

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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Workers need a workers party!

Political action needed to stop recession!

One in six Americans gets food stamps. One in three American babies get some kind of government assistance. The number of workers out of work, or who have stopped looking for work, continues to rise. Workers wages continue to fall, suicides among workers, criminal attacks, child and wife abuse, all continue to increase among workers. In short, the recession is not over.

During recessions, little businesses collapse, and big corporations increase their debts. Who benefits? The owners of the big banks. They take over what's left of little businesses and loan more money to big corporations. The owners of big banks are the only people in the whole society to *profit* from recessions.

The heads of the unions talk about measures to "end the recession." The politicians, especially those who count on votes from workers, talk about measures to "end the recession." Even the owners of Ford, GM and Chrysler held meetings with Bush to talk about some things that they want done to increase car sales.

But no one is willing to go after the *cause* of the recession — the domination of the economy, of all economic life, by the owners of the big banks. *They are the only ones who profit from recessions.*

The fact that all the wealth is concentrated in a few banks is good. It makes it easier to plan the economy, it makes it easier to control the economy. But, today, all the wealth of the whole economy serves the interests of a few rich owners of the big banks.

The workers need their own party, their own government, to end the domination of the economy by the owners of the big banks. A workers party and a workers government to nationalize the banks and to place them under the control of the workers.

Why can't the workers just wait until the recession ends? Older workers have lived through at least a couple of recessions and are used to suffering through them and having things change after a while.

Even though recessions are a regular part of capitalism, they are getting worse and worse. Each recession since the 1970's leaves the workers poorer than they were at the beginning. Each recession ends up with



more workers permanently out of work, or permanently in lower-paying jobs.

These worsening recessions are the *main reason* why more workers must have two incomes — both the man and the woman in the family working, and sometimes even the oldest children living at home are working — to maintain their standard of living. These worsening recessions are due com-

Most workers won't celebrate U.S. victory ...

U.S. politicians, church leaders, and top trade union leaders are trying to build support for meetings and demonstrations celebrating the U.S.'s victory in the Middle East and honoring U.S. troops.

But the vast majority of working women and working men will not be participating in these meetings and demonstrations.

They were not involved in an active struggle against the U.S.'s war or against the U.S.'s victory, but they don't see much to celebrate.

Of course they are glad that their brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, or friends may be coming back alive and in one piece. But they don't think that what the U.S. government and its troops did was terrific, something to be really proud of.

Conditions for working people in the U.S. are growing worse. It's becoming clearer and clearer that the U.S. government's war

pletely to the domination of the economic life by the owners of the big banks.

If the workers ran the banks, the banks could be used to expand the economy, to meet workers needs, and the needs of small businesses. Instead, the banks are used to shrink the economy, to increase poverty, to drive small businesses out. In other words, to make profits for a tiny minority of rich bank owners.

Now is the time to make a fight to construct our own political party, a workers party to fight for a workers government. This party must fight to nationalize the banks.

The workers cannot suffer through another recession, or even another "upturn." The power of the American economy, used so cruelly against the Iraqi people for the benefit of the owners of the oil corporations and the big banks, must be run by the American working people for the workers interests.

**A workers party and a workers government!
Nationalize the banks! ■**

was a war for the oil fields and for the money that the owners of U.S. banks and enterprizes will be making through controlling the oil fields. U.S. politicians and journalists tried to fool the people by saying they wanted to free Kuwait: they have established a terrible military dictatorship in Kuwait made up of the richest Kuwaitis and their lackeys; they are rounding up, torturing and killing, all who didn't support the U.S. in Kuwait. They said they wanted to rid the world of the terrible dictator Saddam Hussein: Saddam Hussein is still there; over 100,000 Iraqis are dead; more are suffering and will be dying from epidemics; they are looking to replace Saddam Hussein with someone even more subservient to the heads of U.S. banks and enterprizes.

The U.S.'s military victory in the oil fields does not help working people of any race or nationality in any way, except in so far as it

(Continued on back page)

SUPPORT THIS STRUGGLE — SUBSCRIBE TO TRUTH!

Punish white racist criminals!

Everyone is denouncing the white racist police in Los Angeles who brutally beat the Black man Rodney King. Even the president, George Bush, said, it "... made me sick."

But none of these upper-class politicians is actually doing anything to stop these racist attacks or punish these racist criminals. On the contrary, they are protecting them.

— Bush opposes removing Daryl Gates, Los Angeles Chief of Police;

— Politicians and journalists continue a racist campaign against the Black people of Detroit; they blame the Black mayor, Coleman Young, for the poverty and violence that exist in the city of Detroit, and that inevitably result in the death of men like the U.S. soldier Anthony Riggs; they don't blame the white owners of the banks and enterprizes like GM, Ford, and Chrysler, that have sucked the city dry and now leave it in poverty and misery, as they move on to areas where they think they can make more

Most workers won't celebrate U.S. victory . . .

(Continued from front page)

allows them to see that U.S. bosses are bankrupt, they have nothing to offer. They won't use the profits they are making to invest in industry, to enlarge the size of the working class. They'll use them to enrich themselves, enlarge the class of parasites that live off them and serve them, and to make more wars for natural resources, markets, etc.

Working people of all races and nationalities need to continue the fight:

No more blood for oil!

Bring all U.S. troops home now!

Stop the blockade!

Cut all U.S. aid to the rich oppressor states, Kuwait and Israel!

Working women and working men in the U.S. must now allow themselves to be used to enrich U.S. bankers and oil men at the expense of the workers and oppressed of Iraq. — M.G. ■

Capitalism and socialism

The heads of the giant financial, industrial, agricultural and commercial monopolies in the U.S. enjoy the capitalist and imperialist economic system in the U.S. Their tiny class owns all the resources in society and uses them to enrich themselves at the expense of the masses of people. Working people own little or nothing but their own labor power; they have to sell their labor power to the owners in order to survive.

Naturally, the owners of the giant monopolies in the U.S. want working people to think that there is no alternative to capitalism and imperialism. They say that socialism is a society with a privileged, dictatorial bureaucracy, like the USSR has been.

This is a lie.

Workers and oppressed peoples in the USSR have only taken the first steps toward socialism, by building a workers party, overthrowing a feudal monarchy, establishing a workers government, taking over banks and basic industries, and beginning to develop a planned economy. Now they are struggling to rid themselves of the privileged dictatorial bureaucracy that arose — under the pressure of and with the support of U.S. imperialism — and that has been undermining their struggle. Sooner or later they will succeed in building a fully socialist society — with no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, no privileged dictatorial bureaucrats, no poverty, no oppression, no want, and no suffering of any kind. So will working people of all races and nationalities in the U.S. and throughout the world. ■

money; Coleman Young is just their front man.

Workers of all races and nationalities, in their neighborhoods, workplaces, and unions, need to form workers defense guards to defend Black working people from racist attacks and to find and punish racist criminals.

Let the soviet republics decide their own future!

The soviet republic of Lithuania held a vote on February 3 for national independence. 84% participated and of these, 90.5% voted for national independence. This vote was against the push by the head of the Soviet bureaucracy, Gorbachev, to crush the independence movements.

On March 3, there were votes in Estonia and Latvia for the same proposition. In these countries, 30 - 40% of the population are Russians, and many are workers. Over 80% of the populations voted and, of these, 80% voted for independence.

Gorbachev recently ended government support for necessary food items and prices have skyrocketed. During the Gulf war, Gorbachev sent troops to crush Lithuanians demonstrating for independence.

The miners in the different republics, including Russia, the Ukraine and Georgia,

Briefly . . .

The Coalition for Peace in the Middle East is holding a teach-in on Saturday, April 6, from 9 to 5:30 at Wayne State University, General Lectures Building, Anthony Wayne Drive at Warren. This coalition claims to be against U.S. intervention in the Middle East, however it has systematically refused to make a common fight for: No blood for oil! Bring all U.S. troops home now! To be a member of this coalition you have to agree with a 9-point resolution, that includes condemning the Iraqi presence in Kuwait and recognizing the State of Israel. Thoughtful workers in the U.S. are not interested in telling the peoples of the Middle East what to do. We urge representatives of all tendencies that may attend this teach-in to make a common fight for: immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces from the Middle East; for cutting all U.S. aid to the rich oppressors in the Middle East (including the State of Israel), and for the formation of a committee open to all tendencies in favor of these demands to lead this fight in Detroit without any other preconditions. The Coalition for Peace in the Middle East is an obstacle to this struggle.

Spark, a Trotskyist group, is holding a forum on "The Politics of Oil," on Sunday, April 14, at 5 p.m., Pullman Hall, 4605 Cass Avenue (2 blocks south of Wayne State University, Cass and Forest). Tickets are \$2.50 for adults; \$.75 under 18.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sold 48 copies of *Truth* at the Ford plant, Wayne County Community College, and in a working class neighborhood on the Westside. We also passed out brochures urging workers to campaign for a workers candidate for Detroit City Council, Cleve Andrew Pulley. After talking with a number of workers, it became clear to us that the growing number of unemployed makes it unlikely that the class struggle is going to develop in the direction of a general strike at this moment. Many workers were in favor of a workers party to fight the recession and agree that workers could not count on the Republicans and Democrats. Some were interesting in forming a group to fight for a workers party. There was little enthusiasm for the U.S.'s victory, although some workers remained confused about whether workers should support the U.S. government against other peoples.

The small measure of equality and freedom that Black people have achieved has been very good for working people of all races and nationalities. It has helped to bring Black and white workers closer together, it has helped to strengthen the unity of the working class against the privileged classes. — M.G. ■

continue their strikes for higher wages and for the resignation of Gorbachev. The Russian workers understand better every day that only the workers can defend the workers from the economic crisis in the Soviet Union. The Russian workers understand better every day that the interests of the workers lies in *supporting the struggle for freedom for the republics*. The Russian workers are taking sides with the oppressed republics against the bureaucracy and its Russian nationalism.

The Russian workers, as the miners show, are trying to leading these movements to destroy the privileged bureaucracy that rules in the Soviet Union.

U.S. workers must support the demand for freedom for the republics in the Soviet Union, for the demands of the Russian miners. — J. M. ■

Marxist reading and study group, Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Truth meetings, Thursdays, 6 p.m. Campaign for a workers candidate for Detroit City Council, Saturdays, 10 a.m. Call 584-6556, for locations.

Marxists say . . .

"The first great step of importance for every country . . . is always the constitution of the workers as an independent political party, no matter how, so long as it is a distinct workers' party. . . . The masses must have time and opportunity to develop, and they have the opportunity only when they have a movement of their own — no matter in what form so long as it is *their own* movement — in which they are driven further by their own mistakes and learn from their experience. . . . The great thing is to get the working class to move *as a class*; that once obtained, they will soon find the right direction, and all who resist . . . will be left out in the cold with small sects of their own. . . . A million or two working men's votes next November for a bona fide working men's party is worth infinitely more at present than a hundred thousand votes for a doctrinally perfect platform." (Frederick Engels, Letters to Adolph Sorge in New Jersey, November 29, 1886 and to Florence Kelley in New York, December 28, 1886)

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A bulletin published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. The Trotskyist Com-

mittee of Detroit is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

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