

!STRIKE!

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[Stage separated into three segments by lighting which is turned on or off as action in each section is switched. In the center are workers of the elected strike committee. To one side are NLRB and other governmental officials. To the other are those connected to the employer. In that section there is a cubicle for union officials. At opening workers have elected a strike committee but are not yet on strike.]

Scene 1

(Workers from the committee and company negotiator meet. Large sign: Local 2036.)

COMPANY REP: But you know that we can't accept those terms. We must have a contract that conforms to laws created for that purpose. And who are you anyway? – The international placed your local under administrative control.

ELECTED STRIKE LEADER: We were democratically elected by over 90% of Local 2036 membership to serve as their representatives. Decertified or not, we represent all the workers at this plant.

COMPANY REP: You must be officially recognized under the Wagner Act as a body that can negotiate and agree to terms that place all member workers under specific obligations.

STRIKE CMTE MEMBER 1: What's the problem? We are governed by the workers that we represent. The first agreements between workers and bosses came before there was an official labor law to legitimize them. We agree on all the fundamental terms – pay, health, pension, etc.

COMPANY REP: That's why we've stayed with this. It would be madness to have a work stoppage when we are so close to a solution.

STRIKE CMTE MEMBER 2: We have verbally extended the expired contract as long as a negotiated solution appeared possible – Now we both merely have to do the same with what we've agreed to and this thing is over.

COMPANY REP: But you have rejected the clause that replaces strike action with arbitration during the term of the agreement.

STRIKE CMTE MEMBER 1: You are inventing problems – real arbitration between labor and management is part of the grievance procedure, which is present in the agreement. On our side we will present all your proposals to our workers for discussion and decision by the membership. We don't want your 'neutral' arbitrator, but nothing prevents you from using your state apparatus against us, just don't expect any advanced approval from us.

ELECTED STRIKE LEADER: If you are honest in accepting the terms of the contract, then you should have no concerns about our people doing their job. We live paycheck to

paycheck. Strikes mean hardships for our families....

COMPANY REP: I understand all of that, but I'm sure I'd never get management to accept those terms.

ELECTED STRIKE LEADER: I repeat once again – The company is not *accepting* anything. They merely acknowledge in some fashion that they have heard our terms, and then behind their own closed company doors they decide whether to comply with them. They do not have to communicate with us. We can just as well learn of the decision by the first pay check after our deadline if not from workplace experiences following public knowledge of the terms, which can be leaked to the media to protect you from legal obligation.

COMPANY REP: I don't even know how we'd go about doing that. There is nothing lawful. . .

STRIKE CMTE MEMBER 2: The law is all yours to do with what you wish. We want nothing more than a simple handshake – and not even that if you think it too binding. Both parties privately agree to the terms. We work according to the terms. You abide by those terms and pay us. This personal agreement between the members of our two organizations is now operative.

COMPANY REP: What's to ensure that both sides comply if this slipped-under-the-door agreement runs into conflicts?

ELECTED STRIKE LEADER: Because every day at the workplace both sides will have direct experience as to whether the terms have been accepted as each party understands them. We will maintain a grievance group to sort out any differences with management on the spot. We want to work and get pay and benefits in line with the agreement. Your side wants to maintain production and profiting through our labor. A 'Win-Win' as you people like to say.

COMPANY REP: (*Nonplussed – as he appears throughout the discussion.*) I've negotiated labor contracts for 12 years and have dealt with some pretty weird issues – but in my wildest dreams I could never imagine being stymied by an impasse that...that I don't even know where or what the devil it is.

ELECTED STRIKE LEADER: That's because you lawyers can't deal with simplicity, so here is the clarification from our side: With our agreement we each have unofficially one enemy. With your proposed contract we officially would have two. But you lose nothing because our second enemy is your friend. You can toss out the whole thing overnight and call on your friend, but be aware that we will maintain constant vigilance and know of ways to defend our interests against real and potential enemies.

STRIKE CMTE MEMBER 1: Get it?!

COMPANY REP: Enough to at least try to get management to understand it. They will probably be more of a pain in the ass than you guys. Anyway, we will talk again. *(Shakes hands and leaves.)*

ELECTED STRIKE LEADER: From this moment everyone must be on alert.

STRIKE CMTE MEMBER 2: Lockout?

ELECTED STRIKE LEADER: Exactly. At least it's not something they can do without us knowing it beforehand.

STRIKE CMTE MEMBER 1: Our watchdogs will tip us off to any unusual activity...We are ready!

[Blackout]

Scene 2

(Company and Union section. Signs for each – Union sign indicates UAW)

BOSS: Are you sure there is no way around this? – I mean the terms will still be in writing, and even if one of those terms is that it is an agreement between two private parties that is not legally binding, might it still be legally binding?

COMPANY REP: You forget that it says nothing about whether it is legally binding. They didn't even want it stated in the negative. But if you want to assume it is defacto, and get a court to intervene when the world knows that the workers explicitly made it a one-to-one agreement, you'd have everybody taking the side of the workers.

BOSS: The way I see it...In the beginning individual workers had to accept whatever we offered them. Then the workers organized and made demands that were backed up by their unity. This eventually evolved into official union organizations. What we now have presented to us is something like the privatization and elimination of a now useless bureaucracy, both union and government. Labor and management have learned how to deal with each other in a direct civilized manner without outside interference.

COMPANY REP: Sir, you can't be serious! That 'interference' you have eliminated is official state power, there for the purpose of supporting company interests.

BOSS: Well, whatever they say, this still is a defacto contract. We can still get support.

COMPANY REP: They will reject it, even if you get a unified executive, judicial and congressional decree. Then what?

BOSS: That's their problem. We capitalists are used to having the public at large hate us. I'm attracted to the very sensibleness of this deal. If the business climate worsens and we can't maintain our dividends without borrowing, we can just cut wages or layoff with no

court or NLRB interference.

COMPANY REP: *(increasingly frustrated with the Boss's naive misunderstanding)* Do you want to run a company in a permanent state of class war? If you accept the agreement, then you must fulfill its terms.

BOSS: Come now! Has our system been overthrown behind our backs? We will always have access to what we need.

COMPANY REP: Yes, but please don't let your anti-union bias cloud your reasoning. Companies have disappeared after prolonged strikes, and remember, you will no longer *(lowering his voice)* be dealing with a complacent and corrupt union bureaucracy. You now have the actual operatives, who, because they are very reasonable and willing to chance work arrangements where they are obviously at a formal disadvantage, will have massive public support should our side use strong-arm tactics.

(brief pause)

BOSS: I guess I was thinking of life without golf two-moses with George...and those dinner parties...I even had him at my home...once. To be honest, he is quite presentable, but two or three hours of excruciatingly restrained conversation is not a pleasurable expenditure of my relaxation time. And then there is the loss of my little corner. *(Pointing to corner of his office where the union cubicle is located)* A perfect spot for my secretary. *(Brief pause)* Damn, what use are these people, anyway! *(Shouting)* Hey Georgie!...Come on over here for a few minutes! *(Brief pause before union boss appears)*

UNION BOSS: What's up, Billy?

BOSS: *(Boss cringes at the familiarity in front of his legal servant)* Georgie, why haven't you been able to do anything with that Local 2036?

UNION BOSS: We have...and are still doing a lot. We've placed the local under administrative control...

BOSS:...That didn't help at all...

UNION BOSS:...They wouldn't even let our International Rep through the door! Because of that we sequestered local funds...Should they strike, there will be no benefits.

BOSS: What good is a union leadership if it can't even meet with its members?...I mean, even my people are able to maintain contact with them!

UNION BOSS: It's because the Rep's salaries come out of our jointly-funded foundation. *(Boss indicates that he doesn't recall what that is)*

COMPANY REP: Don't you remember the union-company non-profit you formed in

order to help with the needs of the community?

BOSS:...Oh, yes...And that was a damn fine golf course we built!

UNION BOSS: You bet!...And with 10% off for union members..

BOSS: But what does this have to do with your Reps being locked out?

COMPANY REP: Sir, if they are paid through the foundation, that means part of their salary is paid directly by the company.

BOSS: So what?...All of my workers are paid with company money.

COMPANY REP: *(Straining to coax some enlightenment into the boss)* But consider the services production workers perform to earn their pay to those services performed by union officials. *(Boss shows signs of understanding)* And may I strongly suggest that in future we don't express union-company solidarity in such an obvious way?

BOSS: Sure...Now it bothers you, but weren't you among my managers that called for pushing the concepts of 'team building', and 'cooperation', and 'profit sharing'?

COMPANY LAWYER: Yes, but that relates to the shop floor. It has the opposite effect on labor when private deals are made between company and union officials. *(brief pause)*

UNION BOSS: It's tough, Billy, because we are both cut from the same cloth. *(Pained expression by Boss)* Sure, I started out as a rivethead, but I learned how to make the best of the system just as you did by working your way up from salesman to CEO.

BOSS: Yeah, but Georgie, you can see that we must not make it so obvious. I might have to get you an office somewhere off the grounds.

UNION BOSS: No problem...I know that we must maintain an adversarial pretense. Sometimes my own people hurl epithets at me – “Hey you goddam stinking class collaborator.” But I just shout back – “Why you damn fools, can't you see that if we don't collaborate with business, the only thing left is to throw them the hell out?”

COMPANY REP: *(To Union Boss after he and Boss eyeball each other)* Sir, you do understand that hurling such challenges to workers is hardly conducive to labor peace?

UNION BOSS: I know...I blew my top...but now it's an issue of who is in control.

COMPANY BOSS: Georgie, you never should have decertified them without consultation. We would have wanted you to at least maintain a line of communication.

COMPANY REP: *(To Union boss)* You are aware that a contract agreed to by union and company officials will not be recognized by the operatives.

UNION BOSS: Yeah...I was thinking like it was still the old days...but don't worry...I've sent out a team that will surely make it through the door. They are still at least listening to those elected by the local. . . Billy, if you can excuse me, I'd better check on those "communications." (*Boss nods...George leaves*)

COMPANY BOSS: (*Quietly*) He's useful when he's useful, but a goddam plague when he fucks-up. And to think, I'll be at his family cookout next weekend...where I'll have to eat one of those awful things... (*brief pause*)

COMPANY REP: You mean a hot dog?

COMPANY BOSS: Yeah...Not even god knows what they're made of.

COMPANY REP: Just smear it with a lot of mustard.

COMPANY BOSS: Wish I could do something similar to help solve this other mystery.

[Blackout]

Scene 3

(*Government section with NLRB, company and union boss, etc.*)

UNION BOSS: We thought we had at least one of our people among the strike committee leaders.

BOSS: But you didn't...that's how they occupied the plant before we could lock them out.

UNION BOSS: We missed on that, but did learn some things. They have a large outside support group. Their union strike fund, which was kept apart from what we could seize, has been distributed in cash among those people...and is growing with donations. Strikers and supporters have opened lines of communication with workers of every sort, union or non, in, around, and well beyond the city. Police have created a staging area near the plant and are waiting for instructions.

BOSS: (*To NLRB official*) Shall we lay a siege on the plant and seek out leaders that are roaming free?

NLRB: What has transpired does not come within the purview of the National Labor Relations Act. My involvement is only because the labor action extends beyond state borders and has been ordered to end by executive decree. We have the legal right to obtain a cease and desist order, and then engage in forcible actions if it is rejected or ignored. But because of the widespread public support, we should implement this, and similar actions, only as a last resort.

UNION BOSS: And I trust all of us know what everyone but us thinks of the government.

NLRB: Precisely...That's why going after them in a heavy-handed way will likely make things much worse.

BOSS: Or, to play devil's advocate, to dither while they gain strength might make immediate forcible action preferable.

NLRB: It would have to be massive, swift, and successful, or it would amount to adding fuel to the fire.

(brief pause)

BOSS: Geez! . . .It's not as if we're making strange demands – Labor-management contracts are the worldwide norm.

NLRB: Only for officially organized workers. What we have now is technically an action by a group constituted as individuals.

UNION BOSS: In the old days the boss declared what he would pay and the days and hours of work, and it was just take it or leave it by the individual workers. Now they have reversed the process and presented it to you for a decision.

BOSS: Well alright, we've agreed to the terms...I'll just grant them to each worker as an individual, including health and pension.

UNION BOSS: You will accept the extra expense?

BOSS: With our size, the insurance and investment outfits will have to swallow any extra cost.

NLRB: And if you also allow an in-plant worker council to iron out grievances, that would probably make them a de facto organized union, and give you the option of seeking our help.

BOSS: Which, since they made it clear they will have nothing to do with you, arbitration, as well as Georgie, that doesn't help us at all.

(People enter carrying boxes)

PERSON: Where is the strike activity?...We're going to help setup a fund-raising concert.

NLRB: You can't do that --- you would be supporting a criminal conspiracy.

PERSON: Oh, have they been placed on the terrorist list? *(Brief pause)*

NLRB: *(Pointing to the worker section)* It's right over there. *(They depart. To Boss.)* On the other hand, the very best bet might be the appearance of acceptance while stalling them by saying you will need to make arrangements with government, suppliers, customers, etc. That may stop the spread until we learn if Plan B is really necessary. In the interim all parties should treat them like a small recalcitrant country and engage a destabilization program. Broadcast the harm they are causing the general population – ambulance services, fire protection; separate the leaders from the masses by digging up dirt – they are subversive plotters using their fellow workers for some diabolical purpose. Raise the anxiety factor by having a lot of activity in the vicinity – copters and drones overhead, police and military vehicles zipping around, lots of blaring sirens...

BOSS: ...very loud psycho-madness music...

NLRB: I think not. . . in their present state, they would probably dance to it.

[Blackout]

Scene 4

(Worker section now located inside plant. Union Boss and Elected Strike Cmte. Various noises in the background – both of the police sort and entertainment. Sign is now NON-LOCAL 2036. Union Boss enters.)

UNION BOSS: Freddy!..You guys won!...Total and absolute victory! I'm happy as hell for you even if it makes us look like shits. Some of our labor chiefs have lost their way...We have to get back to the 30's – the 'Us against them' attitude. *(Brief pause)* Don't you think you've kept the company chief waiting long enough? Let him make it official.

ELECTED STRIKE REP: By all means...Bring him in. I must give him this. *(Holding paper)*

UNION BOSS: *(Surprised look)* You didn't decide in the end to make it a contract? *(Striker just smiles...Union Boss brings in Boss. To Boss.)* Here is the Chairman of what I think they call the Elected Strike Cmte.

STRIKER: *(Shaking hands with Boss.)* Actually, I'm just a member of the Cmte who was selected to represent them at this meeting.

BOSS: Whatever the arrangement, I'm very pleased to meet with anyone to settle this affair. I regret that we had to play hard ball for awhile, but I hope you understand...

STRIKER: Oh, that was just the normal doings between class enemies. It's our understanding that all the terms of the agreement are known by both parties. Any remaining wrinkles can be ironed out through labor management meetings.

BOSS: Fine....Then I take it we can all get back to work.

STRIKER: We are very anxious to do so, and will as soon as other disputes are settled. Here is a list of the labor actions that joined us in mutual support (*Handing boss a list – he looks it over.*) A number of industrial enterprises, teachers, and even bank clerks and office workers, have made demands similar to our own. Their support helped us to achieve our goals, and we are bound to do the same for them.

UNION BOSS: But that's illegal!...Support strikes and secondary boycotts violate the Taft-Hart...

STRIKER:...What's that you say?...Daft-Hardly?...Well, no matter, we are just doing what for us our class consciousness tells us is the right thing.

UNION BOSS: This is a dirty trick...A stab in the back!

STRIKER: You wouldn't find it right for a member of a military alliance to negotiate a separate peace, would you? (*to the company boss*)...and hasn't your class and government united in support of your mutual interests?

BOSS: Even if it 's as you say, do you expect me to contact dozens of companies and get them to....

STRIKER: Oh, come now!...You are probably personal friends with most of the CEO's and see them regularly at the luxurious union-management country club you and Georgie built with unpaid worker money.

UNION BOSS: That's a lie! Our union members share ownership and can use the course and the CLUB HOUSE with...

STRIKER:...We know: 'With 10% off' for the nickel an hour you've extracted from us to build the thing – And what a fine use of worker spare time after 55 hour forced overtime work weeks!

BOSS: (*Rising*) Come on, Georgie...ahh..Mr. Maddox, we will have to respond in kind to those who reject our good faith efforts. (*To Striker*) But first, would you be so kind as to permit me to visit the restroom before I leave?

STRIKER: Go right ahead – you still own the place..for now. (*Boss looks around – clearly does not know where to go.*) It's through the door..take a left, then another one... (*Boss leaves*)

UNION BOSS: (*Looking at Striker with sad disappointed expression*) Don't you people understand that you cannot possibly win against the forces arrayed against you?

STRIKER: Georgie...May I call you Georgie, or do you prefer the more dignified Mr.

Maddox? (*Union Boss scowls*) The only way to free ourselves from being shat upon is for us to defeat the enemy, and the only certain defeat is surrender. (*Rises and offers his hand – Union Boss turns to go out the door*) Georgie – You'd better rescue your Boss before you leave the building...I directed him to where our guys have gathered. Bring him to the toilet if he still needs to pee.

[Blackout]

Scene 5

(Worker headquarters. Union, worker and community supporters. Likewise audience participation.)

COMMUNITY: The general strike has brought hardships to the entire community. Almost everyone has had their basic needs cut off. Our government officials have gone on strike themselves...

STRIKER:....so that you people will come to blame us for your problems instead of...

COMMUNITY:...Of course, we know the real source of all our problems, that's why we've formed a shadow government in order to deliver what our people need. We have an organization in place but not the resources to accomplish the task.

REP of STRIKE CMTE: Our organization has expanded to include all workers, union or not, that have joined the general strike, and those who struck in support of their own interests everywhere. We have divided them into specific sectors: production, transportation, communication and services. We are prepared to supply what is needed...

WORKER: Trucks and vans are made in this plant. We have a finished number available to haul goods to people. We have forklifts to help move things, a machine shop that can be used for purposes other than making parts for vehicles, and the same goes for workers. They have multiple skills that can be parceled out depending on need.

STRIKER: The strike is spreading so rapidly that we will soon encompass everything people need, even food, most of which is produced in factory farms.

REP of STRIKE CMTE: But we are not on firm ground until there is an expanded and united new form of government and armed support formed along the same democratic lines as our organization: Those elected subject to simple and immediate recall; all governmental activity must be completely transparent, and legislative, judicial and executive branches will co-exist in one easily modified package.

COMMUNITY: Then let's call a general worker community meeting with representatives from all the popular councils that have sprung up around the nation. Organize the government you describe and declare that we fight for freedom, equality and prosperity.

STRIKE: And let's not forget what we need for that fight.

REP of STRIKE CMTE: Workers know how to manufacture and operate planes, trains, ships and heavy equipment...and firearms. Should be no problem given that many have been in the military.

COMMUNITY: Yes, to arm our councils, our union of councils.

STRIKE: To make and defend a democratic union of those councils.

[Blackout]

Scene 6

(Government offices where are gathered various officials, business and union people, security personnel. The audience may be invited to join them.)

BOSS: *(Looking out the window)* Just look at them!...

SECURITY PERSON: *(walking over to look)* Don't worry...we're pros. *(as he looks out window)* They're calling it 'Revolutionary Spring'.

BOSS: Hopefully it's not 'Winter for Capitalism'. *(brief pause)*

GOVT OFFICIAL: Okay, let's sort of diagram where we are right now... *(Pause..thinking)*. Right now we are at...at a fork in the road. *(Pause until he notices that the others are smiling)* I said something amusing?

BOSS: Just that those words are usually followed by a humorous punch line.

GOVT OFFICIAL: Well the joke is on if we continue losing control of the situation. We've tried to cut off the contagion, but it's not like our nervous system where everything is connected...

SECURITY:...Actually our nervous system consists of separate neurons that shoot data over the synapses or gaps. We can blockade those gaps...

GOVT OFFICIAL:...only with regard to a nervous system, and in the attempt lose the analogy because we can't totally cut off communications anywhere in the world let alone the expanding strength of our opponents here at home. They are expanding faster than one of those computerized neuro networks.

SECURITY: But we still have the means to control the ground – We can cut off those avenues for transporting goods people need to survive – trucks, trains, planes, cars...total cessation is not necessary.

GOVT OFFICIAL: Only partially, and they still have feet....which brings us to the fork in

the road...another one...we have lots of fucking forks here. Should we risk a full-fledged offensive that opens the possibility of a civil or revolutionary war?

UNION BOSS: No...It's vital that we view their actions as a justified blowing off of steam. We humbly admit to making mistakes – Let them hear our words face-to-face -- that always diminishes the animosity -- see if we can find a point of agreement, concern for the well being of those on the sidelines, and...

BOSS: But these people aren't like Occupy...they won't let me or you come down to schmooz with them...they won't even allow the usual bunch of peacemaking pastors through the door.

GOVT OFFICIAL: All conciliation is regarded as an enemy maneuver.

SECURITY PERSON: That's why I think it has reached the point where we take positive rather than reactive actions. Now a plus for our side is that there is still plenty of territory in our hands. I propose that we go all-out to secure those areas from the spreading blight...

GOVT OFFICIAL: If you mean the physical segregation of parts of the country, then that means war...and still there will be communications and organized opposition through any barriers we may set up.

SECURITY PERSON: If the enemy creates conditions that necessitate a war, then we must fight the battle. Any outcropping of opposition in the safe zones can be suppressed by informally charged militias...

UNION BOSS: No, No, No!...That means vigilantes and turning the country into a banana republic democracy with state sanctioned death squads and a border patrol far inside the nation's borders.

GOVT OFFICIAL:...and besides, we have lots of fucked up right-wingers in the mountains that hate the government as much as do the leftists in the cities. We will be taking fire from both sides. Which leads to the final fork in the road – When they realized that abiding by labor law meant no labor victories, they also learned that participating in the existing political structure meant a leadership that worked against their interests. Some in the liberal community are calling for a constitutional convention to forestall a total dropout from current party politics. Thirty four states have circumvented Congress and have approved such a call. A Constitutional Convention would be a major historical event. It would impress many of our opponents into thinking – 'Now we've achieved something solid', when in fact we can live with anything that came out of it as long as the country remained a so-called 'bourgeois democracy.' *(Brief pause)*

BOSS: A constitutional convention may have some traction – It's definitely a good way to split the opposition. But we will have to ensure that there can be no runaway convention.

UNION BOSS: The problem is that they have found their own fucking fork in the road and it is a very attractive one to the general population because it completely circumvents existing government...

BOSS: Yeah, self-rule rather than our form of democracy, but why are you still with us?

UNION BOSS: Because I am of the working class and feel the path they have taken will harm them more than what they are rebelling against, and besides, if they win outright, they will be marching me to the nearest prison, or wall, along with you guys.

GOVT OFFICIAL: Then we will throw all of our cards on the table – which means *(looking at Security)* Mr. SP will take to the field.

SECURITY PERSON: *(With a salute)* To Serve and Protect.

[Blackout]

Scene 7

SECURITY PERSON: *(With stick pointing at map)* In order to stop, or at least slow, the advancement of enemy dominance, we can use a team of our elite forces to either snatch or exterminate the leadership occupying the auto plant where the rebellion originated. Then, after they have experienced the force of our stick, you can offer them the carrot of reform through a constitutional convention, or whatever.

GOVERNMENT PERSON: I'll discuss this with the president; meanwhile you should get your team prepared. *(GP turns to use phone while SP walks through door where he is immediately captured and carried off by workers)*

[Blackout]

Scene 8

STRIKE LEADER: *(SP is seen being made to sit at edge of stage. To Community.)* Okay, we will send a team along with your group to help remove all enemy governmental entities everywhere our people are in control. Then worker-community parties will move into those facilities and form a united council for easier sharing of information, organization and resources.

COMMUNITY PERSON: And power – We must establish representatives in every neighborhood and eventually every block, that way there will be a direct and immediate line of communication between the community and those they have selected to work for them.

WORKER: And also a fine means to detect enemy actions. *(Brief pause)*

STRIKER: Hey!....Has anybody thought about how this ends? They will make a big deal about a constitutional convention.

STRIKE LEADER: The window of opportunity for that will soon be decisively closed!

COMMUNITY PERSON: Yeah, there is nothing enticing about proposals when we are in the process of creating the best possible democracy.

WORKER: We have to face the possibility that many among us will be satisfied with a bird in the hand. Others are afraid of power even when it is in the hands of people they have freely chosen and can democratically remove by majority vote. And then there are a few who wouldn't know how to live without having someone giving them orders.

STRIKER: Maybe. But when real power is in the hands of the productive class, there is no need for orders. Productive people already know what to do and how to do it. An our council system is modeled along the same lines as our socialized production.

STRIKE LEADER: Right – To be productive means to be self-ordered. Our direct civil democracy will be much like the modern workplace without bosses. *(brief pause)*

(A number of soldiers enter the scene. Hopefully much audience participation)

SOLDIER 1: Greetings!..We have been elected to inform you that an attack is imminent, and that most of our unit has refused to be part of it.

SOLDIER 2: We didn't join in order to fight against a popular American rebellion!

SOLDIER 3: Like Lincoln said: This country belongs to the people that inhabit it. Should they become displeased with its government, they have the electoral right to change it, or the revolutionary right to overthrow it.

SOLDIER 1: If your objective is the overthrow of this shitty system, we would like to become part of the revolution.

STRIKE LEADER: Welcome to our side of the fight. We are in the process of forming an integrated worker-community democracy. If you are willing to form soldier councils, then join us in clearing out the remains of that shit-pile known as capitalism.

COMMUNITY PERSON: Right now worker guards are doing a great job protecting people and property in place of the police; they will form the leadership of a force drawn from the community. Your skills will be of great service for its expansion and improvement.

SOLDIER 1: We swore to serve the American people...finally, we are able to do just that!

WORKER: Onward toward a unified socialist world!

(Soldiers nod in agreement. Everyone gathers together.)

[End – Third Edition]

###

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