

# TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN

No. 292 • February, 1993 • 50¢ • Box 441283, Detroit, Michigan 48244-1283 • 313-584-6556

# Workers want jobs now!

Since Clinton took office, he has been forced to remove some restrictions on the right to abortion, sign a bill allowing people to take time off work to care for children and others, and remove some restrictions on gays serving in the military.

This is good. It shows that when the masses of people fight, they can force officials to make concessions.

But, so far, Clinton has done nothing about jobs.

Working people have already outlined many steps that can be taken to save and develop jobs:

- Clauses against layoffs in union contracts;
- Reject the North American Free Trade Agreement;
- Legislation against factory closings; compensation for workers and communities that are victims of factory closings;
- Tax the richest; expand the public sector; public works programs to provide jobs for the unemployed.

Now is the time to fight for them.

Workers must demand that the unions fight for these measures and more. They must demand that the unions build a labor party to lead this fight.

It is impossible to rely on Clinton and the Democrats. They are owned and controlled by the same rich bankers who are demanding that private and public enterprises layoff thousands in order to get loans.

We urge all workers and students who see

this now to join and build Labor Party Advocates. ■

## Clinton: racist hypocrite!

When Clinton campaigned for president, he said he was different, a friend of the Black people, the Latin people, etc.

His first days in the White House show that this is a lie. He's a racist hypocrite.

Clinton bombed the dark-skinned people of Iraq, for allegedly violating U.N. resolutions.

But he's done nothing about racist attacks on Black people in the U.S., or about South Africa, Israel, or the Serbs.

There is a double standard.

Whites in the U.S., South Africa, Israel, and the Serbs, can do whatever they want to do — kill Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, thousands of Black people in South Africa, Palestinians, Bosnians, Croatians, etc. They violate so-called international law at will; the U.S. and the U.N. at most say, "tsk, tsk."

The people of Iraq, Bosnia, Cuba, fight for their right to self-determination, for national independence, against the big powers, and the U.S. tries to smash them, or stands by while others do. Iraq was the most advanced country in the Middle East; the U.S. tried to destroy it. Cuba is one of the most advanced countries in Latin America; the U.S. is trying to starve the Cuban people, refusing to trade with them, trying to stop others from doing so. The U.S. stands by while the Serbs kill thousands and thousands of Bosnians. And for what? For the crime of proclaim-

ing an independent nation a year ago.

Is there any reason to believe that the nation that killed Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, that is trying to strangle Iraq and Cuba today, that is the friend of South Africa and Israel, is a nation that is trying to help the Black people of Somalia? No way. The U.S. is trying to get a foothold in Somalia so that it can keep down the people of Somalia and other parts of Africa, and be in a better position to control the flow of oil in the neighboring Arab countries.

U.S. workers need to fight to get U.S. troops out of Iraq, Somalia, Cuba and all foreign territories.

We need to stop the embargo against Iraq, Bosnia, and Cuba. The unions need to initiate an independent campaign to collect supplies for the people of Iraq, Bosnia, Somalia, Cuba and other people in need.

Above all, the unions need to form an independent labor party to fight for political power, so that the resources of the U.S. can be used to help the peoples of other countries, rather than destroy their economies.

As long as the resources of the U.S. are used to destroy the economies of other countries, like Iraq and Cuba, the standard of living of people throughout the world, including the U.S., is going to continue to fall. ■

A coalition against privatization of city jobs which has support from several city workers' unions held a rally Friday, January 15, in front of the City-County Building. Other unions sent delegations, including UAW Local 600. About 100 people attended the informational picket line.

"Privatization" means eliminating jobs of public employees, city, county and state workers, and having some of the work done by private companies.

The fight against privatization in Detroit and Michigan is picking up steam. First, because both the state and city governments are eliminating steady, union work. So the unions of these workers are protesting these job losses.

Second, the state and city governments claim they are having the work done "more efficiently" by private companies. But the citizens supposedly served by this efficiency are opposing privatization because the reality is, services are eliminated, done poorly, if at all.

These private companies are simply more businesspeople feeding at the public trough, trying to make as much money delivering as few services as possible.

It is in the interest of all workers to oppose these moves toward privatization as nothing more than attacks on union workers and the tax-paying citizens. All workers should support the fight against privatization by the state workers local, UAW Local 6000, and by the city workers' locals of AFSCME Council 25. ■

Detroit police are preparing for the possible dismissal of charges against the white police who killed Malice Green. They are preparing by training police in riot control. While the mayor and Police Chief Knox deny this, the spokesperson for the Detroit police says that while it is not "riot training," it is special training and it will continue at west side police stations. It is important for people in Detroit to demand the punishment of the police who killed Malice Green — Budenz, Nevers and Lessnau. ■

The campaigning for mayor and city council is already underway. There are

two declared mayoral candidates — Sharon McPhail and Dennis Archer. Neither represents the workers or the interests of the workers. McPhail is a minor, middle-class candidate and Archer is a major candidate of the rich, and former state supreme court justice. The workers of Detroit need their own candidate for mayor. The best choice would be for the city workers' unions to run a union candidate for mayor, or any major union in Detroit running a candidate. Given the general disgust with Young among the African-American residents, almost anyone who runs will get lots of votes — the more serious the candidate, the more the votes. We especially urge city workers to push for workers candidates for mayor and city council. The Perot candidacy shows that at any time in the election, a serious opposition candidate can win lots of support. ■

The Big Three auto companies are threatening to bring charges against Japanese auto companies for allegedly "dumping" automobiles below cost in the U.S. market.

The UAW top leadership is of course thrilled by this proposed action. Workers, beware! Workers have nothing to gain and their independence to lose by supporting such nonsense by the Big Three.

Clinton just announced increased tariffs on imported steel already burdened with a 12.5% import tax. Has a single steel job been saved with these tariffs? No, but steel workers have been more closely tied to the steel companies through common campaigns against "foreign steel" and this has weakened the steelworkers union, along with all the other "cooperation" with the steel companies.

Workers should make it clear: we don't support these actions against the Japanese companies. GM, Ford and Chrysler are to blame for our job losses — they close the plants, no one else. If they can't keep us working, then the workers will take over the companies and run them themselves! But we cannot take the side of our real enemy against a corporation in another land. Ask the steel workers! How many jobs have they lost by cooperating with the steel companies? — J.M. ■

## Black history and socialism

February is Black history month, so there will be many discussions of the history of the Black people in the coming days.

There is no question that some Black people in the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa, have made some progress in the last decades.

But the vast majority of the Black people in the United States and elsewhere continue to live in poverty, ignorance and violence, together with the vast majority of people throughout the world.

Rich white Americans and Europeans have stolen Black people and their resources and used them to enrich themselves at the expense of the majority of the Black people and all peoples.

Black people can and will continue to fight for equal rights in this capitalist society. This struggle will continue to be progressive. The more equal Black people are, the clearer the class divisions in society will be, the more unified the working class will be.

But in order to make big progress, Black people need socialism. They need a society in which the working class is in power, and in which the working class owns and controls all the big resources in the society — the banks, basic industry, transportation, agriculture, etc.

As long as basic resources are owned by a tiny, tiny class of rich whites, the vast majority of Black people don't have a chance. When they are owned by the working class, in the U.S., the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, and Africa, Black people will have a chance.

This by itself won't solve the problem. Black people will still have to fight for their fair share against the privileges and prejudices of whites in the U.S. and Europe. But they will be in a much better position to wage and win this fight. And, eventually, there will be a classless communist society in which workers of all colors and nationalities will work and live in harmony. This is what revolutionary Marxists in the Fourth International are fighting for. We urge Black people to seriously consider and embrace this perspective. —M.G.

# Working class solidarity with peoples oppressed by imperialism!

Resolution adopted at January meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the International League

Workers!

The pirate Bush has left his presidential term bombing the people of Iraq once again. Clinton has begun his first term continuing the bombing. And, one more time, the secretary-general of the United Nations has raced to give his blessing to the military actions decided in the Pentagon.

For the last two years since the Gulf War, new imperialist aggression against Iraq emits a crude light on the *reality* of the "World Order" that the chancellors of the great powers speak of; and very particularly on the role of the United Nations and its "peaceful" and "humanitarian" missions.

For the truth escapes none of you: that war was a bloody imperialist expedition to assure *control of oil*. And a war against the *Arabic peoples*. The occupation of Kuwait — which never has been more than an artificial state, drawn in its day by the Foreign Office, with a kingly for its head — was the flight forward of a regime that feared the wrath of its people because of years of suffering because of the war that Saddam Hussein launched against Iran and counted on imperialism and its arms for.

The backdrop of the war was the *revolt*, open or latent but still irrepressible, of the people of the region against imperialism, against the racist state of Israel, against the tyrannical sellouts to the great powers, against the misery and oppression. Two years later, nothing has been able to silence this revolt. Tenacious, heroic, there you have the Palestinian intifada!

As for the official explanations of the attacks on Iraq . . . what needs to be said? To protect the Kurds and the Shiites from the repression of Saddam? It would have been more than enough to give them arms when the armies of the imperialist coalition were occupying southern Iraq. But the imperialists prefer a thousand times more a Saddam conquered than a people in arms, a thousands times more untamed also.

To make nations respect the resolutions of the United Nations? "Why not bomb Tel Aviv or Belgrade to make them respect them?" say the Arabs. The question will lend itself to laughter if it does not force an *irony so bitter and certain* in the mouths of those that say it. No army fires on its own troops — at least while they obey the high command. Israel is the advanced guard of American imperialism in the Middle East and the UN its cover.

Down with the hypocrisy of the UN!  
Down with the imperialist aggression against Iraq!  
Long live the Palestinian intifada!  
Down with the state of Israel!

Workers, if your voices begin to cry out in the streets of our cities, encouraging the struggle of those peoples, their force will return invincible. In its base, the struggle for their national emancipation is inseparable from your struggle.

Also the intervention in *Somalia* is presented as "humanitarian," *abusing* your sentiment of solidarity toward those people punished by hunger and the suffering poor — and *abusing* very particularly the sentiments of the *African-American people of the U.S.*

The truth is different and it will not be long in appearing there also: the imperialists wield "humanitarian help" with the same end as arms. And sometimes, as in *Somalia*, the first serves to justify the military intervention. If *Africa* suffers hunger it is because the imperialists plunder its resources; if there are tribal struggles it is because the imperialists foment them, arm them, and support themselves on some ethnic groups against others in order to suppress the entirety of the peoples and to prevent their true national emancipation. Through *Somalia*, American imperialism places a foot in *Africa*, because the order is backing itself in *Angola*, in *South Africa* . . .

To those who are still able to doubt us we say: the struggle of these peoples will demonstrate that the army of the United States or of France is there only to protect the bloody and betraying dictators, or to put in others, when, as in *Somalia*, their regimes collapse.

Look at the policies of our countries! Look at what occurs in *Bosnia*! What are the UN and our governments doing there? They are hiding and protecting the genocide of the *Bosnian* people and the dismembering of their Republic at the hands of the ex-communist heads of *Belgrade* and the *Serbian fascists*. The *embargo* only affects the admirable *Bosnian* people that resist and fight with the little they have. *Milosevic* and his hordes receive the arms that they want from the hands of their pals, the bureaucrats that they follow in *Moscow*. Or through *Cyprus*. With the approval of imperialism. Their "Peace Conference" is not more than the theater of an infamous blackmail to bring *Bosnia* to its knees and make it accept the *Serbian* conquest. As other times, like in the *Spanish* civil war, the "non-intervention" of the imperialist powers is the means of isolating and strangulating the people and opening the road to reaction.

If the UN decides to intervene militarily there, it will be of course under the banner of "pacification." But it will do that only to avoid an even greater disaster for the imperialist order: in order to avoid that after the *Croats*, the *Slovenians* and the *Bosnians*, that the *Albanians* and the *Macedonians* lift themselves

up in turn in arms in order to free themselves.

Down with the genocide of the *Bosnian* people!

Lift the embargo of arms for *Bosnia*!  
Long live the free Republic of *Bosnia-Herzegovina*!

For the self-determination of the peoples of the *Balkans*!

Enough of the racist lies and poison! There is not lacking those who say to us that if *Bosnia* wins it will be a "fundamentalist Islamic state," or that the conflict there is an "ethnic" conflict. In the streets of *Sarajevo*, *Muslims*, *Croats*, *Serbs* and *Jews* struggle side by side for the *liberty of Bosnia*. That says it all. Their Republic will be that which its people decide. And if it is decided with arms in hands it will be so much more *democratic*, its people so much more intolerant toward all oppression and their workers so much more close to true *socialism*. The *socialism* that the pro-capitalist bureaucrats prostituted when the war was declared on the peoples of the *Balkans*.

What still impedes you from showing your solidarity with force — expressed instinctively in the *indignation* that you sense before the martyrdom of *Bosnia* and before that which still seems like the "passivity" of the UN or the cowardice of *London* or *Paris*? What impedes this or retards this still is the attitude of the heads of the workers movement, false socialists, ex-communist or Stalinist friends of the heads of *Moscow* or *Belgrade*. These people also want "order," because in this "order," they live *over us*. They are patriots when the bourgeoisie of our countries go out to defend their interests against the oppressed; they live off the crumbs of their exploitation. These "socialists" defend *Israel* and howl like wolves against *Iraq*. They only denounce "nationalism" when the people rise up for their national emancipation. They are *social-imperialists*.

That is why it is important that the most determined struggling workers, the most conscious forces, take the first step. That is why it is important that — we have to give the example! — the *Trotskyists*, the *partisans of the Fourth International*, unite our forces in order to promote the solidarity of the most decisive of the workers with the peoples in struggle against imperialism. As at other times in history, it is a question of *their liberty and ours*.

And, as at other times in the history of the workers movement, its renovation, its preparation for the struggles that approach against the bourgeoisie and its governments, the tempering of the vanguard, the formation of true working class and revolutionary parties, begin to take place next to the struggle of the oppressed peoples. ■

# Trotskyism in the United States and the International

The last years have been very difficult for Trotskyists in the United States. Many saw the working class and popular upsurges in the 1960s and early 70s as a prelude to an even more working class and revolutionary uprising that would come relatively quickly. But this working class and revolutionary uprising has been taking longer to develop than its partisans anticipated.

Then the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party, once the revolutionary party in the United States, expelled many of the leaders and members of the SWP who questioned its attacks on the revolutionary foundations of the SWP, on the fundamental unity of Leninism and Trotskyism.

These things are quite understandable from a historical point of view. Without a revolution, the revolutionary party itself inevitably degenerates, as Trotsky himself said. But it is quite another thing to work or live through these kinds of developments.

In spite of this, there are still Trotskyist tendencies in the United States capable of defending and fighting for the Fourth International's program.

When the U.S. declared war on Iraq, the forces of Socialist Action, the International Workers League, Truth, and Socialist Organizer, all took positions against the U.S., on the side of Iraq, and actively participated in mobilizing forces against the U.S.

When workers and oppressed in the old USSR rose up against the military and its attempted coup d'état, these same forces again took a position clearly on the side of the workers and oppressed and against the privileged bureaucracy and its armed forces.

More recently, in the U.S., these forces have all taken a position on the side of Labor Party Advocates, against the most pro-Democratic Party trade union officials. Representatives of these tendencies and others helped build the recent Labor Party Advocates educational conference in Detroit. They spoke clearly and well — against the Democratic Party, for a labor party, for independent labor candidates in elections, against the conception of a labor party as the continuity of the Republican and Democratic Parties. It was clear at this conference that Trotskyism and Trotskyists in the United States are very much alive. Trotskyists

constitute one of the most insightful and lively sections of the U.S. labor movement. They have deep roots in the U.S. labor movement, remember and carry on its most working class and revolutionary traditions.

It's also clear that there is growing sentiment in favor of unifying Trotskyist forces capable of fighting for the program.

The various Trotskyist tendencies in the United States capable of fighting for the program at this time — Socialist Action, International Workers League supporters, Truth, Socialist Organizer, and others — are not identical. They have basic agreement on many important questions of the international and national class struggle. They have important disagreements on other important questions. They have many differences on tactics, methods, traditions, etc. But there is no question that in the most important developments in the international class struggle in the last years — like the war on Iraq, or the popular opposition to the attempted coup d'état in the old USSR — that they took similar positions.

Nevertheless, there has been little or no progress in unifying Trotskyist forces capable of fighting for the program in the U.S. Instead, there have been more and more splits.

The majority of Socialist Action and Alan Benjamin, Ralph Schoenman, and others who now constitute Socialist Organizer split in 1991. Socialist Action, Malik Miah, Barry Shepherd, Carl Finamore, and others split in 1992. The supporters of the International Workers League have split. The Fourth Internationalist Tendency split. Spark lost important members.

When some of these splits first occurred, we thought they might be positive consequences of the class struggle, and pave the way for a clearer and firmer regroupment of Trotskyist forces. But, so far, this has not happened. It is difficult to see clear, fundamental, class differences in these splits. Instead, it seems that the national and international leaderships of these various tendencies lack the authority and flexibility necessary to clarify and resolve the inevitable differences that emerge in the course of any class struggle without needless splits.

This is especially disturbing as we are entering into a period in which opportunities for Leninism-Trotskyism will be unprecedented. The fall of the U.S. as the

unchallengeable number one world power. The fall of the Kremlin. The fact that militants heretofore loyal to the Kremlin are looking to Trotskyism for an alternative. The signs of opposition in and around the SWP to attacks on the program.

In our opinion, the only way to resolve these problems and take advantage of these opportunities is to make a conscious fight to unify Trotskyist forces capable of fighting for the program and rebuild the Fourth International. Material forces are necessary to fight for the program. Without progress in this direction, there will be more setbacks and more splits.

It's possible to make a certain amount of progress in the U.S. Trotskyist tendencies can continue to enter into Labor Party Advocates and do everything in their power to build it. In the framework of this common fight to build a big workers party, they can try to clarify and resolve political differences on the most important questions.

But the problem itself — the division of Trotskyist forces capable of fighting for the program — can only be resolved on an international level. Trotskyists in the U.S. need to support and push for steps on the part of the international leaderships of the various tendencies capable of fighting for the program to unify their forces on a principled basis and build a common international organization. Within the framework of a common international organization, it will be possible to clarify and resolve the kinds of differences that separate Trotskyists in the U.S. This doesn't mean that Trotskyists in the U.S. or anywhere else are ever going to agree on everything. But there are many things that Trotskyists agree on that are far more important than what they disagree on, and they need a common international organization to fight for these things.

This in turn will pave the way for winning back forces that have strayed from the Fourth International, like those in the SWP still loyal to Leninism-Trotskyism, and for winning new forces, like the new generation and the best of the old generation breaking from the Kremlin.

Now more than ever we need a big working class International to unify workers of all races and nationalities against U.S. imperialism and its puppets and to lead the world-wide struggle for socialism. Rebuilding the Fourth International is the place to start. — M. Gutshall ■

## Trotskyists in the class struggle

The Socialist Workers Party, the largest organization in the U.S. with forces sympathetic to Trotskyism, has taken a position against the U.S.'s attacks on Iraq, has been building demonstrations against these attacks, and has been publishing information showing that big oil is profiting from the U.S.'s invasion of Somalia. It is also running a candidate for mayor in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. *Truth* urges all Trotskyists to support these struggles against U.S. imperialism and its parties.

Solidarity, another organization with forces sympathetic to Trotskyism, including Trotskyists associated with the United Secretariat, a tendency in the Fourth International that has strayed far from the Fourth International's program, has taken a position against the Clinton administration. It says: "the left's most basic responsibility is to help rebuild mass social movements through programs and demands arising from the movements' own struggles." (*Against the Current*, January/February 1993). Revolutionaries should support, participate in, and build, all working class and popular struggles against the Clinton administration and the bourgeoisie in general. But these will go nowhere without a struggle for a big workers party and for socialism.

The *Bulletin in Defense of Marxism*, published by Trotskyists associated with the United Secretariat, questions U.S. intervention in Somalia. Unfortunately, it doesn't go beyond this. It simply says: "Nevertheless, the military intervention in Somalia must be questioned." (*Bulletin in Defense of Marxism*, January, 1993, page 23.) The Fourth International's program on the other hand says: "A correct policy is composed of two elements: an uncompromising attitude on imperialism and its wars and the ability to base one's program on the experience of the masses themselves." Revolutionaries should oppose U.S. intervention in Somalia and try to show that the U.S. is not helping the Black people of Somalia. Black people and workers in the U.S. who want to help the Black people of Somalia have to fight for the unions in the U.S. and elsewhere to gather the resources necessary to do so, and to get U.S. imperialist forces out. *Bulletin in Defense of Marxism* is not defending the Fourth International's program on this question. Their wishy-washy position gives a bad impression of Trotskyism. Trotskyists capable of defending the program need to make a common fight to do so and unify their forces.

Lynn Henderson, a railroad worker, an editor of *Straight Track*, and a supporter of Socialist Action, a Trotskyist group associated with the United Secretariat, spoke against the Clinton ad-

ministration and for a labor party at the Labor Party Advocates educational conference in Detroit in early December. He said, among other things: "This educational conference is only a small example of the valuable work LPA has already been able to accomplish. And I think brother Mazzocchi also has an accurate view of where we are in the process of building a labor party. He has correctly resisted calling a national convention and setting up a structured organization. For the relatively small and largely accidental group of political radicals, individual union officials, and rank-and-file union activists around LPA to begin to vote, speak, and act as if it were the infant American labor party would be self-defeating nonsense ... But one area where I think the founders of LPA are dead wrong is their formulation that there is not a necessary contradiction between membership in LPA and continuing to support and work for Democratic Party candidates. This formulation now becomes even more dangerous with the election of a Democratic Party administration." (*Socialist Action*, January 1993, page 5.) Lynn Henderson supports LPA against the most pro-Democratic Party union officials, to his credit. But the biggest problem in LPA is not the fact that there are union officials in it that continue to support the Democratic Party. The biggest problem is that there are tendencies in it that, because they don't want to shakeup the Democrats too much, are reluctant to really build LPA, to recruit 100,000 members as originally planned. The only way to resolve this problem is to get into LPA and do everything possible to build it in a way that is as big as possible.

The Coordinating Committee of the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International, a tendency of the Fourth International, recently met in Barcelona, Spain. We adopted a declaration against U.S. and other imperialist attacks on Iraq, Somalia, and Bosnia; against the hypocrisy of the U.S. and the United Nations, which bomb Iraq because it doesn't respect U.N. resolutions, but which allow South Africa, Israel, and the Serbs, to do whatever they want to do, even to the point of wiping out the people of Bosnia; and in solidarity with the struggles of the peoples of Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia, Croatia, and of all oppressed peoples, for their right to self-determination, for national independence, against imperialism. We also drew the lessons of our struggle to unify Trotskyists capable of fighting for the Fourth International's program, and adopted a declaration on how to best advance this struggle at this time.

Trotskyists who publish *La Commune*, the bulletin of the external faction of the Internationalist

Communist Current of the Workers Party in France (known as the CCI or Courant Communiste Internationaliste du Parti des Travailleurs), and Trotskyists associated with the International Workers League, are asking Trotskyists, working class militants, and democrats throughout the world to demand that the French government drop the charges against Pedro Carrasquedo. Carrasquedo is from the Basque Country in Spain; he has been a leader in the French Trotskyist movement for many years and was a member of the CCI until May 10 when he was expelled by Pierre Lambert and others. The French police arrested him and charged him two days later with being associated with or giving aid and comfort to Basque "terrorists." Pierre Lambert and other leaders of the CCI have not taken a position defending Carrasquedo against the French police; on the contrary, they issued a statement disassociating themselves from Carrasquedo on May 13. The International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International and *Truth* urge all readers to support the campaign for dropping the charges against Pedro Carrasquedo and all Basque militants. Statements of support can be sent to: Jean Luis Davier, 2, square des Freres-Mongolfier, 94310 - Orly, France.

The Secretariat of the Workers International to Rebuild the Fourth International issued a statement on December 5, 1992 which said, among other things: "Representatives of the French PCI ... in September 1992 tried to convince workers from Hungary that Balazs Nagy is a 'double agent of the KGB and the CIA'..." They ask Trotskyists to again take a position against this slander which Pierre Lambert initiated in the early 1970s when he had political differences with Balazs Nagy, also known as Michel Varga. Members of *Truth* read these slanders in the early 1970s, and heard these slanders first hand, directly from the mouths of Lambert's supporters in the early 1970s. We continue to oppose them and urge others to do the same.

The *Bulletin in Defense of Marxism* asks Trotskyists and all working class militants to support the struggle of Jozef Piniór, a Polish Trotskyist, to have his record cleared so that he can get work in Poland. Piniór was a leader of Solidarnosc and was arrested on a number of occasions. These arrests remain part of his official record and make it difficult to get work in Poland. They ask that statements of support be sent to Zbigniew Dyka, Minister of Justice; Ministerstwo Sprawiedliwosci; Al. Ujazdowski; 00-950 Warszawa; Skr. pocz. 33; Poland. Copies to: Jozef Piniór; c/o Pracowniczy Fundusz Przemyslowy; Rekodzielnicza 16; 50-991 Wrocław; Skr. Pocz. 1442; Poland. Contributions to: Jozef Piniór; Bank Zachodni, Wrocław, Poland; Account No. 389206-01020386-017879-152-1. ■

*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: M. Gutshall

### Subscribe to Truth!

Introductory subscription:  Ten issues for \$5.00 (Detroit only)  
Regular subscription:  Ten issues for \$8.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

# More on Labor Party Advocates

*We are reprinting lines from various publications on the recent Labor Party Advocates educational conference in Detroit.*

*As readers will see, everyone recognizes the importance of the struggle for a labor party, and the fact that Labor Party Advocates is playing an important role in building support for a labor party.*

*There are different tendencies in the labor party movement today—some for a bourgeois liberal labor party, others for a trade unionist labor party, still others for a big working class party. A common fight to recruit thousands to the labor party movement will best serve the masses of working people.*

**From *The Militant*, newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party, January 15, 1993**

“The idea of a political party that is independent from the Democrats and Republicans and their antilabor policies certainly attracts the attention of workers who hear about it. That was the case with this gathering. It was held in an airport hotel, and a number of airline workers on layover approached the registration table to find out more about the discussion.

“But the LPA is not in fact a break with the decades of collaboration by union officials with the two-party system of the Democrats and Republicans. This was confirmed by the December 5-6 conference. . . . An LPA recruitment brochure available at the conference echoed the “America first” argument of both Democrats and Republicans, bemoaning the fact that ‘the market share of U.S. corporations is down.’

“Panelists and those recognized to speak from the floor stated that they favored the formation of a labor party independent of the Democrats and Republicans but avoided discussing what its program would be.”

**From the Labor Party Advocates Newsletter, January, 1993**

“Nearly 300 trade unionists attended the first Labor Party Advocates educational conference in Detroit on December 5-6. . . . Tony Mazzocchi then wrapped up the many hours of fruitful debate and discussion by underscoring the importance, as he sees it, of Labor Party Advocates’ non-electoral strategy. ‘We have embarked on

a massive organizing effort,’ he reminded the gathering, ‘and there are no short cuts to success. Each of us needs to do everything we can to convince as many people as possible to join our undertaking. The few cannot represent the many.’”

**From *Labor Notes*, January, 1993**

“Labor Party Advocates held its first educational conference in Detroit December 5 - 6, and the turnout of 247 people far surpassed organizers’ expectations. . . . The Cleveland and Detroit groups are the only on-going ‘chapters’ of LPA, though recruitment committees are getting off the ground in a number of cities. . . . Over the last couple of years, Mazzocchi has faced some impatience from LPA members who want the group to act more like a party—even to run candidates. Others endorse Mazzocchi’s non-electoral strategy of building sentiment among union members without asking them to take action yet.”

**From *Bulletin in Defense of Marxism*, January, 1993**

“The Detroit LPA educational conference advanced beyond anything previously undertaken by LPA. Local chapters in Cleveland, Detroit and Minneapolis/St. Paul had sponsored or participated in public forums in those cities, but the decision in early fall by the Detroit and Cleveland chapters to try and organize a regional education conference following the general election was audacious. The successful result was unpredictable, but the initiators in both cities agreed that there would be an urgent need for such a conference.

“The conference was genuinely educational. All who attended left with a sense of having learned something new, and with a renewed determination to build local LPA units.”

**From *The Organizer*, January, 1993**

“Supporters of *The Organizer* newspaper explained that running independent labor candidates was a crucial step in building the labor party movement. It registers a break with the Democrats in deeds— not just in words—and provides the opportunity to involve union members and community activists in an organizing campaign around the key planks demanded by working people.” . . .

“ . . . One issue on people’s minds was that of democracy in LPA. Workshop participants were not convinced the advisory committee proposal addressed the problem of establishing a formal democratic structure within LPA. Jane Slaughter of *Labor Notes* stated that the ‘most undemocratic organization of all is one without any structure.’

“Others pointed to the need for a national conference or convention in the not-too-distant future to elect a steering committee and adopt the basic planks of LPA’s platform. Supporters of *The Organizer* argued that it was totally mechanical and artificial to establish the goal of 100,000 members before organizing a convention.

“The New Party supports cross-endorsement of Democrats. It views support to Democrats as a question of tactics—not principles. . . . it was not possible to have a complete discussion of the problems raised by the emergence of the New Party.”

***Socialist Action*, January, 1993**

“How do you get from a handful of individuals supporting the idea of a labor party to the reality of a mass labor party rooted in the trade unions?”

“The idea of a labor party cannot have mass appeal until the labor movement shows it knows how to fight and win some victories . . . The present labor movement and its leadership is incapable of providing inspiration for a labor party. . . . Breaking with the Democratic Party is not the last necessary step in the process of creating a mass labor party but the first . . .

“But the response of rank-and-file union members to this [the election of Clinton] will certainly be a growing hatred of the Democratic Party, as is already the case among many railroad union members. Union officials who want to maintain their orientation to the Democratic Party may find LPA attractive as a *left cover* and a way to deflect rank-and-file disgust with the Democrats while continuing to put their hopes in them.

“To continue to proclaim that there is no contradiction between membership in LPA and giving support to Democrats will seriously compromise the further development of Labor Party Advocates.”

■