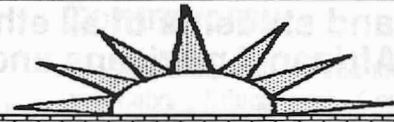


# NEW LIFE



A WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY BULLETIN IN DETROIT

NO. 10 • JANUARY 15, 1995 • 15¢ • BOX 441283, DETROIT, MI 48244-1283 • PHONE/FAX: 313-584-

# Unity against the Republicans!

## Cut public funds to the rich, not the poor!

Toledo  
conference  
for a labor  
party — a  
big step  
forward  
page 3



Lead article in the Sunday, December 11 Toledo Blade - "Third political party in view - Unionists, activists meeting in Toledo to gauge interest"

Newt Gingrich, leader of the Republican Party in Washington, has announced that he and his associates once again plan to make massive cuts in government spending.

Of course, he's not talking about cutting public funds to the rich and powerful — high salaries, benefits, perks, servants for himself and his associates; tax breaks for corporate executives, corporations; public subsidies to all sorts of private enterprises; not to mention the military budget which includes high salaries, benefits, perks, and servants for all the top military men and executives in the military industry.

No. He's talking about cutting funds and services to women who are under 21 and not married and to their children, and to immigrants, documented and undocumented!

What miserable, disgusting bullies the Republicans are!

The only thing more scandalous than the Republicans' plans is the Democratic Party's response.

Clinton has promised to cooperate. So far, not a single Democratic Party leader, even Jesse Jackson, has called for an all-out mobilization to stop the Republicans.

They all accept the lie that the Republicans have a mandate. But the vast majority of people didn't vote in the last election, not because they didn't care, but because there were no major candidates on the ballot who presented a clear alternative.

What can young people and working people do in this situation?

1. Support any and every working class and popular struggle against the rich bosses and the Republicans;
2. Fight for all working class and popular organizations — unions, student organizations, community organizations — to take a position in favor of a mass mobilization to stop the Republicans now; cut public funds to rich politicians, not welfare mothers and their children;
3. Join the labor party movement, join Labor Party Advocates, help build a network of

(Continued on back page)

## Workers and students of all ethnic groups! Support African-Americans and their struggles!

# Support Martin Luther King Day!

Thousands of African-Americans will celebrate Martin Luther King Day.

We urge workers and students of all ethnic groups to support and participate.

Martin Luther King Day is a chance to learn more about the struggles of Black people for equal rights, for recognition of their contributions and those of their leaders, like Martin Luther King, and to think about how to advance the struggle.

The struggles of Black people — for equal rights; more decent jobs, wages, healthcare, education; against racist violence and discrimination — have raised the standard of what is considered acceptable treatment of people. They have made life better for workers and students of all ethnic groups.

They have inspired others to fight for their needs and rights. Immigrants in California, fighting "Proposition 187" and other laws

denying equal rights to immigrants, refer to African-Americans and Martin Luther King as their precedent and inspiration.

The struggles of Black people have also undermined the power of the richest white families enriching themselves at the expense of the people, Black and white.

The more African-Americans struggle and progress, the more it becomes clear that workers and students of all ethnic groups have much in common. They need to join forces, overthrow the power of the richest families, and build a society in which millions of workers and oppressed of all ethnic groups can be comfortable — a classless society.

The more workers and students of all ethnic groups support the struggles of African-Americans for their needs and rights, the closer that day will be ... ■

(Excerpts from a leaflet distributed in Detroit)

## Emergency! Unionized workers must act! Support your union brothers and sisters on strike at Bridgestone-Firestone! Don't let the bosses fire them and "permanently replace" them with strikebreakers!

The owners of Bridgestone-Firestone have just announced that they plan to fire production workers who have been on strike since July 12, 1994, and "permanently replace" them with strikebreakers, scabs. The owners sent letters to production workers and told them if they don't return to work, they will lose their jobs and be replaced. The owners haven't yet sent letters to skilled workers on strike.

Unionized workers cannot allow this attack to go unanswered. We cannot simply wring our hands and lament. This is what Reagan did to striking PATCO workers in 1981. We can't let it happen again.

Rubber workers are now meeting throughout the country and discussing what to do. We urge all unionized workers, and all working people, to support any and every step that rubber workers may take to build the largest possible movement against the Bridgestone-Firestone bosses and stop strikebreakers from taking their jobs, including and especially:

— Building the largest possible picketlines to stop strikebreakers from entering plants;

— Sending delegations to other union locals

and internationals to push for any and every union local in the U.S. — especially Teamsters, railroad workers and autoworkers — to refuse to handle anything made by Bridgestone-Firestone or anything with anything made by Bridgestone-Firestone on it;

— Sending delegations to other union locals and internationals to push for an all-union workstoppage in solidarity with Bridgestone-Firestone workers and other workers under attack, like Staley workers, Caterpillar workers, etc.

During the recent Labor Educational Conference in Toledo, Ohio, sponsored by Labor Party Advocates and local unions, Dave Yettaw, president of UAW Local 599 (one of the largest autoworkers' locals in the country, with over 10,000 members at the Buick City complex in Flint, Michigan) called for a *general strike* in solidarity with locked-out Staley workers, striking Caterpillar workers, and other workers under attack.

If this is what it takes, then this is what must be done ... ■

(Excerpts from a leaflet)

## Michigan students fight Proposition 187

After the Labor Educational Conference in Toledo in December, student groups from Wayne State University (WSU) and University of Michigan (UM) met with Carlos Mora, a representative of the Pro-Immigrant Coalition of Los Angeles and a member of Labor Party Advocates in L.A. In both meetings the participants shared their experiences and strategies for opposing California's Proposition 187 and other racist attacks. Both groups heard reports of the huge,

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**"... most of us in the U.S. were at  
one time immigrants ..."**

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militant demonstrations by masses of students and workers in California opposing Prop. 187. On October 16, 1994, between 100,000 and 200,000 workers and students — many of them in union contingents — marched from East Los Angeles to the City Hall downtown. They also discussed the history of Chicanos in the Southwest. Many Chicanos never integrated into the United States. In fact, the United States took over the territory they lived in and suddenly they lived in the U.S. In reference to this, one slogan at marches in L.A. has been "We didn't cross the border, the border crossed us!"

At WSU, the student group, Latino Students, shared insights on how to counter anti-immigrant attitudes. One student suggested that when current citizens complain about immigrants, they are overlooking the fact that most of us in the U.S. were at one time immigrants; many of our families came from Italy, Ireland, etc. — in fact, no white people in the U.S. were natives. Only Native Americans were here originally. Everyone else immigrated. Why was it OK for *our* ancestors to immigrate, and not for others?

At UM, the student group M-Stop 187 — Michigan Students Opposed to 187, a coalition of 25 student groups in Ann Arbor — initiated a call for demonstrations against California's Proposition 187 in conjunction with activities on Martin Luther King Day. They called for: (1) Stop racist attacks on African-Americans and immigrant workers and students!; (2) Cut welfare for the rich, not the poor!; and (3) Urge non-compliance with 187!.

These meetings represent an important step forward for workers and students everywhere. The more we work together against racist attacks, the sooner we will win. — Kim Morgan ■



# Toledo conference for a labor party — a big step forward

A Labor Educational Conference was held December 10 and 11 in Toledo, Ohio. It was sponsored by Midwest Labor Party Advocates and several local unions, including Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union locals. About 350 participants gathered, including representatives of some of the most important working class and popular struggles — Dave Watts, president of the locked-out Staley workers in Decatur, Illinois; Dave Yettaw, president of UAW Local 599 in Flint, Michigan, which recently organized a successful strike against GM for more jobs; Isaac Campbell, from the locked-out National Metal Processing workers in Detroit; Carlos Mora, from the Pro-Immigrant Coalition in Los Angeles, which recently organized the 150,000 strong mass demonstration against "Proposition 187," the racist, anti-immigrant law; members of the Black Workers for Justice; members of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC); and many others.

The conference included initial speeches by Bob Wages, president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union and Jedd Dodd, from the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees; an open debate on whether the labor movement should form a labor party now or not; workshops on what kinds of things the labor party should fight for and an open session with reports from the workshops and straw votes on the

workshops' recommendations.

While some of the first discussions were dominated by the critics of Labor Party Advocates, particularly the Workers League, the more the conference proceeded, the more those who are actually involved in building Labor Party Advocates came forward, defended it and talked about their work. It was clear that Labor Party Advocates is drawing in new workers and young people who have never been involved in working class politics before. Participants in workshops also had intense discussions about what kinds of things they think the labor party needs to fight for, and worked together to bring their recommendations to the group as a whole.

The Labor Educational Conference in Toledo was a small example of the tremendous talent and energy that exists within the U.S. working class and its supporters. If we can bring that talent and energy together, unify it into a single fighting force, then we will indeed have what it takes to overthrow the power of the bosses and build a society in which working people will be comfortable.

In this issue of *New Life*, we are reprinting two recommendations from the conference. In future issues, we will publish more. — M.G.■

## Jobs

1. Guaranteed annual income or a job with a minimum hourly wage of \$10 to \$15 with cost-of-living increases.
2. Task force to work on all recommendations.
3. Public works program
4. Shorter work week (and early retirement) with no cut in pay.
5. Oppose job discrimination and segregation.

## Lockout and strike solidarity

1. The labor movement should issue more information to the public on striking and locked-out workers.
2. Labor Party Advocates should create a committee on strike support.
3. The labor movement should build city-wide, strike-support coalitions.
4. The labor movement should organize tours of striking and locked-out workers, including undocumented workers, and plant gate collections.
5. The labor movement should utilize central labor councils to build striker and locked-out worker solidarity. ■

## Controversy

Two of the discussions that took place at the Labor Educational Conference in Toledo revolved around the questions of striking and locked-out workers and who should the labor party be open to.

These two questions are important ones. The way they are treated in the end will effect the shape the labor party will take.

Strikes and lock-outs are taking place all over the country, especially in Decatur, Illinois, with the Caterpillar, Bridgestone-Firestone and Staley workers, but also here in Detroit with National Metal workers.

These struggles, as positive as they are, face real trouble. Many of these workers can't afford to be out there, losing their homes, cars and health, because the union can't afford to provide enough in strike/lock-out pay to sustain them for the duration. However, while they carry on their struggle, the union leadership pulls in giant salaries and outrageous perks that are paid for out of these workers' pockets.

The union should provide more for the rank-and-file and less for its leadership. The leadership should make the equivalent of the membership and more money should go to help out workers on strike and locked-out. They should not be forced to be punished by the union for their struggle.

The other question — should the labor party be open to everyone — the answer should be a definitive yes. If the labor party was to be open only to members of organized labor, the party would be missing a majority of working and young people. The working class is made up of many kinds of people — organized, unorganized, skilled, unskilled, documented, undocumented, young, old, black, white, brown, yellow, and its party should reflect this spectrum of people.

Today, more and more jobs are being done by unorganized labor and union jobs are difficult to find.

Unorganized workers need a labor party as badly, if not more than organized workers. — Tim Allen ■

*New Life* is a working class and revolutionary bulletin published by the Revolutionary Committee of Detroit. The RCD is a supporter of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, founded by Leon Trotsky and his comrades. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of *New Life*. These are expressed in editorials. Editorial Board: Tim Allen, Margaret Guttschall, Kim Morgan, Fred Russo.



# Defend young working class women against anti-abortion terrorists!

On December 30, a young man entered into two different abortion clinics in the Boston, Massachusetts area with an automatic rifle and opened fire. He killed two young women who worked in the clinics, and wounded several others.

Police picked up John Salvi in Norfolk, Virginia, who they say is the killer.

This and other attacks on women in abortion clinics and their supporters are, above all, attacks on young working class women.

More than anyone else, it is young working class women who are forced to terminate pregnancies, because they don't make enough money to support a child, or more children, or to pay for childcare. More than anyone else, it is young working class women who are forced to turn to relatively public clinics when they need abortions.

Rich upper class women have *always* had the right to abortion, whether it was legal or illegal, whether there was a large movement against abortion or not. When abortion was illegal, rich upper class women always had the money to pay a doctor if they found it convenient to have an abortion, or to fly to Puerto Rico or another location, where abortions were performed by trained doctors in comfortable and convenient locations. Today, when a well-off woman wants an abortion, she goes to her doctor, or a hospital, to get a "D & C," where she is one of many patients. There can be no doubt that leaders of the anti-abortion movement, and wives, daughters, and girlfriends of leaders of the anti-abortion movement, are having abortions in precisely these circumstances today.

The ones who are suffering are the masses of working class women and poorer middle class women who can't afford children, and can't afford to go anywhere but a relatively public clinic to get an abortion, where they not only have to go through the unpleasant experience of having an abortion, but now have to risk their lives as well.

The anti-abortion movement, and the anti-abortion terrorists that they have spawned by creating a climate in which women who chose to get abortions are considered criminals, "baby killers," are above all attempts to stigmatize and terrorize working class women, to drive them back into the role of simply bearing and raising children, rather than being equal members of society, equal partners in the struggle for the emancipation of the working class.

All young people and working people, whether they agree with abortions or not, should defend the *right* of working class women to get abortions if they chose to do so. We need *armed union defense guards* to defend abortion clinics. It's impossible to rely on the police to do this. Police are selected on the basis of their devotion to the higher ups, not on the basis of their devotion to women.

50% of the population is women. 50% of the population may need to get an abortion some day. What are the unions doing to defend this elementary right?—M.G. ■

## Unity against Republicans . . .

(Continued from front page)

working class and popular leaders and fighters capable of spreading the truth and organizing millions of people to fight for it.

Everything that is happening today shows that young people and working people can no longer leave fundamental decisions concerning what is going to happen in the hands of rich politicians. Every young person, every worker, has to get active in the movement, become a leader, an organizer, a fighter, in some way, no matter how small it may be. This is the only way forward.

For a mass mobilization to stop the Republicans now!

Join the labor party movement!

New Life ■

## Notes

### Jesse Jackson

Jesse Jackson recently said that he might run for president in 1996 as a Democrat or an independent, and that he might start another political party. If Jackson runs as a Democrat, an independent, and/or starts a third party, many workers and oppressed will undoubtedly support him against more openly racist, and anti-working class candidates. But it would be a mistake to rely on Jackson to lead a working class and popular struggle against the Republicans. After the 1988 elections, Jackson made peace with Bush. He supported Clinton in the last elections. Workers and oppressed need to fight for a mass mobilization to stop the Republicans now, for more decent jobs, wages, working conditions, and healthcare now, not wait for the next election. And they need their own working class party, with their own working class candidates, to lead this fight. This is the most important task today; differences over what Jackson may or may not do shouldn't get in the way of this struggle.

### Chechnya

The people of Chechnya have declared their independence from Russia. This is the cause for the Russian war against Chechnya.

Chechnya, and nearby republics like Azerbaijan, have oil deposits. Russia wants Chechnya for its pipelines as well. For years, the tiny group of privileged Russian bureaucrats has taken their oil and sold it to benefit itself, not the people of the region.

The Russian people have risen up and broken the back of this privileged bureaucracy. The Chechens saw the chance for freedom and said: "we are our own country now!" The Russian government has sent troops to crush Chechnya. It has suppressed news reports inside Russia about the war. As the truth spreads, however, more Russians are protesting against the war.

The U.S. government supports the Russian government, and says that the war against Chechnya is "an internal Russian affair." In 1991, U.S. President Bush launched "Desert Storm" to defend the interests of U.S. oil companies against the Arabic peoples. Now, when Chechnya, a nation that owns oil, struggles to be free, it is an "internal affair" of the oppressing government. The oil companies are worried that this wave of independence may catch on. U.S. workers must say no to this oppressive policy. Workers must say: Independence for Chechnya! Russian troops out of Chechnya! ■

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