

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

No. 261 • May 27, 1991 • 15 cents • Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 • 313-584-6556

Break with the rich and their politicians!

Recall Engler! Join Labor Party Advocates!

The campaign to recall Engler — the open representative of the rich, Anglo-Saxon bankers and large business owners who dominate Michigan — is well underway.

Black working class women are the backbone of this campaign in the Detroit area. They are meeting regularly in Highland Park and training others to circulate the petitions necessary to recall this representative of the rich parasites from Bloomfield Hills and Grosse Pointe.

Labor Party Advocates — the new, working class political organization open to all for unions and for forming an independent political party of working people — is also growing.

According to the numbers on the membership cards, over 1000 have already signed up. According to the April 7 newsletter, several union locals in the San Francisco area in California have already signed up, including AFSCME Local 444, Pile Drivers Local 34, Roofers Local 40, and Glaziers Local 718.

Unfortunately, so far, top union leaders in the Michigan area have not given any real support to either effort. The leadership of UAW Local 6000, which is made up largely of state employees, officially endorsed the campaign to recall Engler. However they are doing little or nothing to actually gather the signatures necessary to do so (641,141 signatures by mid-August). The rest of the UAW leadership has not even officially endorsed the campaign. Frank Garrison, an AFL-CIO spokesman in Michigan, is speaking *against* the campaign. Needless to say, none of them have endorsed Labor Party Advocates either.

This is not accidental. It is a result of the material conditions in which these so-called union leaders live and work. They live and work in great comfort, even luxury, just like the billionaire owners of the big banks and enterprizes that they are supposed to fight. They don't want a mass movement to recall a representative of the rich parasites like Engler. They don't want a labor party based on the unions that is going to represent a challenge to the rich parasites. Either one or both of these things represent a threat to them, to their comfortable lives, achieved at the expense of the masses of working

people.

We urge all working people — working class women, working class men, Blacks,

Arabs, Latins, whites — to *break* with the rich owners of the banks and basic industries

(Continued on the back page)

Sanctions against Iraq hurt U.S. workers

George Bush has been telling us since August, 1990 that he wants to get rid of Saddam Hussein, the president of Iraq, because he is an evil dictator who oppresses his people and because he might use his control of the Iraqi oil fields and his weapons to take over the world.



Erik Larsen, a U.S. Marine Reservist, had the courage to speak the truth about Bush's war on Iraq and to refuse to join Bush in his dishonest and unjust war. Now Bush is trying to punish Larsen. Larsen is in a military prison, he is charged with "desertion," and he is facing the death penalty. Tahan Jones, a Black Marine, may soon face the same.

Send statements of support and contributions to:
Jones/Larsen Defense Fund, 4229 Telegraph
Avenue, Oakland, CA 94609. ■

First, Bush established sanctions against Iraq, a military blockade aimed at preventing food and other necessary supplies from entering Iraq.

Then he told us that sanctions were not enough, that it was necessary to make all out war on Iraq. He dropped thousands and thousands of bombs on Iraq until thousands and thousands of Iraqi men, women and children were dead, thousands of others were wounded, sick, and starving to death, and until there was little left of their land and property. Today, a Harvard medical team that has just returned from Iraq, says that thousands more Iraqis are going to die from lack of clean water and other problems caused by Bush's bombs.

Then, when the Shiites and the Kurds rose up against Saddam Hussein and asked Bush to help, Bush said he could not give them any help because it was an internal matter.

Now Bush is telling us that he wants to maintain sanctions against Iraq — that is, keep clean water, food, and other necessary supplies from the Iraqi people — until Saddam Hussein is replaced.

Enough is enough.

Isn't it clear to every worker that what Bush wants is the oil fields, and the death of any and every Iraqi not willing to be a slave to this blood-thirsty thief and his band of hired killers?

Bush's attacks on the Iraqis, the Shiites, and the Kurds (for Bush wants the oil fields underneath the Kurds as well) hurt every U.S. worker who works for a living, who doesn't make a living by exploiting and oppressing others. Bush's attacks strengthen the most parasitic, bloodthirsty sections of the U.S. capitalist class, the men who want to enrich themselves by stealing natural resources and selling them, by stealing man-made resources, by enslaving laborers and exploiting them to death. The men who aren't interested in investing in or building industry. The men who are laying off workers, closing factories, cutting funds for workers and poor in the U.S.

War on Bush's war on Iraq!
Stop the sanctions!
Bring all the troops home now!
Punish Bush! ■

SUPPORT THIS STRUGGLE — SUBSCRIBE TO TRUTH!

Break with the rich! . . .

(Continued from the front page)

in Michigan, with the political parties that they own (the Republicans and the Democrats) and with the top union leaders that they own.

Support the struggle to recall Engler. Join Labor Party Advocates. Urge your friends, family, and union representatives to do the same.

Recalling Engler, and building Labor Party Advocates, no matter how quickly Labor Party Advocates progresses toward actually founding a labor party, is *not* going to resolve all the problems facing working people.

In our opinion, working class people need a *revolutionary* workers party, prepared to mobilize the masses of working people to: build a workers government; take the banks and basic industries away from the rich parasites; use them to develop the planned economy to provide decent jobs, food, clothes, homes, etc., for all, and to overcome any resistance from the rich parasites.

However, recalling Engler will be a terrible blow to the rich parasites. The movement to recall Engler has already forced Michigan courts to temporarily halt some of Engler's cuts in funds destined for the poor.

Building Labor Party Advocates, as an organization open to all in favor of unions and a labor party, and progressing as rapidly as possible toward actually founding a labor party, means building a *united front* against the rich parasites, their parties, and their representatives in the unions.

It will strengthen the position of the working class in every struggle. It will give workers an opportunity to enter into political discussions, to learn about different political views, to develop their own political ideas, to build a political organization that they themselves control. In this sense, it will help prepare workers to *take power*, to run an economy and a society in the interests of the masses of people.

Neither Labor Party Advocates, nor the labor party based on the unions once it is founded, will ever *become a revolutionary* workers party. Labor Party Advocates, and the labor party based on the unions that is coming, can and should remain open to all working people in favor of unions and a labor party, regardless of whatever ties to the ruling class they might have, regardless of whatever economic and social position in the working class they might have, and regardless of whatever political views they might have.

However, Labor Party Advocates, and the labor party based on the unions that is coming, will provide revolutionary workers and militants with an opportunity to strengthen and show their ability to build a working class party. It will also provide them with an opportunity to spread propaganda for a revolutionary workers party on fertile ground.

The more progress we make in the struggle to recall Engler and build Labor Party Advocates today, especially among the most exploited and oppressed workers — the young workers, the women workers, the Black and Arab workers — the better everything will be, for the masses of working people and the revolutionary workers and their cause. — Truth ■

In defense of Armenia

Declaration of the International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International)

The IEC of the International League addresses class conscious workers, and, in the first place, Trotskyists of all countries, to call on them to mobilize *in defense of soviet Armenia*.

Comrades!

Special troops of the Soviet army, of the Interior Ministry and of the KGB, are carrying out a *bloody punitive expedition* against the Armenian population in the border zone with the Azerbaijan Republic. On April 30, they were in the villages of Guetashem and Martunahem, yesterday in the town of Paravakar, with bombs from tanks and helicopters, tens or maybe hundreds of deaths, destruction, pillaging and large deportations of Armenians. The government in Rivan denounced today the initiation of a *economic blockade* of the Armenian Republic by Moscow.

Workers! The Great Russian bureaucracy of the Kremlin, with the brutality and cynicism of the old colonial powers, has initiated a *war in order to subjugate Armenia*. The republic had to hold a referendum on its independence. But, for some time, the formation of *militias* and the *arming* of the people to defend themselves and their sovereignty are a fact. Gorbachev does not need to wait for the results of the referendum to know what the Armenians think of the yoke of Moscow. But it has decided to stop the world from knowing how *strong* and *determined* is the will of the Armenian people to conquer their national liberty, and it has chosen to crush them with the force of arms, police terror and hunger.

Systematically, the Kremlin associates to its troops the forces of the *Minister of the Interior of Azerbaijan* and, significantly, has initiated military operations against the Armenians who live in that Republic, in this way, the Kremlin tries to ignite the hatred between the two nationalities and to mask how much of the criminal action is carried out *by the center* under the appearance of a "inter-ethnic struggle." But it is certain, that the Azerbaijani government is a *puppet government*. It is certain that this government is there because in January of last year the Soviet army succeeded in crushing the revolt of the Azeri people that converted Baku, for several days, into a scene of a harsh *armed struggle*, supported by a huge *general strike*. It is the Kremlin bureaucracy making war on Armenia.

When Gorbachev militarily crushed the Azeri insurrection, we are reminded, it was done with the support of all the imperialist chancelleries, that were demanding that the Kremlin restore "order" in the Caucasus. It is the same now. Because the bourgeoisie, which has recognized for a long time the will of the friends of the Kremlin to re-establish capitalism in the USSR, wants *secure frontiers and subjugated peoples*. The Kremlin makes war to defend its privileges and power. But it makes it also *for imperialism*, as a barbarous *colonial war*.

Briefly . . .

Spark is sponsoring a forum on the Free Trade Pact with Mexico on Sunday, June 23, 5:00 p.m., Pullman Hall, corner of Forest and Cass near Wayne State University.

The *Trotskyist Committee* sold 19 copies of *Truth* No. 260 at the Ford Rouge plant and elsewhere. Truth meeting, Thursday, 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-

Subscribe to Truth!

Regular subscriptions: Ten issues for \$4.50; Twenty issues for \$9.00.

Supporting subscriptions; institutions: Ten issues for \$10.00; Twenty issues for \$20.00.

Name _____

Address _____

(Send with check or money order payable to M. Guttschall, to Truth, Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283.)

Workers!

Gorbachev is in a hurry. The miners have had the power up in the air for two months with their *strike*. The gentlemen of the Kremlin know that they will keep at it tomorrow and want to avoid at any price that the action of the Soviet working class *converge with the emancipating effort of the oppressed nationalities*. Before this danger have united all the factions of the bureaucracy: Yeltsin, the demagogue, in order to try to calm the miners that were demanding the resignation of Gorbachev . . . and that already look on Yeltsin himself with distrust; the military bosses — a good part of which are true *bloodthirsty fascists* — to restore with bayonets the authority of the *bonapartist president* over the rebellious republics, over those that the *Russian aristocracy* called, in the time of the czar, the "people of a different race."

Workers! Is more proof necessary of the *reactionary, pro-imperialist* character of the nouveau rich that govern the USSR? The cause of *socialism*, that was defended by Lenin and Trotsky, is on the side of the Soviet miners and is on the side of the oppressed peoples, that aim for their *sovereignty, for their national liberty*, from the Baltics to the Caucasus. *The cause of socialism is on the side of rebellious Armenia against the corrupt and procapitalist bureaucracy of the Kremlin.*

It is necessary for every worker to defend energetically the right of *self-determination* and of *independence* for Armenia, the *arming* of the people confronting the Kremlin and their "Black Hundreds." We Trotskyists have an *obligation* to be the first to initiate the defense of Armenia in the ranks of the workers' movement of all our countries.

Kremlin troops out of Armenia and all the Caucasus!

Freedom for soviet Armenia!

Long live socialism! Down with the Stalinist bureaucracy! ■

Capitalism and socialism

The heads of the giant financial, industrial, agricultural and commercial monopolies in the U.S. enjoy the capitalist and imperialist economic system in the U.S. Their tiny class owns all the resources in society and uses them to enrich themselves at the expense of the masses of people. Working people own little or nothing but their own labor power; they have to sell their labor power to the owners in order to survive.

Naturally, the owners of the giant monopolies in the U.S. want working people to think that there is no alternative to capitalism and imperialism. They say that socialism is a society with a privileged, dictatorial bureaucracy, like the USSR has been.

This is a lie.

Workers and oppressed peoples in the USSR have only taken the first steps toward socialism, by building a workers party, overthrowing a feudal monarchy, establishing a workers government, taking over banks and basic industries, and beginning to develop a planned economy. Now they are struggling to rid themselves of the privileged dictatorial bureaucracy that arose — under the pressure of and with the support of U.S. imperialism — and that has been undermining their struggle. Sooner or later they will succeed in building a fully socialist society — with no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, no privileged dictatorial bureaucrats, no poverty, no oppression, no want, and no suffering of any kind. So will working people of all races and nationalities in the U.S. and throughout the world. ■

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.

Editor: Margaret Guttschall

Address: Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283

Phone: 313-584-6556