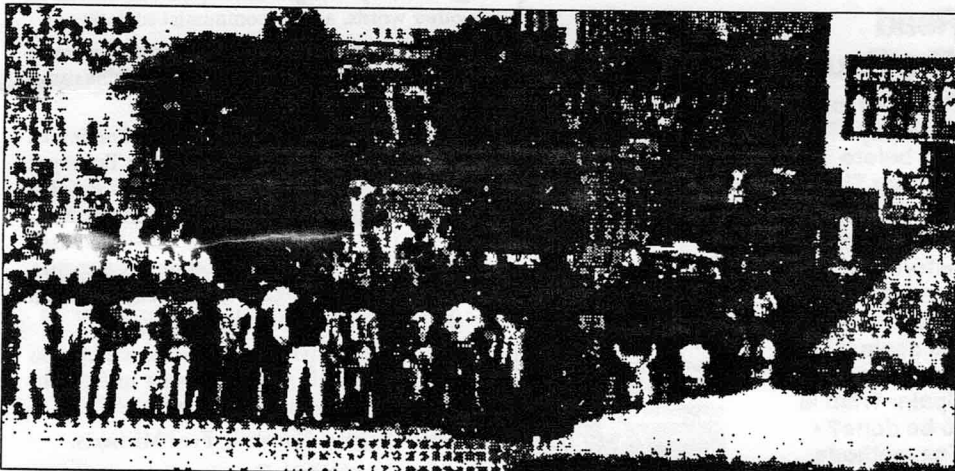


# Unity against GM, Ford, and Chrysler!

The top leadership of the UAW is now in the process of negotiating a new agreement with the owners of GM, Ford, and Chrysler concerning the conditions in which workers will be working for these owners.

This leadership is in a very weak position in these negotiations because it is not fighting for *a working class platform* that can unite millions of working people and their families against the billionaire owners of GM, Ford and Chrysler.



Brazilian Ford workers watch as armored police take over the factory. The UAW leadership's refusal to support their demands shows the anti-working class program of the leadership as it enters into the negotiations.

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It claims to be fighting for job security. In reality, in exchange for *promises* of job security for a limited number of higher seniority workers, it has prepared to make more *concessions* to the owners, including allowing them to hire new workers at various wage levels, benefit levels, and as temporary workers for an indefinite period of time.

The New Directions Caucus tried to correct this problem by fighting for a more working class platform for the UAW in the negotiations and for a more working class leadership in certain locals. Unfortunately, it was unable to win a majority on a national level. It did win a majority in certain locals.

Does this mean that workers have to take whatever the owners of GM, Ford, Chrysler and the top UAW leadership are preparing to dish out?

Absolutely not.

They can continue a fight for a more working class platform, and a more working class leadership. They can fight for:

- jobs for all; divide work among all workers without cutting pay;
- equal pay for equal work; equal rights for new hires, young, Black, and women workers.

They can refuse to accept any contract that does not advance the interests of *all* the workers. They can refuse to accept any contract that claims to advance the interests of some workers, and sacrifices others.

The owners of GM, Ford, Chrysler and the top leadership of the UAW will not support this struggle, but millions of working people will.

At this point, it is impossible to predict to what extent the workers will be able to force their enemies to make concessions, with such a fight. But, regardless of the immediate outcome, the working class will be strengthened by this fight. ■

# A workers candidate for Detroit school board! Vote for Shanta Driver, August 7!

Shanta Driver, a worker at Harper Hospital and a member of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 79, is running for Detroit School Board. Shanta is also a supporter of the Revolutionary Workers League, a Trotskyist group in Detroit.

We urge all workers and their organizations to support Shanta Driver against the upperclass, bourgeois, Democratic and Republican party candidates in this election.

According to *Fighting Worker*, Shanta's platform includes the following demands:

"... a 50 per cent cut in class size and the building of new schools with the very best facilities ...

... all the school districts in the Detroit metropolitan area should be merged to end the current reality of separate and unequal education ... private schools should be made public, and tracking should be eliminated ...

... free, quality childcare should be available for students and teachers at all schools ...

... the members of the 10,000 strong Detroit Federation of Teachers must be paid the same wages as the top-paid teachers in the surrounding districts, along with a full and unlimited cost-of-living allowance ...

... retirement should be after twenty years with a full pension at 100 per cent salary ... class and counselling loads should be greatly reduced and teachers and counselors given paid sabbatical leaves ... thousands more teachers should be hired ...

... curriculum should be greatly expanded ... Black, Latino and Arab history and culture should be integrated into the curriculum ... remedial and special education programs should be improved ... "Mainstreaming" should replace the current segregation of special ed students ...

... a mass workers party to fight for a workers government..." (*Fighting Worker*, No. 89, June 1990)

Unfortunately, some of the propaganda for Shanta Driver suggests that these demands, and other demands that she raises, can be realized through: "massive increases in state and federal aid, a heavy tax on the banks, corporations and the rich, and a big cut in the number of school administrators," and through: "the school board should be abolished ... the board should be replaced by a city-wide council of workers', students', teachers', and parents' delegates." (*Fighting Worker*, No. 89, June 1990.)

Certainly, under certain circumstances, it would be correct and desirable to support such measures. But they really do not come to grips with the fundamental problem.

Detroit is the home of the largest manufacturing corporation in the world (GM), and the home of other large manufacturing corporations that are among the largest in the world (Ford, Chrysler). The conditions in which both Black and white working class youth in Detroit are forced to live and to

study, show that the current economic system, in which one class owns and controls all the resources of the society, and the other class works for it, has exhausted its ability to raise the standard of living and culture of the working class and other oppressed strata of the society. The owners of GM, Ford, Chrysler and other corporations are no longer capable of raising the standard of living and culture of the next generation of the working class. The time has come for the working class to form its own party, its own government, confiscate basic industries and banks in the public interest, and initiate a planned economy.

Workers need to support each and every struggle for the needs of working class youth. The more this struggle proceeds, the clearer it will be that *real progress* demands confiscating basic industries and banks and initiating a planned economy.

This in turn will be a step toward building a classless society, in which there is no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, and no privileged dictatorial bureaucrats, like those in China, Eastern Europe or the USSR. In other words, a truly socialist or communist society.

Workers who see this now need to enter into a common fight to bring this understanding to their class brothers and sisters, so that the working class can proceed as quickly and as directly as is possible in this direction. They need to fight the illusions and the utopianism of the middle classes.

We urge workers and militants who see this now to subscribe to *Truth* and to *The Fourth International*, to help distribute these publications, and to join and build Trotskyist groups in order to advance this struggle.—M. Guttshall.

## Notes

**Spark**, a Trotskyist tendency, is holding its Summer Festival in Detroit, August 12, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We urge all our Detroit readers to attend. For more information, contact a Spark or Truth distributor.

**The 40th anniversary of the assassination of Leon Trotsky** is August 20. A great Russian revolutionary, who played a decisive role in the victory of the Russian Revolution by his leadership of the Red Army, he was assassinated in Mexico by agents of Stalin. But the bureaucrats, descendants of his assassins, are being driven out of every country in Eastern Europe and the USSR by the workers, as he foresaw. Trotsky also played a leading role in founding the party that continued the fight for socialism, the Fourth International. We urge all our readers to join with us in studying the program of the Fourth International and in making it come to life in every action of the workers. Contact your Truth distributor for upcoming meetings on what does the program of Fourth International mean today.

**Souter**, the weird judge that Bush has nominated for the Supreme Court, must be rejected by the workers and by the Congress. Not only does he not know anything about the conditions of the vast majority of workers (he is from a small state with no large cities; he has never had a family), but he is not sympathetic in any way to the problems of the workers. Everything to date also indicates that he will oppose the right to abortion for women and oppose any affirmative action programs for Blacks. Throw the weirdo out!

**Wayne County Community College** and the only Latino judge on the federal bench are the latest targets of the racist investigations launched by the Bush government. It is now obvious that as the number of crimes committed by the Bush administration and Congress rise (Neil Bush, the Savings and Loan scandal, the B-2 bomber, etc.) the number of investigations of Black and Hispanic leaders goes up. The purpose? To discourage Blacks and Hispanics from fighting the big corporations and the Bush administration. The response? Stop these racist investigations now!

## TRUTH

*Truth* is published in order to build support for:

- the liberation of the working class and all oppressed peoples;
- a workers party, a workers government, and a socialist revolution, in which workers take basic industries and banks away from billionaire private owners and begin a planned economy, run by workers, in the interests of the people; a step towards a classless society, with no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, no want, no suffering, and no privileged dictatorial bureaucrats ... in other words, a fully communist society;
- rebuilding the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, to lead this struggle.

*Truth* is published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit, which is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International. It is also associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

*Truth* and the Trotskyist Committee are open to all who share their goals and want to fight for them. If you do, contact us today!

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