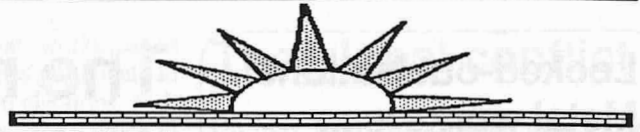


NEW LIFE



A SOCIALIST BULLETIN SERVING THE LABOR PARTY MOVEMENT

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More solidarity with workers!

Join the UAW caravan
to the rally in solidarity
with locked-out and
striking workers!

Decatur • June 24-25!

For further information, contact: Chico, UAW Region 1A,
291-2750; Labor Party Advocates, 730-4530

Bob King, and other leaders of UAW Region 1A, have agreed to send buses and/or a car caravan to the rally in solidarity with locked-out and striking workers in Decatur, Illinois on June 24 and 25.

We urge all young people, working people, and trade unionists in the Detroit area to support this decision. Contact the UAW. Let them know you support the decision. Let them know you are interested in a seat on a bus.

The rally in Decatur is extremely important. U.S. bosses are trying to totally crush unionized workers in Decatur. They are trying to force them to work 12-hour rotating shifts — from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. one week; from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the next. They are trying to cut jobs, health and safety rules, vacation time, and union representation.

This is one of the things that U.S. bosses are trying to do to make their enterprises more competitive in the global market place, so that they can enrich themselves and live in luxury at the expense of millions of workers and their children.

Decatur is a test case. If they succeed there, they are going to move on to workers and unions in other cities and states.

It's going to take a massive mobilization of millions of workers and students of all ethnic groups to *force the bosses to back down*. The rally in Decatur is a step toward building such a mobilization.

Revolutionary youth, revolutionary workers, socialists, and Trotskyists should be in the front ranks of this struggle. We have no interests separate and apart from those of the working class as a whole.

More solidarity with locked-out and striking workers!

Join the UAW caravan to the rally in Decatur!

New Life ■

Locked-out National Metal workers ... Organize and fight!

Since September, 1994, a small group of locked-out National Metal Processing workers and their supporters have been working to build a *public campaign* for justice for the locked-out workers, for jobs and back-pay now. This group has made a certain amount of progress: it spread information about the case, got more support for the locked-out workers, and got some union officials and government officials to at least try to look like they were doing something for the workers' cause.

But it really isn't possible to make more progress unless the majority of locked-out workers who are still around get actively involved in the struggle.

Unfortunately, some union officials from the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) are trying to discourage locked-out workers from fighting actively and publicly for their rights. They are trying to discourage them from organizing meetings, demonstrations, marches, publicity. They say that if the workers do this kind of thing, that they will never get their jobs or their money back. One official even tried to convince locked-out workers that those who were trying to organize a public campaign were stealing money from the workers; that they were raising money in the name of locked-out workers and taking it for themselves.

Workers need to think about their own experiences. Have the masses of working people ever gotten anything without organizing and fighting? Was slavery ended without organizing and fighting? Were unions built without organizing and fighting? Did African-Americans get any civil rights without organizing and fighting?

Obviously, it's necessary to think, to plan, to be careful. It's necessary to figure out how to make the most amount of progress with the least amount of casualties. But there is no way to progress without organizing and fighting. As Frederick Douglass, the great abolitionist said, "Power never cedes power without a demand."

Support the fight within UPIU Local 9-267 for a *public campaign* for justice for locked-out National Metal workers! Organize and fight for your rights! — M.G. ■

The new labor party: a victory for every worker!

U.S. workers will soon have their own party. A labor party will be founded in 1996. This is a victory for every working person, for every person who is not rich!

Victories of this size and historic importance do not occur too often. For 60 years, advanced workers and socialists have fought

make it more difficult for the rich to use the government against the workers. It can use positions in government to fight for the demands of the majority against the rich minority.

An independent workers party shows the society that there is an entire class of people

"... The rich owners are a tiny group of people. How can they wield so much power over the vast majority in a democracy like the U.S.?"

"The workers do not have their own political party to fight for their interests ..."

to build an independent workers party, a political party independent of the Democratic and Republican parties and based on the unions.

Why?

1. An independent workers party can make a big contribution to uniting all the local struggles into a common struggle against the rich owners. Every local struggle has the same character. They are all struggles against powerful rich owners of industry. In each struggle, the power and corporate ties of these owners goes beyond the local struggle. How can the workers in Decatur make permanent gains against the rich owners of Caterpillar, Firestone and Staley without a weapon to fight them on the national level?

2. Only an independent workers party can generalize the struggle of the workers to a political struggle, a struggle for political power for the workers.

This is the fundamental reason to fight for a workers party.

The rich owners are a tiny group of people. How can they wield so much power over the vast majority in a democracy like the U.S.?

The workers do not have their own political party to fight for their interests. A political party of the working class can actually win political power for workers, change laws,

who can provide answers to the problems all working people and all middle class people are facing. And it can provide a leadership capable of fighting to make these answers come alive.

Part of the world-wide struggle

The victory of a labor party convention is one more sign that the tide is turning worldwide in favor of the workers and against the rich owners of industry, banks and commerce.

Whether we look east to the victory of the workers crushing the old Stalinist or "communist" dictatorships in the ex-USSR and Eastern Europe, or to the uprising in Mexico by the Zapatistas, or to the crushing of the apartheid system in South Africa, the struggles of the workers are achieving victories. The labor party convention in the U.S. is part of this world-wide change, and, in turn, it will contribute to accelerating this change. A labor party in the U.S. is a victory for working and oppressed people all over the world.

What will make a successful labor party convention?

There are different ideas over what will make the labor party convention the most successful convention possible.

Some think we need to have the greatest



amount of support from the leaders of the unions today. Others think that while this is important, it is very important to develop ties with other independent party movements like the New Party or the Greens.

While these things may be important, they are not fundamental.

The labor party convention must centralize all the struggles that are taking place among workers and oppressed today. Those who are really fighting the corporations in the front lines — struggles such as those in Decatur, those of locked-out workers across the country, those fighting to organize unions, the GM workers who struck for more jobs, people fighting racial and sexual discrimination, young workers fighting for their rights — these forces are the most important forces that must be at the labor party convention.

If we do everything possible to organize these forces to be at the convention, then the labor leaders that are connected to these forces will be there. And all other forces will look to the labor party for leadership. It will be a labor party for the future.

Program

There is a discussion about the program, too.

The most active forces must have decisive input into the program. They must work together to figure out what program today will allow them to achieve the biggest possible victories, to activate the largest number of workers to struggle.

This program will not try to pretend that the workers are just another interest group in the society. That the workers' demands must be compromised with those of the rich owners. The fundamental workers' demands of today are for our very survival. There can be no compromise because compromise means that some workers will not survive.

This is what is stake at Staley, Firestone and Caterpillar. This is what is at stake in the most advanced struggles in the U.S. today. The very survival of groups of workers.

The fundamental demands of the workers — for good union jobs for all people who want to work; for national health care; to make replacing workers with contracts illegal; to stop sending U.S. troops overseas to protect the oil companies or Coca-Cola; these demands must be a part of the program of the labor party.

The 1996 Elections

It is too bad that the convention is not being

held early enough so that workers and unions could have candidates participate in the early stages of the 1996 elections. Millions of workers are looking for a voice in the elections.



Isaac Campbell, locked-out worker from National Metal in Detroit, and Dave Watts, locked-out worker from Staley in Decatur.

But it would be a mistake to think that simply because the convention is not being held in 1995, that the convention won't be able to make any kind of fight for independent labor candidates in the 1996 elections. How many candidates and how successful they are depends on the level of struggle. Miners organized a victorious write-in campaign in 1987 during the Pitston strike. If we do everything possible to have all struggles in the U.S. at the convention, we will create the best possible conditions for the workers to have a voice in the 1996 elections.

Let's make sure that every fighting worker, every militant struggle, everything good and progressive about the workers' movement and the unions is there in full force. Forward to the 1996 convention! — Fred Russo ■

Our position

A successful labor party convention requires that:

1. Every workers' struggle, every young workers' struggle, every struggle of people of color, should be represented at the convention with the largest possible numbers;
2. A program be adopted that reflects the conclusions of the workers engaged in these struggles, how they can achieve the greatest victories, how they can best win the active support of the most workers. ■

The global conflict

On May 1, in Mexico City, over 100,000 workers and citizens demonstrated against the government's anti-working class measures and in defiance of the official trade union leadership which, for the first time in Mexican history, had canceled traditional May Day demonstrations. Supporters of International Workers Unity (Fourth International), organized in UNIOS (Unidad Obrero y Socialista—Workers and Socialist Unity), participated in the demonstrations. They are fighting to bring down Zedillo and his economic plan and for a government of "los de abajo," the people at the bottom, against the people at the top. They are also fighting for: "Defend unemployment and demand immediate emergency wage increases. Respect union contracts ... For a new union federation that is independent, democratic and combative. Oust the army from Chiapas. Respect the demands of the EZLN (Zapatistas). Recognize the government of Amado Avendano (The rebel government in Chiapas). Free political prisoners. Down with ... NAFTA. Moratorium on the external debt. Forge a single front that fights under a single program." (From *Al Socialismo*, Year 2, No. 34, First half of May, 1995.)

In Argentina, in April, 200 workers at the Continental Fuegina electronics plant in Tierra del Fuego occupied the plant to protest plans to close it and to demand back pay. On April 11, cops evicted workers from the plant using clubs and rubber bullets, wounded 15 and arrested 20. When workers from other plants found out what happened, they pelted police with rocks. About 100 marched to the government building, threw rocks, and demanded the resignation of the labor minister. Unions called a 25-hour work stoppage and demonstrations to protest. 2,000 workers marched to the police station to demand freedom for arrested workers. Police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. They killed Victor Choque, a 37-year-old construction worker by shooting him in the head. On Good Friday, 3,000 marched for Victor Choque. 10,000 marched at his funeral. This is just one of the most dramatic examples of labor struggles taking place throughout Argentina, in opposition to government austerity measures. In this situation, supporters of International Workers Unity (Fourth International), organized in the MST (Movimiento Socialista de los Trabajadores — Socialist Workers

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The labor party and the 1996 elections

A labor party is going to be founded in May or June of 1996. One of the most important issues that is going to immediately confront the new labor party is what kind of attitude to have toward the various candidates in the 1996 presidential elections and what kind of alternative to offer.

Tony Mazzocchi, the former secretary-treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, and the founder of Labor Party Advocates, is against endorsing any candidates or running any candidates. He wants the founding convention to adopt a platform with positions on issues like jobs, wages, healthcare, etc., and demand that whoever is running support this platform.

Some leaders of the United Electrical workers', and other New Party supporters in Labor Party Advocates, want the new labor party to endorse "progressive" Republicans and Democrats for higher offices, and run its own candidates for lower offices where it thinks it can win.

Others, like the working class revolutionaries and Trotskyists in *New Life*, want the new labor party to fight for independent labor candidates for all offices.

We want the unions, the organized labor movement, to put forward their own candidates. We are also in favor of the labor party itself running its own candidates for office in order to build support for this struggle, and other working class struggles, always making it clear that if a larger section of the organized labor movement would put forward a candidate for president, or another office, that the labor party movement, which is still a relatively small movement within the unions, would be more than happy to withdraw its candidate in favor of an independent labor candidate that might have more support.

There is already quite a bit of tension and conflict over these issues within the labor party movement. It's very important to take a careful look at these issues, and think things through. We want to come out of the founding convention of the labor party united, ready to take on the bosses in a way that is stronger than ever.

The New Party tendency

Let's take a look at the position of the New Party tendency within the labor party movement first.

"The problem with the New Party tendency's position is that it doesn't look at this issue from the point of view of what is best for the working class . . ."

The New Party says:

"We will nominate our own candidates where they can win — women and men who enthusiastically embrace our agenda.

"But where a New Party candidate can only act as a spoiler, splitting the progressive vote and handing victory to a more conservative candidate, we won't waste our votes ... or yours.

"Instead, a New Party chapter can cross-endorse a progressive major party candidate, placing his or her name on the ballot not just once but twice.

"We realize this is a strategy unfamiliar to most Americans today. That's because cross-endorsement was outlawed in most states decades ago to discourage the growth of alternative parties and solidify the advantage of the Democratic and Republican machines.

"Yet cross-endorsement has played a crucial role in American politics. The American Labor Party provided FDR with his margin of victory in New York in 1940, and the Liberal Party did the same for JFK in 1960 ..."

The problem with the New Party tendency's position is that it doesn't look at this issue from the point of view of what is best for the working class, which represents the interests of the majority of working people.

The New Party tendency says: "We will nominate our own candidates where *they* [emphasis added] can win ..."

But we don't care whether this or that candidate wins. We want the *working class* to win. What does it mean for the working class to win an election?

The working class wins in an election if the size of the working class grows, if it gets stronger, if the number of unionized workers

grows, if they win better contracts, if the labor party movement *grows*, if candidates owned and controlled by workers, who will use their positions in public office to do what the majority of workers want them to do, are elected.

Looked at from this broad, *working class* point of view, it's possible for the working class to win in an election, even if some or all of the candidates that it votes for lose. It's also possible for the working class to lose in an election, even if all of the candidates that it votes for win.

In fact, the latter has been happening for quite some time. The majority of workers have been voting for Democrats, Democrats have been winning elections, up until the last election, and workers have been losing, because Democrats haven't been using their campaigns or their positions in public office to build support for the working class, its unions, its causes, etc.

What the New Party tendency proposes isn't very new at all. What it proposes is to keep on doing this. Keep on voting for "progressive" Democrats and Republicans (if you can find one), unless you've got another candidate that you think can "win."

The problem with this policy is that it leaves

Our position

1. Republican and Democratic Party candidates for president and other offices are going to use their campaigns to try to turn workers of different ethnic groups against each other — native born against immigrants, white against workers of color, etc.

2. The labor movement needs its own independent labor candidates for president and other offices, its own spokespeople, who will use their campaigns, and positions in public office, to counteract this, and unify and mobilize millions of workers and oppressed of all ethnic groups against the rich bosses.

3. The new labor party should put forward candidates for president and other offices to fight for this, making clear that it will withdraw its candidate if the labor movement as a whole agrees to put forward an independent labor candidate that might be more representative. ■



the most important electoral contests completely in the hands of the Republicans and Democrats. Republican and Democratic Party presidential candidates use their campaigns and their positions in public office to try to turn the population against working people and against the unions, and to try to turn working people and the unions against each other. They spend hours on TV and radio, in newspapers and public meetings, doing this.

Workers need their *own* candidates, their own spokespeople on TV and radio, in newspapers and public meetings, to counteract all the bosses' candidates' lies, all their anti-working class, anti-union, divisive propaganda, and to unify and mobilize millions against the rich bosses. This is what is most important, not whether this or that candidate actually gets enough votes to be elected to this or that position, the first time around.

Tony Mazzocchi's policy

The problem with Tony Mazzocchi's policy — no endorsing or running — is that it is no alternative to the New Party tendency's policy. Both leave the field open to Republicans, Democrats, and their supporters.

Like or not, the most thoughtful workers listen to different candidates during elections; they look for candidates worth voting for. This is positive. It shows that they believe that they have a right to have a say in the policies of the nation and who is going to lead it.

Republicans, Democrats, and other bourgeois candidates are going to be using the 1996 elections to try to divide the working class, to try to pit workers of different ethnic groups against each other.

Republicans try to appeal to older white male workers and turn them against African-Americans, immigrants, women. Liberal Democrats try to appeal to African-Americans, women, immigrants, and try to turn them against older white male workers, as if older white male workers were the *reason* for the oppression of African-Americans, women, etc. There's no question that older white males haven't done enough to fight this oppression; many have collaborated in it and even benefitted from it in some circumstances. But they aren't the fundamental problem. They are small players in the game. More and more the rich of all ethnic groups are working together to

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Locked-out workers and socialism

Locked-out National Metal Processing workers, Staley workers, and other locked-out workers in the U.S., have had an opportunity to see what the capitalist economic system can be like first-hand.

In the capitalist economic system, the rich capitalist bosses' quest for profits, for enriching themselves, dominates the economy and the society. If it's profitable, it stays. If it's unprofitable, it goes.

Thus it was that these workers were locked-out. They didn't fit into their bosses' plans for profits. They weren't willing to take pay cuts without even asking questions. They weren't willing to work 12-hour rotating shifts (7 a.m. to 7 p.m. one week; 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the next) without resisting. So they were locked-out, and replaced with workers that the bosses thought would make the bosses richer. And many locked-out workers lost their cars, their homes, their health, relations with family and friends.

How would things be different in a socialist society?

First, the rich capitalist bosses would be crushed. They wouldn't be allowed to own all the banks, basic industry, transportation, large-scale agriculture, communications — all the things that working people need to survive — and use them to enrich themselves at the expense of the people. The bosses would have to go to work like everyone else and make some sort of positive contribution to the economy and society. They wouldn't be able to take out any more than they put in.

Second, the workers would have their own government, made up of democratically elected representatives of workers' organizations. The workers' democratically elected government would plan and organize the production and distribution of basic necessities. Workers would have the right to *immediately recall* representatives who don't carry out their wishes. Workers' representatives wouldn't be allowed to make any more than the average worker makes, or live any more comfortably than the average worker lives.

Workers might democratically decide that it would be best to close a certain plant. But they would never do this without consulting the workers involved, and finding them other work.

We call this system a *socialist* or *communist*

system because it is based on *social* or *common* ownership of the basic resources in society, rather than on *private capitalist* ownership.

Workers in a number of countries have made a certain amount of progress in building socialist societies — Russia, Eastern Europe, China, Korea, Cuba, Vietnam. But progress in socialism in these countries has been blocked for many years by the growth of huge privileged bureaucracies around the ruling Communist Parties. The working class and popular uprisings against the ruling Communist Parties in the old USSR and Eastern Europe are progress *toward* socialism, not away from it.

Locked-out workers and their supporters can and should fight these lock-outs in every possible way — with meetings, demonstrations, marches, sit-downs, boycotts, independent labor candidates, an independent labor party.

Lock-outs should be outlawed. Bosses who attempt lock-outs should be arrested and imprisoned. Their enterprises should be confiscated and turned into public utilities, run by the unions in the interests of the people.

The more locked-out workers struggle along these lines, the more they'll see that workers have the power to totally overthrow the power of the bosses, and build a society in which working people will be comfortable, in which lock-outs will be unheard of, nothing but ancient history. In other words, workers have the power to build a *socialist* society.

If you see things this way, join New Life, a socialist tendency in the labor party movement, and help it happen as soon as possible!
— M.G. ■

What is New Life fighting for?

Draft platform of New Life, a socialist publication serving the labor party movement

This is the New Life platform. If you agree with it, you can and should join New Life. You can get it from any salesperson.

You can call New Life at: 313-584-6556 or write us at: PO Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283



Global conflict . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Movement) are running candidates for president and other offices in the national elections. In a speech at the "Federacion de Box," Luis Zamora, their candidate for president, called for Argentina to break totally with U.S. imperialism and the International Monetary Fund, for making the rich pay for the crisis, for a general strike, a workers party, and "a government of those who have never governed: the workers and the people."

The movement for a workers party in Belarus ran candidates for the first time in elections that were held in May. We haven't yet received exact results, but we did learn that several did well, and made it in to the final round in the elections.

The United Nations just bombed Serbia, and reactionary Serbian forces retaliated by bombing Tuzla, a working class center in Bosnia. At least 50 in Tuzla are already dead. Now the UN is going to bomb Serbia again, and Serbia will undoubtedly bomb Bosnia again. The UN is *not* helping the Bosnian people beat back the reactionary Serbian forces and win their freedom. To do this, they need their own weapons. Unions in the U.S. should help the Bosnian people get weapons, and send volunteers to fight alongside them. — M.G. ■

1996 elections . . .

(Continued from page 4)

keep down the workers and oppressed of all ethnic groups.

Candidates like Jesse Jackson and Ross Perot appeal to workers, then step aside and support mainstream Republican or Democratic Party candidates, openly or covertly.

Another alternative

The only way to make big changes in this society is to build a mass movement involving millions of working people. In order to do this, the labor movement needs a labor party. It also needs candidates for president and other offices who will use their campaigns to fight for unifying workers of all ethnic groups against the rich bosses — throughout the elections, from the first primary in February, to and through the final election in November. This way the workers will win, no matter how many votes their candidates get. — M. Guttshall ■

Stepping out in the world ...

More on the International Workers Unity conference

I admit I was nervous about going to Spain for the conference founding the new organization, International Workers Unity. I had never been overseas, I don't speak Spanish, I would only know a few people there.... But I also knew it would be an opportunity to be part of an historic event — the first international unification of splintered Trotskyist forces in 25 years. And it would be a chance to meet people from all over the world who share my goal of reconstructing the Fourth International and building toward workers' revolutions all over the world. In fact, it was a chance to learn what it means to be an internationalist on a concrete level; to step out of my narrow experience into the perspective of many people's experiences from all over the world.

The first thing I noticed about Barcelona was that the surroundings are different from those in the U.S. First, the streets are narrow, all the cars are very small and the city's population is extremely concentrated. Having lived in Detroit all my life, where the city was once the center of industry, it surprised me that most working class people near Barcelona live in the suburbs, not in the city. It's very expensive to live in the city, where there is beautiful architecture with ornate tiles and wrought iron trim. Besides, all the factories were built outside the city — because the city was built before the factories, in fact, before the industrial revolution.

Another difference was the language barrier — almost everyone there spoke Spanish. One of the things that most Anglos in the U.S. have taken for granted is that those around us will speak English. Many of us know this is changing with the growth of Latino communities here. But the experience of not being able to communicate except through interpreters is a real shift in perspective. So many times I tried to have conversations with people whose ideas and experiences I wanted to hear, but could not bridge that gap. At the same time, being submerged in an environment where everyone speaks Spanish made learning Spanish seem a natural thing to do, instead of a chore. In a week, I learned enough words to communicate basic ideas like

"eating and sleeping," "coming and going," "here and there," and "now and later." Now I'm excited about taking Spanish language courses.

What affected me the most about going to an international conference for the first time was how deeply connected I felt to people from other countries who are working toward the same goals. I met "Baba," a delegate to the parliament from the Workers Party in Brazil. With the help of a young Spanish comrade who speaks English, we talked about how the global crisis of capitalism is creating more poverty in both our countries. I discussed the problems of racism and drug trafficking in both the U.S. and Spain with two young Spanish students. I toasted independent working class parties with Matvienko and his comrades from Belarus. I shook hands with a Polish comrade who spoke stirringly about the terrible conditions for workers in Poland, where he says there could be a general strike at any time. I learned about the cutbacks in social benefits in Sweden, often viewed as the most advanced social welfare state, from a Swedish comrade who works as a teacher and social worker.

These experiences helped me to see more clearly that in all countries, no matter what climate or culture, the effects of imperialism are felt by workers every day. In developing countries like Brazil, where vast national resources have been stolen by multi-national corporations, the numbers of working class people who suffer from poverty are huge. Yet the workers in Brazil are building a working class party to fight back. In Belarus, where the industries are owned by the working class but usurped by the bureaucracy and now threatened with capitalist restoration, workers are fighting with independent unions and political action. And even though most workers in the U.S. are more privileged than in much of the world, workers here are organizing a fight for our own independent political party. Seeing these similar patterns and sharing strategies with comrades in the rest of the world, gave me more hope for the world revolution — a whole world where decisions are made by and for the working class. — K. Morgan ■



Looking back at Haymarket Square

May 4th marked the 109th anniversary of the Haymarket affair. And today with working people on strike, locked-out, or those who can keep their jobs working more hours a day for less money, a look back at the Haymarket affair is in order.

The year was 1886. Working people across the country and throughout the world were engaged in a fight for the 8-hour work day. On May 1st of that year, there was a national day of protest with a general strike throughout the country. In the city of Chicago, thousands participated in the general strike. This passed without the eruption of violence in the city. In the days that passed, rallies were held for the 8-hour day with large numbers of workers attending.

On the 3rd of May, locked-out workers at the McCormick works clashed with scabs. The McCormick workers were able to force the scabs back into the factory, while police wagons pulled up outside the gate. Police unloaded from the wagons and opened fire on the locked-out McCormick workers, killing at least two of the workers.

The following day, a rally was held at Haymarket Square to protest the action taken by police at the McCormick factory.

Several speeches were given addressing the incident and calling for action. When the last speaker, Samuel Fielden, began his speech, rain began. People started to leave. The crowd had now mostly broken up and only a few hundred remained. As Fielden was finishing his speech, the police who had been across the way in large numbers

decided to move in and disperse the crowd. As the police moved in, Fielden finished and came down off the speakers' stand. When the police entered the center of the rally, a bomb, thrown by a police provocateur, exploded, throwing police off their horses and killing one. The police fired into the crowd, shooting workers as well as other police. The full death count is not known, but several workers were killed and wounded.

The police and local government used this incident to start a reign of terror on labor activists in the city. They arrested and harassed militant laborers and set up 8 men for the bombing attack — Albert Parson, August Spies, Samuel Fielden, Michael Schwab, Oscar Weebe, Adolph Fisher,

Louis Lingg, Carl Engel.

During the trial, the police used made-up accounts of what happened, false evidence. The defendants were railroaded by the Chicago power structure. In the end, they were found guilty.

No real evidence was ever found to tie these men to the bombing. Later, after four were hung, a higher court overturned the verdict.

Today, more and more young people are learning about Haymarket Square, and the workers who were so unjustly murdered. They are determined to build a society where things like this never happen. — Tim James ■

On "Panther" and the Black Panthers

Walking in the theater to view the movie "Panther," my expectations were running high. I could finally see the 10-Point Program come to life. I would hear excerpts from wonderful speakers like Fred Hampton, Bobby Seale, and Huey Newton. I would finally know the inside story on the defection of Eldridge Cleaver from the party, I would see the actions of courageous sisters such as Elaine Brown and Angela Davis. I was looking forward to a movie not focused on point 7, or "all Black people should arm themselves for self-defense." I was expecting substance over symbolism, poetry over nursery rhyme. I was hoping that when people walked out of that theater, they would know what the Black Panthers stood for. They would maybe somehow adapt the principles of Marx, Fanon, Mao Tsetung, Che Guevara, and the unfinished work of Malcolm X (one of the main reasons the party was started). I was hoping that the inspiration from a film on Black people standing up for their constitutional rights, would maybe somehow open some white people's minds to revolutionary principles.

Unfortunately, "Panther" is not the proper medium to achieve this. If after viewing this



film, one is intrigued to obtain more information on the Black Panther Party, "Revolutionary Suicide" by Huey Newton, the recently republished autobiography of the Panther co-founder, is a start. After reading this work, one has a better understanding of the beginning, evolution, internal strife, and revolutionary action the Black Panther Party spread. It is indeed dangerous if "Panther" is the only window for information to the masses. The Black Panther Party is far more complex, less fashionable, and more of a "threat" than any movie could every portray. In its time, the Black Panther Party was in many ways genius. If the movie or any written work on the Panthers rejuvenates their message, society can only revolutionize. This is just my opinion, and I am a white man from the suburbs, what do I know. — Eric Gubka ■

New Life is a socialist bulletin published in the interests of the labor party movement. *New Life* is a supporter of International Workers Unity, a tendency of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, founded by Leon Trotsky and his co-thinkers. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of *New Life*. These are expressed in editorials. Editorial Board: Eric Gubka, Margaret Guttshall, Tim James, Kim Morgan, Fred Russo.

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Name _____

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Send check or money order payable to M. Guttshall to New Life, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283

Don't trust what the U.S. government says about the Oklahoma explosion!

Several weeks have passed since an explosion at a Federal Building in Oklahoma killed about 167 people, including many children in a child care center.

Naturally, workers feel sorry for people who lost family and friends in this explosion. Naturally, they are concerned that something similar might happen again, and to them. Naturally, they want to know who is responsible.

But these sympathies and fears must not stop workers from doing their own thinking.

The U.S. government says that it was a bombing; they now say that two white men from Michigan, connected in some way with Michigan militias, are responsible for this bombing.

Public officials and the media are trying to turn people against poor whites in Michigan who are hostile to the government and want to defend their right to bear arms. They suggest that whites like these are all racist, violent and capable of blowing up child care centers like the one in Oklahoma.

Some workers might be inclined to believe the government's story. They know there are whites who are racist and anti-working class; they know there are white racist groups that are armed and dangerous.

Nevertheless, we think it would be a mistake to believe what the U.S. government is saying.

1. Regardless of what happened in Oklahoma, the most serious problem facing workers of all ethnic groups in the U.S. is not "terrorists" or relatively small armed groups in Michigan or anywhere else. It's the U.S. bosses and the U.S. government who are trying to drive down U.S. workers so that the bosses can lower their labor costs, better compete in the world market, and enrich themselves at our expense. They are using very well-known armed forces to put down workers who are resisting this — the police, the National Guard, etc.

2. Trying to turn the population against relatively poor whites who are hostile to the government and want to exercise their right to bear arms, is trying to turn one section of the working class and the population against another, precisely at a moment when

workers and oppressed people of all colors and all ethnic groups need to join forces against the rich bosses and the rich government officials who are robbing all of us.

3. There is absolutely no reason to believe anything that the U.S. government is saying about this explosion. The U.S. government has a history of mass murder of innocent people — Native Americans, enslaved African-Americans, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq ... The U.S. government also has a history of *framing* and executing innocent people. Some of the most famous incidents are:

Haymarket Square — a police agent threw a bomb into a workers' rally; several were killed or wounded; eight workers were arrested and imprisoned; four were hanged; one killed himself; after the mass hysteria subsided, all were cleared and pardoned.

Sacco and Vanzetti — militant anarchist workers from Italy, falsely accused of robbing a bank and killing a bank agent; arrested, imprisoned and executed, in spite of the fact that someone else confessed to the crime.

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg — falsely accused of stealing the secret of the atom bomb and giving it to the Russians; arrested, imprisoned, and executed, in spite of the fact that scientists throughout the world knew that the problem of building an atom bomb could only be resolved with precise and detailed specifications, not with crude drawings like the ones presented as evidence; not only did they not commit the crime, the crime itself was never committed; yet the U.S. government electrocuted this man and woman with this evidence.

More recently, we know that U.S. government agents were involved in trying to provoke conflicts among Black Panthers, in murdering Panthers, and in framing, arresting and imprisoning militants like Mumi Abu Jamal and Leonard Peltier.

How do we know that the explosion in Oklahoma was actually a bombing? How do we know that it was not a government experiment that went awry, that everything that has happened since is not a hastily concocted coverup? If it was a bombing, how do we know who did it? How do we

know it wasn't government agents? There is absolutely nothing but circumstantial evidence; the only "witness" is a man who is talking in exchange for immunity.

This is why we say:

Don't trust the U.S. government's "investigation" of the Oklahoma explosion!

Drop the U.S. government's charges against McVeigh and Nichols!

For an independent labor investigation into the Oklahoma explosion!

No to the U.S. government's witch-hunt against terrorists and the Michigan militias!

Defend workers' right to bear arms!

No to "anti-terrorist" legislation!

This is the only way that workers are going to learn the truth about the Oklahoma explosion, find out who is responsible, and, at the same time, unify their forces against the rich bosses and government officials and defend their rights. — M. Guttshall ■

Our position

1. Don't believe *anything* that U.S. government officials say about the explosion.

2. Demand that government officials stop the alleged "investigation" of the explosion now, drop all charges against alleged suspects, and that the labor movement initiate an independent labor investigation into the explosion, to determine who is responsible and who should be punished.

3. Oppose the U.S. government's witch-hunt against alleged terrorists. The worst terrorists in the world are on Wall Street and in Washington — the mass murderers of Native Americans, enslaved African-Americans, militant workers and trade unionists of many different ethnic groups, Japanese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Iraqis. The worst terrorists in Michigan aren't in the Michigan militias; they are in the headquarters of GM, Ford and Chrysler and in the estates and country clubs in Grosse Pointe, Birmingham, and Bloomfield Hills. ■