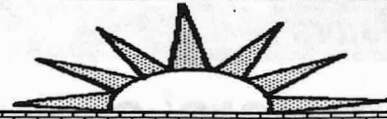

NEW LIFE



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

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Victory in South Africa!

A victory for all working people!



Millions of Black South Africans line up to vote for the first time in their history.

Teamsters' strike shows mass action pays off!

The Teamsters' strike, the first nationwide strike of a big union in over a decade, — over 75,000 workers on strike for nearly 4 weeks — was a victory for all workers.

The Teamster pickets said that it was a strike for everybody, that it was not a strike about money, but about good-paying jobs for all U.S. workers.

The Teamsters were able to stop the most harmful demand of the 22 trucking companies organized in TMI — the demand for part-time workers to perform 30% of the work. It would have meant that the majority of workers at the trucking terminals would have been part-timers. The Teamsters also got large increases in pension and health-care coverage, important for an industry where 40% of the workers are over 50 years old.

The companies are allowed to ship 28% of their freight over rail lines. The current contract limits them to 6%, but they were demanding 35%. In return, the companies agreed to offer any Teamster affected by the move a driver job at another location with no chance of layoff.

Casuals (part-time workers with lower wages and no benefits) will have their wages frozen at \$14.45/hour, a lot more than the \$10/hour originally proposed.

The strike hurt the owners of the trucking companies and all the owners of corporations that they service. The trucking industry was strained to handle the shipping that took place before the strike. During the strike, it was nearly impossible to rent a tractor trailer anywhere. Contrary to all the armchair generals and Monday morning quarterbacks, big strikes do work. Period.

The trucking company owners thought that they could take advantage of conflicts inside the Teamsters. The union leaders that they had bought off completely were the "old guard." The "old guard" was trying to discredit a layer of union leaders that were closer to the ranks, including the president, Ron Carey, and the leaders around Teamsters for a Democratic Union. But the workers did not let these disputes weaken their strike. It was solid and united.

It is obvious to anyone that the leadership

did make concessions, and many workers were and are opposed to these concessions. But, nevertheless, the gains of the strike are real and important.

The most important lesson of the strike is: if workers want to win against the owners of the corporations they need big, powerful strikes; they need to engage in big, powerful mass actions.

The strike was solid — all the workers in the "less than a truckload" (or LTL) industry were on strike. No Teamsters crossed the picket lines. Only a little freight was moved despite police escorts. Several strikers were arrested for stopping freight.

The strike won support from workers all around the country.

Several hundred strikers and their families from locals 728 and 528 in Atlanta, Georgia, organized a rally and picnic on April 23. Some 250 strikers and supporters rallied at the Statue of Liberty in New York City on April 25. Teamster delegations from Boston, Rhode Island, New Jersey and upstate New York joined in. In St. Louis, 500 strikers rallied at the Yellow Freight Terminal and another 200 mar-

ched downtown.

In Detroit, UAW workers joined the Yellow Freight and Roadway picket lines. And, after a union meeting, 300 Teamsters from Local 299 rallied at the gates of OJ Trucking, where Teamsters are trying to win a first-time contract for drivers and dock workers who are largely African-American. They prevented a freight-laden truck from leaving the terminal.

Garment workers in Los Angeles joined Teamster picket lines April 22. Coal miners also walked Teamster picket lines.

And, when the tentative agreement was announced to picketing Yellow Freight Teamsters in Detroit, they posted a sign to all the striking workers thanking everybody for their support and saying that they went back to work as "proud Teamsters."

The Teamsters' strike shows the future to the workers of the U.S.: big, powerful strikes; big, powerful mass actions; winning support from the rest of the workers. It is only along this road that U.S. workers can build their confidence as a class and build a new leadership for the battles to come. — Fred Russo ■



K-Mart workers protest K-Mart owners' refusal to support national health care in front of K-Mart's world headquarters in Troy, Michigan.



Caterpillar

1,400 Caterpillar workers struck for three days starting May 12 at a York, Pennsylvania parts and distribution center to protest the harassment of a union steward with a heart condition. This follows a walkout of 2,800 workers at two Caterpillar plants on April 27.

The Caterpillar workers have had 7(!) local strikes since last September. They are fighting for a decent contract. They were forced back to work after a 5 1/2 month strike in April, 1992, when the company threatened to fire all the workers and hire replacements.

So, for 2 1/2 years, 14,000 workers have been working under the owners' "final offer."

The UAW top leadership organized a rally in support of the Caterpillar workers May 7 in Peoria, Illinois. The rally followed a two-day conference of Caterpillar workers from around the world held under the banner of the International Metalworkers' Federation.

After the rally, the UAW top leadership asked for "binding arbitration" to resolve the dispute. Caterpillar responded on May 16, by offering to come back to the bargaining table — "only if the UAW agrees to a binding membership vote on the company's proposal if negotiators can't reach agreement." (*Wall Street Journal*, May 16) The union rejected this "proposal."

Where do the Caterpillar owners find the arrogance to try to crush the UAW?

The owners of the big banks and corporations are behind Caterpillar.

Caterpillar's profits are the highest they have ever been — \$192 million in the first quarter of 1994 on sales of \$3.29 billion. Caterpillar is winning many government contracts as well as contracts that require government support for example, the contracts to rebuild in Kuwait.

Among the owners heartily supporting Caterpillar are those who own Ford, a company that the UAW leadership claims it has such a warm and "win-win" relationship with.

Any step that shows support for the Caterpillar workers, such as the Peoria rally, is good. But, rallies are not enough to win

after 2 1/2 years. According to many observers, the workers were hoping that a new, bigger strike would be announced at the May 7 rally. They were disappointed, but they are completely correct. There does need to be a new, bigger strike.

Now, the odds are against the Caterpillar workers — all the rich owners and their government versus 14,000 workers. If all the workers enter in, even all 13 million unionized workers, it would even it up a little bit. A one-day national strike of all workers to stop union-busting at Caterpillar, at all workplaces!

Allegheny Ludlum

The strike of 3,500 workers at Allegheny Ludlum, a steel-making company organized by the United Steelworkers of America with locals in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and Indiana, is entering its fourth week. The workers are fighting for decent wages, pensions and an end to grueling overtime. Two plants in Leechburg and Brackenridge, Pennsylvania are 15 miles apart. Community support for the strikers is apparent from green ribbons on poles in Leechburg. Prounion placards are in store windows. University of Pittsburgh students have joined the picket lines.

United Rubber Workers

On May 7, United Rubber Workers Union workers rejected a contract that the top leadership negotiated with Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company affecting some 12,200 workers at 9 factories. They rejected, among other things, cuts in medical plan coverage and increased health costs for retirees. The union leadership and the company were "disappointed." The URW leadership had planned for the agreement with Goodyear, the largest manufacturer, to set the pattern for the tire industry which includes Uniroyal-Goodrich Company, Michelin Tire and Bridgestone/Firestone with some 10,000 more workers.

In April the US Labor Department fined the owners of Bridgestone/Firestone \$7.5 million for violation of safety regulations, calling the owners' lack of attention to safety "offensive and unjustifiable."

Robert Julian, 25, had his head and face crushed when a tire-making machine he was servicing accidentally started. He

died a few days later. The procedure that protects workers from injury while working on machines, lockout/tagout, is required by law. Bridgestone/Firestone owners were recently fined by the Iowa's Occupational Safety and Health Department for violations of lockout/tagout procedures.

The Labor Department also took the unusual step of demanding a court order stating that Bridgestone/Firestone cannot operate unless it does so safely. The company responded by shutting down, claiming the conditions were "impossible." The court responded by . . . taking back the order! Actions speak louder than words!

Workers' Memorial Day

April 28 was the sixth annual Workers Memorial Day. This day is observed by the AFL-CIO, the country's organization of all unions, to remember workers who have suffered and died because of workplace hazards, toxic chemicals and deaths.

The statistics are truly startling. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention just released the most comprehensive analysis of occupational injuries and deaths in the U.S. in the 1980s. 17 workers are killed on the job each day. 63,589 workers died on the job from 1980 - 1989.

Motor vehicle accidents account for 23%, machine related injuries for 14%, and homicide for 12%. The most dangerous industries are mining, construction, transportation and public utilities.

GM was recently fined \$2 million for the death of a worker at the Oklahoma City assembly plant in 1991.

Discrimination suit against Wendy's

Several former Wendy's Restaurant workers filed discrimination suits in April stating that the company imposed a "lighten up" policy to reduce the number of African-American workers in mostly white communities in the Southeast.

The suits have been filed by former managers and an area franchise director who was fired for refusing to pressure franchises to discriminate against African-Americans.



Clinton wants to give money to jail "illegal immigrants"

President Clinton is proposing a bill to give \$350 million to states to help pay for jailing illegal immigrants convicted of felonies. Anti-immigrant governor of California, Pete Wilson, said "it's not enough, but it's a start."

Dearborn postal workers picket

Dearborn postal workers picketed in front of the Dearborn post office on, the first anniversary of the murder of a supervisor and the injury of a fellow-worker by, and the eventual suicide of, a mistreated worker. The workers were protesting the continuing bad conditions at the post office that have not been resolved.

Strike at Tishken Co.

Thirty-two workers of Tishken Co., members of UAW Local 157 who are tool and die workers, have been on strike for weeks picketing their employer's shop on 8 Mile Road near Detroit. The workers voted 18 to 14 to strike. They currently make about \$14.00/hour, about \$5.00 less an hour than the same workers at Ford, GM or Chrysler. The workers told us that their boss offered a raise of 20¢/hour for each of the first two years, followed by 35¢/hour in the third year. They say: "The boss is making lots of money off of us, why can't he pass some of it on?"

Teamsters Local 247 locked out

Members of Teamsters Local 247 that work at local electrical supply shops have been locked out after a strike was called at one of the shops. The workers have been locked out of several local electrical suppliers. No word yet on any progress in this lockout. ■

Labor Party Advocates Monthly Meetings

7 pm, May 24
7 pm, June 27

UAW Local 600
Dix and Wyoming

For more information call:
313-730-4530

The economic upturn and the workers

The U.S. economy is in an upturn. The demand for labor is increasing. More workers are working more overtime. New workers are being hired.

In fact, the demand for labor has increased so much, that economic officials are afraid that this is going to encourage workers to fight for wage increases. So they have decided to increase interest rates to discourage enterprises from borrowing money and continuing to expand.

Nevertheless, this economic upturn is still a very limited one. While some workers are being forced to work 60 or 70 hours a week, and the average work week is 42.2 hours, the highest since World War II, 17.8% of teenagers are still unemployed, 34% of Black teenagers are still unemployed. And these figures take into account only those who are still actively looking for work. At least 500,000 workers are so discouraged, that they aren't even looking for work anymore.

Many workers see this economic up-

turn as an opportunity to work as much overtime as possible, payoff bills, and save some money, so they'll be in a better position to face the next downturn. And this is understandable.

But the most important thing to do in this economic upturn is to fight for *more jobs*, for cutting the length of the work week without cutting pay, so that everyone can work. We need to increase the size and solidarity of the working class, draw the new generation of workers into the workplaces, into the unions. The bigger and more solid the working class is, the more secure the future will be for every worker.

We also need to build a big workers party to fight for the workers' interests. Both Republicans and Democrats have voted to restrict workers' unions' rights and in favor of NAFTA.

With a fight for more jobs and a workers party, workers will be in a better position to confront the next downturn.—M.G.■

For a one-day national work stoppage against union-busting!

In the last weeks and months, there have been a number of different working class struggles — a nationwide Teamsters' strike involving over 70,000 Teamsters, a national rally of Caterpillar workers in Peoria, Illinois and local Caterpillar workers' walkouts, a statewide rally of Michigan teachers.

All these workers have been fighting the same thing in one way or another — the attempts on the part of the bosses to destroy their unions as a first step toward cutting wages, lengthening

hours, cutting benefits, etc.

Workers need to join forces and make a common fight against union-busting — demand that the AFL-CIO organize a one-day national workstoppage against union-busting.

This would be far more effective than half-a-dozen smaller work stoppages. It would frighten the bosses. It would show working people throughout the country that the labor movement has power, encourage them to join unions, get active in their unions and build them.—M.G.■



Why is Engler spending \$154,000 to protect the Ku Klux Klan?



Anti-Klan demonstrators run from pepper gas and police attacks in front of the Michigan state capitol.

On April 23, there was a large demonstration protesting a rally by the Ku Klux Klan at the state capital in Lansing. Two young people who planned and participated in that protest spoke Saturday, May 14th, at a Militant Labor Forum sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). They were there primarily to discuss their experiences and to analyze how we can continue to fight fascism as it crops up in our society.

Jason Wade, a student at Michigan State University, helped organize a student group called United Progressives as One (UP-1) which held meetings, a press conference and produced flyers to call a protest demonstration at the Klan's rally in April. They felt strongly that the KKK's racist hate message could not go unchallenged — that there must be people there to oppose them. UP-1, as well as the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (the SYOC, associated with the SWP) stressed that they wanted the protest to be non-violent. In spite of the violence and hate practiced by the KKK, Jack Willey of the SYOC said that they wanted to avoid Klan members being hurt by protestors so that the KKK could not take the "moral high ground."

Speaking at the Militant Labor Forum, Wade reported that the protestors' most difficult challenge was from the police. Before the demonstration itself, cops came to a UP-1 meeting and tried to get them to stop organizing the protest. They accused the students of advocating violence — that it was not possible to protest the Klan without violence. (They did not, however, object to the terrorism and violence practiced and openly advocated by the Ku Klux Klan.) Fortunately, the students were not intimidated. But they soon saw that the violence the police accused them of planning was instead planned by the police themselves.

Cops protect the KKK

At the demonstration, there were approximately 800 protestors, but they were blocked from the KKK by more than 500 armed police. In fact, before UP-1's group of 50 protestors reached the capital, they were stopped by nine police cars with approximately 40 officers who confronted them and took some of their signs. Wade told of one police officer who ripped a sign from the hands of a 15-year-old black protestor without even an explanation.

According to Wade and others who at-

tended, the police were certainly not there to "keep the peace" — it was the cops who started the violence. *The police were there to protect the Ku Klux Klan.* They set up a chain-link fence barricade around the Klan speakers, so that protestors couldn't get close to them. Police cars escorted the Klan members away in a state prison bus. But most of all, the police confronted protestors with threats, sticks, shields and pepper gas (more potent than tear gas). Where they couldn't intimidate and control the crowd, they simply tried to force them out of the area with the pepper gas. In one case, some police wrestled a protestor to the ground, aimed a gun at his head, and told him this was "his last chance" to get out of there. The cops were so adamant that they even harassed protestors who were already walking away from the demonstration.

In addition to those who suffered from choking, gasping, eyes streaming with tears, and brutality from sticks and shoving, eight people were arrested — seven for not obeying or for swearing at police officers and one accused of "felonious assault" — i.e. throwing a rock at a cop. And the State of Michigan — ultimately the tax-payers of Michigan — spent



\$154,000 to secure the "great threat" that these protestors posed.

Fascism: tool of the capitalist class

At the Militant Labor Forum, both speakers noted that fascism is a growing trend in our society. Jason Wade reported that it is "spreading all over the Midwest, and is becoming more and more disgusting." In his political analysis, Jack Willey explained that fascism is a movement encouraged by the capitalist class in times of economic crisis when they cannot otherwise control the threat of uprising by the working class. At these times, it is important for the capitalists that there are scapegoats other than themselves. During capitalist economic crisis, the ruling class pours money into radical, right-wing groups which claim to be anti-establishment, but which do not really threaten their status. (Actually, these groups support the capitalist class by keeping the working class divided — by race, gender, sexual orientation — and by slandering communists, who are most likely to target them.) Willey demonstrated this point with the examples of Pat Buchanan and Ross Perot — two apparent anti-establishment figures who sound like they want radical changes for the better, but who use "wild claims of conspiracy to cover up their lies."

He reminded us that the role of the police always is to protect the capitalist class. A member of the audience later pointed out that the KKK and other fascist groups focus their recruiting among the police — that, in fact, the police and the fascists are often literally the same people. Given this, it is not surprising that the police — and the state they represent — will spend \$154,000 and perpetrate violence to defend the Ku Klux Klan. It's consistent with their role in capitalist society — after all, these are the same forces which systematically terrorize, beat up and kill people in working class and poor communities; the same ones who killed Malice Green in 1992 and 12 other Detroiters in 1993.

Jack Willey stated that in order to fight fascism we must build a large, working class movement. He stressed that this movement must be non-violent, that "beating up a few screwballs won't stop them" and that people like Pat Buchanan are much more dangerous even than the

KKK. He counterposed this argument to that of another group — NROC, a group associated with the Revolutionary Workers League — which advocates violence against fascists at every opportunity.

There is no question that only a large, working class movement can defeat fascism, as well as other constructs of capitalism: exploitation, poverty, racism, sexism, etc. But in doing this we cannot say in advance what our strategies should be in each fight. It's good that there are young people ready to fight against fascists. And we must always organize as many people as possible to oppose fascists when they surface. But in each case we must determine what the best tactic is to defeat them.

The foundation of fascism is violence. We cannot defeat them if we do not con-

An independent labor candidate for Michigan governor!

The UAW, the Michigan Education Association (MEA; teachers' union), and the Teamsters' union, are now campaigning for two different Democratic Party candidates for governor. The UAW is campaigning for Howard Wolpe; the MEA and the Teamsters' union are campaigning for David Owen.

What an incredible waste of the workers' unions' time and money!

We need a candidate for governor who can unify workers against Engler. There isn't a single Democratic Party candidate who is capable of doing this.

The Democratic Party has been just as much involved in union-busting and destroying any form of welfare and public education as the Republicans have been.

Both Republicans and Democrats voted for the Taft-Hartley Act in June, 1947, a notorious series of anti-labor laws that severely restricted union rights. One of the most popular Democrats, Bobby Kennedy, led the attack on the Teamsters' union, and imprisoned Jimmy Hoffa. While he said this was because of Hoffa's ties with organized crime, this was a lie. If he were really concerned with organized crime, he could have gone after some of the politicians in his own party,

front them on their own terms. Still, it only encourages them if we fight them on those terms when we cannot win. When there are 500 armed police defending them, against 800 unarmed protestors who are not unified, then we can't win a violent fight. But, when we have greater forces — when the relationship of forces is in our favor — then we will fight them, and win. The most important thing is that we learn to use judgement in all challenges that confront us. Our experience in each case, knowing what we're up against — both in the Klan itself, and the police — will help us to use judgement in the future. We will have that opportunity soon — the KKK has planned another rally in Lansing on July 23. —K. Morgan ■
Donations for the defense of those arrested at the April 23 demonstration may be sent to: Anti-Klan Defense Committee, Box 6746, East Lansing, MI 48826.

like Chicago mayor Richard J. Daley. He went after Hoffa because he wanted to break the power of the Teamsters' union.

While Democrats claimed to oppose Engler's attacks on welfare recipients, they didn't give any support to the struggle to recall Engler. Leaders of the UAW wouldn't even circulate petitions to recall Engler in their plants. Similarly, Democrats claimed to oppose Engler's anti-teacher measures, but three left their seats and gave Engler the majority he needed to pass these measures.

Workers in Michigan are facing serious problems: a systematic campaign against unionism; an economic recovery that leaves 34% of young Blacks without jobs; the destruction of the welfare system that workers fell back on in difficult times; the destruction of public education.

We need an all out fight for workers' needs and rights in Michigan: the abolition of all anti-labor laws; a 35-hour work week without cutting pay so that everyone can work; the expansion of public welfare, public health, and public education; a statewide strike to fight for these goals.

We need an independent labor candidate for governor to lead this fight.—M.G.■



Violence against youth and class society ...

In the last weeks and months, the media and public officials have been talking more and more about violence against youth on the part of other youth — “kids killing kids.”

There is no question that this is a serious problem. Many young people are afraid to go to school, afraid to walk around their neighborhoods.

The most insightful commentators see that these violent youth are a consequence of the poverty, misery and violence in which these youth find themselves — unemployed parents, overworked parents, parents who over-use alcohol and/or drugs, men who abuse women, adults who abuse children, etc., etc. They see that there is no thorough-going and long-lasting solution to the problem of violent youth, without getting to the problems that bring them about in the first place.

But even the most insightful commentators don't really get to the heart of the problem.

The fundamental problem is that we live in a *class society*. Our society is divided into classes. A very small number of people own almost everything. Everyone else owns little or nothing but himself/herself, and is thus forced to work for the owners on the conditions that the owners dictate, or starve.

In conditions like this, it's often very difficult for working class parents and even middle class parents, to give their children all the attention they need, even if they aren't totally abusing them or neglecting them. In conditions like this, many children feel that no one cares about them, that there is no place in the society for them. They take to the streets, join gangs, get into conflicts and fights with other children, young people, adults, etc.

“Well, we've had class society for a long time, but we haven't always had such a problem with youth-on-youth violence, youth joining gangs, etc.,” you might protest.

It's important to remember that conditions in the U.S. have been very different from those in the rest of the world.

The U.S. was a very wealthy country. The U.S. won World War II, so it was possible for U.S. bankers and businessmen to acquire markets for their products and dictate terms of trade that allowed them to transfer a tremendous amount of wealth from other

countries to the U.S. Those who owned all the wealth in the U.S. were willing to share a little of it with others in the U.S. in exchange for a little social peace. Thus class divisions in the U.S. haven't been as sharp as they have been in other countries.

Now U.S. bankers and businessmen have squandered much of the wealth in the U.S. They've lost their unchallenged position in

“The fundamental problem is that we live in a class society.”

the world market, the “global economy.” They are getting stingier. Class divisions in the U.S. are becoming wider and deeper.

The poorest white, Black, Latino, and immigrant families have long faced the problem of children and youth getting involved with violent children, youth, gangs, threats from gangs, etc. Now almost all layers of the working class, and many layers of the middle class are also facing this problem.

As long as we continue to live in a class society, where the people on top use violence to stay on top, and the people on the bottom have no choice but to use violence to defend themselves and fight for a better life, children and youth are going to use violence against other children and youth.

The only solution to this problem is to fight for the abolition of class society, for a socialist society, in which the working majority owns the wealth, and works together to produce what people need. And, ultimately, for a classless communist society, where there is no top and no bottom.

What can we do to confront the problem of youth-on-youth violence today, and progress toward a classless society?

1. Support all mass working class and popular struggles for a better life, including struggles for union recognition, higher wages, shorter hours, better working conditions, better benefits; against racist, sexist, anti-immigrant oppression; for a workers party or labor party; for independent working class and labor candidates for office. When children and young people see the

masses of working people fighting together for a better life against the real enemy, the rich, they'll start doing the same thing. They'll start sticking together and fighting for their interests against the rich, instead of attacking each other.

2. Fight for a shorter work week, 35 hours, by law, and without cutting pay; divide all the work that is available so that everyone can work and everyone can have some free time. When both parents and children can find decent jobs with reasonable hours, neither one will turn to violence or gangs.

3. Rehire laid-off school teachers; reopen closed classrooms; expand the public school system; provide free, 24-hour childcare for children of all ages, including homes when they are needed, so that all children who are homeless, abused, and/or neglected have some place to go where they will be taken care of, and can learn and grow. All the basic elements that we need to provide top quality care and education for all children are in place — teacher training programs, teachers, schools, universities, dormitories. We simply need to expand them and upgrade them so that all children really do get an equal opportunity. Our teachers are capable of doing this. We just need to hire more of them, and give them the supplies and the facilities they need.

4. Build independent workers' patrols and citizen's patrols to patrol our schools and neighborhoods. It's impossible to rely on the police to do this job. They aren't selected and trained to protect working people and their children. They are selected and train to protect the rich and their property. That's why they come if some poor soul steals \$5 worth of meat from the grocery store, but they won't come if somebody breaks into your house and steals your things. Worse still, there are police paid by organized crime and gangs. Reporting what you know to police can make you more vulnerable to criminals and gangs, not less.

5. Build a working class and revolutionary party made up of working people and young people committed to abolishing class society, to building a society in which working people can be comfortable, a socialist society.

These are some of the things that *New Life* is fighting for. Join us!—M. Guttschall■



A representative of the Zapatistas in Detroit

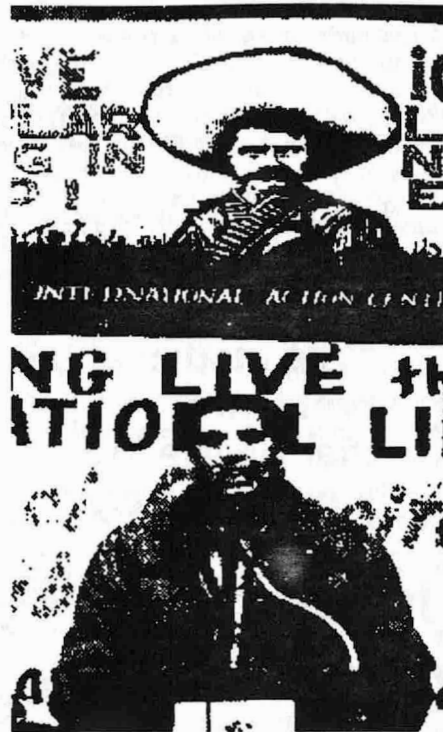
On Monday, May 16, Pedro Castillo, a representative of the Zapatista National Liberation Army in Mexico, came to St. Anne's Church in Southwest Detroit. The event was organized by the *Job is a Right Campaign* (part of the Workers World Party) and was attended by approximately 250 people — Latinos, Native Americans, Blacks and whites. The atmosphere was almost festive, people applauded frequently, and everyone seemed excited to be in the same room with a representative of people who have fought valiantly for control over their own lives.

The Zapatista National Liberation Army is the group which rose up against the Mexican army in Chiapas, Mexico at the beginning of the year. The Zapatistas and various peasant organizations have taken control of more than 800,000 acres in Mexico. In many places they've formed committees of citizens to perform the functions of local government.

Currently, the Zapatistas have made a truce with PRI government, pending the national elections August 21. Castillo said that the truce is to "give the government one last opportunity to respect the will of the people," and that the truce will remain unless the PRI government resorts to the fraudulent practices it has in previous elections. If they find fraud in the elections — which will be supervised by committees formed by Mexican, as well as Mexican-American people — the Zapatistas will launch popular insurrection.

Castillo reported that the PRI government has been robbing the Mexican people for years; they have sold to private corporations the publicly-owned companies in many industries, including oil, banks, and communications. These and other industries were nationalized in their popular revolution and have now been stolen from the people for huge interest payments to imperialist banks against the Mexican national debt. Also, many politicians have embezzled money and hidden it in accounts all over the world.

The PRI government, currently under the control of President Salinas, has maintained power by fraudulently controlling elections. Castillo demonstrated this with the example of Chiapas: during the last election, the government claimed 100% of the votes in Chiapas, yet last January it was the Indians of Chiapas who took up arms against the government. Certainly 100% of the people



Pedro Castillo in Detroit.

in Chiapas did not vote for the PRI government so recently.

No choice but to fight

According to Castillo, the poorest of the poor in Mexico are the Indians of Chiapas. In Chiapas, 15,000 people die every year of hunger and malnutrition. Eventually they determined that if they were going to die, those deaths should mean something. Castillo told us they decided, "It is better to die in war than to die of starvation."

The local committees of the Zapatista Liberation Army all agreed that the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), on January 1, was the time to rise up against their oppressors. They knew that NAFTA would make their circumstances even worse — that NAFTA gives the rich even more power to exploit them. Many people in the United States agreed, and have cheered on the Zapatistas for their courage to stand up against NAFTA.

A national movement for democracy

Once the Chiapas Indians overthrew the army in their region, the rest of Mexico was inspired by their success. Zapatistas began

organizing large groups all over the country to pressure the government to respect the wishes and lives of the people. They call themselves Zapatistas after Emiliano Zapata, who was a Mexican revolutionary at the beginning of the 1900s. From his ideals they have chosen their demands for *Justice, Democracy and Freedom*.

Though the Zapatista ideology is "nurtured by Marxist thought," Castillo emphasized that the struggle right now in Mexico is not for socialist revolution, but for democracy. He claims that an attempt at socialist revolution in Mexico at present would be doomed to failure, and that the people of Mexico must win democratic rights first. This, he believes, will "bring us closer to the big step," — socialist revolution.

Castillo emphasized that the Zapatista National Liberation Army will not rescind their truce based on which presidential candidate wins the August election. He stressed that right now "the important thing is not who gets into power, but how they get into power." The determination of the fairness of the elections will be made by committees observing the election process all over the country.

He described their goal for democracy in terms of "the rulers need to learn to obey what the people order; their name is 'those who are commanded,' not 'those who command.'" Rulers must live by the credo: "For us, nothing; for all, everything."

What can we do to help?

Many people in the audience asked how they can help in the struggle of the Zapatista National Liberation Army. Certainly, donations are helpful. But also, Castillo pointed out, the North American people can help most of all by stopping the U.S. government from shipping huge amounts of military armaments to the PRI government in Mexico. These arms are being stockpiled in preparation for "repression of unarmed citizens," and will be used to impose the will of the government on the people. Castillo emphasized that how we go about stopping the arms shipments is up to us — he thinks what is most important is that we are flexible and creative in our attempts, and that we coordinate them.

At *New Life*, we are extending that call to all our readers: if you are interested in working to defend the Zapatistas and the Mexican people, please call us at: 313-584-6556. — K.M.■



The Workers International and the Fourth International

In the last issue of *New Life*, we said that the best way to build a big Workers International is to begin by rebuilding the Fourth International founded by Leon Trotsky and his comrades in 1938.

Why?

1. *The Fourth International's program represents the interests of the working class more than any other program.*

The Fourth International is fighting for workers to build their own political parties, fight for political power, overthrow the power of the bosses, and begin to build societies in which the working class majority can be comfortable, rather than the rich minority. The Fourth International sees these societies as truly socialist and ultimately classless, communist societies, in which people will be genuinely concerned with social or common problems, and social or common solutions, rather than simply with accumulating, investing, and accumulating still more capital.

The Fourth International has been fighting for this program since 1938, against both U.S. imperialism and the privileged bureaucracies in the old USSR and Eastern Europe. There is no other international working class tendency with such a program of irreconcilable struggle in the interests of the working class, against all forms of exploitation and oppression. All other tendencies with any kind of international dimension — the AFL-CIO, the Social Democratic parties, the Communist Parties, including the Cuban Communist Party — have been characterized by adapting themselves to one privileged strata or another.

It is precisely such a program and practice

of irreconcilable struggle in the interests of the workers and oppressed, against all forms of exploitation and oppression, that is absolutely essential to build a big working class International. The bosses are always trying to get one section of workers to work with the bosses, in exchange for special favors, and against the interests of other workers. To build a big working class International, that really unifies the struggles of millions of workers and oppressed throughout the world against the bosses, it's imperative to be able to stand up to this. This is the Fourth International's program. There is no other tendency with an international dimension with such a program.

2. *The Fourth International is the only international working class tendency that continues to fight for the interests of the working class on an international scale and in many different countries. It's in a better position to build a big working class International than any other tendency.*

All the other tendencies that used to function as Internationals at least to a certain extent — Social Democrats, Communist Parties, Maoists — have broken down along national lines. The Cuban Communist Party recently formed an alliance with the Brazilian Workers Party and others, in an effort to come to grips with this problem, at least to a certain extent. But their perspective is basically one of making some improvements in Third World countries; they have no perspective for resolving the problems of working people throughout the world, including those in the U.S., Europe, the old USSR, and Japan. The Fourth International has broken up into different tendencies and factions, but these tendencies and factions

cross national lines. Now that the class struggle is rising throughout the world, the forces of the Fourth International fighting for its program in the working class are beginning to come together. Continuing this progress; bringing these forces together, will allow for the formation and election of an international leadership with authority over the different groups, tendencies and factions.

At this point, it's difficult to say whether the formation of a big workers International will take place through direct recruitment to the Fourth International or through the formation of alliances between the Fourth International and other forces and the formation of a new International.

But there is no question that the reconstruction of the Fourth International is an absolutely essential element in this progress. The Fourth International has the program, and essential elements of organization, necessary to build a big Workers International.

This is why we ask everyone who wants to build a big Workers International to fight for the interests of working people throughout the world, to support our struggle to rebuild the Fourth International.—M. Guttshall.■

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE



Mexico: Down with Salinas!
For a national work stoppage!

The first issue of *International Correspondence* is out!
Available from *New Life*.

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.

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Victory in South Africa!

On April 26, 27, and 28, millions of Black South Africans voted for the first time in history. They elected Nelson Mandela, head of the African National Congress (ANC), president. This man spent 27 years of his life in a South African prison because of his struggle against the racist apartheid regime; he obviously represents the interests of the Black majority in South Africa far more than any of the white racist presidents have.

This victory is a victory for *all* working people of all ethnic groups in the U.S. and throughout the world.

The only way forward for working people of all ethnic groups is to join forces, make a common fight for their interests against the rich owners of the giant monopolies.

It's very difficult to do this when workers of one ethnic group or nationality have rights and/or privileges that workers of another don't have. There's mistrust, resentment, lack of solidarity.

In denying Black South Africans the right to vote, the right to have some say in their nation's future, and elect its leaders, the partisans of racist apartheid in South Africa hurt *all* working people. On the other hand, by fighting for, and winning this right, Black South Africans have strengthened the unity and solidarity of working people throughout the world.

Victory to the Black South African revolution! Victory to workers and oppressed throughout the world! *New Life* ■

The future in South Africa

The struggle in South Africa is not over. It's entering a new period.

Millions of Black South Africans have won the right to vote and, in this sense, have some say over the future of their country and its leaders. But the vast majority of the guns, the land, the natural resources, basic industry and finances, that rightly belong to the Black South Africa people, are still in the hands of the rich white minority.

Nelson Mandela is advising the Black people to be conciliatory toward the white racist minority, rather than to continue the mass struggle and organization that brought him to power. He has said that he is not going to refuse to pay South Africa's external debt, in spite of the fact that this debt was contracted by the white racist minority. He has appointed DeKlerk vice president, and given other members of the white racist

Mass struggle and organization pay off!

The media has focused largely on Nelson Mandela (head of the ANC) and DeKlerk (head of the National Party), and suggests that the victory in South Africa is a result of talks between the two.

This is not true.

The victory in South Africa is a result of the struggle of millions of Black South African workers and oppressed — of mass meetings, mass demonstrations, mass strikes, including general strikes that virtually shut down the entire country, and confrontations in which hundreds, even thousands of Black South Africans have died, giving their lives for the cause. And it's the result of the formation of mass working class and popular organizations, including COSATU, the powerful Congress of South African Trade Unions, and the ANC, based at least in part on these trade unions, and with its own armed forces.

What is more, it has been a struggle against

the richest and most powerful corporations in the world, in the U.S., England, and elsewhere, which all backed the racist apartheid regime.

What has happened in South Africa shows that mass struggle and organization pay off. If you fight, you make progress.

We need to use the same kinds of methods to fight for the interests of working people in the U.S. and throughout the world — mass meetings, mass demonstrations, mass strikes. We need to build the unions, organize more workers, until there is 100% unionization of all working people. Above all, we need to build a big labor party based on the unions to fight for the interests of working people against the rich white owners of the giant monopolies in the U.S. When we get rid of these parasites, there will be a mighty explosion of progress throughout the world.—M.G.■

Workers speak on South Africa ...

Members of *New Life* talked to workers at a meatpacking plant and an auto plant, shortly after the victory in South Africa. Here are some of the things they said ...

"If you fight, you can win."

"He who is first shall later be last."

"Those who've been on the bottom aren't always going to be on the bottom."

"We need to do the same kind of thing

here."

"If they can do it, so can we."

"Boy, I'd like to go over there. But what could I do for them? I don't have any skills they could use. I don't think they have a meatpacking industry over there. Maybe my son will be able to go ..."

"Yep, it's going to be one of the most powerful nations on earth ..."■

National Party important posts in the government. He says he's against "white domination" and "black domination," and that the whites shouldn't be afraid that they are going to lose anything.

Some say that Mandela has no choice but to pursue such policies. This is short-sighted.

Working class and popular revolutions are developing throughout the world. In Mexico, the Zapatista uprising, the peasant seizures of land, and the working class and popular solidarity and sympathy and hostility to Salinas is threatening to bring down the Salinas regime and bring a bourgeois nationalist to power. In Brazil, working class and peasant mobilizations and the formation of the Workers Party, may bring the Workers Party candidate to power. In Europe, working class mobilizations are threatening governments in Spain and Italy. In Eastern

Europe and Russia, workers continue to strike against the effects of the attempts to bring imperialism and capitalism back to these countries.

The future of the Black South African people lies with the workers and oppressed of these nations, not with conciliation with the minuscule white racist minority that has exploited and oppressed them for centuries.

Black South African people will never be safe and comfortable until all the white racist forces of apartheid have been crushed and disarmed, until all the land, natural resources, basic industries, and finance, that have been built up with their sweat and blood, and that rightfully belong to them, are in their hands.

This is where the struggle is headed. And it won't stop until it gets there.—M.G.■