

# CHALLENGE-DESAFIO

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The Progressive Labor Party and its newspaper, *Challenge*, are dedicated to the U.S. working class and the working class of the entire world—black, Latin, white, Asian and Native American.

The only way our class can ever have a decent life is by overthrowing the bosses' governments and establishing the DICTATORSHIP OF THE WORKING CLASS, a system in which the workers rule and the bosses are outlawed.

When this is done, we can build a new society; a society in which working people collectively own the factories and farms: a society of socialism.

Until this is done, the bosses will continue to hold the trump card: their armies, police, and courts. The reforms we win in day-to-day struggles will be whittled away.

Progressive Labor Party members dedicate themselves to serve the people by guiding them to working-class revolution; by building deep ties among the mass of working people in their day-to-day battles; by learning to apply the revolutionary science of Marxism-Leninism—proven in decades of world-wide struggle—to the particular conditions of industrial United States.

Our newspaper, *Challenge*, strives to present the unconditional truth of class struggle so our class can learn from experience how to win.



## Killers at Columbia Point

Dear CHALLENGE-DESAFIO:

I'm an older man and when there weren't too many at Columbia Point, I was around 100 yds. from the demonstrators, because I was afraid to join them on Saturday, May 3, 1975.

A police officer asked me, "You don't want to join them, do you?" I didn't dignify him with an answer and I walked away looking for his badge number. I didn't see any.

Later, I walked over where the police motorcyclists were. Somebody gave them a signal to leave the area. One of the police motorcyclists said, "KILL, KILL." Another said, "I'm going to kill the first one." I assume they meant the demonstrators.

After more people came off the buses, I joined the demonstrators and the march. It was one of the most exciting marches I was in, and I marched in very many since 1952.

—A Boston area sympathizer

# Fight the bosses, not the buses

U.S. bosses are promoting the violent movements against school busing in Boston and elsewhere as a key battering ram of their strategy for developing fascism. The main anti-busing organization, ROAR, is seriously attempting to constitute itself as a nationwide group. The ruling class wants the racist attacks against schoolchildren in Boston to serve as the springboard for similar attacks in dozens of other cities.

THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS DICTATE THAT THIS strategy be smashed. In order to counter the rulers' plans for fascism, workers and their allies must act upon an unwavering class position that will enable us to maintain vital unity within our own ranks and at the same time go on to the offensive. Therefore, the Progressive Labor Party offers the following program on the question of busing and the schools:

—We support and fight for the concept of **quality, integrated education**. Segregation in the schools, the communities, or anywhere else, harms the entire working class. It divides us, promotes racism, and therefore weakens our ability to fight back against the bosses. From a class standpoint, the fight for integration is inseparable from the fight for more schools, more jobs, higher wages, and more benefits for everyone, especially minority workers and their children who are hardest

## A Progressive Labor Party Editorial

hit by segregation and racism.

—The public school system in the U.S. is generally rotten. However, because of racism, the worst conditions overall prevail in ghetto schools and in schools with a high percentage of minority children in attendance. Given this situation, many minority parents have reached the conclusion that their children will receive a better education in schools with a higher percentage of white children, where the effects of racism are not as devastating. These parents should be able to send their children to any school they choose. They should be provided with adequate busing service to accomplish this. When busing is used in this way, it can help to integrate the schools. **The PLP supports busing for integration.**

—The bosses are able to use racism to build an anti-busing movement in cases where white parents and students oppose the arrival of new groups of minority students into their schools. These parents justify their action on the grounds that black, latin, and other minority children will create "inferior" conditions in the schools. This viewpoint is a nazi trap. It can lead only to worsening school conditions for everyone. Those responsible for the disgusting conditions in the schools are the

bosses, the politicians, and the school administrators. To the white parents who oppose busing for integration, we say: Don't be a sucker for the ruling class. Nothing—absolutely nothing—can justify wanton attacks on anyone's kids. When minority children are bused into your schools, welcome them. **Make friends with their parents. Unite with teachers to build a movement that can fight to win significant improvements in everyone's schools.** Disunity and racism are certain roads to defeat. Hicks, Kerrigan and ROAR have yet to build a single school for the children of Boston—and the Boston public school system is one of the worst in the country.

—At the same time, liberal politicians like Kennedy, Boston's Mayor White, and others, who represent the center of power in the U.S. ruling class, deliberately use the issue of busing to provoke as much racism and discord as possible in the ranks of the working class. When Judge Arthur Garrity (who was a high-ranking JFK campaign worker in 1958) issued his busing orders last year and this year, **he made it illegal to build any new schools in the city.** This is standard operating procedure when the liberals organize any busing program: they actually intensify racism by making integration appear contradictory to improvement of the schools. At the same time, liberal Mayor White stood by while the Boston police under his command let the ROAR-inspired fascists viciously attack black school children all year long. If we want to build a united movement that can win significant reforms in the schools and that can fight back against racism, we must smash both the open ROAR-type racists and the liberal bosses and politicians who stand behind them.

—Ultimately, decent, integrated, non-racist education that teaches important basic skills and that prepares children for productive lives is impossible under the capitalist system. We can have it only under socialism, after we have wiped out the big bosses and taken power by ourselves. Eliminating the obstacles that block our way to this goal therefore becomes a primary task for our class. The greatest of these obstacles at the present time—particularly in the mass movement to improve the schools—is racism. The most virulent racism manifests itself in the anti-busing movement. The fight for socialism, the fight for survival and the fight to win more and better schools depend on our ability to wipe out racism. Don't fall for the bosses' plans to split our ranks! The anti-busing movement is a deadly trap: reject it! We must act in Boston and elsewhere to guarantee that not one single hair is harmed on the head of one single bused minority student. **Those who attack children violently are fascists. The working class will make them pay for their crimes.**