

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)

The labor movement must fight for the rights of the Black people!

Another group of Black salaried workers at GM is suing GM for being racist, for discriminating against them and other Black workers for the past 15 to 20 years. They are charging that both GM's hiring and promotion policies are racist and they are asking for \$8 million to cover damages and lost pay.

This is the second time in the last few months that Black employees have sued GM. The last time GM settled out of court and agreed to pay four Black employees approximately \$150,000.

We urge all Black people and working people to support this suit. GM is a racist corporation. Not only has it discriminated against its Black salaried employees. It has closed almost all of its plants in Detroit where the majority of Black workers in this area live. And it's demanding that the City of Pontiac cut its taxes, and threatening to leave the City of Pontiac, if it refuses. How long will it be until GM tells the City of Detroit to cut its taxes or it will leave!

At the same time, it's necessary to ask a question. Why are a small group of Black salaried employees at GM being forced to take on GM alone? Where is the labor movement? Why isn't the labor movement fighting for the rights of the Black people?

To ask the question is to answer it. The official leadership of the labor movement has a policy of *collaborating* with GM, of *making concessions* to help GM compete with the Japanese.

This is a racist, anti-working class policy. And it is unacceptable.

The labor movement has to make a fight for the democratic rights of the Black people, for equal jobs, schools, homes, and living conditions for the Black people, as well as other demands, with demonstrations, with strikes, and, above all, with its own party, to fight for political power.

Support the Eastern Workers!

The struggle by the International Association of Machinists (IAM) 8500 unionists against Eastern airlines has intensified since the strike began March 3. Besides the pilots and attendants at Eastern, the machinists appear to have won support from the Teamsters in Detroit to honor their picket lines. We urge all trade unions and supporters of the working class to honor the picket lines, to join the machinists' lines, to organize strikes in favor of the machinists, in short, to do everything in their power to insure the success of the Eastern workers' strike. For more on the Eastern strike see page 5.

Can Black people be free in our lifetime?

Haki R. Madhubuti (formerly known as Don Lee), a Black poet and associate professor of English at Chicago State University, spoke at the Shrine of the Black Madonna on February 26. His topic: Black Youth Today. Over 300 people attended.

Madhubuti's speech developed two major themes: 1) that the current condition of Black people is one of oppression by a decaying and decadent European culture, that this decaying European culture has permeated the world, including Africa; 2) that the solution for Black people in America is "maintain the Black family and build Black institutions."

Madhubuti was one of many Black revolutionaries in the 1960s who came from the Black middle class. Today, it is clear that he is not a revolutionary. In fact, his solutions are quite similar to those of the most conservative Black leaders. This point of view is that racial considerations are becoming *less* important in determining the progress of Blacks in America. What is becoming more important are Blacks' cultural attitudes toward themselves and their efforts to resolve "their" problem.

We disagree.

As Trotskyists, we fight to destroy the racist institutions that continue to oppress Black people. These institutions have been and remain the source of racial oppression.

We also defend the right of Black people to separate themselves and form their own nation if they so desire. And, we fight for the unity of Black and white workers against the capitalists and in a revolutionary working class party. We fight for the American labor movement, which has abandoned Black people, to fight for the rights of Black people.

So, as Trotskyists, we have a class, not a racial analysis of the basic forces in the society. And, while we disagree with Madhubuti on this point, our most important disagreement with Madhubuti is that he does not think that Black people can be free in his lifetime. This is why he says "maintain the Black family and build Black institutions." He thinks that American capitalist society will continue

on as it has for the 30 or so years that he has been alive.

But this society is headed for a social, economic and political catastrophe. The oppressed people of the world are rising up against it, the working class people of the industrial countries are beginning to rise up against it. Madhubuti does not want to expend any energy in organizing anyone with the purpose of destroying the racist

institutions that oppress Black people, that is, to destroy this racist state, to join with those around the world fighting the American capitalist state.

It is possible to organize the working class, Black and white, to overthrow this racist state and destroy its institutions. What is necessary is to build a party based on such a program. We are convinced that Black people can be free in our lifetime. — F.M.

Why do we focus on the rights of the Black people?

The masses of Black people in the United States have been among the most devoted fighters for the basic democratic rights of all the people, as well as for the basic rights of the working class. In the 1960s and 70s, Black youth and workers were in the front ranks of the struggles against the U.S. government's racist and anti-working class policies, as well as against the labor leadership's racist and anti-working class policies. They formed militant organizations like the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM), the League of Revolutionary Black Workers, and the Black Panther Party, to wage these struggles. And it is for precisely this reason why they are under attack, why their plants are being close, their schools are being destroyed, and why a systematic effort is being made to destroy their brains with drugs.

In spite of all the sacrifices that the masses of Black people have made on behalf of struggles for democratic and working class rights, the leadership of the U.S. labor movement doesn't reciprocate. It doesn't

make a consistent struggle for the democratic rights of the Black people. It prefers to try to pressure the racist American ruling class to make concessions to a small number of relatively privileged workers, in exchange for supporting this racist ruling class against the masses of working and oppressed people.

At best, it sees the problems of the Black people in the United States as simply one problem among others, that might, eventually, someday, long in the future, be resolved.

But the masses of Black people in the United States, with the sole exception of the miniscule Black bourgeoisie, have never shared in the American dream. More than anything else, their situation, shows the true nature of this corrupt and degenerate society. An unconditional struggle for their basic rights of the Black people is a necessary step in the struggle for the political independence of the U.S. labor movement, and the working class as a whole, from this society. — M.G.

Will the struggle for a labor candidate for Detroit mayor be successful?

Will it be possible to convince a sector of the labor movement to break with the current policies and put forward a labor candidate?

It is difficult to say. There is a tremendous amount of agitation and opposition in the labor movement in Detroit at this time. It is difficult to say how far it will go in the next weeks and months. But it is only by fighting for a labor candidate, to fight for

the rights of the Black people and others, that it will be possible to regroup the working class forces necessary to win a sector of the labor movement. And these working class forces can always put forward a *working class candidate* for mayor, to carry forward the struggle. Sooner or later the struggle will be successful, because this is the only solution, and this is the basic direction of the most lively sectors of the labor movement today. — M.G.

A big victory in UAW Local 653!

Workers at UAW Local 653, the Pontiac Motors plant, voted for 17 out of 22 possible delegates, associated with Don Douglas and "New Directions," a working class opposition to the Bieber administration in the UAW.

This is a big victory! Bieber thought he had this one in the bag. It shows that it is possible to beat the Bieber machine, and begin to get the UAW out of the hands of the bosses and back into the hands of the workers.

We urge all working people to vote for candidates associated with Don Douglas and "New Directions," against candidates associated with the Bieber machine. And we urge all working class groups and tendencies to support these candidates in every way possible.

At the same time, it is clear that the current leadership of "New Directions" has serious illusions in the possibility of reforming the current leadership of the UAW and in reforming the existing capitalist order. Thus, it is not fighting for a mass mobilization now, against any and

every attack on the auto workers, like the plans to close the Framingham plant and others. Nor is it fighting to stop all UAW support to the Democratic Party, which is an anti-union party. (Support to this party is the UAW's longest-standing and biggest concession to the auto bosses!) At the February 19th fund raiser for Douglas, Douglas supporters organized a special team to urge workers attending the fundraiser *not* to stop and talk to various working class and socialist militants distributing their papers outside.

Thus revolutionaries have a responsibility to play an *independent* role within this struggle, to support all the positive tendencies within it, to push for it to take the most independent and militant direction possible, and to seek every opportunity possible to advance the fight for more working class and revolutionary policies within it.

We are reprinting excerpts from some of Douglas's campaign literature here, so readers can draw their own conclusions. — M.G.

"This year there is a choice, a clear choice ...

"DON DOUGLAS:

"DON DOUGLAS OPPOSED concessions. He knew concessions would not save jobs, only lead to further concessions.

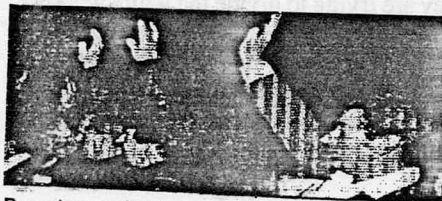
"DON DOUGLAS WAS RIGHT!

"DON DOUGLAS OPPOSED the secret Saturn agreement because it undermined basic, traditional union principles, including the right of workers to determine their own future by voting on their own agreement.

"DON DOUGLAS OPPOSED the usage of 'joint' programs that were used to undermine our union, eliminate jobs and turn cooperation with the company into competition with your fellow UAW brothers and sisters.

"DON DOUGLAS IS FOR selective 'joint' programs that enhance the job opportunities and welfare of the membership.

"DON DOUGLAS IS FOR the enforce-



Douglas and other delegates voting against concessions at '82 convention.

ment of Article 19, Section 6 of the UAW International Constitution which prohibits whipsawing. Whipsawing that turns plant against plant, local against local, worker against worker and undermines the very foundation of our union, SOLIDARITY.

"DON DOUGLAS IS FOR your right to vote for the officers and Regional Directors of the International Union by a 'rank and file' referendum vote. (ONE MEMBER ONE VOTE)

"DON DOUGLAS IS FOR your right to vote for all positions in our local unions.

"DON DOUGLAS SUPPORTED the honest efforts of delegates, democratically elected by the 'rank and file' in Region 5, to elect Jerry Tucker to the position of

Regional Director.

"BOB LENT

"BOB LENT AGREED with the concessionary programs and direction of the Bieber administration.

"BOB LENT VOTED FOR the secret Saturn agreement when it was adopted by Owen Bieber and the International Executive Board.

"BOB LENT DID NOT! He went along with the Bieber and Ephlin policies of extensive collaboration with corporations that now threatens to turn the UAW into a company union.

"BOB LENT has rubber stamped ALL 'joint' programs put forth by the Bieber administration.

"BOB LENT, as a member of the International Executive Board, has endorsed the Bieber Administration when they ignored and at times encouraged violations of Article 19, Section 6.

"BOB LENT IS NOT. He supports the Bieber administration's policy of opposing the 'rank and file' referendum vote.

"BOB LENT SUPPORTS the Bieber Administration's policy of appointing people for political pay-offs.

"BOB LENT, as part of the International Executive Board, endorsed and supported the Bieber administration's failed efforts to conspire to deny a fair election in Region 5.

"We are at a critical turning point in the history of the UAW; of no less importance than the sit-down strikes of the 30s.

"The issues are clear, the lines are drawn and the difference in the positions of the two candidates is distinct.

"Support the policies of Bob Lent and Owen Bieber for a continuation of self destruction thru corporate appeasement by employee sacrifice or take a "NEW DIRECTION" to progressive unionism and vote for DON DOUGLAS delegates. THE CHOICE IS YOURS!!!!..."

(From a leaflet distributed to members of UAW Local 653, by delegates for Don Douglas, February, 1989.)

What happened on Sharon Street and the "War on Drugs"

On Sharon Street in southwest Detroit, white working class families wanted to get rid of a crack house in their neighborhood. It "had been raided eight times by police, resulting in arrests, confiscation of weapons and drugs, and minor drug convictions..." (*Detroit Free Press*, February 11, 1989)

Certain residents continually called the police to come and shut it down. On February 22 the Wayne County sheriff's department seized the property and threw the residents out. Immediately a meeting was set up for the "residents" to show how the "system really works." At the meeting the residents urged people to work cooperatively with the police, continually calling them, providing them information, etc., and eventually, the police will act. All this with extensive coverage in the papers, on TV, etc.

This is a new scheme by the police and the courts. A law allowing law enforcement agencies to go to court to win legal claim to the deeds of houses that are used to deal drugs that has existed for more than 10 years is now going to be used. "According to George Ward, chief assistant Wayne County prosecutor, the home on Sharon was intended to be the first seized under a plan to rid stable areas of crack houses." (*Detroit Free Press*, February 11, 1989)

The bust on Sharon Street, this "new offensive" against dealers, are all in response to the militant independent working class action against drug dealers that took place last year which received a positive response from workers all around the Detroit area.

In that action, workers got together, collected money from their neighbors for gasoline and burned down a house that had been used for drug dealing. In that action the state prosecuted the workers who burned the house down, not the drug dealers or the owner of the house! A jury acquitted them.

The *Free Press* reported that another house being considered for this confiscation scheme is a reputed drug house in Warren,

Michigan, another white working class neighborhood. (*Detroit Free Press*, February 22).

Why this sudden activity in white working class neighborhoods? The reasons are clear: first, the police and the state are trying to stop any further independent actions by workers, Black and white, against drug dealers.

Second, the police and the state are trying to get white workers on their side. Already on Sharon street some of the residents are working much closer now with the police.

But, Blacks in Detroit do not trust the police. They are not likely to report various crack houses and such to the police because of bitter experiences of robbery by police, drug dealing by police and police corruption.

In trying to get white workers on their side, they are trying to divide the white workers and Black workers; they are trying to get the working class not to support Blacks and their struggle against drugs and, against the police departments, corrupt politicians and big banks who profit from drugs.

The purpose of drugs is to destroy the next generation of youth, especially young men, and especially young Black men. The capitalists need to destroy them before they figure out that this society has no future for them.

The real solution to getting rid of drugs is first, not to trust the police; second, to carry out actions against drug dealers independently of the police; third, for the unions, neighborhoods to demand opening the books of the banks and financial institutions, including of their rich clients, to see who exactly is involved in drugs and profiting from drugs.

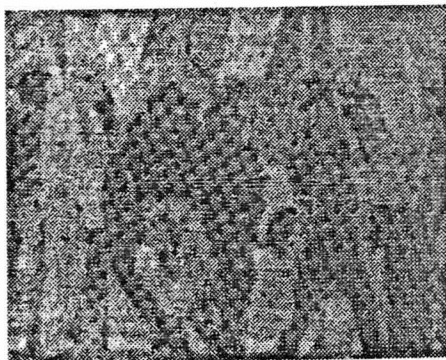
Today the best way to make the fight for this program is to have a candidate for mayor that will fight for the rights of Black people and all working people. — F.M.

Detroit Notes

INCINERATOR WORKERS WALK OUT

In late January, construction workers building the new "waste to energy" incinerator in Detroit walked off the job. They said the dust from the ash being generated made them sick. The City of Detroit conducted non-EPA approved tests that it claimed proved the ash safe. On February 23, testing by the state with EPA-approved methods was revealed showing lead levels in the dust 9 times greater than acceptable levels. Combustion Engineering, the company building the plant, was fined \$5000 for 18 health code violations. It has been forced to provide respirators and protective clothing.

Over 10,000 workers are killed every year from unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. Over 100,000 die from cancer, lung disease and other disease directly related to exposure to toxic chemicals on the jobs. These workers, by striking against the company, showed that when workers take control of their destiny, even if only for a short while, they improve their working conditions.



FIGHT AGAINST PROPOSITION A CONTINUES

The fight for the right of women to choose an abortion and, specifically, for the right of poor women to choose an abortion continues in Detroit. First, there was a picket against efforts by Operation Rescue to close a women's clinic on the east side. Second, the ACLU, with support from many organizations, has filed suit for a 15 year old girl to get a state-funded abortion. Actions like these demand the support of the trade union movement in Detroit.

WCCC STUDENTS SIGN PETITION

Over 300 students at Wayne County Community College's Northwestern campus have signed petitions demanding better treatment from some of the staff in the Learning Resource Center. Some of the staff seem to think that the students are there for them rather than the other way around. As we go to print, the administration has not yet responded.

MAYOR VETOES CITY BUILDINGS FOR HOMELESS

The Detroit City Council unanimously passed a resolution opening various city buildings, including Cobo Hall, as temporary shelters for the city's 60,000 homeless, that is, unemployed workers. Mayor Young vetoed the resolution saying it would cost the city too much money. Young supporters on the city council reversed their votes and upheld the mayor's veto. Thus, there are still no provisions for the homeless as the winter drags on.

International Notes

POLAND

On February 25 Krakow police fired tear gas at students who were demonstrating against police brutality. The students hurled rocks and jars of red paint at police. The government reported 39 police injured. This was the most violent demonstration in Poland in over a year. Earlier in February, thousands of people chanting "Solidarity!" and "Independence!" marched in Warsaw marking the 70th anniversary of the Polish state. Here also there were violent clashes between the police and young workers.

VENEZUELA

The government of Venezuela, in negotiating a new loan for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to meet overwhelming debts to the large banks in the U.S., agreed to huge price increases for consumer goods. The people of Venezuela rose up against these price increases in the last week of February. The army moved against the uprising: it murdered almost 250 people and injured nearly 2,000. Hundreds more are reported detained or "missing," that is, kidnapped and assassinated by death squads.

Eastern Airlines Workers Strike

In one of the most important labor battles in recent years, 8,500 machinists (Members of the International Association of Machinists union) have struck Eastern Airlines on March 3. In Detroit on March 5, there were 500 supporters of the machinists picketing at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The airlines normally carries 100,000 people per day on 1,000 flights.

The strike comes after the 60 day cooling off period mandated by the National Railway Act expired. Lorenzo, president of Eastern, Continental and Texas Air, which together constitute 20% of the industry, has been actively recruiting strikebreakers in the airline's home port of Miami. Lorenzo busted the unions at Continental Airlines in 1983 through a court-ordered bankruptcy reorganization.

A federal judge in New York City, in response to the stated intentions of the machinists to spread their strike to other transportation industries, has *banned* such strikes.

On February 19, the AFL-CIO Executive Council, representing 13 million workers and meeting near Miami, issued a statement calling for "action by affiliated unions, state AFL-CIOs and local central labor bodies for the fullest possible support" for the machinists in their struggle against Eastern. The top leadership, in an unusual action, actually went to a rally supporting the Eastern workers!

The council also demanded that President Bush intervene with mediation as well as the National Mediation Commission. With this action, Congress would impose a settlement on both Eastern and the union. Bush refused at the request of Lorenzo and other major capitalists. These forces want Lorenzo to succeed in breaking the union. The top union leaders were trying to avoid a confrontation with Lorenzo.

There are two other unions representing Eastern workers; the Air Line Pilots Association has voted recommending to its 3500 members at Eastern to honor the IAM picket lines. And, the attendants, members of Local 553 of the Transport Workers Union, are honoring the IAM picket lines. Local 553 president Mary



Jane Barry said, "Lorenzo has been using intimidation tactics against us. They're threatening us with termination if we don't report to work." (*People's Daily World*, February 28, 1989)

The IAM has said that not only will it shut down Eastern, but, to win its demands at Eastern, it will try to extend its picket lines to other airlines and properties controlled by Lorenzo, as well as to other airlines and railroads. Given that secondary boycotts are actually legal in the transportation industry, we urge strike action by railway workers unions, other transportation workers unions. It is necessary to support the Eastern workers completely and to the fullest extent in such a critical showdown. — F.M.

Rhode Island Hospital Workers Defy Judge and Governor

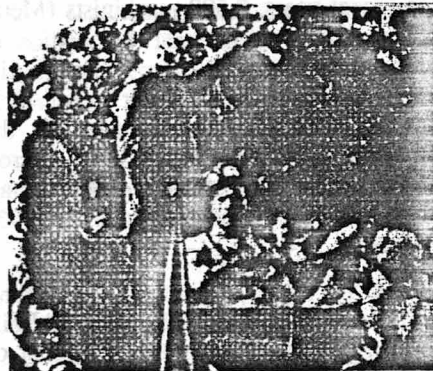
Four hundred workers at the Rhode Island state General Hospital, members of AFSCME Local 1350, protested cuts in staff size with "sickouts" in early February. Meetings were held protesting the cuts as well. An official strike began on February 19 saying that the cuts violates their contract and endangers patient care. Governor Edward DiPrete on February 19 ordered the National Guard to run the hospital. Two days later a judge ordered the workers back to work. The workers defied the judge's order and remained on the picket line. The governor then ordered everyone back to work or they would be fired. Workers returned on February 23. — F.M.

Who was Leon Trotsky?

Lately Trotskyism and the figure of Leon Trotsky have begun to be very much in the news. Whether it is in France, Poland, or Latin America, the governments attack the Trotskyists for being at the head of various mass mobilizations. In the Soviet Union, the bureaucracy continues refusing to rehabilitate Trotsky, at the same time that it recognizes in a frightened way that the youth read his books in spite of the fact that they are prohibited. Probably everyone in the world has heard or read something about Trotsky, but there have been so many slanders and false things said about him that we want youth and workers to know who Leon Trotsky was and what he fought for.

Lev Davidovich Trotsky was a Russian revolutionary who, alongside Lenin, was at the head of the victory of the October Revolution and of the big struggles for socialism that developed in the first half of the 20th century. In the first Russian Revolution, that of 1905, at the age of 26, he was already the president of the Soviets of Saint Petersburg (today, Leningrad). The defeat of the revolution led him to exile in Siberia and later to different countries in Europe and America until the 1917 Revolution broke out. As a member of the Bolshevik party, Lenin's party, he was at the head of the Soviets, the democratic and mass organizations that the workers movement established, and as such organized the insurrection that led the workers and peasants to power. From the Soviet power, he organized the Red Army which allowed the victory of the young workers State against imperialist intervention.

Nevertheless, the Russian revolution remained isolated by the defeat of other revolutions in Europe and the development toward socialism in a backward country like Russia found itself faced with the emergence of a bureaucracy that took possession of Lenin's party and the conquests of the revolution. Trotsky opposed this degeneration and struggle to stop it, forming the Left Opposition, but Stalin and the bureaucracy, basing themselves on the isolation and Russian backwardness, imposed themselves, crushed the Left Opposition, and expelled Trotsky from the



Soviet Union in 1929. In what he called the "planet without a visa," he passed through various European countries from which he was expelled by Governments until he found refuge in Mexico. From this moment, to his death, he dedicated all his strength to fighting the counterrevolutionary road taken by Stalin and the bureaucracy, to preserving and transmitting the teachings and lessons of Marxism, of Leninism, to the youth and to the revolutionary cadres of the workers movement, and to establishing, after the degeneration of the Communist Parties, a new party for the socialist revolution, the Fourth International. In 1940, he was assassinated, under Stalin's orders, by a militant of the Communist Party in Spain, Ramon Mercader.

The Permanent Revolution

Three things sum up what Leon Trotsky's struggle was and what characterizes Trotskyism in the workers movement. The theory of the permanent revolution, the struggle against the bureaucracy that usurps the socialist conquests, and the Fourth International as the world party for the socialist Revolution. The permanent revolution, a term used by Marx and whose practical expression was the victory of the Bolshevik revolution, means that, in the epoch of the decay of imperialism, the solution to the contradictions between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie can only be resolved through the victory of the socialist revolution. That even in backward countries, where the problems of freedoms, national or peasant, still haven't been resolved, the only way to do so is for the working class, as the leader of the peasants and the petty bourgeoisie, to take power and resolve them, begin the

road toward socialism. "The socialist revolution — wrote Trotsky — begins in the national arena, develops in the international one, and reaches its conclusion and pinnacle in the world." That is, the struggle for socialism can not remain limited to the borders of a single country, the subject of pressure from imperialism, but must establish itself as a system on a world level. Stalin's theory of "socialism in one country" is the most absurd negation of all the lessons of Marxism. And it has meant great losses and defeats for the workers movement. The current crisis of the bureaucracy and Gorbachev's pro-capitalist policy is the clearest demonstration of the failure of "socialism in a single country."

Down with the bureaucracy

Trotsky's struggle and Trotskyism are part of the continuity of the experiences and conquests of the workers movement. Experiences and conquests deformed by the emergence of a bureaucratic caste in the Soviet Union and the liquidation of the Communist Parties as instruments for the revolution. "The Soviet Union — says the Fourth International's program — emerged from the October Revolution as a workers state. State ownership of the means of production, a necessary prerequisite to socialist development, opened up the possibility of rapid growth of the productive forces. But the apparatus of the workers state underwent a complete degeneration at the same time: it was transformed from a weapon of the working class into a weapon of bureaucratic violence against the working class and more and more a weapon for the sabotage of the country's economy." For this reason, the conclusion is that a political revolution is necessary, a new workers uprising to return power to the workers and peasants.

The Fourth International

The other immense task that Leon Trotsky accomplished was the proclamation of the Fourth International in 1938. This was not an easy task in those years of defeats for the workers movement, Spain, Germany, etc., and of political reaction, represented by the policy of Stalinism. "Without a socialist revolution — he wrote —, in the next historical period at that, a catastrophe threatens the whole culture of mankind. The turn is now to the proletariat, i.e., chiefly to its revolution-

ary vanguard. The historical crisis of mankind is reduced to the crisis of the revolutionary leadership." To group workers and youth in a revolutionary party is the most urgent and necessary task to finish with oppression and exploitation. This is the struggle that Trotskyist waged and that distinguishes the Trotskyists from other currents in the workers movement. Leon Trotsky dedicated his life to this militant struggle to build a party for the revolution. As he wrote himself: "A revolutionary's primary responsibility

is to acquaint himself with the laws that govern events in life and to know how to find, in the course that these laws outline, his appropriate place. It is, at the same time, the highest personal satisfaction, for someone who seeks not to join his life's mission to times that have passed."

(Translated from *La Aurora*, a publication for uniting workers in a revolutionary workers party, edited by the Revolutionary Workers Party of Spain (ILRFT).)

What is *The Fourth International*?

Truth is edited by the Detroit Trotskyist Committee, supporter of the International League (for the reconstruction of the Fourth International). This international tendency, with supporters in France, Spain, Bolivia and Poland, publishes a monthly journal for workers called *The Fourth International*. It is published in French, Spanish, and English.

The purpose of the journal is to rebuild the Fourth International as the world party of the socialist revolution.

The last English issue, No. 141 from November 1988, contains the following articles:

- Salute to the Algerian people!
 - Chile: The people say no; what now?
 - International Monetary Fund Assembly: Imperialist plans
 - Peru: General Strike
 - Algeria: Against imperialism and its lackeys
 - Yugoslavia: Nationalism and workers struggle
 - The 50th anniversary of the Fourth International: A meeting of young people in Paris
 - Trotskyism in the USSR
 - France: Strike Wave
 - The struggle for the reconstruction: Lambert's evolution.
- The latest issue, No. 142, December/January 1989 has articles on:
- Elections and Workers Alternatives
 - USA: The workers in the presidential

elections

- Argentina: Elections being prepared
- Bolivia: Between strikes and electoral campaigns
- Poland: In defense of the Lenin shipyards. Legalization of Solidarnosc.
- Palestine: A Palestinian State? Concessions to Zionism.
- France: The referendum on New Caledonia
- For the reconstruction of the Fourth International: The IWL's theses. The English WRP's position. Varga and the London Meeting. The PST Commemoration in Madrid. An Open European Conference.

JUST OUT!



CALL: (313) 546 - 8167 or
 WRITE: Fourth International
 BOX 48085
 DETROIT, MI 48237

Building the Trotskyist Committee in Detroit

We sold over 20 issues of *Truth* to young people and workers in the shopping area at Greenfield and Grand River, at the Ford Rouge plant, among workers opposed to the top UAW leadership and involved in the Don Douglas campaign, and to students at Wayne County Community College. We sold more copies in February than in any month since we began republishing *Truth* last September.

We found a very positive response to our fight for a labor candidate for mayor of Detroit and interest in the UAW opposition. Black people and working class people in the Detroit area are being affected by the profound changes taking place throughout the world, and, they are attempting to link up with them, to make their own powerful and unique contribution to the uprisings and revolts taking place everywhere.

But, we also found that the one of the changes we made in our nameplate in the last issue was confusing. Calling *Truth* "a Detroit Bulletin for a Labor Party" made it seem as though we were simply a tendency for a labor party and that we were not for socialism and Trotskyism anymore.

Thus, this issue of *Truth* says "A Revolutionary Trotskyist Bulletin in Detroit — Founded 1974."

Once again we remind our readers that we welcome contributions to *Truth*.

TRUTH

P.O. BOX 48085, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48237; (313) 546-8167

Labor must break with the Democrats!

Coleman Young held a "crime summit" on March 2, and announced that he plans to set up "training camps" for 2,000 youth who have been expelled from Detroit schools and/or convicted of various crimes.

In the past ten years, Young has given GM and Chrysler millions of dollars in tax breaks, land, the Ren Cen, the People Mover, etc. But when it comes to poor Black or working class youth in Detroit, he can't come up with anything but "training camps."

This shows once again that Young represents the interests of the racist auto corporations, banks and real estate speculators that continue to dominate and divide people in Detroit. These interests are represented politically by the Democratic and Republican parties.

What young Black people and working class youth need in Detroit are decent jobs, schools, homes and freedom from drug pushers, not "training camps." But there is no large working class party that fights for them.

Coleman Young claimed that he was going to change the situation for Black people.



City workers strike against Young in 1981.

He hasn't. And, what is more, he has become more and more corrupt. Why? Because his first allegiance is to . . . the racist corporations and their Democratic Party.

The top leadership of the labor movement, also supports the racist corporations and their party. And, not surprisingly, it has completely abandoned the Black people and the workers in Detroit.

The top leadership of the labor movement has allowed the plants to close without lifting a finger. It has allowed schools to degenerate to the point that it is difficult to learn to write and read. And it has allowed the drug pushers to move in, to seduce some youth and terrorize others.

The fight in the elections for mayor and

city council is to fight for political power for the working class, for the oppressed, so that the problems of poverty, unemployment and drug pushers can *begin* to be addressed politically. In order to win political power, the workers need their own party, a labor or workers party. As long as the mayor and the city council are made up of representatives of the capitalists' parties, they can't serve the masses of Black and working people. What other conclusion can be drawn from 15 years of Coleman Young?

The fight for political power for the workers and the Black people, the fight for a labor party to win that power, begins today with a fight for a workers candidate in the elections. A candidate that represents a part of the workers movement: a coalition of organizations, or even simply a group of workers and their supporters, who agree to be independent of the Democratic and Republican parties and fight for the workers organizations, the unions, to have a labor candidate. We urge all of our readers to join with us in this fight.

The Detroit Trotskyist Committee

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