entirety are taken into public ownership and are controlled by their workers and the communities in which they are located. As democratic socialists, we stand ready to work with everyone who shares this perspective.

Passed by the National Committee 1/25/09

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## **- SHABBY BLUES -**

"Shabby and Blue" hosted Liberty Union and SPUSA candidates including Brian Moore. So join "Shabby and Blue" every Tues. 8:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. worldwide at <http://11radio.alienlove.com>, or <http://www.spoxtalk.com> for subversive music, comedy, commentary, and wierd news with audience call-in, email, and studio guests.

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