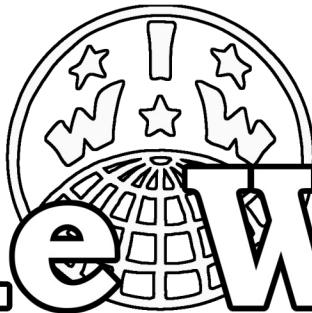


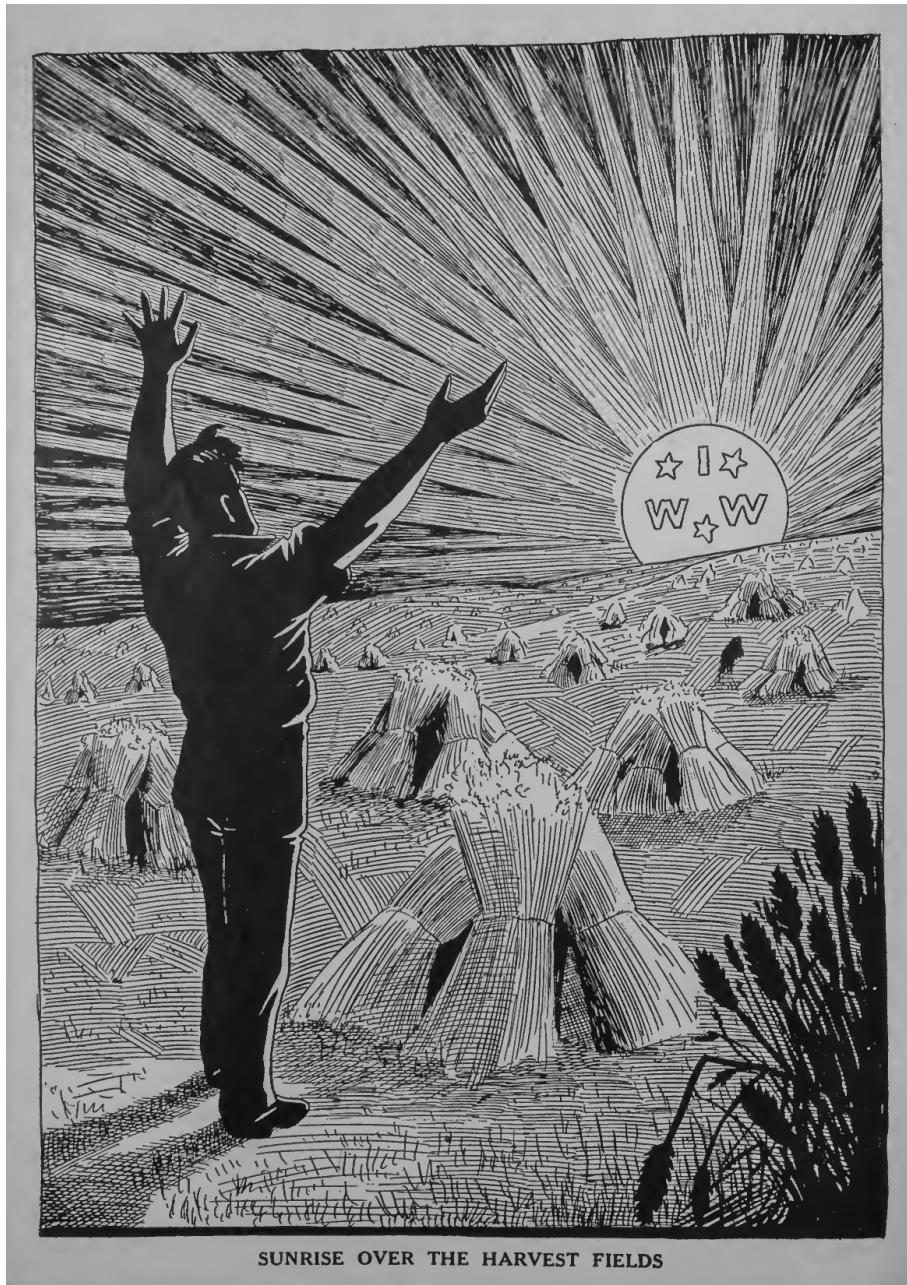
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# Seattle Worker

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SUNRISE OVER THE HARVEST FIELDS

MAY 1st IS MAY DAY

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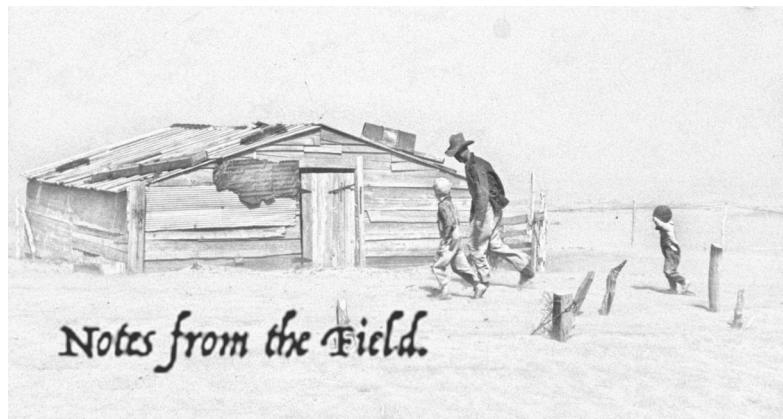
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photographs to:**

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*Published every two months*



## Notes from the Field.

In a case before a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) judge last year, Amazon was convicted of a litany of offenses against its workers. The long list of union busting violations included intimidation, coercion, surveillance, racial stereotyping, retaliation, and illegal firings. Having lost the case, and an appeal; Amazon chose a new strategy - Why not abolish the NLRB?

For almost 90 years the NLRB has been the only federal agency dedicated to protecting the right of workers to join together for better working conditions. While limited in many ways, it provides federal enforcement on labor rights and oversees unionization efforts. Unfortunately, that may change. Amazon, SpaceX, Starbucks, and Trader Joe's have decided that even the minimal protections that the NLRB offers to workers are too much for their bottom line to handle, so they plan to have it declared unconstitutional.

In various court filings, these giant corporations are arguing that the structure and power of the agency violates their rights. They want the court's blessing to legally intimidate, surveil, and stereotype you; and when that doesn't work; to coerce, retaliate, and fire you.

This is a recipe for disaster. We can only imagine the profit driven chaos that will reign and the battles that will need to be fought again.

Only workers organizing at the point of production can be the masters of their own fate.

**There is power in the factory, power in the land,**

**There is power in the hands of the worker.**

**But it all amounts to nothing if together we don't stand,**

**There is power in a union.**

*There is Power in a Union. (Billy Bragg version)*

*The Little Red Songbook, 38th Edition (2010)*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwbzxemJZlc>*

To learn more, checkout the OnLabor article, "Understanding the latest constitutional attacks on the NLRB" by John Fry at [www.onlabor.org](http://www.onlabor.org).



# Prison Conditions for The Incarcerated Worker

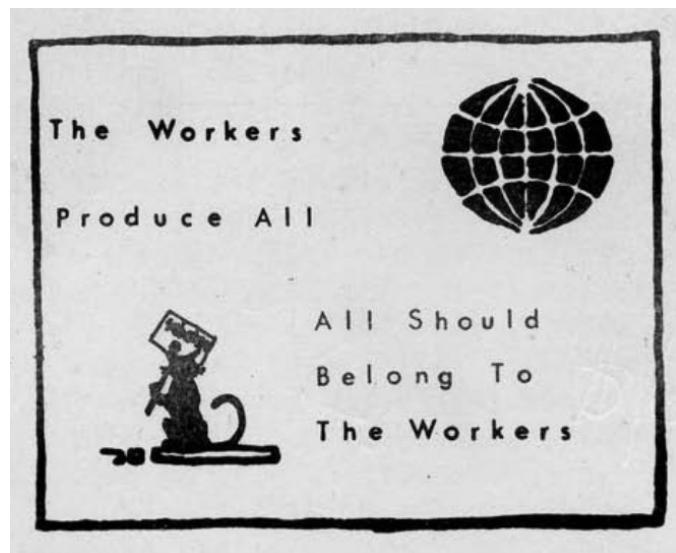
By Michael Linear

In 2023, some legislators pushed to pass legislation that would bring back minimum wage for incarcerated workers. There was much kick back from other legislators who believed the current prison wages were appropriate. As a result of this push to bring back minimum wage, the legislature allowed a 150% budget increase in pay for class II and class III jobs. Class II jobs are those considered maintenance workers: plumbers, electricians, steamfitters, and painters. Class III jobs consist of custodians which range from cleaning bathrooms in the living units, solitary confinement, education buildings, and gymnasiums. These classification of workers used to work for around fifty to fifty-five dollars a month. They're now seeing an increase to one hundred and sixty dollars. It has been approximately twenty-five years since prisoners have received a raise outside of correctional industries, which is the biggest institution in the prison industrial complex. This reflects cheap labor and high profits (modern day slavery).

The mindset of the oppressors has begun to unfold. See, it is unjust for those incarcerated workers to make enough money to support themselves, the oppressors believe. These systems thrive on dependents with no desires to improve the casualties of broken societies. What good are slave masters with no slaves? Therefore, what good are prisons without prisoners? The powers that be forbid agency. The powers that be forbid financial literacy. How do I know this to be true? Prison officials at Washington Correctional Center (WCC) maneuvered to cut jobs in order to balance out the budget as if every incarcerated worker is being paid \$55 dollars a month. Each living unit held approximately thirty to thirty-five custodian III positions. These have been reduced tremendously. Presently, each living unit holds about thirteen custodian positions. It is okay to have thirty-five custodian III positions at \$55 dollars a month because that only costs them \$1,925 in total per month. However with the increase in pay, it would cost \$4,800 per month. By chopping the custodian jobs down to thirteen, it cost \$2,080.

It is vivid that the department of corrections is not interested in rehabilitation. It is more concerned with saving money, which is already in a budget for incarcerated workers. As a result of these jobs being chopped down, the violence, drug use, and extortion have all increased. Men are sitting idle with little to no job opportunities. The lack of programs is a recipe for disaster. I've witnessed fights behind the scenes over \$8 dollars. I've

witnessed men lose hope, and turn to heavy drug usage that has led to overdoses. The theft rate has more than tripled. All this can be monitored through the increase of infractions written by correctional officers each month. Infractions are measures used by prison officers to capture prison crime, and instill some sort of sanctions that they deem appropriate. Sanctions can range from being confined in a room for a period of time, electronics taken, loss of recreation, or phone privileges.



I'm asking for all IWW and IWOC members in and out of the state to connect with me and organize around this diabolic issue. What is occurring is unjust, and it contradicts the union's principles. We have every right to take a stance. Let's hold the people assisting in uplifting the prison industrial complex system accountable.

Please write to:

Michael Linear #847176

C-D-10

Washington Corrections Center

P.O. Box 900

Shelton, WA 98584

# “What is the Law?” One Wob’s Perspective

By DC

Years ago, I worked as a union-side labor lawyer. I’d sometimes offer training in labor and employment law for union staff and stewards. In these trainings, we’d cover the main provisions of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) – elections; mandatory, permissive, and unlawful subjects of bargaining; Section 7 rights; Weingarten rights; unfair labor practices (ULPs) – as well as specific provisions of my client’s collective bargaining agreement (CBA), the grievance process, arbitration, and talk about “when to call the lawyer”. Those trainings can be useful for unions, including the IWW. Workers can better strategize in their conflicts with management when they’re educated and familiar with the laws governing how we work – what lawyers like to call the “black letter” of labor and employment law.

Yet, there were necessary and important things missing from the legal training I used to give. In the context of those trainings, when someone would ask me “What is the law?”, I’d give a narrow and straightforward answer. For example: “The law is found in this statute, or that Supreme Court case. It says you have such-and-such a right...” I’d do what lawyers are trained to do: spot the legal issue, identify which particular law applied to that scenario, and describe, at face value, what that law said. I knew I wasn’t speaking to a revolutionary who wanted to create a new society within the shell of the old; I was merely advising a union functionary who wanted to get on with their job. I would never fundamentally question the definition of the law as a social institution.

But I want to do that now... to get a little abstract and theoretical. I want to answer the question “What is the law?” as if a fellow Wobbly were asking me. I want to give a critical answer to the question beyond just matter-of-fact statements of how the law appears to us now. This is what I think Wobblies need to know about the law, what I think most non-IWW lawyers would never say out loud.

So, here goes. What is the law?

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**Essentially, the law is a feature of class rule.** That capitalist state that establishes and enforces the law is doing so to secure general conditions of profitability for the capitalist system. And, when it comes to the rules governing the labor-management and employee-employer relationship, specifically, **the law is a way of mediating class conflict – a way of enforcing the status quo, what they call “labor peace”.** “Workers’ rights” under the law are only a secondary effect.

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I can elaborate on the above, but here is the big takeaway: as long as we play by the legal rules, all of our victories will merely be organizing the defeat of the working class. For us, **the law is ultimately an obstacle to be overcome.** Workers – defined broadly to mean all of us who, under capitalism, are forced to sell our labor – **will be fighting a losing battle in the class war until and unless we build a new society that has no use for class.**

Historically, American employment law is more-or-less a continuation of the English common law governing masters and their servant’s obligations to them. Yes, there are now worker protections that weren’t there 100 years ago. But, the purpose of employment law was – and still is – about what employers can get away with as they control the working lives of others. Employees owe a “duty of loyalty” to their employer. Bosses still have the “right to discipline” employees. These essential features of master/servant law have never gone away.

Sociologically, we must grasp that labor and employment law primarily functions to keep the capitalist economy running. Even the laws we tend to like and businesses tend to hate – health and safety standards, minimum wage laws, anti-discrimination laws, etc. – ultimately operate against us, moderating and sustaining a system of domination that forces us to perform wage labor or starve. Individual capitalists might oppose “workers rights” and other regulations, but the capitalist system on the whole requires the state to set rules that enforce property rights, regulate functional markets, and sustain a labor force made of human bodies with biological, psychological, and social needs. The modern state and its laws exist so long as the capitalist economy generates profit.

**Because we oppose the whole system of capitalist labor, Wobblies should be critical of the sorts of purely legal victories that other unions celebrate.** What we want is an end to capitalism. We want, in the words of the IWW’s preamble, the abolition of the wage system. We don’t just want to certify bargaining units or get better pay. We’ll never achieve our goals by playing by the rules of the American legal system. I intend to continue this column in the Seattle Worker by covering some of the labor and employment laws that govern our working lives. As I do that, I don’t want to take the law at face value the way I did when I would give training to other unions. I hope Wobblies remain critical of the entire legal system as we learn about labor and employment law.

# Profit and the Collapse of a Bridge

By FW JD

It'll be many months before we get the full picture of what happened aboard the container ship Dali as it destroyed the Key Bridge in Baltimore – but it is still possible to contextualize the incident based on what we already know about the maritime transportation system.

First, it's important to know that "loss of propulsion" incidents are fairly common occurrences. Doing some basic math, and using published rates of loss of propulsion incidents, the Port of Baltimore can expect to see around four loss of propulsion events occurring every year. The vast majority of those incidents will occur without fanfare, negative consequences, or public notice.

In this instance a relatively uncommon, but not unheard of, event took place at one of the most critical locations of this passage. The ship lost propulsion at the absolutely worst moment. People in key roles – owners, operators, shippers, regulators – knew this was possible, and have long since decided that these transits were worth the risk.



*Escort tug in Elliot Bay*

They know that a loss of propulsion is a fairly common occurrence – it's not a surprise to anyone in the industry. They also know there are ways to stop this from happening (e.g. building ships with redundant propulsion). And they know there are ways to mitigate the potential damage that a loss of propulsion might cause (e.g. making use of escort tugs -- Vancouver BC requires escort tugs even for non oil tankers under some bridge spans). They choose not to implement these solutions. Why not? Because they cost money and limit profits.

Instead, they externalize the risk of catastrophe to individuals in the path of disaster and to the public. Since they made such decisions behind closed doors, we can be completely caught off guard when the catastrophe occurs. The public is totally blown away to learn that ships lose propulsion – even though it is happening every day in ports around the world.

People urgently want to know why this happened. It's true that for many of the details we will have to wait until the investigations come out, but part of the answer is already known: this was bound to happen. To someone, somewhere, eventually. It's the price of their profit.

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# Corporate Greed is to Blame For Our Inflation

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By FW Cedar

Corporate greed has been a large problem in our country for a while. It has been shrinking our middle class as the rich keep hoarding the wealth, forcing workers to work more hours to afford the higher costs of items caused by price-gouging. Workers are not to blame for inflation, despite what corporations claim; workers merely want their slice of the pie for creating the profits collected by bosses, according to an article by Rakeen Mabud on Salon.com; "Stop Blaming Workers for Inflation: Corporate Greed is a Much Bigger Factor". Workers are treated as disposable; and unions are how many workers attempt to protect themselves from poor working conditions. For example, at Amazon workers endured intense pressure to meet performance expectations, and had to pee in bottles and defecate in bags to the extent that at Amazon they made rules to address this. Unions are also better for workers and the economy, but more on this later. Collective unions give workers more power than they would have singularly and many consumers feel better about supporting businesses that pay employees well and are less top-heavy.

Corporations use police to bully strikers and the local government regularly turns its back on them. In the case of the strike at Charter/Spectrum Location-NY, New York in 2017 to at least the middle part of 2018, Cuomo and De Blasio turned their backs on the workers, according to Joe Maniscalco of Labor Press, "Corporate Greed: Killing Middle-Class America". They allowed the company to bring in out-of-state contractors after Cuomo stated that it "was a union town," during the September 2017 Workers March over the Brooklyn Bridge. America's government serves the elite rich, and either major party is concerned about making its own tribe of elites more rich and powerful.

Let's talk about the state of the people in this country as of 2020. According to an article by Lane Goodwin; "How Crony Capitalism Destroyed the People of America," a 2016 survey said that 7 in 10 people have \$1000 or less in savings. The number of Americans near-poor was 95.2 million. Wages of middle-class workers have stagnated and low-wage workers have been declining over the past 50 years, even as costs of living have increased. Life expectancy has decreased behind all other developed nations, even as the country increased spending 6-fold per person between 1970 and 2018. Suicide rates are the highest since WW2, cost of living has also skyrocketed in the past 50 years even as wages have been stagnant. Consumer debt in America is up past 14 trillion, the top .1% has as much wealth as the bottom 90%. Because of this the

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American Dream is now dead, because the top .1% hoard the wealth of our country, regardless of the labor of hard-working Americans.

Corporate oligarchs manipulate the government for protection from competitors and our government is too corrupt to prevent them from forming monopolies. The only reason we have capitalism is that those in power benefit the most. How's capitalism working for us? Not well, as you may have seen. Corporate parasites feed off of the working poor in our country, which is why it is expensive to be poor. Our capitalistic country is also falling behind more socialist ones in education, because it isn't as profitable to the rich who rule the country. Globally we rank 25th in math, 17th in science and 14th in reading, according to "The End of America", by Benjamin T Moore JR. This is from 2012, before the wealth gap was as wide as it is now. What threatens America most is sitting in corporate boardrooms, not our enemies in other countries.



What are ways that our country can fight back against this terrible foe? Encourage and work to build unions, as well as worker co-ops. We as workers help build up companies; shouldn't we get a bigger piece of the pie? Unions and co-ops, despite corporate propaganda, help drive the economy. Workers get paid more, workers have more money to spend, which then creates jobs to fulfill those needs. There are also ways that the government can act to help our citizens. Profit-price inflation is the underlying issue. Basically, corporations are using the excuse of increased costs to increase their prices even further, resulting in corporate profits not seen for half a century, according to Robert Reich, in his article titled "Corporate greed, not wages, is behind inflation. It's time for price controls" for The Guardian. Corporations can do as they please due to little competition. Four companies own 85% of meat and poultry processing, 1 corporation sets most of the prices of seed corn, Big Pharma is owned by 5 corporate giants, the airline industry is owned by 4, Wall Street has

been consolidated into 5 banks, (who are reporting record profits), broadband is owned by 3 corporate giants, automobile dealers are recording record profits and Big Oil still has the power to raise prices at the pump far higher.

Besides forming unions (and co-ops) what else can act as a balance to corporations? The government could institute price controls, as they have in more developed countries. Congress could take action against price-profit inflation by way of bold antitrust enforcement, as well as a windfall profit tax, according to Robert Reich's writing in The Guardian (same as above). These measures can help limit the power of corporate greed, while other options include the government promoting competition and making it easier for smaller businesses to enter the market. Competition is better for consumers as well as innovations, and keeps the market from becoming stagnant. With little to no competition, monopolies and giant corporations have no incentive to improve. For those saying that the increased wages are bad for the economy, this is not the case. If anything, it tremendously helps, according to Jacob Zinkula, writing for Insider Article; Bill Clinton's Secretary of Labor Blames Soaring Corporate Profits for Inflation and says the US Government Should Consider Directly Controlling Prices. Since pay increases aren't keeping up with inflation, raising wages is actually 'reducing inflationary pressures.' Paying workers more helps consumers buy products, which keeps our economy going, and consumers benefit from a thriving economy.



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# The Dishwasher's Final Paycheck: On Getting Paid

By *Anonymous FW*

Years ago, I worked at a cafe that served coffee, pastries, and sandwiches. I was there a few months, doing the dishes in a humid back corner of the restaurant, near the kitchen. I'd stand next to a large rubber waste bin. As the bussers and cooks brought me dirty dishes, I'd scrape the food into the bin and strategically load up these square, green plastic racks. During rush periods, these racks would fill up quickly. We had a big steel industrial washer, into which I would slide rack after rack of dirty plates, utensils, and glassware. When each dish cycle finished, I got a small thrill out of lifting up the steel box around the dishwasher and seeing the moist air rush out and rise up to the ceiling. Then I had to wash off my elbow-length rubber gloves and stack the clean dishes before heading back to the other end of my dishwashing station to start all over again with the dirties.

I remember some things the job clearly: the smells of one diner's food scraps plopping on top of other diner's food scraps in the waste bin; the blast of steam on my face when I'd open up the dishwasher; the soreness in my feet after a shift of standing and lifting.

The other thing that has stuck with me was the time I quit and didn't get my last paycheck.

The reasons I quit aren't important. I wanted to travel and I saw the job for what it was... a minimum wage gig where the boss was trying to squeeze work out of me before I'd inevitably burn out. That's the story with the person I replaced at the job, and I imagine that's the story with the person who replaced me. Working as a dishwasher at the cafe wasn't glamorous. It was a hard job. Of course, I didn't need much out of the job, and I wasn't a stranger to hard work.

What I did need was my paycheck. Why else would I give up my free time to stand in a steamy, smelly room feeding plates into an industrial washer? My last paycheck was probably around \$500, which is not a lot as far as a line item on the business's accounting spreadsheet. But it was a lot to me. After my last day working there, I waited a couple weeks before wondering when I'd get my paycheck. A few more weeks went by and I never got paid. Sitting here today, I can't tell you why I didn't go back and demand my wages after I left. I realize I should have. Maybe I just didn't have the confidence or didn't know my rights well enough. The cafe owner probably saw the turnover in their business. They saw other workers quit without demanding their pay and figured I'd be like them. They'd never see me again, so why bother paying me for the work I did? Their assumption was right – I didn't act. By now it's been too many years since I left that job and I've lost my chance to stand up for myself. I'm reminded that the IWW preamble describes "a fair day's wage for a fair day's work" as a conservative motto... and I didn't even get the proverbial fair day's wage!

The IWW (and I, personally) believe in the abolition of the wage system altogether. But along the way to that important, revolutionary goal, we need to also know how to get paid for the work we do. So, here is what I want to say to workers who can relate to my story.

It is not easy to develop confidence and confront your boss. But it gets easier if you have support from others. We're stronger together. "There is power in a union," as the song and saying goes.

And as for the knowledge component, that's not too difficult. Washington law is pretty straightforward on final paychecks. When you leave a job – whether you quit or get fired – RCW 49.48.010 (which is a statutory law in Washington) requires your employer to pay you for all the hours you worked by the end of the next pay period. Under Washington law, your employer needs to have a regularly established pay period. These are typically biweekly (every other week) or bimonthly (twice a month), but they need to be at least once per month. If you don't get paid, you can contact the IWW, the Seattle Solidarity Network, or some legal referrals. You have to act quickly to maintain your legal leverage. If you wait too many years like I did, there's very little legal basis to demand your final paycheck and all you're left with is the power of persuasion.

# “The Long Memory” Never Dies: Why We Must Strive for a Greater Vision of the Future of Labor

By FW Noah

My discovery of the IWW, all the way back in March of 2021, was a happenstance. As somebody who has always had love for history and the links to the past that are often not given a spotlight, my initial interest in labor history brought me to the IWW rather surreptitiously. Noticing the resurgence of the labor movement during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and motivated by the sudden surge of activism around racial justice, environmental justice, and a growing working class-consciousness in America. I felt as if by discovering the IWW I had found an outlet for me to channel my desire to see a better world. The power of a union, and especially the IWW, to directly confront the exploitation of labor and the division of society created at the hands of the capitalist class appealed greatly to me, and shortly after learning more about the IWW and its aims to transform society through industrial unionism, I shortly thereafter signed a Red Card.

The best examples of IWW history that motivated me to join was the history that took place right in my own backyard, here in Washington state. The widespread organizing in the lumber, shipping, and agricultural industries in my state, during the heyday of the IWW's influence during the early 20th Century, made me realize how prevalent and persistent the legacy that organized workers have on the present conditions of the working class. The Seattle General Strike, the lumber strikes of Aberdeen, the Centralia Tragedy, and many other events made me self aware of my own lack of education regarding labor history, even when that history took place so close to where I grew up. I felt as if learning these events made me closer to the working people that made the labor movement of today what it is, and allowed me to better connect with the role I wanted to play in continuing that struggle.

However, labor history as a whole, whether in the AFL-CIO or the IWW, is often seen in the way most of us tend to see history at large: with rose tinted glasses, looking back at what seems to us today to be better time to be active in unionism, that we have somehow lost an ideal that we are struggling to return to. This is a great myth that runs through all forms of historical analysis, the bias that “the old days were better days”, that the parasocial nostalgia we feel is an accurate representation of what actually happened in the lives and efforts of workers’ past. This is not only a lie, but obfuscates the purpose of learning history, especially in the context of the history of organized labor.

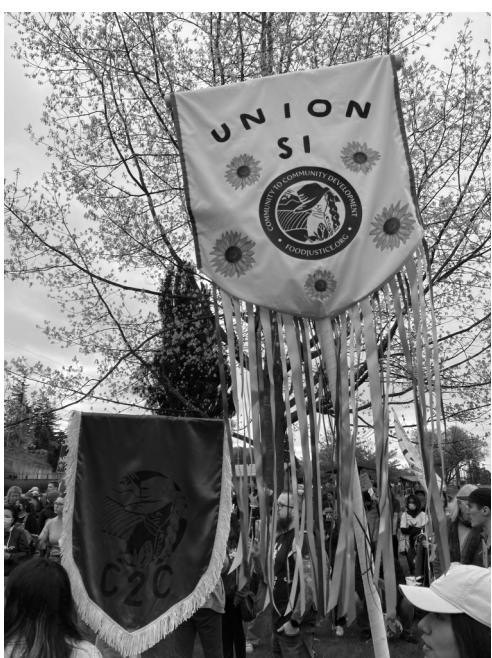
The past 60 years of unionism shows us how much we have lost, despite our best efforts. The dramatic decrease in the concentration of organized labor in all workforces in this country, as a result of several anti-labor regulations and laws that stand directly in the way of working people from achieving the greatest collective power possible through their organized efforts. Even as you read this article, SpaceX, Trader Joe’s and Amazon are filing lawsuits towards the government to rule the NLRB unconstitutional for violating their “free speech” - that is, to threaten workers from unionizing and spreading disinformation about unions. That lack of influence that organized labor has over society, culture, and politics has left us with a high mountain to climb if we are ever to return to the



kind of organized power that the working class previously had

To build a revitalized, rank-and-file led labor movement today, we should use our long memory not just a reflection on the lessons we learned through our struggle against the bosses, or an idealized past that we feel inadequate in comparison to, but as a guidepost for the victories we have yet to achieve. Our goal shouldn't be summiting the same mountain yet again, or yearning to return to an intangible past. Instead, we should ask ourselves how we can begin to surmount the previous victories we have achieved, to build up a labor movement that can outdo what fellow workers have previously achieved.

As utopian as it sounds, we have to aim clearly for the ideal of Industrial Democracy in order to understand how we can get to that vision of the future. By imagining what a society would look like with the working class at the helm, while employing the tactics and methods of organizing that we find success with, we could use all of the tools and opportunities that we can implement to achieve it. If the entire purpose of the labor movement - even our union - is merely to replicate the successes of the past, we will have achieved nothing new, and could again suffer under the same forms of weaknesses and reaction that almost destroyed our union. Our great and storied history is not a path to be retreaded, but should be taken as a collection of lessons that we can learn from and use in the present day, so that we may begin to create a new and revitalized labor movement that can learn new strategies and methods of organizing previously unattainable. By looking forward to the vision of Industrial Democracy, we can better analyze the arrangement of labor as it exists and begin to build a new path to building collective power that our past generations of fellow workers set out to achieve a century ago.



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## A Force More Powerful

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By FW Sean

We have to ask how we got ourselves to where we are? What are we doing on the planet? What gives us meaning? Are we happy? Are we free? What does freedom mean?

Freedom, for me, means living in my village, with my Unangan family, carrying on the ways that sustained my people for 10,000 years. It means ending the decline of my people and our sacred planet brought on by settler colonialism. I want an end to racism - I want the descendants of the colonized and enslaved to stop being labeled as drunks, drug addled, untrustworthy, savage, criminal, oversexed, because those are the psychosomatic stereotypes manufactured by settler colonizers to justify the theft of land and labor. These are the words that have been used to describe my Unangan family, my cousin Tribes of the Americas, and my friends who are the descendants of the enslaved. These are not my words, they are the words of the ignorant.

We're in a world dominated by capitalism - an economic system where the means of production are owned and controlled by capitalists to produce commodities for profit and workers sell their labor for wages - people as a commodity, to buy commodities. In America our healthcare, housing, food, prison, and education systems are commodities produced by capitalist industry.

Capitalist economies need markets and resources, so capitalists and the states they control send settlers to foreign lands to establish political control over less civilized people. People like me and my ancestors, are labeled godless savages in need of civilization. Examples include the Congo, Ireland, Turtle Island, Unalaska, and Palestine.

What develops in the new land is settler colonial apartheid. A group is othered and labeled inferior. It's simple: colonizers go to an untamed wilderness filled with savages, force the savages off the land, put them in camps on the physical edge of

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society to destroy them and use them up, enslave people to build wealth, all the while destroying the environment. They're states built on the destruction of the environment, murder, and the theft of labor and land. Some savages liberate themselves like Haiti and Ireland. Others are still being colonized like me and my ancestors on Turtle Island and my siblings in Palestine.

In the 17th century settlers came to an untamed wilderness, referred to as America, and established the colonies. Soon after landing they started the process of colonizing. The Red savage was raped, marched, sent to boarding schools, beaten, and murdered off their land. George Washington fought Indians. Then as the land was cleared and sold, by speculators like George, workers were needed to make the land productive by creating commodities. Laws were passed deeming some people inferior based on junk science and systems created to oppress them. So the colonizers kidnapped people from Africa and stole their labor. Thomas Jefferson built his wealth on stolen land and labor, while raping a fourteen year old enslaved person named Sally Hemmings.

Adolf Hitler and Rudolf Hess, architects of a German settler colonizer regime, referred to as the Third Reich, were fans of the American project. They were inspired by Manifest Destiny - the belief that America had a god given right to settle and colonize from sea to shining sea. These two Nazis liked the idea of bogus race laws to enable the enslavement of people for free labor, and picked up on how easy it is to take another person's homeland and slowly genocide them by putting them in camps. The German camps were only in captured territories, like the American camps. The Germans intended to slowly kill and enslave, like America did to the Redskins, but as they realized they were losing the war, they started murdering on an Industrial scale. Such was Lebensraum – the inherent right and superiority of Germany to settle and colonize to the Volga and beyond. The difference between these two genocides: the Germans did it on an industrial scale, and America's continues. Two model guides on how to create a living space for a superior race - Manifest Destiny and Lebensraum.

Just like T. Jefferson and Fascist Hitler, Bibi Netanyahu is leading a settler colonial genocide predicated on the god given right of some people to occupy over another people. Gaza is a camp, walled off and surrounded, where people are forced to sell their labor to Israeli capitalists while the rest are imprisoned. Now they are bombed and starved to make way for settlers. Israel's leaders have said our brothers in Palestine are savages who deserve to die. IDF soldiers record and post atrocities with glee, just like Americans celebrate the killing of

savages with 4th of July, memoirs, music, and movies.

There's a way out of these, so called advanced civilizations, that enslave our cousins, bomb our mothers, and poison our Mother Earth: direct action, a force more powerful. Because capitalism is a system, people who do not oppose it are cooperating with it. The most effective tactic to stop the system and win change is direct action, which is to collectively withdraw our cooperation. Direct action means boycotts, general strikes, hunger strikes, protests, and mutual aid as a way to withdraw our labor.

Direct action gets the goods: from chattel slavery, to the 1905 Peoples Strike in Russia, to the cloth and salt actions of the Movement for Self Rule, to the American Civil Rights marches of and boycotts, the fall of Pinochet, and the boycott to end South African Apartheid. Each of these movements were centered on direct action and mutual aid. Each of these movements consisted of everyday people cooperating to change history - and each changed history.

Race and borders are fictions, constructs to divide. Solidarity requires us to work across fictions to control the means of production cooperatively. This means we all must work together to produce food, shelter, and education for each other, instead of for profit. It requires us to protest for the most oppressed. Like the Bushnell's of the world we must discern what we will do to change history. Lack of action is complicity and cooperation with the system.

Each of us has what it takes to make history. It just depends on what freedom means to each of us. For me freedom looks like an end to the capitalist destruction of the bodies of children and Mother Earth. It means the restoration of the villages that were stolen from my people in 1942; a restoration of the villages cleared by the IDF. Freedom to me, means and end to the murder and rape of Indigenous women from both the river to the sea, and sea to shining sea.

I believe direct action will liberate me and all oppressed people from sea to shining sea. Direct action will solve all of our problems: from overworked and drugged to bombed and pillaged. We must all urgently act together to stop capitalism across the globe so the next seven generations can live a good life filled with bread and roses. No matter where you are, get started, join the movement, vote with your feet in the streets. There is no power greater under the sun than direct action founded on solidarity. You just have to want to be free and believe a better world is possible through mutual aid and direct action.

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## Solidarity Forever

When the union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run,  
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun;  
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one,  
But the union makes us strong.

Chorus:

Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever,  
Solidarity forever, For the union makes us strong.

Is there aught we hold in common with the greedy parasite,  
Who would lash us into serfdom and would crush us with his might?  
Is there anything left to us but to organize and fight?  
For the union makes us strong.

Chorus

It is we who plowed the prairies; built the cities where they trade;  
Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid;  
Now we stand outcast and starving midst the wonders we have made;  
But the union makes us strong.

Chorus

All the world that's owned by idle drones is ours and ours alone.  
We have laid the wide foundations; built it skyward stone by stone.  
It is ours, not to slave in, but to master and to own.  
While the union makes us strong

Chorus

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn,  
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn.  
We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn  
That the union makes us strong.

Chorus

In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold,  
Greater than the might of armies, multiplied a thousand-fold.  
We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old  
For the union makes us strong.

## Solidaridad Pa' Siempre

adaptación por Joe Glazer, Francisco Villareal, Augustín Lira, Luis Valdez y Felipe Cantú

En las viñas de la ira luchan por su libertad,  
Todos los trabajadores quieren ya vivir en paz.  
Y por eso, compañeros, nos tenemos que juntar  
Con la fuerza sindical.

CORO

Solidaridad pa' siempre  
Solidaridad pa' siempre  
Solidaridad pa' siempre  
Con la fuerza sindical.

Llevaremos en la sangre la grandeza sindical –  
No habrá poder más grande que el obrero mundial.  
Compañero, si eres débil como individual,  
Busca la fuerza sindical.

CORO

Más que'l oro atesorado es el poder gremial;  
Más fuerte que un ejército con tremendo arsenal.  
Crearemos nueva vida en el campo laboral  
Con la fuerza sindical.

CORO

Vamos, vamos compañeros los derechos a pelear  
Con el corazón en alto y con fe en la unidad  
Que la fuerza de los pobres como las olas del mar  
La injusticia va a inundar.



## About the Seattle IWW

Founded in Chicago in 1905, the IWW is open to all workers. Don't let the "industrial" part fool you: our members include teachers, social workers, retail workers, construction workers, bartenders and computer programmers. Only bosses and cops are not allowed to join. If you are currently unemployed, you can still join. We are a volunteer-driven union, and this means we run the union. Membership dues are used to maintain the union and assist organizing campaigns. As a result, monthly dues are low. To join, visit:

<https://iww.org/membership/>

### **Take the Organizer Training!**

The Organizer Training 101 (OT101) is an intensive, four-day training that teaches you all the basic skills and tools they need to build an organizing committee at your workplace—from the ground up. You will learn what constitutes a union, how to have one-on-one conversations with coworkers, the basics of labor law, and how to organize and carry out a direct action.

The Seattle General Membership Branch holds regular trainings—free during the pandemic. If you'd like to be notified of the time and date, visit:

<https://forms.gle/q9edxoGrEVXhMVd89>

### **Organize Your Workplace!**

The Industrial Workers of the World want to help you improve the conditions of your workplace. If you have questions, or would like to begin organizing your workplace, visit:

<https://seattleiww.org/organize-your-workplace/>

## *Preamble* *to the IWW Constitution*

**T**he working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

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