

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

No. 280 • 15¢ • April 11, 1992 • Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 • 313-584-6556

# Get tough with Caterpillar bosses, and all bosses!

Caterpillar bosses say that they are going to hire scabs if Caterpillar workers don't go back to work and work for whatever Caterpillar bosses are willing to pay them.

Kroger bosses are saying the same thing to Kroger workers. Private gunmen are suddenly putting ads in Detroit want ads, asking for "strike security personnel." They are obviously looking for, and ready to pay, professional strikebreakers.

Coleman Young says that Detroit city workers must take pay cuts, or he is going to lay-off thousands. "If the city's 16,000 union employees reject the offer, Young warned, he'll make sure they regret it ..." (*Detroit Free Press*, April 10, page 1).

Some may say that Young has no alternative. This is not true. If he were really concerned about the Black people, and the white working people in the Detroit area, he could use his position to mobilize the people to force the privileged classes to come up with the funds necessary to finance services. Instead he uses his position to try to force working people, Black and white, to pull in their belts, while rich white corporate executives and politicians get fatter and fatter.

All these things show that it is high time for workers and their unions to get tough with the bosses.

We need a nationwide UAW strike, with mass-picketing aimed at stopping every single scab now!

If Kroger workers walk out, we should be prepared to support them with mass-picketing, a boycott of Kroger stores, and a city-wide strike, if necessary. The same goes for city workers.

The top union leaderships continue to drag their feet, fight with one hand tied behind their backs. Caterpillar workers have already been out for five months! Should we leave them out there another five months, all by themselves? If everyone in the UAW would go out for one day, Caterpillar bosses would suddenly see things a little differently.

Victory would not be guaranteed. But the workers would have a fighting chance.

This is why we say: Get tough with Caterpillar bosses and all bosses now! For a national UAW strike now!

There are lots of things that you can do to push things in this direction.

Ask your union representatives and your union locals to support Caterpillar workers, collect funds for them, send delegations to support them, organize meetings and demonstrations in solidarity with them, circulate petitions, adopt resolutions, calling for a national UAW strike now . . . ■

## If Kroger workers strike ...

As we are completing this issue of *Truth*, it is not yet clear whether Kroger workers are going to strike or not. If they do strike, we urge all working people in the Detroit area to support this strike. Don't shop at Krogers. Join striking Kroger workers on their picket lines. Help them stop scabs from taking their jobs. Write and distribute literature as widely as possible in solidarity with striking Kroger workers. ■



Caterpillar workers make picket signs for the strike. To win, they need a national strike of the UAW.

## Workers Candidates!



The Socialist Workers Party has announced that it is running candidates for president and vice president — James Warren and Estelle DeBates. We urge working people to support these candidates against the bosses and their candidates. James Warren and Estelle DeBates support the workers and their struggles more than any other candidates that have come forward. They are also for a



labor party. The SWP has not yet decided whether it will try to get its candidates on the ballot in Michigan. We urge them to do so, and will do everything we can to help. We urge other workers and socialists to do the same. For further information, contact the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers Party: 313-831-1177.

**LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES MEETING WITH TONY MAZZOCCHI**

**Thursday, April 23, 7 p.m. Hyatt Regency, Dearborn**

# Why should young people be socialists?

What does the present system, capitalism, have to offer young people today? Low wage jobs, expensive education; war; racism. We believe all of these (and more) are the result of a system organized for profit, not people; for the interests of the rich, not for the interests of the working and poor.

What do the elite who run things today want us to believe? They want us to believe the politicians will solve our problems; that we can't really change anything ourselves; that capitalism is the best system to live and grow under; that this is a democracy; that the American Dream is alive and well.

And of course, they want us to believe that communism and socialism are dead and buried.

As socialists, we don't believe all the hype. We don't believe any of the politicians will solve our problems — neither George Bush nor Bill Clinton, neither Republicans nor Democrats. We believe in ourselves. We believe in the power of the working class to run things for the interests of the workers of the world — not for the Fords and Rockefellers. And when we do get control of the big factories and office buildings, when we get control of the banks, when we have the tremendous 20th century technology for our use — then we will be living in the best system. Then we will have the opportunity to grow, to reach our potential as human beings.

At that point, when the workers of the world are in the driver's seat, we will have democracy. At that point the American Nightmare, as Malcolm X put it, will be transformed into a Global Dream. . . into the socialism we have only seen glimpses of thus far.

Impossible, you say? Idealistic? No, not at all. The technological and productive powers exist today to guarantee an abundance; it's only a question of who controls the productive power — the handful of rich, or the rest of us in the world. And the social force, the working class, exists to take that productive power from the rich and to put it into the hands of the world.

We think that such a world, a socialist world, is the only world worth fighting for. And we think the young people of the United States, and the young people of South Africa, South America, Southeast Asia . . . young people everywhere will play an absolutely vital role in winning that world.

And how will we young people win? We will be smart. We will know our enemy: the rich capitalists who live off our blood and sweat. We will know our enemy's tricks —

the way he plays us off against each other: white against Black, men against women. We will know our friends: the working class, the people who produce everything good in this world. We will organize our friends, our neighbors, our fellow-workers. Those of us who are most class-conscious will share our understanding of how the system works, the history of those who have fought before us, and the knowledge that WE — not the capitalists — are the future of the world. They are the dinosaurs; we will push them aside and build an entirely different world

organized not around making profit but around meeting human needs.

And what place will there be for war, poverty, racism and all the rest of this current ugliness in such a society?

We invite you, the young, the future of the world, to be one of the leaders who will lead humanity into such a society. We know of no better way to understand who you are, what the world is, and what WE ALL can be.

— Dave, a Truth reader ■

## The break up of the USSR . . .

*Many old socialists and communists are shedding tears over the break up of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the growth of various nationalist movements. They don't realize that the USSR was not founded on the working class, revolutionary, and socialist basis that the workers, and revolutionaries like Lenin and Trotsky, fought for. It was founded on the Great Russian chauvinist and nationalist basis that Stalin sought; thus, it was bound to come apart, sooner or later. Instead of shedding tears, revolutionaries should be in the front ranks of struggles for the right to self-determination, for the total destruction of the Stalinist bureaucracy, for a new workers revolution in which workers establish their own governments and direct, workers control of the planned economies. Here is part of what Trotsky had to say about the question of independence for the Ukraine:*

. . . Do the broad masses of the Ukrainian people wish to separate from the USSR? It might at first sight appear difficult to answer this question, inasmuch as the Ukrainian people, like all other people in the USSR, are deprived of any opportunity to express their will. But the very genesis of the totalitarian regime and its ever more brutal intensification, especially in the Ukraine, are proof that the real will of the Ukrainian masses is irreconcilably hostile to the Soviet bureaucracy. There is no lack of evidence that one of the primary sources of this hostility is the suppression of Ukrainian independence. The nationalist tendencies in the Ukraine erupted violently in 1917-19. The *Borotha* party expressed these tendencies in the left wing. The most important indication of the success of the Leninist policy in the Ukraine was the fusion of the Ukrainian Bolshevik Party with the organization of the *Borothists*.

In the course of the next decade, however, an actual break occurred with the *Borotha* group, whose leaders were subjected to persecution. The old Bolshevik, Skrypnik, a pure-blooded Stalinist, was driven to suicide in 1933 for his allegedly excessive patronage of nationalist tendencies. The actual "organizer" of this suicide was the Stalinist emissary, Postyshev, who thereupon remained in the Ukraine as the representative of the centralist policy. Presently, however, Postyshev himself fell into disgrace. These facts are profoundly symptomatic, for they reveal how much force there is behind the pressure of the nationalist opposition on the bureaucracy. Nowhere did the purges and repressions assume such a savage and mass character as they did in the Ukraine.

### Significant Attitudes of Ukrainians Abroad

Of enormous political importance is the sharp turn away from the Soviet Union of Ukrainian democratic elements outside the Soviet Union. When the Ukrainian problem became aggravated

early this year, communist voices were not heard at all; but the voices of the Ukrainian clericals and National-Socialists were loud enough. This means that the proletarian vanguard has let the Ukrainian national movement slip out of its hands and that this movement has progressed far on the road of separatism. Lastly, very indicative also are the moods among the Ukrainian emigres in the North American continent. In Canada, for instance, where the Ukrainians compose the bulk of the Communist Party, there began in 1933, as I am informed by a prominent participant in the movement, a marked exodus of Ukrainian workers and farmers from communism, falling either into passivity or nationalism of various hues. In their totality, these symptoms and facts incontestably testify to the growing strength of separatist tendencies among the Ukrainian masses.

This is the basic fact underlying the whole problem. It shows that despite the giant step forward taken by the October Revolution in the domain of national relations, the isolated proletarian revolution proved incapable of solving the national question, especially the Ukrainian question, which is, in its very essence, international in character. The Thermidorian reaction, crowned by the Bonapartist bureaucracy, has thrown the toiling masses far back in the national sphere as well. The great masses of the Ukrainian people are dissatisfied with their national fate and wish to change it drastically. It is this fact that the revolutionary politician must, in contrast to the bureaucrat and the sectarian, take as his point of departure. . . (Leon Trotsky, *Writings 1939-40*) ■

## Briefly . . .

Democratic Party presidential candidates Clinton and Brown both spoke to Caterpillar workers. They said they supported the workers and that Caterpillar shouldn't hire scabs. What opportunist liars! Clinton is the governor of Arkansas, an anti-union, right to work state. Brown has not had any ties to the labor movement until he put on a UAW jacket during the Michigan primaries. They just say this because they don't want the workers to take action themselves!

Kate Kaku, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois, and Mary Zins, were arrested during the Caterpillar workers' rally in Peoria, Illinois, on March 22, and charged with criminal trespassing. UAW officials and Peoria police told all the working class and socialist groups distributing literature at the rally to keep their distance, or they would be arrested. The Socialist Workers Party members, and everyone else, including Truth distributors, protested, but we had no alternative but to follow their orders, since we didn't have the forces to confront them. UAW officials should get tough with Caterpillar bosses, not with working class and socialist groups that support the workers! Drop the charges now!

Steve Argue, a member of Socialist Organizer, was arrested and beaten unconscious while he was attempting to distribute *The Organizer* at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, on March 5. This is another example of where the privileged classes in this society and their puppets are heading. They have nothing to offer the people; socialists speak the truth and offer an alternative, so they attack them. For further information, contact *The Organizer*, 415-285-3518.

Truth distributed 20 copies of the last issue of *Truth* at a meatpacking plant and an autoplant. We talked to a number of workers about defending women's right to abortion. We found no small number of workers who were against abortion, but they were convinced that a woman should have the right to decide this question herself, without interference from the government, or anyone else. The demonstration for the right to abortion in Washington, D.C. on April 5, was one of the largest in over 20 years. ■

*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: M. Guttschall

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