

TRUTH

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No to the FBI's racist investigation of Coleman Young!

**Punish the worst
criminals: Chrysler,
GM, Ford!**

Inside:

- The racist investigation of Coleman Young
- Why white workers must fight the racist investigation of Young
- Workers control of the auto industry
- South Africa
- Workers political revolution in Eastern Europe and the USSR

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No to the racist investigation of Young!

In the last few weeks the following developments have taken place in the Detroit area:

— The Chrysler Corporation closed its last plant within the city of Detroit, laid-off over 1,000 workers, many of whom will not receive full unemployment benefits, and, in so doing, violated its agreement with the UAW and with the people of Detroit (whose land and tax dollars were given to the Chrysler Corporation in an effort to get it to continue to do business in Detroit).

— GM announced that its last major plant within the city of Detroit, the Poletown plant, is its most inefficient plant.

— Ford sold a large part of the Rouge complex to a phony corporation that Ford created and continued to allow rumors to spread that it plans to close the Rouge complex.

— City officials announced that they do not have enough money to continue certain basic city services; crossing guards have already been laid-off.

At the same time, the FBI, which is centered in Washington and has been staffed by Reagan, Bush, etc., began to publicize an investigation of Coleman Young and his administration, and to publicize charges and rumors that Young and his associates are guilty of misusing their positions, stealing funds from the people, etc.

Is all this accidental? We do not think so.

This is the purpose of the FBI's investigation into Young:

— to blackmail Young into accepting the plant-closings and the cuts in tax dollars without lifting a finger;

— to turn attention away from the forces that are truly responsible for the crisis in Detroit: Chrysler, GM, Ford;

— to put Black working people in Detroit on the defensive;

— to stir up white working people against Coleman Young and Black people in general.

This is why we urge all working people and their organizations to make an all-out fight against the FBI's racist investigation of Young. Stop the racist investigation now! Get the FBI out of Detroit!

It is essential to go after the worst criminals, the ones who are really respon-

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sible for the economic and social crisis in the Detroit area: the owners of Chrysler, GM, and Ford.

These are the men who are closing the plants. These are the men who have decided that they are not going to do business in Detroit until Detroit workers agree to accept non-union working conditions and non-union wages, like the ones in the South, Mexico and elsewhere. And these are the men who are cutting their tax payments to the city of Detroit, making it impossible for the city to provide the most basic city services.

And they are doing this so that they and their families can live in luxury while the workers who produce everything of value live in poverty and squalor.

Demonstrations have already begun against the layoffs, plant-closings, and cuts in city services. A number of tendencies in the UAW are fighting for the UAW to organize a national strike against the layoffs and plant-closings. Others are fighting for a new leadership in the UAW.

We urge all workers and their organizations to support these struggles and make them as large as possible. In particular, we urge workers to support candidates as-

sociated with New Directions against candidates associated with the Administration Caucus in the UAW in local elections. The Administration Caucus is nothing but a bunch of paid agents of Chrysler, GM, and Ford.

At the same time, it is essential to see that these solutions are, at best, temporary solutions.

It is necessary to initiate a *political* strug-

gle for workers control of the auto industry, for preparing workers now for direct workers management of the auto industry, for confiscating it and transforming it into a public enterprise run by the workers in the interests of the people.

As long as rich, dictatorial, private owners, own and control the auto industry in the Detroit area, working people are going to suffer. The private owners of the auto industry are going to try to exploit the workers as much as they can; they are going to try to get the greatest amount of work out of the workers, in exchange for the smallest amount of food, clothing, material comforts, etc.

But there is an alternative.

Workers can fight for workers control of the auto industry, for building a labor party based on the unions to lead this fight, for a united workers slate to build support for this in the 1990 elections.

We urge all workers and their organizations to enter into a common fight for these goals now!

Trotskyist Committee of Detroit
February, 1990

Workers control of the auto industry

The vast majority of autoworkers can see that the auto industry is in a terrible crisis, and that the current owners and managers of the auto industry are making that crisis worse, by withdraw-

ing funds from the auto industry, by closing plants in areas where there are both skilled workers and production workers with a lot of knowledge and experience in producing cars. Yet the vast majority of workers seriously question whether workers can control the auto industry, whether workers would be capable of managing the auto industry, of taking it over and running it as a public enterprise in the interests of the people.



Workers demonstrate at Jefferson Chrysler against closing.

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This is not surprising. From the time that working class children are five years old, from the time that they first set foot in school, the vast majority of them are taught that they are stupid, that they are so stupid that they can't even follow rules. The capitalists try to buy off the brightest working class children. If they can't buy them off, they try to crush them.

So it is not surprising that the vast majority of workers think that the working class is incapable of controlling and managing the auto industry, and other basic industries and the banks, in the interests of the people.

But it is necessary to look at the working class differently, not from the point of view of the capitalists and capitalist intellectuals, but from the point of view of the working class.

In fact, the working class is the most capable class. Workers know how to use their brains, their nerves and their muscles to *work together*, to work collectively to produce things that are useful and valuable. They know how to be *consistent*, to be disciplined. These are the capabilities most important for human progress, and these are the capabilities

that distinguish the working class from other classes.

Look at the capitalist class. A capitalist knows how to cut his neighbor's throat to make an extra buck. He knows how to drive himself into the ground one day, and lounge around the next. The same thing goes for the small capitalists. Truly this is a type of human being that has outlived his usefulness, who can and will go the way of the Neanderthal man, and the sooner the better.

Collective labor. Discipline. These are the capabilities of the working class. Everything else it needs to know to manage industry, it can learn. We are fighting for workers committees in workplaces to fight for knowledge of basic industries and the banks, for workers control, for preparing workers for direct workers management. Workers can also make use of advice from "specialists sincerely devoted to the people: accountants, statisticians, engineers, scientists, etc." as Leon Trotsky said. But the workers can and will be the masters in their own house. — M.G.

Cut funds to the military! U.S. out of Panama now!

There will be a demonstration on March 24 in Washington, D.C. in favor of cutting funds to the military and withdrawing U.S. forces from Panama.

We urge all workers and their organizations in Detroit to support and participate in this demonstration.

For decades U.S. rulers said that they had to spend millions of working people's tax dollars on maintaining a standing army and on arms production, and that they had to invade various foreign territories (Korea, Vietnam, etc.), etc., be-

cause of the so-called "communist menace" in the USSR.

Now what is their excuse?

The U.S. military industry and the U.S. military forces are huge, parasitic monstrosities that conjure up enemies to justify their own existence, that periodically invade other countries in order to defend other parasites like themselves, and to crush poor, hungry people. — M.G.

Nelson Mandela and South Africa

The release of Nelson Mandela from the South African prison, Robben Island, is a victory for all working people throughout the world, Black and white.

Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 26 years, nearly 20 of that at hard labor, breaking limestone. He was the founder of the African National Congress's armed underground wing, Unkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation). He was imprisoned for his activities in this armed struggle.

World-wide movement

The vicious apartheid state that is being weakened in South Africa was set up in 1947. It was part of an oppressive world order established by the United States and other imperialist powers with the support of the oppressive Stalinist governments in Eastern Europe and the USSR, against the workers and oppressed nations of the world.

Today, this world order is breaking down. There is no more world stability for the oppressors. The powerful movement of the Black people of South Africa against the apartheid government is part of a world-wide movement of oppressed peoples and workers that have taken the offensive in breaking up this world order. The movement in South Africa is part of the movement that includes the rising up of the peoples of Eastern Europe and of the Soviet Union against their so-called communist governments, the uprising of the Chinese workers and students, and the Palestinians against Israeli state.

Negative side

However, the developments in South Africa have a negative side that many publications are trying to hide.

The racist apartheid regime in South Africa has said that it would release Mandela for many years, if ... if Mandela would renounce violence against this racist regime.

For years Mandela refused to do so.

Mandela continues to *formally* defend the right of the oppressed Black people in South Africa to use violence against the murderous regime.

However, at the same time, Mandela is

taking a much more conciliatory attitude toward the racist apartheid regime. He is praising de Klerk; he is urging Blacks in South Africa to "hold out their hands to their white brothers" without regard to whether these white "brothers" may be part of the racist apartheid apparatus or not; he has called on the official police to be equally hostile and violent toward Black supporters of apartheid and Black members of the African National Congress (ANC) involved in armed conflicts in various regions.

Destroy the apparatus

The changes in Mandela's attitude show that it is absolutely essential to fight for the total destruction of the racist apartheid apparatus.

As long as this apparatus continues to exist in any way it is going to use whatever power it has to try to force Black fighters like Mandela to adapt, to conciliate, to capitulate.

This is what happened in Nicaragua. The Sandinistas decided to be "generous" to Somoza's men. It did not put them on trial, punish them, execute them. It released them. So these scum have waged war, with help from the U.S., on the Nicaraguan people for ten years.

Black fighters in South Africa must not make the same mistake.

For the total destruction of the racist apartheid apparatus in South Africa!

Try and punish the worst racist apartheid men for their crimes!

For a free, democratic republic!

For a workers party to lead this fight.

The working class is the only class in South Africa that can lead this struggle, because it is the only class that has no ties to the foreign imperialists and local bankers and businessmen that have financed apartheid for years. Precisely because it is the working class, it will not stop with destroying the racist apartheid regime and establishing a free, democratic republic. It will go on to bury the capitalist system as a whole and it will begin to build socialism. — F. Michaels, M. Guttschall.

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.

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!"

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.

Freedom for Azerbaijan and Armenia! Stalinist troops out now!

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is for the struggle of oppressed nations in the USSR for the right to self-determination, for the right to separate, including both the Azerbaijan people and the Armenian people. We are for the total destruction of the Stalinist apparatus that is an obstacle to this. Today, this struggle is concentrated in a struggle against the Stalinist troops' occupation of the region around Azerbaijan.

The uprisings of workers and oppressed people in Eastern Europe and the USSR, their attempts to destroy the Stalinist apparatus, are not only a terrible blow to the Stalinist apparatus. They are a terrible blow to U.S. imperialism that has long counted on the Stalinist apparatus to help it exploit and oppress working people throughout the world. The consequences of the revolution in Eastern Europe and the USSR to the U.S.'s imperialist empire have just begun.

Here we reprint excerpts from a resolution by our Spanish comrades on this question. — M.G.

Resolution of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Workers Party of Spain (PORE)

1. The *crisis* of Stalinism has given way to the political *revolution*: this is the meaning of the latest developments in the class struggle in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Lithuania, in the Caucasus [the region surrounding Azerbaijan—trans.] The forms, the rhythms, and the episodes of this revolutionary process are very *unequal* according to the country in Eastern Europe or the Soviet republic in question, but, in their entirety, they constitute the beginning of the *political revolution* called on to *liquidate* the power of the usurper bureaucracy, to *reintegrate* the struggle for the construction of socialism into the process of the international proletarian revolution, and to *regenerate* in this way the first conquests of socialism existing in the countries where the capitalist bourgeoisie was expropriated.

2. The traits characteristic of the current stage, those that permit us to speak already of the beginning of the political revolution and not only of the crisis of the central power and movements of opposition, are these:

— the *mass movement* is taking the political initiative from the governing bureaucracy, that has retained it in its hands in the last two years thanks to the Kremlin leaders' new policy ("perestroika");

— in these movements of the masses the *working class* is beginning to take up a preponderant position;

— these movements are beginning to *demolish* the bureaucratic Stalinist apparatus (the politi-

cal police, "the leading party," the "official unions" ...), instead of trying to reform them or adapt them, and this is the condition for a serious struggle for political and national freedoms and against the bureaucratic corruption of socialism;

— these movements are mutually strengthening each other and in their entirety they tend to dislocate the already precarious political, military and economic equilibrium of the imperialist order (the crisis of the Europe of Yalta after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the crisis of the world stock market after the difficulties of "perestroika" ...); they constitute the most energetic steps toward a revolutionary offensive of the workers and the oppressed peoples of the world.

3. Consequently, the Central Committee of the PORE calls on revolutionary workers, on workers of the vanguard in general, to face the developments in the East, not as a national event, but as a very rapid *turn* toward a *crisis of the imperialist order* and as a *factor in the maturation and development of the proletarian revolution* throughout the world, and that will not fail to manifest itself within a certain period of time, which is impossible to determine in advance, in our country.

4. The international task that is most important is the *reconstruction of the Fourth International* since it is already the framework in which there is being established and there is regrouping revolutionary workers parties that orient the workers of the East and the USSR toward the conquest of power by the proletariat, overcoming the first and episodic leaderships of the political revolution whose class character is petty bourgeois and which reflect the political preponderance that the intellectuals, the lower layers of the bureaucracy and the comfortable sectors of society still have in the current movements of opposition to Stalinism.

Among the different tendencies of Trotskyism, the reconstruction of the Fourth International implies the drawing together of the tendencies oriented toward organizing the workers *revolution* and its party and toward destroying the bureaucratic apparatus, which implies breaking with the tendencies that use and dirty the banner of Trotskyism to push in the East *conciliation* with the power of the bureaucracy.

(...)

7. The most urgent practical task is the *mobilization* in all countries against the police or military *repression* of the popular movements and against the *intervention* of the armies of imperialism, or of the Kremlin, or of the satellite bureaucracies, aimed at crushing the

demands of the masses. The Central Committee of the PORE decides to push for the largest workers front possible in favor of *demonstrating* against all the *repressive police or military interventions* of the Stalinist bureaucracy.

8. Immediately, we denounce the *counter-revolutionary* character of the declaration of the state of emergency and the sending of troops (the army and the KGB) to the *Caucasus*. These measures are being pushed hypocritically as humanitarianism ("to avoid a fratricidal war") when the question of the Russifying oppression of the Kremlin has accumulated decades of aggravation and hostility between peoples and when Moscow's local agents themselves are *trying to divert the struggles for self-determination* by the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis toward confrontations between themselves and in order to weaken their just struggle against the national oppression of the republics in the Caucasus by Moscow.

After the actions of the masses of Azerbaijanis that culminated in the destruction of the borders with Iranian Azerbaijan, and before the wave of national demands through the USSR, the Kremlin is trying to provoke hatred, conflicts, and wars between the peoples in order to channel their anger into a dead end. The sending of *troops, the martial law*, can only *worsen* the situation, which demands the *unconditional right of self-determination* for all the Soviet republics, as a condition for getting along, for solidarity, and for cooperation between free, equal, sovereign peoples, and as the surest road toward the unity of the workers of all nationalities for the triumph of socialism.

9. The Central Committee of the PORE, beginning with the PST, the POSI, the LCR, Trotskyists in general, will propose to working class and popular organizations (especially independentistas) to *demonstrate* in front of the USSR *embassies and consulates* for: Stalinist troops out of the Caucasus! National freedom for Armenia and Azerbaijan! Self-determination!

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Why white workers must fight the racist investigation of Young

We see in the Detroit newspapers these days, all the talk about the corruption of the regime of Mayor Coleman Young. We read about the arrest of Marion Barry in Washington, D.C. for using drugs.

Some Blacks think that these attacks are part of a conspiracy by the Bush government to get rid of Black leadership in Detroit and Washington. Most white workers think that these mayors are getting what they deserve. "Coleman Young is corrupt, and Barry does use drugs and they should be prosecuted," they think.

The reality is this: the Bush government, an anti-working class government, wants Blacks in power like Keith Butler, a Republican, newly elected to the Detroit City Council; or, like William Lucas, the former FBI agent who ran for governor of Michigan. These men, and others like them, have absolutely no ties to anyone but the big capitalists. The capitalists are trying to drive out the old group of Black leaders. These men once did something in the civil rights movement or the labor movement. They have some ties to the masses of people.

Why should white workers support Coleman Young and Marion Barry against the attacks of the Bush administration or its hired hands?

Because the future of the white workers, of their unions, their standard of living, depends on the future of Blacks.

This has been true throughout U.S. history. The standard of living of white

workers throughout the North and South did not start to really improve until the Black people were no longer slaves.

"All the discussion about Coleman Young's corruption in the capitalist newspapers is meant to hide the fact that Ford and GM are destroying the working class' standard of living in Detroit . . ."

Most importantly, it was white workers rising above the racism that pervaded all of society that allowed the first major defeats of Ford and GM in the 1930s.

If the white workers had refused to organize the same union with Blacks, to work with them, there would be no unions in America today.

The existence of the major unions today — UAW, United Steelworkers, Teamsters, etc., — would have been impossible without white workers rising above the racist attitudes of the corporations, the U.S. government and even of their fathers and grandfathers. The victory of these unions laid the groundwork for the high standard of living that white workers and all unionized workers enjoy today.

Why are the Big Three closing plants

in Detroit and throughout the United States?

It has nothing to do with car sales, market share, or anything like it. The Big Three can't make the kind of profits they want, they need, with the U.S. working class.

White workers, unionized workers, think they have a right to a decent standard of living. The Black people of the North think they have rights not to be discriminated against. The Black and white workers of the United States formed unions together, united the working class, and made the working class stronger.

The plant closings and layoffs have nothing to do with car sales. They have everything to do with the high standard of living, unions, Black people who have fought for their rights, and a working class that united itself, even if not completely and not perfectly.

All the discussion about Coleman Young's corruption in the capitalist newspapers is meant to hide the fact that Ford and GM are destroying the working class' standard of living in Detroit, a standard of living that is the best in the world.

So the question is: do the white workers think that the unity of the working class is necessary for their salvation?

If they do, then they should say: it's not Coleman Young who's robbing the people, its Ford, GM, and Chrysler! — F. Michaels