



Pacific Call Volume 34, Issue 4 Sept 2014

225 N 70th St, Seattle WA 98103 206-789-5565 <http://www.wwfor.org>

WWFOR seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, equality, peace and justice. It links and strengthens FOR members and chapters throughout Western Washington in promoting activities consistent with the national FOR statement of purpose. WWFOR helps members and chapters accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.

Economic Justice for the 99%

WWFOR's 2014 Fall Retreat Saturday November 8, 2014

Gwinwood Conference Center Lacey, WA

by Glen Anderson

Most Americans are suffering from economic injustice in one or more ways. Many millions can't find decent jobs or work for wages that are too low. The gap between extremely rich people and everyone else has been widening since the 1970s. Many Americans are homeless or are suffering from foreclosure.

The Occupy Movement and millions of Americans' ongoing experiences have convinced more and more people that capitalism is failing to meet most people's needs, so they are looking for alternatives. Western Washington FOR's 2014 Fall Retreat – "Economic Justice for the 99%" – will bring us together to better understand the problems and to work together at the grassroots to organize solutions.

Everyone is invited to WWFOR's 2014 Fall Retreat in a pleasant setting in Lacey, near Olympia. Our annual Fall retreat on Saturday November 8 will bring people together from throughout our region to stimulate grassroots progress toward economic justice. We are planning a keynote, workshops, and small groups to share information and work on solutions, especially after we return home that evening.

Look for more information soon at www.wwfor.org and www.olympiafor.org or contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org.

At 9:00 a.m. we will welcome people with light refreshments and social time. We'll begin in earnest at 10:00 a.m. and continue (with your own brownbag lunch) until 5:00 p.m. The Fall Retreat will occur in the rustic Old Main Lodge at the Gwinwood Conference Center in Lacey near Olympia.

Directions from the north, take I-5 to Exit 109. Turn right onto Martin Way, left onto College Street, left onto Lacey Boulevard, right onto Ruddell Road, left on 25th Ave SE, right on Hicks Lake Road SE, left on 30th Ave SE, right into Gwinwood and see the Old Main Lodge straight ahead when you first enter the conference center. Parking is in front of the building and beyond it.

Directions from the south, take I-5 to Exit 108. Follow the very long exit to College Street. Turn right onto College and follow the rest of the above directions.

Cost: We keep costs low and try to just barely break even. \$15 per person will cover our costs. We give discounts to young and low-income people upon request. Persons who can afford to give more will help offset the cost for those who have less. Part of keeping the cost low is for you to BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH. We will provide coffee, tea, and light refreshments throughout the day.

Questions? Contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

You can start communicating now through WWFOR's new e-mail listserv on economic justice. We encourage you to connect with other Western Washingtonians who want to work for economic justice – to share your concerns, ideas, resources, strategies, action proposals, and so forth. To sign up for WWFOR's new Economic Justice listserv, economicjustice@wwfor.org



Nuclear Weapons: The Elephant in the Room

by Noreen Koga

The drive to Tacoma was cool and clear that Saturday morning in late June 2014. Not knowing what to expect I was drawn immediately to the event announcement listed in the Fellowship newsletter. The mention of the word "nuclear" always catches my attention. With my Mother's family from Yamaguchi Prefecture (next door to Hiroshima) and the mention of how my Mother's cousin had perished that fateful morning on August 6, 1946, I've always felt a deep connection with anything "nuclear." Remembering my Grandparents visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in 1974 and viewing the booklet from the museum displaying the human atrocities, I recalled feeling the shock and awe as I saw the photos. Although the book was all written in Japanese, the photos spoke for themselves. "Unfathomable and unbelievable" was all Grandma could say in her broken Japanese. She tells of how she cried at the sight of the images and how my teenage ears tried to understand all she had felt, living in America, as her nation of birth disintegrated into ashes.



As I entered the Tacoma chapel where the program convened, laminated black and white photos of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bomb victims hung on the walls, reminiscent of what I saw in Grandma's museum booklet years ago. I knew at that point that I was meant to come to this workshop.

Dr. David Hall was first to speak. His involvement with the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and the Physicians for Social Responsibility brought to mind Dr. Helen Caldicott's work, which I greatly admire and respect. Dr. Hall spoke of the American Eagle as a symbol of our Nation and how it's also used as a symbol for nuclear armament which is "beautiful yet capable of horrible things." He compared the Hiroshima bomb, referred to as the "peanut bomb," to today's Trident missiles, which are 7 times greater and can strike anywhere in the world within 30 minutes. They are located at Bangor Naval Base in Kitsap County, which is about 12 miles away from Tacoma (20 miles from Seattle), thus virtually in our backyard. Dr. Hall stated that decision makers are "immune to mass death and destruction and it's up to us as citizens to say no more."

Dr. David Price was the next presenter. As a Cultural Anthropologist, he spoke about the growing pervasiveness of war and militarism as becoming the "new normal" of our American society. As Emile Durkheim had noted, "social facts become part of the background of a culture" and this is what seems to be happening with our American culture. He provided an overview of what some of his peers in the cultural anthropology field are doing in the areas of nuclear atomic energy and social activism. Among these were Hugh Gusterson, who spent time with the scientific community at the Lawrence Livermore Lab, and Joseph Masco, who focused on the Los Alamos Facility in New Mexico during and after the Manhattan Project and documented its effect on all involved. Dr. Price cited the work of Holly M. Barker who has chronicled the lives of the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands in their plight for nuclear advocacy. He also cited the work of Barbara Rose Johnston, who in her book *Half Lives & Half Truths* reviews the impact of the cold war nuclear culture and its aftermath and continuance. And he too stressed the importance of "breaking the silence."

Diane Tilstra spoke about our immense military budget for 2015 that was passed in May and noted that 40 cents for every dollar goes into the military defense spending. She mentioned the significance of paying attention to Congress and to support the Washington State politicians who voted against the 2015 budget, Jim McDermott and Adam Smith. Ms. Tilstra stressed the importance of activism in her life and encouraged us to keep that voice going as well. She spoke of her experiences and concerns for the younger generations and their apathy towards the larger problems that they feel they did not create. She suggested that if you can bring the situation down to their level and understanding, then you will have their attention. An example of this is the topic of student loan forgiveness that many young people can relate to.

The day ended well with mini-group discussions and a wrap up. Everyone agreed that there are many ways to activism and every bit counts.

As the afternoon sun warmed the car, I drove back to Seattle with my eyes wide open. I felt a buzz in my head along with a continual hum of "12 miles to Bangor." There are lots to do in our present time, for this is just the beginning.

Letter to Editor, "The Chronicle" Lewis County

by Larry Kerschner

It seems like there are an awful lot of trains going off the tracks lately. On December 14 of last year, a Burlington Northern and Santa Fe train derailed north of Centralia, spilling three rail cars, including one carrying methanol. On January 13, 2014, a BNSF train derailed two cars just south of Auburn. During a two-week period during early May of this year there were three separate train derailments in Grays Harbor County. On May 22, a Puget Sound and Pacific train derailed north of Centralia. On August 4 three train cars, including a tanker car carrying methanol, derailed on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks north of downtown Centralia. On July 2, a coal train traveling toward the Columbia River Gorge derailed near Pasco spilling coal from 31 cars. On August 1, a Union Pacific train heading west from Spokane to Hinkle, Oregon derailed spilling 13 rail cars. On July 24, a train carrying Bakken crude derailed under Seattle's Magnolia Bridge. The train was pulling 100 tanker cars when five of the cars derailed.

On July 28, recognizing the concern of local citizens about the dangers of shipping Bakken crude through our neighborhoods, the Chehalis City Council, passed a resolution 4-2 calling on Governor Inslee to analyze whether the oil shipments are at all in the public interest. The city government recognizing that it has no legal power to prevent this danger from coming through Lewis County understands that the resolution carries both moral and political weight. I applaud this action by the Chehalis City Council and call on all other political entities in Lewis County to follow suit with similar resolutions.

Related information that is not so well known among citizens of Lewis County is the fact that Warren Buffet,

principal owner of BNSF, is negotiating with the unions who represent the train conductors and engineers of the explosive trains running through our county. Over the past several years, the train owners have been trying to insert language into contracts with both unions that would enshrine their scheme to run these trains with a single employee. Buffet is trying to lower the per barrel cost of transporting the highly explosive Bakken crude by expanding the length of his trains (up to 150 tankers) while at the same time reducing labor cost by replacing the current conductor and engineer with a single operator.

Do you suppose the 47 people who died in the Bakken crude explosion at Lac Magentic a year ago would think this is a good idea? Do you think the train companies and oil companies are thinking first of your safety or of their economic bottom line?



Listening to Fireworks Near the 2014 FOR Seabeck Conference by Scott T. Starbuck

The real work
is daily practice
in order to be
of greater service.

Skies are filled
with vibrant explosions,
ooohs and ahhhs
while the truth

like a cedar raven
waits and speaks
at the in-between
silences.

[More [poems from Seabeck](#) by Scott available online.]

Our Solar Photovoltaic System

by Larry Kerschner

We installed a 4 Kw solar photovoltaic system at our home a little over a year ago. Over the course of the first year we produced about 25% of the total electricity we used. Obviously less in the winter than in the summer. During the period of mid-June through mid-July of this year, we produced 63.5% of the power we were using.

Washington State is at a similar latitude as Germany. Germany's annual solar resources are roughly comparable to those of Alaska. We have a greater solar potential here than in Germany. The German government, unlike ours, has subsidized renewable energy for years. By the end of 2012, Germany had installed about 30 Gw of solar capacity, while the U.S. at the same time had installed just 6.4 Gw of solar capacity.

On June 6, 2014, solar power in Germany actually produced 23.1 Gw of power (equivalent to 20 medium-sized nuclear reactors) which met over 50% of the nation's demand for electricity that day. Solar capacity and solar production continues to increase each year in Germany. 90% of solar panels in Germany are on rooftops. 74% of energy in Germany is produced by renewable resources with wind power second to solar.

Germany plans to be producing 100% of its power needs from renewable resources by 2050. A recent analysis showed that, once all the costs of the systems are factored in, the price of commercial solar in Germany is equal to retail rates from other sources. Solar installation in Germany is cheaper than in the U.S. in part because their industry is so much larger. Solar permits, inspections, and grid-connection fees are cheaper and much less is spent on marketing.

The price of a solar PV system in Washington State can vary depending on the site and whether structures have to be reinforced or erected. Currently there is a 30% federal tax credit (a credit not a deduction) currently in place at least through 2016, production incentives, and net metering. (Net metering is the payment the utility makes to you for all the power you produce, whether you use it or it goes back out to the grid. They pay you up to 54 cents per kWh, up to \$5,000 per year if all the components of your system are produced in Washington State. This payment comes to you once a year in the form of a check from the utility. This is currently in place at least through 2020.)

With these incentives and what appears to be an 83% overall efficiency, our system should pay for itself in 10-11 years. The panels we have are rated to be at peak efficiency for 80 years. Maintenance of PV systems is minimal with panels needing to be cleaned every 1-5 years. While the upfront cost may be pricey, if you think you will be staying in your house for a number of years it is worth checking out a photovoltaic system.

Even if you aren't sure how long you may be living in your current house, several national studies show that properties with solar sell for more, proportional to the value of the system, and sell faster. If you install solar on a property owned through a business, 50% of the system cost can be depreciated in the first year, and the remainder over the following 4 years. That is 5 years to 100% depreciation.

There is no reason why we cannot become the solar power producers in the United States as Germany has done. It will only take political will.





Insights from the 2014 Peace Activist Trainee (PAT) program

Reflections from a Trainer

by Kaeley Pruitt-Hamm

I wonder what passersby at Westlake Mall were thinking when they saw a gaggle of high school students solemnly rising up by the escalator, in black and white striped t-shirts, their hands clasped behind their backs with handcuffs. Signs on their front read such things as "12 years old; Incarcerated for unruly behavior; ordered to pay court costs." Their backs each revealed another message: "We do not deserve this." Although this sight may have been taken differently depending on the eye of the beholder, the intent was to evoke the question: is youth incarceration the answer? This [act of guerrilla theater](#) was one of many types of activism practiced by this year's Peace Activist Trainees.

This summer the topic of youth incarceration was hot. In order to "address" the fact that over 60,000 unaccompanied minors have crossed over the border between Mexico and the U.S., many have claimed the answer must be building better walls, beefing up militarized security, and housing the children in barracks and detention centers such as that of Washington's Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM). In Seattle, the debate over funding for a new youth detention center has been centered mostly around what kind of bells and whistles should be added to the facility. The dialogue has not centered as much around why the children are being forced to flee, why youth are acting out or missing school in our communities, and what kind of programs and policies will actually feed to a new cycle.

A large part of the PAT program that we hope the students will take away with them is the idea that activism is a spectrum, and that there are many different ways to be an activist for peace and justice. An important role movements must play is addressing the root causes of an issue. The PATs brought to light some important questions around youth incarceration through their project, survey, meeting with a political figure, and speeches. On Monday July 28th, they went to Westlake and Pike Place Market dressed as convicted youth (wearing true statements about youth at the detention center). Former PATs and staff helped pass out pamphlets the youth had made with information challenging the new youth jail. Later they

hosted a rally downtown with speakers from Washington Incarceration Stops Here (WISH) and No New Jim Crow. Megaphones and banners in hand, they stood for "money for books and education, not for youth incarceration!"

They also conducted and compiled results from a survey downtown asking people's thoughts on the possibility of 600 children and mothers being housed at JBLM. They brought their pie charts as well as heartfelt personal stories to a meeting with Rep. Adam Smith's aide Debra Entenman later that week. They share with her their analysis that the system discriminates based on race and class. Entenman was impressed. Other highlights of the month included Skyping with Palestinian-Russian-American young activist Laila Abdelaziz on the day that the ground invasion on Gaza began, going on an Inequity Tour, and going out for ice cream with Ruth Yarrow after a sunny, successful, and larger-than-ever soapbox speech day at Victor Steinbrueck Park. See their [exit interviews](#).

The program has grown and evolved over the years. We look forward to the program continuing to evolve - with new facilitators, a new format, new partners, and/or new possibilities. Many PATs, in their evaluations, talked excitedly about continuing to work together, with FOR and other organizations they were exposed to such as Casa Latina. There was even talk of starting a monthly youth group. However the program manifests itself next year, I hope WWFOR feels the same inspiration that many of the youth came out of the program feeling: that it is possible to pull things together, that successes do happen, and that something can be done!

A Gained Lesson

by Farhiya Abdi

I heard about the Peace Activist Trainee Program through my brother, Hussein, who completed the training in 2013. He explained to me that if I had specific passions in anything, that program is for me. Going into the program I really didn't know what to expect. This program turned out to be a great experience where I learned a lot about myself. I gained confidence in myself while talking in front of strangers about a topic I was passionate about. I made a personal connection while Visiting Casa Latina and Tent City, which was genuinely a life-changing experience for me. It allowed me to see a newer perspective on people who have next to nothing but are still trying to get by, and still have hope in their lives. It also made me make a personal connection to myself. Seeing how living conditions were so different has sort of opened my windows to see an important lesson: No matter how rich or poor you are there's always going to be a person who is less fortunate. This PAT program was like a breath of fresh air, and I will never forget about it.



The Seattle General Strike of 1919

A Newfound Voice

by Amy Olson

The Peace Activist Trainee program was recommended to me by one of my teachers after having conversations with her about wanting to get more involved in activism because I am so interested in it, but was never really sure how to do so. I was finding myself frustrated at the lack of peers who showed equal interest to mine, and at the lack of opportunity I found trying to get involved at a young age. I talked, thought, and researched a lot about social inequities, but wanted a way to directly get involved with social movements. Going into the PAT program, I was mostly excited to meet kids my age who were as interested in activism as I am, and I could not have met a better group. We all had a range of different ideas, skills, and interests, and I learned so much from each of my peers and grew close with them to create hopefully lasting friendships. I also went into the program wanting to know ways to get involved. By meeting many different organizations for different social movements, I learned about things already happening that I could get involved with. By learning and practicing all the steps to create nonviolent campaigns, I gained confidence in my ability to help make a difference through many different kinds of activism, including rallies, guerrilla theatre, and even just how to have better conversations with people. An unexpected thing I gained from this program was a newfound voice and a newfound confidence. After meeting people so passionate about solving our societal problems, making huge decisions and holding our own rally against the new youth jail, and, especially after giving speeches on soapboxes at Pike Place Market, I am not afraid to speak out. I now know my opinion and my voice matters, and that I can voice it more clearly and confidently when I see something that I feel the need to contribute to. I am no longer afraid to call out inequalities that I see and to have conversations with people about them. I have the confidence to have and share a strong opinion and I know that my voice means something. I know my voice can make change. I had this strong voice in me somewhere, and the PAT program helped me find it. I am ready to make powerful change.

by Larry Kerschner

Protest activity surrounding the [World Trade Organization \(WTO\) Ministerial Conference of 1999](#), which was to be the launch of a new millennial round of trade negotiations, occurred during the week of November 30, 1999 and put Seattle on the world map. However, the first time 65,000 protesting people in the streets of Seattle were known around the world for a radical attitude was during the Seattle General Strike which began at 10 a.m. on February 6, 1919, and paralyzed the city for five days.

At that time the American Federation of Labor (AFL) was a collection of unions of skilled craftsmen who saw no need to join in labor struggle with semi-skilled or unskilled workers. AFL unions were only interested in the narrow needs of their members. Women and racial minorities need not apply. The Industrial Workers of the World filled the vacuum left by the AFL. The IWW advocated "industrial Unionism" – that is, organizing all workers in a particular industry into one large union.

I am proud that in my one effort into labor organizing I chose the IWW model. I worked at the small rural hospital, Jefferson General in Port Townsend, WA. After a three-year effort of talking to each worker about the benefits of being a member of a union, we organized all the various workers at the hospital, for the first time in Washington State, in one unit and obtained a substantial increase in wages and benefits for our first three-year contract.

For the last two years of the First World War, wages were set by boards composed of select representatives of business, labor, and the government. Since the government borrowed the money to finance the war, money was devalued causing severe inflation. The cost of living doubled between August 1915 and the end of 1919.

During the war years labor began to understand the economic power they actually had in the control of production. Strikes shut down spruce lumber production and copper mining early in the war. Solidarity began to develop between workers with support for each other's labor battles. In many worker and employer minds was the recent Russian Revolution and the possible future this could mean for the working class. While many middle- and upper-class Americans viewed the 1917 Russian Revolution with fear, many unionized workers, especially in those early years, hoped it might encourage a working-class revolt in the U.S.



Seattle General Strike of 1919 cont.

In 1919 the government ended wartime price controls while allowing corporations to resume union-busting policies. In the ensuing anger among workers, radical militancy increased. Despite their historic differences to organizing labor, in Seattle, the IWW and the AFL Metal Trades Council cooperatively sponsored a Soldiers, Sailors, and Workingmen's Council modeled after the soviets of the Russian Revolution. When Socialist and former Seattle AFL president Hulet Wells was convicted of opposing the draft and then tortured while in prison, Seattle labor took to the streets in a number of giant street rallies.

Even many Conservative members of Seattle labor supported the possibilities of the Bolshevik Revolution and opposed any U.S. interference. Tens of thousands of pamphlets explaining the Russian Revolution were handed out in the city.

Seattle labor journalist, Anna Louise Strong, recalled "Already, workers in Seattle talked about 'workers' power' as a practical policy for the not far distant future. Boilermakers, machinists, and other metal trades unions alluded to shipyards as enterprises which they might soon take over, and run better than their present owners ran them. These allusions gave life to union meetings."

35,000 shipyard workers were employed by the Emergency Fleet Corporation of the U.S. government. Less than two weeks after the end of the war, the shipyards unions voted to authorize a strike which began on January 21, 1919. The U.S. government representative head of the Emergency Fleet Corporation told all shipyard owners to refuse any wage increases under penalty of losing their government contracts.

The shipyard workers then appealed to the Seattle Central Labor Council to call a general strike. A resolution to have local unions poll their members about a general strike passed without opposition. Within twenty-four hours, eight local unions unanimously endorsed the strike. Within two weeks, 110 union locals had endorsed the strike. Many of these local unions were threatened by their national union leadership if they joined the strike. The strike was to be run by the 300-member General Strike Committee consisting mostly of rank-and-file workers.

Workers in various trades organized to cover essential and emergency services. Vehicles authorized to operate bore signs "Exempted by the General Strike Committee." Both employers and government officials sought exemptions from the committee. As the strike approached, many Seattleites armed themselves and stockpiled ammunition and supplies in their homes. Shelves were stripped bare in stores as a siege mentality took hold.

Workers organized 35 neighborhood milk stations after purchasing milk from small local dairies. A voluntary commissary served 30,000 meals a day to strikers and others in the community. A Labor War Veteran's Guard was organized to keep peace in the streets. They were to carry no weapons and to use the power of persuasion only.

An editorial in *The Seattle Union Record* ran the evening before the strike:

On Thursday at 10 A.M. - There will be many cheering, and there will be some who fear. Both these emotions are useful, but not too much of either. We are undertaking the most tremendous move ever made by LABOR in this country, a move which will lead - NO ONE KNOWS WHERE!

We do not need hysteria. We need the iron march of labor. LABOR WILL FEED THE PEOPLE. Twelve great kitchens have been offered, and from them food will be distributed by the provisions trade at low cost to all. LABOR WILL CARE FOR THE BABIES AND THE SICK. The milk-wagon drivers are arranging plans for supplying milk to babies, invalids and hospitals and taking care of the cleaning of linen for hospitals. LABOR WILL PRESERVE ORDER. The strike committee is arranging for guards and it is expected that the stopping of cars will keep people at home.

A few hot-headed enthusiasts have complained that strikers only should be fed, and the general public left to endure severe discomfort. Aside from the inhumanitarian character of such suggestions, let them get this straight - NOT THE WITHDRAWAL OF LABOR POWER, BUT THE POWER OF THE STRIKERS TO MANAGE WILL WIN THIS STRIKE.

What does Mr. Piez of the Shipping Board care about the closing down of Seattle's shipyards, or even of all the industries of the northwest? Will it not merely strengthen the yards at Hog Island, in which he is more interested? When the shipyard owners of Seattle were on the point of agreeing with the workers, it was Mr. Piez who wired them that, if they so agreed - HE WOULD NOT LET THEM HAVE STEEL.

Whether this is camouflage we have no way of knowing. But we do know that the great eastern combinations of capitalists COULD AFFORD to offer privately to Mr. Skinner, Mr. Ames and Mr. Duthie a few million apiece in eastern shipyard stock, RATHER THAN LET THE WORKERS WIN. The closing down of Seattle's industries, as a MERE SHUTDOWN, will not affect these eastern gentlemen much.

They could let the whole northwest go to pieces, as far as money alone is concerned. BUT, the closing down of the capitalistically controlled industries of Seattle, while the WORKERS ORGANIZE to feed people, to care for the babies and the sick, to preserve order - THIS will move them, for this looks too much like the taking over of POWER by the workers.

Labor will not only SHUT DOWN the industries, but Labor will REOPEN, under the management of the appropriate trades, such activities as are needed to preserve public health and public peace. If the strike continues, Labor may feel led to avoid public suffering by reopening more and more activities, UNDER ITS OWN MANAGEMENT. And that is why we say that we are starting on a road that leads - NO ONE KNOWS WHERE!

Seattle General Strike of 1919 cont.

On the morning of February 6, 1919, the city of Seattle stopped. The AFL strikers were joined by the IWW, the separately organized Japanese workers (who were not allowed to vote on decisions made by the General Strike Committee), and 40,000 non-union workers.

Not all members of Seattle media supported the strike. The *Seattle Star*, generally a labor-friendly newspaper, railed against the radicals: "The general strike is at hand. A general showdown — a showdown for all of us — a test of Americanism — a test of YOUR Americanism. This is no time to mince words. A part of our community is defying our government, and is, in fact contemplating changing the government, and not by American methods."

Ole Hansen, the Mayor of Seattle, despite the non-violent nature of the strike said, "The general strike, as practiced in Seattle, is of itself a weapon of revolution, all the more dangerous because quiet. To succeed, it must suspend everything; stop the entire lifestream of a community. That is to say, it puts the government out of operation. And that is all there is to revolt — no matter how achieved."

Feeling that the Washington State National Guard was not adequate to the task, the Attorney General telephoned the U.S. Secretary of War to send in federal troops. The next day almost a thousand soldiers and marines arrived from Fort Lewis, outside Tacoma, and were stationed throughout the city. The Mayor added 600 extra police and swore in 2400 special deputies. He then demanded the strike end on Saturday morning February 8.

Heavy pressure to end the strike came from national and international officials of the AFL unions. With the rank-and-file still overwhelmingly desiring to continue the strike, the General Strike Committee voted to end the strike Tuesday, February 11, at noon. However, it was not the threat of repressive police or military force that was decisive in bringing the strike to a halt, indeed the General Strike Committee ignored the mayor's ultimatum. It was the intervention of the international unions against the workers that was the key element in the counteroffensive of those opposed to the workers.

As soon as the strike began, the AFL unions bombarded the strikers with telegrams warning of the illegality of the strike, threatening suspensions and urging the immediate end to the strike. The strike ended, as the General Strike Committee's history stated, because of "pressure from international officers of unions, from executive committees of unions, from the 'leaders' in the labor movement, even from those very leaders who are still called 'Bolshevik' by the undiscriminating press."

The Seattle General Strike placed the American labor struggle within the larger context of the revolutionary struggles sweeping the world after WWI. Against the backdrop of the unprecedented proletarian political ferment of 1919, the U.S. working class did not hesitate for a moment to take up the class struggle at the point of production throughout the country in industry after industry. In all there were 3,630 strikes involving 4,160,000 workers during 1919.

Again, from *The Seattle Union Record*, "We look about us today and see a world of industrial unrest, of owners set over against workers, of strikes and lock-outs, of mutual suspicions. We see a world of strife and insecurity, of unemployment and hungry children. It is not a pleasant world to look upon. We see but one way out. In place of two classes, competing for the fruits of industry, there must be, eventually ONLY ONE CLASS sharing fairly the good things of the world. And this can be only done by THE WORKERS LEARNING TO MANAGE ..."

Much of the information for this article came from an excellent book: the revised, expanded, and updated edition of Jeremy Brecher's "STRIKE!" released by PM Press this year. I highly recommend reading this history of American labor from the Great Upheaval of 1877 up to today's current labor struggles.

