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A STATEMENT OF THE PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

New York, Mississippi or Vietnam—it's all the same.

U.S. rulers—like the Johnsons, Kennedys, Wagners and Rockefellers—wearing the mask of "liberalism" to cover up their reactionary character, or those that openly advocate fascism—like the Goldwaters, Buckleys and Wallaces—react with terror and repression in the face of growing pressures from the people for a better life.

The frame-up and conviction of Bill Epton, Vice-Chairman of the Progressive Labor Party and Chairman of its Harlem branch, demonstrates that the bosses fear Black workers. Epton's "trial" and conviction tells the world again that U.S. imperialism is unfit to govern the people of the United States—as it is unwilling and unable to solve the problems that confront the people of the ghettos.

The judge says Bill Epton is a "dangerous man." Yes, Bill Epton is a danger. He is dangerous to the plans of the bosses, their cops, their judges and politicians who want to heap still more police terror, slum housing, unemployment, lower wages and, if possible, increasing indignities on the people of Harlem.

With his conviction and jailing, these bosses and their stooges are telling the Black workers: "Stop resisting, stop rebelling. We killed Malcolm X; we jailed Bill Epton. We will crush you."

They are also telling workers, students and intellectuals that they will not tolerate any meaningful resistance to their plans for world domination.

Profits, power; power, profits—this is their sole interest.

It is no accident that Bill Epton is "tried" and convicted at the very same moment that opposition at home mounts, and at the moment that U.S. rulers intensify their war of genocide against the heroic Vietnamese people—at a time when they threaten to invade Cambodia and spread the war to all of Southeast Asia.

But despite their repression—and in answer to it:

* Tens of thousands of Black workers from Watts to Harlem rise in wave after wave of rebellion, striking terror among the handful of greedy rich who dominate our country;

* Tens of thousands of marchers from California to New York persist in their efforts to compel the U.S. to "Get out of Vietnam,"

threatening basic policies of the Washington war-makers;

* Tens of thousands of U.S. workers strike for better working conditions and job security, AGAINST the "national interest" of the war-lords' super-profits;

* Millions of workers and oppressed people all over the world step up their revolutionary actions against increased U.S. terror—signaling the end of U.S. imperialism

U.S. rulers are terrified that their stolen billions will be recovered by those from whom they have been robbed. Their fear of the people at home and abroad is apparent. Their fear of revolutionary leaders like Bill Epton is proven by the murders they commit and arrests they make in the land of "democracy."

They had to use an army to kill, maim and arrest thousands in Watts, in order to momentarily halt that rebellion. They had to drag out a 60-year-old "law" to imprison Epton.

How ironic that the most criminal elements in the world—U.S. rulers—try to palm themselves off as those who uphold "freedom" and "justice" while, in fact, they move to destroy entire peoples.

Is it any wonder that Bill Epton and the Progressive Labor Party advocate socialism—advocate that political power be wrested from these criminal hands and put into the hands of the workers and their allies?

U.S. imperialism is a rotten, dying system. It exists only upon the misery and exploitation of others. People all over the world see this more clearly than ever.

U.S. bosses have yet to build enough jails to hold the growing thousands, and soon-to-become-millions, that have had enough of the reactionary policies of the Johnson gang and the gangs that preceded him.

U.S. rulers do not have enough tanks, planes, napalm and bombs to stop the people of the world from determining their own destinies.

The cadence of marching feet in our country will grow louder and louder until it drowns out those who live off the misery and exploitation of others. Our people will, in ever-increasing numbers, join hands with their brothers and sisters the world over, fighting for peace, freedom and socialism.

It is not Bill Epton who must be judged. He has passed that test. In that sense, he is free.

It is those who jail the Eptons that are yet to be judged—and who will be judged by the people of our country and the people of the world.