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Welcome marchers: Hope is stronger than hate!

By Jarvis Tyner



In their effort to win the Congress this year and the White House in 2012, the Republican Party and their tea party attack dogs are unashamedly promoting fear, racism, bigotry and red baiting. This has been the subtext of all of their rallies.

President Obama is one of the most capable and responsible leaders to occupy the White House. His policies have turned the resources of the federal government more towards the benefit of working people than any president since FDR.

This is the people's money: it should be used to help the people. Efforts to regulate Wall Street to cover the uninsured and extend unemployment compensation shows a compassion we have not seen coming from the White House for some time.

The president's policy in Iraq is now at the exit stage. He is promoting negotiation instead of war between the Palestinians and Israelis. The same is true with respect to Iran.

There is a planned exit from Afghanistan.

President Obama has said the military budget should be cut and the resources used to help the people.

From the point of view of the ongoing struggle to rid the nation of the scourge of racism it is a significant that these pro working-class policies are coming from the first African American presi-

dent.

We take exception to Obama's policies aimed at appeasing the right. His better policies often don't go far enough considering the depth of the crisis. However, with a broad coalition with a broad peoples movement pushing on the issues, the door to bigger gains can be opened.

It is this potential for change that is turning powerful sections of big business against Obama and driving the right wing to extremes.

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The tea party with big funds from people like the Koch brothers and an open mike on Fox News represent this extreme.

Sections of the the GOP think it has become the last hope for the their party to "bring down Obama." However, the struggle isn't over.

Hope is stronger than hate. The coalition that united and elected Obama and the new Congress is bigger and stronger than the GOP.

If the Congress ends up in the hands of the Republicans their “A Pledge to America” program will continue the Bush tax cuts to the rich. At a time when the opposite is needed, there will be drastic cuts in working-class entitlements.

With a GOP-led Congress we can expect an Arizona-style national racist attack on immigrant rights, and marriage equality. Anti-Muslim provocations will increase.

Abortion rights will be in their cross hairs

A double dip recession is also likely.

What else could happen if they have a majority? What atrocities will be carried out against any one who opposes them? They framed-up and destroyed ACORN. Like the criminals they are, these extremists tried to frame Shirley Sherrod in order to attack the NAACP as racist. There are signs that they are out to suppress the black vote in November. The ghost of Joe McCarthy is alive and well in their ranks. Who will the witch hunters be after next?

The November 2nd election is critical. And because of the use of racism, bigotry and anti

communism hysteria against the Democrats and the president, defeating them at the polls has become vital to saving the nation

Hope is stronger than hate. The coalition that united and elected Obama and the new Congress is bigger and stronger than the tea party /Republican/Libertarian right. Grass roots organizing came from the left not the right. They have the money but they do not have justice on their side.

There is no law that says the midterm elections have to always be a disaster for the majority party. This battle can be won. Black, brown, white, Native American Indian, Asian Pacific people united against racism, hypocrisy and hatred is a powerful thing. Labor, civil rights, women, youth, LGBT, peace activists and environmentalists united can win.

The march on October 2nd must lead to the voting booth in November. That is the path to progress.



Jarvis Tyner writes for the People's World.

Economic treason

By PW Editorial Board

Shutting down factories and destroying whole communities to move operations off shore in order to avoid living wages and labor and environmental regulation constitutes economic treason.

This form of economic treason is sometimes excused by some on the left with the argument that moving jobs overseas to underdeveloped countries helps develop a working class in those countries and is therefore progressive. And that fighting to keep jobs and factories here in the United States is protectionist. (Big business also loves the term “protectionist.”) But imperialism is largely based on the fact that capital flows (often with military help) to where it can make the highest profit. And higher profits are based on higher rates of exploitation and super exploitation and working-class misery. General Motors doesn't build factories in India and Indonesia because it's interested in development. Workers, in any country, fighting to save jobs and their communities are showing true economic patriotism and working class internationalism. Only the capitalists try

and pit worker against worker in a race to the bottom on wages, and living conditions.

Giant global corporations are not loyal to any country, no matter where they are headquartered. GM going bankrupt and getting a bail-out from our tax dollars was able to “protect” their huge profits and capital holdings around the world from creditors in the U.S. Yet at the same time they fight to avoid their fair share of taxes, or health and safety or any other kind of regulation here at home. And these giant transnationals trample on labor and human rights around the world.

Let's be clear, The economic traitors are a tiny handful of people who put corporate profits above the good of our country.

They are also the war profiteers, the union busters, and the hate mongers. The giant corporations and banks that use the economic crisis that they created to drive down wages, cut jobs and send millions into unemployment, poverty and misery, are truly guilty of “betrayal of a trust or confidence; breach of faith; treachery.”

Let's be clear: The economic traitors are a tiny handful of people who put corporate profits above the good of our country.

UAW backs restaurant workers

By John Rummel

For the past 10 months, the Restaurant Opportunities Center of Michigan (ROC-Michigan) and the Andiamo workers it represents, have picketed Dearborn's Andiamo restaurant weekly.

Now they have the full backing of the United Auto Workers which last Thursday called for a boycott of the restaurant. "We are asking the public to stay away from Andiamo until they treat their employees fairly," said Rory Gamble, director of UAW Region IA. "We believe anyone that patronizes this restaurant is indirectly contributing to the mistreatment and injustice of the workers."

Gamble made his remarks to the media outside the entrance to Andiamo. He, along with Sandra Williams, president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO and Pastor John Pitts Jr., president of Interfaith Workers for Justice, had come to the restaurant to express their concerns about how workers were being treated.

The union's call for a boycott follows last month's National Labor Relations Board ruling that found the restaurant had illegally cut the hours of, intimidated, and retaliated against servers and other restaurant workers in an effort to keep them from participating in a lawsuit and protest against workplace violations.

The lawsuit seeks \$125,000 in unpaid wages and asks for penalties for racial, nationality and gender discrimination. The theft of workers' wages was carried out through minimum wage violations, unpaid overtime, forcing workers to work "off the clock," and improper wage deductions.

Williams recalled the treatment of an Andiamo worker, a mother with young children, who was fired for her support of ROC. While protests forced the restaurant to bring her back, it was with a shortened workweek which did not allow her to support her family.

"We want them to be fairly treated," Williams



said of the workers. "We are going to make sure when people work overtime, they are paid the overtime pay they are supposed to have."

Like Williams, Pastor Pitts has been on the picket lines for almost a year. "We have prayed, we have marched in the snow and rain, we have picketed," he said. "We are not going away until these workers receive the justice that they deserve."

"We went in today and we were given the blanket promise they [the management] would speak to us," Pitts said. "At this point no one has come out. It is our prayer and our desire that they don't lie down and sleep comfortably tonight until they address these issues." But no representatives from the restaurant management appeared.

ROC Michigan coordinator Minsu Longiaru said, "It means so much to have UAW support. The UAW made a very strong statement today that they are a union that organizes and fights for justice for all workers. As restaurant workers at ROC-Michigan, we are very grateful to have the backing of the union and for calling a boycott of the restaurant."

The union's call for a boycott follows last month's National Labor Relations Board ruling that found the restaurant had illegally cut hours.

Woodfin workers celebrate victory

By Marilyn Bechtel

Workers at the Woodfin Suites hotel in Emeryville are rejoicing after the hotel, the workers, the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE) and Unite Here Local 2850 announced an agreement.

“We are very proud to have fought for living wages and immigrant rights, and we are very happy with this agreement,” said Luz, a worker leader. EBASE spokesperson Brooke Anderson told the World that under the settlement, dozens of workers employed by the Woodfin in 2006 are submitting claim forms to share in a \$125,000 fund to compensate for wages the hotel failed to pay under the living wage ordinance. The agreement also ends the years-long boycott.

Anderson called the settlement and the end of the lawsuits “a huge and significant victory” that upholds “a groundbreaking, powerful law that has drastically raised wages and decreased workloads.”

The workers’ struggle started after Emeryville passed Measure C, a city living wage ordinance, in November 2005. The measure also set workload standards for hotel housekeepers and required they be paid time-and-a-half when workloads exceed the limit.

When the largely immigrant workers fought back against the hotel’s continued assignment of excessive workloads, the Woodfin harassed and intimidated them, including firing a dozen workers. In August 2007 the City Council ordered the Woodfin to pay the back wages, and when the hotel refused, the case went to court.

Despidos pero también oportunidades: Cuba

Por Emile Schepers

El gobierno cubano ha anunciado planes según los cuales se van a eliminar a medio millón de trabajos en el gobierno, comenzando ahora y terminando el 1 de abril de 2011, mientras que se abren nuevas oportunidades de trabajo en cooperativas, por cuenta propia y en negocios particulares. A largo plazo se proyecta eliminar a un millón de puestos de empleo en el gobierno, de una fuerza laboral de 5,1 millones de personas; la población total de Cuba es alrededor de 11,2 millones.

A pesar de los problemas de estancamiento económico a largo plazo, Cuba se encuentra afectada por el choque de la actual crisis financiera y económica mundial que empezó en 2008. Dos fuentes importantes de divisas internacionales, el turismo y las remesas enviadas por cubanos que viven fuera de la isla, han desplomado a causa de esta crisis.

Según lo informado por el gobierno cubano, algunos empleados del gobierno que van a ver desaparecer sus puestos de trabajo podrán transferirse a otros puestos en ramas estatales que están expandiendo o que actualmente no cuentan con suficiente mano de obra. Otras empresas estatales se van a convertir en cooperativas controladas por los mismos obreros, que tal vez pueden generar unos 200,000 puestos de empleo. Se

van a proporcionar mas licencias para trabajar por cuenta propia mientras que se modifican leyes y reglamentos que de otra manera impedirían este tipo de actividad, generando así tal vez oportunidades para 250,000 empleados despedidos por el gobierno.

El gobierno asegura que algunos aspectos claves de la economía, tales como la industria, las finanzas y el sistema educativo, van a seguir bajo control del estado, y que no se proyecta abandonar el socialismo. Pero ya que hasta ahora unos 95 por ciento de los cubanos han estado trabajando por el gobierno, el recorte para abril de 10 por ciento de la fuerza laboral es un cambio bastante drástico.

La Central de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC) declaró el 12 de septiembre que vea a estos cambios como una cosa necesaria. Insiste en tomar control de los mecanismos específicos en cada empresa en donde se van a eliminar los puestos de trabajo y del proceso de orientar a los trabajadores a las nuevas oportunidades, para proteger a la unidad de los trabajadores, cosa que la CTC ve como de suma importancia. Además de eso, el Partido Comunista de Cuba y los Comités para la Defensa de la Revolución, organismos que agrupan a la inmensa mayoría de los cubanos, van a auspiciar reuniones públicas en los vecindarios para tratar de los cambios.

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