

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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# 700,000 say: recall Engler!

The Committee to Recall Engler collected approximately 700,000 signatures for recalling Engler.

At this point, it is not clear exactly how far the Committee and the forces gathered around it will be able to go in forcing the Michigan state government to put the question of recalling Engler on the November ballot, so that the people will be able to vote on this question.

Officials say that 641,141 signatures gathered within a 90-day period are necessary, and that only 571,000 signatures were gathered in a 90-day period. The Committee to Recall Engler is going to court and challenging this decision.

Regardless of the immediate outcome of this struggle, the campaign to recall Engler has been an important step forward for working people in Michigan.

This is the first time in a long time that so many working people have entered into a *common, independent political fight* against a privileged politician and his party.

Working men and working women, Black and white, with different political views and different religious views, including trade unionists and Trotskyists, worked together to defeat a common enemy.

Young people and workers who have never been involved in any independent political struggle before, got involved in the campaign against Engler.

This shows the way forward for the masses of young people and working people in Michigan suffering because of the privileged classes and their representatives.

Some tendencies that claim to be working class *opposed* the campaign to recall Engler, like the Workers League, the Workers World Party, and the Socialist Workers Party. They say that the campaign to recall Engler was a Democratic Party maneuver to derail the struggle. This is not true. The Democratic Party *opposed* the campaign to recall Engler. Some left Democrats, trade union officials, and the Communist Party *claimed*

to support the campaign, but did little or nothing to actually collect signatures. Trotskyists tendencies, on the other hand, like *Spark* and *Truth*, openly supported the campaign and openly collected signatures.

In the U.S. and the USSR, the Trotskyists are on the side of the workers and oppressed peoples, against the privileged classes and their parties. ■

## Another movement against the privileged!

Tony Mazzocchi will be speaking on Sunday, September 22, at 7 p.m., at the AFSCME Local 312 Hall in Detroit.

Tony Mazzocchi is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union and a founder of Labor Party Advocates.

Labor Party Advocates is obviously not as large and as popular in Michigan as the movement to recall Engler. But it is another working class and popular movement against the privileged classes and their political parties — Republicans and Democrats.

**Learn more about  
Labor Party Advocates!  
Hear Tony Mazzocchi  
Sunday, September 22, 7 p.m.  
AFSCME Hall Local 312  
14022 Linwood  
(south of the Lodge near Davison)**

He will be talking about why working people need to build their own independent working class political party. He will be urging working people to join Labor Party Advocates in order to build support for an independent workers party or labor party.

We urge all young people and working people in the Detroit area to support this effort and go hear Tony Mazzocchi.

Young people and working people need to support *all* movements against the privileged classes and their parties. We need to work to bring them together into a single movement for a workers party. When working men and women of all races and nationalities are unified, they will have the power to take back everything that they have worked or produced — the land, the mines, the factories, the transportation systems, the offices, banks, etc. — and use these resources to build a truly socialist and communist society in which workers work together to produce everything that is needed.

This is what Trotskyists are fighting for. Support the struggle. ■

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# Capitalism and privileged dictators failed, not communism! Briefly . . .

Gorbachev and Yeltsin said that "communism has failed," during ABC's Nightline.

This is a lie.

The uprising of workers and oppressed peoples in Russia and the oppressed republics is not an uprising against communism. It is an uprising against a privileged, dictatorial bureaucracy that has been calling itself communist in an effort to confuse the people.

True communists in Russia and the oppressed republics — Trotskyists who put out publications called *Workers Struggle* in Leningrad, *Permanent Revolution* in Moscow, and *Revolution* in Kiev — support the struggles of the workers and oppressed peoples against this privileged dictatorial bureaucracy. They are fighting for the right of oppressed peoples to self-determination, for freedom for political parties, for the total destruction of the privileged bureaucracy, for workers governments, and workers control of planned economies.

*Workers Press*, a Trotskyist publication in London with co-thinkers in Russia, reports that their co-thinkers joined the demonstrations in Moscow against the attempted military takeover; they took a red banner with them and their publications. People were interested and pleased to see groups like these supporting their struggles.

Communism is the struggle of the working class against the privileged classes and forces to take back everything that it has produced and to work *together* to produce everything that is needed. Thus the uprising in Russia and the oppressed republics against the privileged dictatorial

bureaucracy is actually a step *toward* communism.

The masses of working people do not realize this. They are confused by all the propaganda put out by the privileged classes and strata in the U.S. and Russia.

But the more the privileged classes and their supporters talk about how wonderful capitalism is and how terrible communism is, the clearer things will be.

And the more that consistent communists — Trotskyists — make an irreconcilable struggle against all privileged classes and forces, no matter what they call themselves, whether it's capitalists, socialists, or communists, the clearer things will be.

Support the Trotskyists in the U.S., Russia, and the oppressed republics! ■

## In the U.S.:

**Socialist Action, 3435 Army St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110**

**Spark, Box 1047, Detroit, MI 48231**

**The Organizer, 4017 24th St. #19  
San Francisco, CA 94114**

**Truth, Box 441283  
Detroit, MI 48244-1283**

**Workers Organizer  
Box 831, NY, NY 10008**

## In Russia and the Ukraine:

**Permanent Revolution  
127521 Moscow  
105 Oktiabskaia St. Apt. 44  
Russia**

**Revolution  
Box 41 167 Kiev  
Ukraine**

**Workers Struggle  
Box 121 198334 Leningrad  
Russia**

## Spark and the struggle in Russia

*We are reprinting excerpts from a leaflet published and distributed by Spark. Spark is a group that is communist and Trotskyist and that has been active in the Detroit working class for many years. As readers will see, Spark supports the struggles of workers and oppressed people in Russia and the oppressed republics against the attempted military takeover.*

"Of course, the Russian people had every reason to oppose the leaders of the coup. The coup leaders had made it absolutely clear that they intended to impose military rule on the population. The Russian people have suffered too many years under the bloody dictatorship of Stalin to want to go back to that.

"But the people also have no reason to put their faith in Gorbachev's talk of economic reform; he's the very man against whose policies the workers were just striking. Nor should they put their hopes for democracy

in Yeltsin, the man who for almost 40 years was part of the bureaucracy, and eventually one of its more brutal leaders.

"Nothing has been decided by this coup. In fact, the coup showed that people can back down the forces of repression; they can split the army and pull the rank and file troops over to the side of the population, leaving the generals without anyone to command. If the working people understand that it was their strikes, their massing in the streets, the barricades they put up and manned which won the day, perhaps they can put that knowledge to work to serve their own interests.

"The working people have no reason to trust any one of these bureaucrats — not a one. The bureaucrats have called themselves communists — communism, which means the rule of the people themselves — while attacking the people. They have called themselves defenders of democracy, when they have all led or consented to bloody attacks on the people.

"The working people of the USSR can trust only themselves, their own strength, their own forces.

"Nothing has yet been decided in the USSR. There will be more tests of force. The working class could come out on top. It could reestablish the power it once built in 1917, and it could encourage workers around the world to have confidence in their own power — if the workers of the USSR now turn their back on all these bureaucrats who took their country away from them."

## 250,000 march in Washington, D.C.

On August 31, over 250,000 workers marched in Washington, D.C., organized by the 13 million strong AFL-CIO central union council. The unions were forced to call a mass demonstration in Washington, D.C. (the second in 10 years) because of the increased political consciousness among unionized workers. The unions organized the demonstration around support for the passage of several laws on national health insurance, civil rights and "fair trade." Workers came to demonstrate against Bush's anti-worker policies and many came to demonstrate against the anti-worker Democrats, too.

## Car-jackings in Detroit

There has been a large increase in the number of "car-jackings" in Detroit this past month. Peoples' cars are taken away from them at gun point, and some people have been killed. The capitalist news media does nothing to explain this "sudden" increase. Engler's cuts in welfare, the end of unemployment benefits for laid-off workers (the highest nationwide since World War II), not to mention the lack of decent jobs for the majority of young men and women in Detroit, are the reasons for the increase in car-jackings.

## All-male schools

It has become clear that the purpose of the all-male schools begun by the Detroit School Board is to continue their policy of creating a two-tiered education system in Detroit. One system of special schools that include not only these all-male "academies" but also the elite elementary schools of Golightly, Burton and Alonzo Bates, and elite high schools of Renaissance and Cass Tech. The other system, which includes all the other schools in the system, continues to deteriorate.

The school board is accepting the budget cuts by Engler and Bush, giving the meager resources to a small group of children of the elite and punishing the majority of Detroit school children. It is necessary for workers to demand that equal money — equal to that now spent in the school districts for the rich — be spent on every single school-age child in the United States. Only this kind of fight can insure a good, equal education for all children, boys and girls, young men and women.

## Support the teachers' strike in Richmond

Teachers in the Richmond school district have been threatened with firing unless they return to school by Monday, September 9. Teachers in Macomb County have stated that they will *all* walk out if these teachers are fired. Last week, fired teachers in the Dallas, Texas, school system called on students to support their demands to be re-hired. There were demonstrations and walkouts by hundreds of students. We urge all working people and young people to support the teachers and students against the school board's cuts.

## Factory fire kills 25

Twenty-five workers, 19 of them women, and most of these single mothers, were killed when a fire swept through the chicken processing factory where they worked in Hamlet, South Carolina. The company, Imperial Food Products, did not have an automatic sprinkler system, and several fire exits were padlocked from the outside, according to workers, to prevent "stealing." Workers were trapped inside. This was no industrial accident. These workers were murdered by a profit-hungry corporation. The owners should be tried and punished for murder and pay reparations to the families.

## Free Manuel Noriega!

The trial of Manuel Noriega, former head of the Panama, has begun in Miami. Noriega is charged with drug-smuggling. It is clear to even the dimmest of wits that Noriega was simply doing the bidding of the U.S. when he sold drugs. There is incontrovertible evidence that this was part of the operation by Ronald Reagan and Marine Lt. Colonel Oliver North to fund the contras against the Nicaraguan government. Noriega's Panama was one of the training grounds for the contras.

The U.S. government had no business in invading Panama in 1989, killing thousands of working class Panamanians, kidnapping Noriega and bringing him to the United States to stand trial. The Panamanian people, the country of Panama, have a right to self-determination. Free Noriega!

## Spark Forum

Spark, a Trotskyist group in Detroit, will be holding a forum entitled: "The end of communism? We haven't seen the beginning." It will be held on September 29, 5:00 p.m. at the Pullman Hall, Cass and Forest near the Wayne State University campus.

## The Trotskyist Committee

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sold 7 Truth, and distributed a leaflet in defense of communism. We spent most of our time collecting signatures for the Recall Engler campaign. ■

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

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