

RALLY, COMRADES!

VOLUME 17, EDITION 4 – July/August 2007

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League's Mission Key to Revolution

“Tens of thousands of socially conscious people are revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League's mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem.”

—Program of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, 2007

The mission of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America is at the heart of the new League Program approved at its 6th Convention in April, 2007. There are many missions in any battle. But, there is only one grand mission. It states the overall purpose of an organization. It describes what you do. Without a mission, there can be neither unity of action nor achievement of our ultimate goal. That goal is to change the American economy, from one based on a system of private property to one based on public property.

DETERMINING THE LEAGUE'S MISSION

How did the League decide on its mission? Our starting point was an assessment of the real world. Today changes in the way society produces the necessities of human life are destroying the old industrial economy and creating the material conditions for a new communist society. Such a society is finally possible because, for the first time in history, an objective, practical movement for communism is arising. The qualitatively new, electronic means of production are eliminating human labor and creating a new class of propertyless people who will not find work under the capitalist system. They are demanding food, housing and medical care without the money to pay for it. Their demands cannot be met under capitalism. Once this new class becomes conscious, it has the power to overturn the old order and create a new society in its own image.

Communists have always led militant movements for reform goals, but – until now – the communist movement has been only an ideological or subjective movement. As long as industrial production was still developing, reforms were possible. Today, however, industrial production is coming to an end because of production with robots and other electronic technology. Therefore the reforms that people are fighting for today – whether for health care and housing, for women's equality, or for an

end to racism – will be the byproduct of revolution. Only through a revolution that has as its goal the ending of a system based on private property in favor of communal property can those further reforms be won.

LINE OF MARCH AND THE LEAGUE'S MISSION

Mission is not someone's good idea. Mission arises out of an analysis of the situation we face in combination with an understanding of where the revolutionary process is headed. The communist movement is the motion of the vast majority in the interests of that majority. The line of march of the revolution is from the scattered economic struggles to the political struggle of that class for power. The long-range goal is the establishment of a communist political party of the class as it reaches that stage of development. Such a party would lead the conscious and uncompromising fight of the class for the attainment of political power.

The objective conditions are ripening for revolution. Capitalism is coming to end, and a new social force is forming that has the potential to pull society toward a vision of a cooperative world. The danger, however, is that the masses are going into battle against the most powerful ruling class ever in history without any consciousness of their own class interests. The rulers are adjusting the form of the state. They are moving to crush any threat to private property. It is urgent that revolutionaries adjust their activities to this new reality. Our strategy is the development of the consciousness of the class. That class must come to understand that its goals can only be secured if it achieves political power as a class.

With this long range perspective in mind, we can see that the first step is to get the revolutionaries together who can play an instrumental role in that process. It is possible today to unite the practical movement for communism with the conscious movement for communism. United, they create a powerful and unstoppable force for a new society. To do this, the revolutionaries need a scientific understanding of the revolution. We are attempting to educate and assemble a broad core of revolutionaries who can play a role in guaranteeing that such a party, when it forms, becomes what it needs to be, and that it stays on course. Achieving our mission will represent the com-

pletion of an essential quantitative stage of the revolution.

TACTICS TO ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

We recognize that we are working within a contradictory situation to achieve our mission. What we have in our favor is that the changes in the economy are creating tens of thousands of revolutionaries who are butting up against private property and the state, and who are coming to recognize that the capitalist system has to change. On the other hand, the ruling class has, over a long period of time, made the American people think that communism is a political rather than an economic system and therefore is not a viable solution. The revolutionaries we are trying to reach do not have a scientific understanding of revolution. This compounds the problem. Our mission aims to bridge this gap.

The League is beginning to grow in places where the objective conditions are creating a certain social consciousness of who the enemy is, and where League members are struggling to implement our mission. As we do this, some tactical lessons are being learned.

The first lesson is that comrades must have a mission before entering the battlefield. Once we enter a struggle, we accept the movement as it is, uniting with the fight people are engaged in. We don't have to direct the motion. It is already heading toward a confrontation with private property. At the same time, we know that the practical struggle cannot create class consciousness. Therefore, we connect with the levels of consciousness in a particular struggle in order to, step by step, provide the missing link that the revolutionaries who are leading these fights need: mission, strategy, tactics, vision, and organization.

Through this style of work, the League is unifying a growing core of revolutionaries on the basis of their practical demands and, at the same time, setting the conditions for the introduction of the subjective understanding of revolution. This is crucial because without a large core of conscious revolutionaries, the class cannot proceed to the next stage of creating its own political party.

The second lesson involves how we are initially connecting with revolutionaries. Our propaganda is the link between the objective side of our mission, which aims to unite revolutionaries who are fighting for practical demands, and the subjective side, which aims to educate them on class perspective and vision. Revolutionaries in a fight need to break the isolation of their struggle. They do this by taking our propaganda, which stands on the practical demands of the class, deep into the nooks and crannies of America, using it to connect up with new revolutionaries. Because our propaganda brings a class perspective and vision, revolutionaries get politicized in the process of reading, writing, speaking and distributing those materials. *Rally, Comrades!* provides political orientation to the revolutionaries and aids in their consolidation.

In summary, we are constructing an organization for this stage of the revolution while recognizing future stages. Now that the League has agreed on its mission, organization determines everything. Today, every League member must have an assignment to carry out the mission in a defined area of work and begin gathering experience on implementing the mission. Everything the League does today – from the creation of its propaganda and educational apparatuses, to its internal meetings and public gatherings – must be directed toward accomplishing the mission of the League and building the organization in the process.

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Growing Social Awareness Opens the Way for Revolutionary Work

The world is changing. Sometime in 2008, Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim is expected to become the very richest of the world's 800 billionaires, moving up from his current position close behind Bill Gates. Toyota recently surpassed GM as the world's leading carmaker. China replaced the United States as Japan's biggest trade partner and became the United States' second biggest trade partner. Financial speculators invest in the debt of bankrupt manufacturing companies. Capitalism in the age of the new digital technology produced a hundred new billionaires last year; three billion people, nearly half the world, lived on less than \$2 per day.

The world is changing radically and

rapidly. One of the most critical consequences of these changes is a low rumbling awareness in the U.S. This is not a politically clear awareness. Nor is it particularly well articulated. It is scattered, uneven, and tentative. What is significant is that it reveals a key weakness of the capitalist class in the U.S. – its growing inability to maintain the façade and lie of the unity of interests of all classes.

We revolutionaries greet this rising and widening awareness as an opportunity to carry out our political responsibilities. Revolutionaries who are rooted in the struggles over daily traumas, life-changing layoffs, and local school closings can politicize this awakening. From the standpoint of the actual demands of the class expelled by the economy and abandoned by the government, revolutionaries can unite people with the actual resolution to their problems.

At the root of all these problems and battles is the basic reality that an economic system organized for the profit of the few off of the exploitation of the many cannot solve the problems of a new class whose labor has been replaced by robotics. Only the cooperative, communist reorganization of society with the common, public ownership of the means of production can meet the demands of this new class, and stop the destruction tearing through society as a whole.

This reality guides the work of revolutionaries. Therefore, we assess the rising and widening awareness, identify the strategically decisive points at which to connect, and focus our work to develop consciousness and build the League.

NEW AWARENESS, NEW POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Wider and wider sections of the population are becoming aware that something is seriously wrong – not just with their lives, but with society as a whole. They may not understand the exact reasons why, but they know that the war is a lie and U.S. soldiers and Iraqi people are dying – for the corporations, not for democracy. They may not understand what to do about it, but they know that they cannot get medical care and that the people of the U.S. Gulf Coast got no protection from Hurricane Katrina. They know the government protects the needs and private property of the corporations.

Today's scattered awakenings all express the growing anti-corporate sentiment and the realization that these problems are not temporary. This awareness expresses the end of economic stability for millions of U.S. workers. That stability provided the material basis for national unity, that is, the sense of com-

mon interests between the U.S. capitalist class and the U.S. working class that provided the foundation for the way the capitalist class ruled. With daily reports of massive lay-offs and more casualties in Iraq, we are beginning to see the erosion of the base of strength of the capitalist class and the erosion of the foundation for their old method of rule. At every turn, people face the immediate choice: Either the consolidation of the power of the corporations over society, or the power of society over the corporations.

As more people struggle for the basic necessities of life, a consciousness of their class interests is the greatest danger to capitalist rule. The ruling class will try to prevent the people from understanding their class interests and act-

Revolutionaries rooted deep in the actual struggles can show that the demands of these struggles can only be met if people have the political power to do so. Turning the private property of the corporations into public property and using the abundance that can be produced to benefit the people of the world becomes clear as a real solution to real problems.

ing on them. From the ruling class, we will hear calls for unity – unity against terrorists, unity against illegal immigration, unity against crime. But the real issue is: Which class benefits from these calls? Capitalism cannot afford to answer that question.

In the climate of the national elections, the gravitational pull of presidential "politics" will be strong. Politics has long been equated in the American mind with voting and lobbying elected officials. But politics is more than elections; it is the struggle for power – to keep it or to get it.

Today, more and more people know that the corporations have all the clout –

the political power to get what they need. As they feel the polarization of wealth, millions of Americans are also becoming aware of the intensifying polarization of power – that our government is actually of, by, and for the corporations. Every specific struggle confronts the naked rule of corporate power – a state that will go to any lengths to protect the capitalist system.

The keystone in the arch of ideology and organization that ties the workers politically to the capitalists is the Democratic Party. In 2004 and 2006 many serious activists, reacting to the crimes of the Bush administration, threw themselves into political activity supporting national Democratic candidates. In some arenas of struggle, discussion is still often focused on how to get Democrats to move on critical issues. But the country does not have to wait until 2008 for the sense of betrayal by the Democratic Party to set in. People already feel the Democratic Party is betraying them on the war and abandoning them as new laws and executive orders demolish the constitution and basic civil liberties.

Anger and loss does not automatically become political consciousness. Disillusionment with the corporate-controlled two-party system does not automatically lead to a class perspective. Scattered struggles do not automatically coalesce into a broad movement for change. Without an independent organizational center for class interests and agitation, isolated organizations will continue to operate around their individual agendas. Struggles to build such a center are continually undermined by a reliance on old ideas and old forms of struggle.

Unless and until people understand the cause of their problems and embrace the solution, there will always be the danger of misdirection. Candidates and pundits are fine-tuning their attempts to aim the awakening anger against immigrants in the U.S. and against the people of various countries abroad. The ruling class recognizes that the economic foundation for their hold over the American people is weakening. They have the resources to misdirect the growing anger of the American people into a mass base for a fascist movement.

TASKS OF REVOLUTIONARIES

The base of strength of the capitalist class is the lie of the unity of interests of opposing classes. The critical crack in this base – the capitalist class's inability to maintain this lie – presents some important openings for revolutionary work.

At this moment, the widening aware-

EDITORIAL POLICY

Rally
to bring back together and put in
a state of order, as retreating
troops [to return to attack]

Comrade
a person with whom one is allied
in a struggle
or cause

In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for the revolutionaries by indicating and illuminating the line of march of the revolutionary process. It presents a pole of scientific clarity to the conscious revolutionaries, examines and analyzes the real problems of the revolutionary movement, and draws political conclusions for the tasks of revolutionaries at each stage of development in order to prepare for future stages.

It is a vehicle to reach out and communicate with revolutionaries both within the League and outside of the League to engage them in debate and discussion and to provide a forum for these discussions. Articles represent the position and policies of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

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ness is concentrated in the industrial Rust Belt of the Midwest – where massive layoffs have devastated what used to be the industrial and ideological heartland of an expanding economy. But the anger, disillusionment, and outrage are widening to the small towns across the country that grieve for a disproportionate number of soldiers dying in Iraq. It is spreading to communities across the country where local fights for education or clean water expose the new regime of the corporate control over every natural resource and public function of society. Laid off autoworkers understand they will never recover their old way of comfortable living – or even basic health care coverage.

Anger at the corporations as the enemy is growing, but people need more than anger. They also need a sense of who they are and what they are for. The ever-present corporations present the opening to politicize that anger and develop a sense of identity and interests as a class opposed to the corporations and the whole capitalist class.

The anger, moral outrage, and sense of urgency also open up the possibility to take the thinking outside the box and envision something qualitatively different – to quit the politics of begging and take up the politics of class. Revolutionaries rooted deep in the actual struggles – the messy, street-level struggles –

can show that the demands of these struggles can only be met if people have the political power to do so. Turning the private property of the corporations into public property and using the abundance that can be produced to benefit the people of the world becomes clear as a real solution to real problems.

In order to take advantage of these openings, revolutionaries have to critically evaluate their style of work. An historical context is the starting point. As long as the capitalist system was expanding, it could meet the needs of the majority and rely on their passivity in order to rule the whole country. The best that revolutionaries could do was to group themselves around a set of ideas and beliefs and try to convince other people. As long as the goals of revolutionaries were different from the actual life-and-death needs of the vast majority of the American working class, that style of work was the only route possible.

Things are different today. Every specific problem people are reacting to expresses the fundamental transformation at the foundation of society – and the fact that capitalism cannot feed people whose labor it does not need. Every struggle for what people need is blocked by a state that is shamelessly in the hands of the corporations that profit off war and destruction. Therefore, revolu-

tionaries can meet the growing awareness on very specific fronts. Today people need real answers to real problems.

The tasks of revolutionaries flow from how revolutions happen. Revolution is neither a single moment nor the product of the thinking of revolutionaries. It is the process whereby society reacts to and ultimately resolves the problems caused by something qualitatively new that disrupts its old way of functioning. Revolution begins when society is disrupted, but it is not complete until a different class has the political power to reorganize society. Therefore, the first step is breaking the stranglehold of the class enemy's way of thinking and ushering in the new thinking. In order to defeat what is standing in their way, people need to be able to envision something fundamentally different and how to get the power to achieve that vision.

Revolutionaries cannot accomplish this if they proceed from the standpoint of a separate set of ideas and beliefs isolated from what people are experiencing and thinking. This is not to say that revolutionaries throw their scientific and political understanding out the window. It means that we start from the actual demands of the class expelled by the economy and abandoned by the government. It means we assess the demands, anger, sense of betrayal and loss – in

whatever forms they present themselves – in order to put them back out in a way that leads from the perceptions, toward the actual resolution. As we establish an active relationship with the revolutionaries trying to develop the thinking of the people on a specific front, we can build a League organization deeply rooted in the fiber of American society.

Revolutionaries approach their tasks with the sense that what we do makes a difference. Whether in Russia or France or elsewhere – by different routes and in different forms – the discontent with the current situation is being steered into a growing nationalism – with all the dangers that alarmed people on the eve of Hitler's rise. It's a different world today. The dangers of war and fascism today stand on a different foundation than they did before World War II, but the tasks are just as urgent and the stakes are even higher. U.S. revolutionaries shoulder a heavy responsibility.

As the voice of Tom Paine inspired the first American revolutionaries, as the voices of the abolitionists stirred the country almost a hundred years later, revolutionaries today can inspire the America people to reclaim their country and their lives.

Editorial: Making Strategy Work - Assess, Plan, Act

"He was to go for Lee, and I was to go for Johnston."

– General W.T. Sherman, 1864

With this brief statement, Sherman summarized the first step in the strategy that would eventually lead to the Union victory in the Civil War. Until then, the North – still believing it could make peace with slavery – had no coherent strategy to win the war against the Confederacy. It was the great contribution of U.S. Grant and William T. Sherman that they, step by step, shaped a coherent, grand strategy that organized all Union armies into one organization coordinated and clear on its task and directed by a common strategy that would break the back of the Confederacy. By 1864, many things made this possible. Key among them were an accurate assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy – finally unclouded by the hope of reconciling with the slave power – a careful and precise determination of the strategic points that lay along the path to the desired outcome, and a strategic plan that took the Union forces to victory.

We in the League can benefit from their example. The problem we face is this: What can revolutionaries do to develop the consciousness of our "army" – the rising new class – to enable it to become the force it must be to determine the outcome in its favor?

The articles in this issue of *Rally, Comrades!* examine this question. Revolutionaries must assess what they are facing and what tools they have at their disposal. The article "Understand change, influence its direction" discusses the concept of base and superstructure, illustrating its usefulness in developing an objective assessment of the forces in motion. It examines the inevitable path those forces must take as they are driven along by powerful transformative processes. With this assessment, revolutionaries can identify each stage of the process in order to understand what they must do each step of the way. This methodology allows us to constantly assess and evaluate our conclusions and to adjust our thinking and activities as necessary.

Once the overall assessment is determined, what is the next step? Our cover story, "League's mission key to revolu-

tion" explains that what the League must do next is based, first, on where the process is heading overall, and second, on an objective assessment of the environment in which we work at this stage in the revolution. If nothing can change without political power as a class, then how does the rising new class get political power? This class is just starting to experience the reality of its life. What must we do to assist in the process of teaching our class its true interests? How can we bring together those people who are leading the thousands of scattered struggles throughout the country in order to weld them into one common political fight? Mission answers these questions.

To carry out our mission we must focus our efforts, but where and how? We must understand the strengths and weaknesses of our class, as well as those of the ruling class. We must focus where the enemy class is weak, and avoid where they are strong. The article "Growing social awareness opens the way for revolutionary work" examines the strengths and weaknesses of both sides, and discusses the style and method of work that revolutionaries need to adopt to be effective given the current stage of development.

Nothing is truly inevitable, and no outcome is assured. It is the human mind and the human will that make the difference. By utilizing a scientific investigation of the world around us, iden-

tifying strengths and weaknesses of the enemy class and our own, and developing a strategic plan in accord with that assessment, revolutionaries can take the process, stage by stage, along the path to the ultimate goal for which generations have always longed – a peaceful, cooperative society.

Understand Change, Influence its Direction

The disastrous defeat of the Left in the recent French elections should serve as a wake up call to revolutionaries everywhere. The contradiction between the world's masses moving toward struggle against global corporate power and the political Left unable to take revolutionary positions has opened the door to the victory of the political Right.

The capitalist class doesn't have to "know" things in order to do what is good for itself. A decision that makes them money is a correct decision. Revolutionaries have no such practical guidelines. They cannot give leadership by opportunistically projecting temporarily popular ideas. They must understand what creates social motion and makes it move in a definite direction. They cannot guide the masses in these times of social and economic change without the proper understanding of the relationship of base to superstructure.

REVOLUTION IN ECONOMY OPENS WAY FOR CHANGE

Every social formation has an objective base. A community is the sum total of social, political and cultural relations. A community arises from and is based upon the economy – which is the sum total of the ways social wealth is produced and distributed. That economy's base is the sum total of the means of production. The community and the economy together make up what we call society. Entangled within and indispensable to society are the relations of production, or the way people relate to one another in the process of production. These relations can be slave and master, serf and nobility, wage-laborer and capitalist, or communal. Relations of production are determined by property relations. Property relations are either forms of privately owned, socially necessary means of production, or socially owned, socially necessary means of production.

A basic problem faced by revolutionaries arises from the contradiction that the property relations, from which all political struggles arise, cannot be quantified. That is, the property relations do not go through stages of development from private to public ownership. The productive forces, the economy, and the social superstructure that rests upon it do. Social struggle cannot be carried out within the property relations. It is carried out within the social superstructure, that is, within the systems, social institutions and ideas that arise on the economic base. Consequently most revolutionary movements begin and mature in the various quantitative stages

of social and economic development. In America, the last two stages were the organization of the workers into unions and the *de jure* completion of the struggle for African-American liberation.

Stages of development are definite. As these stages are completed and qualitative transformation begins, many revolutionaries are not able to move beyond the quantitative stage they matured within. At that point, the masses begin to desert a Left that rests comfortably on laurels won in the struggle for national liberation or the founding of unions while the real world moves on. This has happened in America, in Italy, in England, and now in France.

History shows us that the qualitative change in property relations – the goal of revolutionaries – cannot take place

We are again, under different circumstances, seeing the beginnings of a vast American revolution. Each stage of this process further disconnects base from superstructure. All this will become the school where the American people learn of class and class solidarity. This is where the people grasp the concept of revolution and a vision of a peaceful and abundant future.

without completing each quantitative stage in the development of society. Therefore, revolution is not a single act but a combination of developments in the means of production, in society, and in productive relations. That is, revolution in the means of production brings about destruction of the existing economy, which forces social destruction. This in turn brings about political revolution, which then completes the social revolution by reconstructing society on the basis of the new means of production, new property relations, and new productive relations. Revolutionaries who reject or forget this formulation do so at their peril.

U.S. HISTORY CONFIRMS PROCESS

American history before, during and immediately after the Civil War dramatically confirms this process. The political and ideological changes that marked the coming of the Civil War were based upon and preceded by profound changes in the American economy. The ending of the British blockade and the War of 1812 opened European markets to American goods. The growing cities in the Northeast were clamoring for foodstuffs and raw material. The explosion

of road and canal building made markets a hundred miles away accessible. The result was the rapid shift from subsistence agriculture in the Northwest to a market economy.

The invention of the cotton gin in 1794 brought about an increase in the slave trade. That in turn expanded the shipbuilding industry. The expansion of the market for lumber, iron, rough brogans, and the wherewithal of slave agriculture made the fledgling Northern manufacturing very dependent on the slave South. That economic dependency was expressed as political support for the slave system.

In 1808, the slave trade was abolished. This was not a moral decision. Slave breeding in the areas where the soil had been depleted was more profitable than importing slaves. Massachusetts, the main supporter and benefactor of the slave trade was thrown into turmoil as shipbuilding and shipping went into depression. Massachusetts turned from a pillar of support of slavery to its

try. Using its control of Congress, the Presidency, and the Courts, the South began blocking the development of economic infrastructure so necessary to the expansion of industry. Southern politicians refused to protect Northern industry by imposing tariffs on foreign imports. The clash of economic interests of the two sections of the country was expressed by a growing cultural, moral, and political hostility. The country was beginning to divide. It was clear to the North that the slave owners – the Slave Power – were the dominant, anti-democratic, irreconcilable, political force in the country.

In a powerful and celebrated speech given on January 25th, 1860, Henry Wilson, Senator of Massachusetts outlined the growth of that power.

"Sir, this expansion and growth of the system of African slavery, this development of the slave power, during the past seventy years, have wrought a ... change, a complete revolution, in the sentiments and opinions of the public men who control the councils of America. What a contrast between slavery in America in 1789 and slavery in America in 1860! Then it was weak; now it is strong. Then its influences over the nation were impotent; now it holds the Government in its iron grasp."

It was not clear to the opponents of the slave power, however, that it was slavery itself that gave the slaveholders their power.

CIVIL WAR TO UNITE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL POWER

most determined enemy. The linkage between morality and economics was embarrassingly clear.

Frederick Engels, in a dialectically beautiful statement, wrote that the development of the double-acting steam engine completed the journey from making fire with friction to making friction with fire. The new, powerful, reliable source of power allowed the capitalists to meet the expanding market in the North and begin to compete for the British-dominated luxury markets in the South.

The North, increasingly based on the advanced productive relationship of wage-labor and capital, became more urban and more bourgeois, with a rapidly expanding network of universities, factories and economic infrastructure dominated by an increasingly aggressive and wealthy class of industrial capitalists. The South, strapped by the most backward productive relation – slave and master – was unable to keep up. The introduction of slavery into its fledgling industries (Tredegar Iron Works had 900 slaves working in its foundries by 1861) could not resolve the contradiction.

The slave South, wealthier than the North, became concerned that the rapid accumulation of wealth by industry would threaten its control of the coun-

As the objective economic forces moved inexorably toward war, the subjective – the political forces – attempted reconciliation. Their common property relations – private property – held them together while their contradictory productive relations – wage labor versus slavery – drove them apart.

Had the North understood that the destruction of slavery was the historically strategic goal of the war, that war could have been won in a year. They did not understand this. Neither side could have raised an army to defend or overthrow slavery. The Northern General Staff made a halfhearted attempt to militarily defeat a friendly enemy without disturbing the social and economic foundations of their enemy's strength. The bungling, pro-slavery, pro-Union Northern military leadership could not escape the reality that economic and political power must be united. Economic power belonged to the North. Political power belonged to the South. They could not be united without the destruction of slavery – so the war ground on.

As the war entered its third bloody year, the North had to accept that only by denying the South its base of strength could it be defeated. The Emancipation Proclamation changed the character of the war. Two hundred thou-



became the driving force behind the birth of what the Northern monopolies termed "the American century."

UNITY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE CLASS

We are again, under different circumstances, seeing the beginnings of a vast American revolution. The emergence of new productive forces antagonistic to the existing industrial productive relations is wrecking the foundations of society as we have known it. Giant global corporations are replacing local and national companies. Wage-labor is re-

placed by computer-controlled robotic, wage-less production. Value, which is based on labor, is becoming disconnected from price, which is now set arbitrarily by global corporations.

Consequently, wealth and poverty polarize. Each stage of this process further disconnects base from superstructure.

The social destruction that we have seen in the past twenty-five years is only the beginning of the process. Homelessness will increase, education of working class youth will continue to decline, war will become part of the American way of life, health care will slip further and further from the grasp of

the poor. All this will become the school where the American people learn of class and class solidarity. This is where the people grasp the concept of revolution and a vision of a peaceful and abundant future. Let us shoulder our revolutionary responsibilities to bring this education and vision to the masses. Again, the die has been cast and there is no turning back.

sand African Americans joined the fight, tipping the balance in favor of the North. A new military leadership took over and developed a strategic plan to subdue the rebellion. General Tecumseh Sherman, who was no friend of the African-Americans, struck at the strategic base of the Confederacy, liberating more slaves than all the Union Armies combined. Rampaging through Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina his army, with the loss of only 600 troops, brought the Confederate States of the Deep South to their knees.

As the war ended, political and economic power were united on the basis of industry. Society expanded on its protected, united economic foundations. This unity of base and superstructure

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The Program of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America

The United States of America – indeed the entire world – is in the throes of epochal economic revolution. Transformation from electro-mechanical industry requiring human labor to operate gigantic means of industrial production to digitally controlled production requiring little or no human labor is the determining content of our time.

The qualitatively more efficient means of electronic production greatly lowers the cost of production of the basic necessities of life. This makes possible an economic paradise of abundance for all. Under capitalism, however, it leads to the falling price of labor power and fastens the chain of poverty, exploitation, and stultifying toil ever more tightly upon the worker.

Just as the steam engine created an industrial working class that replaced the existing manufacturing class, electronic production is creating a new class of workers. This new class consists of employed and unemployed sectors. The employed sector – the part-time, contin-

gency, below minimum wage workers – is already over a third of the work force. This employed sector of the class is constantly drawn into the growing unemployed sector that ranges from the structurally unemployed to the absolutely destitute, homeless workers.

The new class cannot solve its economic problems without the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need. For the first time an objective communist economic class is forming to become the foundation for a communist political movement.

Globalization creates this new class everywhere. Global unity is the condition of its national emancipation. The League extends its hand of comradeship around the globe.

Wage-less electronic production is antagonistic to capitalism, which is based on the buying and selling of labor power. This antagonism is economically, socially and politically polarizing society, making social and political

revolution inevitable. A new fascist state form, the naked rule of corporate power, is arising to oppose this motion. Society must take over these corporations or these corporations will take over society.

Tens of thousands of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League's mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem. The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, health care and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a co-operative society. Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

The new class must have political power to achieve these goals. In the ef-

fort to achieve this political power the League supports all political organizations and sections of society that fight against the growing poverty, social and ecological destruction, fascism and war.

In spite of worsening economic conditions, nothing can be accomplished until the American people hold a vision of where they want to go and what they want to be. Creating and imbuing them with such vision is the overriding task of revolutionaries and the foundation of our organization.

Destruction of the ecology, the growing threat of nuclear war and looming pandemics are calling the very existence of the human race into question. The battle is class struggle. The war is for the existence of humanity. We in the League face the future with confidence. We call upon all revolutionaries to abandon sectarian differences, to unite around the practical demands of the new class and to secure that imperiled future.