



# ORGANIZE!

## AT WORK. IN OUR ORGS. IN SOCIETY.

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**United  
we have  
POWER,  
divided  
we get  
devoured!**

### THE FIGHT IS STILL ON!

by Chris

I've been working full time in the blue collar sector for over 30 years. I have over 20 years in the transportation industry and another 6 on a factory floor, with a few other jobs during my first few years in the labor force.

From early on I started to hear and experience the same grievances and issues coming from coworkers and most other working people I would encounter. It became a recurring theme: low/stagnant wages, forced overtime, not enough time off, unsafe working conditions, and the inability to work and retire with dignity. And I've experienced these as well.

On top of that, I've watched companies and lawmakers systematically take back what working people have fought so hard for in the past

It seems that many people have given up on the idea that we, the working class, will lead this struggle to end our exploitation. If not the working class, then who? Protesters? Activists? Academics? We can use all the help we can get, but none of the above are facing the kind of exploitation that working people are facing today.

Imagine what we could do if truly organized!! We can go far beyond winning a few temporary concessions from one company or another. That's why it's so important that we as a class, the working class, must organize together on a large scale. By organizing, and remaining militant, and autonomous, not letting anyone use us for some other agenda, we can achieve the power necessary to free ourselves from the exploitation we face every day. Only we, the working people, can do this for ourselves.

*This is an excerpt. For the full piece, see:  
[workers-power.org/2016/05/19/the-fight-is-still-on/](http://workers-power.org/2016/05/19/the-fight-is-still-on/)*

**"WE  
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SPEAK  
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An independent operator for XX (company names withheld to protect worker anonymity) in Fort Lauderdale explained that he has to pay for all the upkeep of his truck, fuel, etc. It costs him about \$30 just to come out and wait for work. That day he had been waiting since 7AM, with no calls by noon. He said that the truckers are treated like dogs, made to wait under the overpass when their job is in the port.

One company requires four inspections annually, and requires drivers to fix any issues they indicate, at their own expense. To replace a tire costs almost \$400, and there are ten per truck. To replace the brakes costs \$900. Because the pay does not cover all of these expenses, many truckers are forced to go into debt to cover upkeep.

A driver made a gesture to eye level and said, "We are up to here in debt!" He depends on his truck to take care of his family, and send his daughter to school, so he has no other choice. He said that the feeling of discontent was very wide among other drivers. Several asked for multiple copies of the Workers Struggle newsletter and flyer to hand out.

Before deregulation in 1980, a standard wage had been maintained, but now, as another driver explained, "truckers are like a family that doesn't get along well," explaining that if a broker offers, say, \$70 for a job, and one trucker says it is too low, another who is desperate will offer to do the job for \$50. He said that "we need to speak with one voice" to make anyone listen.

**FACT:** Farm workers, who do some of the most difficult and important work in society, are specifically excluded from many of the legal protections that other workers in the US have won. Specifically, they do not have a protected right to organize or form unions, and can be fired simply for this act. They have no right to overtime pay, workers on small farms are not entitled to receive minimum wage, and farms are legally allowed to employ children as young as twelve in the fields. THIS INJUSTICE MUST STOP!

### WORKERS POWER

is for broad, autonomous organizations of  
**ALL working people to fight together against  
exploitation! They need us; we don't need them!**

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