

# NEW LIFE

A SOCIALIST BULLETIN PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE LABOR PARTY MOVEMENT

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## Welfare cuts: no! Socialism: yes!

Now that the U.S. presidential elections are over, bourgeois politicians are moving more quickly to implement Clinton's bill abolishing the federal guarantee of aid to poor women and children and calling for cuts in funds to women, children, and others on the state and local level.

A New York proposal for "welfare reform" calls for cutting funds to poor women and children by 45% over the next five years, abolishing funds to teenage mothers not living with their parents or attending school, and cutting funds to anyone who misses "workfare" assignments, whose children miss school, or who test positive for drugs.

Thousands of mothers and children are in terror, fearing what is going to happen to them, desperately looking for work. Violent conflicts are taking place, as each blames another close to him or her for their situation.

The abolition of the federal guarantee of public aid to poor young mothers and children and the consequent suffering and misery of so many is dramatic proof that we need socialism.

We need a workers' government based on an independent mass mobilization, public ownership and union control of the media, the banks, and all essential industries, a planned economy that serves the interests of the majority, with a place in it for everyone, and the crushing of the resistance of the rich.

The rich use the media, the banks, and other giant industries to enrich themselves and drive down the working and living conditions of everyone else. Workers and

oppressed have struggled for decades to try to convince the rich to be more generous. Periodically, they force the rich to make concessions, in the form of more jobs, higher wages, more benefits, programs that benefit the unemployed, the poor, etc., like unemployment compensation and "welfare." But, whenever the workers and oppressed let their guard down, the rich use their positions to try to take everything back.

The only long term solution is for workers to take over the media, the banks, and all key industries and draw everyone into the process of the production and distribution of goods and services, ie., socialism.

What can socialists, workers, and students do today to advance the fight for socialism?

Support all the working class and popular struggles taking place today — against the welfare cuts, against union-busting, for more jobs, wages, benefits, for the Labor Party, for independent labor candidates for office, for solidarity with workers and oppressed of other countries, against the parties and candidates that promote welfare cuts and union-busting, including Democrats and Republicans.

Work to make these struggles as big and as successful as possible.

Speak out for measures that go toward socialism — like dividing work among all workers without cutting pay; speak out for socialism.

Rebuild the Fourth International, the world party of socialist revolution! □

# Global Conflict

## Central Africa

The huge refugee camps, migrations and deaths from starvation stagger the mind of any observer of the events in Rwanda, Burundi and eastern Zaire in these past weeks.

The roots of the suffering are economic conflicts, not tribal conflicts. The economic life of these countries has been deformed and distorted to serve the interests of rich owners of raw materials corporations — coffee and tea from Rwanda and Burundi exported to Germany and copper and diamonds from Zaire to Belgium. Once able to feed themselves, they now have a per capita income of \$200/year.

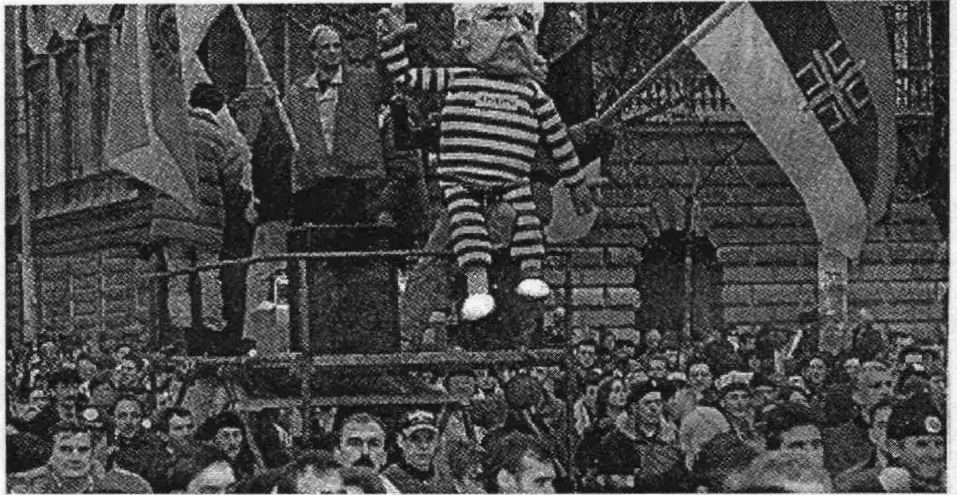
The collapse of prices for raw materials, particularly during the 1980s, hit these countries very hard. In addition, the spread of AIDS throughout Central Africa has been of epidemic proportions. Under these barbaric conditions, the social fabric of these societies was shredded and various factions tied to different imperialists began to engage in open civil war. A government of some of the Tutsi aristocracy organized a pogrom against Hutu farmers fighting for majority rule in 1988; over 20,000 were killed. In 1973, a similar pogrom killed over 100,000 Hutu farmers.

The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), comprised of soldiers supporting some of the Tutsi aristocracy, began a civil war in Rwanda in the early 1990s. The RPF may have the backing of the U.S., while the former Rwandan government had the backing of France. 500,000 Tutsis and some Hutus not directly tied to the old government were murdered by soldiers of the former Rwandan government army.

The RPF is well armed. It successfully overthrew the government in Rwanda. It has taken several towns in eastern Zaire. As the RPF, now the Rwandan government army, has been successful, the U.S. has reduced the number of troops it intended to send.

Workers are beginning to be at the center of the struggle to free these countries from the imperialists and their agents. Zairian workers staged a general strike on November 11 demanding the resignation of the prime minister because of his links to the RFP/Rwandan government troops seizing eastern Zairian towns. Students and workers fought soldiers and police.

Working people and unions in the U.S.



Demonstrators mock Serbian president Milosevic, shown wearing prison clothes.

should demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. military forces from the region. Instead of sending troops, the U.S. should send massive aid to the region in the form of food, medicine and shelter. But the distribution of these foods should be under the control of unions in the U.S., Europe and Africa. This must be a first step toward getting all U.S. and European bourgeois forces out of Africa and developing a joint plan on the part of labor movements to rebuild the economy. Getting the imperialists out, and expanding the size of the working class, is the only way forward.

## Serbian elections/demonstrations

The political revolution against the Stalinist dictatorships continues to develop in ex-Yugoslavia. Beginning in the war for self-determination for Bosnia, the revolution now shows itself in Serbia against the hated dictator and friend of the West and of Yeltsin, Slobadan Milosevic. The opposition in Serbia, supported by students and workers, won elections against Milosevic's family members and fellow thugs throughout Serbia in November. On November 25, after a week of demonstrations warning that Milosevic might do so, he declared the elections null and void.

Since then, there have been huge demonstrations, up to 150,000, in Serbian cities nearly every day. Some workers have joined some demonstrations. This takes courage. There is very high unemployment in Serbia, as well as low wages, and Milosevic and his gangster family and friends run the economy for their own personal benefit.

In the first days of the mobilization, students burned the American flag in front of the U.S. Embassy because of U.S. support for Milosevic. The Clinton administration con-

siders him key to the success of the "Dayton Accords," that is, the partition of Bosnia.

The majority of the Serbian opposition leaders are also linked to western powers, like the United States, that want to restore capitalism in Serbia. The majority of working people are not voting for this, and it is certainly not in their best interest.

The downfall of Milosevic, like Ceaucescu in Romania, is inevitable.

## Romanian elections

Speaking of Ceaucescu, the political revolution continues in a more muted form in Romania, as the old Stalinist Iliescu is voted out and a geology professor, Emil Constantinescu, is voted in. Similar to the opposition in Serbia, this opposition is also linked to western powers that want to restore capitalism. The *New York Times* reported that the crowd chanted "Down with the Communists!" and "We are home!" during Constantinescu's inauguration in the street where demonstrators were shot by Ceaucescu's forces before he was deposed and executed in 1989. These chants reveal a powerful contradiction between the justified desire to drive out and crush the oppressive Stalinist regimes and the idea that bringing *more* capitalism to Romania (Ceaucescu was the darling of Thatcher and Reagan in Eastern Europe) will help the Romanian workers and people. Workers have and will continue to oppose themselves to the restoration of capitalism begun by the now deposed Stalinists.

## Russian strikers

400,000 miners, over 80% of the Russian miners, went on strike in Russia on December 3 demanding back pay. In some cities, they were joined by other workers demand-

ing back pay. This is the latest in a series of struggles by the miners against the Yeltsin government for refusing to pay them. The miners went back December 11 after the government promised to pay them back wages.

Because the political revolution has continued longer in Russia, the miners' struggle also reflects the growing defense of state property and other gains of socialism and the increasing discontent with the efforts of the ex-Stalinist Yeltsin and his imperialist supporters to restore capitalism. Some miners demanded the resignation of the Yeltsin government and a dramatic change in the current course of the Russian economic reforms.

### French truckers' strike

The French working class has once again demonstrated its tenacity to defend its standard of living. French truckers went on strike in the last week of November to stop trucking companies from increasing the age at which truckers could retire with full pension. They also struck for payment for waiting time and a wage increase. The truckers successfully blocked *all* entrances and exits from France to the rest of Europe causing fuel shortages and stopping nearly all trade carried by trucks. Once again, these bold actions earned the support of the French people; 74% said that they supported the truckers in spite of the inconvenience.



### German mobilizations

German workers were not to be outdone by the French truckers. The rich owners of German corporations, hoping to reduce the number of paid sick days, now at 6 weeks per year (!), ran into an insurmountable obstacle in the form of the German metal working unions. After a few weeks of demonstrations and strikes involving hundreds of thousands of workers, the rich owners lost their enthusiasm for this battle. On December 10, the major trade association of bankers and financial institutions reversed an earlier decision to cut sick pay for 400,000 workers and will negotiate a new union contract. It will not be so easy to reduce the standard of living of German workers. □

## The class struggle in the U.S.

### Pittsburgh

On November 14, an all white jury, flown in from a remote Pennsylvania village, acquitted Pittsburgh cop John Vojtas in the death of black motorist Jonny E. Gammage. Demonstrators picketed outside the court house when the verdict was announced. On November 16, there was another demonstration of 2,000 people at the courthouse.

On November 22, nearly 1,000 high school students marched against the verdict. The NAACP Youth Council and the "Mobilization of African Students for Justice" organized the walkout and demonstration.

### Raid on underground sect, NYC

On November 13, police raided some houses in Brooklyn, New York, on the pretext of "child abuse." They confiscated books, literature and weapons of what appears to be some kind of underground sect sometimes called the Provisional Communist Party or the National Labor Federation. The police admit that they knew of no illegal acts by the group. Like others before them — the MOVE organization in Philadelphia, for example — this organization was attacked by the government as a message to scare all those who may think or act differently than the powers that be or their lackeys want us to. Drop the charges! Stop the harassment!

### Strikes

Workers went on strike at UAW Local 95 in Janesville Wisconsin, against GM managers using supervisors to do UAW work instead of hiring more workers. According to Solidarity, the UAW newspaper, the strike ended when management agreed to hire more workers.

800 members of UAW Local 1155 in Birmingham, Alabama, have been on strike at Pemco Aeroplex Plant since July against concessions that could eliminate 1/3 of the workers. Pemco has hired replacement workers and the Birmingham police have harassed strikers. No worker has yet crossed the line.

4,500 steel workers have been on strike at Wheeling-Pitt Steel Company since October 1. They recently rallied at unemployment centers in Ohio after they were denied unemployment benefits. The workers have struck to restore the pension plan that was eliminated when Wheeling-Pitt filed bankruptcy in 1985. Several hundred also rallied

at corporate headquarters in Wheeling, West Virginia, November 13.

1,700 members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1540 at the Iowa Beef Processing (IBP) plant in Joslin, Illinois, went on strike November 12. The majority of the workers at the plant are Latino, with a minority of Vietnamese and Laotian immigrants. The workers struck after rejecting the company's offer of 40 cents per hour over 4 years.

### ADM scandal

Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM), one of the largest manufacturers of food chemicals, pleaded guilty to international price fixing of lysine and citric acid, food additives. The company paid \$100 million in fines, the largest ever paid. Three other companies also pleaded guilty.

On December 3, a federal grand jury handed down indictments for 3 top officers of the company on charges that they conspired with competitors to fix the price of a feed additive.

ADM president Dwayne Andreas was instrumental in helping Staley Manufacturing Co. defeat the Staley workers in Decatur by building a process pipe that allowed raw corn products at Staley to be processed at an ADM plant across the street.

How much more price-fixing and secret agreements among "competitive" capitalists goes on than we know about! Only when the workers' eyes penetrate through the veil of secrecy that protects top corporations will the vast extent of their conspiracy against the rest of society be exposed.

### Phoenix prison riot

Several hundred Phoenix prisoners housed in desert tents (!) and forbidden many normal activities rioted in November against their living conditions. What do they expect when they treat people like animals?!

### Suicide vs. Homicide

Most people don't know that suicide remains the 9th highest cause of mortality in the U.S. Homicide is not even on the list of the top 20. Furthermore, suicide rates among young people throughout the world, both in industrialized countries and in developing countries, have increased dramatically in the last decade. Could there be any clearer evidence of a dying society than high suicide rates among its youth?! □

# Strikers' appeal for a labor march

*We are reprinting the appeal signed by over 900 striking Detroit newspaper workers and since approved by the Detroit Metropolitan Council of Newspaper unions and the Detroit Metropolitan AFL-CIO. We urge our readers to win as much support as possible for this demonstration, especially in Labor Party unions, and to let John Sweeney know that the workers want this march!*

We are newspaper workers who have been on strike since July 13, 1995, against the Detroit News, owned by Gannett, and the Detroit Free Press, owned by Knight-Ridder.

We were forced to strike by the greedy billionaire newspaper chains who are out to bust our unions and deny us and our families a decent livelihood.

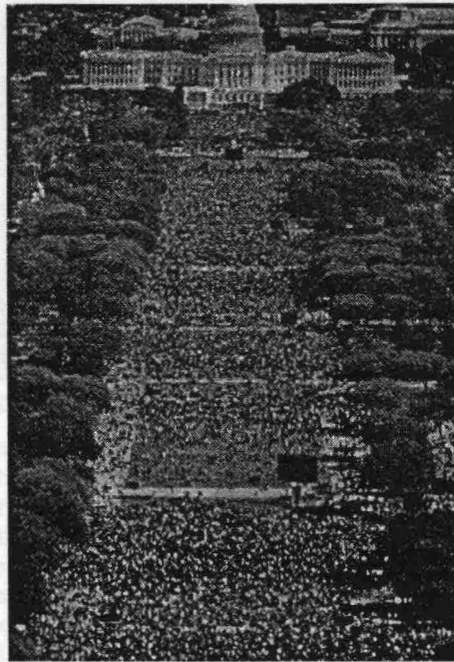
In the negotiations, Gannett and Knight-Ridder are demanding the elimination of hundreds of our jobs as well as takeaways that would gut our contracts. In a public statement made a month after the strike began, Robert Giles, Editor and Publisher of the Detroit News, said: "WE'RE GOING TO HIRE A WHOLE NEW WORK FORCE AND GO ON WITHOUT UNIONS, OR THEY CAN SURRENDER UNCONDITIONALLY AND SALVAGE WHAT THEY CAN."

That has been the publishers' position from the beginning and they have not budged from it one inch in the so-called negotiations. They are taking heavy financial losses in Detroit as a result of the strike but they are prepared to absorb such losses to achieve their main objective: bust the unions.

We believe that the labor movement can stop them, that the Detroit newspaper strike can be won through labor solidarity and strength demonstrated in a massive national mobilization of the entire labor movement.

At its August, 1996 meeting, the AFL-CIO Executive Council considered a proposal for a National Labor March on Detroit in support of the striking newspaper workers. Although the proposal had been endorsed by the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO and the Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions (made up of all the striking Detroit newspaper unions), the AFL-CIO Executive Council did not call such a march at that time.

Now that the national election campaigns



**Why can't the AFL-CIO organize one million workers to come to Detroit? The Million Man March in Washington, DC, last October, is shown.**

are over, we are appealing to unions, around the country and to all supporters of our strike to fax, write, or call AFL-CIO President John Sweeney urging the Executive Council

## What next?

In the last two weeks, over 900 strikers have signed the "Detroit Strikers' Appeal for a Labor Solidarity March." This is clearly an overwhelming majority of the 1,200 strikers who are still active in the strike. Thus both the Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions, the official leadership of the strike, and the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO Executive Board have been forced to endorse the appeal.

Unfortunately, leaders of the Metro Council of Newspaper Unions have used the fact that they have endorsed the appeal to discourage rank-and-file strikers from building more rank-and-file support for the march. At a meeting of strikers and supporters aimed at mapping out plans to expand distribution of the appeal, including among rank-and-file union members in the Detroit area, Jack Howe, leader of the pressmen's union, said that he wanted to talk to top leaders of the striking unions first. He said he didn't want any further distribution of the appeal until

to reconsider. A national march will show Gannett and Knight-Ridder that all of labor supports this struggle - physically as well as financially. And it can help spur united labor actions in cities around the country directed against Gannett and Knight-Ridder facilities, including USA Today.

We believe we must act now because the future of the labor movement as a whole will be critically affected by the outcome of this strike. After all, if corporations like Gannett and Knight-Ridder can break unions in a labor stronghold like Detroit, what union anywhere is safe from similar union-busting?

It's time for Solidarity Day III, this time in Detroit. Please send a message to AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, D.C., urging a National Labor March on Detroit in support of striking newspaper workers. And please send a copy to us. We deeply appreciate your continuing support.

Write, fax or call:  
John Sweeney  
President, AFL-CIO  
815 16th St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Fax: 202-637-5058  
Phone: 202-637-5000

he talked to the top leaders.

One striker supported this. Others expressed willingness to go along. Still another said that he would wait for a certain period of time, but not forever; that no matter what the top leaders say the rank-and-file must go ahead.

In the meantime, some tendencies, led by Linda Foley, president of the Guild, continue to push for strikers to offer to go back unconditionally and then "fight from the inside."

Either rank-and-file strikers make an all out fight for a mass labor march on Detroit or, sooner or later, they are going to be forced to call off the strike and offer to go back to work on company terms. There is no alternative. Chances are slim that the union-busters will take back more than a handful of strikers. Workers need to fight for the march. — M.G. □

# Scab papers have to be stopped ...

*Interview with Armand Nevers, striker, Detroit Typographical Union No. 18.*

**1. You have been speaking out for various kinds of mass actions aimed at stopping production/distribution of the scab paper since the beginning of the strike. What kinds of mass actions are you thinking of?**

I think the leadership of the AFL-CIO and the striking unions have to put out a call to working people across Michigan and across our nation to come to Detroit to stop these two immoral, greedy media giants from publishing the paper. The streets of Detroit and Sterling Heights should be filled with people demanding a just contract for striking newspaper workers. This is the time to turn the labor movement around and Detroit, the home of labor, is the place. The scab papers have to be stopped for several weeks, so people will have to be brought in on a staggered schedule so that thousands are here at all times. It is a big task, but I think it can be done. Labor has to say: "We're mad as hell and we won't take it anymore!"

**2. Why do you think that mass action aimed at stopping production/distribution is so important to strikers getting the best possible settlement?**

These greedy companies are incredibly rich. Money means very little to them when it comes to fighting workers. We are fighting this war with their rules and we can't win. We don't have a lot of money, but we have a much better resource — people. I think they would publish a paper with no advertising if they thought it would break the unions. Stopping production is the key to winning this strike.

**3. Can you tell us what are the different arguments that you have heard against mass action?**

Mainly, that people would not come to our aid. Also that the ad boycott and circulation boycott, by themselves, will win the strike.

**4. How do you and other strikers for mass action respond to these arguments?**

Strikers think that if the call came from the striking unions and their internationals and the leadership of the AFL-CIO, and if they organized this action and explained how important this is to the labor movement in this country, workers would respond in large numbers.

**5. What do you think strikers and sup-**

**porters can do now to continue to build support for mass action?**

Pass motions in their local unions calling for this action. Try to put pressure on their internationals to get involved in the Detroit newspaper strike. Also, those workers living in the Detroit area could get involved in actions that are called to build for a massive march on Detroit. They can do this by joining the Action Coalition of Strikers and Supporters (ACOSS). To reach ACOSS, call our hotline at 810-447-2716.

**6. Is there anything else that you think needs to be done in order to get the best possible settlement?**

I think the unions have done all that can be done on the economic front. The unions have cut their circulation by almost 50%. At one point, 1,400 advertisers had pulled their ads. We have done a good job on this. But these companies are so large that this has not been enough. We have to shut them down. One economic tactic that should be actively pursued is a national campaign against USA Today. Gannett is using the profits from this paper to finance the scab paper in Detroit.

**7. What do you think of the proposal to offer to go back to work without union rights?**

I think it is a mistake. Those that are pushing for this call it a "strategy." But, in effect, it is a surrender and would tear the strike apart. I have been a member of my union, DTU No. 18, for 40 years. My union card is one of my most valued possessions and I would

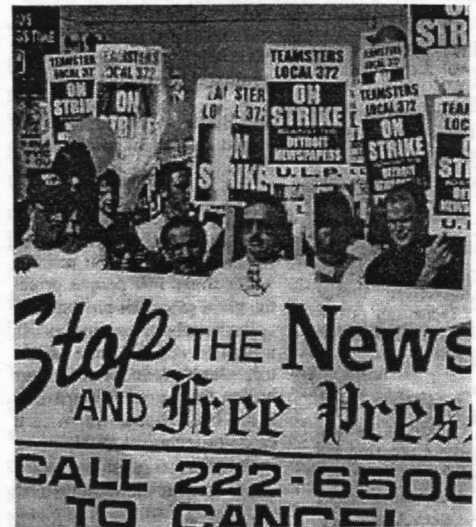
## Statement supporting national labor march

*This statement was distributed at the "How to Win Strikes in the 90s?" Conference, held at Wayne State University, December 7.*

New Life, a socialist tendency, would like to express its solidarity with striking newspaper workers fighting for a Labor Solidarity March on Detroit.

That over 800 strikers have signed the "Detroit Strikers' Appeal for a Labor Solidarity March" shows, once again, that the majority of active strikers are for more massive, militant action.

We see the fight for a Labor Solidarity March on Detroit as part of the fight for the kind of mass action necessary to stop production and distribution of the scab papers — like mass picketing, mass demonstrations, and citywide,



hate to retire knowing that I threw everything away that the typographical union had accomplished in its 150 year history.

**8. Is there anything else that you would like to add?**

This strike is very important. This strike has to be won. An unconditional return to work is not a victory, it is a defeat. I urge people to get involved in this strike. Come to Detroit when you get the call. The future of labor is in the balance. I also think that building a strong Labor Party would go a long way to stop union busting that has been happening in Detroit and elsewhere. If we had legislation outlawing replacement workers, this strike would have been over in two weeks or less. In fact, it probably would never have happened. □

statewide, and nationwide solidarity strikes, like the general strikes and demonstrations in Toronto, Canada, Bolivia, Argentina, Spain, France, Germany, Russia ...

Fighting for a Labor Solidarity March on Detroit, and for mass action aimed at stopping production/distribution of the scab papers — whether strikers and supporters actually achieve the goals right away or not — is the *best way to get the best settlement possible*. It shows that there is a way for labor to organize a bigger fight, frighten the owners more, and put more pressure on the owners to negotiate. Labor does not have to surrender unconditionally and keep making more concessions to the owners.

(Continued on the next page)

The proposed contract for Bridgestone-Firestone workers is a *big step back* for labor. It calls for a 12-hour long working day, with no time-and-a-half after 8 hours; a 48-hour week one week (with time-and-a-half after 40 hours) and a 36 hour week the next week (Group A works Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday the first week; Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday the second week. Group B works Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday the first week, Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday the second week.) All studies show that temporary injuries, permanent injuries, and deaths increase drastically and dramatically after 8 hours of work. Who is looking after the children while the parents are working 12 hours a day? Labor needs a shorter work day and a shorter work week, not a longer work day and a longer work week.

By continuing to speak out for a Labor Solidarity March, for mass action aimed at stopping production/distribution of the scab papers, and against unconditional surrender, strikers can continue to keep pressure on Sweeney, Trumka, Carey, and other labor leaders to mobilize labor against the owners and not to make any more concessions to the owners than they already have.

In addition to the campaign for a Labor Solidarity March on Detroit, we would also like to urge strikers to seriously consider a campaign for public ownership and union control of the *Detroit News* and the *Detroit Free Press* and for independent labor candidates for Detroit mayor and city council in the 1997 elections.

The experience with Gannett and Knight-Ridder shows that as long as these publications are owned by profit-hungry capitalists, the quality of these publications is going to continue to go down and the working and living conditions of the workers who have devoted their lives to these publications are going to continue to get worse. Detroit laws allow the Detroit government to seize private property when it is necessary to do so in order to defend the interests of the public. If ever there were a time to exercise this law, it's now. Archer and his supporters won't do this. We need independent labor candidates for mayor and city council, who will use their campaigns and positions in public office to fight for labor, instead of using their positions to order the police to provide armed escorts for unionbusters and scabs. Labor wasted at least \$70 million in 1996 electing Clinton, Levin, Scahenow and other Republicrats and Demopublicans directly involved in unionbusting. Let's not waste any more in 1997.

Victory to Detroit newspaper strikers!  
Labor Solidarity March now!  
Knight-Ridder, Gannett;  
the fight ain't over yet! □

## Rebellions in St. Petersburg

# We've had enough police brutality and murder!

On October 24th, yet another young man was murdered by St. Petersburg police. Ty-Ron Lewis, an 18-year-old Black man, was shot point blank in the chest by a police officer after being stopped for speeding. The white cop, James Knight, claimed Lewis' car "lurched" forward — bumping his leg — and that his life was "threatened." Numerous witnesses reported that the car moved slowly and that there was no danger to Knight. In spite of this, Knight shot several times through Lewis' windshield, killing him instantly.

### Stop police brutality!

TyRon Lewis was the sixth person shot by St. Petersburg police this year. Another Black man in the same neighborhood was killed by cops only one week before. The community rebelled. Immediately after the shooting, bystanders gathered around the crime scene shouting at police and throwing rocks and bottles. As word of the murder spread, uprisings mounted throughout the neighborhood. Protesters surrounded and burned a police sub-station, flipped and burned police cars and news vans. In all, 28 buildings were burned. Police broke up the crowd using tear-gas and dogs. Eleven people were injured and 20 were arrested. Officer Knight, of course, was not among those arrested.

### 60 days suspension for murder

The grand jury convened on November 13th and heard testimony from the two police officers present and 45 neighborhood witnesses. The nearly all-white jury chose to believe the two cops, and found that Knight's actions were "justifiable homicide." Their only criticism of Knight was that he didn't follow departmental procedures because he stood in front of the car. He received only 60 days suspension without pay.

Leading up to the hearing, there was heavy police presence in the neighborhood where the shooting occurred. For days, police were busy clearing rocks and bottles from the streets. The afternoon of Nov. 13, police attempted a preemptive strike on a local group, the National Peoples Democratic Uhuru Movement who had an office (Uhuru House) in the neighborhood. This activist

group had distributed leaflets calling for demonstrations condemning the police.

### A "MOVE" on Uhuru House

Police targeted for arrest key Uhuru leaders to get them off the street soon after the grand jury findings. Most of the warrants were for traffic violations. Community supporters defended the leaders and refused to allow police to arrest them.

Later, after driving away groups of youths from the corner where the murder occurred, police stormed into a meeting at the Uhuru House, declared it illegal and tear-gassed those present — including community supporters and small children. And, as in other cases where police attacked rebellious groups (MOVE in Philadelphia, Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas), they claimed there were reports of child abuse. One man present suggested that if 200 youths had not surrounded the building in defense, "we would have had another 'MOVE.'"

### No justice, no peace!

It's clear that the judgement of the grand jury is not legitimate. The grand jury simply upheld the role of the police in capitalist society, which is not justice. It is the control and repression of working class and oppressed people. Police officers are selected based on their willingness to defend the property rights of the rich — not working class people. Because the role of the police is class-based, it is the responsibility of the Labor Movement to organize defense against the police. First, labor should fight for this murderous cop to be punished. Second, we must demand release for and dismissal of all charges against the arrested protesters. Most of all, what's happened in St. Petersburg, as well as Pittsburg, LA and Detroit, shows that the police must be dissolved and replaced. To replace them, the Labor Movement must organize worker defense guards and patrols — to defend our neighborhoods most of all from the criminal police. Along with recent protests against police brutality in Pittsburg, the people of St. Petersburg have taken another step toward these demands. All of us must join them in declaring, "No justice, no peace!" —Tim James and Kim Morgan □

# Independent labor candidates for Detroit mayor and city council!

In the last year, it has become clearer and clearer that Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer and the majority of City Council members do not represent the interests of the majority of working people in Detroit.

Detroit newspaper workers have been on strike for over a year and a half, including many Black newspaper workers who live within the City of Detroit. While Archer has periodically pretended to help the strikers, in reality he has helped the owners of Gannett and Knight-Ridder who have been trying to cut down the number of workers, cut wages, and destroy the union. Over and over again he has ordered and/or allowed Detroit police, especially the rude and vicious thugs on the so-called "gang squad," to attack strikers' picket lines, break up the picket lines, and escort scabs and scab papers through the picket lines.

Detroit police don't have enough time and money to patrol city streets so that children can get to and from school safely. But they have enough time and money to get together 50 gang squad cars, whenever rich union-busting scum want an armed escort.

40 to 60% of children in the City of Detroit are dependent on the public funds that Clinton decided to cut off. But Archer gave one of the main speeches at the Democratic Party convention for Clinton, and continued to endorse and campaign for Clinton even after he agreed to sign the bill abolishing the federal guarantee of funds to poor women and children.

What can be said of rich old men who live in luxury with their own families while they take food out of the mouths of poor young women and children who have nothing?

Archer justifies these policies on the grounds that they bring business to Detroit. Is this what working people in Detroit are going to be reduced to? Begging? Offering themselves for sale at the lowest possible price?

Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that Archer has sold out the poorest workers, women, and

children in Detroit, as well as the striking newspaper worker, top leaders of the labor movement in the Detroit area continue to work with and support Archer.

It's time for this to stop. It's time to open up a new perspective for working people in the Detroit area.

Labor needs to stop all forms of support to Archer and his supporters and run independent labor candidates for Detroit Mayor and Detroit City Council.

These candidates can fight for:

- Dividing all work that is available among all available to work without cutting pay, by law;
- A \$10/hour minimum wage;
- Outlaw union-busting and scabbing; repeal all laws that restrict labor's rights; outlaw police interference in labor disputes;
- Public ownership and union control of the Detroit News, the Detroit Free Press, TV2, and other firms that refuse to respect these laws.

A fight for these demands is not a total solution to the problems facing working people in the Detroit area. But it is a start. The owners of GM, Ford, Chrysler, Gannett, and Knight-Ridder will respond in a hostile way to this struggle. But millions of workers, mothers, and children, will respond in a very positive way.

Working class, socialist, and communist tendencies need to make a common fight inside the unions for the unions to stop support to Archer and his friends and put forward independent labor candidates for Detroit Mayor and City Council to fight for the needs of workers and the poorest mothers and children.

As long as labor continues to support whatever "lesser evil" the rich capitalists' offer, labor is going to continue to suffer. Labor has the power to build a new society. Now is the time to use it. — M. G. □

## Socialist tendencies ...

(Continued from back page)

Tendencies had already formed that adapted themselves more to the Democratic Party and the Communist Party, like the Workers World Party and Spark, then split with the SWP. Now the SWP was, too. Those who were expelled from the SWP had a great deal of difficulty coming to grips with this problem and building an alternative. They began to split: Socialist Action, Bulletin in Defense of Marxism, Solidarity, The Organizer.

When there is no development of a workers' revolutionary socialist movement from within the working class for long periods of time — and this has been the case in the U.S. since the post-WWII upsurges, with the brief exception of the 1960s and early 70s —, then the crisis, degeneration, and disintegration of organized revolutionary socialism and communism, to one extent or another, is inevitable.

Today that situation is changing. More young workers, students, and rank-and-file workers are becoming sympathetic to the struggle for socialism and communism.

What should we do in this situation? Revolutionary socialists and communists who are true to basic principles — like the fight for a workers' government based on an independent mass mobilization, taking over the banks and basic industries, developing a planned economy, crushing the capitalists' resistance — need to make a common fight for these principles. They need to rebuild the Fourth International, which has not only made the most consistent fight for these principles but is also the only international workers' revolutionary organization that continues to exist in any way.

Young socialists and communists need to demand that tendencies and factions formed by the older generation follow this road, and put differences over secondary issues aside.—M. Guttschall □

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# Why are there so many socialist tendencies?

One of the first things that you notice when you start trying to find out more about socialism and communism is that there are many different socialist and communist tendencies: the Democratic Socialists of America, the Communist Party, the Socialist Workers Party, the Workers World Party, Spark, Socialist Action, Bulletin in Defense of Marxism, Solidarity, The Organizer, the Trotskyist League, New Life ... The list could go on longer.

Why are there so many different socialist and communist tendencies? Why are they so divided?

One reason, probably the most important reason, is that we live in a society that is divided into classes. Different socialist/communist tendencies reflect the interests of different classes and of different strata within different classes.

## Class society

For example, some socialist/communist tendencies are very bourgeois. The Democratic Socialists of America and the Communist Party both claim to be for a socialist society. But every two years they devote themselves totally to electing bourgeois politicians associated with the Democratic Party. They often attack working class and revolutionary socialists and communists, who oppose this service to the bourgeoisie, as "agents of the Republicans." Obviously, electing bourgeois politicians to office is more important to them than working with other socialists to build support for socialism. In many cases, members of the Democratic Socialists of America and the Communist Party work very closely with Democratic Party politicians and trade union leaders closely associated with Democratic Party politicians. In some cases, they even work as paid staff members for them. So they have a direct material interest in the success of bourgeois candidates and a bourgeois party.

It's pretty easy to understand why socialists and communists like these would want their own organizations and why other socialists and communists wouldn't want to be associated with them. But what about other socialist and communist tendencies that aren't so directly tied to bourgeois politicians and bourgeois union leaders? Socialists and communists who run their own candidates for office or support working class candidates? Why are they so divided?



**Revolutionary Trotskyist leaders of the working class in 1941 outside a Minneapolis courthouse after pleading not guilty to charges of attempting to overthrow the U.S. government.**

Here again the problem, more often than not, is the pressure of the bourgeoisie, the petty bourgeoisie, and bourgeois, privileged labor bureaucracies.

Everybody knows that the working class is not a completely homogenous class. There are workers, especially skilled workers, and trade union leaders, who live extremely well, who identify with the bourgeoisie and try to imitate it. There are other workers struggling every day just to survive.

## The Socialist Workers Party

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) is the largest socialist or communist party in the United States that is independent of the Republican and Democratic Parties. It was founded in the 1930s as an alternative to the Socialist and Communist Parties that were supporting bourgeois parties and betraying the fight for socialism. These same parties — supporting bourgeois parties and betraying the fight for socialism in the U.S. — were supporting the privileged, dictatorial labor bureaucracy led by Stalin in the old USSR and were betraying the fight for socialism there.

When the SWP was first founded, it fought for a workers' government, workers' control of the banks and basic industries, confiscating or expropriating the big capitalists' property, and developing a planned economy that serves the interests of the working majority as a first step in building socialism. It also fought to build a workers' revolution-

ary socialist International, the Fourth International, to lead this struggle in the U.S. and throughout the world.

However, as the Post-World War II working class and popular struggles receded, and as working class and popular support for the SWP's struggle receded, the SWP found it more and more difficult to continue the struggle. Under the pressure of the bourgeoisie, and under various pressures from various privileged labor bureaucracies, including the labor bureaucracies in the U.S., Cuba and the old USSR, the SWP began to deviate from the struggle more and more.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the SWP began to change its program. It began to deemphasize the fight for a workers' government, based on an independent mass mobilization, aimed at expropriating the capitalists' property. It began to emphasize the fight for a workers' and farmers' government based in part on the capitalist state and in part on capitalist property, and which would eventually lead to expropriating the capitalists' and socialism. It began to associate more and more with tendencies that shared its views, like the Castroists and left-wing Stalinists. It began to disassociate itself more and more with those who didn't, i.e., Leninists-Trotskyists. More, it expelled all the Leninists-Trotskyists who opposed this course, including many of the old revolutionaries who had founded the SWP.

(Continued on page 7)