

Workers against a white Christian nation!

Truth urges working women and working men of all races, nationalities and religions, to make a common fight against the call for making the U.S. "a white Christian nation," initiated by David Duke and Pat Buchanan, Republican Party presidential candidates.

The U.S. never has been "a white Christian nation." Without help from Native Americans, the original white European settlers would have perished. Without Black, or African-American, slave labor, the U.S. would not have had the surplus product necessary to industrialize. Those who originally settled in the U.S. were fleeing religious persecution by the official Christian Church of England. The "founding fathers," George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and others, were *not* Christians, they were "Deists." They believed in the existence of a god, but not in any organized religion or church. Today, the majority may consider themselves Christians, of many different types, but there are also plenty of Moslems, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, and atheists.

Workers of all races, nationalities, and religions, in the U.S. and throughout the world, need to unite!

Workers need to make a common fight to take over all the basic industries and banks that the workers have produced with their labor, and use these resources to produce what people need.

In order to do this, workers need their own candidate for president and their own political party.

They cannot rely on Republican Party candidates or Democratic Party candidates, because both parties are owned and controlled by the privileged classes which profit from the division of the working class along racial, national and religious lines. The more divided the workers, the richer the privileged classes.

The last election showed that the majority of working people opposed both Republicans and Democrats. Polls conducted by Labor Party Advocates and by various unions show that the majority of working people opposed both Republicans and Democrats and think that it's time for a labor party. Yet

union officials continue to endorse Republicans and Democrats and spend

Pressuring Japan hurts workers!

Bush is pressuring Japanese citizens to start buying more U.S. products; Bush is pressuring Japanese citizens to stop selling so many Japanese products to U.S. citizens.

This is not going to qualitatively improve the working or living conditions of workers in the U.S. or Japan. Some U.S. workers and some Japanese workers who work for U.S. owned firms may get more jobs. Some U.S. workers and some Japanese workers who work for Japanese owned firms may lose jobs.

But the workers' overall share of the wealth in the U.S. and Japan is not going to get any higher. In fact, it will get lower. Workers will be focusing on pressuring Japan, which is a small player in the game, rather than on U.S. bankers and businessmen, who are robbing the people blind.

Pressuring Japan also hurts workers because it directs attention away from the real problem, which is the capitalist economic system itself.

Years ago, the entrepreneur's quest for profits led him to invest, introduce new technology, new production methods, build plants, equipment, hire workers, etc. Capitalism, on the whole, actually improved the conditions in which the masses of working people lived.

This is no longer true. Capitalist industry is now so big, that a person has to have a tremendous amount of capital to go into business. The initial investment is so high, that it's very difficult to make a profit. There isn't much incentive to invest. So the system is stagnating.

time and money on them. This is undemocratic.

Join Labor Party Advocates!

Fight for the unions to stop all support to Republicans and Democrats and run an independent labor candidate for president!

For a workers nation, not a white Christian nation! ■

There is a *world-wide recession*.

The time has come for working people of all races and nationalities to take over the basic industries and banks that they have built with their labor, and use them to produce the things that people need, to build a truly socialist society.

The people of Russia had the right idea when they began to try to build a truly socialist society in Russia in 1917. But a privileged bureaucracy arose and got in their way. Now they are struggling against that privileged bureaucracy. History is on their side.

Of course, the first time anybody tries to do anything new, it's always very difficult. But you don't give up. You don't go back to the past. We need to fight for socialism in the U.S. It will be easier for us. ■

Briefly . . .

Labor Party Advocates meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 7 p.m., UAW Local 600 Hall, Dix and Wyoming.
Spark forum: Against David Duke's campaign: Sunday, February 2, 5 p.m., Pullman Hall, Cass and Forest.
The International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International, our tendency of the Fourth International, is holding its 13th World Congress during the month of January. The next issue of *Truth* will be published February 1.

Both **Bush and the Democrats** are now claiming that they are going to spend less on defense and more on things that workers want. Even if they did do this, it would barely begin to solve problems in the U.S. The U.S. is billions of dollars in debt; plant, equipment and basic services are old and out-moded. The working class is the only class capable of solving these problems.

87 academic figures who visited **Iraq** have just compiled another report, published by Harvard, the London School of Economics, and Oxford, on the U.S.'s devastation of this country. First the U.S.'s bombing. Now the U.S.'s embargo. Deaths of children under five have quadrupled; 1 million children are suffering from malnutrition; 100,000 are starving to death. Stop the embargo now! Make the owners of big oil pay reparations to the Iraqi people! ■

The Commonwealth of Independent States: a step forward for all workers

The newly formed Commonwealth of Independent States consisting of several of the newly independent republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) represents a step forward for all workers, and a step toward socialism.

The Commonwealth places the formerly oppressed republics of the USSR — the Ukraine, Moldavia, Belarus, Georgia, etc. — in an independent and free relationship with the previously oppressor republic, Russia. The independence of these republics is limited by the demands of the United States: for example, that the nuclear weapons be controlled by Russia, pressure for a centralized army, etc.

Winning independence by these republics represents a step forward for all workers because it allows the workers of these separate republics to be unified on an equal footing and greatly weakens the ties of the Russian workers with the Russian bureaucracy and its oppression of the republics. The Commonwealth represents a step toward socialism because there can be no socialism with national oppression.

The huge price increases experienced by workers in the republics in the first weeks of January are part of the plan of the Stalinist bureaucracy under Yeltsin to bring capitalism into the republics. These price increases are really a call to peasants and farmers, members of the petty bourgeoisie, to enrich themselves at the expense of the masses of working people, and, on this basis, to further increase the tendencies toward capitalism in the republics.

But, the working class still remains the dominant class in the society. State property is not in the hands of a capitalist class. In order to regain control over this property it is necessary for the workers to overthrow the Stalinist bureaucracy, to crush it completely, and to take back the nationalized property and institute planning under workers control. This is the road that must be followed, that the workers of the republics will follow, sooner or later.

Below we reprint the original proposals on the formation of the USSR, from 1922, five years after the 1917 revolution — one by Stalin, the other by Lenin.

The fundamental difference between the two proposals is: Stalin proposes that all the republics be under the control of the Russian Republic and, that such an association is involuntary. Under Lenin's proposal, a new ruling body, over the Russian republic and all the republics, is created from which all republics can withdraw at any time. It is

clear from reading these resolutions that the USSR that came into being was the one envisioned by Stalin, not by Lenin. Indeed, the current Commonwealth of Independent States, from the point of view of the relation between Russia and the other republics, is much closer to Lenin's proposal. — Jack Marlowe

Stalin's Plan

1. Consider the usefulness of an agreement between the Soviet Republics of the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia and the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic (RSFSR) concerning the formal adhesion of these Republics to the RSFSR, leaving aside the question of Bukhara, Khorezm and the Far Eastern Republic, and confining the agreement to the conclusion of protocols on customs duties, foreign trade, foreign affairs, military questions, etc.

Addenda: Make the necessary changes in the constitutions of the Republics listed in paragraph 1 and to that of the RSFSR after examination of the question by the Soviet organs.

2. As a result, the resolutions of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee will be regarded as executory concerning the central institutions of the Republics listed in paragraph 1, and those of the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR for the unified commissariats of these Republics.

Addenda: The representatives of these Republics will sit in the presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and of the RSFSR.

3. The services of foreign affairs, foreign trade, defense, communications and posts and telegraphs of the Republics listed in paragraph 1 will be merged with the corresponding institutions of the RSFSR, and the corresponding commissariats of the RSFSR will send delegations of representatives into these Republics, accompanied by a small number of civil servants.

These representatives will be appointed by the commissariats of the RSFSR with the agreement of the Central Executive Committees (CECs) of the Republics.

The participation of the representatives of the Republics concerned in the commissariats of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade must be regarded as useful.

4. The commissariats of Finance, Food, Labor and Economics of the Republics will be strictly subject to the directives of the corresponding commissariats of the RSFSR.

5. The other commissariats of the Republics listed in paragraph 1, that is the commissariats of Justice, Education, the Interior, Agriculture, Workers' and Peasants' Control, Health and Social Insurance will be regarded as independent.

Addenda 1: The organizations of the

Republics listed above concerned with the Counter-Revolutionary struggle will be subject to the directives of the GPU of the RSFSR.

Addenda 2: The Central Executive Committees of the Republics will enjoy the right of amnesty only in civil affairs.

6. If this decision is confirmed by the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party, it will not be made public, but communicated to the Central Committees of the Republics for circulation among the Soviet organs, the Central Executive Committees or the Congresses of the Soviets of the said Republics before the convocation of the All-Russian Congress of the Soviets, where it will be declared to be the wish of these Republics.

Lenin's plan

1. Consider as indispensable the conclusion of an agreement between the Ukraine, Byelorussia, the Federation of Transcaucasian Republics and the RSFSR concerning union within the framework of a "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics," each of them possessing the right to leave the "Union" of its own accord.

2. The supreme body of the "Union" will be the "Federal Central Executive Committee," formed by the representatives of the CECs of the RSFSR, the Transcaucasian Federation, the Ukraine and Byelorussia, represented proportionally to their population.

3. The executive organ of the "Federal CEC," will be the "Federal Council of People's Commissars," to be appointed by the "Federal CEC."

4. The commissariats of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Defense, Communications and Posts and Telegraphs of the Republics and of the Federation forming the "Union" will be merged with the corresponding organs of the USSR, the corresponding commissariats of the "Union of Republics" having in all the Republics and Federations their accredited representatives and a small number of civil servants, appointed by the commissariats of the "Union" with the agreement of the CECs of the Federations and Republics.

Addenda: Consider as indispensable the adjunction of representatives of the Republics concerned to the representations abroad of the commissariats of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

5. The commissariats of Finance, Food, Economics, Labor and Control of the member Republics and Federations of the "Union of Republics," as well as their central organs concerned with the counter-revolutionary struggle, will be subject to the directives of the corresponding commissariats and to the decisions of the Council of People's Commissars and Council of Labor and Defense of the "Union of Republics."

6. The other commissariats of the member Republics of the Union, that is the commissariats of Justice, Education, the Interior, Agriculture, Health and Social Insurance, will be regarded as independent.

(Resolutions are from *Lenin's Last Struggle* by Moshe Levin pp. 145 - 147, pp. 150-1) ■

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 Guttshall

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