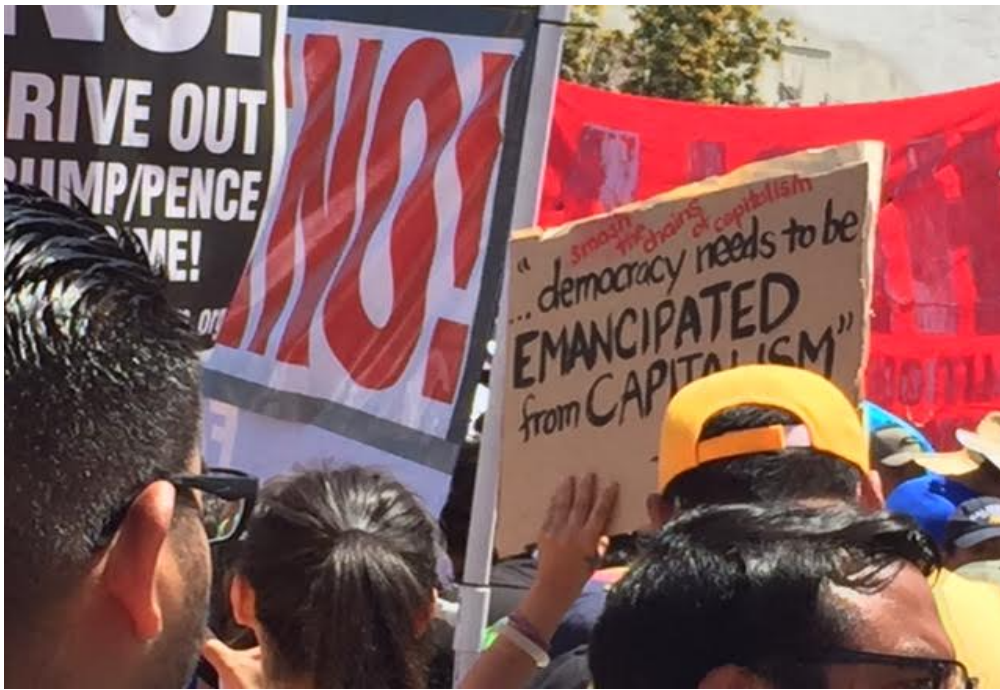


May Day Protests

Los Angeles

May 2



Attached are some pictures from the May Day march today. It was a good-sized crowd. It was well organized, more than the Women's' Day march. That was good. Maybe it was because the unions and community groups were heavily involved.

The march reminded me of my union activities long time ago. There a lot of working people, who took the day off to march for something they really believed in. It was clear from their signs and energy that they think taking to the street was their only option to get results.

I got the sense that there was uncertainly on what their actions would bring. Will it cause Trump to stop deportation, stop giving the rich more breaks, and taking away their human rights...?

This march was significant in my view because it took the action to another level by asking workers to leave work and impact the

capitalists in some way. Many workers could not do so due to financial reasons, but the ones who did were proud and made the point for others.

I was thinking there were political groups who were using this opportunity to organize and spread their ideas. I am hoping that at some point we will be able to do so. I think it would be good if we can give direction on the issues workers are concerned about e.g. deportation, police brutality, minimum wage, abortion rights, etc. etc. That will help us motivate and politicize some of these young people who showed up today.

Let me know what you think...

Sickle



May 2
Sickie,

Thanks for the pictures and the update.

I agree that it would be nice if we could have a greater presence for our views. We did write up a statement, "*End the Deportations,*"

which appeared in the April *Bulletin*. This can be printed out, copied and distributed as a leaflet. (It appears again in this issue, just prior to the "Who We Are" statement.) I think we should try to do this more.

Rod



Los Angeles

May 2

Sally, Sickie and I went to May Day march in LA. According to the news there were around 15,000. The worker/union contingents and the Hispanic contingents combined were at least 50% of those attending. The Refuse Fascism (RCP) handed out their "NO" signs to everyone they could so it would look like they had a bigger group than the 8 to 13 RCPers in attendance (5 of whom were Latino).

The march was much younger and more diverse than we'd seen. The DSA contingent had around 30 people and they were young. Our guess would be an average age of 25. (They chanted, "Ice out of LA" while LA Mayor Eric Garcetti was speaking.)

Slogans and signs were diverse as well. Over 100 organizations sponsored. Signs like "build the wall" with a picture of the White House. "We're all immigrants". "Bad Hombre raised by a nasty

woman". "Kickin Ass for the working class". And a chant: "Trump eschua estamos en la lucha" (Trump listen we are in a fight).

News said there was a scuffle with Trump supporters. Sally saw the report and said it looked like one of the guys fighting against the Trump supporter was wearing an RCP t-shirt.

Roni



May 2
Oakland, CA

Yesterday, May 1, three to five thousand assembled at Fruitvale Station and marched 1.6 miles to San Antonio Park in brilliant sunshine, rallying at both ends. The turnout. was somewhat smaller than expected, possibly because earlier in the day 10,000 gathered in San Francisco, and there was also a noon rally in Berkeley at Sproul Plaza.

The crowd was diverse in age, gender, and color, although understandably there seemed to be fewer immigrants participating than in previous years. The black bloc was present, and in masks, but for whatever reason didn't engage in trashing. Otherwise, nothing out of the ordinary to report (usual contingents, etc.). I had hoped that this would be the biggest Oakland May Day since 2006. It wasn't.

Jack

May 2
Oxnard, CA

Hundreds of protesters, overwhelmingly Latino and Indigenous, marched through the main streets of Oxnard at midday today with slogans of resistance, unity and support for making California a "sanctuary state". It was a big march for little Oxnard, and this is right in the middle of strawberry picking time, when people are paid by piecework and can make enough money to sustain families through the long periods of no work. March slogans focused on "El pueblo unido jamas sera vencido", "Trump (love the Spanish pronunciation Trom with a rolled R) escucha, estamos en la lucha" and "Si se puede".



There were no elected officials or Democratic Party hacks. There was no organized left. It was very much a peoples' demonstration. Local groups including Mixteco Project, CAUSE, Radio Indigena and local unions SEIU, UFCWU and UFW and the teachers (not sure if their union endorsed) were the most visible forces. Local police allowed the main thoroughfares to be blocked, and dozens of vehicles waiting to get through honked their horns in solidarity with

the marchers. The march was kicked off and ended with a local dance group focusing on indigenous traditions.

Interestingly, a group called Todo Poder al Pueblo distributed fairly radical flyers and events such as "Anarchist People of color show@Corner Pocket poor hall" on May 16. You gotta love Oxnard. Today, I met with the new (not so new, it's been two years) executive director of the Ventura County Community Foundation and was amazed once again how few people get that 1/40 Ventura County residents are indigenous language speakers, that there are far more Mixteco speakers in Ventura County than Blacks (for example). Probably also than Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese or any other language besides English or Spanish.

Also interesting, 86-year-old Hank Lacayo, long time UAW official and a bastion in the Ventura County liberal community, passed away from cancer on May Day 2017.

Sandy

May 2

New York City

All,

New York had two distinct rallies/marches. The first, which I didn't attend, was at Union Square. From advance leaflets it appeared to be the broad periphery of Workers World. The second, which I did go to, was at Foley Square and was dominated by the bureaucracy and left Democrats. Its thrust was against the wall, ICE raids and deportations. Here the signs that came out of union and non-profit print shops had hegemony over the creative and homemade ones. The several thousand people there were below my expectations and much less than 2006 or the crowds that filled the entire area after one of the police murders several years ago.

I thought it interesting and significant that the N.Y. Women's March Organizing Cttee endorsed both the Science March and the Climate March, but did not do the same for Mayday.

Peace,

Bill
