

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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Jobs for the homeless! No to police attacks and charity! Workers candidates for office in 1992!

Last week, homeless people moved into empty units in the Jeffries Housing Project near downtown Detroit, and began to clean them, repair them, and appeal for materials that they needed.

Unfortunately, instead of supporting this initiative on the part of these homeless people, Mayor Coleman Young called the police and had them thrown out, on the grounds that the City of Detroit legally owns this housing.

Now all sorts of charitable groups and individuals are coming forward and offering homeless people temporary shelter, food, clothes, etc. But if they hadn't been thrown out of these empty housing units, they wouldn't need charity!

We urge all young people, working women, and working men, to support homeless people and their independent struggles for decent jobs and homes, against people like Bush, Engler, Young, against police attacks, and against charity.

Homeless people, people on welfare, unemployed workers, want and need decent jobs and homes. They don't want and don't need police attacks or charity.

We also urge working people to begin to gather together and to select their own, independent working class candidates to fight for this, and for other working class and popular causes in the 1992 elections.

Working class people need to become politicians. As long as we leave politics and political power in the hands of the privileged class, we are going to suffer.

On the other side:

- Workers control of banks and industry
- For the right of Black people to choose their own representatives
- What Truth is fighting for

The autoworker's syndrome

We are printing a contribution from an autoworker. We welcome contributions from autoworkers and all readers. The more young people and working people speak and write the truth, the better things will be. — Truth

One of the most depended on industries for economic stability, and the family way of life in America is the automobile industry. The auto industry has provided jobs for thousands of American and immigrant citizens for many years. There have been rises and falls in the industry, but for the most part it has been the economic ladder for the uneducated employee. Where else can a person with no education get medical and dental coverage along with a life insurance and a pension plan? Where else can a person with a bachelor's degree get a job making as much money as the autoworker? Until recently autoworkers have been con-

fortable and have felt security in their employment. Now there is a cloud of fear that hangs above the heads of those who depend solely on the industry for their source of income. The auto industry is closing down plants all across the nation especially in the Michigan area.

Thousands of Americans have given their lives to building cars, not knowing what the outcome would be; twenty years of loyal work and one morning there is no job to go to; the extension at the unemployment office runs out; they are too young to draw on a pension; the rent is due and there is no food in the house.

The auto industry has its claws sunk deeply into the lives of its victims, and for many there is no way out. "The hope that their wages will buy a better life and a more secure future keeps

them on the line despite the monotony and sweat" (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1988).

The life of most of the autoworkers is a living hell. Most of them would rather do something else, but they are caught in the web of the industry. The effect that factory work has on them causes many marriages to be shattered. The autoworker must be retrained, because his job is being phased out. — H.M.

Note: Truth is for retraining programs for autoworkers and all working people. In some countries, workers have access to virtually free public higher education at all levels, including Ph.D. programs, law schools, and even medical schools. We also think that autoworkers can use the knowledge and skills that they have acquired to begin to fight for workers control over the auto industry..—Truth

Workers control of banks and industry

Why aren't there more jobs? Why aren't working conditions and living conditions getting better? For years even the poorest people in the U.S. usually had roofs over their heads and some food on the table. Now we have homeless people freezing and starving in the streets.

The basic reason is that those who own the wealth, those who own the banks and basic industries, don't want to use their wealth to hire workers, buy machinery, buy raw materials, and produce things that people need.

They use their wealth, invest their wealth, their capital, wherever they can make the most amount of profit, regardless of what it means for the people.

If they can make a profit by hiring us, by using us to produce products that they then take from us, sell and realize a profit, that's fine. If they can do better somewhere else, they go somewhere else. If they can't make enough profit anywhere, they just sit on their wealth until they think they can make enough profit, and the whole economy comes to a standstill. So what if people freeze, starve, die of disease, etc.

What can workers do about this?

Workers can fight for *workers control of the banks and basic industries*.

Workers in banks and basic industries can fight for control over investments, over the production and distribution of basic necessities. Workers can begin by monitoring the owners' activity, finding out what they are and are not doing. They can proceed to use their power and influence to actually begin to exercise control over decisions.

Workers control of the banks and basic industries does not mean taking the owners' profits or the owners' property. It just means exercising a little control over the owners. So *workers control* can be a step toward socialism, but it is not socialism. With socialism, the working class, which produces everything, owns everything, and everyone has what he or she needs.

The biggest obstacle to the fight for *workers control* today is the *thinking* of many working people.

Many working people have not yet totally broken with the idea that someone who owns an enterprise should have a right to do whatever he wants with that enterprise, regardless of the consequences for the masses of people. This notion dates back to the days when the U.S. was a nation of small business owners. Today this notion is obsolete. A tiny, minuscule class of fabulously wealthy people own all the bank monopolies, industrial monopolies, transportation monopolies, and agricultural monopolies. Why should a tiny class of people have total control over enterprises that are the products of the labor of millions of people over dozens of years. Today the number of small business owners in the U.S. is much smaller. They are crushed by the monopolists. Workers control over monopoly enterprises is necessary not just for workers,

but also for small business owners, to give them a chance.

Workers can and should select their own independent working class candidates to fight for *workers control of banks and industries* in the 1992 elections. Republicans and Democrats defend the rights of owners to do whatever they want, regardless of the consequences to the people. They put for-

ward "solutions" to the economic crisis that are nothing but tinkering; they don't touch the real problem, the dictatorship of a tiny class of billionaires.

Workers can also form committees in workplaces to fight for workers control of the banks and basic industries. —

M. Guttshall ■

For the right of Black people to choose their own representatives!

The Bush-U.S. Senate selection of Clarence Thomas for the U.S. Supreme Court shows that as long as rich white men are the ones who decide which Black people will be in public positions, they are going to choose Black people most like themselves. Black people who are against affirmative action programs for Black people and women; Black people who think that the U.S. government should have the right to force a woman to carry, bear and raise a child, whether she feels prepared to or not. And these rich whites are going to try to use the Black people they choose against other Blacks and women.

This is not only true when it comes to selecting a Black person for the Supreme Court. Any Black person who wants to get into mainstream politics has to be approved by the Republican or the Democratic Party, both totally owned and controlled by rich, racist, anti-worker whites. The Republican Party is obviously racist and anti-worker. David Duke, the renovated Ku Klux Klan man and Republican candidate for Louisiana governor, is a reminder. The Democratic Party is the party of the slaveholders, of those who waged civil war to retain slavery; the Republicans could not have done anything that they have done without Democratic Party votes in local, state and national legislatures.

Black people who are not acceptable to these forces are rejected and excluded from mainstream politics. When Malcolm X was alive, he was an outcast. The only whites who defended him in any way were the socialists, the Trotskyists.

Black people must have the right to choose their own representatives, if they choose to do so, without any interference from rich whites and their parties. There must be proportional representation of Black people in all areas of public life.

This is not only important for Black people, it is important for working people of all races and nationalities. It is impossible to unify working women and working men of all races and nationalities against their common enemy, the privileged class, if the Black people do not have rights equal to those of whites. Whites can obviously choose their own representatives at least to a certain extent. There are even enough white workers in the U.S. for white workers to band together and select their own representatives, although this will be more difficult because they lack the material resour-

ces that the rich have. But the Black people are in a minority. Their choices are censored and even vetoed by the same forces that have profited from their exploitation and oppression over the last 200 years. This isolates and divides Black working people, from working people of other races and nationalities.

Workers of all races and nationalities can help overcome this problem by fighting for the right of Black people to choose their own representatives. —J.M. ■

Briefly . . .

Labor Party Advocates set up a table at the New Directions Conference and recruited three new members. The next LPA meeting is Tuesday, November 12, 7 p.m., at UAW Local 600 Hall, Dix and Wyoming.

Spark showed a film on the famous autoworkers' sit-down strike in Flint in 1937; a Spark member also gave a talk calling for workers to fight the bosses with militant tactics like the sit-down strike and the women's armed brigade. Truth is for this; we also think workers need to fight for workers control and prepare to run industry in the interests of the people. To do this, they need experience running and campaigning for their own political candidates against the bosses candidates. Spark is holding a forum on "The Supreme Court defends the system," Sunday, November 24, 5 p.m., Pullman Hall, Cass and Forest.

Truth sold 26 copies of *Truth* No. 270 at Wayne County Community College, the Ford Rouge plant, and a neighborhood, and 6 copies of our latest pamphlet on socialism.

What is Truth fighting for?

1. Unity against the privileged classes.
2. Workers candidates and a workers party.
3. Socialism: a society where the working class, which produces everything, owns everything that it produces, and where everyone has what she or he needs.
4. A revolutionary Marxist party to lead this fight. Revolutionary workers are the ones who have struggled most consistently for these goals. They need to be armed with the most advanced revolutionary theory and experience of the working class in order to be successful. This has been summed up by Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky, and their followers, known today as Trotskyists and organized in the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. Revolutionary workers need to be organized in their own party. ■

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(Send with check or money order payable to M. Guttshall, to Truth, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283.)

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