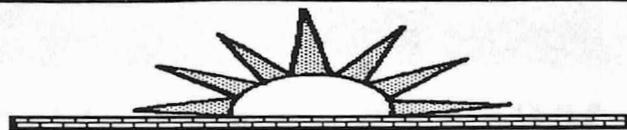


NEW LIFE



BULLETIN FOR A WORKERS PARTY (CONTINUING TRUTH AND WORKERS SPEAK)

NO. 1 • MARCH, 1994 • 50¢ • BOX 441283, DETROIT, MI 48244-1283 • PHONE/FAX: 313-584-6556

After NAFTA ...

Don't trust Clinton's jobs plan!

A workers' plan for jobs now!

- 1. Repeal NAFTA.**
- 2. 35 hours work for 40 hours pay by law. Cut the work week without cutting pay so that everyone can work. Expand the public sector.**
- 3. Increase the minimum wage.**
- 4. A united union fight for these demands in all countries.**

What have we learned in the struggle against Detroit police brutality?

With the brutal murder by police of Malice Green in November, 1992, the national attention to police brutality was shifted to Detroit. The Detroit city administration was praised for their immediate suspension of the officers and their apparent commitment that justice be done. The press said that the Detroit city administration was handling this well because the mayor and many city officials were black, so they represented the majority of Detroit citizens.

Yet many of us realized their response was meant to prevent in Detroit a rebellion like the one in Los Angeles six months before. Detroit citizens were outraged — and came out to the Malice Green memorial to show it. It is because of the efforts of all those who marched, demonstrated, spoke out, distributed and collected leaflets and signed petitions that Detroit citizens can claim some victories in our battle for justice for Malice Green.

The first victory in the case of Malice Green's murder was that the trials of ex-officers Walter Budzyn, Larry Nevers and Robert Lessnau were kept in the city of Detroit — rather than being moved to a suburb. Second, two of the officers were

“So, the most important lesson we've learned from the struggle against police brutality in the Malice Green case is that *if we fight, we can affect what happens in the “in-justice” system.* The hundreds of people who fought back against injustice gained some shreds of justice.”



Detroiters celebrate the convictions of Budzyn and Nevers.

convicted of second degree murder. Third, Budzyn and Nevers were given actual jail time — not the maximum that most of us would have gotten, but jail time still.

Lesson: when we fight, we make progress

So, the most important lesson we've learned from the struggle against police brutality in the Malice Green case is that *if we fight*, we can affect what happens in the “in-justice” system.

The hundreds of people who fought back against injustice gained some shreds of justice. Hopefully, through this and other battles, we can see the larger battle that we must fight; that the working class must take over the whole system ourselves if we want to get more than token justice for our own.

More cases of police brutality

In the meantime, there will be more cases of police brutality to fight. There are already — 12 more people were killed by Detroit police last year.

Unfortunately, none of those cases has drawn the kind of attention that Malice Green's murder did. There has been outrage from people in the neighborhood, but none of the outrage in each of these cases has been sustained by activity.

We allowed the fight for justice for Malice Green to draw all our energy because his

murder was the most obvious case of excessive force. Still, we must go further to ask if it's necessary that a defenseless person be bludgeoned to death with flashlights before we call his or her death excessive force by police.

What about 16-year-old Gary Glenn? — police shot him in the back and in the head while he was running away.

What about Jose Iturralde, the Cuban man who did not speak English and was shot by police when he reached for his ID?

Or Terry LaFlore, killed when he allegedly aimed a gun as he awoke to see officers *climbing in his window?*

These and many more did not deserve death sentences without trials. We need to learn the lesson now that police must be stopped from becoming judge, jury and executioner. *Any* of us could be their next victim.

Another lesson: police brutality can happen to all working-class people

Another lesson we need to learn after the Malice Green case is to guard more against being divided by race. Police brutality doesn't just happen to black people.

More and more, white people are becoming victims of the police — Caroline Bol-darini in Dearborn last year, for example.

Students

Police abuse those at the bottom of the social hierarchy — to keep them down. More and more, that's not just black people — all of us in the working class share that position.

If we let ourselves be divided among ourselves — by the press and the police who try to stir up racial animosity — we will never overcome the position we're all in.

All of us need to see this: those white people who stayed away from the Malice Green memorial saying it wasn't their fight; those who tried to speak over the black people in the neighborhood; and those black people who accepted the lies that all whites were outsiders — we all need to look at who *really* benefitted from these racial conflicts. None of us did.

While waiting for the verdict in the Malice Green murder trial, Mr. Goldpaugh, attorney for ex-officer Nevers, said, "There are people who miss having my client on the streets. Not those people who testified against him — no. But the apartment building owners and the business owners there — they call and say 'we want him back'."

We all need to support the fight against police brutality

All of us — like those people who testified against Nevers — must remember who our real enemies are the next time we fight against police brutality.

Unionized workers must demand that their unions take a strong stand against police who brutalize.

All of us — employed or unemployed — must talk to our coworkers or neighbors about what we can do to make a united fight.

Both black and white people need to realize that whenever we fight against injustice, we can *increase* our solidarity. — K. Morgan ■

Justice for Jose Iturralde!

The trial of the police who killed Jose Iturralde began March 18th. We urge all working class people and their organizations, especially their unions, to support the fight for justice for Jose Iturralde, for punishing the police who killed him. Call 313-584-6556 for more information on demonstrations or actions supporting this struggle.

The problems facing students today . . .

Students are faced with many problems. Among these are tuition costs, living expenses and job opportunities after graduation.

To deal with these problems they are forced into situations that are detrimental to themselves, because they see no other way out.

To cover the cost of tuition, many take on student loans, semester after semester. These loans eventually bury them in debt, even before they enter the job market.

Many see no other way to cover their living expenses other than to take on a part-time job. This takes time away from their school work causing their grades to suffer, which in turn hurts their future job opportunities.

A majority go through the four years, somehow managing the cost, only to find out that there are few jobs open for them, and those few jobs that do exist are at wages that have been cut down to nothing.

So, with all this what future do students see? One of tuition hikes, flooded job markets with rising unemployment. Who can students turn to?

Neither political party has any plans to deal with these or any other problems facing people today.

The politicians' interests are sympathetic to big multi-national corporations.

Students need to see that their own interests lay in the working class, and only through working class unity can they achieve an answer to their problems.

One way students can do this is through working to build a working class party.

For example, a working class party could fight for a tuition freeze or for universal free public education at all levels.

A working class political party is a step in the right direction, a step on the long road to working class independence. — T. Allen ■



Spanish students demonstrate for a people's university, against tuition increases that are changing the universities into schools for the rich only.

Where are we in preparing the 1995 Labor Party Convention?

The labor party movement in the U.S. is found in and around Labor Party Advocates. The goal of a 1995 convention to found a Labor Party has been set. Recruitment of new members continues regularly. A national office with organizers has been set up. New chapters are being founded regularly, and more and more union locals are sending in contributions. Two international unions support Labor Party Advocates — the founding union, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, and the United Electrical Workers Union.

The top leaderships of the other major unions have been approached and, for now, remain firmly under the thumb of the Democratic Party.

Lane Kirkland, head of the national committee that organizes all the unions in the U.S., the AFL-CIO, has called the fight for a labor party, "a voice crying in the wilderness." He said this at a big meeting of labor leaders in San Francisco last October. Clinton spoke to this meeting and Kirkland prevented anyone from bringing up Clinton's support to NAFTA! Union leaders who supported a labor party spoke outside of the meeting and made clear their own opposition to Clinton and his support to NAFTA.

Even unions that opposed NAFTA are now trying to mend relations with Clinton and the Democratic Party. The AFL is putting \$10 million into building support for Clinton's health care plan. The UAW is promoting a Clinton Democrat for governor. As a result of things like this, some partisans of a labor party are questioning the decision to push for a convention to found a labor party in 1995. This is short-sighted.

The future belongs to the labor party movement

There will be powerful movements of workers to make unions in this severe economic crisis. And as a natural part of this movement of the workers *separating* themselves from the rich, there will be a movement for working class political independence. This has happened ever since capitalism first arrived nearly 300 years

ago.

In the U.S., after the big capitalist crises after the Civil War over 130 years ago, there was a big and powerful movement for unions. It was called the Knights of Labor. It united white workers and Black workers. It supported the struggles of the farmers. And, as part of this movement, there were the first big steps taken toward an independent working class party.

And, in the way typical of the how things happen in the U.S., it was a big powerful movement that developed rapidly all over the country. There were big clashes with the army and the police.

In the 1920s, there were no big unions that included all the workers in a factory. There were only unions for carpenters, painters, and so on. These unions had little power and their members were not protected. Membership was steadily declining. These unions only allowed white workers to join. They did not allow Black workers and most foreign-born workers to join.

Following the first huge wave of unemployment and the Depression in the 1930s, unskilled workers began to organize unions. There was a split in the old, craft union movement with only a minority of these leaders supporting these new unions of industrial workers. The new unions grew quickly and soon had 15 million members in about 5 years. This was the biggest growth of unions the world had ever seen.

The movement for political independence took two forms. First, there was a growth of the most consistent fighters for the working class — the early Communist Party and then the Trotskyists.

Second, there was a movement for political independence of the entire working class. This movement was sabotaged by the Communist Party because it had a policy of supporting Franklin Roosevelt, the Democratic Party candidate who was president four times.

The situation is not exactly the same today, but the fundamental trends are the same. The unions will not remain as they

are. The old leaderships are increasingly brittle, increasingly out of touch. There are signs of change everywhere. From the clash in the Teamsters union between the old guard and the Teamsters for a Democratic Union/Carey forces, to the powerful opposition to NAFTA by working people across the country, to the changing composition of the working class with more women and more immigrants.

Growth of unions is inevitable

The growth of the unions is as inevitable as the clash between the workers and the rich. It is inevitable because the so-called "recovery" we are in will not provide the majority of working people with a good life. And this uncertainty, this constant struggle, is the fountainhead of a new and powerful movement of working people for unions and for a labor party.

We can't say exactly when such a movement will break out and how rapidly it will develop. But we can say it's necessary to prepare now. How can the labor party movement do this? It can continue to remain open to every working person who is for a labor party no matter what other opinions they have. It can support all the efforts of the workers to advance their interests. It can continue to recruit workers to Labor Party Advocates. It can take the message of a new party, a new future for all working people, to every corner of the country — among students, farmers, small businessmen — everyone who suffers from the greed of the biggest and most powerful big business interests. The labor party movement can maintain its goal of a 1995 convention. — Fred Russo ■

**Public Meeting Detroit LPA
Saturday • March 26 • 4 pm
ACTWU Hall • 1550 Howard**

**"The struggle against the
corporate agenda grows"**

**Elena Herrada on Chiapas
Barbara Eastman on
organizing in Mexico**

Notes

Women members of Labor Party Advocates in Detroit held a meeting on Tuesday, March 1. Mary McGinn, of *Labor Notes*, spoke on the effects of NAFTA on women and on some of the things that women are doing to fight back. There was a lively discussion. The women also made plans for a pamphlet aimed at recruiting women workers to Labor Party Advocates and for a literature table at the International Working Women's Day celebration at UAW Local 600.

About 300 or 400 Arab men and women marched to protest the assassination of over 40 Palestinians in the mosque in Hebron in the occupied territories on Friday, March 11, at 2 p.m. The marchers were almost all young people and they marched all the way from Warren and Wyoming to Dearborn City Hall at Michigan and Schaefer. They chanted things like: Zionism is racism, down with



Marchers in Dearborn on March 11.

Zionism! Zionism is terrorism, down with Zionism! Cancer of the Middle East, Israel must not exist! Death, death to Israel! Hitler, Rabin are the same; only difference is the name! Jewish settlers are terrorists! Free, Free Palestine! U.S. generosity; Israeli atrocity! They also chanted religious slogans like: Islamic revolution is the only solution! God is great! Our leader, Khomeini! Men and women marched separately, with the men in front and the

women in back, in accord with Islamic fundamentalist rules. Many women wore scarves covering their heads. But there was no small number of young women, with and without scarves, who obviously didn't like being segregated and pushed to the back. And there was no question that women made up the liveliest and most energetic section of the march. Members of the workers movement in Detroit from the Socialist Workers Party joined the march. Members of New Life also joined the march. We joined in all the chants against U.S. imperialism, Zionism, the Israeli state, and in solidarity with the Palestinian people. We also passed out a statement in solidarity with these people and their struggle (see page 8). Arab American organizations also held a forum on Sunday, March 13, at the Hyatt Regency. But this forum was much less militant and ended simply with sending letters to Congressmen demanding U.N. intervention in the occupied territories.

The Eighth Annual Detroit International Women's Day Celebration was held at UAW Local 600 hall on March 12. There were speakers and/or demonstrations on violence against women, self-defense, and health. There were also dozens of tables with literature, crafts and art staffed by women, including working class organizations, women's organizations, and solidarity organizations, like the Coalition of Labor Union Women, Labor Party Advocates, women Teamsters from Jacobson's, Solidarity, the National Organization of Women, Hispanic women, groups in solidarity with Guatemalans, Salvadorans, etc. Many people came to the Labor Party Advocates table, stayed and talked. We sold 35 copies of our new pamphlet. The event was marred only by the fact that Millie Hall, the president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), used her position and authority as president of CLUW, and the event, to promote a Democratic Party candidate for governor. Millie Hall and Ms. Stabenow went from table to table introducing Ms. Stabenow to everyone, who then tried to shake everyone's hand. They also passed out literature and stickers for Ms. Stabenow. This very comfortable woman in a suit, if she ever did know anything about the problems facing the vast majority of working women, has obviously forgotten it. Union officials must stop wasting time

and money on these people; the ones who refuse to do so, must be replaced.

The Workers World Party, The Organizer, the Trotskyist League, and the National Organizing Committee organized various meetings and demonstrations against the Clinton-G-7 jobs conference in Detroit on March 13 and 14. About 75 people attempted to picket the hotel where Clinton was staying, but police, FBI, and Secret Service men wouldn't let them get anywhere close. David Sole, a supporter of the Workers World Party, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. The more workers fight for jobs and other rights, the more it will be clear that the armed forces in the U.S. protect the interests of the people at the top, not the interests of the majority of the people.

UAW Region 1A International Labor Solidarity Network organized a reception for Benedicto Martinez Orozco, National Coordinator of the Authentic Workers Front of Mexico, on Monday, March 14, at the Region 1A office.

The National Education Association attempted to mobilize forces to defeat Proposal A in Michigan, a proposal that would increase the sales tax, yet not adequately fund the schools.

Mark Curtis, a packinghouse worker, a supporter of immigrant workers, and a member of the Socialist Workers Party, who was framed-up and imprisoned with phony rape charges, once again has an opportunity to be paroled. But the parole board is trying to keep him inside. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is urging supporters to send letters to the parole board urging it to free Mark. Send letters to: Iowa State Board of Parole, Capital Annex, 523 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Copies to: MCDC, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. — M.G.



Are we all just grumbling, or do we have a plan for a *new life*?

Most of us talk a lot about what's wrong with this society — exploitation of workers, oppression of minorities and women, pollution, dirty dealing of politicians, lies by the press... But we don't usually talk much about how things could be different — or how we can make them different. We who publish *New Life* want to be clear about how we think we can get a new life — and what that new life could be like. We are socialists, and that means that we think the most important solution — the only real solution — is a social solution, shared by all people in the society.

In a socialist society, all people would share both in the responsibilities and the benefits of the society — instead of one or the other as it is now under capitalism. Everyone — who could — would have to work to live. No one would be able to live off of others like rich people do today. But the work wouldn't be as hard, and there would be less of it — because everyone would be doing their share. No one would be unemployed so we would all work fewer hours. And none of us would have to feel insecure about our futures, because we'd have the ability to produce whatever we need — without the capitalists wasting all our resources by letting grain rot to get higher prices, or shutting down companies because they can make more of a profit that way, or laying off half the workers and making the other half work twice as hard.

In a socialist society, we'd have the opportunity for real democracy. The politicians and the media — who work for the capitalists — tell us this is a democracy. They applaud when only 50% of the eligible voters vote—they say that's a good turn out. They don't acknowledge that the choices working class people are offered on the ballot aren't worth the trip for most of us. They don't acknowledge that those of us who work long hours — or who don't own cars — have a difficult time getting to the polls even if we want to. They don't admit that most of the time they hide the truth from us about the issues or officials we're supposed to vote on. The press, in particular, is supposed to tell people what's really going on — but they



10,000 wait in lines for jobs in casinos that didn't exist — Detroit, November, 1993.

don't put together all the pieces of the stories they tell. Instead, they print things like "only 9 percent of all recent homeowners surveyed believe they were victims of discrimination" (*Detroit Free Press*, March 10, 1994) — expecting we won't notice that, of course, the one's who were discriminated against by mortgage companies *aren't* new homeowners. And a lot of the time we don't notice these things — because it takes so much of our attention to tackle what's right in front of us.

So, how would a socialist society be more democratic? First, you wouldn't have things set up specifically to exploit people — and therefore there would be no real reason to lie to them. Second, everyone would have equal access to education and the free time (because we would all work fewer hours) to pursue things that didn't appear to add up. In fact, once we'd conquered the diseases of racism, sexism and exploitation in general — all of which are products of capitalism — we'd have communities where real trust would be possible. The only reason P. T. Barnum was interested in "a sucker born every minute" was so he could take their money.

Probably you're now saying we're "dreamers," like in the song "Imagine" by John Lennon. But there are precedents for these things. For a while after the Russian Revolution the workers gained control over their society. In fact, the only reason the Soviet Union was able to become a super power so quickly after being an underdeveloped country was because

they had a planned economy — instead of a chaotic "free" market system. Still, they were poor and were attacked from all sides by other countries. This allowed a privileged bureaucracy to arise and gain control. So the working class didn't hang onto the freedoms they'd won. But now workers in Russia and the republics are rising up against the bureaucracy. And in the United States, the economy and society are developed enough to hang on to that freedom from the beginning.

Another example is Cuba. In spite of the problems there are in Cuba, they have free education through university level, everyone has housing and health care. In this country 37 million people don't have health care — and yet we consider the Cubans to be poor. Think about it — what excuse is there that in this, the wealthiest of countries, people don't have health care? It's because health insurance and health care itself are big business — ripe for huge profits. The same thing applies to many other aspects of our lives; why is food so expensive? — profit. Why are so many people homeless? — because to provide affordable housing would lower the amount landlords could charge for rent all over. But the housing is there. The food is cheap. There is enough work for all of us to do, with enough time to read, listen to music or dance, as we wish. As long as we work together and trust in our own abilities as the ones who really run the country anyway, we could push off the capitalists and build for ourselves new lives. — Kim Morgan ■

Declaration of the Liaison Committee of the International Revolutionary Current and the International League

Support the indigenous-peasant uprising in Chiapas!

On January 1, 1994, thousands of peasants and indigenous people in the Mexican state of Chiapas, rose up in arms to protest the miserable living conditions that have been imposed on them by the anti-democratic regime of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) and the landowners. The peasants of Chiapas, led by the Zapatista National Liberation Army, demand: land to work, jobs, health, education, at the same time that they denounce the political regime of the PRI, which remains in power through fraud and repression. As indigenous peoples, they denounce the discrimination and the abuses that they are subjected to. As peasants, they fight the monopolization of the land by the big landowners and the threat to their cultivation of corn due to the application of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which will open the Mexican market to subsidized U.S. corn.

The response of the government of Salinas de Gortari to the demands of the Chiapas peasants was brutal repression and bombing the people, the state of emergency, jail, summary executions, etc. Later, under the pressure of the strength of the peasant uprising and international solidarity, the Mexican government was forced to resort to negotiations, pretending that the repression had completely stopped, while it continued it through less obvious means. The Mexican government is an expert in using negotiations as a way to contain the revolutionary mobilization. This it demonstrated with the role that it played in the so-called Contadora group against the Central American revolution. Now it has set out a trap, establishing an agreement (the pact of the eight) between the big bourgeois parties — the right-wing PAN and the PRD of Cardenas — whose objective, behind the backs of the masses, is to protect the PRI regime from the consequences of the Zapatista uprising.

But, surely, the Chiapas peasants have also learned from this experience and won't fall into the trap. This is indicated by the fact that, at the same time that the Zapatista Army is preparing conditions for its dialogue with the government, the peasants are proceeding in occupying thousands of acres of land that belongs to the big landowners. In this way, the Chiapas people are showing that they are rooting their aspirations in the strengths of their mobilization, more than in hopes in negotiations.

The Liaison Committee of the International Revolutionary Current and the International League points out that the peasant uprising in Chiapas makes manifest the state of misery and exploitation into which peoples throughout the world are more and more falling thanks to the capitalist system. Latin America, Mexico, Argentina, and Chile were put forward by North

American imperialism as "successful" models of the application of the neo-liberal plans of exploitation dictated by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The uprising in Chiapas, as well as the insurrection in Santiago del Estero in Argentina last December, show that capitalism and its economic plans are a failure, that each day they produce more unemployment, poverty and hunger for the majority, while a tiny majority enriches itself. In Mexico, and throughout North America, the application of the Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), will bring along a deterioration of the living conditions of workers and peasants, as has taken place in Europe, with the so-called European Union of Maastricht.

The peasant and indigenous uprising in Chiapas was preceded by a nurturing process of mobilizations and strikes realized, in 1993, by thousands of workers throughout the Mexican republic. As some popular organizations in Mexico have said, the coincidence of workers and peasants struggling against the same enemy, the capitalist plans of hunger and unemployment, implied in NAFTA, puts on the order of the day, the need and the possibility of unifying the struggle in a process that, leading into a national work stoppage, supports the demands of the uprising in Chiapas.

But the Chiapas peasant uprising has not only brought together the discontent of the entirety of the Mexican people with the plans for economic exploitation imposed by the Salinas government and North American imperialism,

but it has also raised the democratic aspirations of the workers and peasants of Mexico with respect to the anti-democratic, single-party regime that the PRI has maintained for decades, through fraud and violence. The Liaison Committee of the International Revolutionary Current and the International League considers the democratic demands of the Chiapas peasants to be totally justified, thus we call for supporting their demands for elections that are free and without fraud. The liquidation of the anti-democratic regime of the PRI would represent a step toward the aspirations for a dignified life for the peasants, indigenous peoples, and workers of Mexico.

The Chiapas peasant uprising has awakened voices of solidarity in all countries. This support is because the struggle that the Chiapas peasants and indigenous peoples are waging today is the same struggle that workers throughout the world are waging against imperialist super-exploitation; it is the struggle of the European workers and peasants against the effects of the Maastricht Treaty and the GATT agreements; it is the struggle of the workers of Russia and Eastern Europe against the effects of the plans for capitalist restoration dictated by the IMF and the World Bank, which are executed by bureaucrats like Yeltsin. It is the same struggle that the peoples of Latin America are waging, and which led them to bring down, with mobilizations, governments like Collor de Mello in Brazil, Carlos A. Perez in Venezuela and Jorge Serrano in Guatemala. ■

We demand:

The political organizations in Europe and America that make up the Liaison Committee of the International Revolutionary Current and the International League call on the workers and their organizations in all countries to realize a big international campaign of solidarity with the people of Chiapas.

It is necessary through communications, actions and meetings to make the Salinas de Gortari government know that we workers of the world:

— Support the economic, social, political, and ethnic-cultural demands of the peasants and the indigenous peoples of Chiapas;

— Demand the recognition of the Zapatista National Liberation Army as a belligerent force;

— Demand respect for human rights and the immediate end to any kind of repression, as well as the total withdrawal of the federal army occupation troops sent by Salinas to Chiapas;

— Demand that the Mexican government stop the deportation of Guatemalan refugees living in Chiapas;

— Demand the investigation of and the punishment of the crimes committed by the army in Chiapas;

— Support the struggle of the Mexican workers, peasants, and indigenous peoples against NAFTA and its destructive consequences;

— Support the demands of the Chiapas people, and the Mexican people in general for free elections, without fraud or repression. ■

Why U.S. workers should support the struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli state

Arab American organizations in Detroit are organizing a march and a forum in solidarity with the Palestinian people, against the murder of over 40 Palestinians by an Israeli settler, on Friday and Sunday, March 11 and 13.

We urge working people of all ethnic groups, nationalities, and religions to support and participate in this march and forum.

Why?

The death of these Palestinians, who were in a mosque praying when they were gunned-down by a U.S.-born Israeli settler, is a direct result of the policies of U.S. corporations and the U.S. government.

U.S. corporations and the U.S. government encourage U.S. Jews to go to Israel, settle there, and drive out the native people, the Palestinians. They finance and arm the Israeli state, which is a racist state, which gives special privileges to people with Jewish mothers, and discriminates against non-Jews. U.S. corporations do this because they want to have a group of people in the Middle East who will defend the interests of U.S. corporations in the Middle East, in particular their desire to own, control, and sell the oil in the Middle East at a fantastic profit. In exchange for defending the interests of U.S. corporations in the Middle East, Israelis are granted a privileged position. (Many Palestinians say the so-called Palestinian mini-state being established won't change that; it's really a prison surrounded by hostile forces!)

Just as U.S. corporations cut jobs, wages, benefits, and social services, and try to bust unions in the U.S., they do the same kinds of things in the Middle East. But in the Middle East, they do it through the Israeli state, and the most backward Arab regimes. The Palestinian people have been struggling against the Israeli state, to get back the land that was stolen from them, to reestablish the Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. This is why they have been under attack; this is why they deserve our support.

We need to unify the struggles of workers and oppressed peoples throughout the

world against U.S. corporations and their agents, like the Israeli state. (Some say opposing the Israeli state is anti-Jewish. But the Israeli state isn't stopping discrimination against most Jewish people. It's making it worse.)

Support the struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli state!

Call of Workers of Byelorussia to workers in the West

The changes in the government of the republic with the return of a pure "communist" are not failing to bring sad consequences. The worsening of living conditions for all workers and the persecution and dismissal of leaders and activists of the free unions.

Throughout the entire winter the majority of enterprises and factories in the country were in a situation of conflict.

An important point in this process was the mobilization realized on February 15, called by the free unions, which brought together in the center of the city 7,000 workers to demand an end to the government and the calling of general elections.

The government responded with the dismissal of important leaders and indictments against dozens of activists.

— In the Belvar enterprise, in the city of Minsk, for participating in the mobilization on February 15, the president of the free union was dismissed: Anatoli Matvienko.*

— In the Integral factory, in the city of Minsk, the president of the free union was dismissed, other leaders and activists were indicted and threatened with dismissal, for organizing a one-hour work stoppage during the month of January, for organizing an assembly during working hours, and for distributing the periodical "Enough." They are: 1. Nikolai Grinchik, president of the free union. 2. Igor Azarka. 3. Vladimir Strelenko. 4. Mijil Kolesien. 5. Vladimir Dmitovich. 6. Serguei Skamelko. 7. Vladimir Jojlova. 8. Nikolai Kazakevich.

— In the Zeuit factory, in the city of Vileika, the president of the factory com-

mittee and 13 activists in the factory are being indicted for realizing a strike during the month of January. They are: 1. Dimitri Obrastov. President of the factory committee. 2. Vladimir Krivospitski. 3. Serguei Kusin. 4. Arkadi Tatarchuk. 5. Igor Moroz. 6. Vladimir Shliapo. 7. Vladimir Dolguy. 8. Liudmila Petroshevich. 9. Larisa Kushel. 10. Vladimir Kezik. 11. Alexander Grasev. 12. Sergui Blashko. 13. Zina Baslik. 14. Vera Jojonina.

Stop all U.S. aid to the racist Israeli state!
March initiated by Arab American organizations: Friday, March 11, 2 p.m., Warren and Miller, Dearborn...

Distributed by supporters of New Life at the March ■

Call of Workers of Byelorussia to workers in the West

The free unions in Byelorussia, grouped in the union current SMOT, denounce all these arbitrary actions, and we have begun a campaign to confront them. We absolutely must have the solidarity of all the organizations in the West that can help us. As we have said other times, solidarity is our strength.

Many thanks in advance.

The telegrams must be directed to the Attorney General, Byelorussia. And to each one of the enterprises. They must have the names of the workers.

Republic of Byelorussia, 220049 Minsk. International Street 22. Attorney General Basilio Shalodonov.

Republic of Byelorussia, 220600 Minsk. Kasina Avenue. NPO INTEGRAL. General Director Victor Emelianov.

Republic of Byelorussia, 220600 Minsk. F. Skarini Avenue 58 B.P.O. Belvar General Director Nikolai Erohov.

We ask you to send a copy of these telegrams to the following fax: 70172 481781 between 18 and 22 hours. ■

*Anatoli Matvienko was one of the leaders of the strike committee of Byelorussia during the general strike against the price increases that paralyzed this country for a month in April of 1991.

Truth and Workers Speak join forces ...

Nearly a year ago, a group of revolutionaries who had been members of Spark separated from Spark and initiated a publication called Workers Speak. Members of Truth and Workers Speak began to work together more and more. We made common fights for working class candidates for Detroit mayor and city council, for justice for Malice Green, and for building Labor Party Advocates as a united front for a labor party. Then we began to discuss the Joint Declaration on the World Situation and the Tasks of Revolutionaries published by the Liaison Committee, to see if there was enough political agreement between us to put out a common revolutionary publication and build a common revolutionary organization. We concluded that there is. This is the statement that we adopted.

We urge all revolutionary Trotskyists to join in this process of unifying on a principled basis and of rebuilding the Fourth International. Workers not only need working class and revolutionary parties in every country, they also need a working class and revolutionary International. Rebuilding the Fourth International is the surest and most direct road to this goal. — M.G.

Resolution

Revolutionaries from Workers Speak and Truth met and discussed the Joint Declaration on the World Situation and the Tasks of Revolutionaries published by the Liaison Committee.

We agree with this declaration.

We resolve to join forces and make a common fight for the working class and revolutionary principles expressed in this declaration; we will produce a common revolutionary publication and build a common revolutionary organization in the Detroit area.

Our publication will be oriented toward the masses of working people and students in the Detroit area. It will be a publication in which we will say what we as revolutionary Marxists think about the situation facing working people and what needs to be done, and in which workers and students — who may not yet be revolutionaries — can also express them-

selves.

This publication will support the struggles of the masses of workers and oppressed people against the exploiters and oppressors and work to win them to the fight for a workers party, workers democracy and socialism.

We will also publish and distribute material from the Liaison Committee.

The organization we will build together will itself operate according to the same working class democratic principles for which we are fighting in the larger society.

It will allow all members an equal opportunity for participation, discussion and decision-making. It will operate in accord with the statutes of the Fourth International.

We see the unification of our forces as a small step toward unifying all Trotskyist forces fighting for the revolutionary socialist program of the Fourth International. We urge all revolutionary Trotskyists to join this effort.

Signed:
Tim Allen, Kim Morgan; Workers Speak
Margaret Gutshall, Fred Russo; Truth

What is the Liaison Committee?

The Liaison Committee was initiated by two tendencies of the Fourth International — the International Revolutionary Current of the International Workers League of the Fourth International (IRC-IWLFI) and the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International (ILRFI).

These tendencies are making a common fight for the revolutionary socialist program of the Fourth International in working class and popular struggles, and for unifying all the forces fighting for this program. The purpose of the Liaison Committee is to coordinate this struggle, prepare an International Conference of those in solidarity with this struggle, and the fusion of these tendencies.

The International Revolutionary Current comes out of a struggle within the International Workers League to carry forward the struggle of workers and oppressed peoples, particularly in Latin America. There are partisans of the International Revolutionary Current in the U.S., Mexico, Panama, Brazil, Argentina, Ger-

many, and Russia.

The International League comes out of a struggle within the International Committee in the early 1970s to continue the struggle for the Fourth International's program and for the reconstruction of the Fourth International. There are partisans of the International League in the U.S., Brazil, Spain, France and Poland.

The Liaison Committee is open to all in agreement with its struggle. For the documents of the Liaison Committee, and further information, contact *New Life*. — M.G. ■

New Life is a monthly bulletin for a workers party published by the Revolutionary Committee of Detroit. The Revolutionary Committee of Detroit is a supporter of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, founded by Leon Trotsky and his comrades. The Revolutionary Committee of Detroit also supports the Liaison Committee initiated by two tendencies of the Fourth International — the International Revolutionary Current of the International Workers League of the Fourth International (IRC-IWLFI) and the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International (ILRFI). Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of *New Life*. These are expressed in editorials. Editorial Board: Tim Allen, Margaret Gutshall, Kim Morgan, Fred Russo.

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Don't trust Clinton's jobs plan!

Clinton and high officials from the so-called "G-7" nations (U.S., Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan) held a conference to discuss the problem of unemployment in these nations, in Detroit on March 14 and 15.

The very fact that these officials have been forced to admit that unemployment is a serious problem is a step forward. U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich was forced to admit that 1 out of every 3 adults in the city of Detroit is unemployed. Others pointed out that 47% of children in Detroit live in poverty. (Others weren't so honest; old Governor Blanchard claimed that unemployment had fallen from 17% to 7%!)

But the measures that they put forward to deal with the problem of unemployment are at best diversions; at worst they will make the situation worse.

Clinton is demanding that European officials lower interest rates so that it is easier to borrow money and get various enterprises going. This will help U.S.-based enterprises because they will then be able to sell products to European-based enterprises. This in turn will allegedly mean more jobs in the U.S. Clinton is asking Japanese officials to do more government spending with the same goal in mind. Clinton and Labor Secretary Reich are also calling for employment centers in the U.S. where there will be unemployment compensation, and information about training programs and jobs.

More markets for products made by U.S. workers, and easier access to information about training programs and jobs might help a small number of workers in the U.S. find jobs over a relatively long period of time. But it is no solution for the vast majority of unemployed and underemployed workers in the U.S. or anywhere else.

The fundamental reason for the lack of jobs in the U.S., the G-7 countries, and throughout the world, is that the rich owners of the banks and other enterprises are driving to increase their profits. They aim to produce more with fewer workers. *The very thing that makes the economy work — the drive for profits — is the very thing that also leads to unemployment.*

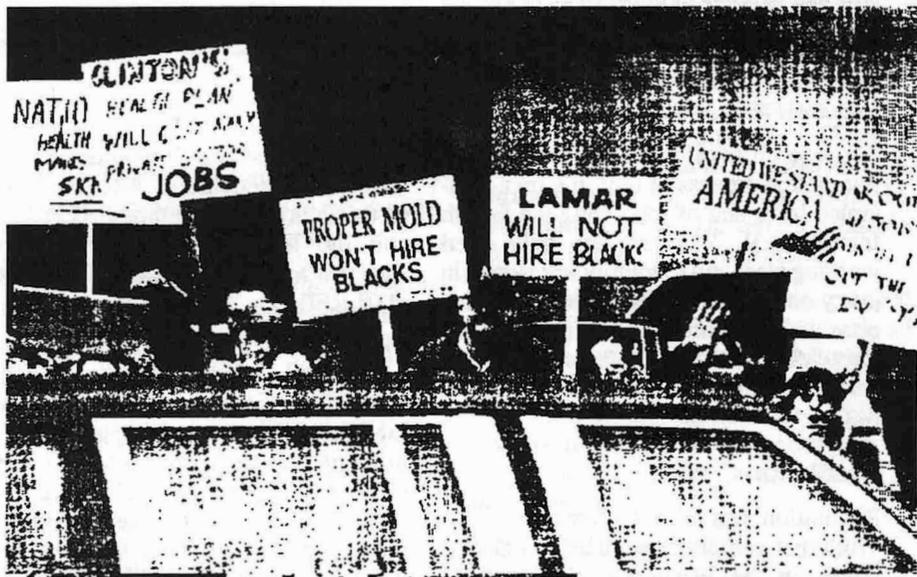
More markets for U.S.-based enterprises may not mean more high-paying jobs for U.S. workers. U.S. bankers and

businessmen just pushed through NAFTA so that they can have products assembled by low-paid Mexican workers and sell them in the U.S. duty free. Training programs are a way to make workers think something is being done, when really nothing is being done.

The only way to do something about unemployment now is to fight for a shorter work week without cutting pay, *by law*, so that everyone can work, and for expanding the public sector. This obviously means cutting into the profits that a tiny minority of people are making at the expense of the vast majority, so that the vast majority can profit.

This is what many European trade unionists are fighting for. It shows the way forward. Naturally the bosses in this country will say that this is fantastic, unreasonable, etc. They said the same thing 100 years ago when workers wanted to reduce the working day from 16 hours to 14, from 14 to 12, from 12 to 10, etc. But they were forced before and they'll be forced again, in one way or another, sooner or later.

Millions of working people in the U.S. and throughout the world have talents, and no opportunity to use them. A system that can't provide them with one, is a system destined to perish. — *New Life* ■



Demonstrators greet limos full of rich people's politicians at G7 Jobs Conference.

The G-7 jobs conference, a disgusting spectacle ...

Clinton and his colleagues have no shame. While there are hungry children in Detroit who live in the streets, in cars, in abandoned homes, and homeless shelters, Clinton and his colleagues dined at the Detroit Institute of the Arts on things like:

“Stuffed truffled potato chips, Michigan Pinconning cheese and chive biscuit with duck prosciutto and caramelized onion ... Vegetable and

goat cheese canape, smoke capon medallion ... Terrine of duck, foie gras and herb mousseline with salad of mixed baby greens, Michigan dried cherry vinaigrette and cinnamon phyllo-crisp ...”

How many hungry children could have been fed with the time and money spent on these rich, greedy old men!?!

— M.G. ■