

THE HAWKEYE WORKER



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C.R. SANCTUARY CITY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES

On December 18th, a modest group of attendants gathered at the Paul Engle center to launch Socialist Action's campaign to make C.R. a sanctuary city – a city that does not cooperate with federal immigration authorities in their attempts to treat the undocumented as fugitive slaves.

Guests heard Party members make the case for immigrant rights, who argued that the struggles of immigrant and native workers are connected and that better social conditions for all can only be won if both sectors of the working class are united. A lively discussion followed on topics ranging from the counter-revolutionary role of Stalinism in the workers' movement to the necessity of making C.R. safe for the undocumented so that they can participate in and strengthen the flood relief movement.

Video footage of the full event can be found at www.hawkeyeworker.wordpress.com. Contact us to sign the petition!

EN ESPAÑOL: SOBRE NOSOTROS

(Traducción de "lo que representamos" página, www.socialistaction.org/aboutus.htm. Contacte con nosotros para la declaración completa.)

El partido Acción Socialista es un grupo de socialistas revolucionarios comprometidos a la emancipación de la clase trabajadora y el pueblo oprimido donde sea. Participamos activamente en los movimientos de: sindicatos, contra la guerra, derechos humanos, estudiantes, mujeres, Afro-americanos, Chicanos, y el movimiento queer. Apoyamos y participamos en todos los movimientos sociales que desafían las injusticias del sistema capitalista y que se organizan para luchar en sus propios intereses. Hemos creado este sitio de Web para introducir a usted a nuestra organización y las luchas que apoyamos. Los animamos a enviarnos cualquier pregunta o comentario que tengan. Y si les interesa lo que vean aquí, los invitamos a contactarnos para saber más sobre como tomar parte en el partido Acción Socialista.

Nuestra participación en los movimientos sociales es variada. Pero, en particular apoyamos la auto-movilización de los trabajadores y de la gente oprimida y reprimida tal como la construcción de instituciones de la clase trabajadora independientes. Creemos en el potencial de las acciones de masas y por eso nos dedicamos a usar nuestro tiempo, energía y experiencia para organizar

BRANSTAD TAKES THE THRONE

As we go to press [*Jan. 10th – the Editor*], there are only four days left before Terry Branstad takes his seat as Governor of Iowa. So what can working people expect from the new man at the helm of the state?

To put it bluntly, more of the same, and quite a bit more at that. Just like his predecessor, Branstad is promising deep cuts to Iowa's education system, referring to them in the arrogant style of the ruling elite as "lifestyle changes" - an accurate characterization, if the 'lifestyle change' being referenced is the change from having a robust education system that prepares our state's children to have full and gainful lives, to not having one. But that's only the tip of the iceberg. In the wake of the DeCoster egg scandal, where the largest recall of salmonella-infected eggs in U.S. history was brought on by a profound lack of state oversight in agricultural production, the Governor-Elect wants to further deregulate the agriculture industry.

Even before taking office he's already begun union busting. AFSCME Council 61, which represents the lion's share of Iowa's state workers, concluded a contract last year with Governor Culver that includes modest wage increases. Branstad wants to renegotiate ahead of schedule, bringing in wage cuts, layoffs, and outsourcing AFSCME-covered jobs to lower paying, non-union jobs in the private sector. Like Obama, Branstad claims that state workers are "overpaid" and must make "sacrifices" to balance the state budget. In reality, state workers, like all workers, create the wealth of the economy through their labor, while the ruling elite – the capitalist owners and their highly paid representatives in government – appropriate the products of that labor for their own profit. And on flood recovery, the Governor-Elect is completely silent, preferring to fall back on the status-quo methods that are provoking waves of resistance among the Iowa flood survivors.

Neither corporate party has the ability or the desire to fix the problems confronting Iowa, whether in matters of the economy, flood recovery, or civil rights. Socialist Action works to build an independent working class movement against Branstad and the system he represents, placing the tools to repair our state and country into the hands of the only class with the interest and power to do it – the working class.

protestas y movimientos exitosos, los cuales muestran el poder que tiene una clase trabajadora unida. Además de apoyar, buscamos inyectar una perspectiva Marxista-revolucionaria en las protestas y movimientos sociales que surgen. Para lograr el propósito mencionado, organizamos clases, foros y grupos educativos sobre nuestra perspectiva política y así compartir nuestras ideas con otros activistas, compañeros de trabajo y de clase.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS, BRACE FOR IMPACT!

Immoral. Open enemies of God. These are the words that Wes Enos, member of the state GOP's executive committee, felt aptly described the Supreme Court justices who last year chose to uphold marriage equality in Iowa. An all-out assault on civil rights in Iowa is preparing to launch, with same-sex marriage and immigrant workers at the forefront of the attacks. For the "crime" of supporting a basic democratic right – the right to enter the union of marriage regardless of one's gender – the Republicans are seeking to punish those Justices who voted for marriage equality. With only token resistance from the Democrats, the GOP seeks to overturn Iowa's progressive stand on marriage altogether, once again affirming the need for working people and all progressive activists to take to the streets independently of the reactionary right and our false friends in the Democratic establishment to demand the defense and extension of the social gains we have won.

The stage has also been set for an attack on Iowa's immigrant population. A semi-fascist group called the Minutemen Patriots has found a receptive ear in the incoming Branstad administration for their push to have Iowa adopt an SB1070 copycat law. Such a bill must be exposed and rejected for what it is: a racist attempt to pit native born against foreign born and disrupt the efforts of both as we struggle for better living conditions for all.

LOCAL ACTIVIST CALENDAR JANUARY

11th – Rally to Defend Marriage Equality @ the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines. **9AM**. Sponsored by One Iowa; endorsed by Socialist Action and the Justice for Our Neighbors Coalition.

12th – Televised debate between Socialist Action and an anti-sanctuary city representative on PATV Channel 18, **8:30PM**.

22nd – Dinner & film screening of *The Trotsky*, a revolutionary comedy. Check site for time & location.

FLOOD SURVIVORS' COALITION SAYS NO TO CORRUPTION, CORPORATE BULLYING

On January 8th, in the ravaged and desolate Time Check Neighborhood in Cedar Rapids that once stood as a symbol of the city's vibrant communities, Socialist Action participated in the foundation of the *Justice for Our Neighbors Coalition* to promote a workers' and survivors' flood recovery process in opposition to the mismanagement, neglect and corruption of the city, state, and federal government's "recovery" plans. The time has come for the people of Cedar Rapids to stand up and demand that, after two years of catering to corporate interests while workers' interests were shoved to the side, enough is enough! Below we reprint a selection from JfONC's founding statement, which you can read in its entirety at www.justiceforourneighbors.wordpress.com.

We reject the phony 'flood recovery' plans that are being sold to us by the Republican and Democratic parties, in which the business districts are restored while workers' homes are demolished or left to rot. We reject the bureaucratic manner in which government at all levels has conducted itself in the post-flood period, where homeowners have been pushed aside to make room for the playgrounds of the rich and renters have been entirely denied compensation for their lost residences. The policies of economic cleansing and forced buyouts have led to an exodus of citizens from the flood-damaged zones and is leading fast to a de-industrialization and de-population of the city.

** Rebuild workers' homes and apartments! Cut down the red tape; end the favoritism of Business District recovery!*

** Rebuild and rechristen the Linn County Detention Center as an interim shelter for homeless workers displaced by the flood! Restore the Time Check Recreation Center.*

** For a massive public works program to carry out reconstruction and provide meaningful employment for the city's blooming ranks of unemployed, many of whom lost their jobs and their homes due to the flood.*

** Reconstruction must be under the control of democratic, self-organized councils of the workers whose residences were destroyed or damaged, as well as unions of the reconstruction workers themselves.*

** Defend LGBT equality and immigrants' rights in Iowa! Secure the status of Cedar Rapids as a sanctuary city for its undocumented workers.*

** No cuts, no austerity; tax the rich to fund these demands! The country's corporations caused an economic disaster without being called on to pay for it - we won't let them get away with another.*