

CARTON 5:21

STRONG IN THE STRUGGLE

WRITINGS BY LEE BROWN ON
THE MILITARY BUDGET

2017/193

Views On The Military Budget

From The Library Of
LEE BROWN

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light to bust unions in the U.S.A. The resurgence of racism is being used to divide the ranks of labor. The threat of a sub-minimum wage for youth is an attempt to separate young people from organized labor. Unemployment continues to rise as workers are repeatedly bombarded with plant closure & runaway shops; hospitals, clinics & schools are being closed, which not only deprives communities of needed services, it also adds to unemployment. The U.S. is in an economic crisis & the people must act now.

Organized labor has the ability to lead in the struggle for the rights of all workers. Trade unionists must participate in coalitions with representatives

from religious groups, senior citizens, youth, community & political organizations. We must build a united front which serves the interests of the working people of this country. An enormous military budget and the constant threat of nuclear war do not serve our interests.

Trade unions must become the vehicle for workers to struggle in their own interest. Labor's goal must be to organize the unorganized. Unions need study circles and union classes to educate workers on the nature and practice of trade unionism, teaching workers trade union consciousness and a knowledge of trade union democracy.

Free education and

health services and decent housing for all people of this country must be struggled for. We must fight for rent control and the lowering of utility prices. We must close up the tax loopholes of the monopolies. We must fight against unemployment, inflation, runaway shops; we must demand jobs for all, with effective affirmative action for nationally & racially oppressed people. I feel this is a people's program. We must not forget those on Social Security and S.S.I.

There is a solution to

high unemployment that trade unions can become involved with: "workers' fightback is the answer. We can demand more houses for poor and elderly people. Housing increases will create jobs for construction workers throughout the country. Keeping schools open will employ vast numbers of people from janitorial and food service workers to clerical workers & teachers, as well as educating the nation's youth. Keeping hospitals & clinics open will also offer an abundance of jobs. Trade unions can fight the

devastating effects of plant closures by supporting the government takeover of closed plants. The time has also come to demand a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, through support of Conyer's short workweek bill, HR1784. Wasteful military spending must be stopped. Railroads can be re-opened in large cities, putting Americans back to work at union wages and under union working conditions. The possibilities are endless if we organize to stop Reagan's war economy and demand that our needs be met.

It is time to put tal action. I call upon to youth to turn out in n to register and vot candidates who wor peace and the pe needs. We must b politically conscious building relationship one another in all -class communities. must have faith and dence in one anotl strive for peace throt the world. I say that labor m in the forefront o struggle and ca" f unity of all organized in the U.S.A!

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Views On The Military Budget

by Lee Brown, Trade Unionist

I speak to you, the workers, especially to lower & moderate income workers, on how Reagan's military budget affects us as working people. Reagan's interest is not the worker's interest. Escalating the already-bloated military budget only robs the people of services necessary for their survival. Senior citizens, retirees, the disabled, handicapped: all will find their standard of living reduced when money is taken from social programs & used instead for MX

missiles. Poor people, youth, single mothers are all victims of a needlessly inflated military budget. Workers cannot afford to rent decent housing, let alone buy a home; food & utility prices are far more than many people can pay; poor people face overcrowded living conditions along with severe health & fire hazards.

Do U.S. workers really know what's happening? I say that Reagan is anti-people. He represents monopoly & pro-military



Lee Brown

spending, serving the interests and big business and putting profits before the people's well-being. We face tough years ahead. Reagan has given the green

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VIEWS ON THE MILITARY BUDGET

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by Lee Brown-

I am writing on behalf of the lower and moderate income workers, on how Reagan's military budget affects us as working people. Reagan's interest is not the worker's interest. Escalating the already bloated military budget only robs the people of services necessary for their survival. Senior citizens, retirees, the disabled, handicapped: all standards of living are reduced when money is taken from social programs and used instead for MX missiles. Poor people, youth, single mothers are all victims of a needlessly inflated military budget.

The workers cannot afford to rent decent housing, let alone buying a home; food and utility prices are far more than many people can pay; schools are being closed; denying young people any kind of education. Poor people face overcrowded living conditions with severe health and fire hazards.

Do U.S. workers really know what's happening? I say that Reagan is anti-people. He represents pro-monopoly and pro-military spending, serving the interests of big business and putting profits before the people's well-being. We face tough years ahead. Reagan has given the green light to bust unions in the U.S.A. The resurgence of racism is being used to divide the ranks of labor. The threat of a sub-minimum wage for youth is an attempt to separate young people from organized labor. Unemployment continues to rise as workers are repeatedly bombarded with plant closures and runaway shops; hospitals, clinics and schools are being closed, which not only denies communities of needed services, it also adds to unemployment. The U.S. is in an economic crisis and the people must act now.

Organized labor has the ability to lead in the struggle for the rights of all workers. Trade unionists must participate in coalitions with representatives from religious groups, senior citizens, youth, community and political organizations. We must build a united front which serves the interests of the working people of this country. An enormous military budget and constant threats of nuclear war do not serve our interests.

Trade unions must become the vehicle for workers to struggle in their own interests. Labor's goal must be to organize the unorganized. Unions need study circles and union classes to educate workers on trade unionism and practice unionism, teaching workers trade union consciousness, with a knowledge of trade union democracy.

Free education and health services and decent housing for all people of this country must be struggled for. We must fight for rent control and lowering of utility prices. We must close tax loopholes of the monopolies. We must fight against unemployment, inflation, runaway shops; we must demand jobs for all with effective affirmative action for nationally and racially oppressed people. I feel this is a people's program. And we must not forget those on Social Security and S.S.I.

There is a solution to high unemployment that trade unions can become involved with: workers' fightback is the answer. We can demand more houses for poor and elderly people. Housing increases will create jobs for construction workers throughout the country. Keeping schools open will employ vast numbers of people from janitorial and food service workers, to clerical workers and teachers, as well as educating the nation's youth. Keeping hospitals and clinics open also offers an abundance of jobs. Trade unions can fight the devastating effects of plant closures by supporting and participating in public and government joint takeover of closed plants. The time has also come to demand a shorter workweek with no cut in pay. Railroads can be re-opened in large cities, putting Americans back to work at union wages and working conditions. The possibilities are endless if we organize to stop Reagan's war economy and demand that our needs be met.

It is time to put talk into action. I call upon today's youth to turn out in masses to register and vote for candidates who work for peace and the people's needs. We must become politically conscious by building relationships with one another in all workingclass communities. We must have faith and confidence in one another and strive for peace throughout the world.

I say that labor must be in the forefront of this struggle and call for unity for all organized labor in the U.S.A!