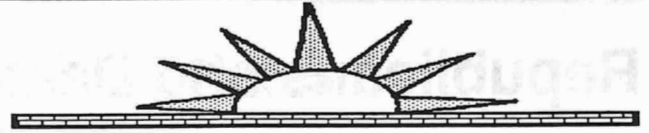


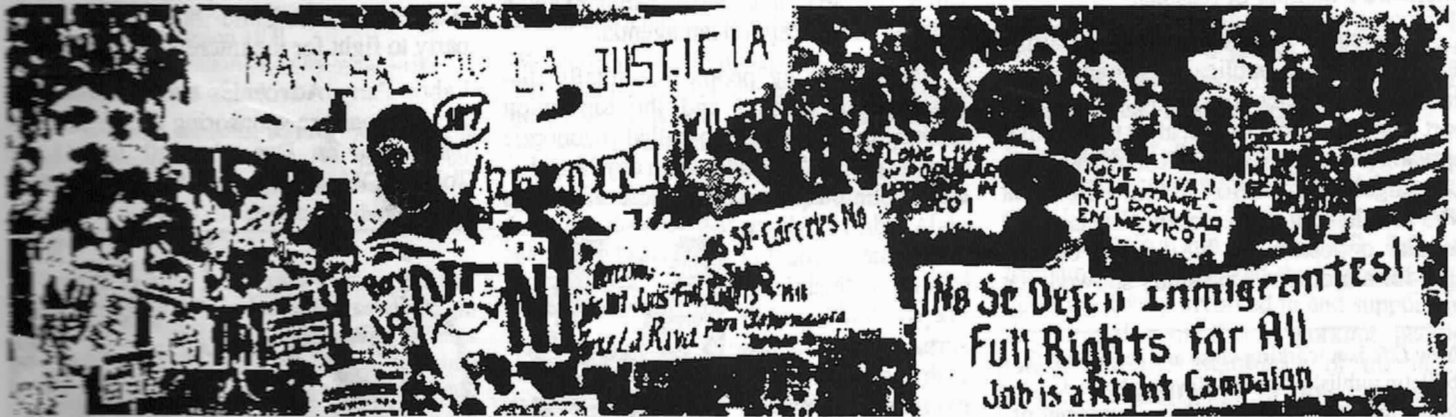
NEW LIFE



A WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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Republicans and Democrats have no answers! Join the labor party movement!



150,000 demonstrate on October 16 in Los Angeles against Proposition 187, which attacks immigrant workers.

**Labor Educational Conference
December 10 and 11 • Toledo, Ohio**

**Sponsored by Midwest Labor Party Advocates;
and local unions including: AFSCME Local 100;
OCAW locals; URW Local 1014
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Republicans and Democrats have no answers . . .

The Republican Party now has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Senate, and in State Governorships for the first time since 1954.

Many are saying that this represents a right-wing shift on the part of the majority of the U.S. population toward the Republicans' openly pro-capitalist agenda.

This isn't true.

More and more rich bosses have been moving toward the Republicans' agenda for many years — union-busting, cuts in social services, tax breaks and welfare for the rich. But the majority of working people aren't. On the contrary, there have been more struggles against this agenda in the last years than in many, many years — the strikewave, the movement of locked-out and striking workers in Decatur, the movement of immigrant workers and students in California, the movement in solidarity with Cuba, Haiti.

Why then did so many right-wing Republican candidates win elections, like Michigan Governor John Engler?

There are a number of reasons:

1. The richest bosses have been pouring money into the Republicans for many years; during the last elections, they shifted support from Bush to Clinton, after the popular uprising in solidarity with Rodney King in Los Angeles, in an effort to find a president who could contain working class and popular opposition to the bosses, even if only for a moment. One study showed that

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Editorial Board: Tim Allen, Margaret Gutshall, Kim Morgan, Fred Russo.

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“ . . . It's impossible to rely on Republicans or Democrats to fight for the interests of the workers or the people in elections. . . . ”

candidates with the most money won 39 out of 40 elections.

2. The Democrats did not put up a serious *political* fight against the Republicans in this election; they were unable and unwilling to do this because they have gone along with, or actively supported, the most important points in the Republican agenda — union-busting, cuts in social services, tax breaks and welfare for the rich; the few points where *some* Democrats differ with *some* Republicans (more democratic rights for *some* African-Americans, women, gays ...) were not enough; in some cases, Democrats backed candidates who deliberately aimed to fail (like Wolpe in Michigan), so as not to do anything to get in the way of the Republican agenda.

3. Many working people are totally disgusted with Clinton and the top union leadership because the so-called “economic recovery” hasn't brought them anything, because Clinton promised all sorts of things and didn't deliver, and because the top union leadership keeps making all sorts of concessions to the bosses and tries to crush workers who oppose this. Thus many workers are refusing to vote for Democratic Party candidates promoted by Clinton and the top union leadership,

even if it means right-wing Republican candidates win certain elections. Only 38% of voters voted in this election; 56% of people surveyed say they want a third party.

4. The labor party movement founded by the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union is still in its first stages and was not prepared to fight for independent labor candidates to fight for the interests of the people in this election.

5. Old working class and socialist organizations, like the Workers World Party and the Socialist Workers Party, were too small and too divided to put up winning candidates.

In spite of these difficulties, it's important to note that William Roundtree, Workers World Party candidate for Senate in Michigan, got about 20,000 votes. This shows that the basis exists to begin to build a big workers party in Michigan.

What conclusions should workers and students draw from the 1994 elections?

It's impossible to rely on Republicans or Democrats to fight for the interests of the workers or the people in elections.

Workers need to build their own political party to fight for the interests of the people.

Labor Party Advocates and a number of local unions are sponsoring an educational conference on December 10 and 11, in Toledo, Ohio, to discuss this and other is-



sues facing working people.

We urge all workers and students who are sick of Republicans *and* Democrats and who want to fight for a better life to be there!

Down with Republicans and Democrats!

Join the labor party movement!

All out for Toledo! December 10! ■



Solidarity with immigrant workers! No compliance with Proposition 187!

"Proposition 187," a proposal on the ballot in California which denies public services to immigrant workers without papers and their children, passed. While a judge has issued an order blocking implementation of the proposal at this time, it has already had an effect. Immigrants are staying away from health clinics, for fear that they will be fingered and deported. Self-appointed police have started asking people who look like they might be immigrants for identification papers when they are trying to buy food in grocery stores! In spite of this setback, immigrant workers and students are standing fast. Under the slogan "No compliance!", students are organizing delegations to doctors, nurses, and teachers, asking them to pledge not to comply with the law, not to turn away or turn in immigrant workers and students. We urge all working people to support this struggle and demand that every union do the same. Above all, the AFL-CIO must act. A mass mobilization is necessary until all working people of all origins and ethnic groups in the U.S. have equal rights. Here we are reprinting a statement that we wrote in solidarity with immigrant workers and students, before the voting actually took place. — M.G. ■

To workers and students of all ethnic groups in L.A.:
Solidarity with immigrant workers and students!
Vote no on Proposition 187!
Support the preparation of a city-wide strike!
National Guard out of L.A. now!

We — workers, students, and revolutionaries in Detroit, Michigan — want to express our solidarity with your struggle for equal rights for immigrant workers and students without papers, against Proposition 187.

187 not only hurts immigrant workers and students without papers, and anyone else who might look like them, it also hurts workers and students of all ethnic groups. It denies services to some workers and students, and allows them to others, thus it creates tensions and conflicts within the working class, undermines the unity, solidarity and strength of the working class.

We want more workers and students from Latin America and other regions in the U.S. We feel very strongly that there are more than enough resources to provide for everyone who wants to work and/or study. The fundamental problem is not immigrant workers or students in the U.S. or anywhere else. The fundamental problem is the rich bankers and businessmen — largely of white European origin — who own and control everything, live in luxury, and don't do anything.

Their attitude in the U.S. and California is all the more contemptible, as what is now the U.S. belonged to certain indigenous peoples in the first place. If anyone has a right to what is here, it is these people and their descendants. Everyone

else in the U.S. is an immigrant, comes from immigrants, or from people who were enslaved and brought here against their will.

So we support the struggle of immigrant workers and students and of workers and students of all ethnic groups against 187.

We support the struggle to mobilize the largest possible number of people to vote no on 187 on November 8.

We support all efforts to have 187 struck down and declared unconstitutional.

Above all, we support all efforts to continue and deepen mass action and organization in opposition to 187 and other anti-immigrant laws.

In particular, in the event that 187 is passed, we support any and every effort to bring together all workers and students against 187 in a public way, and fight for city-wide meetings, demonstrations, and, above all, a city-wide strike, until 187 is struck down. We support any and every effort to elect committees to coordinate this struggle in every work place and school.

Young people who are most devoted to this cause should be in the front ranks of this struggle, organizing delegations to union halls and workplaces throughout the city, demanding that the unions join the struggle and use their power to shut-down the city until 187 is struck down.

We condemn public officials in L.A., California, and Washington, for moving National Guard troops into L.A. and threatening to crush the people of L.A. if they rise up against 187. We demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all National Guard troops from L.A. We demand that the people of L.A. be allowed to freely and fully express their rights to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly.

And we pledge to the people of L.A., if you do rise up against 187, we will support you and do everything in our power to convince others to do the same. You are not alone. Workers and students in other states sympathize with your struggle.

The working class and popular uprising in L.A. against the racist injustice against Rodney King was an inspiration to many workers and students throughout the U.S. and throughout the world.

Your mass mobilization against 187 today is another inspiration.

We support you. We are with you. Victory to the fight for equal rights for immigrant workers and students in California!

Vote no on 187!
For mass mobilization and organization until victory! ■

Notes

Locked-out National Metal Processing workers in Detroit have made some important progress. They published a brochure presenting their case and distributed it to hundreds of workers at the recent rally in Decatur for locked-out and striking workers, at an AIW-UPIU union meeting, at a Black Workers for Justice solidarity meeting, and a labor history conference. They also raised about \$200 to help finance the struggle.

Sanitation workers at Thorn Apple Valley (TAV) meatpacking finally won the right for a larger number to transfer to production and a small wage increase. These small gains are the result of the 1994 strikewave and the agitation on the part of sanitation workers at TAV. The production workers' contract expires in February, 1995. Now is the time to start preparing the fight.

The New Directions Caucus in the United Auto Workers union passed out a leaflet supporting the GM worker's strike in Flint. It said: "The workers ... rejected the company is our friend attitude. They beat General Motors by using a tried and true union tactic: the strike ... This strike was won because the Buick City workers were willing to shut General Motors down and keep it down. It was not won by a phone call ..." Every worker should support New Directions' efforts to spread this message.

Supporters of Black Workers for Justice sponsored a meeting with Saladin Muhammad, Chairperson of Black Workers for Justice, in Detroit on October 30. Saladin Muhammad emphasized the importance of getting actively involved in and supporting the struggles of Black working people today, and the importance of the independent organization of Black working people. He expressed solidarity with the struggle of locked-out National Metal Processing workers. He also spoke in favor of the right of Black people to establish their own nation on U.S. soil, if they chose to do so.

About 4,000, including many from the Midwest, marched in Washington, D.C., on November 12, in solidarity with Cuba and against the U.S. bosses' blockade. They marched through a working class neighborhood in Washington and also welcomed the "Friendshipment" for Cuba, which includes over 75 cars and many tons of food and other supplies for Cuba. This was the first such march for Cuba since the 1960s.



What should the labor party fight for?

Members of the labor party movement are starting to discuss what they think the labor party should fight for. This is one of the things that is going to be discussed at the educational conference on December 10 in Toledo, Ohio.

We urge all working people and students to take part in this process. Put forward what you think the labor party should fight for.

Here are some of the things that we think the labor party needs to fight for.

1. Jobs for all by law. Cut the work week to 35 hours without cutting pay by law so that everyone can work.
2. A \$10/hour minimum wage by law. Cost-of-living allowances in accord with price increases by law.
3. Union control of health and safety standards and enforcement by law.
4. Stop union-busting. Support the struggles of locked-out workers, striking workers, and all working people. Repeal all anti-labor laws.
5. For public ownership of all firms that refuse to sign decent union contracts. Organize the unorganized; toward 100% unionization of all working people.
6. Expand public healthcare, public education, public transportation, and public housing.
7. Tax the richest to finance these programs. Cut all public officials' salaries and benefits to the level of the average worker's. Cut all forms of welfare for the rich. Public ownership of the banks so that the majority can democratically decide what they want to invest in.
8. Stop violence and discrimination against African-Americans, women, immigrant workers, all oppressed people. Maximum punishment for all guilty of these crimes. Repeal laws that restrict Blacks, women, immigrant workers, including laws restricting birth control and abortion and laws restricting public services to immigrants. Expand affirmative action programs: full representation of Blacks, women, immigrants, and other oppressed minorities in all positions in percentages equal to, or greater than, their percentage in the local population.
9. Immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S.

troops from all foreign territories. Cut all U.S. aid to all undemocratic and anti-labor regimes.

10. Repeal NAFTA. For a workers' trade plan that benefits workers of all countries.

11. Independent labor candidates for public office to fight for the workers' platform and the interests of the people.

12. Repeal all laws that restrict workers' rights to bear arms; no trust in armed forces with a history of strike-breaking, anti-union, anti-Black, anti-woman activity, including local police forces, the National Guard, and the various armed forces.

As socialists, we are convinced that the only way working people can solve all the problems facing them is to totally overthrow the power of the capitalists and begin to build a socialist society in which working people own and control all the basic resources in the society and democratically decide how to develop them. A labor party based on the unions, and fighting for some of the things outlined above, would be a big step in this direction, even if it weren't socialist.

Join the labor party movement. Come to the educational conference December 10 and 11. Let us know what you think the labor party should fight for! ■

**What do you think the labor party should fight for?
Make your voice heard!
Come to
the educational conference!
December 10 and 11
Toledo, Ohio!**

There will be speakers and workshops on various issues at the educational conference. Participants will also be able to speak from the floor. There won't be binding votes on any issues. But participants and workshops will be able to put forward proposals and there will be straw votes. It will be an important opportunity for working class fighters to exchange ideas and find out what others are thinking. Be there!