

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT-FOUNDED 1974

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

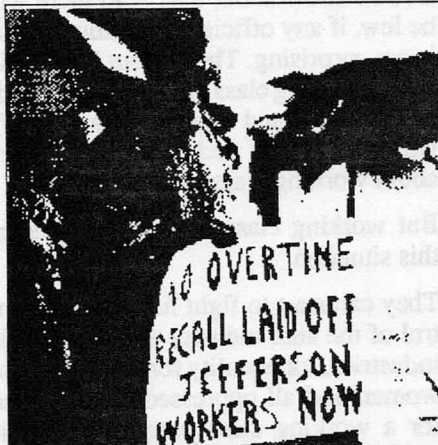
Workers control of the auto industry!

As long as rich families in Grosse Pointe and Bloomfield Hills continue to control and own the auto industry, young people and working people in the Detroit area are going to continue to suffer.

These rich families have cut workers wages, laid-off workers, closed plants, and cut tax payments to cities like Detroit, Pontiac, and Flint, forcing these cities to cut basic services, like sanitation, housing, schools and health care. Now they have fired or suspended 8 workers at a GM plant in Orion, Michigan who refused to work on an unsafe job! (See page 3.)

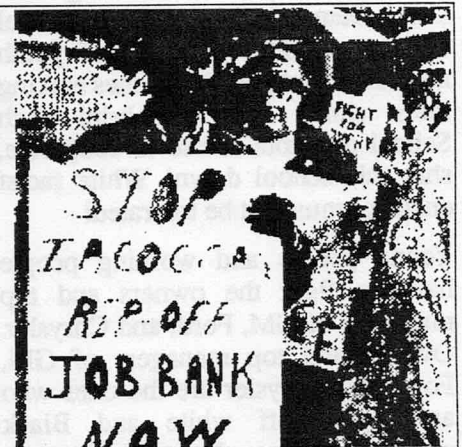
As long as these rich families continue to control and own the auto industry, they are going to continue to have the resources to do these things. They are going to be able to continue to buy-off old, tired, weak working class and popular leaders, like the top leaders of the UAW, who would rather cater to the rich than fight to better the lives of all young and working people.

This is why it is so important for all young people and working people in the Detroit area to support the workers' struggle against GM, Ford, and Chrysler. Demand that GM rehire the GM Orion autoworkers now! Send letters of protest to GM and the top UAW leaders. Fight for workers control of the auto industry!



Workers protesting plant closings.

Workers can begin now to form workers committees in workplaces to fight for knowledge and control of the industry, to prepare themselves now for direct workers management of the industry, for taking it away from rich, private owners and running it as a public enterprise in the interests of the people. Workers can begin now to build their own working class political party to fight for this goal. They can run their own, working class candidates for different offices. Pittston miners ran a candidate for the Virginia State Legislature, and won.



It's not possible to establish workers control of the auto industry simply through running candidates in elections. But it is possible to build broad support for this struggle in this way, and this is the first step.

Workers control of the auto industry!
A workers party!
Workers candidates in the 1990 elections!
Truth

NO. 238 • MARCH, 1990 • 50¢

Solidarity with white youth against racism!

Demand Cabrini High School directors readmit expelled youth now!

The *Detroit Free Press* recently reported that some white youth from Allen Park that attend Cabrini High School, have been calling other white youth from Detroit who attended the same school, "wiggers," in other words, "white niggers," because they talk or act like Blacks and associate with Blacks.

Some white youth from Detroit evidently became disgusted with this racist abuse and decided to fight back. When Cabrini High School directors found out about these conflicts, they expelled the youth from Detroit. So far, none of the youth has been readmitted.

We urge all young people and working people, *especially white people*, to support the young whites who decided to stand up and fight whites making racist slurs! Demand Cabrini High School directors readmit the expelled youth now! Find and punish the ones making racist slurs! And if Cabrini High School directors refuse to cooperate, shut this school down! White racist enclaves must not be tolerated!

Young people and working people have to fight the owners and top managers of GM, Ford, and Chrysler. Owners and top managers of GM, Ford, and Chrysler are the ones who are laying off white and Black workers, closing plants, causing on-the-job injuries and deaths, trying to crush the unions, cutting funds for decent housing, schools, recreation facilities, etc. They are the ones who are driving whites and Blacks to drink, to drugs, and to violence. And they are the ones who are living in more and more luxury on their estates in Bloomfield Hills and Grosse Pointe, while white and Black young and working people live in more and more poverty and suffering.

In order to win the fight against GM,

Ford, and Chrysler, it's necessary to unite white and Black youth, white and Black working people, against GM, Ford, and Chrysler. This is impossible if working class whites stand by while upper class, middle class, or backward working class whites, make racist attacks on Blacks, or on whites that work with and live with Blacks.

Now is the time to take a stand.

March 8:

International Working Women's Day

In 1910, revolutionary workers decided to make March 8 International Working Women's Day in order to commemorate the struggles of working class women.

Very few working class women in Detroit know about this. And there will be few, if any official celebrations. This is not surprising. The current leadership of the working class in Detroit, the heads of the UAW and other unions, identify with the bosses and don't care much about working class women.

But working class women can change this situation.

They can start to fight for workers control of the auto industry and other basic industries, for equality for working class women and all oppressed peoples, and for a working class party to lead this fight.

As long as the auto industry and other basic industries remain in the hands of the rich, working class women and their families are going to suffer.

The resources exist for all young and working class women to have decent jobs, decent schools, decent homes, decent care for their children, and to be completely free from domestic tasks like shopping, cooking, laundry, cleaning, etc. In other words, the resources exist for there to be *real* equality for working class women.

Support white youth against racism!

Demand Cabrini-High School directors readmit expelled youth now!

(Send letters to: Cabrini High School directors, 15303 Wick Road, Allen Park, Michigan, 48101. Send copies to: Truth, Box 441283, Detroit, Mi 48244-1283.)

But things are not like this because a small number of rich families own and control all the resources in the society and use them to enrich themselves. For example, the *Detroit News* recently reported that female executives are spending hundreds of dollars on designer nurseries for their babies. Many working class women are having a hard time making enough money to put food in their babies mouths!

Precisely because many working class women work at least two jobs, it is often very difficult for them to become involved in working class struggles. Young working class women work, go to school, come home and do work around the house. Older working class women go to work, maybe to school too, and come home and take care of their children and in some cases husbands and other family members as well.

But if every working class woman sets aside a little bit of time, every day, every week, or every month, to fight for the liberation of working class women, and the working class as whole, the working class will be unbeatable. It will be impossible for anyone to ignore International Working Women's Day.

Truth welcomes contributions from any and every working class woman who wants to be involved in this struggle. — M. Guttshall

More on the FBI's racist investigation of Young

In the last issue of *Truth*, we published an article on the FBI's investigation of Young. We said that GM, Ford, and Chrysler were behind this investigation, that they wanted to blackmail Young into accepting their plans for Detroit, that they wanted to divert attention away from the worst criminals in Detroit (GM, Ford, and Chrysler), that they wanted to put Black people on the defensive, and that they wanted to pit white workers against Blacks, and Blacks against each other.

Since then the local papers have reported that one of the key figures in the investigation of Young, Kenneth Weiner, was a paid FBI informant!

We have also had an opportunity to talk to young people and working people at the Ford Rouge plant, Wayne County Community College, and elsewhere about this question.

We found that many people, especially Black workers, agreed with what we said. Others, including both Black and white young and working people, were not sure. Still others, again including both Blacks and whites, said they hoped that the FBI would throw Young in jail.

Young and working people obviously have many different views, so, in order to unite the working class, it's important to clarify what is at stake.

It's not surprising that there are both Blacks and whites that sympathize with the FBI's investigation and say, "Throw Young in jail!" Blacks looked to Coleman Young, one of the first Black mayors, to resolve their problems for many years. But he has not delivered. He has gone along with GM, Ford and Chrysler and has used his position to enrich himself and his friends. So many Blacks in Detroit feel betrayed. Most white working people have never like Coleman Young, not only because they are hostile to Blacks, but also because he has never made any effort to appeal to white working people or to improve their lives.

If Black working people or white working people want to replace Coleman Young, that's fine. As working class revolutionaries, we have fought for working class candidates for mayor in every election. But Black and white working people have to do this themselves, they cannot look to the FBI to do it. The FBI is a racist, anti-working class force that is completely controlled by the richest corporations and the Bush administration in Washington. Bush's list of staff men reads like "Who's who in corporate America." These forces are trying to use the anger of both Black and white workers over their situation, and Young's failures, in order to create the conditions in which they can replace Young with someone who is even worse, with someone even more closely tied to

the rich corporations, politicians, police, etc. In the meantime, the forces really responsible for the problems in Detroit, the rich owners of GM, Ford, and Chrysler, get off scott free, and keep on making money at the expense of working people. White politicians, guilty of crimes far worse than Coleman Young's, like Nixon, Reagan, or Bush, continue to receive six-figure salaries that working people are paying for.

This is why we say: No to the racist FBI investigation of Young! Get the FBI out of Detroit! Punish the worst criminals, GM, Ford, Chrysler!

We urge all young people, working people, and their organizations to make a common fight for these goals. — F. Michaels

Solidarity with GM Orion autoworkers!

On February 6, workers at a GM plant in Orion, Michigan refused to work on an unsafe job. The workers were supposed to put their arms up, over their heads, inside car bodies, where two assembly lines come together. However, the lines were out of "sync" and the workers knew that their arms might get caught and worse.

When GM's management found out about this, it fired four workers and suspended four workers. *Then* it corrected the problem, claimed that there had never been a problem, and that the workers were simply "troublemakers"!

1,000 workers walked out of the plant to protest this decision during lunch break on February 9. 800 marched before work and in the rain to protest again on February 15.

The top UAW leadership is *not* supporting the workers. Their spokesman at the plant, shop chairman Kenny Van Horn, has been passing out leaflets saying that there was no serious safety problem and that the

workers fired were "troublemakers." One of the workers was Ed Tweed, a union representative who is also a member of the New Directions Caucus in the UAW, which has taken a position against the top leadership and its policy of concessions to the rich auto corporations.

All young people and working people in the Detroit area should support the GM Orion autoworkers and the New Directions Caucus against GM, against the top leaders of the UAW, and against their caucus, the so-called "Administration Caucus." Demand that GM rehire Ed Tweed and the other GM Orion autoworkers now! Send letters of protest to GM and to the top UAW leadership.

GM: Roger Smith, General Motors, Fisher Building, Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202

UAW: Steven Yokich, UAW Solidarity House, 8000 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48214

Down with the U.S.'s phony elections in Nicaragua! U.S. out of Nicaragua now!

U.S. officials recently announced that their candidate for president of Nicaragua, Violeta Chamorro, won.

U.S. businessmen have owned property in Nicaragua for many years, thus the U.S. government has financed a series of dictators that have protected that property. In 1979, the Nicaraguan people rose up and overthrew one of these dictators, Anastasio Somoza, and began to take back some of the things that U.S. businessmen had stolen from them (land, factories, banks, guns, etc.), and to try to establish a government that represented their interests and that was not completely subservient to U.S. businessmen. Many of the leaders of this struggle called themselves Sandinistas, after Sandino, a national hero who led one of the first struggles against a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua.

Ever since 1979, the U.S. government has had it in for the Nicaraguan people in general, and the Sandinistas in particular.

The U.S. financed Violeta Chamorro's election campaign; Chamorro is from a rich family and stands for giving everything back to U.S. businessmen and their rich supporters in Nicaragua.

We do not know exactly how the U.S.'s candidate managed to "win" this election. Maybe U.S. businessmen and politicians bought the election, maybe they falsified the results, maybe they just blackmailed the Nicaraguan people into voting for Chamorro. U.S. officials said, right before the election, that if the majority of the Nicaraguan people did not vote for Chamorro, that they would continue to finance the "contras," the U.S. terrorist hit squads, until the Nicaraguan people did as the U.S. wants.

But we do know that we do not recognize the results of this election, or any elections financed and organized by U.S. businessmen and politicians, the same businessmen and politicians that have been buying, stealing, and blackmailing for votes in the U.S. for at least 100 years, the same men that brought us Vietnam, Watergate, Contra-gate, Iran-gate, etc.

We urge working people in the United States not to recognize the results of these elections. Now more than ever it is necessary to fight for an immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Nicaragua and Central America. Cut all funds to Chamorro and other U.S. imperialist businessmen's puppets in Central America. Why are U.S. working people being forced to finance attacks on their brothers and sisters in Nicaragua!

Daniel Ortega, Sandinista leader, says that he recognizes Chamorro's victory and that he is going to give up power to her. This is a terrible blow. But there are others in Nicaragua who do not recognize this so-called victory, and who are not prepared to give up power.

U.S. hands off Cuba!

To all young people, working people, working class militants, and all oppressed people gathered at the April 7 rally in New York.

Revolutionary greetings!

We want to express our solidarity with you in your struggle to defend Cuba, the Cuban revolution, and the Castro government against U.S. imperialism.

We salute you for organizing this rally at this time.

George Bush and other imperialist assassins and drug dealers with blood on their hands, that have been plotting to crush Cuba for years, are trying to convince young and working people in the U.S. and throughout the Americas, that Castro and other members of the current government are just like the privileged, dictatorial bureaucrats in Eastern Europe, the USSR, and China, that workers and oppressed people are struggling to overthrow.

This is a lie!

Castro and other members of the Cuban Communist Party are part of a privileged and, many times, dictatorial bureaucracy in Cuba.

But unlike Gorbachev, and other privileged, dictatorial bureaucrats in the USSR, Eastern Europe, and China, Castro and some of his supporters in the Cuban Communist Party, have not yet taken a position in favor of the restoration of imperialism and capitalism in their countries.

This is why Bush wants to overthrow Castro.

We urge working people to support these forces in every way possible. The struggle is not over. It's much easier for the U.S. and Ortega to say that Chamorro has won, and that Ortega will give up power, than it will be to get the Nicaragua people to give up what they have fought for.

Down with the U.S.'s phony elections in Nicaragua!

U.S. out of Central America now!

Cut U.S. funds to Chamorro!

No power to Chamorro!

Victory to the Nicaraguan revolution!

There will be a demonstration against U.S. intervention in Central America on March 24 in Washington, D.C. We urge all working people in Detroit to support it. For transportation from Detroit, call DACCA at 894-0840.

This is why Gorbachev is helping him, by cutting off aid to workers and oppressed people in Central America and Cuba.

And this why, now more than ever, young people and working people in the United States need to do everything in their power to defend Cuba, the Cuban revolution, and the Castro government *against* U.S. imperialism.

There are many ways to do this: propaganda, meetings, demonstrations, strikes. But what is most important is to take up a fight in the U.S. itself for workers control of basic industries and banks, for dismantling the imperialist police and military apparatus, and for a working class party to lead this fight.

As long as U.S. imperialists retain control of the resources in the U.S. and retain their military apparatus, they are going to use these things to try to crush workers and oppressed people. It's our job to take care of this problem.

This is what our Trotskyist tendency of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution is fighting for. We urge you to do the same.

Hands off Cuba!

Down with U.S. imperialism!

Victory to the socialist revolution in Cuba and the United States!

Victory to the Fourth International!

Trotskyist Committee of Detroit

Supporter of the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International
March, 1990

Workers revolution in Romania

We are reprinting excerpts from "Eyewitness to the unfolding political revolution in Romania," by Lynn Henderson, which was recently published in *Socialist Action*, a Trotskyist publication.

We urge readers to get and read the entirety of this publication.

As readers will see, even from these short excerpts, what is developing in Romania, and throughout Eastern Europe and the USSR, is a *workers revolution*. Workers are arming themselves, taking over factories, taking over streets, and disarming, and, in some cases, *executing*, the rich and the hired guns who stand

in their way. Workers and oppressed people in *every* country, including the United States, are going to be forced to take this path sooner or later. Thus it is in our interests to follow and learn from the struggles of our brothers and sisters in Romania.

The workers revolution developing in Romania and elsewhere, is not only a blow to the terrible Stalinist bureaucracy. It is also a blow to U.S. capitalism and imperialism. U.S. capitalists and imperialists have long relied on the Stalinist bureaucracy to control the workers movement. The Stalinist bureaucracy and its supporters used their positions in the workers movement

in the U.S. and throughout the Americas to stop the Cuban revolution from spreading. Today, they support the imperialist union bureaucracy and the imperialist Democratic Party. This is why Bush is doing everything that he can to *save* certain sectors of the Stalinist bureaucracy, at the same time that he is trying to build up his repressive forces so that he can crush the masses of hungry people that are rising up in our hemisphere.

U.S. workers need to fight for workers control of basic industries, for dismantling the police and the military apparatus, and for a workers party to lead this fight. — M.G.

Eyewitness to the unfolding political revolution in Romania

By Lynn Henderson
(Excerpts)

BUCHAREST—I arrived in Romania on Jan. 5, on the first commercial flight into Bucharest's Otopeni airport since the revolutionary upheaval that swept away the Stalinist Ceausescu regime. From my first hours in Bucharest it became apparent that much more than the Ceausescu regime was swept away when the government fell on Dec. 22 ...

In Romania, literally overnight, the Communist Party ceased to function or even exist; and the head-of-state, head-of-party was captured, tried, and executed. An armed uprising of the population took place in which the chief repressive instrument of the state, the Securitate, was physically crushed. The only institution of state power remaining intact is the army, and its hold is partial and tenuous.

At Otopeni airport, customs and passport control was being handled not by government officials but by young army draftees ranging in age from 18 to 22. They were supervised by newly mobilized reserve army officers in their mid-twenties.

In Bucharest itself, police were nowhere to be found. Romanians explained to me that on the first day of the uprising the people in the streets, later joined by the army, disarmed and removed the police. In some cities outside Bucharest police officials were lynched.

Armed worker self-defense guards

One of my major goals while in Romania was to interview workers involved in organizing the new free trade unions that were spontaneously springing up throughout the country ...

As I visited factories, first in the Bucharest area and later in Brasov, the largest industrial city in Romania, I found that the factories were being defended by armed worker self-defense guards organized out of the factories themselves. In small and middle-size plants, such as the 2000 employee Feber computer factory outside Bucharest, these defense guards appeared to be operating completely independently.

In the largest plants, such as the Red Flag Truck factory and the Tractor Enterprise Works outside Brasov, each with 20,000 workers, the self-defense guard had been at least nominally placed under the "command" of senior army officers. But the arms remained in the hands of the workers.

This was the situation despite an official decree by the National Salvation Front demanding that all arms must be turned back over to the army.

Universal distrust of ruling Front

The National Salvation Front itself, which is operating as the self-appointed provisional government, is viewed with almost universal skepticism by both students and workers ...

Individual workers and students are

much more blunt. They openly question who chose the members of the Front. While they were fighting in the streets against Ceausescu's Securitate, how is it that the Front became the provisional government? Why do so many leading figures in the Front have ties to the old Ceausescu government?

Many of the Front's actions are also viewed with open suspicion. These include the decree demanding all arms be turned over to the army, the speedy outlawing of the death penalty before those who have ordered and carried out the most terrible atrocities have even been tried, and the Front's constant wavering on popular demands calling for outlawing the Stalinized Communist Party.

Setting up new unions

In every factory I visited, workers were deeply involved in the first steps of setting up new democratic unions ...

During my interviews I made the point that the Western press and Western governments all drew a virtual equal sign between "democracy" and private ownership of factories. I asked them what they thought of that, and if they thought this was the direction in which Romania would or should go.

The idea that democracy meant privatization of their factory was overwhelmingly rejected everywhere I went.

(Full text available from *Socialist Action*, 3435 Army St., San Francisco, CA 94110)

The 1990 Elections: Workers Candidates!

To leaders of New Directions

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are writing to ask you to consider running as independent working class or labor candidates for public office in the 1990 elections.

Both Republican and Democratic Party candidates use their election campaigns to turn working people against the organized labor movement. When they are speaking to audiences without many trade unionists they talk about the labor movement as a special interest group, as if it were comparable to GM, Ford and Chrysler. When they speak to trade unionists they change their tune, in order to soak them for money.

At the same time, they try to divert working people's attention away from the most serious problem in this area — which is GM, Ford, and Chrysler and their unbridled exploitation of working people and total disregard for the needs of the population — by talking about crime, drugs, etc., as if the petty criminals and drug dealers on the street could ever hurt working people as much as GM, Ford, and Chrysler are doing.

By running their own candidates in elections, working people in general, and trade unionists in particular, can combat this propaganda and build support for the struggles and goals of working people and their unions.

The Pittston miners' election campaign, during which they visited hundreds of working people in their homes in Buchanan and Tazewell counties, and which they won, shows that this can be a very effective tactic in building support for working people, unionists and their struggles.

We are writing to you, rather than to the current top leadership of the UAW, the so-called Administration Caucus, because it is obvious that the current top leadership totally supports GM, Ford, Chrysler, and their Republican and

Democratic parties and candidates. They are not going to do anything to unite working people and trade unionists against these forces in the 1990 elections. Your New Directions Caucus, on the other hand, has taken a position against many of the top leadership's anti-worker and anti-labor policies, and has organized important struggles against them, that all working people should support.

This is why we urge you to seriously consider running as independent working class or labor candidates for public office in the 1990 elections, and, in this way, to help unite working people against GM, Ford, and Chrysler and their parties and candidates. This will help, not hinder, the struggle against GM, Ford, and Chrysler in the contract negotiations, as the Pittston miners' campaign shows.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Fraternally,

Margaret Guttschall
for the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit

Notes

On Sunday, March 18, the **New Directions Caucus in the UAW** is holding a meeting in the Detroit area at which autoworkers will have an opportunity to say what they think should be in the 1990 contract. We urge all young and working people in the Detroit area to support the New Directions Caucus and this meeting against GM, Ford, and Chrysler, and the current top leadership of the UAW which is working for the rich corporations, not the workers. For further information, call 751-4474.

On Saturday, March 24, there will be a demonstration against U.S. intervention in Central America, in Washington, D.C. Support this demonstration against profit-hungry U.S. businessmen and their hired guns! For transportation from Detroit, call 894-0840.

On Sunday, March 25, **Spark**, a socialist and Trotskyist group in Detroit is holding its annual dinner and forum. There are important political differences between Spark and Truth, however, we think that Spark makes an important contribution to the workers struggle in Detroit by doing regular work that gives young and working people an opportunity to learn more about

socialism and Trotskyism. Support these efforts and attend this event. Tickets are available from Spark members. For further information, write Spark, Box 1047, Detroit, MI 48231, or call Truth, 831-0593.

On Saturday, April 7, there will be a meeting for **sanctions against South Africa**, at 12 noon, at UAW Local 1700, 8230 E. 8 Mile Road. Apartheid and its apparatus still exists; it is necessary to continue the struggle until they are destroyed. For further information, call 592-8179.

On Sunday, April 29, the **New Directions Caucus in the UAW** is holding a national "UAW Rank and File Auto Negotiations Accountability Rally, from 1-5 at the Ford Civic Auditorium. For further information, write, New Directions Box 6876, St. Louis, MO 63144, or call 314-531-2900.

An Ad-Hoc Committee in Support of the Greyhound Strikers has been formed and is urging young and working people in the Detroit area to **support the Greyhound strikers**, and join their picket lines whenever possible, at the Greyhound Terminal, 1000 W. Lafayette, downtown Detroit. For further information, call 842-6262.

A conference of Truth supporters

There will be a conference for readers and supporters of *Truth* in Detroit on May 19-20.

The purpose of this conference will be to discuss the problems facing young people and working people, what can be done to resolve them, and to map out plans to build support for *Truth*.

The conference is open to all regular readers and supporters of *Truth*.

In this issue of *Truth*, we are publishing draft theses and a draft platform for the conference. As readers will see, the purpose of these draft theses and draft platform is to say as clearly and as briefly as possible what the basic conditions in the United States are, and what must be done. This will help us build support for our working class, revolutionary and socialist program, and for rebuilding the workers party of the Fourth International in the largest possible way.

We urge readers to set aside time to read and study these texts, to think about whether they agree with the various points in them, to think about what needs to be changed, added, deleted, etc.

There will also be a report on the preparation of the 12th World Congress of the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International, which is the international Trotskyist tendency of the Fourth International, that the publishers of *Truth* support. — M.G.

Draft theses on the conditions in the United States and the tasks of revolutionaries

1. In the United States,

almost everything exists necessary to completely abolish want and suffering. There is the knowledge and the technology necessary to increase the productivity of human labor. There is plenty of plant and equipment. There is a relatively well-trained and organized working class that has already taken the first steps in this direction by organizing unions, fighting for higher wages, better working conditions, various benefits and social programs, and a certain amount of equality for working people of all races and nationalities, albeit still very limited.

2. Abolishing want

and suffering is necessary in order to build a society in which there is no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, no privileged dictatorial bureaucracy, just people working together for the common good, a society in which each individual can develop to his full potential. In other words, abolishing want and suffering is necessary to build a truly and fully socialist and communist society.

3. The revolutions

in Eastern Europe and the USSR today show that efforts to build a truly and fully socialist and communist society are not doomed to failure. Years ago, workers in these countries decided to take basic industries and banks away from private owners, to make them the legal property of the working people and their states, and to run them in the interests of the people. Today, their grand-sons and grand-daughters are fighting to destroy the privileged dictatorial bureaucracy that has been stealing what their ancestors fought and died for. The workers revolution will not stop until the workers have achieved their goals.

4. In the United States,

what is needed, in order to advance in this direction is, above all, *consciousness* and *organization*. Workers need to realize that it is indeed possible to abolish want and suffering and build a truly socialist and communist society. They need to realize that the working class is the class that can do this. They need to be prepared and organized to carry out this task. In other words, workers need their own, working class political party.

5. Sooner or later

the masses of workers are going to realize this and take the necessary steps. They are going to see, in all their different struggles (against wage and benefit cuts, layoffs, plant-closings, on-the-job injuries, union-busting, racist discrimination, U.S. intervention in other countries ...) that it is not possible to resolve these problems without workers control of basic industries and banks, without taking these enterprises away from rich, private owners and running them as public enterprises in the interests of the people. They are going to see that they need their own party to do this and take the steps necessary to build it. In this sense, socialist revolution, and socialism, are inevitable.

6. It is in

the best interests of the working

class to proceed as *directly* and as *quickly* toward this goal as is possible, in order to avoid years of needless suffering and misery, as well as terrible and painful defeats, like the various fascist victories in Central America, South America, or Europe, or World War I and World War II. To do this, it is necessary to fight for a Trotskyist Congress to rebuild the workers party of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, in the United States.

7. Trotskyists are

the political tendency in the working class named after the revolutionary Leon Trotsky, who continued the fight to spread the workers socialist revolution, against both imperialism and the Stalinist bureaucracy in the USSR, and who, together with other revolutionaries, founded the Fourth International, the world party of socialist revolution, to lead this struggle. Trotskyists are the only political tendency in the U.S. and on an international scale that has retained its confidence in the working class, in the working class's ability to reorganize society on socialist foundations, and that continues to make any kind of consistent struggle in favor of this. All other tendencies — Stalinism, Maoism, Castroism, Sandinism, etc. — have lost confidence in the working class and its socialist revolution and have become partisans of "mixed economies" and capitalist states, to one extent or another. Trotskyists — their knowledge, their experience, their devotion — are extremely important to the working class. Trotskyists constitute the political tendency in the working class that is most capable of leading the working class in its struggle, of raising its consciousness and organization to the level of its historic tasks, of leading the struggle to build its party.

8. Trotskyists in

the United States founded a workers party affiliated with the Fourth International in 1938 to lead this struggle, which they called the Socialist Workers Party. This party played a very important and positive role in the class struggle. However, at a certain point, the majority of the leadership of this party, and large sections of this party, began to abandon the struggle to build the workers party of the Fourth International in the United States. They have lost confidence in the working class and its capacity to reorganize society on socialist foundations; they have adapted themselves to the pro-capitalist union bureaucracy, the labor aristocracy, and various middle-class or petty bourgeois tendencies (Castroism, Sandinism, etc.). This tendency, headed by Jack Barnes, has even gone so far as to disassociate itself from Trotskyism and to expel those who openly defend Trotskyism from the Socialist Workers Party. Trotskyists who continue to fight for their program, for building a workers party affiliated with the Fourth International on the basis of this program, to one extent or another, are broken into different tendencies: Socialist Action, Spark, our tendency, tendencies associated with the International Workers League, tendencies associated with the Trotskyist Coordinating Committee. They do not function as a workers party of the Fourth International, with one line, one discipline, and one leadership. Thus their influence in the working class, their ability

to win forces and fight enemies, is impaired. There is a very strong tendency, even among some of the most working class, principled Trotskyist tendencies in the United States, to *minimize* their political differences with other social classes and political tendencies and to *exaggerate* their political differences with each other. This is a result of the pressure of the petty bourgeoisie and the Trotskyists' insufficient roots in the most working class sectors of the working class.

9. Preparing a

Trotskyist Congress to rebuild the workers party of the Fourth International is necessary to overcome this problem. To prepare this congress, Trotskyists need to enter into a common fight for a working class, revolutionary and socialist platform in the working class, aimed at building united, working class Trotskyist groups in different workplaces, unions, neighborhoods, schools, etc. This in turn will lay the basis for the Trotskyist Congress itself: for drawing together all forces in favor of rebuilding the workers party of the Fourth International, for drawing the lessons of the struggle, for defining the tasks ahead, for forming an organization that unites Trotskyist forces on a principled basis, with one line, one discipline, and one leadership, and for electing a leadership to head this struggle. The workers party of the Fourth International will be a pole of attraction not only for thousands of young workers that will be entering the struggles ahead, but also for working class militants that are sympathetic to Trotskyism, but remain under the leadership of the Barnes tendency, and other anti-Trotskyist tendencies.

10. Our tendency

urges Socialist Action and Spark, which are the largest and most influential Trotskyist groups, to assume leadership of this struggle by drafting a working class, revolutionary, and socialist platform, and by entering into a common fight to build united, working class Trotskyist groups on the basis of this platform. At the same time, we will prepare our own contribution to the struggle by drafting a working class, revolutionary, and socialist platform and by working toward building a united, working class Trotskyist organization in Detroit on the basis of this platform.

11. Our tendency

does not counterpose the fight for a Trotskyist Congress to rebuild the workers party of the Fourth International to joining with or entering into other Trotskyist tendencies at this time. On the contrary, we think this can be a step toward rebuilding the workers party of the Fourth International. However, our experience with Socialist Action demonstrated that the basis has not yet been established for the complete fusion and dissolution of the different Trotskyist tendencies into one. Proposals to join with, or enter into, other Trotskyist tendencies, must include provisions for distinct Trotskyist tendencies to collaborate with loyalty and discipline within the same organization.

Trotskyist Committee of Detroit
Supporter of the International League for the
Reconstruction of the Fourth International

TRUTH

P.O. Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283 • (313) 831-0593

Our draft platform: what *Truth* is fighting for

1. Workers control of basic industries and banks.

Workers committees in workplaces to fight for knowledge and control of basic industries and banks and to prepare workers now for direct workers management of basic industries and the banks.

A workers government, composed of democratically elected workers representatives, to take basic industries and banks away from private owners and run them as public enterprises, run by workers, in the interests of the people.

Cheap credit for small businessmen and small farmers.

Try and punish the worst exploiters.

2. Equality for the Black people and all oppressed peoples.

A union program to establish full representation of Blacks in all unions, workplaces, working class neighborhoods, and schools now, planned and executed by the unions now.

Union defense guards to protect Black people from racist criminals; swift and merciless punishment of all racist criminals.

For the right of Black people to self-determination, to establish their own nation on American soil, if they choose to do so.

Full economic social and political equality for immigrant workers, including: abolition of all restrictions on immigration and citizenship; multi-lingual programs in all unions, workplaces, etc.

Full economic, social and political equality for women, including: the right to abortion; equal pay for equal work; increase the minimum wage; free, 24-hour childcare through the public schools; public dining rooms, laundries, housecleaning services; military training.

3. Dismantle the police and the military apparatus.

Workers defense guards in workplaces, neighborhoods, and schools to protect working people and to disarm anti-worker, racist police and military forces.

Build a peoples' militia, linked to the factories, mines, farms to replace the standing army.

Withdraw all U.S. troops from all foreign territories, including Central America, Cuba, South America, Southern Africa, Europe, the Middle East, the Philippines.

Dissolve the Secret Service, the FBI, the CIA, the Pentagon, the

National Guard, the Armed Services, and all anti-worker, racist repressive forces. Try and punish the worst police and military men.

4. Dismantle the political apparatus.

Workers candidates for all offices; cut public officials' wages to the level of union workers' wages.

Stop all union funds and all public funds to the Republican and Democratic Parties; confiscate their assets and their offices; ban these parties.

Try and punish the worst politicians.

5. Build the working class.

100% unionization of all working people.

Increase the minimum wage; wage increases in accord with price increases; cut the work-week without cutting pay; divide work among all workers; a program of public works to provide jobs for all unemployed workers at union wages.

Combine all schools, colleges, and universities into a single, nationwide educational system, run by workers, in the interests of the people, providing free, equal, quality education to all working people and their families at all levels. Combine all healthcare facilities into a single, nationwide healthcare system, run by workers, in the interests of the people, providing free, equal, quality healthcare to all working people and their families at all levels.

6. Build a truly socialist society, with no want, no suffering and no privileged, dictatorial bureaucrats.

Defend the gains of the workers socialist revolution in the USSR, Eastern Europe, China, Cuba, and Vietnam. Keep U.S. businessmen and troops out. For the right of oppressed nations to self-determination (separation), for direct workers control of the economy, for free elections. For true workers governments and the total destruction of the privileged, dictatorial bureaucracies.

7. Rebuild the workers party of the Fourth International, world party of socialist revolution.

For a Trotskyist Congress, to bring together all forces in favor of rebuilding the workers party of the Fourth International in the United States, to map out plans for this struggle, and to form an organization and elect a leadership to carry out this fight.

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TRUTH is open to all young people, working people, and representatives of working class tendencies that agree with this platform and want to fight for it. If you would like to join Truth, talk to Truth distributor, call us at the phone number above or write us at the address above.