

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT

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Fight Republicans and Democrats, not Japan!

Independent labor candidate for president!

Since 1992 began, business leaders, politicians, and media men and women, have bombarded working people with propaganda against Japan.

"First they got us with bombs, now they are getting us with cars and stereos," they say. "The recession ... made in Japan," they say.

This is ridiculous.

Some U.S. enterprizes have lost some of their customers to Japanese enterprizes. But this does not even begin to explain the fundamental problems of the U.S. economy — old, obsolete, plant and equipment; old, obsolete production methods; old, obsolete, *spoiled* management; a huge, bloated, *spoiled* government and military bureaucracy and apparatus; a mountain of debt; a big, parasitic, privileged ruling class.

These are the fundamental problems of the U.S. economy. This is what has happened to the U.S. economy since the U.S. has become the number one capitalist power throughout the world. Everything and everybody that is lazy, sloppy, and self-serving, has risen to the top. Everything and everybody that is energetic, resourceful and far-sighted has been pushed to the side.

Of course business leaders, politicians, and media people don't want working people to think about these problems. They don't want working people to *do* anything about these problems. So they blame Japan.

The vast majority of working people oppose Republicans and Democrats. They refused to vote for them in the 1988 elections. They voted against them in the 1991 elections. They know Republicans and Democrats are responsible for the problems in the U.S. They've been in office for decades, voting themselves big salaries, dipping into the public treasury, too.

They vast majority of working people are looking for an alternative to the

Republicans and Democrats in this election. Polls show that the majority of organized workers think that it is high time for the labor movement to stop supporting Republicans and Democrats and form an independent workers party.

Yet trade union leaders continue to support Republicans and Democrats.

This is undemocratic.

We urge all working people and their organizations to enter into a common fight:

- Stop all union support to Republicans and Democrats now!
- For an independent labor candidate for president!
- For a labor party!
- For working class candidates and a united workers slate to fight for this in the 1992 elections!

Any and every union official who opposes this should be replaced.

There will be no solution to the

An independent workers candidate ...

Truth has decided to run a candidate for Michigan State Senate. The basic purpose of this campaign will be to build support for an independent labor candidate for president, a labor party, and independent working class candidates and slates to fight for this in the 1992 election.

Our candidate will be Margaret Guttshall. She is the editor of *Truth* and she is active in Labor Party Advocates. (Labor Party Advocates is not running or endorsing candidates in this election at this time.) She was a candidate for Detroit City Council in 1989.



Catepillar workers picket Catepillar headquarters. The strike of 2400 UAW workers is in its 3rd month. 5600 workers have been locked out by the company.

economic problems in the U.S., until the majority of working people in the U.S. have their way: an alternative to the Republicans and Democrats, an independent workers party.

Revolutionary workers, socialists, Trotskyists, should be in the front ranks of this fight. ■

There may be some redistricting, and there may be some changes in the Democratic Party's candidate. However, at this time, she is planning to run for Michigan State Senator in the 5th District on the West side of Detroit against Michael J. O'Brien.

We will be talking to readers asking them to support this campaign by helping to collect signatures, raise funds, and distribute literature. But, most of all, we urge readers to seriously consider running for office in their own districts. Workers can't rely on the privileged. We need our own candidates and our own party. ■

The crisis in the auto industry: who is to blame?

The American rich are destroying the automobile industry in the U.S. The American rich have laid off workers, closed plants, and refused to invest in new plants, new equipment, research and engineering.

Some workers say, repeating the words of the rich owners of the auto industry, like Lee Iacocca, president of Chrysler, that the Japanese have "unfairly" sold cars in the U.S., they have "unfairly" kept U.S. cars out of Japan, etc. And therefore, that the Japanese are really to blame for the decisions that the rich owners of the U.S. auto companies were "forced to make."

The fact is that the Japanese rich invested more money in automobile production than the U.S. for many years, and so they made more progress, they built better cars, cheaper. And that is why Americans bought them.

Not only that, but the U.S. destroyed more domestic auto industries in other countries than any other country. The rich owners in the big countries — especially the U.S., but also France, Germany and Japan — have destroyed local automobile industries in almost every other country. Only the cars from these countries are built in nearly every country on the planet. There is no domestic automobile industry in Argentina, Brazil, Spain, in all of Africa and southeast Asia, India.

World-wide recession

Even more importantly, though, there is developing a world-wide recession, perhaps even a depression. The economies of all the major capitalist countries, of all countries, are in trouble. The Japanese auto companies are beginning to lose money on sales in Japan. Unemployment is rising in Japan and throughout Europe.

This is difficult for the current generations of U.S. workers to understand because they have never seen a world-wide recession of such strength, they have never seen the U.S. economy in such terrible shape.

But facts are stubborn things.

This recession is so strong because it marks the end of the economic domination of the world by the rich bankers of the U.S. It marks the end of an era where the U.S. rich could call all the shots on the world scene.

This was going to happen sooner or later because the U.S. dominated the world against the will, against the interests of the majority of people in it. As the fall of the dictatorships in the USSR shows, the domination of the world by the U.S. had to inevitably come to an end.

So the question for U.S. workers is: should they support the U.S. rich as they prepare to fight to regain this position, by going to war

against Iraq — again — by a trade war with Japan — again — by locking up the unions — again?

Or, should the U.S. workers take control of the economy away from the rich, establish peaceful and equal relations with the rest of the nations of the world, and run the economy for the interests of the vast majority?

The first choice means, ultimately, another major war between the big countries with

millions dead just like the other two wars.

The second choice means a real future for working people of all countries.

The second choice is called socialism, revolutionary socialism — where the working class owns and controls the major banks, industries, transportation and organizes the production of goods and services to meet the needs of the vast majority of people in the U.S. — Jack Marlowe ■

More on the USSR . . .

The people of Russia have once again shown that they have begun a revolution.

Boris Yeltsin, the fair-haired boy of Bush, Thatcher and other assorted international thieves, was forced to stop price increases that lifted the prices of certain basic foods to 400%. Demonstrations and threats from workers forced him to back down.

The price increases were an effort by Yeltsin and his Bush-trained advisers to create some vicious, rat-like capitalists in the USSR to feast off the famine of the Russian people. Like the types that Bush and Reagan supported and fostered in the U.S.

The Russian people have begun to march down the road of a revolution. But, for their struggle to be successful, the Russian workers need to completely overthrow and destroy the privileged, dictatorial bureaucracy that still remains in power. To do this, they need a revolutionary socialist party, and, on this road of a political revolution they can develop true, revolutionary socialism in the USSR.

But, you might say, I heard socialism and communism were dead. Try to understand what the Russian workers think.

A co-thinker of ours traveled to Moscow to discuss with the growing ranks of Trotskyists in the USSR. He explained to us that for many Russian workers, the idea of "profit" is not something that belongs to an individual, or even an individual corporation. It is kind of a public surplus product that could be used for investment, equipment repair, etc. It is almost impossible for them to conceive of profit as you and I know it. These workers will not easily yield terrain to the likes of the Charles Keatings, Neil Bushes, and other entrepreneurial scum.

The struggle for socialism is stronger today than at any time since 1946.

Briefly . . .

The Republican Party in Michigan has opened up the Republican Party primary to non-Republicans in order to give them an opportunity to vote for David Duke, which many white workers certainly will do. This shows how important it is for working class and socialist organizations to enter into a common fight for an independent labor candidate for president, for a labor party, and for independent working class candidates and slates to fight for this in the election.

Jerry Tucker, head of New Directions, the opposition group in the UAW, announced that he is running for president of the UAW and held a rally in Warren, Michigan on January 30. Tucker is calling for: "union democracy: the right of one member — one vote; stop whipsawing and concessions; fight plant closings and outsourcing; protect gains in wages and benefits for

Socialism is utopian, some workers will say. It didn't work in the USSR, some others will say.

It is not utopian. The same social relations that allow your friends to come to your house and not steal your food (they have enough of their own) can exist on the level of an entire nation if the workers control production and there is sufficient food produced for everyone.

The USSR did not prove that socialism does not work. It showed that there cannot be any socialism if the workers are suppressed, if a vicious dictatorship runs the country. The beginning revolution in the USSR is a step toward revolutionary socialism. The crumbling of the bureaucracy no more condemns socialism than the ouster of some of the mafia leaders of the Teamsters condemns unionism.

Just like in the Teamsters, the job of cleaning the socialist movement of mafia-gangster types like the old Stalinist bureaucracy requires a powerful movement of the workers. It was not the capitalists that ousted some of their mafia buddies from the Teamsters. Just like in the Teamsters, this work has just begun. But, just like the ouster of some mafia leaders from the Teamsters union strengthened workers and unions everywhere, so also, socialism everywhere has benefited from the fall of the Stalinist bureaucracy.

In the coming months, we will bring you more and more news about the revolutionary developments in the USSR. And, we will bring you news about Russian Trotskyists, the revolutionary socialists there, and their struggle to build a revolutionary socialist party in Russia and in the other countries that once made up the Soviet Union. — Jack Marlowe ■

active and retired workers." We urge workers to support Tucker against Bieber who is nothing but a puppet of the privileged class in Michigan. However, workers cannot rely on Tucker to lead the fight against the auto bosses and their men in the UAW. Tucker calls for fighting plant closings, but what is he doing to mobilize forces against the plant closings? Why doesn't he say anything about GM's plans? What does he plan to do about GM's plans? Tucker is not prepared to fight UAW support to the Democratic Party. He isn't even a public member of Labor Party Advocates. Nevertheless, building support for Tucker against the old line leadership, can help open up the fight for these goals in the UAW.

The Socialist Workers Party, once a Trotskyist organization, held a meeting in defense of Mark Curtis in Detroit on January 11. Mark Curtis, a packing house worker, who worked in solidarity with undocumented immigrant workers, was framed up on false rape charges and has been in prison for several years. Statements of support and contributions can be sent to: Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

The International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International, our tendency of the Fourth International (the world party of the socialist revolution), held its 13th World Congress in Barcelona in January. Resolutions of the Congress and a full report will be published in the coming weeks. ■

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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