

# National strike! Higher wages! More jobs! Real equality!

The popular uprising in Los Angeles, and the recent public service workers' strike in Germany, show that big, mass, energetic actions that *frighten* the ruling elite, are the only way that workers and oppressed peoples can make any progress in winning their demands.

The rich and the media try to discredit the popular uprising in Los Angeles. They try to hide the mass political demonstrations that took place for justice for Rodney King and for getting rid of the racist police chief Gates, the attacks on the police, police headquarters, and other racist, anti-working class institutions. They exaggerate the attacks on innocent people and their property.

But actions speak louder than words. The popular uprising in Los Angeles forced the authorities to re-charge and try in Los Angeles at least one policeman who beat Rodney King. It forced the authorities to get rid of Gates and replace him with a Black man. It has forced many corporations to hire more Black and Latin people, and to set aside funds for more summer jobs. It has forced the Supreme Court to rule that Mississippi's colleges are still segregated and require that Mississippi spend more money on Black students.

Similarly, when German public service workers went on strike and literally shut-down the country, they forced the government to give them their first wage increase in many years.

These gains may be small, but they are gains.

They show the way forward: a national strike for higher wages, more jobs, and real equality.

Workers also need to make an all out fight for the unions to stop all union support to all the candidates of the privileged elite — Bush, Clinton, and Perot. Not one of these candidates supports the struggles of the masses of working people for higher wages, more jobs, and real equality. The unions need to put forward their own candidates for office and build their own party. West Virginia miners put forward their own candidate for office in 1989 in the last weeks before the election, went door-to-door, organized a write-in campaign and won. The unions can do the same thing on a national level now. Even if they don't win the election, they will mobilize millions of workers who will be ready to fight for their demands, no matter who is in the White House. ■

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## Rodney King, South Africa . . . Inside

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# Justice for Rodney King!

Rodney King, the Black construction worker beaten by Los Angeles police, has sued the city of Los Angeles for 83 million dollars. We support his suit. He has still not received justice. The police who beat him are still free. They must be punished.

The uprising in Los Angeles was joined by smaller actions and demonstrations across the country. One of the biggest was in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where 7,000 people marched demanding justice for Rodney King. The coalition that organized the march called for a conference on June 13 to

organize national actions to demand federal indictment of the cops that beat Rodney King. The meeting was postponed to July.

We urge all working class organizations and unions to send messages pledging to send representatives to the meeting to: Justice for Rodney King, c/o Zion Baptist Church, 621 Elwood Ave. North, Minneapolis, MN 55411. More support will guarantee that the meeting takes place. It is only with struggles involving as many working people as possible that we can win justice for Rodney King. — J.M. ■

## Support the Black people of South Africa against the apartheid regime!

Forty-two Black people were killed in a Black township in South Africa recently. Most Black people there say that it was an act of murder by the South African government. The African National Congress (ANC) has launched a campaign of civil disobedience to bring down the apartheid government.

The Black workers, the Black people of South Africa have forced the ANC to break off negotiations with the



apartheid state and launch this campaign. The Black people of South Africa want one person, one vote. They want to destroy the apartheid state, they want their own constitution, their own government based on democratic principles. Their struggle has been revitalized by the uprising in Los Angeles, by the struggles for self-determination in Europe, by the weakening of the old world order.

Workers of all races and all nationalities should support the struggle of the Black people of South Africa for a government based on democratic principles. Their fight strengthens the fight to keep and expand the

democratic rights we have here and it weakens the control of the rich families in the U.S.

In the conflict between the ANC and the apartheid government, we stand completely with the ANC. But, the Black people and workers of South Africa cannot rely on the ANC leadership to lead the struggle because it is too tied to the rich whites. The Black people need a workers party to lead the struggle through to the end.

Workers in the U.S. need especially to support the call for a union boycott of South Africa. — J.M. ■

## U.S. out of Bosnia-Herzegovina!

The newspapers in the U.S. portray the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a war where both sides are equally guilty. But that is not true.

The people of Bosnia-Herzegovina broke from the country of Yugoslavia so that they could be free, so that they could have their own country, speak their own language and have their own culture, without the oppression of the Serbian majority in Yugoslavia.

They have been punished for this move toward freedom by being attacked by the Serbian-led army in the most intense fighting in Europe since World War II. The countries controlled by the most powerful rich families on the planet, like France, Germany and the U.S., want to see the Bosnians crushed. They do not want the oppressed peoples of Europe to get the idea that they can be free — the Irish, the Basques in Spain, the Croats in Yugoslavia, the list goes on. Freedom for these peoples threatens the profits of the rich.

The United Nations is controlled by the

same big countries. The U.S. wants to send UN troops to "stop" the conflict. The U.S. ruling rich are up to no good. They will intervene so that they can get a military foothold in the region and try to get control over the social and national explosions throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. They want to control the wealth there for themselves. They will not give freedom to the Bosnians. They did not win freedom for any oppressed peoples by their Gulf War last year. They only got control of the oil for themselves.

For the Bosnians to win, working people through their unions need to organize demonstrations in support of their right to self-determination, to freedom. For a union boycott of military weapons to Serbia. The working people need to demand that their unions organize a relief effort for the Bosnians — guns and ammunition, as well as food and medical supplies. With such a struggle, it is possible for the Bosnians to win freedom. — J.M. ■

## Post-LA Rap Attack

Lately, it seems like open game on rappers, particularly the more political rappers like Sister Souljah and Ice-T.

It was Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton who took a sentence from a Souljah interview out of context and twisted it for his own purposes — like Bush's campaign around the release of Willie Horton — an appeal to white suburban voters. That same week, the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas called for a boycott of Warner Bros. Records to protest Ice-T's anti-police song, "Cop Killer."

Both the politicians and the police are scared after the LA rebellion. And who do they blame for what happened in LA?

Themselves, and the policy of profits-before-people that they have enforced? Of course not.

They finger Black people, and some of the artists that speak to the anger of many young Blacks.

A lot of people however, don't believe their hype. "Rap music isn't the problem and Black people are not the problems. He (Clinton) wants to talk about Souljah, but he needs to worry about solving the problems that make people so angry. What is he going to do about programs for the city and jobs for the people?"

Those are the words of a 23-year-old Detroit rapper. Words even Clinton can't twist. — Dave, a reader ■

## Thorn Apple Valley

Workers are fired every day from the Thorn Apple Valley meatpacking plant in Detroit. The company has a policy of excessive harassment that the foremen carry out. Young women and men are not treated with dignity by the company. Instead they are pushed to work under difficult conditions, with improper equipment, very fast.

All workers need guaranteed jobs. Without guaranteed jobs, it will be very difficult for all the workers to go forward. Workers can only rely on themselves to win this fight. ■

## To Labor Party Forum

To the National Conference for Independent Labor Political Action

Fellow workers, militants:

We would like to express our solidarity with your conference for independent labor political action.

We would like to urge all working women, working men, young people, and their organizations, to join Labor Party Advocates, and to build Labor Party Advocates as a united front for a labor party.

We think it is very important for Labor Party Advocates to be open to all for a labor party, no matter what their political views may be.

We would also like to urge all working people to join in a common fight to stop all union support to all Republicans, Democrats, and all "independent" candidates of the privileged capitalist elite, like Ross Perot. The labor movement should put forward its own candidates for office. West Virginia miners put forward their own candidate for office in 1989, went door-to-door, organized a write-in campaign, and won! All workers and their organizations should demand that the labor movement do this now! This is the only road forward!

Yes to labor candidates and a labor party!

No to the strikebreakers/unionbusters Bush, Clinton and Perot!

In solidarity,  
Margaret Guttshall

Truth, a revolutionary socialist Trotskyist bulletin

The majority of Kroger workers voted to accept a contract and go back to work after nine weeks of strike. The contract was little or no better than the one that they were offered nine weeks ago. The Kroger workers obviously did not see a way to get more at this time, even with the widespread support for their strike throughout the Detroit area. Does this show that striking does no good? No. On the contrary, it shows we need strikes that are more militant, and, *above all* — bigger. We need to totally shutdown the enterprizes that we target, and spread strikes as much as we can. This is what the German workers did, and they got an increase.

Railroad workers were on strike very briefly, and threatened to shutdown many basic industries. Republicans and Democrats worked together to adopt a bill to force them back to work without a contract. There was not a word of protest from "independents" like Ross Perot. Workers need to fight for their unions to stop all union support to all of these strikebreakers and unionbusters now. Independent labor candidates and a labor party now!

Women in the Navy are protesting against officers and pilots in the Navy who sexually abused them during a convention last year. The Navy tops initially tried to cover up for and protect these sexist neanderthals; now a top Navy official has been forced to resign. This shows that women are a more and more important part of the economy and that the struggle for equality for women is more and more important. It also shows that the U.S. armed forces are totally rotten and corrupt institutions, characterized by all the reactionary machoism, violence and abusiveness toward women, that have always characterized the armed forces of the privileged, particularly imperialist armed forces. These armed forces should be dissolved and replaced with a popular militia.

Spanish workers organized a four-hour general strike against a government decree cutting funds destined for workers. The strike was very effective, shutting down important sectors of the economy, and leading to big clashes with the police. Trotskyists in Spain, including our co-thinkers in the Revolutionary Workers Party of Spain, and others in the Socialist Workers Party of Spain, were in the front ranks of the struggle to make the strike effective. Spanish workers say that if the government does not back down, they will organize another in October.

The Socialist Workers Party is continuing to collect signatures to put this party on the ballot in the November election. We urge workers to support this struggle. For further information call the Detroit branch of the SWP: 831-1177.

Socialist Action, a Trotskyist group, published a special supplement on the popular uprising in LA. They took a clear position in defense of the uprising, against the rich and the media's attempts to discredit it. For copies, contact Socialist Action, 3425 Army St., San Francisco, CA 94110; 415-821-0458.

Spark, a Trotskyist group in Detroit, is holding its annual summer festival in Detroit on August 16. For tickets, contact Spark or Truth, 584-6556.

Socialist Organizer, a Trotskyist group, is building support for a conference for independent labor political action that will be held in San Francisco on July 25-26. We urge all workers and their organizations to support this conference against the Republicans, Democrats, and upper-class independents like Ross Perot. For further information, contact Socialist Organizer, 4017 24th St. No. 19, San Francisco, CA 94114; 415-641-4610.

Truth sold 39 copies of the last issue of *Truth* at a meatpacking plant and an autoplant in Detroit. We sold 9 copies of our pamphlet, *The Crisis in the Auto Industry: A Working Class and Socialist Solution*. We collected signatures to put the Socialist Workers Party on the ballot in November. This will be the last issue of *Truth* until August. At that time, we will resume publishing bi-weekly.

*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: M. Gutshall

## Marxism: The theory and practice of the liberation of the workers

*As more and more workers become interested in socialism, they naturally think more and more about how this can be achieved.*

*We have already pointed out that capitalism lays the basis for socialism by creating the working class, by driving the working class to repeatedly struggle against and rise up against the capitalists until it is free, and by creating the technology necessary to abolish hunger and want and provide everyone with what he or she needs.*

*But this, by itself, is obviously not enough. The working class needs to be educated and organized to build socialism. This is the purpose of Marxism. Marxism is the workers' science of economics and society, of how they change, and of the workers role in this process. This is why the established order is so hostile to Marxism, why they make fun of Marxism. They don't want the workers, and the best elements of other social classes, to be able to see. The longer the workers' vision is clouded, the longer the people at the top hang on to their comfortable, parasitic positions. Conversely, the sooner and better the workers are educated in the most advanced revolutionary theories and practices, the sooner the workers will be able to put an end to the established order and build one in which the workers and all oppressed peoples will be comfortable and happy.*

*Here are some of the things that Lenin, the famous Russian revolutionary and Marxist, said about Marxism:*

Throughout the civilized world the teachings of Marx evoke the utmost hostility and hatred of all bourgeois science (both official and liberal), which regards Marxism as a kind of "pernicious sect." And no other attitude is to be expected, for there can be no "impartial" social science in a society based on class struggle. In one way or another, all official and liberal science defends wage slavery, whereas Marxism has declared relentless war on that slavery. To expect science to be impartial in a wage-slave society is as foolishly naive as to expect impartiality from manufacturers on the question of whether workers' wages ought not to be increased by decreasing the profits of capital.

But this is not all. The history of philosophy and history of social science show with perfect clarity that there is nothing resembling "sectarianism" in Marxism, in the sense of its being a hidebound, petrified doctrine, a doctrine which arose away from the high road of the development of world civilization. On the contrary, the genius of Marx consists precisely in his having furnished answers to questions already raised by the foremost minds of mankind. His doctrine emerged as the direct and immediate continuation of the teachings of the greatest representatives of philosophy, political economy and socialism.

The Marxist doctrine is omnipotent because it is true. It is comprehensive and harmonious, and provides men with an integral world outlook irreconcilable with any form of superstition, reaction, or defense of bourgeois oppression. It is the legitimate successor to the best that man produced in the nineteenth century, as represented by German philosophy, English political economy, and French socialism.

It is these three sources of Marxism, which

are also its component parts, that we shall outline in brief.

### I.

The philosophy of Marxism is *materialism*. Throughout the modern history of Europe, and especially at the end of the eighteenth century in France, where a resolute struggle was conducted against every kind of medieval rubbish, against serfdom in institutions and ideas, materialism has proved to be the only philosophy that is consistent, true to all teachings of natural science and hostile to superstition, cant and so forth. The enemies of democracy have, therefore, always exerted all their efforts to "refute," undermine and defame materialism, and have advocated various forms of philosophical idealism, which always, in one way or another, amount to the defense or support of religion.

Marx and Engels defended philosophical materialism in the most determined manner and repeatedly explained how profoundly erroneous is every deviation from this basis. Their views are most clearly and fully expounded in the works of Engels, *Ludwig Feuerbach and Anti-Duhring*, which, like the *Communist Manifesto*, are handbooks for every class-conscious worker.

But Marx did not stop at eighteenth-century materialism: he developed philosophy to a higher level. He enriched it with the achievements of German classical philosophy, especially of Hegel's system, which in its turn had led to the materialism of Feuerbach. The main achievement was *dialectics*, that is, the doctrine of development in its fullest, deepest and most comprehensive form, the doctrine of the relativity of the human knowledge that provides us with a reflection of eternally developing matter. The latest discoveries of natural science — radium, electrons, the transmutation of elements — have been a remarkable confirmation of Marx's dialectical materialism despite the teachings of the bourgeois philosophers with their "new" reversion to old and decadent idealism.

Marx deepened and developed philosophical materialism to the full, and extended the cognition of nature to include the cognition of *human society*. His *historical materialism* was a great achievement in scientific thinking. The chaos and arbitrariness that had previously reigned in views on history and politics were replaced by a strikingly integral and harmonious scientific theory, which shows how, in consequence of the growth of productive forces, out of one system of social life another and higher system develops — how capitalism, for instance, grows out of feudalism.

Just as man's knowledge reflects nature (that is, developing matter), which exists independently of him, so man's *social knowledge* (that is, his various views and doctrines — philosophical, religious, political and so forth) reflects the *economic system* of society. Political institutions are a superstructure on the economic foundation. We see, for example, that the various political forms of the modern European states serve to strengthen the domination of the bourgeoisie over the proletariat.

Marx's philosophy is a consummate philosophical materialism which has provided mankind, and especially the working class, with powerful instruments of knowledge. (to be continued) ■

# Human dignity and socialism

"The way they treat the workers is wrong. There is no human dignity. A person is first a human being before he is an employee."  
— TAV worker

Workers are not treated with dignity. In fact, workers are treated with less dignity now than 10 years ago. Why?

We are living in a society ruled by a dying class — the rich owners of industry and the banks. They have outlived their usefulness. The more useless they are, the more they deny simple human dignity to the true makers of wealth — the workers.

The workers produce all the real wealth — the food, the cars, the steel and so on. They produce all this wealth socially, that is, millions of workers working together create this wealth. This highly centralized economic machine of millions of workers is the birth of a new society in the old. It is the beginning of socialism.

A socialist society is a society where every person has everything they need, and there are no rich or poor, no privileged bureaucrats. It is a society where all workers are treated with dignity.

The more productive this economic machine of millions of workers is, the more useless the rich owners are. The more productive the workers are, the more the rich owners try to prevent the workers from understanding that their place is as the rulers of the new society.

This is why the rich owners deny the workers simple human dignity.

Every step forward in dignity that the workers achieve, brings the workers closer to socialism, and the rulers closer to their end.

Human dignity will be given to all only when the workers control society — socialism. Jack Marlowe ■

# Is a privileged elite inevitable?

More and more workers are interested in socialism or communism. They see that in the system that we are living in today, that more and more people are living in poverty, misery, oppression, and violence. They like the idea of a socialist or communist society, in which the working class, which produces everything, owns everything that it produces, and in which everyone has what he or she needs — a classless society, in which there is no exploitation, or oppression of any kind, and no privileged elite.

But is this possible? Won't there always be some kind of privileged elite that tries to grab power and privileges for itself? Isn't this what happened in the USSR? Won't this happened in the U.S., too?

We say no.

The working class — millions of working women and working men — are capable of running the economy and the society themselves without a privileged elite ruling over them.

Working women and working men in every workplace can and will discuss and decide what they want to be done with the resources of this society. They can and will elect their own representatives to carry out the decisions that they have made. These representatives will be immediately recallable; that is, the minute that they do anything contrary to what millions of workers have decided they must do, they will lose their positions and be replaced. These representatives won't be paid anymore than the average worker.

Classes and privileged strata in general arise as a result of scarcity. If you don't have enough to go around, people naturally start fighting with each other for their daily bread. One class or strata wins out over the other, gets the lion's share, and organizes armed forces to keep the other down, so that the ones at the top can be relatively comfortable.

For a certain period in history, classes, privileged strata, exploitation and oppression, were inevitable.

But this period is gone. We now have the technology necessary to completely abolish hunger and want. We also have a class capable of doing this, the working class, a class that has arisen and taken shape as a class of people that knows how to work together to produce what people need.

The working class can abolish hunger and want; the working class can abolish the material basis for privileged classes and strata. And, on the basis of abolishing the material basis for the division of the society into classes, it can begin to reeducate the people. The people will learn to conduct themselves in a different manner — more advanced, more civilized.

We've dragged ourselves out of the caves; cannibalism and chattel slavery have been virtually abolished. Why should history stop now? Shouldn't we be able to take a few more steps? — M. Guttshall ■

# What Truth is fighting for

Here are some of the things that Truth is fighting for:

Laws to:

- Increase the minimum wage; equal pay for equal work; automatic wage increases in accord with price increases;
- Abolish overtime in periods of high unemployment; 30 hours work for 40 hours pay; a program of public works to provide jobs for the unemployed at union wages;
- Full representation of women, African-Americans, Arabs, Latins, Asians, and other oppressed in all positions;
- Nationalize all enterprises that refuse to cooperate with this program ...

Truth thinks that the struggle for these demands is a step toward building a truly socialist society, but we urge all working people to make a common fight for these demands, no matter what their political views may be.

We are also fighting for:

- A workers party and a workers government, based on an independent mass mobilization to carry out these tasks; for workers' direct election of workers' representatives; all representatives to be paid no more than the average worker and to be immediately recallable;
- The dissolution of all racist, anti-working class armed forces, including the police, the National Guard, and the standing army; for replacing them with a popular militia linked to workplaces;
- A workers socialist revolution, in which the workers overthrow the privileged capitalist elite, concentrate all power in their own hands, and begin to build a truly socialist society, in which everyone has

what he or she needs, in which workers are free, and in which there is no privileged; for a workers revolutionary socialist party to lead this fight ...

Truth is open to all who want to fight for these things.

Members of Truth read Truth, distribute Truth, discuss Truth with friends, meet regularly with other Truth members, plan Truth, contribute articles, interviews, photos, etc., and pay regular dues. In this way, they help build support for Truth's program, and an organization to fight for this program.

There are other working class or socialist organizations in Detroit that are much larger than Truth, like the Communist Party or the Socialist Workers Party.

But Truth has made the most consistent struggle to support the struggles of all workers and all oppressed peoples against the privileged elite in the U.S. and the old USSR, Eastern Europe, China and Cuba, for fully socialist societies in which there is no exploitation or oppression of any kind, and for unifying revolutionary socialist forces to fight for the revolutionary socialist program of the Fourth International, the world party of socialist revolution.

The Fourth International is not perfect. It's been in a period of crisis. It's broken into different tendencies and groups, some working class, some not, some basically correct, others opportunist or sectarian. But it is the only working class International that exists, and it is the only working class tendency that is *growing* throughout the world.

We urge all in the Detroit area who want freedom, progress, and socialism, to join Truth. ■

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