

# Jobs now! Workers candidates!

Young people and working people are becoming more and more agitated about unemployment.

This is why various Democratic Party presidential candidates are now talking about doing something about unemployment. Some are calling for a public construction program to provide jobs for young people and the unemployed.

We are for a public construction program to provide jobs at union wages. But it would be foolish to count on the Democratic Party to do this.

The Democratic Party's calls for measures against unemployment are nothing but election year promises aimed at getting votes. They are trying to appeal to unemployed workers, and to workers concerned about unemployment, so that they can get and keep jobs themselves as highly-paid professional politicians. As soon as they are elected they will forget about the young and working people they appealed to.

Both the Republican and the Democratic parties and their candidates are *owned* by the privileged classes. They are not going to do anything about unemployment, because they profit from unemployment. Unemployed workers, with no way to feed themselves and their families, are a constant pressure on workers who are working to work harder and produce more for less

money. The more the worker produces, the less he is paid, the richer the privileged class.

This is why we urge all young and working people who want more jobs, to gather together and to select and run *independent working class candidates* for local, state, and national offices in the 1992 elections.

Working class candidates for office can use their campaigns to:

- Support struggles for jobs;
- Fight for measures to provide jobs, like: banning overtime by law; cutting the work week to 30 hours without cutting pay by law; a program of public construction to provide jobs for unemployed workers at union wages; a special tax on the richest families to finance these measures; confiscating the assets of those who refuse to cooperate;

— Build a workers party.

If and when they are elected, working class candidates can use their positions in office to continue this fight.

The more this struggle proceeds, the more the working class will see that it is indeed capable of building a workers party and carrying out an economic, social, and political revolution in which the working class takes back everything that it has produced and begins to build a truly *socialist* society! ■

## Briefly . . .

**Free the young Black women of Hart Plaza!** Coleman Young just admitted that the young Black women arrested, convicted, and imprisoned for allegedly attacking some white middle-class women at Hart Plaza during the fireworks were *railroaded*. The police department did not even get an original copy of the video tape used to convict them. Evidence that they might have been provoked by racist remarks was suppressed. They were bullied into pleading "no contest" and did not even get trials. Even if they had gotten trials, they could not have been fair ones, since they had already been tried and convicted on television.

Even if these young women did make unprovoked attacks on totally innocent by-standers, something that has never been proven beyond a reasonable doubt, we can only say: "You reap what you sow!" You cannot expect to close all the factories in Detroit, leave the people without decent jobs, schools, or homes, and then expect the people to welcome you to Detroit with open and loving arms. You cannot expect to make heroes out of big-time oil thieves and mass murderers like Bush and Schwarzkopf, and not expect others to engage in a bit of small-time stealing and violence themselves.

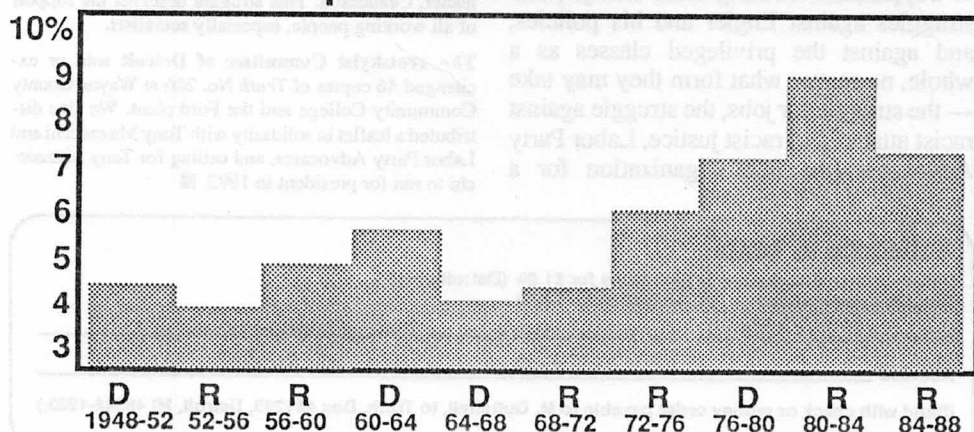
The two white men who beat a Black man nearly to death at Harpo's were sentenced to three months in a half-way house, 3 months on a tether, and two years probation. Marie Springfield, a mother of two toddlers, accused of doing absolutely nothing but taking a necklace from one of the white middle-class women at Hart Plaza, was sentenced to 1-15 years in prison! Free the young Black women of Hart Plaza now! Jobs, not prisons!

About 100 attended the meeting for Tony Mazzocchi and Labor Party Advocates at the AFSCME union hall on September 22. Mazzocchi spoke briefly and asked for questions and comments. Lots of people had questions and comments, and everyone who wanted to speak had plenty of opportunity to do so. About half-way through the meeting someone asked how many people were members of Labor Party Advocates, or planned to become members of Labor Party Advocates before they left the room. More than half the people in the room raised their hands. This meeting and these decisions represent a big step forward for the workers movement in Detroit. There will be a fuller report with the next issue of *Truth*.

The privileged class in the U.S. is working to crush small nations like Croatia, Cuba and Iraq. This class

**Next Labor Party  
Advocates Meeting  
Tuesday, October 8  
7 p.m.  
UAW Local 600  
Dix at Wyoming**

## Unemployment with Republicans and Democrats



R stands for Republican

# Lesson of the campaign to recall Engler ... Millions must enter the struggle!

In the last issue of *Truth*, we said that the Committee to Recall Engler collected 700,000 signatures to recall Engler. This was the official figure given at the time.

Since then we have learned that this is not correct. The Committee actually collected about 480,000 signatures.

In other words, the Committee did *not* reach its goal of collecting the number of signatures legally required to put this question on the November ballot and to allow the people to vote on it — 641,141.

People against Engler collected 480,000 signatures — twice the number of signatures, in half the amount of time, as petitioners for any other cause in recent Michigan history. (Petitioners for the 1985 Headlee proposal to reduce property taxes collected only about 250,000 signatures in 180 days.) This means there are more people in Michigan in favor of recalling Engler than there have been in favor of any other popular cause in recent Michigan history.

Yet we still were not able to collect enough signatures.

## Why didn't we get enough signatures?

Some blame the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the news media, the top union leadership, the top church leadership, elements within the Committee to Recall Engler and even "sabotage."

There is no question that the Republicans, the Democrats, the news media, and the privileged classes that they represent totally opposed the campaign to recall Engler. The top union leadership claimed to support the campaign, yet refused to devote any resources to actually collecting signatures. The Committee to Recall Engler was dominated by middle-class elements, including middle-class elements tied to the Democratic Party; they didn't keep an accurate record of the number of signatures collected; they didn't do everything that could have been done to involve the masses of working people in the struggle, etc.

But the Republicans, the Democrats, the news media, and the privileged classes that they represent will *always* oppose the struggles of working people to get rid of privileged politicians like Engler that serve the privileged and hurt the workers and poor. Top union and church leaders *often* give lip service to these struggles without actually doing anything for them. And even if the leadership of the fight were a working class and revolutionary leadership, we might have done better, but there is no *guarantee* that we would have *won*.

The question is, how are we going to overcome these forces? How are we going to overcome these problems, which are going to be here for some time, to one extent or another?

## Millions must fight

We think the struggle to recall Engler shows that there is no way to do this — no way to make any big progress in overcoming these forces and these problems — unless thousands, even millions, of working people enter into active political struggle themselves, whether it takes the form of petitioning, forming new parties, recruiting to new parties, trying to get new parties on the ballot, running candidates, meetings, demonstrations, strikes, etc.

The working class is the only class in this society — outside of the privileged ruling class that backs Engler — that is organized in any constructive way. The working class is organized in work places, unions, and working class neighborhoods. It is the only class in this society that is in a position to effectively challenge the privileged ruling class and its representatives and policies. And it can only do this by entering into an active political struggle, en masse, not in ones or twos, or even tens or hundreds, but in thousands and millions.

The campaign to recall Engler shows that it is no longer possible, if it ever was, to rely on a small number of activists, no matter how dedicated they may or may not be, to resolve the problems of the working class.

Millions of young workers, women workers, workers of all races and nationalities, have to look at the problems facing them, think about them, think about how to resolve them, and enter into political struggle to resolve them.

The campaign to recall Engler, in which many working people became active in political struggle for the first time, was a step in this direction.

## What is the best way to continue the struggle at this time?

Some people are talking about another petition drive, this fall or next year. We do not think that this is a very good idea. Days are getting shorter and colder. By next year most people will be thinking about the 1992 elections.

We think the best way to continue the struggle against Engler and his policies, at this time, is to:

1. Support *all* working class and popular struggles against Engler and his policies, and against the privileged classes as a whole, no matter what form they may take — the struggle for jobs, the struggle against racist attacks and racist justice, Labor Party Advocates (the new organization for a

workers party) ...

2. Work to unify all these struggles into a single movement for a workers party ...

3. Put forward working class candidates for local, state and national offices to lead this fight in the 1992 elections.

It is especially important to fight for working class candidates for the 1992 elections. The Republicans and Democrats are *owned* by the privileged classes. Workers saw this in Michigan when Republicans *and* Democrats refused to support the campaign to recall Engler. Republicans and Democrats will be using their election campaigns to make propaganda in the interests of the privileged classes. They will be urging young people and working people to abandon *independent* struggles for their demands. They will be urging young and working people to trust in the Republicans and Democrats to solve their problems.

We need working class candidates who will use their election campaigns to make propaganda for supporting all working class and popular struggles and movements and for unifying them into a single movement for a workers party.

When thousands and millions of working people have their own political party, they will begin to see that they are indeed capable of carrying out an economic, social, and political revolution, in which working people take back everything that they have produced and begin to build a truly socialist society.

They'll see that everything that has happened to date has just been pre-history ...

## Briefly . . . (continued)

claims to be for the right of nations to self-determination. What are they doing to defend the right of Croatia to self-determination, against the Yugoslavian federation army, which is bombing the Croatian people like the U.S. bombed Iraq? The U.S. demands that the Russians pull out of Cuba, but the U.S. has the biggest military base — Guantanamo Bay Naval Base — right on Cuban territory and refuses to pull out. The U.S. buried Iraqi soldiers alive in the desert sand and continues a military blockade of Iraq, starving the Iraqi people and subjecting them to disease. For the privileged classes in the U.S., the right to self-determination means their right to exploit and oppress small nations. For the working and oppressed classes in the U.S. self-determination must mean something else. The right of small, oppressed nations to self-determination. U.S. out of Cuba, Iraq, and all foreign territories now! Solidarity with the Croatian people!

Romanian miners are organizing mass demonstrations, battling the police, and demanding that the government, made up of ex-Stalinist Communist Party officials, resign. This is a continuation of the struggle that the workers of Romania began over a year ago, that resulted in the downfall and execution of the Stalinist leader, Ceaucescu. This struggle deserves the support of all working people, especially socialists.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sold or exchanged 46 copies of *Truth* No. 266 at Wayne County Community College and the Ford plant. We also distributed a leaflet in solidarity with Tony Mazzocchi and Labor Party Advocates, and calling for Tony Mazzocchi to run for president in 1992. ■

## TRUTH

A bulletin published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit.

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# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

Supplement • September 21, 1991 • Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 • 313-584-6556

## Solidarity with Tony Mazzocchi and Labor Party Advocates! Tony Mazzocchi for President in 1992!

We — editors of *Truth*, a revolutionary Trotskyist bulletin in Detroit, begun in 1974 — want to express our solidarity with Tony Mazzocchi, Labor Party Advocates, and their struggle to build a labor party based on the unions ... *against* the political parties of the privileged and their agents in the unions.

The same men in the top union leaderships who advocate undying loyalty to the political parties of the privileged and their candidates, the same men who advocate pouring thousands and thousands of union dollars into the political parties and election campaigns of the privileged, are the same men who have advocated making *concessions* in contract negotiations to the privileged. This policy has resulted in a drastic reduction in the size of the labor movement in Detroit, in the size of the work force in Detroit, and in immeasurable suffering and misery for working women, working men, and their families in the Detroit area.

No worker, and no working class organization, can afford to be *neutral* in the conflict that is developing between Tony Mazzocchi and Labor Party Advocates on the one hand, and the political parties of the privileged and their agents on the other. No worker can afford to be *neutral* in this conflict, any more than he would be neutral in a conflict between striking workers and the bosses.

We urge all working people in the Detroit area and their organizations to join Labor Party Advocates, and to do everything in their power to build Labor Party Advocates, in all the ways outlined in the LPA newsletter. *We are especially interested in getting to know and working with other members of LPA in the Detroit area who are working to build support for LPA among young workers, women workers, and autoworkers. (Continued on back page)*

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However, we would not be frank if we did not say that we also think that it is *extremely* important for Labor Party Advocates to fight for the labor movement to put forward its own, independent labor candidate for president in 1992, and to put forward a Labor Party Advocates candidate for president — Tony Mazzocchi — in order to push for this.

Labor Party Advocates is trying to bring together and build forces for a labor party based on the unions. This is absolutely correct. But what *form* does a campaign for a distinct political party take in a presidential election year? It takes the form of a campaign for a distinct presidential candidate.

It is *extremely* important for working women and working men in the United States to take advantage of and to learn to use *all* the democratic rights that they have, for their *own* benefit — the right to form parties, the right to run candidates, the right to campaign, the right to publish and distribute their own propaganda, the right to vote, the right to recall officials, the right to special elections, the right to have their own representatives in local, state and national legislatures, etc.

Working women and working men need to learn to do these things in order to be able to free themselves from the exploitation and oppression that they suffer at the hands of the privileged classes and the privileged professional politicians.

But there will not be any big progress in this direction for millions of working women and working men if there is no independent, working class candidate for president on the ballot, or if the only working class candidates for president are those of the tiny socialist organizations.

The experiences in the last elections show that if the only major candidates on the ballot are Republican and Democratic Party candidates, the vast majority of working people will pay little or no attention to the elections, they will not campaign for anyone, and they will not even vote.

Working people in the U.S. and the USSR are sick to death of the privileged, and the privileged political parties and politicians, whether it is the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, or the Communist Party of the USSR. This is *obvious* in the USSR. There are more and more signs in the U.S. — the campaign to recall Gates in LA, the campaign to recall Engler in

Michigan, the brief attempt at independent labor candidates in New Jersey, the upsurge against the Republicans and Democrats in Rhode Island, NOW's call for a third party, the 10,000 votes for Workers Against Concessions in 1988 in Michigan, the 20,000 votes for the Workers World Party in 1990 in Michigan ...

The political parties of the privileged in the U.S. and the USSR are dying. It is simply a question of time.

In order to resolve the problems facing millions of working people in the U.S., millions of working people in the U.S. are going to have to enter into active political struggle, they are going to have to take their fate into their own hands, form their own parties, run their own candidates, campaign for their own candidates, write their own propaganda, vote for their own candidates ... exercise *all* the democratic rights that they have.

As revolutionary Trotskyists, we are convinced that the more working people exercise these democratic rights, the more they will see the *limits* of these rights and the need for a new democracy and a new revolution, a workers democracy and a workers revolution, in which workers establish their own workers government and in which workers take back everything that they have produced (in other words, *workers* socialism or *workers* communism).

Some members of Labor Party Advocates will not agree with us about this. Others will. But how is it possible for millions of working people to determine what is and is not possible with the kind of democracy that we have today, if they are not making full use of *all* the rights that they have in this kind of democracy?

We urge all forces in Labor Party Advocates not only to enter into a common fight to build Labor Party Advocates in the largest possible way, but also to do everything in their power to create the conditions in which millions of working people will have an opportunity to exercise *all* their democratic rights:

Fight for an independent labor candidate for president in 1992!

Put forward a Labor Party Advocates candidate to lead this struggle!

Tony Mazzocchi for president in 1992!