SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

WHAT'S INSIDE

Communist Labor Party's Program
Who is General Baker
Who is George Edwards?
Save the 9th District

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

“The Communists' ideal should not be a trade-union secretary, but a tribune of the people, able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression.” Lenin

Donation 10 cents

INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL BAKER

COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY CANDIDATE

General Baker, who knows the conditions in the factories throughout Detroit, speaks with workers about the speed-up that they face. If Gen is elected he will fight against speed-up and for full employment.

Leonard Woodcock stood up and announced to the convention that he was not going to ask Jimmy Carter to endorse the Ford strike. At the same time he said he was not going to ask Carter to endorse Henry Ford II and the Ford Motor Co.'s position. We can see from this that even the supporters of the Democratic party constantly struggle for the party not to take a partisan stand, a stand on the heeds of one class or the other. Instead they try to cover-up class contradictions, to gloss over them as opposed to exposing them.

On the other hand, the Communist Labor Party struggles and strives to point out class contradiction every step of the way for the purpose of educating working people, and to point out shortcomings and difficulties we are having so we can organize and mobilize the class for the fightback we are waging against the omnipotence of finance capital.

I would just like say that these characteristics are the key difference between our Party and the Democratic and Republican parties. There is one key aspect and that is that the Communist Labor Party is a monolithic party. That is we proceed from a general political line, Jobs, Peace and Equality, which is binding on all party members who strive to carry out this line, which once again is categorically different from the line of the bourgeois parties. We can see that even though the Democratic Party has had control of the Congress for the last 30 or 40 years that it has been unable to muster enough votes to override vetoes of the Republican President. When they have been able to override vetoes it took a coalition of Democrats and Republicans. Those parties are not monolithic. The individual representatives in these parties do precisely what they want to. They bow to the whims of different lobbyists. Our party is a monolithic party and we struggle always and everywhere to carry out the line of our party.

How is the Communist Labor Party different from other working class organizations such as trade unions or other types of mass organizations?

The Communist Labor Party is basically different in two ways. First we express solidarity and support of working people world-wide and not just in one country. Secondly we are not just concerned with this contract or that community funding, but are concerned with the progress of all. We do not support the advance of one people or one neighborhood over or at the expense of another. We support the advancement of a particular union or people along with the advancement of all working people at the expense of the capitalists. The Communist Labor Party, unlike a trade union or community organization, is a political party whose goal is not just the betterment of the conditions under capitalism, but who fights for the only system capable of giving all of the toiling masses a better life, socialism.

The Communist Labor Party represents the interests of the proletariat in the struggle for political power. When you get down to it, every political party represents the interests of a class striving either to maintain their political power or striving to take that power from the ruling class. The Communist Labor Party has as its goal, leading the proletariat in its struggle to take state power. The other organizations of the class cannot do this. They are organized only to fight on the economic front. The Communist Labor Party fights not only on the economic front, but more importantly mobilizes the proletariat for the political struggle.

Why does the proletariat need an independent voice of its own and why particularly a political party?

The proletariat needs an independent voice, it has to fight in its own interest as a class against the capitalists. It should be clear to us that there is no other general staff to lead the proletariat in this period of history.
Unhampered by the hangovers of feudalism, USNA capitalism by the end of the 19th Century, had fully entered its doom phase, and final phase, Imperialism. The USNA multinational state is the international hangman of revolutions and the enemy of the peoples of the earth. The working class of the USNA has been isolated in a life and death struggle with the capitalist class. This struggle is evolving under conditions where the workers have no choice but to support the Party—to guide them. In the struggle to form and develop such a Party, the Marxist-Leninists are carrying out their historic responsibilities. Basing ourselves on the Program of the Communist Manifesto and the Program of the Communist International, the Marxist-Leninists of the USNA set out to rally the revolutionary working class around the following program.

###

The working class of the United States of North America constitutes the majority of the population. The strangeness of the big financial capitalists over the country has bred a spirit of family farm. The growth of the working class by absorbing the superfluous farmers, through the destruction of the broad strata of the petty bourgeoisie and through immigration, has moved them to a favorable position. The means of production in the USNA are concentrated in the hands of a few, the proletariat and the class enemy stand face to face. The history of the USNA is the history of opposition between the two.

Two inevitable internal policies of imperialism are bribery of the upper strata of the working class and repression of the exploited class. From the most oppressed and exploited workers there is developing a struggle against the capitalists and especially against the state.

The trend toward using the economic base from mechanics to electronics has not only increased the reserve army of unemployed but also created a huge potential of a new highly productive labor power, especially amongst national minority proletarians. Every technical advance makes the position of the proletarians more untenable.

Therefore the struggle of the capitalist class is a struggle against all who live by the labor of others, and against all exploitation. It can only end in the seizing of power.

### Interview

Cont. from page 1

As I said earlier the two capitalist parties strive to cover-up class contradictions. They try to present themselves as equals, with the bosses and the workers, the exploiters and the exploited having a common interest. It is clear to us that proletarian needs its own independent voice to speak in the same forum and with the same ear.

There are many clear examples. Even the trade union spokesmen speak about the fact that you can win a struggle at the bargaining table and lose it in the state legislature or in the halls of Congress. The entire state apparatus in this country is in the hands of the ruling class, the capitalists, and in each of these institutions that workers are faced with—educational, medical, contract struggles, and government—the capitalist class controls them through its lobbyists and funds, and thus controls their politics. Therefore, we see ourselves often times working on something in one area only to lose it in another. Workers are able to win certain concessions, but then find themselves losing it in the state legislature or at the hands of those who have nothing to lose except their jobs.

A somewhat different example around this is Michigan’s Worker’s Compensation law. Worker’s Compensation, which had been won by state legislation, has in the efforts of working people, is now under attack by the large manufacturer’s lobby in a number of areas. People’s benefits that they have from their jobs, those benefits are facing legal charges. In the face of these attacks like these, we can clearly see the proletariat’s need for an independent voice that can fight in their interests, for the kind of program and form of that independent voice can be none other than a political party.

How will you be able to carry out your role as a communist representative and give the working class an independent voice?

We are organized to always and everywhere fight in the interests of the working people. As a member of the Communist Labor Party, as a communist representative of the working class, I will be able to utilize the state, as a tool, to make the state a tool which can be used to involve the masses of people in the decision making process and the basic decisions of the society are made by those people who work in it for the benefit of the masses. We need to create the kind of dictatorship of the proletariat, because the capitalists are so strong, must be used to secure the new society against any remaining bourgeois elements. People must understand that state power is an instrument of suppression and the proletariat once it has assumed power must use it in order to rid society of those people who would try to undermine the state to build the society for the benefit of all of the actual Russian Revolution was not the end of anything. It was after the proletariat had taken over the state that the capitalist countries invaded and tried to liquidate the revolution. It was after the bloody struggle when the bloodshed started. The communists, the proletariat, do not want bloodshed. It is the imperialists who often create the conditions for the bloodshed.

What would socialism mean to the various classes in society?

Socialism would mean a better life for every person in this society, aside from the extremely wealthy. Socialism means an end to crime, because the basis of crime, the lack of jobs on the one hand, and the social and economic conditions which go along with it. Socialism provides work for all who want to eat. There would be no basis for stealing. Socialism means work and not having to worry that your children will go hungry. It means that you will not have to worry about your children when you return. Socialism means that the wealth of the society is spent on everyone. All socialists come from the working class and the production and consumption of clothing. For instance in the Soviet Union, rent only 3 percent of the workers’ income and inflation has not risen since 1929. In fact, prices have gone down. Additionally, the Soviet Union has raised its workers wages 100 percent. It wants to help young people to save their kids, save a little money, and not worry about their wife or husband getting mugged. They want something to eat, they want to be cool in the summer and warm in the winter. They want clothes on their backs and a roof over their head. But capitalism makes these little problems of life into major problems and turns people into mere objects of commerce and thus allowing mankind to develop. Education is free and
I am a man of principles and values; principles of justice and national liberation, self-determination and respect for national sovereignty. Yet, you ask if I am "physically fit," to go to Asia, Africa, and Latin America to fight the liberation war. I am fit; I have been trained, resolutely within their just rights to free their land from foreign domination. I am merely prepared to fulfill a new role, to undertake new tasks.

You want me to defend the riches reaped from the super-exploitation of the darker races of mankind by a few who soar in luxury on the backs of the many. I want to rebuild the most vast empire that has ever existed in man's one million years of History—all in the name of "Freedom!"

But, all men of principle are fighting men. When the call of history comes, I, as a soldier of the great WEC, will liberate Latin America from the United Fruit Co., Kaiser and Alcoa Aluminium Co., and from Standard Oil; when the call is made to jail the exploiting Brahmins in their temples; when the call is made to free the black delta areas of Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina; when the call is made, come what may, here in Detroit; when these calls are made, send for me, the new radical of the Club of Historical Struggles in which it shall be an honor to serve!

Written in 1970 Written a month ago! No, this moving segment of Gen's response to the draft board was written in 1966. Years before the massive Vietnam anti-war sentiment had surfaced. The next few years are filled with a flurry of activity. Demonstrations against the war took place everywhere in community all were witness to Gen's quiet, unassuming presence. But by the years of 1967-1968 it became obvious that Black nationalism would not suffice. Negroes were pushed into the streets by the police at Chrysler's Hamtramck Assembly Plant (Dockside General) General began to see that the Negro worker was oppressed as a worker as well. The struggle in the plants became critical. With his close friend Dr. David W. Martin they formed a group called DRUM—Dockside Revolutionary Union Movement. The conditions at Dodge Main were deplorable.Negroes were not hired. The company did not care. But in UAW representation as well. Months later, a wildcat ensured which shut down Dodge Main for 4 days, with over 4,000 workers involved. General lost his position at the factory, he and his wife are in. The struggle—for the first time in the history of the auto industry, Negro workers began to get the doors open for advancement into management and into union positions. Four years of struggle have come and gone between then and now. General, knowledgeable from the years of apprenticeship, was confident that the plight of the Negro worker was inextricable tied to the fight for the whole working class. And that the main enemy was neither the racist nor the corrupt trade union leadership, nor an individual company owner, but the capitalist class in all its vicissitudes and forms. While studying the science of Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tse-Tung thought and country and world wide, Gen came to see that the struggle of the working class and all of its nationalities was indivisible. General Baker was one of the founding members of the Communist Labor Party and was chosen to be a candidate for State Representative in Michigan's 9th District. Gen was working for many long years of fighting for working people, but also because of his ability to represent the needs and demands of those who work. Gen sought to understand the problems of the workers, to analyze and present solutions to the problems that workers face, and because of his knowledge and ties with his community. In the next 8 years he has fought for better schools, jobs, and opportunities for our youth. Not a rich plant owner who only seeks to appear poor and work for the middle and upper classes stood every time he voted as a State representative based on one thing—his ability to fight in the interests of poor and working people where they are housed, on the front line of the House of Representatives.

As can be seen, General is just like thousands of other workers who have through the years struggled for a better life for their families. He is a man of principle and values their principles in exchange for positions and money. Some grew discouraged by the repeated failures and attacks that were made on his attempts at his efforts. But scores more labor and General Baker is one of them, a true leader of the working class, a leader who has not separated himself from the working class, but is a part of it. He employed it at Ford Rouge as an assembly line worker, after having been fired from a firing stemming from Gen's organizing activities, he still fights for the working class. Make General your State Representative, he is the only one who can really represent the people of the 9th District—because he's the only one who can.

Edwards is a direct agent of Michigan's banks, corporations, and insurance companies in the Michigan State Legislature. Yet for 20 years, as he has grown wealthy, and more powerful, he has become more corrupt and most despised in the state. The housing is ravaged by the red-lining policy of the banks. The infant mortality is the highest in the state. The state has been divided between the upstate and district. The bourgeoisie, which Edwards represents, has learned well how to win public officials to their side. George has described this story well. He is corrupt and bribed illegibly.

Exactly how is Mr. Edwards tied to the bourgeoisie? First, through his own immediate family. His wife, Esther, is a lobbyist at Holland & Knight, a billion dollar company. His brother, Andy, is the founder and president, Barry Gordy Jr. She is Senior Vice President, recording Secretary and a director of Motown and all of its various other subsidiaries. She is the chief Motown lobbyist, still based in Detroit.

Since 1973, she has also been a member of the Board of Directors of the Bank of the Commonwealth, a large scandal-drenched and troubled bank.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Corporations, Assistant Democratic Floor Leader of the House and a senior member of the Insurance Committee, he is a key representative which involve him in direct conflict of interests with the average worker in his district. As we shall see later on, he is highly unrepresentative in favor of the banks, corporations, etc. and against the citizens, especially in his own district.

Sociologically as well financially, George Edwards moves in circles that are far removed from the concerns and issues of workers and poor people in the 9th District. Although required by Michigan law to live in the 9th District, for many years he has lived in the wealthy Detroit suburbs, while living in the Detroit Tower—one of the most expensive and exclusive river-front apartment buildings in Detroit. Moreover, for the 1972, 74, and 76 elections he has never published a single campaign contribution from a resident organization or business within the 9th District. George Edwards, a member of the Lansing based lobbyists, bank officials and suburbanites. For the 1976 primary election, the largest campaign contribution came from the Michigan Bank Political Action Committee and the Life Underwriters Political Action Committee. What did these and similar contributors get for their money? All they could possibly want and more.

Of all the 15 bills Mr. Edwards introduced in 1975, every one was referred to either his own committee or the insurance committee. Virtually every bill that Mr. Edwards introduced was an act to remove restrictions for the insurance companies, or the like. Every single bill he introduced only worked to the detriment of workers and poor people, not only in the 9th District, but throughout the state. Appalling legislation that would make it more difficult and more expensive for drivers with bad records, which includes a disproportionate share of inner city and poor city workers, to gain insurance. He introduced legislation which was passed, which allowed big Michigan banks to establish trust departments in outer-state banks. He introduced legislation which paved the way for the "electronic transfer of funds" which ultimately will give total control of a worker's financial situation to the banks. Through electronic transfer, a worker will be able to pay his or her bills for utilities, rent, etc. will be paid, and you will have only as much money left as the bank says you have.

What Edwards doesn't do is as revealing as what he does do. For one thing, on bills which don't directly affect banking and other such interests, he doesn't vote at all. Yet, he is a member of both committees, just like he pays his check to the resources of a party to carry out the attack.

Is there no solution?
SAVE THE 9TH DISTRICT

All over Michigan and the country, eyes are turned towards the 9th District. This area is the focus of an election campaign that is destined to move the struggle of working people forward immeasurably. For the first time in over 30 years, there will be a communist representative of working people in the government—General Baker, a member of the Communist Labor Party who can raise the demands of our class for a better life.

This tiny area, not widely known before the start of this election campaign, will surely be catapulted into national attention following the success of this historic election.

What is the 9th Michigan State House of Representa-
tives District? First of all, it is a sparsely populated basically by 6 Miles on the North, Grand Boulevard on the South, Chryler Freeway on the East and the Lodge Freeway on the West. The area includes Highland Park and part of Detroit rests in this area. It is an area not much different from any other "inner-city" region of a big city.

Fifteen years ago, in a large area where schools and homes once sat, a neighborhood flourished. Today after bulldozers and painful displacement and relocations, the world headquarters of Chrysler Corporation now rests, a mammoth, modernistic group of domed glass and concrete architecture. The 9th District area is also best to the General Motors World Headquarters building. While not the home of Ford's major op-
erations, a plaque on Woodward Ave. marks the old Ford plant that sits there, an historic landmark, the site where Henry Ford's first auto rolled off of an assembly line. Quite an irony it is that while the centers of 3 of the largest corporations in the world have their roots in the 9th District, thousands of the residents remain jobless. This is a result of wholesale lay-offs and many companies moving to the South and Southwest regions of the country for the cheap labor enforced there, leaving thousands in the 9th District jobless.

Less than 3 years ago, one of the areas few public hospitals, Highland Park General, was providing services to patients from in and around the 9th District. Many residents depended on this hospital for the clinic and emergency services, as well as the regular in-patient care. The hospital provided employment for hundreds of people. Today, Highland Park Hospital closed. Allegedly due to lack of funds and "mis-management," this closing was obviously a part of the systematic attack and cut-backs in health services aimed at poor and working people. This hospital closed its doors to the people of the 9th District, who have the highest rate of child mortality rate of any state of Michigan.

The youth in the 9th District face a bleak present and an even bleaker future. With jobs few and far between the opportunities for youth are great only in selected areas. Crime and petty crime is the way of life. The youth go by. Despite concerned parents continual fight to maintain the quality of schools in the 9th District. Up until now, after legal programs are cut, more students graduate from schools unable to find jobs. Increasingly, millages must be demanded to pay for these schools. The demands for quality education more often than not fall on deaf ears. A sad state of affairs for the future of our country, the youth, whose lives hold nothing but dead ends.

Once beautiful neighborhoods now look bombed out. Empty, abandoned, or boarded-up houses dot almost each and every block, making these areas easy play for rats and wild dogs, and dealtraps for children who play "king of the hill" in these houses and play among the ruins. At a time when people are begging for low-cost housing, HUD, maintains empty shells of buildings, leaving neighborhoods deserted.

This is a picture of the 9th District. But there is a fight going on. The people in the district have fought continually against the decay of their community. Block clubs struggle to keep their neighborhoods clean and safe. Parents and students alike have over the years protested and demonstrated to keep what is left of the schools and to upgrade their quality. Concerned residents have set up community programs, sports activities and other things for youth. But without a united effort, all of these efforts fall for a lack of coordination. One united fight against the system itself, many of these valiant efforts are failures, or short-lived successes at best. But the people are organizing, and is able to use the hospital administrations, city governments, real estate agencies, insurance companies, and school systems to slowly chip away at the lives which people are fighting to maintain.

For the first time, the people of the 9th District have fighting chance. By pulling the lever for General Baker, November 2nd, they are pulling the lever for the need of every person. The level of every person for every person. It is the only way we can change the status quo and improve human conditions. It is the only way we can change the status quo and improve human conditions. The level of every person for every person. It is the only way we can change the status quo and improve human conditions.

Interview Cont. from page 2

available to all. Advanced technical skills are used to benefit all. Culture is developed. In the Soviet Union, every factory has a cultural complex attached to it. Within this complex exists theaters, sports arenas, movie houses and reading rooms. Socialism not only insures that people eat, but develops their intellectual and cultural aptitudes. In a nutshell socialism is not based on exploitation, but on the cooperation of the people in the society for the betterment of all.

Why does the Communist Labor Party place so much emphasis on the Negro question?

The importance of the Negro question is not only for Negroes, but for every worker in this country, whether he be Anglo-American, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Filipino, from Latin America, Asia or Africa. The Negro people were shaped by history as a specific people, first enslaved, then segregated and then segregated and treated as a Black Belt of the South, from the rest of the working people in this country. Upon these people arose a nation, oppressed by USNA imperialism to send its feelers throughout the world and build its imperialist empire.

Today the Negro worker represents one out of every four workers in manufacturing. They in the main occupy the position of the unskilled and semi-skilled worker, along with the other national minority workers. This means that the progress of the Negro people, and particularly the Negro worker, is the gauge for the progress of everyone else.

Historically the Negro was excluded from the labor movement and particularly from the trade union movement. Whole unions were formed just to keep the Negro out of a particular industry. But this exclusion has always hurt all workers. The capitalists have used this exclusion to threaten the unionized workers and keep wages lower and working conditions worse. Many unions today have not taken up organizing the Negro worker, particularly in the South. The union should not be an exclusive club, because everyone suffers from the lowering of wages based on the excluded people. If the auto workers want to stop runaway shops, or the lowering of their wages, then they should fight for wage parity in the areas like the Negro Nation and the Southwest where "right to work" laws militate against unionization and lower wages are common.

Because of the specific crucial position that the Negro workers plays in the Anglo-American working class and because the Negro Nation is the most important asset of imperialism, the stirring of the Negro People during the 60's revived the working class struggle here in this country. The communist fights for equality of all peoples and that is one reason the capitalists hate us so. We are absolutely against national privilege based upon nationality, skin color or religion. The oppression of the Negro people, the use of the ideological rationale for that oppression, white chauvinism, has divided the working class. An indispensable step in winning socialism in this country is unity of the races. There is only one way to do this—by being based on the fight for equality for the Negro.

Every progressive movement in this country has failed because it has not dealt with the Negro question. The cornerstone of our Party is the scientific understanding of the Negro question as a national-colonial question. How else can we rid society of national oppression if we don't see this question correctly? The Negro Nation is an oppressed colony of USNA imperialism, and only its independence will lay the basis for the equality of the Negro in this country. The fate of the socialist revolution lies in the demand and struggle for Independence for the Negro Nation. It is from this standpoint that we raise this demand.

The Communist Labor Party urges all the readers of the Tribes to help sustain our party's press by subscribing now.

P.O. Box 783, Linwood Station Detroit, Michigan 48206
P.O. Box 170, Times Plaza Sta. Brooklyn, New York 11217
P.O. Box 3774 Chicago, Ill. 60694
P.O. Box 2424, Bayview Sta. San Francisco, Ca.

GEORGE EDWARDS

Cont. from page 3

It is obvious that Edwards realizes that he has no interest in having his legislative and voting record, his actual place of residence or his conflict of interests put before the voters. General Baker, the candidate of the 9th District is essentially limited to financial contributions from local politicians and organizational benefits. But by Nov. 2, 1976, the Communist Labor Party will have made their case to the people and at that time the voters will have the opportunity to elect some one who can represent their interests in the government.

An important gauge of the political awareness of the working class is who votes for whom. Universal suffrage and its usage has always registered the anger and the discontent of the people. The 9th District has a real opportunity to take up this weapon and protest not only against Cigarette Edwards but also against the system of fascism. On the day that the electric motor of universal suffrage reaches the boiling point, both the workers and capitalists of this country will know what to do. Goodbye and good riddance to Edwards—don't let the door hit you on your way out.