

Military Resistance 15C3



A Message From China: “The Workers Are Angry” “They All Feel Like Killing Someone”

March 3, 2017 By CHUIN-WEI YAP, Wall Street Journal [Excerpt]

According to official figures from China’s Supreme People’s Court, from 2012-14 there were about 2,000 bankruptcy cases each year—just 0.25% of the roughly 800,000 companies that left the market each year.

That jumped to a record 3,683 in 2015, and higher again to 5,665 cases last year, as corporate debt sharply surged and the court began to urge wider use of the law—including parts attorneys say draw on U.S. chapter 11 provisions to let companies restructure under court protection.

For Yan Xiaodong, a 46-year-old steelworker whose state-owned mill was declared bankrupt in August, it is hard to see the broader benefits of a trend that gives companies a way out of debt but offers few solutions for workers.

“The workers are angry,” he said. “They all feel like killing someone.”

POLICE WAR REPORTS

Body Cam Video Shows Cop Shooting Unarmed Man Immediately After Ordering The Suspect To Show His Hands: “The Officer Fired A Bullet Into The Unarmed Man’s Abdomen Before He Could Even Comply With Her Orders” “Warrick Had Been Unarmed”

March 4, 2017 By Andrew Emmett, NationofChange

Footage from police body cameras recently captured a Louisville Metro Police officer shooting an unarmed man without provocation. Immediately after ordering the suspect to show his hands, the officer fired a bullet into the unarmed man’s abdomen before he could even comply with her orders.

On Wednesday morning, LMPD officers Sarah Stumler, Aaron Seneker, and Braden Lammers responded to a 911 call reporting a man abusing drugs near an abandoned house. When the officers arrived, a neighbor informed them that the suspect had entered a vacant home next door.

According to recently released footage from the officers’ body cameras, three cops entered the abandoned residence and spent nearly three minutes checking each room with their guns drawn while announcing their presence inside the house. Believing they had cleared the vacant home, the officers began to exit the building when Stumler suddenly noticed 38-year-old Bruce Warrick leaning motionless against a wall and hiding behind a mattress.

“Show your hands!” Stumler shouted at Warrick before abruptly shooting him in the abdomen without giving him a chance to comply.

“Shit!” Stumler immediately exclaimed after firing her gun.

Warrick remained leaning against the wall, clutching his bleeding stomach, as the mattress fell to the floor. The video ended with the officers cuffing Warrick’s hands behind his back as he collapsed to the ground, moaning in pain.

According to police, Warrick had been unarmed and no weapons were located inside the abandoned house.

Transported to the intensive care unit at University of Louisville Hospital, Warrick remains in critical condition and underwent surgery on Thursday to remove organs. Not currently facing criminal charges, Warrick is on a ventilator and scheduled for further surgeries.

On Thursday, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer released a statement saying, “In the wake of yesterday’s shooting, I ask for the community to join me in prayer and compassion for Mr. Bruce Warrick and Officer Sarah Stumler and their families. Chief Conrad and I are committed to a thorough investigation into the circumstances, and a fully transparent process, which started with releasing the body camera video a day after the incident. I urge patience as we undertake a thorough investigation – for Mr. Warrick, Officer Stumler, and for our entire community.”

Placed on administrative leave pending an investigation into the shooting, Stumler has received two disciplinary actions prior to this incident. In one case on June 30, 2011, Mayor Fischer reportedly reprimanded Stumler for failing to appear in court for a pretrial conference.

After viewing the police body cam videos on Thursday, Warrick’s family asserted that Bruce Warrick clearly did not pose any threat to himself or the officers. Suffering from a history of drug abuse, Warrick was a June 2015 graduate of the Jefferson County Drug Court.

Judge Stephanie Pearce Burke, who oversees the program, recently told WLKY, “As a graduate of our program, Bruce was a generous and positive influence on others and he worked hard to achieve success in his own recovery. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bruce and everyone involved.”

Police Kill Woman’s Husband: Now They Want To Punish Her For Posting Facebook Plea For Justice; “Please, I Need Help. Can Somebody Out There, Out Of This State Of Oklahoma Help Me?”

January 23, 2017 By Brianna Bailey, <http://m.newsok.com>

The Moore Police Department is one of several parties asking a federal judge to punish the widow of a man who died in a scuffle with police in front of the Warren Theatre for posting an angry video on Facebook.

In court documents, the parties, including the city of Moore, Moore Police Department and Moore Warren Theatre, accused Nair Rodriguez of trying to incite violence in a Facebook video where she refers to the police as “pigs” and pleads for justice for her late husband.

Nair Rodriguez denies she ever threatened violence against police or encouraged others to harm anyone.

“I don’t want pity, but I hope I see some kind of justice soon,” Nair Rodriguez told The Oklahoman. “They want to sanction me, but I have nothing.”



Luis Rodriguez

After being barred from attending the deposition of a Moore police officer she blames for the death of her husband, Nair Rodriguez was feeling particularly desperate and upset one morning right before Christmas, when she decided to vent her frustrations on Facebook, she said.

Using the video-streaming platform Facebook Live, Nair Rodriguez began broadcasting an angry rant against the police officers and the legal process while sitting in her car parked in front of the law office in downtown Oklahoma City. Wearing bright red lipstick and aviator sunglasses, she is visibly distraught throughout the 18-minute video.

“I am desperate, I need help,” she said in the video, which she posted to the “Justice for Luis Rodriguez Not in Vain” Facebook page. “Please, I need help. Can somebody out there, out of this state of Oklahoma help me?”

Her husband, Luis Rodriguez, died after a scuffle with police in the parking lot of the Moore Warren Theater in 2014 on Valentine’s Day. She’s suing, saying police and theater security guards used excessive force against her husband, causing his death.

In a cellphone video Nair Rodriguez took the night her husband died, Luis Rodriguez can be heard saying “I can't breathe” while police held him down.

In court documents, the city of Moore and other defendants are requesting Nair Rodriguez pay legal fees, as well as travel and lodging costs for a former Moore police officer who now lives out of state, as punishment for disruptive behavior.

The defendants are asking to recover about \$4,000 in total.

“She made comments about her 'husband killers' and 'won't somebody please help me' — in this day and age this could mean a number of things,” said David Kirk, an attorney who represents the Moore Warren Theater and three off-duty game wardens who were working as security guards at the theater the night of Luis Rodriguez's death.

A Handcuffed 14-Year-Old Girl, Possibly Suicidal And In Need Of Psychiatric Help Spat At An Officer: He Punched Her Face — And Claimed Self-Defense

January 25 By Cleve R. Wootson Jr., Washington Post

The 14-year-old girl was upset, possibly suicidal and in need of psychiatric help, court documents say, but there was no way she was getting into an ambulance.

St. Paul Police Officer Michael Soucheray and his partner, Chris Rhoades, were sent to defuse the situation at Brittany's Place, a shelter for girls on the east side of the Minnesota city in December.

But the teenager “became agitated,” a criminal complaint says, and she gave officers and shelter staff the silent treatment.

They decided it was best if the officers — instead of paramedics — took the girl to the hospital. But still, she resisted. Officers handcuffed her and told her that if she didn't cooperate, she'd be dragged into the squad car, according to court documents. She responded by going limp.

But as the officers approached the car with the girl in tow, she roared to life, screaming and standing in the seat as officers tried to put a seat belt on her, according to a criminal complaint and the officer's attorney.

Then she cleared her throat and spat in Soucheray's face, the complaint and the officer's attorney say.

Soucheray, a seven-year member of the police department, balled up his fist and punched the girl in the face, the complaint says. Then he did it again.

He grabbed her by the jaw and called her "fucking bitch," according to the complaint.

On Monday, Soucheray was charged with fifth-degree assault, a misdemeanor that could land the officer in prison for 90 days.

And the officer's punch in the back of a patrol car has embroiled another Twin Cities police department in the heated national debate about police use of force.

Soucheray is on paid administrative leave, as his police department conducts an internal investigation, according to his department's Facebook page.

"The Saint Paul Police Department is committed to serving the City of Saint Paul with the highest levels of professionalism," the statement said. "As the department has demonstrated time and time again, when incidents occur that do not meet those standards, swift and decisive action is taken to hold ourselves accountable."

The statement said the department is waiting for the legal process to play out "before commenting further or taking any additional actions."

The girl wasn't seriously injured. She was charged in connection with the spitting incident, although her juvenile case is secret in Minnesota.

Soucheray's attorney, Peter Wold, told The Washington Post that the officer has apologized to his colleagues for his language. But the punches weren't a product of anger or rage, Wold said — they were an appropriate use of force in a situation where he had to defend himself.

"He's wedged in the back of the squad car with this belligerent screaming young woman that just clears her throat while he's trying to help her and spits in his face," Wold said. "That's dangerous. He was just a matter of inches away. ... She might be a young girl, but you don't know whether she has diseases or what. And that's an assault when you spit in someone's face like that."

Wold said his client was irritated, but the officer reacted to stop the girl's behavior.

Soucheray has been disciplined three times in the past, but never in connection with a use of force, his attorney said. Wold described Soucheray as a "good cop" who's married to an officer and has a good working relationship with Rhoades, his patrol partner of six years.

He has received two reprimands for preventable car crashes and was disciplined in 2012 for not attending a court trial, according to police department records obtained by the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

But his punch comes as the United States is embroiled in a debate about whether police officers are too quick to use force. Last year, police officers in the United States shot and killed 963 people — a quarter of those were having some kind of mental health crisis.

Emotions are especially raw in Minnesota after Philando Castile was shot and killed by an officer during a traffic stop in the summer in Falcon Heights, a Twin Cities suburb about 75 miles from St. Paul. The shooting's aftermath was broadcast on Facebook Live and quickly spread across social media and cable news. The officer who shot Castile was ultimately charged with manslaughter.

Wold said he thought the political climate factored into the decision to charge his client.

"It's tough enough being a cop nowadays," he said. "Just the regular danger and the antipathy toward them by different groups. It's hard enough but with the political environment. ... Politically it's easier to charge him than not. Then let it go the course and see what happens there."

Police Tackle And Beat A Black Man Suspected Of Stealing A Car. It Was His Car:

**“Crosby Stops The Car And
Slowly Gets Out, Hands In The
Air”**

**““Stop Resisting,’ An Officer Yells
As Another Strikes Crosby’s
Thigh”**

“They Determine It’s His, But He Was Still Arrested And Charged With Disobeying Officers And Resisting Arrest”

“You Know How It Is With Black People — They Think We’re Always Trying To Do Something Wrong”

January 14 By Cleve R. Wootson Jr. Washington Post

Pinned to the ground by officers who kned and struck him, Lawrence Crosby screamed whatever he could think of to convince them that he was a law-abiding PhD student, not a violent car thief.

“This is my vehicle, sir,” he said, his voice captured by the dashboard-camera video. “I have evidence. . . . I purchased this vehicle Jan. 23, 2015, from Libertyville Chevrolet.”

It wasn’t enough. The officers placed him in handcuffs in the driveway of a church, two blocks from the police station in Evanston, Ill.

Police released the dash-cam video earlier this week, detailing the half-hour encounter that sparked a civil lawsuit from Crosby and a discussion about race and policing in this city of 75,000, just north of Chicago.

The video includes footage from the dash cam of one of the officers involved in the altercation. But it’s also synced with video of a personal dash cam Crosby kept running in his car.

On that night in October 2015, Crosby was headed to Northwestern University, where he was studying for his doctoral degree in civil engineering.

But something was wrong with the molding on his car, so he pulled out a metal bar to try to fix the strip on the roof, he says on the video.

A woman passing by saw him — a black man, wearing a hoodie, with some kind of bar pressed up against a car.

She picked up the phone and called 911, telling the dispatcher she thought she was witnessing a car break-in.

“He had a bar in his hand, and it looked like he was jimmying the door open,” she told the dispatcher.

When Crosby drove off, the woman followed his Chevrolet and relayed information about his location to police.

Crosby was on the phone as he drove, and communicated his growing unease. He realized the situation could look suspicious to a passerby and hoped it didn't escalate.

"It was a little bit dark," he says to someone while on the phone, captured on video. "You know how it is with black people — they think we're always trying to do something wrong."

He noticed the car following him, and told the person on the other end of the phone that he's going to head to a place where he'll be safe.

"I think this person is still following me," he says. "I think they're trying to play some games. I'm about to go to the police station now."

He never makes it. Two blocks from the police station, an officer pulls behind his car and puts on his blue lights.

Crosby stops the car in the driveway of a church, and slowly gets out facing the officers, hands in the air.

He begins to explain, but the officers order him to keep his hands up. Others scream at him to get on the ground.

He turns and, in an instant, five officers sprint toward him. They drive him back several feet, kneeling him to force him to the ground and striking him with open hands to make him comply, a police spokesman said later.

"Stop resisting," an officer yells as another strikes Crosby's thigh.

"I'm cooperating. I'm cooperating," Crosby replies.

He continues to explain that the car is his, where he got it from and when. He attends Northwestern and is a civil engineering PhD, he says. He was just trying to fix his car.

He asks the officers why he's being handcuffed; they say they have to figure out who the car belongs to.

They determine it's his, but he was still arrested and charged with disobeying officers and resisting arrest. A judge later threw out the charges, Crosby's attorney Tim Touhy, told the Chicago Tribune.

The officers were never charged or disciplined. The Evanston Police Department has defended their actions.

Crosby, who couldn't be reached for comment Saturday, filed a civil lawsuit in 2016.

Evanston Alderman Brian Miller, who is running for mayor, told The Washington Post he's been outraged about the incident ever since he saw the video months ago with the rest of the city council.

“There’s underlying problems in our town that we’re not admitting,” he said. “There’s a true desire that people have — they want to address these problems and actually solve them. But we don’t want to necessarily admit that we have these problems.”

In Evanston, police say the officers who tackled Crosby were “in compliance with our procedures as it pertains to this type of situation,” according to Sgt. Dennis Leaks, who speaks before the video.

Leaks said the department has refined its policies: “We will no longer require subjects to be prone during these types of stops, as we acknowledge and realize that there are some problematic issues that come with that: locations of the stop, weather conditions and it gives a bad perception.”

Miller said he hopes the black eye this incident has given his city motivates Evanston police to change their training and discipline policies.

“There’s a huge outrage over this in the community already,” Miller said. “And I’m glad that it wasn’t worse, because it could have been.”

Justice Dept. Report Says Chicago Police Officers “Routinely Use Excessive Force And Violates The Constitutional Rights Of Residents, Particularly Those Who Are Black And Latino”

“Officers Are Described As Running After People Who They Had No Reason To Believe Committed Serious Crimes”

“Some Of Those Chases Ended In Fatal Gunfire”

A federal investigation into the Chicago police found that the department routinely uses excessive force and violates the constitutional rights of residents, particularly those who are black and Latino.

On Friday, Chicago leaders said they had promised to negotiate with the federal government an order, enforceable by a judge, that would reform how the police department handles training, accountability and the way officers use force.

When asked whether the Chicago action would retain its strength under a Trump administration, Attorney General Loretta Lynch said Friday she expected the agreement with Chicago to live on beyond Obama's term.

The report details a grim succession of anecdotes.

Officers are described as running after people who they had no reason to believe committed serious crimes. Some of those chases ended in fatal gunfire.

In one case, officers began chasing a man who was described as “fidgeting with his waistband.” Police fired a total of 45 rounds at him, hitting and killing him. No gun was found on the man, the report states, and a gun found almost a block away was both “fully-loaded and inoperable.”

These anecdotes were not limited to fatal incidents. A 16-year-old girl is described as being struck with a baton and shocked with a Taser for not leaving school when she was found carrying a cellphone.

A 12-year-old Latino boy was “forcibly handcuffed” without explanation while riding his bike near his father.

Federal officials were also told about officers taking young people to the neighborhood of a rival gang to either leave them there “or display the youth,” putting their lives in danger by suggesting they had given information to police.

While the federal officials on Friday noted that city officials have made efforts recently to enact reforms, they said “complicated and entrenched” causes of the problems could only be fixed with outside help.

The report is the culmination of a 13-month investigation into the country's second-biggest local law enforcement agency, which has a grim history that includes a former police commander who spent decades leading a torture ring until he was suspended and then fired in the early 1990s.

During the news conference on Friday, Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said “some of the findings in the report are difficult to read.” But he also said that many of the problems had already been identified and officials were working to correct them.

“Quite simply, as a department, we need to do better, and you have my promise, and commitment, that we will do better,” Johnson said.

“Officers Are Described As Lying, As Part Of A “Code Of Silence” And Also In Cases Where They Had Little Reason To Lie”

Officers are described as lying, as part of a “code of silence” and also in cases where they had little reason to lie, the report states.

But investigators also described an utter absence of morale in the police force, as officers increasingly feel they are adrift and unsupported, and the report describes suicides and suicide threats among officers as “a significant problem.”

Many “officers feel abandoned by the public and often by their own department,” the report states. “We found profoundly low morale nearly every place we went within CPD. Officers generally feel that they are insufficiently trained and supported to do their work effectively.”

The Justice Department began its Chicago investigation in December 2015, just weeks after authorities in the city released video footage showing an officer fatally shooting Laquan McDonald, a black 17-year-old.

This dashboard-camera recording, withheld for more than a year by city officials, showed Officer Jason Van Dyke firing 16 shots into McDonald, some after the teenager had already crumpled to the ground, despite initial accounts that the teenager had lunged at the officer.

The video unleashed a torrent of anger on the streets of Chicago, which became the latest in a series of cities that boiled over in recent years after a fatal encounter involving police.

The recording has continued to reverberate in the city. Not long after it was made public, the Justice Department announced that it would begin what is known as a “pattern or practice investigation” into the police department. Mayor Rahm Emanuel (D), facing intense criticism, ousted Garry F. McCarthy as police superintendent, while voters decisively dismissed Anita Alvarez, the prosecutor in the case, in an election that highlighted the McDonald shooting.

In what some viewed as a prelude to the Justice Department’s findings, the task force’s report described repeatedly hearing from people who felt some police officers are racist and said the police force’s own data “gives validity to the widely held belief the police have no regard for the sanctity of life when it comes to people of color.”

Chicago officials have vowed to pursue police reforms and increased transparency, and have also announced plans to beef up the policing ranks as the city confronts an explosion of bloodshed and just saw its deadliest year in two decades. Johnson, the police superintendent, called for Van Dyke and four other officers to be fired over the episode, accusing them of lying about the shooting. Van Dyke was arrested and charged with murder the day the McDonald footage was released.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois said that the findings confirmed “what we have known for decades” about policing in Chicago.

“The Chicago Urban League believes that the report must be viewed as a milestone,” Shari Runner, president and chief executive of the group, said in a statement. “It is verification of the worst of what we’ve been and continue to be, but offers a viable path to what we want to become.”

Distrust remains an issue between police officers and residents in Chicago. In a poll taken last year, one in three residents said the city’s police officers were doing an excellent or good job; far fewer black residents (12 percent) felt that way than white residents (47 percent) or Hispanic residents (37 percent).

The new report also states that police use force almost 10 times as often against black people as white people. Complaints filed against officers by white people were substantially more likely to be substantiated than those filed by black people or Latinos.

Federal investigators said their inquiry found that Chicago police force did not provide officers with suitable guidance for using force, investigate improper uses of force or hold officers accountable for such incidents. Investigators also faulted the city’s methods of handling officer discipline, saying the process “lacks integrity,” while saying that in the rare case where misconduct complaints are sustained, discipline is “haphazard and unpredictable.”

Training is repeatedly described as woefully inadequate, with the report describing officers in a class on deadly force being shown a video made more than three decades ago that depicted tactics “clearly out of date.”

Emanuel acknowledged Friday that there were questions were surrounding what the next administration would do, but vowed to continue working with the government.

“We will continue on the path of reform, because that is the path of progress,” he said. Emanuel later added, “We’re going to continue to work with that new Justice Department.”

Speaking on Capitol Hill during his confirmation hearing this week, Sessions suggested that entire departments filled with good officers could be tarred by the work of individuals and was critical of lawsuits that force reforms.

“These lawsuits undermine the respect for police officers and create an impression that the entire department is not doing their work consistent with fidelity to law and fairness, and we need to be careful before we do that,” Sessions said.

He would not commit to leaving unchanged agreements that are in place when he takes over, though he said he would enforce them until changes are made.

The Justice Department can investigate and force systemic changes- on local police departments and sue them if they do not comply. This authority was given to the federal agency in 1994, when Congress acted in the wake of the 1991 beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles police officers and subsequent unrest following the acquittal of the officers involved.

During the Obama administration, the Civil Rights Division has opened 25 investigations into law enforcement agencies, according to the Justice Department. Probes have found patterns of excessive force used in police departments including Portland, Ore., Cleveland, Albuquerque, New Orleans, Seattle and Puerto Rico, among others.

The Chicago probe was among the largest pattern and practices investigations in the Justice Department's history, involving a force that has 12,000 officers, trailing only the New York police force among local law enforcement agencies in the United States.

Angelo, the head of Chicago's police union, has said he was concerned federal investigators were rushing to finish the probe before Trump's inauguration. When asked Friday about the timing of the report's release, Lynch noted the investigation had begun more than a year ago, though she acknowledged lawyers had worked "quickly" to bring it to fruition.

"This is not a political process, this is an investigative process," Lynch said.

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

But out of this complicated web of material and psychic forces one conclusion emerges with irrefutable clarity: the more the soldiers in their mass are convinced that the rebels are really rebelling – that this is not a demonstration after which they will have to go back to the barracks and report, that this is a struggle to the death, that the people may win if they join them, and that this winning will not only guarantee impunity, but alleviate the lot of all – the more they realize this, the more willing they are to turn aside their bayonets, or go over with them to the people.

**And the highest determination never can, or will, remain unarmed.
-- Leon Trotsky; The History of the Russian Revolution**

**Trump -- The Contradictions Of
U.S. Capital:
“The Contradictions Of Trump’s
Policy Reflect The Contradictions
Within The Broad Cross-Class
Coalition That Brought Him To The
White House”
“The Political And Institutional Crisis
Of American Society Has Gone Too
Far”
“The Country Is Split, And The Old
Order, For The Restoration Of Which The
Liberals Are Clamoring, Is Not Only**

Impossible To Restore, But Receives Blow After Blow Every Day”

FEBRUARY 21, 2017 by BORIS KAGARLITSKY, CounterPunch

Boris Kagarlitsky PhD is a historian and sociologist who lives in Moscow. He is a prolific author of books on the history and current politics of the Soviet Union and Russia and of books on the rise of globalized capitalism. Fourteen of his books have been translated into English. The most recent book in English is ‘From Empires to Imperialism: The State and the Rise of Bourgeois Civilisation’ (Routledge, 2014). Kagarlitsky is chief editor of the Russian-language online journal Rabkor.ru (The Worker). He is the director of the Institute for Globalization and Social Movements, located in Moscow.

Moscow.

The first weeks of Trump’s presidency did not resemble honeymoon normally enjoyed by newly elected leaders of the United States. The severity and aggressiveness of the debate is unprecedented.

Liberals threw at Trump all of their hatred, while the conservative public – all of its delight.

Opinions in Russia are split roughly along the same lines as they are in America.

The situation on the Left is much more complex. While some repeat, like well-trained parrots, the talking points of liberal propaganda, passionately quoting the CNN and the New York Times, the others, exhibit at least some schadenfreude about the disintegration of Democratic Party, and the collapse of free trade agreements.

However, even in the last case, the discussion, with a few exceptions, does not go beyond the question of whether we like or do not like the 45th president of the US and his decisions.

Assessments of Trump’s personality, and even actions, are the last thing we need if we are to understand the perspectives of his term as a president of the US. We would be much better served by an analysis of the processes unfolding before us.

Meanwhile, the decisions the new president made so far are a clear evidence of the contradictory character of his policies.

Trump and his entourage, perhaps, did not realize the extent of the problem yet, but future course of events will force them to do so.

Wavering of Senator Bernie Sanders, who expresses approval of the decisions of the White House one day, while unleashing a fierce criticism the very next, is revealing in its own way.

In fact, a number of actions and statements by Donald Trump put him on par with the anti-globalists who protested in Seattle in 1999.

But his other decisions and statements unequivocally portray the president as not just a conservative, but as an ardent supporter of the free market and liberal economic doctrines.

On the one hand, Trump cancels Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and insists on revising NAFTA, the embodiment of neoliberal principles.

He berates NATO, talks about Canada-style public health insurance, calls for lower drug prices. President meets with trade unionists at the White House and discusses joint efforts to create jobs.

But on the same day, President cancels restrictions and regulations governing the activities of the major Wall Street banks, while negotiations on the price control of medicines turn into promises to lower taxes for manufacturers.

The nomination of Betsy DeVos as a head of the Department of Education is a complete scandal.

And not only because of her conservative views, but also because the lady who was put in charge of the public schools, is in a sharp conflict with the professional community – how does this fit in with the promise to return power to the people?

It is most likely, though, that from Trump's point of view, there is no contradiction.

Yes, Betsy DeVos and teachers experience mutual hatred, but on the other hand, she is in agreement with the most ignorant part of parents, who are confident that the less children learn in school, the better it is for them.

President, like most of his voters, does not believe in global warming, but he believes in free markets and low taxes. At the same time, he believes that the US domestic market should be protected from unfair foreign competition.

Simply speaking: liberalism for “our own” protectionism for the “strangers”.

This is exactly how American capitalism was developing in the first third of the twentieth century!

Alas, the times have changed.

“The Collapse Of The Neo-Liberal World Order Is A Spontaneous And Natural Process, Generated By Its Own Self-Destructive Logic”

Transnational capital, formed by the end of the twentieth century, has changed the rules of the game not only globally, but also at the internal market.

These new rules brought the world to the current systemic crisis. The collapse of the neo-liberal world order is a spontaneous and natural process, generated by its

own self-destructive logic, and not by the ideological views of anti-globalists or Trump.

This process of decay has begun long before the arrival of the current President in the White House.

The victory of Trump is itself a consequence of the crisis, which has already fully unfolded and penetrated into all pores of the society. To the dismay of liberal intellectuals in London, Moscow and New York, this decay is irreversible.

In 2016, politics has finally synchronized with the economics.

The principal difference between the 45th US president and his liberal opponents is not that he does not believe in globalization, but that he is aware of its collapse, and therefore does not attempt to save the crumbling system, but seeks to build a new policy which would take the new reality into consideration.

The question is: which direction this policy will take.

If the collapse of the old system is, to some extent, a natural process, at least at the economic level, the formation of a new social order does not happen automatically.

As a consequence of his intent to reconsider the rules of the game, Trump is faced with the need to introduce his own positive program. And here he inevitably faces the objective contradiction between the interests of different social and economic groups which see the necessity of change.

Consistent implementation of protectionist policies intended to restore the internal market will not be effective without measures aimed at regulation and reconstruction of the US economy.

One may call for re-industrialization of the United States on the basis of market principles, but the nature of these principles objectively prevents them from resolving this problem. If the situation was different, not only the problem would have been already solved to a certain extent, but also Trump would probably not have had a chance to occupy the Oval Office at the White House.

Attempts to balance the budget at the expense of the import duties, while reducing taxes to encourage production without reducing profits of financial corporations and raise wages of workers without affecting the interests of entrepreneurs, sooner or later will lead US president's policies to a logical impasse.

It will be impossible to come out of it without making a political choice in favor of one party or another.

“No Matter What The Liberal Pundits Say, These Were The Votes Of Workers Who Brought Him The Victory”

Contradictions will only worsen as the government will have to make decisions on the matters of foreign policy, provoking disagreements and crises within the administration.

In fact, the contradictions of Trump's policy reflect the contradictions within the broad cross-class coalition that brought him to the White House.

No matter what the liberal pundits say, these were the votes of workers who brought him the victory. Not the so-called "white men", but the working class, who openly and, largely, in solidarity, made a stand against the Washington establishment.

To a large extent his election campaign reproduced the ideas and slogans of the Left. Republican candidate was supported by farmers, clerks and provincial intelligentsia.

This really was an uprising of the forgotten and resentful provincial America against the spoiled people in California and the cosmopolitan officials from Washington, who comfortably exploit cheap labor of illegal migrants, against the liberal elite, who turned their back on their own country long time ago.

But Donald Trump is not a worker or a farmer. He and his entourage are very typical representatives of a medium size American enterprise which is tied to the domestic market and is in conflict with transnational corporations.

All groups that have supported him were equally offended and humiliated by the policies pursued by the metropolitan liberals and were interested in reconsideration of these policies. They all need protectionism.

But at this point their unity ends. The interests of classes and groups, who led Trump to the White House, do not coincide in the positive part of the program.

On the one hand, the ability to unite a broad cross-class coalition around a single leader or a party has always been the main source of strength for the populist movements.

On the other hand, the objective contradictions of class interests have invariably been their stumbling block.

The long-term success, and often the physical survival of populist leaders have always depended on whether they were able to, by changing the configuration and maneuvering, prevent the collapse of the block they lead.

Would the leader be able to reshape it on the go, making a choice in favor of the correct forces at the right moment?

Sooner or later the necessity will arise not only to side with one part of his supporters against the other, but also to sacrifice many of his political friends, and sometimes even the interests of his own class.

Donald Trump will inevitably face such choices.

Not just a place of 45th president in US history, but also his personal fate, which has potential to be more than dramatic, depends on when, how and for whose benefit he will make these choices.

The political and institutional crisis of American society has gone too far.

The country is split, and the old order, for the restoration of which the Liberals are clamoring, is not only impossible to restore, but receives blow after blow every day.

And the organizers of the liberal opposition campaign are themselves smashing the very public institutions, which they previously have relied upon for their power.

In order to get rid of Trump, they need a coup. Whether this scenario will be tried in the hard (force) or soft (impeachment) variant, it would be a major blow to the institutions of American democracy.

It can be assumed with a good reason that the historic mission of Trump is the destruction of the existing liberal order.

The positive work will be performed by other politicians and social movements.

But these movements and leaders will only form in the struggle that is unfolding today. And how that happens, depends on the fate of Trump and the reforms initiated by him.

Institutional crisis, undermining the existing two-party system in the United States and the dominance of the Washington establishment, creates prospects for the left to participate in serious politics.

The sudden success of Bernie Sanders in the primaries in 2016 demonstrated the possible scale of the opportunities.

But the Left would only be able to use these opportunities on one condition – if it does not allow the Liberal circles to transform them into political extras fighting to protect the dying order.

Otherwise, they will go to the bottom together.

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Military Resistance Newsletter, 459 Columbus Avenue, PMB#282, New York, N.Y. 10024 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication.

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ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary: March 1912 Women Warriors Win Bread And Roses



IWW organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn addresses a strike rally

Carl Bunin Peace History March 12-18

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) won the Lawrence, Massachusetts, “Bread & Roses” textile strike after 32,000 workers (mostly young female immigrants who spoke twenty-five different languages) stayed out for nine weeks.

They were striking for better pay, a 54-hour workweek and safer working conditions: the equipment was dangerous and the air quality caused lung disease in nearly one-third of the workers before the age of twenty-five.

“Bread and Roses,” by James Oppenheimer

**As we go marching, marching, in the beauty of the day,
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lots gray
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses
For the people hear us singing: bread and roses, bread and roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, we battle, too, for men,
For they are women’s children and we march with them again.**

**Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;
Hearts starve as well bodies; give us bread but give us roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread.
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew;
Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses, too.**

**As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days;
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.
No more the drudge and idler, 10 that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories: bread and roses, bread and roses.**



Bread & Roses victory parade

January 18, 2002 By ELIZABETH SCHULTE, Socialist Worker

JAMES OPPENHEIMER wrote the song "Bread and Roses" for striking textile workers in Lawrence, Mass.

He took the title from the banners of strikers, who demanded not just decent treatment at work, but the right to dignity and a better quality of life.

The textile bosses in Lawrence had hired women and children because they thought they could pay poverty wages and never face resistance. And they employed immigrants--who spoke more than 25 different languages--with the aim of keeping workers from uniting and fighting back.

But the bosses were wrong on both counts. More than 20,000 Lawrence workers struck against a 30-cent pay cut in January 1912.

Many workers were lured to Lawrence by advertisements in their home cities--throughout the Balkans and the Mediterranean--showing happy textile workers carrying bags of money home from their jobs. Instead, the new immigrants were greeted with miserable labor at poverty wages.

The strike came as a surprise to bosses, considering that the workers were largely unorganized. Because of its craft orientation and its policy of ignoring immigrant and women workers, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) had few locals in the textile industry.

AFL leaders actually opposed the Lawrence strike and by the end of the struggle had sided with the bosses -- denouncing strikers as anarchists and saboteurs. In contrast, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), or Wobblies, saw the Lawrence battle as a key struggle in their strategy of organizing all workers into "One Big Union."

ALTHOUGH THE IWW had been organizing in Lawrence since 1905, at times working with the more conservative AFL unions, they accelerated their campaign when one of the largest mills, Atlantic Cotton, struck against speedups in 1911. The Wobblies sent in some of their best organizers--J.P. Thompson, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Big Bill Haywood, Arturo Giovannitti and Joe Ettor, whose ability to speak six languages was a tremendous asset.

But the backbone of the struggle was the workers of Lawrence themselves. In January 1912, Massachusetts passed labor reform legislation that limited women and children from working more than 54 hours a week. In Lawrence, the typical workweek was 56 hours. But because the law didn't have a provision preserving the two hours' pay, bosses instead decided to use the measure to cut wages.

Local 20, the Italian branch of the IWW, called a meeting on January 10 to discuss what action to take on payday. Some 1,000 workers showed up and voted to call workers on strike as soon as they received the checks.

On January 12, strikers poured out of the mills, some of them forming flying squads to go into factories to bring out other workers. Mill owners ordered their goons to attack workers, hosing them down with freezing water in the subzero January weather. But workers resisted, going into the factories and smashing machinery and windows.

The governor used this as an excuse to call out the National Guard, which joined police on the streets in intimidating workers.

In the course of the struggle, Lawrence workers devised several new and effective strike tactics. One was the mass picket. Instead of small picket lines, Lawrence strikers organized all their forces to block workplaces.

In the face of thousands of workers surrounding a factory, neither the bosses' scabs nor the police could do a thing. And as they marched, sang and chanted in the thousands, workers built solidarity and a sense of their own power. Building solidarity among the different immigrant groups--the largest were Italians, Poles, Russians, Syrians and Lithuanians--was critical to the strike's victory.

Questions in the struggle were debated and decisions made in weekly mass meetings attended by thousands of strikers. After each meeting, workers sang the workers' anthem from the Paris Commune, "The Internationale."

Day-to-day decisions were made by a strike committee, which was made up of elected representatives from each of the different language groups.

THE ROLE of women -- wives of strikers and strikers themselves -- was key to the strike's success, and the IWW did everything it could to foster their participation. The Wobblies organized special meetings for women and encouraged them to take on leadership positions.

“The women worked in the mills for lower pay and in addition had all the housework and the care of the children,” wrote Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. “The old-world attitude of man as the ‘lord and master’ was strong. We resolutely set out to combat these notions.

“The women wanted to picket. We knew that to leave them at home alone, isolated from the strike activity, prey to worry...was dangerous for the strike.”

Women proved to be some of the fiercest fighters.

On one occasion, a group of Italian women found a police officer alone on a bridge. They had taken his gun, club and badge and were in the process of removing his pants before throwing him into the water when he was rescued by the cavalry.

“The IWW has been accused of putting the women in the front,” wrote Flynn. “The truth is, the IWW does not keep them in the back, and they go to the front.”

So it is no surprise that several women were elected strike committee delegates.

Concrete provisions were made to provide for workers' families. Strikers ran six commissaries and 11 soup kitchens.

And when the Lawrence schools taught strikers' children that their parents were “un-American” for striking, the IWW's Haywood organized meetings for the kids.

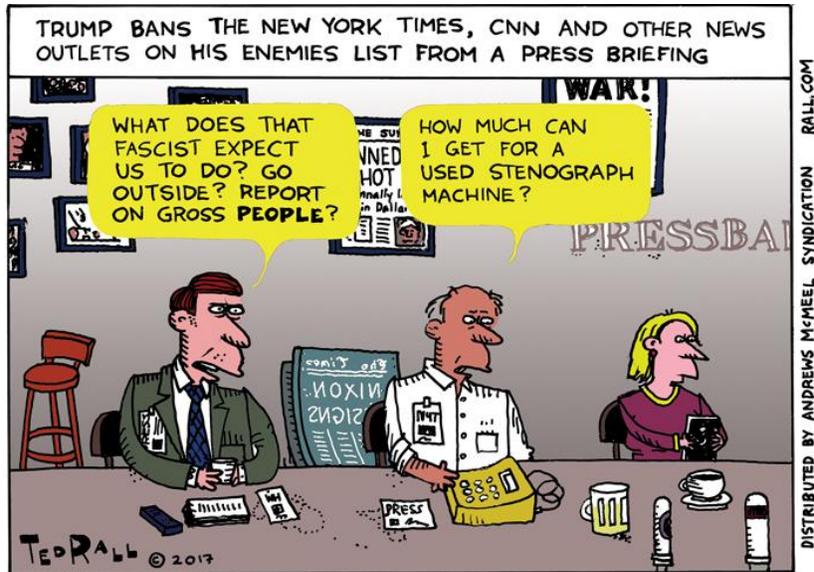
When the growing threat of violence from police and company goons made strikers fear for their children's safety, the workers devised a brilliant plan. Strike supporters in other parts of the country--mostly from New York City--were called on to house and care for the children for the strike's duration. When supporters gathered to meet the Lawrence children at Grand Central Station, it became a huge labor rally.

The strikers forced the mill bosses to settle in March--and won most of their demands. They got pay increases on a sliding scale, with the lowest-paid workers getting 25 percent raises; time and a quarter for overtime; and a guarantee that no striker would be discriminated against.

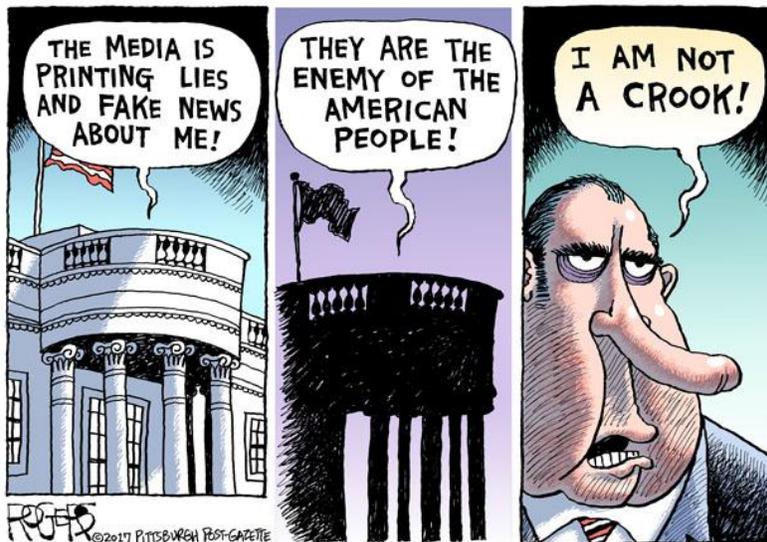
The victory encouraged a wave of strikes in several New England cities. For example, as soon as Wobblies arrived in Lowell, Mass., mill owners offered workers a 5 percent raise.

The history of this amazing struggle--especially its spirit of solidarity among men and women and between different immigrant groups--remains an inspiration today.

DANGER: CAPITALISTS AT WORK



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Trump Is Creating A Field Day For The 1%

“He Was Supposed To Be Leading A Revolt Against America’s Elites”

“In Practice Donald Trump Is Laying Out A Banquet For Their Delectation”

“The Biggest Winners Will Be On Wall Street, In The Fossil Fuel Energy Sector And Defense”

Feb. 28 2017 by Edward Luce, The Financial Times Limited

He was supposed to be leading a revolt against America’s elites.

In practice Donald Trump is laying out a banquet for their delectation. The Trump White House is drawing up plans for across-the-board deregulation, tax cuts and a new generation of defence contracts. The only question is at what speed.

In contrast, Mr Trump’s middle-class economic plans, such as they were, are already receding. The chances of a big infrastructure bill are rapidly dimming. In marketing they call this bait and switch. The effect of Mr Trump’s economic agenda will be to deepen the conditions that gave rise to his candidacy.

The biggest winners will be on Wall Street, in the fossil fuel energy sector and defence.

Stephen Bannon, Mr Trump’s most influential adviser, last week described the bonfire of regulations as the “deconstruction of the administrative state”. For every new regulation, two will be scrapped.

The first clutch will come this week with executive orders undoing Barack Obama’s “clean power plan” that limits carbon dioxide emissions and a separate one on clean water.

Anticipation of this has helped to fuel the boom in energy stocks since Mr Trump was elected. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose more in Mr Trump’s first month than for any president since Franklin Roosevelt.

Financial stocks have also over-performed since the election.

Many, if not most, of the protections included in the Dodd-Frank law after the collapse of Lehman Brothers are in Mr Trump's sights. These include the Volcker rule that restricts banks from speculating with other people's money, and possibly protections designed to shield the consumer — what Mr Trump called the “forgotten American” — from reckless marketing. Such rules have inhibited Mr Trump's Wall Street friends from lending money, he said earlier this month.

Elsewhere the open season is well under way.

Mr Bannon's “deconstruction” is already touching most areas of US federal activity.

Last week the stocks of private prison companies soared after the Department of Justice scrapped an Obama rule that ended the outsourcing of federal incarceration.

They had already jumped after the announcement the Trump administration would detain illegal immigrants in federal centres rather than release them.

“Expect A Flood Of Fake Job Announcements”

Likewise, the new head of the Federal Communications Commission has purged key parts of the net neutrality rules put in place to shield consumers from discrimination. The FCC also scrapped plans to open the cable box market to competition.

Expect similar field days in the for-profit higher education sector, defence industrial stocks and public housing contractors.

The scale of Mr Trump's tax cuts are more vague. Steven Mnuchin, the Treasury secretary, wants them enacted by August. It is unclear whether it will include a “border adjustment tax” that would hit importers but supposedly incentivise manufacturers to bring production back home. The import tax would raise roughly \$1tn over the next decade and finance a much larger tax cut than otherwise.

Unsurprisingly, the only stocks that have done badly since Mr Trump was inaugurated are big retailers, such as Walmart, who would be hardest hit by a 20 per cent border tax.

Their customers are the forgotten Americans whose grocery bills would soar. It matters little to them whether Mr Trump pushes through a large or a medium sized tax cut.

Simple arithmetic ensures the gains would go disproportionately to the top one per cent.

How will Mr Trump keep the forgotten Americans happy? His only concrete promises were to boost infrastructure and protect entitlements such as social security and Medicare. Only the second is likely. Plans to raise infrastructure spending were more

apparent than real — most of the supposed new money was in tax credits rather than spending. But even this is unlikely to pass Congress this year.

The answer lies instead in Mr Trump's grander promise to pursue a "buy American and hire American" agenda. The beauty is that he can define the art of this deal any way he wants.

Talking up the "big mess" Mr Trump says he inherited from Mr Obama is a part of it. Deporting illegal immigrants counts as hiring Americans. Cajoling companies to announce new jobs in the US, or to bring them back, will also fuel that narrative — even if they are simply repackaging existing plans.

Expect a flood of fake job announcements.

The darker side is who Mr Trump will blame when people start to complain.

His administration's perennial enemy is what Mr Bannon calls the "big opposition" — the media. Bad news will be dismissed as globalist propaganda.

Mr Bannon has also reiterated the case for "economic nationalism". China, Mexico and others are ready scapegoats. Expect large anti-dumping actions in the coming months. Then there are the Muslims, illegal immigrants and so on. They are soft targets.

Will Mr Trump's tactics be enough to make the forgotten American feel remembered? Possibly.

The president has a knack of sounding off against the elite while lining their pockets. The rule with Mr Trump, as in life, is to watch what he does, not what he says. They are often two different things.



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