

**PL Press**

A revolutionary  
viewpoint.

## **Progressive Labor Party**

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### **Black Prisoners Battle Stockade Guards**

This fall there was a minor rebellion at the Ft Lewis stockade. We don't know all of the details yet and if anybody else does we would appreciate it if you would get in touch with us and fill us in on the details.

What we do know is that a black prisoner was going to be put in J-block (extremely maximum security) and when the other brothers found out about this they used broom handles and other clubs to protect their brother from the guards.


After things cooled down the brass put the people they thought were the instigators in the J-block. They were all black prisoners.

White prisoners made a mistake in not following the lead of the brothers because the only way that we can keep from getting screwed over is to stick together against the lifers and fight back.

### **Ft Dix GI's Put Brass On Trial**

A group of GI's at Ft Dix New Jersey, members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party recently taught the Army a lesson; putting the GI's on trial for their anti-war, pro working people ideas will only serve to spread those ideas.

3 GI's, charged with assault on MP's, disrespect to an officer, and disobeying an order, decided to pass up legal formalities and instead use the trial as a forum to talk to friends and other interested GI's who came to the trial about the Army, the war, and the capitalist system behind it.



Originally one of the three, Pete Bilzerian, had been charged with passing out FLP literature. When he arrived at his court martial he decided not to enter the court until all his buddies had a chance to show up. As one might expect, the MP's didn't see it that way and a fight ensued that resulted in the additional charges.

What happened at the second court martial really shook up the brass. In all, about 35 GI's showed up to support the three despite tremendous lifer-cid-brass attempt to keep people away.

During the trial the defendants took every opportunity to explain their beliefs about the Army, the war, racism, and communism. At one point the crowd cheered when the accused called for working people to get together to smash capitalism and its Army.

By the end of the trial the court members must have been a little scared to come down too hard. They found one guy "not guilty" and sentenced the other two to 6 months in the slam and a BCD.

We think that this trial shows that it's possible to take the court martial system and anything else the brass wants to throw at us and ram it down their throats! All of us should learn a lesson from this trial and do things like organize to fight the army when they want to court martial some guy for standing up to them. It's everybody's fight and if we stick together we can start turning this army around and instead of being the bosses tool against the people we can be the peoples arm against the bosses. Cont'd on p9 3

#### What is PLP (cont'd from p9 8)

and live in the worst housing, they have been the first to fight back. White people shouldn't be afraid of this militancy but join the struggles against racism, and also follow this militant leadership in the factories, schools and in the army.

Through our newspaper Challenge we help people all over the country learn of the fights being carried on in the factories, schools, army, and the communities. This knowledge helps more people learn how to fight to win. Around Ft. Lewis we have just started to put out the P.L. Press. It will begin to cover what's happening locally, and we welcome articles and comments by GI's and other people.

If you'd like to talk with us, help write articles or help distribute the P.L. Press, write PC Box 142, Tillicum, Wa 98492.

## THE GET OUT OF VIETNAM NOW!

Most American soldiers will have to go to Vietnam sooner or later. We hear a lot about peace coming to Vietnam, but it looks like it's just some politicians talk to keep us quiet.

We in Progressive Labor believe that all enlisted men should oppose the war in Vietnam and fight and organize to get the US out of Vietnam. This article will explain our communist veils of the Vietnam war.

A lot of enlisted men ask why is the US fighting in Vietnam? The main reason is that rich businessmen and bankers see Vietnam as a potential goldmine of profits. Vietnamese workers get rotten wages ( the average wage of a skilled Vietnamese construction worker is 36¢ an hour) and have no unions to fight for decent working condition. So investors can pay lousy wages, provide bad working conditions and get huge profits. Right now there are only a few American businesses operating factories in Vietnam like Johnson & Johnson running a paper mill. But if the US is able to crush the Vietnamese working people resistance it will be safe and many others will follow.

Another reason is that Vietnam has a rich supply of some natural resources that businesses need like rubber, tungsten, and tin. If American businesses can control this they will have a cheap and profitable supply of these resources.

So now we see how the rich stand to profit if they win this war, now, what about us. Us, the working people, the students, the soldiers who have to do the dirty work of fighting the war. For one thing we get higher taxes. Since the war started the surtax has been added to our income tax to help pay for the war. We get inflation. Prices are going up while wages aren't keeping up with them, and the war is a cause though not the only one of skyrocketing prices. We get friends and brothers killed and maimed fighting for rich people's profits.

But some people say that we have to make sacrifices to fight for freedom!

Freedom? Whose freedom? The only freedom that we're fighting for in Nam is the freedom of rich bankers and businessmen to make profits.

The US has supported various military dictators in South Vietnam who never had the support of the Vietnamese working people. One such dictator was named Diem. This butcher executed or imprisoned anybody that disagreed with him, restored landlords who had been kicked out by the peasants, in the 1950's, and relocated thousands of Vietnamese farmers and working people in concentration camps called strategic hamlets (For more detailed information read PL's pamphlet Vietnam- Defeat US Imperialism by writing PLP PC Box 142 Tillicum Wa 98492) This is the freedom the US is protecting.

Some people ask, "But what about communist aggression? The Vietnamese fought foreign invaders for 100 years and in the 1920's many Vietnamese became communists and organized the Viet Minh. The Vietnamese fought and kicked out Japan, but France with US backing decided to try and reconquer Vietnam. This led to the Indo-China war which lasted until 1954 when the French were beaten. The resistance was led mainly by communists. Wherever the Vietnamese communist and friends went they kicked out the pro French landlords and bosses and gave the land to the farmers who worked the land and set up a government that served the needs of working people.

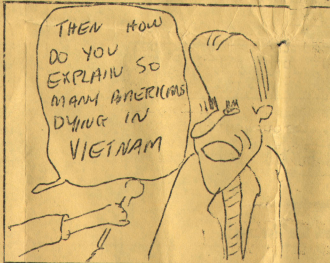
The US was afraid of what would happen if a communist led revolution won. It would mean that no US businessmen would be able to set up factories and treat Vietnamese workers like dirt in order to make a profit. So the US schemed to get at least part of Vietnam.

The Geneva agreement which ended the war with the French divided Vietnam into the north and south in 1954. There were to be elections in 1956 to see who would lead all of Vietnam, but they never came off because as then Senator John F. Kennedy explained it, "it should be apparent that the popularity... of Ho Chi Minh... throughout Indo China would cause a coalition government to result in the eventual domination by the communists." (Speech in the Senate, April 1954)

The US ignored the Vietnamese working people and put its own man in power to rule South Vietnam- Diem. (For details and more information order Vietnam- Defeat US Imperialism from PL, PC Box 142, Tillicum Wa 98492)



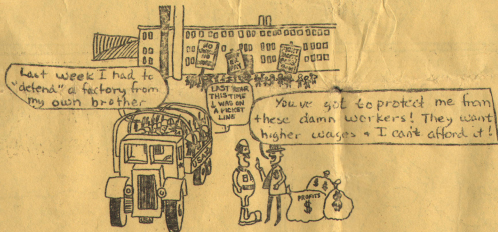
The Vietnamese working people are continuing to struggle for their freedom even though some Vietnamese leaders who call themselves communists are presently selling them out by negotiating in Paris now. When the Vietnamese leaders relied on the fighting power of the people the Vietnamese were winning, but then when the leaders decided to sit down and talk and not rely on the people, it showed that they had become more interested in getting themselves a niche in a coalition government than saving lives of the Vietnamese and American GI's. American working people should support this struggle of Vietnamese working people. They are fighting the same bosses who run our lives today. Cont'd on pg 6



One thing that keeps American working people from supporting the Vietnamese is racism. Our rulers have taught us that the Vietnamese are nothing more than ignorant, backward animals, but this is a lie. If these people are so backward how are they able to fight the US army to stanstill for the last 10 years.

The Vietnamese are workers and farmers and students like ourselves, fighting to build a decent society-socialism, that they can run in their own interest. They are not our enemy. Our enemy is the bosses they are fighting.

Finally we don't have to fight this war for the US bosses. We all know of whole companies that refused to fight Vietnamese. Like Alpha Co of the 196th Lt. Inf Bde. in 1969. Also we know that a number of EM refused to go into Cambodia. If we organize we can beat our present bosses and build a society based on the needs of the vast majority of working people and students- socialism.



FROM THE LAST BARRAGE, FT. GORDON

**Army is the Bosses Tool Against the Workers!**

We can support these workers by not flying on Northwest Orient Airlines when we go home on leave.

Some people will say, "I'm in the Army now and I've really got it bad, I really get screwed, why should I care about those people." This kind of attitude just causes more disunity among the people and makes it hard for all working people to make a better life for themselves. When we support others we aren't just helping them we are helping ourselves. Most of us will get jobs when we get out and more than likely we'll be out on strike someday, and outside support would really help us. So we should begin to start building unity now among all working people. SUPPORT THE NORTHWEST AIRLINE STRIKE, DON'T FLY NORTHWEST.

### Let's Say's No To Scab Duty

Another strike of particular importance to GI's was the one day railroad strike during which Defense Secretary Laird threatened to call out the Army. In other words he wanted us to scab for him.

The railroad workers demands were just. They wanted wage increases that would help them to keep up with the rising cost of living. So why did the ruling class do almost everything in its power to get the workers back on the job? Why did all the newscasters talk about the harmful effects of the strike and not even mention the fact that railroad baggage men receive only \$23 a day (less than TDY pay) Why did they talk about calling out the Army, threaten to throw the union leaders in jail and just about anything else they could think of? (Why didn't they just grant the workers demands, after all, people have to eat, and the workers do all the work don't they?) The answer to all these questions lies in the bosses driving need for profits and let the people be damned! GI's should organize against being used to break strikes. Let's get together and support workers by not letting ourselves be used as scabs. Slow-down when on scab duty. The guys they sent into the post office hardly mailed one letter, and while they were at it made sure a lot of draft cards and traffic tickets would never be mailed! Eventually though we'll be strong enough to refuse to do that kind of nonsense maybe even have our own strike.

# What Is The Progressive Labor Party?

The Progressive Labor Party is a revolutionary communist party dedicated to the U.S. working people and the working people of the entire world—black, brown, white, red, and yellow. Our party is made up of working people, students, GI's, people on welfare, unemployed, and some teachers and other professionals, and people of all races. We say that the working people can only have a decent life when we overthrow the bosses' governments (dictatorships) of the U.S. and all other countries and establish the dictatorship of the working class. This means that the workers who have produced all the goods and done nearly all the work of this society will collectively run their own lives, and the bosses will be stopped from taking control again.

We say that working people (and their allies; students and others) have to organize to fight their oppressive conditions. We need the leadership of a communist party because the day to day reform struggles for important things such as higher wages, less speed-up, better health conditions can't ever be completely won under capitalism. The P.L.P. continually helps people to learn that only by going beyond the day to day fights, building a revolution to smash the bosses and building socialism, can people have better lives and not have these improvements slowly taken back away from them.

All over the country the P.L.P. has been helping to organize people to fight. In cities such as San Jose and Los Angeles, Calif., Chicago, Detroit, and Boston, members and friends have been actively supporting the G.M. auto strike. Across the country we have helped form support groups which have gathered food from other workers and brought it to the strike lines. In October, 600 workers and students marched to one of the

we have especially been trying to support the ghetto rebellions and the fights led by Black, Chicano, and other minority people. This summer when there was a rebellion in Asbury Park, New Jersey over unemployment and other racist conditions, members and friends of the Party built support demonstrations and went there to see what help was needed.

It is very important that we fight the racist oppressive conditions of minority peoples, and that white workers and students are won to fighting racism. The brass in the army and the rest of the bosses use racism to divide workers and keep us fighting each other instead of uniting to fight against the harassment, speed-up, unemployment, and other conditions people face. Because the Black, Chicano and other minorities have the lowest paying jobs, are the first to be layed off,