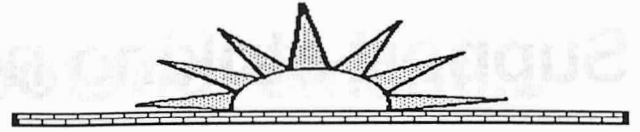

NEW LIFE



A SOCIALIST BULLETIN SERVING THE LABOR PARTY MOVEMENT

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Striking newspaper workers say:

NO

SCAB

PAPERS!

Support the newspaper workers' fight
for mass action at the scab plant!

Save Mumia Abu-Jamal!

(See back page)

Support striking newspaper workers!

On September 2, there will be a mass action in solidarity with striking newspaper workers that may succeed in completely stopping the distribution of the Sunday newspaper from the printing plant for the first time since the strike began.

We urge young people and working people to support and participate in this action and work to make it as large and as effective as possible. The very fact that this action is going to take place, with the support and possible participation of trade unionists from across the U.S., is going to be a victory for striking newspaper workers.

Striking workers voted at the very beginning of the strike — at a mass meeting at a United Food and Commercial Workers union hall in Madison Heights on July 24 — to organize a mass rally to shut down the scab plant. The lack of progress in reaching a contract acceptable to the workers shows that the workers were correct in wanting to shut down production to win a decent contract.

Many workers, picket captains and some union officials have made progress by organizing pickets that have slowed down distribution from the Sterling Heights plant and at distribution centers. But it has not been enough. Distribution and production have never been completely stopped.

Workers are hoping that the actions on September 2 will force Vega and company to reach a settlement that is acceptable to the workers. It is possible that this will happen. But even if it occurs, it will be because workers have threatened to shut down production and because the bosses fear a greater mobilization of workers in southeast Michigan.

If the newspaper workers don't find the DNA's contract offers acceptable, it will be necessary to continue the fight for mass picketing/mass rallies at the scab plant to totally stop the production and distribution of the scab paper. Workers should demand a mass labor mobilization in solidarity with this struggle, including a one-day national solidarity strike.

If Vega and other owners of the newspaper monopoly in Detroit continue to refuse to sign a decent union contract, then labor is going to have to fight for public ownership and union control of the newspaper industry in Detroit, and for a labor party to lead this fight.

Working people and their families in the Detroit area cannot allow a small number of rich people to ruin the lives of millions of working people and deprive us of a daily newspaper.

Some leaders of the AFL-CIO and the newspaper unions have been arguing against mass picketing/mass rallies at the scab plant aimed at shutting it down on the grounds that riot police may attack workers, hurt them, permanently injure them, perhaps even kill them, and on the grounds that the authorities may "declare an injunction," outlaw picketing, and fine the unions millions of dollars.

There is no question that these are serious problems. Anyone who tries to ignore them or minimize them is either naive, a fool, or an enemy of the workers.

But the problem facing the working class is that hundreds of workers are already being

injured and even killed on the job every day as a result of the bosses' drive for profits, the destruction of the unions, and the destruction of the most elementary health and safety standards. Workers' children can't find jobs and are being forced to enter into the armed forces and fight for the bosses overseas where they are risking injury and death.

All this is going to get worse until labor takes a stand and starts to mobilize and train its own troops.

Sticking your head in the sand and pretending that labor can progress without an all-out fight against vicious unionbusters will only increase casualties in the long run.

Support the newspaper workers' fight for mass-picketing/mass-rallies to shut the scab plant!

Demand that all labor leaders and organizations back this fight! — M. Guttshall ■

On the picketline . . .

On August 19, one hundred and fifty workers and supporters rallied outside the Detroit News Sterling Heights plant. The picketers chanted, "Union, no scabs." At about 8 p.m., the police (whose overtime is being paid for by the newspaper owners) moved in to break up the picket line. However, the line was ready and as the police moved in they were forced back to the median in the middle of the highway. The officers equipped themselves with riot gear to make another push at the line. Before they made the second rush, the police informed the pickets that everyone not at the curbside would be arrested (hoping this would make some people leery and in turn weaken the line). When the second rush came at the lines to push it back, police hit people with clubs and shields. One worker was grabbed, his shirt was pulled up over his head and he was dragged across the pavement while being clubbed and kicked repeatedly by the police. Other people were also beaten, but the outraged picketers again forced the police back to the median. Before 10 p.m., the police announced that they would make a third push and this time they were joined by police reinforcements from neighboring cities. The picket captains decided that a third clash with the police would do more harm than good. At 10 p.m., the line opened. As the trucks and buses carrying scabs drove in the workers and

their supporters let their feelings be known to the scabs.

Bosch Air Flow workers have been out on strike for more than 20 weeks. I went down to support their struggle. While there, a small clash occurred with the Huffmaster guards (union busters). Four of us were sitting at a table when a guard (nick-named "Red" by the strikers) walked over and ordered one of the strikers to stop throwing pebbles at his men. The striker denied throwing any rocks at the guards. However, the guard continued to yell at us for a few minutes. As he turned to walk away, a young woman yelled at him and told him to go back behind the gate. "Red" then turned around and called her a whore. I stood up and told "Red" not to refer to my sister like that and told him if anyone here was a whore it was him for whoring himself out to the bosses. At this "Red" said we could end this whole thing right now because as he saw it there were six of them with clubs and only four of us. He then made a few more sexist as well as racist statements and walked away.

I feel these two incidents show what the working class is up against: cops bought off by bosses and paramilitary union busting companies. Workers need to stand together in mass numbers to combat these threats to the working class. — Tim James ■

A new policy for the labor movement ...

Labor unions in Decatur, Illinois organized a conference called the "War Zone Labor Conference" on June 24, and outlined a new policy for the labor movement. This new policy includes: mass picketing of scab operations, a labor party, withdrawing from labor-management cooperation programs, and union educational programs designed to prepare workers for these struggles. Unions in Decatur — representing Staley, Caterpillar, and Bridgestone- Firestone workers — plan to make a fight for these policies throughout the labor movement.

We urge young people and working people in the Detroit area to join this fight. This is the way forward for the labor movement. Here are two of the resolutions of the "War Zone Labor Conference."— M.G. ■

Mass picketing

Whereas, the struggles of UPIU Local 7837 at A.E. Staley Manufacturing, UAW at Caterpillar Inc., and URW at Bridgestone/Firestone have been for the essentials of the labor movement, the 8-hour day, fair grievance procedures, the right to collective bargaining, the right to safety and health, the right to seniority, and the right to human dignity; and

Whereas, the afore-mentioned unions have sacrificed long and hard for every worker worldwide, and recognizing that an injury to one is an injury to all; therefore, be it

Resolved: That the AFL-CIO call on all of its affiliates and international allies to mobilize mass pickets at the affected sites domestically and abroad; and be it further

Resolved: That the AFL-CIO coordinate with all unions foreign and domestic, actions to stop production, transportation of struck goods, and installation or use of struck goods.

Labor Party

Whereas, the so-called "friends of labor" in the Democratic Party have turned their backs on working men and women through their support of NAFTA and GATT, and through their failure to enact legislation banning striker replacement by scabs; and

Whereas, only 36 percent of registered voters bothered to vote in the November 1994 elections, with some 125 million voters abstaining — a clear expression of

widespread rejection of "politics as usual" and of the Democrats and Republicans in particular; and

Whereas, among those who did vote in November 1994, the largest percentage in decades opted for "independent" third parties and, moreover, recent national surveys reveal that a large majority of new voters are registering as "independents"; and

Whereas, this hunger for an alternative, coupled with the record of the pro-big business politicians, provides a singular opportunity for Labor to make a genuine difference in the political arena; and

Whereas, an organization called Labor Party Advocates has been founded to advance the cause of founding a Labor Party, based on the unions but including all of Labor's allies throughout the population; and

Whereas, the formation of a democratically based and run Labor Party is the only way for working people to secure their rights and gains; and

Whereas, the bosses have their two parties — the Democrats and the Republicans — and Labor has none; therefore, be it

Resolved: That the 1995 AFL-CIO National Convention endorses the efforts of Labor Party Advocates and supports the LPA call

UAW workers strike auto parts plant

Eighty-one workers at Airflow Research/BAMS (formerly Bosch Airflow) have been on strike since March of this year. They went on strike because, after workers voted to unionize nearly 4 years ago, the company still refused to negotiate a contract. Also, at a plant which made \$76 million in profits last year, workers were paid only \$8.54/hour — a maximum of \$9.30 with 8 years seniority. In addition, the company threatened to close the plant or cut 1/3 of the jobs.

Workers at Bosch Airflow are part of UAW Local 174. Union officials cancelled a rally at Ford headquarters this summer as a good faith gesture, because the Bosch Airflow owners had agreed to negotiate. The owners then cancelled negotiations.

Company owners have hired the notorious Huffmaster strike-breaking firm (head-

quartered in Troy), to harass and intimidate picketers. Guards and police have lied to the picketers, mostly young workers, telling them that they could not legally picket in the driveway — which is public property. They have also singled out militant young women with sexually explicit taunts. One guard, a large, white man called "Red" hit a young woman while she was picketing. Van Buren police were called, and she was the one arrested — for hitting him back.

Resolved: That the 1995 AFL-CIO National Convention instructs the incoming AFL-CIO leadership to work vigorously to promote this convention, and to assist Labor Party Advocates monetarily and with human resources to ensure that it is a success. ■

Support Sweeney and Trumka against Donahue!

Sweeney and Trumka, presidents of the Service Employees International Union and the United Mine Workers union, are running for the top positions in the AFL-CIO against Donahue. Sweeney and Trumka are more working class and militant than Donahue, so workers should certainly support Sweeney and Trumka against Donahue. They don't have a total solution to the problems facing labor, that's for sure. But supporting them against Donahue can help break up the old bureaucracy in the AFL-CIO and give workers some more room to fight.

In spite of their long strike, Bosch workers recently voted not to go back to work without a contract which includes *all* Bosch Airflow workers. UAW members can support their strike by refusing to handle scab parts produced by Bosch — the sole supplier of cooling modules for local Ford, Chrysler and Mazda plants. All workers can also help by reinforcing their picket lines at Ecorse and Haggerty roads. —KM. ■

The workers will have their own party in 1996!

The Labor Party Advocates leadership has picked June 6-9, 1996, in Cleveland, Ohio, as the time and place for the convention to found a Labor Party. Every worker, every working class organization, should build this convention so that it is the biggest, most representative, and most powerful convention of U.S. workers ever.

The movement today

Workers and young people are fighting on many fronts in the U.S. today. Striking newspaper workers in Detroit successfully united six unions against the Detroit News Agency and are organizing to stop production and distribution of the scab newspaper. There are other strikes across the country. Working people have demonstrated against police brutality and racist attacks in several cities. Young people and African-American militants fought successfully to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal. They continue the fight to free him from death row. A struggle is growing against "Jurassic Park," as the heads of the AFL-CIO are called.

In each struggle, some section of workers is committed to victory, committed to do "whatever it takes" or to win "by any means necessary." Each struggle has earned a unique place in the overall movement to save what is good from today's society and to create a better world.

The struggle of Labor Party Advocates is one more of these struggles. It is a struggle for a labor party — a political weapon of the working people and the oppressed that is not tied to the present political system. We fight for a party independent of the Democratic and Republican parties and all their rump groups. We fight for a party that working people control, with working class politicians who do what the working people tell them to do. We fight for a party that fights for workers and their needs, their interests, every hour of every day.

A workers government

But a labor party foreshadows something more. Under a democracy, under any government really, all the problems of the society are concentrated in who controls the government.

When the workers struggle, what force do the rich owners count on to stop the workers from closing their factories down? The government and its laws. When the rich want to execute Mumia, who does it for

LPA newsletter announcing convention.

them? The government. When farmers fight bankers who seize their property, when women fight for their rights, when anybody in this country irritates the rich in any way, what institution represents all the authority and power of the entire society and aims it all at the poor, the oppressed, those in struggle? The government! The rich, the Wall Street bankers, the owners of the industries, the mines, the huge corporate farms, control the government. A labor party throws down the gauntlet and says: No more! The working people should control this government, not the rich!

Some people think we can go backwards to the days when the government was small. But it is not possible, any more than it is to go back to the days when most people lived on farms. No. We must make the government work for us, not for the rich.

A struggle for a labor party is a struggle, sooner or later, for a workers government.

A workers government means an entire government that serves the working class and the oppressed. A government that subordinates the rich and their program to the interests of the workers. The workers come first, the rich come last.

For example, it ensures health care for all; equal opportunities for all; jobs for all; inexpensive child care for all; quality education and training for all. It guarantees that police never break strikes; that there are no scabs; that any workers can unionize, any time.

In this way, a labor party brings together all

the current movements like a magnifying glass. It focuses all the beams of light and concentrates all their power on one spot: the government.

But, the labor party movement, and in particular Labor Party Advocates, is not fighting for a workers government.

Born today, it is born with many problems of today's labor movement. It acts very cautiously, even timid. It tries to please everyone. It tries to create an organization that can exist alongside the dinosaurs of "Jurassic Park." It is being founded too late to mount a serious campaign for president in 1996. It will be difficult to launch any serious campaigns in 1996. It has refused to involve itself very much in any struggles, even labor struggles, for fear of alienating the toothless old geezers that run the AFL-CIO.

But it has strengths that spring from the best of the U.S. labor movement.

It is open to any worker for a labor party and it has kept to that commitment. It has not supported any Democratic candidates in any election since it began in 1989. The unions supporting it have committed resources, people and their name openly and in many public forums. The leadership has tried to involve unions and workers of all ethnic groups, from all around the country. It is open to socialists and communists. And it is committed, as much as can be expected, to a democratic process for the founding convention. Just like the ugly duckling, when the labor party grows up, it will look completely different than it does today... or will not exist at all.

Right now, the most important thing is that it be born healthy. That requires the support, the strength, the fight, the enthusiasm, the courage and the passion of the best fighters of all the movements in the U.S. — from the newspaper strike to the fight to free Mumia, from lifting the blockade of Cuba to lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia, from Decatur (the Staley workers, the Caterpillar strike and their Labor Conference) to campuses where young people are forming committees in defense of political prisoners — all these people need to be at the convention, all need to fight to build LPA. The labor party will strengthen each movement; it will strengthen all the movements; it will quicken the arrival of a new and better world. — Fred Russo ■

Free speech, private property, and socialism

Workers and youth involved in building different working class and popular struggles are confronting similar problems.

Striking workers want to build big picket lines and stop anti-union strikebreakers from taking their jobs. But the bosses and the police say that the plant is private property and the workers don't have a right to be on the bosses' private property or say who comes and goes.

Workers want to talk to people who are still buying scab newspapers, or shopping in stores that sell scab papers. But the bosses and their police say that the sidewalks and the parking lots are private property, and the workers don't have a right to talk to people on the store owners' private property.

Supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal want to pass out flyers to thousands of people explaining why Mumia is innocent and should be released now, but the authorities say they can't go to places like Hart Plaza where thousands of people gather, because Hart Plaza is "owned" by the city, and citizens of Detroit don't have a right to go on property owned by the "City of Detroit" without special permission. Authorities say the same things when they stop people from distributing literature in malls.

A tiny number of rich people own all the TV, radio, and newspaper chains. They rarely allow workers and youth to use them to express their views. The same tiny group of rich is buying up more and more of the land where people work, shop, go to school, etc. They won't allow workers and youth with signs and literature to step on their land and approach others.

So how are workers and youth supposed to communicate with each other? How are you supposed to be able to talk to anyone except the person who works by you, eats lunch by you, or lives by you? Is there nothing to do but go from house to house, knocking on doors? What about free speech?

Obviously workers and youth are doing all sorts of ingenious and militant things to overcome these problems — computers, videos, cable TV programs, hanging signs on freeways, organizing actions so big that police can't stop them from communicating, etc.

But, sooner or later, if workers and youth really want freedom of speech, they are going to have to abolish the armed forces and the laws that allow a tiny class of rich

to totally monopolize all the means of communication and the land, and use this monopoly to force their views on others and silence the majority.

New Life is fighting for a working class and socialist society in which working people collectively own all the basic resources — the land, the factories, the means of communication — and democratically decide how to use them. For example, in a working class and socialist society workers with different views on different issues will all be allowed to express their views on TV, radio, and in the newspapers, in proportions equal to their popularity in the society. Today, the most unpopular views, those of the rich, get the most amount of air time. The most popular views, those of the workers, the poor, the middle classes, get the least! This is undemocratic.

What about the old socialist countries? Wasn't freedom of speech crushed in those countries? Yes, but it wasn't crushed because they were socialist countries. A privileged dictatorial bureaucracy arose in these countries which tried to take all the benefits of socialism for itself, much like the

privileged bureaucracy within the unions in the U.S. This privileged bureaucracy established its own police force, which terrorized anyone who opposed it. The solution to this problem is to totally overthrow this privileged bureaucracy and its armed forces, and reestablish working class and popular democracy. The solution isn't to go back to the days when there was no socialism. Similarly, the solution to the problem of the privileged bureaucracy in the unions in the U.S. is to overthrow this bureaucracy, and reestablish workers democracy in the unions. It's not to go back to the days when there were no unions, when workers lived under the total dictatorship of the bosses in the factories and couldn't open their mouths without being fired.

Capitalists talk about how wonderful private property is. But in capitalist society, more and more, it is only the capitalists who have any private property. Everyone else has almost no property at all. In socialist societies, working people are going to collectively own all the basic resources and democratically decide what to do with them.—M. G. ■

Engels on capitalist fairness ...

"But let us look a little deeper into the matter. As according to political economists, wages and working days are fixed by competition, fairness seems to require that both sides should have the same fair start on equal terms. But that is not the case. The capitalist, if he cannot agree with the labourer, can afford to wait, and live upon his capital. The workman cannot. He has but wages to live upon, and must therefore take work when, where, and at what terms he can get it. The workman has no fair start. He is fearfully handicapped by hunger. Yet, according to the political economy of the capitalist class, that is the very pink of fairness ...

"But let us inquire out of what fund does capital pay these very fair wages? Out of capital, of course. But capital produces no value. Labour is, besides the earth, the only source of wealth; capital itself is nothing but the stored-up produce of labour. So that the wages of labour are paid out of labour, and the working man is paid out of his own produce. According

to what we may call common fairness, the wages of the labourer ought to consist in the produce of his labour. But that would not be fair according to political economy. On the contrary, the produce of the workman's labour goes to the capitalist, and the workman gets out of it no more than the bare necessities of life. And thus the end of this uncommonly 'fair' race of competition is that the produce of the labour of those who do work gets unavoidably accumulated in the hands of those who do not work, and becomes in their hands the most powerful means to enslave the very men who produced it ...

"Let, then, the old motto be buried for ever and replaced by another: Possession of the means of work — raw material, factories, machinery — by the working people themselves."

From "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," by Frederick Engels, the great working class, revolutionary, socialist leader and friend of Karl Marx ... ■

Open to readers and supporters . . .

Come to the New Life Conference!

In all the working class and popular struggles that are taking place today — the newspaper workers' strike, the fight to free Mumia Abu-Jamal —, the most thoughtful, devoted, and courageous are trying to build the largest and most militant actions. They are trying to unite the exploited and oppressed against the exploiters and oppressors in the largest possible way.

In all these struggles, they are coming up against the policies and leaderships of the past. The old leaderships of the unions who live comfortable lives and don't want big movements that might get out of control. The sectarians, who also live relatively comfortable lives, and rarely think about how to build a big movement or organization; they think more about how to build a tiny tendency or faction.

New Life was formed to make a consistent struggle to overcome these problems, to bring together and educate forces devoted to this struggle.

We are fighting for:

— unions and working class and socialist tendencies to work together to build the largest possible support for all working class and popular struggles;

— unions and working class and socialist

tendencies to work together to build a big labor party based on the unions and open to all working people, regardless of their political views;

— an independent socialist youth organization, open to all young people for socialist revolution, regardless of which socialist tendency they lean toward;

— unifying all the tendencies that are still fighting for the Fourth International's revolutionary socialist program in the working class and, in this way, rebuilding this international organization that is so essential in unifying workers of all nations against the common enemy.

We are supporters of International Workers Unity (Fourth International), a tendency of the Fourth International made up of youth, workers and activists in many different countries that share our principles and policies.

We urge young people and workers who agree with these basic principles and policies to join New Life and work together with other members to build support for these principles and policies throughout the movements developing today.

We are planning a conference to draw the lessons of the many different struggles that

we have been involved in — for solidarity with workers of Thom Apple Valley, National Metal Processing, Teamsters, GM, Staley, Caterpillar, Bridgestone-Firestone, Decatur; for justice for Malice Green and Mumia Abu-Jamal; for working class candidates in the 1994 elections; for a labor party; against NATFA, against 187, against the "Contract on America"; for solidarity with workers and oppressed peoples of South Africa, Chiapas, Bosnia, Belarus; for the founding of International Workers Unity (Fourth International) ...

We will also work to see clearly what is happening today, where things are going, and to see the tasks of working class and revolutionary socialists.

We will adopt resolutions that sum up our conclusions and elect members to carry out different tasks.

While only members will be able to vote at the conference, readers and supporters of New Life will be able to attend and participate in the conference.

If you are for a labor party, socialism, and building the biggest possible struggles to reach these goals, join us!

Come to the New Life Conference! September 23-24. ■



New Life is a supporter of International Workers Unity (Fourth International), a tendency of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, founded by Leon Trotsky and his co-thinkers. International Workers Unity has members and sup-

porters in many different countries including Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Spain, France, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia ... Unlike many tendencies that claim to be socialist, International Workers Unity supports the

struggles of workers and oppressed people against U.S. imperialism and against the privileged bureaucracies in the old socialist countries.—M.G. ■

Lift the arms embargo against Bosnia!

The United States government and the United Nations have tried to convince U.S. workers that they are trying to negotiate peace in Bosnia. Many U.S. socialists, accepting the bourgeois characterization of the war, claim it is a conflict over territory between two nationalisms — or, worse, an anti-communist fight by the Bosnians. Neither representation is true. The war in Bosnia is a people's struggle for self-determination against an oppressor nation which has vowed to annihilate them.

Essentially, boundaries of the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia were imposed on people of several nationalities by the ruling Stalinist bureaucracy — which called itself communist, but which aimed to control the Baltics. Control of the Yugoslavian Communist Party was given to Serbians, who were allowed to maintain their oppression of other ethnic groups, particularly Bosnian Muslims (whose skin color was usually darker than the Serbians). When the USSR began to crumble, members of the ruling bureaucracy in Serbia (including Milosevic) began to take control for themselves over the whole former Yugoslavian republic,

through party purges and by destroying the state governments of Kosova and Vojvodina, and imposing their own rule on them and on Montenegro.

“The U.S./U.N. have assisted Serbia in its ‘ethnic cleansing’ by imposing an arms embargo on Bosnia which renders it defenseless against the well-armed Serbs. . . ”

In 1992, after the breakup of the Soviet Union, the people of Bosnia voted on a referendum for independence, forming the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Though the majority party of Izetbegovic was Muslim, the republic was a secular federation with many parties. The population was mixed — 44% citizens of Moslem origin, 32% Serbian origin and 17% Croatian origin. In fact, for centuries, people of many ethnicities and religions had lived together peacefully in Bosnia. In Sarajevo, there are mosques, churches and synagogues within sight of one another; the city was once hailed for its culture and tolerance.

During the crisis of the USSR, the government of Milosevic took hold in Serbia on the basis of national chauvinism — specifically, that Serbians were ordained to build an empire, a Greater Serbia, which would wipe out the Muslims (whom they deemed heathens and without culture). Essentially, Milosevic and his thugs discarded the Yugoslavian constitution and built a fascist movement to respond to the “crisis of communism,” and in order to maintain their power, with similarities to the Nazis and to Zhirinovskiy's attempts in Russia.

When the Bosnians declared their independence, the Serbs had built up their military and stockpiled weapons, as well as having at their disposal all the arms which had belonged to Yugoslavia. The Bosnians had no standing army and only small arms used by police. Thus, the Serbs were well-positioned to embark on their genocidal

campaign of “ethnic cleansing.”

Within the first year of the war, the Serbs killed 130,000 Bosnians, systematically raped over 50,000 Bosnian women, and left 2.5 million homeless through destruction of property and forced deportation. They established concentration camps where Bosnians are tortured, killed and buried in mass graves. They organized “rape camps” where Bosnian women are kept prisoner and raped repeatedly, often until they die. They have rounded up, tortured and forced conscription on Bosnian Serbs who refused to participate in murdering their neighbors. Through this process, Serbia has managed to take control over 70% of Bosnian territory.

The U.S./U.N. have assisted Serbia in its “ethnic cleansing” by imposing an arms embargo on Bosnia which renders it defenseless against the well-armed Serbs. Even more cynically, the U.S./U.N.-sponsored “peace negotiations” are predicated on Serbia retaining control over significant portions of the land it has illegally and murderously annexed — thus rewarding and legitimizing their tactics.

Socialists who view the Bosnian struggle as one for capitalist restoration do not recognize that the class-consciousness of an oppressed minority will always be stunted by national oppression. As in South Africa, their class struggle will become clearer after they have overcome racial and ethnic oppression. Right now, it's become very difficult for the Bosnians to see beyond ethnicity, because they are being slaughtered on the basis of ethnicity. As with all oppressed nations, their fight for self-determination is a necessary part of their eventual fight for socialism.

What is most important for all of us to recognize is that we must fight together against the U.S./U.N. policies which murder Bosnians by proxy. We can gather at the demonstration Sept. 16th in NY to demand the U.S. and U.N. stop supporting the Serbs. We must also defend the Bosnians' right to defend themselves, supporting campaigns such as the internationally organized Workers Aid to Bosnia. They have taken caravans of supplies to Tuzla, a working class area still controlled by the Bosnians. Contributions can be sent to: “Workers Aid to Bosnia”, c/o 3425 Army St., San Francisco, CA 94110. —K. Morgan ■

**Lift the arms embargo!
Arms to the Bosnian people!**

**Demonstration!
United Nations, New York City
Saturday, September 16
Call 313-584-6556**

New Life is a socialist bulletin published in the interests of the labor party movement. New Life is a supporter of International Workers Unity, a tendency of the Fourth International, the world party of socialist revolution, founded by Leon Trotsky and his co-thinkers. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of New Life. These are expressed in editorials. Editorial Board: Eric Gubka, Margaret Guttshall, Tim James, Kim Morgan, Fred Russo.

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Save Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Thousands of youth, activists, and workers in the U.S. and throughout the world rejoiced when they learned that the authorities had finally agreed to stop the August 17 execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

They were right to do so, but the struggle is not over.

It's not possible to rely on the authorities to allow Mumia a new trial; even if they allow Mumia a new trial, it won't be possible to rely on them to allow him a fair trial.

The surest way to save Mumia is to build a bigger and bigger mass movement that demands:

Reverse the death sentence against Mumia!
Drop all charges! Free Mumia now!

There is lots of evidence that shows that Mumia is innocent:

- He has never been arrested or convicted of anything before;
- Character witnesses say he is a very gentle man who couldn't have committed the act he is accused of;
- Other witnesses say that they saw someone else shoot the policeman and run from the scene;
- The police have absolutely no physical evidence that suggests that Mumia killed the policeman (no evidence that he fired a gun, no evidence that his gun was fired ...);
- The key witnesses willing to testify for the police were individuals who had charges against them that were dropped after they testified;
- Mumia's alleged confession didn't appear until two months after the incident; it was presented by someone close to the dead policeman and was contradicted by the police report that said that Mumia said nothing.

There is also plenty of evidence that police and court officials were prejudiced against Mumia because he had been speaking up against police brutality in Philadelphia — refusing to take testimony from witnesses favorable to him; trying to intimidate these same witnesses; denying him his right to represent himself and excluding him from large portions of his own trial; trying to use the fact that he had been a member of the Black Panther Party when he was a teenager to convince the jury that he was a "vicious cop-killer"; signing a death warrant against



him before he even had a chance to appeal his conviction and sentence ...

More young workers, students, working women and working men of all ethnic groups need to get more actively involved in the struggle to save Mumia Abu-Jamal.

If each and every one of us doesn't do everything that he or she can to stop the persecution of this innocent man, by police who are racist and prejudiced against him because he has had the courage to speak out against injustice, then the whole society is going to become more and more intolerable for everyone but the richest.

Join the fight to save Mumia Abu-Jamal! ■

Lessons of the struggle ...

I was introduced to the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal approximately one year ago. I watched the seasons change, attended teach-ins, educationals, spoke occasionally on Mumia, and felt as if his case was hibernated to the masses. On June 2, 1995, the man whose case I'd been "working on," suddenly became the focal point of my thoughts, actions, words, and life. The date had been slated: August 17, Mumia was to be executed. On June 3, I attended a rally at the corner of Warren and Woodward in Detroit, protesting the Fate the executioners in Pennsylvania gave to Mumia. At this protest, different tendencies in the left movement in Detroit came together to establish a Coalition To Stop The Execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal. From others I learned that this had particular symbolic significance. It was not habit for the varied groups in Detroit to come together, united, for one cause, our brother Mumia. I am a new activist, I did not know what to expect from this coalition. Now having been to countless meetings, demonstrations, having conversations with militants, it is my impression that preaching personal politics, pushing your own agenda, and talk with no action are not healthy properties for a coalition to have. I realize that everyone is a critic of particular political tendencies, actions, words, and tactics. This coalition functioned very well and played a major part in stopping the August 17 execution date. We passed out thousands

of leaflets, got statements from trade union leaders, City Council Members, raised consciousness in the community, hung freeway banners, held demonstrations, our efforts were making a difference. This tells me that in a mass movement struggle it is so important not to give up until your goal is accomplished. Our goal is not accomplished, Mumia is not free, he sits in desolation on death row, there is no justice in that. Now is not the time to have faith in a fair trial, or the injustice system, or sympathetic media. The bourgeoisie has waged war on Mumia, we have their attention. Faith in this system cannot be tolerated in this or any other revolutionary action. In "Notebook of an Agitator," James Cannon states in regard to Sacco and Vanzetti: "It is the vengeful, cruel and murderous class which the workers must fight and conquer before the regime of imprisonment, torture and murder can be ended." Cannon was always consistent in his opinion and militancy towards the fight for Sacco and Vanzetti. I would hope the same for the people who have the power to free Mumia Abu-Jamal. The movement has grown for many reasons, the injustices in this case cover many so-called Amerikkkan Democratic rights. For this movement, until the day Mumia is free, look to the words of Frederick Douglas, "Without struggle, there is no progress." — Eric Gubka ■