

CCDS MOBILIZER

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The 2008 Elections and Building a Progressive Majority

by Mark Solomon

The 2008 primary season continues to be a high water mark of citizen participation in an electoral process with the greatest stakes in recent memory. Record numbers have registered and voted, tens of millions in small contributions have been collected and thousands have been active in grass roots organizing. Driving this unprecedented upsurge has been a hunger for change. That hunger has been expressed most forcefully in support of Barack Obama. But it has impacted all campaigns, forcing virtually all candidates for President to adopt "change" as a repetitive mantra.

Despite the seeming ambiguity of a generalized demand for change, it has not arisen in a vacuum. It is fueled by intense anger and disgust over George W. Bush's tenure which has been marked by a disastrous illegal war, criminal neglect of climate change, assaults on the US Constitution, tax and other economic policies that have benefited the super rich at the expense of the middle and working classes, a serious recession and a 5 year high in joblessness, a growing economic crisis aggravated by the collapse of the unregulated sub-prime mortgage market that has triggered a global liquidity breakdown, rising inflation stoked by

the escalating price of oil and a series of scandals that should have led to Bush's impeachment.

Socialist and other left forces, whatever the activist arena in which they are involved, have a crucial responsibility to reach out to the legions engaged in the electoral process, especially to the broad multi-racial, multi-generational and multi-class coalition that has emerged in support of Obama's candidacy. That coalition, marked especially by a youth awakening and a powerful African American component, constitutes an important fulcrum of a progressive majority. Left activists cannot afford to ignore or decline to engage with that coalition. Nor should they confuse the grass roots' movement with the Democratic Party and the centrist programs of candidates. They are not the same.

A strong independent voice for ending the Iraq war has had a measurable impact on the positions of the candidates. That voice needs to be continuously galvanized in these critical days of a revived catastrophe in Iraq, serious threats against Iran and deepening economic crisis. While the remaining Democratic candidates have formally carved out centrist posi-

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CCDS Launches Membership Discussion of its Goals and Principles

The fundamental statement of CCDS' goals and principles, *For a Democratic and Socialist Future*, was published in 1992. Needless to say, much has transpired and changed in the country and in the world since that document was promulgated. CCDS, in its sixteen years of existence, has also undergone many changes in its continuing efforts to forge a relevant, unified left tied inseparably to its ongoing work to build a progressive majority in the country and to advance a powerful, effective socialist vision.

The National Coordinating Committee of CCDS has determined that the time is past due to review our goals and principles embodied in *For a Democratic and Socialist Future*. To be meaningful, that discussion must commence on a profoundly democratic basis involving our entire membership. The NCC is proposing that the discussion go forward immediately at all levels of our organization and conclude by our national convention in 2009. The convention will carefully weigh the collective input of our members in formulating an updated statement of goals and principles to be ratified by the convention.

A committee of the NCC on the founding statement has prepared a series of questions below as a guide to this vital discussion. Of course, the discussion need not be limited to consideration of those questions. In preparing the discussion, members are

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A small section of the line that wrapped around Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC on Dec. 9, 2007 at a rally for Sen. Barack Obama in the campaign for the primary election he won Jan. 26, 2008. Photo by CCDS National Co-Chair James Campbell. See photo essay on page 5.

**CCDS Vietnam
Study Tour
See Details Pg 6**

CCDS Membership by Local Area

Report as of 3/29/08:

	Current	Arrears
Alabama	1	1
Alaska	2	1
Arkansas	1	0
California South	33	27
California North	86	68
Colorado	4	2
Connecticut	5	12
D.C./VA/MD	8	4
Deleware	2	0
Florida	5	6
Georgia	2	4
Hawaii	2	1
Iowa	2	2
Idaho	0	2
Illinois	18	12
Indiana	11	2
Kentucky	8	2
Louisiana	1	0
Maine	1	0
Massachusetts	19	17
Michigan	2	6
Minnesota	5	4
Mississippi	1	0
Missouri/Kansas	2	0
Montana	0	1
Nebraska	2	1
Nevada	1	1
New Hampshire	0	1
New Jersey	6	6
New Mexico	1	2
New York City	84	51
New York Upstate	1	5
North Carolina	3	1
North Dakota	0	1
Ohio	4	4
Oregon	13	4
Pennsylvania Eastern	3	3
Pennsylvania Western	3	4
Rhode Island	0	2
South Carolina	11	5
Tennessee	1	2
Texas	4	1
Utah	1	0
Vermont	1	0
Virginia	0	1
Washington	7	4
Wisconsin	5	3
West Virginia	1	0
TOTALS:	373	278

Who We Are

CCDS is a national membership organization dedicated to democracy and socialism with local chapters in several cities. We are active in struggles for peace, justice, democracy, equality and hold a vision of a socialist future.

Annual membership is \$36 (\$18 for low income, unemployed, seniors, youth). Household membership is \$48. Add \$5 additional for a subscription to *Dialogue & Initiative*.

Send check payable to the CCDS to: 545 Eighth Ave, Rm 1420, NYC 10018 or go on-line: www.cc-ds.org

JOB OPENING

A full time National Coordinator in the CCDS office in New York City is open. \$35,000 and includes health benefits.

Responsibilities range from recording minutes of leadership meetings, routine correspondence and mailings to coordination of special organizing projects and follow up with organizational meetings. A job description is available upon request.

Call the national office at (212) 868-3733 for information and application.

Dialogue & Initiative

Subscribe to Dialogue & Initiative, a publication of the Committees of Correspondence Education Fund, Inc.

The Winter 2008 issue features presentations by CCDS organized panels at the 2007 Atlanta Social Forum. The Summer 2008 issue will present stimulating articles on the economic crisis and the way forward. \$10/year; \$5 with membership.

The *CCDS Mobilizer* is a publication of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS). The CCDS National Office is located at:

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Carl Bloice Speaking on War, Economic Crisis, the Elections

On a national speaking tour of local areas, CCDS National Coordinating Committee member and *Black Commentator* editor, Carl Bloice, has been engaging discussion on the twin crisis of the economy and the Iraq war as the key issues influencing the national elections.

At a public forum March 20th at Columbia College in Chicago, Bloice pointed out that progressives saw the seeds of economic crisis, particularly the mortgage issue, two years ago - well before it was covered in the mainstream media. He warned that progressives need to direct the campaign struggle away from "economic jingoism," i.e. blaming immigrants, the Chinese, or other bogus reasons for the crises of financial speculation, unemployment, and crumbling infrastructure.

Progressives need to put forth an agenda linking the war and the economy and addressing the fundamental causes of these problems, he said.

In particular, Bloice emphasized, progressives must reach out to and work with youth who are concerned about their futures and want guidance

on how to relate to the electoral process. In the end, he argued, elections matter and progressives need to work vigorously based on that assumption over the next several months until November.

On March 30th, Bloice led a stimulating discussion at a CCDS chapter meeting held at the Los Angeles Peace Center on the current state of the US economy, and its effects around the world. The 25 people who attended discussed the differing approaches to the economic crises of the two Democratic presidential candidates, and compared the current period to previous economic crises in US history. Upcoming dates with Carl Bloice are:

June 3, Boston CCDS Forum, Bowditch Community Rm, 82 Green St., Jamaica Plain, MA

June 5, Stonybrook "How Class Works Conference" in NY (see column right)

June 8, Metro NY CCDS Forum, Musicians Union Local 802, 322 W. 48th St, Manhattan, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

June 28, No. Cal. CCDS Membership Meeting, Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 10:00 AM, Oakland, CA

CCDS Around the Country

The following are reports from CCDS Regional Coordinators.

Northern California

The No. Cal. annual membership meeting will be held on June 28. The topic for discussion is "War and the Economy in the 2008 Elections: Strategy and Tactics for Building a Multi-Racial Progressive Majority" with Carl Bloice presenting to spark discussion.

The 4th Annual CCDS Banquet will be held Sun., May 18, 2 pm at the Humanist Hall, 390 27th Street, in Oakland. Barbara Becnel, a death penalty opponent who campaigned against the execution of Tookie Williams, is giving the key-note speech titled "Politics 2008: War, the Economy

and What Else Should Matter."

The Billie Holiday Collective has its ever-popular cabaret, the Bolshevik Café, on May 3, 7 p.m. at Finn Hall, 1819 10th Street, in Berkeley.

The Oakland/Berkeley Chapter will meet April 5 with a presentation from Elvia Villegas, an activist with Las Hormigas, a community organization in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on human rights abuses by corporations forcing poor residents off their land in the border area.

The Contra Costa Chapter held a meeting March 2 with Jim Forsyth of the California Alliance of Retired Americans on the state budget crisis.

No. Ca. and So. Ca. CCDS are jointly organizing a regional conference on

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A special note to CCDS members

In these times of tremendous challenges, your help is needed to expand the work of CCDS. In March, a letter was sent to members along with a copy of the most recent *D&I*. The contents are strong testimony to the incredible work the CCDS is doing. Please renew your membership in CCDS, if you have not done so as yet.

Secondly, I encourage you to consider becoming involved in one of our national working committees. The stronger the input from our membership, the more vital the role these committees can play in the work of our organization. And this is also a way CCDS can play a more vital role in your local work. Please consider joining one of the following committees:

- Peace and Solidarity
- Health Care and Labor
- Climate Change
- Socialist Education Project

Can you help or contribute to one of these areas? Know someone else who might? Call or write Janet Tucker at: 859-389-8575 (h) or 859-229-7982 (m), or jlynjenks@qx.net.

The need for CCDS as an organization to function to its best capacity has never been more important. Every member can contribute.

Janet Tucker, CCDS Coordinator

CCDS Panel at the How Class Works Conference in NY

"Class, Race, Gender and the Crisis of Political Economy" is the topic of a CCDS sponsored panel at the *How Class Works - 2008* conference of the Working Class Studies Association, June 5-7, to be held at Stony Brook University. CCDS members Harry Targ, Meta Van Sickle, Carl Bloice, Mark Solomon and Ira Grupper will present. The CCDS panel will be June 5, 1:45-3:15pm. More info: www.stonybrook.edu/workingclass/conference/2008

2008 Elections and Building a Progressive Majority

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tions on some issues, Obama in particular has implored the emerging social movement around his candidacy to create a progressive political space essential to moving his candidacy in a substantively more progressive direction. "Change comes from the bottom up, not the top down," he has repeatedly declared. It is up to all socialist, left and progressive activists whether in the electoral arena or elsewhere, whether committed to independent candidacies or working in Democratic campaigns, to unite on the crucial issues.

This is a potentially transforming moment in the nation's political history. The right wing is certainly aware of this and poisons the political water with fear mongering about terrorism and attacks on Obama's "patriotism" as well as on the patriotism of the entire movement for change. Every day, racism is injected into the campaign by the right wing and slyly abetted by the Clinton camp. Those attacks have to be met head on by all progressive forces in and out of electoral politics. They have to be strenuously challenged in the arena of ideas and in sustained campaigns for progressive alternatives for peace, economic survival and unity to combat racism, sexism, xenophobia and homophobia.

The crucial battle against racism has been given a powerful assist by Obama's historic "Towards a More Perfect Union" speech answering ferocious attacks on him, on his minister, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, and on his predominantly African American church. Few commentators have noted that in the speech Obama not only documented the deep historic roots of African American anger in slavery, segregation and persistent discrimination, but also how the racial resentments of white workers obscure the fact that they are ultimately not all that "privileged" by a system that denies them secure employment, adequate health care, secure home ownership and quality education for their children. That message can be the basis for constructive

battle to unite working people of all races and ethnicities. It is solid ground for a genuine "conversation on race" in which progressives can play a major role in their work places, communities and organizations.

The election campaign urgently needs the injection of an independent voice to link and sharpen issues, build coalitions and set the stage for an historic turn in the nation's politics.

With the Iraq "surge" now showing signs of collapse and with the costs of the occupation escalating to a breaking point even for this economy, the linkage between the intolerable war and the growing domestic crisis is more compelling than ever. That staggering cost has now been widely acknowledged by leading economists, notably by Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes who have estimated long-term outlays for the war to be an unimaginable three trillion dollars. The liquidity crisis in the financial sector has been deepened by the absorption of tens of billions of dollars in Iraq, mainly on borrowed funds that have escalated debt and have contributed to the drying up of capital reserves and sources of credit. The rising price of oil, inflating the entire economy, is in part due to the instability in the Middle East engendered by the Iraq war and threatened attacks on Iran.

Never in the nation's history has there been such an urgent need to totally end the US occupation of Iraq and redirect billions into the real economy. A rotting infrastructure needs massive investment in rapid transit, bridges, roads and cities. That infrastructure needs to be environmentally transformed, thus creating millions of "green collar" jobs with decent wages and sufficient benefits. Unemployment insurance must be extended with provisions for first-time job seekers. An emergency federal program is needed to save the homes of millions facing foreclosure. Billions freed by ending the Iraq occupation are needed to buttress Medicare and Social Security.

The issues of peace and economic

survival are now inseparably linked. Economic survival and the creation of a "green economy" further link the movement for economic justice with the environmental movement. Those connections give great political muscle along with programmatic depth and coherence to the vast new electoral upsurge. They are the foundation for broadened coalitions that constitute the progressive majority. They give all activists in all areas, electoral and non-electoral, independent party advocates and Obama supporters, etc., the focus and substance of a progressive platform to defeat reaction, to pressure the candidates to adopt substantive, progressive positions on the issues and to make a transforming turn in the nation's politics.

CCDS members and supporters should lend their voices to uniting the emerging progressive majority by joining and aiding the political and organizational mobilization of labor, women, peoples of color, youth, gay and environmental forces. Participation in voter registration and get out the vote campaigns are important. From the bottom up, organizing of community forums, street vigils for peace and economic justice, delegations to members of Congress, letters to the editor, pressing the issues through comments on Internet blogs, resolutions to city councils and aldermen on ending the occupation and funding economic survival, even simply unfurling signs at political rallies calling for ending the war and funding jobs – all make a difference and contribute to advancing the progressive majority.

The country and the world are at an historic crossroads in 2008. We can experience a decisive turn toward peace and progress if we meet the challenge of connecting with new mass political movements and help infuse those movements with a unifying program, giving them a foundation for independent permanence. This is a time for renewed energy and purpose. With our "eyes on the prize," we can win – yes we can!

The South Carolina Democratic Primary - A Photo Essay

by James Campbell

For hours on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007, thousands of people lined around Williams-Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC to rally for Democratic Party Pres. Candidate Barack Obama. It was weeks before Sen. Obama would win an overwhelming primary victory on Jan. 26, 2008 with a record turnout of African American voters. A key part of the attraction was the

presence of Oprah Winfrey but the magic, the passion, the content of message was Obama's. His name was a chant throughout the day's rally. The size of the crowd was as historic as this campaign of presidential possibility in South Carolina and the US.

The revival of hope, in the spirit of the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was palpable - among parents with

young children, students, workers, farmers, professionals, the unemployed, the elderly, the greyed-up since the 1960s, among groups of Black, white, Latino, Asian and Native American young people projecting America's fresh, new face looking for hope, and among the physically challenged making their way up to the stadium's upper tiers. Take a look!



James Campbell is a National Co-Chair of CCDS, a retired public school teacher, and a peace and justice activist in Charleston, SC



Membership Discussion of CCDS Goals and Principles

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asked to read or re-read *For a Democratic and Socialist Future* which is posted on our website (www.cc-ds.org). Click on "CCDS Statements" and the document will be found in two formats. Members are urged to post their responses and ideas on the CCDS Members' List Serve or send to the National Office.

The NCC views the review and updating of our goals and principles as a crucial aspect of the organization's commitment to advancing the struggle for peace, justice, equality and socialism in this most challenging phase of the nation's history. It perceives the discussion as essential to the vitality and relevance of our organization and as a basic instrument for building CCDS.

We hope that every member of CCDS will contribute to the discussion in our joint efforts to renew our organization and to contribute as effectively as possible to building a progressive majority.

Here are the questions:

1. Is the document, *For a Democratic and Socialist Future*, dated? If so, how?
2. What elements are needed to bring

the document up to date?

3. How would you characterize the document ideologically? Marxist? Socialist? Social Democratic? Left Liberal?
4. Does the document accurately reflect your ideological outlook and your sense of the outlook of our membership?
5. Does the document define a clear, distinct space on the left and socialist spectrum for our organization? Does it clearly justify the need for CCDS? If not, what definition and role would you propose?
6. What issues and positions in the document, if any, are unnecessarily vague or disputable?
7. Does the document establish a clear and essential link between the struggle for democracy and the struggle for socialism?
8. Does the document's stress on such strategic concepts as "dynamic democracy," "radical democracy" and a "strategic democratic alliance" bear a clear relationship to socialism?
9. Does the document present a clear vision of socialism, the road to achiev-

ing a socialist transformation and a role for our organization in that quest?

10. Does the document present a cogent and compelling analysis of issues relating to class, race and gender? Does it provide a penetrating analysis of the role and effect of racism, sexism, anti-immigrant hysteria and homophobia in the context of class conflict?

11. Is the document's characterization of CCDS (CofC at its writing) as "Marxist and pluralist" valid? Has that characterization in your view been useful?

12. Does the document's advocacy of a third political party need clarification or qualification in terms of today's conditions?

13. In sum, what are the most important changes, if any, needed in the mission of our organization and in its fundamental document?

After a period of membership debate, a proposed draft of a new goals and principles document will be the basis of discussion and adoption at the 2009 CCDS national convention. All members are urged to engage in this important discussion.

CCDS Vietnam Tour Plans Set

The CCDS Socialist Education Project is sponsoring a unique and exciting study tour of Vietnam from Dec. 29, 2008 thru Jan. 12, 2009. The tour, hosted by the Vietnam Women's Union, will include visits to Hanoi, Hue, and Ho Chi Minh City.

The tour, titled "Building USA-Vietnamese Friendship and Solidarity," will feature:

- a) studying the various aspects of the Vietnamese effort to build socialism through discussion and site visits with a range of Vietnamese organizations and individuals, with a concentration on women's issues;
- b) learning how Agent Orange affects the people and land of Vietnam in order to concretely build US-Vietnamese friendship, by contribut-

ing to holding the US government accountable for the incalculable damage done by Agent Orange and other forms of chemical and biological warfare used by the US military;

c) visiting national attractions and historical sites associated with Vietnamese history and with major events in the US-Vietnam war.

The tour program will be based on a quest for understanding of Vietnam's present and future political, economic and social objectives. Meetings with representatives of the Vietnam Women's Federation and the Agent Orange Association are part of the program. Meetings and site visits with medical, trade union, neighborhood, rural and Communist Party organizations etc. will be arranged according to the interests of the tour participants

and will include cultural and tourism sites.

All members and supporters of CCDS are invited to apply who are in agreement with the purpose of the study tour. The organizers will make special efforts to produce a broadly representative groups of activists - women, youth, people of color, trade unionists, etc. Some financial aid will be available.

The best estimate of total cost including airfare and all land costs is \$3,000. All participants will be expected to obtain their air tickets through CCDS as part of the group travel arrangements.

If you are interested in participating with the tour, contact the CCDS national office at www.national@cc-ds.org or call (212) 868-3733.

CCDS Around the Country

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eco-socialism. A date will be announced soon.

Karl Kramer, Western Region

Midwest Region

Some 25 Midwest CCDS members and friends from IL, IN, and KY attended a panel discussion on "Direct Action Responses to the Economic Crisis" in a morning meeting followed by a public forum with CCDS leader Carl Bloice (see p 3) in the afternoon.

The morning panel featured Terry Davis, former UE organizer, who described the central importance of building organizations that will be available when "the moment" arrives that people are ready to engage in collective action. Organizations such as Jobs With Justice have personnel and a program of activities that will generate movement as economic crises deepen.

Linda Murray, MD, a physician at Cook County hospital, argued that having people in motion is not enough. People have always been in motion, she said. What the left needs to do is develop an analysis of the problems people face and a perspective on how to struggle. Dr. Murray used the example of the single payer health care movement. Health is intimately connected to equality, she said. Given the growing inequality in the US economy, a single payer system may not automatically improve the health of all. Progressives need to link the issues into a coherent theoretical whole. She cited a recent PBS documentary on health in America, "Unnatural Causes," that begins to make the kinds of connections between capitalism, healthcare and general wellbeing that progressives need to develop further.

James Thindwa, Executive Director of Chicago Jobs With Justice, talked about connecting of issues. A healthy society, for example, requires access to care, inexpensive mass transportation, public education, and a clean environment. Progressives need to connect issues in every struggle in which they are engaged, he said.

Thindwa also addressed the need to develop young leaders in communities. He was critical of traditional leadership in Chicago for not supporting living wage legislation when Wal Mart came to the city. Too often, he said, community leaders flee from grassroots movements rather than embracing and working with them.

In sum, the morning panel emphasized organization, ideology, connecting issues, and building leadership.

Attendees set a date for the next CCDS Midwest Regional meeting for Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008 in Gary, IN.

Harry Targ, Midwest Region

Southern Region

The Southern Region has been active over the past month laying plans for a Southern Regional meeting in Atlanta in the Fall following the November elections. Two conference call planning meetings have been held with CCDS activists from Washington DC, Maryland, South Carolina and Kentucky. Discussion has centered on holding a conference that informs and empowers our neighbors around the topics that greatly affect them, for example, the economy, the war in Iraq US imperialism, and racism. We also envision the conference serving as a conduit in the overall CCDS priority of helping to build a progressive majority.

Planning will continue and a specific date soon to be set as we organize and reconnect with our members and friends in the South. If you would like to participate, email rencar@cox.net.

CCDS activists have recently taken part in the March 17 Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) campaign launch of "Healthcare Not Warfare" with Cong. John Conyers, Jim Hightower and the newly elected MD Cong. Donna Edwards.

If you live in a Southern state, we want you to become involved in growing CCDS locally and regionally. This is an historic moment in time. Don't watch it from the sidelines. GET ACTIVE.

Renée Carter, Southern Region



Peace activists in Lafayette, IN organize an anti-war billboard on Interstate Hwy I-65. CCDS members are active in the coalition.

Eastern Region

The Boston chapter will hold a public forum "Building the Progressive Majority and the 2008 Elections" with member journalist and CCDS leader Carl Bloice, June 3. Discussion will focus on the Barack Obama campaign: centrist Democrat or a new progressive movement? Bloice will also meet informally with health care activists from the Massachusetts Nurses Association and MassCare, a coalition working for single payer health care.

Boston CCDS members were involved in the 4th Radical Organizing Conference March 29, a gathering of 150 activists mostly from the central city including many people of color and youth. The ROC looks at how activists working in reform and democratic struggles can bring a perspective to the work that incorporates analysis of the fundamental issues of how society works. The ROC plans to continue this summer with trainings in radical organizing and CCDS members are participating.

Duncan McFarland, Eastern Region

Presente!

CCDS Remembers

Edith Pollach

Pele DeLappe

We will forever miss the tireless contributions of Edith as organizer and Pele as artist in their lifelong commitment to the movements for peace, justice, and equality.

Draft CCDS Program for Jobs and Income

by Harry Targ

The modern world economy is based on jobs and income. Human beings spend the better part of their lives engaging in remunerative activity, i.e., earning a wage to produce and reproduce life. When jobs and income are threatened, life is threatened.

Today, workers the world over are threatened by the loss of jobs and the dramatic reduction in payment for jobs. Many countries have unemployment rates of 20 - 70 percent. Nearly half the world's people, earn less than \$2 a day, according to the World Bank.

The jobs crisis inflicts rich countries as well. During the US Great Depression of the 1930s, 25 percent of the work force was unemployed. Official jobless rates reached 10 percent in the 1970s and early 1980s, and almost as much in the early 1990s. In the last 30 years, government unemployment figures are undercounted by one-half the actual rate. In many central cities, African Americans, Latinos, and women have been chronically unemployed since the loss of manufacturing jobs beginning in the 1970s.

Americans are now beginning to experience another jobs crisis. Official

unemployment rates are hitting 5 percent and growth sectors of the economy, such as construction are stagnating. In 2007, for the first time, both manufacturing and service employment levels declined. Real wages, which saw short growth bubbles in the late 1990s have been declining ever since the 1970s. With global, national, and personal debt at all time highs, traditional economic stimulus policies will not help working people recover from the burgeoning recession. Only a real jobs program can help stem the tide of the job crisis at home.

CCDS proposes for discussion the following emergency program to cushion the blow of the crisis on working class families and the poor.

A Jobs Agenda should include the following:

- a massive publicly funded restructuring of our social and physical infrastructure, including schools, health care facilities, mass transit, housing, child care and elder care facilities;
- a massive publicly funded program for the construction of new "green" industries;
- a nationwide living wage policy;
- facilitated union recognition when

working majorities want unionization;

- legalization programs for all immigrants;
- recognition and adequate pay for "non-traditional" labor such as child rearing;
- the same benefits and pay levels for part-time employees as full time ones;
- tax credits and loans for establishing employee-owned co-operatives and an end to tax breaks for corporations moving off shore;
- loans and wages paid to ex-offenders to construct housing for use and sale;
- hire offenders to work on school and other public sector construction;
- funding educational programs on science and technology in low-income school districts;
- extend unemployment benefits;
- increase earned income tax credit.

This Jobs Agenda is offered to spark discussion. It is designed to help to establish a long-term response to the jobs crisis that all candidates running for public office in 2008 should be encouraged to adopt.

Join CCDS in conversation and mobilization around policies to address the jobs crisis.

Join in discussion of current issues and action on the CCDS Member List Serve. Renew your annual membership dues today. Go to: www.cc-ds.org

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