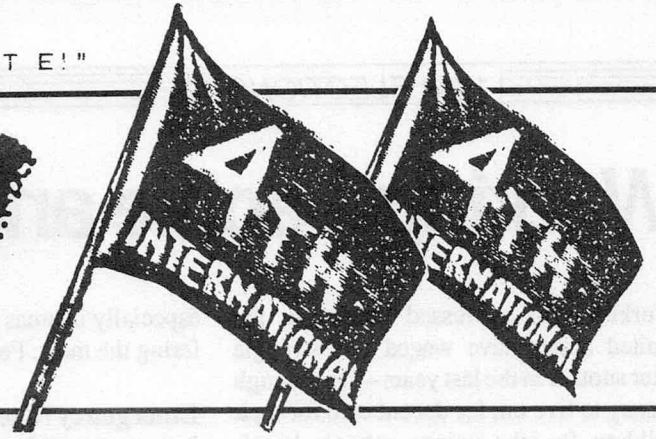


"WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!"

TRUTH

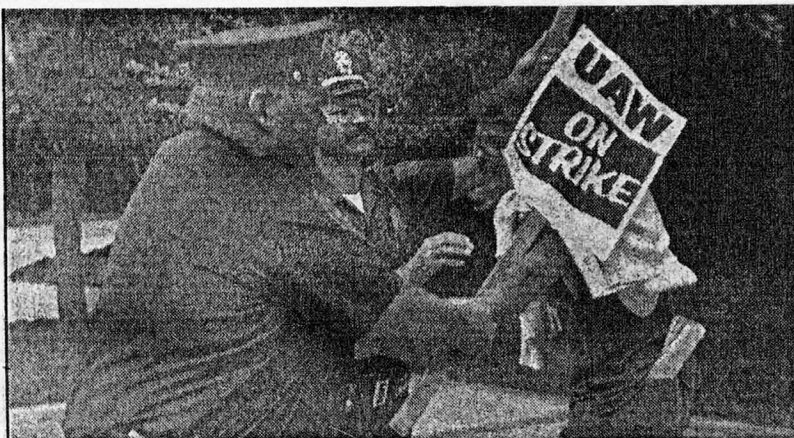


A BULLETIN FOR SOCIALISM AND TROTSKYISM

No to Bush and Dukakis: Candidates of the Bosses and Union Bureaucrats!

Vote for Working Class Candidates!

TOWARD A LABOR PARTY!



⇐ Detroit police — under Democratic Party mayor Coleman Young — arrest striking clerical worker at Wayne State University, August 27. Workers rejected a tentative agreement September 21; they are still on strike.

⇒ **INSIDE:** Working class candidates on the ballot . . . Tawana Brawley . . . Polish workers upsurge: anti-capitalist, not anti-socialist . . .

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Working People and the 1988 Elections

Working and oppressed people in the United States have waged one struggle after another in the last years — for enough money to live on, for decent care for their children, for jobs, unions, schools, hospitals, freedom from racist oppression, against U.S. intervention in other countries ...

Yet neither Bush nor Dukakis offers one single, solitary, concrete measure to resolve these problems now. In fact, they are not even concerned about them. Both are directing themselves largely toward upper class voters and the most aristocratic sections of the working class. They themselves are so upper class, aristocratic, and *bourgeois* that reporters and cartoonists have even started to make jokes about it. "Which millionaire are you going to vote for?" says one. "Michael Bush," says another, combining the candidates' names, as if they were one.

Thus, no matter who gets elected, these struggles are going to continue.

And the most important question before working and oppressed people and their organizations is how to prepare these struggles, how to advance these struggles, so they can win what they need, for themselves, their families, their friends, all workers and oppressed, in this country and throughout the world.

How to Prepare

The best way to do this at this time is to make a political struggle for:

- a vote for working class candidates on the ballot;
- a workers or labor party based on the unions;
- emergency measures to combat poverty, unemployment, and racist repression,

especially in areas where workers are suffering the most. For example:

Emergency Measures

1. A guaranteed, minimum, tax-free compensation of at least \$250 a week, for all workers, employed and unemployed, citizen and non-citizen.
2. Free, 24-hour childcare, for children of all ages, provided through the public school system, by certified teachers.
3. Programs of public works and 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to provide jobs for all workers, build necessary projects and provide necessary services, on city, state and federal levels.

"... Bush and Dukakis . . . are so upper class . . . reporters and cartoonists have even started to make jokes about it."

4. A union commission of inquiry into the drug industry to find out which bankers, businessmen, politicians and police are profiting most directly; armed union defense guards to protect working and oppressed people and their families from drug dealers, collaborators in the police force, and all racist, anti-working class violence (white power groups, anti-abortion groups, etc.).

5. Withdraw U.S. aid to the contras in Nicaragua, pro-apartheid forces in Southern Africa, Israel, and Iraq; cut funds to the military; impose a 100% tax on the military industry's profits.

Experience of the Working Class

The experience of the working class in other countries has shown that the struggle

for such measures can only be a *first step* in resolving the problems before us, that it will be necessary to struggle for more radical, revolutionary, and *socialist* measures: a workers government; the dissolution of racist, anti-working class repressive forces (the FBI, the CIA, the standing army, the police); nationalization, under workers control, of large-scale banks and industries; centralized planning of production and distribution of goods.

But a struggle for emergency measures is necessary today, both to defend the most exploited and oppressed sections of the working class and to prepare the future.

Republicans and Democrats

Workers and oppressed cannot continue to rely on people like George Bush, Michael Dukakis, or the Republican or Democratic Parties to resolve their problems or lead their struggles, because these are upper class, aristocratic, *bourgeois* candidates and parties that *profit* from the poverty, unemployment, and oppression that so many workers, Black people, and other oppressed people in the United States, Nicaragua, South Africa, and elsewhere, suffer.

No doubt they will say that such emergency measures are not possible, that there is not enough money. This is a lie! The richest 20% of the families in the United States takes 43.7% of the national income, while the poorest 20% gets only 4.6%!

It is not enough to reject these bourgeois candidates and parties. It is not enough to struggle against them. It is necessary to provide, prepare, nurture, and build, a concrete, living, united, working class alternative to them — working class candidates, a working class party, a working class program.

Bourgeoisie and Middle Classes

As long as there is no such working class alternative, the middle classes, and the top sections of the working class, will continue to follow the bourgeoisie and its parties, will continue to remain under its influence, and the most exploited and oppressed sections of the working class and oppressed peoples will remain oppressed.

This is why we urge all workers, oppressed people, and their organizations to make a political struggle for a vote for working class candidates in November, for a workers or labor party based on the unions, and for emergency measures to combat poverty, unemployment, and oppression.

The fact that people like Jesse Jackson support the Democratic Party shows that they identify with the bourgeoisie far more than they do with the masses of workers and oppressed. But just because Jesse Jackson will advance his interests by voting for bourgeois candidates on elections day, does not mean that the masses of workers and oppressed will!

Break with the bourgeois candidates and parties!

Vote for working class candidates!

Fight for a labor party!

TRUTH

Vote for
working class
candidates
November 8!



Don't Waste Your Vote!

An article in the August 28, 1988 issue of the *Detroit News* compares the similarities of the two vice-presidential candidates, Democrat Lloyd Bentsen and Republican Dan Quayle.

The two candidates support military aid for the contras who are trying to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. Both candidates support President Reagan's Star Wars space defense program, and are against a nuclear test ban. Both also worked together to stop efforts to increase taxes for those earning more than \$200,000 a year.

And in 1979, Bentsen and Quayle supported the Chrysler loan program which demanded concessions from union workers. Quayle even tried, unsuccessfully, to double the wage concessions of the Chrysler auto workers.

The article says the two candidates "are conservatives who generally embrace pro-defense and pro-business positions."

These men are obviously not the friends of working class people. Their records in Congress show their hostility towards us.

Anyone who supports aid for the contras is *for the defeat* of the worker and peasant revolution in Central America.

Anyone who supports the Star Wars program and opposes a nuclear test ban is for the continued domination of the world by American terrorist imperialism.

And those who are against higher taxes for the rich, and who are for wage concessions for workers, obviously want to keep the rich wealthy and the working class weak.

Clearly these vice-presidential candidates, along with Bush and Dukakis, are our class enemies, and we must fight them.

We need to build a fighting labor party in this country which can lead workers to political power, and aid workers in other countries in defeating our common enemies, from the rotting regime in Poland to the brutal government of El Salvador.

Don't waste your vote in November on a Democrat or Republican. They both stand for big business, war, oppression, environmental destruction and ignorance.

Cast your vote for a candidate of the working class, and make a solid statement against our enemies, and for a labor party.

Steve Kovar

Working Class Candidates on the

There are several working class candidates on the ballot on a national level.

For President and Vice President:

James Mac Warren, Kathleen Mickells, of the Socialist Workers Party, on the ballot in Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Washington, D.C., with ballot status pending in Alabama, New Mexico, New York, Louisiana, Vermont, and Wisconsin. (*The Militant*, September 9, 1988; SWP Campaign Headquarters, September 21, 1988). **James Mac Warren** has been active in the Black movement since the 1960s, worked at the Ford River Rouge Plant in Detroit, Michigan, and works full time for the Socialist Workers Party today. **Kathleen Mickells** has been active in the anti-war movement, the women's liberation movement, has worked as a railroad worker, a coal miner, and a garment worker. (*The Militant*, March 18, 1988).

Ed Winn, Barry Porster, of the Workers League, on the ballot in Michigan, New Jersey, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Iowa, and Washington, D.C., with ballot status pending in Ohio and Minnesota (*Bulletin*, September 9, 1988). **Ed Winn** has been active in the trade union movement for 22 years and is a retired member of the Transport Workers Union. **Barry Porster** is the labor editor of the *Bulletin*. (*Bulletin*, September 9, 1988).

Larry Holmes, Gloria La Riva, of the Workers World Party, on the ballot in New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Washington, with ballot status pending in Ohio (*Workers World*, September 1, 1988). **Larry Holmes** is from Harlem, has been active in the anti-war movement and the Black movement and works full time for the Workers World Party today. **Gloria La Riva** is from Albuquerque, New Mexico, was a candidate for mayor in San Francisco in 1983 who came in third, and is now a member of the Typographical Union in San Francisco. (From a Workers World Party flyer).

Local Offices:

There are also several important candidates running for local office.

Detroit

Twenty six workers are running on the Workers Against Concessions Slate, including:

For U.S. Senate: Sally Bier, a president of a UAW Local including Blue Cross/Blue Shield clerical workers;

For U.S. House of Representatives: Sam Johnson, an autoworker, District 1; **Judy Christensen**, a printer, District 6; **Gary Walkowicz**, autoworker, District 7; **Vincent Mario Contrera**, tool and die worker, District 12; **Martinez Alfred Gomez**, retired postal worker, District 13; **James Breeland**, autoworker, District 14; **Ronda M. (Reed) Bell**, autoworker, District 15; **Russell Leone**, tool and die worker, District 16.

For Michigan House of Representatives: Willie D. White, autoworker, District 1; **Marco F. Cioccio**, grocery store worker, District 3; **Francisco P. Swartz**, custodial worker, District 9; **Donald Cook**, autoworker, District 10; **Larry Christensen**, autoworker, District 11; **Mark Hopkins**, hospital worker, District 12; **Richard Clay Prince**, machine operator, District 10; **Lola Hoffhies**, clerical worker, District 28; **Heather Blake Sullivan**, day care worker, District 31; **Robert E. Cundiff**, auto parts worker, District 40; **Scott Jones**, restaurant worker, District 53; **Mary Meade**, interior landscape worker, District 66; **Joseph J. Roehrig**, hospital worker, District 70.

For Wayne County Commissioners: Ruth Eaton, custodial worker, District 3; **Meagan Irwin**, hospital worker, District 5.

For State Board of Education: Annette Johnson, Verna Baird, homemakers.

San Francisco

For Board of Supervisors: Joe Ryan, of Socialist Action. **Joe Ryan** was a founding member of Vietnam Veterans against the Vietnam War, worked as a steel worker and as a machinist, and is now a staff writer for *Socialist Action*.

For Board of Education: Sylvia Weinstein, of Socialist Action. **Sylvia Weinstein** has been active in the women's liberation and the socialist movements for many years, and is currently very active in efforts to expand public childcare.



We urge workers, oppressed people, and their organizations, to vote for the working class candidates that are on the ballot in their states. Naturally, where there is more than one working class candidate for president and vice president on the ballot, workers will have to select one and vote.

But what is most important is to vote *for* working class candidates, and *against* bourgeois candidates. At this point, it is not particularly important *which* working class candidate workers vote for.

The Socialist Workers Party, the Workers League, and the Workers World Party, each calls on workers to vote for its can-

Ballot in the 1988 Elections...

didates and no other working class candidates, and lists the alleged crimes of the others as reasons not to vote for the others' candidates, even when the others' candidates are the only ones on the ballot.

It is necessary to put the interests of the working class as a whole above the interests of this or that tendency in the working class, and fight for the largest possible vote for all working class candidates against the bourgeois candidates in these elections.

If either the Socialist Workers Party, the Workers League, or the Workers World Party, represented the interests of the working class to a much greater extent than the others, then voting for the candidates of the one as opposed to the other, would be justified.

But none of these tendencies represents the interests of the working class any more than the other.

Thus we urge workers and their organizations to fight for the largest possible vote for working class candidates in this election, to vote for a working class candidate against a bourgeois candidate in every possible case.

This is the best way to mobilize workers and oppressed people against the bourgeoisie and its candidates and parties in this election, advance the fight for the political independence of the American working class, for a working class party and a working class program.
M.G.

... and Bourgeois Candidates

The overwhelming majority of people in the United States have made it crystal clear in the last few years that they are sick and tired of upper class families like the Reagans and their policies that cater to the rich.

Nevertheless, both the Republican and the Democratic Party Conventions selected some of the most upper class, aristocratic and *bourgeois* candidates that we have ever seen.

— George Bush: son of an "old" family; director of the CIA, the U.S. bourgeoisie's team of hit men, in charge of assassinating and overthrowing enemies of the rich throughout the world; second in command under Reagan; involved, perhaps even in charge of, selling guns and drugs to raise money to finance the contras in Nicaragua.

— Dan Quayle: son of another rich family, who evidently did not have either the brains to get into college, or the guts to go into the army, so he used "pull" to get into the first, and "pull" to get out of the second; a real "hawk," as long

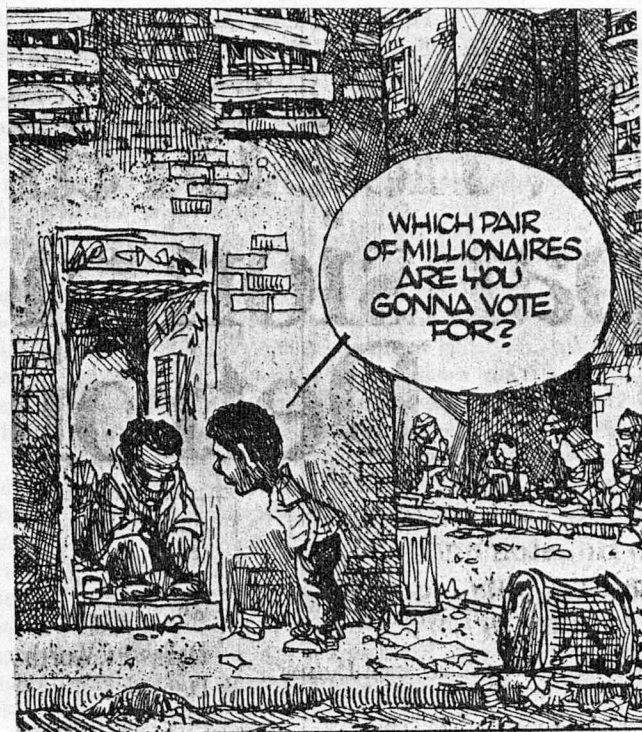
as someone else's family, friends, or children does the fighting and dying.

— Michael Dukakis: son of a millionaire; a Harvard graduate; governor of Massachusetts, home of some of the oldest and richest families in the United States.

— Lloyd Bentsen: a Texas millionaire, with a voting record exactly like Quayle's.

The *class* character of these candidates is not accidental. It is a result of the *class* character of the political parties that they represent. Both the Republican and Democratic Parties are upper class, aristocratic, *bourgeois* parties.

The forerunner of the Republican Party was founded by Northern bankers in the 1700s. The forerunner of the Democratic Party was founded by Southern planters and slaveholders in the 1700s. The biggest difference between the two today is that the Democratic Party has a policy of *disguising* its true class character, of presenting a facade of Black, trade union, and "ethnic" faces, just as the Southern planters and slaveholders had a policy of *disguising* the true character of slavery with all sorts of facades, from the Southern mansion, to Southern manners, to the myth of the happy slave.
M.G.



The Tawana Brawley case . . .

Below are all the facts of the case of Tawana Brawley. The reason that this case has become nationally significant, the reason that the government has not been able to hide its collaboration, is due completely to the constant mobilizations of Blacks in New York and New York City.

Especially since the manslaughter convictions of the thugs that murdered Michael Steward at Howard Beach in January, there have been demonstrations and actions involving thousands of Black people. They show graphically that the conditions exist for a real fight to be made for the interests of Blacks against the Democratic Party, the party of Governor Cuomo, the party of the Mayor of New York City, Mayor Koch.

Over 9 months ago, on November 28, 1987, Tawana Brawley, a 15 year old Black girl, was found semi-conscious, half-naked, wrapped inside a plastic bag, near her home in Wappingers Falls in upstate New York.

Part of her hair had been pulled and cut from her head. Her body had been smeared with feces and was scrawled with the words "nigger" and "KKK." She had been missing for 4 days.

Tawana and a friend (from nearby Newburgh) had gone to visit the friend's younger brother in Orange County Jail in Goshen. Two days before their visit, Black and Latino inmates had organized a protest against conditions in the prison. In response the guards, dressed in KKK-styled white sheets, attacked and beat up prisoners.

On her way home, walking a half mile from her house, Tawana was accosted by two men from a dark green car. When she screamed for help, one man told her to shut up saying, "I am a police officer," and showed some kind of badge. She was taken to a woods where 4 other men joined them. She was repeatedly raped, sodomized, and beaten; she was dropped off four days later in the back of an apartment complex.

When Tawana had not come home for 24 hours, her aunt attempted to file a missing person's report with the Newburgh police. She was sent to Wappingers Falls police. When she arrived, she was told to go back to the Newburgh police.

The Newburgh police finally took a report on November 28, 17 minutes after Tawana had been found.

Medical Records

The report of the Sloper-Wilken Community Ambulance Service medic-in-charge, Sharon Brantingham, that picked up Tawana, was summarized by the *City Sun* (a Black weekly in New York City). It stated that Tawana was found "in a fetal position inside a large plastic

" . . . two months after

Tawana's examination . . . the gynecologist . . . changed the discharge diagnosis from 'rape' to 'alleged sexual abuse.' "

bag. Patient's only palpable pulse was a weak carotid. Respiration very shallow and almost undetectable. Skin cool and dry. Patient's head was wrapped with a sweater-jacket and a belt around that which was in the patient's mouth . . . Legs were red, either from cold or burns . . . Fingernails appeared cyanotic with no capillary refill [blood circulation]. Patient was covered head to toe with what appeared to be dried feces. Patient did not respond to pain, voice or ammonia."

Tawana was taken to St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie. The emergency room physician, Lanwehr Bernard Pena, recorded that "on admission patient was unresponsive to voice, resisting eye opening, moving all limbs spontaneously and shivering." She was "covered with feces, and "roughly cut hair," and "words written on her chest." Her vaginal area was swollen and he detected a "white discharge." Her mother, Glenda Brawley, was told that there was semen on her body and evidence of at least attempted rape. In other notations from that same day the hospital record indicates that the young woman was interviewed by police, told them she had been attacked, and gave them descriptions of her assailants.

Coverup begins

The officer present was arson investigator George Brazzale. He was given her clothing and the rape kit. Brazzale works closely with an assistant district attorney in Dutchess County,

Stephen A. Pagones, who is a key suspect in this assault.

On November 30, the sheriff's office announced that there was "no evidence the girl was molested." Four days after Tawana was found, a part-time police officer from nearby Fishkill, Harry Crist, committed suicide. The dead man's description matches one that Tawana gave police. The suicide note, which has been described as having nothing to do with this case, nevertheless, has been taken by authorities involved in this case and its contents not revealed.

The head of the Dutchess County sheriff department, Fred Scoralick, was picked by Brawley out of a newspaper article as one of her assailants. Tommy Masch, another local resident, carries what looks like a badge, drives a used patrol car and often appears at accidents and fires. Asked if he was involved he said, "I can't say I'm not connected to the case. I can't say nothing."

Glenda Brawley had about a dozen interviews with police during this time. Tawana had never been shown pictures of law enforcement officers so that she could identify them. Glenda became frustrated as time passed and no action was taken.

The Brawleys called Al Sharpton, who had been part of those demanding a special prosecutor in the Howard Beach racial assaults last year. He contacted the two Black attorneys in that case, Alton Maddox and C. Vernon Mason to represent Tawana.

Maddox and Mason said that since a major figure among officials in Dutchess County was believed to be involved in some manner in the attack, no local prosecutor could carry out a good faith investigation. They called for a special prosecutor.

Governor Cuomo first refused to appoint one saying that to do so would supercede the local district attorney without cause. This was followed by the withdrawal of Dutchess County District Attorney William Grady and a court-appointed local prosecutor, David Sall. They asked to be removed from the case due to "conflicts of interest." One of Grady's assistants was a close friend of Harry Crist. And David Sall

a struggle against a racist coverup

said, "... a conflict of interest seems to have pervaded the entire community."

Cuomo appointed State Attorney General Richard Abrams as special prosecutor. This is hardly reassuring since Abrams has presided over many racially motivated attacks on Blacks.

On February 23, Cuomo said, "We cannot let you tell us how to try this case." Cuomo demanded that Abrams take "whatever legal devices are available" to get Tawana's cooperation. At this point, Maddox named the three government officials listed above as being part of the gang. Maddox and Mason have refused to cooperate with Abrams and his grand jury. In late February, a 220 page copy of the grand jury transcript was stolen from the print shop of Abrams office. He claimed that the case was not compromised. The New York state primary was held in early March.

On April 28, the FBI ended its inquiry by stating that nothing was found to corroborate any violation of Tawana's civil rights. No report was released to the public. The prestigious *New York Times* calls for dropping the investigation because the Brawleys won't cooperate.

"... the special prosecutor said
... 'maybe it was consensual.'"

"Pack of lies"

Unsuccessful in their efforts to get Tawana and her attorneys to cooperate in the coverup, a new tactic was tried — turning the victim into a criminal. On June 15, Cuomo issued a statement condemning the Brawley family and its advisors for refusing to cooperate. He called for arresting Glenda Brawley for defying a grand jury order to testify. She had refused saying "... This is for all Black people."

On the same day, Perry McKinnon, an ex-cop and former assistant of Al Sharpton, said that the story of the assault on Tawana was "nothing but a pack of lies." He was immediately ordered to appear before the grand jury. Abrams started talking about disbaring Maddox and Mason for perpetrating a hoax.

Also on the same day an unemployed self-styled "investigator," Samuel McCleave, said

that he had been hired by Sharpton to tape phone calls at Maddox and Mason's houses. The tapes revealed, he claimed, that there was "no evidence" for the assault on Tawana.

McKinnon's statement appeared as the cover story in "People" magazine of July 4. A media blitz, with articles in *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and in newspapers, as well as all over New York City, had its effect. In a CBS-*New York Times* poll on June 27, a majority of New Yorkers, Black and white, felt that Tawana was lying.

Within days, the fabricated stories collapsed. McKinnon told the *New York Times* on June 22 that he "knew nothing about what really happened." The McCleave tapes turned out to be blank and stories began to circulate that he would be arrested for perjury.

The *City Sun* had revealed in its detailed discussions of the medical documents that two months after Tawana's examination at a second hospital, the gynecologist, Dr. Marcia Nackerison, had changed the discharge diagnosis from "rape" to "alleged sexual abuse."

"Consensual" says Abrams

On July 15, after all this information was well known, the special prosecutor and attorney general for New York, Richard Abrams said, "there may not have been any crime committed here. It might not have happened the way she said. It might not have involved law enforcement officials, maybe it was consensual." He also vowed that Glenda Brawley would be arrested on contempt charges for refusing to testify before the jury.

On August 16, against Abrams wishes, Tawana herself was ordered to appear before the grand jury. She refused. On August 31, discussions were held with Congressional representatives for Tawana to testify before Congress.

Meanwhile, weekly meetings held in the church where Glenda sought sanctuary from being arrested, drew hundreds throughout the summer.

The facts are clear. There has been a brutal assault on Tawana Brawley because she is Black. She was assaulted by a gang that included at least three government officials in upstate New York. There has been an effort by the rich, the

Democratic Party in New York, along with a national media blitz (*People* magazine is published by Time-Life, Inc. in New York City), to cover up this cover up by attacking Tawana, her attorneys and her mother. In fact, the only person that has been slated for arrest in these entire 10 months is Glenda Brawley.

"... Jesse Jackson, during the March New York primary, said he was sure authorities were handling the case adequately."

Jesse Jackson

Jesse Jackson spoke on the Tawana Brawley case during the New York primary. The New York primary was critical because Cuomo and the Democrats were worried about how Dukakis would look if he did not get lots of votes in New York after taking second place to Jackson in Michigan. *Newsweek* magazine of June 27 says, "and Jesse Jackson, during the March New York primary, said he was sure authorities were handling the case adequately." For Jesse Jackson, the most important thing is not punishing the perpetrators of the attack on Tawana. The most important thing is defending the Democratic Party, and his place and other Black bourgeois politicians in it. So he joins in the coverup, supporting Cuomo, Abrams and yes, even the government officials who participated in the assault.

Attorney Mason explains what the authorities are doing in NYC. "The authorities haven't focused on this case as a rape-kidnap because it involves a Black woman. There is no equal protection under the law when it comes to us. We had death after death after death and never a conviction. We became more like grief therapists as opposed to lawyers."

This summer, after the *City Sun* published the medical records of the hospitals, the interviews with Glenda Brawley, after Abrams said that what happened to Brawley, "may have been consensual," Jesse Jackson came to New York City to "bury the hatchet" with Mayor Koch. Why? To convince Black people, in spite of the Tawana Brawley case, to vote for the Democratic Party in New York. Fred Michaels

Workers Against Concessions Slate

The Workers Against Concessions Slate or Party is running 26 candidates for different offices in Michigan. (See "Working Class Candidates in this issue). This comes after bitter struggles in union locals against concessions and plant closings and the largest demonstration in many years against job cuts and wage cuts at the Chrysler World Headquarters last March.

The Workers Against Concessions brochure says:

"WE ARE WORKERS AGAINST CONCESSIONS. We are fed up with the attacks on working people. And we want to draw the line.

"We says: NO MORE TAKEAWAYS! NO MORE PLANT CLOSINGS! NO MORE LAY-OFFS! NO MORE CUTBACKS!

"Up until now, the corporations have had things their way. They have increased their wealth by squeezing the working people. In the coming elections, the corporations will be represented. Both Republican and Democratic parties will stand up for them.

"We want working people to be heard this time. That is why we are running this November on the Workers Against Concessions Slate.

"This campaign is only a beginning. If we, as working people, are going to defend ourselves, we will have to fight for our rights. But this campaign can put the bosses on notice. Together, we can let them know they'll have to junk their plans to take anything more from us.

"There are 26 workers on the ballot this year — the 26 candidates of Workers Against Concessions — 26 workers who dare to stand up and say what many thousands of people are thinking.

"On November 8, stand up and be counted. Show how many people are ready to say, **"THE TAKEAWAYS MUST STOP."**

"On November 8, vote for the candidates of the Workers Against Concessions party. Together, we can show that we, the working people, are ready to stand up for ourselves."

We support the Workers Against Concessions candidates against the bosses' candidates in these elections, and we urge all working class organizations to do the same. It is in the interests of the working class and all tendencies

devoted to it, to fight for the largest possible vote for all working class candidates.

However, it is not enough simply to stand up and say "no" to concessions in jobs and wages. Workers having been standing up to concessions and saying "no" for several years now. There have been many bitter struggles against concessions: Patco, Greyhound, Phelps-Dodge, P-9, the Blue Cross/Blue Shield strike in Detroit, the paperworkers strike today.

The fundamental problem is that workers lack the political program and leadership necessary to defeat the bosses' program of concessions and the bourgeoisified leadership of the unions that collaborates with it.

It is necessary to make a political struggle in the unions for:

— unity against all job and wage cuts as a fundamental working class principle; for clauses in all union contracts to guarantee this basic principle.

— for unions to put forward their own candidates and begin to build a workers or labor party based on the unions to win the people to their side.

This can be a first step in a struggle for 30 hours work for 40 hours pay, wage increases in accord with price increases, workers control of the banks and basic industry, and other measures necessary to resolve the problems of the working class.

M.G.

Nicaraguan workers push for nationalizations

On July 13, the Sandinista government of Nicaragua nationalized the San Antonio sugar mill and its tens of thousands of acres "for reasons of public necessity and the interests of society." It was the single largest business in Nicaragua. Jaime Wheelock, the minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, said that the owners had allowed the plant to deteriorate badly.

There was pressure from the workers (up to 5900 during the harvest) to nationalize the mill and its plantation. Wheelock said of the workers, "They saw the company collapsing and the government apparently doing nothing about it."

The Pellas family, which owned the business for 98 years, plans to appeal.

The government released figures showing that the mill could be producing 150,000 tons of sugar a year but only produced 55,000 in 1987. The sharp decline in Nicaraguan sugar exports last year was due almost exclusively to the poor production at this mill.

There was a revolution in 1979 that threw out the dictator Somoza, a puppet of the U.S., and the force that kept families like the Pellas's in power. After the revolution, the government gave loans to the Pellas's and other capitalists to buy imported parts and supplies so they could produce sugar to help ease the trade imbalance of the country. Instead, they pocketed the money.

Francisco Cordiz, head of the union of the majority of the workers (the Confederacion Sandinista Trabajadores), said, "In 1982, our union went to the government and denounced the owners for decapitalizing the mill. The union has raised the demand for nationalization ever since."

After the workers demanded nationalization, the government responded by sending technicians to work with the company to increase production. But, "despite all their efforts, production fell. So we were left with no alternative," said Cordiz.

Naturally, the U.S. will attack the nationalization of the San Antonio mill as further evidence of the Sandinistas efforts to destroy "democracy" in Nicaragua and Central America. But the facts are that the workers demanded it to protect themselves, to defend their country and their revolution from further erosion. This is why American workers should support this action.

F.M.

**Solidarity
with
Nicaragua!**

Polish workers upsurge: anti-capitalist not anti-socialist

Introduction

When Polish workers first rose up and formed Solidarnosc, American businessmen said that this proved that the American capitalist system and the American democratic system was superior, that the socialist system was a failure. Yet, today, they say very little about Poland. Why? Because, as readers will see, the Polish workers are rising up against the capitalists' demands on the Polish workers, that the Stalinist Jaruzelski dictatorship is collaborating with. Capitalists, through the International Monetary Fund, are demanding that Polish workers work more hours and that workers in allegedly "unprofitable" factories be laid off, in order to pay back money, with interest of course, that the capitalists lent to the Polish government. It is this that the workers are rebelling against. So the Polish workers upsurge proves not only that it is the capitalist system and the capitalist class that is the problem, but also that the struggle for socialism is coming alive again, in a struggle against the parasitic bureaucracies in Eastern Europe and the USSR, that are much like the trade union bureaucracies in the United States. The introduction clarifies the significance of Poland in the international class struggle, the second describes exactly what took place, and the third, a declaration of the International Secretariat of the International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International), clarifies some of the tasks in the class struggle concerning Poland.

M.G.



International Significance

"... Many events have taken place that testify to the vitality of the class struggle on an international scale.

These events have been of two different, counterposed, types.

In some cases it has been a question of extraordinary actions of the masses: the popular insurrection in Burma, the workers' political strike in Poland, the massive protests and demonstrations of the people in Chile; or even minority actions like those of the republicans in Ireland, which reflect the impetus and radicalization of the oppressed people, a growing anxiousness to break their chains.

In all cases they are proofs of the revolution that advances on this planet and that all countries tend to be brought along by the wave of proletarian struggle against the imperialist order.

But in other cases political events have taken the form of "pacts," of negotiations, of "plans for peace." A veritable storm of negotiations in all corners of the world! In the Persian Gulf, in Angola, in New Caledonia, in the Sahara, in Cambodia, in the West Bank, after agreements in Nicaragua and Afghanistan ... Who is promoting these pacts and why? The bourgeoisie has pushed them, counting on the support of the diplomats, agents, allies, satellites and partisans of the Kremlin. Gorbachev assured this support to Reagan.

As if they were merchandise, the "red nouveau riche" who govern the USSR, sell revolutions, in order to achieve tranquility and cooperation on the part of the imperialist masters of the world.

But these pacts are also evidence of the strength of the revolutionary movements,

of the profound instability of the world order ...

Inevitably these pacts will impede the revolution for a certain time, make its course more difficult, cause great injuries to the people, salvage bourgeois interests in Southern Africa, or in Asia, or in the Middle East, prolonging the misery and the oppression that the masses suffer. But the class struggle will open the road. The interests of a handful of imperialist bandits are not and never will be reconcilable with the vital interests of exploited humanity!

The course of our epoch is better outlined in the insurrections in Palestine and in Burma, in the uprising in Poland, than in all the pacts that take up page after mind-numbing page in the bourgeois press.

Thanks to the conservative mentality of the leaders of the bourgeoisified workers parties and unions, the proletarian movement was being put to sleep in Europe with the babble of these "pacts" and "peace plans." Workers Poland has risen to its feet again and awaits Europe. Greetings!

... We will take up ... all the important international events ... But the Polish workers movement against the Jaruzelski dictatorship is the most important. With this it is necessary to begin. And in it is the key to all the rest: the reactionary character of the Stalinist bureaucracy, its betrayal of socialism, the necessity for the working class to settle accounts with the descendants of Stalin, the gravediggers of the authentic communism of Lenin and Trotsky.

La Aurora, Weekly of the Partido Obrero Revolucionario de Espana (PORE), September 14, 1988

Seven Years of Workers Resistance, Promise of Revolution

The strikes that have broken out in Poland since August 15 have not arisen out of nothing, nor have then happened unexpectedly, like a storm out of a clear sky. Seven years of tenacious and constant resistance on the part of the Polish workers to General Jaruzelski's regime have prepared, forged, step by step, this formidable attack of the working class. A long history of struggle against the Stalinist bureaucracy has tempered this proletariat: from October of 1956 to the revolution in 1980-81, dominated by the existence of the powerful free union Solidarnosc, passing through the strikes and the formation of the Workers Councils in the Baltic in 1970. A history coming alive in the current mobilization, to which the new generation of young workers brings enthusiasm and determination.

It is good for ... workers to know concretely against what and how their class brothers and sisters in Poland struggle, what are their aspirations. It is known that the immense majority of the working population said "no" to the austerity measures proposed by Jaruzelski on the occasion of the referendum organized by the powers-that-be in November, 1987. In spite of this clear opposition, Jaruzelski introduced in January and February of this year the first measures of his new "economic reform" (the same ones that, in the most difficult moments of the crisis opened by the strikes in the last weeks, no one wants to assume responsibility for): the prices of basic necessary products increased 100%. In its April 21 edition, "Les Echos," a magazine of the French bourgeoisie concentrating on economic themes, said with obvious satisfaction that: "Apparently the International Monetary Fund participated directly in preparing the program for restructuring the (Polish) economy."

In April and May, a first wave of strikes already took place. The movement in August has been much larger and has made the regime of December 13 totter.

Monday, August 15, the strike began at a mine in Jastrzebie, in Alta-Silesia. The

strikers demand wage increases, reintegration of miners dismissed for union activities and the legalization of Solidarnosc. A meeting at the mine in Runa also demands the right to constitute independent organizations.

The Strike Spreads

Wednesday, August 17, the miners in Kadzycze join the strike. The movement spreads like a dust cloud. This day, in the port of Szczecin, the dockers stop work and elect a strike committee. The regional leaders of Solidarnosc call for the general strike and one of its leaders, Marian Jurczyk, formulates a demand for "the installation of political pluralism." The transportation workers in the city also go on strike. Once again, the election of a strike committee, the demand for legalization of Solidarnosc, for increases in wages following the increase in prices.

Strikes are declared illegal. The police do not succeed in impeding them. The Political Bureau of the Polish United Workers Party denounces "the return to anarchy" and declares that legalization of Solidarnosc is unacceptable.

Thursday, August 18, the strike continues gaining in the mines in Silesia. The workers in the shipyards in Szczecin try to have a meeting on whether to join the movement. The police stop it. This only delayed the beginning of the strike which was one of the most radical.

Monday, August 22, the strike begins in the shipyards in Gdansk. This day, the police intervene in the tractor factory in Ursus in Warsaw to stop the strike. But the workers make it happen. The regional leadership in the capital had called for reacting with strikes in case of repression. Strikes stop the blast furnaces in Stalowa Wola, in Warsaw, and the railroad construction factories.

Lech Walesa joins the strikers in the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk. The repression continues, but it is incapable of stopping the wave: 60 workers in Szczecin are detained. (The workers refuse to return to

work without attaining their liberation and the reintegration of those dismissed by the leadership: in the following days there were no less than 600 in these shipyards). Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, leader of Solidarnosc in Wroclaw (another large industrial center in this country), is detained, freed, then arrested again ... Katowice, in Silesia, lives under a veritable occupation of the "anti-disturbance forces" (the sadly famous "ZOMOS," that recruit forces among the common delinquents in the jails.).

Workers, peasants and students

In spite of everything, the strikes continue and gain wide popular support. The same August 22, the heads of the independent student associations in Warsaw and Lodz each launch calls to support the strikers. The peasants of "rural Solidarnosc" provide food supplies for the families of the strikers.

In the following struggles the dockers in Gdansk enter into the struggle, the railroad construction factories in Wroclaw and Poznan, the rest of the miners ... the strike becomes general, the committees elected in the assemblies, the massive pickets begin to appear in the shipyards, the transports. The inter-factory strike committees (the famous "MKZ" which were in their time the backbone of Solidarnosc) also reappear. Workers Poland, armed with its rich experiences in struggle, rises to its feet.

Also, on August 22, General Koszczak, minister of the Interior and in charge (when there was no alternative for the powers-that-be) of "dialogue" with Walesa, ordered the army to take charge of transportation and declared the ... in the regions agitated by the strikes. Other workers leaders, like Jozef Pinor, leader of the illegal Polish Socialist Party, are detained.

In the midst of the crisis that divides the Government, that makes the official unions declare that they "do not control the development of the economic situation" and that the "strikes have a just founda-

tion," the "KOK," (Committee for the Defense of the Country), a supra-governmental organism and the military cabinet of Jaruzelski, appears as the true holder of power.

The crisis is open

The conclusion — provisional — of these events is already known. The Church used all its influence to detain the strikes. Lech Walesa met with Kiszczak and hastened like a "fireman" to the most tenacious strike centers in the country, brandishing the promise of a "dialogue" in which it would be possible to take up the question of the legalization of Solidarnosc. It has cost Walesa a lot for the strikers to put aside their attitude. The government had to cede before certain workers demands (dismissals and sanctions) in order to give a minimum of credibility to Walesa's promises. The youth were the most "obstinate." In Szczecin they even threatened to prohibit Walesa from entering if he came to call for an end to the strikes ...

Many political problems remain open. The regime scarcely maintains itself. The democratic opposition proposes a pact with the power, a "transition in the Spanish mode," (which allegedly passed peacefully from the rule of the fascist dictator Franco, to democratic rule, but in which the fascist institutions remain with a facade of democracy), according to the words of Adam Michnik, one of Walesa's closest advisors.

But the Polish workers movement is here again, on war footing. These weeks have shown its strength. The next stage, of crisis and of intense political struggle, will prove the necessity of a workers revolutionary party. Because at the doors of Poland, a new political revolution has knocked.

La Aurora, September 5, 1988

The December 13 regime, mortally wounded by the workers Unconditional legalization of Solidarnosc!

OUST JARUZELSKI! FREE ELECTIONS!

DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF THE LI(RCI)

Workers!

Once again the Polish workers have entered into struggle. From the mines of Silesia to the shipyards of Gdansk and Szczecin, the spectre of a new revolution, of a new uprising, which like the one in August, 1980, brought ten million workers to their feet, is crossing Poland.

After the wave of strikes in May, after seven years of determined resistance, this new workers offensive sheds light on the true situation: the regime of General Jaruzelski, the regime born in the December 13, 1981 coup d'etat, has failed. Poland, subordinated to a police and military dictatorship, laced with the corruption of a parasitic and opulent bureaucracy, in debt up to its neck to the Western banks, foundered in crisis and misery.

The Jaruzelski regime is isolated, wasted, divided. Official polls themselves reveal that only 5% of the population has confidence in it. 5%! What would remain of this dictatorship if its future depended on really true elections?

The workers' immediate demands cannot be clearer: Down with the price increases that condemn workers' families to terrible deprivations! And, above all, **LEGALIZATION OF THE FREE UNION SOLIDARNOSC!**

The situation has become intolerable. The regime says "control it." But it can hardly control its own ranks. Now ministers appear opposed to the policy of their Government. General Koszczak comes forward as "the man of dialogue with the opposition," and claims that the militia has been repressing strikers and demonstrators against the will of the minister of the Inter-

ior. The heads of the official unions even threaten to call strikes "if ..." Jaruzelski disassociates himself from the policy of his prime minister, and a part of the apparatus borders on censuring the general for receding before the strikers.

This is the December 13 regime! The threat of a new general eruption of the working class has brought into the open and deepened these breaks in the edifice of the powers-that-be.

Workers!

If the Jaruzelski regime is isolated before the working population of Poland, this crisis has also revealed who are its allies. The Kremlin's press has not waived for a single instant: the Polish strikers are "anti-socialist forces," "saboteurs," "manipulated people" ... Gorbachev's "openness" becomes as closed as Brezhnev's "motionless propaganda" when it is the workers themselves, in their way, in the streets and the factories, who call for rights and freedoms. The Armenian people know something about this.

No less eloquent is the unanimous opinion of the big bourgeois press: "The Polish are endangering "relaxation of tensions," so laboriously initiated by Reagan and Gorbachev. For "perestroika" to function, stability in Eastern Europe is necessary. If the Polish do not understand ... to bad for them!"

What is bad for the Western capitalists, as well as for the bourgeoisified masters in the Kremlin, is that, in their way, pushed by life and taught by bitter experiences, the Polish workers "understand" more than the latter would like. Just weeks ago Gorbachev himself came to Poland to give

support to Jaruzelski and his "reforms." In reality, Poland is a veritable testing ground for "perestroika." Prices must go up dizzily for the Polish economy to integrate itself into the conditions of the international capitalist market; in this framework, the factories and "non-profitable" sectors, like the shipyards, are threatened. The miners in Silesia must work Saturdays and Sundays in order to extract coal to pay debts to the International Monetary Fund. The bureaucracy itself makes the best of its ineptitude, its limitless corruption, the chaos, and the indebtedness into which it has plunged the country by turning itself more and more into a propagandist for the "market economy" and "private initiative."

THIS IS PERESTROIKA!

But it is "also" that, in Poland, a military style regime, from a coup, and never accepted by the workers, has much more difficulties even in order to make believe that this anti-worker policy will tolerate the concession of liberties that it crushed yesterday with guns.

This is the significance of the Polish crisis. After the dead end for the regime is the promises of a new revolutionary attempt on the part of the Polish workers. Its impact on the USSR, agitated by the strikes and demands of the Soviet people, as over Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania ... will be of incalculable threatening consequences for the Kremlin clique.

But this crisis is also revealing, alongside the strength and determination of the workers and youth, the imperative necessity that they have a PARTY and a PROGRAM that is authentically working class, socialist, to victoriously wage the battles against the bureaucracy into which they are heading in an inevitable way.

The Government had to give-in to some demands of the strikers, to accept that there would be no sanctions or dismissals. It was necessary to promise to negotiate the legalization of Solidarnosc for Walesa to succeed in obtaining, with enormous difficulties, the provisional end of the strike. The workers who do not trust in the promises of "dialogue" with the powers-that-be are 100% right. Their class instinct does not deceive them.

The Catholic Church hierarchy is now in favor of the "pacification" of the country. The bishops hastened to "condemn" the Government — in order to strengthen the authority of the clergy over the people — ... and call on them to return to work. The road of "understanding" that the Church pushes, and that the democratic opposition has made its own, will only be a way to save Jaruzelski, and not in any way a favorable solution for the aspirations of the workers and the oppressed people. The "realistic" program that they try to impose on the workers is this: the "reforms initiated by the authorities are indispensable, the sacrifices that the working population must make are inevitable. The authorities are completely discredited. Legalize Solidarnosc, give a place to its "moderate" representatives alongside the authorities (through a second Parliament or another consultative organism so that the people accept the sacrifices that "perestroika" implies. "All out for perestroika!"

Workers, youth!

We, Trotskyists, affirm that no solution favorable to the workers is possible under this regime or through a pact with it. There is no solution without putting an end to the bureaucratic chaos, without the workers finishing with the privileges of the bureaucracy, without retaking control of the economy and reorganizing its planning in function of the interests of the working masses. There is no solution without conquering power.

But it is not possible to take a single step forward without conquering, as workers began to do in 1980, liberties for the working population. Workers and peasants need the LEGALIZATION OF SOLIDARNOSC. Immediately and without conditions. Precisely because there is no solution but to struggle and defend themselves against the anti-worker plans closing in on them, and because they cannot accept them. To begin, there is no solution without cancelling the external debt, contracted by the bureaucracy and that is suffocating Poland. There will never be authentic liberties under the tutelage of Jaruzelski's bayonets. The problem is not a change of ministers to mask the responsibility of the regime in December 13th. The youth in the shipyards were right: "It is already too late!" OUST

JARUZELSKI! DOWN WITH THE DECEMBER 13 REGIME!

The workers must not let themselves be fooled by the promise of a "second parliament," which will be made of cardboard, nor by any kind of "institutional" settlement destined to hide the fact that the power and the arms continue in the same hands. The open crisis of the regime raises an irrefragable demand: **FREE ELECTIONS!**

But there will not be free elections under the control of the Government of Jaruzelski and of his General Kiszczak, nor will there be free elections if the workers, laborers and peasants, do not impose the free existence of its own political parties. Because elections will not be free in which the worker can choose only between one bureaucrat and another, the peasant between two generals, and the housewife between two "personalities" tolerated by the authorities. The workers, the peasants, the soldiers, must be able to designate their own representatives, to select their own parties and programs, and rid themselves once and for all of the tutelage of the bureaucracy. This is the road of the political revolution, of the socialist regeneration of the State, today usurped and decayed by the bureaucracy, but which belongs to the working class.

This is the road that the Fourth International's program has always defended. Poland demands that the revolutionary forces loyal to this program unite their efforts to take this program to the working masses, to establish a workers party of the political revolution, to offer them the Leninist banner and traditions of a Fourth International rebuilt.

Poland demands of all, active solidarity with the struggle of its workers. Once again, the future of the workers movement in all countries is also at stake in Poland.

FOR SOCIALISM!

DOWN WITH THE JARUZELSKI REGIME!

FREEDOM FOR WORKERS POLAND!

Barcelona
September 4, 1988
International Secretariat
of the International League (RCI)

A Lesson of the Jackson Campaign: Beware of Bourgeois Demagogues

We are reprinting excerpts from a brochure passed out by Jesse Jackson supporters at the demonstration in Washington on the 25th Anniversary of the famous 1963 March on Washington, and some excerpts from an interview with Jackson that appeared in the *Detroit News*.

We urge workers to read and *study exactly* what Jackson says. We think you will see that Jackson offers *no* concrete solutions to the problems before workers and oppressed people. He offers only vague "calls," and vague calls that represent absolutely no threat to the priorities and the power of the upper class in this country.

For example, he calls for "the American people to adopt policies that will foster growth, prosperity and full employment." But we have had eight years of alleged growth and prosperity and we now have fewer jobs that pay a living wage than ever. He says, "We call upon the new administration, which will take office in 1989, to enforce vigorously the laws for equal employment and equal education opportunities." But over a hundred years have passed since slavery was abolished and the government promised every Black person "40 acres and a mule," and it still has not fulfilled its promise.

Worst of all, Jackson equates communists with drug dealers!

But it is *capitalist businessmen*, who produce drugs, who sell drugs, and who *profit* from this dirty, murderous business, *not communists*. What is more, evidence has come to light showing that bankers, businessmen, politicians and police, in the *highest circles of the imperialists* are involved in the lucrative drug industry, including officials in Chase Manhattan Bank in New York, not to mention George Bush, Ollie North, or members of the Detroit police department. The capitalists could cut the production and distribution of drugs if they wanted to, just like they have cut the production and distribution of homes and cars. But they don't, because drugs are *profitable*!

Jackson is obviously trying to turn workers' attention away from the real source of their poverty, misery and oppression — the capitalist class — and turn them against the only people that have consistently defended the interests of the working class — the communists.

While some who continue to call themselves communists have completely abandoned the working class, and identify with the bourgeoisie — like the privileged bureaucrats in the

"... Jackson offers no concrete solutions... he offers only vague 'calls'... that represent... no threat to... the power of the upper class..."

Kremlin and their counterparts in Eastern Europe and elsewhere, which workers in Poland, the USSR, and Armenia are correctly rising up against — there are thousands of communist workers who remain true to the working class, and who have been in the front ranks of the struggles of the working class against the

Jackson's Program

"...We call on federal, state and local government to conduct a competent and constructive anti-drug campaign ...

"We call on the America people to adopt policies that will foster growth, prosperity, and full employment ...

"We call on the American people and the people of the world in the name of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to embrace those leaders of conscience who are seeking ways to resolve world conflicts through non-violent means and who seek ways to invest the wealth and energy of nations in peace with justice ...

—We call upon all Americans to come to the aid of their brothers and sisters in South Africa and the Southern African region ...

—We call upon the American people to renew their commitment, as they did in 1983, to the cause of human and civil rights; to resist the ever-rising tide of extremism as reflected in the continuing activities of the Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis and hate groups ...

capitalists, above all those that identify with Trotskyism and the Fourth International.

But whether workers favor socialism or communism or not, it is absolutely essential to defend socialist and communist workers against slanderous attacks like Jacksons'.

The American bourgeoisie is afraid of the working class, of workers and oppressed people rising up from one end of this planet to another — from the United States, to Mexico, to Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, South Africa, Palestine, Iran, Armenia, Poland, etc., etc. It is trying to weaken the working class by going after those most devoted to it.

And Jesse Jackson is using the connections and skills that he acquired when he was active in the movement of the oppressed Black people, years and years ago, to serve the bourgeoisie. In this sense, he has far more in common with the bourgeoisified pseudo-communist leaders in the Kremlin, than he realizes.
M.G.

"We call upon the new administration, which will take office in 1989, to enforce vigorously the laws for equal employment and equal education opportunities ...

"We call upon all Americans to reaffirm the commitment to the dream and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to unite, as never before, this continuing New Coalition of Conscience around specific goals and common objectives; to develop a broad non-partisan coalition to press for basic legislation and actions to turn this nation around in the areas of jobs, peace with justice, freedom and equality; to implore aggressive nonviolent means to help bring an end to apartheid in South Africa and to provide economic assistance to the nations of Southern Africa; and finally, to work at the state and local levels to implement the full agenda of the New Coalition of Conscience.

(...)

Legislative Goals of the 25th Anniversary of the Historic March on Washington

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

JOBS

H.R. 1834 FAIR LABOR STANDARDS AMENDMENTS OF 1988 ...

H.R. 3660S-1885 AN ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE SERVICES (ABC) ...

H.R. 4903 THE FEDERAL CONTRACT COMPLIANCE AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1988 ...

PEACE

H.R. 12 THE MUTUAL NUCLEAR WAR-HEADTESTING MORATORIUM ... etc., etc.

(...)

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON CO-CHAIRPERSONS

(List includes:

"The Honorable Marion Barry, Mayor, District of Columbia"; "Mr. Owen Bieber, President, UAW"; "Mr. Cesar Chavez, President, United Farm Workers of America"; "Rep. John Conyers, U.S. House of Representatives"; "Rep. Ronald V. Dellums, U.S. House of Representatives"; "Rev. Jesse Jackson, Chairman, Rainbow Coalition" ...)

Solidarity

Mark Curtis

On March 4, 1988, Mark Curtis, a Swift meat packinghouse worker and long time militant of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), was arrested near his house in Des Moines, Iowa, for allegedly raping a 15 year old Black girl. He was convicted September 14 of 3rd degree rape and first degree burglary. He will be tried on October 10 for assaulting a police officer. For these crimes no bail during appeal is allowed. He is currently held in Marion County Jail in Knoxville, Iowa.

Mark had been attending a meeting at the Mexican-American Center to protest arrest of 17 Latino workers at the Swift plant for allegedly "not having proper papers." At the meeting, Mark spoke in Spanish defending the Latino workers and calling for their union at the plant, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 431, to defend them.

Mark Curtis is being framed by the Des Moines police, agents for Swift Meatpacking Company, for his defense of Latino workers.

Unfortunately, his union, the UFCW, is not defending him. Apparently, they would like to see such a troublesome person removed. Someone who is going to demand that they defend the union members being harassed by the INS. Someone who supported the UFCW local in Austin, Minnesota (P-9) in its long battle against

Hormel, and the betrayal of the UFCW top leadership.

If this union had been doing its job, it would have been impossible for the police and Swift to frame Curtis. The policy of collaboration with the bosses, all too prevalent in the unions, claims yet another victim.

We call on all working class organizations, unions, to defend Mark Curtis, demand that his union defend him, that he be freed and declared innocent. Send messages of support to: the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311.

Larry Christensen

Fifty-one Chrysler workers who walked out August 2 when the temperature was 99 degrees were disciplined September 17. In particular, Larry Christensen, running on the Workers Against Concessions (WAC) slate, was the only one fired. Chrysler claimed he led the walkout. Larry denies leading it saying, "I and several other people decided it was unbearable in there, that we couldn't risk it. I believe it was absolutely right."

We urge all workers and unions to protest this firing and demand that Larry be rehired.
F.M.

Jackson equates drug dealers and communists

"Q. Should the United States require foreign governments, whether of the right or the left, to stop the export of drugs to this country? If they fail to do so, what steps should the United States take?

"A. I see the flow of drugs into our country as a threat to our national security. So I put drug flow in the same category as I put communism. We have seen drug lords as nuisances and not as real threats to our national security. So we say, in Detroit, 'Mr. Mayor, what are you going to do about it?' If you had communists up and down the street killing our children, you wouldn't ask what the mayor is going to do about it. One hundred fifty billion dollars a year in drugs, tax free, is coming across our borders. They're overrunning our Border Patrol. And under Reagan our Border Patrol has gotten weaker. Our number of agents have remained constant, while the drug trafficking has increased.

"Q. Would you favor placing our military on the borders?

"A. No. I would strengthen our Border Patrol. I would strengthen our Coast Guard, backed up by the Navy

...
"Q. When do you use the military?

"A. When our national interest is threatened or when an ally's democracy is threatened by an alien force. I mean, it may be communism. It may be a drug lord. You use it when your interests are at stake ..."

From an interview with Jesse Jackson, "Jackson: Hope Sweeping the Nation," *The Detroit News*, March 20, 1988.

The English Edition of *The Fourth International!*

After the Eleventh World Congress of the Fourth International (Rebuilt), which is now the International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International), the new International Secretariat in Barcelona began to publish the English Edition of *The Fourth International* each month. This is an important accomplishment since it has been years since *The Fourth International* has been published so regularly.

The Fourth International has included many articles interesting to English speaking readers: articles on the upsurges in Palestine, the USSR, Poland, Argentina, Bolivia; articles on the elections in France, Spain, the United States; articles on the crisis in the United Secretariat, in the International Center for Reconstruction (Lambert), in the London Preparatory Committee; articles on the lessons of the struggle of the International League of the Reconstruction of the Fourth International, the Fourth International (Rebuilt), and the International League today.

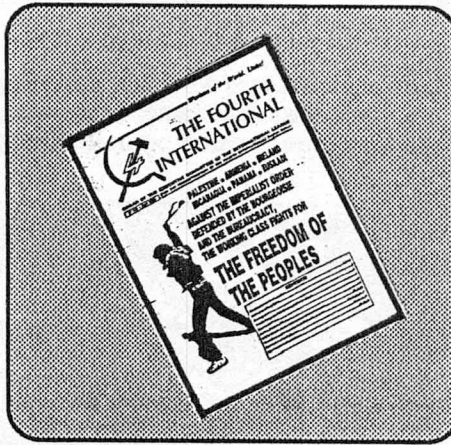
Three articles that will particularly interest American readers in one of the most recent issues are: an article on the balance sheet of 50 years of the Socialist Workers Party by David Companyon; an article on the question of independent parties or Trotskyist parties by Anibal Ramos; and an article from *Walka Klas*, the publication of the Polish comrades of the International League (No. 138, July, 1988).

A complete list of the contents of all issues since the Eleventh World Congress follows.

Readers who would like to order additional copies of these issues or who would like to subscribe to Fourth International can do so through us.

At the time, the International Secretariat still handles publication and distribution of *The Fourth International* in Barcelona. We would like to begin to do this in the United States, so that readers in this country can receive it more quickly. However, in order to do so we have to raise several thousand dollars to buy the necessary equipment.

We welcome financial contributions that will help us reach this goal.



No. 133, January, February, 1988
THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE STRUGGLES FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
 (Documents of the Eleventh Congress)
 Editorial: In struggle for the reconstruction of the Fourth International
 Resolution in support of the Palestinian uprising
 Resolution in support of the Polish, Rumanian, Yugoslav and Soviet workers
 Report of the outgoing control commission (minority)
 Resolution on the tasks of revolutionaries in the current situation in the class struggle
 Resolution on the purpose and tasks of the reconstruction of the Fourth International
 Resolution on the tactics of the sections of the International League
 Resolution on organization
 Resolution on the minority that split

No. 134, March, 1988
LONG LIVE THE PALESTINIAN INSURRECTION! DOWN WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL!
 Correspondence. With the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference
 Editorial. The political solutions of Gorbachev
 France. The campaign in the presidential elections
 The Palestinian insurrection and the State of Israel
 The Reagan-Gorbachev Summit in Washington
 A long polemic ... imperialism or "coexistence"
 Obstacles in the reconstruction of the International
 What after the rehabilitation of Bukharin?
 Failure of a coup in Argentina. Fear of the mass movement
 Spain. An Extraordinary Trotskyist Congress
 Spain. Terrorism and Basque Freedoms
 The struggle against American imperialism in Nicaragua

No. 135, April, 1988
FREEDOM FOR PEOPLES
 Crisis in the London Committee
 Editorial: A Party Spirit
 Correspondence
 Twelfth Congress of the Communist Party of Spain
 Elections in France
 Bolivia, Panama, Nicaragua

USSR: Crisis in the bureaucracy and national demands
 Trotskyism and revisionism in the United Secretariat
 Discussion on the Philippines
 Elections in the United States

No. 136, May, 1988
PERESTROIKA AND POLITICAL REVOLUTION
 The current crisis in the USSR
 Perestroika in opposition to the Soviet masses (Editorial)
 The POR "Masas" in face of Gorbachev
 France: After the presidential elections
 On the crisis of the "London Committee" and our decisions concerning it
 The CIR: "The 3-1/4 International"
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To Our Readers

We have decided to resume publishing *Truth* in order to continue and develop our contribution to the struggle to rebuild the workers revolutionary Trotskyist party in the United States and the Fourth International as a whole.

We decided to renew the struggle to rebuild the Fourth International in September, 1987, and supported the tendency in the Fourth International (Rebuilt) that favored this course, now known as the International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International).

It had become increasingly apparent to us that the Fourth International had not been rebuilt, that this task was still in front of us, especially when leaders of the Fourth International (Rebuilt) in France began to support a petty bourgeois, pro-Gorbachev candidate for president of France and to dissolve our publications and organizations in the interests of this adventure.

We thought that it would be possible for us to continue our contribution to this struggle within Socialist Action, a tendency that has made an important contribution to the struggle for working class Trotskyist principles against the Barnes and Mandel tendencies in the United Secretariat.

Unfortunately, this has not been the case.

Shortly after we joined Socialist Action, in December, 1987, Kevin FitzPatrick — an ex-member of our organization, the Trotskyist Organization, and a supporter of the dissolutionist tendency in France — began to make false charges against us and to try to drive us out of Socialist Action. And the majority of the leadership of Socialist Action supported his charges. We were expelled on July 30, just days before Socialist Action's National Convention was to begin.

We do not know *exactly* why the majority of the leadership of Socialist Action decided to take this course of action — first inviting us to join Socialist Action, saying that it would maintain friendly relations with the international organization that we

had been associated with, then endorsing charges against us by someone obviously politically hostile to us. And the leadership



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never gave us any written explanation. There are several possibilities and we will return to this question, and related questions, in the future.

However, today the struggle to rebuild the workers revolutionary Trotskyist party and the Fourth International as a whole, in the United States, is concentrated in the struggle for a vote for working class candidates on the ballot, for a workers or labor party based on the unions, and for working class and socialist solutions to the problems facing exploited and oppressed people. Thus this is what this issue of *Truth* is centered on.

We urge old readers and new readers, young workers and militants, to support our decision by getting supporting subscriptions to *Truth* and to *The Fourth International*. And, most of all, by preparing your own contributions to this struggle.

We welcome contributions to *Truth*, especially those that expose the true conditions before workers and oppressed people, the true nature of the Democratic Party, the state, the courts, the police, the true nature of the workers struggle, and the true nature of the path that must be followed.

In our first issue of *Truth*, in September, 1974, we said: "We are confident that ... we will meet with the best elements from the present organizations and with the growing number of proletarian militants ... that with them we will join in the reconstruction of the Fourth International and see a world October ..."

While this struggle may have proven to be more difficult and complicated than our generation anticipated, it is still the only correct one, and we are confident that it will be successful!

Margaret Guttshall

Fred Michaels

Revolutionaries in Solidarity with the International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International)

Truth

A Bulletin for Socialism and Trotskyism
October, 1988

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Margaret Guttshall; Fred Michaels

Revolutionaries in Solidarity
with the International League

(for the Reconstruction
of the Fourth International)

The reactionary Voorhis Act prohibits
membership in international workers
organizations.

Signed articles represent the author's
views.

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