

unless there is a buck to be made. Working people are forced to fight a continuing battle just to hold the line against the deteriorating conditions of their lives.

As long as there is capitalism, the gains won by the working class in periods of struggle will be attacked by the capitalists as soon as there is a lull or a general crisis. In this country, we are today experiencing a period in which the wage gains won over years of trade union struggles are being undermined and close to wiped out by inflation—which itself is the result of conscious economic policies of the capitalist government, such as the devaluation of the dollar.

This attack on the living standards of the workers is bound to intensify the class struggle. Already there has been a significant increase in the number of strikes—a basic form of the class struggle.

But strikes for economic demands alone do not go to the root of the problem. It is when the separate sections of the working class unite to struggle in defense of their general class interests against both the bosses and their political weapon, the bourgeois state, that a general strike can take on the character of a political challenge to the whole boss class.

The class struggle is fundamental to the relations between the workers and the bosses of any particular capitalist country. But it is also global in character, and is the most basic element in the relations between the capitalist countries and the workers' states. Our class allies are all the workers of the world, the socialist states, and the liberation movements of the colonized countries.



## Class Solidarity

When we speak or write about proletarian solidarity, working class solidarity, and international solidarity, we mean the complete unity of interest of all the peoples oppressed and exploited by capitalism. It is only by combining together in solidarity, it is only through closing ranks against the common enemy, that any victory has ever been won by the masses of people.

Working class solidarity is present in every strike, when a picket line is set up. Only a scab or a boss will cross this line, while all workers who feel solidarity with each other refuse. Workers formed trade unions and continue to organize into unions today out of knowledge that only through banding together in solidarity can even the slightest improvement be gained in working conditions, wages, job security, and so forth.

The bosses attempt to break up and destroy working class solidarity by dividing the poor and working people against each other. They attempt to turn men against women workers, white against nonwhite, straight against gay, "Americans" against "foreigners."

Nonetheless, the solidarity of the world working class and oppressed peoples has often defeated the attempts of the capitalist to trick working people into fighting against one another.