

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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Emergency measures to . . . Defend workers and poor! Workers candidates in '92!

Working people, poor people, and others concerned about them continue to grow more and more angry about the situation. Every day Engler cuts another social program — programs for mentally disabled children, programs for abused women. Employers are cutting workers' hours — some workers are working only four hours a week. Those who continue to have jobs find that their working conditions are becoming more and more unbearable and that their pay checks are buying less and less.

More and more meetings and demonstrations are taking place — a demonstration in Detroit on Thursday, October 17; another on Tuesday, October 22.

Some workers have already begun to fight for *emergency measures*, like:

— a moratorium (temporary ban) on all evictions and utilities shut-offs;

— a moratorium on all attempts to repossess cars and homes ...

We urge all young and working people to support these and all similar struggles and to devote a small amount of time to them every week.

The campaign to recall Engler showed that a small handful of people, no matter how devoted they may be, cannot do what needs to be done. Millions need to take up an active political struggle against the privileged classes.

In order to do this, young and working people must put forward *workers candidates* to unite working women and working men of all races and



nationalities and to mobilize the people to fight for their needs during the 1992 elections.

The campaign to recall Engler showed that young and working people cannot rely on the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the top church leaders, or the top trade union leaders to do this.

Could Engler do what he is doing without the active or passive support of the Democratic Party, the top church leaders, or the top trade union leaders?

Did the Democratic Party, the top church leaders, or the top trade union leaders lift a finger to build the largest possible struggle to recall Engler?

Why are they making speeches against Engler and his policies *now*? Why are they asking us to vote for them *now*?

They do not want to *do* anything to *stop* our suffering. They just want to *appeal* to our suffering and our anger so that we will vote for them and so that they will get soft jobs as professional politicians at our expense.

We say: No!

Working people can and will put forward their own, independent, working class candidates for office in 1992, to unite working women and working men of all races and nationalities and to mobilize the people to fight for their needs!

Emergency measures!

- Ban, by law, all evictions, utility shut-offs, attempts to repossess household goods, cars, and homes.
- Cut, by law, the work week to thirty hours without cutting pay, in order to reduce the number of unemployed. Increase the minimum wage.
- Establish, by law, workers control of working conditions, in order to minimize the damages to workers' health caused by the bosses' attempts to make them work more and more for less and less.
- Workers' candidates to fight for these measures, before, during and after the 1992 elections.

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Labor Party Advocates Meeting

Tuesday, November 12
7 p.m.

UAW Local 600
Dix and Wyoming

A workers candidate for president in 1992!

The vast majority of working people are looking for an alternative to the Republican and Democratic parties and their candidates in the 1992 elections.

And they are absolutely right!

We urge all young people, working people, employed and unemployed, and their organizations, to *support this tendency toward political independence in the working class. They can do this by fighting for the unions to break with the Republican and Democratic parties and put forward an independent working class or labor candidate for president in 1992.*

Young and working people and their organizations can put forward working class candidates to push for this during the 1992 elections.

The Republicans and the Democrats are doing everything that they can to try to *break up this tendency toward political independence in the working class.* They are trying to *appeal* to working people, to make them *forget* everything that the Republicans and Democrats have done and will do.

The top union leaderships are working with them, using union personnel, union money, and union time, to promote Republican or Democratic party candidates.

But their efforts are destined to defeat, sooner or later.

The U.S. ruling classes have been able to block the political separation of the classes in the U.S. and the formation of an independent working class candidate and party for many years.

U.S. bankers and businessmen had many opportunities to make profits throughout the world. After their military victory in World War II, they had a virtual monopoly in the world market. U.S. industry was still relatively young and vigorous. U.S. bankers and businessmen were able to make *super-profits* and sustain a large middle-class and a privileged section in the working class that masked the fact that society is basically divided into two classes with mutually antagonistic interests.

Now the opportunities to make profits throughout the world are shrinking; competition between the big powers is increasing; the U.S. is losing its dominant position; it has been wasting resources on arms (planes, ships, tanks, bombs) while Japan and Germany have been investing in more basic industries (steel, capital goods, cars). U.S. bankers and businessmen no longer have the *super-profits* they need to artificially sustain the middle-classes and the privileged workers. Conflicts between the classes are growing; the classes are growing farther and farther apart, more and more mutually antagonistic.

In this situation, the formation of separate candidates and parties is inevitable. It is simply a question of time. Why wait?

The vast majority of working people want an alternative to the Republicans and Democrats in the 1992 elections. The last

elections showed this. Every poll shows this. The unions have a responsibility to do what the majority of working people want. This means *break* with the Republicans and Democrats and put forward an independent working class or labor candidate for president. Every union official who is not for this should be replaced.

Labor Party Advocates is pushing for a labor party in the unions. This is a *big* step forward; we urge every one to support Labor Party Advocates, join Labor Party Advocates, and build it in the largest possible way. But pushing for the unions to form a labor party during an election year, without pushing for the unions to put forward independent working class or labor candidates in the elections, tends to make a labor party too much a sterile abstraction. Workers are

Briefly . . .

Anita Hill has done a lot to help *unify* working class women and working class men. Since she spoke up against her boss, Clarence Thomas, and his *sexist* harassment of her, many working class women and working class men have been discussing this question. Working class women have been letting their bosses and their co-workers know that they don't want to be treated the way Anita Hill was treated. The most progressive men are supporting the women and they are arguing with their fellow workers about this. Working class women are being treated with more respect by their bosses and their co-workers than they were before Anita Hill spoke out. Thank you Anita Hill! And thanks to the millions of oppressed women and men that have had the courage to stand up for this cause!

Some people still say that Clarence Thomas's appointment to the Supreme Court was a victory for the Black people. This is not true. Clarence Thomas is a Reagan-Bush man, an enemy of affirmative action programs for Blacks and women, an enemy of women's right to abortion. He is a Black face with a rich white man's heart. More and more will see this.

Cassandra Wilson is one of the young Black women charged with beating and robbing a white woman at the fireworks in Detroit. She is the only one who has not pleaded "no contest." She is the only one who has not yet been sentenced. So far, she has pleaded not guilty. Her trial has been indefinitely postponed. We still say these women were *railroaded*, they did not get fair trials. They were tried and convicted on television and never even had a chance to have a trial. The justice system is racist and anti-worker: rich whites can buy their freedom; poor Blacks (and whites) get the death penalty. Whatever these young women may or may not have done, it is up to the working class to deal with this problem. Workers shouldn't leave these young women in the hands of a racist, sexist, anti-worker justice system. Free Cassandra Wilson and all the young Black women of the fireworks affair now!

David Duke, a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, is now the Republican candidate for governor in Louisiana. Duke is a right-wing populist who says that

What is Truth fighting for?

1. Unity against the privileged classes.
2. Workers candidates and a workers party.
3. Socialism: a society where the working class, which produces everything, owns everything that it produces, and where everyone has what she or he needs.
4. A revolutionary Marxist party to lead this fight. Revolutionary workers are the ones who have struggled most consistently for these goals. They need to be armed with the most advanced revolutionary theory and experience of the working class in order to be successful. This has been summed up by Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Trotsky, and their followers, known today as Trotskyists and organized in the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. They need to be organized in their own party. ■

much less interested in the *idea* of a labor party, than they are in the *reality* of a labor party, that is, the masses of working people acting as one, single, unified, independent, political whole against the class enemy.

We can make a big step in this direction by fighting for the unions to put forward an independent working class or labor candidate for president, and by putting forward working class candidates to fight for this in the 1992 election, everywhere that we possibly can. ■

READ:
"The crisis of socialism
and the tasks of
the U.S. working class"
A Truth pamphlet — 15¢

spending money on welfare and on prisons is what is bringing down the working and living conditions of whites. In this sense, he is much like Engler in Michigan. Bush and other Republicans have disassociated themselves from David Duke, but there are no fundamental differences between them. They aim to pit whites (and even more comfortable Blacks) against poorer Blacks and whites. Duke's victory in Louisiana shows that working class candidates to unite working people of all races and nationalities *against the privileged classes*, who are responsible for the problems in the country, are not a luxury. They are an urgent necessity.

The Jones/Larsen Defense Committee was formed to defend Tahan Jones and Erik Larsen, Marines who became conscientious objectors during the Gulf War and who refused to participate in the war. The military has charged them, imprisoned them, and aims to sentence them to long prison terms. The Defense Committee asks supporters to call the Marines on November 12, demand that they drop the charges against Tahan and Erik, and free all imprisoned conscientious objectors. General Mundy, Marine Corps Commandant, 703-614-2500; General Vermilyea, responsible for Tahan's and Erik's court martials, 504-948-1210. Supporters can also call Congressmen on November 13, organize meetings on the weekend of November 23 and 24, donate money to the defense fund, and/or write Tahan and Erik. PFC Erik Larsen 563-49-1139, Bldg. 8, or Cpl. Tahan Jones 564-43-9553, Bldg. 8 at H-1 Wing A, 2nd MEB, Subunit 1 MCB, Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-5090. For further information: call 510-655-1201 or write: Tahan Jones/Erik Larsen Defense Committee, Box 225, 1678 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709.

The U.S. government is now organizing a so-called *peace conference in the Middle East*. This peace conference is a lie. The U.S. government and its military outpost, the racist State of Israel, aim to subjugate the peoples of the Middle East so that U.S. bankers and businessmen can continue to steal their natural resources, like oil, sell them, and reap the profits. There will be no freedom and no peace in the Middle East until all the U.S. forces are out! The U.S. has no right to have troops stationed there, or anywhere else outside the U.S. This is imperialism! U.S. out of the Middle East! Down with the oil thieves' fake peace conference! Freedom for Iraq and Palestine!

Official investigators into the *attempted military takeover in the USSR* in August just released a report. They say that the August attempt failed because the organizers "underestimated the degree of popular and military resistance." (*Detroit Free Press*, October 29, 1991) They also say that in addition to 14 already charged with treason, another 6 may be arrested. This investigation is being conducted by the KGB. This is like asking Bush to investigate wrong-doing in the White House. Why are Gorbachev and Yeltsin having the KGB investigate the attempted military takeover? Why isn't there an independent working class and popular investigation? To ask the question is to answer it. Gorbachev and Yeltsin want to *protect*, as much as they can, their life-long buddies in the KGB and the military who organized the attempted takeover.

Truth sold 29 copies of Truth No. 270 at Wayne County Community College, the Ford Rouge plant, and a working class neighborhood in Detroit. We continued to talk to young and working people about the struggles against Engler and Bush and the fight for workers candidates and a workers party. We also made some progress in talking to them about the crisis of socialism. Young people and workers are much more interested in the fight for socialism when they see that socialists are in solidarity with the working class and popular upsurge against the privileged caste in the USSR. Otherwise, socialism just looks like another form of exploitation and oppression. ■

Truth is 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. Editor: Margaret Gutshall
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