

# Unite workers' struggles!

Millions of working people are fighting for the same things: higher wages, more jobs, better working conditions.

But they aren't making much progress, because they aren't unified enough.

Working people need to unify their struggles into a single struggle for:

1. Increase the minimum wage by law.
2. 30 hours work for 40 hours pay by law.
3. A program of public works to provide jobs for the unemployed at union wages.
4. Full representation of women, Black or African-American people, and all oppressed in all positions by law.
5. Workers control of health and safety standards and enforcement by law.
6. A national strike, labor candidates, a labor party, to win these demands.
7. Nationalize enterprizes that refuse to cooperate with this program by law; place them under workers control. 100% unionization of all working people and students.

As long as working people are forced to struggle workplace by workplace, union by union, they are not going to make much progress. They need to unify all their forces into a single fight. The unions are supposed to *unite* the workers. They aren't doing their job. At best, they defend the interests of a small number of the most comfortable workers. At worst, they act as direct agents for the bosses, isolating and dividing workers, pitting them against each other.

This must change. All workers should fight for this program in their unions. Officials who refuse to fight for these demands should be replaced.

As revolutionaries, we think the fight for this program can be a step toward a truly socialist society — where workers own everything they produce, where everyone has what he or she needs, where there is no privileged elite of any kind. But we urge all working people

and their organizations to fight for this program, whether they believe in socialism or not.

We also urge working people, whether they are socialists or not, to vote for the socialist candidates on the November

ballot. They are the only candidates that have given any support to the struggles of millions of working people — the Caterpillar strike, the Kroger strike, the popular uprising in Los Angeles, the Detroit city workers . . . ■

## Vote socialist November 3!

Many workers have been pushing for the unions to stop supporting Republicans and Democrats and to run their own, independent labor candidates. *Truth* has been part of this struggle. We pushed for the unions to do this. We pushed for Labor Party Advocates to push for the unions to do this. We urged Labor Party Advocates to run Tony Mazzocchi for president as a way to put pressure on the unions to run an independent labor candidate for president. We talked to other working class and socialist militants and groups about running a common slate of independent working class candidates for various offices.

But those of us who have been involved

in this struggle have not yet been successful. There aren't any independent working class candidates for president on the ballot in Michigan. There aren't any working class candidates for any offices that represent more than a very small number of workers.

The only candidates on the ballot in Michigan are Republicans, Democrats, socialist candidates representing small socialist factions (the Socialist Workers Party, the Workers World Party), and middle class groups (Libertarians, etc.)

What should workers do in this situation? Of course we should continue our fight for independent labor candidates

(Continued on back page)



Detroit city workers protest Democratic Mayor Coleman Young's demands for union concessions.

# What is socialism?

We listen to the presidential candidates of the rich, George Bush and Bill Clinton. We don't hear a really serious answer to the big problem of today — the economy. This is not because they are not smart people. It is because they are candidates of the rich, and the rich are destroying the society in which we live.

In a socialist society, there are no rich, no poor, everyone has everything they need to live. There are no privileged bureaucracies, no ruling élites. The workers own and control all the social wealth — the large factories, corporate farms, banks, railroads and so on. The workers decide how best to use the social wealth for the benefit of the whole society.

A socialist economy is the only long-term solution to the problems of the economy.

The building blocks of our modern economy are socialist. But they are controlled by the rich and are being destroyed by the rich.

One of the basic building blocks of the economy are the large factories for producing cars, steel, rubber, food, etc. These factories are necessary for producing the goods that the vast majority of people need, cheaply and efficiently. But the rich are destroying these factories — closing them, abandoning them to the rats, because they cannot make a profit on them. They are not going overseas or to Mexico. They are being destroyed.

Another basic building block is a huge central banking system to bring together all the money and information about the economy so that decisions about what to make, where to invest resources, can be made. The rich are destroying this banking system. They have stolen money from the savings and loans, like George Bush's son did. They use the resources of the society to speculate in oil, gold and real estate instead of investing in equipment and technology to produce things. The rich seek short-term profit and are wasting the society's resources. They are destroying the entire banking system by their stealing and speculation.

Another basic building block is a high level of technology, of research and development. A high level of technology allows goods to be produced more efficiently, with less labor and lower costs. Technology can free workers from the most dangerous work. It also allows the development of new products so that the world we live in is more comfortable. Today the capitalists refuse to invest in developing technology because there is no profit in it. And what little labor-saving technology they develop is used against the workers — the rich lay off workers and cause unemployment instead of more freedom.

Only socialism can develop these foundations of the modern economy. These foundations have been produced by capitalism but today they are being destroyed by the rich. Only socialism can build on them and improve the workers' lives.

Socialism always brings to mind Russia, and the ex-Soviet Union. But the socialism of the ex-Soviet Union is very primitive. There was never enough for everyone and a privileged bureaucracy developed, a policeman in the face of the poverty. This bureaucracy took many of

## Welcome Malcolm X Academy!

Workers of all races should welcome the Malcolm X Academy to the Warrendale neighborhood in Detroit. This is the best way to build unity among Black and white workers to fight for quality education for their children in Detroit.

Black people should be able to send their children to a school in a white neighborhood without fear of attack because they are Black. This is a simple democratic right.

It is especially important for the working class white people who live in Warrendale to welcome the Black children and parents to the Malcolm X Academy. There will be no improvement of the schools without a united fight by Black and white workers. White workers cannot let themselves be used as pawns by the rich. The plans of the rich are to weaken and then destroy the public school system. This is an attack on all workers, Black and white, who live together in Detroit.

By welcoming Malcolm X Academy, white workers are making clear that the problem is not Black parents and students in the neighborhood. Carver Elementary, only two blocks away, has 20% Black students, many Black teachers and a Black principal. Here white and Black working class parents and students work together.

It is difficult for Black workers to unite with white workers to fight the rich as long as white workers do not welcome Malcolm X Academy and its Black students and parents to the neighborhood.

The reasons for opening Malcolm X Academy in Warrendale are economic. The now-closed school, Leslie Elementary, is the cheapest school to re-open in the school district. The School Board wants to spend the little money it has on special "schools of choice," and not on the educational needs of all the students in Detroit, the majority of whom are Black. In this way, Malcolm X Academy represents a step back, not forward for Black people in Detroit.

These "schools of choice" that have been set up in Detroit in recent years all

the benefits of socialism for itself.

The workers own all the social wealth there is, but the country is quite poor. There are not many modern factories. The workers do not have a good central banking system. The workers do not have available to them a high level of technology. The workers ended up with a privileged bureaucracy. The Russian workers and other workers of the old Soviet Union are fighting to get rid of this privileged bureaucracy.

They are fighting to save the socialist parts of their economy from the likes of George Bush and his rich friends. In this way, both U.S. and the workers of the ex-Soviet Union have the same problem, the same fight. — J. Marlowe ■

receive more funding, have smaller class sizes, and are more likely to attract better teachers than the regular schools. "Schools of choice" are part of a program of ruling rich of the destruction of the public school system in the U.S.

The School Board is filled with people who are willing to do whatever the rich people who really run Detroit want. They are just like Coleman Young, who is, first and foremost, a lackey for GM, Ford and Chrysler and the other rich interests in the city.

George Bush recently came to Detroit, went to one of these schools, and praised the School Board for its "initiative" in setting it up.

These "schools of choice" are substitutes for improving the quality of education in all the schools, for all the children, especially the children of workers. All workers should oppose the dismantling of the public schools. We need to demand full funding of the schools paid, not out of property taxes, but out of taxes on the rich. — J. M. ■

## U.S. out of Iraq!

Bush and the rich rulers of the U.S. are organizing a new round of attacks on Iraq. They claim they are protecting the Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq. But their real purpose is to help bring down Saddam Hussein, the ruler of Iraq, and install a puppet government for the U.S.

There is only one reason: money. Right now, there is a world-wide recession and the price of oil is depressed. Iraq must sell oil to get the money it needs to rebuild its economy. The big oil companies of the U.S. (and Britain and France) do not want Iraq's oil coming onto the market and lowering the price of oil and therefore, their profits. Therefore, the U.S. is moving again to try to overthrow the Hussein government and get a government that will do just what the big oil companies want, just like the kings who rule Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. U.S. workers must oppose these war moves. U.S. out of Iraq, out of the skies over Iraq! ■

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

Bush, along with leaders of the rich countries of Europe, is organizing convoys in Bosnia-Herzegovina. These leaders claim that the purpose of the convoys is to bring aid to the Bosnians trapped under Serbian fire in Sarajevo and other cities.

The Bosnians deserve the right to form their own nation at once, without further suffering.

The slaughter of the Bosnians at the hands of the Serbian army is being allowed by the big Western countries. They want to force the Bosnians to the bargaining table under the worst possible conditions.

The convoys are being organized to cover the support of the big imperialists to the Serbian army. The convoys also allow the U.S. to place pressure on the Bosnians to come to the bargaining table under these terrible conditions.

Workers of the U.S. and other rich countries must say no to U.S. intervention and demand weapons for the Bosnians to defeat the Serbian army. ■

Polish coal miners went on strike on August 18, joining auto workers and copper workers who have been on strike since July. They are striking against government austerity measures. Their demands include lifting wage controls, ending unemployment and ending attempts to privatize state-owned industries. ■

Coleman Young is once again carrying out the wishes of the rich against the working people of Detroit. This time, it's the city workers. The same fight is taking place with the Detroit teachers. The School Board claims it has no money. Of course, neither of these government organizations has very much money since their money is based on taxes collected from the working people in Detroit. Young threatened outsourcing of work unless the workers took 10% pay cuts. The School Board is willing to take the teachers to court. Both Young and the School Board are crying the blues. The question is: who should pay? The rich or the workers? The workers and teachers wouldn't have to take pay cuts, the residents of the city wouldn't suffer from reduced services, if there were a united fight against the rich rulers and their lackeys, Young and the School Board. ■

The sentencing of former Detroit police chief Hart to 10 years in prison was a travesty of justice. The main reason he got a sentence this long is that he is Black. White politicians and leaders do things ten times worse and get sentences one-tenth as long. ■

The Republican convention made a big point of opposing homosexuality and promoting so-called "family values." What miserable hypocrites! Research on teens who attempt suicide shows that a very high percentage of these young people are, or think they may be, homosexual. Prejudice against and cruelty toward homosexuals is so deep and wide in this society, that young people who find themselves with these tendencies want to die. Who can we thank for this? The partisans of "family values." ■

Ron Daniels, Jesse Jackson's old campaign manager, and his supporters, held a "Peoples' Progressive Convention" in Ypsilanti, Michigan on August 21-23. Daniels claims to be a candidate for president who is independent of and against both the Republicans and Democrats. But he hasn't made an effort to get on the ballot in Michigan. Why hold a convention in Michigan, if you haven't been working to get on the ballot in Michigan? ■

Socialist Action, a Trotskyist group centered in San Francisco, held its 5th National Convention in San Francisco, July 29 - August 2. SA reports that there was debate on South Africa and many other questions at the convention, and that the convention ended in a split with 12 members of a faction led by Barry Sheppard, Malik Miah, and Carl Finamore, walking out, and members of another tendency based in Chicago resigning. Since the Socialist Workers Party openly disassociated itself from Trotskyism and the Fourth International, Socialist Action has been the largest Trotskyist group in the U.S. Thus all Trotskyists should be concerned with this development. It's not possible to take a position on this development without seeing and thoroughly studying the documents of all concerned. But we can say that it shows the need to fight for unifying Trotskyists to fight for the program of the Fourth International. This is the key to unifying all revolutionary socialist or communist forces to fight for the program of the Fourth International. ■

Spark, a Trotskyist group in Detroit, held its annual summer festival in August. There was a large number of workers, militants, and their family members from the Detroit area enjoying food, various exhibits, crafts, games, and skits, and discussions on fighting for a better future for the workers. ■

Truth sold 17 copies of the last issue of Truth at a meatpacking plant. We sold 30 copies of a supplement to Truth and 8 copies of The Fourth International at the Spark festival. We attended meetings of Labor Party Advocates in Cleveland and Detroit. ■

# An open letter to socialists in Michigan

To socialist, communist, and Trotskyist organizations ...

Fellow workers, comrades:

We are writing you to ask you to join in a common fight for workers to vote for socialist candidates on November 3.

Socialist candidates on the ballot in Michigan are:

James Harris, Socialist Workers Party, for U.S. House of Representatives from the 15th District;

William Roundtree and various others associated with the Workers World Party.

These socialist candidates on the ballot are the only candidates that have given any support to the struggles of millions of workers — the Caterpillar strike, the Kroger strike, the popular uprising in LA, Detroit city workers, teachers, etc.

Thus all working people should support these candidates *against* the bourgeois Republican and Democratic Party candidates who use their positions to try to put down the struggles of millions of workers.

Workers need to know that there are socialist candidates on the ballot. They need to know that these are the only candidates that have given any support to their struggles.

Some socialists say they are not going to try to build support for these candidates because these candidates are part of factions of socialism or communism that are opportunist, sectarian or both. But this is no excuse not to support these factions of socialism or communism and their candidates against *bourgeois* factions and their candidates in these elections.

Every socialist knows that socialists always support striking workers against the bosses, no matter how opportunist or sectarian strike policies may be. Why is it so difficult to understand that socialists must always support other working class socialist organizations when *they* are in conflicts with the bosses? And working class socialist candidates are in conflict with the bosses and their candidates in this election, just as striking workers are in conflicts with bosses during strikes.

More, the fact that these factions of socialism or communism continue to run candidates against the bourgeois candidates in elections, expresses the most principled, working class, socialist, aspect of these organizations, as opposed to their opportunism or sectarianism.

Other socialists don't want to talk about voting for socialist candidates because

of the crisis of socialism in the old USSR. They think socialism has been totally discredited in the eyes of millions of working people, and they are afraid to be identified with it.

It is true that socialism has been discredited to a certain extent, among a certain sector of workers. But it hasn't been discredited in the eyes of the youth, and the most exploited and oppressed workers. They are the most important. These young people and working people need to know that it has not been socialism that has been the problem in the old USSR. It has been the privileged bureaucracy that has tried to take all the benefits of socialism for itself. They need to know that there are still thousands of socialists, communists, and, above all, Trotskyists, true to the cause, and in the front ranks of the fight to overthrow the bourgeoisie and the privileged bureaucracy. Campaigning for a vote for socialists is an opportunity to make this clear.

Finally, there are some socialists who say they don't want to make propaganda among workers for voting for the socialist candidates on the ballot, because the Socialist Workers Party and the Workers World Party themselves aren't making much of an effort, or because they aren't trying to involve other tendencies or factions of socialism in a common fight. And this is true. Neither the SWP nor the WWP has tried to involve other tendencies in a common fight. They look at things from the point of view of their particular tendency or faction, not from the point of the interests of the working class as a whole, or socialism as a whole.

But true socialists, communists, and, above all, Trotskyists, should not let this get in our way. We should do everything that we can to build the largest possible support for these socialist candidates, against the bourgeois candidates in these elections.

A common, united, fight along these lines will help stimulate interest in socialism, and increase the authority of the socialists among the workers.

We ask all in favor of this to contact us.

Fraternally,

Margaret Guttshall

Truth: A revolutionary socialist Trotskyist bulletin in Detroit ■

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. Guttshall

# Vote socialist!

(Continued from front page)

and a labor party. But there obviously are not going to be any independent labor candidates on the ballot in November. Should we vote for Clinton and the Democrats, even though we know that they aren't going to use their positions to build support for the struggles of millions of workers? Should we stay home?

We think the best thing to do is to vote for the socialist candidates on the ballot. The socialist candidates are the only candidates who have given any support to the struggles of millions of working people. By voting for socialist candidates, workers will encourage forces that are involved in and support the struggles of millions of workers, and they will discourage forces that aren't.

Voting for Bush, Clinton, or other Republicans or Democrats, won't help workers one bit. These politicians are going to use their positions to try to crush workers' struggles.

— Both Republicans and Democrats worked together to fire striking PATCO workers in 1981.

— Both Republicans and Democrats worked together to force striking railroad workers back to work without a contract this summer.

— Clinton is governor of an anti-union, "right-to-work" state. As governor, he authorized a state guarantee of a loan to Morrilton Plastics to help it break a UAW strike, fire strikers, and replace them with scabs. When GM bosses were trying to force workers to make wage concessions by threatening to terminate those who refused to do so, Clinton openly and publicly sided with Arlington, Texas workers who agreed to make wage concessions, while Willow Run, Michigan workers were being terminated.

— "Left-wing" Democrats like Detroit Mayor Coleman Young are telling city workers that they have to take wage cuts or be terminated.

Every vote for Bush, Clinton, and other Republicans and Democrats is a vote for some one who will use his or her position against the workers.

Staying home won't help the workers either. This can be interpreted in many ways: ignorance, lack of interest, neutrality.

A vote for a socialist on the other hand, is a vote for a candidate who gives some support to workers' struggles. It will show that workers want independent labor candidates and a labor party now!

— M. Guttshall ■

## Labor Party Advocates

Labor Party Advocates has initiated a campaign to recruit 100,000 members by 1994. Members of LPA are trying to set up 100 recruiting committees in 100 cities, each with the goal of recruiting 1000 members. On this basis, members of LPA aim to hold a convention to found a labor party in 1994, and adopt a platform. Some members of LPA see this primarily as a way to pressure the Democratic Party. Other members of LPA want to run their own candidates for office in 1994.

The Detroit and Cleveland branches of LPA are planning an educational conference in Detroit on December 5 and 6 at the Royce Hotel near the Detroit airport. This educational conference is called: After the 1992 elections: Which way should labor turn? Labor political action in 1992 and beyond. There will be speakers for and against forming a labor party. Among the speakers will be James Gibbs, a Black trade unionist from West Virginia, a leader of the famous militant Pittston miners' strike and a leader of a militant, independent, working class election campaign, that successfully elected a miner, Jackie Stump, to local office.

The purpose of this conference will be to bring out the debate that exists in the working class and in the labor movement over what should the labor movement do, and to recruit to Labor Party Advocates.

*Truth* urges all working people in the Detroit area to support Labor Party Advocates campaign for 100,000 and a founding convention in 1994 and this educational conference.

Labor Party Advocates is the only working class organization in the Detroit area open to *all* working people no matter what their political views may be. Building Labor Party Advocates is a good way to unify working people, bring them together, create the conditions in which workers with many different views learn to work together, fight together, develop a program that represents their interests, and develop the forces necessary to fight for it.

There are already a number of workers in and around the Ford Rouge plant and UAW Local 600 who are members of Labor Party Advocates. Why not form a recruiting committee here?—M.G. ■

### Socialist candidates on the ballot in Michigan

James Harris, member of the Socialist Workers Party, candidate for U.S. House of Representatives from the 15th District. Autoworker, employed in a parts plant, member of UAW Local 155, active in labor and civil rights movements for many years.

Workers World Party candidates for various offices:

William Roundtree — State Board of Education  
 Kristin Hammel — University of Michigan Board of Regents  
 Cheryl Labash — Michigan State University Board of Trustees  
 Kevin Carey — Wayne State University Board of Governors  
 Gertrude Cook — State Representative, District 9, Detroit

### Support striking Lordstown workers!

Over 2,300 GM auto parts plant workers in Lordstown, Ohio are now on strike. They are striking against GM's decision to close a tool and die shop that employs about 140 workers, and to outsource this work to a non-union shop, and against GM's decision to run their plant with 125 fewer workers than the union contract calls for.

*Truth* urges all workers to support this strike in every way possible — with statements in solidarity with the strike, donations, delegations, etc. But, above all, with a *national strike*.

The Caterpillar strike, the Kroger strike, show that small groups of workers, no matter how militant they may be, and no matter how much solidarity there may be, can't beat the bosses by themselves. We need a *national strike*. Everyone

needs to strike at once.

Workers can get the ball rolling by fighting for their local unions to adopt resolutions demanding that the UAW and the AFL-CIO organize a one-day national strike in solidarity with striking Lordstown autoworkers.

This will scare the bosses ten times more than the popular uprising in Los Angeles, that already has them shaking in their boots. — M.G. ■

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