

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT-FOUNDED 1974

Edited by the Detroit Trotskyist Committee, Supporter of the International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International)

If you want equality for the Black people . . . Say no to Young and Barrow! Support Mazzocchi's call for a labor party!

Coleman Young, Clyde Cleveland, and other Black candidates for mayor and city council are appealing to the Black workers and the Black people in Detroit to vote for them because they are Black and because of the role that they once played in the struggle for equality for the Black people in Detroit.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with this, in and of itself. Black candidates can appeal to Blacks to vote for them without being unprincipled.

The fundamental problem is that while Coleman Young, Clyde Cleveland, and others, still have Black skin, they have completely abandoned the struggle for real equality for the masses of Black people in exchange for a privileged position for themselves and their friends within this racist, capitalist society.

They live and work in luxury, while the vast majority of Blacks suffer from the lack of decent jobs, homes, schools, and unions. They travel freely in white and Black society, while the vast majority of Blacks do not.

Their so-called "Black Slate," is nothing but the Democratic Party's slate.

The Democratic Party was founded by slaveholders and slave traders in the 1700s and 1800s. The founders of the Democratic Party profited from the super-exploitation of Black slave labor and the Black slave trade; the bankers and businessmen who *own* the Democratic Party today continue to profit from the super-exploitation and oppression of the sons and daughters of slaves; the Democratic Party continues to include some of the most racist politicians in the country, like Richard Daley (Chicago mayor) and Ed Koch (New York mayor).

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It hires Blacks like Jesse Jackson, John Conyers, and David Dinkins, to try to make it look better, just the way any smart, but ugly, politician, hires a makeup artist.

Tom Barrow claims to be an alternative to Coleman Young. However, he was never part of the civil rights movement or the labor movement. He is an accountant. He makes his living by keeping and studying the capitalists' books; he suggests measures they can take to increase their profits, like cutting supplies, jobs, wages, benefits, etc. He says he will do more for the "neighborhoods." Which neighborhoods? The rich or the poor? This is just campaign rhetoric designed to get votes. He is going to keep on doing what he has been doing: serving the capitalists.

The working class is the only class that can both lead the fight for *real equality* for the Black people, and *achieve* real equality for the Black people. It is the only class that does not profit from the super-exploitation of the Black workers and the oppression of the Black people.

But, in order to do this, it has to have its own political party. It has to *break* with all the parties and candidates of the rich whites and the rich Blacks.

Tony Mazzocchi, Secretary-Treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union is calling for forming a labor party based on the unions, *before* the 1992 elections. He says that both the Republicans and the Democrats represent the rich.

This is a step in the correct direction.

We urge everyone in favor of real equality for the Black people, to support this call, and to urge Mazzocchi to actually go ahead and form this party now.

There will never be equality for the Black people in the United States, as long as there is no large, working class alternative to the racist, capitalist Republican and Democratic parties.

Unfortunately, there will be no candidates on the November ballot that stand for this. But Black workers, white workers, and all oppressed people in Detroit can show their support for this struggle by sending messages to their unions urging them not to support Young or Barrow. Support Mazzocchi's call for a labor party!

Truth

Mazzocchi calls for a labor party

Here are some excerpts from a text in which Tony Mazzocchi, Secretary-Treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW), calls for forming a labor party now, before the 1992 elections.

As socialists and Trotskyists, we obviously have fundamental political differences with Mazzocchi. However, at this time, all partisans of a labor party, can and should make a common fight to build such a party, against the capitalists and the most pro-capitalist leaders of the unions, like Lane Kirkland and Owen Bieber.

"It's Time for a Labor Party

"The election post-mortems are over. Two things are absolutely clear to everyone. Neither major party candidate addressed squarely the real issues facing working people. And the party of the non-voter continued to grow ...

"... The party of the non-voter may well include the most astute analysts of the political options available to working people. They don't vote because they aren't being offered anything to vote for!

"As many of you know, for the last ten years I have been raising the possibility of an independent labor party in speeches before trade union groups all over the country. Everywhere I have spoken, the proposal has received positive reactions ...

"The recent elections have underscored to me the urgency of this step. The United States is the only industrialized country in which the labor movement does not have its own political party. It is the only industrialized country in which voters do not have a choice between a workers' agenda and a corporate agenda at every election ...

"We desperately need a new political initiative that breaks clearly with the two major parties. We need an independent labor party that offers working people a progressive alternative. And I believe that unless we provide such an alternative, right-wing populist groups, fired by race hatred and jingoism, will step in to fill the void ...

"Starting a Labor Party Now: Questions

and Answers ...

"Wouldn't we be more likely to enact a working people's platform if we concentrated on reforming one or both of the established parties rather than trying to create a party of our own?

"We don't think so. In fact, both major parties are controlled by big business. Neither is going to take positions that would jeopardize their ties to corporate fundraisers.

"The labor movement has been trying to pressure the two major parties, especially the Democrats, to adopt a more pro-worker agenda, for the last fifty years. It has tried raising its own money. It has tried supplying thousands of volunteers for canvassing and phone banks. It has tried endorsing candidates early. It has tried endorsing candidates late. And nothing has worked.

"We think the only thing that will get the attention of the established parties is a credible challenge from an independent party.

"What about Jesse Jackson? Isn't the Rainbow Coalition already on the verge of reforming the Democratic Party and making it more responsive to the needs of working people?

"Jesse Jackson earned the support of millions of trade unionists around the country during the 1988 Democratic primaries. His campaign touched a tap-root of discontent that has lain simmering among the rank-and-file of the labor movement for many years. It conclusively demonstrated that there is widespread support for an alternative, anti-corporate politics in the United States.

"However, while we share many of Jackson's substantive goals, we do not share his confidence that the Democratic Party will ever wholeheartedly embrace his ideas. The Democratic Party, like the Republican party, is dominated by corporate interests. We think that sooner or later Jackson will have to choose between staying with his message and leaving the party, or staying with the party and compromising his message ..."

2,215 Votes for a Socialist!

Margaret Guttshall, our working class and socialist candidate for Detroit city council, received 2,215 votes.

Since this was a "non-partisan" election, the ballot said only: "Margaret Guttshall." It did not say that she was a working class and socialist candidate. Thus many of these votes were accidental.

However, there were a small number of readers of *Truth*, readers of *Spark*, and workers at the Ford Rouge plant and elsewhere who did vote for her, and for other working class and socialist candidates, precisely because they were for working class and socialist candidates.

This number included some young Black workers and students who had never voted for working class and socialist candidates for mayor or city council before.

These votes were a result of the political struggle that we have been making for equality for the Black people and all oppressed peoples, for socialism, and for a labor party, at the Ford Rouge plant, Wayne County Community College and elsewhere.

We think this is a very positive development. It shows that even a very tiny campaign such as our own can influence and change what workers think and do.

We plan to continue to try to develop our ties with these workers and to work to involve them more deeply in the struggle for equality, socialism, and a labor party.

Another very positive development was that *Spark*, another socialist and Trotskyist group, decided to urge workers to "vote against the candidates of the rich" and to vote for socialist candidates. They included all socialist candidates for mayor and city council (candidates associated with the

Revolutionary Workers League, the Socialist Workers Party, and the Trotskyist Committee), except those associated with the Workers League. (See page 9.)

This was a very positive development because fighting for a vote for as many working class and socialist candidates as possible, in this situation, puts the interests of the working class, and a large fight for socialism, ahead of the interests of this or that tendency or faction.

This is the second time that the Trotskyist Committee's position and *Spark*'s position have come together in an election. In the 1988 elections, both the Trotskyist Committee and *Spark* called for a vote for candidates associated with Workers Against Concessions, as well as a vote for candidates associated with the Socialist Workers Party and other working class tendencies. In this election, both the Trotskyist Committee and *Spark* called for a vote for all working class and socialist candidates, except those

associated with the Workers League.

Unfortunately, both the Trotskyist Committee and *Spark* are very small, and other working class tendencies did not pursue a working class and socialist line in this election. Thus the number of votes for working class and socialist candidates for mayor did not increase in this election. In fact, it fell, for the second election in a row. This was offset, to a certain extent, by the increase in the number of votes for working class and socialist candidates for city council. But it would be a mistake to overestimate this. The votes for mayor are the most important votes, and many of the votes for candidates for city council were accidental. (For example, the SWP says many Irish voted for Kathie Fitzgerald simply because of her Irish name.)

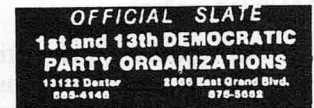
We plan to return to these questions, and what workers can do to advance the struggle for equality, socialism, and a labor party, in the elections, in the next issue of *Truth*. — F. Michaels



- MAYOR**
 COLEMAN A. YOUNG
- CITY CLERK**
 JAMES H. BRADLEY
- CITY COUNCIL**
VOTE FOR THESE 9 ONLY
- CLYDE CLEVELAND
 - BARBARA-ROSE COLLINS
 - GIL HILL
 - NICHOLAS HOOD
 - RAYMOND M. MURPHY
 - JOHN W. PEOPLES

THE POWERFUL WHITE NEWS MEDIA IS FIGHTING TO RE-ESTABLISH WHITE CONTROL OF DETROIT. ONLY THE RE-ELECTION OF MAYOR COLEMAN YOUNG AND INCUMBENT BLACK COUNCILMEN WILL ENABLE US TO SAVE OUR CITY!

VOTE THE BLACK SLATE!



- MAYOR (Vote for 1 Only)**
 Coleman A. Young
- CITY CLERK (Vote for 1 Only)**
 James H. Bradley
- CITY COUNCIL (Vote this Slate of 9 Only)**
- Nicholas Hood
 - Barbara-Rose Collins
 - Clyde Cleveland
 - David Eberhard
 - Juanita Watkins
 - Raymond M. Murphy
 - Brenda M. Scott
 - Gilbert R. Hill
 - Jack Kelley

The official Democratic Party slate (on the right) and the "Black Slate" from the Shrine of the Black Madonna (on the left). There are no real differences!

What does equality for the Black people mean?

Elsewhere in this issue we say that we think it is necessary to initiate an *all out* political offensive for real economic, social, and political equality for the Black people.

Here are some of the measures that we think it is necessary to fight for. We ask readers, especially Black readers, to let us know what they think of these measures, and what other things they think are necessary in order to achieve real equality for the Black people.

- Defend and extend all affirmative action programs; open the skilled trades to Black workers now;
- Emergency measures to combat unemployment and poverty now, including: nationalize enterprises that discriminate against Blacks, cut jobs, and bust unions; reorganize them as public utilities under workers control; cut tax breaks to the rich; cut public officials' salaries; cut funds to the military and the police; increase the minimum wage; cost-of-living allowances for all workers; cut the work week without cutting pay; establish a program of public works to provide jobs at union wages;
- Nationalize public and private schools into a single, nationwide public school system that provides equal education for all, including equal funds for all;
- Nationalize all public housing programs into a single, nationwide public housing program that provides equal, quality, integrated public housing for all;
- Workers defense guards to defend Black people, to carry out swift and merciless punishment of all racist criminals, and to seek out and destroy all racist forces;
- The right of the Black people to self-determination, to establish their own nation on American soil, if they chose to do so. — F.M.

Avenge the murder of Yusef Hawkins

On August 14, a gang of white racist youth in Bensonhurst, in Brooklyn, New York, murdered a young Black man, Yusef Hawkins. Newspaper reporters say these white racists murdered this young Black man because the racists had seen a dark-skinned man dating a white woman in the neighborhood. When they saw Yusef Hawkins, they thought he was this man and they attacked him.

Black people in New York City have organized a number of demonstrations against this racist murder, including marches through Bensonhurst, an obviously racist, white enclave. Whites in Bensonhurst responded by shouting racist insults at marchers and holding watermelons. Officials in New York City responded by attacking Black people for demonstrating, and allegedly making things worse.

Police have arrested and charged some of the whites. However, the recent racist Supreme Court decisions and the obviously racist response of New York City officials, shows that it is not possible to rely on these forces to try and punish these racist criminals.

It is necessary to form workers commissions and workers defense guards to thoroughly investigate every racist crime, to find the racist criminals, and to punish them appropriately.

As Leon Trotsky, the famous Russian revolutionary, said: "For every lynching ... lynch ten or twenty lynchers."

Long trials and prison sentences simply make heroes out of these racist murderers which other racists then applaud and imitate.

Racist criminals need to know that they will be swiftly and mercilessly punished, that they won't be heroes and that there will be no escape.

Naturally, bourgeois and petty bourgeois liberals of both the white and the



Black race, and workers influenced by them, will say that Black workers and their supporters should not take the law into their own hands, that this will only make things worse, that they should rely on the police and legal officials to try and punish these criminals.

This is a lie.

As long as racist criminals go unpunished, or lightly punished, racist crimes will increase. Racist white politicians like Bush, Koch (New York mayor), and Daley (Chicago mayor) are heroes. Bourgeois Black politicians like Coleman Young, Jesse Jackson, David Dinkins (New York), and John Conyers (Detroit), say, "Tsk, tsk," then go right on collaborating with these racist whites in the Republican and Democratic parties. The police and the courts are racist institutions that do nothing but cover for racist criminals.

This is why it is necessary to form workers commissions and workers defense guards to investigate racist crimes and to find and punish racist criminals.

The murder of Yusef Hawkins, the response of whites in Bensonhurst, and the response of New York City officials, shows that it is time to start now.
— F. Michaels

Equality for Black and working class women

The National Organization of Women (NOW) is organizing a demonstration in Washington, D.C. on November 12 to defend the democratic right to abortion.

We urge all Black and working class women and their organizations to support and participate in this demonstration.

The right to abortion — to decide whether you want to carry, bear and raise a child or not — is an elementary democratic right. The attack on the right to legal abortions is above all an attack on the rights of Black and working class and middle class women.

Rich white women have always been able to get abortions, whether they were legal or not. When they were illegal, they simply used their money and their connections to buy a doctor, or to fly to Puerto Rico or someplace else.

It is Black and working class and middle class women who suffer when abortions are illegal.

And this attack on the right to abortion is aimed at driving Black, working class, and middle class women, out of the workforce and back into complete domestic slavery where they will be completely financially dependent on the state or a man.

And this is the worst situation for working class women, children, and men.

This is why we urge all Black and working class women and their organizations to support and participate in this demonstration.

At the same time, while it is possible and necessary to support this demonstration called by NOW, it is not possible to *rely* on NOW to lead the fight for this and other democratic rights for Black and working class women. NOW is a bourgeois democratic organization; its program is bourgeois democratic and it is composed largely of bourgeois and petty bourgeois elements. The unions have to take up a fight for the right to abortion, and for other democratic rights for Black and working class women, and they have to form a labor party to lead this fight. This is another important reason to support Tony Mazzocchi's call for a labor party, and to push Mazzocchi to form this party now. — M.G.

Letter to the Polish Workers . . . Don't go back to capitalism

Dear fellow workers of Poland,

I'm a 30 year-old worker in an ice-cream plant in Detroit, Michigan, USA.

No doubt you're being told that *privatization* is the road forward for the Polish economy. I've been reading about that in American news magazines and I have some things to say about *privatization*: Here in America, less than 20% of the working class is organized in unions. I'm not in a union. We don't have any national health insurance program. Our public schools are among the poorest in the industrial world.

In Detroit, my home town, there are dozens of closed factories, and unemployment exceeds 25%. There is much violent crime, drug-use and despair. Detroit has more than 600 murders a year. Nearly half of the young people who begin high school never graduate. Detroit has thousands of empty and burned buildings.

This is what capitalism has done for my home town. And more other big cities in America are going in the same direction.

So, if you want to have to compete with your fellow workers for jobs, then support *privatization*.

If you want to have a large pool of unemployed workers who can drive down wages, and be used to break strikes, then support *privatization*.

If you want to be subject to the

uncertainties and anarchy of un-planned capitalist production, then support *privatization*.

If you want to work the rest of your lives to pay interest on the 39 billion dollars debt to capitalist banks, then support *privatization*.

If you want to work for small groups of very rich and powerful capitalists who will own and run the economy for their gain, with no concern for you, then support *privatization*.

This is what we have here in America.

But, if you want the working class to own, plan and run the economy, *for the workers' benefit*, then work to build a fighting working class party that can lead the struggle to *defeat privatization*; a party that will one day lead the Polish workers to *power*.

We in America have to build that same kind of party.

I'm inspired and energized whenever I read of your strike actions, and confrontations with the authorities. All of you are a source of pride and inspiration to workers around the world.

For the world working class and socialism to thrive, capitalism and Stalinism must die.

Solidarity forever!

Long live the Fourth International!

Steve Kovar, Detroit, USA.

Louis Farrakhan

The New African Peoples Organization and the Nation of Islam organized a meeting in Detroit on August 19 and about 3,000 people attended. The themes for the meeting were: "A unity meeting for self-determination" and "Building a strong Black media." A significant number of young Black workers attended the meeting, looking for an alternative to the most bourgeois Black leaders in city politics and the trade unions, like Coleman Young and Tom Turner. Unfortunately, they did not find it.

The doors were supposed to open at 3, however people had to wait in lines around the block until 3:45. Guards searched both men and women before they entered the building and men and women were seated in separate sections.

Louis Farrakhan was the main speaker.

Farrakhan was associated with Elijah Muhammad. When Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X split, Farrakhan sided with Elijah Muhammad. Farrakhan said things like this about Malcolm X: "You are now the target of both your followers (which are very few) and the followers of Muhammad. . . . Only those who wish to be led to hell, or to their doom, will follow Malcolm. The die is set, and Malcolm shall not escape, especially after such evil, foolish talk about his benefactor. . . . Such a man as Malcolm is worthy of death, and would have met death if it had not been for Muhammad's confidence in Allah for victory over his enemies." (*The Life and Death of Malcolm X*, p. 247-8)

Thus Farrakhan spent a long time during his speech trying to explain this split. He said that police agents had sown and exacerbated tensions and conflicts between these Black leaders. He said that there had been personal tensions, conflicts, and jealousies, like there are in any "family." He said that Elijah Muhammad really "loved" Malcolm X, like he "loved" a son, that he had simply been "testing" Malcolm X, that Malcolm X had not appreciated and understood this. Farrakhan even told a long story about a dream he supposedly had in which Malcolm X appears to him and says, "Louis, what went wrong." Then "Louis" explains to him what went wrong and they "make up."

The one thing that Louis Farrakhan did not talk about were the *fundamental political differences* between Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X, which led to the split between them, without which it would have been impossible for the police to turn Elijah Muhammad and his supporters against Malcolm X.

Elijah Muhammad favored a *conciliatory* policy toward white bourgeois leaders like John F. Kennedy and toward white bourgeois parties like the Democratic Party. He wanted the Nation of Islam to remain an essentially religious

tendency oriented toward convincing and organizing Blacks to passively await the allegedly inevitable downfall of white bourgeois society and the allegedly inevitable rise of a Black nation.

Malcolm X was *hostile* to all white bourgeois leaders and parties. He wanted the Nation of Islam to engage in *united political action* with other Black tendencies aimed at defending and fighting for the rights of Blacks. Thus, commenting on the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963, he said that it was a case of "the chickens coming home to roost. Being an old farm boy myself, chickens coming home to roost never did make me sad; they've always made me glad."

This was too much for Elijah Muhammad and the bourgeois and petty bourgeois Black forces that he was associated with. He suspended and later excluded Malcolm X from the Nation of Islam.

Farrakhan did not talk about the fundamental political differences that separated Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X, because he was on the wrong side of this political split then, and he is still on the wrong side of this political split.

Farrakhan seemed to be well aware that young Black workers and students are looking for an alternative to the most bourgeois Black leaders.

He made fun of bourgeois Blacks, the way they dress, the way they talk, their obsession with material possessions, and the audience roared. He also talked about how the old political, civil rights, and church leaders are incapable of talking to young Black people today. He imitated conversations that go on between old Black leaders and young Blacks, and again the audience roared. He even included Jesse Jackson in the category of old Black leaders that cannot talk to young people, and talked about how offended he had been by the positions that Jackson had taken and the fact that Jackson had disassociated himself from Farrakhan in the interests of winning more support from the white bourgeoisie. And no one in the audience objected to these attacks on Jackson.

But Farrakhan himself did not put forward political positions that were fundamentally different from those of the Black bourgeoisie, which, in turn, are not fundamentally different from those of the white bourgeoisie.

On the goal, self-determination.

The Muslim program says: "We want our people in America whose parents or grandparents were descendants from slaves, to be allowed to establish a separate state or territory of their own — either on this continent or elsewhere. We believe that our former slave masters are obligated to provide such land and that the area must be fertile and mineral rich.

We believe that our former slave masters are obligated to maintain and supply our needs in this separate territory for the next 20 to 25 years — until we are able to produce and supply our own needs. Since we cannot get along with them in peace and equality, after giving them 400 years of our sweat and blood and receiving some of the worst treatment human beings have ever experienced, we believe our contributions to this land and the suffering forced upon us by white America, justifies our demand for complete separation in a state or territory of our own."

However, Farrakhan did not say one word about establishing an independent nation on American soil or anywhere else. He basically defined the struggle for self-determination as a struggle to strengthen Black businesses, Black churches, Black families and other Black enterprises and institutions. In other words, he defined the struggle for self-determination as a struggle for a place *within* this racist, capitalist society.

On the strategy.

Farrakhan did not say one word about what Blacks and their supporters should do to defend or fight for the rights of Blacks, including the right to self-determination. He simply said that white European civilization was decaying, and that a Black nation or civilization would inevitably arise and be victorious, just as the sun rises in the East. He did not even call for listeners to support or participate in the NAACP march on Washington that was to be held one week later.

On bourgeois parties and politicians.

While Farrakhan made fun of *nouveau riche* Blacks, he did not say one word about Coleman Young. On the contrary, he said that he could not understand why John Conyers was running for mayor. He said we need John Conyers in Washington. He said: "We already have a brother (Coleman Young) in office in Detroit. We do not need another one." In other words, on the eve of the Detroit elections, Farrakhan spoke for a bourgeois Black politician who is nothing but a puppet of the white bourgeoisie, the Black bourgeoisie, and the Democratic Party that was founded by slaveholders and slave traders.

In other words, Louis Farrakhan claims to be for self-determination for the Black people, he claims to be for independence for the Black people, but he is really for going along with things as they are today. He is simply trying to *use* the desire of the Black people for self-determination to get more business for Black businessmen, including preachers, who are also businessmen. Grocers sell food. Psychologists sell psychology. And preachers sell religious speeches. This is the way they make their living. — F. Michaels

More on the crisis of Trotskyism and the way out . . .

The importance of a common fight for socialism

In the last issue of *Truth*, we published an article on the crisis of Trotskyism and the way out.

In this article, and in many previous articles in *Truth*, we called for *rebuilding the Fourth International*, in the United States and throughout the world.

Rebuilding the Fourth International means:

— Clearly differentiating working class, revolutionary, socialist, that is, Trotskyist, principles, from petty bourgeois revisionism, in the living movement of the working class;

— Implanting, or reimplanting, Trotskyism in the working class, deepening its roots in the most proletarian sections of the working class, especially beginning to win the new generation of the proletariat to socialism or Trotskyism;

— Uniting the most working class Trotskyist forces on a principled basis, in a single world party, with a single discipline, a single leadership, with authority over all the different groups and tendencies, and with a common understanding of events and tasks;

— Decisively defeating the influence of petty bourgeois revisionism in the Trotskyist movement, separating the most working class Trotskyist elements and forces from its influence, thoroughly discrediting petty bourgeois revisionism in the eyes of serious workers.

It should be obvious from this that rebuilding the Fourth International in the United States or anywhere else, is not something that is accomplished in one fell swoop. It has been, and continues to be, a *struggle*, to clarify principles, develop, strengthen, and amass, working class Trotskyist forces, in opposition to petty bourgeois revisionism.

In the last issue of *Truth*, we urged working class Trotskyist forces in the United States to make a *common fight for socialism* in

building up repressive forces in the United States, sending guns and men to certain Latin American countries, and estab-

“The fact that Castro and the Cuban Communist Party call for cooperating with the blood-thirsty U.S. government in combatting drugs, shows that Castro and the Cuban Communist Party *do not* constituting a working class, socialist, Marxist leadership.”

the working class, particularly among young workers, as a step in this direction.

We argued that the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party leadership had really *abandoned* the fight for socialism, that it was impossible for Trotskyism to take root and grow in the American working class without a large, working class, socialist milieu, in the working class, and that it was thus up to working class Trotskyist forces to lead the fight for socialism in the working class, that this in turn is a very important part of rebuilding the Trotskyist workers party, or the Fourth International, in the U.S.

Since then, a number of things have happened that have confirmed the importance of this struggle.

George Bush is conducting a “war on drugs,” and is mapping out plans to deepen this so-called “war on drugs,” including

lishing various sanctions against certain Latin American countries.

The real purpose of this so-called “war on drugs” is to force drug dealers to give U.S. banks, businessmen, and government officials a bigger cut of their profits, to rebuild the U.S. military apparatus in the U.S. and Latin America, and to force various Latin American officials and governments into closer military cooperation with the U.S. government.

The investigation into the Iran/Contra affair revealed that Reagan, Bush and their associates had been directly involved in selling drugs in order to raise money for guns to the contras in Nicaragua. And any fool can tell you that it would be absolutely impossible for anyone to bring thousands of tons of drugs into the United States without thousands of public officials, at the highest levels, on the take.

Yet, instead of denouncing this alleged "war on drugs," and mobilizing the workers and peasants in the U.S. and Latin America against it, Castro is now offering to cooperate with the U.S. government.

According to the Socialist Workers Party's publication, *The Militant*, "The Cuban government has called on the U.S. government to cooperate with Cuba in the fight against drug trafficking.

"An editorial in the August 7 *Granma*, the daily newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, explains Cuba's initiative...

"... Before the U.S. government would engage in any kind of cooperation with Cuba in the fight against drug smuggling, stated U.S. authorities at the congressional hearings, the Cuban government would have to meet a series of conditions. Among these are demands that Cuba break relations of support and solidarity with revolutionary movements in Latin America, modify its relations with the Soviet Union and adopt a 'human rights' policy to Washington's liking ... 'This is not a serious position,' explains *Granma* ... The Cuban government makes no such demands on the U.S. Government, the editorial concluded, and reiterated its offer of cooperation in the fight against drugs." (*The Militant*, September 1, 1989)

The working class is obviously very much concerned with combatting drugs. Drugs are destroying the minds and the bodies of our youth. Drug dealers are terrorizing working class neighborhoods. But we have to organize our own, independent forces to make this fight. We cannot cooperate with the capitalist authorities in this in any way, because their goals are the opposite of our goals. If they pretend to launch a "war on drugs," from time to time, it is only to get a bigger cut of the profits, to try to make themselves look good, and to try to find a pretext for beefing up their own repressive forces, that they are going to use against the workers.

The fact that Castro and the Cuban Communist Party call for cooperating with the blood-thirsty U.S. government in combatting drugs, shows that Castro and the Cuban Communist Party do not constitute a working class, socialist, Marxist leader-

ship. Cuba is not yet socialist, and it is not yet moving toward socialism. While the Cuban workers have made a big step toward socialism by destroying the capitalists' state and taking the capitalist property, and thereby establishing the economic foundations of a state in which the working class can be the dominant class, they have not yet achieved socialism. They lack the technique and the productive forces, they lack a healthy workers state, that is, one unencumbered by a petty bourgeois nationalist bureaucracy, and, most importantly, they lack the leadership. Building socialism is, above all, a *conscious task*, of millions of workers, trained in basic working class, socialist, and *Marxist* principles. The Castroist leadership in Cuba is not such a leadership, has never been such a leadership, will never be such a leadership, has never contributed to building such a leadership, and never will contribute to building such a leadership. It is a petty bourgeois nationalist leadership closely tied to the Stalinist bureaucracy.

Castro's offer to Bush to collaborate in fighting drugs is not only going to serve to cover up the murderous character of Bush's plans, and disarm workers before them. It is also going to strengthen illusions in the working class that there is some solution to the problem of drugs within the framework of the capitalist system.

This makes it all the more important for working class, socialist, *Marxist* forces not only to make a common fight against any form of cooperation with Bush's "war," but also to make a common fight for *socialism* as the only *complete solution* to the problems facing the workers in one of the most advanced capitalist nations on earth, and throughout the world.

The developments in Poland also confirm the importance of a common fight for socialism.

Jaruzelski, Walesa, and a certain section of the Solidarnosc leadership made a deal to hold elections in which only parties that had agreed in advance to accepting pro-capitalist economic reforms ("perestroika" or "restructuring") would be al-

lowed to run candidates. Workers voted for candidates associated with Solidarnosc, not because they favored these pro-capitalist economic reforms, but because of the role that Solidarnosc had played in defending the workers struggles against the Western capitalists and the Stalinists. Now Jaruzelski, with Walesa's support, is president, and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, associated with Solidarnosc, is prime minister. But the workers are not satisfied with this situation. As young workers in Poland shouted: "We want bread, not a prime minister." Now a wave of strikes is taking place with workers demanding substantial wage increases.

Unfortunately, the capitalists are trying to take advantage of the workers opposition to the Stalinist bureaucracy, their isolation, and their ignorance of the conditions of workers in capitalist nations, to promote capitalism. Among the workers demands is a pro-capitalist demand calling for "private ownership" of certain state-owned enterprises or industries. Trotskyists should defend and be in the front ranks of struggles to increase the workers wages and rights. But we should not support this demand.

The road to workers control of industry in Poland does not lie through "local control of plants," "managerial control of plants," or "local or managerial ownership of plants." It lies through overthrowing the Stalinist bureaucracy, establishing a workers government, and completely cleansing the workers state of these pro-capitalist parasites that are now in the process of turning over all the gains of the Polish workers to the Western capitalist bankers and businessmen. It lies in *revising* the planned economy in the interests of the workers and peasants, not in dismantling the planned economy and turning it over to the capitalists.

A common fight for socialism on the part of working class, socialist, Trotskyist forces in the United States can help make this clear to Polish workers and, in this sense, contribute not only to rebuilding the Fourth International in the United States, but also to rebuilding the Fourth International in Poland. — M. Guttshall

Spark urges workers to vote for socialists

Spark, a socialist and Trotskyist group, urged workers to vote for as many socialist candidates as possible during the recent Detroit elections. This is a step forward for the struggle for a common fight for socialism. Here is what *Spark* said.

"The upcoming Detroit elections will decide who will run against Coleman Young for mayor in November. A lot of people are sick of Young. He has handed the resources of the city over to the Fords, Max Fishers and the other corporate and financial interests.

"While the rich constructed their office buildings, convention center, sports arena, condominiums and shops downtown, the rest of the city decayed. Whole neighborhoods were bulldozed to build plants for Chrysler and GM. City services have been cut back to next to nothing. The schools have turned into holding tanks for young people.

"There has been a great deal of anger growing as a result. Those who run the city don't want this anger interfering with the gravy train they have been riding. If Young can't control it, they need an alternative. Their solution is to run Conyers or Barrows.

"Both candidates have attacked Young for everything that is wrong with the city. But they aren't different from Young. Neither of them is willing to say who is really to blame — the same people who back them — those rich few who have profited at our expense.

"Conyers can try to appear to be above local politics. And Barrow can pretend to have the concerns of the people of the city at heart. But both are as tied to those who created these problems as Young is. Where were they while the neighborhoods and schools fell apart or when plants were closed and workers were tossed into the streets? They didn't say a thing, much less try to mobilize people to do something about it.

"Despite the seeming lack of choices, there are people who plan to vote their anger this year — people who are sick of being told to wait, people who are sick of having their kids held hostage by a school board that says the only solution for the schools is for people to tax themselves even more.

"There are people to vote for. There are socialist candidates who say that it is time for working people to stand up and defend themselves. The crisis of the city was caused by the rich and they should pay for it. A vote for these candidates is a way to vote against the rich and their candidates.

"For mayor: (vote for one only) Shanta Driver, Jeff Powers.

"For City Council: Kathie Fitzgerald, Margaret Guttshall, John Riehl, Judy Wraight."

(From *Spark* newsletters distributed in Detroit, September 9)

Are strikes and demonstrations enough?

There are many Black workers and white working class militants in Detroit that have already realized that neither Young, Barrow nor Conyers represents the interests of the Black people or any oppressed and exploited people. They will be urging their fellow workers not to vote for these candidates. They will be urging their fellow workers to support and participate in various actions in solidarity with various working class and popular struggles: the Eastern airline workers strike, the Pittston miners' strike, struggles for democratic rights for Black people, women, other oppressed people, etc. And they will be absolutely correct to do this.

But it is not enough to urge workers not to vote for capitalist candidates, and to participate in various working class and popular struggles. It is necessary to fight for a *political alternative* to the capitalist candidates and their parties.

This is why we are fighting for workers and their organizations, especially Black workers, militant workers, and socialist workers, to support Mazzocchi's call for a labor party and to push Mazzocchi to form this party now.

The American working class needs its own political party. All the gains that workers and oppressed people have made through strikes, through demonstrations, through various ways of pressuring the capitalist class and its parties, are being eroded by capitalist officials in local, state and federal governments.

Wage gains that workers won through strikes and bargaining have been eroded by local, state and federal economic policies that have fostered inflation; by tax laws that have reduced taxes for the rich and increased taxes for the workers; by budgets that have increased funds for the rich and decreased funds for the workers.

Gains in union rights that workers have won through strikes, bargaining, and demonstrations have been undermined by local, state, and federal judges and their rulings that have favored the corporations and hurt the workers. And all these judges have either been directly elected or appointed and confirmed by elected local, state, and federal politicians.

Gains in democratic rights for Blacks, women, and other oppressed people that have been won through strikes, demonstrations, and even armed popular uprisings like the (Continued on next page)

one in Detroit in 1967, have been undermined in similar ways.

In other words, whatever workers and oppressed may win on the picket line or in the streets, is being taken away by capitalist legislators, capitalist executives, and capitalist judges, on the local, state and federal level.

The capitalist class in the United States is in a terrible economic, social, and political crisis. It can no longer afford to give concessions for any length of time at all. Whatever it may be forced to give with one hand at one moment, it is forced to try to take back with the other hand at the next moment.

This is why the American working class can no longer make any real progress without its own political party.

Mazzocchi's call for forming a labor party based on the unions *before* the 1992 elections is a step in this direction. It can be an alternative to the Republican and Democratic parties and their candidates. It can be a political organization in which partisans of equality for the Black people and socialism can make a large political struggle for their program and win large numbers of workers to this program.

But Mazzocchi is never going to form this labor party, if he does not get more support. And he is never going to form this labor party unless those who are for a labor party *push* him to do so. Because Mazzocchi is not only under pressure from workers disgusted with the Republican and Democratic parties, he is also under pressure from the capitalists, the Republican and Democratic parties, and other sectors of the trade union leadership more closely tied to the capitalists than Mazzocchi.

Unfortunately, there are many very sincere working class and socialist militants that could play an important role in building support for Mazzocchi's call and in pushing Maz-

OCAW Political Action Questionnaire



from the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer
P.O. Box 2812
Denver, Colorado 80201

January 1989

zocchi to actually form this party, who seem very reluctant to do so.

They say that Mazzocchi is not really serious about building a labor party, that he is just reacting to pressure, that he will only actually form a labor party if there is a tremendous amount of pressure from the workers, and if he is actually forced to form a labor party that he will be or become an obstacle to the labor party's progress.

And all this is true.

But at this point, when the American working class has no political party at all, when there is absolutely no *mass organization* in which workers can collectively discuss what they want this society to be like and map out plans to make it happen, when almost all of the socialist organizations, including the best working class Trotskyist groups, are absolutely minuscule and more like families than working class political organizations, *any labor party*, even a labor party with obstacles in it like Tony Mazzocchi, *would be better than no labor party at all*.

Even the best working class Trotskyist groups are not yet able to provide young Black workers and poor white workers with the kind of large, working class school that they need in which

to begin to take shape as a new, working class, socialist, and revolutionary leadership of the working class.

But this is what is necessary. It is necessary to train young Black workers, Black industrial workers, and poor white workers as working class, socialist, revolutionary *politicians*. It is very difficult to do this. These people have been denied the most elementary forms of education. They have to work very long hours. They have to live in conditions that are much more difficult than those that the average worker lives in. And they are subject to many more pressures than the average worker is. But this is what is necessary because this is the most dynamic, and revolutionary sector of the American working class. This is the future of the American working class. And if it is not correctly trained, then the American revolution may come, but it will not be successful.

We need a labor party now — as a large, working class alternative to the Republicans and Democrats; as a school for training a new generation of working class leaders; as an arena in which to rebuild the Trotskyist workers party.

We have confidence that working class Trotskyist forces will be able to overcome whatever obstacles they encounter on this road, like the likes of Tony Mazzocchi. But in order to do this we have to enter into the struggle to build a labor party now. We can't stand on the sidelines.

This is why we urge all Black workers, all working class and socialists militants, and especially Trotskyists, to support Mazzocchi's call for a labor party, and push Mazzocchi to form that party now, *before* the 1992 elections.

Mazzocchi's afraid that Mazzocchi's labor party will do as much or more for the Trotskyists than it will for Mazzocchi. That is why he is hanging back. Don't let him. — M. Guttshall

New Directions

The New Directions group within the UAW is organizing a national conference in St. Louis, Missouri on October 20, 21, and 22.

We urge all workers in the UAW to support and participate in this conference.

The New Directions group is fighting for "direct referendum (membership vote) for all International Officers and Regional Directors," for "membership election of all local union appointed positions," and for other democratic measures in the interests of the workers. Thus it is in the interest of the workers to support the New Directions group in the UAW *against* the Administration Caucus in the UAW, which has openly collaborated with the bosses in forcing the workers to make concessions, in exchange for a privileged position for itself within this society and within the union.

At the same time, it is necessary to fight for a more consistent, working class program for New Directions and the UAW as a whole. This program should include:

- **Equality for Black workers and women workers now.** Open the skilled trades to Black workers and women workers now. Fight for corporations to hire additional workers into the skilled trades until the percentage of Black workers and women workers in the skilled trades is equal to or greater than their percentage in the local population.

The UAW obviously does not have the power to achieve equality for the Black people or for women workers throughout the society. But it does have the power to achieve equality for Black workers and women workers on the job wherever it has jurisdiction. In Detroit, the vast majority of production workers are Black, but the vast majority of skilled trades workers are

white. This is unacceptable. It can and must change now!

- **Not one more layoff, not one more plant-closing!** For nationalization of any enterprise that refuses to meet workers demands against layoffs and plant closings; for reorganizing such enterprises as public utilities under workers control.

The UAW cannot continue to give into the banks' and corporations' blackmail: "Either the workers take cuts in jobs, wages, working conditions, benefits, and union rights, or we'll lay them off and close the plant." There is an alternative. The union can make a *political* fight for nationalizing these enterprises and turning them into public utilities under workers control. If GM, Ford, Chrysler and others are no longer capable of producing cars without laying off workers, closing plants, and destroying the lives of thousands of workers and their families, then they have no right to be in business.

- **Support Tony Mazzocchi's call for a labor party based on the unions.** Urge Mazzocchi to form this party now, before the 1992 elections.

The Democratic Party was founded by slaveholders and slave traders. It continues to include some of the most racist politicians in the country (like Ed Koch, New York mayor, or Richard Daley, Chicago mayor) and many politicians directly involved in union-busting (like the current Governor of Virginia who has sent state-troopers to attack striking Pittston miners). Nevertheless, the current UAW leadership continues to pour thousands of union hours and dollars into this racist, anti-union party, and into candidates associated with it, in exchange for a privileged position for itself. This is a totally self-destructive policy that makes as much sense as going on strike

and then giving the strike fund to the boss. It must stop now.

- **No concessions.** Don Douglas and others associated with New Directions took a stand against concessions on many occasions and included statements against concessions in much of their campaign literature. But the "program for a New Direction" that was evidently passed out at the UAW Convention in Anaheim, and that was reprinted in *The Voice of New Directions* does not include a single statement against concessions as far as we can see. What happened? There can be no compromise on this question. It is the policy of making concessions to the bosses that is leading to the destruction of the workers lives and their unions.

These are some of the things that we, socialists, think New Directions must fight for, and that any group within the UAW that wants to advance the interests of the workers must fight for. — M.G.



Democracy

UAW New Directions

Solidarity

For more information on New Directions or the conference, contact:
New Directions
PO Box 6876
St. Louis, MO 63144

Fifteen Years of Truth

September 15, 1989 is the fifteenth anniversary of *Truth*. We published the first issue of *Truth* on September 15, 1974.

The first issue of *Truth* said: Truth, a revolutionary Trotskyist newspaper, No. 1, September 15, 1974, 10 cents.

It included articles with these titles:

- Strike Wave: U.S. Workers Take the Offensive
- Vote Workers Party
- Their Army and Ours
- Black Gains of the 60s Wiped Out
- Obituary for a Politician and His Time (Richard Nixon)
- In Defense of October: The Road We Have Traveled
- Portugal: The Real Situation
- Hungarian Workers Revolt
- Solzhenitsyn's Gulag Archipelago
- In Memoriam: James P. Cannon 1890-1974

No editor or editorial board is listed, but some of the authors of these articles were Margaret Guttschall, Fred Michaels, David Mark (now a member of Socialist Action), and Kevin FitzPatrick (now a member of Socialist Action).

The issue was 11 X 17 inches large and 8 pages long.

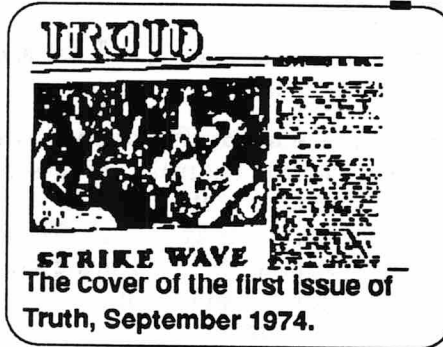
There are only *four* publications that have ever been connected with Trotskyism in any way that have existed longer than *Truth* in the United States. They are: *The Militant* (Socialist Workers Party), *The Bulletin* (Workers League), *Workers Vanguard* (Spartacist League), and *Spark*.

Of these publications, *three* have completely abandoned the struggle for the socialist revolution and the construction of the Fourth International to lead the socialist revolution.

The Socialist Workers Party and *The Militant* call for the *dissolution* of Trotskyist or Fourth International forces into a "mass, communist international," including agents of the pro-capitalist Stalinist bureaucracy and petty bourgeois nationalist Castroist forces.

Its leader, Jack Barnes, says: "a substantial number of organizations that label themselves Trotskyist are hopeless, irredeemable sectarians. Probably 80 percent of those on a world scale who present themselves as Trotskyists — maybe it's 70 percent, maybe 90 percent — are irreformable sectarians ..." (*The New International*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Fall 1983, p. 69)

The Workers League and *The Bulletin* claim that it and it alone is the Fourth International, that the Fourth International was full of spies in the 1930s and 1940s, that the Socialist Workers Party and others are nothing but the descendants of these spies, and it devotes the lion's share of its resources to supporting the capitalist state and the capitalist police against the



Socialist Workers Party and its militants (Mark Curtis) and to dishonestly attacking and slandering other working class tendencies (the International Workers League, Socialist Action, Spark, and many others ...)

The Spartacist League and *Workers Vanguard* say that the Fourth International was "stillborn" and that it must be "reborn," and like the Workers League devote a large part of their resources to dishonestly attacking and slandering other working class tendencies.

Of these four publications, *Spark* is the only one that continues to defend the *Trotskyist* tradition in any way.

But it seems to see its task only as fighting for socialist, communist, and Trotskyist principles in the most general way. It does not seem to see its task as rebuilding the Trotskyist workers party, as rebuilding the Fourth International, on the basis of its principles, and with the working class Trotskyist forces that remain loyal to those principles.

Truth is the *oldest* publication in the United States which, from the moment it was founded, fought not only for the socialist revolution, but also for the reconstruction of the Trotskyist workers party and the Fourth International to lead the socialist revolution. And it is the oldest publication that has continued to do so for the last fifteen years.

We are proud of the struggle that we have waged over the last fifteen years, with very limited resources and in the difficult conditions of the class struggle in Detroit and Chicago. As we have said before, we think it represents an important *contribution* to the struggle to rebuild the Trotskyist workers party and the Fourth International, *not the only contribution*, but an important one. We also think that it represents *the most consistent* contribution.

We sincerely hope that *Spark*, and working class Trotskyist tendencies that have emerged more recently (tendencies associated with the International Workers League, Socialist Action, tendencies associated with the Trotskyist Coordinating Committee, and others) will be able to learn from our experience, and we from theirs, and that together we will be able to proceed as

rapidly as possible to the reconstruction of the Trotskyist workers party and the Fourth International on the basis of its principles.

As we said in *Truth* No. 1:

"While recognizing the weaknesses of the Fourth International, indicated by its inability to defeat Pabloism [a pro-Stalinist tendency that aimed to liquidate the Fourth International], we must also recognize our debt to its cadres. We stand on their shoulders. More than anything else, it was the contempt displayed by the RSL majority [a centrist group that has since dissolved] for the tradition and cadres of the Fourth International which compelled those who had been defeatists to reconsider their views.

"We are Orthodox Trotskyists. By this we mean we stand in the best tradition of the Fourth International after the war. In the labor camps in Russia, all the opponents of Stalinism were referred to as Trotskyists, even capitulators and Bukharinists. So it was by the name *Orthodox* Trotskyists that the *Trotskyists* distinguished themselves. And it was under the banner of Orthodox Trotskyism that those who were to form the International Committee sought to defend the Fourth International from Pabloism.

"But we have learned well that it is not enough to assert agreement with the Transitional Program, to declare oneself an Orthodox Trotskyist. It is necessary to prove this in the daily and difficult battle to construct the revolutionary leadership ...

"We are confident that in the course of our work, we will meet with the best elements from the present organizations and with the growing number of proletarian militants; and that with them we will join in the reconstruction of the Fourth International and see a *World* October [revolution]."

We do not use the expression "orthodox Trotskyists" much any more. We have since come to better understand that what distinguishes true Trotskyists from those who simply call themselves Trotskyists is their loyalty to the working class, their roots in the working class, and their independence from the petty bourgeoisie and its influence among Trotskyists.

Nevertheless, we still think that these lines retain their basic validity. They sum up where we stood and where we stand in the class struggle.

In the course of the coming year marking the fifteenth anniversary of *Truth*, we plan to write more about the origins of *Truth*, about the political battles in which it took shape as a distinct political tendency, about what has allowed it to last so long, when other publications and groups with much more experience and much larger resources have come and gone.

We ask our readers to support this effort by getting a supporting subscription to *Truth* and by making a generous contribution. — M.G.

What is the Trotskyist Committee?

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit, Supporter of the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International, is a revolutionary workers group in Detroit.

The Trotskyist Committee calls itself "Trotskyist" because of Leon Trotsky and his comrades. They continued the struggle for the socialist revolution after Stalin betrayed it, founded the Fourth International to lead this struggle, and devoted their lives to this cause.

The Trotskyist Committee is open to young workers, women workers, and all workers and militants who are for:

- equality and the right to self-determination for the Black people and all oppressed peoples;
- the workers against the bosses and their agents in the unions;
- the socialist revolution;
- the Fourth International;
- the struggle of the International League for the reconstruction of the Fourth International.

The International League is for rebuilding the Fourth International. This means rooting Trotskyism in the working class, winning fresh working class forces to the revolutionary workers cause, and uniting truly working class, revolutionary Trotskyist forces on a principled basis.

The Trotskyist Committee welcomes all who share these goals, are prepared to accept its decisions, contribute financially to its work, and take part in its work on a regular basis.

The Trotskyist Committee concentrates its work on developing and spreading revolutionary propaganda, educating workers as revolutionaries, and on recruiting workers, and militants from other social classes truly devoted to the working class, to the revolutionary workers cause.

As Leon Trotsky said: "... in the final analysis all the problems of our planet will be decided upon American soil."

And, "I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International, go forward!"

Thus we urge young workers, women workers, and all workers and militants in the Detroit area, to seriously consider joining the Trotskyist Committee and devoting yourselves to this struggle. There is a place for each and every one of you, in this struggle.

What can workers do for the socialist cause today?

With a presentation by Margaret Guttshall, socialist candidate for city council, and discussion.

Sunday, October 15, 1989, 1 p.m.
Call 831-0593 for exact location.

Building the Trotskyist Committee

We sold 36 copies of *Truth* and 10 copies of *The Fourth International* at the Ford Rouge plant, various meetings for candidates, the Spark festival, the NAACP march in Washington, and the Labor Day demonstration in Detroit.

We also held a class on "What is Socialism?" that was very interesting. Unfortunately, young workers who read *Truth* were not able to attend this class.

We ask workers who decided to support socialist candidates in this election to contact us and let us know more about why they decided to do so. We think this will be very interesting to other workers and it will help us build support for socialism in the working class.

We also ask workers who are for socialism to attend our class on "What can workers do for the socialist cause today?"

We plan to discuss what are the most important political tasks in the fight for socialism today, and the different kinds of things that different workers can do to advance the fight for socialism, in accord with their talents, amount of free time, etc.

Socialism will not just happen. We have to build a working class political party to lead the fight for socialism. This is what the Trotskyist Committee is working to do. An important part of building a party is finding a way for each worker who is for socialism to make a contribution to the fight for socialism, no matter what it may be.—M.G.

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TRUTH

P.O. BOX 441283, DETROIT, MI 48244-1283; (313) 831-0593

Black working class youth & the Detroit elections

The problems facing Black working class youth, and all working class youth in Detroit, are growing more and more serious:

— the lack of decent jobs, the lack of decent wages, the lack of unions to protect workers on the job;

— the lack of decent elementary, middle, and high schools, the high cost of colleges and universities;

— the lack of decent housing, the growth of drug dealers and other criminal elements in working class neighborhoods;

— the growth of openly racist forces that aim to crush Black working class youth and pit white working class youth against them;

— the growth of tension and violence in working class families as a result of all these problems.

Yet there is not a single candidate for mayor or city council that has a solution to these problems.

The message that Coleman Young, Tom Barrow, and all the big name candidates send to Black working class youth in Detroit is that it is up to Black working class youth, *as individuals*, to solve these problems for themselves, as individuals.

Black working class youth are supposed to work hard, study hard, and, through this, *get ahead, get out of the working class*, and escape the poverty, misery and violence that so many are suffering in.

But Young, Barrow, and others, have no solution for Black working class youth, and other working class youth, as a whole. They have no program for ending poverty, misery and violence.

This is not because there is no solution to these problems. This is not because these problems are so complicated that it is very difficult to find a solution to them. It is because, Young, Barrow, and the rich capitalists that they represent, white and Black, *profit* from poverty, misery, and violence. The more labor they get out of the workers and their families, the less they put into the workers and their families (in terms of food, clothes, homes, schools, etc.), the more money they make. It is in their interests to exploit the workers and their families to the absolute maximum, to get everything out of them that they can, to put as little as possible into them, to keep them as poor, miserable, and ignorant as possible.

Naturally, there are certain number of liberal capitalists who think that the other capitalists are going too far, that they are exploiting the workers so much that they are going to provoke a revolt. But these capitalists are a minority, they have very little power, and they basically serve to fool workers into thinking that there is some solution to their problems under capitalism.

There is no doubt that Black working class youth, and all working class youth, must work and study very hard; they have to try to get the best jobs and the best education that they can. If they don't do this, they can easily end up in a bread line. Even if they do do it, they still might.

But this does not have to mean leaving other Black working class youth and oppressed people behind.

It is necessary to initiate an all out political fight in Detroit for *real equality* for the masses of Black

people.

This means a fight to defend and extend all affirmative action programs, a fight for emergency measures to combat unemployment and poverty now, and other measures. (See box page 4.)

But even if there were true equality for the Black people at all levels, many Black people would still be exploited and oppressed, because we live in a capitalist society in which workers of all races are exploited and oppressed.

This is why, in order to free the Black people, it is not enough to fight for equality, it is also necessary to fight for *socialism*, a system in which the working class owns the resources, has its own government, and uses its government to plan and organize production to meet human needs, rather than to make profits for a wealthy few. Socialism is a system in which human needs are satisfied, in which there is no want and misery. It is a first step towards a classless, communist society, in which there are no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, just people working together for the common good.

If every young worker in Detroit who is for equality, socialism, and an independent working class party to lead this fight, gives just a tiny percentage of his time to this struggle, then it can grow and be successful.

Truth

**Did you vote
for socialists?
Let us know why . . .
Call 831-0593.**