

# NEW LIFE

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

NO. 22

MARCH, 1996

25¢

## For more jobs, wages, healthcare ... Join the labor party!

All the polls show that the majority of young people and working people are totally disgusted with the current situation. It's difficult to find decent jobs, wages, healthcare. They aren't enthusiastic about any of the major candidates running for office. None of these candidates is offering solutions to their problems, like:

— a shorter work week without cutting pay so that more people can work;

— a higher minimum wage so that more people can live more comfortably;

— inexpensive health insurance for all financed by taxing the richest ...

Fortunately, an alternative is beginning to emerge. Delegates from unions and other working class organizations representing over 350,000 workers are going to gather in Cleveland, Ohio, June 6-9, and found a labor party.

The new labor party probably won't run candidates in the 1996 elections. It may not even advocate that the unions run independent labor candidates in the 1996 elections. But it is going to adopt a platform of labor demands and map out plans to build

the labor party. It will lay the basis for a larger and more unified fight.

We urge all young people and working people who want more jobs, wages, healthcare, and all the other things that people need, to join the labor party movement! Come to the convention to found the labor party! Make the convention to found the labor party as big as possible!

New Life  
March, 1996

### March 18-22: labor party recruitment week!

March 18-22, members of the labor party movement are going to be making a special effort to recruit new members. If you would like more information about the movement, if you would like to invite a group of friends to your house to learn more about the movement, contact us! 313-730-4530 or 313-584-6556.

### Working class solutions

1. A 35-hour work week without cutting pay by law so that more can work.
2. A \$10/hour minimum wage by law.
3. Inexpensive health insurance for all funded by taxing the richest.
4. Expand affirmative action programs. More equality for women, peoples of color, and working class youth of all ethnic groups. No to discrimination against immigrants. No to special privileges for upper class youth.
5. Stop U.S. corporations from hurting workers of other countries. Repeal NAFTA. Stop U.S. aid to anti-labor regimes (Mexico, Israel, Russia ...). U.S. forces out of Bosnia and all foreign lands and waters. Stop the blockades against Cuba and Iraq.
6. Abolish anti-labor laws. Organize the unorganized.

## Victory to Detroit newspaper workers!

# For a national labor march on Detroit!

On March 6, a number of political and religious figures plan to sit-down in front of the Detroit News building and, in this way, attempt to prevent anti-union strike-breakers from entering the building.

We urge all strikers and strike supporters to support this action against the owners of the giant newspaper chains, Gannett and Knight-Ridder.

In every situation, strikers and their supporters need to take a look at the forces involved; always support strikers and strike supporters against the common enemy, the owners of Gannett and Knight-Ridder.

At the same time, it is necessary to say that symbolic actions, like the March 6 action, are not enough.

We need:

- a national labor march on Detroit;
- a national strike;
- mass picketing to shut down the union-busters;
- mass meetings in which strikers democratically discuss, debate, and vote on strike strategy;
- a national campaign to repeal anti-labor laws;
- the biggest possible turnout for the convention to found the labor party in June;
- independent labor candidates to build the labor movement in the 1996 elections.

The French workers' strike showed that workers can beat back big multi-national corporations and their governments with *mass labor action*. French railroad, subway, bus, gas, electric workers, teachers and students organized a nationwide strike. They shut down the entire transportation system. They organized meetings in their workplaces every day, in which strikers democratically discussed, debated, and voted on what to do. They organized nationwide demonstrations that sometimes brought as many as two-million strikers and their supporters into the streets. In this way, they forced French corporations and the French government to withdraw much of its plan to abolish the French system of public health-care, unemployment compensation, disability compensation, and pensions.

Striking workers and their supporters need to fight for the U.S. labor movement to adopt these policies. They need to fight for labor leaders willing to fight for and carry out these policies. Labor leaders who oppose these policies must be replaced.



**French rail road strikers meet to discuss and vote on strike strategies, November, 1995.**

A caucus of striking newspaper workers, the Unity Victory Caucus, is fighting for many of these policies. We urge our readers to support this caucus.

At this point, it is difficult to say if striking workers and their supporters in the U.S. are going to be able to change the labor movement quickly enough to push back Gannett and Knight-Ridder in the way that the French workers pushed back their enemies.

In any case, a firm and consistent struggle to change the labor movement's policies, and for leaders up to the tasks ahead, is the best way to get the best possible settlement for the Detroit newspaper workers.

It's the best way to gather together newspaper workers and their supporters and put a maximum amount of pressure on their enemies.

Victory to Detroit newspaper workers!  
A national labor march now!  
New Life  
March, 1996

## Workers' democracy — a powerful weapon!

In the course of the Detroit newspaper workers' strike, many workers have begun to fight for more democracy in their unions. They want union meetings in which strikers can discuss, debate, and vote on strike strategy. They want to be able to elect representatives that they trust to carry out their decisions. Many have been impressed with the workers' democracy in the French workers' strike that they have heard about or seen pictures of.

Workers' democracy is a powerful weapon because it allows every worker to know what other workers think and want to do. It allows every worker the opportunity to figure out how to best unify workers' forces against the common enemy.

Workers' democracy isn't just important in unions. It's important in *every* working class organization, including caucuses in unions, ad hoc workers' groups, and workers' political parties.

What are some of the basic principles of workers' democracy?

1. Workers' organizations should be formed on the basis of clear platforms or programs that say clearly what is the purpose of the organization. They should be open to everyone who agrees with this platform or program, who is willing

to fight for it, and accept the organization's decisions. (In other words, there has to be some clear criteria for membership; members can't be included and excluded on the basis of whether somebody likes them or dislikes them. Working class organizations struggle against the prejudices and cliquism that characterize upper and middle class organizations.)

2. Everyone in a working class organization must have the right to express his/her opinion and to vote on issues that face the organization. (In other words, in a working class organization, workers have equal rights; working class organizations don't allow some workers to make the decisions, and other workers not to have a say in what is done. Voting on things is important; it is an opportunity for each member to express his/her point of view.)

3. Leaders of working class organizations are elected. Working class organizations set aside time on a regular basis to review their policies and review their leaders. The majority has the right to change policies and change leaders when they no longer correspond to what the majority wants to do.

The more workers strive to develop and apply these principles in all their organizations, the more unified they will become.—M.G.

# Issues facing the Labor Party

Workers of all ethnic groups, and from all parts of the U.S, will form a labor party this summer in Cleveland, June 6 - 9.

The labor party is for the whole society what a union is for a factory.

In a factory, the workers use the union to organize themselves against the attacks of the company, to overcome ethnic, age, gender divisions and unify themselves against the boss, and to encourage workers to stand up for their rights. When there is a union, the workers have some control over their lives in the factory.

The labor party does the same thing on the level of the whole society.

With a labor party, workers can organize themselves against the attacks of bosses' Democratic and Republican party governments. The workers can unite themselves across ethnic divisions, across union divisions, across the country. Workers can encourage the most conscious of their ranks to run for political office, to fight for and organize for a new kind of government, a workers' government, so that workers will have some control over their lives in the society.

There are three critical issues facing the June convention:

1. the platform.
2. the organization of the labor party.
3. the 1996 elections.

## The platform

The labor party platform must be independent of the rich on the single most important question facing U.S. workers: the full scale attack on workers' jobs and workers' wages.

The workers' solution to unemployment is simple and clear: a shorter work week. Workers took the first steps in this direction when they won the 8 hour day and premium pay for overtime. Now we must go further.

The workers and their unions in Europe, especially in Germany and France, two countries close to the U.S. in their economic importance, have been fighting for a shorter work week. In Germany, some sections of workers have won a reduced work week of 35 hours with no cut in pay! It is possible to win and it is the only solution to unemploy-



LPA members march with locked out Staley workers, October, 1994.

ment that is in the workers' interest.

The workers' solution to the constant decline in wages is three-fold: an increased minimum wage to a level capable of supporting oneself, \$10/hour; cost of living allowances for all workers; and affordable national health insurance for all workers. Without national health insurance, any wage increase is meaningless.

It goes without saying that these demands apply to all workers, including immigrant workers and young workers. Workers cannot allow the rich to divide us along any lines.

The platform must take a clear stand in defense of affirmative action, that is, increasing the number of Black, Latino and women workers in the workforce. Workers should add yet another demand: include working class youth, eliminating special privileges for upper-class youth. Affirmative action strengthens the unity of the workers, as any worker who has worked at a mixed workplace will admit. In fact, the only place where most white workers come in contact with workers of color, immigrant workers and young workers is in the workplace. Daily contact with each other, working together, struggling together, breaking down prejudices, strengthens all workers.

The next important question for the platform is foreign policy. Workers took a first step in challenging the bosses' parties on foreign policy when they fought against NAFTA and the Free Trade Agreement with Canada. The platform should take a stand to immediately end NAFTA.

The workers should make it clear that they

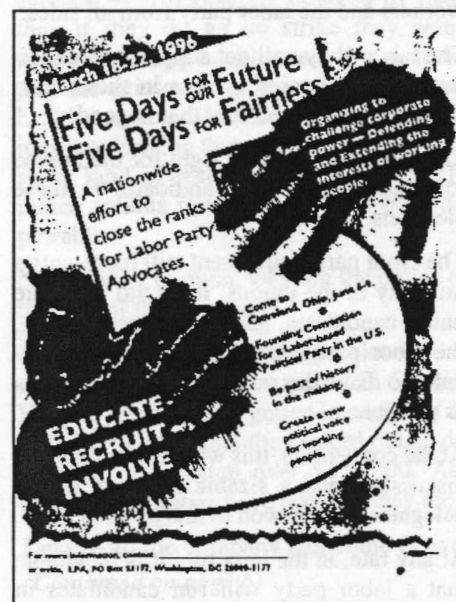
reject the foreign policy of the Democrats and Republicans. These parties unite to support every tin-pot dictator who will do what American corporations want and they punish every country where the people stand up to these same corporations and their lackeys. Workers should stand clearly for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from all foreign soil. No other country maintains troops all over the world on other peoples' land.

Another important question is the defense of strikes and militant workers and unions in the U.S. The striking workers in Decatur — Staley, Bridgestone-Firestone, and Caterpillar — held a conference last fall to prepare resolutions for the AFL-CIO convention in October. The Unity Victory Caucus, formed in the Detroit newspaper workers strike, has developed its own platform for winning the strike. In both cases, striking workers propose militant tactics to win strikes. The labor party should support these workers and their struggle for: laws to make scabs illegal; defiance of boss-bought court injunctions, and, the unions to organize national marches and national work stoppages to defend striking workers and stop union-busting.

## Organization of the labor party

The labor party must be democratically controlled by workers and their unions.

Whatever the labor party does must be democratically decided by the workers. The workers must have the right and the time to discuss and debate among themselves, to





# Detroit newspaper strikers say: We need a labor party

*In Labor Party Advocates, we know we need the people who are willing to fight the bosses — that's why membership is free to striking and locked-out workers.*

*Following are Detroit newspaper strikers' responses to questions about their struggle and the Labor Party.*

**What's the most important thing you've learned in your experience being on strike?**

**Armand:** I think, for one thing, how much U.S. law favors the employer rather than the employee. It's really not a balanced playing field. The corporations treat you as a number or as a profit or a loss, not a human being. If you do what they want you to, you will survive. Especially now that the corporations are so large and powerful, you're pretty much at their will. I think, too, I've come to see how much unions have deteriorated in the last 30 years — to an extent that they don't command the power and respect that they once did. Thirty years ago, I don't think you would have seen people cross picket lines, and now we see that all the time. And we ask people not to go into stores until they pull their ads [from the scab paper], and they go in anyway. You know that a lot of those people are working people, members of unions. To a certain extent, I think the unions are victims of their own success. The unions created a large middle class, and people started to get second homes, a couple cars and TVs, and they kind of felt they were miniature Nelson Rockefellers. That's the reason the Republicans won by a lot. And we didn't do a good job teaching our kids about labor history. I always thought that should be taught in school.

**Jane:** The most important thing I've learned is that you can have a job for 30-some years and one day it can just be gone.

**Ben:** The number one thing I've learned is my sensitivity toward other people's plights — understanding their strikes and their struggles. I've been changed totally. Like Monday, I went to visit two picket lines, as I have whenever I've been able to during the strike. I've tried to give other people going out on strike the shot in the arm I needed during the first few months. Also there's definitely a unity and feeling of togetherness, which I've never felt before — the

labor movement is growing. And I've really come to appreciate all the support people have given us. I've learned who my friends are, who you can count on — like there are

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**"Maybe it won't happen with this election, but with the next one I hope that people will understand that we need a movement for labor. I really like the LPA slogan... I really believe that."**

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several hundred people who were once my brothers and sisters [who've crossed the line] and are now living at our expense, and yet there are all the people who've come forward and filled that void several times over.

**Do you think current labor law has helped or hurt the Detroit Newspaper strike?**

**Armand:** It's hurt us a lot. The very fact that they're allowed to bring strikebreakers in is a big problem. And, I feel very strongly that the law allowing police to come in and break up picket lines is very much a problem — the police are a tool of management, when they can break up a legal picket line. But I would say the biggest problem is that the law lets them bring in replacement workers — even across state lines.

**Ben:** It's really hurt us, I believe. I really wasn't familiar with the labor laws before the strike. But now I see that the laws are totally against us. A law against replacements would be a good beginning — so they would not be able to legally replace strikers. I didn't realize this before, but South Africa and the U.S. were the only industrialized countries that still allowed that — until Canada changed their law recently.

**Jane:** Another thing is the process we go through in the courts — everything takes so long, so long, *so long* — that's against you, too. For example, if [the NLRB determines] they haven't negotiated in good faith, which prevents them from [permanently] hiring these replacement workers, it will take a year for the court ruling — and that's not fair.

**New Life:** No working person can afford to

go for that long without an income.

**Jane:** Yes. And the injunction is not fair. Also, there was a hearing that was supposed to start today — the unions are responsible now for representing the scabs. And the company hasn't paid into the pension fund for them. The very people who are taking the jobs, we now have to protect them.

**Armand:** Part of that is we're supposedly still negotiating, so technically the company still has to honor the old contract, even though we're out. In the case of the printers, at least. And another thing with labor law — there may be a method of redress, but there's no real teeth in it — it's not enforced.

**NL:** Like the National Metal Processing workers — the NLRB ruled they should get their jobs back but they are still locked out after five years.

**What changes do you think should be made in labor laws to benefit working people, particularly with respect to strikes?**

**Ben:** The first thing is that laws allowing replacements should be repealed — no one should be able to be replaced while they are out fighting for their job. They've taken away 99% of our power if someone can come in and take our jobs.

**Armand:** Yes, laws that prohibit replacement workers, for one. I think another thing that's very important is national health insurance — if people are covered by taxes then if they do go on strike they won't jeopardize their health care. We're lucky that the printer's union is continuing our health insurance, but some of the other unions aren't doing that. Also there's got to be some kind of restraint on the police. The police actions in this strike have been deplorable.

**NL:** In your opinion, why are the police on the side of the company?

**Armand:** In this strike, there's a lot of communities that have been paid off. Sterling Heights has probably gotten in excess of \$1 million. I understand the Oxford police department has gotten over \$130,000. And other communities have taken money too.

**Jane:** And the company can come in even

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

before the strike and train the community police force in its strike-breaking tactics — that's just not right. The company was training Sterling Heights police four months before the strike. Companies like Vance Security should not be allowed to exist.

**Armand:** The police say they're there to protect both sides at the picket lines, but clearly that's not the case.

**Jane:** And if it were illegal to hire scabs, the police would have no business clearing the driveways so the scabs could go in and out. Then the police would be protecting an illegal operation. But for a year, the company gets to have the police clear the way for the strikebreakers. We pay the taxes that pay the police to do this.

**Armand:** I'm not very well versed in labor law, but I just think the playing field has to be leveled. Definitely the striker replacement law. It's important, too, to force the employer to sit down and honestly negotiate. That's something we haven't been able to do. There were a lot of meetings and the union would present proposals, but the company would not negotiate.

**Do you think the Democrats or Republicans will make changes in the laws to benefit working people or do you think a Labor Party will be necessary to affect these changes?**

**Jane:** I don't think either the Democrats or Republicans are going to do it at all. Right now labor doesn't really have a voice.

**Ben:** That's a tough one. I'm watching all the presidential primaries and everyone's talking about labor and not doing anything about it — I really don't think either the Republicans or Democrats will do anything to help us. There's too much pressure put on them to work for big business. I would hope that the Labor Party would be able to affect these kinds of changes. I don't think it will happen as quickly as I'd like to see it, but I have my fingers crossed that something will catch fire. Especially with all the strikes that have been going on — I'm hoping that people will catch on that we need our own voice. That's the reason I joined LPA. I do have one reservation about the Labor Party, because when you tell people you're not a Democrat or Republican they think you're from outer space — or a communist, you know. Even my fellow strikers have difficulty parting with our leadership, and the Democrats...

**Armand:** I've always voted for Democrats. A lot of times I would tend to agree with the socialists, but I figured if I voted for them I would be taking away a vote for the Demo-



crats, who have at least *leaned* more toward labor in the past — and giving a Republican a chance to get in office. But I think now I would go more for a labor party or a socialist third party.

**What are the most important issues that you think should be included in the Labor Party platform?**

**Ben:** There are so many. Definitely a raise in the minimum wage. Minimum wage today is totally out of line with what people need to live on. And the replacement law needs to be repealed — yesterday. Also, NAFTA needs to be looked at seriously because with NAFTA the American worker is not getting a fair shake.

**Jane:** In addition to striker replacement law, something that I think is really important is solidarity. There is so much support out there among working people in this country — people we didn't know were there. The Labor Party can be a voice for this very powerful force that's out there across the United States. It shows that maybe something can be done to change things. It's important for people to know.

**Armand:** And we have union leaderships sitting on boards of directors in this country — to me that's terrible. I can see cooperation between unions and management to a certain extent, but there's a line that shouldn't be crossed. You have union leadership who think they're like management — they've become too comfortable. And something else, you talked about a one-day national solidarity strike — in order to make it fair we should be allowed to strike in solidarity with other unions, at least on a regional basis. That would level the playing field somewhat, because the corporations are allowed to lock out as many people as they

want all over the country. Right now, the important thing to be done for the Detroit newspaper strike is a national labor march on the company, with the idea of staying there for a while.

**Is there anything else you'd like to say?**

**Armand:** I think we have to win this strike — after the losses at Staley and Caterpillar, people are watching this strike. It has to be won. It should have been won already. We feel that the advertising boycott and everything is worth trying, but we may be playing into their hands by giving them an excuse to go to one paper by cutting their ads, whereas if we had shut them down from the beginning, it might have been over.

**Jane:** I just think so many people — like the 40,000 at Ameritech — where the companies are downsizing so much and putting people out of work, for no other reason than to make more money for the stockholders. The workers have got to somehow be knowledgeable about this. Something has to happen — what will they do next year to increase their profits when they've already laid off so many people and the ones who are left are working twice as hard?

**Armand:** I think there should be — like in some Scandinavian countries — committees that work with management that somewhat control what the companies do. The government should probably step in and say, "you can automate, but you have to solve the social problems and take care of people this automation is going to replace." The corporations are very powerful in this country — they've gotten so big they can even make or break a president. But I think the proper role of government is to say we're for the good of all the people, and that corporations have to have some social responsibility.

**NL:** Yes, it's very important for all of us to recognize that the government is working for the rich, contrary to the interests of most of the people.

**Armand:** Instead of supporting the interests of most of the people, there've been cutbacks in so many things that are supposed to benefit people, such as OSHA — while the the companies have been playing cities against each other.

**Ben:** Maybe it won't happen with this election, but with the next one I hope that people will understand that we need a movement for labor. I really like the LPA slogan, "The bosses have two parties, we should have at least one." I really believe that. □

## Notes

### Cuba

The United States government has renewed its attack on Cuba. On February 24, two Cuban exiles flew planes over Cuban air space, including near a military and a naval base. Although the Cubans repeatedly warned the pilots not to continue on their path, the warnings were ignored. As any one who has watched the army on TV knows, when unidentified or hostile aircraft fly over a military base, they will be shot down. Cuban soldiers shot the two planes down.

The CIA, the U.S. spy organization, founded "Brothers to the Rescue," the organization that the two pilots belonged to. These raids are only the latest in a series that go back 33 years. These so-called civilian planes have dropped grenades on cities killing people. They have flown over farmland and poisoned crops.

They are military attacks paid for by the U.S. The CIA is not very creative. They have used these same old methods in many countries for many years.

The Clinton administration supported NAFTA. It has collaborated with the Republican Congress attacking affirmative action, Medicare and lots of social programs that help working people. Clinton has sent U.S. troops to Bosnia to disarm the Bosnian army and people. The attack on Cuba is woven from the same fabric.

American workers and middle class people feel uncertain and scared. Will they have a job? Will it pay any money? They want to blame the rich people for the economic problems. They have a health suspicion of the Democrats and Republicans' foreign policy.

The Cuban people stand up to the U.S. They want to determine their own future, in their own way. To crush our noble neighbors, the U.S. leaders fabricate this incident. They

hope to win support for making into law the 30 year old embargo of Cuba.

All workers should say no! No to the Helms-Burton bill. No to the continued attacks on Cuba. No to blaming other countries and immigrant workers for the economic crisis. The crisis is here and the problem is here — Wall Street bankers, Washington politicians, and rich owners in the guarded estates and mansions fortified outside each major US city.

The Cuban people should be allowed to determine their own future with interference from the U.S.

Lift the embargo of Cuba!

### Mumia Abu Jamal

Continuing the struggle to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, Black writer, journalist and America's most famous death-row prisoner, supporters sponsored a meeting February 26 at Wayne State University.

Over 50 people saw a movie on the MOVE organization of Philadelphia and an interview with Ramona Africa, the only survivor of the bombing of MOVE.

The Coalition to Stop the Execution of Mumia meets regularly at Wayne State. Call 313-275-8979 for more information.

### Hands off Cuba!

**Demonstration  
4 PM March 6  
Federal Building  
downtown Detroit.**

**For more information  
call 612-870-7121 or  
212-926-5757.**

## Subscribe to New Life!

*New Life* is now two years old. We published the first issue of *New Life* in March, 1994.

We, the publishers of *New Life*, come from two different tendencies: *Truth*, a revolutionary socialist publication that began in September, 1974, and *Workers Speak*, published by a group of revolutionaries from *Spark*.

Since we began publication we have been fighting for:

1. Support all working class and popular struggles against the bosses and against the privileged labor bureaucracies in the U.S. and the old USSR ...
2. Unite all unions, working class, and socialist organizations in a common fight to build a big labor party based on the unions...
3. Unite all revolutionary socialists associated with Trotskyism and the Fourth International that are still fighting for the Fourth International's program; rebuild the Fourth International as a step toward building a big workers' revolutionary socialist International.

Since we began to publish *New Life*, there has been important progress on all these fronts.

There has been an important growth of working class solidarity in the U.S. The labor party is going to be founded in June, 1996. We have joined together with other revolutionary socialist and Trotskyist tendencies to form International Workers Unity (Fourth International), which aims to rebuild the Fourth International and has co-thinkers in Mexico, Panama, Columbia, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Spain, France, Germany, Poland, and Russia.

If you want to learn more about this struggle, subscribe to *New Life!*

### Subscribe to New Life!

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

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*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.

# We need socialism!

In the last few months, many striking workers and their families have seen and experienced things that they have never seen or experienced before. They know what it is like to be hungry, not to have enough money to buy the best food or healthcare, pay heat bills, electric bills, car payments and house payments. They know what it is like to be afraid that they are going to live in poverty for the rest of their lives. Some have been attacked by goons and police. Some have been arrested, imprisoned, and put on trial. Some have been beaten by goons and/or police so badly that they will never be the same again. Some have been shunned by their neighbors, victims of the bosses' and the media's campaign to paint strikers and their supporters as violent gangsters and of the snobbery that infects so much of the middle classes and the most comfortable layers of the working class.

Many have also begun to see that they are not alone, that thousands of workers in the U.S. and throughout the world who have taken a stand against corporate greed have gone through the same things. In fact, the conditions in which striking workers and their families are living — deprivation, insecurity — are much closer to the conditions of the majority of people in the world.

Think about how workers live in Chechnya, Bosnia, Palestine, Iraq, Haiti, Cuba, Mexico, Latin America, Africa, Asia. The only people who are living better than striking workers and their families are the rich, the upper middle classes, and workers with full-time, good-paying jobs. And that's definitely a minority of the world's population.

As long as a small minority of rich men and women are allowed to own and control all of the most important property in the world — the banks, basic industries, transportation, the land — things are going to stay this way.

These men and women aren't interested in drawing everyone, throughout the world, into the production and distribution of basic necessities. They aren't interested in making the working class as big as possible so that it is possible to produce and distribute more and shorten workers' hours, so that they can acquire education, culture, and develop their own talents. No, these men and women are interested only in enriching themselves at the expense of the majority of the people.

This is why we are fighting for socialism or communism — for social or common ownership of the most important properties. We want to make it illegal for a small number of rich people to own the most important properties and use them to enrich themselves at the expense of others. We want the most important properties to legally belong to the majority of the people. We want to overthrow the kind of democracy that we have today, in which the rich buy politicians, buy the media, totally dominate all the legislatures and pass one law after

another that favors them. We want to replace this democracy with a working class and revolutionary democracy in which workers' representatives — democratically elected in their workplaces, immediately recallable, and paid no more than the average worker — decide policies. We want to replace this economy, planned and organized by the owners of the giant monopolies and in their interests, with a workers' economy, planned and organized by the workers themselves and in the interests of the majority.

Obviously, this problem is not going to be resolved peacefully. There are going to be revolutions in which workers are going to rise up, takeover the most important properties, and disarm the rich and their hired guns. The better prepared the workers are, the clearer and firmer they are about what needs to be done, the more easily and quickly this difficult task will be accomplished.

Many try to turn workers against socialism and communism by pointing to the old USSR, Eastern Europe, China. Workers in these countries began to try to build socialist or communist societies, but their progress was blocked by the growth of privileged dictatorial bureaucracies in and around the old Communist Parties. In the last years, workers have been rising up against these Communist Parties, fighting their privileges and power, fighting for more rights and better working conditions for the workers.

For a brief period of time, some thought that capitalism and private ownership of basic property might be a solution to their problems. But when they invited Western capitalists to buy their properties, they saw that the Western capitalists and various elements from the old ruling Communist Parties were going to use this private ownership to enrich themselves at the expense of the workers, that workers' conditions weren't going to get better, that they might even get worse. Thus there are movements in Eastern Europe and the old USSR today against capitalism and privatization, for renationalizing enterprises that have been privatized. It is a matter of time before millions of workers see that the only way forward is to totally overthrow the power of the old privileged bureaucracy that arose in and around the old ruling Communist Parties and replace it with a working class and revolutionary democracy that directly plans and organizes the planned economy in the interests of the workers.

With working class and revolutionary democracies and socialism in the U.S. and the old USSR, the world will very different. It will be a matter of time before no one will ever have to suffer the way striking workers and their families have had to suffer, the way millions throughout the world suffer every day.—M. Guttshall □