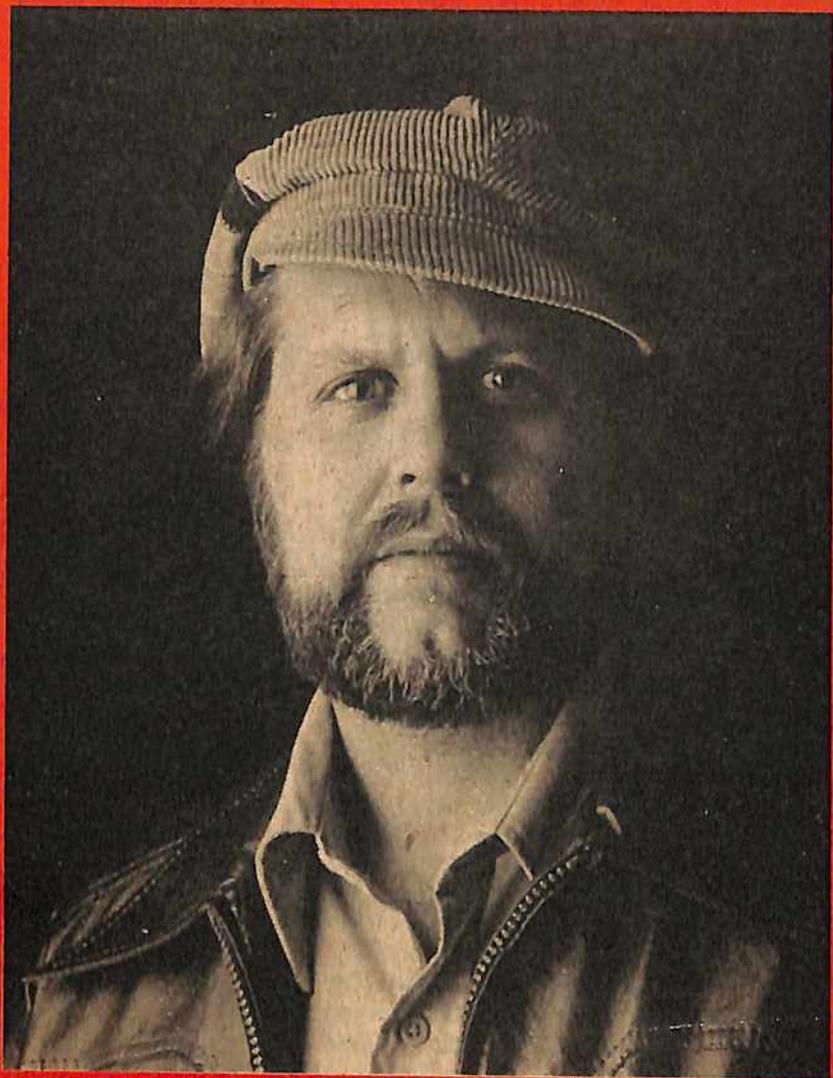


How Can We Apologize For Taking History Into Our Hands?



An excerpt from a speech by Bob Avakian,
Chairman of the Central Committee of the
Revolutionary Communist Party, USA
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How Can We Apologize For Taking History Into Our Hands?

The following are excerpts from a speech given by Chairman Bob Avakian in Cleveland, Ohio during his national speaking tour:

I'm very pleased to be here in Cleveland, and I think this meeting is taking place at a very important time—a very important time in general, in terms of what's going on in the world as a whole, a very important time particularly in terms of what's going on in this country, and more particularly what's going on right here in Cleveland. What we see going on here in Cleveland is a part of what's going on in the country and the world, but it has its own particular features. I think we ought to understand that it's time that the working class in this country began to act in its own interests and stopped letting ourselves be bounced around once again like a pinball played by these capitalists, bounced back and forth between their no-end tricks of one kind or another, their lying politicians, and their reactionary so-called solutions that don't solve. In particular we've got a very sharp situation in this city beginning on Monday, and that's the question of what's gonna happen in these schools, what's gonna happen with the busing. I think it's important for us to address that straight up, because it's time, as I said, for the working class to step onto the stage of history, to take up and lead the fight against all oppression and not allow itself to be led around by its enemy, divided up, and tricked into going at each other's throats once again while the rulers of this country push us further down and keep us further enslaved and oppressed, and prepare to do even worse to us and people all around the world.

Because that's the nature of this system and the people that rule over it, that's what they're doing right here in Cleveland around segregation and busing. That's what they've been doing around the country—they want to get people further divided, they want to get people to go at each other's throats even more unable to see their higher or broader interests and fighting each other. And how do they go about it? They go about it the way that's built into their system, the way that they've always promoted and fostered in this country—especially by fanning antagonisms between Blacks and whites (or between oppressed minorities and white people in general) on the basis of further oppressing and degrading and discriminating against and segregating the minorities in this country, and treating them to additional burdens of oppression besides what the rest of the people get.

Now one thing we got to understand clearly about the rulers of this country who do all this, the real estate companies and even more so the bankers and the corporation heads who strut around all over the world and right in this country make billions, literally billions of dollars, by segregating and discriminating in housing, education, on the job and everywhere else. Do *they* all of a sudden have a genuine concern for bringing about equality, ending segregation, discrimination? Does anybody here believe that?—then raise your hand. See, nobody will, because people know better (there might be a few who believe it but they're probably embarrassed to raise their hands). These capitalists are the people that are responsible for this. And when they come up with something we always have to look at it very critically and understand this: they are not coming up with anything out of concern for our interests, they're not coming up with these busing plans around the country in order to end discrimination, segregation, oppression and all the rest of it, because they profit by it economically and they profit by it politically—by keeping the people divided, forcing one people even further down than the other and then getting everybody to fight over crumbs. Now all of a sudden, just like in 1974-75 when they were in deeper and deeper economic crisis—and now it's getting more serious—they come up with another plan and they are very consciously working to try to turn this into another Boston, to try to get the white and the Black people fighting each other.

So what should be our stand? What is it time for the working class to do? It's time for us to quit being chumps. As far as their busing plan—it doesn't make any difference to us one way or another, it's not gonna solve the problems but it's not the worst thing we have to face either. What *does* make a difference to us is that we cannot allow them once again to whip us up behind these

reactionary ideas and these reactionary scum like the Nazis and all the rest of them. The working class has gotta be out there, and particularly *white* workers gotta be out there, saying that if these buses are gonna roll, there is not gonna be one single attack on a Black child or anybody else among the people, especially the Black people in this city, and we are gonna take a stand and unfurl the banner of unity, and we're gonna be out there, not just talking but acting to make sure that that does not happen. Not because, as the ads from the Bar Association say, "It's the law," but because we've got our interests—fuck their law!—we've got our interests.

We know their busing plan is not gonna solve these problems—if it did, we'd be for it, we'd be out there stumping for it ourselves—but nevertheless, we cannot allow them to set us against each other. We can live with having kids bused around. Hell, a lot more than that goes on already and a lot worse than that is gonna be brought down by the rulers of this country. And some of these people who jump up and say, "Not my kid, he's not gonna be inconvenienced, he's not going 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 miles out of the way," some of them are the kind who'll stand up and cheer when he goes off to fight in the next war. You're a goddam hypocrite—and it's time you woke up and recognized reality! This system out here has got nothing but misery for you and your kids and all the children in future generations, as long as it lives, as long as it thrives and survives in this country and the world.

Look at this country they say is the greatest of all countries. What a bitter farce. What nerve they've got to say that. You look at this country that they claim is the land of opportunity, that holds the greatest future for the people. What people? What does it really do and what really happens? Here you've got in this country one of the highest suicide rates in the whole world. One of the highest suicide rates, and especially among youth! Youth out here are killing themselves in some of the highest numbers in the world, and in growing numbers, more and more all the time. Now why? Do you want to tell me that in a country where more and more youth look around them and see what's before them and decide they've gotta take their own lives rather than face that—you want to tell me that's one of the greatest countries in the world? This country is a cesspool! This country is filth and it stinks! Not because of the people but because of the system, and we have to recognize it, we have to face up to it and call it out for what it is and rally the people to rise up and abolish it, or there's never gonna be anything decent, nothing but this hardship and even worse corruption, degeneration and degradation, as long as this system goes on.

We have to call it out for what it is and we got to jolt people awake to what our higher interests are. We can't be led around by

trick bags and misled into these reactionary backwater directions that go nowhere except back under the system's boot. We have to wake people up. You tell me—why are the youth killing themselves out here? Think about it, why are they killing themselves? Because they look out at what this system has done to their parents, their families, the people around them. They've seen people chasing the rat-maze of this so-called American dream, their parents and others, for years and years and years; they've seen it blow up in their face, they've seen their parents going around mad at each other, mad at themselves, blaming themselves for the fact that they couldn't provide the American dream to their families—actually believing that it's their own fault that their families are ripped apart. That it's their own fault that the kids can't stand the parents and the parents are fighting all the time, going around not only fighting and being ripped up in that way but blaming themselves and each other. And the kids look at all that and they say, "Not me! If I'm gonna be dead at 25 anyway I might as well get it over with now and not wait 40 years to have them officially declare me dead and bury me."

Any system that has such a bleak and rotten future for the kids that are coming up, that in growing numbers and in some of the highest numbers in this world are killing themselves—right there is reason enough that this system should be overthrown and swept into the graveyard of history! And that's exactly what we're going to do. So when you're talking about your kids, when you're talking about the future generation, when you're talking about the youth, when you're talking about the way the world is going, the first and most basic thing we have to recognize is that unless and until we see beyond their schemes and their attempts to divide us, to push one down further than another and get us fighting like dogs over crumbs, until we rise up beyond that and see our higher interests and recognize that we have to unite, that we have to fight against the capitalist system, and that a crucial part of our struggle is to fight against discrimination, segregation, police terror—especially against oppressed minorities—and all that, until we see the broader and longer-term question of where this society and where the world has to go, then we are never gonna see anything but the same misery. And we are never gonna be nothing but chumps and fools being led around and played off one against the other and being trick-bagged from one scam to another for generation after generation until we look out beyond all this, till we raise our heads out of the muck that they constantly push us back into, and say, there's something higher, there's something further, there's something more fundamental and more important going on here, that we have to unite in our common interests, our highest in-

terests, our longest-term interests toward the goal of revolution.

And on every question, whether it's busing in Cleveland or unemployment or the question of people having to come to this country and work their lives away and maybe be declared so-called "illegals," whatever question it is, we have to look at it from the standpoint of *our* class—how is it going to affect the struggle that we have to build, the understanding and the unity we have to achieve to overthrow and move beyond this system and advance to a higher stage? Until we begin to look at how every question affects the struggle between us, the working class, and the capitalist class that rules over and wrecks our lives and mangles and twists them, until we ask first and as our basis—what does this question have to do with, how is it affected by and how does it affect, the struggle to abolish this capitalist system and move on to socialism and ultimately communism, how does it fit into the overall class struggle between the oppressors and the oppressed, not just here but throughout the world—until we begin to stand fundamentally on the basis of asking *that* question first and foremost, we will always be made fools of, we will always be run around in circles, and we will always remain where we are—under their boot with their whip across our back.

And that's the message that our Party brings out. We can't allow ourselves, we don't have *time* to be out here any longer like fools, there is too much sharpening up in the world, there are too many heavy things on the horizon for us to allow ourselves to be dragged into the swamp, to be pushed back into the muck and to fight each other like dogs over a bone. No, we have to recognize our higher interests. I'll tell you one thing. These busing plans on the one hand are a sham, but I'll tell you from my personal experience, in terms of where I am today and what I understand today, I consider myself extremely lucky to have gone to a high school that was about half Black (and other minorities) and half white. It taught me about the world. It taught me about a lot of things that I didn't know about. The lessons were sometimes painful, they didn't come easy, and everything wasn't nicey-nicey the way some of the liberals want to tell you it is. We had fights. I went to high school, and the first week I went there—I had gone to a junior high school that was almost all white—the first week I got down to this high school that was half Black, I was in three fights in the first week. But all three of those dudes were my friends within a month. That's the way it is with the youth. Goddamit, some of those old fuddy duddies, leave the youth alone and let them learn about the real world, and more than that let them get some revolutionary consciousness and start uniting!

Forget this goddam pie in the sky! Hey, you all have been

youth before, think back about the reality, don't just block out the part you don't like to think about; life is rough out there being a youth anyway. It's madness in this country!—especially if you're a youth and you don't have the right outfit, your hair isn't done right or if you don't hang around with the "right crowd" of people, then you're an outcast. It is misery out there because this system corrupts and wrecks and perverts everything, including people's personal and social relations. There is nothing good to be had under this system and the only way forward for the youth is to begin to learn about each other, to get to see their common interests, and more than that to get revolutionary consciousness—which our youth group, the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, is bringing out to them—and to become part of fighting for the real future. Not these chump piddly-ass goddam things they put out here and try to get us fighting over like dogs, but the real future of taking control of and transforming society and completely changing it from top to bottom in the interests of the people so we won't have no more segregation, we won't have no more discrimination, we won't be divided and ruled over, we won't have any more handful of people sucking the blood and living off millions of other people and keeping them in misery—that's the only future and the only thing decent out there for the youth. And in the final analysis, it's the only alternative to their either blowing their own brains out or having them blown out on a battlefield fighting for nothing except to keep this capitalist madness going another week or another month or another year or another decade longer.

I was interviewed by one guy on the radio, he said, "Why are you a revolutionary? Who influenced you?" I said, "Well, we could talk about Eldridge Cleaver, we could talk about Bobby Seale, we could talk about Mao Tsetung, we could talk about Lenin and Marx, and we could also talk about Billy Carr and Melvin P." He said "who?" I said, "That's my point. You see, Billy Carr and Melvin P. were friends of mine. Billy Carr got shot and killed at age 30 over nothing except a chump little petty argument in an after-hours joint, and his life was really over 15 or 20 years before that. 'Cause this system, it carved out nothing for him. So he took to a life of crime, petty ripping off, and he got killed for it, just like many thousands of others out here in one way or another. And many of his other partners got shot up and killed in Vietnam, the ones who couldn't get out of that, who got caught up in that. And Melvin P.—he was another friend of mine in high school. He was crazy at age 17. His life was over at age 17, because that's what this system had in store in one form or another, either he'd go crazy or he'd be like so many other people who go around thinking that you're actually completely mad because you're the only one,

so they tell you, who can't stand this shit any longer. That's the reality of it. And that's also why you have people turning more and more toward revolution, because they come to see, hey, it's not me, I'm not crazy, everybody else isn't out here just loving it like they say, thousands and even millions of people hate this system and what it does to people, and want change. But they need to be waked up and helped to see the revolutionary road.

And that's why they've gotta have a Party, that's what our Party is out here for and that's what it's being attacked for. Because we won't back off. We don't give in and go along with whatever seems popular or whatever the convention is. How could we possibly do that? I read this column in the paper the other day called "Dear Martha." I think it was down in St. Louis. You know, it's like Dear Abby and Ann Landers and all the rest of this. Think about this: here this girl writes in and she says, "My boyfriend is making a lot more money than I am. We used to make about the same. He got a better job. We still like to go out at night and do things, go out to nice places, and here I'm making \$100 and some a week and he's making a lot more, and he's now bought himself all these fancy new outfits and he looks real sharp, and I look like I'm in rags and my outfits are no good, and I'm ashamed to go out with him. So I said to him, 'Aren't you ashamed to go out with me?'" Now who the fuck wants to worry all your life about petty shit like that and have your life be about nothing more than that kind of madness! But that's what they try to reduce us to.

One of the greatest things about the 1960s in this country was for example the women who said "To hell with being Mary Hartman and Edith Bunker! (That was before they had those characters on TV, but I'm talking about the type that women were rebelling against.) They said, "There's a whole world out here to become part of and change, along with the men. Who wants to go through your life having your highest concern be the waxy yellow build-up on your floor?" And who wants to go through life, like they tell us to, exercising the one freedom that they will never take away—in fact, the freedom they will encourage and even promote you to exercise—and that is the freedom to open your mouth, move your lips, and have your very oppressor speak through your mouth. To open your mouth and talk the fool and the chump for him.

I was on this other TV program, and they had Charles Kuralt on before me. You know, he's the one who goes "on the road" and tells little fairy tales, Alice in Wonderland bullshit about America. And he thought it was very impressive that there was a parakeet he discovered in one place who managed to imitate Walter Cronkite and said, "That's the way it is." Well I meant to ask him—I didn't get a chance but I wanted to ask him—what do you

find so astounding about that? Walter Cronkite is nothing but a parakeet for the capitalist class in the first goddam place!

Now Walter Cronkite's got a reason for that. He's getting paid hundreds of thousands of dollars, got his best friends in all these big corporations, he's got a reason to be doing that. But we don't! And the rest of these people out here that aren't awake, they don't got a reason either. But they need to be waked up. They need to be jolted awake, they need to be grabbed awake, they need to be shaken awake to what the reality of this country is. Not this pie in the sky, American dream lie that explodes in your face everyday you turn around, and then tells you after everything it's done to you that you're the one to blame. How can we possibly be afraid to challenge *that*?

I know some people come forward and say, "Listen. I agree with a lot of this but hey, it's hard to go out there. As soon as I step out a lot of people attack me and they say, 'What do you wanna hang around with them commies for? Why don't you tone that shit down? Why don't you do something else, you know, it's not popular, blah, blah, blah.'" A lot of people out here, people right in this audience I'll bet have been through this and said this. And some people wouldn't even come to this meeting because they have to go back to work and face other people who are gonna ask them, "Did you go down to that commie meeting?" And they don't want to deal with it. But we got to. How can we possibly be embarrassed about taking the world into the hands of the people? How can we possibly be embarrassed about taking history into our hands? How can we possibly be embarrassed or have to try to apologize for stepping into history, becoming conscious, and joining the process of moving it forward in the interests of the whole world and the world's people? How can we possibly be defensive about that?

It's only if you don't see where the whole world is going, what this process is, how history is moving. All throughout the world there are millions and millions and millions of people who are becoming politically aware. Not walking around like they want us to walk around, like zombies, repeating their mad little nursery rhymes about how "this is the greatest possible country in the world! Where else but this country could a poor working stiff like me have a camper?" Now this is what some of these backward—and I'm gonna call them what they are—fools out here are talking. You know what they remind me of? And I'm gonna say it straight—they remind me of a goddam prostitute who goes out here night after night and can't say nothing bad about her pimp! This dude is using her up, mistreating her, tricking and running her around in circles to snuff the life out of her by the time she's 25, and she says, "Oh, he beats me so nice! If it wasn't for him I

wouldn't be nowhere, I wouldn't be nothing, I'm shit, I'm dirt, if it wasn't for him I wouldn't have anything." And these backward fools, that's what they're talking like.

We go out to Ford Motor Company in Detroit or someplace, (I forget where, maybe Cincinnati, it happens in every city) we go out there passing out leaflets about this meeting, selling our newspaper, and some of these clowns who are not yet awake, and look like they're extras from the Night of the Living Dead, come walking up with a dollar bill in their hand and say, "Look at all Ford Motor Company's done for me, I love it!" Now this makes about as much sense as if some slaves on a plantation were trying to get people together and organize an uprising and one slave walked up, raised up his chains, rattled them, and said, "Look all this master has done for me, I love him!" That's about how much sense it makes. You don't talk about all that you gave up to that man, all he took from you, the life he sucked and squeezed and suffocated out of you for your whole life to give you back that little miserable pittance that keeps you just coming back and doing it all over again as long as you can until he says, "I don't need you anymore; get out the door and starve or go kill yourself, it's not my concern." Now am I telling the truth or not? Let's get down to what the reality is in this country!

Where I went to high school, I came out of this one scene into another. The world was being turned upside down just like it is right now. It was the late '50s and the early 1960s. Struggle was raging. The 1950's really was a miserable dead period. I think that the 1960s actually brought about the only rebirth we've seen in this country for a long time, even though what was started then still has to be finished. People came awake and alive for the first time in years in this country. And that was what was happening in the late '50s and the early 1960s—people challenging, people questioning after years, not like some of these old fogeys out here who say, "Hey, you can't question, it's authority, it's government, if they didn't know what they were doing they wouldn't be our leaders," and all the rest of this bullshit they feed us all the time. The world was being turned upside down. The Civil Rights movement was raging. Black people were saying, "We're not going along with this any longer, we've always hated it, we've always fought against it, and now we're determined to get rid of it once and for all."

And when I went to high school, I was smacked in the face with this. I believed like a lot of others in this American Dream. I went out and played football, I loved football. (And I still like it, as a matter of fact, but I went and saw this movie "North Dallas 40," and it's hard for me now to enjoy football as much as I used to, because it reminds you real graphically how capitalism mangles

and destroys even football and corrupts and pollutes everything it touches. But nevertheless, in high school I was playing football.) On our team there were Blacks, there were whites, there were Mexicans, Chinese, everything out there on the football field. And we were all friends on the football field, but when we came off the field, a lot of people said, "Hey, that's as far as it goes. Now you go your way and they go their way, and they might be your friends on the field, but that's far enough. You can't go to their home and sit down and have dinner or talk with their family, because they're different from you, and furthermore, they're not as good as you." And that's what we were fed, that's the lies. I was told all kinds of horror stories before I got to that high school. I was told all kinds of lies—unbelievable lies—I have to look back and wonder how I could actually believe some of the madness that I was told about people who had a different skin color and had a little bit different cultural interests and so on than I did. But I learned a lot. People came up to me, and they said at that time—it's just like many things right today—people I thought were my friends said, "Hey, if you keep hanging around with those niggers, then you're not my friend any more." And I said, "Fuck you! I don't need a friend like you!"

That's what they said, and you had to take a stand, the world was being turned upside down—it wasn't anything just about me, there were millions of people, especially young people, who had to take a stand at that time. The world was being turned upside down whether you liked it or not. I remember this guy came up to me and he said, "Hey, I hear that you actually believe in going out with Black girls." I said, "If I like her and she likes me, why not?" He said, "Well, why don't you stay with your own kind?" I looked at him and I said, "You mean like *you*!" And that's the reality. You were faced with these choices: were you gonna be a goddam hypocrite, go out there and slap each other on the back when you're playing football or joke around a little in class, maybe, but then when the football practice is over, or you leave the classroom you're gonna go two different directions and you're not gonna be friends?

And it wasn't popular not to be a hypocrite—that's the truth, that's the kind of society capitalism is. A lot of people wanted to say, "you can't do this," or other people would come and say, "Listen. I agree with you (they'd say it in private) but hey, I'm gonna be too unpopular if I do what you're doing and what other people are doing. If I don't stay in my own crowd, if I challenge the accepted social norms, I'm gonna be unpopular, I might not have any friends, I might not get invited to the senior prom." Well, who gives a goddam! Because the world is about a lot more than all that petty bullshit.

And if people can't relate to it, then they're gonna find that their minds are gonna be changed anyway, just like this dude out here in Levittown, Pennsylvania that I read about in our Party's newspaper, the *Revolutionary Worker*. You see, the system jolts people awake, it bangs them on the head, it forces them to think about things they don't even want to think about. And everybody, I'm sure, has had some kind of experience themselves of being jolted awake by reality. Well, it happened out in Levittown—which as you all know is supposed to be Perfectland USA, the dreamland, suburbia, the American Dream, mayonnaise and white bread and all the rest of it, and here are these people out there finding themselves in the same situation people all over this country are in, being extorted for higher gas prices, when they can get gas; having to stand in line, being conditioned and regimented not just to have to pay higher gas prices, but also, we should understand, being conditioned and regimented to accept the situation when war-time comes, when oil has to be rationed and things have to be held in check much more tightly. That's what we're being prepared for with these gas lines, and we'd better wake up and understand it.

So when some of these independent truckers, small businessmen, came into the town of Levittown, angry about the rise in gas prices, a lot of the townspeople who were furious about having to stand in line to be ripped off at the gas pump, got together with them and started protesting, started raising a little hell, probably the first time many of them ever really stepped out of line in their lives in this land of democracy and freedom—where the freedom to shut up and work hard for some capitalist, keep your mind empty, keep your mouth shut, or get out of line one step and have a club or a gun come down on you to show you where your place is. You see, in this country, if you don't know what the rules are, as soon as you break one, knowing or not knowing it, you'll find out what they are. And that's what people in Levittown found; they started getting angry and protesting, and here came "Officer Friendly," supposed to be like on TV. On TV all you get, just about, is pigs—you got pretty pigs and you got ugly pigs, you got long-haired pigs and short-haired pigs and you got dumb pigs, but you got pigs, pigs and more pigs on TV—all of them your friend and protecting you! And I'm sure most of these people believed these fairy tales, because they hadn't yet experienced the reality. And what happened—they started protesting and they saw what these pigs are—pigs!

These pigs came out and they dragged pregnant women into the streets and beat them in their gut, stomped on them; they took little kids and ran over them with their motorcycles; they took old people and turned attack dogs loose on them, sending scores of

people to the hospital—for two days—because the people were trying to protest some higher gas prices in this country. And in the midst of this people learned a lot of lessons. Our people were out in the midst of that struggle, selling our newspaper, the *Revolutionary Worker* (this paper right here), and more and more people are coming to check this out—everybody's got to check this out, not just read it, but get it into the hands of thousands and thousands of more people, because this is a weapon exposing the system and preparing us concretely and politically for revolution. Anyway, we were out there in the middle of this struggle in Levittown, and this old white worker, worked most of his life away for some goddam steel company, thought he was gonna take part in the American Dream, came up to us and said, "I'll tell you the truth, in the 1960s, when Black people were out there fighting for their rights, fighting against the police, I thought they got what they deserved, but now I know they were right."

You see this is the reality of what this system does. It jolts people awake, it forces them to think, it causes them to question the hardship it puts them through, the crisis and wars it plunges them into. And that's why the rulers of this country, as they can see the crisis sharpening up and things getting more and more intense out there—people with anger exploding, often against each other, often against ourselves, but nevertheless the capitalists themselves can see the storms are gathering—they can't stand for there to be a party out there that doesn't compromise with them, that doesn't flinch in the face of them, that doesn't back off, that's not worried if we're a little unpopular or if some people say "I can't hang around you because I don't want people identifying me or calling me a communist. A party that doesn't let itself be taken off the track by that, doesn't let itself be backed down by these superficial idiotic ideas that still have hold on a lot of people's minds, but stands up and tells people the truth and says "This is where this system is heading, this is the only place it can head, further and further dragging us down, dragging us even toward World War 3, and we cannot stand around any longer, we cannot sit around any longer, we cannot simply pray, we cannot simply hope it will go away, we cannot hide from it, we've got to become conscious, we've got to get united, we've got to get prepared, and we've got to rise up millions strong and make revolution in this country 'cause that's the only answer to it!"

Now they can't stand for us to be out here telling the truth to people and not backing off of it. And each time they attack us we go further, we go deeper, we go broader and we take that question to more people—and that's why they keep coming down harder and harder. 'Cause they're not playing a game. And we're not play-

ing a game, either. This is not a game out here. Many people say they don't believe revolution is possible in this country, they don't believe that this question of making revolution is real. I'll tell you something, the people who run this country do. The people that run this country know this shit is serious, they know that the question of millions of people coming into motion against them is real. Because they know what they got in store for us—much as they're trying to hide it, they know that there's gonna be more unemployment and more crisis in the economy, while people are worked even harder and driven to death even faster on the job; they know the housing is gonna tumble around us even faster, the schools are gonna be even lousier, the hospitals are gonna close and slam their doors in our faces, and they know most of all that to try to get themselves out of this and prolong this system even a little bit longer and breathe a few more last gasps into it, they're gonna plunge the whole world into war, they and their Russian imperialist rival.

Now this is the question that every person is gonna have to face. But I'll tell you this. In the period ahead, someone is gonna come knocking on your door. You're not gonna be able to stick your head under your pillow and pretend it's not there, you're not gonna be able to escape with dope or alcohol or tranquilizers or any of this stuff people try to use to get through the day in one way or another. They are gonna come knocking on your door, the capitalists are gonna come knocking. The class-conscious among the proletariat—the class in this country that doesn't have a stake in this system, no real interest except to rise up and overthrow it—its class-conscious forces are gonna be there knocking on your door. And we're not gonna quit knocking until you, until million and millions like you, come out from the confines that the capitalists try to force us all into and march onto the stage of history to stay.

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