




# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

No. 263 • June 24, 1991 • 15 cents • Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 • 313-584-6556

# 200,000 say: Recall Engler!

   printed on recycled paper

Jacqueline Shra  
470 South Fire Road • T  
1 - 800 - 4

1989 Revision  
INSTRUCTIONS  
ON REVERSE SIDE

## RECALL PETITION

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the City/Township of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_ and State of Michigan, hereby petition for the calling of an election to recall \_\_\_\_\_ from the office of \_\_\_\_\_ Governor \_\_\_\_\_ State of Michigan.

(NAME OF OFFICER) (TITLE OF OFFICE)

## War on Bush and Engler, not other peoples!

Coleman Young and others are organizing a parade in downtown Detroit on Saturday, June 29, to celebrate the U.S.'s military victory over Iraq and to welcome troops.

This is shameful.

Working men and women of all races and nationalities should be making war on Bush, Engler, and the other criminal politicians, bankers, and businessmen who are robbing and killing the people, not celebrating or promoting their wars on other oppressed peoples!

There will be a counter-demonstration, Saturday, June 29, 11 a.m., Kennedy Square.

We urge working people and their organizations to support this demonstration.

War on Bush and Engler, not other peoples!

Free all GIs against the Gulf War!

Stop the sanctions against Iraq!

Bring all U.S. troops home now! ■

Approximately 200,000 people in the state of Michigan have already signed petitions for recalling Engler. Unfortunately, this is not enough to force the state to call a special election in which the people have an opportunity to vote on this question. 640,141 valid, unchallenged signatures are necessary. Further, if there is no increase in the rate at which signatures are being collected, it will be very difficult to collect the number necessary before mid-August.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit urges all working people and their organizations not only to sign a petition, but also to circulate petitions, as widely as possible.

The struggle to recall Engler has already forced Engler and the Democrats to postpone their plans to cut funds for single adult men and women. They are afraid of

the campaign to recall Engler.

Collecting the number of signatures necessary to force the state to call a special election will provoke a crisis in the ruling circles in the state of Michigan. It will weaken the position of the forces that want to take more and more of what the workers produce and give it to the rich parasites who produce nothing. It will help create better conditions for the workers and oppressed to press their demands, and to advance in building their own party and their own government.

All sorts of tendencies claim to be for recalling Engler — the leadership of the UAW, the Communist Party. The struggle in the weeks to come will help separate the talkers from the fighters, the opportunists from the forces truly devoted to the cause of the working class. ■

## Trotskyists say: Recall Engler! Workers Party!

We are reprinting an article from *Spark*, a socialist and Trotskyist publication in Detroit. As readers will see, *Spark* is for recalling Engler and for a workers party. While the number of Trotskyists in Detroit is small, Trotskyists are devoting a big part of their resources to collecting signatures to recall Engler. This is because the vast majority of Trotskyists, unlike other political tendencies (Republicans, Democrats, syndicalists, Social Democrats, Stalinists ...) base themselves on the struggles of the masses of working people in the U.S. and the USSR, against the privileged layers in the society. — M.G.

Last week, the State Legislature and Engler agreed on a new budget proposal which will restore some of the cuts made in the previous budget.

In the same week, the political commentator for the Detroit Free Press denounced the effort to recall Engler, as a disruption of state government. He also said it couldn't possibly succeed.

ly succeed.

Finally, in the same week, UAW President Owen Bieber announced that the UAW, which first had opposed the recall, is now backing it.

It's absolutely true that a recall is very, very difficult. It will take a lot of work, time and money to overcome all the legal obstacles.

But it's also true that the political establishment is sitting up and taking notice of the effort to recall Engler. It certainly seems they are worried the recall may succeed.

And so, the Legislature tries to calm people down by restoring some of the cuts, while the news media tries to discourage people from going further.

Meanwhile, the UAW leadership is putting itself in line to take advantage of the recall, in case it should succeed. To be more

precise, they are acting as stand-in for the Democratic Party, which can't openly support the recall. If the recall does succeed, we can be sure the UAW leadership will use its position in the recall campaign to try to turn people back to the Democratic Party.

If the recall is to serve us, we must be prepared to organize our own political party, to put up our own candidates. The working class needs to appear on the political scene organized separately from other classes. It's the only way we will ever get what we want.

If all the budget cuts affecting us are to be overturned, if the tax breaks given to the wealthy are to be taken back, it will require work, not just to collect signatures, but to mobilize ourselves. The politicians need to be shown that if there are a million people ready to sign a petition, there are several million angry enough to fight. ■

**SUPPORT THIS STRUGGLE — SUBSCRIBE TO TRUTH!**

# Should Trotskyists join Labor Party Advocates?

Since Tony Mazzocchi called for a labor party and formed Labor Party Advocates, some Trotskyist tendencies have expressed support for this initiative against the Republican and Democratic parties: Socialist Action, Socialist Organizer, the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit ... Others, like the Workers League, have been openly hostile to Tony Mazzocchi's initiatives. Still others, among them *Spark*, have not yet expressed a position on this question in their publications.

Revolutionaries have been discussing and debating how to approach working class formations like Labor Party Advocates for many years. In this question, as in all questions, we should base ourselves on the lessons of the struggles of those that have come before us and on the principles established in these struggles.

Here are some short excerpts from some of Engels' letters to American Marxists in the 1800s on how they should approach Henry George and the Knights of Labor, a working class party.—M.G.

... the American masses had to seek out their own path and seem to have found it for the time being in the Knights of Labor, whose confused principles and ludicrous organization seem to correspond to their own confusion. But from all I hear, the K. of L. are a real power, especially in New England and the West, and are becoming more so every day owing to the brutal oppression of the capitalists. I think it is necessary to work inside them, to form within this still quite plastic mass a core of people who understand the movement and its aims and will therefore take over the leadership, at least of a section, when the inevitably impending breakup of the present "order" takes place. The rottenest side of the K. of L. was their political neutrality, which has resulted in sheer trickery on the part of the Powderlys, etc., but the edge of this has been taken off by the behavior of the masses in the November elections, especially in New York. The first great step of importance for every country newly entering into the movement is always the constitution of the workers as an independent political party, no matter how, so long as it is a distinct workers' party. And this step has been taken, much more

## Capitalism and socialism

The heads of the giant financial, industrial, agricultural and commercial monopolies in the U.S. enjoy the capitalist and imperialist economic system in the U.S. Their tiny class owns all the resources in society and uses them to enrich themselves at the expense of the masses of people. Working people own little or nothing but their own labor power; they have to sell their labor power to the owners in order to survive.

Naturally, the owners of the giant monopolies in the U.S. want working people to think that there is no alternative to capitalism and imperialism. They say that socialism is a society with a privileged, dictatorial bureaucracy, like the USSR has been.

This is a lie.

Workers and oppressed peoples in the USSR have only taken the first steps toward socialism, by building a workers party, overthrowing a feudal monarchy, establishing a workers government, taking over banks and basic industries, and beginning to develop a planned economy. Now they are struggling to rid themselves of the privileged dictatorial bureaucracy that arose — under the pressure of and with the support of U.S. imperialism — and that has been undermining their struggle. Sooner or later they will succeed in building a fully socialist society — with no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, no privileged dictatorial bureaucrats, no poverty, no oppression, no want, and no suffering of any kind. So will working people of all races and nationalities in the U.S. and throughout the world. ■

rapidly than we had a right to expect, and that is the main thing. That the first program of this party is still confused and extremely deficient, that it has raised the banner of Henry George, these are unavoidable evils but also merely transitory ones. The masses must have time and opportunity to develop, and they can have the opportunity only when they have a movement of their own — no matter in what form so long as it is their own movement — in which they are driven further by their own mistakes and learn through their mistakes.

... It is far more important that the move-

## The Kremlin officially abandons socialism

Gorbachev asks that the USSR will be welcome in the G-7, in the select club of the seven major imperialist bandits. Gorbachev asks for the admission of the USSR into the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, institutions of financial extortion of dozens of small countries by handful of bankers. Gorbachev agreed to eliminate the term "socialist" from the name of the Soviet Union. In his speech at receiving the Nobel Prize (which Gorbachev shares with Kissinger and a crowd of imperialist scum), he explained that the USSR ought to go toward capitalism and that it is able to do this *only* by means of a *huge* participation of imperialist capital and under its *control* (the IMF, for example)...

We, the Trotskyists, have said very clearly since 1985; if the old Stalinist bureaucracy, bourgeoisified, thieving, totalitarian, maintains power or goes along ceding it hand to hand to the nouveaux riche bourgeois, that it helps to enrich themselves and that it itself is part of, or to *their* pro-capitalist intellectuals, the USSR will go to *capitalism*.

If the bureaucrats are thrown out of power by the working people, or if the constant

## Briefly ...

*Coleman Young and the top UAW leadership* claim to be against Engler. But what are they doing to recall Engler? They have the men and the money to organize demonstrations to celebrate the U.S.'s war on Iraq, but they don't seem to have the men and the money to organize a demonstration to recall Engler or to circulate petitions to recall Engler.

*The people of Los Angeles* demanded that Gates, the police chief, resign, after his men beat a Black man, Rodney King, almost to death. Gates has not resigned. Now the people have begun a campaign to *recall Gates*. Needless to say, we support it.

*Socialist Action*, a Trotskyist group, held a rally for its candidate for San Francisco mayor on May 17. The candidate, Joni Jacobs, is calling for: human needs before profits; tax the rich, not working people. As we said in the last issue of *Truth*, we urge all working people and their organizations to support this working class candidate against the bourgeois candidates in this election. However, it is also necessary to say that it is not possible to achieve these demands without building a workers party, a workers government, and taking the banks, basic industries, and weapons, away from the capitalists.

ment should spread, proceed harmoniously, take root, and embrace as much as possible the whole American proletariat, than that it should start and proceed from the beginning on theoretically perfectly correct lines. There is no better road to theoretical clearness of comprehension than to learn by one's own mistakes. . . . And for a whole large class, there is no other road, especially for a nation so eminently practical and so contemptuous of theory as the Americans. The great thing is to get the working class to move *as a class*; that once obtained, they will soon find the right direction. ■

struggles against the bureaucracy lead to power representatives that are *more* true or *better* controlled by the working masses that are hostile to Stalinism, *then* the USSR will go toward a new epoch of socialism, toward a second workers revolution that gives light to a society more egalitarian, more in solidarity, more democratic, more cultured, more internationalist and anti-imperialist, than the USSR has been in its history. A society more on the right track toward the socialism that Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky struggled for.

Given that the bureaucracy scarcely controls the USSR, that the imperialists have serious economic and political difficulties in their countries and in their semi-colonies, and given that the workers in the USSR are beginning to take a road that is their own and independent in order to struggle for their class interests, the *second alternative* (a second workers revolution that renews and cleanses socialism of defects) to us seems more probable than the first (the return to capitalism). From a distance — Anibal Ramos ■

*Socialist Organizer*, a Trotskyist group, recently published a special section in its publication, *The Organizer*, on independent political action and urging readers to join Labor Party Advocates. Copies are available from: *The Organizer*, 4017 24th St., No. 19, San Francisco, CA 94114. (415) 641-6410.

*Spark*, a Trotsky group, held a forum in Detroit on the free trade pact. The speaker argued that the free trade pact was not going to improve the conditions of workers in the U.S., Mexico, or anywhere else. He said it's high time for the workers to stop the rich parasites from stuffing themselves at our expense. Workers make the houses, the tables, the food; they should kick the rich parasites out the door. They also collected funds for GIs against the Gulf war.

The *Trotskyist Committee* of Detroit is sponsoring a meeting to raise funds for Tahan Jones and Erik Larsen, GIs against the Gulf war facing the death penalty, on Saturday, June 29, at 7 p.m. For exact location, call 584-6556. We sold 31 copies of *Truth* at Wayne County Community College, a working class neighborhood and the Ford Rouge plant. We distributed over 1,000 leaflets for recalling Engler at the Ford plant and collected several hundred signatures for recalling Engler. We will continue to collect signatures to recall Engler, however, this will be the *last* issue of *Truth* until August.

## 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.)