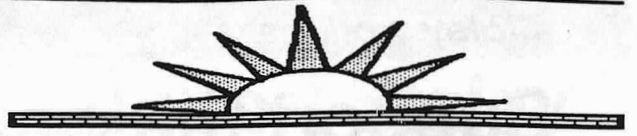


# NEW LIFE



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

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# Support the war on union-busting!

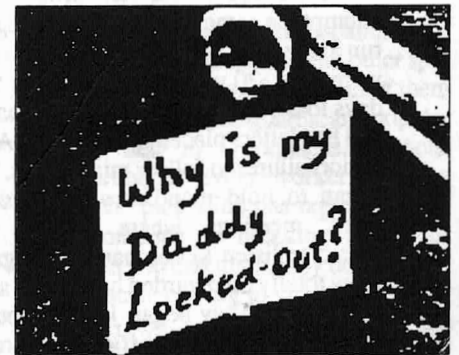
## Join the Detroit caravan to the Staley workers' rally! Decatur, June 24-25!



Lorell Patterson and her 18-year-old son, Robert.



Shawn Wilson, his wife Gina, and baby Halee.



The son of Staley worker picketing at the plant gate.

For more information, see page 2 ...

# Support the war on union-busting!

Staley workers and Caterpillar workers are organizing a rally against the A.E. Staley Manufacturing Company, Tate and Lyle, Caterpillar, and other union-busting bosses in Decatur, Illinois, on Saturday, June 25.

We urge all working people in the Detroit area to support and participate in this action.

Staley workers say Southern Illinois is a war zone. They call Staley workers who take to the road to tell other working people what's going on in Southern Illinois, "road warriors." They say it's time to "call in the troops." "Let the power of labor come down on Staley!"

And they are right.

Bosses throughout the world are trying to destroy the unions, and with them the quality of work and life that so many workers have fought and died for.

A British firm, Tate and Lyle, bought A.E. Staley Manufacturing Company about two years ago. They hired an infamous union-busting legal firm — Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather, and Geraldson — to manage their affairs. This legal firm is so notorious for union-busting that even students at Harvard organize boycotts against it when it comes to campus to recruit. They also hired a new personnel manager, one who had just earned his stripes in the bosses' army by playing a leading role in provoking a strike at International Paper in Maine, and replacing all 1,200 strikers with scabs.

These lackeys of the rich proceeded to attempt the same at Staley. They began to run Staley like a prison camp. Ten workers were fired. 20 were penalized with 5 to 8 days loss of pay. More were reprimanded and had letters placed in their files. All for minor failures to follow minor rules. They began to hold mandatory "state of the plant" meetings, where workers were forced to listen to company propaganda. They totally disregarded health and safety regulations. They began 12-hour rotating shifts, making it very difficult for workers to ever get a decent night's sleep or have any life outside of Staley.

Familiar with the kinds of union-busting tactics that were being used against them,



Staley and Caterpillar workers form a 2 mile human chain between the two factories last year.



Decatur police work overtime to harass and intimidate Staley workers exercising their right to free speech.

## Detroit Car Caravan Leaves UAW Local 600 Dix and Wyoming

### Friday, June 24, 2 pm and 6 pm Rally in Decatur, Illinois, June 25

For more information, call New Life at 313-584-6556.

Staley workers resisted the temptation to strike, and began to "work-to-rule" inside the plant, that is, slow production by following all rules very closely. On June 27, 1993, the owners locked them out, and began to try to replace them with scabs.

These kinds of things have been happening throughout the U.S. and throughout the world. What makes Staley workers different and special is that they are fighting back and they aren't giving up. For over a year now, together with Caterpillar workers who have also been deprived of a union contract, they've been organizing meetings, demonstrations, picket lines, demanding their jobs back and a union contract. In February, they succeeded in closing down the plant briefly before police in riot gear arrived. Staley workers' spouses and children are also organizing meetings and demonstrations. "Road warriors" are talking to groups of workers throughout the Midwest about their experiences. They've initiated the "Adopt-

a-locked-out-family" program to raise money to help them finance their struggle, now that unemployment compensation has run out, and workers are beginning to lose cars, homes, marriages, etc.

Every worker should support the Staley workers' struggle. Join the Detroit caravan to the Staley workers' rally. Make a contribution to the "Adopt-a-locked-out-family" program. The only way to push back the bosses is to come together around the biggest and most militant working class struggles, and do everything possible to make them even bigger and more militant.

Support the Staley workers!  
Their victory will be our victory!

On the one year anniversary of the Staley lockout ...

Let the power of labor come down on Staley! ■



# An all-union strike to support Staley and Caterpillar workers ...

(Continued from page 10)

children, or get medical care that they or their children need. They are starting to lose their cars, their homes, and some marriages are beginning to break up under the strain.

Caterpillar workers have also been fighting for a union contract for over a year and haven't yet succeeded. They are being forced to work in very difficult conditions, without even the right to speak out in favor of the union, and with the constant threat of being fired.

These are two of the most obvious examples of bitter working class struggles.

The top leadership of the AFL-CIO is not doing enough to build support for these struggles, and mobilize the power of organized labor on their behalf.

The AFL-CIO has hundreds of paid full-time staff who live fairly comfortable lives, and who have ties to members of the labor movement throughout the country. It has a huge treasury that it uses to finance various Republican and Democratic Party politicians, to pay various leaders huge salaries much higher than the average worker's salary, and to hold fancier conventions in even fancier hotels.

Why aren't all the resources of the AFL-CIO and all the unions being used to build support for the struggles of the Staley workers, the Caterpillar workers, and all the workers who are standing up to the bosses and fighting the bosses?

The time has come to organize an *all-union strike in solidarity with the Staley workers and the Caterpillar workers*, in order to push back the bosses, make them retreat, and open up a new period in working class struggle, a working class offensive to fight for the interests of working people and all oppressed.

75,000 Teamsters recently went on strike. Almost all the Teamsters covered by the Master Freight Agreement were out. The picket lines were solid. The

striking workers were vigilant and militant. Yet they still didn't succeed in getting a union contract that was as good as their last contract, not to mention a better union contract.

This shows that even an industry-wide strike may not be enough to push back the bosses. An all-union strike is needed.

How many times has one worker heard another worker say, especially on a picket line: "We made a mistake. We never should have let Reagan fire those PATCO workers. We should have all walked-out when he tried to do that. Everyone one of us!"

It's not too late. We can still do it.

Obviously, organizing an all-union strike is a big undertaking. But it is possible, and it is necessary. How? Support each and every strike. Push to make it as big as possible, push to expand it.

Push for each and every union local to adopt resolutions in favor of an all-union strike. Replace union leaders who oppose this. Elect union leaders who are for it, and prove this in action, by supporting and building working class struggles today.

This is the only way forward.

Why should 850 Staley workers and their families have to take on the bosses all by themselves with active support from only a small percentage of the labor movement, and suffer alone month after month? The bosses work together; the workers must work together. With an all-union strike, workers can deal the bosses a hard blow, and fast.

Victory to the Staley and Caterpillar workers!

For an all-union strike now! — *New Life*

## Violence against workers ...

There has been more and more violence against fighting workers in the last months. Police escorted scabs through Teamster picketlines; some of the most active Teamster pickets were arrested. Police recently arrested 43 workers and union militants sitting down in front of the Staley plant. A policeman charged a picketline with his car outside a Meijers store in Toledo, Ohio, and drew a shotgun on picketers ...

How should workers respond to these attempts at intimidation and violence?

1. Fight for all working class actions to be a *big* as possible. Mass picketing is one of the best ways to overwhelm the bosses and discourage attacks on picketers.

2. Fight for punishing anyone who attacks workers during a working class action in any way — whether it's a manager, a police official, a scab, or a so-called "irate customer." When the bosses and their hired-guns get away with attacking fighting workers, it encourages them.

3. Workers on picketlines, organizing meetings, demonstrations, strikes, have to begin to arm themselves, train themselves, and form workers' defense guards for each and every action. When the Staley workers say, "It's war," they are right. Workers have to face this fact, and prepare to defend themselves against the bosses and their hired guns.

4. Workers need to push for disbanding the police, the National Guard, and other special armed forces, and for replacing them with workers' defense guards, and popular militias, tied to workplaces, schools, neighborhoods. Every worker facing a cop on the picketline has noticed: "Hey, when someone is breaking into your house and you call them, they don't come. But if a scab's trying to cross our picketline, they do." Why? The police are selected and trained to defend bosses, not workers and the majority of the people. They must be disbanded and replaced.— M.G. ■





### Meijers workers strike

The strike by 1,600 Meijer's workers (United Food and Commercial Workers Union) in the Toledo, Ohio, area continues. Court injunctions limiting pickets to 4 or 5 people per gate are in effect. On Monday, June 20, the union and the company are going to court. The union hopes to win the right to picket at the store doors. The strikers, mostly young women, are trying to win their first contract with wages and benefits equal to other food store workers in the area.

### Caterpillar workers strike

1,700 Caterpillar workers at the Aurora, Illinois, plant went on strike June 7 to protest unfair labor practices by Caterpillar. This is the 9th walkout at a Caterpillar plant since last September, as workers continue to protest the company-imposed "final offer" after the strike nearly 2 years ago. A worker was fired for having a bumper sticker on his lunch box that attacked Caterpillar. Some of the bumper stickers read: "CAT treats its workers like dogs," "Unhappy Cats don't purr." The UAW top leadership has threatened a nation-wide strike if the company does not begin to bargain.

### UAW Tech Center workers strike

Over 4,000 UAW skilled workers at General Motors and Chrysler Technical Centers went on strike in June over local issues, especially sending out union work to non-union companies. In both cases, settlements were won that slowed down this process.

### Health Tex workers strike

Twelve hundred Health Tex clothing workers at plants in Georgia, Virginia and Alabama, struck for 3 days for higher wages and maintained benefits. They made some important gains according to Black Workers for Justice newspaper, *Justice Speaks*.

### Two railroad unions strike

There was a four-hour strike of the United Transportation Union (UTU) against the second largest railroad in the U.S., the Union Pacific, on March 1. The four hour strike stopped 300 trains and snarled traffic for over a week. The workers were protesting the assignment of only one union person, an engineer, per train. A court order ended the strike and ordered the company to stop running engineer-only trains.

The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way

Employees (BMWE) struck Conrail (Consolidated Rail Corporation) for 13 hours on May 20, protesting the high rate of injury of workers. All other railroad unions honored the picket lines in 12 states and Quebec; 30,000 loaded railroad cars were idled. Since December two workers have been killed and two workers have been badly injured by moving trains.

### One million signatures for single-payer national health care in California

Californians for Health Security, a coalition composed of members of unions and community groups, has collected over 1 million signatures to place a single-payer health plan on the ballot box. Single-payer health care means that the government will become the health insurer for everyone, and the business of health care insurance companies will be greatly reduced. This is not socialism. All health care will remain in the hands of the current rich owners. Socialism with regard to medicine is the government ownership of all the means of health care — hospitals, clinics, and so on — under the control of a workers government. This is the only permanent solution. We think that a single payer health plan could be a step in this direction, provided that it strengthens the public ownership of health care, strengthens the control of the majority of people over the health care industry, and weakens the capitalist owners of the insurance and health care industries.

### Cincinnati city workers demonstrate

Over 1,000 Cincinnati, Ohio, city workers gathered on April 4 to protest the further privatization of city agencies. The Cincinnati workers filled the City Council chambers and the hall outside. When council members spoke in favor of privatization, they were greeted by catcalls and boos by workers. The workers said that they would continue to fight.

### West coast ILWU for labor party

The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union's Longshore division and Coast Caucus has gone on record supporting an "independent workers party based on the trade unions ..." It also voted to send an official union delegation to fight for a program at the 1995 Labor Party Advocates Convention. This grouping represents all the unionized longshore workers on the West Coast of

the United States.

### Fight against police brutality

The Concerned Citizens of Battleboro, a Black community group outside of Battleboro, North Carolina, is organizing a boycott of the white-owned stores in Battleboro to protest police brutality of Black residents by police. A Black man was killed by pepper sprayed by police from nearby Concord, North Carolina, last year. There are some 300 Black residents outside of Battleboro and over 200 have attended meetings.

### Winning organizing drives

There have been two victorious union organizing drives recently. One was at US Air where 66% of the 7,500 fleet service workers voting chose union over non-union. There will be a runoff election between the top two unions. The other was at Snow Environmental in Pennsylvania where workers voted to join the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union. The workers, who are mostly Puerto Rican, unionized to win higher wages and benefits.

### Immigrants shackled in hotel

Eighteen Romanian immigrants were held in leg shackles in a Newark, New Jersey, hotel for more than a month, waiting for immigration hearings. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), while aware of their situation, said that they are not responsible for monitoring their treatment.

### Electrical workers prepare for contract's end

Rallies sponsored by the 15 unions that make up the Coordinated Bargaining Committee for the electrical industry are being held across the country to prepare for contract expirations with General Electric, Westinghouse and Martin Marietta on June 26.

### Maritime workers prepare to strike

Some 9,000 members of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association and the National Maritime Union are preparing to strike two U.S. shipping companies when contracts end June 15. Other maritime unions, including the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots and the American Radio Association, have said that they would honor the picket lines. ■





# Unite against Engler and his policies!

## For an independent labor candidate for Michigan governor!

An appeal to working class organizations in Michigan ...

Fellow workers, citizens!

In the last four years, working people in Michigan have waged a number of important political struggles — to recall Engler; for justice for Rodney King and Malice Green; against the various "proposal As," aimed at cutting taxes for the rich, and increasing taxes for the poor; against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); in solidarity with various striking workers, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield workers, Kroger workers, teachers, Caterpillar workers, Staley workers, Teamsters, etc.

The current Democratic Party candidates for governor, Larry Owen and Howard Wolpe, haven't played a leading role in any of these struggles; they haven't even participated in them or given them any real support.

Yet the top leadership of the AFL-CIO, including the UAW, the Teamsters and the MEA (teachers' union), are pouring thousands of union man-hours and thousands of union dollars into campaigning for these candidates.

The top leadership of the unions says that we should support these candidates because they say they are against Engler and his policies. But if they were against Engler and his policies, why didn't they support the struggle of thousands of workers in Michigan to recall Engler in 1991? Why didn't the AFL-CIO support this struggle? In fact, top leaders of the AFL-CIO *denounced* the struggle to recall Engler.

The truth is that Democrats say they are against Engler and his policies. But they haven't waged a serious struggle against Engler and his policies, and they have tried to stop the most serious and massive attempts to do so.

The Democratic Party candidates for governor are owned and controlled by the same rich ruling class that owns and controls the Republicans. They work in the same place, belong to the same clubs, live in the same neighborhoods, send their

children to the same schools.

Electing a Democrat governor won't mean an end to Engler and his policies any more than electing Clinton has meant an end to Reagan and Bush and their policies. At best, electing a Democrat will mean that there will be a different figure head up front, while the rich owners of the giant corporations in Michigan and all the politicians that they own, Republicans and Democrats alike, continue doing whatever they want to do.

Working women, working men, students!

The only way to get rid of Engler and his policies, is to unify and mobilize millions of working people and their unions in

## Unite against Clinton's anti-jobs measures! Independent labor candidates for office in 1994!

After years of Reagan and Bush, the vast majority of working people voted for Clinton because he promised to help working people. This isn't happening.

First Clinton promoted the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which is going to result in workers losing jobs.

Now he is collaborating with the Federal Reserve Board in raising interest rates and in discouraging new investment, allegedly to fight inflation.

In reality, they don't want economic investment to expand too much and too quickly, because, if it does, the number of jobs will expand largely and quickly. There may even be a *labor shortage*. This will put workers in a better position to fight for higher wages, and better working and living conditions. It will put them in a better position to confront the next downturn, in which the bosses will surely start slashing jobs and wages in an unprecedented way. Challenger, Gray & Christmas, a placement firm, recently reported that corporations are reducing work forces 18% more than they were in 1993.

These aren't the only anti-working class and anti-labor measures the Clinton administration is taking. The previous administration made a deal with the old gangster leaders of the Teamsters' union to force the Teamsters' union to finance government control over the union, and, in this way, cripple the union, now that the ranks of the union finally have some control over it, and some officers in place who are more representative of the ranks. The new

Michigan and select independent labor candidates for governor and all offices, candidates who will use their campaigns and their positions in government to support the struggles of millions of working people and fight for the interests of millions of working people.

We urge all working people in Michigan to fight for their unions to take this course. It's not too late. Striking miners in Southwest Virginia decided to run their own candidate for the Virginia state legislature six weeks before the election and won.

All working class organizations in Michigan should make a common fight for this goal. ■

leadership of the Teamsters' union appealed to the current administration to repeal this decision; it refused. Clinton administration attorneys are also continuing to push for huge fines against the United Mine Workers union for crimes allegedly committed during the last strike. Finally, Clinton administration officials are working together with Republicans to develop a labor law reform bill that will limit workers' and union rights even more than they already are.

It's impossible to rely on Republicans or Democrats to lead the fight against these anti-labor measures. Workers need to fight for all unions to stop all funds to Republicans and Democrats and run independent labor candidates for office.

Obviously, this isn't going to be easy. The bosses, the Republicans, Democrats, and their supporters in the top leadership of the AFL-CIO, have a huge machine. But this machine is very vulnerable because it's full of corruption, it's isolated from the masses of people, and it doesn't represent the masses of people.

Pittston miners put forward their own candidate for the Virginia State Legislature six weeks before the election; the name wasn't even on the ballot; voters had to write in the name. The Pittston miners' candidate won. When workers start to build their own independent political machine, totally owned and controlled by them, they'll sweep away the bosses' old machine, like a tank over wooden soldiers.— M.G. ■



# Support working class candidates against Engler

On Sunday, June 4th, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) launched their campaign for the Michigan elections in November. They are running candidates for Governor, Detroit's 15th Congressional District and U.S. Senate. Though their gubernatorial and senatorial candidates will not be on the ballot, the SWP hopes to use their write-in campaigns to "put forth demands for working class and youth," according to *Toni Jackson*, the SWP candidate for governor. She said we need to face the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities facing the working class and youth today. Jackson asserted that one of our best opportunities is the current increase of employment among young people. Young people can be an important force because they are less demoralized about what we can accomplish in working class struggle.

Jackson also stressed that the Democrat and Republican politicians do not have the answers for the challenges confronting working class people today. She mentioned Clinton's imperialist attacks on Bosnia and North Korea. In particular, though, Jackson described the devastation brought on the working class by the world-wide economic crisis. She said that there are cutbacks in government funding for social programs everywhere and noted examples in France and China. In France, student subsidies and minimum wage requirements for young people under 25 years have been threatened due to government cutbacks. French students successfully protested those cutbacks. Jackson described forced overtime on Chinese workers, where they are trying to "reestablish capitalism in a previously Stalinist economy." She quoted one Chinese worker who spoke against privatization, saying "in private companies the workers don't have rights." Jackson also noted that there have been drastic cutbacks and struggles in Japan, Algeria and Britain.

Here in Michigan, we know all too well what those cutbacks mean. Jackson criticized Governor Engler for directing the cut of 80,000 Michigan citizens from welfare, while simultaneously slashing spending for job training programs and



**Toni Jackson, Thorn Apple Valley Worker, for Governor**

She works at the Thorn Apple Valley meat packing plant in Detroit. She spoke against attacks on the working class all over the world and advocates a steeply graduated income tax in Michigan instead of Proposal A which gives tax breaks to the rich. Her campaign will demand jobs for everyone and a shorter work week.



**Cindy Jaquith, member UAW Local 155, for Congressperson, 15th District**

She is a worker in Detroit and put working class struggles in Detroit into an international context. She condemned Clinton's hypocrisy over nuclear weapons in North Korea, his Haitian immigrant policy, and the racist presentation of the civil war in Rwanda. She is optimistic about progress in South Africa. Her campaign will tell people "victory belongs to those who struggle."



**John Sarge, member UAW Local 900, for U.S. Senate.**

He is an autoworker in Detroit. He is campaigning for support of working class fights and discussed the attacks on the Caterpillar and Staley workers, where the companies are trying to bust the unions. In addition to going out on picket lines and supporting strikes, he said his campaign will try to learn from workers' struggles.

mental health care. The effect of this is obvious — people begging to "work for food" at freeway entrances, for example. And in spite of the current economic upturn, there is no indication that these people will get jobs with living wages.

Toni Jackson discussed another challenge brought on by capitalism: the growth of "rightist forces," i.e. fascism. (Clearly our present governor, Engler, sympathizes with the KKK since he spent \$154,000 to protect them from demonstrators at the capital in April.) Jackson said that this, along with government corruption and "the incapacity of liberal democracy to address the economic crisis," have made the Democrats and Republicans useless to working class people. As long as they are our representatives, we'll have to fight them as well as the bosses.

Jackson emphasized that the SWP wants an "action oriented campaign." She said their campaign will demand: Jobs for all, with shorter work weeks; income protection against inflation; cancellation of the Third World debt; affirmative action with quotas; increasing the minimum wage; and defense of striking workers, particularly Caterpillar. She invited everyone to join them at the Staley rally on June 25th in Decatur, Illinois. She also invited people to help collect signatures for the petition to get Cindy Jaquith on the ballot for the 15th Congressional District from Detroit. They will be meeting at Pathfinder Books, 7414 Woodward at 11 AM and 5 PM on weekdays to go out collecting signatures until July 22. For more information, call 875-0100. — K. Morgan ■





## U.S. soldiers suffer after-effects of U.S. war on Iraq

The Clinton administration recently took a position in favor of setting aside funds to help U.S. veterans suffering from various diseases.

Many U.S. veterans of the war on Iraq have reported strange cancers, colds, body aches, fevers, rashes, loss of muscle control. Many have been unable to work and lost their jobs. Others have died from various strange diseases.

The U.S. government continues to refuse to admit that these diseases are a consequence of the soldiers' participation in the war, whether it was a result of shots that the government gave them, exposure to burning oil fields, or chemical or biological warfare on the part of the Iraqis.

The important thing to see here, is that it is absolutely impossible for the U.S. government to wage war on other peoples, without U.S. soldiers paying the price. And everyone knows that it is the poorest working class young people who are forced to join the so-called "volunteer army," because they don't have any other way to feed themselves.

Bush, Schwarzkopf and others, tried to convince us that the war on Iraq was a "high-tech" war, that the U.S. was just going to sit back and push a few buttons, that U.S. soldiers weren't going to get hurt, that the Iraqis were going to do all the suffering. They hoped that this would help convince U.S. workers, who didn't support the war on Iraq, to look the other way, and not do much to stop it. And this did work for a while. But now the truth is out.

U.S. workers need to join forces with workers and oppressed throughout the world against U.S. corporations and against the U.S. army, which is totally owned and controlled by these same corporations. They need to fight for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces from all foreign territories, and against U.S. intervention in other countries. The longer U.S. workers wait to make this fight, the longer workers and oppressed throughout the world are going to suffer, and the more U.S. soldiers — that is, the sons and daughters of many of the poorest workers — are going to suffer.—M.G.

### The global conflict

**Hands off Korea!** Clinton is threatening an embargo against North Korea — that is, to use U.S. military power to physically prevent goods from entering North Korea — if the North Korean government will not allow the U.S. to inspect North Korea, and see if North Korea is developing nuclear weapons.

This is a racist, anti-working class policy that not only hurts North Koreans; it also hurts U.S. working people.

Workers of all ethnic groups and nationalities must have the same rights. If workers in the U.S. are going to have the right to live in a country with a government that possesses nuclear weapons, then all workers must have this right. Why is it OK for the U.S., the whites of South Africa, or the Israelis to possess nuclear weapons, but it's not OK for the Iraqis or the North Koreans? As long as rich, relatively white nations like the U.S., continue to use their economic and military power to push around poorer and darker peoples, like those of North Korea, there is never going to be peace. Workers of all colors, ethnic groups, and nationalities, are going to suffer.

**Hands off North Korea!** We need to disarm U.S. corporations and their hired guns, the U.S. army. We need to replace it with a popular militia, based in workplaces, schools, neighborhoods. Then workers in the U.S. and throughout the world will be safe.

**Victory to the Haitian people!** In the last few weeks, Clinton has been forced to make some concessions to the struggle of the Haitian people for freedom, against the vicious dictatorship in their country. He's been forced to make arrangements to allow some Haitian oppositionists to leave the country and go to other islands. Recently, he's started talking about allowing the dictators to come to the U.S. and replacing them with Aristide, the man who won the Haitian elections, and with a U.S. trained police force. These are, at best, half measures, that will do little to alleviate the suffering of the Haitian people. At times, maneuvers aimed at replacing one dictatorship with another. Open U.S. doors to the Haitian people, not Haitian dictators! Arms to the people, not the dictators! Blockade the dictators, not the people! Try and punish the dictators: yes! Comfortable exiles: no! The fact that the U.S. refused to allow Haitian people fleeing a vicious dictatorship to enter the U.S., but is now talking about arranging for these same dictators to retreat to the U.S., shows once again that the U.S. government is a bunch of bullies, totally owned and controlled by the rich corporations, that uses U.S. resources to protect the rich and powerful, while it turns its back on the poor.

**South Africa.** From May 5 to May 15, shortly after the first elections in South Africa and the victory of the African National Congress (ANC) in the elections, about 10,000 gold miners walked off the job in protest against management's racist, anti-worker policies, including persecution of trade unionists

affiliated with the ANC, forcing miners to work in very high temperatures as a "test," sick leave for whites but not for blacks, and dividing workers along tribal lines in company housing. On the other hand, Mandela has been talking about "amnesty" for many white racists guilty of crimes against the Black people in the years of apartheid. Workers of all colors and ethnic groups in the U.S. should support the struggles of the Black South African workers and the masses of Black people in South Africa, to completely abolish all forms of racist discrimination against the Black people in South Africa. The Black South African working class is a big and powerful working class. The more it succeeds in getting its oppressors off its back, the more it succeeds in punishing those who have persecuted it, the better it will be for all working people.

**Bosnia.** Once again reports are coming out that the Serbian bureaucracy's armed forces are raping Bosnian women and children in massive numbers. Yet the U.S. government still has not lifted the arms embargo against Bosnia so that the Bosnian people can defend themselves. And many working class organizations in the U.S., influenced by the privileged bureaucracy in the old USSR, still haven't taken a position in favor of lifting this embargo, and allowing the Bosnian people to defend themselves against the Serbian bureaucracy, much less lifted a finger to make it happen. Fortunately, workers' organization in Europe have. A convoy of Workers Aid to Bosnia recently reached Tuzla, a miners' center in Bosnia, and delivered food and other supplies to them. Another convoy is being planned. We urge workers in the U.S. to support these efforts. Send financial contributions to the convoy, c/o *New Life*. Demand that the U.S. government lift the embargo against arms to Bosnia now! Let Bosnian men, women, and children, defend themselves against the Serbian bureaucracy's mass murderers and rapists!

**Rwanda.** The media has been full of stories and pictures of "slaughter" in Rwanda in the last weeks. But, once again, there is no real explanation. They obviously want people in the U.S. to get the impression that Africans are savages who kill each other for no reason. What they don't tell you is that Belgian colonists occupied Rwanda, and gave special rights and privileges to the Tutsi, and denied them to the Hutus. So the Tutsi have been privileged relative to the Hutus. Today, the Hutus are obviously retaliating. The only way forward for the African people is to drive all the imperialists and colonialists out of Africa, and establish public ownership of the land, all natural resources, and basic industries and transportation. When the riches of Africa are in the hands of the people of Africa, not in the hands of U.S., European, or Asian imperialists and colonialists, they will be able to make mutually beneficial arrangements with the workers and oppressed of the U.S., Europe and Asia, aimed at producing all the things that the workers and oppressed need.—M.G.





# The capitalists start the violence, but the working class must finish it

A lot of people agree that we need major changes in this society. But many of them avoid talking about revolution because they don't want to "advocate violence." So they end up striving for legislation of rights for the working class, within the framework of capitalism. What they don't realize is that the framework of capitalism itself is where the violence in today's society comes from. And if we ever want to change that, we will have to meet the capitalists on their own violent terms.

This lesson becomes very clear to striking workers. Even if they picket peacefully, they are constantly faced with repression by the police. Recently, on the picket line at Meijers in Toledo, a police car *sped up* to the picket line as though it would hit the picketers, then an officer got out and pointed a shotgun at them. This was a deliberate attempt to scare them. Another recent example is the Staley workers' pickets in Decatur, Illinois. Even though the Staley workers have never initiated violence themselves, local police routinely wear full riot gear. (Forty-three picketers were arrested at Staley on Saturday, June 4th.) Also, during the Teamster's strike, Detroit police protected the strike breakers — even the one who knocked a picketer over the hood of his truck.

Police defending the bosses at the expense of workers is nothing new. That's their job. The police are there to defend the status quo — to enforce the will of the ruling class. There are many historical examples. As far back as 1887, police and the National Guard burned the tents of striking miners and their families, and shot those who tried to escape. Also, we just passed the anniversary of the 1938 Memorial Day Massacre in which

striking workers from Republic Steel were gunned down. During the 1950s and 60s, numerous black civil rights organizers were killed by police in the South. In 1970, four Kent State students were killed and 9 wounded when the National Guard was called to stop their protest against war. In 1971, New York state troopers stormed Attica prison and shot over 100 unarmed men who were demanding decent living conditions. (39 died.) More recently, the National Guard was sent to break the P-9 strike. Just last April, Michigan state police gassed and physically threatened demonstrators at the capital who protested the violence and hatred of the Ku Klux Klan. Of course, we must include the brutality and murder perpetrated by police every day in Black, poor and working class neighborhoods. In addition, there are over 1 million people in U. S. prisons, most of whom are from the most oppressed sections of the working class.

The more undemocratic, the more unjust the society becomes, the more it is necessary for the ruling class to use violent repression. They must ensure that we know they are in charge. This is clear not only from the examples of working class people being killed in labor struggles, but from the attempts of anyone in our society demanding basic human rights which conflict with the interests of the ruling class. It is an historical fact — it applies to other time periods as well. The American Revolution in the 1770s was an example of people rising up against the monarchy which ruled over them. They demanded basic rights — no taxation without representation, fair trials, the right to govern locally — but these conflicted with the English monarchy's interests, because the monarchy needed to control the colonies to reap profits from them. The monarchy sent troops to America to force

the colonists to obey. The colonists were so fed up with this treatment that they confronted those troops and defeated them. They were willing to defend the rights they believed in, to do whatever was necessary to succeed.

The same will apply when the working class launches a massive, organized fight for basic rights like: everyone should have a job, a place to live, food to eat, medical care, and education. These demands challenge the basis of capitalism itself, e.g. without unemployment, the capitalists have no easy threat against workers who don't want to work 14 hours per day. They cannot eliminate unemployment and maintain capitalism. The same with housing, if they gave away houses, then no one would pay landlords.

Yet the resources are there to provide these basic needs to everyone. Through technology and social organization, our productive capacity has long passed that level. The reason so many of us don't have food, clothing, shelter, and books they can read is that the resources we produce are taken as profits for the super rich and for weapons to impose their will on the working classes all over the world.

The question is not about whether or not we want to be violent. It's about whether or not we want to give in to the brutality of the ruling class. If we truly believe that we each have a right to live without the violence perpetrated on us every day, then we will have to fight for it. Though their ultimate goals were different, even the revolutionaries in 1776 knew that they must take up arms against a government that oppressed them. — K.M. ■

*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-IWLF) 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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## Resolution on the situation in the Midwest and the tasks of working class revolutionaries

1. While the upswing in the U.S. economy is continuing, there still hasn't been any qualitative improvement in the lives of the vast majority of working people. Some workers have jobs who didn't before, but cuts in jobs, real wages, and social services continue, and more are planned. While Clinton claims to be for universal healthcare and against replacing strikers, his administration is continuing serious attacks on the unions — saddling the Teamsters with millions of dollars in financial penalties, fines against the miners' union, the labor law reform bill now in the works.

Thus the number and militancy of strikes and working class struggles is continuing to grow — from the BC/BS workers' strike, to the Caterpillar workers' strikes, to the Teamsters, GM and Chrysler Tech workers, Meijers workers, and the coming Staley workers' rally.

Workers have fought courageously in these struggles, learned a lot, and won some partial victories. But they haven't yet won any big, solid victories. This is basically because the strikes and struggles themselves haven't yet been big enough. Almost all the strikes have been partial and/or local. The top leadership of the AFL-CIO has done everything possible to limit the size of the strikes and it has given them very little real support. While locked-out Staley workers are fighting to survive, and raise funds to feed their families and continue their struggles, the top leadership of the AFL-CIO is pouring thousands of hours and dollars into campaigning for Democratic Party candidates in the coming elections, who haven't lifted one finger to support striking workers, or locked-out workers. Union officials continue to vote themselves high salaries and dip into union funds.

Working class revolutionaries should:

— be in the front ranks of the most advanced working class struggles, fighting for them to go as far as possible,

— for uniting them into a single movement to fight for the workers,

— for all union time and funds to go to fighting workers, to stop all union support to Republicans and Democrats in the 1994 elections, and put forward independent labor candidates for office.

2. The decision of Labor Party Advocates groups in Detroit, Toledo, and Cleveland to

organize an educational conference for a Labor Party in December, is a step in the correct direction. Working class revolutionaries should support this decision and push for this conference not only to be oriented toward workers in struggle but also to be a framework in which all workers can learn from these struggles and discuss them.

Recruiting to Labor Party Advocates, particularly among striking workers, continues to be important. Working class revolutionaries also need to prepare a working class proposal for rules to the LPA convention that make it as open as possible to fighting workers and workers for a labor party.

(For example: the founding convention of the labor party will be made up of delegates from: union locals on strike and/or locked out on the basis of the number of members actually on strike and/or locked out; union organizing committees among workers and students on the basis of the number actually involved in the organizing drive; union locals on the basis of the actual number of paid-up LPA members in the union local and with a conference of LPA members in the union local to elect the delegates; LPA groups on the basis of the actual number of paid-up LPA members in the group and with a conference to elect the delegates; delegates from any other working class or popular organization on the basis of the actual number of paid-up LPA members in the group; guests with voice, but no vote, from any working class or popular organization that has taken a position in favor of a labor party based on the unions ... The founding convention of the labor party will not allow as delegates anyone who is now a public official as a Republican or Democrat; anyone who is now running for office as a Republican or a Democrat; anyone who holds any position in the top leadership of the Republicans or the Democrats; anyone who holds any paid positions in the Republicans or Democrats ...)

3. The Socialist Workers Party's decision to run candidates for office in Michigan and to campaign for a write-in for these candidates is a step in the correct direction. We should support their campaign and their candidates against the bourgeois candidates and against the abstentionists. We should urge all for a labor party and independent labor candidates to write-in their candidates in November.

4. Opposition to U.S. policy in Haiti, Cuba, and Mexico continues to grow. Working class revolutionaries should fight for:

— Stop U.S. persecution of Haitian refugees; open U.S. doors to Haitian refugees now; boycott Haitian dictators, not the Haitian people; guns and aid to the Haitian people so they can defend themselves; no U.S. forces to Haiti ...

— immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Cuba and Mexico; let the Cuban and Mexican people determine their own future, without interference from the U.S.

We should plan to participate in the conference in solidarity with the Cuban people in Detroit in September.

5. The radicalization of the U.S. working class, and, in this sense, the development of the working class and socialist revolution in the U.S., is taking the form of a general radicalization of relatively large sectors of the U.S. working class, expressed in strikes, the labor party movement, agitation in the ranks of the working class against especially anti-working class politicians, bills, etc., and the development of a more working class and revolutionary tendency within this larger movement, expressed in the growth of various socialist organizations and interest in them. *As revolutionary Marxists, it is our job to both promote the development of the class struggle as a whole and the greatest possible unity of the working class against the class enemy, and the development of a working class and revolutionary tendency within this larger movement.* It's not possible for working class revolutionaries to progress, outside the progress of the working class as a whole. At the same time, we know that the class struggle does not lead spontaneously to working class, revolutionary, socialist, Marxist consciousness; hence the importance of the construction of the revolutionary workers party within the broader movement. Thus, in addition to our work within the various strikes, the labor party movement, etc., we also need to draft a platform that sums up the working class, revolutionary, socialist position, within the broader movement, and which can serve as a basis, both for recruitment to New Life, and for the unification of the most consistent Trotskyist forces in the U.S.

New Life  
June 8, 1994





# **For an all-union strike to support Staley workers and Caterpillar workers!**

**... How many times has one worker heard another worker say, especially on a picket line: "We never should have let Reagan fire those PATCO workers. We should have all walked out when he tried to do that." ...**

Staley workers have been fighting for their jobs and a union contract for over a year and they still haven't succeeded. These workers and their families suffered while they were working for Staley — they were forced to work 12-hour rotating shifts; they were abused and humiliated by managers. Now they and their families are suffering more. Unemployment compensation has run out. They can't get welfare without selling everything that they own, including their cars. They can't live on what their spouses make when they have spouses with jobs. They can't afford to buy medical insurance for themselves or their

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