

TRUTH



Fight the attack against the youth!

by JON COHEN

The US ruling class has launched a new offensive against the working class youth in the major cities in this country. As both the Democratic and Republican parties compete with each other in order to prove to the ruling class which party is more effective in attempting to discipline the working class, they turn first of all against the working class youth in this country, the most militant and combative section of the working class.

Under the cover of an attack against "crime in our cities," which can only be understood as a product of the very system which the capitalists seek to defend and which can only be resolved by the overthrow of this system by the working class, the capitalists are preparing the counter-revolution in the US against the working class, and especially its youth. The US Supreme Court has recently reversed its previous decision against the death penalty a decision above all against black youth who have been convicted by a racist criminal justice system. In many states there is now an organized campaign to abolish that protected "juvenile offenders" at the same time taking away the rights of

youth to equal protection under the US Constitution.

In New York and Detroit especially the US bourgeoisie has launched a special campaign against the youth. In Detroit, the city government, under the leadership of Coleman Young, "liberal" black Democrat, has instituted a "state of emergency," a virtual martial law against youth under 18. Black youth in Detroit are being rounded up by the police for being out on the streets at night and the city government has declared plans for "mass detention centers" for black youth. Federal funds are being used to rehire police and the ruling class in Detroit is talking about bringing back STRESS, the special police "murder" squad that terrorized the black working class in Detroit a few years ago. Unable to solve the least of the massive social crisis facing the youth in the United States-- unemployment, decay of the cities, decay of the schools, etc., the US bourgeoisie is preparing to turn the cities into mass concentration camps for the working class youth.

This attack goes along with the continued attack against the youth in the factories -- the unemployment rate is rising once again, more layoffs are being planned, the repression against the youth in the factories in

the form of speed-up, disciplinary layoffs and police repression in the plants continues. And now the auto companies have added a new attack against the youth. In the contract negotiations GM has proposed paying new hires minimum wage -- \$2.75 an hour! Ford Motor Company's first proposal to the UAW included a proposal to pay new hires \$1 an hour less than other workers, with a denial of full union rights to young workers for almost a year.

The capitalists must launch this attack against the working class youth as their only means to head-off the growing mobilization and offensive of the working class in the US, in which the youth are in the vanguard. In the midst of the "Bicentennial" and election year, the working class in the US refuses to accept the "national unity" imposed by the bourgeoisie. In strike after strike in the last months-- the rubber workers, the miners, the hospital workers in New York, the electrical workers in Ohio, being just a few examples, the US working class has shown that its combativity has not been broken by the massive unemployment of the bourgeoisie and that it is prepared to continue its fight.

Using the cover of "crime," the US bourgeoisie is using the opportunity to



strengthen its repressive apparatus -- its police, courts, in order to be able to isolate and crush the sector of the working class which has the least stake in this system and which is the most willing to fight-- its youth. It is using this opportunity to use this repression against the entire working class.

But there is another side as well to this attack on "crime." The ruling class must attempt to cover for the fact that it and it alone is responsible for the crime and decay of its cities

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General Strike of Auto: Strike All Three!

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS FACTION OF THE UAW!

by DAVID HEFFELFINGER

With the taking of strike votes at Ford locals and the first offer of Ford negotiators, the last act of the UAW/Big Three drama is being played. UAW negotiators have been playing spectacular parts in their roles as supposed representatives of the autoworkers. The capitalist press has been showering praises. The title of this last act, announced in the latest issue of UAW local 600's FORD FACTS, "Hell No to Ford's Take-Away Plan," is particularly ironic -- the UAW wheeler dealers are no longer bargaining over what they can WIN for auto workers, but rather over how much they will LOSE!

With millions of unemployed across the country, and tens of thousands of autoworkers still laid off, with unemployment still rising (last month's figure was UP to 7.8%) the only solution Woodcock and Co. have come up with is a "banking" proposal whereby auto workers would receive a few extra days off a year for good attendance. This proposal which is already in effect in several service industries -- public employees and hospitals-- is nothing less than another means for the auto companies to enforce discipline.

And while the auto companies are demanding the right to pay new hires less than they already do (the Big Three's first proposal was minimum wage) the UAW bureaucracy is merely looking to maintain the present situation in which new-hires provide a cheap source of labor for 90 days.

None of the demands raised by the UAW bureaucracy upset the plans of the bourgeoisie to prepare a new offensive against the living standards of the workers. In fact, the trade union bureaucracy, conscious that its whole

future is tied up with the preservation of this system, has already concluded an unwritten contract with the Big Three which reads: "Nothing better and a whole lot less than 1973. Support the Democrats in '76."

The situation in auto is very explosive. On the one hand the mass of autoworkers are struggling to break the bonds imposed by Woodcock and on the other, the bureaucrats are binding the trade unions more and more to the policy of "labor peace" while turning the unions themselves into prisons to contain the workers, and discipline them into accepting a complete sell-out.

At the GM Fleetwood body plant in Detroit where a wildcat shut down both afternoon and day shifts, the strikers were LOCKED OUT of their own local hall because their cowardly leaders would not sanction the strike. Likewise, the recent miners strike which saw the United Mine Workers bureaucracy threaten to EXPELL members who remained on strike, is an example of the treachery the trade union "leaders" will resort to when confronted with choosing between the workers and the capitalists, as if Woodcock's support to Carter and agreement to serve in Carter's Cabinet isn't enough, the latest move is the UAW'S full support to the campaign being waged against Detroit youth. Thus, the bureaucracy instinctively builds its ties to the repressive institutions of the capitalist government while doing nothing to stop the use of young workers as cheap labor for auto profits.

But the autoworkers and their strike are capable of igniting the working class to break up completely the "labor peace," exposing the plot which is being prepared against the workers and youth. More than any other sec-

tor of the US proletariat the auto workers struggle for even the smallest "economic" demands is bound up with a political struggle against the capitalist government and the open treachery of the trade union bureaucracy.

FACTION

What is necessary is the construction of a FACTION against the bureaucracy and its collaboration. Not another "rank-and-file" movement, shop floor bulletin or newsletter, or class struggle committee, but a struggle for leadership, open to all the workers, with the aim of turning the trade unions into powerful weapons of the oppressed masses, instituting FULL TRADE UNION DEMOCRACY inside the unions and breaking the alliance with the capitalists, their government, and their parties.

The youth who are under the greatest attack in the factories and the streets will be in the vanguard of the fight for this faction.

The fact that Woodcock is still in power and is negotiating the contract with the Big Three over the heads of the workers, the fact that they will "lead" a strike only to demoralize and wear out the auto workers, does not mean that the first steps toward the construction of the Revolutionary Workers Faction of the UAW must wait.

It is necessary to take every opportunity to oppose candidates of the bureaucracy in local election and recall campaigns on the basis of a platform to defend the unions and living standards of the working class and to wage a fight for a WINNING STRIKE: NO GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE UNIONS!

NO COLLABORATION WITH THE CAPITALISTS, THEIR PARTIES, FULL TRADE UNION DEMOCRACY, FIGHT FOR THE SLIDING SCALE OF WORKING HOURS AND WAGES, Divide up all available work among those available to perform it. Wages to rise with prices. FULL TRADE UNION WAGE SCALE FOR THE YOUNG WORKERS!

But in the first place, trade union militants must fight to extend every local struggle, and to link up the immediate demands of the workers with class-wide ones. Thus the independent action of the workers in the ELECTION OF STRIKE COMMITTEES and MASS PICKETING ACROSS THE AUTO INDUSTRY is part of the fight to lead the workers against the UAW bureaucracy and the plot of the capitalists.

The wildcat at GM's Fleetwood plant is only the expression of the rebellion of the auto workers. The auto workers want to STRIKE THE BIG THREE, not just Ford. The demands of the GM workers, to end inhuman working conditions, and harassment and speed-up, are being raised by every auto worker, -- the product of massive layoffs and productivity drives. A picket line of GM workers at Ford's massive River Rouge plant will be a powerful response to the treacherous strategy of the UAW bureaucracy.

No matter what kind of contract is finally negotiated, the universal "demand" of the autoworkers is going to be for the heads of their traitorous leaders and for the defense of their trade unions as powerful weapons of the working class. FORWARD TO THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS FACTION OF THE UAW! OUST WOODCOCK FOR COLLABORATION WITH THE CLASS ENEMY

THE US SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY CONVENTION: A regroupment to support the Stalinists' preparation of the Popular Front (PART I)

by MARGARET GUTTSALL

From August 7th through August 14th the US Socialist Workers Party, once the section of the Fourth International in the United States, met under the leadership of Hansen, Barnes, and Co. in Oberlin, Ohio. The history, development, and conclusion of this Convention warrant the attention of all class-conscious youth, workers, and militants, especially that of the young proletarian militants of the YSA and SWP for it is a question not of the Convention of the US Section of the Fourth International building the party of the working class to lead it to power, but that of the first and principle obstacle to the completion of the rebuilding of the Section to carry out this task.

Only a year ago, the leadership of the SWP held a Convention to prepare it to take its place in the "new working class offensive," the results of which are embodied in the resolution printed in PROSPECTS FOR SOCIALISM IN AMERICA. However, this Convention proved not sufficient to resolve the crisis of the SWP in the face of the acceleration of the struggle of the classes and the rebuilding of the Fourth International this crisis has been expressed by its open abandonment of the working class to the assaults of the forces of the counterrevolution -- most notably in Boston in the US, in Argentina, in Latin America, and in Portugal and Spain in Europe -- following at the heels of its liberal bourgeois

and Stalinist allies on the run; by the increasing interest in the struggle of the Fourth International, especially that of its US and Latin American organizations fighting to complete the rebuilding of the International in the Americas. Thus the leadership of the SWP was forced to call another Convention, a year sooner than it had originally planned.

It was initially billed as a party-building affair open to the youth, workers, and militants newly-engaged in the struggle against the capitalists and their order of inflation, unemployment, and repression. But as the weeks passed the necessity and objective of the leadership to consolidate its position against precisely these elements became increasingly apparent. There was little further mention of the Convention, few calls to join it, and its actual date and location was never publicly announced. Such participation would have posed too great a trial.

The efforts of the leadership in the preparation of the Convention and in the Convention itself were directed at rallying the militants of the YSA, SWP, and other participants to their "socialist educational campaign" for a "labor party" (and a black party and a Chicano party) to establish a govern-

ment to implement a Bill of Rights for Working People for protection from unemployment, high prices, etc., a policy of paving the way for the Stalinists' "People's Party" to establish a "Popular Government" to complete the democratic tasks "unfinished" by the bourgeois democratic American revolution, a policy of direct reinforcement of the organizations of the Democratic Party, the trade union bureaucracy, and the Stalinists.

Thus, the sessions of the convention following the main Political Report were devoted to the organization of support for the campaigns of the various reform caucuses in the unions, in particular to Sadlowski's in Steel, being organized with the collaboration of the "left-wing" of the Democratic Party, the trade union bureaucracy, and the Stalinist National Rank and File Committee, to the campaigns of the NAACP, the La Raza Unida Party, the Chavez-dominated farmworkers' union, the Stalinist dominated Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and others. Particular attention was paid to the place of the SWP in the efforts of the left-wing bureaucrats and Stalinists to block the mobilization of the workers through the organization of these reform caucuses in the unions. This is their response to the desires of the militants to LEAD the workers struggles.

At the same time the leadership of the SWP attempted to present this

policy as the policy of the Fourth International, of the world proletariat, and their efforts to regroup the various centrist organizations in the US and Latin America on the basis of this policy, (a principal task of the SWP together with the Lambert-Lora leadership of the Comite d'Organisation in the preparation of the international centrist regroupment in support of the preparation of CP-SP government against the Fourth International, planned for the upcoming world congress of the Pabloite United Secretariat,) as the "building of the Fourth International." Thus one of the last sessions was devoted to the "problems of the world Trotskyist movement" in Argentina and Portugal and Spain, and to the "history" of the Fourth International, a history of splits and "fusions" they claim.

The many new faces promised never arrived. The most remarkable additions were the faces of the leadership of SPARK, the Revolutionary Marxist Committee, and several other collectives, all theoreticians of the death of the Fourth International and the destruction of the conquests of the October Revolution, and practitioners of despair. Tim Wohlforth and Nancy Fields, once leaders of the fight of the International Committee to rebuild the International in the US made a second sad appearance.

The inevitability of the failure of this attempt of the leadership to resolve the crisis of the SWP was demonstrated by the intervention of the Trotskyist Organization of the USA and the response to it.

(For the conclusion of this article see the next issue of TRUTH.)

CONTINUED

and to cover for the fact that it is completely unwilling and unable to resolve the problem of "crime," the only resolution being the elimination of capitalism. Its only answer can be more and more repression against the working class. But by using the issue of "crime" the ruling class attempts to cover for its repression and attempts to enlist the aid of the working class "leaders" to give their repression a "democratic" cover. This is part and parcel of the Popular Front strategy of the US bourgeoisie today -- to give their repression a democratic cover through the collaboration of the treacherous leaders of the working class -- the Stalinists, the trade union bureaucrats and the centrists.

Working class youth -- it is these so-called "leaders" who are giving the ruling class its opportunity to launch this attack -- it is these "leaders" who are responsible for the blood that will soon be flowing in the street. While the UAW bureaucrats are totally silent about the auto companies' proposals to pay youth in the factories the minimum wage, they are eagerly joining in Coleman Young's "war against crime." Better to shoot the youth down in the streets than to have them in the auto plants where they are in the front line of the opposition to the bureaucrats!

It is not surprising that the Stalinists of the American Communist Party are today totally silent about this attack. They supported the election of Coleman Young, a former sympathizer of the CP for mayor -- he is part of their "anti-monopoly people's coal-

ition" -- this is the "progressive national bourgeoisie" that they want the working class to ally with! Nor is it surprising that the American SWP, who under the cover of the name of the Fourth International, support Stalinism and the Popular Front in the US, remain silent about this attack. It is the leadership of the SWP who has repeatedly called for federal troops to Boston, in place of workers' defense guards to "protect" blacks, it is the SWP leadership which has called on the Chicago police to "protect" blacks against the Nazis. The US ruling class is now responding to these "calls" -- they are "protecting" themselves against the working class youth! Nor is it surprising that the SWP leadership has nothing to say about the role of the NAACP which they once hailed as the "leadership of the black movement." It is now this "leadership" which has wholeheartedly given its support to Coleman Young's campaign against black youth. Curfews, mass detention centers, STRESS -- this is the policy that the "anti-monopoly people's party" of the Stalinists and the "Bill of Rights" of the SWP leadership covers for. The working class youth now sees clearer who its real allies are in the workers movement.

The Trotskyist Organization of the US says that this attack can only be fought by an offensive of the working class against the preparation of the counterrevolution and its Popular Front cover for a WORKERS GOVERNMENT and a WORKERS PARTY. This is the purpose of the campaign of the TO in the Presidential Elections for its PLATFORM OF COMBAT and its candidates, Barbara Putnam and Fred Vitale. To

the completely justified feelings of the working class and its youth against the crime and social decay in our cities, we say that this fight can only be led as part of the fight against this entire system. In place of the campaign of the UAW bureaucrats, the NAACP, etc., against the working class youth, and against the collaboration of the Stalinists and the centrists with this plot we say that the working class must form its own DEFENSE GUARDS. These DEFENSE GUARDS must first and foremost be for the protection of the working class at all levels -- against the fascists, the Nazis, the KKK, etc., against the police and their special units, the army and the National Guard, and against the criminal elements in the communities who are anti-working class and who prey on the working class including its youth. It is only the working class that can protect itself against the bourgeoisie and the other criminals in society who are only smaller versions of the real criminals -- the ruling class itself. This is the policy of the class independence of the working class in the US, the policy of the Fourth International, a policy totally opposed to the collaboration of the Stalinists, the centrists, and the trade union bureaucracy.

We call upon all working class youth to join with us in making this campaign for class independence an attack against the counterrevolutionary plots of the bourgeoisie. Take up our PLATFORM OF COMBAT! Join and prepare the demonstration of the REVOLUTIONARY WORKER YOUTH, the US arm of the REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH INTERNATIONAL on Wednesday at 5:30 at #2, Woodward, City Building in Detroit. The demonstration is to protest these attacks on the youth. Turn back these attacks by making your voice and your power heard!

STOP THE ATTACKS ON THE YOUTH!
BUILD WORKERS DEFENSE GUARDS!
DOWN WITH THE CURFEW LAW OF
THE DEMOCRATS AND THE UAW
BUREAUCRACY!

**Demonstrate
against
the attacks!**

Letters

8/5/76

Thanks for the literature on the TO. I hope to make the August 15th meeting and perhaps get down to your office before then if possible. I still have several questions that need answering. Why did the RYI hold their World Congress in Barcelona, Spain when Spain is a fascist country?

Enclosed is six dollars for a six month subscription. I'll bring my other questions to the meeting.

Comradely,
GENE

TRUTH REPLIES

The hardest test for our party as well as the RYI is in Spain. The fascist monarchy is a last ditch effort on the part of capitalism to save itself by attempting to break the revolutionary mobilization at its strongest point -- the choice before the workers and our party is socialism or utter barbarism!

It is on the Iberian peninsula that all the forces of revolution and counterrevolution are concentrated. It is there the workers have gone the furthest in their struggle for power, and it is there the imperialist give their greatest reinforcement in the counterrevolutionary attack on the working class. The Stalinists in Spain attack our party and the youth who are struggling for the leadership of the Spanish revolution, the revolution which will unleash the European revolution, igniting the unification of the working class of the East and of the West.

Any retreat to clandestinity on the part of the Fourth International and the Revolutionary Youth International means death to the Spanish working class. We are making an open fight for the leadership. We will continue to hold world gatherings of the working class in Barcelona, in the face of fascism, Stalinism, and imperialism combined!

Join the Campaign For the Workers Government and the Workers Party!

**Vote Putnam & Vitale:
candidates of the Trotskyist
Organization of the US**

___ I would like to join the campaign

___ Please send ___ copies of the PLATFORM OF COMBAT for '76

___ Please send more information

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