

# TRUTH



Weekly Organ of  
the TROTSKYIST ORGANIZATION of the US  
US Supporter of the FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

Prohibited by the Voorhis Act from belonging to the Fourth International  
Down with the Voorhis Act!

15¢

NO 35 SEPT 15, 1976

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

Rebuild the International in the Americas!  
Rebuild its US section!

## STRIKE ALL THREE! BUILD THE WORKERS PARTY AGAINST WOODCOCK & CO!



FORD RIVER ROUGE 12:01 AM SEPT 15th -- THE STRIKE BEGINS. This picture from that day's Detroit Daily News shows Barbara Putnam, Presidential candidate of the Trotskyist Organization (lower right), and Auto Workers holding copies of the BULLETIN of the Revolutionary Workers Faction of the UAW (blacked out by the capitalist press in order to present the UAW bureaucracy as the workers only leaders).

By Jon Cohen

Detroit, September 14 -- The scene at Detroit's Ford River Rouge plant at midnight on September 14th, as the UAW's contract with the Ford Motor Company expired, captured in the above photograph, says what the thousands of words of the UAW bureaucrats and the capitalist politicians have tried to hide from the workers in the US: the US autoworkers are not "demoralized" or "frightened" by the attack of Ford Motor Company, but are ready to fight and to launch an offensive against the auto companies and the US government which stands behind them!

As part of the 25,000 autoworkers at Ford River Rouge poured out of the plant at midnight, organizing a spontaneous demonstration across the bridge over gate 4, where the decisive battle to organize the UAW at Ford Motor was fought out in the 30's, chanting in unison "STRIKE NOW," the real desires of the autoworkers present could be felt by all. The demonstration was as much against the UAW bureaucracy of Woodcock and CO., as against Ford Motor. For weeks Woodcock has been telling the capitalist press that the autoworkers did not want to strike, that the autoworkers were no longer militant because they "feared another recession." The words and actions of the autoworkers at Rouge on Tuesday night showed that it is Woodcock and his allies who are afraid -- afraid of the militancy and power of the ranks of the UAW. Overwhelmingly the autoworkers, especially the young workers, expressed their opposition to the sell-out contract

being negotiated by the Woodcock leadership behind their backs. The UAW bureaucracy has not even made public a single one of their demands for the contract.

This was also expressed in the fact that hundreds of autoworkers at Ford River Rouge took and distributed copies of the BULLETIN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS FACTION OF THE UAW, the faction organized by the Trotskyist Organization of the USA in the UAW. As numerous as the placards of the UAW bureaucracy were the copies of the BULLETIN being held and waved by the workers at Rouge. Eleven workers at Rouge immediately joined and signed the faction statement on Tuesday along with eight workers at Ford Torrence in Chicago. As proof as anything of the fact that the Fourth International exists and fights in the US and is the only party that represents the independent struggle of the working class is the fact that the UAW workers responded to the BULLETIN and slogans of the TO-- EQUAL PAY FOR NEW HIRES! WAGE INCREASES TO EQUAL PRICE INCREASES! IMMEDIATE REDUCTION OF WORKLOAD AND SHORTER WEEK WITH NO LOSS IN PAY! MASS PICKETING OF THE BIG THREE!-- because despite its small forces, the Faction presented the only policy for leadership of the strike, in opposition to the UAW bureaucracy and the shameful silence of the Stalinists and centrists.

The demonstration and the response of the autoworkers at Rouge and Torrence in Chicago, where the Faction organized a mass distribution

of its leaflets at Torrence and Ford Chicago Heights, is only the beginning of the mobilization of the auto workers in the US in an offensive against the attack of the US capitalist class and for their own class independence. Behind Woodcock and behind his deals with the auto companies stands Carter and the Democrats which have more than just another "sell-out" in store for the working class--unemployment, repression and war is their "sell-out."

Public opinion polls in the US have shown that a huge percentage of US workers, almost a majority, especially among the youth, support neither the Democrats and Republicans and plan to stay at home on November 2nd. But just as we say in the UAW that the spontaneous distrust and mobilization of the autoworkers against the Woodcock leadership is not enough, that it must be translated into ORGANIZATION, the only way the working class can express its power and fight to take the leadership of the UAW out of the hands of

Woodcock, we say that just staying at home on November 2nd will do nothing to advance the struggles of the working class in the US. The autoworkers at Rouge who refused to walk out silently will be the same workers who will refuse to allow the Democrats to silently conquer the US working class.

The workers in the US have an alternative on November 2nd. This has already been demonstrated in the fight of the Trotskyist Organization of the US and the Revolutionary Worker Youth and its candidates Barbara Putnam and Fred Vitale in the auto strike, where it has been the only organization speaking in the name of the working class to present and organize a struggle for a revolutionary leadership of the UAW.

The Trotskyist Organization has fought for a clear policy in opposition especially to the other candidates of the working class in these elections, the Stalinist Communist Party and the US Socialist Workers party, who have

CONTINUED TO BACK

**PUBLIC MEETING of the TO**  
**Sunday, Sept 26**  
**7pm**

AGAINST THE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PLOT  
AIMED AT THE WORKERS IN LATIN AMERICA!

3310 JUNCTION (2 BLOCKS SOUTH OF MICHIGAN, 5 BLOCKS EAST OF LIVERNOIS)  
PHONE 895-3614



# DEFEND THE AUTO WORKERS IN ARGENTINA--Fight for the Socialist United Republic of the Two Americas!

Statement of Barbara Putnam and Fred Vitale, candidates of the Trotskyist Organization of the USA for President and Vice-President

Last week in Argentina the autoworkers launched a massive strike against the bloody military regime of General Videla. Workers at Ford, Fiat, General Motors and Chrysler went on strike in the face of a military regime which, since taking power last March, has launched a brutal offensive against the working class movement in Argentina. The banning of political and trade union organizations, the arrest, torture and assassination of worker militants has not been able to crush the determination of the Argentine working class to continue its fight against US imperialism and its fascist lackeys. Workers at Ford and General Motors continued their strike in the face of the vicious repression of the Videla regime. Ford Motor declared that any workers who went out on strike would be immediately discharged and troops were sent into the factories to arrest workers who refused to work. The government issued a decree against organizers, ordering prison sentences from three to ten years for promoting a work stoppage.

We condemn the shameful silence of the US UAW bureaucracy who, in the middle of a national strike against Ford Motor in the US, joins US imperialism and the bourgeois press in hiding from the autoworkers in the US the international nature of their struggle against the auto companies. Instead of organizing the solidarity of the US autoworkers on strike with their brothers and sisters in Argentina who are fighting the same enemy, in the face of jail sentences and torture, for the same demands that the US workers are, the UAW bureaucracy organizes

a nationalistic "buy American" campaign against the autoworkers in Latin America and Spain. The autoworkers in Argentina and in the US know better -- the fight against the auto companies is a world fight -- the UAW bureaucracy only renders its services to US imperialism, Ford Motor and the military regimes in Latin America by continuing to divide the struggles of the autoworkers of North and South America.

Under the military regime where "peaceful negotiations" are illegal, the autoworkers are forced to strike all the auto companies at once. The courage of the workers in Argentina shows the cowardice of Woodcock's "strategy" -- a strategy to lose.

The autoworkers in the US can make the fight for the UNITED SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF THE TWO AMERICAS -- the unity of the struggles of the North and South American working class -- a living reality in this auto strike. We call upon all UAW workers to declare their solidarity with their brothers and sisters on strike in Argentina. Send messages of solidarity to the autoworkers in Argentina for publication in AMERICA PROLETARIA, organ of the

## HOSPITAL WORKERS IN DETROIT:

### Member of TO elected Steward

By A REPORTER  
Detroit, September 14-- David Heffelfinger, member of the Trotskyist Organization of the USA, US supporters of the Fourth International, ran and was elected as a steward of Local 79 Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Heffelfinger's candidacy and PLATFORM, opposed by two other candidates, including a candidate supported by the US Socialist Workers party, received enthusiastic support especially from the youngest workers, but also from the workers as a whole.

Heffelfinger ran as a member of the T.O. on the following platform: OUST THE BUREAUCRATS, DOWN WITH THE CAPITALIST PARTIES-- A WORKERS CANDIDATE IN '76, NO GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE UNIONS--FULL WORKERS DEMOCRACY, ONE CENTRAL WORKERS UNION, DEFEND THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THE WORKING CLASS, A STEWARD FOR EVERY SUPERVISOR AND SUPERVISOR TRAINEE, also included the demand for the SLIDING SCALE OF WAGES AND HOURS.

From the beginning of the campaign a proposal for a UNITED SLATE was made to Bobby Washington who ran for Chief steward and received the second highest number of votes--winning the alternate Chief steward position instead. Washington, whose campaign was supported by the Socialist Workers party, refused the proposal and refused to support the platform of the Trotskyist Organization. Washington's candidacy and platform, not explicitly associated with the SWP, read: EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK, FIGHT AGAINST RACIST ATTACKS IN THE HOSPITAL, ORGANIZE THE UNORGANIZED, A UNITED HOSPITAL NEWSPAPER, UNION INVOLVEMENT IN THE STRUGGLES OF TODAY, and demands for the "next contract."

This PLATFORM, entered late in the campaign, did not include opposition to the Local 79 bureaucracy nor the demands for the SLIDING SCALE OF WAGES AND HOURS.

In the course of this campaign, the Local 79 leadership attempted several maneuvers to keep Heffelfinger off the ballot as a candidate for steward and attempted to spread confusion among the workers. Despite this, victory was obtained.

Latin American Organization of the Fourth International. Make the struggle for the United Socialist Republic of the Two Americas a demand of the UAW strike: GENERAL STRIKE OF ALL THREE! SHUTDOWN THE AUTO COMPANIES THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS! THE US, CANADA, SOUTH AMERICA! Aid the struggle of the Argentine workers against military repression by striking a blow against imperialism at home.

VICTORY TO THE STRUGGLES OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAN AUTOWORKERS!

FREE THE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND WORKING CLASS MILITANTS IN ARGENTINA AND THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA!

LONG LIVE THE UNITED SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF THE TWO AMERICAS!

Join the campaign of the Trotskyist Organization of the USA, Section (sympathizing) of the Fourth International for a WORKERS PARTY AND A WORKERS GOVERNMENT IN '76!

Detroit  
September 15, 1976

## Join the Campaign For the Workers Government and the Workers Party! Vote Putnam & Vitale: candidates of the Trotskyist Organization of the US

I would like to join the campaign

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the PLATFORM OF COMBAT for '76

Please send more information

## CORRESPONDENCE:

### Ford River Rouge -- Build the Revolutionary Workers Faction of the UAW!

"Woodcock's playing it cool, he just wants that cabinet post . . . Woodcock ain't gonna get nothing!"

These bitter words, coming from an auto worker at Ford's River Rouge plant the day of the auto strike, expresses well the feelings of young militants in the UAW. After several weeks of bureaucracy - inspired confusion in the plants, no one really has any faith in the current UAW "leadership" and the more farsighted see perfectly well the out-and-out conspiracy between the ruling circles in the U.S. and the trade union bureaucrats, especially Woodcock.

Ask an autoworker what is being fought for in the contract round and even after great reflection he will have difficulty saying. But ask him what he needs and the answer will come quickly, more money, less work, and an end to layoffs.

The difference between the two answers shows the wide gulf between the Woodcock leadership and the masses of autoworkers. It is this gulf which gives the possibility for the rapid growth of the Revolutionary Workers Faction launched on the eve of the strike by the Trotskyist Organization and militants from Ford Torrence and Ford River Rouge. The construction of this Faction at the present time is bound up with the fight to take the leadership of the strike out of Woodcock's hands.

To understand fully the nature of this task it would be well for every autoworker to compare the platform of the Faction (see front page article) to platforms of every other organization which claims to fight for the autoworkers. What sets the Revolutionary Workers Faction apart from all the traditional attempts to organize autoworkers is that it represents a DIRECT confrontation with the UAW bureaucracy

and a refusal to leave the leadership of the strike to Woodcock.

NO SELLOUT! VOTE NO! These are the slogans heard from the rank-and-file groups, the newsletters, ect. But where was TIME TO UNITE and SPARK on the day of the strike? Is the leadership of Woodcock in the strike so inevitable that nothing can be done?

Here is the answer in figures. On the day of the strike, the Revolutionary Workers Faction -- UAW distribute more than 750 BULLETIN's at Ford River Rouge. AT THE VERY MOMENT THAT THE AUTOWORKERS CAME STREAMING OUT OF THE ROUGE PLANT, the RWF engaged an autoworker in distributing the BULLETIN and won a dozen supporters to the Faction.

The RWF--UAW is being built in the fight to extend the strike of Ford into the strike of the Big Three against the Woodcock leadership. The distribution and posting of the BULLETIN, at the picket lines, at strike benefits centers, and union meetings as well as the organization of picket lines at GM and Chrysler plants is the means to take the leadership of the strike.

In this way the RWF--UAW calls to all autoworkers and all organizations, to TIME TO UNITE and SPARK at Ford River Rouge, to prepare the next stage of the struggle against Woodcock's sellout. A massive and militant demonstration to OUST WOODCOCK at Solidarity House to serve as a means to unite the autoworkers of the Big Three and extend the strike is being proposed to the Sept. 18th meeting of the RWF--UAW by the Trotskyist Organization.

ATTEND THIS WORK SESSION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS FACTION--UAW!

TAKE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE STRIKE OUT OF THE HANDS OF WOODCOCK!

... CONTINUED FROM FRONT

more and more shown their true colors in the face of the mobilization of the autoworkers. We said long ago that their campaigns were only covers for their support to the Democratic Party and the trade union bureaucracy. Their current silence in the auto strike, a prelude to open treachery, shows clearly where they stand: with Woodcock and Co. who say that the autoworkers are "afraid" and no longer militant. The SWP leadership sends the RMC and SPARK to the auto plants to call the workers to vote for Camejo and Reid, while Camejo and Reid are far away from the auto plants. The struggle of the working class in the US is the last thing on their minds as they hail the latest "promise" for "self-reform" of the FBI as "a historic victory for democratic rights of all Americans." (THE DETROIT NEWS, September 15, 1976). Now even the FBI, the assassins of the Black Panthers, the most hated enemy of the working class in the US, can join the SWP leadership's struggle for "democracy" and its "Bill of Rights."

In the face of these "democratic" champions of the FBI and the support of the Stalinists to Woodcock and Coleman Young's attack on the youth in Detroit, the autoworkers in the US must continue this fight by registering to vote and writing-in for PUTNAM and VITALE in '76, the candidates of the TO and RWY. The Fourth International is today being rebuilt in the auto plants in Detroit and Chicago. It will continue its fight by mobilizing the US workers for the WORKERS PARTY AND WORKERS GOVERNMENT IN '76.

CONTINUE THE AUTO STRIKE!  
SPREAD THE STRIKE! FIGHT FOR A  
WORKERS PARTY AND WORKERS  
GOVERNMENT IN '76!

We continue to make our proposal to the militants of the CP and SWP to fight for a COMMON CANDIDATE OF THE WORKING CLASS IN '76 on the basis of our PLATFORM OF COMBAT against the collaboration of their leadership. In the face of their leadership's continual refusal to join this struggle for the unity of the working class movement in '76 we call upon all working class militants and militants of the SWP and CP to: REGISTER TO VOTE! WRITE-IN PUTNAM AND VITALE FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT AGAINST THE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS IN '76!

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