

## Report for WSF

On December 12, the Senate approved the bill for the superintendence of retirements and pensions. This occurred during a harsh repression against the crowd of active and retired workers in the streets surrounding the Legislative Power building. The police focused on arresting demonstrators and leaders of the ANDE (National Electricity Administration) workers' union; the purpose was to take hostages so that the Minister of the Interior could negotiate the abandonment of the streets in exchange for his freedom.

The next day the Chamber of Deputies, after several attempts to gather the necessary quorum and in the face of a huge demonstration of workers, gave its approval to the bill without reading or discussing it in a session that lasted less than 15 minutes. In the afternoon, the President of the Republic promulgated the law.

The objective of the law, under the pretext of supervising and protecting the investments of the various pension funds, is to make this money available to finance the public debt of the State, which does not honor its legal contributions to these funds, and to capitalize the same private companies that exploit workers and in many cases avoid enrolling their employees in social security or are in arrears with their debts. contributions to pension funds. Another purpose is to use this mechanism of looting to weaken the pension funds and open the doors to private pension fund management companies, which have caused so much damage to workers in several countries of Our America.

The urgency, criticized by broad sectors of society and the press, was due to the government's commitment to the IMF in approving the law during the month of December, since the fulfillment of this goal enabled the taking of new debt with international credit organizations, which was prohibited by the very high levels of indebtedness that had reached the two previous presidential terms of the Colorado Party (the same one that still had been in power). maintains as honorary president the late tyrant Alfredo Stroessner).

Threats to the working class are not limited to this. Another of the commitments with the IMF is a law to reform the Civil Service career that will bring huge cuts in the rights acquired by public employees and massive layoffs, in many cases disguised as voluntary early retirements. To this must be added the labour flexibility plans announced a few months ago by the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

Despite the defeat suffered, the working class has not given up. In a meeting following the events described above, it was decided to continue the struggle, to organize a Unitary Congress of all the trade union organizations and to prepare a general strike to be called if the circumstances warrant it, which is very likely.

Recent national events, added to the circumstances that neighboring countries are going through, make the trade union and social leadership gradually become aware that what we are going through in the country is not something peculiar but is part of the global onslaught of capital against the working class and reasoning and pronouncements in this regard are heard more and more frequently; A feeling of internationalist class solidarity, previously absent, is taking shape.

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