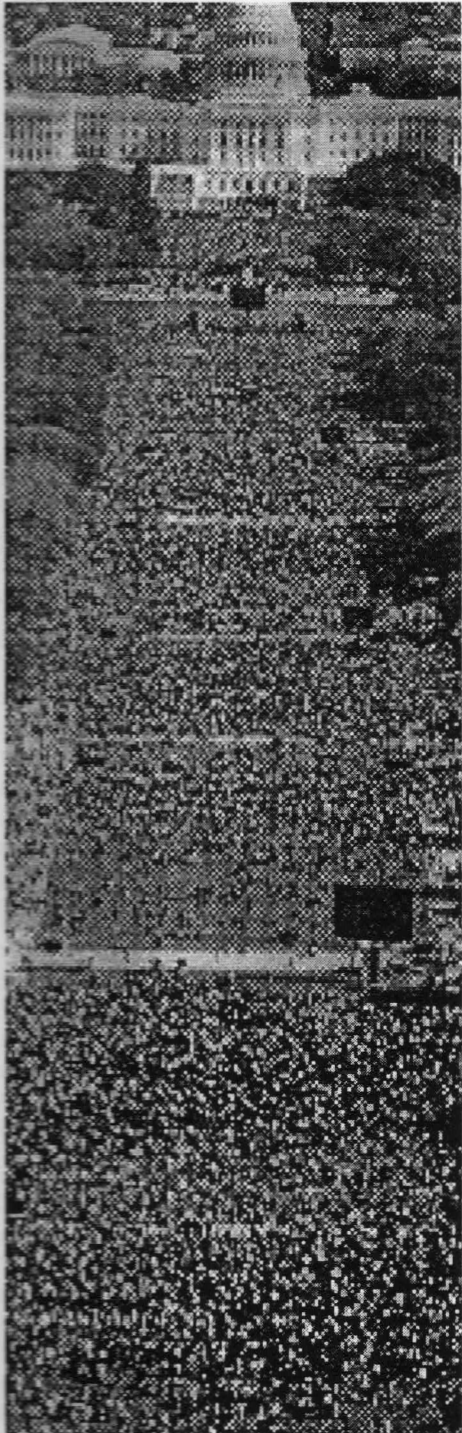


NEW LIFE

A SOCIALIST BULLETIN PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE LABOR PARTY MOVEMENT

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For Black liberation, we need socialism!

Million-man march, October, 1995. See article on back page.

Workers bring the fight for jobs to Lansing

Tuesday, January 28th, 150 people braved the cold on the steps of Michigan's capital to protest Gov. John Engler's "State of the State" address. The rally was organized by UAW Local 6000, a large local of state employees, and "a coalition of community, church, political and other organizations" calling to "Fight for Jobs." Demonstrators protested Engler's policies which support corporate downsizing, job cuts, privatization of public jobs and cuts in welfare — the safety net that is supposed to protect workers from these very same attacks. Everyone present supported the demand that more jobs must be created for all working class people.

The Detroit and the Washtenaw County Labor Party Chapters were well represented — carrying large Labor Party banners and passing out the Labor Party's statement against Clinton's so-called welfare reform. Everyone in attendance received this statement, which emphasizes that the "Labor Party calls for real welfare reform: an end to corporate welfare and a constitutional right to a job at a living wage."

Access to the podium was very democratic; representatives from many organizations spoke — including the Labor Party, the National and Michigan Welfare Rights Union and several socialist groups. There was a significant contingent of Detroit newspaper strikers and the strike was featured prominently. One striker spoke, and several of the other speakers mentioned the importance of supporting the strike. Many people in the crowd wore No Scab Papers buttons and other strike-support insignia.

Flyers that were distributed at the demonstration indicated that: (1) according to the federal Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978 the unemployment rate should have been reduced at least to 4% by 1983. The Workers World Party suggested that we should hold public officials and corporate officers criminally liable for violating this act; (2) under the new federal welfare law 50,000 Michigan adults will lose their eligibility for food stamps after 3 months if they don't work. This limitation could be waived in areas with unemployment rates over 7.1% — but only upon the governor's request. Eleven Michigan cities and 44 counties would qualify for the waiver. The Michigan Emergency Alliance Against Losing Stamps (M.E.A.L.S.) asks everyone to write to Gov. Engler urging him

to request the waiver and thereby save \$72 million in federal money for food stamps.

After the speakers finished, and as many people were leaving, a group of 50-60 young demonstrators went inside the capital building to bring their protests closer to the governor's ears. Though they were met by police outside the door to the legislative chamber, everyone continued to shout "the people divided will never be defeated." The police targeted two people for arrest and dragged them through the crowd while the protestors pushed back and demanded, "Let him go!"

In spite of Engler's attempts to characterize

the demonstrators as malcontents wanting handouts, a scheduling conflict with a large UAW action the same day in Detroit, and, of course, the bitter cold, the demonstration made it clear that the "State of the State" is not as rosy as Engler and his fat cats would have us believe. The millions of workers who are being thrown out of work and off of welfare will not — cannot — sit by the sidelines. More and more of us will be on the steps of all the capitals and at the factory gates demanding the same basic right — the right to a job at a living wage. — K. Morgan □

The Super Bowl

Al's your only buddy
who doesn't like sports.

But he pumps iron,
drinks,

talks politics.

Talks politics so much
you gotta pull on his ponytail

to get him to stop.

Always talking about

"The Rich Bastards" vs.

"The Working Man."

Coyote calls him a Commie faggot.

But that don't phase Al.

He gets Coyote in a headlock,
orders another beer,

and goes right on talking about

"The Rich Bastards"

vs.

"The Working Man"

like it's some kind of Super Bowl

you're all gonna play in.

— Peter Putnam

Where we stand

The bombing of abortion clinics by right-wingers is yet another legacy of supporting the Democrats in the last election. The Democratic Party and Bill Clinton attacked women, children and people of color with the "welfare reform" bill. So, is it surprising that in the wake of his victory we see more attacks on abortion clinics? The trade unions should organize defense guards of the clinics. And, when bombers are discovered, the trade unions should organize effective punishment of them, just like they do with scabs.

The UAW shut down Johnson Controls plants in Michigan and Ohio on January 28

after the factories had hired scabs and security guards and were ready to begin producing car seats with scab labor. The mass picketing by 2000, including many newspaper strikers, was a good sight in Detroit. Ford Motor Company refused to accept seats made by scab labor after the UAW threatened to put up pickets at the Ford plants if the seats were delivered.

The UAW wouldn't be facing such attacks if they had supported the fight of the newspaper workers for mass picketing last year! — F.R. □

The global conflict

Serbia, Bulgaria, Albania

The political revolution in the Balkan region has surged forward during these last months.

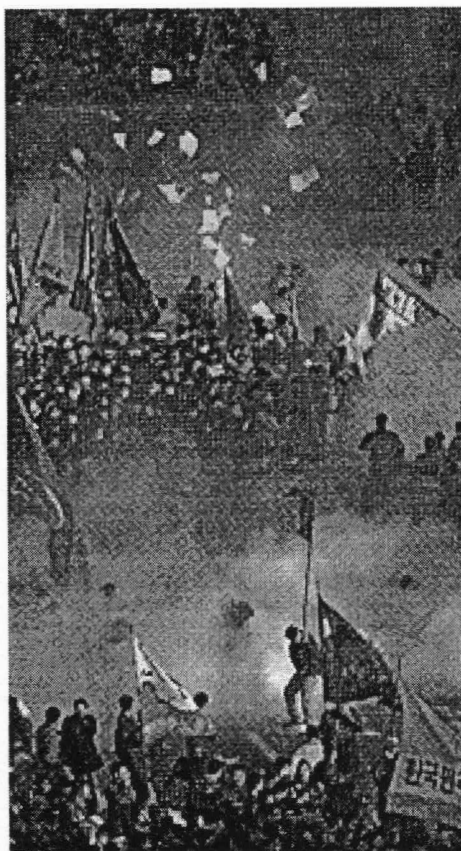
Workers, youth and the people of **Serbia, Bulgaria and Albania** have waged huge protests, the biggest in over 50 years, against the ex-Stalinist, pro-capitalist governments. The opposition leaders in Serbia and Bulgaria are pro-capitalist with direct ties to the U.S. and other western governments and with certain capitalist cartels. They should not be trusted. In Albania, the government is made of the leaders of the pro-capitalist opposition and the opposition leaders are the former Stalinists. But, in all cases, the ranks of the opposition, the people in the streets and on strike, include many of the advanced fighters in the society.

In **Serbia**, the demonstrators are demanding that the Milosevic government recognize opposition victories in elections held last November. Many people want the entire Milosevic government out completely. The movement is so strong that in Jagodina, the opposition formed the government after the Milosevic parties' government collapsed in quarrels over posts.

Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters filled the streets of the capital of **Bulgaria**, Sophia, demanding new elections. Protesters organized a 10-hour siege of Parliament and opposition members were tear-gassed and beaten by police. Several thousand oil workers walked off their jobs January 14 at the main oil refinery in Burgas in support of the demonstrators.

The economy of Bulgaria, like those of other Eastern European countries, is in a state of almost complete collapse. Inflation in 1996 was 310%; 15 of the country's 42 banks are in receivership; wages have fallen to \$30 a month. State industries assets were stripped over the last two years by businessmen close to and party leaders of the Socialist Party led by former Stalinists.

As if to make the relationship crystal clear, Western governments are backing the government of Socialist Prime Minister Dobrev. They hope that it will continue the policy that the previous government began, that is, turn the country over to the capitalists. The Western governments want a government that benefits businessmen directly tied to the U.S. and European capitalists and one that is under the discipline of the International



South Korean workers fight police during their general strike.

Monetary Fund's austerity policy.

What can be said about **Albania's** government that supported pyramid schemes that bilked workers and peasants to enrich itself and its friends?

Five hundred thousand people out of a population of 3.2 million were ripped off in money-making schemes supported by the government. Demonstrations have grown daily culminating in tens of thousands of people setting up roadblocks and clashing with police. In some cities, the government headquarters have been ransacked. The people say; "The government are thieves, we want our money!" The government had been backed by the U.S. in return for a military base for U.S. actions in Bosnia.

In all the Eastern European countries, revolutionary socialists should support the struggle for elections — that the results be implemented or that they take place, for complete freedom of the press, of assembly, for political parties. Socialists should fight for workers' control of the economy, against privatization of state-owned industry, as the only

way to protect the workers' standard of living. The workers need to create an independent workers party. Revolutionary socialists, Trotskyists, need to organize themselves into a single revolutionary socialist organization participating in the rebuilding of the Fourth International to lead this political revolution to its goal: the complete smashing of the Stalinist bureaucracy, and the establishment of workers' democracy and a planned economy controlled by and for the workers.

South Korea

South Korean workers and trade unions organized a general strike of hundreds of thousands of workers that lasted nearly 4 weeks. It was the biggest strike in South Korean history. The strike was called after the government passed laws that postponed legal unions for another 3 years, made it easier for companies to lay off workers, and increased the repressive powers of the government.

The strike shows the opposition of workers to the austerity plans imposed by the government at the behest of South Korean capitalists most closely tied to U.S. capitalists. The strikes were suspended only after the government agreed to meet with opposition leaders.

Italy and Greece

Seven million industrial and transportation workers went on strike December 13 in **Italy**. They were demanding wage increases and protesting cuts in social services that the government is implementing to reach the goals of the Maastricht plan.

A similar austerity budget passed by the parliament in **Greece** December 22 caused a 24-hour blockade of roads and trains by farmers protesting higher fuel prices, reduced price supports and higher taxes on farm equipment. On November 28, the Greek Confederation of Labor had called a 24-hour strike against planned austerity measures which included a freeze on government hiring and reduced allowances for workers.

Haiti

The largest in a series of anti-government strikes took place January 16 with thousands protesting the austerity plans of the government which include laying off 7,000 of the 43,000 government workers and privatizing state-run enterprises. The strike was called

(Continued on page 5)

Why revolutionary socialists need to rebuild

Socialists in the workers' movement have always fought for international solidarity — the first statement of our movement, the Communist Manifesto of 1848, says, "Workers of the world, unite!" To make this a reality, socialists have fought for, among other things, to build international political parties devoted to socialism called Internationals.

In these parties, socialists from all over the world have come together to discuss their struggles, learn from one another, plan together how to mobilize their forces to achieve the greatest gains for workers and to bring the world closer to socialism.

The First International

Marx and Engels, the founders of modern socialism, along with socialist militants from around the world, founded the First International.

With this organization, they supported workers' struggles as a key means of clarifying what the struggle for socialism is; they organized a struggle against false theories and the leaders of workers' organizations that backed them. For example, the theory that collaboration between the working class and the bourgeoisie was the way to reach socialism. They fought against anarchism and its dangerous disregard for the struggle to win political power for the working class. They supported the Paris Commune. With these struggles they made progress in the most important goal of the First International: the founding of socialist parties in many countries.



Members of the First International participated in and organized the defense of the Paris Commune.

The Second International

The Second International organized socialist parties in many European countries, developing the huge socialist parties of Germany and France. Through the Second International, Marxist socialism dominated the world socialist movement. It provided the framework for the crucial struggle against the reformist currents inside the socialist movement that saw that the "movement was everything, the goal nothing." Within the Second International, a left wing formed, including the Russians (Lenin and others) and some members of the German socialist party (Rosa Luxembourg, Karl Liebknecht).

The Third International

When the majority of the Second International's leadership betrayed the socialist cause and voted to support imperialist war in 1914, this left wing began a fight for a Third International. It provided the leadership for the revolutionary wave after the First World War that gave us the Russian Revolution and the political bases for the program of the Third International. On the basis of the struggle for its program, the Third International fought to build communist parties in every country, and in this it was quite successful.

The Fourth International

The Third International suffered a terrible blow with the isolation of the Russian Revolution and the defeat of revolutionary uprisings throughout Europe and China. These defeats were caused by the policy of the Third International under Stalin. The Stalinist leadership murdered all the old leaders of the Russian Revolution, and betrayed revolutions in other countries as well (see the accompanying article on the Spanish Revolution). Inside the communist parties, an opposition developed that was for socialism and for all the lessons that the workers had learned that had been concentrated in the programs of the previous internationals. They organized the fight against the popular front governments in which communist and socialist parties joined with capitalist parties against the workers' revolution. They organized the fight against the Stalinist counterrevolution in Russia with a campaign in defense of the framed-up militants and for workers' democracy, for expansion of socialism inside Russia. Leon Trotsky and militants inside the communist parties around the world organized this struggle.



Leon Trotsky reading the paper of Fourth Internationalists in 1938.

They fought for and successfully founded the Fourth International in 1938. They founded organizations of the Fourth International in many countries.

Rebuild the Fourth International

Since then, the Fourth International has continued to exist and fight. Some organizations and tendencies of the Fourth International have remained true to its program these last 60 years, true to the fight for political revolution to overthrow the Stalinist regimes and socialist revolution to overthrow the capitalist regimes.

The Fourth International has split into different factions. The main reason for the breakup of the Fourth International has been the difficulty in maintaining a revolutionary socialist organization through a period without big revolutionary workers' movements in Europe and the U.S.

Thus the Fourth International has been split by powerful class forces: above all the pernicious influence of the labor aristocracy. The Stalinist bureaucracy collaborated with U.S. imperialism these last 45 years against the workers' movement and the socialist revolution. The Stalinist bureaucracy betrayed the French general strike in 1968, the Vietnamese revolution, the movement of Black revolutionary workers in the U.S. Its armies crushed the workers' uprisings in East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland.

With powerful mobilizations of workers and oppressed in the USSR and Eastern Europe against these regimes beginning in 1989, a new period has opened for revolutionary socialists. The world order stabilized by the alliance of the capitalists with the Stalinist

the Fourth International

The global conflict ...

bureaucracy has been shattered. Big revolutionary movements among the big working class forces of Europe, the U.S. and Latin America are here or are coming.

Revolutionary socialists now must ask themselves, as have tens of thousands of revolutionary socialists for the last 130 years, to what International do I belong?

Revolutionary socialists need to figure out what international program, policy and organization do socialists need so that they can collaborate with other socialists, learn from each other, develop the trust and confidence necessary to fight together for socialism internationally. Revolutionary socialists need to find a way to fight together to defeat those socialist currents whose program, whatever its words, will not lead to socialism, but the continued existence of capitalism. These tasks — and these tasks are essential for the victory of socialism — require the rebuilding of the Fourth International.

Why rebuild the Fourth International?

Within the ranks of the Fourth International are organized the revolutionary socialists that are the most committed to socialism, most committed to the complete overthrow of the Stalinist bureaucracy and the re-awakening of socialism in the ex-USSR and Eastern Europe, most committed to fighting the collaboration with the capitalists that many working class and socialist organizations are pushing.

Since the opening up of this new period,

members of the Fourth International have played an increasingly important role in class struggles in Europe, in Latin America and in the U.S. We need only look at the general strikes in France and Argentina, or the Labor Party in the U.S., to see the growing role that Fourth Internationalists have in the class struggle. As well, in their literature, many Fourth Internationalists have fought against the class collaboration policies of the socialist and communist parties.

How can revolutionary socialists rebuild the Fourth International?

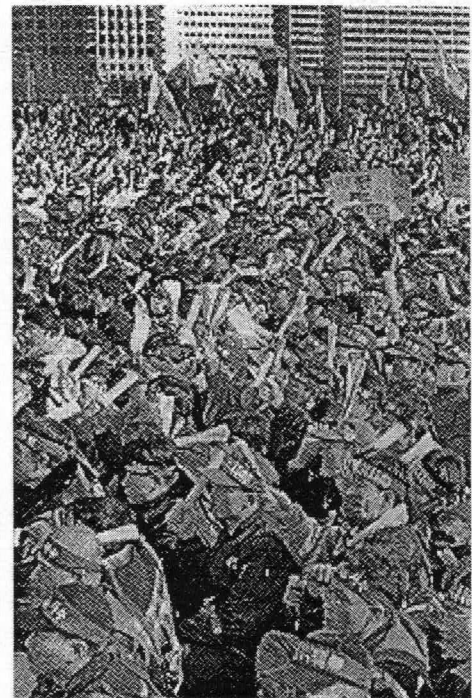
In order to rebuild the Fourth International, revolutionary socialists, Fourth Internationalists, need to work together more. They should engage in common work together in the class struggle: in the Detroit newspaper workers' strike, for the national march on Detroit, in the Labor Party, Workers Aid to Bosnia, in defense of Cuba against Helms-Burton Law, in defense of imprisoned socialists, in defense of Palestine, etc. In this framework, it is possible to organize discussions, not only about the common work, but about the program of the Fourth International, what it means today, what we agree and disagree on. With common work and serious discussions, it is possible to move towards organizing an open international conference for the rebuilding of the Fourth International.

Rebuilding the Fourth International is a critical step on the road to socialism. — Fred Russo □

International Workers Unity (Fourth International)

New Life is part of International Workers Unity, an organization of the Fourth International formed in 1995 by uniting the CIR (Corriente Internacional Revolucionario) and the ILRFI (International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International). The main national organizations of the CIR were the MST of Argentina (Movimiento Socialista de los Trabajadores) and the CST of Brazil (Corriente Socialista Trabajadores), which is a current inside the Workers Party, with 2 Workers Party deputies in the Brazilian parliament. The CIR also had organizations in Mexico, Panama,

Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Paraguay. The main national organization of the International League is the POR of Spain (Partido Obrero Revolucionario). The ILRFI also had organizations in France, Poland and the U.S. Since the founding of International Workers Unity, the French organization La Commune has also joined. International Workers Unity publishes *Correspondencia Internacional*, several of which have been translated into English. For more information, or to receive a complimentary copy of an English edition of *International Correspondence*, contact New Life. □



South Korean workers demonstrate.

by the Anti-International Monetary Fund Committee, a coalition of some 180 grassroots groups that has the support of many legislators. The austerity plans are required by the International Monetary Fund in order to receive loans.

South Africa and Guatemala

In **South Africa**, the Mandela government has agreed to amnesty for police, army and security forces for crimes they committed against South African Black militants in exchange for revealing that they did indeed commit crimes! The South African police that murdered Steve Biko, a famous Black militant, have come forward and are being given amnesty! His family, and many others, protested this decision.

In **Guatemala**, the police and army are forgiven for the same kinds of crimes against workers, unionists and peasants. The guerillas that fought this corrupt dictatorship, and in the process killed some soldiers and police, they too are "forgiven."

These agreements are wrong. When official murderers are not punished, they return to murder. They remain a viable and legitimate political force in the country. Look at what happened when the *contras* were not punished in Nicaragua. Punish the murderers! No coddling of criminals charged with murdering worker and peasant militants! □

Lessons of the Spanish civil war for U.S. workers

On the 18th of July, 1936, Franco began raising fascist militias from Morocco against the Spanish Republic. The response of the working class and the poor peasants was immediate. The workers armed themselves, occupied the factories and the roads, confiscated vehicles, public service offices, and the property of the bourgeoisie. So began the workers' revolution in Spain.

The Republican government was comprised of the Popular Front, which had risen to power in the February, 1936 elections, representing the "reconciliation" of the classes that since 1931 had fought against the monarchy and the reactionary right. It represented the "reconciliation" between the bourgeoisie and the oppressed masses. In reality, beginning with the 1931 strikes in Astoria, Catalonia, and Andalusia, until the rising of the fascists in '36, the working class was united with the oppressed masses who supported the struggle and who began the revolution in '36.

Only the treachery of their leaders, from the socialists and Stalinists, to the anarchists and the POUM (The Workers' Party of Marxist Unification), made this "reconciliation" possible — this "reconciliation" that served to arrest the revolution and allowed the advance of the fascists.

So, in 1936, it was demonstrated that the working class, which had already led the hard fights which were crushed by the Republican government, was the first protagonist against fascism. The workers believed in the people's militias, occupying the factories and organizing soviets (workers' councils) to control production. In this moment the basis and the structure were set for the ability to take power. They wanted to change the backward and exploitive bourgeois society to a new, free, egalitarian and socialist society. The poor peasants also demonstrated their support for the revolution, taking the land of landowners.

This was the moment in which the revolutionary leaders (the anarchists and the POUM) were put at the forefront of the offensive of the working masses and founded their party. But the Stalinist slogan "This is not the moment of the revolution — first we must win the war" prevailed, and all the leaders of the moment followed it. This slogan was ill-fated for the workers' revolution because it was like saying: this revolution is not concerned about the bourgeoisie



Workers formed militias to defend their revolution from the fascists.

(that wants "democracy" in order to continue exploiting the workers and for all things to be the same) — nor about the Stalinist bureaucracy — which follows the policy in Russia of securing their pact with the world-wide bourgeoisie and defrauding the Russian revolution; the bureaucracy which is comprised of the privileged caste of those who exploit the conquests of the revolution for their own benefit.

So, from inside the Popular Front, the Communist Party carried this policy to its ultimate conclusion, one that was supported by all the parties: disarming the workers, substituting the regular army for the people's militias; returning the factories and the land to the bourgeoisie and the landowners and beginning the armed offensive against the revolutionaries and their conquests.

The decisive moment was when, on the 3rd of May, 1937, the government attacked the telephone exchange in Barcelona that had been held by the anarchist CUT since July, 1936. The workers defended it; they formed armed organizations to fight the regular army. In Barcelona, they declared a general strike. The 4th day, the workers had taken the city by force. But on the 6th day, the CNT and the POUM, pressured by the government, called for retreat from the barricades and a return to work. Disillusionment took hold of the ranks of the workers, who did not

have leaders to defend their interests, their revolution.

On the Aragon front, as you can see in the movie *Land and Freedom*, in July of 1938, the same history was repeated: disarming the workers and returning the land to the landowners. It was the strangulation of the revolution, and it is what permitted the advance of Franco.

Trotsky, leader of the Russian revolution, persecuted until his assassination by Stalin for defending the workers' revolution, said "revolution constitutes a rare moment of inspiration in history." This moment happened in Spain, a period in which the powerful energy of millions of men and women for changing society was released.

The workers and oppressed had their *strength*, the unity of their goals, class solidarity. But they did not have a party that joined them together and led them — independent of the bourgeoisie — to take power and to change this society.

The POUM brought together precisely the best of the revolutionary vanguard trying to construct this party, but succumbed to the pressure of the bourgeoisie and the Stalinist lackeys, signing their own death warrant.

In the United States, there are those who also learn of past workers' revolutions. This summer, the founding of the Labor Party, which is young and emerged from the will of workers to be independent of the bourgeoisie (of the Democrats and Republicans) and to have their own party. This is the lesson: build a party which fights to prepare for the moment in which the contradictions between capital and the workers cannot go any further, the moment of the revolution, for the construction of socialism and a new society.

Step by step, fight by fight, for the independence of the unions from the bourgeois government, for the unity of the workers without the bourgeoisie that is always arranging to go back in history in order that the workers don't advance.

For no improvising when the moment comes, it's necessary to learn this lesson: build a large party in the USA and join all the workers and their unions under the flag of socialism, of changing this old, capitalist society for a new, world-wide socialist society. — Theresa □

Interview with a Black socialist

We are printing excerpts from an interview with Michelle, an African-American socialist affiliated with the Trotskyist League.

What can a socialist revolution accomplish? What problems of Black people can it solve? What problems will remain after the revolution? What kinds of struggles will still be necessary?

The socialist revolution would establish the ground necessary for people to be able to fight for what they need and remove the system that actively oppresses people. It would turn the problems over to where people have the [ability to achieve real equality].

First the socialist revolution would remove the capitalist class which is actively oppressing people. The revolution, by its nature, will have politicized people, and it will lay the groundwork for the struggles that will have to happen to reorganize society so that it can be something that benefits everyone. It would remove the *incentive* for racism, sexism and homophobia, which would give us an opportunity to start beating it down. I think it's important to say that no one can explain what the day-to-day reality of socialism will look like — it's not possible to say in concrete terms what socialism will look like for Black people, but it's most important to remove the incentives for op-

pression of Black people. The day after the revolution there will still be racism, there will still be people who want to beat up, kill or starve people of different races and sexes and gay people. But there won't be the system that determines where people can live, what jobs they can have and what kind of education they can have. So I guess there would be at least two different kinds of things happening: (1) there would be the topical issues of economic and social survival, which would be very different for people of color; and then (2) there would be the more intimate social issues — and dealing with those will take a very long time, but they couldn't be dealt with at all under capitalism.

What do you think Black people can learn from the experience in Russia?

One of the things that is important for people of color to look at in terms of countries that have called themselves socialist or communist is that there is a potential to have a movement that overthrows capitalism but that manages to not address the problems of people of color or all oppressed people. There has to be a real, consistent, aggressive emphasis on theoretical clarity, how that applies to the issues of oppressed people and how it has to be addressed on the ground. Because socialism is not the same as a non-racist society, but it is the only system that could produce a non-racist society. There has to be an understanding not only by people of color, but especially by non-oppressed and less-oppressed people, that an intellectual understanding or identification with any kind of social analysis is not the same as changing — being a socialist in America in 1996 does not keep you from being racist. There has to be an emphasis and consistent demand that *any* kind of oppression is not acceptable, and that any non-capitalist system could have racism, sexism

and homophobia for quite a while.

Some say that Marxism is a "white theory" or a "white movement" or a "European theory," etc., and that Black people shouldn't have anything to do with it. How would you respond to this?

I think that Marxist theory is a white theory in the same sense that biology, for example, could be considered a white science. Because of the history of cultural privilege [it's been white people] who've had access to information, who've had the technology, who've had the privilege to validate information, etc. Also, Marxist theory could be called a middle class theory. It's something that was developed by people who had the time and privilege to develop the theory. But to the same extent that biology applies to black bodies as well as white, Marxism, as a social science, not only applies to all cultures, but has the tools for analyzing the relationship between any culture and another, and any class and another class.

What do you think are the most important things that need to be done today to advance the fight for socialism in the U.S. and throughout the world?

In the U.S., we have to find a way to communicate with each other that our conflicts are not specifically ours — they're not a product of our personality and our situation — and that there's a potential for change. I think that's an abstract answer, but a lot of the barriers that people have to making change are abstract barriers. They're not exactly proactive — it's not something that I can tell someone to do, it's something that people, through their experience, have to see for themselves — they have to have an opportunity to see that there's a potential for change and that other people can also see the potential for change. □

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 the 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: Margaret Guttshall, Tim James, Kim Morgan, Fred Russo.

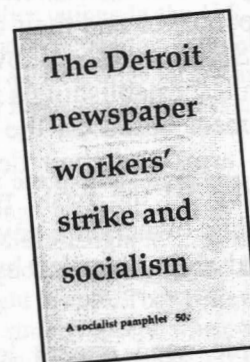
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For Black liberation, we need socialism ...

Millions of people will be cut off of food stamps on March 1. This is yet another attack on working people by the Democratic/Republican government of rich whites.

Black people, people of color, the under-employed and unemployed will be among the hardest hit. What a way to celebrate the Martin Luther King holiday!

Workers throughout the world, mobilized by the millions, are fighting back against these kind of attacks.

We've seen general strikes in Argentina, France, South Korea; huge, daily demonstrations in Albania, Bulgaria and Serbia.

The Million March of Black people over a year ago was the biggest demonstration in U.S. history. It showed Black people are determined not to be pushed back; it showed that Black people have tremendous power and influence. It showed it's possible to organize millions of people to fight.

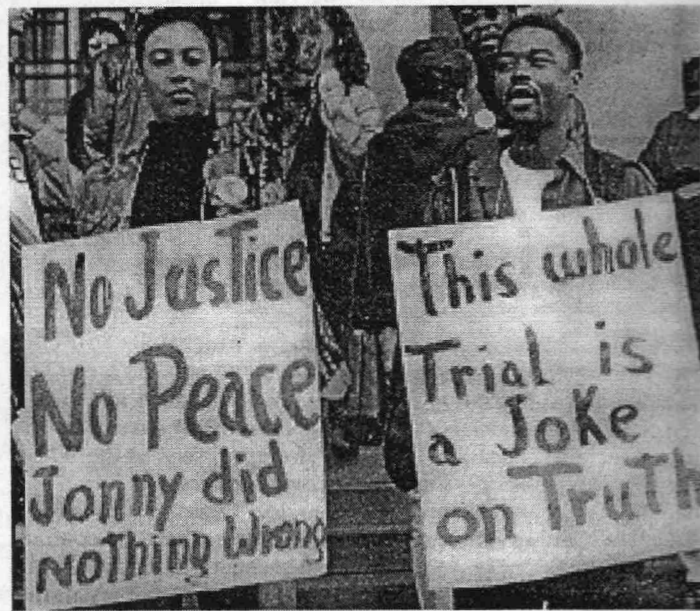
Workers must continue in this way — with millions in open struggle against the rich owners, their politicians and governments. Millions of people in motion, demanding that they stop these attacks, and by doing this, threatening their rule, is the only language that the rich understand.

But, the fundamental problem facing Black people is that the vast majority of the resources of this society — all the banks, basic industry, transportation, large-scale agriculture, stores, housing — in the U.S. and throughout the world, are in the hands of a smaller and smaller number of rich whites.

As long as the resources of the society remain in the hands of a small number of rich whites, the majority of Black people, in the U.S. and throughout the world, are going to suffer.

That is why we think the fastest and surest road forward for Black people to end their oppression is to fight for socialism. Socialism means: overthrowing the power of the rich whites, establishing a working class and popular government based on the workers and oppressed peoples in arms and their democratic organizations; collectivizing all the basic resources of the society through public ownership; developing a planned economy, owned and controlled by working people themselves.

Black people need decent jobs, wages, healthcare, homes, schools, recreation facilities. They need mas-



Pittsburgh, October, 1996. Over 150 protest the murder by police of Johnny Gammage.

sive resources in order to be able to use and develop their abilities to their fullest and build a society that is worthy of them.

We don't think that socialism will by itself end the oppression of Black people. It's going to take many years of struggle for Black people to overcome the impact of slavery and oppression. It's going to take many years of struggle to get whites to rid themselves of their racist attitudes and actions, not to mention the insensitivity and prejudices of whites, even when they aren't openly racist.

But fighting for socialism, establishing socialism, will level the playing field. It will get the worst enemies of Black people — the rich white capitalists — out of the way. It will put the giant resources of the society in the disposal of Black people so that they will be able to use them to wage their fight.

What can be done today to fight for socialism?

Support all the struggles of the workers and the oppressed against the rich owners and make them as big and as militant as possible, including the Labor Party.

Speak out for demands and solutions that go toward socialism — like dividing work among all workers without cutting pay; speak out for socialism.

Join in the efforts to rebuild the Fourth International, the world party of socialist revolution. This is the road to Black liberation. New Life