

THE ULTIMATE POWER OF THE PEOPLE...



Judi Douglas

When the ordinary Black person looks at the vastness of this country and the world wide power it possesses, he can not help feeling that there is very little that he can do to change the racist system under which he is forced to exist. He, no doubt, feels powerless--but that is because he has forgotten the one power that he does have, the power to destroy....as Eldridge so aptly put it, "the power to throw a 'nigger wrench' in the machinery". It sounds good, but still it's hard to conceive of that power and its real strength, the true force involved, and the consequences evoked by that power.

To see the potential of that power, we have only to look at the strikes that have been going down all over the country lately for instance, the strike in the city of San Francisco about a week ago--the city was immobilized to a large extent as city employees went on strike. The power of the workers! A strike crippled the city affecting everyone, even those areas that were not touched directly by striking workers, felt the affects of the strike as city workers, bus drivers, hospital workers, cafeteria workers in schools, janitors and many others, numbering approximately 14,000, refused to work and/or to cross picket lines. It may seem small, workers going on strike for better working conditions but the point is that the San Francisco city employees stopped that city from 'running smoothly' until Mafioso Alioto was forced to deal with the demands of the workers.

Weeks ago in Philadelphia, when the sanitation workers went on strike, they made that city feel the might of the workers--they refused to have an ex-pig be their boss and as the garbage piled up, the pig was forced to bow his filthy head and withdraw. It was a victory, though small, it serves as an example that victories can be won.

Now the mail carriers, postal workers, are on strike. They have effectively cut the New York communications lines with the rest of the country...though one can call or wire, the postal workers have backed up mail and are costing business thousands of dollars each day. The seriousness of the situation can be seen by the steps

that the government has taken to break the strike...bringing in the military, to the proposed number of 175,000. The strike is effective and the government is dealing with the problem as an almost crisis situation. These strikes, just the sheer idea of staging effective strikes, show that workers are beginning to relate to the problem confronting them as a group, and they also show that an effective strike can bring an "omnipotent administrator" to the point of having to listen to the workers, the people.

The workers have already proven that the power does belong to the people and that the pigs can only maintain an orderly system as long as we allow it. Relate to it, the sheer beauty of workers exerting their power and pointing out the real force, the real power that belongs to the people.

Forget the size of the country. Don't even bother to think about the so-called "influence" that this country supposedly has. The people make this country and they can bring it down. The ultimate power belongs to the people: the high and mighty image of this country can be crushed; the pigs can be stopped, Babylon can be reduced to ashes or it can be made into a people's state...all this can be done by the power that we all possess---"the power to throw a 'nigger wrench' into the machinery".

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Judi Douglas
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