

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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## National strike: yes! Bush/Clinton: no!

*Truth* urges all young people and working people and their organizations to make a common fight for a *national strike against job cuts and wage cuts now*.

The latest strikes — Caterpillar workers, Kroger workers, Lordstown autoworkers, teachers — show that workers almost always gain something when they strike. They make what they want clear; they learn how to fight and fight better.

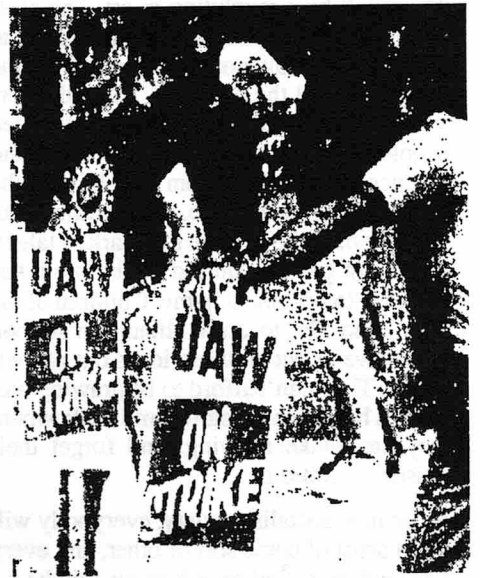
But it hasn't been enough to stop the rich owners of the giant banks and corporations and their plans to cut jobs and wages so that they can enrich themselves at the expense of the people, compete with the owners of the giant banks and corporations centered in Japan and Germany, and take advantage of cheap labor in other countries.

Workers need to unify all their struggles into a single struggle for a national strike against all job cuts and wage cuts now.

This is the road forward, not support to Bush or Clinton.

Workers also need to fight for the unions to put forward their own, independent labor candidates for office, candidates who will use their campaigns and their positions to build support for the workers, not the bosses.

On Labor Day, Bush, Clinton, Quayle and Gore all said they represent the interests of working people. But none of them said a word in solidarity with striking teachers. They are for passive workers, who know their place. They aren't for fighting workers who want a better life, and won't stop until they get it. ■



Lordstown UAW workers on strike.



Detroit teachers voting to strike.

**Tax the rich,  
not the poor!  
Labor candidates!**

Over →

# Socialism and education

*The recent teachers' strike in Detroit has brought attention again to the question of education. Below are a few words about what education might look like in a socialist America.*

The separation between manual and intellectual labor will be broken down. The division between specialized knowledge of single subjects and ignorance of the rest, which is a characteristic feature of capitalism, will be eliminated. The half-men produced by these artificial divisions, who know only one thing and can do only one thing, will give way to the whole men who can do many things and know something about everything.

There will be a revolution in art. The class society, which splits the population into separate and antagonistic groups of the privileged and the deprived, splits the personality of the artist, too. A few selected people have the opportunity to study and practice art, remote from the life of the people. At the same time, not thousands but millions of children have the spark of talent, or even of genius, snuffed out before it has a chance to become a flame. Children of the poor, who like to draw already in school, soon have to put all those ideas out of their minds. They can't afford to be drawing pictures. They have to learn some trade where they can make a living, and forget their artistic aspirations.

In the new socialist society, everybody will be an artist of some sort or other, and every artist will be a worker. Education will be for intellectual pursuits and manual occupations simultaneously, from childhood to old age. Marx was of the emphatic opinion that children should engage in productive labor from the age of nine, not at the expense of their "education," but as an essential part of it. From an early age, children will learn to use tools and to make something useful to the people. The child will have the satisfaction of learning by doing and the satisfaction of being useful and productive even when he is a child.

...

Every child who has a talent for music or drawing or sculpture or molding or writing — and there is no such thing as a child without some talent — can become an artist of one sort or another. One who has an instinct and feeling for words can become a writer. There will be poets who will glorify the great theme of human solidarity, and they will not be starved and ridiculed as they are in this ignorant society. The poets will be honored, perhaps above all, because they have more insight than others.

All-sided cultural development under socialism will not be some special gift or opportunity for favored individuals, but the heritage of all. The socialist man will have the most priceless of all possessions. He will have time. He will have leisure. He will have time and the means to live, to play, to grow, to travel, to realize to the full the expression of his human personality. And that will not be the exception, but the rule. There will be a whole race of people enjoying and expressing all things. — James Cannon, socialist and Trotskyist, 1953.

## The August uprising, the Communist Party, and the Trotskyists

Over a year has passed since workers and oppressed in Moscow rose up against the attempt of the military and the secret police to take over and reimpose a total dictatorship of the privileged bureaucracy over the people.

This popular uprising has had a very positive affect, not only on the struggle for socialism in the old USSR, but also on the struggle for socialism in the U.S.

This popular uprising has overthrown the total dictatorship of the privileged bureaucracy in the old USSR. The bureaucracy still exists. It still dominates. It still takes the lion's share of the benefits of socialism for itself. But the people have more freedom even if they don't have more food. With this freedom they will be able to rid themselves of this privileged bureaucracy and its armed forces, and take production of food and basic necessities directly into their own hands.

In the U.S., this popular uprising has also had a positive affect. It has shaken up socialists and communists. Some have renounced their socialist and communist convictions altogether. Other continue to call themselves socialists or communists, but have renounced building a socialist or communist party to bring about socialism or communism in the tradition of Marx and Lenin. For example, the so-called "Committees of Correspondence." They say that the degeneration of socialism or communism in the old USSR was caused by building a socialist or communist party like Lenin's. They hide the fact that the privileged bureaucracy had to totally destroy Lenin's party in order to be able to take over in the USSR. Still others are reaffirming their socialist and communist convictions, and looking to join with others to build a socialist or communist party in the tradition of Marx and Lenin. Among these are Trotskyists, associated with various tendencies of the Fourth International, like Socialist Action, Socialist Organizer, or Truth. And forces still influenced by Trotskyism, but which don't consider themselves part of the Fourth International, like the Socialist Workers Party, or Spark.

What are the tasks of Trotskyists in this situation?

Of course we want to unify all revolutionary socialist or communist forces to fight for the Fourth International's program of socialist revolution in the capitalist countries and new workers political revolutions in the countries of the socialist conquests — summed up in the Fourth International's founding program adopted in 1938. This program sums up and codifies the experience of the international working class. It has allowed the forces associated with Trotsky and the Fourth International to

make the most consistent struggle against U.S. imperialism and against the privileged bureaucracies in the old USSR, China, and elsewhere.

But in order to do this, the Trotskyists themselves need to clean house. It's necessary to unify the Trotskyists to fight for the program. It's necessary to struggle against all the tendencies in and around Trotskyism that have been trying to water-down the struggle for the program or revise the program, and, in so doing, have been undermining the foundations of the Fourth International and the solidarity, clarity and energy of its forces.

What does the fight for the Fourth International's program mean today?

We think it means:

- Unconditional defense of the struggles of all workers and oppressed peoples against U.S. imperialism, including their leaderships, no matter how backward they may be;
- Unconditional defense of the struggles of all workers and oppressed peoples against the privileged bureaucracy in Moscow;
- No political support to the bourgeoisie, its candidates, or its parties, under any circumstances;
- Fighting for socialism in a way that is as popular and as large as possible;
- Building revolutionary workers parties in all countries to lead this struggle.

But, more than anything else, we want to talk to other Trotskyists about what they think the struggle for the program means today. About what Trotskyists can do together to advance the fight for the program — in workplaces, in unions, in Labor Party Advocates, in elections, and elsewhere.

Fourth Internationalists need to unify their forces to fight for the Fourth International's program. Those who aren't true to their own tradition, those who aren't capable of analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of their own tradition, of trying to correct its problems, will never influence others.— M.G.

### In the latest issue of *The Fourth International*:

- Freedom for Bosnia!
- The new Russian revolution and its problem of leadership (On the political revolution and the Socialist Workers Party)
- A crisis in the International Workers League
- Under the banner of Trotskyism

Write, or call *Truth*: 313-584-6556

**Do we need unions?**

Leaders in unions and politicians want to convince people that unions are not necessary and useless. But without them, where would workers stand? Without a chance to fight management. Without unity in anything there is no strength, and nothing will be accomplished. As long as there is division, it makes some people happy because their mission is successful.

Unions going on strike one at a time is the reason why they are losing their strength — lack of support from other unions and non-union shops. It would be successful when everybody decided to strike at once.

Workers have acquired a lot of hardships since the 1970s, especially the younger ones who really didn't realize it, but it has finally taken its toll. Benefits are being slashed; workers taking pay cuts with no cost of living allowance in place for all workers.

There is no real bargaining in unions. Every time contract time does come up, it seems it is for less. Even with a union, it can be discouraging for workers and it is all a psychological game.

Without a union try asking for a raise that competes with the cost of living. Without unions, you don't have a chance to fight, or even to use the grievance procedure, which is helpful for protection against your employer. Weakening of unions started in the 1970s, when concessions started to take place. People were just trying to be nice to companies.

In the 1980s, when PATCO went on strike, that set the stage for union-busting trends. Now, in the 1990's, we have a "circus type atmosphere," sending jobs to Mexico and France. Cutting skilled and unskilled workers' pay, putting hundreds of thousands of people out of work in every type of job setting. College-educated people who spent hard time in school can't even find jobs. So I ask the question, do we need unions or unity to survive?

**Workers, non-union and union, unemployed, poor, need to take a stand!**

There has to be a plan to fight these undermining social issues taking place. People forced into taking lower paying jobs, due to too high profit margins, being made from company executives and shareholders.

It's always said that labor costs are too high. But, in all actuality, the cost of living is too high. Is that the workers' fault? We should not have to sacrifice our jobs for the sake of cheap labor. We are citizens of this country

and should be respected with dignity.

Jobs need to be created in this country, not eliminated with no type of alternative unemployment benefits available. Work rules need to be enforced, not weakened, because that is just another ploy to weaken workers' rights, and every man's right to a decent paying job. We have freedom of self-expression, and the democratic process which does not need to be stepped on by autocratic policies.

All races, unemployed and poor, need to be united to stop all this ridiculous madness that is motivated by aggressive greed. It is totally unbelievable that no solutions are being made to make this society a place that everybody can enjoy without pain and confusion.

Health care costs are on the rise and should be made affordable, or turned over to national health care. Should workers take the brunt of all this?

If labor costs are too high, how come the cost of living cannot be brought down? People are living from pay check to pay check and welfare checks are slowly being eliminated. People don't need any type of handouts. Jobs are needed, with good pay and benefits comparable to the cost of living. It is everybody's right.

There has to be an economic plan made that everybody can benefit from before it is too late. It can be done. — Ron, a reader ■

**Labor Party Advocates activities**

Detroit and Cleveland Labor Party Advocates have decided to sponsor an educational conference in Detroit, December 5 and 6. The purpose of the conference is to organize a discussion on the need for a labor party in the U.S. Speakers include: James Gibbs, president of one of the Pittston mine locals and a leader of the campaign for the independent miner's candidate for office, Jackie Stump; Jan Pearce, international vice president of the Communication Workers of America; Frank Valenta, district director of the United Steelworkers of America and head of the Cleveland AFL-CIO; Lynn Henderson, editor of Straight Track, an opposition newspaper in the railroad workers union; Elaine Bernard, former leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada; Baldemar Velasquez, of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee; Tony Mazzocchi, presidential assistant in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union and a major force in making Labor Party Advocates come into being. Work is continuing lining up other speakers. The conference will cost \$15 for both days. Detroit LPA members distributed over 2000 leaflets for the conference at the Labor Day Parade in Detroit, September 7. You can get more information by asking for Russ Leone, financial secretary, UAW Local 600 at 313-842-6133 or 313-842-5701.

Detroit LPA will hold its next meeting, September 17, 7:00 pm, Local 600, Dix and Wyoming. ■

Concerned People of Warrendale, a group formed to defend the right of Black children to attend a school in the Warrendale area (the Malcolm X Academy), reports that white racists are threatening to physically attack Black children attending this school. Rumors are spreading that there will be a bomb in the school's furnace, and/or that the buses will be bombed. We urge all working people in the Detroit area to defend the right of Black children to attend school in the Warrendale area, without any threats against them. Demand that the unions form defense guards to defend the children. It is impossible to rely on the police. One of the most important things that workers can do is to show that this campaign against the Malcolm X academy hurts all working class children, Black and white. It pits whites against Blacks, and Blacks against whites, precisely at the moment that whites and Blacks need to make a united fight for equal, quality education for all working class children. For further information, contact Concerned People of Warrendale, 271-0195.

The U.S. government got over 500,000 troops to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in a very brief time. It provided food, clothing, housing, entertainment, and anything and everything else they needed very quickly. Why has it taken so long to get the U.S. government to get troops to Florida to help the people hurt by Hurricane Andrew? To ask the question is to answer it. The purpose of the U.S. armed forces is to fight for the rich, for oil, or for whatever else they want. It's not to help the people.

The AFL-CIO organized a parade in downtown Detroit on Labor Day, and asked workers in various plants to come. But they didn't celebrate the labor movement, and talk about how to advance the interests of the labor movement. They made the Labor Day Parade into a political campaign rally for Clinton and Gore. No wonder the workers are having such a hard time defending their interests against the bosses. This is where their dues money is going.

Larry Ientile, president of the 2,000 worker United Steel Workers of America local at USS/Kobe Steel in Lorain, Ohio, has come out for a labor party. Ientile stated that his local delegates, along with several other locals, would be raising the idea of a labor party and labor candidates for state and national offices at the Steelworkers convention August 29 through September 4. He stated: "We need a Labor Party to provide better representation given the problems unions are experiencing across the country. We want our international to get together with other unions to start a Labor Party." (from *The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland, August 7)

Lordstown autoworkers have gone back to work. They struck against management's attempt to shut a tool and die shop and layoff many workers in this shop. The strike forced management to slow down the process of shutting this shop. Some workers will retire, others will be retrained, others will be put on other jobs. This shows that the workers have power, that when they strike they can force the company to back down, to a certain extent. But it's not enough to simply slow down GM's plans to restructure, downsize, etc. It is necessary to stop GM. This demands a big strike. The popular uprising in LA shows that mass, energetic actions, that really scare the people at the top, get results.

New Directions, the opposition grouping in the UAW, is planning a national conference in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 15, 1992. Members of New Directions say that New Directions has not been doing very well, either in local elections, or at the recent UAW convention. But the reasons why aren't clear. We think it is basically because New Directions has not sufficiently differentiated itself from the top leadership of the UAW. For example, what was NDM's attitude toward the Caterpillar strike? Did it do anything during the strike to build the strike? Did it fight for spreading the strike, for a national UAW strike to make Caterpillar back down? Has it fought for the UAW to stop all support to the union-buster Clinton, and put forward its own candidates for office? Without a clear, radical, working class alternative, to current UAW policies, New Directions is going to continue to founder.

Tahan K. Jones, the courageous African-American marine who refused to go to Iraq, after waiting in prison for thirteen months, was sentenced to eight more months in confinement. Third World Resisters is organizing a campaign to put pressure on the military tops to release him early. They ask that letters along these lines be sent to: Major General J.E. Livingston, Marine Reserve Force, 4400 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA 70146-5400. They ask that letters of support be sent to: Tahan K. Jones, Building 1041, MCB, Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-5021.

A National Conference for Independent Labor Political Action held in San Francisco, California, on July 25-26, decided to form a Labor Party Organizing Network to push for independent labor candidates for office. For further information, contact: LPON, 2940 16th St., Suite 304, San Francisco, CA 94103, 415-641-4440 or 641-4610.

Truth sold 10 copies of Truth No. 276 at a meatpacking plant and an auto plant. We passed out several hundred leaflets in solidarity with the teachers' strike. ■

*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. Guttshall

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# Tax the rich, not the poor!

## Labor candidates now!

Millions of workers have already outlined many of the most important steps that can be taken right now to combat the economic recession or depression and provide decent jobs and wages for working people:

1. Tax the rich, not the poor;
2. Expand the public sector of the economy;
3. A program of public works to provide jobs for unemployed workers with decent wages and to do useful work.

The most serious problem is that the organized labor movement itself is not waging a consistent struggle to carry out these simple measures.

It is impossible to rely on Bush, Clinton, or any other Republicans or Democrats to carry out these simple measures because they are totally owned and controlled by the rich families who profit from the tax structure. How could they afford to run campaigns if they weren't financed by the rich?

There isn't going to be very much progress in combatting the economic recession until the labor movement decides to stop all support to the candidates and parties owned by the rich, and starts to run its own candidates to fight for these simple measures.

In order to tax the rich, not the poor, it will be necessary to:

— pass a law combining all banks into a single, public state bank, to prevent the rich from hiding their income;

— organize bank employees to carry out and enforce this law;

— establish stiff penalties for hiding income or attempting to take it out of the country, including prison terms and confiscation of property.

These are some of the things that have to be done to really *collect* taxes from the rich, use them to improve industry and agriculture, and working and living conditions for the masses of people.

This requires a massive mobilization and organization of the entire population against the rich. Workers need their own candidates for office to lead this struggle.

It's obviously too late to get more working class candidates on the ballot for the November elections. But workers can vote for the working class candidates that are on the ballot. They can write-in candidates. They can fight for their friends, neighbors, union representatives, and the labor movement as a whole, to turn their backs on Bush, Clinton, and all Republican and Democrats, and to begin to map out plans now to run independent labor candidates for office in 1993.

These measures are *not* socialist measures. Socialism means that workers own and control all the products of their labor, all the resources of the society. They are popular, democratic measures that anyone who is not totally owned and controlled by the rich families, who have their hands in the public treasury, who steal from the poor to give to the rich, should be able to agree to. — M. Gutshall ■

### Socialist Workers Party candidates



James Warren for president



Estelle DeBates for vice-presi-

### Write in these candidates!

All workers in Michigan should *write in Warren for president and DeBates for vice-president*, the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party. Voting for these candidates by writing in their names, is the best way, the only way at this point, to advance the interests of the workers in the presidential elections.

Why?

Because they are the only candidates running that represent the working class, not the rich. It is that simple.

These candidates demand: 30 hours work for 40 hours pay; affirmative action programs to end discrimination against women, Black people and other oppressed people and cancellation of the debt of oppressed countries to big U.S. banks.

This program basically advances the interests of the workers. This program contributes more to uniting workers. Bush and Clinton's programs lower the workers' standard of living, divide workers, attack oppressed people in other countries.

These candidates have given some real support to strikes in the U.S. They have done so by going to the picket lines, by telling the workers' side in press conferences they have held.

They are on the ballot in Washington, Utah, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, New Jersey. They have been excluded from the ballot illegally in Mississippi, Nebraska, Massachusetts, Alabama and Ohio.

They are socialists. They are socialists who support the uprising of the people in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In a recent interview Warren said, "The workers and farmers who overthrew Stalinist regimes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe opened up possibilities of moving forward to real communism. A roadblock has been cleared from their path."

The workers' interest would best be served by labor candidates from the unions that

millions of workers could vote for. This is the main fight for the workers in upcoming elections. The best way to reach this goal is to write in Warren and DeBates today.

All the other candidates for president and vice president on the ballot in Michigan represent the interests of the rich.

Certainly Bush, who has the support of 90% of the top corporate executives in the U.S.

Certainly, Bill Clinton, who is the candidate of the rich aimed at getting votes from workers, Black people and other oppressed people to vote for.

His record of attacks on working people is his, and the Democrats, true self. Just one example of many. The UAW was on strike against Morrilton Plastics in 1990 in Arkansas. Clinton, as governor of Arkansas, loaned money to this company so that they could defeat the UAW. The loan allowed the company to hire replacements and break the strike. The union workers lost their strike and their jobs because of Clinton. Today, Clinton defends what he did to these workers.

Clinton's few words of support to workers are mere phrases. Union and Black leaders use these few words cynically, to convince workers to vote for him. And, for those who want to be deceived, these few words provide comfort.

There are candidates of the Workers League on the ballot. The Workers League is totally hostile to other working class and socialist organizations and uses its campaigns to try to turn workers against them. So a vote for the WL candidates does not advance the interests of the workers.

In addition to *writing in Warren for president and DeBates for vice-president*, workers in the 13th Congressional District in Detroit can vote for James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress. He is on the ballot as an independent. — J. Marlowe