

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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No justice, no peace!

Across the country, young people, Black people, working class people, rebelled and demonstrated against the freeing of the cops who beat Rodney King. "No justice, no peace!" has been their demand.

Every working person must feel sympathy with this demand. Why give the ruling rich peace and quiet when they continue to lower our standard of living and take all the wealth for themselves?

The uprising by the people of Los Angeles is a struggle that must be defended by all working people. It was an uprising against the verdict freeing the cops who beat Rodney King. It was an uprising against the unemployment and poverty that the majority of working people of color are condemned to.

Why should all working people support the uprising in Los Angeles?

Because it was a conflict between a section of the workers and the ruling rich of the U.S. The question is: which side are you on? The single most important thing for U.S. workers today is unity. We must be united. We must support each other in struggle against the ruling rich.

That is why it is important for all workers and all workers organizations, like the unions, to demand:

Freedom for the 10,000 arrested in Los Angeles!
End the military occupation of Los Angeles!
Punish the racist police!

We must also learn from this struggle what we need to solve problems in the U.S.

The uprising in Los Angeles shows that the workers of the U.S. need a workers party to fight for a workers government.

What can be said about the entire governmental system in this election year?

The judicial system allowed the beating of King to take place and then allows the cops who did it to walk.

The Democratic Congress and the Republican president have allowed the standard of living to fall and fall and fall for 20 years. They have allowed the rich owners of the companies to bust unions.

George Bush, a Republican, and Mayor Bradley, a Black Democrat, both condemned the young people of Los Angeles and right now are continuing the



People marched in Highland Park, May 3, demanding justice for Rodney King.

brutality against them by keeping them in jail and terrorizing their community.

The Republican program for Los Angeles is police and a tiny amount of money for small businesses to start. No jobs, no end to the police brutality. The Democratic program is police and a tiny amount of money for some temporary, low-paying jobs. No real jobs, no end to the police brutality.

A workers party and a workers government would turn things in favor of the workers.

A workers government could give the people of Los Angeles the money to rebuild the city. It could seize the assets of the rich who stole money through the

savings and loan scandal to pay for rebuilding Los Angeles and other cities. A workers government could re-open the factories that the rich owners of Ford, GM and others have closed and provide the people with high-wage, union jobs. A workers government could develop a public works program to rebuild the cities: fix the streets and the run-down houses.

Only in unity do workers have strength. That is why all workers must stand 100% behind the young people of color in Los Angeles. To solve the problems of the working people in the U.S., we need a workers party and a workers government.
Join us in this struggle. ■

Solidarity Cabaret for striking Kroger workers Friday, May 15 • 8 p.m.

UAW Local 157, 29841 Van Born Road, in Romulus,
between Middlebelt and Merriman Roads.
\$10 at the door. Striking workers, free.

Kroger workers: Do like the German workers!



430,000 German public service workers have been on strike for 11 days. The government and the union leaders have agreed to a 5.4% wage increase. The unions had demanded 8.9% to keep up with inflation. All public service workers stopped working. Workers blocked the trains from running.

No planes flew, no mail was delivered, no garbage was picked up, nothing. Nowhere. Now, it appears that the government is giving in. If you want to win your strike, Kroger workers, all the workers need to strike. Strike Kroger across the U.S. Strike all grocery stores in the Detroit area. ■

Justice for Black people and socialism

For many young people, the Rodney King verdict renewed the struggle for justice for Black people, in other words, the right of Black people to be treated equally in this society. Over and over again, Black people in the last years have seen themselves discriminated against simply because of their skin color. They are tired of it; they resent it and they are demanding that it end. Until it does, many are vowing "no peace." And they are 100% right.

Racism against Black people is older than the capitalist society of the U.S. But, racism is interwoven into the fabric of capitalist society. Racism is built into the institutions of the modern capitalist system in the U.S. That is why Black people talk of "institutionalized racism."

At the same time, the struggle for justice is not the same as the struggle for socialism.

What does socialism have to do with the struggle for justice for Black people, the struggle for Black people to be treated equally in all ways in this society?

First, socialism is a society in which they are no rich, no poor, in which all people receive all the things they need to live, in which all people are able to develop themselves to their full potential as human beings; a society in which there are all the freedoms of speech, assembly, religion, all without persecution. The only way to achieve socialism is for the workers to take all the social wealth — the factories, the banks — away from the rich owners. The workers will then own the social wealth and use it to meet the needs of all the people.

Why can't we have the same economic system we have today, except that Black people are treated equally?

This economic system — capitalism — is dying. There is a world depression beginning around the world. Look at the closings of factories, the lowering of standard of living of all the workers, even the best-off white workers.

All rights cost money. The right of Black people to live free of police terror means that there must be neighborhoods as nice as the neighborhoods of the whites — parks, schools. The right of Blacks to live equal to whites means there must be good paying jobs for Blacks equal to

those of whites.

The rich owners are willing to lower the standard of living of the better-off white workers, and risk the social struggle that this is causing and will increase. They have no choice. Their system works only if they make profits. For sure, the rich owners cannot afford to provide these things to Black people.

The struggle for justice for Black people, for equality for Black people, flows into the struggle for socialism.

What do workers need to win socialism?

Workers need a revolutionary workers party. A political organization whose program is taking away the social wealth and putting it in the hands of the workers. A party that also defends the right of Black people to full equality; the right of Black people to self-determination, that is, the right of Black people to carve their own nation out of the U.S. if they decide to.

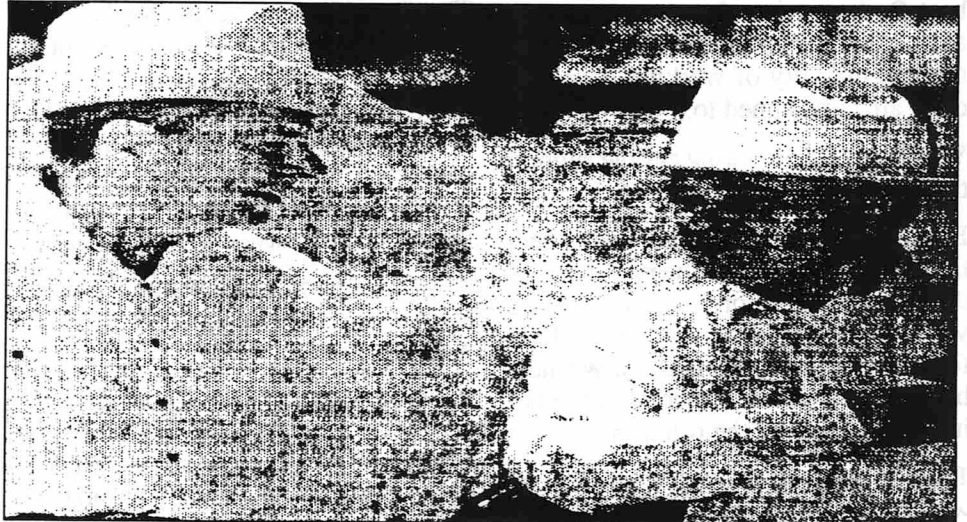
The members of a revolutionary workers party will be working people, especially young working people, who want to see a socialist society come into being. Who want to create a society where there are no rich or poor, no racism, and a future filled with opportunity for all. — J. Marlowe ■

Truth is expanding!

By August 1, Truth will be doubling its size. The support for Truth, the desire of our readers to make more and more contributions to Truth, allows us to expand.

This expansion requires support from you. We ask all readers to make regular pledges to Truth so that we can reach our goal. Please make checks out to: M. Guttschall and send to Truth, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283 ■

Do you recognize Gorbachev's buddy?



We see Mikhail Gorbachev, late leader of the late USSR, visiting his rootin', tootin' buddy, Ronald Reagan. Since Gorbachev is no longer leader of anything, his reason for visiting Reagan is that . . . they really are buddies.

No one who was ever a real socialist could be Reagan's friend. So Gorbachev has never been a socialist. He just called himself one. He has always been a lackey for the rich, just like Reagan. It was never more true: you can tell what a man is by the friends he keeps. ■

Briefly . . .

Detroit newspaper workers are working without a contract. Management has refused to extend the contract again. Although the rich owners of the News and Free Press claim they are not going to lock workers out, the workers should know by now what is up — union-busting. City workers organized by AFSCME Local 25 picketed Detroit city hall Saturday to protest proposed cuts. All workers should support these workers in struggle. For more information, contact Truth at 584-6556. ■

Spark, a Trotskyist group, will hold its next monthly meeting June 7 at Pullman Hall at Cass and Forest near Wayne State University. The topic is The Unions Today. ■

Mark Curtis is a framed-up and jailed meat-packing worker and member of the Socialist Workers Party. A magazine, *On The Issues*, has published an article supporting the police frame-up. Especially disgusting for workers is the support to the police given by the chairman of Local 1024 in Seattle of the United Transportation Workers Union, Greg McNaghten. This renewed attack on Mark Curtis needs to be fought by every working person. For more information, contact the SWP in Detroit at 831-1177. ■

The Steve Argue Defense Committee has won more support. Steve Argue, a member of the Trotskyist group, Socialist Organizer, was arrested and beaten by police in St. Paul, Minnesota, while legally distributing their newspaper at a university. Eyewitnesses, including two professors, have protested his arrest. For more information contact Socialist Organizer, 4017 24th St., #19, San Francisco, CA 94114. ■

Truth distributed leaflets in support of the striking Kroger workers and demanding the punishment of the racist police to workers in Detroit. Truth was distributed to city workers. ■

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. Guttschall

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