

Workers need their own party to confront the recession!

Working women and working men of all races and nationalities throughout the Detroit area are trying to understand the economic crisis and what to do about it.

Unemployment in Michigan is now at least 10%, the highest of the northern industrial states. The number of officially unemployed did not officially rise this last month, not because it did not go up, but because so many people have been laid off for so long that they have given up looking for work. 1 in 10 people is now using food stamps. Several people who used to receive General Assistance have already died because they did not have enough money for necessary medicine or heat.

Workers have many different ideas about the economic crisis. Some say that it is not that serious, that it is going to be over very soon. Others are for tax cuts for various income levels. Others say fairer trade with Japan is needed. Still others want to increase the minimum wage, regular wage increases in accord with price increases, cut the work week without cutting pay to create more jobs, or a program of public works to create more jobs, instead of a program of arms. Others want workers control of the economy.

But whatever various workers want to do, the most important thing is for workers to discuss together, decide together, and act together. When workers go off in half-a-dozen different directions, they don't accomplish very much.

It is very difficult for workers to discuss, decide and act together, because the only organizations workers have are the unions. Only 10% to 15% of workers are in unions. Most of these unions are very bureaucratized and conservative.

Workers need their own political party,

totally owned and controlled by the workers themselves, which brings together working women and working men of all races and nationalities.

All workers will have an opportunity to express and fight for their views.

The white worker's dollar and the Black worker's dollar

White workers and Black workers work side by side in the same factories and other work places. But even when they work the same jobs and make the same wages, the white worker can get more with his dollar than the Black worker can get with his.

White workers and their families can live, shop, go to school, and relax in districts like Dearborn, where homes, shops, schools, and recreation facilities are in better condition and cheaper.

Black workers have no choice but to live in districts like Detroit or Inkster where things are more run down and expensive.

Workers' patriotism and bosses' patriotism

"If the U.S. companies really cared about the U.S. instead of their profits only, there could be jobs." — a Ford autoworker

"The companies don't have any allegiance to the U.S., they don't have allegiance to any country. They only have allegiance to themselves." — another Ford worker

"George Bush wants one world government with him as the head of it. That is

Whatever the majority decides to do will be done. Whatever the majority may or may not decide, the workers will progress, because they'll be working together.

We urge all workers not only to support the struggles of all workers and oppressed peoples to defend their interests in this economic crisis, but also to join together and build an independent political party of the working class.

1. Support Labor Party Advocates.

2. Fight for the unions to:

- support Labor Party Advocates;
- stop supporting Republicans and Democrats;
- run their own, independent labor candidates for president, Congress and other offices to build support for a workers party.

3. Run workers candidates to fight for this.

This is what revolutionary socialists and Trotskyists are fighting for. ■

These inequalities undermine the solidarity and unity of white and Black workers against their common enemy — the rich owners of the wealth in the U.S.

Workers of both races need to work together to end all these inequalities — by opening all districts to Black workers, by rebuilding districts, and other measures.

The rich owners will never do this, because it's not profitable. The workers will have to fight for workers control of all the resources in this society, and use them to produce the things that people need. ■

what all this aid to Russia, his trips overseas, are all about." — a Ford worker

The love of U.S. workers for their country is, in a certain way, not against other countries. U.S. workers love the country that they live in, that their family and friends live in, and they want their country to be a good place for themselves and their children and grandchildren to live in.

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Women and socialism . . .

Women are abused by men every day. They glare at them, they ignore them, they say rude things to them, they beat them, they rape them. Women are denied decent jobs, wages, benefits, education, care for their children.

There are all sorts of thoughts on this problem. Some deny that it exists, or they say that it is not a very serious problem. Others say that the women themselves are to blame for their own situation. Still others say that men need more moral or religious training. But there is not a religious philosophy or a religious institution in the world in which women are seen as or treated as equals to men.

Judaism and Christianity both begin with the tale of Adam and Eve in which Eve talks to the devil who takes the form of a snake. Eve convinces Adam to eat the forbidden fruit; God is angered and throws them out of the Garden of Eden. Some even go so far as to say that God punishes Eve for her role in this alleged original sin by making her and her descendants experience pain in childbirth.

Other religions — Islam, Hinduism, etc. — are not better.

So more moral or religious training for men is not going to qualitatively improve the conditions in which women are forced to live.

Women need jobs with wages enough to support them and their children, with reasonable hours, and reasonable working conditions. They need help from society as a whole with childcare and domestic work. With these things, women won't be dependent on men. And men need to be totally reeducated, from the time they are born, to see women and treat women in a totally different way, as equals, and with respect and concern.

The current ruling class is not going to do this because it is not profitable, there is no money in it. Women are treated as products, as commodities, in this society, to be bought and sold, or to be used for buying and selling, because almost everything and everybody is.

The working class — working women and working men — can and will do something about this. The working class is going to bring about a working class and socialist revolution, in which the workers take back everything that they have developed and produced — the fields, the transportation, the factories, the stores, the schools, etc. — and use them to produce the things that people need. They are going to build a truly socialist society, where women and men

work together as equals, and where everyone has what she or he needs.

The Russian people started to do this. A privileged bureaucracy got in their way. Now they are rising up against that

Workers' patriotism and bosses' patriotism . . .

(Continued from front page)

At the same time, the workers see the disappearance of the high standard of living of the past 50 years; they see the incredible changes in life in these United States. And they feel that they are not really responsible for the decay of the U.S. And they are right.

They want to learn who is responsible.

The rich owners of the corporations — the 60 families that rule America, the Fords, the Rockefellers, the DuPonts, are responsible — they run the economy, not us, not even the government. The U.S. government's economic role is to do what the rich people want.

In order to keep the workers confused, to keep them shooting at everything but them, the rich owners use their ownership of television, radio, and newspapers to organize campaigns — not only against Black people, not only against workers and strikes, but also against other countries, especially countries with non-white populations — Iraq, Japan, Mexico. They organize these campaigns in order to use the love of country that the workers have against the interests of the workers themselves.

The patriotism of the rich owners — the Fords, Rockefellers, DuPonts — is completely the opposite of workers patriotism.

For them, the U.S. means a large working class that they can exploit to make profits, a large market for selling goods.

The U.S. working class and the U.S.

Briefly . . .

The conflict between the classes is heating up. Workers who operate the heating systems in Detroit schools struck the high schools to force school officials to give them the 5% raise they gave others. School officials retaliated, closed all schools and locked out all school employees and students. Workers who make agricultural implements at the Caterpillar enterprize decided to strike a select number of plants. The rich owners retaliated, closed all plants and locked out all employees. Government officials deny employees who have been locked out unemployment benefits. Homeless people in Detroit set up a "tent city" on private property with the permission of the owner, to protest their condition. City officials sent police who tore down the tents, beat and arrested homeless, on the grounds that it was a "health hazard."

David Duke, the not-so-ex-Ku Klux Klansman and founder of the National Association for the Advancement of White People, is running for president. This shows that rich whites want to turn poor whites against Black people. It also shows that poor whites are looking for a radical alternative to mainstream Republican and Democratic Party politics. There is an opportunity for thoughtful workers to build a workers party that unites workers of all races and nationalities against their common enemy, the rich owners.

Students throughout Britain are on strike and occupying buildings. Striking metal workers in

privileged bureaucracy. They'll be able to finish what they started.

This is the road to the liberation of women. — M. Guttshall ■

economy to the rich owners are a war machine that they can use against Panama, against Iraq, against any country that might interfere with their profits.

The responsibility for the decline of the U.S. workers' standard of living, quality of life, is right here — the 60 families have run this economy for 70 years, they are responsible — no one else.

And, there will be no end to the campaigns against other countries, against Blacks in America, because each campaign will fail to raise the standard of living. Each campaign will require another one. These campaigns will be successes from the rich owners' point of view if they get the white workers to attack Black people, if they can get all workers to fight other countries, instead of the 60 families.

The U.S. workers are going to regain their standard of living and they will restore the quality of life and even better to the streets of the U.S. This is inevitable.

But, it will not be by following the rich owners in their campaigns against the Japanese, against Blacks in the U.S., against the Mexicans, or the Canadians or any other nation.

The workers will go forward only if they act independently of the rich, by taking control of the economy out of the hands of the rich, making peace with the other peoples of the world, and reorganizing production for the benefit of the vast majority of people. — J.M. ■

France are clashing with the police. Workers in Asturias in Spain organized a general strike. Our co-thinkers in Spain, in the Revolutionary Workers Party, are fighting for a general strike to force the government to implement a series of measures to defend the workers against capitalist competition.

Trotskyists in Russia organized a demonstration to celebrate the first workers revolution in Russia on November 7. They began with a relatively small number and the size of the demonstration grew to nearly 1,000. Trotskyists in Russia are associated with various Trotskyist tendencies outside Russia, including *Workers Press* in Britain and its co-thinkers in the Workers International to Rebuild the Fourth International, and *The Militant* in Britain.

Labor Party Advocates will meet Wednesday, January 8, 7:00 p.m., UAW Local 600, 10550 Dix.

Truth sold 8 copies of *Truth* No. 272 at Ford Rouge and Wayne County Community College. We also passed out a leaflet against Ford's Modern Operating Agreement at the Dearborn Assembly Plant. In the next weeks we are going to be asking workers who regularly buy and read *Truth* to subscribe to *Truth*. It helps those of us who write for *Truth* when we know that workers will be reading it, whether the plants are open, whether the weather is good, etc. This will be the last issue of *Truth* until January 4. We wish our readers a happy holiday!

Truth is 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 Committee 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 Guttshall

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Fight GM and its cuts!

An emergency UAW convention now!

A spokesman for the owners of General Motors (GM) announced that there will be unprecedented cuts in the number of workers (hourly and salaried) and in their total wages and benefits.

This announcement has already caused pain and suffering among thousands of GM workers and their families. Workers are going to lose jobs, wages and benefits. Those who don't will be working doubly and triply hard.

So far, the leadership of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) has not announced any plans to fight GM's cuts. There are at least half-a-dozen different Republican and Democratic Party candidates for president of the United States. Not one of them has said a single word against GM's cuts.

So workers, hourly and salaried, and their families, are undoubtedly going to suffer more, until they find a way to fight for their needs and win.

Truth, a revolutionary, socialist, and Trotskyist bulletin in Detroit, urges all workers and their organizations — union locals, caucuses, political organizations, like the Socialist Workers Party and others — to support any and every struggle against GM and its cuts.

But struggles will not be totally effective unless they draw in and unify millions of workers and their families and friends.

This is why we are fighting for an *emergency UAW convention* to map out plans to fight GM and its cuts.

It is impossible to rely on the top leadership of the UAW or on any of the presidential candidates to lead a fight against GM and its cuts. Union locals have to take matters into their own hands, elect representatives, and organize an emergency convention to coordinate the struggle.

There are many different things that union locals and an emergency UAW convention can do to fight GM and its cuts: meetings, demonstrations, strikes, a general strike, an independent labor candidate for president, to fight for the interests of the workers and the lower middle classes.

If GM claims that it is too poor, that it

can't meet the demands of the workers, hourly or salaried, workers can fight for GM to open its books to the workers, so that the workers can learn the truth about GM. If indeed the owners of GM are no longer able to employ millions of workers and still make a profit, this shows that the time has come for workers control of GM. The time has come to takeover GM, to turn it into a public utility, a non-profit enterprise, run by workers in the interests of the people.

Yes, there are many different things that can be done.

But the most important thing is to fight, and to fight in the largest way possible.

The "Commonwealth of Independent States" and socialism

The majority of Ukrainians and Russians within the Ukrainian territory recently voted for independence, for separation, from Russia and the "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" (the USSR). This, together with the failure of the August coup, aimed at preserving the USSR, forced Yeltsin, the head of the Russian republic, to proclaim the dissolution of the USSR and the dissolution of Kremlin institutions in Moscow. Yeltsin has also been forced to join with the head of the Ukraine and the head of Byelorussia in forming a "Commonwealth of Independent States" on the basis of more rights and more equality for oppressed nations like the Ukraine.

Truth urges all working people, socialists, communists, Trotskyists, to support these steps against the most reactionary faction of the privileged, Great Russian, Stalinist bureaucracy centered in the Kremlin and Moscow.

The "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" as such — that is, the relations between the various republics in this area, as opposed to the social basis of the USSR, nationalized property — is *not* a gain of the first workers socialist revolution. The USSR was not formed on the basis of the right of self-determination for oppressed nations, of equality and freedom for oppressed nations, as Lenin fought for. It was formed on the basis of the

We urge all workers and their organizations to make a common fight for an *emergency UAW convention to fight GM and its cuts now!*

We think workers need to build their own party, their own government, and carry out a revolution in which workers take back all the industries they have built, and use them to produce what people need, use them to build a fully socialist or communist society where everyone has what he or she needs and there are no privileged of any kind. Sooner or later, millions of workers will see this and do this.

But all workers need to make a common fight against GM and its cuts, no matter what their political views may be!

Unity against GM and its cuts!
Emergency UAW convention now!

For a general strike!

For an independent labor candidate for president! ■

subordination of oppressed nations to Russia in general and to Moscow in particular as Stalin pushed for. Its dissolution, at one point or another, has been inevitable.

The formation of a looser, "Commonwealth of Independent States," with more rights, freedoms, and equality for the Ukraine and other oppressed nations, vis-a-vis Russia, is a step in the correct direction. Workers of different races and nationalities are now more equal. They are in a better position to make a common fight for the total destruction of the privileged bureaucracy, for workers control of planned economy, and for a totally socialist society, without privilege or oppression of any kind.

This is why Bush is so concerned about "chaos" and "anarchy" in this land, why he is organizing an international conference to oversee the new "Commonwealth of Independent States," and why he is setting aside funds to payoff supporters and disarm opponents. ■

Note to our readers

We had originally planned not to publish another issue of *Truth* until January 4. We decided to publish this supplement because of the importance of these developments. ■

No to the Ford bosses' blackmail!

No to the "Modern Operating Agreement"!

Workers control of working conditions!

The rich owners of Ford Motor Company from Bloomfield Hills and Grosse Pointe are doing it again. They are blackmailing the workers. They are telling the workers that if the workers don't vote for a "Modern Operating Agreement" (that will allow the bosses to force the workers to work even harder than they are working now) that the bosses will close the plant and throw the workers into the street.

The union officials are doing it again. They are collaborating with the bosses in blackmailing the workers.

The rich owners of U.S. monopolies — Ford, GM, Chrysler, the banks, others — are trying to get themselves into a position where they can compete better with the Japanese and the Germans so that they can make more profits. The workers and their families are being forced to pay the price.

There is an alternative.

Workers can vote no.

Workers can make a common, united fight for workers control of working conditions and for workers control of the auto industry and other enterprises.

Workers control of working conditions does not mean socialism. Even workers control of the auto industry and other enterprises does not mean socialism.

A totally socialist society is a society in which the workers, who produce everything, own everything, and in which the working class is totally free from exploitation and oppression of any kind.

Workers control of working conditions means that workers establish the right to exercise control over the conditions that most immediately affect their health and welfare — line speed, how jobs are defined, etc. Workers control of the auto industry means that workers

begin to monitor and exercise control over the bosses' decisions. Workers control means beginning to undermine the total dictatorship of the owners and their servants, that now exists in the factories. It does not mean taking legal ownership of the industry away from them. It does not mean taking all their profits away from them. It simply means putting a check on them, before they destroy the workers, their families, and the industry.

Workers can develop committees, meetings, demonstrations, strikes, and independent working class candidates for office, to fight for workers control and to win the oppressed population to their side.

The vast majority of the people will support the workers. They are tired of the dictatorship of the billionaires, of the fabulously wealthy families from Bloomfield Hills and Grosse Pointe,

who live in luxury while the workers and their families slave and suffer.

Workers can fight for replacing union officials who stand in the way.

The people are also tired of union officials who claim to represent the workers, but really work for the bosses.

Truth urges all workers and working class tendencies — honest union officials, Labor Party Advocates, New Directions, Spark, and others — to enter into a common fight:

No to the Ford bosses' blackmail!
No to the "Modern Operating Agreement"!

Workers control of working conditions!

United, the workers will win!

Published by *Truth*, a revolutionary socialist Trotskyist bulletin.

For further information and subscriptions to *Truth*:

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Note: Many workers think that all socialists or communists support the privileged, dictatorial caste in the USSR. This is not true. Trotskyists have been in the front ranks of the struggles of the masses of workers and oppressed peoples against this caste since 1923. Many died, including Leon Trotsky himself, who fell in 1940, at the hands of an assassin hired by Stalin. Their sacrifices have not been in vain. The struggles of workers and oppressed in the USSR today shows that the days of this privileged caste are numbered.

**Published by *Truth*, a revolutionary socialist Trotskyist bulletin in Detroit
Box 441283, Detroit, MI 48244-1283 • 313-584-6556**