

Workers sympathize with Royal Oak postal worker!

There was a funeral service for the postal supervisors who were shot and killed by a postal worker that they had harrassed and fired.

A number of workers attended this funeral service wearing black arm bands with the initials T.M., for Thomas McIlvane, the postal worker who did the shooting.

One postal worker that we talked to said he supported Thomas McIlvane. Another said that he was glad that McIlvane did what he did. "It's about time that the truth came out about what it is like to work at the post office." Still others said that management drove McIlvane to do what he did. "They were out to get him. They wrote him up for one petty thing after another. They don't want workers who talk back."

These are just some of the most obvious signs that workers throughout the Detroit area sympathize with the postal worker. Working conditions are becoming so bad that workers are being driven to shoot and kill the supervisors whose job it is to force them to work harder and harder for less and less money.

The U.S. government wants to serve the banks and big corporations by making mail service for them as cheap as possible. U.S. banks and corporations want to compete with the Japanese and the Germans, so they try to force U.S. workers to work harder and harder for less and less. The workers and their families are paying the price.

What happened at the post office shows that all working women and working men need to make a big, common, united fight:

— for workers control of working conditions;

— for workers control of the banks and basic industries;

— for committees, meetings, demonstrations, strikes, and independent working class candidates to fight for this in the 1992 elections;

— for replacing union officials who stand in the way.

Workers have to have more control over the working conditions in which they



are forced to work. They have to have more control over the banks and basic industries. Workers in the U.S., Japan and Germany can work together to produce what people need, instead of working themselves to death to increase the bosses' profits.

Naturally, the big owners are not going to give up control without a fight. But they will stop fighting when they can't pay anyone to do their fighting for them.

This moment may not be as far off as one might think.

The more the owners force the workers to work harder and harder for less and less, the angrier the workers become. The angrier the workers become, the more Thomas McIlvanes there will be. They will be better organized. They'll go for the really big bosses instead of the little bosses. They'll live to keep on

fighting until all working women, working men, and their families, are free from exploitation and oppression. Workers, who produce everything, will own everything. Everyone will be part of the working class. There will be no billionaires who live in luxury at the expense of the people.

This is inevitable. The rich owners will reap what the rich owners sow. The rich owners cannot expect to live like kings, while the workers live like peasants, and not end up like the kings. The best that the rich owners can hope for is to postpone their final downfall. ■



Postal workers understand McIlvane's actions.

Who really runs the U.S.

Bush said, "I'd frankly like to see the credit-card rates come down. I believe that would help stimulate the consumer and get the confidence moving again" (*USA Today*, November 13). The reason was simple. Working people have been outraged that while all the interest rates for big industry and for home mortgages have fallen to 8%, the average interest rate on credit cards is nearly 19%. Bush made these statements and appeared to push for these changes to try to keep his popularity from falling any lower.

The day after Bush spoke, the Senate passed a bill with a 14% cap on credit card interest rates. Bankers came to Washington in droves and told the politicians that if there were a cap of 14% on credit cards, which is not really very much, they would have *lost* \$2 billion last year rather than *made* \$6

billion! In other words, all the money the banks made came from high interest rates on credit cards. That Friday the stock market dropped 120 points as big investors became worried that a law lowering interest rates on credit cards would pass.

They need not worry. Within 5 days, Bush reversed his position; Congress reversed its position and went home for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The banks really do run the U.S. government: the president, the Congress and the Supreme Court. In one day of lobbying they killed a bill that 95% of the people supported. If the U.S. economy is ever going to be productive again, the workers are going to have to take control of these banks away from their rich owners and run them in the interest of the people. — J.M. ■

How workers can get the economy running again

The discussion in every lunchroom, workplace, working class bar, restaurant and home, eventually turns to the terrible state of the economy. There are no jobs; the prices keep going up for the necessities of life.

College graduates from working class homes, college degrees that cost working class parents thousands of dollars, do not get the graduates good-paying jobs. Workers with 10 or 20 years seniority lose their jobs and have no prospect of getting another one.

Workers are blaming the companies and banks in the following way:

"The reason that the economy is so bad is greed or selfishness" — Detroit school bus driver and student.

"The companies are entitled to a decent profit, but why are they so greedy?" — Ford autoworker and student.

Workers want to do something about the situation in which they find themselves. The next step is: workers control of the banks and industry.

Workers control of the banks and industry would allow the owners of the corporations and banks to remain owners. They would continue to gather profits as they have always done. But, the workers would have some control over how the business is run with regards to the workers.

Workers would exercise control over investment decisions that cause jobs to disappear; workers would exercise control over decisions that raise the prices of food and other necessities of life; workers would exercise control over profits so that, in the eyes of the workers, the profits were "decent" and not criminal.

Right now, it is hard for workers to see how they could exercise control over industry because there is no means to implement the program.

Workers can form committees in workplaces to fight for workers control.

Workers need their own candidates in the upcoming elections. Workers candidates, independent of the Democrats and Republicans that at least stand for one thing, an independent workers party. The campaign for workers candidates would help develop the neces-

sary organization and movement of workers. Such campaigns would be a step in building a workers party that can fight for workers control of industry.

But be warned. There are no solutions to the problems of the economy without

Briefly . . .

Beware of election year promises. Now that homeless people and their supporters in Detroit have occupied buildings, set-up a "tent city", appealed to the City Council, and organized dozens of meetings and demonstrations, Bush's associate, Jack Kemp, has suddenly found funds for housing in Detroit. Coleman Young says he is going to allow the homeless to stay in vacant public housing. This is a partial victory, but it is an important victory. It shows that when people make a big fight, they can make progress. But how long is it going to last? Bush, Young and other big politicians are afraid of the people. They want the people to vote for Republicans and Democrats in the coming elections. So they are making some concessions. But what will they do when the elections are over? We say: Beware of opportunist politicians. Beware of election year promises. Don't trust them. Workers need to run their own, independent, working class candidates for public office.

The AFL-CIO held an annual convention in Detroit. Instead of making plans to put forward an independent labor candidate for president, it listened to various Democrats. All working class tendencies need to make a common fight for the labor movement to put forward its own candidates. Giving money to the Democrats is like turning a strike fund over to the bosses.

Workers defend affirmative action quotas. Bush has been speaking against affirmative action programs for Black people and women for years. But, under pressure, he just signed a bill that he says calls for affirmative action programs, but not for quotas. He says quotas hurt whites and men. Quotas may hurt rich white men, but they don't hurt working class white men. Affirmative action quotas have forced racist and sexist employers to hire more Black people and women. White people and Black people, male and female, have had more opportunities to work together. The working class has become more unified. This has been good for the working class, made it stronger, put it in a better position to fight the employers. This or that individual white male might not have gotten a position that he might have gotten before affirmative action quotas. But the overall advantages of affirmative action quotas for the working class and its unity and strength (in the final analysis the fate of working class white men depends on this), far outweigh the disadvantages for this or that individual. This is why the most thoughtful and far-sighted workers defend affirmative action quotas.

Hands off Detroit. A Republican state legislator says that Coleman Young and his associates are financially irresponsible and are robbing the public treasury in Detroit. He is calling for a federal investigation and for putting the City of Detroit in receivership. What a crock! This guy wants Bush and his gang of thieves in Washington to investigate and control Young and his gang of thieves in Detroit. In reality, this is racist. It is one more attempt to pit white people against Black people. It is an attack on the Black majority in Detroit and on their right to elect their own representatives without interference from Washington. The biggest problem in Detroit is not Coleman Young. It is the owners of the banks and corporations and their representatives in Washington who have closed the vast majority of factories in the Detroit. Until that problem is solved, there will be no solution to the problems in Detroit. Coleman Young is a small player in the game. This is why we say: Hands off Detroit. The workers will take care of the problems, when they are ready.

Hands off Libya. Bush and his associates now say that two Libyan officials bombed a plane that crashed over Scotland a few years ago. They are pushing for an international boycott of Libya and, according to the media, they are even considering bombing Libya. What happened to basic democratic principles: innocent until proven guilty; the right to a trial with a jury of one's

workers control of banks and industry. Only workers control of the banks and industry places the economy in the hands of the people that know best what needs to be done to protect the vast majority and to insure a future for the vast majority — the workers. — J.M. ■

peers? Do these apply only to U.S. citizens? Are U.S. citizens some superior race like Hitler's Aryans? Bush has appointed himself judge, jury, and executioner. Are we going to have to watch him bomb thousands of innocent men, women, and children, in order to get one or two alleged criminals again, like he did to the Iraqi people? It is time to see through his lies. Bush and the privileged class he represents want to be the kings and queens of the planet; they want the rest of us to be their subjects, to kill and be killed on command. We say: No! Hands off Libya! War on Bush and U.S. billionaires, not on the poor people of Libya or Iraq!

Workers for Croatia. This week Vukovar, a city in Croatia, fell. It had been under siege by Serbian imperialist troops for some time. The media here is trying to convince readers that the Croatian people deserve what they are getting. They printed stories claiming that the Croatian's slit the throats of kindergarteners. Later they had to retract the story. The Croatian people obviously want to be independent of the Serbians. Workers should support their struggle. It is impossible to unify workers of different nationalities unless workers of different nationalities accord to each other equal rights.

Tony Mazzocchi, founder of Labor Party Advocates, talked and answered questions from callers on public radio in Detroit on Friday, November 22. Other members of LPA organized gatherings in their homes to listen to the talk show and build support for Labor Party Advocates. The next meeting of LPA in Detroit is: Wednesday, January 8, 7 p.m., UAW Local 600, 10550 Dix. For further information about LPA in Detroit: LPA, Box 127, Warren, Michigan 48090-0127, 313-353-7568.

Spark, a Trotskyist group, is holding a forum on AIDS, Sunday, December 8, 5 p.m., at Pullman Hall, 4605 Cass Ave.

Truth sold 27 copies of Truth No. 272 at Wayne County Community College. We also passed out a leaflet about Magic Johnson, and organized a meeting for Labor Party Advocates. ■

Do socialists support privileged dictators?

Many workers think that all socialists and communists have supported the privileged in the USSR, Eastern Europe, and China and their dictatorship against the workers and oppressed peoples. There is no question that some people who call themselves socialists and communists have done so — for example, the Communist Party, the Workers World Party, and others. But the number of people who call themselves socialists or communists and who still support the privileged in the USSR is becoming smaller and smaller. The Trotskyists have been in the front ranks of the struggles of workers and oppressed peoples against the privileged caste since 1923. Many Trotskyists died in this struggle, including Leon Trotsky himself, who fell in 1940, at the hands of an assassin hired by Stalin. Trotskyists in the USSR took part in the struggle against the political police, the military, and their attempt to takeover in August. The vast majority of Trotskyists throughout the world (including Trotskyists in the International Workers League, the International Center for Reconstruction, and the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International) support the struggles of the masses of workers and oppressed in the USSR against the ruling Communist Party, including their demands to ban the Communist Party, dissolve it, and confiscate its property. ■

Truth is 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 Guttschall

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