

THE ORGANIZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL OFFICE

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009

Statement on the Financial Crisis

By the National Committee of the SPUSA

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".

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International Women's Day



International Women's Day is about power: theirs and ours. Their power puts courts and legislatures in charge of whether or not a woman can have an abortion. Our power leaves this decision where it belongs: with the woman herself. Their power dictates a profit-driven "managed care" health care system, at

the service of the health insurance industry and transnational pharmaceutical companies. Our power lies in grassroots organizing, for a national system of universal health care under community control.

Their power rests in greedy corporations owned by an ultra-wealthy few that deplete the world's resources and exploit its people. Our power depends on building a mass movement for a new society rooted in cooperation, equality, and workers' control.

Their power dumps toxic waste sites in our poorest communities-of-color, and builds dams that destroy the livelihoods of countless farmers in our poorest countries. Our power demands environmental justice. Their power busts unions. Our power is at our worksites, talking with our co-workers about the connections between workers' rights, human rights, and women's rights. Their power is "welfare reform" that pushes women into low-paid, dead-end jobs, and their children into inadequate child care. Our power is the fight for the creation of good jobs with pay equity and benefits, and the full funding of quality child care, education, and social services.

Their power dupes young men and women into signing away their rights and often their lives for the sake of U.S. imperialism. Our power gets the word out on alternatives to "jobs" in the military and calls for huge cuts in the military budget. Their power blames hunger and poverty on over-population. Our power blames hunger and poverty on policies and practices consciously designed to protect and enrich the global capitalist class, in particular the agribusiness of the most developed countries.

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Financial Crisis continued...

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.

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.

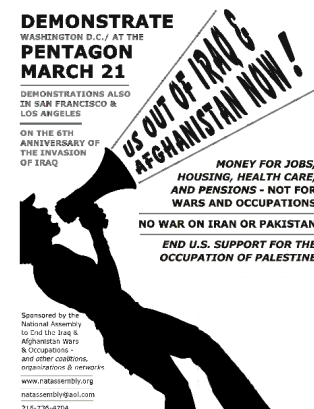
And finally we call for the immediate withdrawal of all troops from both Iraq and Afghanistan (including thousands of national guard troops which have been taken away from their families and jobs to fight overseas), slashing our military budget by at least 50%, and establishing a steeply graduated federal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

March 21- March on the Pentagon!



Join the Socialist Party on March 21, 2009 as we join tens of thousands of other anti-war activists in Washington DC to mark the 6th anniversary of the latest war and occupation of Iraq.

There will also be regional demos organized in San Francisco, Chicago and other cities.

The Socialist Party has endorsed the call for a mass mobilization and will have a contingent at the mobilization.

For information on the Socialist Party contingent check out the SPUSA March 21st Mobilization webpage at: www.socialistparty-usa.org/march21.html, e-mail the N.O. at natsec@socialistparty-usa.org or call the National Office at 212-982-4586.



International Women's Day continued...

Their power gets channeled through politicians whose primary allegiance is to the economic requirements of global capitalism. Our power gets exerted through political action completely independent of both mainstream, capitalist parties. Their power resides in exploitation, inequality, domination, violence, and deception. Our power resides in cooperation, compassion, respectful communication, justice, and collective action.



March 8th -- International Women's Day-- is our day. It's our opportunity to come together to speak out for a world where democratic socialist feminist values and programs enable people to live lives in ways they never will be able to under capitalism and patriarchy. That's the truth. That's our power.

Help distribute *Socialist Women*, purchase a bundle from the National Office. \$20 for 50 copies/ \$30 for 100. Send check money order payable to "SPUSA" 339 Lafayette St. #303 NY, NY 10012

The SPUSA Welcomes New Locals!

The National Committee recently chartered the following Locals:

Memphis Socialist Party Socialist Party of Kansas

-including the Northern Kansas and South Kansas Locals

Welcome to the Party!!

We also are happy to announce that Socialist Party members held an organizing meeting in Oklahoma City and we hope to have a new Local there soon!

We encourage at-large members to organize locals in their area.

To organize a Local, you need:

- Five members in good standing in an area
- Election of Chair, Secretary & Treasurer
- Approval of the National Committee

If you'd like to organize a local in your area, we can help. E-mail the National Office at: natsec@socialistparty-usa.org

SOCIALIST NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Socialist Party USA Campaign Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 15342, Boston, MA 02215
www.vote-socialist.org -- info@vote-socialist.org

Join Socialist Party Commissions!

Below are the e-mail contacts for the SPUSA Commissions. If you do not have e-mail call the National Office at 212-982-4586 or write us at 339 Lafayette St. #303 NY, NY 10012 and we'll get you in touch with Commission organizers.

Women's Commission- Susan Dorazio, chair
e-mail: susandor@crocker.com

Queer Commission- Amber Clifford, chair
e-mail: amayfaire@hotmail.com

International Commission- Eric Chester, chair
e-mail: susandor@crocker.com

People of Color Commission: Erik Toren, chair
e-mail: ectoren@sbcglobal.net

Faith & Socialism Commission: Paul Werner, chair
e-mail: pwerner@socialistparty-usa.org

Special Edition of Hammer & Tongs this Spring: What Should be the Party's Role in the Anti-War Movement?

The National Committee agreed to put out a special issue of the Party's internal discussion bulletin "Hammer & Tongs" this spring and the topic will be "What should be the Socialist Party's role in the anti-war movement?".

We encourage members to submit articles of up to 1500 words on the topic. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2008.

Send your articles by e-mail to natsec@socialistparty-usa.org with a clear subject line "H&T submission". If you want to send a hard copy, please send single-space submissions to the National Office- SPUSA 339 Lafayette St. #303 NY, NY 10012. We encourage contributions to cover the cost of printing.

H&T should be in your mailbox by May 1, 2009.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2009 SPUSA National Convention

October 9-11, 2009

Gateway Hilton, Newark

Updated info. including deadlines, requirements, registration, etc. will be posted at:
www.socialistparty-usa.org/convention/

New Dues Payment Options

You can now pay your membership in monthly, quarterly or semi-annual installments.

If it is easier for you to pay you to renew your membership by making monthly, quarterly or semi-annual payments, we can help you set up a payment plan. Splitting up dues payments is sometimes easier than one dues payment once a year and provides a more steady stream of funds for Party work.

To maintain your subscription your full membership payment must be completed by your expiration date.

To maintain your "good standing" status your payment must be completed no later than 6 months after your expiration date.

We can also re-set your expiration date based on your payment schedule. Please contact the National Office so we can update our records and make sure your local and state organization is contacted with this new information.

More info: www.socialistparty-usa.org/altduespayment.html

Check Out SPUSA Merchandise!

You can find t-shirts, buttons, books and more on our merchandise webpage.



www.socialistparty-usa.org/merchandise/

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