

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN

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No to Clinton!

Make the rich pay the deficit, not the people!

When Clinton was campaigning for the presidency, he said he was going to do something about jobs, healthcare, and education, and that he would not raise taxes on or cut benefits to the people.

But now that he has taken office, he says that the deficit is much worse than he thought it was, and that he has no choice but to raise taxes and cut certain benefits, including Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

There is no question that the deficit is a serious problem, that the economic crisis is serious and perhaps even getting worse, and that Clinton is not personally responsible for this situation.

But who is responsible for this deficit? Republican and Democratic party politicians who voted to borrow money. And what are they spending it on? Payments to Savings and Loan speculators, high salaries for themselves, the military, other subsidies to private corporations.

More, it is not true that there are no alternatives.

The people have already outlined many steps that can be taken to deal with these problems in a way that benefits the people. For example:

- Tax the rich, not the poor!
- Cut welfare to the rich! Cut public payments to S&L speculators; cut public officials' salaries; cut public funds to the military; withdraw U.S. troops from foreign territories; cut public subsidies to private corporations ...

- Expand the public sector! A massive program of public works to provide jobs for the unemployed!

- Stop banks and corporations from closing operations and withdrawing funds from the U.S. by law!

- Takeover abandoned factories, stores, housing, land, by law, and reopen them as public enterprises run in the interests of the people!

- Low-cost health insurance for all!

These are things that the vast majority of people are for. But Clinton is not doing these things. Instead, he's trying to look like he's doing things against the rich, in the interests of the people, while he serves the rich.

Raising the top income tax to 36%, while keeping taxes on capital gains, banks, and enterprises relatively low, is meaningless. The rich have thousands of lawyers and accountants who know how to shift income from one column to another and avoid paying taxes. Ordinary people on the other hand are not going to be able to avoid paying Clinton's increased income taxes and energy taxes; banks and corporations will pass on their increased costs in the form of higher prices.

The biggest problem is that the top leaders of the labor movement are going along with everything that Clinton is putting forward.

Workers need to demand that the labor movement stop all support to Clinton and fight for the demands of the people, not

the rich.

The fact that Clinton has already broken his promises to the people, shows that it is high time for the labor movement to form its own political party and fight for political power.

We urge all who see this now to join Labor Party Advocates, and build Labor Party Advocates, as a united front for a labor party. ■



James Gibbs, an African-American miner for a labor party, speaks — page 3.

Find out more about Labor Party Advocates! LPA Public Forum, page 8.

No to the destruction of Detroit!

A Detroit labor candidate for mayor!

There is no question that conditions for many African-American people in the Detroit area have gotten better in the last years. Many have educations, jobs, incomes, homes, etc., that they never had before.

But conditions for the vast majority of African-American or Black people have gotten worse, and are getting worse all the time. More and more people are losing their jobs; those who retain their jobs are being forced to work harder and harder. The number of people who are totally poverty-stricken is growing; the criminal element is growing. Stores, schools, libraries, recreation centers, continue to close or reduce their hours, forcing working people to travel long distances for elementary needs.

There have been many struggles against this situation — struggles against factory closings, schools closings, welfare cuts, for housing; more recently, the Kroger workers' strike, the teachers' strike, the city workers' struggles, the protests against the racist police murder of Malice Green.

The people have already outlined many steps that can be taken to change this situation. For example:

- Tax the rich, not the poor!
- A massive program of public works to provide jobs for the unemployed!
- Stop GM, Ford, Chrysler and other corporations from closing operations and withdrawing funds from Detroit by law!
- Takeover abandoned factories, stores, homes, land, by law, and reopen them as public enterprises run in the interests of the people!
- Punish racist police! Organize and mobilize the people in local defense guards to stop crimes against the people!

Unfortunately, Coleman Young and company have not supported any of these struggles or measures. On the contrary, Coleman Young has been working closely with the richest owners of GM, Ford, Chrysler, and other enterprises, in their efforts to gradually close down their operations in Detroit, without provoking

any mass, unified, working class and popular opposition, in exchange for a relatively comfortable position for himself and a small number of friends. Now Young is working closely with these same forces to "privatize," i.e., destroy, city services, cut city workers, and wipe out their unions.

The racist police murder of the young African-American worker, Malice Green, shows that some of the positive changes that did take place while Young was mayor have not gone as far as people thought. The Detroit police force is still 40% white and includes police involved in the infamous racist, terrorist police units, known as STRESS units, that were supposed to have been disbanded and eliminated.

Thus it is no wonder that the vast majority of people are looking for a new candidate for mayor.

But, so far, none of the candidates who have come forward represents a real alternative Young. None of them have broken decisively with Young and his machine. None of them have broken decisively with the Republican and Democratic party machines. None of them have committed themselves to supporting the struggles of the masses of working people, and to fighting for the simple measures that the vast majority of working people want, like taxing the rich, not the poor, or a program of public works.

So far, Dennis Archer seems to be focusing simply on hiring more police. Sharon McPhail works for the city prosecutor and is hiring a professional Democratic Party consultant for her campaign. Hubbard is part of New Detroit, an organization made up of representatives of the richest owners of corporations in the area.

Unionized workers constitute the only force in Detroit capable of providing a real alternative to the Young administration for the masses of people. Unionized workers come together everyday; they work together to produce the things that people need; they are driven by the conditions of their work and life to fight the rich owners of GM, Ford, Chrysler and other giant enterprises; and they have some ex-

perience with organization and struggle that they can draw on.

Unionized workers need to get together and put forward their own candidates for mayor and city council, candidates who will use their positions to build support for the struggles of the masses of working and oppressed people, to fight for the demands of the masses of workers and oppressed peoples, to build a big workers party, or labor party, and spread the struggle throughout the U.S.

City workers and their unions are in a good position to initiate this struggle.

All working class, socialist, and communist tendencies and organizations should make a common fight for an independent Detroit labor candidate for Detroit mayor, and run candidates to promote this struggle.

The Socialist Workers Party is a small, working class and socialist organization that has supported many working class and popular struggles and demands. It has just announced that it plans to run candidates for Detroit mayor and city council. We certainly urge all working people and their organizations to support these candidates against all the candidates of the rich and their Republican and Democratic parties.

Unfortunately, the SWP is disregarding the fact that the vast majority of people in Detroit are African-American, that they fought to have an African-American person as mayor, and that they regard having an African-American as mayor as an important gain that they don't want to give up. And rightly so.

Instead of supporting this struggle, the SWP is running a Latino person for mayor.

We hope that this is simply a result of a lack of knowledge and experience with the people of Detroit, and that the SWP will see in the course of its campaign how important this question is to the majority of people in Detroit.

The SWP could make an important contribution to the struggle by putting the fight for an independent Detroit labor candidate for Detroit mayor at the center of its campaign. — M. Guttshall ■

James Gibbs, African-American miner for a labor party ...

James Gibbs works as a coal miner for the Pittston Company. He is also president of United Mine Workers Local 2490. He was very active in the militant Pittston miners' strike, and in the independent working class election campaign that the miners decided to launch. He talked about their experiences at the recent Labor Party Advocates educational conference in Detroit. These lines are reprinted from Bulletin in Defense of Marxism, February, 1993, which transcribed his talk.

First of all I would like to make clear that our offices with the Mine Workers are not paid positions at the local level. We do it because we love it. When I was elected it made me feel real good. I'm a third-generation coal miner. My grandfather worked for the coal company for 30 years, my father for 50 years, and I've been there for about 15, so between us we have a total of about 95 years in the coal mines. Whenever I hear talk about politics or labor unions I take it very personally because I've been a United Mine Worker virtually all my life. That's all I know. It's been passed down from generation to generation. I think, in a sense, that is what has made our union as strong as it is today. Our people are families. Families pass down from generation to generation, and we respect people's families. When you all came to help us during our strike [against Pittston] you showed some of that solidarity that we've been raised with.

When we do things politically we do it in such a way that we're going to win. We elected one of our leaders [Jackie Stump], the president of our district, to public office on a write-in campaign. Totally unheard of. But that is what makes it remarkable. We ran a write-in campaign in three weeks time and we won the election. We unseated a candidate that's been there for 24 years, and he was a Democrat, too!

This is an educational conference, so I'm trying to tell you some of the things we did in our situation. We did what we had to do. We took our members, older and younger, and went around from house to house. We had a lot of people that couldn't read or write, especially older people. We didn't want them to feel embarrassed. We visited them at night, brought pens, pencils, and paper, and taught them to write Jackie Stump's name. They told us, "I can't read. I can't write." We helped them. They helped us. They helped themselves. We

wanted to show the state of Virginia and the politicians — Democrats and Republicans — that we had just had all that we were going to take. We had to do something to show them that we meant business.

The Republicans didn't run anybody else against this man. Independents wouldn't even run against this man. Democrats were afraid to even talk to him, he had so much power. We beat him almost three to one in only three weeks. To get to this point we had to go through hell, and we did.

**For a video tape
of James Gibbs:
Contact Truth:
313-584-6556**

There are six coal countries in this area around Pittston, and ten neighboring high schools. The kids organized themselves and struck the schools. They came out because they wanted to show us their support. Not only did the high school kids do this, the elementary school kids did, too. Our kids taught us. You might laugh at this, but this is very serious because we were out for ten and a half months. This is not a laughing matter. The elementary schools kids, without anybody saying anything, said, "Well, if they can do it, we can too." The principal said, "I can't let you go by yourselves. I'll have to walk you to the highway. I'll let you make signs to hold up, supporting your fathers and mothers." That's education; that's the basis that you build a party on.

It's been said over and over again, "We want a labor party." We believe in that. Labor needs somebody to represent it. But it cannot be done without a sound foundation. We have to start with the younger generation and build our way up. If we don't, we won't have anything. We can say we want the Democrats out, we can say we want the Republicans out, but we've got to have something to replace them with. If we don't, then all of this is just a waste of time.

I believe if you're going to do something, do it right. Don't ever do anything to lose. If you've got to strike, strike to win ...

I've been a Democrat all my life. But not

now, not now. I'm telling you, before we can do anything about it we have to build our way up. This educational conference is a start. But we've got to get more people involved, especially young people. We could make something great out of this, but we have to do it together. To me, that's what made our Pittston strike great. People from all over the country and all over the world came and helped us. We'll never forget it. They showed us solidarity. They showed us that we had to win that strike, not just the coal miners, but the unions had to win that strike. We won that strike because we all stuck together and made ourselves one. That's the way we have to do it when we go to the polls. We don't want to be split.

We can make this labor party whatever we want to make it ...

We had a Democratic governor, a Democratic lieutenant governor, and the attorney general was a Democrat. The judge that fined us 54 million dollars was a Democrat. But see, payback is hell! It was that judge's father that we beat in the election! ...

We can talk all we want to about a labor party, we can give the Democrats and Republicans hell, but if we don't have anybody to replace them with, all this is wasted time. We've got to get somebody that we can rally around, then we build our platform, and then we can go ahead with whatever we need to do ... ■

Stop Plant Shutdowns!

Demonstration

Monday, April 19

2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

GM World Headquarters

(Call Alex Wassell at 313-261-6495 for more information)

Willow Run Legal Defense Fund Raiser

April 10, 8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Local 735, 48055 Michigan

Canton, MI 48188

Donation \$10 B.Y.O.B.

The World Trade Center bombing:

The U.S. war on Iraq comes home . . .

On February 26, a bomb went off at the World Trade Center, killing several people and doing billions of dollars worth of damage to the building and to enterprises that have not been able to continue doing business as usual.

At this point, it is not yet clear who planted the bomb.

It could have been U.S. agents, trying to get the people stirred up and provide themselves with an excuse for attacking Arabs (although this seems unlikely since the bomb actually damaged U.S. financial interests, which is the last thing U.S. agents seek to do ...).

Or, it could have been Arab militants, opposed to U.S. policies, retaliating for U.S. attacks on Arab peoples, Iraqis, Palestinians, etc.

In any case, this bombing is a warning to every U.S. worker. There is no way that the U.S. government can continue to wage war on other peoples throughout the world — World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Somalia ... — without the U.S. people themselves being forced to pay the consequences, without the U.S. people themselves being bombed.

The U.S. government has been dropping bombs on other peoples throughout the world for decades, in an effort to make the world safe for U.S. business interests. The U.S. dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It used old uranium in bombs that it dropped on Iraq; this is making U.S. soldiers and Iraqi people sick.

But for decades, the U.S. people themselves escaped bombing. No one was able to bomb the U.S. These days are obviously over. People throughout the world are sick and tired of U.S. terrorism. They are going to fight back in any way that they can, and this is going to include bombing anything and everything they can in the U.S.

Of course, "innocent" people are going to be killed. In war, "innocent" people are always killed. The U.S. can't expect to wage war on other peoples, and kill innocent people, including thousands of women and children in Iraq, and not expect others to retaliate, and kill "innocent" people in the U.S.

There is an alternative. U.S. workers can fight for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces and bases from all foreign territories. They can build a labor party to fight for political power, for public ownership of the vast resources of this country, for expanding production of basic necessities. They can extend the hand of friendship to other peoples and use these resources to help rebuild the countries that U.S. imperialists have

destroyed. When U.S. workers do this, everyone will be safe and innocent people won't be killed.

In the meantime, we have to defend the right of oppressed peoples to defend themselves and fight the U.S. government in any way they chose to do so.

This is why we say: war on U.S. terrorism, not Palestinians! Free Mohammed Salameh now! ■

Punish Bush and Clinton, not Mohammed Salameh!

Bush bombed and murdered thousands of Iraqis, including retreating troops, thousands of defenseless women, children, and civilians in Baghdad. Yet nothing has been done. He lives in luxury at the expense of the people.

Clinton continued this policy when he took office; bombed the Iraqis a few times just to show that nothing had changed. Nothing has been done. He lives in luxury at the expense of the people.

Now someone has bombed the World Trade Center, a Palestinian man has been arrested, plans are being made for more arrests, trying and punishing the men.

We demand an immediate end to the witchhunt, to the arrest and persecution of Palestinian militants. Free Mohammed Salameh!

It is quite possible that Mohammed

Salameh had nothing to do with this bombing.

Even if he did, he must be defended and freed. If he did bomb the World Trade Center, he had a right to do so. It was self-defense, an attempt to bring attention to what the U.S. and Israel are doing to the Palestinian people and other Arab peoples.

There is a double standard in the U.S. Rich white men can do anything they want to do in the interests of the giant oil corporations, including slaughtering thousands of people. African-Americans, Arabs, Asians, are maligned and persecuted, no matter what they do.

Down with the persecution of Palestinians!
Defend their right to self-defense!
Free Mohammed Salameh now! ■

Self-determination for Bosnia! Stop the embargo now!

Clinton claims to be helping the Bosnian people. This is a lie.

The U.S.-U.N. peace plans calls for dividing and occupying Bosnia.

Bosnia is a small region made up of peoples of many different ethnic groups or nationalities — Serbs, Croats, Muslims, and others.

The majority of the Bosnian people decided that they wanted to separate from Greater Serbia, and took up arms to defend their right to do so, against the

Serbian bureaucracy and its armed forces, which attacked them and tried to take over their territory.

Now the U.S. and the U.N. plan to divide Bosnia into a series of districts or neighborhoods along ethnic lines.

The U.S. and its allies in the so-called United Nations, and the Serbs, have no right to dictate to Bosnia.

As long as richer, more powerful, larger nations, like the U.S. or Greater Serbia, (Continued on page 5)

Call for the Constitution of an International Committee in Defense of Palestinian Prisoners

The following call was brought to our attention by the Trotskyists of *La Commune in France*. We urge all working class and popular organizations in the U.S. to support this effort.

The situation of the 415 Palestinians expelled by the government of Israel, with total disregard for the most elementary human rights and the Geneva convention, abandoned in a "no-man's land" along the Lebanese border in frightening conditions, tragically illustrates the conditions of the general life of the Palestinian people, which, since 1948, have known nothing but banishment, exile, repression, camps and misery.

We, who take the initiative of making this call, were able, at the end of the December, in Syria and Lebanon, to meet with Palestinian humanitarian and democratic organizations and to witness a reality hidden by the Western governments and the media.

The information and the testimony we received were instructive.

Today, in the Israeli prisons and detention centers, there are more than 13,700 Palestinian political prisoners who have been interned, the immense majority without trials, according to the exceptional procedure called "administrative internment." Many of them were interned in secret and thus deprived of all right to defense.

Since the beginning of the *intifada* 5 years ago, about 80,000 people, men, women, children, have been arrested, detained and often tortured. And in all the countries of the Middle East, there are also Palestinians who pay with their freedom for their desire to defend their people and their fundamental rights.

The most ferocious violence is the daily lot of the populations that live in the occupied territories: when it is not the army that assaults them, it is the Zionist extreme right which harasses them.

The Palestinian people see denied every day their right to existence by a multitude of procedures that recall the methods that one might have thought were gone and that the Jews themselves were victims of during the darkest hours of the second World War.

The list of persecutions that the Palestinians have been victims of gets tragical-

ly longer every day:

- the exhaustion of the water reserves in the occupied territories (80% of the water for Israel comes from the annexed territories of the West Bank and the Golan Heights),
- the expulsion of intellectuals the goal of which is to dissolve the socio-cultural fabric and to push the populations to leave,
- massive implantation of Israeli colonists on lands that have been purely and simply confiscated, the destruction of orchards, the dynamiting of homes,
- mass arrests and searches nearly every day.

The policy of the state of Israel is all the more repressive now that the Palestinian people rise courageously in unity, as testimony to the permanence of the *intifada* and its resistance to oppression.

This resistance receives growing support from Israelis who themselves are also demonstrating against the expulsions.

In the name of the human conscience, it is intolerable for a situation to continue that, in an insidious manner, leads to the extermination of an entire people.

It is urgent to demand:

- the immediate return of the 415 Palestinians to their country,
- the liberation of all prisoners,
- the end to the repression, the arrests and the mass arrests.

For all these reasons, we invite with insistence all the defenders of human rights, all the democrats and democratic organizations, independently and without conditions with respect to the positions of each on the Palestinian question, to constitute an international committee in defense of all Palestinian prisoners.

Such a committee could immediately take up the following initiatives:

- delegations to all the embassies of the state of Israel to demand the immediate return of the 415.
- an international commission of inquiry of jurists, doctors and democrats into the real situation in the detention centers.
- sponsoring of Palestinian prisoners,

without conditions with respect to their political positions, in liaison with union associations and organizations throughout the world.

- meetings and rallies in the biggest possible number of cities and capitals.
- a regular bulletin of information.

This is what we propose to all those for whom the word democracy still has meaning and who think that it is still worth the trouble, more than ever, to take up its defense.

January 10, 1993
Marc Mennecier, physician
Bernard Meurgues, teacher ■

Bosnia . . .

(Continued from page 4)

continue to try to dictate to poorer, weaker, smaller peoples and nations, there will never be peace on this planet.

People in the U.S. have to learn to support the struggles of oppressed peoples for their right to self-determination, to establish their own nations. Everyone knows that the U.S. had to wage war at a certain point to separate itself from England, that if it had been up to England the U.S. would never have amounted to anything. Why doesn't the U.S. support the struggles of other peoples to do the same?

The war in old Yugoslavia is especially disturbing for socialists or communists. Many thought that the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of workers' states, albeit deformed ones, had overcome the problems of ethnic or national conflicts. But it's obvious that they haven't. They've continued, simmered beneath the service, been utilized by the various privileged bureaucracies, and finally broken out into the open.

The only way to resolve this problem is for workers of all nations to fight for the right of oppressed nations to self-determination, for free federations, against imperialism and against the privileged bureaucracies.

This means a fight for self-determination for Bosnia, for lifting the embargo so that they can get guns and fight for themselves. This is what the workers and oppressed of Bosnia need, not U.S. troops. ■

Political revolution is road forward in Russia

Clinton has just called for an "emergency meeting" of G-7 (the 7 major imperialist countries) on Russia. He said that the Russian crisis cannot wait until the scheduled meeting of G-7 in July.

This crisis consists in the resistance of the masses of Russian people to the program of economic "reform" pushed by Boris Yeltsin and the Stalinist bureaucracy and the continual struggles of the ex-republics of the USSR for self-determination. It is this resistance and the potential it has for growing that scares Clinton.

Yeltsin recently has asked the United Nations to make Russia "the guarantor of peace and stability in the regions of the former USSR." The response of a high Clinton official was "And what's terrible about Russians being regional peacekeepers in an area where no other country can and will prevent future Yugoslavias? And why shouldn't they have the same right to act under a general UN mandate the way we did in Iraq?"

The resistance of the Russian workers and people has taken the form of strikes, of mass meetings and demonstrations, of new trade unions, new working class and popular organizations, and so on. This resistance finds a pale and distorted reflection in the opposition of the Russian parliament to Yeltsin. Yeltsin wanted to hold a referendum on who should run the country he or the Russian parliament. The parliament has voted to not allow the referendum, and Yeltsin says he is going to hold it any way.

Military Coup

Meanwhile, Yeltsin has conveyed through Kohl, the chancellor of Germany, his request for support from the G-7 countries in case he needs to take "extra-parliamentary" action, in other words, dissolve parliament and launch a military coup to crush the Russian workers and masses. It is not clear whether Yeltsin is actually in charge of the army. But a senior Clinton official gave a strong signal of support to Yeltsin and said that the U.S. would not oppose a move to suspend the congress or abolish the constitution, clear support to a coup without the open use of the military.

Workers in Russia and everywhere must be against the dissolution of parliament by Yeltsin and any form of military coup, open or disguised.

Yeltsin, the Russian parliament in its majority, and the leaders of the army, are factions of the old Communist Party. They are all factions of the Stalinist bureaucracy that ruled Russia and the ex-USSR. The bureaucracy has been the transmission belt, the representatives of the world imperialist powers, inside the Russian workers state since the 1930s. The factions have no fundamental differences over direction. They want to restore capitalism to Russia. This is the goal of the economic "reform."

Political Revolution

There is no reason for the Russian workers or people to expect anything good from the Stalinist bureaucracy, from any of its factions. It is clear that for the Russian workers and people to advance requires a political revolution, that is, the overthrow and complete destruction of the Stalinist bureaucracy and its factions: Yeltsin, the Russian parliamentary majority, the right-wing forces. The workers and Russian masses must disarm and dissolve the military, what's left of the secret police, and replace them by the masses of people in arms. The workers must build a working class party that will organize a political revolution with the goal of a workers and popular democracy. The workers must develop the state economy in the interests of the people. This is the road for the regeneration of socialism in Russia.

Yeltsin's economic "reform" consists in destroying the state ownership of the means of production and all the positive things that state ownership has brought to the working masses of Russia. State ownership has resulted in a powerful increase in the productive forces, bringing a higher standard of living to the Russian workers than would have been possible under capitalism. The Stalinist factions want to destroy all the gains of the workers that are concentrated in state ownership of social property and restore capitalism.

The only way that Russia can become capitalist is, in a very real way, to return to its place in the world economy before the revolution of 1917. In other words, by the complete domination of Russia by the big imperialist powers as it was under the czar, by forcing the oppressed nations inside the former Soviet Union into semi-colonial nations serving the big imperialist powers.

The Russian parliament was elected in March, 1990, while the Soviet Union still existed, and the Communist Party was more intact. Yeltsin was elected president of Russia by the Russian parliament, after the workers and people turned back the attempted military coup in August, 1991. The workers backed Yeltsin because they thought he was more democratic.

Now, after nearly two years of Yeltsin, and the failure of his economic program to stop the decay in the standard of living of the Russian people, the workers are against Yeltsin.

In a way that is analogous to the way the Republicans and Democrats act in the U.S., where one is always the "opposition," the Russian parliament majority are trying to capture this resistance, and control it in the interests of the bureaucracy.

In fact, the resistance to the coup, the break-up of the old Stalinist party, the struggle for self-determination by the oppressed nations, are the first stages of the political revolution. These steps are the necessary ones that need to be taken for a regeneration of socialism in Russia.

How can the workers proceed today along the path of political revolution?

First, there needs to be free, unencumbered elections for a Russian parliament. Workers must oppose the dissolution of parliament by Yeltsin and oppose a military coup.

Second, the workers must make all the necessary efforts to split the army to try to weaken the authority of the military leaders and win over as many of the ranks as possible to the side of the people. In this process, they will be able to acquire the arms they need in order to fight the parts of the army most tied to the bureaucracy. This is the best and surest way to prevent a military coup.

Third, the workers must build a working class party, a party controlled by the workers, with a program of a working class and popular democracy through the complete and total destruction of the Stalinist bureaucracy, self-determination for the oppressed nations, and development of the state economy in the interests of all the people.. — J. Marlowe ■

Trotskyists and the Class Struggle

The Socialist Workers Party has taken a position against Clinton's plans. It says the labor movement must lead a fight against Clinton's plans and denounces labor leaders like Albert Shanker of the American Federation of Teachers who say that the unions should support Clinton. The SWP calls on the labor movement to support the United Mine Workers of America and their strike against Peabody Coal, but it doesn't urge the labor movement to support Labor Party Advocates or build a labor party.

The Bulletin in Defense of Marxism takes a position against the Clinton administration. It points out that while Bush and Clinton may come from different backgrounds they have similar educations: Bush went to Yale; Clinton went to Oxford. Both were members of the Trilateral Commission, "a multinational network of the influential in the imperialist G-7 countries." Clinton has already endorsed many of Bush's policies, and he and his advisors come from the Democratic Leadership Council, the right-wing of the Democratic Party. *Bulletin in Defense of Marxism* also publishes remarks in favor of a labor party made by James Gibbs, an African-American coal miner, at the recent Labor Party Advocates conference in Detroit, and a series of articles on the African American struggle today, including several on Malcolm X.

Socialist Action takes a position against Clinton, against union support to Clinton, and in favor of "a labor party based on and financed by the trade-union movement." Socialist Action also says "Tony Mazzocchi, the founder of Labor Party Advocates (LPA) has thrown a question mark over his support for genuine independent labor political action ... He writes: 'In our country a new administration is taking power in Washington and there is much talk of change ... Will the conditions of working people continue to decline? ... The answer depends on how quickly we can formulate a new labor party that would be a *non-electoral* expression of a

new agenda created by and for working people.' [Emphasis added.] ... We sincerely hope that any indications in Tony Mazzocchi's Jan. 13 letter that he is turning from a full-fledged Labor Party toward a mere pressure group were simply an over-sight on his part." (*Socialist Action*, February, 1993, page 5.) Tony Mazzocchi, and those closest to him, are for a *bourgeois liberal labor party*. They made that clear when they wrote some of the first literature for LPA calling for another Roosevelt-style New Deal and for a labor party to fight for one. Mike Merrill, editor of the LPA newsletter, made it clear again at the LPA educational conference when he called for building a labor party as the continuity of the Republican Party and of the Democratic Party. Nevertheless, agreement with Mazzocchi and Merrill on these questions is *not* a pre-condition for membership in LPA. An alliance with these forces aimed at recruiting thousands to an organizing committee for a labor party is principled and in the interests of the working class. Revolutionaries should be in the front ranks of the struggle to recruit to LPA as a united front for a labor party. Revolutionaries should be careful not to promote illusions about the kind of labor party Mazzocchi seeks to build or about the possibilities of changing his political orientation, which is well-established.

The Organizer calls Bill Clinton a "corporate point man to impose austerity," and continues to push for a labor party based on the unions. It is also building an "Open World Conference for a Workers' International" under the slogans: "Workers of the world unite! For oppressed peoples' right to self-determination! Workers' unity means peace the world over!" It publishes declarations adopted by the General Council of the IVth International/ICR, one of the tendencies of the Fourth International led by Pierre Lambert of the Courant Communiste Internationaliste. Unfortunately, these declarations don't say anything about the crisis of the Fourth International and this tendency's perspec-

tives for overcoming this crisis. U.S. Trotskyists would undoubtedly like to know more about this tendency and its perspectives.

Spark held its annual winter dinner in Detroit on February 21. While the weather was very bad, there were many workers and socialists there. There were also speeches and skits against Clinton. Spark is holding a forum called "Healthy profits — or healthy people?" on Sunday, March 28, at 5 p.m., at Pullman Hall, 4605 Cass Avenue.

Truth sold 9 copies of the last issue of *Truth*, 2 copies of the last issue of *The Fourth International*, and 6 copies of the declaration "On Trotskyist Unity" to workers and students in Detroit. At the International Working Women's Day celebration in Detroit, we helped distribute Labor Party Advocates literature urging women to join LPA and come to the next LPA forum, and we distributed a *Truth* leaflet in solidarity with Bosnian women.

Workers Press, a British Trotskyist publication, recently published a statement by Pierre Broue, the well-known French Trotskyist, which said, among other things: "I certainly never thought, nor said, nor wrote, and I do not now think, that Balazs Nagy was ever, or is now, an agent of the Soviet services or of any services whatsoever. I was, as you know, a member of an organization (the PCI [Parti Communiste Internationaliste], of which Balazs Nagy was also a member), which launched this accusation against him. I respected discipline by not making my opinion known outside, but without joining this campaign publicly or in private ... After my break with the PCI, I did not do so and in this, I think, I was wrong." This shows once again that all the Trotskyists who opposed this slander campaign against Balazs Nagy, also known as Michel Varga, were correct to do so. ■

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. Guttschall

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For a classless, communist society!

In this issue of *Truth*, on pages 1 and 2, we outline some of the measures that the vast majority of people in the U.S. think are necessary and valid in order to deal with the economic and social problems facing the people, like taxing the rich, cutting welfare to the rich, and others.

Of course we support these measures, and any and all progressive demands and struggles on the part of the masses of people against the status quo.

But we don't think that these measures by themselves can solve the economic and social problems before us.

The most fundamental problem facing the people is class society, that is, a society made up of classes in which one class owns and controls everything that is needed to produce what people need (food, clothing, housing, transportation, medical care, etc.) and another class owns nothing but its own labor power, which it has to sell for whatever it can get, and then buy its daily needs.

As long as we live in a society with economic and social classes, with people on the top and people on the bottom, there is going to be suffering, misery, and violence.

This is why we are fighting for a classless, communist society in which everyone has what he or she needs, in which people live in harmony, and in which there is no privileged elite of any kind.

This is not a utopia. Studies of early human societies show that they were organized along communist lines, albeit in a primitive way. Capitalist society itself is laying the basis for and leading to socialism and ultimately communism by creating the working class, which knows how to work together to produce and distribute the things that people need in a harmonious way, by developing a public sector, and by developing huge monopolies that produce and distribute goods throughout the world.

In our opinion, it is going to take a revolution, like the great American revolution, the French revolution, the Civil War, or the Russian revolution, and, a lot of time, to build a socialist and ultimately a communist society. Even when the workers succeed in building their own political party, taking power, overthrowing the power of the capitalists and crushing their resistance, and in getting basic industry,

agriculture, and transportation in their own hands, there will still be problems and difficulties. It will take a long time to get rid of the affects of class society — the haughtiness of those who come from the upper classes, their tendency to takeover everything, their tendency to crowd out those who come from working class backgrounds, the lack of education of the workers, their tendency to leave thinking to the "educated," their tendency to defer to the "educated," etc., not to mention all the consequences of the oppression of the African-American people, women, and others who have been super-exploited and oppressed.

But there are steps that can be taken now to progress toward socialism, in addition to the steps that the majority of people are already for.

We think building a labor party based on the unions, or a big workers party, is especially important because it will physically separate the working class from the capitalist class and help create conditions in which workers can learn to think and act for themselves.

We also think that it is very important to fight for the *nationalization of the banks*.

As long as the banks are in the hands of a tiny number of rich bankers, it's very difficult for the people to actually know what's going on with the economy and what to do about it. The current government agencies, allegedly established to oversee and control the bankers, actually cover up the problems of the banks and the illegal activity of the bankers, like the problems of the Savings and Loan associations and the S&L speculators.

By fighting for nationalization of the banks, for combining all banks into one, single, public, state bank, the people can prevent the rich from hiding their income, and cut down on speculation. They can also start to find out where the money is coming from and where it is going. And they can start to have some knowledge of and control over how the resources of the society are going to be spent.

This is also something that millions of people can fight for, whether they are for socialism or communism or not. And, in the course of the struggle, the position of the working class will be strengthened, and more and more will see that socialism and communism are the only road forward. — M. Guttshall ■

Labor Party Advocates Forum

Labor Party Advocates is sponsoring a forum with speakers from various unions against the privatization of public services and union-busting in Detroit and throughout Michigan. *Truth* urges all working people and working class tendencies to support and participate in this forum.

Speakers include:

Dorothy Mottley, president AFSCME Local 273, Registered Nurses Organization of Detroit;

Diane Goldberg, recording secretary, AFSCME Local 457, Health Department Workers, City of Detroit;

Sheila Strunk, trustee, UAW Local 6000, Michigan state workers;

Alice Jennings, attorney and member Coalition to Stop Privatization.

This forum is an important opportunity for workers and militants with different points of view to get together, discuss the situation, and decide together what needs

to be done.

We also urge working class and socialist organizations to make a common fight for the unions to put forward their own candidates for Detroit mayor, city council, and all public offices. ■

Privatization of Public Services

a Public Forum sponsored by Detroit Labor Party Advocates

Friday, March 26 • 7 p.m.

ACTWU Hall • 1558 Howard, Detroit
(corner of Howard and Trumbull)

Speakers:

Dorothy Mottley
president of AFSCME Local 273
Registered Nurses Organization, City of Detroit

Diane Goldberg
recording secretary, AFSCME Local 457
Health Department workers, City of Detroit

Sheila Strunk
trustee, UAW Local 6000
Michigan state workers

Alice Jennings
attorney; Coalition to Stop Privatization

"Privatization" of services is a code word used by the federal and many state and local governments to eliminate union workers and the services they provide. Workers in these unions and people affected by the cuts in services are angry about losing jobs and services and are organizing against privatization.

Privatizing by governments is the same as outsourcing by big corporations. The goal of both is a system where a very small number of workers have decent jobs, and the rest of the workers work for small, low-paying companies completely dependent on the big corporations. Come hear union and community leaders speak on privatization and what it means for all working people.

Host LPA Public Forum — National Health Care

Host LPA Meeting — April 2, 7 p.m., UAW Local 500, Oak & Wyandotte, Dearborn
For more information call Russ Lewis, 848-2521, or write LPA, Box 172, Warren, MI 48090

Labor Party Advocates is accepting contributions to labor party individual dues. LPA's open every working person who is a labor party member who has a job in any other quality. The special issues to help working people understand our options, and our political goals.

