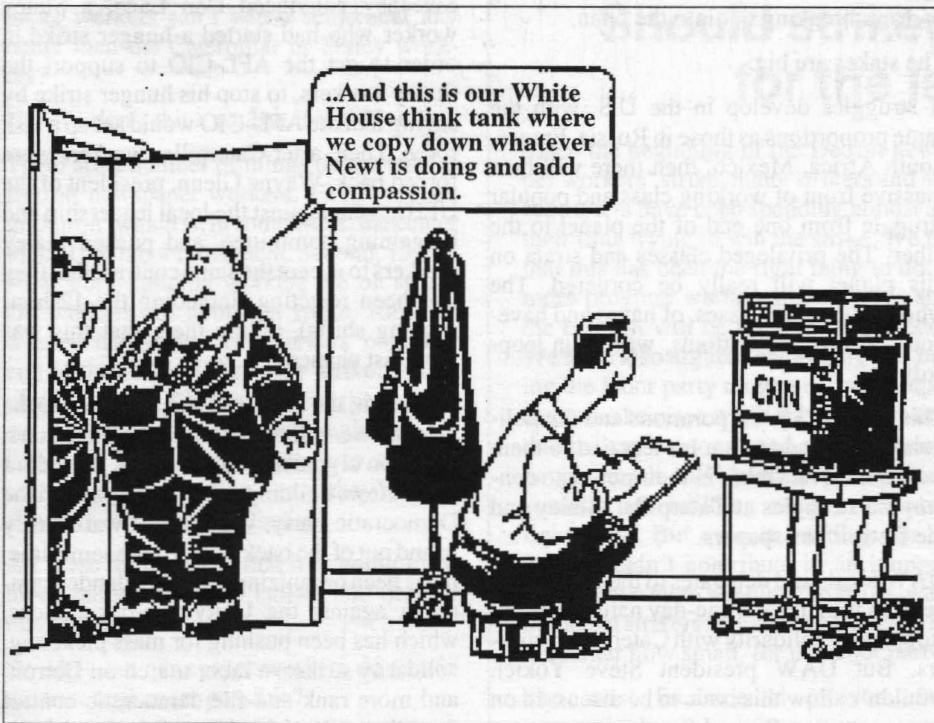


# NEW LIFE

A SOCIALIST BULLETIN PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE LABOR PARTY MOVEMENT

NO. 21 · FEBRUARY, 1996 · 25¢ · BOX 441283, DETROIT, MI · 48244 · PHONE/FAX: 313-584-6556

## Is Clinton a real alternative to Gingrich?



Many top union leaders are now trying to convince workers and local union leaders to support Clinton and other Democratic Party candidates in the 1996 elections.

No one claims to be very enthusiastic about Clinton and most Democrats. (Maryann Mahaffey and John Conyers are not typical ...). Clinton hasn't kept any promises. He hasn't brought more higher paying jobs, higher minimum wages, health insurance or laws against scabs. But he has promoted NAFTA, cutting welfare, Medicaid and Medicare (just a little less than Gingrich), and sending U.S. troops to Bosnia.

Many top union leaders say that Clinton and other Democrats are the only *electable* alternatives to Gingrich and the Republicans. They say the more Democrats in office, the better conditions will be for workers.

Some even say that those of us who are against both Republicans and  
(Continued on back page)

**Join the  
labor party  
movement!**

Convention to found  
the labor party

June 6-9, 1996

Call 313-730-4530

U.S. out of Bosnia!- page 5

# What can be done to win the Detroit

There have been dramatic changes in labor movements in the last years.

## Changes

In Eastern Europe and the old USSR, workers rose up against the privileged dictatorial bureaucracies, the ruling Communist Parties. For a while, many workers thought that capitalism and privatization of publicly-owned industries might be a solution to their problems. However, once workers saw what this meant — job cuts, wage cuts — they began to take a stand against it. In the recent elections, the faction of the old Communist Party that most claimed to oppose capitalism and privatization, won the largest number of votes.

In France, railroad workers, bus workers, and other public employees organized a 23-day nationwide strike that almost closed the country, and demonstrations that sometimes totaled 2 million. Striking workers met in their workplaces everyday and discussed and voted on what to do. When asked how they achieved the tremendous unity and workers' democracy that characterized the strike for so long, one worker said:

"It wasn't always like that. It comes as a result of a long experience. In the past, we let the trade union leaders decide everything. Now, we, the workers, meet everyday. Everyone has the right to think, to have his opinion, to vote. In this way, we find out the opinion of everyone. We are able to avoid division. We all go out together. We all come back together. Tous ensemble! Tous ensemble! Oui! Oui!"

In South Africa, after overthrowing the apartheid regime, workers are continuing to fight for their rights and needs, sometimes even when it means a confrontation with the new government led by Nelson Mandela. In Mexico, last May 1, the traditional working class holiday, over one million workers demonstrated in opposition to the union leadership which had canceled the demonstration in order to appease U.S. corporations and their Mexican allies.

In the United States, dramatic changes are also brewing within the labor movement. The prolonged and bitter struggles at Staley, Caterpillar, and the Detroit newspapers; the movements against sell-out and undemocratic leaderships and for more democracy

**1. Support the Unity Victory Caucus's fight for a national labor march on Detroit, solidarity strikes, mass picketing, and mass meetings to democratically decide strike strategy.**

**2. Put more emphasis on the fight for union democracy and on one-on-one organizing; let the ranks of the strikers democratically decide how to run the strike as workers did in France; visit strikers at home, encourage them to get more active.**

**3. Run independent working class candidates for local offices in Michigan to build support for the strike, for more militant tactics, for outlawing scabs, and for repealing laws that restrict labor.**

within different unions; the movement to found a labor party in June; the Million Man March.

## Containing struggles

But U.S. corporations, politicians, and their allies within the labor movement are obviously doing everything that they can to keep the movement that is developing within the labor movement — for fighting the bosses, against sell-outs, for workers' democracy — from breaking out into the open.

The stakes are big.

If struggles develop in the U.S. with the same proportions as those in Russia, France, South Africa, Mexico, then there will be a massive front of working class and popular struggle from one end of the planet to the other. The privileged classes and strata on this planet will really be cornered. The whole system of classes, of haves and have-nots, of tops and bottoms, will be in jeopardy.

This is why U.S. corporations and the politicians and trade union leaders tied to them have done everything in their power to contain the struggles at Caterpillar, Staley and the Detroit newspapers.

UAW locals and delegates to the UAW convention fought for a one-day national work-stoppage in solidarity with Caterpillar workers. But UAW president Steve Yokich wouldn't allow this issue to be discussed on the convention floor. After the convention, he told Caterpillar workers to cut the size of

their pickets, to be polite to company men and scabs. 85% of Caterpillar workers voted against the proposed contract, which did not guarantee that all Caterpillar workers would get their jobs back and that the scabs would be out. But Yokich cut off their strike pay and forced them to go back to work, one by one and without a contract.

The top union leadership's conduct in the Staley workers' struggle was no better. Sweeney convinced Dan Lane, a Staley worker who had started a hunger strike in order to get the AFL-CIO to support the Staley workers, to stop his hunger strike by saying that the AFL-CIO would set up a task force. Then, after Caterpillar workers were forced back, Wayne Glenn, president of the UPIU, went against the local leadership and bargaining committee, and pushed Staley workers to accept the same contract that they had been rejecting (including the 12-hour rotating shifts), telling them that this was their last chance.

In Detroit, the local leadership, linked to the most conservative faction of the Teamsters, has been organizing rallies at the front door to the News building, with speakers from the Democratic Party, while scabs walk freely in and out of the back door. At the same time, it has been organizing a vicious slander campaign against the Unity Victory Caucus, which has been pushing for mass picketing, solidarity strikes, a labor march on Detroit, and more rank-and-file democratic control over the strike. Members of the local leadership claim that the Unity Victory Caucus



# newspaper workers' strike?

wants violence, that it's divisive, that its members are careerists and/or communists.

The less conservative national leadership of the Teamsters has sent its own representative into the situation, Eddie Burke, with the support of the leadership of the AFL-CIO and the UAW. Regardless of the merits of the individual involved, which may be considerable, is there any reason to believe that the AFL-CIO or the UAW will pursue a policy in the Detroit newspaper workers' strike that is *qualitatively* different from the policy at Caterpillar or Staley?

The truth is: the majority of the leaders of the AFL-CIO and its affiliates don't want the workers' struggles to get really big and out of their control. Their ties to the corporations are stronger and more important to them than their ties to the workers.

Workers who want to win the strike have to realize that they are not only up against the corporations, which want the owners to win because it will be a green light to union-busters throughout the country, they are also up against this union bureaucracy.

## What can be done?

Does this mean that it is impossible to win the strike? Does this mean that Detroit newspaper workers can't win a settlement any better than the Caterpillar or Staley workers?

No. We don't think so. But it is difficult.

There are a number of things on the side of Detroit newspaper workers. First, they are in Detroit, which is, in some ways, the center of the U.S. labor movement. Second, 15,000 New York building workers are on strike. Oil workers are going on strike. Railroad workers may strike. Autoworkers' contracts end in the fall and they may strike. It's an election year. Newspaper workers have been fighting from the very beginning for the kinds of tactics necessary to win the strike — mass picketing — and they've seen that they can be very effective.

All these things mean that it is going to be much harder to totally isolate and destroy this strike.

So what can newspaper workers do to win the best settlement possible?

Newspaper workers need to turn to themselves, other trade unionists and working

people. They need to organize themselves. They need to turn away from the current top leaders of the labor movement.

The Unity Victory Caucus is fighting for the kinds of measures necessary to win the strike — a mass labor march on Detroit, solidarity strikes, mass picketing, mass union meetings to democratically decide strike strategy. But there needs to be more emphasis on:

- union democracy; let the ranks of the unions democratically decide how to run the strike; the collective wisdom of 2,000 strikers is greater than the greatest wisdom of the six wise men;
- one-on-one organizing; some locals need to be rebuilt from the bottom up on the basis of the principles of solidarity and workers democracy; the only way to do this is one-on-one, visiting fellow strikers in their homes, getting to know them, know what they think;
- reaching out to other unionists and workers; workers need to find a way to overcome the news blackout against the strike

and the fight for more militant tactics and reach the thousands of working people in Michigan who sympathize with them; the best way to do this is to put forward independent working class candidates for local office in Michigan; these candidates could build support for the strike, for more militant tactics, for outlawing scabs.

What is most important is what the ranks of the unions think and what they are prepared and organized to do, not what the top leaders think. It's a waste of time to try to convince the local leadership or the national leadership to change its tactics. If the ranks of the strikers are organized and ready to fight, the current leaders will either get in line, get out of the way, or get rolled over.

Almost all time and money should be spent on trying to persuade and organize the ranks of the strikers and other working people in Michigan. If in the course of this, strikers find a top union leader who supports them, good. If not, so be it. Corporate greed and violence will back up when it hits a wall; the ranks of the unions are the only ones solid enough to make such a wall.—M. Guttschall

## Should strikers set aside time for the labor party?

Since the beginning of the Detroit newspaper workers' strike, many strikers and strike supporters have been spending almost all of their time trying to win the strike. We think that this has been the right thing to do. The more progress workers make in this strike, the better it will be for all working people. We have also argued that joining and building the labor party movement will help win the strike because it will show other workers that strikers are concerned about all working people and it will show the bosses that the workers are building another weapon to fight them. But even if building the labor party couldn't contribute in an immediate and direct way to winning the strike, we still think that strikers should set aside *some time*, no matter how small, for the labor party.

The most fundamental problem facing

young people and working people is that a small number of multi-national corporations own the majority of property in the world, including a very high percentage of the weapons, and they use this property to enrich themselves at the expense of the suffering, misery, hunger, disease, starvation and death of thousands and millions. The only way to solve this problem is to build working class political parties, to fight for political power, legal ownership and control of this property, and a planned economy, in the interests of the working majority, not the rich minority.

Strikers have to fight symptoms; they also have to fight the disease.—M.G.

# Preparing the Labor Party convention ...

Delegates will start a labor party June 6-9 at the Labor Party Advocates Convention in Cleveland. A labor party elevates the fight for workers to a new level, the political level. "The bosses have two parties, the workers will now have one of their own."

## What is the current state of the struggle between the bosses and the workers?

We live in the transition from capitalism to socialism. We see the first elements of socialism borne in our very midst — the nearly complete centralization of industry, research, transportation; the interdependence of the global economy; and, above all, an incredibly disciplined, socialized workforce that, within the straitjacket of modern capitalism, produces and transports the necessities of life to millions. We see this birth blocked by the rich owners of banks, industry and agriculture. They cling desperately to individual ownership of social property leading, inevitably, to more suffering, more destruction, more war.

The U.S. economy is in crisis. The rich owners are incapable of truly improving the productivity of the economy. Instead, like parasites, they can only search for more bodies — at home, workers in sweatshops with busted unions; afar, workers in sweat shops guarded by tyrants.

From the economic crisis, the crisis of the unions grows. With only about 10% of the workers organized (15% if government workers are included), workers in unions learn quickly how hard it is to win strikes, to keep jobs, to improve working conditions.

The economic crisis, in a more or less veiled form, has been with us for 20 years. The firing of the PATCO workers in 1981 opened everyone's eyes to the crisis in the unions.

Now there is a way out.

A labor party elevates these crises and problems to the political level, to the level of the whole society. A labor party is a weapon to fight for workers' solutions on the most general level, that of the whole society.

The labor party brings the light of day to the previously hidden conflict with the bosses over who will run the society — them or the

workers. It creates the best conditions in 60 years to launch the struggle to expropriate the rich and give birth to socialism in the U.S.

## The current leadership of the unions

The vast majority of unionized workers want a labor party. The objective interests of the majority of all workers demands it. A minority of trade union leaders support a labor party.

## What socialists and fighting workers should do:

- Recruit more workers, especially young workers, to Labor Party Advocates.
- Elect workers, young people involved in struggles and sincere socialists as delegates.
- Develop a working-class platform that workers and unions can fight for.

All union leaders fear breaking with the Democratic Party, breaking with the biggest and richest capitalists that it represents — Wall Street bankers, automobile and oil magnates, etc. The leaders of the labor party movement are no exception.

The leaders of the unions that support Labor Party Advocates — the OCAW, the UE, the BMW and the ILWU as well as dozens of other union leaders — want a labor party to pressure the Democratic Party and the rich owners to stop attacking workers, to pass some measures to improve the lives and conditions of workers. They support a new party because there is no other solution.

## The emancipation of the working class is the task of the workers themselves

Socialism is the only permanent solution to the crisis of capitalism. Workers fighting for socialism will create reforms — changing anti-labor laws, national health care, etc. — along the way.

Workers will learn about socialism, and embrace it as sincere socialists join them in the

trenches in their battles. The socialists must, of course, patiently explain socialism, its necessity and its inevitability.

Therefore, socialists must:

1. Recruit more workers to the labor party movement.

If workers are members, then they will fight to keep the party working class. Recruit workers involved in struggles: strikes and

lockouts at Staley, Caterpillar, Bridgestone-Firestone, Detroit newspapers; the fight to free Mumia Abu-Jamal; the struggle against Proposition 186 in California; especially young workers and students of all ethnic groups.

2. Elect delegates so that all the struggles of the working class are well represented at the convention. We want working class fighters to be at the convention in the largest possible numbers. We should make sure that as many workers attend as observers, too.

Just as important, revolutionary socialists, Trotskyists, who are committed to the labor party should be elected delegates.

U.S. workers need fraternal delegates and observers from Mexico. Mexican workers fighting to organize independent unions, the fighters from Chiapas. These workers' struggles help guarantee a labor party that is truly independent of the exploiters.

**"The bosses have two parties, the workers will now have one of their own."**



3. Fight for a platform that speaks to the burning problems of all workers.

The platform that emerges must address the problems of today, modestly, but clearly. All unions, all workers must be able to fight for this platform.

Workers, students, and socialists who've been involved in these struggles are going to have to work together to develop this platform.

There are going to be clashes between different political tendencies within the labor party movement over the platform.

For example, it seems that the current leadership of Labor Party Advocates wants to build a labor party that doesn't do much to get in the way of electing Democrats in 1996. On the other hand, many of the most devoted members of LPA want the new labor party to fight for independent labor candidates, labor party candidates, or independent working class candidates in 1996.

At this point, it seems likely that the current leadership will have a majority on this question at the founding convention. However, there is no question that partisans of independent labor candidates are going to progress, as this is where the majority of working people want to go.

What is most important is to continue to recruit workers and students involved in the most advanced struggles, encourage them to play a leading role in the labor party, and work together to develop a fight for a platform that addresses the most serious problems. — Fred Russo

## Detroit Labor Party Advocates

Monthly meetings  
UAW Local 600  
Dix and Wyoming, Dearborn

Next meeting: Thursday,  
February 15, 7 pm

## Slide show on the French workers' strike

Call 730-4530 for more information.

# U.S. out of Bosnia!

Let the Bosnians defend themselves!

Further proof is emerging that the U.S.'s decision to send troops to Bosnia is aimed at stopping the Bosnians' fight for their own nation. The U.S.'s "peace" plan itself calls for dividing Bosnia into two parts, one dominated by the fascist chetniks, the other dominated by a Croatian-Bosnian federation. Now the U.S. is complaining about the presence of Muslim or Islamic volunteers in Bosnia. They say that they are linked to alleged Islamic "terrorists" in the U.S. and they want to get them out of Bosnia. The truth is, outside of trade unions and other working class and popular organizations in Europe, various Muslim or Islamic forces have been the only ones that have given any real material aid to Bosnia. The fact that U.S. military

forces are complaining about the presence of Muslim or Islamic volunteers shows that they want to disarm and disable Bosnia even more. The young men and women who are now in the U.S. armed forces should be devoting themselves to fighting the corporate criminals in the U.S. and building things that people need, not going to foreign countries that they don't know anything about and pushing the people around. U.S. troops out of Bosnia now! Lift the embargo so the Bosnians can defend themselves!



U.S. troops bring peace to Bosnia.

## Interview with a young worker

**Q. What are the conditions like where you work?**

A. Over all the conditions are o.k. We have the training and equipment we need to do our jobs. However, most people are on a rotating work schedule and have to work 6 to 10 days without a day off. This causes you to be tired and by your 7th day your mind is not fully on your job and your chances for injury increase. Also each department is understaffed. To avoid hiring more people full time, they hire part time people because part-time positions don't have insurance and pay less than full time. The part time jobs have a high turnover rate.

**Q. What can be done to improve them?**

A. Instead of hiring a lot of part time people, hire a few full time people and this would cut down the work each person would be responsible for and you could dump the rotations so that people could work 5 days with two off, cutting down on injury.

**Q. What do you think the issues will be in coming union elections?**

A. Health insurance is a big concern. We

want something that covers us without a co-pay and a doctor we can pick. Other issues will be more full time hiring, improved retirement benefits and wages.

**Q. What do you think they should be?**

A. I feel that we should get rid of this two tier system. I think we should fight for some benefits for our part timers. We should eliminate management's right to contract work out and its use of volunteers to do jobs that the union employees should do.

**Q. Is there anything you would like to add?**

A. Yes. I have been working at one place or another since I was in high school and I have worked in mostly non-union work places where I had to do what I was told and if I refused, even for safety reasons, I could be fired. I wasn't paid for over-time or paid a decent wage. Mostly minimum wage. Now that I work in a union shop, I see the difference and would encourage everyone who has a job and is not in a union to try to organize one. The difference is dramatic.

# International Correspondence

*International Correspondence* is now available, produced by the newly-founded International Workers Unity (Fourth International)(IWU). Representing 23 different countries, members of IWU are involved in the most advanced working class struggles in the world. The publication brings together the breadth of that experience and offers a perspective we seldom see in the United States: a positive view of the strength of the working class and our eventual success in the world-wide class struggle. As such, *International Correspondence* is a valuable tool for working class fighters in all nations.

Articles featured in *International Correspondence* report the progress of the workers and peasants in Mexico, who are fighting the government's attempts to sell their country to US banks and frustrating the ruling party's efforts to pacify them through cosmetic reforms. These articles also focus on the participation of the Mexican workers who are making a socialist revolution in Mexico, which will be part of the eventual international socialist revolution. This issue includes an appeal from the Emiliano Zapata Proletarian Organization (OPEZ) in Chiapas asking all workers' and human rights organizations to mount an international campaign for solidarity with their efforts to occupy land stolen from them by the wealthy, to fight repression and to free their militants from prison. IWU and *New Life* support this campaign and pass on this appeal.

A later article discusses the effects of the capitalist economic measures being implemented in Cuba, and concludes that these contradict the defense of the workers revolution in Cuba. Anatoly Matvienko, leader of the SMOT union movement in Belarus, provides a first hand, vibrant account of his tour of Latin America, where he finds many workers who support his struggle.

An analysis from IWU participants in the brigades to Bosnia helps us to understand the US imperialist imposition of the "peace plan" in Bosnia, and how it betrays the Bosnians' movement for independence.

Two tendencies from the Workers Party in Brazil present a manifesto for their common work in the Brazilian class struggle which sets a good example for us in the US Labor Party movement. Among other things, they seek democratic reforms in their unions, progressive taxes on the wealthy and public

works programs to create jobs and improve the lives of workers.

Along with articles on the elections in Algeria and Poland, the beginnings of the recent French strikes, an account of Isaac Rabin's history as an executioner and not a "peacemaker," and a report on the US Labor Party movement in light of the Million Man March, this issue of *International Correspondence* shows us how we in the United States are part of the same class struggle which is being fought all over the world. Knowing this can strengthen our movements here and help us to build the world-wide socialist revolution. --K. Morgan

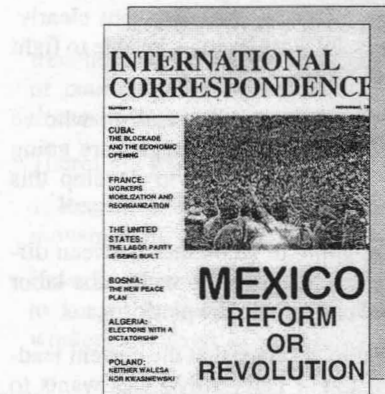
## Excerpts from *International Correspondence* on the Mexican Revolution

From THE "CIVIL SOCIETY" OR THE WORKERS AND THE PEASANTS?

Mexico has started to live in a new revolutionary process. The revolution initiated by Emiliano Zapata and his comrades in 1910, when they got organized in the small village of Aneneculco in order to recover their lands, is today awaking and once again drawing the attention of the whole world.

However, there are important differences with Mexico in 1910: the country has become industrialized, its rural population now is a minority, and Mister Porfirio Diaz is no longer in office, rather the PRI. These differences are forcing the vanguard worldwide, which is keenly keeping an eye on the events in the Aztec country, to discuss the characteristics of this new revolution. This is decisive for the fight Zapata began to really come to the end.

Wide sectors of the vanguard state that Mex-



ico needs a "democratic revolution," whose main role will be played by the "Civil Society." The main advocates of this ideology are the PRD, the party of Cuauhtemoc Cardenas and the Liberation Theology. Most regretfully, a sector of the left has adopted this conception. The heroic Zapatistas, for instance, have accepted it and are frequently using it.

Even so, we want to argue with this conception that the "civil society" will make a "democratic revolution." In opposition to this we state that the Mexican revolution which is taking its first steps will have to be part of the world socialist revolution, and its main role won't be played by the "civil society" but by the workers and the peasants.

The "civil society" is divided with regard to all the problems in Mexico. The first thing we should say is that the "civil society" is not homogeneous but is divided into antagonistic classes. On the one hand, the bourgeoisie allied with imperialism; on the other hand, the working class, the peasants and the most exploited sectors.

These social classes have totally different positions about the big problems in Mexico. Of course, that antagonism isn't always visible; most of the time the bourgeois propaganda is able to confound the workers and make them adopt reactionary positions. But when the real interests of the lower classes emerge onto the surface, when bourgeois propaganda is put aside by the struggles of the exploited, then it is clear that the "civil society" is actually a battlefield with two armies facing death. ...



## Notes

**Free Omar Abdel Rahman!** A U.S. Judge just sentenced Sheik Omar Abel Rahman, a 57-year-old blind Muslim religious leader, to life in prison for allegedly planning a "war of urban terrorism," that allegedly included plans to blow up the United Nations, the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels, the George Washington Bridge, and a federal building in Manhattan. Rahman was convicted almost completely on the basis of the testimony of a government informer, Emad Salem, who was paid \$1 million by the FBI. Salem admitted lying in previous trials.

All these accusations and undemocratic trials against Muslim or Islamic figures are aimed at turning U.S. workers and students against these peoples. U.S. oil corporations want to be able to continue to steal their oil and their land without any protests from working people in the U.S. It's high time for the labor movement to take a stand against this. Stop discrimination against Islamic people! Free Rahman and all Islamic political prisoners!

**No more blood for oil!** Members of UNIOS (Unidad Obrero y Socialista), our co-thinkers in Mexico, report that government repression is continuing. At least one leader of the Democratic Assembly of the Chiapas people has been killed, at least 11 people in Chiapas have been wounded, 20 disappeared, and 600 arrested since November 20. Two members of UNIOS have been arrested. While we don't know *exactly* who is pulling the trigger, we do know that the U.S. oil corporations and the U.S. government are behind this. There is oil in Chiapas and U.S. oil corporations want to get everyone out of the way who stands between them and this oil, like peasants who have to work the land in order to eat. Why isn't the U.S. labor movement taking a stand against this? Get all U.S. forces out of Mexico! Stop all U.S. aid to the Mexican government! Cancel Mexico's debt and give back all the oil,

land, and industries that have been stolen from them!

**Russia.** In the most recent Russian elections, the faction of the Communist Party that most claims to be against capitalism and privatization of publicly-owned industries got the largest number of votes. Now the Communist Party in the U.S. and others influenced by them say that this shows that Russian workers want to go back to the way things used to be. We don't think so. Russian workers are fighting for workers' democracy against the privileged bureaucracy in and around the old ruling Communist Party. They see that capitalism and privatization aren't solutions to their problems, that factions from the old ruling Communist Party

are using capitalism and privatization to try to takeover publicly-owned industry. They voted for the faction of the Communist Party that most claimed to oppose this because this was the only alternative they saw. It is still very difficult for independent working class and revolutionary parties who are true partisans of workers' democracy and common ownership of property to spread their ideas and get a hearing, because the various factions of the old Communist Party still control most of the resources. International Workers Unity is working with workers and revolutionaries in the old USSR to build independent working class parties. All Trotskyists should work together to promote this struggle.

## Subscribe to New Life!

There are many different working class and socialist publications. Why should workers and students read and subscribe to *New Life*?

*New Life* is obviously a small publication. But it has made a more consistent struggle for the following things than any other publication in the Detroit area:

— to build support for the labor party movement;

— to build support for socialism *within* the labor party movement;

— to unite all the tendencies of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, that are still fighting for its program.

*The Militant* has a lot of interesting and important information in it, and it claims to be for a labor party. But it is not working to build the labor party movement that exists today. It's not urging workers, students, and socialists to join the labor party movement and work together to build a big working class party open to all workers who want to fight. Instead, it is going along with workers

continuing to be unorganized, divided into different single-issue groups, or divided into different socialist tendencies and factions.

*Labor Notes* also has a lot of interesting and important information in it and it's fighting for a more militant and democratic labor movement. But it devotes very little space to the fight for a labor party, and none to the fight for socialism and the Fourth International.

*Against the Current* takes up a lot of different political issues. But it doesn't set aside much space for the labor party, socialism or the Fourth International either.

*The Weekly World* and *Workers World* may also have some interesting information in them, but they don't support the struggles for workers' democracy against the old ruling Communist Parties in Eastern Europe, the old USSR and China.

These are some of the reasons that we decided to publish *New Life*. We ask you to support our efforts by reading and subscribing!—M.G.

### Subscribe to New Life!

Introductory:  Five issues \$3.00  Regular: Ten issues \$6.00  Supporting: Ten issues \$12.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send check or money order payable to M. Guttshall to New Life, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244

New Life is a socialist bulletin published in the interests of the labor party movement. New Life is a supporter of International Workers Unity, a tendency of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, founded by Leon Trotsky and his co-thinkers. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of New Life. These are expressed in editorials. Editorial Board: Margaret Guttshall, Tim James, Kim Morgan, Fred Russo.

## Clinton and Gingrich . . .

(Continued from front page)

Democrats, who are fighting for a labor party and independent labor candidates for office, are really agents of the Republicans in disguise, that we are trying to take votes away from Democrats and make sure that Republicans get elected.

The truth is:

— The number of union members has been falling since the 1950s;

— Workers' real wages have been falling since 1973;

— It hasn't made any fundamental difference who has been in office;

— Workers quality of life depends on how well-organized and mobilized they are to fight for what they need, regardless of who's in office;

— The fundamental problem facing the working class is that the labor leadership, instead of building the labor movement, has been dining and golfing with the bosses and campaigning for *their* candidates.

This is why the labor movement has been getting smaller and smaller and workers' conditions have been getting worse and worse.

Now is the time for workers and students to turn their backs on all this.

Use the 1996 elections to build support for the labor movement. Join Labor Party Advocates. Build the convention to found the labor party. Fight for independent labor candidates in 1996. No to Gingrich and Clinton! Yes to Sweeney or Trumka!

New Life  
February, 1996

## What can the labor party fight for?

*The labor movement, especially the new labor party that will be founded in June, needs to launch an offensive to fight for the interests of working people and young people. Here are some of the things that we think the labor party can fight for.*

*We don't think these measures are a total solution to the problems facing working people. We think that the new labor party is going to have to fight for a labor government based on an independent mass mobilization,*

*legal ownership of the banks and basic industry, and a planned economy, in other words, for a working class and socialist revolution. As long as a small number of multi-national corporations own the majority of property in the world, including the weapons, the majority of people are going to suffer. But a fight for the kinds of measures listed below will be a step in the interests of the working class.*

### 1. Solidarity with Detroit newspaper strikers and all struggles against corporate greed! An injury to one is an injury to all!

- For a one-day national solidarity strike.
- Mass picketing against the worst union-busters.
- Drop all charges and fines against striking workers. Outlaw scabs, not strikers. Repeal laws that restrict labor.

### 2. More jobs, wages, healthcare, equality!

- For a 35-hour work week without cutting pay by law so that more can work.
- A \$10/hour minimum wage by law.
- Inexpensive health insurance for all funded by taxing the richest.
- Expand public childcare and public education.
- Expand affirmative action programs. More equality for women, peoples of color, and working class youth of all ethnic groups. No to special privileges for upper and middle class youth.
- U.S. military forces out of Bosnia and all foreign lands and waters. Cut U.S. aid to all anti-labor regimes (Mexico, Israel, Russia ...). Lift the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

### 3. Independent labor candidates to fight for these goals in the 1996 elections! Sweeney or Trumka for president!