

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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## The Caterpillar strike is every workers' strike! Join the strike support caravan!

The United Auto Workers union (UAW) is organizing strike support caravans that will bring moral, financial, and material support to striking Caterpillar workers in Peoria, Illinois, on Sunday, March 22. Striking Caterpillar workers and their supporters will come together and rally at that time.

We urge all young and working people in the Detroit area to join this struggle and do everything possible to make it as large and as successful as possible. Join a caravan! Contribute money and food to help support the Caterpillar strikers!

The Caterpillar workers' strike is every workers' strike.

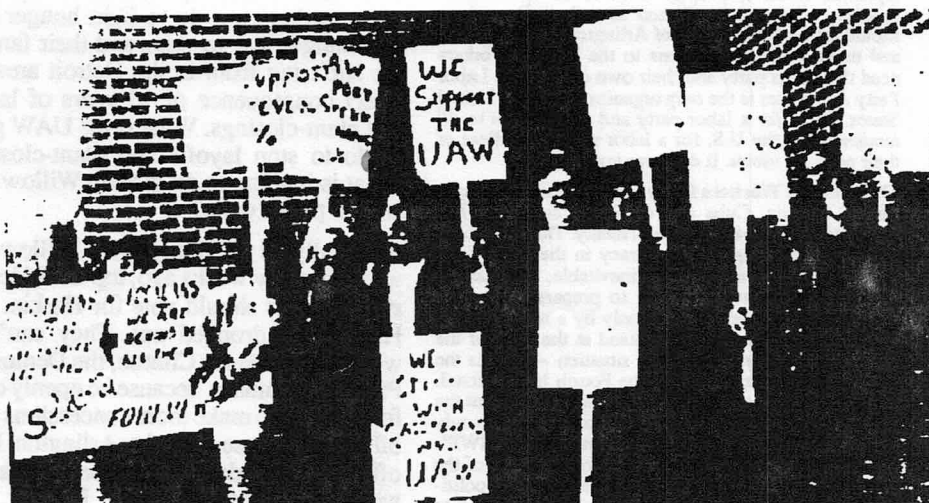
Caterpillar workers are fighting for the owners of the Caterpillar enterprise, which makes earth-moving equipment, to sign a contract like the contract that the owners of Deere and Co. signed, which includes certain restrictions against layoffs, provisions for equal pay for equal work, and a 3% wage increase.

The owners and executives of Caterpillar, on the other hand, who make over \$500,000 a year, want Caterpillar workers to *make concessions*, and sign a contract that allows Caterpillar owners more freedom in laying off workers, includes a two-tiered wage structure, and *no* wage increases for 3,700 Caterpillar workers.

Like the owners of GM, Ford, Chrysler, and all the other giant monopolies, they claim they have to get "lean and mean" to compete with owners of other enterprises based in other countries. Want to get "lean and mean"? Cut owners' and executives' salaries, not workers' jobs and wages!

If the workers' strike against the Caterpillar owners grows stronger, and forces the Caterpillar owners to make concessions, it will strengthen the fight for a national strike to stop all layoffs and plant closings now, beginning with Willow Run. It will be a victory for all young and working people. If it doesn't, it will be much more difficult to reach these goals.

This is why we say: the Caterpillar workers' strike is every workers' strike! Their victory will be our victory, their defeat, our defeat ... Join and support the strike support caravans! ■



### UAW Region 1A Strike Support Caravan Meet Saturday, March 21, 8 a.m.

Region 1A, 9650 S. Telegraph, 2 miles south of I-94  
Leave 9 a.m.

### Rally

Sunday, March 22, 2 p.m.

Peoria, Illinois Civic Center

If you would like to go, contribute money, or food, contact  
Truth, 313-584-6556, or UAW Region 1A, 291-2750.

## More reasons for strike support . . .

Some tendencies say that workers in the Detroit area should not support the strike support caravans and the rally in Peoria because they are being promoted, at least to a certain extent, by the top leadership of the UAW. This is a sell-out leadership; it's not really interested in a Caterpillar workers' victory; if it were, it would organize a national strike; it hasn't done anything to stop layoffs and plant-closings in the Detroit area over the last ten years; it's not doing anything to stop GM from closing Willow Run and other plants; it's wasting union time and money on Democratic Party candidates who aren't even against layoffs, plant-closings, and concessions (Harkin, Jerry Brown, Clinton, etc.); it tries to suppress opposition within the UAW; it works with the bosses against the workers; it enriches itself at the expense of the workers; a new leadership is necessary ...

All these things are true. We would be the last to deny it. More, we support the struggle

for one person, one vote, in the UAW, and the Jerry Tucker/New Directions campaign for president of the UAW, against the top leadership of the UAW.

But how are you going to build a new, more working class leadership of the UAW? The only way to do this is to fight for a more working class program for the UAW, for mobilizing *millions* of workers against the bosses, and select and train a new leadership, on the basis of, and in the course of, this struggle.

And right now this means doing everything possible for the Caterpillar strikers. Caravans, rallies, money, food, will strengthen Caterpillar strikers. They are an opportunity for workers from other industries and areas to express their solidarity with their fellow workers against all bosses. They are an opportunity to develop and strengthen ties, and fight for a national strike. We urge all workers to take this opportunity. ■

## Briefly . . .

The **National Organization of Women** is organizing a demonstration for the right of women to abortion on April 5, in Washington, D.C. We urge all young people and working people to support this demonstration. The hypocritical old men who make up the U.S. government should not have the right to legislate morality. They think it's moral for the U.S. government to force a woman to have a child, whether she's prepared to or not, but it's immoral for the U.S. government to force employers to give her time off from work to give birth. Bush vetoed legislation forcing enterprizes to grant women pregnancy and childcare leave! They think it's moral for George Bush to murder over 100,000 Iraqis so that the U.S. can control the world's oil supplies, but it's immoral for a woman to terminate the life of something no bigger than a fingernail in her own body. Men like this should not have the right to legislate morality. This is a personal question that every woman must have the right to decide for herself. For transportation, call NOW: 273-7400.

**Labor Party Advocates** is organizing a forum with Tony Mazzocchi, founder of LPA, and Howard Pawley, leader of the New Democratic Party in Canada, on Thursday, April 23, at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn. This is an opportunity to learn more about LPA and join LPA. As of this moment, there will not be a single major candidate on the November ballot who even claims to represent working people. Bush is an open representative of the rich. Clinton says that all workers should follow the example of Arlington UAW officials and make more concessions to the bosses. Workers need their own party and their own candidates. Labor Party Advocates is the *only* organization in the United States that is for a labor party and that is open to *all tendencies* in the U.S. for a labor party regardless of their political views. It deserves your support.

The **Socialist Workers Party** recently attended a book fair in Havana, Cuba and displayed copies of *The Revolution Betrayed* by Leon Trotsky. This book condemns the privileged bureaucracy in the old USSR, says that a new revolution is inevitable, and that the Fourth International's task is to prepare it. "... the bureaucracy can be removed only by a revolutionary force ... To prepare this and stand at the head of the masses in a favorable historic situation — that is the task of the Soviet section of the Fourth International. Today it is still weak and driven underground. But the illegal existence of a party is not nonexistence. It is only a difficult form of existence." We support the SWP's efforts to distribute this book in Cuba. The fate of the Cuban revolution depends on the fate of the new political revolution in the old USSR. But it's not enough to distribute books; it's necessary to build the Fourth International. The SWP disassociates itself from the Fourth International and denounces the Fourth International. In so doing, it contributes not to saving the conquests of the workers socialist revolution in Cuba, or the old USSR, but to burying them.

**Spark** held its annual dinner in Detroit on March 1. There were many workers present, speeches against GM's layoffs and plant-closings, speeches in favor of militant struggles against the layoffs and plant-closings and in favor of a workers party, and skits making fun of Bush, Quayle and Democratic Party presidential candidates. Spark is holding a forum on the 1932 march against hunger on Sunday, March 29, at 5 p.m., at Pullman Hall at Cass and Forest.

The **Democracy in South Africa Tour Committee**, which includes supporters of Socialist Action, a tendency associated with the Fourth International, held a forum on the situation in South Africa, with Mercia Andrews, a leader of the Workers Organization for Socialist Action in South Africa, in Cleveland, Ohio, on March 15. Mercia Andrews spoke against apartheid, against the process of negotiations between DeKlerk and the ANC in South Africa, for one person, one vote, and a constituent assembly. For further information on the tour, call: 415-821-0459.

**Truth** sold 36 copies of *Truth*, 8 copies of *The Fourth International*, and 8 copies of *Socialism and Hunger* at a meat-packing plant, an auto plant, the UAW march against hunger, the Spark dinner, and the Democracy in South Africa forum in Cleveland. We distributed nearly 1000 leaflets to build support for the UAW march and a national strike to stop all layoffs and plant-closings now, participated in the Labor Party Advocates contingent, and organized other to do the same. ■

*Truth* is 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. Editor: Margaret Guttschall

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## More on Hunger and Socialism ...

UAW Local 600 organized a march to commemorate the 1932 march against hunger, on Saturday, March 14. About 2,000 people attended, including some people who had participated in the 1932 march, a large number of Willow Run workers, and members of Labor Party Advocates, who brought a banner, hats, t-shirts, and buttons. There were working class and socialist militants who distributed their publications, including *The Militant*, *Spark*, *Truth* and others. Marchers marched from a bridge, where the 1932 march began, to UAW Local 600 hall, heard speeches, and put up plaques to honor the five workers who were murdered by Ford police, including one African-American worker, who had not even been buried with the rest, because of racist policies.

Unfortunately, the top leadership of the UAW had absolutely nothing to say about what workers can do to fight hunger now. The hunger that workers and their families are suffering from in the Detroit area is a direct consequence of 10 years of layoffs and plant-closings. What is the UAW going to do to stop layoffs and plant-closings? What is it going to do to keep Willow Run, and all plants open?

At a rally in solidarity with Willow Run workers a few weeks ago, top UAW leaders said workers should vote for Harkin. Now Harkin has dropped out. They can't ask workers to vote for Clinton, the Democratic Party front-runner, because he openly called for workers to make more concessions to the billionaire bosses, as the Arlington UAW officials have done. Now they are asking workers to vote for Jerry Brown! Jerry Brown isn't a union person. He's for a flat tax, for everyone to pay the same tax rate, whether rich or poor.

What a pitiful spectacle! The top leadership of the UAW running from one candidate to another. Jerry Brown with poorly-dyed hair and a foot of make-up on his face. (This is what he looked like at Saturday's rally; he obviously came dressed for the TV cameras, not for the workers' rally.)

There's a lesson here.

Workers have to fight for their jobs, wages, and working conditions themselves. They can't rely on anyone else.

This is why we are fighting for a national strike to stop all layoffs and plant-closings now, for a workers party, workers candidates, a workers government, workers control of the economy, and, above all, socialism.

What is socialism?

Socialism is a society in which the workers, who produce all the wealth, own and control all the wealth. They use it to produce what everyone needs, so that everyone has what he or she needs.

How does socialism come about?

Capitalist society itself leads to socialism. Capitalists, in an effort to enrich themselves, develop and introduce new technology that increases the productivity of labor. They develop larger and larger enterprizes. They bring together more and more workers.

Workers learn to work together to produce what people need. They struggle to improve their own working and living conditions against the bosses. They form unions and political parties to wage this struggle. At a certain point, it becomes clearer and clearer that the working class is the essential class, that the capitalist class is no longer needed, that it has become a total obstacle to improving the working and living conditions of the people, that its continued existence threatens massive sectors of the working class. A working class and socialist revolution develops. Millions of working people rise up. They build their own forms of government. They take over the centers of power. They destroy the capitalists' power. They take over the banks, basic industries, transportation, agriculture. They begin to build a socialist society.

What can be done to advance the fight for socialism in the U.S. today?

**1. Support the struggles of all workers and oppressed peoples against the billionaire bosses and their puppets.** Meetings, demonstrations, strikes, plant occupations, election campaigns. For the workers, the Black people, the women, the immigrant workers. The Black South Africans, the Cubans, the Iraqis, the Palestinians ...

**2. Build a revolutionary socialist party in the U.S.** In order to do this, it is necessary to unite the forces of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, in the U.S., to fight for the Fourth International's program. There are several tendencies associated with the Fourth International in the U.S.: Truth, Socialist Action, the Fourth Internationalist Tendency, the Internationalist Socialist League, Socialist Organizer, the Revolutionary Socialist Group of Milwaukee, and others. Unfortunately, the largest of these, Socialist Action, exaggerates its disagreements with other Fourth Internationalists, and minimizes its disagreements with forces that have never been part of the Fourth International (the National Organization of Women), or that have broken with the Fourth International (the Socialist Workers Party). This trend is going to become more and more untenable. Fourth Internationalists will be forced to unify and fight for their program, or break with the Fourth International altogether.

**3. Support the struggle for the political revolution in the old USSR and for building the Fourth International in this land.** Workers in the old USSR made a big step toward socialism by overthrowing the old power, establishing a workers state, and taking the capitalists' property. But they haven't been able to make much progress in a long time because they've been isolated and because of the privileged bureaucracy in this country. Now they are rising up against this privileged bureaucracy. This is good. If the workers succeed in overthrowing this bureaucracy, concentrating all power in their own hands, and getting direct control of the nationalized economy, it will be a big victory, and socialism will spread. If they don't, if the bureaucracy remains in power, and capitalism is restored, it will take much longer. The Fourth International is the *only* party that has fought consistently for the political revolution. That's why revolutionaries everywhere need to devote a certain portion of their resources to unifying the forces of the Fourth International to fight for its program throughout the world, and especially in the old USSR. Without this, workers in the old USSR won't succeed; workers everywhere will be set back. — M. Guttschall ■

# Stop all GM plant closings now!

## Rally against GM, sponsored by the UAW

Friday, February 28, 5 p.m. • Willow Run High School • 235 Spencer Lane, Ypsilanti

(I-94 West to Huron St. Exit; Huron St. north to Michigan Avenue; Michigan Avenue east to Spencer Lane; Spencer Lane north to Willow Run High School)

*One rally by itself will not stop all GM plant closings now. But it is a step in the right direction. Every working woman and working man should be there, and make his or her voice heard.*

Working people need to fight for:

— A nation-wide strike to force GM to keep all plants open! Divide all work that is available among all workers, without cutting pay. Cut payments to the bankers, and executive salaries, not workers' jobs, wages, benefits, and work rules!

— An independent labor candidate for president! Independent labor candidates for all offices. A labor party, a

labor government, workers control of GM and other giant monopolies. Nationalize GM; make it a public utility, run by workers, in the interests of the people. (If GM owners and managers can no longer run GM so that it serves the interests of the people, then they have lost their right to do so!)

— Unions and union leaderships totally owned and controlled by workers themselves! Down with the

dictatorship of Bieber and the full-time, paid, appointees in the UAW! For the right of the workers to elect top union officials!

This struggle as a whole can be a step toward a *revolutionary* transformation of this society in the interests of the majority: working women and working men of all races and nationalities!

Support this struggle! Contact Truth!

**Truth, A Revolutionary Socialist Trotskyist Bulletin in Detroit  
Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 - 313-584-6556**

## Unite for a national strike to stop all layoffs and plantclosings now!

UAW Local 600 is organizing a march against hunger on Saturday, March 14, at 11 a.m., beginning at the UAW Local 600 Hall at Dix and Wyoming.

We urge all young people and working people of all races and nationalities to support this march against the rich owners of the banks and corporations who live in luxury while the people work and suffer. Join the march! Bring your own signs and banners!

But it is going to take a lot more than a march to stop hunger. We need a nation-wide strike to force the owners of the banks and corporations to stop all layoffs and plantclosings now! Let them cut interest payments to the bankers and executive salaries, not workers jobs! Divide all the work that is available among all workers, without cutting pay!

If the UAW doesn't make a serious fight

against the layoffs and plantclosings in the Detroit and Michigan area soon, there isn't going to be anybody left to fight. Workers in the Detroit area have already experienced over 10 years of layoffs and plantclosings. What will the area look like with another 10 years of the same?

Many workers say that a national strike to stop all layoffs and plantclosings now is a good idea, but it's not going to happen any time soon. The people won't get together. The current leadership of the UAW and other unions is bought-off.

But a common fight for a national strike on the part of all workers for a national strike can begin to overcome these problems. It can begin to overcome the scepticism and divisions among the people. It can begin to forge a new leadership, and save elements worth saving in the old.

There are all sorts of ways to begin to fight for a national strike to stop all layoffs and plantclosings now: propaganda, petitions, committees, meetings, demonstrations; electing union representatives for a national strike; cutting all union funds to all Republicans and Democrats who all support, actively or passively, Arlington-style concessions; independent labor candidates for office; a labor party ...

The fundamental question is: do we need a national strike to stop all layoffs and plantclosings now? What can each and every worker do to help this cause?

Support this struggle! Subscribe to Truth! Contact a Truth distributor today!

Call: 313-584-6556 Write: Truth, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283

**Truth: A revolutionary socialist Trotskyist bulletin in Detroit**

*(Truth is fighting for overthrowing the power of the privileged in the U.S. and the old USSR; for direct workers control of planned economies; for truly socialist societies, where working people own everything and everyone has what he or she needs.)*