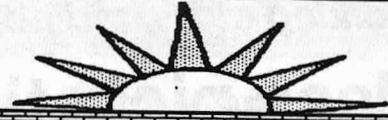


NEW LIFE



A WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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Striking workers ask for your solidarity!

Rally • Decatur, Illinois • October 15



Locked-out Staley workers rally on June 25, along with striking Caterpillar workers. They are asking for your solidarity — come to the rally in Decatur October 15.

Join
the car
caravan from
Detroit to the
rally!
Call
313-584-6556
for more
information.

Turn to the back page . . .

Mass picketing to shut down Caterpillar!



Striking Caterpillar workers have been picketing and organizing rallies since June. The bosses claim they have been producing as much equipment as they did before the strike; they have been hiring strikebreakers and trying to get injunctions against the picketing so that strikebreakers can easily go to work. Unfortunately, the top leadership of the UAW has been going along with too much of this, allowing the number of pickets to be limited to 12 in some cases. All workers needs to fight for mass picketing to totally shut down Caterpillar operations now! It takes a fortune to become a powerful figure in the judicial system. These judicial officials are totally owned and controlled by the bosses. Why should the workers listen to them!

Caterpillar workers yes! Wolpe no!

The United Auto Workers union (UAW) and other unions in Michigan have been pouring thousands of union dollars and man-hours into campaigning for Wolpe for Governor. But, so far, the UAW hasn't organized a single rally in Michigan in solidarity with the Caterpillar workers, or a single delegation of workers from

Railroad workers strike

Over 1,000 workers in the United Transportation Union (UTU), have been on strike since July 13. 3,000 workers in the union that work closely with them have been respecting their picketlines. So have members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE).

Michigan to strengthen Caterpillar workers' picketlines. Unions were built to fight for workers, not comfortable

politicians. Workers must demand a change in union policy now! — M.G. ■

Thorn Apple Valley workers fight for a better contract

Thorn Apple Valley, one of the largest hog slaughterers east of the Mississippi, has two plants in Detroit, employing some 500 workers. In 1987, the sanitation workers at the packing plant organized themselves into the same union as all the other TAV workers, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 26. Their contract expired on July 3. A tentative agreement was reached August 18.

New Life became involved in this struggle when some of the 80 workers asked for help putting pressure on TAV to meet their demands for increased wages, improved benefits and a common contract expiration date with the production workers.

We wrote and distributed three leaflets, one in both English and Spanish, supporting the sanitation workers. Most of the leaflets were discussed with workers before they were distributed.

The leaflets proved that the company owners made more than enough money to meet the demands of the workers. The last leaflet urged the workers to consider a strike, including a sitdown strike, to overcome the owners' threats to replace the workers. The day for voting on the proposed contract has not been set.

Under their old contract, the sanitation workers made between \$5 and \$6.75/hour. Their health benefits were not equal to those of the production workers. The workers wanted parity with production workers after three years, improved health care benefits and a common contract expiration-date with the production workers.

The settlement represents a limited advance for the workers and it is a result of the struggle that the workers have made.

They won a wage increase of \$1.00 over three years, the right to transfer to production (where the top wage is \$9.70/hour) at the rate of one worker each shift each month, and health care benefits that more closely match those of production

workers. But several workers thought it would be possible to win more and expressed their discontent.

It is possible for the workers to continue the struggle to win higher wages, and a common contract expiration date with many different tactics short of a strike, as well as a strike.

Informational picket lines can be established to inform the public about the conditions of work and the demands of the workers. Community groups and other unions can be approached to support the sanitation workers. Public meetings, demonstrations and other forms of protest could be built to pressure the owners.

If the workers want to fight for more, then they should discuss rejecting the proposed contract and explore all the options mentioned here.

New Life continues to support the union against the owners and all workers' efforts to improve their lives and strengthen their unity. — Fred Russo ■

Justice for Freddie Vela!



11-year-old Freddie Vela was killed by an off-duty Detroit cop on July 22. Friends and neighbors demonstrated July 28 at the murder site.



A midwest union conference for a labor party

Eight local unions in the Toledo-Cleveland area are the co-sponsors, along with Labor Party Advocates, of an educational conference on the need for a labor party and an action program for the unions. The conference will be held in Toledo at the Holiday Inn Southwyck, December 10-11.

This conference is only the latest effort in the growth of the labor party tendency in the unions. This tendency, although it is a minority, is one of two in the workers movement today. The other is the strike wave.

The labor party tendency has been growing. The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE), one of the big four railroad workers' unions, endorsed a fight for a labor party and Labor Party Advocates at its convention in Detroit in July. These 60,000 workers have been working under a Clinton government-imposed contract. They are sick of the government taking the side of the railroad companies against the workers.

The American Postal Workers Union, with 350,000 members, had one state, North Carolina, and one major city, Seattle, present resolutions for a labor party and support to Labor Party Advocates at its national convention in Detroit in August. While the resolutions did not pass, it received a surprising number of floor votes. About 1/3 of the delegates were new to the convention.

Even in the biggest unions most closely tied to the Democratic Party there have been some positive signs. The December Educational Conference will have on its local union presidents' panel: Joe Lindemuth, president of United Steelworkers Local 2265, LTV Steel; Jim McNeil, president of UAW Local 600, the 15,000 member Ford Rouge local; and Dave Yorick, president of United Rubber Workers Local 7, Firestone, currently on strike. Other speakers include Bob Wages, president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; Jed Dodd, president of the western Pennsylvania federation of the BMWE, and Dave Watts, president of the Staley workers, UPIU Local 7-837.

There will be workshops on nearly every important question for working people: jobs, oppressed minorities, women, strike

solidarity, independent labor candidates, foreign policy, national health care. . . .

It is in the interest of every working per-

Discrimination against young workers . . . a first-hand account

Today, more and more young people find themselves having to work part-time jobs so they can have some kind of money for themselves. However, these jobs often put them in positions where they are forced to do things an older worker would never stand for. The reason for this is younger people are often inexperienced and don't know what, if any, rights they have; bosses use this to the fullest extent.

I found myself in many of these situations when I first started working. When I was sixteen, I worked at a movie theater (United Artists) as an usher. To save money on overtime, the company simply did not give it to you by holding hours over to your next check if you went over forty. This practice was rarely questioned and if it was the manager would intimidate you into dropping the subject. Another way used to avoid paying employees was if you forgot to put your employee number on a time card, your card was held for a week. Many times while working at United Artists, I was asked to come in to do extra work, like putting away stock and instead of getting paid for how long it took, I was given an extra two hours on my time card. (Doing stock usually took three to four hours.)

Another job I had a few years after my United Artists' experience was at Meijers. Here, too, I found the situation appalling. The first day I was called to work I was told I would be trained and for the few days I was to work someone would always be there to help me with every question. Instead, my first day I found myself left to run a department alone that I knew nothing about, and because I was alone I didn't have the chance to take a break much less have lunch. At the end of my shift the store manager came up to me and said I had forgotten to do some things. When I told him I had never been trained, so I didn't know that I was supposed to do these things, he said that was OK. I should first punch out and do them, then I could go

son, every union, that this conference be a success with a huge turnout. For more information contact Labor Party Advocates at 313-730-4530. — FR. ■

home! (After you punch out of course, you don't get paid!)

These are just two examples of some of what young workers are faced with. It is important for all workers to realize what is going on, and know what their rights are. It's illegal to require work without pay and it's illegal to not pay time and a half for work over 40 hours. — Tim Allen ■

Justice for Nicole Simpson and O.J. Simpson!

Since O.J. Simpson was arrested for allegedly murdering Nicole Simpson, much information has come out making it clear that he did beat Nicole Simpson. Simpson should be tried and punished for abusing this woman. However, it is not at all clear that he *murdered* her. It is clear that Simpson will never get a fair trial in the white racist U.S. judicial system.

So far, there are no murder weapons and no eye-witnesses. He has a right to be presumed innocent until he is proven guilty. Nevertheless, the police and the media made a humiliating circus out of arresting and charging him, chasing him all over L.A., broadcasting it on TV. *Time* doctored a photo of him to make him look darker and more menacing. Countless numbers of racist articles have been written about him, including some contrasting an allegedly "light-skinned, upscale surface," and a "dark, ghetto soul."

Contrast the way O.J. Simpson has been treated, and the way Ted Kennedy was treated when he drove with Mary Jo Kopechne into a body of water and left her there to drown. Or the way William Kennedy Smith was treated after he raped a young woman. Even incredibly rich Black men can't get justice in the racist U.S. judicial system.

Working people shouldn't fall into the trap of counterposing democratic rights for women to rights for Black men, or vice versa. Justice for Nicole Simpson and O.J. Simpson demands that O.J. Simpson be tried and punished for beating her. That much is clear. It also demands that an independent Black court be established to investigate the alleged crimes and decide O.J. Simpson's fate. White racist courts are incapable of doing this.— M.G. ■



Clinton's crime bill is really Bill's crime

"A man with a briefcase can steal more money than any man with a gun." — Don Henley

All working class people in the United States — especially the most oppressed in the inner cities — are very worried about crime. Our personal safety and the safety of our children are threatened by spiralling rates of murder and theft. Many of us don't go out at night because we're afraid we'll be caught in the cross-fire between drug gangs or attacked by a thief who is so desperate that what little we have seems like a lot to him. At the same time, we see many of our children slipping into drugs and criminal activity because they have no hope for anything better. Young people face high unemployment — officially 16% among Black youths in Detroit — low wage, menial jobs, devastated schools which warehouse them more than they teach, and the constant threat that if they don't join gangs they will be victims of the gangs. They see police protecting crack houses, and terrorizing and killing citizens without punishment. And, worst of all, many young people don't yet see much of the working class fighting back. They would be encouraged if they saw more of us confront the source of these problems: the jobs and educational funds being stolen from us by the rich to increase their profits.

And so comes the crime bill currently in congress. It's supposed to be Bill Clinton's response to our concerns about crime. But it's not a response at all to the source of our crime problems. Instead, it would put more money into the same things that already haven't worked — in fact the same things that have made our situation worse. Most of the \$30 billion from the crime bill would go to building more prisons and putting more cops on the street. We already know that building prisons is the one really booming industry in this country and it hasn't stopped crime. Prisons make the problems worse by isolating, beating and humiliating prisoners instead of giving them opportunities to improve their lives. We also know that the police on the street now aren't there to protect us. This is clearly demonstrated every time one of our young people is killed by a cop; or when police come to a picket line to protect scabs taking away our jobs. These police are not there when our houses are robbed.

Out of this huge expenditure planned by Clinton and congress, only 23% is allocated for what they call "crime prevention." And, what they consider crime prevention is more of the same demeaning social welfare programs — or a paltry few activities for youth, like midnight basketball courts. The government is not even considering real solutions to the problem of

crime, such as taking back some of the money given to the rich in tax cuts — money that has been stolen from our schools and social programs. They aren't considering punishing businesses who've forced communities to give tax breaks by threatening to take away jobs. (In fact, some of the money allocated for "crime prevention" will go to "incentives" for business in enterprise zones.) They aren't touching all the companies who've shut down plants throwing millions of workers out of work and making the rest work faster to keep up their profits. No, instead the government is promising to stop crime by punishing only the one's who are victims of the corporate criminals. Their economy is breaking down, causing our society to disintegrate — and their "solution" is to speed up the disintegration with more police and more prisons.

We cannot rely on the rich people's government to solve this problem for us. We, ourselves, are going to have to confront it. Instead of remaining isolated and scared, we have to or-

ganize to protect our own neighborhoods — both from the gangsters and the police. Other communities have successfully organized patrols to protect their neighborhoods. We can do that, and together we can find other ways to prevent violence—like self defense training for young people. Also, we have to demand meaningful jobs at living wages. If the big businesses who've stolen from us don't provide them, then they'll have to provide money for massive public works programs to restore the roads, neighborhoods, schools and other public facilities they've destroyed. Companies will be forced to pay — like Sherwin Williams, who left a mess costing Hamtramck citizens billions to clean up; or, companies like National Metal Processing, who've locked out 100 Detroit steel workers because they fought wage cuts. If we fight for justice against the criminals with briefcases, we will face fewer criminals with guns. And, in fact, those who have been desperate and hopeless may turn against our enemies instead of us. — K. Morgan ■

Defend the life of Mumia Abu Jamal — the "Voice of the Voiceless" on death row



At age 38, Mumia Abu Jamal (Swahili for "Mumia, father of Jamal") has been on death row for 12 years. He was framed for the murder of a Philadelphia police officer in 1981. He was convicted by a nearly all-white jury in a 45% Black district, where jurors were told his history in the Black Panther Party when he was 14 years old made him a threat to society. Four witnesses described a completely different man running from the scene, yet the testimony of a police officer — who months later "remembered" a confession from Mumia — prevailed.

Mumia was, and is, a journalist who spoke for oppressed people. He lost his job and offended the Philadelphia police when he defended members of the MOVE activist group attacked by police in 1978. Just this year, the Fraternal

Order of Police successfully pressured National Public Radio into cancelling radio spots where Mumia spoke about the plight of death row prisoners. (In his response, Mumia said their program "All Things Considered" should be called "All Things (The Police Will Allow) Considered.")

Like other important Black leaders such as Malcolm X, Fred Hampton and Medgar Evers, Mumia Abu Jamal is being silenced because he is a threat to white, racist authorities. Because he has been "the voice of the voiceless," a defender of oppressed people and was co-founder of the Philadelphia chapter of the Black Panther Party, he threatens the capitalist system by challenging its racist policies. Because of this, and only this, he could be scheduled for execution at any time. If we allow him to be killed by the state of Pennsylvania, we will allow them to take away one more asset we have in our struggle against the bosses.

Donations for Jamal's defense may be made payable to the "Bill of Rights Foundation" (earmarked "Jamal") and sent to the Committee to Save Jamal, 163 Amsterdam Ave., No. 115, New York, NY 10023-5001. Letters protesting his death sentence and requesting a pardon may be sent to: Governor, State of Pennsylvania, Main Capitol Building, Room 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120. — K.M. ■



Stop U.S. bosses efforts to destroy Cuba! Welcome Cuban immigrants!

The U.S. government just announced more measures that are going to hurt the Cuban people:

— U.S. officials are not allowing Cubans to enter the U.S.; they are being picked up, taken to the U.S. military base in Guantanamo, and held in prison camps;

— U.S. officials are cracking down on Cubans in the U.S. sending money and other supplies to relatives and friends in Cuba, tightening the decades-long U.S. blockade against Cuba;

— At the same time, the U.S. continues to keep its troops and arms at Guantanamo, on what is rightfully Cuban soil.

We urge all working people and their unions to oppose these measures against the Cuban people:

— Welcome Cuban immigrants; organize them into unemployed workers' unions to fight for jobs for themselves and all working people;

— Stop the U.S. blockade against Cuba; get all U.S. forces out of Cuba!

U.S. corporate bosses are trying to turn the U.S. into a privileged island, open only to a small percentage of the world's population. At the same time, it's trying to drain all the other peoples and nations of the world dry. U.S. bosses open up enterprizes in other countries, finance and arm governments and military forces that are favorable to them, that give U.S. bosses free land, cheap labor, tax breaks, and, at the same time, agree to make fantastic interest payments on loans from U.S. banks, which are nothing but large-scale loan sharks, while they starve and abuse their own people.

There are going to be more and more people trying to leave their countries, and come to the U.S. and other countries that aren't suffering as much under U.S. bosses.

U.S. workers have a choice. We can go along with the bosses, try to turn this nation into a nation of totally privileged parasites who live off the flesh and blood of other peoples, and close U.S. doors to people fleeing the effects of U.S. corporate bosses' policies in their own countries. Or we can welcome immigrant workers and oppressed, fight for the U.S. to open its doors to these people, and work to organize them into a common fight for the interests of all working people, to overthrow the power of the U.S. bosses, and build a society in which working people of all ethnic groups and nationalities can be

comfortable.

It's especially important to fight for the rights of Cubans.

The U.S. government has been persecuting the Cuban people, particularly Fidel Castro, because the Cuban people dared to rise up against U.S. bosses and their lackeys in Cuba who had turned Cuba into a playground for corrupt U.S. businessmen, a center of alcohol abuse, drug abuse, prostitution, gambling, etc. The Cubans kicked out all these corrupt scum, took over their property, and began to try to use it to advance the interests of the people, to build housing, healthcare centers, schools, etc. Under the pressure of the masses of people, the privileged bureaucracy in the old USSR was forced to help the Cuban people for a certain period of time. But now that this privileged

Notes

Free Haitian refugees at Guantanamo! U.S. bosses hands off Haiti! Hundreds of Haitian refugees began chanting and singing against the terrible conditions at the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they are being held against their will by U.S. forces. The protest began August 13 and quickly spread through 4 different camps where about 15,000 Haitian refugees fleeing political repression are being held. Haitians clashed with U.S. forces; 45 Haitians and 20 U.S. forces were injured; 120 Haitians attempted to flee, but were captured by the U.S. The U.S.'s imprisonment and brutal treatment of these opponents of the military dictators in Haiti shows very clearly that the U.S.'s plans to invade Haiti, allegedly to overthrow this dictatorship, aren't going to help the Haitian people at all. Workers and unionists in the U.S. who care about our brothers and sisters from Haiti fighting for their lives and freedom must demand that the U.S. open its doors to Haitians and allow them to get the guns and other supplies they need to overthrow the dictators in their land. The Haitian people can free themselves. U.S. bosses are just trying to take advantage of the situation to establish their own dictatorship in Haiti.

The Zapatista National Liberation Army sponsored a National Democratic Convention with about 5,000 to 6,000 delegates in Chiapas, Mexico on August 6-9. The delegates promised massive civil disobedience in the event that the ruling party once against tries to steal the presidential elections as it has many times before. The U.S. media has just reported that the ruling party won again and that the elections were fair. Workers in the U.S. have no reason to believe this. We should support the struggle of workers and peasants to rid their country of this party and establish a government that corresponds more to their interests.

The U.S. media is now reporting that refugees in camps in Rwanda and Zaire are attacking "relief workers," as if these refugees are stupid savages,

bureaucracy has totally abandoned any pretense of being on the side of the people, and is trying to become a new wealthy class, it has also abandoned the Cuban people, refused to pay them for goods sent from Cuba, refused to sell them oil, etc. This is why the situation of the Cuban people is now so difficult, and why they need our support.

Workers who care about their brothers and sisters in Cuba should fight for the U.S. to open its doors to Cuban immigrants, for the trade unions in the U.S. to defy the U.S. blockade against Cuba, collect and take supplies to the Cuban people, and for the U.S. to get all its troops out of Cuba.

If a nation that stands up to U.S. bosses is crushed, it will hurt working people everywhere. — M. Gutshall ■

incapable of even keeping their hands off people trying to help them. What a racist lie! U.S. and European bosses have used "relief" in Africa to try to develop their own power, giving "relief" to those favorable to them, denying relief to those who are more independent. The only way to help the African people is to support their struggle to get all U.S. and European imperialist forces out of Africa. Workers should fight for aid to go to African workers' unions, so that they can distribute it to people who are suffering in a way that strengthens the African people, rather than U.S. and European bosses.

Since the first relatively free elections in South Africa, a strikewave has swept the country. Over 100,000 workers, including 25,000 autoworkers are on strike. 316,000 members of the National Union of Mineworkers may join them.

Workers in Europe organized another Workers Aid to Bosnia Convoy this summer, aimed at helping the Bosnian people fight for their freedom against the Serbian bureaucracy and its supporters from Washington to Moscow. The U.S. still refuses to allow guns and other supplies to Bosnia, and even threatens to bomb Bosnians if they continue to fight back against Serbs.

The Liaison Committee of the International Revolutionary Current and the International League is organizing an international campaign in solidarity with workers' and against the privileged bureaucracy in Byelorussia. *New Life* will be publishing a special pamphlet on this campaign. — M.G. ■

**Union Conference in
Solidarity with Cuba
September 23 -25
UAW Local 600
Detroit, Michigan
313-836-3752**



The 1900s: The "American" century ... The 2000s: The workers' century ...

Many North American scholars used to call the 1900s, or the 20th century, the "American" century.

This obviously reflects the self-centered mind-set of U.S. bosses. They equate the U.S. and "America," "America" and the world.

Nevertheless, there is still a certain amount of truth here that shouldn't be overlooked.

There have been a number of different empires that have dominated the world for a certain period of time: the Roman, Spanish, British, now the U.S.

At the beginning of this century, there was a working class and socialist revolution in Russia that aimed to put an end to the domination of one class by another, to the domination of one nation by another. It spread to Eastern Europe, China, Korea, Vietnam, and even to Cuba, and shook up the workers and oppressed and the bosses in every country. But it didn't spread any further; a privileged bureaucracy arose within this revolution that began to undermine it and impede its development. As we say elsewhere in this issue, working class and popular uprisings in Russia and other countries have succeeded in overthrowing the *total dictatorship* of this privileged bureaucracy, but they haven't yet succeeded in fully destroying it and getting their countries totally back on the road to healthy growth and development.

Thus it was that the U.S., in spite of this working class and popular revolution, was able to emerge victorious from World War I and, even more so, from World War II.

The U.S. was a relatively young nation with tremendous natural resources, with a huge and talented working class drawn from workers and oppressed from many continents who were willing to work and fight for a better life, and a relatively energetic and inventive capitalist class. So U.S. capitalists were able to take advantage of inventions, the productivity of U.S. labor, and the fighting between the old powers, to sell better and cheaper products and take over markets throughout the world. They were able to take advantage of the fact that they weren't *near* the fighting in WWI and WWII, to wait for the old powers to wear each other out. We are hearing a lot about how the U.S. saved the world from the German Kaiser, and then from the German Hit-

ler; the truth is the U.S. allowed arms to both sides, waited, and then, when both sides were worn out, walked in and took over.

The U.S. military victory in WWII allowed the U.S. to establish the best possible terms for U.S. corporations in the U.S. and throughout the world. We hear a lot of whining about how much the U.S. "gave" Europe after WWII; the truth is U.S. corporations made BILLIONS rebuilding Europe after WWII, just as they are making BILLIONS rebuilding Kuwait today.

In addition, every country has had to pay tribute to the U.S., just as everyone had to pay tribute to Rome or Spain, or as the colonists had to pay tribute to Britain. This time it took the form of interest payments on loans, or being forced to exchange currency with the U.S. at a fixed rate, when the value of U.S. currency had fallen.

U.S. corporations made super-profits by owning and/or controlling natural resources in many countries, by exploiting workers in the U.S. and workers in other countries even more, and by dominating markets and setting the prices for products. The U.S. government brought in a constant stream of cash from other countries.

This made it possible for U.S. corporations and the U.S. government to make unprecedented concessions not only to the middle classes but also to the working class, without dipping into their own profits too much. The U.S. middle classes and the top sections of the U.S. working class got wages, benefits, and social services that were unprecedented for *workers*, much higher than those of workers and oppressed in other countries. Even U.S. workers in the worst conditions, were in better conditions than most.

Thus not only the bourgeoisie, and the middle classes, but whole sections of the working class became totally corrupt. They almost never had to fight for anything; they almost never had to worry about shelter, food, clothing ... They had no sympathy or support for those who did. Workers who were true to their class were isolated.

Today, nearly fifty years after the end of WWII, and a little more than five years before the beginning of a new century, everything is changing.

There is an upswing in the economy, and U.S. corporations are doing relatively well in the world market, but the U.S. still hasn't

regained its position in the world economy as the number one unquestionable world super-power. The U.S. government and U.S. corporations are no longer able to dictate terms to other countries and corporations as they did decades ago. They are no longer able to reap the profits and make the concessions to the middle classes and the top layers of the working class as they did decades ago. Most workers in the U.S. still enjoy better working and living conditions than the vast majority of people in the world. But their standard of working and living conditions has been falling; it's been getting *closer* to that of workers and oppressed in other countries. U.S. workers are being forced to fight for every penny from the bosses. They are being forced to face the same problems workers in other countries have been facing for decades: shelter, food, clothing, healthcare, education, etc. They are becoming more sympathetic and supportive to workers and oppressed and their struggles in other countries. They are initiating more struggles of their own — Teamsters, Caterpillar workers, Firestone workers, Staley workers, Labor Party Advocates ...

This is why we say that the 20th century may have been the U.S. century, or the "American" century, but the 21st century is going to be the *workers* century.

More and more workers in the U.S., Latin America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, are being forced to struggle against the bosses and the privileged bureaucrats; they are coming closer together; they are trying to build more working class parties; in some cases, like Brazil, they are even trying to fight for political power.

At the end of the last century, when the British empire fell, U.S. capitalists, relatively young and healthy, were there to pick up the pieces, maintain the capitalist order, cut short the workers' struggle. At the end of this century, as the U.S. empire is falling, who is there to pick up the pieces, maintain the capitalist order? Germany? Japan? Perhaps, but with great difficulty.

Workers are going to get one opportunity after another to learn how to fight the bosses effectively and win. The more workers take advantage of these opportunities, the more quickly victory will come. — M. G. ■



Trotskyism lives!

Fifty-four years have passed since Leon Trotsky was assassinated, on August 21, 1940, in Mexico.

Trotsky was a great working class revolutionary leader, like Marx, Engels, and Lenin, and, together with Lenin, a great leader of the first successful working class and socialist revolution, which took place in Russia, in October, 1917.

Lenin, Trotsky, and millions of workers, oppressed, and revolutionaries throughout the world did everything in their power to continue the revolution — to help the Russian workers and peasants maintain and expand their power, to spread the revolution to other countries, so that workers and oppressed in all countries could work together to produce the things that they need and build a society in which working people could be truly comfortable, a socialist or communist society.

But they weren't able to spread the revolution. Twenty-one capitalist and imperialist countries, including the U.S., joined forces and invaded Russia. Working class parties in other countries were either corrupt and opportunist, or inexperienced, unwilling or not yet able to take advantage of the bosses' crisis, to encourage and organize millions of workers to overthrow the bosses' power, take power into their own hands, and begin to remake society in their own interests. A privileged bureaucracy, led by Joseph Stalin, began to arise in Russia, like a cancer in cells bombarded with smoke and deprived of oxygen, and it worked with the capitalist/imperialist bosses in the West to undermine the workers' power in Russia and other countries.

Lenin, Trotsky, and thousands of workers and revolutionaries throughout the world fought the rise of this privileged bureaucracy led by Stalin. Lenin's very last struggle, before a stroke paralyzed him in March, 1923, was against this privileged Russian bureaucracy's aristocratic and contemptuous attitude toward an oppressed people, the Georgians, and their representatives (since the Czars, Russians have been privileged relative to other nationalities in this region).

After Lenin died, in January, 1924, Trotsky and thousands of others continued the struggle against the privileged bureaucracy. While they succeeded in stopping the bureaucracy from destroying all the gains of the revolution, they didn't stop the growth of the bureaucracy itself, or prevent it from doing lots of damage to many workers' struggles. Trotsky and thousands of his co-thinkers were arrested, imprisoned, tortured, executed, and/or exiled. Trotsky himself was arrested, sent into exile, forced from one country to another, finally to Mexico.

North American and Mexican revolutionaries supported Trotsky, helped him set up a home in Mexico (the U.S. would not allow Trotsky to enter the U.S.!), helped him continue his work, and tried to protect him from the Stalinist bureaucracy and its hired guns with armed guards and other security measures. They were successful for a certain period of time. Trotsky was able to work relatively productively and peacefully in Mexico from 1937 until 1940. But, on August 21, 1940, a Stalinist assassin was finally able to break through all the revolutionaries' security measures.

Having won the confidence of a member of Trotsky's household, having convinced everyone that he was simply a friend, Ramon Mercader (Jackson) entered Trotsky's study, with the pretext of discussing something that he had written, and beat and stabbed Trotsky repeatedly in the brain with a pick axe. Trotsky fought back and managed to shield himself from some of the killer's blows, but it wasn't enough. He died that night.

By killing Trotsky, Stalin hoped to destroy the movement that Trotsky so clearly expressed, built, led, and finally gave his life for — the movement for new working class and popular revolutions, not only against the old capitalist and imperialist bosses, but also against the privileged labor bureaucracies, who use their positions in the labor movement to enrich themselves at the expense of the workers and oppressed. Stalin thought that Trotsky's co-thinkers — "Trotskyists" — were like so many of Stalin's followers, mindless automatons, blindly following a single individual, incapable of thinking or acting on their own. So he thought that by killing Trotsky, he could kill the movement itself. He was wrong.

Workers and oppressed have continued to rise up against the bosses and the privileged bureaucracy. These repeated struggles have finally brought down the total dictatorship of the privileged bureaucracy in the land of the first workers revolution, the old USSR. What the bosses call "the fall of communism," is really the fall of the privileged bureaucracy. This privileged bureaucracy still exists in the old USSR, but it no longer has a total dictatorship. Today, workers in Russia and other republics are building new unions, new working class parties, fighting for working class and popular democracy, and for the total destruc-

tion of the old privileged bureaucracy. Working class and popular struggles are developing with unprecedented speed and power in Africa, and Europe, South, Central, and North America.

Trotskyism lives in these struggles. But, above all, it lives in the Fourth International, in the international working class and revolutionary organization founded by Trotsky and his co-thinkers to continue the struggle of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and thousands of workers and revolutionaries for working class and socialist revolution, for classless, communist societies in which everyone has what he or she needs and there is no top or bottom.

Of course the forces of the Fourth International have passed through many crises and difficulties in the last years — persecutions from the outside, betrayals from the inside, defections, divisions, etc. But today the upsurge in working class and popular struggles, especially in the old USSR, is bringing new life to the Fourth International. Tendencies most true to its struggle — like the International Revolutionary Current and the International League — are working together to bring together other working class and revolutionary forces true to its struggle. They have just issued a call for an international conference to promote this struggle to be held in April of 1995.

We urge all workers fighting for a better life, and all revolutionaries, to support this struggle.

Victory to the workers revolution!
Victory to the Fourth International!
Trotskyism lives! —M.G. ■

Call to an international conference April, 1995

(For copies contact New Life)

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