

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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Workers have the power to stop union busting!

The rich owners of the corporations — Kroger, Caterpillar, and others — have decided to try to destroy the unions in the United States.

Workers have the power to stop this union-busting, to defend our standard of living by acting together, by unity in action.

The Kroger workers in Detroit, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and earning on average around \$8.00 an hour, are on strike. They are the latest in a growing number of workers who are striking to defend their wages, working conditions and their unions.

Thousands of workers and other supporters of the strike have refused to buy food from Kroger's and many workers have joined the picket lines. The Labor/Community Coalition in Support of the Kroger Strikers has been formed in Detroit and has called a rally for May 2. That's good. But it is not enough to win.

In order to win, the Kroger workers, with the help of all workers, have must shut Kroger's down completely. In order to do this successfully, we need huge picket lines, hundreds of workers at every store to stop all deliveries, and to stop anybody from entering the stores.

In order to win, the strike must spread locally, to include the other grocery store workers, such as the A&P/Farmer Jack workers, currently working without a contract. And it should spread nationally, to include all Kroger stores.

All these actions should be bringing together all the strikes, all the solidarity actions, to a national strike of all unions to stop union-busting. There is no other way to stop union-busting, except with all workers united together, striking together. We must begin fighting for it now.

The current union leaders have policies from the past. They are living in a past of rules of polite society when dealing with the rich owners. Rallies are good but without shutting down Kroger and without more strikes, they become no different than pep rallies — the real fighting is taking place somewhere else.

The Caterpillar workers had a rally of 15,000 workers from all over the midwest. 10,800 workers, many on strike for 5 months, were ordered back to work by the top UAW leaders. They are now working under the proposed contract that they went on strike against!

What happened? When Caterpillar announced it was hiring replacement workers, thousands of Caterpillar strikers, their mates

and other workers, built huge picket lines in front of every plant. These workers were determined not to let their jobs be taken away. The top union leaders feared this strength and mobilization. These top union leaders took the side of the company and the government and told the workers, "Go back to work or you will lose your jobs!"

The unions need new leadership, yes. But the new leadership will be created and trained in action, not words. In actions to: stop the plant closings and the loss of jobs; defend every strike by mobilizing all workers; organize a national strike against union-busting; build a labor party and run independent labor candidates for political office. In action the workers will create and train their new leaders.

It's up to the workers, to change the unions by our actions in support of the Kroger strikers, by our actions in support of all workers fighting against the bosses in any way. In these actions we will create new leaders for our unions. ■

Rally for the Kroger Workers!
Saturday, May 2, 10:00 a.m.
UAW Region 1, 13 Mile Rd. and Stephenson Hwy.



Russian Trotskyists and others sponsored a demonstration of 200 people against high prices in Moscow, March 7. The sign reads: "Yeltsin government equals poverty and dictatorship."

Briefly . . .

Kate Kaku and Mary Zins of the Socialist Workers Party were arrested at the March 22 Caterpillar rally in Peoria, Illinois. They were charged with criminal trespass and obstructing an officer. The trumped-up charges made against them, at the instigation of the UAW top leadership, were dropped by Peoria police after pressure from various workers' organizations. This is a victory for all workers. ■

The struggle for the right to abortion in Buffalo has been a partial victory for all women, and therefore, for all working women and men. Operation Rescue, funded by the owners of large corporations, has been unsuccessful in closing any of the abortion clinics. It appears as though the Supreme Court will try to overturn the decision, Roe v. Wade, which made abortion legal. The struggle for abortion rights cannot be made by voting for Democratic or Republican politicians, even if they claim to be pro-choice. The right to abortion can only be defended by convincing all workers to defend women's rights. ■

Spark will be having a public meeting on abortion rights on May 3, 5 pm, Pullman Hall, Cass and Forest

near Wayne State University. ■

Labor Party Advocates and the OCAW sponsored a meeting on the lessons of the New Democratic Party in Canada, with Howard Pawley, ex-NDP premier of the province of Manitoba in Canada, with brief remarks by Tony Mazzocchi of the OCAW, as well as Ron Wages, the new president of the OCAW. There were about 60 people. Ten joined LPA at the meeting and others asked for more information. ■

Delegate elections for the UAW Convention are being held at UAW Local 600 for the Ford Rouge plant on May 7. We urge all workers to support the New Directions candidates. This is the best way to use the delegate elections to further weaken the administration caucus stranglehold on the UAW. It can help, along with actions in support of striking workers, to advance the fight for a new program for the UAW. ■

Twenty copies of Truth were sold at a meat-packing plant and the Ford Rouge plant. Numbers 166 and 167 of *The Fourth International*, journal of the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International, have just come out in English. ■

A Detroit city worker describes union-busting

The following list of some of the ways the city of Detroit is trying to bust unions and what workers can do about it was written by Ron, a city worker and Truth reader. Truth welcomes all contributions from its readers about union-busting and what the workers can do to stop it, as well as any other topics of concern to workers. Write to us at: Truth, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283 or call us at 313-584-6556.

Brush your grievance aside. Forget about your grievance so that they can implement what they want. Say that there is a backlog of grievances so they can do away with the grievance procedure.

Speed up jobs, not have enough workers.

Try to eliminate OSHA by giving health and safety complaints a deaf ear. Governor Engler has put a hiring freeze on staffing OSHA.

Cut down on the 40 hour week to break labor law already established for 40 hours. Make our state a right-to-work state to make it impossible to organize workers.

Supply you with sub-standard parts so they can say you can't perform your job.

Send more time study people so they can say you're not fast enough on your job when you need a helper as it is.

Harass you so you will say something wrong and get fired.

Won't help you if you have a problem and try to fire you.

Not supply you with overtime so they can implement speed up.

Weaken your contract, so it will be ineffective, using unfair labor practices.

Reschedule work week so they can eliminate Saturday and Sunday as overtime days so more work can be vendored out and save on overtime.

Try to implement a time limit on job operations, without allowing a reasonable amount of time to get the job done.

Not wanting to supply you with training so you can't perform well enough.

Make you work under stressful situations when it can be detrimental to your health and your family, just to try to get rid of the union.

Try to do away with work laws.

Do not invest in America so they can evade the taxes.

Make the labor organizations non-existent in America so there is no chance of control.

Try to create a dictatorship-style of management to force employees to accept a form of fascism on the job.

Force employees to go back to work with no representation from union leaders and accept a contract that totally nullifies a strike, making it ineffective.

Get management and union leaders agreeing to things on contract with no chance to vote on the contract by membership.

Force you to do a job that you won't like and try to force you out.

Lay people off while work is being vendored-out to make it look like people are not

needed.

Have union leaders not represent members so they can be in good standing with the company.

Collusion between union and management.

Use every possible technique to keep you from getting a raise, takebacks and concessions.

Do not want to share profits; all for their own self gain.

Keep work force down so there is no possibility for a Labor Party to exist.

Force good union leaders out so they won't influence younger workers. Gives company the opportunity to mold them and use them for their own policies.

Keep everybody working against each other, and at each other's throats, so no progress exists.

Use the good old goon method. Give bosses good money, and don't give the workers any respect. Bribery.

Cut down on your parts supply so they can say you don't have parts, and vendor your job out.

Try to eliminate jobs for cheaper labor, a form of exploitation.

Destroy every bit of quality of a product, just so a large profit margin can be made, and we can't compete. Build a cheap product so Americans won't buy it and buy Japanese.

Change your standard of living by comparing your wages with third-world countries that have already been abused by dictators.

Union-busting and socialism

Union busting is on the mind of every worker in the U.S. Workers need to understand why the rich owners of the corporations and banks are trying to destroy the unions and what is the solution to ending it.

Union busting is occurring today because the rich owners of the monopolies in the U.S. — the owners of Ford, General Motors, Caterpillar, the banks — can no longer make profits paying union wages. There is a powerful crisis of the entire economic system.

The capitalists also cannot make a profit today by investing in U.S. industry. The capitalists cannot make a profit today by rebuilding the roads, renovating and modernizing the big cities, and so on. At the same time, there are warehouses filled with rotting food while people starve. There are storage lots full of cars that they cannot sell.

The capitalists can only make profits in junk bonds, the banking and savings and loan scandals, thievery of oil that belongs to the people in the Middle East and so on.

Why can't they make profits today in industry while there are millions who need to buy things like food and cars?

The economy is made up of two parts. There are the rich owners who own the factories; decide what to do with them and require profit to do anything. The other part is millions of workers who work together every day to make this huge economic system — of factories, banks, transportation and so on — make and deliver food, clothes, steel, and so on. This is the working class engaged in social production.

Social production is a more advanced economic system than individual production, and what goes with individual production, individual ownership of the means of production and profit. That is why there are warehouses full of rotting food. The workers produced it, but the capitalists can't sell it.

Social production does not need the profit motive to produce. Social production has the ability to

Make education so expensive you won't be able to educate your kids.

Let drugs come into this country and destroy our work ethic and invoke more corruption in this society.

Try to crush small business people so they can't compete.

Intimidate people so they fear to lose their job.

Take away your benefits slowly.

Do not want to make an effort to create a quality product of transportation, in this country so we can say we can't compete, which is a lie. We have the people and the knowledge.

Destroy equal rights, workers' rights, women's rights and try to make you powerless so you will have no recourse to fight.

Take advantage of the tax system and burden the middle class with taking the majority of the load and implementing laws that benefit the rich.

How to fight union-busting

Strengthen contracts with new laws which will benefit workers instead of trying to satisfy management.

Need to have good strength among fellow employees.

Work together as a team so no conflict arises. Keep good rapport with employees.

Quit back-stabbing just to get ahead for yourself.

I say call a national strike, make it more effective. ■

produce enough for everyone. But it is being strangled by the rich owners of industry and their dying system of making profit off of a social system of production — an 80 million member working class, the huge monopolies, large factories, a few huge banks.

In order to make profits once again, the rich need to destroy the unions and close the factories and shops that the workers have built. It is the same attack for the same reason — more profits.

The profit system of individual ownership cannot expand production, it cannot raise our standard of living. It can only try to destroy all the wealth that the workers can produce, try to destroy the unions that have raised workers standard of living. It is the attack of a group of parasitic rich on the wealth of the nation, and on those that produce the wealth.

These are the facts we must face today.

All the rich owners are in this together. The unions can no longer win workers' demands by using the competition between the capitalists and playing one off against the other. The rich owners are working together in union-busting.

And the government is acting in the interests of the rich owners. The federal mediators in both the Caterpillar strike and the Kroger strike have done nothing to stop the union-busting, but rather supported the company's rights to bring in replacement workers, limit picketing and so on.

The only way the workers can fight union busting is with a fight in action to unite all workers against the unified rich owners — a national strike to stop union busting and a labor party.

But these can only be steps along the road. The goal of the workers must be to take ownership and control of industry and the banks out of the hands of the monopolies and place it in the hands of the workers — socialism. As long as all the basic economic decisions — what the workers should and should not produce, how much and so on — are made by the rich owners and enforced by the government, the workers will be fighting to even have unions. As long as profit is the motor force of the economy, and not the needs of the workers, the capitalists will keep destroying the economy and attacking the unions.

The only way to end union busting once and for all, is to take ownership and control of the economy away from the rich owners. Then the workers can build a truly bright future for themselves and all working people. — J. Marlowe ■

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: M. Guttshall

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