

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN

No. 298 • September, 1993 • 25¢ • Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 • Phone/Fax 313-584-6556

## Solidarity against racist, police brutality!

The conviction of the two ex-police, Walter Budzyn and Larry Nevers, for the murder of unemployed steelworker Malice Green was a victory for working people of all races.

The struggle against police brutality and murder deserves the solidarity of workers of all races.

Why?

Because workers need to be *united* in order to win any of their demands.

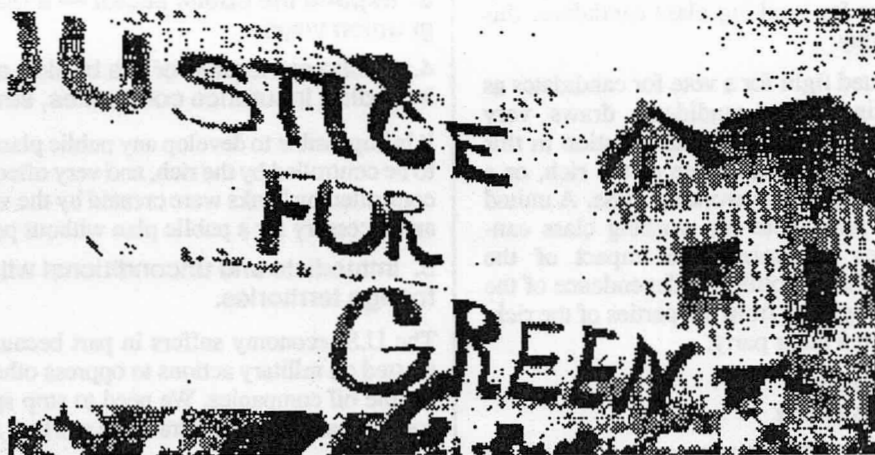
The workers never have and never will be united at the expense of one race or one nationality of workers. Workers can only be united when workers, especially the best-off workers, the workers of the dominant nationality or race, are ready to fight for the more oppressed workers.

Racism is real in the U.S. African-Americans and other people of color are imprisoned in ghettos in the United States. They are discriminated against at every step in their lives. Even the wealthiest Black Americans fear unprovoked attacks by racist police.

The source of racism is the ruling rich class, the capitalists. Racism makes more profits for the rich people in two ways.

First, racial oppression allows them to exploit people of color at lower wages, for longer hours, with expensive rents in run-down houses, etc. The large number of unemployed African-Americans form a large army of unemployed that keeps wages for all workers down.

Second, to the extent that workers of all races do not fight it, the rich are able to



divide the workers. Struggles by African-Americans against racism can become the beginnings of gains by all working people, but, only if workers of all races support these struggles. If they do not, racism allows progressive struggles to be defeated, which strengthens the ruling rich and weakens working class unity. The rich exploit all workers more.

We need only to look at the last 20 years of the unions in the U.S. They have failed to seriously take up the fight against the racial oppression of African-Americans.

The lives of African-Americans have gotten very bad, and the unions are much weaker.

Every union, every working class organization in the U.S. should take up the struggle against racist police brutality and murder. And this means — supporting the convictions of Budzyn and Nevers and demanding maximum punishment for them.

Solidarity against racist police brutality!

**Rally every Friday, 6 p.m.  
23rd and Warren, Detroit  
Justice for Malice Green!**

# Vote for working class candidates!

Below is a letter sent to working class organizations in Detroit, urging them to join with supporters of a vote for working class candidates in the elections and the leaflet written by these supporters with Truth. Also on this page is Truth's election platform.

September 8, 1993

Dear fellow workers:

We are enclosing a copy of a leaflet published by and distributed by Truth and other socialists in Detroit.

This leaflet represents an important step forward in the fight for a common, united fight for working class candidates in this election.

We urge all working class and socialist organizations to make a common fight for a vote for working class candidates this Tuesday.

A united fight for a vote for candidates as working class candidates draws very sharply the fundamental question in this election — a candidate of the rich, or a candidate of the working class. A united fight for a vote for working class candidates maximizes the impact of the struggle for political independence of the working class from the parties of the rich, toward a labor party.

Fraternally,  
Fred Michaels

Sent to: SWP, FWS, Spark, Trotskyist League, Communist Party, Workers World Party, National Organizing Committee

## A workers platform for the Detroit elections

For a public plan to fight discrimination, union-busting and to provide jobs

1. Extend affirmative action programs; for swift merciless punishment of all racist, sexist crimes; equal rights for immigrant workers.
2. Abolish all legal restrictions on the right to strike, picket, and organize unions.
3. Expand the public sector — a plan of public works that creates jobs at union wages.
4. Public ownership of the banks, and all financial institutions, including insurance companies, savings and loans.

It is impossible to develop any public plan as long as our national resources continue to be controlled by the rich, and very often, stolen from us by the rich. The resources controlled by banks were created by the work of the whole society. These resources are necessary for a public plan without penalizing the working and middle classes.

6. Immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops from all foreign territories.

The U.S. economy suffers in part because of the incredible amount of resources wasted on military actions to oppress other countries for the rich, like the Gulf War for the oil companies. We need to stop spending \$300 billion for bombs and guns for rich parasites and retrain the workers in these industries.

7. A labor party.

It is impossible to rely on the parties of private enterprise to fight for such a plan.

In the city elections:

## Vote for working class candidates!

We need leaders who demand more jobs — at more pay and fewer hours — not profit for a few rich corporations.

We need city services by our own residents — at union wages — not for private companies to squeeze poorly-paid workers.

We need leaders who support our struggle against police brutality — not those that propose *more* cops — who intimidate, beat and kill us.

We must demand that our representatives build and restore houses — not tear them down and leave garbage dumps.

For a *start*, here are some candidates who fight for working class interests:

### Mayor:

**Rose Ana Berbeo** —  
24, Steelworker;  
United Steel Workers union;  
Socialist Workers Party (SWP).

**Shanta Driver** —  
39, Hospital clerk;  
Service Employees International Union;  
Fighting Workers Slate (FWS).

### City Clerk:

**John Riehle** —  
41, City worker;  
Chief steward, AFSCME Local 209;  
FWS.

### City Council:

**James Harris** —  
45, autoworker, SWP.

**Arlene Rubenstein** —  
42, meatpacker, SWP.

**John Sarge** —  
40, autoworker, SWP.

**Candace Wagner** —  
38, steelworker, SWP.

**Steve Conn** —  
35, Detroit high school teacher, FWS.

### Other FWS candidates:

David Blair - 25; Vetta Davis - 22;  
Heather Graham - 19; Darryl Jones - 32;  
Sara Lolar — 19; Jodi-Marie Masley - 18;  
Luke Massie — 23.

Voting for yet another rich politician is wasting your vote!

Published by: Truth, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283, (313) 584-6556; and a group of supporters.

# Why are African-American infants dying and what is to be done ...

The State of Michigan recently released a study showing that African-American babies die in their first year of life twice as often as white babies. The highest death rates are in Detroit, Highland Park, Saginaw, Pontiac, Benton Harbor, and Flint, and the lowest is in Ann Arbor.

The study is inadequate because it does not study and compare *women of different classes*, their newborn babies and their fates. Such a study would undoubtedly show that the most comfortable women — white and African-American — lose their babies much less often than the poorest women — white and African-American.

Nevertheless, the conclusions of the study are clear. Even African-American women who finish high school or college or have jobs, lose their babies at a rate twice as high as white women taken as a whole.

## Why?

Researchers seemed to be puzzled by this fact. It's not really puzzling. Even when African-American women finish high school or college or have jobs, they don't live as comfortably and hence are not as healthy as their white counterparts. (For example, African-American women are often paid less than white women, in the same positions, doing the same work. Even when an African-American woman takes home the same amount that a white woman takes home, she can't get as much with her paycheck as a white woman. For example, a white woman can get an apartment or house in Dearborn with cheap and easy access to grocery stores, public exercise programs, parks, swimming pools, recreation centers, libraries, etc. An African-American woman cannot.)

Researchers say that more African-American babies are lost because of "... Cigarette smoking, unplanned pregnancies and failure to seek medical care during pregnancy ..."

This is at best a superficial explanation, at worst a dishonest one. It suggests that if African-American women would simply stop smoking, plan their pregnancies, and get more medical care during their pregnancies that the problem would be resolved.

But the fundamental problem is the *health* of African-American women.

If African-American women were healthier, they would give birth to healthier babies. Obviously, planning pregnancies, quitting smoking, getting medical care while you are pregnant, can help. But these things by themselves cannot make up for years of inadequate nutrition, exer-

cise, education, etc.

What this study shows more than anything else is that thousands of African-American women in Michigan, and, especially in Detroit, have not been living in conditions that promote their health, that allow them to give birth to and raise heal-

(Continued on next page)

## **Autoworker unity against the corporations! No to a two-tiered system!**

The strategy of GM, Ford and Chrysler in the U.S. and Canada, is now explicitly stated: get rid of the high-paid workers, over a third retiring in the next five years, and bring in new, younger workers, at lower pay rates, less benefits. This strategy, supported by the top leaders of the UAW, must be opposed by all workers.

It is an age-old strategy — divide and conquer. It buys off the better paid at the expense of the younger, more oppressed layers of workers. It is strategy that weakens the workers, it saps their strength.

It is particularly important for the better-off workers, the older workers, the skilled trades, to break from the UAW leadership and say no to the two-tiered system!

### Unity

There needs to be a fight for unity of the workers. This is the fundamental question. Without a fight for unity, it is not possible to make any steps forward on any front — benefits, pensions, jobs, classifications, anything.

The fight for unity means a fight for equal pay for equal work. It is not surprising that the main demands of African-Americans, women and immigrants — equality, equal pay for equal work, equal rights — must now become the slogans of *all* workers.

The struggles of these oppressed sectors of society over the past 20 years have been the most powerful struggles in the U.S.

Now it is time that all workers take these struggles up as their own.

The goal of the auto companies is clear: destroy the unions. First go after the powerless, the new hires. If they succeed in a two-tiered system, the unions will be weakened, by allowing inequality in their own ranks, by creating a two-tiered union membership. The companies will use the fact that the unions abandoned the most oppressed to turn them against the unions, and, in this way, destroy the unions.

The refusal of the unions to defend all the workers is one of the reasons for the lack of union growth — the union leaderships refuse to defend the vast majority of workers.

The auto companies fear a direct confrontation with the unionized workers because they are still strong, because they have roots in all the layers of the working class and lower middle classes. The auto companies have been introducing their plans slowly and with the support of the top union leaders, to make it very difficult for the workers to fight them.

But, it is possible to fight these plans and begin to turn the tide against the employers. It is necessary to say no to any two-tiered system contract, to demand equal pay for equal work, to begin to defend all workers working for the auto companies, and to back up these demands by strike action against all of the companies. — J. Marlowe ■

(Continued from previous page)

thy babies.

Over two centuries have passed since the ancestors of African-American women were dragged here against their will; they were exploited and abused unspeakably; their descendants still haven't been given compensation. Thousands still lack decent jobs, homes, healthcare, schools ...

### What can be done?

Detroit was named as one of the cities in which the percentage of African-American infants dying in their first year was the highest.

One would think that the various candidates for Detroit mayor and city council would address this problem. But, so far, none of the big name candidates for Detroit mayor or city council has said much about the fundamental problems of African-American women and their children, or white working class women and their children in Detroit.

They all talk about bringing more "business" to Detroit. McPhail even wants to eliminate the corporate income tax! But what has "business" ever done for African-American women or white working class women? The only thing "business" has ever done has been to try to get the most work out of women for the least pay.

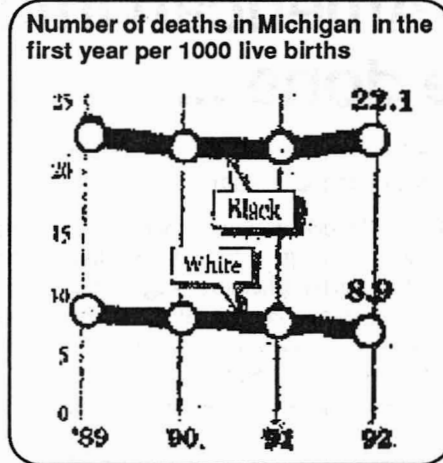
We need a public plan to combat the high rate of infant mortality in the Detroit area by providing decent jobs, food, homes, healthcare, and education for all women in Detroit.

Our schools are short-staffed and overcrowded. Why can't unemployed and underemployed women be hired and trained to give our children all the attention they need and deserve? Why can't we open more schools?

Our homes are falling apart. Why can't women be hired and trained to tear down the ones that can't be repaired, repair and restore the ones that can be repaired and restored, and build new ones?

The resources exist for these projects. If the banks and insurance companies won't finance them, then the people must fight for public ownership of these institutions.

Why should a tiny handful of rich families be allowed to dictate the lives — and the



deaths — of millions? Why should they be allowed to live in luxury in Grosse Pointe and Bloomfield Hills, while thousands die in poverty in Detroit, Highland Park, Saginaw, Pontiac, etc.?

### Working class candidates

While most people haven't heard anything about them, there are working class candidates for Detroit mayor and city council who are trying to change this situation — Rose Ana Berbeo, Shanta Driver, Arlene Rubenstein, Candace Wagner, and others.

We urge women in Detroit who aren't comfortable, who aren't enriching themselves at the expense of others, to vote for them.

A large number of votes for working class candidates will frighten the businessmen and politicians at the top and force them to pay more attention to the problems of the people, whether the working class candidates actually win the elections or not. Eventually, there will be enough support for working class candidates that there will be working class candidates in office who will use their positions to advance the interests of workers and oppressed people.

We also urge women to get involved in the struggle to build a big working class party that will fight for the interests of African-American women and all oppressed people.

It is going to take millions of women, involved in an active, energetic, daily, and on-going struggle, to get what African-American women, their children, and all oppressed people, need and deserve. — M. Gutshall ■

## Notes on women

Men may wonder why women stay with abusive mates. Women are most likely to be assaulted or killed when trying to report abuse or fleeing from abusive relationships. This is why it is so important that women fleeing abuse not only be given decent places to live and raise their children, but that the abusive men be put away until they are cured of their mental illness.

Gonorrhea, a sexually transmitted disease, is highest among teen age girls. This is yet another health crisis for women in the U.S. that is not addressed. And it shows the ignorance of those who say that by preaching sexual abstinence to young people, the problem of disease is solved. The rate was 595 for women in their 20s, and 47 for women aged 30 and older. For teenage boys, the rate was 779, and 145 for men 30 and older.

A doctor that performs abortion was shot outside an abortion clinic in Wichita, Kansas last month by an anti-abortionist. A priest, David Trosch, has been trying to run ads advocating the murder of doctors who perform abortions. "If 100 doctors need to die to save over 1 million babies [abortions is what he means], I see it as a fair trade." Defenders of women's rights were able to keep clinics in Denver open during the pope's visit, in spite of efforts to close them while he was there.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, real median wages of women rose 2% from 1989 to 1993 while men's wages have dropped 5%. Thus women's wages are at 78% of men's, an historic high from twenty years ago when they were at 64%. It is a victory that the gap between women's and men's wages narrows. But the goal of working people is not lowering the highest paid, and in this way, achieving equality at poverty levels. What is needed is a big fight by the unions to raise the wages of all working people. ■

# Free the LA 4 +!

"I have been made a scapegoat for the whole rebellion." — Damian Williams, 20, on trial for the beating of Reginald Denny during the LA uprising in 1992

Damian Williams' words are the truth. He has been made a scapegoat for the whole rebellion, and the rebellion is what the prosecutors want to put on trial in Los Angeles.

The question is not whether Reginald Denny, a white truck driver pulled from his rig and beaten, should have been beaten. We say no.

The beating of Denny was not in the interest of the LA uprising. It was an undisciplined act, against white workers who are often pointed to by rich liberal whites as the enemy of African-Americans, as the reason for racism. That is not true.

It is the rich white Americans — conservative and liberal — that are the benefactors from racism. They make profits from racism because it allows them lower-paid workers, higher rates of exploitation. The rich keep the racist police as watchdogs. The rich bankers and real estate people keep Black people locked up in the ghettos.

The beating of Denny did not characterize the uprising. It was characterized by big political demonstrations outside police headquarters and at neighborhood police stations. It was characterized by efforts to attack police and police stations. It was also characterized by attacks on racist store owners in the Black and Latino neighborhoods. *These actions* — not the beating of Denny — were the essential character of the uprising.

The question in this trial is this: does this justice system have any right to try these participants in the LA uprising? The answer must be no.

The uprising was a legitimate expression of the anger of African-Americans and Latinos at unjust treatment by this entire society, by the police. They rose up because the verdict acquitting the police in the beating of Rodney King was the last straw.

The case itself has been filled with lies and racism. It is not at all clear that those indicted beat up Denny. Both Williams

and Watson have been in prison for 16 months (the police who beat King are still free!) and have yet to be convicted of anything. The huge bail set for them, \$580,000 each, was based on the statement of the district attorney that the defendants "were a major force in the ignition of the disturbance which has come to known as the 'LA Riots of 1992.'" Williams, in granting the recent interview from his jail cell quoted above, was castigated by the judge for "trying to influence the public or the jury." As if the entire judicial system and media had not already tried these men and found them guilty!

The name LA Four + comes from the fact that several other young men were indicted in the beating of Denny and pleaded guilty to lesser charges. Thousands of people were arrested, tried and convicted of many other lesser crimes during the uprising. All should be freed.

## Defend immigrant workers!

Clinton has begun to implement a number of measures directed against immigrant workers.

He appointed the acting commissioner of immigration under Reagan, Doris Meissner, as head of the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), clearly a signal to Mexican immigrant workers, given the racist hostility of Reagan and his origins as a lackey for the California rich.

In June, he arrested 300 Chinese refugees from a ship that ran aground in New York, and imprisoned them in INS jails. International human rights groups pointed out that 524 refugees rejected by the U.S. have been imprisoned after their forced return to China. In July he rejected 3 boatloads of Chinese immigrants and forced the Mexican government to accept them, who proceeded to deport them back to China.

He proposed legislation that allows INS to automatically deny asylum to those it deemed "frivolous," with deportation taking place immediately; it also allows for mandatory detention of "smuggled" immigrants by the Coast Guard; and, increasing the Border Patrol. He wants to deny any health benefits to undocumented workers.

Naturally, Clinton has earned praise for such work by anti-working class politicians like Pete Wilson, governor of California.

Wilson has introduced his own legislation in-

### Which side are you on?

Workers must demand that the LA Four + be freed. Workers must choose the side of the uprising against the racist forces of the state.

It is the racist justice system in the U.S. that is responsible for any damages caused by the uprising, is responsible for any innocent people injured or any deaths caused in the uprising.

The fact that this beating took place cannot obscure the basic *positive* content of the uprising against the racist police. It showed America as a prison for people of color. The attempt to reduce the uprising to the beating of Denny is an attempt by the media to turn working people away from these truths, truths which can only serve to strengthen the workers struggle.

The unions must act responsibly, they must call for freedom for these people, and defend them as victims of the same system of injustice that hurts all working people.

Free the LA 4+! — J. Marlowe ■

cluding denying the right of citizenship to children born of "illegal" immigrants in the U.S.! And since many immigrants are illegal under the new laws, the burden of proof would be on the people themselves.

Under the immigration policies of today, most of the English immigrants of the country's early years and the southern and central European immigrants of the last 70 years would be denied entry. There would be few citizens in the U.S. except native Americans! Wilson also wants a "national identity card" for immigrants. His proposals have been introduced into Congress by a senator from Nevada.

Immigrant and Latin organizations in California are fighting Wilson's proposals. This is a fight for all workers in the U.S. — many of these immigrants work. Workers' unity is the fundamental question here.

Look to the history of workers in the U.S. The "native-born" workers, (that is, the workers of earlier immigrations) never made advances without fighting for equal rights for all the new immigrants and all the workers of all races. The same is true now.

Equal rights for all immigrant workers! ■



# Solidarity with Bosnia!

*The campaign for Workers Aid to Bosnia convoy to Tuzla left London on July 21. This is the speech that was given by Indjiana Harper from the Bosnia-Herzegovina Center in London. It is reprinted from Workers Press of August, 14, 1993.*

I grew up in a little town seven miles from Tuzla, so when Branka said that there is a lot I can tell you about Tuzla, it is true. [Branka Magas, author of "The Destruction of Yugoslavia," also spoke to the meeting].

It's an industrial valley with 20-odd mines, three chemical plants, and a steel plant.

The kind of workers employed in Tuzla valley are the ones that lead to the saying that they have spent their lungs before they have spent their first pension.

The average life expectancy for a worker in Tuzla valley was below 60, while the average life of a Bosnian was 66.

I have remembered on many occasions the time of the miners strike in Britain nine years ago.

When I visited my town in summer, normally the neighbors never bothered my parents during my husband's and my visit because they knew it was family time.

But we had no peace this time. There was no end of visitors, including the town mayor, whose father had been a miner.

There was such an interest among the people of my town in the welfare of the striking miners much greater than our friends' in Great Britain.

They wanted to know what the miners had, and they were very angry with my British husband, who thought that objectively, they had no chance of winning.

They considered him a Thatcherite. They wanted to believe that it was a possibility that they would be successful.

They called me and my husband to the gates of the mine to picket there. They had hanging buckets every day. Miners were invited to put loose change in for the striking miners. They didn't do this just for the striking British miners. They had done similar things for the miners of Russia, South America, where they struck.

They told me that every month they made the union deduct a day's pay from every miner's wage. The miners in the Tuzla region were the poorest of the poor Bosnians — and it was a poor part of Europe. Children ate meat maybe twice a month. They walked for miles, sometimes 10 miles and back to school. There was no free transportation for them. . . .

In anger I wanted a few times to write to the miners' union and remind them of what the Tuzla miners had done. So when *Workers Press* approached us at the Bosnia-Herzegovina Information Center I was particularly delighted to help them in any way because I know what is going through the minds of the people of the Tuzla region.

They are bewildered by the abandonment, they are bewildered by the callousness with which the world considers them dispensable or undesirable simply because they are Muslims or Bosnians, simply because they cannot vote for those who make policies all over the world. . . .

They Bosnian people have every right to live in a democratic society. They have, indeed, every right to survive.

They have a right to jobs, just like you have, to medical care, to schooling. And they have a right to live in a society where they have been building and creating for centuries. That is a multi-ethnic, a multi-religious society, a society of diversity. This they have been denied, quite brutally.

They have been denied it not just by the Serbian guns. They have been denied it by the political, diplomatic and even military power of the West. . . .

The West believes that the world is divided into spheres of interest, that the world is divided into cantons of this or that power's interests.

The ordinary people don't matter. Because this is about greater things, as Mr. Hurd, Britain's foreign secretary, has many times reminded us. . . .

I want to plead with you on behalf of my people to support Workers Aid for Bosnia — financially, morally, and politically. . . .

I also plead with you to support their fight for survival and put any pressure you can, through your trade union or any organiza-

tions you have, to force the issue on the British government to change its policy. ■

## Notes

*Muslim fundamentalists* have been indicted by the federal government in the bombing of the World Trade Center. They should be freed. The U.S. government has systematically opposed the Muslim movement because it represents, in the absence of any working class leadership, the struggle of the millions of oppressed Arabic masses against the U.S. oil companies, their puppet states in the Gulf and Middle East and the junior partner of the U.S., the state of Israel. The war that has been waged against these peoples by the U.S. for years overseas — the bombing of Libya, the raids in Lebanon, the war against Iraq — has finally come to the U.S. shores. In this conflict, the interest of U.S. workers is on the side of these oppressed peoples, not the U.S. oil companies.

*Nicaragua* is once again on the brink of major class confrontations. At stake is the question of the land. The Nicaraguan Revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship has not been completed. The peasants still want the land. Landed estates have been seized by the peasants and now both sides are arming themselves. It is necessary to support in every possible way the struggle of the peasants for the land — the land to those who work it.

Socialists in Detroit circulated a petition in support of Cuba that said: End the Blockade against Cuba! Let the school bus go through! We are opposed to any and all of the attacks the United States has made against the Cuban people over the last 34 years. We recognize the Cuban people's right to determine their own lives — free of U.S. influence. They should be free to protect the rights and programs they have already won: free medical care for all, free education for all (including university education), and child care affordable for every person. These gains have meant tremendous strides forward in eliminating racism and sexism in Cuba. As we fight to win such victories here in the United States, we stand in solidarity with our Cuban brothers and sisters. We say: End the Blockade Against Cuba! Let the school bus through!

This campaign deserves the support of all working people in the U.S. The campaign has been partially successful. The school bus detained at the Mexican border was released by U.S. customs and has proceeded onto Cuba. ■

# Why is the joint statement of the International League and the International Revolutionary Current important?

In the last issue of *Truth*, we published the joint statement of our international tendency, the International League, and the Corriente Internacional Revolucionario (International Revolutionary Current a tendency of the International Workers League) establishing a liaison commission working toward the reconstruction of the Fourth International. This effort represents an important step forward in the reconstruction of the Fourth International, which will be an important milestone on the road to the socialist revolution.

There have been many efforts at reconstructing the Fourth International. The failure of previous efforts has usually resulted in organizations retreating back into the narrow national framework from which they were trying to escape.

It is necessary to understand what were the objective conditions that caused the break-up of the Fourth International and what is changing today to understand why, at this moment, it is possible to move toward the reconstruction of the Fourth International.

The relative stability in the imperialist countries based on the domination of the world by U.S. imperialism in alliance with the Kremlin after World War II created objective conditions very unfavorable to the development of the struggle for socialism among millions of workers.

These unfavorable conditions caused the break-up of the forces devoted to Trotskyism, and the weakening of ties between these forces for over 40 years.

Today, many Trotskyists, while remaining in different national and international tendencies, have responded to the intensification of the class struggle in the same way. They have taken their place even more firmly on the side of the proletariat and the oppressed peoples and even more sharply differentiated Trotskyism from

the failed social-democratic and Stalinist policies and leaderships, and from the Trotskyists who adapt themselves to these failed leaderships.

The unstained banner of Trotskyism attracts more followers daily, and the Trotskyists are penetrating deeper into the movements of workers and oppressed around the world than ever before in their history.

With the joint statement, the two tendencies assert fundamental positions taken by many Trotskyists around the world. For example, on: the fight for the political revolution in Russia and Eastern Europe; the fight to defend the right of nations to self-determination, including Cuba, Palestine, the Black people of South Africa and other oppressed nations; the fight to defend self-determination, in particular, for Bosnia against U.S.-U.N. "peace" plans; the struggle of the Latin American masses against U.S. imperialism, the struggle of the European working class against the Maastricht Accord; the need for international solidarity with all the struggles of the masses against imperialism; the utilization of the united front as a tactic for the growth of the workers struggles and the Trotskyist forces; the struggle for principled Trotskyist unity.

In spite of the growth of Trotskyism, in spite of the fact that several Trotskyist tendencies are taking similar, revolutionary, and working class positions in the class struggle, the splits and crises among the Trotskyist groups have not stopped.

But, these splits only provide the negative proof that the time has come for the rebuilding of the Fourth International. In other words, despite the gains of the Trotskyists, the only road forward for Trotskyism is the reconstruction of the International, the Fourth International.

No longer can national groupings make stable, long term gains. The time has come for the unity of all the Trotskyists that fight for the program, as outlined in the joint statement, in the rebuilding of the Fourth International.

We urge all Trotskyists to study this agreement and respond to it. Those who find themselves in basic agreement should join the liaison commission. We will publish the responses in *Truth*. ■

**Joint Statement of the  
International League  
and the International  
Revolutionary Current.  
Available from Truth —  
50¢**

## Notes

*Spark*, held its Summer Festival in August. Over 200 workers attended. The next *Spark* meeting, "Is this the best we can hope for?" will be held on Sunday, September 12, 5 p.m. at Cass and Forest in Detroit.

*La Commune* has continued its fight for freedom for Palestinian prisoners with the creation of an International Committee in defense of Palestinian prisoners. The committee has been joined by members of the Brazilian National Assembly, Ernesto Gradella and Cyro Garcia, and 85 of their colleagues in the assembly support the International Committee. The latest circular of the Committee is available from Marc Mennecier, La Commune, BP 85, 940003 Creteil CEDEX FRANCE.

*Truth* sold 30 copies of the last issue at a meat-packing plant, an auto plant and various working class events around Detroit.

*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: J. Marlowe

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# Police brutality and the struggle for socialism

The murder of Malice Green by Detroit police is only the most recent example of terror by government forces on African-Americans. The Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms raid on the religious compound in Waco, Texas was an act of terror on a group of religious dissidents.

What causes these kinds of acts? Of course, all thinking workers know that there is racism against all peoples of color in the U.S. and racism is built into the government and all its institutions. But, African-American police commit acts of brutality against members of their own race also. Racism is a fundamental and key component of many acts of brutality, but it does not explain the persistence of brutality by African-American police, or, more generally, the brutality of governments in other parts of the world that are composed of people from the same race that they rule.

Some may say it is human nature to be brutal, but this argument always reduces itself to *accepting* such brutal behavior. Accepting police brutality is continually *rejected* by the masses of people because their survival depends on fighting it.

There is another reason for police brutality. Having police *means* having police brutality.

The reason that police exist is because there are two *irreconcilable* classes in society — the tiny ruling capitalist class, the owners of all factories, banks, agribusiness, and natural wealth, etc., and the majority working class — those who produce all the manufactured wealth in the society. Their interests are *irreconcilable*. Improving the life of the workers, decreases the profits of the capitalists and threatens their rule. It is that clear and simple.

As long as the tiny group of capitalists rule, there will be a government that will use violent repression against the working class. This is why the capitalist class has always used police brutality against the workers, and against all oppressed peoples.

The fundamental conflict of these two classes can only be resolved by the majority class — the working class — taking the political power away from the capitalist class through a socialist revolution. A socialist society is a society where there are no rich, no poor, and every per-

son has everything that they need. The workers taking political power away from the capitalists is the first step toward a socialist society.

When the vast majority of people are in power, it will not be necessary to have a special apparatus — the police — for oppressing the majority. Only a society moving towards socialism can eliminate the need for police. A socialist society will simply have an administration that or-

ganizes activity to meet human needs. There will be no need for a special elite force to oppress and brutalize the majority.

For those who want to end police brutality, their struggle will become a struggle for the socialist revolution, for placing the working class in power, to begin the process of getting rid of the state altogether. — J. Marlowe

## Independent citizens' patrols

Working people of Detroit must ask themselves — what steps can people take to prevent the police from committing more brutality?

A first step is exposure.

The main reason that Budzyn and Nevers were even tried for killing Malice Green was the presence of witnesses — from the neighborhood, but also Emergency Response crew members.

During the 1960s, the Black Panthers began, and really established their reputation, as independent citizens' patrols of the police. The Panthers organized carloads of young people to follow the police around the African-American neighborhoods. They were witnesses at confronta-

tions between police and the people, and they publicized violations of the rights of the people.

This time it is necessary for the *unions* to organize and support such patrols. The unions must start defending the rights of all working people against the rich.

With the support of the unions, it would be possible for money to be allotted for purchasing vehicles, supplying them with gas, and recruiting from among their membership for the patrols.

While these patrols are not the solution, nor can they, by themselves, prevent brutality, they can shine a light on the activities of the police, and help build the movement against police brutality. ■

## Stop Union Busting!

A public meeting

September 12, 4 p.m. UAW Local 600

Dix & Wyoming, Dearborn

Speakers: Dave Watts,

president of the Staley workers local  
Striking miners

Phil Keeling,

president, Mazda Assembly local

Rick Massengill,

int' representative, OCAW Staff

Sponsored by: Labor Party Advocates &  
Staley Workers Solidarity Committee