

Stop Union-Buster Bloomberg: *Shut the City Down!* **Mobilize Labor's Power to** **Win NYC School Bus Strike**

FEBRUARY 7 – Finally! New York City labor leaders have called for a “Union Unity March and Rally” for Sunday, February 10 to support the striking school bus drivers and matrons of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181. *It's about time!* With signs on the picket lines, in leaflets, in a motion at the United Federation of Teachers delegate assembly and at a forum with bus drivers, parents and representatives of the ATU and Transport Workers Union Local 100, we in the Internationalist Group and Class Struggle Education Workers have been calling since the strike began three weeks ago for *a massive mobilization of city unions to stop Mayor Bloomberg's union-busting.*

Let's be clear: the billionaire mayor has declared war on any and all unions. The ATU is just first on the list. If he prevails here, next up will be the UFT, then TWU, DC 37 and on down the line. Bloomberg will do anything he can get away with: he's already cynically using special education students as pawns in his war. He will not “bargain in good faith” no matter how much union tops beseech him. And he has an army of cops at his disposal, as well as courts and a maze of anti-labor laws. To bust Bloomberg's union-busting (see article, page 4) we need to bring out a superior force, that of the entire New York working class and its allies, independent of the capitalist politicians.

Sunday's march across the Brooklyn Bridge to City Hall is sponsored by the UFT, TWU, 1199, 32BJ, the NYC Central Labor Council and NY state AFL-CIO. With that kind of backing, they could bring out tens of thousands of protesters, enough to really occupy Wall Street and shut down the center of international finance capital. But it's no accident it's being called on a weekend instead of a regular workday. The demonstration is clearly intended as a show of sympathy for the strikers rather than deploying labor's power to actually *win the strike.*

Moreover, the sponsors include the Democratic Party in various guises (the City Council Progressive Caucus, Working Families Party, NY Communities for Change). Yet the Democrats from Obama and Cuomo on down are in the *forefront* of the assault on education unions. And as we have pointed out, Democrats have an overwhelming majority on the City Council – they could force the mayor's hand any number of ways. Instead, the strategy of the union leaderships is to wait out Bloomberg's final term in hopes that a Democratic successor elected in November would be more “labor-friendly.” In the meantime, they figure, that could mean taking some



Internationalist photo

Picket line at Metropolitan Ave., Ridgewood, Queens on Day One of ATU strike, January 16.

losses. *But it would be the courageous bus strikers, not the bureaucrats, who take the hit.*

To win, the school bus strike should be escalated, with an elected strike committee and mass pickets to stop all school buses, including non-striking Teamsters Local 584. We Internationalists have tried to do our bit, joining the lines of the largely immigrant, heavily black and Latino drivers and matrons virtually every day since January 16. “Together we're strong,” just as strikers have been chanting on the picket lines, and we have the power – “union power.” Now's the time to use that power *to shut the city down!*

Below is the text of our first leaflet:

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS' STRIKE: MOBILIZE NYC LABOR TO WIN

JANUARY 21 – New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg is on a union-busting binge. The tycoon who proclaimed himself the “education mayor” is determined to eliminate any vestige of job security for any and all workers in the city's school system. First in line on the mayor's hit list are the 8,100 drivers and matrons of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181, who were forced out on strike last week. Next up are the teachers who are being threatened with massive cuts and layoffs in an attempt to blackmail them into accepting management “evaluations” that will put thousands of veteran educators' jobs at risk.

Union-buster Bloomberg must be stopped, and we have the power to do it. But the school bus drivers today and teachers tomorrow can't do it on their own. We are

facing powerful enemies: the Republican mayor is backed up by the Democrats in the State House and the White House, and the Wall Street fat cats who finance them. The capitalist politicians will use their cops and courts against us: the bus companies are already asking for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to issue a back-to-work order. But if we act together, the working class can turn the bosses' anti-labor laws into worthless scraps of paper.

To win it is necessary to bring out city workers' unions, backed by parents, students and supporters in a massive mobilization against union-busting to SHUT THE CITY DOWN. As an Internationalist

Group sign at the picket line in Ridgewood warned: “Remember, they're coming after you next.” The attack on school bus drivers is the same union-busting policy as the assault on the bargaining rights of teachers and public workers by Republican governor Scott Walker in Wisconsin in 2011, and by the Republican legislature and governor of Michigan last December – and it's taking place in overwhelmingly Democratic New York City, the most unionized city in the country. *This is a fight for all labor – an injury to one is an injury to all!*

Since the beginning of the year, the billionaire mayor and his schools chancellor *continued on page 2*



Internationalist photo

“Who's got the power? We've got the power, union power!” Picket at Department of Education, joined by CWA Local 1180, on Day 22, February 6.

Mobilize...

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flunkey Dennis Walcott have been vituperating against NYC's school bus drivers, pushing them into a strike over the city's decision to eliminate "Employee Protection Provisions" (EPPs) from contracts being let out for bids. If this is not blocked by workers' action it means that thousands of largely black and Latino drivers and matrons of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181 with years of experience in safely transporting school children (many of them special needs students) stand to lose their jobs, pensions and health care as non-union companies hire inexperienced workers at far lower wages.

So with their backs to the wall, on Wednesday, January 16 bus drivers and matrons walked out. On the picket lines that miserable rainy morning strikers expressed grim determination to stick it out and do whatever it takes to prevail. Many repeated over and over that they had no choice: it was strike or lose their livelihoods without a peep of resistance. The city rulers geared up their propaganda machine, spewing out a stream of union-bashing invective. Drivers (who earn about \$22 an hour after years on the job) were accused of holding the city and school kids hostage, essentially comparing them to terrorists. The rabid labor haters at the *New York Post* (17 January) published a screaming headline denouncing the strikers as "Bustards."

The next day, Bloomberg and the United Federation of Teachers president Michael Mulgrew announced that there was "no deal" over teacher evaluations. The UFT tops were prepared to sell out the members' job security. They had already accepted the principle of tying teacher evals to student test scores. Not only is this "junk science" – for all their elaborate formulas, the evaluations are utterly arbitrary – this makes educators scapegoats for poverty, racism, and the wrecking job that the privatizers have already done on the public schools. The union tops were finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Education. But Bloomberg shot it down, because it wouldn't let him "fire bad teachers" at will.

The union bureaucracy's capitulation was not enough for Bloomberg: he demanded total surrender. Someone should inform this would-be slave master and his minion Walcott that slavery was formally abolished in the U.S. a century and a half ago, and New York schools are not a plantation. Karl Marx referred to the capitalist system of "free labor" as wage slavery, and Boss Bloomberg, the richest man in NYC (estimated worth, \$22 billion), doesn't recognize that "his" wage slaves have any rights that a capitalist must re-

spect. The mayor is out to slash wages of black and Latino bus drivers who make \$35,000 a year, when he easily drops that much on his week-end jaunts in his private jet to Bermuda (and bought his third term for a cool \$102 million).

But it's not just Bloomberg that school bus drivers and teachers are up against. For years now the mayor and both Democrats and Republicans have been trying to wreck public schools in the name of "educational reform." With the backing of hedge fund billionaires, they close hundreds of schools and replace them with publicly funded, privately run non-union "charter schools." The push for charters and test-linked teacher evals is not about improving education, it's about union-busting. Whatever their squabbles, the partner parties of U.S. capitalism are united in the drive to privatize public education (a \$7 trillion market) and gut union rights. And the drive is spearheaded by Democratic president Barack Obama and NY governor Andrew Cuomo, whom many teachers and union members voted for.

Now they are closing in for the kill, and the school bus drivers are in the crosshairs of the gun control mayor. But by going after teachers and drivers simultaneously, Bloomberg is launching a war on two fronts, which any military strategist will tell you is a risky proposition. This makes it clear that he is targeting the unions, forget all his Madison Avenue flimflam about "Children First." The children directly affected in the first two contracts up for bidding are special education students, many of whom are vulnerable to bullying. Parents put their trust in the experienced driver, but what does this matter to a mayor whose trademark is bullying? As an Internationalist Group sign asked, "Would You Entrust Your Child to the Lowest Bidder?"

The supremely arrogant Bloomberg doesn't give a damn about the hoi polloi (the common people). He can be defeated, *but that requires a leadership that is prepared to fight, and not by the bosses' rules.* The UFT leadership hides behind New York's anti-strike Taylor Law as an excuse to cave in. Defying that anti-labor legislation would give Mulgrew & Co. a collective heart attack: their real estate investment in 52 Broadway could be in jeopardy! Now bus drivers may be faced with an NLRB injunc-



ATU rally together with school bus drivers from Boston (USW Local 8751) and parents, on February 2, Day 18 of the strike. Hundreds turned out for boisterous solidarity rally.

tion under the "slave labor" Taft-Hartley Act. ATU 1181 picket captains have told us, "we don't cave for anyone." Good, because if union leaders are not prepared to defy them, laws in this country ban just about every effective tactic of labor struggle.

So far, the ATU picket lines have been solid, and two-thirds of the school bus routes have been shut down (almost all the others are by non-union companies). But the city is threatening to use "replacement workers" – *scabs* – as drivers. Teamsters Local 854, which represents some drivers and matrons, is not striking, but says its members will not cross picket lines. Yet in some cases, there are union workers inside the struck facilities. Now is that time to make clear that *picket lines mean don't cross – period!* And to back that up by building *solid, mass picket lines that no one dares cross.* To do that will require the support of hundreds and thousands of unionists and defenders of labor rights. *Our rights are on the line!*

Unions in the U.S. and elsewhere are hamstrung by a labor officialdom that is beholden to capitalist legality and the capitalist parties. It is outrageous and suicidal that millions of working people are led to vote for ruling-class politicians who then attack the unions and labor rights. Or who go along with racist educational policies, like school closings and admissions to "gifted and talented" programs and elite high schools in NYC. Democrats outnumber Republicans in the New York City Council by 46 to 5: they could stop Bloomberg in his tracks if they wanted to. But they don't, because they represent the same class interests. We call on labor militants and defenders of the oppressed to build a *workers party that fights for a workers government.*

The Internationalist Group, the Interna-



Mahoma López (left) at January 20 protest.

"Today You Are Fighting for All of Us!" Statement by Mahoma López, Hot and Crusty Workers Association

I want to say to the school bus strikers that we are 100 per cent in solidarity with you, and want your struggle to win. We know what you are going through because of the long fight we carried out for union rights at the Hot and Crusty deli/bakery at 63rd Street and Second Avenue in Manhattan. Like many of you, we are immigrants; we had a tough struggle; but we won in the end, and the store is now reopened as a union shop with a union hiring hall. Today you are fighting for all of us and the power of the whole workers movement should be mobilized to help win victory for your strike.

tionalist Clubs at the City University of New York and Class Struggle Education Workers have come out to the school bus drivers' and matrons' picket lines since Day One of the strike. CSEW member and UFT delegate Marjorie Stamberg has fought to get the teachers union to come out actively in support of the ATU 1181 strike, putting forward a motion for a mass rally at the last delegate assembly, which was not put to a vote even though it had wide support. Our construction workers, restaurant workers, taxi drivers, teachers and students "walk the walk" as well as "talk the talk," because we know that this is a key battle for all working people. Strikers have welcomed our support, but much more is needed.

We urge all supporters of workers' rights to show solidarity by coming out regularly to join the school bus drivers' on strike, and to demand *a massive mobilization in the streets of black, Latino, Asian and working-class New York to BUST THE UNION-BUSTERS!* ■

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Supplement



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February 2013

CLASS STRUGGLE EDUCATION WORKERS

Teachers Fight for Union Support to Striking School Bus Workers

JANUARY 20 – School bus drivers are on the front line in a fight against a mayor who has launched a war on labor on two fronts. While trying for several years now to gut the power of the United Federation of Teachers, which is coming to a head in the battle over teachers' evaluations, Mayor Bloomberg has decided to try to destroy the bus drivers union, ATU Local 1181. We must stand together in solidarity, and bring out labor's power to defend the drivers and matrons.

In Class Struggle Education Workers, we have been organizing to build support for the school bus drivers and matrons. We have been on the picket lines, attending union rallies, and fighting in the UFT to build support for this crucial strike. Here are some highpoints of our work:

On January 5, I attended a rally of hundreds of angry school bus drivers at City Hall. Below is a report-back from the rally:

"Hundreds of angry school bus drivers – unionists from school bus locals ATU 1181 and Teamsters local 854 came out today. They were protesting Bloomberg's attempt to break their unions – a strike looms.

"For 34 years the bus drivers have 'followed the work' taking jobs according to a union seniority list. Now Bloomberg and the DOE [Department of Education] want to give the contract to new companies who are the lowest bidders and who will staff the buses with their own non-union people at far lower pay scales.

"A terrible idea for workers and terrible for kids. The drivers explained to me today that having the responsibility of up to 55



Internationalist photo

Marjorie Stamberg, Class Struggle Education Workers.

children on a bus requires skill, judgment and experience. Especially working with special needs children who sometimes will not even get in the bus, or settle in unless they know and trust the driver. Drivers have to learn the best ways to relate to kids, resolve bullying and anxiety issues all while dealing with the road and getting kids to school and home safe.

"Of course none of this concerns the mayor in his frenzy of privatizing and union-bashing.

"We will surely be called on to stand with and defend school bus drivers fighting a life-and-death struggle to defend senior-

ity and the existence of their union in the upcoming weeks.

"The mayor tried to destroy our seniority rules in layoffs last year but had to back down. Now he is going after the drivers. "An injury to one is an injury to all!"

The following day, I went to the UFT executive board to ask the our union to publicize the drivers' struggle, and invite their representatives to speak at our UFT delegate assembly. I got no feedback there.

Picket lines went up on January 16, and the CSEW was there at the picket lines at 6:30 a.m., and again in the afternoon after school. We got a terrific reception. When we showed up at the location on Metropolitan Avenue in Ridgewood, Queens, people yelled out "the teachers are here" and put me in front of the TV cameras right away. They need and really appreciate our support. In fact, one of the strikers' chants in the afternoon was "Thank you for your support." When we came back in the afternoon, people rushed to grab our signs. A CSEW sign saying "UFT Teacher Supports School Bus Drivers' Strike" was featured in one of the union-bashing tabloids.

The next day was the UFT delegate assembly on the teacher evaluation negotiations. It turned into a huge event, with a protest of about 100 people outside and a full house in the D.A., plus hundreds more teachers in an overflow room – maybe 2,000 people altogether. We passed out hundreds of leaflets for a January 25 CSEW forum on this and the school bus drivers strike. The CSEW had signs saying "No to Union-

Bust Bloomberg...

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class, but also politically.

In fact, it is quite possible to win. For example, on May Day 2008 the International Longshore and Warehouse Union shut down all 27 ports on the West Coast, for a day – it was symbolic, but it was the first time there has ever been a strike by U.S. workers against a U.S. war. The employers – big surprise! – went to court saying this violates the secondary boycott provisions of the Taft-Hartley law, the same thing they're claiming against the ATU today. But eventually the employers backed off, because the workers had just shown that they could shut down every single port and were prepared to use it despite the bosses' Taft-Hartley law.

We're facing a mayor who is determined to bust every union he can find. So that means, in this city, in order to win this battle by the ATU school bus workers, which is the same fight the teachers are facing, we're going to have to mobilize all of the working class, in the streets, to use their power to shut the city down. It can be done. Some years ago, 50,000 Haitians marched on Wall Street over the racist accusation that Haitians had "bad blood" and HIV was caused by that. They were outraged and they actually shut down Wall Street for a day.

In 2005, when the transit workers of the TWU struck, the city rolled out the no-strike



Associated Press

"An injury to one is an injury to all!" Construction and taxi worker activists support school bus strike.

Taylor Law, they slapped million-dollar-a-day fines on the union and thousand-dollar-a-day fines on every single worker. But the TWU shut down this city for three solid days, and in public opinion polls on the third day 55 percent of the population supported the transit workers. Yet they were left to do it on their own. Where was the support from the other unions? The UFT leadership stabbed them in the back, Randi Weingarten was negotiating with Mayor Bloomberg behind their backs.

What we have to understand is that this is a war, this is a class war. What's necessary is to mobilize the working class, which needs to have a class-struggle leadership – that is, a leadership that is committed to a pro-

gram of fighting against the capitalist class and for the interests of the working class down the line. And that means politically it's necessary to break with the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, we need in this country a workers party, a revolutionary workers party that fights for a workers government. Because right now we have the dictatorship of capital. Wall Street owns both

people to contribute to Barack Obama were not the millions of small donors but Goldman Sachs, long before he was being touted as a national candidate.

So we have to fight against the bosses politically, and we also have to be aware that any of these struggles are basically a kind of guerrilla warfare, as Karl Marx wrote a century and a half ago. We're fighting within the framework of this system, but it's this capitalist system that needs to go. A long time ago, somebody said "what this country needs is a good 5-cent cigar." Well, what we need in this country is a good, solid workers revolution. And we're not the only ones saying it, you can hear that on the picket line, too. ■

Busting Teacher Evals!" None of the other signs even mentioned the union-busting issue, much less the fact (noted in our leaflet) that the Democrats and Republicans were united in this onslaught against educators.

The protest was called by the Movement of Rank and File Educators (M.O.R.E.), and at first they billed it as an "informational picket." I objected strenuously to this on various e-mail lists, pointing out that picket lines mean don't cross, and that the labor bureaucracy invented the "informational picket line" to cover up when they weren't striking and building real picket lines. To call it a picket and then go into the D.A. would send the message that it is okay to cross picket lines – a terrible idea. Several protesters at the rally thanked us for objecting to that, and by the time of the D.A. the talk of a picket seemed to have disappeared.

The delegate assembly itself was dominated by the announcement earlier in the afternoon that Bloomberg had torpedoed the teacher-evaluation deal and supposedly cost the city a quarter-billion dollars in school aid. UFT president Mike Mulgrew insisted he was ready to sign off on the deal. If it had gone through, it would have put thousands of teachers' jobs in jeopardy. But Bloomberg's intransigence thwarted Mulgrew's treachery, for now.

At the D.A., I put up a motion calling for the UFT to call a massive labor rally to support the striking drivers. The motion read:

"RESOLVED, that the United Federation of Teachers pledges its full support to the school bus drivers and matrons of ATU Local 1181 in their struggle to uphold employee protection provisions, that is to save their jobs and protect students against the union-busting attack by Mayor Bloomberg. To hold a mass rally of all NYC labor and parents no later than February 1 in support of the strikers."

Until then, nobody had said boo about the school bus drivers. In response, Mulgrew pretended to support the strikers, but he balked at any mention of a mass rally. A good number of delegates voted to put the motion on the floor – one report said a majority – but since under the UFT's peculiar rendering of Robert's Rules of Order it required a two-thirds vote to put it on this month's agenda, the UFT bureaucracy was able to keep it from coming before the body. –Marjorie Stamberg, CSEW, UFT Delegate, District 79

CLASS STRUGGLE EDUCATION WORKERS
Forum and Discussion: Friday, January 25

STOP TEACHER EVAL UNION-BUSTING

Phony "teacher evaluations" based on "value-added" junk science are a scam by the corporate privatizers to drive good teachers out of the classroom and raise profits.

Hear how teacher eval systems linked to high stakes testing are being used to scapegoat teachers as part of a wrecking job on public education. Join us in a discussion of how schools serving the needs of working people should be organized, with evaluation of the effectiveness by those involved in and committed to improving public education, not those trying to destroy it.

For teacher-student-parent-worker control of the schools!

School Bus Drivers' Strike: Mobilize NYC Labor to Win!

New York City's billionaire mayor Bloomberg and his schools chancellor Walcott have forced a strike on the more than 8,000 school bus drivers of ATU Local 1181. The city's capitalist rulers want to eliminate any job security for experienced drivers and matrons and turn care of our children over to the lowest bidder.

The school bus drivers are the first on Wall Street's hit list. Next up are teachers and all public employees. The Democrats and Republicans are waging a bi-partisan war on labor. We have the power to defeat the union-busters, if we mobilize the power of all city labor, together with students and parents, to shut the city down!

Hear what the school bus drivers have to say!

Friday, January 25, 4:30 p.m.
CUNY Graduate Center
365 5th Ave. at 34th St. Room 5414
B, D, F train to 34th St.; 6 train to 33rd St. (photo identification needed)

For more information, write: cs_edworkers@hotmail.com http://edworkersunite.blogspot.com

Leaflet for CSEW forum.

To contact Class Struggle Education Workers, e-mail: cs_edworkers@hotmail.com. Visit the CSEW web page: <http://edworkersunite.blogspot.com>

School Bus Drivers, Teachers, All City Workers Are Under Attack For Mass, Militant Workers Action to Shut Down Wall Street!

Bust Bloomberg Union-Busting!

FEBRUARY 2 – Yesterday, the National Labor Relations Board rejected a complaint by New York City school bus companies to declare the strike by over 8,000 drivers and matrons illegal. But this didn't faze Mayor Michael Bloomberg who is refusing to negotiate and clearly hopes to bust the union. That's what this strike is all about. NYC workers have the power to bust the union-buster – but we have to use it, **NOW!**

While crying crocodile tears about the children, city rulers and their kept media are trying to drastically lower wages and eliminate seniority rights of the experienced and dedicated workers. The strikers' lines are solid, while braving some of the coldest weather in years. **But they should not be out there alone.** School bus workers are only the first on the list of unions the three-term plutocrat mayor is going after in his last year.

For starters, hundreds and thousands of NYC workers, students and parents should be joining with the ATU strikers every morning to **build picket lines so strong and powerful that no one would dare cross.** Two thirds of the bus routes are struck, but the other union representing school bus drivers and matrons, **Teamsters Local 584, must join the strike** so there are no school buses at all on the road. And the rest of the city workers' unions (which doesn't include police, who are there to defend Bloomberg and the bosses) should organize a **militant mass labor march on Wall Street. WE NEED TO SHUT THE CITY DOWN.**

We print below excerpts from remarks by Jan Norden of the Internationalist Group at a January 25 forum sponsored by Class Struggle Education Workers on the dual topic "Stop Teacher Eval Union-Busting" and "School Bus Drivers' Strike: Mobilize NYC Labor to Win!"

Every strike is basically a battle between labor and capital, between the people who produce all of the value, who

produce all of the profit, who produce all of the wealth, and those who expropriate it and use it in the interest of their class. There's been a lot of talk about class war – Republicans accuse Democrats of it all the time, which is ridiculous since they represent the same class. The fact of the matter is that it has been, as Warren Buffett, the billionaire capitalist, said it's "a one-sided class war, and my class is winning" – meaning the capitalists.

This strike is not just about the school bus workers, or even just about education, it's part of a fight, nationally and globally, against the offensive against labor by the forces of capital. In this country for the last few decades there has been almost no resistance to that. Basically, most of the labor leaders just lay down and capitulated. There have been a number of hard-fought strikes, but typically they have been isolated. This has all continued since 1981 when you had the PATCO (air controllers) strike and the AFL-CIO kept their members working, and that strike was broken.

There has also been a lot of talk about strikes being illegal. The city is now claiming that the school bus workers' strike is illegal. As the head of the air traffic controllers said at the time, the only illegal strike is a strike that loses. Unfortunately, his strike lost. But it is a question of power.

The cynicism of the city's ruling class is boundless. Not just the mayor but all of the media. On the day after the ATU



Picket at Zerega Avenue, Bronx, on February 1, Day 17 of the strike. It's cold outside but strikers are all fired up.

school bus strike started, the *Daily News* (17 January) ran an article headlined "Bad Bus-ness," and "Strike Slams Kids." What didn't appear in the newspaper (it was on the Internet), was an article reporting that the same day the city was criticized for making a \$10 million *no-bid* contract with former schools chancellor and Bloomberg crony Joel Klein.

They say that the employment protection provisions are illegal on the basis of a decision in June 2011. Basically what that ruling says is that the EPPs are illegal because the companies would have to have higher bids. That means that every time a labor union goes on strike for higher wages, that would be illegal because it would raise the cost of their labor. This is saying that every attempt to raise the wages of workers is illegal. They say this is part of contract law, and therefore this trumps everything else.

This is just a naked assertion of the "rights" of capital against labor. It has nothing to do with justice, it has to do with the power of one class against another. To fight against that we have to deal, first of all, with "the law." They're always talking about the majesty of the law, but the law is not equal, it is not neutral, it is the will of the capitalist ruling class against the working people. We must resist,

and that means using every tactic possible, including going to court against the bosses, but we have to understand that it won't be won there, it will be won because we have the power.

The provision that they're using against the school bus drivers right now is the Taft-Hartley Act. They're saying this is a secondary boycott because, they claim, the school bus drivers' beef is with the city and yet they're striking against the companies. So then can the school bus workers strike against the city? They would declare that to be a secondary boycott. It's a Catch 22, no-win situation.

The Taft-Hartley Act when it was passed was called the "slave labor law." It was enacted as part of a purge of the militant leadership of the unions, because basically the unions in this country were built by reds, by communists, socialists, people who were fighting against capitalism. The bosses wanted to get rid of them and outlaw every single tactic of labor struggle that would work.

These attacks are coming straight from the top, it's not only the Republicans like Bloomberg, it's also coming from Democrats, from Cuomo. Right now they are having accelerated certification of "replacement drivers," i.e., scabs, based on a decision by New York governor Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat who many of the unions voted for. And the attacks on the teachers are coming straight from the White House: the charter schools, the teacher evaluations, the attempts to put in merit pay – all this is coming from Democrat Barack Obama and his "education czar." We have to fight not only against the legal provisions, which are rigged in favor of the ruling

continued on page 3



"What do we want? EPP. When do we want it? Now!" Spirited strikers picket DOE, Feb. 6.