

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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## Join the Labor Party Advocates!

Tony Mazzocchi, Secretary-Treasurer of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, is in the process of forming a new organization called: Labor Party Advocates.

This organization will: "... agitate for a new economic, social and political agenda for working people ... serve as an organizing committee for a new Labor Party."

We urge all working women and working men of all races and nationalities to support this initiative, join the Labor Party Advocates, and do everything in their power to make it as big and as powerful as possible.

Working people cannot rely on the Republicans or the Democrats to do anything to resolve the problems before them: the unemployment, the speed-up, the deterioration of their neighborhoods and schools, the racist attacks on Blacks, the violence against women and children ... not to mention the U.S. bosses' war for oil and its unspeakably violent attacks on the Iraqi people and other oppressed peoples.

The Republican and Democratic parties are owned by the same rich bankers and businessmen that are enriching themselves at the expense of the masses of people.

Forming a labor party based on the unions will not, by itself, resolve all the problems facing the masses of working people.

Working women and working men will have to run their own candidates for public office.

They will have to fight for a workers government, based on an independent, mass mobilization, for nationalizing the banks and basic industries, and for developing the planned economy so that it fully satisfies the needs of working people of all races and nationalities, rather than the insatiable appetites of a handful of rich families.

A veritable *revolution* will take place.

But forming a labor party based on the unions will be a first step in this direction. It will help create the conditions in which workers can and will take other necessary steps.

This is why we urge all working people to join with Tony Mazzocchi, join and build Labor Party Advocates now!

We also think that forming a labor party based on the unions will be a first step toward the liberation of the working class and all oppressed peoples from all forms of exploitation and oppression, toward building a fully socialist society with no poverty, oppression, or privileged bureaucrats of any kind.

We know that we are still in a small minority on this question. A labor party will also be a place where working people will be able to discuss and decide this question, as workers, freer from the pressures of the bosses and the privileged bureaucrats that enrich themselves at our expense.

Join the Labor Party Advocates now! ■

### Become a Labor Party Advocate!

**An invitation from Tony Mazzocchi, Secretary-Treasurer, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union**

I would like to invite you to become a Charter Member with me of a new organization to be called, simply, Labor Party Advocates.

For the past ten years, I have openly declared my belief that unless the trade union movement in this country seizes the political initiative and organizes a Labor Party, it will never again be the force it once was.

The response to my call for a Labor Party has always been enthusiastic. Nevertheless, I have hesitated actually to undertake organizing such an effort until it was absolutely clear that we had no alternative.

**Today, it is clear. We have no alternative.**

For the last fifty years, the labor movement has been trying to pressure the two major parties, especially the Democrats, to adopt a more pro-worker agenda. Millions of dollars, thousands of volunteer hours, and hundreds of endorsements later, what do we have to show for our efforts? Very little.

Admittedly, there is a handful of labor Democrats who are genuine friends of the trade union movement and of working people. However, they are without any real influence in their own party.

The people who actually call the shots in the Democratic and Republican parties

long ago gave up even pretending to represent the interests of working people.

After all, why pay any attention to a trade union president when a two-bit savings-and-loan executive like Thomas Keating can promise to donate \$100,000 at a pop to your campaign fund?

**Enough is enough. The bosses have two parties. We should have at least one.** It is time for the labor movement in this country to organize its own independent party of working people.

If you agree with me, then I invite you to sign up as a Labor Party Advocate.

Labor Party Advocates has a single purpose: to organize a Labor Party in the United States. It will neither run nor endorse candidates for political office. But it will agitate for a new economic, social and political agenda for working people. And it will serve as an organizing committee for a new Labor Party.

Brothers and sisters, the world is changing rapidly, and history is knocking on our door. Let us answer the call.

It is time for boldness. The future of our families, our communities, and our unions depends upon us acting now.

(For more information on Labor Party Advocates and/or to become one, write: Labor Party Advocates, c/o Tony Mazzocchi, 94 Linden Lane, Princeton, NJ 08540)

(from the *Bulletin in Defense of Marxism*, No. 84, April, 1991) ■

### Support students against Bush!

George Bush will be speaking at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on May 4 at the commencement ceremony.

While formal plans have not yet been made, many students will undoubtedly be demonstrating against Bush.

We urge all working people to support and participate in these demonstrations.

Bush is a barbarian who kills for oil; he kills so that he and his friends can take the oil, sell it, and use it to enrich themselves at the expense of the people.

Workers must be loyal to their class, and to the people, not to this miserable barbarian with blood on his hands.

Down with Bush the barbarian!  
U.S. out of Iraq now!



Striking Soviet miners rally in Minsk demanding Gorbachev's resignation. They need U.S. workers' support.

**SUPPORT THIS STRUGGLE — SUBSCRIBE TO TRUTH!**

After the war ...

## The International Situation and the Tasks of Revolutionaries

We are reprinting the first part of a resolution by revolutionary Trotskyists from Spain. As the reader will see, these revolutionaries take a clear position against the U.S.'s victory and its demands on the Iraqi people; they say that there is no question that this was a serious blow against the Arab and Islamic peoples and against the workers who sympathized with them. However, they also say that this victory is at best temporary. They point out how workers and oppressed peoples have been mobilized, how they have begun to see some things more clearly, how they are continuing the struggle in a different way, and how Bush and Co. continue to sow the seeds for their own destruction and the ultimate victory of the workers and oppressed. — Editor

1. The peace that is being negotiated in the Persian Gulf after the defeat of Iraq is the continuation of the same politics as in the war (imperialist robbery, plunder), on the part of the same classes, the big capitalists, and with the same objectives.

This peace is not resulting from a compromise to avoid more suffering on the part of the people; it is resulting from the fact that the imperialist war machine has achieved enough deaths, destruction, enslavement in order to be able to dictate its objectives in the war in the form of "conditions for peace."

Enumerated, these objectives are: the reconquest of the oil fields in Kuwait, broad American military occupation of the zone, weakening OPEC, strengthening the State of Israel as the armed vanguard of imperialism in the region, greater dependence on the part of the Arab governments employed by imperialist capital, and the imposition on Iraq of the enormous costs of the war.

Summed up, these objectives in the war consist in the control and the violent robbery of the Arab economic resources by the imperialist oil companies and banks, under military vigilance.

We Trotskyists, as spokesmen of the revolutionary workers, oppose this "American peace" with the same conviction that we opposed the war.

2. The military victory of Bush's army over Saddam Hussein's army is a hard blow for the Iraqi people and for all the Arab and Islamic peoples that tried to put themselves on their side, forcing the consent of the bourgeois governments in the region. But it is also a blow for the workers of the imperialist countries that solidarized themselves with the Iraqi people in opposition to the capitalist barbarism and that opposed the war for oil.

But Bush's military victory is not closing the road to the revolution; it is forcing it to try another road, and to prepare itself better and with fewer illusions for new battles.

The victory of Saddam Hussein and his allies, against Bush and his associates and hired killers, would have 1) accelerated the imperialist crisis, 2) radicalized the European and American workers, 3) raised up a wave of national independence throughout the Middle East and Northern Africa, and 4) assured, in this way, an economic and political basis for the progress of the workers movement among the Arab and Islamic peoples. This is the road most favorable for the socialist revolution.

The defeat of Saddam Hussein, on the other hand, deepens the movements of opposition, of revolt, and of insurrection of the Arab and Islamic workers and peasants against their governments, beginning with that of Saddam Hussein itself, but without having resolved the main problem in this period in the revolution, which is the defeat and the withdrawal of the imperialists. Therefore, it is a question of a road that is more difficult and tortuous for the socialist revolution.

For the Trotskyists, the main objective continues being: *Imperialist troops out of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the entire Gulf!*

3. This imperialist military victory is contributing less to stabilizing the world order than to developing the current crisis in the world order.

The "conditions for peace" (that is, the war ob-

jectives) are dictated by the so-called "national interest" of North American capital, that is, in reality, by the interests of a handful of big imperialist companies, that find themselves pressured by the industrial recession and by the hardening of international competition, and that are still capable of imposing their private objectives on the main capitalist governments. But these "conditions for peace" will aggravate the tensions in the zone and in international politics and will provoke new wars and revolutions.

Moreover, the formidable awakening of all the oppressed peoples from Mauritania to Central Asia, the unmasking of the cynical complicity of the reformist and Stalinist leaders and, finally, the growing interest of the youth mobilized against the war in the problems of the revolutionary emancipation of the exploited and oppressed masses, are conquests of working class consciousness much more profound and long-lasting — on an international scale — than the blow dealt by the savage imperialist massacre of the Iraqis and by the victory of Bush's arms and hired killers.

The political consequences of this war, for the masses, will be visible, when a new convulsion in the world order takes place.

4. This convulsion was one of the many that will follow in the crisis of the imperialist order. Since the second world war, this order has been established 1) on the economic capacity of North American capital, considerably strengthened by the world war; b) on the political authority of the Stalinist bureaucracy of the Kremlin over the workers and oppressed peoples, after having temporarily isolated the revolutionary Trotskyists; and c) on the closer and closer cooperation of the Kremlin with North American imperialism in order to close up each crisis, in conditions that have been more and more unstable.

As the October 27 resolution ... says:

*"The class struggle has undermined the bases of the imperialist world order, the influence of Stalinism over the proletarian masses, the domination of North American capital over the capital of the whole world, and the capacity of both cooperating to insure the security and the order of the powerful. The biggest crisis in the world order since the last imperialist war is opening, a pre-revolutionary crisis in which the confrontations are going to get harder and the conditions for the socialist revolution are going to mature."*

We are not facing a strengthening of the "Empire of the Dollar," we are facing its more direct,

### Briefly . . .

The workers of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are placing themselves at the head of the movements of the oppressed republics for freedom from great Russian chauvinism inside the Soviet Union, and for freedom from the hated parasitical bureaucracies that are tied to Moscow. Soviet miners have continued on strike since March 1 raising a key demand: the resignation of Gorbachev and the entire government. Their strike, by government estimates, has reduced coal production 82%! The continued strike by miners, even after an offer of a 100% wage increase, has brought more sections of the Soviet working class into action — Byelorussian, Ukrainian, and Georgian workers are all striking or planning general strikes. It is the beginning of the end for Gorbachev. Workers of Romania, Poland, East Germany, etc. are also placing themselves, with their organized power, at the head of movements in those countries. The lack of support by the U.S. trade unions shows that their claim for so many years of wanting to help the workers of the Soviet Union "free" themselves from the "socialism" of

frequent, aggressive and compromised intervention in order to substitute itself for the Stalinist bureaucracy in bankruptcy and for imperialism's puppet governments threatened by the movements of national liberation of the oppressed peoples.

The more direct, frequent, aggressive and compromised Washington's imperialist intervention to save the world order, in the crisis of the Stalinist bureaucracy and in the revolts of the semi-colonial peoples, the more the parasitism that is undermining the finances of the "Empire of the Dollar" will be aggravated, the greater and more provocative the exploitation of its working masses will be, the more the national and democratic conflicts will be exacerbated, the greater the competition will be among the bourgeois powers, and the more North American imperialism will be weakened in its world competition.

There will not now be the "new order" that the imperialists are announcing and that the demoralized Stalinists fear, but violent shake-ups in the old order in crisis, in which will be manifested and mature the conditions for the revolutionary victory of socialism.

5. Given the acceleration of the economic and political crises of the Stalinist bureaucracy, one of the next shake-ups in the world order will take place in Eastern Europe or in the USSR.

The exacerbation of the national conflicts correspond, on the one side, to the energetic growth of the democratic sentiments and demands of the people threatened by misery and repression; and, on the other side, to the growing subordination of the bureaucratic leaders of the workers movement to imperialism, which aggravates, in a thousand different ways, national oppression.

The struggle around national freedom thus does not constitute an artificial deviation of the workers revolution, but a period and a component in this historical process. The firm defense of the right to national self-determination and of the most complete freedoms for the people, will awaken the workers to revolutionary politics, will create better objective conditions for a party that is clearly proletarian and will help separate the conscious and revolutionary vanguard of the working class, from the "socialist" and "communist" agents of the imperialist order.

We Trotskyists affirm that in Eastern Europe and in the USSR it is a question today of the political revolution against the oppression and the privileges of the bureaucracy, and therefore we declare ourselves for the most complete right to national self-determination. ■

the bureaucrats was a lie. Their policy has always been support to the policy of the American capitalists against what was good about the Soviet Union, its workers revolution and its nationalized property. They have supported the bureaucrats against the workers with a lot of rhetoric yesterday, and openly support Gorbachev against the workers today. U.S. workers must support the demands of the Soviet workers.

Remember to vote for Cleve Andrew Pulley, a working class and socialist candidate, for Detroit City Council, associated with the Socialist Workers Party, in the special election, April 23.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit sold 49 copies of *Truth* No. 257 at the Ford Rouge plant, Wayne County Community College and in working class neighborhoods. Regular meetings of the study class and for *Truth* continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Call 584-6556 for location.

### TRUTH

A bulletin published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. The Trotskyist Com-

mittee of Detroit is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

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