

## **Onward From Wisconsin: Which Way to Victory?**

Workers in Wisconsin and across the nation are at a crossroads. We can continue down the road of dependence on the Democratic Party, political lobbyists, and court rulings. We can persist in our reliance on business unionist leaders who offer concessions instead of fighting, and tell us to “share the pain” instead of taking actions designed to make the capitalists pay for their crisis. **Or, we can open a new road of independent working class action to make the bosses pay!**

The Democrats and union tops want us to “put down the placards and pick up the clipboards”; they intend to channel the masses’ energy off the streets and into the electoral arena and courts. In Wisconsin, a recall campaign will be coupled with mobilization for Democratic candidates and a demoralizing wait for court cases to be adjudicated. This is a dead-end strategy that leaves resolution of the crisis in the hands of the bosses’ institutions and their captive politicians. The Democrats could not even deliver the Employee Free Choice Act; no way can they protect our right to collective bargaining. Instead, to arrive at a solution to the crisis that favors the working class, we must develop and pursue a strategy of **self-organized activity** and **political independence**.

The outcome of this struggle will be decisive for the entire working class. Either the workers’ movement will prevail, and based on this victory a sense of revitalization will infuse the ranks of labor with a new spirit to turn the tide, or the capitalists will be victorious, and will expand their campaign from state to state, picking the unions to the bone and crushing the working class. For big capital, this is a nationwide attack; for the working class, the response must be nationwide as well.

### **Workers Must Break with the Democrats!**

The old strategy of class collaboration between labor and the Democrats has long tied the American worker to the imperialist project, pitting the American workers against the workers of the world. Labor, allied with the Democrats, has for over a century endorsed imperialist interventions supported and planned on a bipartisan basis by Wall Street politicians who took labor for granted, tossing us crumbs while militarily plundering and exploiting the resources of the world. We need an alternative strategy that breaks the stranglehold of class collaboration, understands that workers’ interests are not the same as Wall Street’s, and opens the road to international workers’ solidarity joint actions.

To resolve the economic and political crisis in the interest of the working class, we must organize from the bottom up (factory/office/jobsite committees), and we need to develop new leaders who will prepare for general strikes. As a recall campaign is already under way, we need to reject the Democrats who take our support for granted, and instead run independent labor candidates. This way, we can build working class political independence and lay the foundation for a fighting workers’/labor party.

### **Our Task: To Exploit the Cracks in Consciousness**

The consciousness of the working class in America is changing under the pressure of deteriorating material conditions. Old prejudices, as well as illusions in the “American dream,” are daily being crushed under the weight of unfulfilled expectations. Workers are starting to question the efficacy of the strategy and tactics of the current crop of labor fakers. As workers find that their dependence on the Democrats – even when coupled with daily protests, candlelight vigils, and pajama parties in the Capitol Rotunda – will not and cannot produce the desired results, they will be looking for working solutions.

The general strike and a program of transitional demands are our answer. With these working class weapons, we fight for control of the work and the workplace. The bosses have shown they are no longer capable either of administering the work process, or of guaranteeing the product – which, in

the case of public work, is providing services (education, health & safety, roads, transit, home care etc.) to the people. **WE DO THE WORK! WE SHOULD CONTROL IT!**

Advocacy for a general strike, today, exposes the incapability of the existing union leaderships to guide the working class to victory. The call for the general strike puts them on notice that we know they do not have a strategy or tactics that can resolve the crisis in the interest of the working class. Our strategy is to take every step with the masses toward greater and greater self expression of the historic interest of the working class. The tactics we use must rely on workers' self-organization, united front action, and the international workers' solidarity needed to win. As the economic crisis becomes more acute, and it becomes apparent that capital cannot resolve it, the emergence of a general strike poses the question of which class should run society: the capitalists or the workers.

### **Confronting old limitations and roadblocks**

The path to victory in Wisconsin and nationwide is via general strike, but we must not ignore what it will take to win. **Organized labor's ties to the Democrats and the entrenched labor fakers need to be broken.** A new militant rank and file leadership **committed to class struggle methods and class independence** must be forged, and must fight for and win leadership. Unless we first oust the business-unionist bureaucracy and reclaim the unions as democratic bodies run by the most militant workers, the general strike will not happen, or if it does, it will flounder and be smashed.

**Our strategy is workers' self-organization and solidarity!** All the hurdles in the way need to be consciously considered by mass assemblies of workers and popular forums, run on the principles of workers' democracy. The task at hand is to convene and turn solidarity actions into popular/worker/labor assemblies that meet everywhere to plan and prepare for a nationwide indefinite general strike. Local assemblies should delegate strike committees of the activists in the ranks to go to all worksites to organize meetings, help establish rank-and-file committees, caucuses, and networks, and enlist support for the strike to build locally and regionally before setting the date for the big one. Such organizational developments can lay the foundations needed for the formation of a workers' government that is capable of administering the economy in the common interests of the masses.

**The union busters have not hesitated to use their "nuclear option." We workers must not hesitate to use ours! Build the foundations for a general strike to smash the bosses' attacks on working people! Solidarity Forever!**

**HUMANIST WORKERS FOR REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM**

**Website: [www.HumanistsForRevolutionarySocialism.org](http://www.HumanistsForRevolutionarySocialism.org)**

**Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Humanists-for-Revolutionary-Socialism/80134436166>**

**Email: [hw4rs@yahoo.com](mailto:hw4rs@yahoo.com)**