

COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY



CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 6, 1976

NO. 1 PRIORITY - ELECT GEN

It should be clear to us that the priority which we must adopt as progressives, as socialists, for the next several months, is the election of General Baker. For his election can move all of the other work which we are involved in forward tremendously.

To have a communist elected to state office in Michigan will have world-wide effect. And most certainly here in Michigan, it will have tremendous effect in galvanizing the struggles of the workers, further uniting them and giving further recognized leadership to the working class.

Every struggle in the plant about speed-up, every workman's compensation struggle, every battle for quality health care and quality education will be taken up by Gen. The needs and aspirations of the working class and progressive people are Gen's own.

We must see that in order to move everything forward, we must concentrate on the election of the Communist Labor Party candidate for the state legislature from the 9th district -- General Baker.



COMRADES AND FRIENDS

An important part of our campaign to get General elected in the 9th District is the struggle to register voters. This is true because the mass of workers are not registered.

Even though the Democratic Party announces itself to be the party of the working man, they expend little energy on voter registration. And because of their tweedle dee politics, they inspire few to go out and register. On the other hand, if the Communist Labor Party does some work to educate the workers in the 9th District, it can look forward to a large proportion of the vote of those who will now be getting registered.

Therefore we are going among those who have not registered. In cooperation with the Detroit Unemployed Council, COPE, NAACP and other organizations, we will see to it that an extensive voter registration campaign is waged between now and October 4 -- the last day for registration for the November elections.

Anyone who is interested in registering voters should please call the campaign office at 341-0346 and we will refer you to the appropriate organization.

The fight to elect Gen is the fight of all of us. LET'S GET OUT THERE AND REGISTER VOTERS IN THE FIGHT FOR A BETTER LIFE AND IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM.

CLP - 16525 HAMILTON, H.P. - 341-0346

"DEMOCRACY" EXPOSED AS FARCE FOR WORKERS

The process of getting General Baker on the ballot has been one of overcoming one obstacle after another. Why has it been so difficult? Because General Baker stands for socialism and his campaign presents a threat to the continued rule of the capitalists. In the course of this struggle to present a real choice in November, we have had to battle the state in the courts at the same time as we have campaigned in the community.

When the Communist Labor Party decided to run General Baker, the only requirement to be placed on the ballot was to gather 17,000 signatures on petitions. After we had gathered twice the signatures necessary, the capitalists set up another roadblock--Public Act 94. This law forced voters in the August 3 primary to choose between voting to get the CLP and its candidate on the ballot in November and choosing candidates for the other races. For the first time in the history of this country, the state made a political party run in a special race just to get its name on the ballot!!

The CLP filed in federal court to prove this law was unconstitutional and get it taken off the books. We asked for an immediate injunction to stop the the state from printing the August 3 ballots, but the federal judges refused to act.

As if the law itself was not outrageous enough, the state moved on other fronts. Three days before the election, the CLP motorcade in Gen's district was stopped and six people were beaten, maced, and arrested. But election day itself brought violations of the law at the polls that really made clear that this was a rigged election.

Election officials repeatedly gave voters incorrect instructions about how to vote for the CLP. Some voting machines had metal bars over the Party Qualification Section so it could not be pulled down. Demonstration voting machines showed only the Democratic and Republican party choices. Instruction ballots had the wrong number for the CLP. Our poll workers were singled out personally by Highland Park City Clerk Tremon McDermott and arrested for "being within the 100 foot limit." Spanish language ballots were translated incorrectly, causing ballots cast for the CLP by Spanish-speaking voters to be invalidated.

In mid-election day we again went to federal court and protested that with these injustices there was no way the election results would be fair. Again we asked the federal judges to stop the election and once again they refused to act saying "lets see what happens! Lets see how many votes are cast."

As the reports from the precincts came in, the poll workers told us that many election officials were refusing to even count the votes cast for the CLP. We refused to be discouraged and gathered signed statements from our many supporters testifying to this fraud and corruption. We prepared new legal papers for the federal judges outlining each and every outrage--exposing the way the working class was tricked. We demanded immediate action--put Gen on the November ballot!!

The judges knew a court hearing on our latest legal papers would clearly show the people of Michigan how undemocratic this election was. To avoid this, they gave us a compromise decision--they upheld the constitutionality of Public Act 94 in general, but said it would not apply to this November election.

Why did we win this victory? The judges were forced to put Gen on the November ballot because the CLP battled on every front. We waged a tit-for-tat struggle with the police, the corrupt city clerks, and the federal judges. We had with us hundreds of honest workers, fed up with the unemployment, poor housing, welfare cut-backs and crime offered them by the capitalists.

We must continue the fight to use the ballot to raise the question of socialism. The judges' decision upholding P.A. 94 will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court. The only way to protect our democratic right to vote for the party that represents our interests--to fight for it in every way necessary. The CLP will seek to have federal marshals supervise the elections in the 9th District. But we will also train our supporters to guard the polls on November 2 and prevent the election officials from robbing the workers of their votes once again.

"Why Work for General Baker's Election?"

We have heard the question recently from a number of people -- "I don't live in the 9th District, what can I do to help General Baker get elected?" People have also asked, why should I help since he isn't in my district and I can't vote for him and he won't represent me?

Taking the second question first, it seems a little strange that people would ask this, for although the content of our campaign is different from all the others, the form is pretty much the same. All parties and organizations supporting candidates focus in on a few crucial races which they feel will make a real difference.

For instance, progressives from around the country support Ron Dellums, Congressman from California, even though they don't live in his district or even his state, because of the positions he takes and struggles for. The same is true of the conservatives in their support for Senator Buckley in New York or Hayakawa in California. Money, support and endorsements flow in from around the country. They focus their support and money on one campaign to move their work forward all around the country. We must do the same. Just as Dellums and Buckley will fight for issues around the country and represent a certain class, so too will Gen.

Gen may be running in the 9th District, but he will represent workers all over the country. We understand that electing Gen will not change the character of the State Legislature itself, but it will change the character of the struggle within it and without to a great degree.



Gen can and will speak out against the deals that go down, the laws that are passed at the expense of workers throughout the state. He will speak out in support of workers struggles everywhere and introduce legislation to move forward the struggle of the workers for a better life.

Gen will consistently put forward the fact that it is only socialism which will in the end bring us a qualitatively better life, and it is only the working class and its allies which can bring this about. Have no fear, Gen will, as he has always done, represent the best in our society. His representation will not be limited to any particular nationality or age or place of work or community -- certainly not to any imaginary lines drawn by the politicians.

In terms of the first question about what people can do, we have to point out again that Gen will, in fact, represent us all and therefore we must all work to get him elected. Fundraisers of all sorts are needed from block clubs, unions, churches, etc. You can organize a get-together of neighbors to talk about Gen and with him. We need endorsements from organizations and prestigious individuals. This will aid us in the campaign in the 9th District.

The struggle is one. We must be one in our efforts.

MARCH FOR JOBS SEPTEMBER 22

Every day now the newspapers are full of stories about the crime in the city. And how are the capitalist politicians planning to stop crime? By treating all our youth as criminals. Concentration camps are being proposed through bills, such as House Bill 6395, which would allow over 1,000 children to be imprisoned in forced labor camps for indefinite periods of time for 12-18 year olds. Detention cages such as the ones on Grand River and Rosa Parks Boulevard (12th Street) are already in use! Plans are being made to use department store facilities for jails.

Even though we are opposed to criminal acts, we understand the real criminals are the Nixons, Fords, and the other capitalist politicians who offer only imprisonment for our children. These capitalist politicians leave our youth no where to turn in the face of a millage failure which aids in turning horrible and shameful Detroit city schools into more hideous and dilapidated schools. Unemployment against our youth has ranged from 30% to 50% in the inner city for the last three years. Compared to this situation the big 3 auto companies have been reaping profits. At the end of the second quarter in June, General Motors Corporation recorded 909 million dollars more profits than they have ever made in history. The Ford Motor Company listed 442 million and Chrysler Corporation recorded 155 million. For the first ten days in August they all listed more record profits for auto sales!!

While all of these corporations house their headquarters right near and around the cities of Highland Park and Detroit, they have not offered us a dime, as all of the hopes, dreams, morality of our youth are crushed by capitalist exploitation!! Back in 1968, the Big 3 Auto companies offered programs to hire inner city labor, including youth, after the 1967 Rebellion. Ford hired 5,000; GM sent buses from Detroit to Pontiac to transport their new labor force; and Chrysler Corporation started a hard-core program! But, today, they offer nothing but detention centers and curfews. During the week of August 3rd, three youth entered Chrysler's Mack Stamping Plant and worked 3 days for nothing which dramatized the desperate fight for jobs for youth!

Thus, we are calling for a broad coalition of youth to March for Jobs! We are demanding that our youth be placed into apprenticeship programs and be trained for skilled jobs. We want an end to monies being directed toward concentration camp sites, labor camps, and detention cages proposed by politicians and FBI aspirants!

WE ARE CALLING FOR 10,000 UNEMPLOYED YOUTH AND SUPPORTERS TO MARCH FOR JOBS SEPTEMBER 22nd!!

The September 22nd Movement