

# UPS Workers and the Working Class in the USA

**For United Class Action! Neither the Democrats nor Republicans!**

**Cut the Link Between the Unions and all the Bosses Parties!**

The International Communist Party salutes UPS workers across the United States who have made the decision to strike! UPS workers are joining the growing ranks of workers all over the world, who are hitting picket lines, as they refuse to tolerate stagnant wages in the face of escalating inflation.

UPS workers have taken to a combative form of unionism centered around the power of the strike & are refusing sell out contracts. A refreshing step towards the return of a class unionist movement. A workers movement recognizing the absolute antagonism between the interests of the owning class and the working class.

The strike of 340,000 workers will be the largest in the U.S. in decades. This is an important step towards what workers need to adequately defend their unique class interests.

As the current economic crisis intensifies, workers must unite across industries and sectors to develop a class union movement free from the influence of either capitalist political party.

UPS workers are bringing a company which reported \$100 billion in profits in 2022 to its knees. It is a powerful example of the kind of leverage workers can have when their unions organize themselves around strike power and national bargaining strategies beyond individual workplaces.

Companies need workers because our labor is the only source of surplus value (true profit).

Bourgeois press complains that the UPS strike is expected to result in \$7 billion in economic “damages” if it extends past 10 days. It is true that only in “damaging” the companies profit making capabilities, can workers defend themselves from the bosses’ exploitation. In our society dominated by the drive towards profit accumulation, workers only point of leverage to defend themselves from the constant attacks of the employers, lies in making collective demands and collectively withholding labor in ever growing numbers.

When workers are divided, bargaining for isolated individual contracts around issues

particular to a single section of workers, they are always in a weaker position. The UPS strike points to the power workers can have when they unite across territories; however, for workers to maximize their leverage, solidarity must extend beyond the horizons of any one particular company and industry.

In the course of the strike it is inevitable that UPS will divert shipping to other firms they have contracted with; thus, we encourage UPS workers to link with the struggles of other logistical workers and appeal to their solidarity. As is well known Amazon workers are beginning to get unionized across the country. Today, USPS workers in the American Postal Workers Union continue to struggle against ever deteriorating workplace conditions and low wages. Just last year 100,000 rail workers across 12 different unions, nearly led the largest strike in decades. Workers across several unions in the aviation industry continue active fights. In the struggle against UPS, postal traffic will be diverted to all of these other sectors.

As such for UPS workers to get the best deal it is necessary for workers across these industries to unite and thwart the efforts of the company to undermine the strike. As the UPS strike impacts many capitalist firms who rely on the company for its services, the longer the strike extends, the more effective the workers are in bringing its operation to a halt, the more likely it is that the agents of the two political parties representing the collective interests of the capitalist class, will be tapped to activate the States coercive powers & attempt to force workers back to work.

The deteriorating living standard and working conditions of UPS workers is the result of a general capitalist crisis in which both Democrats and Republicans are just the puppets of the bourgeois State, that act completely in line with the capitalist States only existential purpose, to ensure the profit making ability of the capitalist class.

Since the recession of 2008-2009, world capitalism has not yet emerged from economic crisis; we live in an unstable capitalism being kept alive with the band aid fixes of large cash injections from central banks and the fresh blood of new surplus squeezed from increased rates of worker exploitation (faster work pace, lower wages, etc.). In recent years this crisis has only gotten worse.

In order to stabilize the system to prevent a hyper-inflation in 2022, a result of pandemic policies of quantitative easing and skyrocketing oil prices after the beginning of the imperialist war which exploded in Ukraine that year, interest rates were risen by the Federal Reserve. By raising interest rates, the State instigates the creation of unemployment thus lowering wages and worker's leverage in the labor market in order to preserve capitalism's profit making capability. As the Democratic Party nominated Chair of the Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell said when raising interest rates there needs to be "some softening of labor market conditions". It was also said by Powell that the Federal Reserve's hope was "to get wages down and then get inflation down without having to slow the economy". These policies are intended to attack workers collective bargaining power by creating more unemployment, thus, putting workers in greater competition with each other, enabling bosses to more easily break their solidarity, ward off strikes, and lower wages. In short, both the Democratic and Republican Party continue to be tools in the hands of the bosses to repress and attack the working class and its ability to fight back.

As unfortunate as it is, both Teamster leadership and the Democratic Socialist of America are in bed with the Democrats, politicians who do not hesitate to brutalize the working-class. For example, in the 2018 elections Teamster leadership spent \$1,750,068 on political contributions to the Democratic Party and

promotes Democratic politicians with the use of their social media. In the 2022 election cycle UPS spent \$3.5 million on political contributions to both Democrats and Republicans. So today UPS workers are fighting against a company that gives money to the same party to which the leadership of the union gives money too!

As for the DSA, they have politicians who are members of the US House of Representatives and in December 2022, 3 out of 4 of DSA-US House of Representatives members voted yes for the law that inflicted an agreement on rail workers that did not include the sick days struggled for by rail workers. This law took railroad workers supposed "right to strike" away and forced them back to work under brutal conditions similar to those UPS workers experience. This act of class war was a bipartisan affair with the vast majority of Democrats (including DSA Democrats) and Republicans falling into line to ensure the struggle of rail workers was snuffed out and repressed!

With UPS workers continuing to be on the move and bourgeois parties working to extend and continue their influence on the working class, it is with the deepest love and admiration that the International Communist Party says to UPS workers: Congratulations on striking. In these times of turmoil and perpetual crisis, UPS workers are truly an inspiration to the working class as a whole, as they fight on the front lines of the class struggle. It is with relentless, unified, offensive class action that UPS and the working class as a whole may defend it's living and working conditions.

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