

FASCISM : *The Cost America Cannot Afford !*

The working class demands for
the 1976 contract negotiations



*Labor unrest was frequent.
In Baltimore, the militia
fired at crowd of strikers
and bystanders, killing 10.*

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(**draft pamphlet**)

COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY

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A remarkable meeting took place last November. Thomas A. Murphy, Chairman of the Board of General Motors Corporation spoke before the Economic Club of New York. The purpose of Mr. Murphy's speech was to present a blueprint, a course of battle, for the capitalist class that he represents in the upcoming contract negotiations involving over 4.5 million workers in the United States of North America. He spoke to industrialists, bankers and corporation chairmen, who privately own the factories, mines and mills that we collectively labor in 40, 50, 60 and even 70 hours a week. These capitalists are organized and have their plan ready and it is clear they want to increase productivity without increasing employment, without increasing wages and benefits, and without maintaining health and safety precautions. Their plan is part of a growing fascist drive to attack national minority workers, women workers and push the entire working class down to the barbaric conditions of German military fascism of the 1930's. The Ku Klux Klan rallies in the South; a Nazi runs for mayor of Milwaukee; the Equal Rights Amendment is attacked in Michigan; Mexican workers are deported in the Southwest and at Great Lakes Steel; 26 men are murdered in a mine explosion in Kentucky just weeks ago. Are these events unrelated? Are they isolated? NO. Murphy's speech was entitled the "Cost America Cannot Afford". Fellow workers, these fascist attacks and not Murphy's plans are the cost America cannot afford!!! We will defeat their plans by taking the State apparatus (courts, police, government) that enforces the capitalist's private ownership and fascist policies. We will destroy it and build a new socialist state based on the needs of the vast majority and not on profits for a handful. Now we, the working class, must have our own plan!!

Our purpose here is to expose Murphy and his class for what they are-- fascist parasites who are planning to force us to produce ourselves to death for their profits. The Communist Labor Party, fighting to represent only the interests of decent, honest, working people, present back to the capitalist class our demands in the 1976 negotiations and our revolutionary aspirations to end their private ownership of the means of production--to end their class distatorship over every waking moment of our lives.

MURPHY + PRODUCTIVITY = FASCISM

Facts are stubborn things. The following quotes come directly from Murphy's speech:

"As the negotiations of 1976 approach, those who sit at the bargaining tables, and the American people who will be affected by the

outcome, must recognize that a rising level of national productivity is the basis--the only basis--for a rising standard of national well-being. This is a fundamental fact of economic life that all must recognize and act upon. When compensation per man hour rises significantly more than output per man hour, then unit costs are inflated and great pressure is put on prices and profitability."
(Thomas A. Murphy)

In the 1930's Adolph Hitler, the fascists' puppet, said this:

"It has been the iron principle of the National Socialist leadership (The NAZI Party) not to permit any raise in the hourly wage but to raise income solely by an increase in performance." (Hitler)

In 1974, we were hit with severe layoffs. Why? Because increased productivity under capitalism only leads to overproduction. The capitalist cannot escape this because their only guiding law is to maximize profit. Capitalism demands expansion, investment of the huge amount of value we, the working class, produce. Again, Murphy makes it clear:

"In short, for our country and its people, no profits mean no growth, no profits means no new jobs, and no profits means no progress."
(Murphy)

NO, Mr. Murphy, you capitalists are caught in your own contradiction and we will not rescue you. We know that your growth means enslavement of Spanish, Philippine, South African, South Korean, Mexican, Brazelian and Chilean workers. We know that the more we produce for you and your class, the sooner we are laid off. The "progress" you speak of is just the opposite. In fact, your drive leads to barbarism, fascism and war. You would want to progress--to use the unemployed of this country as common fodder to expand your capitalist markets by destroying our fellow workers in socialist countries. Why socialist countries? Because the progressive drive toward socialism in the world is shrinking your markets--is shrinking your imperialist domination of the world. In the Soviet Union, for example, wages have been increased, while prices have been decreased. Capitalists don't like that. Because how can the capitalist class make their profits in socialist countries when the prices of products decrease as wages for the workers increase? Murphy and his class know this. And their only solution is war. Only through war do they have any hope of capturing and enslaving more of the population of the world.

NO Murphy. OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT, for we, the working class, are the majority and we will not stand silent under the dictatorship of the minority.

And what does Murphy and the most fascist, reactionary section of the capitalist class he represents say about how to increase productivity, while reducing costs?

"For years the motto of organized labor was said to be the single word, MORE. It has not changed, but now we also hear the talk of LESS--not less wages, not less benefits, but less work, shorter work days, shorter work weeks. This won't wash. The public will see--MUST SEE (is that a threat, Murphy?) that less work, not balanced by increased productivity, really means more cost. And more cost is what America cannot afford."

(Murphy)

In Nazi Germany one of the first effects of the "new economic strategy" was the increase in productivity. The working day was lengthened for both manual and white collar workers. The 60 hour week became the rule. Substantial groups of workers labored for 72 and 84 hours per week. An official "collective agreement" actually existed which provided for a 104-hour week in some power stations. The German worker not only labored for many hours, but the machines were speeded-up and no new technical improvements were made.

That was Germany in the 1930's. In the U.S.N.A. in March, 1976, a worker at the Sterling plant brought a piece of defective equipment to the foreman. The foreman sent over the repairman who had no time nor the necessary tools to repair the machinery. When the worker again brought back the still ill-functioning equipment to the foreman, the foreman threw it at the worker and broke his leg. German fascism 1930? NO. Sterling plant, U.S.N.A., 1976!! Not only is it cheaper for the capitalist to work a man or woman to death rather than repair and build better machines, but our health and safety is physically attacked when the glaring contradiction between more profits for the capitalists and better working conditions for the working class is posed. Just recently numerous studies have indicated that the chemicals and other hazards faced by women working in hospitals, beauty parlors and factories may account for an increasing number of the tens of thousands of miscarriages and birth defects that occur each year in the U.S.N.A. (New York Times, 3/14/76). The capitalists murder and cripple us in their wars and they murder and cripple us in their factories. Why? Because it's more profitable. In 1969-71, the gross private investment in plant and equipment in the U.S.N.A. was the lowest in the capitalist world. (Council on International Economic policy). The LOWEST. The riches of the capitalist class come from our labor and from the risks we face in old, unsafe factories.

Murphy, too, has a plan to deal with fringes and health and safety. His contempt for the working class is blatant.

"Fringes indeed. Last year GM paid on behalf of its employees in the U.S. and Canada alone fringe benefits totaling \$2.5 billion, nearly \$1 billion of this for employee insurance premiums alone. . . American management, no less than American labor,

must waken to and act upon a basic truth: only as we improve the output of an hour's labor can we prudently increase the compensation which labor has earned. You can't get something for nothing. Everything carries a cost." (Murphy)

That's right Murphy, "you can't get something for nothing," and GM no more "gives" us our fringe benefits than you have ever done an honest, productive day's labor in your life. Those fringes, like our wages, come from the value that only we produce and our fight for it. And yes, again Murphy, "everything carries a cost," and the cost you propose in your drive for speed-up is our health and safety--our lives!!

First, productivity. According to the National Commission on Productivity, productivity in the U.S.N.A. has been on the rise. In fact, from 1947 to 1972, productivity in the manufacturing industry has more than doubled. In 1947 the output per man-hour was \$54.80, while in 1972, it was \$119.10 per worker, per hour. (1967=\$100; this means that the figures quoted are real dollars, i.e., they account for inflation).

Second, health and safety. The total number of accidents in German industry increased between 1932-1938 by over 100%. The accident rate per 1,000 workers rose from 34 in 1932 to 60 in 1938. Foreign workers were slaves. Women were made prostitutes for "reproduction". Workers, housed in concentration camps, could not leave their jobs. Trade unions were smashed. Social insurance, welfare, health insurance were nil. And today? 14,000 workers are killed annually on the job and 25 million are injured. Mexican workers are herded up in buses and deported (many times without getting their wages). Women workers are suffering lay offs the heaviest, particularly national minority women. Blue Cross is threatening to cut out insurance coverage to "high risk" patients and welfare spending is being slashed. Simply put, those of us left working are being driven to the point of exhaustion, our health and safety more gravely attacked, while the mass of unemployed fellow workers are facing intolerable cut-backs and police harassment.

Murphy's closing statement is a true gem.

"Like my predecessor in GM, I believe with Woodrow Wilson that 'Labor is not a commodity, but a form of cooperation.'" (Murphy)

And once again, the opposite is true. Do we sell cars? Do we sell trucks, steel, rubber or electronics? NO, we sell the only thing we have--our labor power. And, Mr. Murphy, our commodity, our sweat and blood to make you rich will NOT cooperate with your fascist plans.

THE PROGRAM OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY

The facts have been laid bare and truly correspond to our experience. Where 6 men and women used to work there are now 3 or 4 and yet we are producing more than ever before. The 40 hour work week is not only a myth but damn near impossible to survive on. Line speed increases and correspondingly

health and safety decrease. Discipline is rampant, arbitrary and violently enforced against us. Product mix is a joke as one hard car after another rolls down the line.

This is what Murphy and the capitalist class want more of. This is what they want us to cooperate with!!

NO, Murphy. We will not. We will fight for your finish, not ours. And we will fight with the leadership of revolutionary party for socialism. Socialism is ours, the workers collective ownership of the factories and machines that now enslave us. Socialism is production organized for our human needs and development. Socialism takes vile war making destructive production and transforms it into production for decent housing; free and universal health care; quality, long-lasting, non-polluting transportation--all of this under safe and healthy working conditions. Socialism recognizes the differences between men and women and therefore guarantees women's equality in production. Socialism liberates nations and ensures equality of national minorities on the job, in the unions and in the community. Socialism is a safe, productive job for everyone with peace. Socialism is the dictatorship of the working class that ends the minority dictatorship of the capitalists who treat us like animals; make us appendages of their machines and death statistics in industrial and mining accidents.

This task is pressing upon us. In these contract negotiations, we must draw the line. We shall raise our own anti-fascist demands. Murphy is a criminal. If a thief were to come into your home, would you "cooperate" and organize your possessions to give to him or would you get a weapon to protect yourselves? NO, Mr. Murphy, we will not cooperate with your theft of our labor power, robbery of our health, murder of our standard of living and rape of our rights.

We demand a contract that fights for:

1. NO SPEED-UP
2. STRICK ENFORCEMENT OF THE 35 HOUR WORK WEEK
3. HIGHER WAGES AND FREEZE ON PROFITS
4. GUARANTEED SAFE AND HEALTHY WORKING CONDITIONS

These and all the demands of the working class must be raised in every arena available. The Communist Labor Party is currently engaged in a campaign to get the CLP on the Ballot in Michigan. To do this, to give the workers a voice, we must organize ourselves to get 50,000 signatures of registered voters in Michigan. Nationally: funds, statements of support, letters exposing conditions workers outside of Michigan face are all necessary. We know a representative in the State legislature will not end the capitalist nature of government. But we also know that we must have a broader platform for our class' demands, a party that will alert us to the State's plans of attack, and prepare us for the final battle for jobs, peace, equality fully attainable under socialism. GET THE CLP ON THE BALLOT!!

"The line stops here" (Murphy)