

Military Resistance 14C7



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "Follow the Money. Always follow the money."]

**Carrier -- Death Of The
Dreams:
"We've All Worked Our Butts
Off And Now They're Going To
Throw Us Under The Bus?"
"My Family Has All Been Factory
Workers, Including My**

Grandmother, Who Came Home With Burn Marks From Welding” “Is Everybody Who Is Not A White- Collar Worker Supposed To Earn \$12 An Hour?”

“A Deep Divide Between The Political And Economic Elite And The Rest Of The Nation”



Mark Weddle, 55, has worked at the Indianapolis Carrier plant for 24 years and earns \$21 an hour. “We’ve all worked our butts off,” he said. “And now they’re going to throw us under the bus?” Credit Joshua Lott for The New York Times

MARCH 19, 2016 By NELSON D. SCHWARTZ, New York Times. Juan Zertuche contributed reporting from Monterrey, Mexico.

INDIANAPOLIS — The fuzzy video, shot by a worker on the floor of a Carrier factory here in the American heartland last month, captured the raging national debate over trade and the future of the working class in 3 minutes 32 seconds.

“This is strictly a business decision,” a Carrier executive tells employees, describing how their 1,400 jobs making furnaces and heating equipment will be sent to Mexico. Workers there typically earn about \$19 a day — less than what many on the assembly line here make in an hour.

As boos and curses erupt from the crowd, the executive says, "Please quiet down."

What came next was nothing of the kind.

Within hours of being posted on Facebook, the video went viral. Three days after Carrier's Feb. 10 announcement, Donald J. Trump seized on the video in a Republican presidential debate and made Carrier's move to Mexico a centerpiece of his stump speeches attacking free trade.

Jennifer Shanklin-Hawkins is one of those Carrier workers who listened to the announcement on the factory floor.

After 14 years on the assembly line, she earns \$21.22 an hour, enough to put her oldest son through college while raising two other children with her husband, a truck driver.

And when she saw Mr. Trump talking about Carrier on the news, all she could do was shout "Yesssss!" at the TV. "I loved it," she said. "I was so happy Trump noticed us."

In living rooms and barrooms across Indianapolis, conversations with Carrier workers like Ms. Shanklin-Hawkins crystallize what has become an extraordinary moment in the American political and economic debate.

As both political parties belatedly recognize the anxiety and deep-seated anger of blue-collar workers nationwide, the more-trade-is-good bipartisan consensus that has long held sway in Washington is being sundered.

What isn't evident in the video — or in the furious debate it has spawned — is that both the company and its soon-to-be former employees are reacting to the same transformative quarter-century of American economic policy aimed at lowering trade barriers and staying globally competitive.

"We have to look around the corner and see how this market will change in order to invest and stay in business for another 100 years," said Robert McDonough, a senior executive at Carrier's parent company, United Technologies. "You can blink and see your market position erode."

The rub is that the costs and benefits aren't distributed equally. Global trade has produced big gains for Americans, like more affordable goods — clothes, computers, even air-conditioners — and led to a more advanced economy.

"A Deep Divide Between The Political And Economic Elite And The Rest Of The Nation.

At the same time, a chronic trade deficit and an overvalued dollar have caused factory jobs to dry up, contributing to a deep divide between the political and economic elite and the rest of the nation.

Perhaps a clash was inevitable.

Consider the case of Ms. Shanklin-Hawkins.

While she says she won't be voting for Mr. Trump and considers him a racist, she applauds his message on trade.

She says she plans to vote for Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who similarly blasts free trade, but from the left.

The two populist candidates may be political opposites, but when it comes to the downside of globalization, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Trump are speaking to her with one voice.

In fact, many Carrier workers here say that it was not so much Mr. Trump's nativist talk on illegal immigrants or his anti-Muslim statements that has fired them up. Instead, it was hearing a leading presidential candidate acknowledging just how much economic ground they've lost — and promising to do something about it.

Mr. Trump has repudiated decades of G.O.P. support for free trade, calling for heavy tariffs on Mexican-made goods from the likes of Carrier. This has helped put him within arm's reach of the Republican nomination.

Opposition to trade deals has also galvanized supporters of Mr. Sanders, helping him unexpectedly win the Michigan Democratic primary this month.

At the same time, it has forced his rival Hillary Clinton to distance herself from trade agreements she once supported, like the proposed 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership and the North American Free Trade Agreement, the 1994 deal with Mexico that is an important part of President Bill Clinton's political legacy.

Exit polls after the Michigan primary, for example, showed that a clear majority of both Republican and Democratic voters believe international trade costs the American economy more jobs than it creates.

Nicole Hargrove, a 14-year Carrier worker, said she was an undecided voter and was uncomfortable with Mr. Trump's attacks on immigrants, particularly Mexicans.

"But I'd like to turn him loose on the financial world," she said. "Maybe if Carrier had to pay more to bring stuff in, they'd think twice about moving jobs out."

Mark Weddle, 55, started work at Carrier 24 years ago and earns \$21 an hour running a machine that makes heat exchangers. "I have two brothers-in-law from Mexico," he said, explaining why he disagrees with Mr. Trump's anti-immigrant stance.

But when it comes to Carrier, "we've all worked our butts off," he said. "And now they're going to throw us under the bus? If Trump will kick Carrier's ass, then I'll vote for him."

That's pretty much what Mr. Trump has threatened to do. At rally after rally, to rapturous crowds, he vows to impose a 35 percent tax on Carrier products from Mexico. Then, the laugh line: "I want to do this myself, but it is so unpresidential to call up Carrier."

And Mr. Trump vows not to take Carrier's calls until it agrees to change course. "As sure as you're here, they will call me up within 24 hours," he promises, and say to him, "Sir, we've decided to stay in the United States."

It is powerful talk.

The relentless loss of American manufacturing jobs, however, goes back nearly half a century, driven largely by forces beyond the control of any president. The advances of technology, the diffusion of industrial expertise around the world, the availability of cheap labor and the rise of China as a manufacturing powerhouse would have disrupted the nation's industrial heartland even without new trade deals.

Nor are tariffs likely to bring many of these jobs back, said David Autor, a professor of economics at M.I.T., who is one of the country's foremost specialists on the pluses and minuses of free trade. "We don't have silver bullets," he said.

"When I learned about the impact of trade agreements, the theory was that workers would be 'released' into the labor market and hired back at slightly lower salaries," Mr. Autor said. "That's not what happened. And no amount of cheaper air-conditioners will make these workers whole."



Finished units outside the Carrier plant in Indianapolis. Carrier has announced plans to close the plant, which makes heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems, and move the operation and 1,400 jobs to Monterrey, Mexico. Credit Joshua Lott for The New York Times

“They Didn’t Even Thank Us For Our Work,” She Said. “It Was Wrong.”

On a rainy Thursday afternoon this month, after their 6 a.m.-to-4:30 p.m. shift, a dozen Carrier workers gathered at Sully's Bar & Grill to talk about the decades they had spent at the low-slung, beige-and-white factory across the street.

The group was diverse: black and white, male and female, old and young. And until the announcement of the eventual shutdown, most of them said they had loved working for Carrier, assembling furnaces and fan coils, hard as the work could be.

The workers in the Indianapolis factory are represented by the United Steelworkers union. As has been the case in the auto industry, the union agreed in 2011 to a two-tier wage system in which new hires were paid less than veteran employees.

“I’m more skilled with my hands than I am with my brain,” said Robin Maynard, half joking. He holds two associate degrees, oversees a team of 15 and has worked at Carrier almost 24 years. “But I like working with my hands.”

Ms. Shanklin-Hawkins emphasized that she, too, enjoyed her work, despite having little flexibility when it came to setting hours. “I missed football games, graduations, you name it,” she said.

Her shifts can run 10 hours a day, six days in a row during summer and fall, when her line is busy, and mandatory overtime can total 20 hours a week. The pay, benefits and pension plan are all good, but it wasn’t just the money that kept her on the assembly line, Ms. Shanklin-Hawkins said.

“It’s pretty cool working there,” she said, describing how she carefully puts together “tubular mixers,” batches of rods that control the air flow in Carrier furnaces. “And when you do it for 60 hours a week, people are like family.”

It is painstaking work: Bend the rods, or force them into place, and the line can come to a halt, prompting a tongue-lashing from a supervisor. Despite that, like many of the 12 million American factory workers, Ms. Shanklin-Hawkins says the nation’s leaders have simply lost respect for people who make things.

“They didn’t even thank us for our work,” she said. “It was wrong.”

Indianapolis is far better off than many other cities in and around the Rust Belt. For the most part, it has successfully made the transition to an economy powered by services like health care, logistics and banking. The city’s unemployment rate is 4.6 percent, below the national average of 4.9 percent.

But many of the new jobs don’t pay nearly as well as Carrier does. Next to the 49-year-old Carrier plant is an Amazon warehouse that opened in 2011, but with salaries there averaging just over \$15 an hour, that’s a lot less than the \$20 or more an hour Carrier workers typically earn.

Indiana politicians, who granted Carrier tax breaks and other incentives, are furious at the company and want their money back.

They are also angry because Carrier’s parent, United Technologies, is a major military contractor that receives \$5.6 billion annually from the federal government.

“That’s financed by the taxpayers they just fired,” said Senator Joe Donnelly, Democrat of Indiana. “They are trying to be the ultimate free rider.”

Carrier has said it will return public money in cases where the company has not kept its commitments to invest. But that's small change for United Technologies, a company with sales of \$56 billion annually, more than Walt Disney, Coca-Cola or Goldman Sachs. And, in any case, it won't bring the jobs back.

Carol Bigbee, 59, has worked at Carrier for 13 years. Her 32-year-old daughter has a college degree and the kind of job that many economists say is the future in postindustrial America — she works in a medical lab.

The only problem, Ms. Bigbee said, is that her daughter's hourly pay is one-third less than her own pay at Carrier.

"I think it will be extremely hard to find a job that pays \$22 an hour," Ms. Bigbee said. "You have to be really blessed to find a job that pays that kind of money." The few manufacturing jobs left require math tests, something she says she worries she could not pass.

The first layoffs won't begin until 2017, and the final shuttering of the factory isn't expected to happen until 2019, giving employees time to prepare. In addition, United Technologies has offered to cover the cost of at least four years of additional schooling for Carrier workers.

But that's cold comfort to people who can't afford not to work or those, like Ms. Bigbee, who are near retirement.

She will be 60 in May, making retraining impractical. "If I were in my 40s, I'd go back to school," she said.

As Ms. Bigbee and her co-workers were talking over beers and Tequila Sunrises at Sully's in Indianapolis, executives from United Technologies were hosting a gathering of their own in New York City — at the Plaza Hotel, a property that was once owned, as it happens, by Donald Trump.

That meeting was part of "investor day," an annual ritual for many Fortune 500 companies in which management sits down with analysts and shareholders and tells them why their company's stock is a good buy.

Carrier's message: Moving jobs south of the border is a major part of the company's strategy to increase profits.

"We've shifted an abundant part of our manufacturing footprint to relatively lower cost countries, about two-thirds," said Mr. McDonough, president of the climate, controls and security division of United Technologies. "Still, there's some opportunity there."

Manufacturing products in lower-cost locales isn't new for Carrier, which has had operations in Monterrey, Mexico, since 1969, decades before Nafta's passage.

But Akhil Johri, the chief financial officer, noted that recent factory consolidation was among the reasons Carrier's management is eyeing a list of targets for future cuts. "They are painful" but are necessary "for the long-term, competitive nature of the

business and shareholder value creation,” he said. “We feel good about being able to execute on that.”

United Technologies faces pressure from investors hungry for earnings growth in an economy that’s only modestly growing at home, and falling in important overseas markets like China and the Middle East. Although the company’s stock has vastly outperformed benchmarks in the last few decades, the shares have badly trailed the Standard & Poor’s 500-stock index over the most recent five years.

Wall Street is looking for United Technologies to post a 17 percent increase in earnings per share over the next two years, even though sales are expected to rise only 8 percent. Bridging that gap means cutting costs wherever savings can be found, as Mr. McDonough suggested at the meeting with analysts.

Still he rejected the notion that pressure from Wall Street, or corporate greed, or even trade policy, had prompted the factory move to Monterrey. “This was a really tough decision,” he said. “This will have a real impact on folks we care about and this community. We’re an American company, but we compete globally.”

Staying competitive, raising profits and investing are among the reasons 400 white-collar jobs in areas like engineering and marketing will remain in Indiana.

“Our company, with American workers,” he added, “builds a heck of a lot of stuff in the U.S.”



A Carrier factory near Monterrey, Mexico. Credit Alejandro Cartagena for The New York Times

Less than a three-hour drive south of Laredo, Tex., where the mountains meet the desert scrub near Monterrey, lies one industrial park after another. That’s where Carrier and many other American manufacturers have built gleaming factories.

Outside Carrier's plant on Hermenegildo Galeana Street in the suburb of Santa Catarina, a worker named Antonio Arroyo has nothing but positive things to say about his job, much like his colleagues in Indianapolis until last month. "The atmosphere is relaxed, a healthy environment," he said. "Even the temporary workers are constantly trained."

"Is Everybody Who Is Not A White-Collar Worker Supposed To Earn \$12 An Hour?"

As in the United States, the day shift starts around 6 a.m. and finishes about 4 p.m., with a break for lunch. Temporary workers, who have contracts lasting from three to six months, earn 163 pesos a day, or \$9.40. Permanent workers make 330 pesos for a day's work, or \$19.

Hourly salaries in Indianapolis range from \$15 to \$26 an hour, as they do up the road in Huntington, Ind., where an additional 700 United Technologies jobs will be transferred to Mexico as well.

United Technologies is not hurting like the American automakers or steel giants who lost billions when they were caught short by up-and-coming Japanese and South Korean competitors in the 1970s and 1980s. But the company says it fears it could end up in a similar situation if it doesn't make sure it is among the most efficient manufacturers in the world.

Over all, United Technologies earned nearly \$7.6 billion last year, and \$2.9 billion of that came from the climate, controls and security division that includes Carrier. Those profits aren't under pressure; in fact, margins in the unit have steadily expanded in recent years.

But that's not good enough, said Howard Rubel, a senior analyst at Jefferies, who notes that United Technologies has vowed to cut at least a half-billion dollars in costs annually for the next few years.

"The stock hasn't done well," Mr. Rubel pointed out.

United Technologies' board cut the bonus of its chief executive, Gregory J. Hayes, by nearly half for 2015. Still, with a total compensation package of \$5.7 million, he made more last year than Carrier's factory workers could earn in several lifetimes. But in corporate boardrooms and country clubs, that's not the point.

"It's embarrassing," said Mr. Rubel. "The stock didn't do well, and he got dinged. And whether it's the board or personal pride, no one wants that."

Back in Indiana, smaller bonuses for top executives are the last thing state Representative Karlee Macer wants to hear about these days.

Her district includes the Carrier plant, and for all their grit and noise and physical strain, manufacturing jobs aren't like many other positions available to Americans who lack a college degree, she said. For one thing, they pay more, giving the children of factory workers other options if they so choose.

“My family has all been factory workers, including my grandmother, who came home with burn marks from welding,” she said over breakfast across the street from the Indiana Statehouse.

“Is everybody who is not a white-collar worker supposed to earn \$12 an hour?”

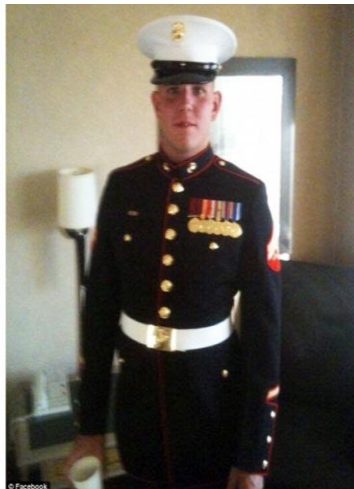
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IRAQ WAR REPORTS

‘Local Hero’: Community, Leaders Mourn Temecula Marine Killed In Iraq:

Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin Was Killed Saturday In An Islamic State Attack On A Fire Support Base Near Makhmour



USMC

March 21, 2016 By Renee Schiavone, Patch Media

TEMECULA, CA –

A 27-year-old Marine killed in Iraq was praised Monday by a Riverside County lawmaker, who called the Temecula resident a local hero for his sacrifice and service.

Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin was killed Saturday in an Islamic State attack on a fire support base near Makhmour, in northern Iraq, according to military officials.

“I wish to express my sadness to the Cardin family for this tragic event taking the life of our local hero,” said Sen. Jeff Stone, R-Palm Desert. “All Californians are saddened by this senseless loss, but remain grateful for Sgt. Cardin’s valiant and heroic service to our country.”

Cardin and several hundred fellow Marines were stationed at Makhmour in support of Kurdish forces battling ISIS in the area of Mosul, according to the Pentagon.

The artilleryman had served three tours of duty in Afghanistan before deploying to Iraq. He joined the Marine Corps in June 2006 and was attached to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

“Staff Sgt. Cardin exemplifies the best of America,” Stone said. “I will adjourn the state Senate in his memory when we reconvene next week.”

Gov. Jerry Brown ordered that flags be flown at half-staff in Cardin’s honor.

POLICE WAR REPORTS

**Executed By Armed
Enemies In Seattle:
“Taylor Put His Hands Up Right
Away”
“He Was Standing Next To The
Open Passenger Side Door With
His Hands In The Air”**

**“As The First Officer Moved In
Toward Taylor, The Second Officer
Moved Around The Car And Opened
Fire, Shooting Taylor Seven Times”
“This Was Cold-Blooded Murder. Let Me
Repeat: Cold-Blooded Murder”**



Seattle demonstrators demands justice for Che Taylor (Sage Photography)

March 1, 2016 by Leela Yellesetty and Chris Mobley, Socialist Worker

“This was cold-blooded murder. Let me repeat: cold-blooded murder. Executed by the Seattle Police Department.” That’s how Gerald Hankerson, president of the Seattle/King County NAACP, described the death of Che Taylor.

On the afternoon of February 21, Seattle police shot and killed Che Taylor, a 46-year-old African American man. The cops initially claimed they were responding to a report of a “suspicious car” in the upscale, mostly white neighborhood of Wedgwood in North Seattle, but claimed in a subsequent statement that they were “conducting surveillance.”

At around 4:15 p.m., four police officers approached a white Ford Taurus occupied by Taylor and two other passengers.

As shown in dash-cam video released by the Seattle Police Department (SPD), two plainclothes officers approached Taylor from the opposite side of the car, as he was standing next to the open passenger side door with his hands in the air.

A third officer (and perhaps a fourth officer offscreen) approached from the other direction with handguns drawn. The two plainclothes officers didn’t identify

themselves as they approached Taylor with an assault rifle and shotgun drawn and aimed at him.

Taylor put his hands up right away. He was then ordered to “get down,” and then to “get on the ground.” He complied with both orders, despite the fact that he was standing in front of an open car door. As the first officer moved in toward Taylor, the second officer moved around the car and opened fire, shooting Taylor seven times.

Nine seconds elapsed between the initial contact between Seattle police and Taylor, and the seven shots that left him dead.

The SPD description of the events leading up to the shooting contradict the department’s own dash-cam video.

According to the police, “Officers contacted the man who refused commands. Two officers fired at the suspect during the confrontation.”

Yet the video clearly shows that Taylor obeyed commands to put his hands up and two seemingly contradictory orders to get on the ground.

Within seconds of Taylor getting down on the ground, one officer appears to reach down toward him--and then a second swings around the car and opens fire on Taylor, narrowly missing the first.

The justification for the shooting hinges on the police claim that Taylor reached for a handgun while he was on the ground. The video is unclear on what transpired in the four seconds Taylor was on the ground. It’s also unclear from the video whether the officer who opened fire could even see Taylor before he fired. How he could have even seen a “confrontation” and a gun being pulled is unclear.

The video leaves viewers with more questions than answers. Why did the two officers who approached Taylor not ask him to back away from the car?

“You heard them say get down,” retired Washington, D.C., police officer Ronald Hampton told the Stranger’s Ansel Herz. “He got down. He was following the orders. He was obeying what they were shouting.”

Why did police initially report that they were only responding to a call of a suspicious car, when they later admit they were conducting surveillance? Why were they armed with an assault rifle and shotgun, and dressed in plainclothes?

Conflicting reports claim that Taylor reached inside the car for a gun and that he reached for a holstered weapon. Which, if any, is true?

Why would anyone prone on the ground reach for a gun with three or four officers, with guns drawn, surrounding them?

Are there other videos from that day beyond what the SPD released? And why does the dash-cam video cut off after officers shoot Taylor?

Seattle Police officer Michael Spaulding has been identified as the cop who shot Che Taylor.

Spaulding has a troubled history with the SPD, including another shooting death in 2013 of Jack Sun Keewatinawin, a 21-year-old Native American man.

Spaulding killed Keewatinawin, who suffered from mental illness, with a shotgun during a confrontation between family members at Keewatinawin's home.

Spaulding was also one of 126 officers who signed onto a 2014 lawsuit against federally mandated reforms of SPD use-of-force policies.

Spaulding's history casts a shadow on his conduct and paints a picture of a trigger-happy cop, with a stated bias against even the limited efforts at reform by the Justice Department.

Before these critical questions had been answered, local media were quick to parrot information fed to them by the SPD that Taylor was a "known felon" who was "clearly armed."

Early reports even stated that he was a "wanted felon," which was false.

Taylor was released in 2014 after serving 22 years in prison for rape, assault and robbery. Since his release, Taylor worked at an Amazon warehouse as a forklift driver and was going through what his brother described as a "redemptive process."

It's unclear that his prior convictions were at all related to what transpired on February 21, yet the SPD's decision to include this in its initial reports--and the media's decision to include this in their headlines from day one--was clearly intentional.

"What is the dynamic there? Why would the department choose to bring forth that type of information," Enrique Gonzalez with the Public Defender Association told the King 5 News. "It's almost like you're putting them on trial in public."

At a February 23 press conference, NAACP President Hankerson pointed out the similarities with how the media treated police shooting victims like Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and even the 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland:

"There seems to be a pattern in the media when it comes to a Black man losing his life. The first thing you look for is his criminal history. Stop looking at him as a felon and start looking at him as a father. Stop looking at him as a gang member or a drug dealer or whatever you want to call him, and start looking at him as a son, or he somebody's brother.

"It's interesting how this becomes a pattern in our community. I won't be surprised if they come up with a report that says he once smoked marijuana 10 years ago. That is absolutely irrelevant. Stop demonizing the victim and start holding the right people accountable."

It's not surprising that the SPD would try to divert attention from its role in this shooting, which comes embarrassingly at a moment when it is supposed to be the poster child for police department reform.

Since 2012, the SPD has been under a consent decree by the Department of Justice, after the Feds' investigation uncovered a longstanding pattern of police abuse and racism, including the police murder of Native American woodcarver John T. Williams, which sparked sustained protests in the city.

Since then, the SPD has worked hard to clean up its image, implementing new racial sensitivity and de-escalation trainings and even firing one officer, Cynthia Whitlatch, who arrested a 69-year-old African American veteran for walking down the street with a golf club he used as a cane.

Seattle's new police chief Kathleen O'Toole has been praised nationally for her efforts to reform the department. President Obama invited O'Toole to his January's State of the Union address and held a private meeting with her afterward. According to a White House press release:

Chief Kathleen O'Toole has led the Seattle Police Department in developing its approach to community policing, and her focus on improving officer morale, implementing new policies and optimizing department resources has received national attention. Under her leadership, the department tested a six-month pilot program for body-worn police cameras focused on public transparency, and the Department of Justice awarded the department a \$600,000 grant to expand the program.

Last year, the Seattle Police Department presented its policies at the White House Police Data Initiative as part of its renewed emphasis on accountability and transparency.

Conveniently, the police who shot Taylor weren't wearing these much-lauded body cameras. And even before this recent shooting, this rosy picture was already showing cracks.

First, there was the unnecessary force and racist treatment against nonviolent Black Lives Matter protesters last winter. Then there's the ongoing resistance to reform spearheaded by the Seattle Police Officers Guild, recently rated the worst police union in the country for its role in delaying investigations, erasing personnel data, disqualifying complaints and limiting civilian oversight.

In May 2015, two programmers filed hundreds of public records requests on complaints against the SPD between 2010 and 2013. "Of the 11 most-investigated employees--one was investigated 18 times during the three-year period--every single one of them is still on the force, according to SPD," reported the Stranger. "In 569 allegations of excessive or inappropriate use of force (arising from 363 incidents), only seven were sustained--meaning 99 percent of cases were dismissed."

In November 2015, nearly 50 community leaders signed a statement in support of the Community Police Commission, urging the city to pass legislation ensuring community oversight over police reforms, a process which Mayor Ed Murray has committed to verbally, but continues to delay in practice.

The same week as Taylor's shooting, another SPD officer was suspended for a 2013 incident in which she used a racial slur, caught on dash-cam video, against a suspect.

Taylor's killing has only added fuel to the fire of activists' growing cries for police accountability. In the days following his death, Taylor's family held nightly vigils to commemorate his life and demand justice. Some 100 protesters took to the streets on February 25, blocking morning traffic after a rally at police department headquarters downtown.

"We're not going to walk quietly into the night," Taylor's brother André told the Seattle Times. "We have to move with reason, thought, objective and purpose. We need everybody in Seattle to rise up."

More protests are being planned in the coming weeks, and the NAACP has secured the James Bible Law Group to represent itself and the family in this matter, demanding that the city release all information regarding the shooting. As the NAACP's Hankerson emphasized in the press conference:

"I'm outraged. And I don't know how long it's going to be before we see this again, but you should be just as outraged as we are.

"The police are sitting in their homes right now, getting a big check, while they're getting their narrative together to respond, because they knew we were coming. And yes, we are coming. But we hold every single city official accountable."

"Everybody should be at the table talking about this, because this isn't just an NAACP issue. This is a community issue. This is everybody's issue. Because tomorrow it could be you, or me...Just like Tamir Rice. Just like Michael Brown. Just like Eric Garner. And now it's our own here in Seattle, and the NAACP is done with this. We're not taking this no more."

**Thieving DEA Agents Grab A
Young Man's Life Savings:
"They Didn't Arrest Him Or Charge
Him With A Crime. They Took His
Cash Anyway"
"He Was The Only Black Person On
That Part Of The Train"**

DEA Scumbag Says “We Don’t Have To Prove That The Person Is Guilty. It’s That The Money Is Presumed To Be Guilty”

13 May 15 By Christopher Ingraham, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

Joseph Rivers was hoping to hit it big. According to the Albuquerque Journal, the aspiring businessman from just outside of Detroit had pulled together \$16,000 in seed money to fulfill a lifetime dream of starting a music video company. Last month, Rivers took the first step in that voyage, saying goodbye to the family and friends who had supported him at home and boarding an Amtrak train headed for Los Angeles.

He never made it.

From the Albuquerque Journal:

“A DEA agent boarded the train at the Albuquerque Amtrak station and began asking various passengers, including Rivers, where they were going and why. When Rivers replied that he was headed to LA to make a music video, the agent asked to search his bags. Rivers complied.”

The agent found Rivers’s cash, still in a bank envelope. He explained why he had it: He was starting a business in California, and he’d had trouble in the past withdrawing large sums of money from out-of-state banks.

The agents didn’t believe him, according to the article. They said they thought the money was involved in some sort of drug activity.

Rivers let them call his mother back home to corroborate the story. They didn’t believe her, either.

The agents found nothing in Rivers’s belongings that indicated that he was involved with the drug trade: no drugs, no guns. They didn’t arrest him or charge him with a crime. But they took his cash anyway, every last cent, under the authority of the Justice Department’s civil asset forfeiture program.

Rivers’s life savings represent just a drop in the Justice Department’s multibillion-dollar civil asset forfeiture bucket.

Rivers has retained a lawyer in the hope of getting at least some of his money back. Rivers says he suspects he may have been singled out for a search because he was the only black person on that part of the train.

There is no presumption of innocence under civil asset forfeiture laws. Rather, law enforcement officers only need to have a suspicion -- in practice, often a vague one -- that a person is involved with illegal activity in order to seize their property.

On the highway, for instance, police may cite things like tinted windows, air fresheners or trash in the car, according to a Washington Post investigation last year.

The DEA declined to comment in detail to the Albuquerque Journal's Joline Guierrez Krueger, though it did say that Rivers was not targeted because of his race

Once property has been seized, the burden of proof falls on the defendant to get it back -- even if the cops ultimately never charge them with a crime.

"We don't have to prove that the person is guilty," an Albuquerque DEA agent told the Journal. "It's that the money is presumed to be guilty."

The practice has proven to be controversial. Earlier this year, then-U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced measures restricting the use of some types of civil asset forfeiture. But as the Institute for Justice noted in a February report, these changes only affect a small percentage of forfeitures initiated by local law enforcement agencies, not federal ones like the DEA. About 90 percent of Justice Department seizures won't be affected at all.

Asset forfeiture is lucrative for the DEA.

According to their latest notification of seized goods, updated Monday, agents have seized well over \$38 million dollars' worth of cash and goods from people in the first few months of this year. Some of the goods may be directly related to ongoing criminal investigations, but most of them are not.

For instance, in fiscal year 2014 Justice Department agencies made a total of \$3.9 billion in civil asset seizures, versus only \$679 million in criminal asset seizures. In most years since 2008, civil asset forfeitures have accounted for the lion's share of total seizures.

Asset forfeitures have more than doubled during President Obama's tenure, a Washington Post analysis found last year.

The DEA, meanwhile, has been skeptical of the administration's agenda, openly opposing sentencing reforms and marijuana reforms, and defying Congressional bills meant to curb DEA raids on medical marijuana dispensaries.

The irony of Rivers's case is that five days before his money was seized, New Mexico's governor signed into law a bill abolishing civil asset forfeiture in that state. The bill passed unanimously in New Mexico's House and Senate, a sign of the widespread opposition to the practice.

But New Mexico's law only affects state law enforcement officials.

As a result, in New Mexico -- and everywhere else, for that matter -- DEA agents will be able to board your train, ask you where you're going and take all your cash if they don't like your story, all without ever charging you with a crime.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder and it is the working class who fights all the battles, the working class who makes the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely sheds their blood and furnishes their corpses, and it is they who have never yet had a voice - in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war.

They are continually talking about patriotic duty. It is not their patriotic duty but your patriotic duty that they are concerned about. Their patriotic duty never takes them to the firing line or chucks them into the trenches.

-- Eugene V. Debs

PICK the MOST EFFECTIVE COUNTERTERRORISM MESSENGER..



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: "It's not about religion."]

In Memoriam: Quentin Young, M.D.; **“Commitment To Implement A Health Care System In The U.S. That Put Patients First, Not The Profits Of The Health Care Industry”**



Dr. Quentin Young

March 21, 2016 by Helen Redmond, Socialist Worker

Dr. Quentin Young was a health-care reform rock star.

He coined the deceptively simple slogan “Everybody in, nobody out” to encapsulate the idea that every human being has the right to guaranteed health care.

That notion has sunk into national consciousness. And it’s a testament to Quentin’s indefatigable efforts and influence that in the current election cycle, the advantages of a national, single-payer health care system is being discussed once again.

We lost Quentin Young on March 7. He was 92.

As a left-wing activist from an early age, Quentin was on the right side of all the struggles for equality, from workers’ rights to the civil rights movement in the 1960s to the fight against the so-called “war on terror.”

Quentin is probably most widely known for his commitment to implement a health care system in the U.S. that put patients first, not the profits of the health care industry. And always and everywhere, Quentin exposed the stark and disgraceful racial disparities in the American health care system.

Quentin was a founding member of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP), and it is one of his most enduring legacies. The existence of PNHP is critical to the fight for a single-payer health care system and to keeping alive the idea that health care is a human right. It is truly sick that in the richest country in the world, this idea must continually be asserted. For 22 years, Quentin was PNHP’s national coordinator, and the organization has grown to 20,000 members.

I heard about Quentin Young long before I met him. I picked up a copy of *Hospital: An Oral History of Cook County*. In the book, Quentin details the pervasive corruption and patronage at Cook County Hospital, he explains the fierce esprit de corps that existed among County medical staff, and he reveals why patients felt that County was their hospital.

Young was Cook County Hospital’s chair of medicine from 1972 to 1981. Under his leadership, the Occupational Health Service (OHS) and the Jail Health Service (JHS) were established. He writes of the OHS: “Most schools of occupational health essentially trained company doctors; we stressed that this was a worker-orientated occupational health program.”

Quentin was especially proud of the doctors who worked in the JHS, writing, “These doctors stood ready with the Prison Health Project of the ACLU and the Carter administration, and the Justice Department to be expert witnesses on the conditions in numerous jails and prisons in the country where lawsuits were brought.”

County bosses tried to fire Quentin for his outspoken activism, but Quentin wasn’t having it and refused to leave. The door to his office was padlocked. His house staff took the door off the hinges and occupied the space.

Attending doctors were ordered not to recognize Quentin as chief, but no one else would take his job. In a show of solidarity, 40 doctors made rounds with him. This was the kind of respect and loyalty that Quentin inspired.

Many years after Quentin worked at County, I took a position as a social worker in the emergency room at the new John Stroger Hospital, the replacement for County, and then in Fantus Clinic. Patients who were overwhelmingly poor, Black or Latino presented in such poor health it was staggering.

How was this possible in a wealthy city like Chicago that had no shortage of medical resources and infrastructure? Quentin explained why in Hospital:

“I used to say there was no room for liberals at County. Only two world philosophies worked with what you saw before you, because the wretched of the earth: alcoholics, drug users, late-stage disease, people with wound infections with maggots in them--I mean really bad.

“And so you could come up with two conclusions...the one I and many of us embraced--that this was the distilled oppression of society. These were people on the bottom of the economic heap, of racial discrimination, who were born to lose, and their whole life is a testimony to privation, oppression, and what we are seeing is the physical expression of it.”

When I read those words, I understood the social determinants of health on a whole new level and found a further depth of empathy for my patients.

Some days, it felt like the emergency room or the clinic was a war zone, and the unnecessary human suffering, the premature death was too much to bear. I would call Quentin.

One time he said to me: “You are seeing the contradictions in their rawest form. The oppression is all around you. Very few situations are like that.” And then he’d get nostalgic and tell me stories about the glory days of County.

I started writing about health care and interviewed Quentin on many occasions. I got to know him better during the years when the Obama administration developed health care legislation. He spoke at dozens of rallies and meetings.

By a certain point, Quentin wasn’t able to drive anymore--something that really pissed him off--so a group of volunteers drove him to speaking engagements. On the way back after a meeting, we dissected what happened, and I told him he was too soft on people who raised ridiculous arguments against single-payer. He laughed and said people often told him he was too hard on his opponents. But Quentin was the kind of person who listened and took what others thought seriously. He said, “Okay Helen, next time I’ll be harder.”

Quentin refused to support Obamacare despite enormous pressure to do so. The small advances in the law, like regulations against insurance companies pre-existing conditions to reject applicants, paled in comparison to the measures that gave even more power to for-profit health care and capitulated on the vision of “everybody in, nobody out.”

He was accused of being pie-in-the-sky. Liberals who formerly supported single-payer scolded Quentin and said it was never going to happen in America, so just get onboard

with the president. Over and over, the hackneyed phrase “Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good” was hurled at him.

But Quentin said no.

In a world where leaders of social justice movements too often buckle under the pressure to accept crappy, piecemeal reforms that help the fewest people, Quentin Young stood apart for refusing to concede.

To be in Quentin’s presence was to be in the presence of greatness. His greatness was the opposite of what is traditionally thought of as greatness--where a person exerts power and control over others and has a gigantic ego.

Quentin’s greatness was grounded in his profound humility, his love for humanity and in his lifelong fight for health care justice and equality for all.

The Laws Of Capitalist Anarchy: “Increasingly Threatening The Existence Of Society With The Spread Of Anarchy, And Forming A Chain Of Devastating Economic And Political Catastrophes”

From: Rosa Luxemburg; Introduction To Political Economy; Ms. 1909-1910 [Excerpt]

The year 1848 was to see both the culmination and the crisis of socialism in all its varieties.

The Paris proletariat, influenced by traditions of earlier revolutionary struggle and roused by various socialist systems, passionately clung to the vague ideas of a just social order.

As soon as the bourgeois monarchy of Louis-Philippe was toppled, the Paris workers used their position of power to demand from the terrified bourgeoisie the realization now of the “social republic” and a new “organization of labor.

For the achievement of this program, the proletariat afforded the provisional government the celebrated timeframe of three months, during which time the workers starved and waited, while the bourgeoisie and petty-bourgeoisie quietly armed and prepared the subjection of the workers.

The period ended with the memorable butchery of June, in which the ideal of a “social republic achievable at any time was drowned in the streaming blood of the Paris proletariat!

The revolution of 1848 did not introduce the realm of social equality, but rather the political rule of the bourgeoisie and an unprecedented upswing of capitalist exploitation under the Second Empire.

At the same time, however, that socialism of the old schools seemed buried forever beneath the demolished barricades of the June insurrection, the socialist idea was placed on a completely new footing by Marx and Engels.

These two sought the basis for socialism not in moral repugnance towards the existing social order nor in cooking up all kinds of possible attractive and seductive projects, designed to smuggle in social equality within the present state.

They turned to the investigation of the *economic* relationships of present-day society.

Here, in the laws of capitalist anarchy itself, Marx discovered the real starting-point for socialist efforts. If the French and English classics of political economy had discovered the laws by which the capitalist economy lived and developed, Marx took up their work half a century later precisely at the point where they had broken this off.

He discovered for his part how these same laws of the present day social order acted towards their own downfall, by increasingly threatening the existence of society with the spread of anarchy, and forming a chain of devastating economic and political catastrophes.

It was thus, as Marx showed, the developmental tendencies of the rule of capital itself that at a certain stage of their maturity made necessary the transition to a planned mode of production, consciously organized by the whole working society, if the whole of society and human culture were not to collapse in the convulsions of unleashed anarchy.

And the rule of capital hastened this fateful hour ever more energetically by bringing together its future grave diggers, the proletarians, in ever greater masses, by spreading itself over all corners of the earth, producing an anarchic world economy and in this way creating the basis for the proletariat of all countries to combine in a revolutionary world power for the abolition of capitalist class rule.

In this way socialism ceased to be a project, a beautiful fantasy or even an experiment of particular groups of workers in separate countries.

As the common program of political action of the international proletariat, socialism is a *historical necessity*, since it is a fruit of the economic developmental tendencies of capitalism.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionists Break Into Hospital Room And Threaten Palestinian Journalist: “You Must Die. You Deserve Only Death”



Muhammad Al-Qeq and his family. (File)

Mar 16 2016 Palestine Chronicle

An Israeli soldier and settler have broken into the hospital room of former hunger striker Mohamed al-Qeq at Al-Afula Hospital and threatened to kill him, Al-Resalah newspaper reported on Tuesday. According to Al-Qeq’s wife, Fayhaa Shalash, the two Israelis told him, “You must die. You deserve only death.”

Shalash noted that the two Israelis made their threat while the Israeli security officer at the door of her husband’s room was away from his post.

She accused the two “extremist” Israelis of arranging the raid with the officer.

The two fled when Al-Qeq called out for the security guard. His wife laid the blame on the government of Israel for any attack on the journalist while he is in an Israeli hospital.

The Israeli authorities agreed to leave Al-Qeq in hospital for treatment of the damage done to his body by his 94-day hunger strike, which ended last month.

He was protesting at being held by Israel with neither charge nor trial under administrative detention rules.

The journalist was arrested at his home in Ramallah on 21 November last year. The Israelis have pledged not to renew his detention when the original six-month period ends in May.

7 Palestinian Children Sentenced to Prison for Stone-throwing

Mar 16 2016 MAAN

An Israeli court in Jerusalem on Wednesday sentenced seven Palestinian children to jail time ranging from 12 to 39 months for alleged stone-throwing, a lawyer with prisoners' rights group Addameer said.

Lawyer Muhammad Mahmoud said the Jerusalem court had convicted the children of throwing stones at Israeli cars in the Beit Hanina neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem.

Mahmoud said that the children included three boys aged 14 years old, two aged 16, one aged 17, and another whose age was not specified.

Saleh Ashraf Ishtayya, 16, was sentenced to three years and three months in prison, while Muhammad Ahmad Jaber and Murad Raed Alqam, both 14, were sentenced to three years.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Na'el Tayeh, 17, and Zaid Ayed al-Taweel, 16, were both sentenced to two years and four months in prison, Omar Rani Yaseen, 14, received a one-year sentence, and Yazan Hani Ayoub, was sentenced to one year and two months in prison.

All seven minors spent eight months under house arrest before their sentencing, Mahmoud said.

They were originally detained in June, before they were released on bail under house arrest after spending two weeks at Israel's Russian Compound detention center.

Heroic Zionist Forces Attack Palestinian “Agricultural Shack” And Clothing Warehouse

Mar 16 2016 MAAN

Israeli forces on Wednesday morning demolished three structures and issued demolition orders for a further two in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

In the village of al-Khader south of Bethlehem, Israeli forces tore down a two-story home under construction belonging to local resident Judah Masoud Mousa.

Further to the south, in Wadi Rahhal, Israeli forces tore down an agricultural shack belonging to local resident Amir Hussein al-Kamil, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Meanwhile, in occupied East Jerusalem, Israeli forces tore down a clothing warehouse in the neighborhood of Dahiyat al-Barid.

Officials from Jerusalem's municipality also issued demolition orders to two homes in the al-Thuri area of Silwan in East Jerusalem.

On Tuesday last week, Israeli rights group B'Tselem condemned an "unusually massive demolition campaign" across the West Bank that had left 435 Palestinians, including 234 minors, homeless since January.

According to the group, in the first week of March alone, Israel had torn down 17 dwellings, 19 agricultural structures, and a school in two Jordan Valley communities, one in the Nablus area and the other near Jericho — leaving 64 people homeless, including 28 minors.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:
<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>
The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Military Resistance In PDF Format?
If you prefer PDF to Word format, email: contact@militaryproject.org

VIETNAM GI: REPRINTS AVAILABLE



Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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