



Letters

Ask About LLR Changes

The League for a Labor Republic received two opposed letters about our recent changes (we changed our group's name, adopted a new statement of purpose on the back cover, and converted this publication from a newspaper into a magazine).

One reader wrote, "The establishment of the LLR marks an important turning point in the understanding of conditions in this country, and the way forward."

Another reader objected, "You say that a magazine conforms to the current political situation better than a paper. You do not say what that situation is. The great mass movements will soon hit this country. When they do, we need something more popular, current, topical than a journal. The most developed revolutionary theory created by Americans-- doesn't it deserve a paper?" (condensed)

Both readers enclosed contributions.

The current political situation that led to this magazine has both a national and an internal side.

The mass mood in this country is highly contradictory. Faith in the capitalist system and its political machinery is at a low point.

Working people know that life is getting worse for them. Briefly, some people hoped that Reagan's prescriptions would reverse the long-term economic paralysis, but it is obvious that federal cutbacks and gimmickry are patent medicine for the masses and another all-day sucker for the rich. Two important signs of mass discontent were the huge turnout for the Solidarity Day demonstrations last September and the unexpected, heroic struggle waged by air traffic controllers.

Perhaps great mass movements will soon hit this country, but they have not arrived yet. People have not found a way to struggle, methods to get organized, trustworthy leaders, and a fight that can win gains.

Consequently, our newspaper did not have a mass following. It did not have a sufficiently large community of readers who read it as their spokesman, who used it to share information and ideas with people in the same movement they saw themselves in. There were several newspapers like ours published by other groups; many of them have simply collapsed, while the remaining few give no evidence of speaking for a broad community.

Internally, the newspaper cost a great deal of effort that kept some of our members from going deeper among the people. The task was not related closely enough to our work in mass movements, shops and campuses.

For these reasons, we decided to publish a magazine that will express our views without maintaining pretenses. We urge our friends to read it, sell it to contacts, and copy articles for coworkers, coalitions, and reprinting.

The League for a Labor Republic directs its energies to the end of monopoly capitalism and the establishment of a labor republic. We follow this path wherever it leads. When the best thing we can do is have a newspaper, we will have one.■

One of the readers gave us a poem. It expresses faith in a new world won by the people themselves, and we are happy to publish it here.

Days to come
Days of past
Together "Now" flashes

Across time
Across spaces
At people's places
A rebirth rises from the ashes.

The sick and savage system falls
Its own hands the deed done.

A new way
a new class
Democracy at last.

May the workers of the world be one.

To have THE NEW VOICE mailed to you, send \$10 for a one-year subscription to THE NEW VOICE, P.O. Box 19107, Oakland, CA 94619.

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