

JOBS NOW!

By MARGARET GUTTSHALL

American working class youth and their families do not need to hear the latest unemployment statistics to know that unemployment is ruining large sections of the working class. Millions of youth and workers have no way to live. They are being forced to live off their families, become scavengers, or to turn to crime to support themselves or to television, video games, alcohol, or drugs to mesmerize themselves. The best that most youth and unemployed workers can aim for is to find a miserable job with minimum (or sub-minimum) wages and no rights, or to find a way to get some training or education and, eventually, if they are lucky, find a decent job surrounded by poverty and misery.

Nevertheless, the government and the AFL-CIO union leadership continue to issue these statistics, yet refuse to do anything about them. The government says unemployment among whites is now 6.5%, Blacks — 14%, youth — 18.3%, and Michigan — 10.3%. Yet state and city governments and union leaderships simply compete with each other to lure business to them. They offer outright bribes, huge sums of money, low wages and union collaboration in disciplining the workers. They are like prostitutes lined up against a wall, each offering to do the most for the man at the lowest price. And, of course, in the end, all the prostitutes are simply used and tossed aside and the businessman moves on.

The AFL-CIO union leadership says that *real* unemployment in Michigan is 18.7%, nearly twice the official figure. Yet it simply calls on the same government that is falsifying unemployment statistics and trying to turn the American working class into prostitutes to provide "... Federally funded jobs ... Plant closing legislation to protect workers from trauma ... an economic planning council that could help steer job development ..." (*Detroit Free Press*, July 9, 1985, p.12A). How

does it propose to *make* the Reagan regime do this when it could not even get the Democratic Party to include these points in its platform? Silence.

At the same time, the state of Michigan is planning to take advantage of the unemployment and consequent rise in crime to line the pockets of local businessmen. It is planning to restructure the prison sys-

tem, to build minimum security prisons in working class neighborhoods throughout the state (like the Detroit Eastside) and provide prisoners as laborers to local businessmen at sub-minimum wages! There is a name for this. It is slave labor. A Gulag Archipelago a la Reagan, Blanchard and Coleman Young. (See the plan developed

(Continued on page 2)

Alliance for a Workers Candidate

Working class militants acquired over 1,000 signatures in seven days to put Barbara Putnam on the ballot as a candidate for Detroit mayor. Barbara is a working class candidate, running to build an alliance for a single, working class candidate to lead the fight for working class demands.

In the course of this work, we met hundreds of young and working people who were fed up with Reagan, the Democrats and Coleman Young, who were indignant about city expenditures on luxury high rises and prisons while thousands of youth and workers are jobless, and who would like to have their own candidate to fight

for jobs and to get back wage concessions. We also met Socialist Workers Party militants campaigning to put the SWP candidate on the ballot, which, unfortunately, has not yet been convinced to join in a common struggle.

We ask all readers to support this struggle by subscribing to *Truth*, sending donations, and joining the teams that will be canvassing working class neighborhoods.

For a single, working class candidate!

Solidarity against the bankers' candidates, Young and Barrow!

M.G.



Barbara Putnam
Candidate for Detroit Mayor
member UAW Local 2071, clerical worker
mother of three.

Alliance for a Working Class Candidate! Save the Working Class Not the Bosses!

1. Jobs Not Prisons!
2. Get Back Concessions!
3. Workers Defense Guards Against Racist Attacks!
4. Referendum Against U.S. Intervention in Nicaragua; Against Apartheid in South Africa!
5. Build a Labor Party Now!

Solidarity Against the Bosses: An Open Letter

Once again, with the brutal killing of Alleane Richardson, the need of working people to unite and strengthen their own independent fight against the bosses and their puppets — police, politicians both Republican and Democrat, and of course the courts — is felt. We are challenging, openly and publicly, the Socialist Workers Party and all organizations that claim to be for such a united fight to put the interests of the working class above their own organizational concerns. For Alleane Richardson, for all the Blacks in Detroit who have been victimized by police in a city run by a Black Democratic mayor, for all the workers who have lost their jobs due to one capitalist scheme or another — build with us a united campaign in the Detroit Mayoral elections to advance one candidate, one platform, and one single organizational effort of the *working class against the bosses*. We are calling on working people to support and actively campaign for a united workers candidate for Mayor of Detroit against the candidates of the bosses parties, Republican and Democrat.

For too long the working people of Detroit have been led to the slaughter house by the Democratic Party judas goat. The latest campaign of the Coleman Young administration to build a prison on the East side is the last word on the achievements of schemes to save the bosses, while jobs and wages are cut, while the schools rot.

We are writing this open letter for two reasons:

First, we believe that an open public alliance of parties that claim to represent working class interests, to put forward a single candidate for Mayor against the bosses parties, will have a strong echo among working people. It will strengthen their struggle more than the simple addition of forces it would bring about. It would at least begin to put forward a mass alternative to the Democratic Party.

It has been the practice of working class parties who did not put forward their own candidates to give critical support to other parties. Of course, it is better to call for a vote for a candidate of another working class party than to vote for a Democrat or abstain and do nothing. But the best way to draw the class line in today's situation where the working class is searching for its unity in action is the united front. In the present period, the working class is not going to listen to a party that is unwilling to organize united action of the class a-

gainst the bosses.

We are tired of hearing that working people are not ready to fight. This is not the problem. Are the parties that claim to understand the need for independent working class action, are they ready to fight?

Secondly, it is not enough to merely *claim* to have the correct program and the right tactics. It is necessary to *prove* to working people, to hundreds and then thousands and then many more, that you have the correct program and tactics. This is not accomplished without alliances, temporary and permanent, where the correct program and party is sorted out. All alliances are not good — the alliance of the official trade union leadership with the Democratic Party has done tremendous harm to the working class. But an alliance to fight against the killing of Alleane Richardson, to fight for jobs not prisons, to support a city-wide referendum against US intervention in Central America, and finally an alliance to *expose the Democratic Party on all these questions* and organize working people independently — this is a good alliance.

We are also tired of hearing that "differences" prevent us from acting together in an immediate and practical struggle for an electoral campaign. If those who are conscious of the need for an independent workers party are incapable of acting together in the interests of the working class, then how can they claim to be able to

organize millions of American workers who still have illusions in the Democratic Party?

In the 1981 Mayoral campaign there were two working class parties on the ballot for Mayor — the Trotskyist Organization and the Socialist Workers Party. The TO candidate received 1,361 votes, while the SWP candidate received 1,561 votes. Simple addition would have led to a combined vote of about 3,000 if the SWP had agreed to put forward a common candidate with the TO.

But in fact it would have meant much more than that. At the time, the Young administration was wringing the city workers dry with concessions and the city workers were on strike. A united front in the elections could have defended and advanced a large workers struggle that was going on at the time.

With the case of Alleane Richardson, with the Chrysler workers' contract that is coming up this fall we have such an opportunity again. Are you ready to strike a blow for the workers cause? Then we call on the SWP and all organizations that claim to be for an independent workers party to build an alliance for a single working class candidate in the Mayoral elections.

Yours in the struggle,

Barbara Putnam for the Secretariat of the Trotskyist Organization

Jobs: Continued

for Public Act No. 303).

All this shows that the only way for the masses of youth and unemployed workers to get jobs is to *fight* for them ... with demonstrations, strikes, sit-ins, and their own candidates for public office. Neither Reagan, the Democrats, nor the AFL-CIO bureaucrats are going to do it for us. We have to do it for ourselves:

1. Organize youth and worker councils for jobs;
2. Make plans for public works projects (youth centers, parks, etc.), organize youth and unemployed worker brigades to build these projects; demand that the city finance them; organize actions to win these demands;
3. Demand an end to forced overtime; layoffs, and plant closings; 30 hours work for 40 hours pay now;

4. Get local unions and other working class organizations behind this struggle; collaborate in preparing leaflets, meetings, demonstrations, strikes, sit-ins and electoral campaigns for these demands.

All tendencies in the American working class must make a common fight for these demands. This is the only road forward. Down every other lies misery and despair. This will not *solve* the problem of unemployment. Only getting rid of the capitalist system itself will do that (the capitalist profits from cutting his workforce, creating millions of desperate youth and workers). But it will strengthen the American working class, the solidarity of youth and workers, and acquire more jobs. And this will be a tremendous victory for the American working class.

Join the fight for jobs now!
Solidarity against unemployment!

Workers Alliance Against U.S. Intervention

By MARGARET GUTTSALL

The Second Emergency National Conference Against US Intervention in Central America/the Carribean met in Minneapolis, Minnesota on June 21-23. This conference was endorsed by dozens of trade unionists and working class organizations, including Pete Kelly, head of the UAW opposition. Over 450 delegates registered for the conference and over 100 delegates, representing dozens of unions and working class organizations, participated in nearly every session.

Nevertheless, the conference refused to call and organize nationwide fall actions against US intervention in Central America and apartheid on the grounds that it did not have the "authority." Instead, it adopted a resolution that said: "We earnestly urge the April Actions Coalition, at its meeting in New York City on June 29, 1985, to adopt this appeal to issue the call . . ."

Not surprisingly, six days later, the "April Actions Coalition" (Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice — APJJC) also refused to call and organize fall actions. It adopted a resolution supporting four different days and weeks of "activities," allegedly being organized by other groups, only one of which has anything to do with the working class — National Anti-Apartheid Protest Day, October 11. The rest are openly pro-Democratic Party, pacifist, religious activities being organized by the National Council of Churches, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the African Peoples Christian Organization — September 21-25 Pledge of Resistance Activities; October 19-25 Peace with Justice Week; November 23-25 Grassroots Action Days.

This is hardly a framework for an independent working class mobilization, or for any mobilization at all for that matter. How could any one of these actions be successful with such a dispersion of forces? Imagine our surprise then when we picked up Socialist Action's newspaper, which was a major force in the Minneapolis conference, and read: "Antiwar conference urges fall protests . . . A proposal for fall actions against the escalating US war drive against Nicaragua won overwhelming support from participants at the Second Emergency National Conference . . . The adoption of the conference action proposals calling for local demonstrations to be held nationwide on October 26 underscored the concern by participants that the anti-intervention movement not dissipate

. . ." (*Socialist Action*, July 1985, p.4). What? Had there been some kind of mistake? No. That could not be. The Minneapolis conference *explicitly* rejected the only resolution put forward for the Minneapolis conference to call and organize fall actions *itself*. It was sponsored by Rich Tetrault from the Trotskyist Organization. Representatives of the Fourth Internationalist Tendency (FIT) and SA personally told him that they would not endorse the resolution because they thought that the conference did not have the authority to call such actions. It ignored the letter from the Detroit coalition.

In reality, the decisions of the Minneapolis Conference and the APJJC meeting were adaptations to or collaboration with the imperialist Democratic Party that *does not want any kind of mobilization against US intervention prior to the 1986 elections*. Such a mobilization can only hurt the Democratic Party, which is collaborating more and more closely with Reagan.

Lane Kirkland, leading Democrat and AFL-CIO head, ordered all unions to stop collaborating with the anti-intervention movement, shortly before the Minneapolis Conference. Instead of initiating an all-out fight against this enemy of the working class, the conference capitulated to him.

This is the "umpteenth" time that the anti-intervention movement has found itself in this position — 1972, 1976, 1980, 1984 — because it has never been organized on a clear, independent, working class basis. It shows that an independent, working class alliance against US intervention and apartheid is not a luxury, but a necessity for *any* serious mobilization.

Instead of facing these facts and drawing a balance sheet of its own role in this struggle, Socialist Action simply misrepresents the conference's decision. What is it going to say about the APJJC decision? For shame, comrades! One expects this sort of thing from the Stalinists, but we did not expect it from you.

The Trotskyist Organization, on the other hand, has waged a resolute fight for

an independent working class mobilization. We fought for the Detroit Coalition for Peace, Jobs and Justice to support the Minneapolis Conference and fight for it to call and organize fall actions. We put forward a resolution at the Minneapolis conference for it to do so and establish working class outreach committees to mobilize the union ranks and masses of Black people. Our comrade, Rich Tetrault, won three co-signers for this resolution and 17 militants voted to put it on the floor. And as the old saying goes, we have just begun to fight. In Detroit and Chicago we will be fighting for local coalitions to organize working class actions against US intervention and support to apartheid on October 11, Anti-Apartheid Day, or October 26, anniversary of the invasion of Grenada. We are also running our own candidate for Detroit mayor to fight for an alliance for working class candidates in this and the 1986 elections.

Once again we appeal to Socialist Action, the Internationalist Workers Party, the Fourth Internationalist Tendency, and all working class organizations to join us in this fight, to form a working class alliance against US intervention and apartheid. Even if the initial results of such an alliance are small, in terms of the actual number of people mobilized, it will be a tremendous step forward for the working class because it will open the road to an independent mobilization. The American working class will never get anywhere if its mobilizations are constantly prey to the whims of the Democratic Party and its election campaigns. Trotskyists have a responsibility to combat this tendency. Indeed, the failure to do so is the reason for the current crisis and split in Socialist Action. It is high time to break with this policy, comrades. Twenty years is certainly long enough to see its effects. Your future and that of your class is at stake. We are waiting to hear from you. You have the floor.

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United Front to Get Back Concessions

By FRED MICHAELS

This year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Auto Workers (UAW). This union has, during its life, forced the biggest corporations in the world to provide the highest standard of living in the world to its workers. Today these gains are threatened by the policy of the union leadership that is not only willing to sacrifice these gains for the profits of GM, Ford, Chrysler and AMC but even the union itself!

The forces for the battle around the Chrysler contract (which expires October 15) are being assembled not only in the context of vicious attacks on the workers' standard of living and the unions, but also in the context of an increasingly militant working class response.

The New York city hotel workers strike of 16,000 mostly young Black, Latin and immigrant workers indicates what kind of fight must be waged to win.

These workers were confronted by the hotel owners, "gangsters with attache cases," who demanded severe concessions. The workers responded with a strike that shut down the majority of the hotels (which are mostly for the rich).

The police set up barricades to limit picketing and to allow scabs and scab deliveries to go in. The workers formed large parades of 5,000 strong with banners, music and militant chants. They mass-picketed hotel after hotel, openly defying police barricades. Thus they were able to harass the rich clients, stop some of the scabs and prevent deliveries.

Furthermore, they defied the racist, anti-working class Mayor Koch. He ordered city workers to pick up hotel garbage. The hotel workers held confetti parades flooding the streets with newspaper. They were able to win support from the oppressed and workers of the city.

Finally, on June 27, after 26 days of the strike, the hotel owners granted a wage increase, increased benefits and health care and amnesty for arrested workers. It was a victory for the hotel workers and the

whole working class.

What Chrysler has in store is amply clear from the AMC contract recently approved. They will try to blackmail the workers into more concessions with the threat of plant closings. How can the working class respond to such blackmail?

Go on the offensive, just like the hotel workers! Demand an end to concessions, the payback of all previous concessions! There is no other way for the working class to survive the 1980's.

Such a struggle requires the kind of unity that the hotel workers demonstrated. In the UAW this means bringing together all working class organizations, parties and groups that are opposed to concessions in a united front against the bosses. In other words, solidarity in action.

We propose the following action program: 1) an end to all concessions, the payback of all concessions previously made enforced by a national strike of Chrysler and 2) independent labor candidates in upcoming elections to win the support of the workers and oppressed, such as a workers candidate for Mayor of Detroit.

In this context, the problem before the working class today is not simply the betrayal by the UAW bureaucracy. No, it is also the consistent refusal of the working class organizations, parties and groups that are opposed to concessions to unite in elementary solidarity against the bosses.

We are referring here to the Communist Party (publishers of the *Daily World* and the *Jefferson Worker*), the Socialist Workers Party (publishers of *The Militant* and running a candidate for mayor of Detroit), Socialist Action (publishers of *Socialist Action* and supporters of a Labor Party) and the Internationalist Workers Party

(publishers of *Working Class Opposition* and supporters of a Labor Party).

These organizations do not want to form a united front because of their political support to the Democratic Party left wing — the Black Democratic Congressmen and mayors, Jesse Jackson and certain trade union officials.

These political ties to the anti-working class Democratic Party are more important to these organizations than independent labor candidates against the Democrats and Republicans. Through this support to the Democratic Party left wing, they become unwilling supporters of the capitalists who control the Democratic Party and of the top leadership of the unions. Thus they are incapable of leading a fight for an independent policy to save the unions and the workers rights.

Only a political struggle for a united front based on class solidarity can separate the forces that claim to be for the working class into those who want to fight for the workers and those who don't.

We call on all working class organizations, parties and groups, all trade union caucuses opposed to concessions and all workers to join with us in the struggle to win back concessions with a national strike and win the support of the rest of the workers with independent labor candidates. Contact us in Detroit or Chicago. We will discuss and work with anyone at any time around these demands or any program that could form the basis of united action against the bosses.

Detroit Police Murder Black Woman

On May 22, 1985, an elderly Black woman, Alleane Richardson, was murdered by Detroit police. A neighbor had called police as a favor to Alleane because she had been inadvertently locked out of her apartment. When the police, arrived, they shot her once between the eyes and twice in the chest. She is dead.

This murder is defended by Detroit Police Chief Hart and Mayor Young. They declared that the officer shot Alleane (who suffered from a stroke) in "self-defense."

A niece of Ms. Richardson, Cecelia

Henderson Jordan, has issued a statement condemning the murder and calling for an impartial and independent investigation of the police's action. The Trotskyist Organization wholeheartedly agrees.

We call on all working class organizations, especially the trade unions, to respond to this call with a commission of investigation. Such a commission would meet with a warm response from the workers of Detroit and would advance their struggle.

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