

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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U.S war on Iraq shows we need a . . . A Workers Party!

Over three months have passed since the U.S. stopped open war on Iraq. But many young people and working people are still talking about the war and they are right. We need to *learn* from this experience.

The U.S.'s war showed that the U.S. is capable of moving and supplying a very

killing has not stopped. The U.S. government and a Harvard Medical Team both predict that at least 170,000 more Iraqi children will die this year from gastroenteritis, cholera, typhoid and other epidemics that are beginning to sweep Iraq as a result of the U.S.'s bombs and embargo.

Is there any reason to believe that they are going to act any differently to us? They are already throwing poor people out of their homes, they are cutting off water, electricity, heat and food stamps. Look at the dangerous conditions they force workers to work in
(Continued on the back page)



GIs against the war face death, torture

In the last issue of Truth, we reported on the case of Erik Larsen. Erik Larsen is a Marine who spoke out against the U.S.'s war on Iraq. Now he is in military prison, he is being charged with "desertion in time of war," and he is facing the death penalty. In this issue, we are reprinting a letter from parents of another Marine who also opposed the war and was placed in prison and tortured.

Now more than ever, we urge readers to defend Erik Larsen and other anti-war GIs! Demand that the government drop the charges! Free Erik Larsen now! Send statements of support and contributions to: Jones/Larsen Defense Fund, 4228 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609. We are also planning a meeting in solidarity with Larsen and to raise funds for Larsen on June 29. For further information, call: 584-6556.

"We are writing this letter out of grave concern for all of the Conscientious Objectors at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Marine Base. We are concerned about their basic freedoms as Americans and their right to humane treatment and dignity. We are not expecting preferential treatment. However, we are seeking FAIR and EQUITABLE RIGHTS of the DUE PROCESS OF THE LAW.

"Our son, James E. Summers, Jr., and our 'adopted' son, Dometrio Perez, surrendered themselves voluntarily to their Marine Reserve Unit on December 26, 1990. They were claiming their right to file for Conscientious Objector status. Since that time, they have been subjected to incessant harassment, degradation and humiliation.

"The C.O. hearings have been scheduled three times and all have been postponed at the last minute. This is a tremendous emotional and financial burden to the families involved. They travel great distances from all over the U.S. and then have to leave with nothing accomplished. This seems to be a part of the general harassment.

"As far as we know, NOT ONE C.O. application has been approved by the Marine Corps as yet. However, other branches of the service have expeditiously discharged their C.O.'s. Thus far, the Marines have proven to be unduly harsh and cruel in comparison.

"The most blatant and severe example of this mistreatment took place on March 8, 1991. Our son, L/CPL J.E. Summers, was illegally and violently placed in the Marine Corps brig. He was not informed as to WHY or WHAT the charges were. He was not permitted to call his attorney or his family. He was forced to sign a paper stating

that he WAS given all his legal rights. He was then placed in ISOLATION, in a MAXIMUM SECURITY CELL. The cell had no windows. He was never allowed out except for five minutes per day to shower. He was placed in LEG-IRON SHACKLES and hand cuffed. Exercise was forbidden and punishable in the cell.

"He was instructed to sit at 'attention' in a chair from 5:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. When we saw him in the brig, his arms were chained down to his sides. They said he was a SECURITY THREAT because of a RUMOR that he MIGHT GO AWOL (Absent without Leave). Immediately his lawyers called for a special magistrate hearing. After six days and nights in solitary, he was determined to be UNNECESSARILY AND ILLEGALLY CONFINED.

"Please try to shed some light on this darkness. Why should these honorable young men have a FELONY charge? Because their consciences would not allow them to participate in WAR?

"J.E. Summers Sr.

B. Summers"

(From *The Militant*, June 14, 1991, page 15.)

Stop the blockade against Iraq!

The *Chaldean Detroit Times*, an Iraqi newspaper in the Detroit area, is demanding that the U.S. government and the United Nations stop their blockade against Iraq. We urge all working people to support this struggle.

This blockade is preventing all supplies from entering Iraq. The purpose of this blockade is to force the Iraqi people to give up even more of their oil than they have already given up, to force them to agree to give up even more profits from their oil in the future than they have already agreed to, and to force them to agree to a president who is even more subservient to the billionaire owners of U.S. banks and enterprizes than Saddam Hussein.

The billionaire owners are benefitting from this blockade, not the workers in the U.S. or Iraq. Indeed, thousands of Iraqi children, women, and men are dying and will die because of this blockade.

Send statements of support and contributions to: *Chaldean Detroit Times*, 17135 W. 10 Mile, Southfield, Michigan 48075. ■

Bush kills Iraqi children for oil and money.

large number of men and machines fairly quickly and easily, and that the U.S. has superior military technical knowledge and superior military technology. Thus the U.S. was able to send thousands of men and machines to the other side of the world, and to kill over 100,000 Iraqis and almost totally destroy their country, without losing a large number of its own men and machines.

However, it also showed that the people who rule the U.S. are a very violent class of people who are willing to do absolutely anything for money.

Bush tried to convince us that he aimed to "free Kuwait" and to free Iraq and the rest of the world from Saddam Hussein. But today Kuwait is in the hands of the U.S. army and the billionaire, dictatorial, violent, semi-feudal Kuwaiti royal family. When the poor Shiites and Kurds rose up against Saddam Hussein, Bush refused them aid.

The truth is: the owners of the big banks and enterprizes in the U.S. and their servants (Bush, the military, etc.) killed over 100,000 Iraqis and almost totally destroyed their country so that *they* could take possession of the oil fields in Kuwait, Southern Iraq (where the Shiites are) and Northern Iraq (where the Kurds are). So that they could use the oil fields to enrich themselves at the expense of the masses of people. And the

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Workers Party . . .

(Continued from front page)

every day and the deaths, injuries, and illnesses that result. What is to stop them from dropping bombs on us in Detroit if we rise up against the owners of the banks and enterprises that are enriching themselves at our expense?

But there is an alternative.

Working men and women of all races and nationalities can join together and build a workers party. This workers party can build a workers government based on an independent, mass mobilization. A government of working people made up of workers representatives elected by workers in their workplaces and totally controlled by workers in their workplaces. Workers will have the right and the means to immediately recall any representative who does not do exactly as the workers say, and the workers' representatives will not be paid any more than the average worker or skilled tradesman. This workers government will take the banks, basic industries, and *weapons* away from the rich parasites that are using them to enrich themselves at the expense of the people. The workers government will use them to develop the planned economy so that it meets the needs of the people.

As revolutionaries and as socialists, we obviously think that the workers party should be a revolutionary and socialist party. We think a revolution is necessary. We think it is necessary and possible to build a truly socialist society in which there is no poverty, oppression, or dictatorial bureaucrats of any kind. In fact, we think such a society is *inevitable*.

But what is most important to us is that working men and women of all races and nationalities have *their own workers party* so that they have an opportunity to think about, talk about, and decide these questions themselves.

Today, workers in the United States do not have their own political party. The only parties are the Republicans and Democrats which are totally owned and controlled by the rich. These parties and their supporters on the TV, the radio, in the newspapers, the trade unions, and the churches, constantly bombard workers with propaganda aimed at destroying their ability to think and act in their own interests.

When workers have their own party and their own propaganda, this is going to change.

Today, the only organization open to all working people who are in favor of unions and a workers party, is "Labor Party Advocates." It already has about 1,000 members and some union locals have already joined it. Labor Party Advocates is not perfect. Even its name is a little awkward. But it is the only such organization that exists today. There is no way to make any progress in building a big workers party today, without doing everything possible to build this organization.

We are looking for young people, working women, working men, of all races and nationalities, who would like to join and build a big workers party.

This is the road to liberation from all forms of exploitation and oppression. If you'd like to do this, contact us today. ■

Workers must defend affirmative action quotas

The rich bankers and owners of industry want to overturn affirmative action quotas that were won during the last 25 years. This is what is most important in the deal that Bush and the Democrats have reached in their two versions of a civil rights bill now being debated.

All workers should defend affirmative action quotas.

Affirmative action quotas mean specific numbers of Black, women or minority workers must be hired by some capitalist to overcome past practices of discrimination.

Why should white male workers — most Black and women workers support affirmative action quotas — support affirmative action quotas?

It's simple. Affirmative action quotas have united, and therefore strengthened, the working class.

The working class is now more homogenous, more similar, more alike in the conditions under which it lives and works, in part, due to affirmative action quotas.

In the past, Blacks and women were excluded from workplaces and from certain jobs. This allowed the rich to reinforce the divisions, left over from ancient times, that separate white male workers from Blacks and women.

White male workers, the majority of the working class, have had a great deal of difficulty in overcoming racism and sexism. The wages paid to women and Blacks were a constant downward pressure on wages. Blacks were used as strikebreakers because they were excluded from good-paying jobs. Working class women and mothers were used to weaken strikes because the rich played on their ignorance of the working class and its struggle against the rich.

Because of the early union movement, and later, the movement of working class Blacks and women, there are sections of white, male workers that work everyday, side by side, with Black and women workers. They are disciplined, united by the conditions of their work, by their relation to the rich owners.

By working together, by struggling together, it has created a section of white male workers who are less racist, less sexist. It has created white workers who have defended the struggle for Black rights. It has created male workers who

understand the oppression of women and children in the home and society. It has created Black workers who cannot be used as strikebreakers; it has created women workers who cannot be used against their working class husbands because they understand the conditions of the working class in the workplaces and the factories.

The capitalists have been forced to create a more homogenous working class, better prepared to defend the rights of Blacks and women, better prepared to defend its class interests.

But the capitalist system has reached its limits. It is going backward. This is the reason for the attacks on affirmative action quotas. All workers can either go forward or backwards to the old divisions. Old divisions that will be a thousand times more difficult and more oppressive because of the decay of the American economic machine in the hands of the rich. The future of all workers, including the white male workers, is completely bound up with the future of the working class, of its unity.

The working class has reached the limits of what it can do in the present political framework.

The workers need a workers party. The workers cannot rely on the Democrats, (or, for that matter, on the Republicans) to defend affirmative action quotas, in this concrete way, the unity of the working class. The feature in common in both the Democratic and Republican bills is their denunciation of quotas. To denounce quotas is to try to dismember the working class, to divide it and weaken it.

The workers need a workers party to defend affirmative action quotas, to unite the workers on the political plane. A workers party to fight for a workers government to take the social wealth away from the rich and run this economic machine for the workers.

Labor Party Advocates, a new organization founded by the secretary-treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, is open to all who are for unions and for a labor party. It is making a special effort to recruit Black and women workers. Only in such movements is it possible to defend affirmative action quotas and to make progress toward a workers party and a workers government. Contact a Truth distributor for more information. — Jack Marlowe ■

Briefly . . .

Socialist Action, a Trotskyist group affiliated with the United Secretariat, one of the tendencies of the Fourth International farthest from its original principles and struggle, is running a candidate for mayor of San Francisco, Joni Jacobs. We cannot agree with *Socialist Action's* continued insistence that the United Secretariat is the Fourth International, nor with its continued adherence to this tendency. However, we urge workers and working class militants, especially Trotskyists, to support their candidate against the bourgeois candidates in the San Francisco elections. For further information: *Socialist Action*, 3435 Army St., No. 308, San Francisco, CA 94110, 415-821-0458.

Alan Benjamin, Ralph Schoenman, and others, formerly members of *Socialist Action*, have initiated a new organization, *Socialist Organizer*, and a new publication, *The Organizer*, which calls "For a Labor Party, For a Workers' International," and which is in political solidarity with "The Liaison Committee for a Workers

International." They are, among other things, asking their readers to support their efforts to free Munir Mansour and other Palestinians imprisoned by the Zionist state. Statements of support and contributions can be sent to: Munir Mansour Defense Campaign, Box 90609, Santa Barbara, CA 93190, 805-962-4011.

Spark, a Trotskyist group, is holding a forum on the free trade pact, Sunday, June 23, 5 p.m., Pullman Hall, Cass and Forest, in Detroit. Tickets are \$2.00 in advance, \$2.50 at the door. For further information speak to a *Spark* or *Truth* distributor or call 584-6556.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sold 33 copies of *Truth* at Wayne County Community College, in a working class neighborhood, and at the Ford plant. We have also been circulating petitions against Engler and passing out leaflets against Engler. One worker at the Ford plant asked us to publish another leaflet against Engler, explaining why workers should oppose Engler and that we want to replace Engler with a working class candidate, not another Republican or Democrat. ■

TRUTH

A bulletin published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. The Trotskyist Com-

mittee of Detroit is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

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