

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

No. 259 • April 29, 1991 • 15 cents • Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 • 313-584-6556

Recall Engler! Labor Party Now!

A drive to get Governor Engler out of office has begun. Petitions are being circulated demanding that his *recall* be on the November, 1991 ballot. This is an excellent development. Working class people want to stop his vicious cuts of programs for working class people and his gifts to the rich of the working class' money.

We urge all working class people — all workers, all young people from working class families — to support this campaign. But it should not be used to support a *Democratic candidate* or the *Democratic Party program* for Michigan. The vicious cuts of programs for poor and working class people and gifts for the rich began under the last governor, the Democrat Blanchard.

The working class needs its own political party, a labor party. The Democratic Party is not a workers party, not a labor party. It is a party, just like the Republican Party, owned by the rich bankers. Many people who run the unions or community groups are Democratic Party politicians. This makes them, whether they want to be or not, defenders of the rich among the workers and inside the organizations of the working class.

The majority of people in Michigan, who are members of the *working class*, are taking their struggle onto a *political* road. This means onto the road to directly challenging who should control society: the working class or the ruling rich?

The same problems that make people recall Engler have forced some union leaders to start an organization for a labor party. The new group is called Labor Party Advocates. This group already has the support of several locals in California and it is growing every day. Working class people from around the country are joining.

At the same time that working class people sign the petition to recall Engler, join the Labor Party Advocates. It is a big step in building a real labor party in this country.

Petitions to recall Engler and the Labor Party Advocate membership forms are available from Truth at 313-584-6556.

Recall Engler!

Labor Party now! ■



Bush comes to Michigan —
**Demonstrate
against Bush!**

University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor
Saturday, May 4, 11 am
Call 584-6556 for information.

War on the rich bankers, not Mexico or Japan!

Many Congress persons came to Detroit last week. Auto company owners and union leaders invited them to witness what was called "the effects of Japanese cars coming into the United States." They showed them the number of people out of work, the poverty, and so on. The auto owners and the union leaders agree. They say we need to stop Japanese imports.

At the same time, the union leaders are also campaigning against a free trade pact with Mexico.

The union leaders say that we have to help make the auto companies profitable and then the working class will profit too. The union leaders say that there would be more jobs in the U.S. if there were no plants in Mexico or if we stopped Japanese imports.

But these are lies.

The rich bankers are responsible for all the plant closings and the unemployment in the United States. They made these decisions because it was *profitable* for them. Pure and simple. They cut jobs and closed plants because they make more money. They demanded and continue to demand concessions for the same reason.

There are today less plants devoted to auto making around the world than ever before. Worldwide, the rich bankers have decided *not* to invest in auto production, and other basic industries, because *it is not profitable*.

They will *always* invest where they can make most the money. That is why they have invested in a few plants in Mexico. It is the nature of the capitalist system. The rich bankers — and this group includes the owners of the auto companies — cannot make as much money building cars, making steel and so on. They make more money investing in failed savings and loans, credit card

companies, etc. This is a fact of modern capitalism.

Only if the wages of the workers would fall low enough would the rich bankers decide to reinvest in the auto industry.

The anti-Japan or anti-Mexico campaigns, especially the campaign against Japanese imports, are a smokescreen to hide this truth. The rich bankers of America are *responsible* for unemployment. And there will be more unemployment, and more layoffs until *the banks are taken away from the rich bankers*.

The U.S. working class needs a workers government to take the banks out of the hands of the rich bankers, *to nationalize the banks* and place this powerful economic machine in the hands of the working class. As long as the rich bankers control the banks, the U.S. economy cannot serve the workers' interest in *any way*.

The U.S. working class will, sooner or later, have a workers government and it will *nationalize the banks*. The working class will use this money to invest in the industries that can rebuild the United States. It will pay good union wages. It will work together with Japanese workers to build the most advanced products. It will help the Mexican workers build up their country. Nationalization of the banks is in the *self-interest* of U.S. workers.

The sooner the working class realizes that the rich bankers are *completely responsible for unemployment* because they profit from unemployment, the closer it will get to *nationalizing the banks* and making the U.S. economic machine serve the working class.

War on the rich bankers, not Mexico and Japan!
— Jack Marlowe ■

SUPPORT THIS STRUGGLE — SUBSCRIBE TO TRUTH!

No more blood for oil! U.S. out of Iraq and Kurdistan!

We have all seen the terrible suffering of the Kurds, the people of northern Iraq who have fled from Saddam Hussein's oppression. We have read in the papers that the Iraqi people who are not Kurds have suffered greatly because of the war, with no clean water, no electricity for hospitals, no food.

All this suffering by these oppressed peoples has been caused by the United States government. The first condition for the suffering to end is: *U.S. out!*

The U.S. bombed Iraq (and much of Kurdistan in northern Iraq) back 1000 years during its war. Two months after the ceasefire, the only thing that the U.S. can show for it is: high oil company profits.

And this is the cruel and undeniable conclusion that U.S. working class people must come to: the war was an business transaction, of *blood for oil*. And this oil has made lots of money for the American rich.

The Kurdish people were denied their own country by all those that ruled them, especially, since 1918, by the British. Their 70 year old war against their oppressors was

Tasks of Revolutionaries

In the last issue of *Truth*, we published the first part of a resolution by Spanish Trotskyists on the international situation as a result of the U.S. victory over Iraq. In this issue we are publishing the remaining parts of the resolution most useful to U.S. socialists.

The resolution concludes:

6. The task that today concentrates the construction of a new workers party to struggle for socialism, is that of *agitation and propaganda of the revolution*.

The main objective of this agitation and propaganda must be the *rupture* of the workers with the 'social imperialist' and petty bourgeois leaders and their *bourgeoisified* parties.

Such agitation and propaganda of the revolution so that the workers break with the opportunist parties, is *complementary* with the struggle for a united front of all the workers organizations at the right moment to defend or to conquer rights, gain advantages or improvements of a partial character. . . .

More concretely, this rupture ought to defend itself, under a suitable form, that it might not place in danger the united front of the unions against the bosses, inside of the unions: like *denunciation* of the *apparatus* and of its *ties* with capital and with the capitalist authorities. @T08/09 = The youth join the struggle of the class reinforcing this or that party or political tendency. It is necessary to win the youth to the revolutionary cause of the working class, attracting them to the struggle that we are making for the *rupture* of the workers with the old failed leadership, but yet very much the majority, and the *construction* of a new proletarian party.

Also the *unity* of the Trotskyist tendencies in a party and in the rebuilding of the International depends on their positions in the preparation of the socialist revolution by means of open agitation - propaganda, and in the struggle for the rupture of the workers with the bourgeoisified parties.

7. The recruitment of working men and women to the party — the core of, and the measure of, all political success — *depends today* on the amplitude and clarity of this propaganda and agitation among the workers.

The preoccupation with recruitment to the party and the formation of militants in Marxist principles must *pass through* an intensification of agitation and propaganda of the revolution and of the revolutionary party in the factories, neighborhoods, demonstrations etc.

Accordingly, the road for the committees and cells of the PORE (and the rest of the Trotskyist tendencies or those of revolutionary workers) to be able to *recruit* is: 1) increase the agitation among the masses with the present methods and forces; 2) ensure its revolutionary and regular character; 3) open the cells to the participation of working men and women interested by the agitation and propaganda; 4) ensure the educational and organizing character of the cells. ■

cynically *used* by the United States. The U.S. thought that it had a new military dictator lined up to take over Iraq from Saddam Hussein. The new dictator would help the rich bankers get lots of Iraqi oil and oppress the Kurds.

When this plan failed, the rich bankers decided that Hussein was the best deal they could get. So they encouraged him to sup-

Soviet workers struggle grows stronger

The miners' strike in the Soviet Union continues to grow with more support every day from other parts of the Soviet Union. The Soviet workers are demanding that Gorbachev resign, for higher wages not taken from some other workers, and for freedom for the oppressed republics. They are placing the workers at the head of all the movements in the Soviet Union. These demands deserve the support of the U.S. workers.

The news media in the United States has tried to convince U.S. workers that the Soviet miners are fighting for capitalism. But what is true is that the workers, no matter who is trying to take advantage of their struggle, are fighting objectively for the workers' interest, not the capitalists or their supporters, the Soviet bureaucracy.

The April 28 *Detroit News* said that Yeltsin, the head bureaucrat in the Russian Republic, has to face Soviet miners and explain why he joined Gorbachev in telling them to go back to work.

Below we reprint parts of a leaflet by a grouping of Soviet workers called the Socialist Workers Union. It was distributed during the recent referendum on national unity that Gorbachev held. It was printed in the English working class newspaper, published by the Workers Revolutionary Party, *Workers Press*, April 13, 1991.

"Using the referendum — the favorite means of all dictatorial regimes of stupefying the population — the ruling bureaucracy is asking for a 'Yes' vote to make the working class the accomplice in its political machinations. . . .

Briefly . . .

Spark, a Trotskyist group in Detroit, is having a public discussion: What future for the USSR?, Sunday, May 5, 5:00 p.m., at Pullman Hall, corner of Cass and Forest.

Socialist Action, a Trotskyist group, is running a candidate for mayor of San Francisco.

Cleve Andrew Pulley, the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party for Detroit City Council, received 75 votes, according to the Detroit newspapers. This is an indication of a serious *lack of campaigning* on the part of the SWP. It is much lower than the number of votes polled by the Workers World Party last fall.

The *AFL-CIO* has called for a *demonstration in Washington, D.C., August 31*. We urge all workers and workers organizations to organize the largest possible

press the Kurds as quickly as possible. The so-called "relief" means more U.S. troops to northern Iraq. Their goal? The same as before: to capture the large oilfields in Kurdistan for the rich bankers.

There is only one thing now that will help the Iraqi people and the people of Kurdistan: U.S. out now! — J.M. ■

The real aim of these three referendums — is to obtain a mandate from the workers themselves, to suppress and to rob them. . . . If the reactionary Gorbachev clique wins, further economic and political agony await us . . . If Yeltsin and Popov win, their 'democracy' will mean an even faster decline, and enrichment of a small group of former bureaucrats . . . at the expense of the workers.

The only lasting and truly national democracy is one based on the working class.

Only by taking power out of the hands of the bureaucracy and the bourgeoisie will the working people of different nationalities be able to form a truly free Union.

The Socialist Workers Union is a political organization which bases itself on the heritage of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. It defends the interests of the workers and fights for:

— an end to the exploitation of the working class — whoever the exploiters are;

— the renewal of real Soviets — democratically elected workers' collectives, based on the multi-party system;

— abolition of the privileges of the bureaucracy;

— an end to privatization and denationalization; and

— workers' democracy instead of the repressive state and government." ■

contingents to raise the workers' demands, especially in support of a Labor Party. More details to come.

The *Labor Party Advocates* is winning new members, including the adherence of several union locals in California, as well as the San Francisco Building Trades Council.

The *Trotskyist Committee* distributed 35 copies of *Truth* No. 258 and 750 leaflets urging workers to vote for Cleve Andrew Pulley at the Ford Rouge Plant, Wayne County Community College and working class neighborhoods. Our class series meets Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., and the meeting planning the next issue of *Truth* meets every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Call 584-6556 for location. ■

TRUTH

A bulletin published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. The Trotskyist Com-

mittee of Detroit is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

Editor: Margaret Gutshall

Address: Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283

Phone: 313-584-6556

Subscribe to Truth!

Regular subscriptions: Ten issues for \$4.50; Twenty issues for \$9.00.

Supporting subscriptions; institutions: Ten issues for \$10.00; Twenty issues for \$20.00.

Name _____

Address _____

(Send with check or money order payable to M. Gutshall, to Truth, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283.)