

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN

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NAFTA won't bring jobs!

Join the Labor Party movement!

SEE BACK PAGE

Why building Labor Party Advocates

The decision to go forward to the Labor Party Convention in 1995 is one of the most important decisions made by working class organizations in a very long time. Every member of LPA should make a successful convention their main goal.

There are three main questions that need to be answered before someone will devote an important part of their time to building LPA. The first is: do we need a labor party now? Second, is it time for a labor party now? Third, is LPA is the best road to a labor party?

We need a labor party now

The decision to found the labor party is not just one more good thing. It is a decision to build a new weapon for the workers. Without the labor party, all the other efforts that LPA members are involved in — strikes, strike solidarity, opposition movements in the unions, organizing drives, the struggle against racism and sexism, solidarity with workers in other countries, building a revolutionary workers party — all these efforts will be very retarded or not meet with any serious success without the labor party.

There are two roads forward for the various fights of the workers. One road that can be taken is that the different movements will continue to grow individually and, eventually, in the future, they will grow together to form some kind of party.

For example, the strikes and strike solidarity can continue to grow the way they are growing. Slowly, isolated, and with many standoffs.

First, it is clear that the *overall* development is a growing mobilization of workers, oppressed people. There are more strikes, more strike solidarity — the coal miners' strike, the Blue Cross/Blue Shield workers' strike, the American airline flight attendants' strike. There have been more national campaigns of solidarity — the Staley workers campaign, for example.

We have seen a definite development from the days of P-9 to the Staley workers. From official banishment, to official, formal support. But, it has been very slow, with many stand-offs — the Kroger

workers' strike in Detroit, the Caterpillar workers.

Without a fight for a labor party, it is this road that will be taken. It is the most difficult road, it is the slowest road, it is the road along which successes of the strikes are least likely. And the most difficult road to get a labor party, too.

The other road is with a direct struggle for a labor party, supporting all the strikes and strike solidarity, but focusing on recruiting, financing and organizing a labor party now.

With a labor party, the workers' struggles will have an organizing tool that millions of workers can identify with. For example, strikes and strike support will increase more rapidly. A labor party will support strikes, organize political activity that millions of workers will support in many different ways. A labor party will organize collections of money, local rallies, marches and demonstrations. A labor party will denounce politicians who refuse to support the strikers, and it will be in a good position to put forward candidates against these politicians.

Look at Canada. 40% of the workers are unionized, and many are unionized against the same companies against which workers in the U.S. are not unionized. This is due to the existence of a strong union movement, and this union movement made a big breakthrough by creating its own party, the New Democratic Party. The one development helped spur the other. 40% unionization in the U.S. would mean 3 times the number of workers now

would be organized — roughly 40 million workers!

We can examine any specific struggle — the struggle for equality by African-Americans, women or immigrant workers, the struggle against war — and the conclusion would be the same — fighting directly for a labor party today is the quickest, surest and most expedient road to success, because it alone can organize millions of workers together as a single, fighting force.

The time is ripe for a labor party

One of the most consistent objections among unionists to a labor party is, "yes, I'm for it, but right now is not the time."

The labor party represents more than just another workers' organization. It is the next stage for millions of workers. The unions are at a dead end. By themselves they cannot stop the corporations and their plans.

The U.S. economy is no longer the only powerful economy in the world. The biggest U.S. corporations want to "beat the competition" in other countries by lowering the workers' standard of living. This is the meaning of NAFTA, this is the meaning behind all the anti-union court and National Labor Relations Board rulings, this is the meaning behind "Employee Involvement," "Quality Circles," and every other scheme that the corporations have tried in the last 12 years.

The fight with the corporations is a politi-



Striking American Airlines flight attendants at Detroit's airport.

is so important . . .

cal fight. The corporations cannot win, in the long run, against the majority of people in the U.S. But they will continue to win as long as we don't have a political weapon to fight in Congress, in the state governments, in local governments, in the society as a whole. We cannot stop the corporations when they have the entire government on their side.

Every effort to reform the Democratic Party has failed. Every effort to cajole, bribe or influence Democratic Party politicians to become spokespersons for labor has failed. The passage of NAFTA and the anti-union stance of Clinton cabinet members are only the most recent examples.

Millions of working people now recognize that the solutions to their problems are political.

Ross Perot, a non-politician, had the support of up to 30% of the population before the 1992 elections. In 1988, Jesse Jackson won lots of support from workers in Michigan when he was considered an independent. The people of America, especially the workers, are openly and in large numbers, seeking political alternatives.

Even today, Ross Perot can draw 10 - 20% of the people's support. But he is not a true leader of the workers. He is leader for small businesspeople. Ross Perot appears to be the only person who speaks for working people, because the labor movement is not *independent* from the rich and their politicians. This lack of political independence is much more the problem than Ross Perot.

At the same time, it is difficult to form a labor party because from World War II up to the 1970s, unions achieved incredible successes without a labor party. But the old methods no longer work. Only 12% of the workers in private industry are in unions. The old leaderships have not found a single idea, plan, or policy to take the workers forward. As it stands, the majority of the top leaders are bankrupt, without any road forward.

A minority of labor leaders is convinced that the unions need a labor party to go forward. It is a growing minority, and it is a minority that has the tide of history lifting it.

Labor Party Advocates

The labor party is the first political weapon that millions of workers can be a part of. There is only one condition for joining the labor party — being in favor of one.

Labor Party Advocates represents the largest political organization of the working class in the U.S. today. It was started by, and is still supported by, a large industrial international union, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW). It has the support of the United Electrical Workers Union (UE). It has the support of dozens of elected union officials across the country. It has thousands of working class members. And that, after only 2 years of existence. It has united people of all different political tendencies in the working class, it has united people across all the geographic barriers that exist in such a large country, and it has united people across racial and sexual lines as well.

The unity is incomplete, imperfect, marked by all the difficulties of the past 45 years. The chief difficulty of the last 45 years has been the domination of the workers' movement by the labor aristocracy, that privileged layer of workers and leaders bought off by the rich people, currently represented by the top leaders of the unions. This layer still exists and will not be wished away nor argued away. It can only be driven out of the leadership of the workers' movement by a powerful movement of the workers. And that powerful movement of workers is best helped by the creation of a labor party.

LPA is a principled working class organization. It has not supported a single Democratic candidate for political office. It is open to all workers who are for a labor party.

The pages of *Truth* are open to all LPA members to discuss the problems of building LPA and reaching the Labor Party Convention in 1995. — J.M. ■

Fighting for a labor party

Here are a number of struggles for a labor party that have taken place.

The *Allied Industrial Workers Local 837, the 800 Staley workers*, locked out by their employer, held a support rally in Decatur, Illinois, on November 6. 1500 workers attended and the Staley workers decided, as a local, to support Labor Party Advocates and its fight for a labor party.

At the *New Directions National Conference* held November 12 - 14 in Detroit, Labor Party Advocates set up a recruitment table, recruited 5 new members, distributed a fact sheet on Clinton administration officials' statements against the organized labor movement, and discussed building LPA with people who are already members.

At the *Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) National Convention* held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in Novem-

ber, LPA members from different cities worked together and distributed a leaflet against NAFTA and held an informal get-together for CLUW members to learn about LPA. This was done despite undemocratic efforts to suppress even the presence of Labor Party Advocates at the CLUW Convention.

2500 anti-NAFTA/pro-labor party LPA leaflets were distributed at the *October 18 anti-NAFTA rally* held in Lansing, Michigan and at some plants in and around Detroit.

A recent editorial in *Black Workers for Justice*, the newspaper of an organization of Black workers organizing in the South, stated: "We need to carry out our own Independent Political Actions based upon our own needs and interests. We need Our Own Independent Working Class Political Party! This is why we are optimistic about the various motions gathering speed around the U.S. toward this end." ■

Letter from Tony Mazzocchi on the Labor Party Convention in 1995

We are reprinting a letter from Tony Mazzocchi on the Labor Party Advocates meeting recently held in Chicago at which the decision was made to push for a convention to found a labor party in 1995. The fact that union officials like Tony Mazzocchi want to push ahead in the fight to found a labor party, even if they aren't for a labor party that is totally independent of the Democratic Party, is a step in the correct direction. At this moment, any labor party based on a section of the unions is better than no labor party at all.

October 15, 1993

Dear ...

The two-year campaign to test the sentiment for a Labor Party in this country took a big step forward Saturday, October 9 in Chicago as 80 trade unionists from 23 states representing two international unions, two west coast AFL-CIO Councils, and an estimated 500,000 union members, agreed to work towards convening a Convention in 1995. I am writing to give you a report of our meeting before the next issue of our newsletter which will deal more extensively with what happened in Chicago.

From the several conversations I've had since we left the meeting, it's clear that people were impressed by the depth of the representation at the meeting and the seriousness and quality of the day-long discussion of the issues.

Most of all, the people I have talked to reiterated their belief that after participating in the meeting it's clear to them that there is a substantial group of serious, committed trade unionists at all levels of the Labor Movement who are willing to spend the time it takes to make this work. I personally left Chicago convinced that the work we've done in the past two years has helped put the idea of a Labor Party on the front burner for many good people in the Labor Movement. What is required now is to build aggressively on the idea that we've planted in every corner of the nation.

Perhaps the most important decision to come out of Chicago was to press forward

with a Convention to establish a Labor Party in 1995. All but a few participants concurred with that basic sense of the meeting. The decision to move forward was based primarily on the general sense that the time is right to take the next step and that as it becomes much clearer that something real is happening with LPA, our ability to recruit more people to this idea will be much enhanced.

We agreed to conduct a series of hearings throughout the nation leading up to the Convention in 1995. Those hearings will begin to shape the framework of a program to be submitted to the Convention for debate, amendment and approval.

There was serious discussion of finances by people who understand fully that this effort will require substantial sums of money. People agree that the best place to go for funds is to the 65,000 local unions in this nation, many of whom have the ability to provide support if leadership is persuaded that this is a needed, serious effort. We discussed the value of three mass mailings prior to the Convention, a task that in itself will require a major investment. For me, the important part about this discussion is the willingness to deal forcefully with the issue despite its magnitude. It showed me just how serious people are about making this happen.

We agreed, too, to set up committees: Rules, Finances, Constitution, Policy (Platform), Call, and Arrangements to deal more easily with the specifics of each task. For instance, we spent considerable time talking about the rules which will govern the convention as we work towards a set of rules that will determine the democratic construction of this historic event. You should know, too, that we are preparing to learn more about how such models as the New Democratic Party in Canada and the British Labor Party in Great Britain, to name only two examples, were constructed. We need to know about those histories as we move towards building our own model here.

Frankly, the meeting exceeded my expectations. I would have been satisfied with a lesser turnout. Unions represented, be-

sides top leadership of the OCAW and United Electrical Workers International Unions and the San Francisco Labor and Building and Construction Labor Councils, included local representatives of the Communications Workers of America, Service Employees, United Auto Workers, Machinists, Teamsters, Mine Workers, American Federation of Teachers, Food and Commercial Workers, Steelworkers, Boilermakers, Newspaper Guild, AFSCME and the IBEW.

The next days and months will focus on building on the Chicago meeting. We will be working hard to develop the interim steering committee into a more formalized entity. We're working towards that goal now and hope to make an announcement before December 1st. We will also begin work on the details of convention building that we discussed at the meeting.

In summary, let me say simply that we should all be much encouraged by the October 9th meeting. There definitely is an impressive array of commitment and talent determined to press forward with the Movement to provide millions of organized and unorganized workers something we don't have now — a much more legitimate chance to compete fairly and successfully in the political arena around a set of ideas that reflect what working people — not our employers and their allies in government — stand for.

I look forward to your continued support and to working with you to build our own Party in the very near future.

In Solidarity,
Tony Mazzocchi
Labor Party Organizer ■

OCAW Political Action Questionnaire

Original questionnaire used to prove that the majority of working people favor a labor party. You can use it to recruit to LPA. Available from Detroit LPA, Box 44924, Detroit, MI 48244-0924 or 313-730-4530

Where should labor party fighters stand ...

Labor Party Advocates is open to all working people for a labor party, no matter what their political views may be on other questions. We think this is correct; it is in the best interests of the development of the labor party movement at this time. However, this doesn't mean that we think members of Labor Party Advocates should be neutral toward other struggles that are developing. On the contrary, people fighting for a labor party should fight for the interests of the working class in all situations. Here are some of the ways in which we think members of Labor Party Advocates can fight for the interests of the working class across the board.

Solidarity with striking workers! In the last months, there have been a number of very important strikes: the miners' strike, the Blue Cross/Blue Shield workers' strike in Detroit, now the Caterpillar workers' strike. The workers have been very militant and determined, but what they have won has not been in proportion to their efforts. As a result of this, some people are drawing the conclusion that strikes are obsolete, that it's impossible to win strikes today, or that we need to build a labor party *instead* of striking. We think this is a false conclusion. Strikes have long been, and long will be, an essential weapon that workers use to defend and fight for their rights. What we need to do today is to fight for more effective strikes — for mass picketing aimed at actually shutting down operations, for the largest and most active solidarity movements, and, above all, for *spreading* strikes. This demands a fight against all the anti-labor laws that restrict workers' right to strike, picket, and spread their strikes, and that allow judges to legally help corporate bosses and scabs by fining unions, jailing unionists, and sending armed police to break up their struggles. It demands a labor party to lead this fight. We need a labor party that fights for the interests of striking workers, not to substitute for striking workers.

The struggle against racist police brutality and injustice is not over! After the popular uprising in Los Angeles, and after days and days of demonstrations in Detroit, police who beat Rodney King in Los Angeles, and police who beat to death



Malice Green in Detroit, have finally been put in prison. This is a partial victory for working people of all races and nationalities throughout the U.S. Police who think they should have special privileges, who think they should have the right to be judge, jury and executioner, are a threat to all working people, no matter what color they may be. The fact that a few of them have finally been put in prison, even if they are more comfortable prisons, even if it is only for a relatively brief period of time, is a partial victory. It shows that when the masses of people fight, they can force the people at the top to make some concessions. But the *fundamental* problem still remains. The police, the rest of the armed forces in the U.S., the National Guard, the Army, the Navy, etc., the people in the justice system, the prisons, etc., are *selected* and trained on the basis of their *servility* to the rich and powerful, *not* on the basis of their devotion to millions of ordinary people or their ability to defend the interests of millions of ordinary people. They have guns. They are organized and prepared to fight for *their* interests. But millions of ordinary people aren't. This is why it is necessary to continue to support and build each and every struggle against racist police brutality and injustice, with the goal of undermining the authority and power of these institutions, with the goal of replacing them with civilian defense guards, made up of millions of ordinary working people in arms. We need union defense guards to patrol working class neighborhoods. It's impossible to rely on the police to do this job. They serve the interests of the richest, not the interests of ordinary working people.

Free Damian Williams! Damian Williams is one of the four young Black men charged for allegedly beating Reginald Denny, the white truck driver, during the course of the popular uprising in Los An-

geles. A Los Angeles jury has found him and the others not guilty of almost all the charges against them. While Williams was charged with attempted murder and aggravated mayhem, he was convicted of simply

mayhem and four misdemeanor assault charges. He has already served 17 months in jail, and he may be sentenced to eight to ten years more. The judge continues to refuse to lower his bail, set at \$580,000, calling him a "danger to the community, so that he can't even get out for a brief period of time until he is sentenced. This shows once again that the so-called justice system in the U.S. discriminates against poor Blacks. If he were a white man who beat a Black man, or a man who beat his wife, or a mobster responsible for the deaths of hundreds, not to mention a U.S. general responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent people, Williams would have been out and about a long time ago. We don't agree with what Damian Williams did during the popular uprising in Los Angeles. Attacking a white truck driver undermined the struggle against racist police brutality. It didn't help it. But allowing a racist, anti-working class justice system to punish Damian Williams is only going to make things worse. The labor movement needs to fight for freedom for Damian Williams and all the young people and working people in Los Angeles charged and imprisoned in conjunction with the popular uprising in Los Angeles. It needs to make every effort to win these people to the side of the labor movement. The beating of Reginald Denny, a white truck driver, during the course of the popular uprising in L.A., should serve as a warning to the labor movement. If the labor movement took a position on the side of the oppressed Black people and against the rich whites, in each and every situation, then a white truck driver in South Central L.A. would have been seen as a potential ally, not as the enemy. Reginald Denny wouldn't have been beaten. Now is the time for the labor movement to change. Free Damian Williams! The L.A. justice system has no right to judge and punish Black people! ■

Solidarity with immigrant workers!

We are reprinting a leaflet published by the Pro-Immigrant Mobilization Coalition in Los Angeles. We urge everyone in the labor party movement to support the struggle for equal rights for immigrant workers, including and especially undocumented workers. We want a labor

party that fights for the rights of *all* working people. Labor Party fighters need to remember that the U.S. is a nation of immigrants. Why should those who came at one moment have more rights and privileges than those who came at another? ■

March for Immigrant Rights! Defend the rights of indigenous people!

- Defend the rights of "undocumented" workers! Down with racism!
 - Stop President Clinton's policy to deport political refugees. This measure is supported by Democratic and Republican politicians.
 - Oppose Governor Wilson's attempt to deny citizenship rights to the children of "undocumented" immigrants!
 - Resist President Clinton's and Sen. Boxer's plan to militarize the U.S.-Mexico border. This measure is supported by Democratic front-runner candidate for governor of California Kathleen Brown.
 - Halt Senator Feinstein's senate bill which denies immigrants emergency medical care for "undocumented" immigrants.
 - Condemn the anti-immigrant campaigns by politicians for both parties in government; condemn their scapegoating of "undocumented" workers for the economic crisis!
 - For more jobs, housing, health service and education for all!
 - Unity of all workers to reject anti-immigrant attacks!
- Join the march on Saturday, November 13!

Sponsors include: Peace Center Coalition, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees-Local 11 AFL-CIO, SEIU Local 399, Justice for Janitors, Labor Community Strategy Center, SCITCA, United Farm Workers-AFL-CIO, United Electrical Workers, AFSCME Local 3235 AFL-CIO, Movimiento Estudiantil Latino, Mothers of East L.A., Veterans for Peace, Jim Lafferty, National Lawyers Guild, Don White, Committee for Justice, Palestine Democratic Youth Organization, New Generation for Palestine, Palestine Aid Society, Palestinian Americans for Peace and Justice, Palestine Democratic Women's Organizations, CARECEN, Prof. Rudy Acuna-CSUN, Prof. Raul Ruiz-CSUN, Prof. Jorge Mancillas-UCLA, Coalition in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), National Chicano Moratorium Committee, MECHA, Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba, ADEMUSA (Asociacion de Mujeres Salvadorenas), El Rescate, PIRLA-UCLA, SOL (Student Organization of Latinos), UNOLA (Union of Latin American Organizations), Chicano Organization for Student Action (COSA-UCLA), Asian Pacific Coalition-UCLA, General Assembly for Chicano Studies-UCLA, Michael Zinzun-CAPA, Asian Pacific American Ass., KIWA (Korean American Worker's Advocate), La Red Latina, People First for Economic Justice Coalition, Radical Women, La Resistencia, Proyecto Pastoral de Mision Dolores, The Network for Social Justice and Public Education, Stonewall Democratic Club, MASPS (Broad Movement in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador), Arab Press Guild, News and Letters Committees, NOW-San Fernando, Union de Comerciantes Latinos y Afiliados, PRD, Prometeo Pastoral, Frente Mixteco Zapoteco Binacional, Vecinos Unidos de Temple-Beaudry, United Garment Workers Committee, ALAS-Glendale CC, Comite Pro-Paz en el Barrio, Padres de Eco Park, South Asian AIDS Action, People of Color Public Policy, Socialist Organizer, Revolutionary Action Party (PAR/RAP), Socialist Workers Party, Peace and Freedom Party, Committees of Correspondence, Socialist Action, Freedom Socialist (partial list) ...

For more information call (818) 282-9431. Address: P.O. Box 812, San Gabriel, CA 91778. Info line: (213) 852-0578.

The Pro-Immigrant Mobilization Coalition.

300 issues of Truth!

This issue of *Truth* is the 300th issue. *Truth* No. 1 was published on September 15, 1974.

Truth was initiated by a small group of revolutionaries in Detroit and Chicago who had been excluded from a much larger working class organization (the Revolutionary Socialist League) because they had taken a position in defense of the conquests of the first workers socialist revolution in Russia and in defense of the Fourth International. That organization no longer exists; it voted to dissolve several years ago. But *Truth* still does.

Truth is now the *oldest* working class publication in the United States fighting both for the construction of a big workers party or labor party based on the unions and for the Fourth International.

The only working class and socialist publications in the U.S. that are older than *Truth* are: *The Weekly World*, *Workers World*, *The Militant*, *Workers Vanguard*, and *Spark*. *The Weekly World* and *Workers World* are Stalinist and pro-Stalinist publications. *The Militant* used to be for a big workers party or labor party based on the unions and for the Fourth International, but it has since broken with both of these struggles. *Workers Vanguard* and *Spark* each claim to be for a big workers party or labor party, but neither is actively involved in the struggles for this goal today. Each considers the Fourth International "dead."

So young people and workers who want to learn how to make a consistent struggle for a big workers party or labor party and who want to learn more about socialism and the Fourth International, can learn a lot from *Truth*.

If *Truth* is as small as it is, it's not because its program has been false. It has been because the past period has not been favorable to its struggle. Today, support for a workers party or labor party is growing. Support for socialism and the Fourth International will grow. Support for *Truth* will undoubtedly grow.

But support for a labor party, socialism, and the Fourth International will grow much more quickly and firmly when all those fighting for the Fourth International's program get together and make a common fight — put out a common revolutionary publication and build a common revolutionary organization. Support this struggle! Subscribe to *Truth*. ■

NAFTA is another step along one road . . . What is the other road?

The passage of NAFTA was in the interests of the rich people and not of the vast majority — workers or small businesspeople.

Many workers saw NAFTA as one more step down a road of lost jobs and so on, of the increased *domination* of all aspects of economic, political and social life by the tiny minority of rich corporation, bank and insurance company owners. They are right, but that is looking down only one road. It is necessary to look down the other road, too.

The other road is lit up by the *struggle* that took place. The fight against NAFTA has involved tens of thousands of workers for the first time in political struggle. Workers in Mexico, Canada and the U.S. struggled together against the rich in the U.S., and their puppets in the other two countries. Workers united with small businesspeople, women, African-Americans against the rich.

When was the last time millions of working people took a position on a *treaty* being signed between the U.S. and other countries — a position *opposed* by every big newspaper, corporation, 4 ex-presidents, the Senate and the House of Representatives — and, came close to defeating it by incredible pressure on the representatives of the rich?

The workers, and the vast majority of people of this country, are traveling down one road, and the tiny group of rich are traveling down another.

Many workers are already aware of some of the next stops along the way for the rich — decreased opportunities for all young people, increased efforts by the rich to divide workers along racial, sexual and age lines. Some workers have correctly connected this policy at home to a foreign policy of oppression and war against small countries — supporting the dictatorship in Mexico, the invasion of Somalia, the blockade of Cuba, the covert backing for the Serbs against Bosnia. A few workers see far enough down this road and see the potential for a third world war among the powerful groupings of Europe

(Germany and France), Southeast Asia (Japan) and the Americas (the United States).

But only a very small minority see that the *workers' road* is not simply a road of struggle. It too has a goal. The workers' road leads to a *socialist society*.

Naturally, there are many stages along this road for the workers as well. The workers need to build their own labor party, they need to build a revolutionary workers party, and they need to win a workers government to reach the goal of a socialist society.

A socialist society is one in which there are no rich and no poor.

Every person will have all the things they need to live — they will have enough food, clothes and shelter. Each person will have a good, safe place to live and access to quality, medical care. Every person will have the ability to attend school and develop their talents. The lack of money will not be a reason for any person to suffer.

Every person will have a place — every person will have work to do, every person's talents will be utilized for their individual satisfaction and the betterment of the whole community.

The big projects that every person can see that need to be done — the rebuilding of the cities, the preservation of the environment, the true, democratic and economic development of the poorer countries — all this work can be organized by a government that working people control.

Giant strides will be made in eliminating the inequality in the world — for women, for African-Americans and other oppressed minorities in the U.S., for small nations oppressed by big nations. Eliminating inequality will be a goal for a socialist society because *it does not benefit the majority*. A tiny minority of rich people *benefit* from inequality because it serves to keep the people divided. But, for the vast majority, *equality* is in their self-interest.

The *chaos* of a society dominated by the

rich will disappear. Gone will be the uncertainty of a world run by a tiny group of rich people for their own benefit — an uncertainty that is born from billions of people being forced to do the bidding of a few thousand. There will be the kind of security and certainty that all people need. All that will be uncertain is how far people can develop themselves, how much they can accomplish, what new and exciting developments in child-raising, in education, in technology, in science they can create.

Naturally, U.S. workers, ever pragmatic, often respond — “Well, that sounds good, but how are you going to pay for it?”

There is more than enough wealth produced, and more than enough potential to produce wealth if the wealth that exists — the factories, banks, infrastructure, natural resources — is used to benefit everybody and not for making a tiny group richer.

The wealth that the working people, farmers and others generate today is abused, misused and squandered by the rich. The ability of the working people of other countries to be productive is hampered by the greed of the rich here at home, who prefer millions of starving Mexicans to a healthy Mexico that controls its own oil and factories.

And, once the talents of the vast majority, especially the talents of young people, are unleashed from uncertainty, poverty, unemployment and dead-end jobs, to tackle the big problems, there will be a renaissance of new ideas and new methods of production that will be greater than any ever seen before. It will involve not only the talents of a few geniuses like Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and others, but the talents of millions self-organized to work together in a powerful economic machine for the good of all.

A socialist society is the goal that has been shown along the road of the struggle against NAFTA, and all working people's struggles. The more workers committed to this goal, the quicker all will arrive there.

— J. Marlowe ■

Important steps forward

In order to build a socialist society, it is necessary to build an organization totally devoted to this struggle. Building a labor party in the U.S. will create better conditions for this struggle, but it won't necessarily, in and of itself, resolve it. A labor party at this time probably won't even be for socialism. This is why we, as revolutionary socialists and Trotskyists, are continuing our struggle to build an organization totally devoted to the struggle for socialism, the Fourth International.

On this page, we are reprinting an article by Trotskyists in Los Angeles and other cities, associated with one of the tendencies of the Fourth International, the International Revolutionary Current, on their organization, the Revolutionary Action Party (RAP). We are for the construction of revolutionary groups and tendencies on the basis of the Fourth International's program. We don't see this as counterposed to building a big labor party based on the unions. On the next page, we are reprinting joint statements published by the RAP and Truth on Somalia and Bosnia. These joint statements are an important step forward. Partisans of the Fourth International in the U.S. need to make a common fight for the Fourth International's program and build a common organization to lead this fight.

Help build the Revolutionary Action Party

The Revolutionary Action Party (RAP) is a party of activists of the workers, student, and popular movement that struggle to build a working class and revolutionary alternative and for an anti-imperialist, working class, and popular government in the United States. Its work has already had an impact in the struggle of the *Chicano Movement of the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA)* and in the *Pro-Immigrant Mobilization Coalition of Los Angeles*. In these struggles it advanced a program for the mobilization and contributed significantly to the success of the struggles. We want the workers to join in the task of building the Revolutionary Action Party in each place of work, of study, and in the neighborhoods, and to distribute this publication, discuss it and make it their own.

Our aim is to organize the sectors of the oppressed working class that struggle the most in a political party with a revolutionary program: that is, a program of struggle for the liberation of the workers by the workers themselves. The members of RAP advance the struggle of the mass movement in order to mobilize the workers and other popular sectors in each concrete step that they take for their demands toward a government of the workers. It is of fundamental importance for the RAP to work alongside the oppressed nationalities in the United States: the Chicanos, Mexicans, Latinos, Native Americans, Blacks and other

minorities oppressed by Anglo-American imperialism. These minorities already are, or soon will be, the indisputable majority of the American workers. We always seek to raise a revolutionary program of the workers, without borders, without races, and without creeds, in order to struggle against imperialism in all its forms: colonialism, international pacts of oppression, invasions, and genocidal wars. We promote the unionization of ethnic and national minorities into industrial unions, and also the organization of undocumented workers into the unions, against the racist laws that threaten the immigrant worker. For this reason, we are the first to denounce and to struggle against all forms of racism and discrimination, in the system and in the streets: thus, for example, to finish with the neo-Nazis with the active mobilization of the workers and their young vanguard and of the nationalities.

The RAP is in solidarity with the working woman who is doubly exploited, as a worker by the capitalist system and as a woman through countless forms of the machoism and the sexism of this class society. The RAP is for the largest mobilization in defense of the rights of the woman — equal pay for equal work, the right to abortion, free care for children in special, well-financed childcare centers, for hours after school paid by the state in order to attend scholarly meetings or to help teachers, for the right to maternity leave, to leave on International Working Women's Day.

The RAP is unconditionally for the defense of immigrant workers, for full rights to work, to educate themselves, public health, and transit between the United States and their countries. For the immediate legalization of all undocumented workers. No to the persecution of the undocumented. Stop the campaign of deportations of Chinese, Haitians and Mexicans perpetrated by the Clinton Administration. The United States is a country of immigrants from all continents and it is not possible to tolerate the apartheid discrimination and the persecution or deportation of the undocumented immigrants, nor the racist campaign of Clinton and Wilson against the Mexicans and the Asians. Our position is to open the borders so that there is a true treaty of free transit between the United States and Latin America.

The RAP is a party for Action, not for the abstract and intellectual propaganda of a political program that can be revolutionary socialist but which remains in pure journalism in well-illustrated publications. *The RAP is a party to struggle for a concrete revolutionary program in the mass movement.* We will also make propaganda of our more general program but what is essential is that the masses take our policy in order to mobilize and at the same time they build the party.

The RAP is a revolutionary party because it is composed of working class and youth activists who desire to lead the workers and the people toward a working class and popular government in the United States. It participates in this way in the struggles of the workers and the people, making the most daring efforts so that they triumph, mainly with the program of struggle, determined action and the most advanced methods, seeking the unity of all the workers that struggle and calling for the solidarity of all with the conflict.

The RAP is a party that continues the experience of the parties of the Fourth International founded by Leon Trotsky in 1938 and we struggle for a democratic and centralized leadership for the Fourth International through the public faction of the International Workers League (Fourth International), called the *International Revolutionary Current*. We participate in order to build the international leadership in an unconditional manner, making efforts to build it materially and with our participation in the struggle of the classes and the construction of the International Revolutionary Current. We promote the serious study of Marxism, of Trotsky, Moreno and the publication *Correspondencia Internacional* in order to educate the militants.

The RAP is a party that struggles for the self-determination of the workers and the oppressed masses, for the broadest democracy in assemblies, so that these can be truly sovereign and definitive; this is the only way to organize the broadest sectors of the workers and the masses. All secret negotiations help in continuing and prolonging the existence of bureaucracies that make pacts from above and against the workers and the people.

The RAP is fundamentally a party of the most oppressed workers, of the Chicanos, Latinos, Native Americans, and Blacks, the immigrants organized in a party of the working class in order to struggle for the independence of the workers themselves, for a socialism without borders and where national and ethnic differences are respected with self-determination for oppressed peoples.

We call on the workers who are immigrants, oppressed, on the Native Americans, the Chicanos, Blacks, Latinos, Asians, and whites, to struggle hard to build this party, with participation in the struggles, with the unity of the workers, with democratic and fraternal discussion on the policy to follow, to continue the construction of the brother parties and contributing materially to this publication. *We want to build our party as a tool of struggle for all the conscious workers and determined fighters. Join the Revolutionary Action Party!*

Lift the arms embargo of Bosnia!

To the Organizers of the Meeting in Solidarity with the People of Bosnia on October 2nd, 1993 in Barcelona, Spain

Since more than 19 months ago, the people of Bosnia have been suffering invasion, war, attacks, rapes, and even concentration camps in the hands of Serbs and Croats. Both have invaded and annexed more than 70% of the Bosnian territory. All this was done with the complicity and the support of European and American imperialist powers, which have been hiding their support for the Serbs and Croat chauvinism with a hypocritical mask. The same as in Somalia, where after lies of "food relief," they killed innocent people by the hundreds, the same as in the invasion of Central America, Panama and the blockade of Cuba.

The United Nations is also hypocritical by supporting de facto the massacre of "ethnic cleansing" of the Bosnian Muslims, and imposing the partition of Bosnia into three parts, which is equivalent to the destruction of a nationality that has already declared its own independence from former Yugoslavia.

The suffering people of Bosnia, mainly orphans and war-injured women and children, badly need the support of workers and immigrants of the West. Also of the oppressed nationalities in the Western imperialist states such as the Latino, Chicano, Blacks and Asian-Pacific peoples of the United States. We can't abandon a brave people in struggle against imperialism and against the Stalinist bureaucracy of former Yugoslavia.

All workers and immigrants of the United States should join in defense of Bosnia.

- Lift the embargo of arms to Bosnia. Arms for the Bosnian Muslims.
- Repudiate the division of Bosnia imposed by the U.N. Down with the plan of



In Mostar, Bosnia, Muslims block U.N. trucks from leaving, fearing more Serbian attacks.

Owen-Vance, in support of Serbia and Croatia.

- For the independence and the integrity of Bosnia.
- U.N. troops out of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In solidarity with the meeting of October 2nd in support of the Bosnian people, under attack by the powers of the world.

The Revolutionary Action Party

Truth
October 2, 1993 ■

U.S. and U.N. Troops out of Somalia now! Support the Somali resistance!

The true face of "humanitarian aid" and the "relief of hunger" was unmasked in the streets of Mogadishu when over 700 Somalis were killed by gunfire from U.S. helicopters: these are the real "humanitarian" efforts of the United Nations and the United States government. The attacks on poor nations by the Clinton Administration are to control their rich oil and other natural resources, but it has encountered the opposition of the people of Somalia. Somalia has become a fundamental place of struggle of all peoples and workers throughout the world. Workers and people must make common cause with the people of Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia and demand the immediate withdrawal of all U.N. and U.S. troops from those countries now.

The U.S. is heading towards the invasion of Haiti with the pretense of defending president Aristide and "democracy" in

Haiti. It is cynical on the part of the U.S. government to pretend to be bringing back democracy in Haiti and "hunger relief" in Somalia when the U.S. government always defended the Duvalier regime and its murderous Tonton Macoutes, and was always a friend of the dictatorship of Siad Barre in Somalia. The truth is that the U.S. government fears a popular uprising in Haiti and the resistance of the Somali people and that they will rapidly spread.

Solidarity with the oppressed people of Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia!

No to the blockade of Haiti!

Support all efforts of Somalis against the intervention!

U.S.-U.N. troops out of Somalia and Bosnia now!

The Revolutionary Action Party
Truth ■

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. Editors: M. Gutshall and J. Marlowe

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NAFTA won't bring jobs! Join the Labor Party movement!

Clinton says that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is going to bring more jobs to working people in the U.S.

This isn't true.

Workers need to remember that the Bush administration initiated NAFTA. NAFTA, like everything else that Reagan and Bush did, is designed to serve the interests of finance capital.

NAFTA will allow the richest investors to invest wherever they want to invest, and sell their products wherever they want to sell their products, in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, regardless of the consequences to the workers and small-businessmen (this is why *relatively* small businessmen like Ross Perot oppose NAFTA).

As every worker knows, finance men try to get the most for their money, maximize their profits. This means going where labor is cheapest and most productive, cutting jobs, cutting wages, cutting benefits, and raising prices as much as possible.

When Clinton was campaigning last year, he promised to amend NAFTA so that workers jobs would be protected and they would be retrained for new jobs.

But the only "amendments" that Clinton made to NAFTA were to protect the rich owners of various businesses that might be put out of business by imports (citrus fruits, tomatoes, sugar ...). And he did this only so that he could get the number of votes necessary to pass NAFTA.

The fact that nearly all Republicans and most Democrats voted for NAFTA shows once again that neither of these parties represents the interests of working people. They represent the interests of finance capital.

Working women and working men have got to stop looking to the Republicans and Democrats to solve their problems. The only way people in this country have ever gotten anything — whether it was freedom from England, the abolition of slavery, unions, civil rights, or an end to the war on Vietnam — has been to organize and fight for it.

Several thousand trade unionists and working class militants from across the

U.S. have joined together and are struggling to build a labor party to fight for workers interests in 1995.

Join this struggle!

Join Labor Party Advocates! ■

Union officials denounce Clinton!

"NAFTA leaves U.S. workers 'sold down the river,' steamed a visibly angry AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland."

" 'This fight is not over, either short-term or long-term,' insisted UAW President Owen Bieber." (*Detroit Free Press*, November 19, 1993)

Readers of *Truth* know we don't have much in common with these top union officials. They claim to represent the labor movement. But they live like rich bosses, and think, act, and talk like them, too.

The fact that they've said something true for a change, doesn't mean that they have changed. It means that they are under a tremendous amount of pressure from the masses of working people in the U.S. to *do something* about the terrible conditions in which working people are being forced to work and live.

Kirkland and Bieber are not the only union officials who are feeling this pressure. Union officials who are more working class and more representative of the ranks are also feeling it.

" 'This president ... has turned his back on us,' Teamsters President Ron Carey thundered at a news conference."

"Dave Yettaw, president of Local 599 and leader of a small dissident UAW faction favoring a more aggressive stance toward management, said American labor unions

should reach out aggressively to Mexican workers. 'We need to have a labor union of North America,' capable of calling general strikes,' he said." (*Detroit Free Press*, November 19, 1993)

Working people should demand that *all* union officials join the fight for a convention to found a labor party based on the unions in 1995, and use their positions to build support for this struggle. Union officials who refuse to do this must be replaced. They represent the interests of the bosses and their political parties, not the interests of the workers.

At the same time, it would be a mistake for workers to *totally rely* on union officials, even the *most* working class union officials, not to mention types like Kirkland and Bieber, to lead the fight for a labor party based on the unions.

Working class union officials can and will play an extremely important role in building a labor party based on the unions. But the number of working class union officials is very small.

Hundreds, indeed thousands, of ordinary working women and working men, who have never been actively involved in their unions or in political activity, are going to have to organize and fight for their interests themselves. They can't rely on any small handful, no matter how well-meaning, to do it for them. — M.G. ■



Striking coal miners block non-union coal from leaving a mine.