

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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The solution to the economic crisis: socialism!

Everyone is talking about the economic crisis. The lack of decent jobs, wages, working conditions, childcare, homes, healthcare, schools ... The huge payments on the national debt, the huge military spending, the huge salaries of politicians and corporate executives, obsolete plant and equipment, shoddy products, a poor balance of trade ...

There is a solution to this economic crisis.

Young people, working women, working men, of all races and nationalities in the U.S., can fight for workers parties, a workers government, workers control of the economy. In other words, they can fight for a truly working class and socialist society in which working people own everything and everyone has what he or she needs.

A truly working class and socialist party and government will cancel payments on the national debt, as these payments go to billionaire bankers who contribute nothing to the economy. They will cancel a large portion of the military spending, and replace the standing army with a people's militia linked to workplaces and working class neighborhoods. They will cancel huge salaries for politicians; workers and ordinary people will directly elect their own representatives from among themselves and they will be paid no more than the average worker.

A truly working class and socialist party and government will nationalize the banks and basic industry. They'll develop a plan to produce what the people need, and they'll mobilize working people to carry out their own plan, to exercise workers control and workers management of the production and distribution of goods. Workers will find some kind of work for absolutely everyone who can work at all, so that everyone can be part of the working class. Workers will provide cheap credit for small businessmen and businesswomen of all races and nationalities, now being crushed by the giant monopoly banks and enterprizes. Workers will establish free and equal relations with workers of other countries and work together to produce what people need throughout the world.

Naturally, the billionaire bankers, corporate executives, politicians, and top trade union leaders, are against this working class and socialist solution to the economic crisis. They are comfortable. They want to continue to enrich themselves, and live in luxury, at the expense of the people. They want the people to join them in waging

economic and, ultimately, military war on other powers, so that they can continue to be the richest and most powerful, regardless of the consequences to the people (World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq ... is Japan next?) ...

So many say that a working class and socialist society is a very nice idea, but that it's utopian, a dream, it will never happen. They point to the old Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, China, Cuba, and they say that any attempt at socialism is bound to fail.

This is a lie!

The working class and popular upheavals in these countries are *not* upheavals against socialism. Workers and oppressed in these countries are rising up against the privileged bureaucracy, against the ruling Communist Party (which is *not* a socialist or communist party, but a party of the privileged), the secret police, the army, Great Russian oppression of other nationalities and republics. They want democratic rights and freedoms for workers and oppressed. They want the right of self-determination for oppressed nationalities. They want more working class and popular control over the planned economy. They want an end to privileges for the few and poverty for the many.

These struggles are steps *toward* socialism, not steps *away* from socialism. They are steps toward a new, working class, political revolution, in which working class and popular forces can sweep away the privileged, establish direct, workers control of the planned economy, and begin a new period in the struggle for socialism.

Naturally, there is a certain amount of con-

fusion among working class and popular forces, because the privileged in these countries have called themselves socialists or communists in an effort to fool the people. But this confusion is temporary.

Naturally, the privileged are trying to sabotage the struggle. They are sabotaging production and raising prices in an effort to starve the people into submission. They are preparing to turn the resources of these societies over to U.S., European, and Japanese bankers and businessmen.

If the workers and oppressed peoples win, there will be a new growth of socialism. If they lose, there will be a serious setback, and it will take much longer to get to socialism.

The outcome of this struggle depends not only on workers in the old USSR, but also on workers in the U.S. and throughout the world.

We need to fight for socialism in the U.S.

We need to put forward our own, independent, working class candidates for office. We need to build workers parties and a workers government. We need to fight for workers control of the economy. We need to mobilize against everyone who stands in the way, from the billionaire bankers, executives, politicians, and media men, to the top leaders of the unions, enriching themselves at the expense of the workers.

(Continued on the back)



Denver demonstrators outwitted the Denver police and successfully attacked the Klan. The police were protecting a Klan demonstration against Martin Luther King Day being a national holiday.

Which candidate represents workers, women, Black people?

Bush, Buchanan, Duke, Tsongas, Clinton, Kerry, Harkin, Brown.

Which one of these candidates represents the workers, the women, the Black people?

Most of them don't even claim to. Bush, Buchanan, Tsongas, and Clinton certainly don't.

Duke claims to represent the little man. But if he represents the little man, where did he get all the money that it takes to get his name on the ballot in so many states, and so quickly? Why is he getting so much publicity? Would the media, which is owned by the richest families in the U.S., give so much publicity to someone who really represented the little man. In fact, Duke is being financed by a section of the monied class that thinks that in order to retain power it needs to mobilize whites against Blacks, Americans against other nationalities. It needs to split the people along racial and

national lines.

Harkin claims to represent the workers. In reality, he represent the top leadership of the trade unions, and the smaller and smaller layer of workers who are relatively secure and comfortable. He's calling for cutting military spending, and for a public works program. But it's a stingy proposal that doesn't even begin to solve the fundamental problems of the U.S. economy: the debt, the military spending, the bloated salaries, the obsolete plant and equipment ... Harkin has no plan to bring *decent* jobs, wages, working conditions, childcare, homes, healthcare, and schools to all in this life time.

Young workers, women workers, Black workers, all oppressed workers. They need a candidate for president who represents them. They need an independent labor candidate and a big labor party. The only way they are going to get these things is if they fight for it themselves. ■

Aid for Kuwait and Russia, but not Haiti and Cuba ...

The U.S. spent billions of dollars to help the billionaire U.S. oil corporations and Kuwaiti sheiks retain control of the oil fields in the Kuwaiti region of Iraq. They killed thousands and thousands of Iraqis. Now the U.S. is sending food and money to the privileged strata in Russia. Why don't they help the people in Haiti or Cuba? To ask the question is to answer it.

The people in Haiti and Cuba aren't rich and they have dark skin. The U.S. supports the

military dictators in Haiti; they send Haitians fleeing them back to Haiti. The U.S. supports Cubans who want to overthrow the Castro regime and turn Cuba back into a U.S. colony.

Workers in the U.S. need to fight for an independent labor candidate for president, a labor party, and workers control of the economy, so that U.S. resources are used to help working people in the U.S. and throughout the world, not rich parasites. ■

Emergency!

Socialist Action, a Trotskyist group, associated with the United Secretariat, one of the tendencies of the Fourth International, reports that eight supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Organization, Tunisian supporters of the United Secretariat, have been arrested and imprisoned for "illegal association and assembly" and "distribution of literature which threatens the public order." Hammadi Dalhoumi, who was released a week later, reports that he and others were tortured. The militants were protesting the arrest of Muslim fundamentalists when they themselves were arrested. Their names are: Fathi Salawi, Saber Saidi, Mohammed Kamal Charni, Nureddine Salmani, Imad Zoghalmi, Charafeddine Ben Ali, Habib Souihi. Socialist Action asks readers to address letters of protest to: President of the Republic/Minister of Justice, Tunis, Tunisia; and to fax them to the Tunisian Embassy, Washington, D.C., fax number (202) 862-1858. *Truth* supports this and urges all *Truth* readers to do the same. ■

Truth is 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 Committee of Detroit is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International. Editor: Margaret Guttschall

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Briefly . . .

Mark Curtis, a meatpacker and member of the Socialist Workers Party, framed up and imprisoned on phony rape charges, won his suit against the police who arrested and beat him. This is an important victory for all working people. The SWP is now pushing for parole for Mark Curtis. Statements of support and financial contributions can be sent to: Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311.

Labor Party Advocates in Detroit meets Thursday, February 20, 7 p.m., at UAW Local 600 Hall, at Dix and Wyoming.

Spark's annual winter dinner will be Sunday, March 1, from 3:30 to 8. For tickets, call 584-6556.

Mercia Andrews, a leader of the Workers Organization for Socialist Action (WOSA) in South Africa, will be touring the U.S. in March. She will be in Cleveland, Sunday, March 15, at 7 p.m., at the Antioch Baptist Church, 8629 Cedar Avenue. The tour is sponsored by the Democracy in South Africa Tour Committee, which includes Socialist Action, a Trotskyist group. For further information on the tour call: (908) 463-3139 or (415) 821-0459.

Truth sold 6 copies of *Truth* at a meatpacking plant and in a working class neighborhood. We also learned that Michigan State Senators will not be on the November ballot. We are investigating possibilities of running for other offices, like Michigan State Representative or Wayne County Commissioner. The latest issue of *The Fourth International* has just been published in English. It includes articles on the situation in the old USSR, Trotskyism, and the Fourth International. ■

Solution to economic crisis: socialism . . .

(Continued from the front)

We need to unify all the truly working class, socialist, and revolutionary forces fighting for these goals.

This is a real solution to the economic crisis. Everything else is, at best, tinkering.

The Mike Tyson conviction: a victory for Black women

A jury in Indianapolis, Indiana, found Mike Tyson guilty of raping an 18-year-old Black woman. This conviction is a victory for all Black women, women of all races, and all men who care for them.

Some people are saying that the jury was racist, that Indianapolis is Ku Klux Klan territory, that the Klan is out to get Tyson, that this is part of a conspiracy against Black men. Similar arguments were raised to defend Clarence Thomas against Anita Hill's charges.

But why would racist whites be out to get Black men, as opposed to Black women? Are some Black women part of this white racist conspiracy against Black men?

There is a racist white conspiracy. But it is directed just as much against Black women as it is against Black men. There are both Black men and Black women who are going along with this conspiracy. Who are they? They are the ones who imitate the white exploiters and oppressors, and who don't care what happens to Black brothers and sisters. Mike Tyson was one of these men. It's hard to think of a well-known Black woman who falls in the same category, but there undoubtedly are some.

So Mike Tyson's conviction is a victory for Black women, and everyone who is concerned about them. Every man is going to think twice before he rapes a date. This is the most common form of rape, and the most difficult to do anything about.

Unfortunately, there are still many more men like Tyson out there. William Kennedy Smith did the same thing and got away with it, because he was richer and whiter, and the jury was richer and whiter. This is only the most obvious example. But should Tyson go free because Kennedy Smith got away? Or should we keep going after Kennedy Smith and others like him?

Women need better mental and physical education, better jobs, and military training, so they don't need men to support them, so they don't need men for approval, and so that they can protect themselves from men who are out of control. Men, from the time they are tiny, need to be totally reeducated, to respect women. Men who can't get with the program need to be isolated and punished.

The current ruling class is not going to do this, because it is not profitable. They aren't concerned with anything that doesn't increase their profits, that doesn't help them enrich themselves.

Workers need to form their own political party, fight for political power, get control of the economy, and use these resources to build a truly working class and socialist society in which everyone has what he or she needs. This is the only way in which women will be truly free, and in which relations between women and men will be truly free and equal.— M. Guttschall

The foundations for socialism have already been laid. We have the knowledge and the basic equipment necessary to produce plenty of food, clothing, housing, for every man, woman, and child on this planet. We have working classes that know how to work together to produce what people need. We have a certain amount of experience with democratic self-government. What's lacking is the thinking, the organization, the conscious struggle to sweep away the small class of billionaires that continues to enjoy enriching itself at the expense of the people!

This is what the Trotskyists are fighting for.