

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

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The POLITICAL PAPER of the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY of the UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA

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

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INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL BAKER COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY CANDIDATE

How is the Communist Labor Party different from the Democratic and Republican parties?

The Communist Labor Party is different from the Democratic and Republican parties in both form and content. The major difference is the class content of these parties. The Democratic and Republican parties are both capitalist parties, and they serve the interest of the ruling class in this society, big business—that segment of society that lives off the labor of the masses of working people in this society. On the other hand, the Communist Labor Party openly avows it's a party of the proletariat, it has no other basis of existence but to clarify, aid and develop the class struggle of working people and the struggle for socialism, the struggle for political power, the dictatorship of the proletariat. Some of the popular characteristics of the Democratic and Republican parties is that the Republican party openly avows that it is the party of big business and is generally known as that, even to working people. It's the party of Nixon and the Watergate scandals; it's the party that brought us the wage-price freeze of recent times, it's the party under which the working class suffers so much at the heels of the Rockefeller's and the energy industry. Historically, it's the party of recessions and the cutback of social welfare programs so badly needed by the workers. On the other hand, the Democratic party is known to the working class as the "party of labor." It generally has the backing of major labor unions and other working class organizations in this country. Historically however, the Democratic Party is the party of war. It was under the Democratic Party that the Korean and Vietnam wars were launched. The aggression in the Congo, Cuba and Santo Domingo—it was under the Democratic Party leadership, from the executive branch, fundamentally that these wars of aggression were launched against working and oppressed people around the world, especially the colonial countries. Not only is the Communist Labor Party different from the bourgeois parties in content, in terms of the interest we represent but there is also a major difference in form.

The Communist Labor Party is a militant, fighting party of the proletariat. Therefore, it differs fundamentally from the parties of big business. The Democratic and Republican parties are parliamentary groupings. They are not designed to draw working people into active political life. Instead, they serve a handful of legislators and political hacks in each party. An example of this is that once a vote is taken on this bill or that, in the legislature, the struggle is ended. Neither the Democratic or Republican parties carry the struggle any further. On the other hand, the Communist Labor Party is an active fighting party. We are continuing throughout this campaign not only to draw large segments of working people into active political life, but likewise to spend much of our time, most of our time speaking to the issues that affect the lives of working people. Once a vote is taken, the fight only begins, it doesn't end. Then we would go back and try to mobilize working people against the outrageous legislation that is being passed and that is actually taking back the hard-earned gains of the working class.

The Democratic and Republican parties strive at all times to cover-up class contradictions, to speak in the name of the whole people instead of in the interest of one class or the other. A recent example of this is in the recent presidential campaign in which Jimmy Carter has been endorsed by all of labor on the one hand and Henry Ford III, on the other.

In a recent meeting in the Detroit area where Jimmy Carter came to town to speak to the state convention of the AFL-CIO a few days after the Ford strike had started,



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 heels 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 other 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.

COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY PROGRAM

Preamble

Unhampered by the hangovers of feudalism, USNA capitalism by the end of the 19th Century, had fully entered into its aggressive, moribund, final stage—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 United States of North America is locked in a life and death struggle with the capitalist class. This struggle is evolving under conditions where the workers have had no general staff—no Marxist Leninist Communist 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 *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.

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The working class of the United States of North America constitutes the majority of the population. The stranglehold of the big financial capitalists over the countryside had led to a sharp decline in the 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 placed the proletariat in an extremely 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 historic conflict is at hand.

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

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

The struggle against 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

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As I said earlier the two capitalist parties strive to cover-up class contradictions. They try to present themselves as speaking for the people as a whole as if the bosses and the workers, the exploiters and the exploited have a common interest. It is clear to us that proletariat needs its own independent voice to speak in the interest of the working class always and everywhere.

There are many clear examples. Even the trade unions speak about the fact that you can win a struggle at the bargaining tables 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 one 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 winning something in one arena only to lose it in another. Workers are able to win certain concessions, but then find themselves losing it in the state legislature because they have no one there to speak for their interests. A somewhat different example around this is Michigan's Worker's Compensation law. Workmen's Compensation, which had been won in the state legislature through the efforts of working people, is now under attack by the large manufacturer's lobby in a number of arenas. People's benefits are under attack and those who have fought for those benefits are facing legal charges. In the face of attacks like these, we can clearly see the proletariat's need for an independent voice that can fight in their interest in all arenas, including the state legislature. The 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 legislature as a podium from which to speak, a podium which has been denied to communists historically. I will be able to speak out against the injustices, against

by the working class, and the transfer of all land, instruments, factories, machines and mines to the whole of society for the organization of social production under which all that is produced by the workers and all improvements in production must benefit the working people themselves.

The revolutionary working class movement is the gravedigger of USNA monopoly capitalism. It is part of the international movement of the world's working class for peace, democracy, national liberation and socialism.

The greatest danger facing the working class is the open terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic, most imperialist elements of finance capital—fascism. This assumes the German military form. Since 1932, the executive branch of the government has accumulated emergency powers far greater than those granted Hitler and Mussolini.

The military has long ago clamped a stranglehold on the administrative bureaucracy. The military, loyal reactionary servants of imperialism, presents a grave danger to civil liberties and to the labor movement.

The struggle of the workers against the inroads of fascism accelerates the political development of the class and inevitably sharpens the antagonisms that can only end with the dictatorship of the proletariat—the only political form that guarantees the emancipation of all the toiling masses. The struggle of the working class of the USNA for its emancipation is a political struggle. Its aim, by defeating the fascist offensive, is to pass over to the offensive and overthrow the monopoly capitalist rule which is the seedbed of fascism. Only through the revolutionary struggle for reforms can the proletariat be organized to establish its dictatorship.

The emancipation of the working class is the revolutionary act of self-emancipation.

Our Party declares that its aim is to develop the class consciousness of the workers, point out and clarify the aims and objects of the struggle, and to organize and participate in this struggle of the working class of the USNA.

Hence, our Party will support every national liberation movement, every movement of labor and struggle of the people that is directed against the fascist offensive, for peace, for democracy, for national liberation and socialism.

Making this program our starting point, our Party demands and sets out to lead the struggle for:

1. Full employment at the expense of the military

speed-up in the plants, against decrepit and poor housing, against the closure of public hospitals, recreation centers and cutbacks in social services. As a state legislator, I will be able to fight for the nationalization of education so that each school child has an equal opportunity to attend a decent school. I will be able to fight for integrated, equal education. As state legislator I can demand and fight for jobs at the expense of the huge military budget

We understand that winning only one seat in the legislature will not mean success overnight, but we will be able to speak out. The bourgeoisie will not be able to deny us access to the working class. They will no longer be able to isolate the Communist Labor Party and say that we are only a small grouping of people without influence. As state legislator I can spread the ideas of socialism and yet at the same time fight hard for the betterment of conditions under this system. The bourgeoisie will not keep me away from the welfare centers, the factory gates, the campuses, where there is seething anger against the capitalist system. As state legislator I can fight to unite the various struggles not only in my district but throughout Michigan, in fact throughout the country.

What is the Dictatorship of the Proletariat that Communists fight for?

To most people the word dictatorship means fear and oppression. Actually this society is a dictatorship. A dictatorship of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, of the corruption in government, of police who shoot first and ask questions later. It is a dictatorship of the Rockefellers and their like. Let's take an example. Look around and see what the state is doing to our youth. Rather than trying to find them jobs and give them a decent education, they are pushing bills through the legislature which virtually make our children prisoners both in the streets and in the jails. The new law recently passed in the Michigan House will build concentration camps for our youth and give them passes which will identify them immediately as "criminals." What we live under in this society is a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie who uses everything at their disposal to keep their wealth.

The dictatorship of the proletariat is when the working class has state power and uses that state power to involve the masses of people in the decision making

budget; jobs with peace. Unemployment compensation commensurate with the number of children to extend to all unemployed workers, both urban and rural proletarians. Nationalize welfare and equalize funds to all welfare recipients commensurate with the number of children.

2. And end to compulsory overtime. Strict enforcement of a 35-hour week. No speed-up.

3. Prohibition of work by children under 16.

4. An end to price hikes and to all attacks on the living standards of the workers.

5. Recognition, implementation and protection of the rights of women; equal pay for equal work.

6. Free universal medical care.

7. Equal, quality and integrated education for all children. Bilingual education wherever there are non-English speaking students. Nationalize education.

8. Independence for the Negro Nation and Puerto Rico.

9. Stop Deportations. No documentation papers required for any worker. Open Borders.

10. Regional autonomy for the Mexican national minority of the Southwest and for the Indian Peoples.

11. Independence, freedom and regional autonomy for the peoples of all nations and territories oppressed by USNA imperialism and the withdrawal of all USNA troops and bases from foreign nations and territories such as the Philippines and Panama. Renunciation of all the secret arrangements and unequal treaties imposed on all peoples and countries that have been conquered by USNA imperialism.

12. Equality for all national minorities. No national privilege.

13. The guaranty of decent housing through government financing and the expansion of the public sector of housing for the people.

14. Nationalize the energy industry.

15. Outlaw the KKK, Nazi Party and all fascist gangs.

16. Free quality 24-hour childcare for working families.

17. Support the right to bear arms.

18. The right of workers to organize into unions and to strike. Repeal Taft-Hartley and all other anti-labor legislation.

19. An end to all discrimination against military and civilian resisters to imperialist war. Unconditional amnesty for these resisters.

process and the basic decisions of the society are made by those people who work in it for the benefit of the majority and not just for a few rich parasites. The 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 the state power is an organ of suppression and the proletariat once it has assumed power must use it in order to rid society of those people who violently refuse to build the society for the benefit of all. The actual Russian Revolution was not a bloody thing. It was after the proletariat had taken over the state that the capitalist countries invaded and tried to wreck the newly established proletarian power. That's when the bloodshed started. The communists, the proletariat, do not want bloodshed. It is the imperialist who daily through their dictatorship, enslave, oppress and exploit the vast majority of the people in this country and throughout the capitalist world.

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 so-called white collar rip-offs on the other hand, is done away with. Socialism provides work for all who want to eat. There would be no basis for stealing. Socialism means going to work and not having to worry that your battery was stolen last night, or if your TV will be there when you return. Socialism means that the wealth of society is spent on everyone. All socialist countries today have free medical care and very inexpensive food and clothing. For instance in the Soviet Union, rent is only 3 percent of the workers' income and inflation hasn't risen since 1928. In fact, prices have gone down. After all, what is life about? Everyone wants to raise 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. Socialism has the goal of solving these problems and thus allowing mankind to develop. Education is free and

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WHO IS GENERAL BAKER?

Day after day the working class exists with the threat of speed-up and joblessness. Millions are forced to subsist on the degradation of welfare. Daily they must contend with crime in the streets and in the government. And daily those who are "lucky" enough to have jobs producing millions of dollars in profit for company owners—go home with a paycheck that is only enough to keep them going until the next check comes.

But they have something going for them. The working class represents the vast majority of the people in this society, and are the creators of all the wealth in this country.

Working people do not take this robbery of the profits of their labor sitting down. Through-out the years workers have organized into unions, have stood together in the face of attacks by the bourgeoisie. They have died by the lynch rope and fire for trying to fight for decency and justice. And from this struggle many leaders and true fighters for the class have emerged. Many are well known, but thousands more are the unsung heroes of our class. Some are on the shop floors and have stood up and refused to be treated like dirt, like mere cogs on a machine. Some are in the hospitals and are sick of their fingers being worked to the bone trying to give good care to patients when there is just not enough help to go around. Some of them lead block clubs and PTAs fighting for a better life for their children and themselves. Many labor in the fields and in the sweat shops of the Negro Nation, fighting for unions so that they might live like human beings. Some of these leaders of our people are Communists, many are not. But they all have one thing in common—in some form or another they are fighting for a better life for the USNA and its people.

General Gordon Baker Jr. is one of these leaders. Not a man to seek out publicity or the limelight, Gen, as he is usually called, nevertheless has helped to shape the movement of working people in this country and particularly in Detroit. A soft spoken man, more likely to be seen working on someone's car than on the screen of someone's TV, he is a Negro assembly line worker, and a fighter for the rights and emancipation of the working class.

As far as Gen's early history is concerned, it is not much different than most other workers. He was born in 1941 and raised in the Southwest area of Detroit, in a neighborhood mostly populated by factory workers. He graduated from Southwestern High School and became one of the millions of youth during the late 50's without a job, and whose only hope to "get ahead" was to become a petty hustler, or to enlist in the armed forces. Gen did not wish to do either one—he wanted to find work. But in 1958 this was not an easy task. The country was experiencing one of its periodic crisis, and in Detroit this meant no jobs in the city's biggest employer, auto.

Thousands were lined up in front of Unemployment offices and factory gates looking for work. General and his father were among them. Gen has spoken vividly of himself and General Sr. arising at daybreak searching the city for work. His father was laid-off with 17 years seniority from a plant that ran away down South, the son was newly graduated from school with no hope for employment, and not enough money to pay for college tuition. This went on for over a year, until the auto plants again picked up production, but even then Gen could not get work at the higher paying Big Three, but had to settle for working in a small dime store on Woodward and the Boulevard for \$1.50.

In the years that followed, Gen began to see more and more the oppression of those that had nothing and this in Detroit meant the Negro. While going to Highland Park Community college, and then to Wayne State, he became involved in numerous Negro organizations. He participated in Martin Luther King's historic march on downtown Detroit, where 200,000 people walked down Woodward Ave. demanding an end to discrimination. He even visited Cuba, to see how working people lived in that country. Then came the Draft. In a much published letter to his Draft Board in 1964, Gen put forth his principles and refused to be inducted:

You stand before me with the dried blood of Patrice Lumumba on your hands, the blood of defenseless Panamanian students shot down by US marines; the blood of my black brothers in Angola and South Africa who are being tortured by the Portuguese and South African whites [whom you resolutely support] respectively; the dead people of Japan, Korea and now Vietnam, in Asia; the blood of Medgar Evers, six Birmingham babies, the blood of one million Algerians slaughtered by the French [whom you supported]; the fresh blood of ten thousand Congolese patriots dead from your ruthless rape and plunder of the Congo—the blood of defenseless women and children burned in villages from Napalm jelly bombs. . . With all of this blood of my non-white brothers dripping from your fangs, you have the damned audacity to ask me if I am "qualified."...

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 my oppressed brothers [who are completely and resolutely within their just rights to free their fatherland from foreign domination.] You ask me if I am qualified to join an army of fools, assassins and moral delinquents who are not worthy of being called men! You want me to defend the riches reaped from the super-exploitation of the darker races of mankind by a few white, rich, super-monopolists who control 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 is made to free South Africa; when the call is made to liberate Latin America from the United Fruit Co., Kaiser and Alcoa Aluminum Co., and from Standard Oil; when the call is made to jail the exploiting Brahmins in India in order to destroy the Caste system; when the call is made to free the black delta areas of Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina; when the call is made to Free 12th Street here in Detroit; when these calls are made, send for me, for these shall be 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 1964! Years before the massive Vietnam anti-war sentiment had surfaced.

The next few years are filled with a flurry of activity. Demonstrations, marches and meetings in the 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 oppressed as Negroes, but from working at Chrysler's Hamtramck Assembly Plant (Dodge Main) General began to see that the Negro worker was oppressed as a worker as well. The struggle in the plants became critical, and Gen was instrumental in forming a group called DRUM—Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement. The conditions at Dodge Main were deplorable and discrimination ran wild, not only in the Company but in UAW representation as well. Months later, a wildcat ensued which shut down Dodge Main for 4 days, with over 4,000 workers involved. General lost his job, but left behind the results of that 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.

Years of struggle have come and gone between then and now. General Baker, knowledgeable from the years of attempts at organizing workers, grew to understand that the plight of the Negro worker was inextricably tied to the fight for the whole working class. And that the main enemy of working people was not merely the corrupt trade union leadership, or an individual company owner, but the capitalist class in all its vicious forms and faces. While studying the science of Marxism-Leninism and the history of working people of this country and world-wide, Gen came to see that the struggle of the working class and all of its nationalities was a struggle for socialism.

General Baker was one of the founding members of the Communist Labor Party and was chosen to become a candidate for State Representative in Michigan's 9th District. Gen is running not only because of his long years of fighting for working people, but also because of his ability to represent the needs and demands of those who labor, to speak out and expose the fraud and corruption which undermines every aspect of our lives, to analyse and present solutions to the problems that workers face, and because of his knowledge and ties with the 9th District. Gen has lived in the 9th District the past 8 years and he has fought for better schools, jobs, and opportunities for our youth. Not a rich peanut plantation owner who suddenly wants to appear poor and earthy in order to buy votes, General Baker runs for state representative based on one thing—his ability to fight in the interests of poor and working people wherever he is—in the factory, or on the floor 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. Some long ago gave up the fight. Some sold their principles in exchange for positions and money. Some grew discouraged by the repeated failures and attacks by the state. Some have lost their lives for their 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. Employed now at Ford Rouge as an assembly line worker, after having been rehired from a firing stemming from Gen's organizing activities, he still fights for the freedom of working people. Make General your State Representative. He's the only one who will really represent the people of the 9th District—because he's the only one who can.

Who is George Edwards?

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 powerful, his district has become one of the poorest and most depressed in the state. The housing is ravished by the red-lining policy of the banks. The infant mortality is the highest in the state; unemployment among the highest in the nation. The *Detroit News* recently labeled Highland Park schools, which are attended by nearly half the children in the district, as the worst in the state. Crime and pornography run rampant throughout this district. The bourgeoisie, which Edwards represents, has learned well how to win public officials to their side. George Edwards is a good example of this. He is a corrupt and bribed legislator.

Exactly how is Mr. Edwards tied to the bourgeoisie? First, through his own immediate family. His wife, Esther Gordy Edwards, is the sister of Motown Records' 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 corporate officer 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-ridden and troubled Detroit bank.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Corporations, Assistant Democratic Floor Leader of the House and a senior member of the Insurance Committee, Edwards is required to make countless decisions which involve him in direct conflict of interests with the average worker in his district. As we shall see later on, he invariably resolves the conflict in favor of the banks, corporations, etc. and against the citizens, especially those in his own district.

Socially as well as financially, George Edwards moves in circles far removed from the overwhelming majority of workers and poor people in the 9th District. Although required by Michigan law to live in the 9th District, for many years, Edwards has maintained a house in the district, 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, his official campaign contribution records do not contain a single campaign contribution from a resident organization or business within the 9th District. Instead his contributors are Lansing-based lobbyists, bank officials and suburbanites. For example, in 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 which Mr. Edwards introduced in 1975, every one was referred to either his own committee or the insurance committee. Virtually every bill was one to expand the power of the banks, ease 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. For example, he introduced legislation that would make it more difficult and more expensive for drivers with bad records, which includes a disproportionate share of inner-city drivers, 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 transfers, instead of receiving a pay check, your 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 about 50 percent of the time, according to the records of the ADA. When he does vote, he usually takes the straight Democratic party line. But on problems of his own district—unemployment, deteriorating health care, crime and pornography, strikes and lock-outs—he says and does nothing.

It is no accident that it has taken the Communist Labor Party to wage the most aggressive and damaging campaign ever run against Edwards. The strategy of the bourgeoisie to protect him and keep him in his seat, is to prevent anyone from running a serious campaign against him. Until now the strategy has worked. His potential opponents have been so tied to capital themselves, that they have not really attacked or they have lacked the resources of a party to carry out the attack.

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 Representatives District? First of all, it is an area bordered basically by 6 Mile on the North, Grand Boulevard on the South, Chrysler Freeway on the East and the Lodge Freeway on the West. The whole of the city of 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 host to the General Motors World Headquarters building. While not the home of Ford's major operations, a plaque on Woodward Ave. marks the old Ford building that sits there, an historic landmark, the site where Henry Ford's first auto rolled off of an assembly line. Quite an irony that is that while the centers of 3 of the largest corporations in the world have their roots in the soil of 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. Also the hospital provided employment for hundreds of people. Today, Highland Park Hospital is closed. Allegedly due to lack of funds and "mis-management," this closing was obviously a part of the continued attacks and cut-backs of health services for poor and working people. This hospital closed its doors to the people of the 9th District, who have the highest rate of infant mortality in the 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—dope and petty crime. The schools offer less as the years go by. Despite concerned parents continual fight to maintain the quality of schools in the 9th District, it is an uphill climb. Year after year more 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 deathtraps for children who are lured to these houses to play among the ruins. At a time when people are begging for low-cost housing, HUD, maintains empty shells of buildings, leaving neighborhoods scarred and blighted.

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 maintain the remaining good neighborhoods, and improve the deteriorating ones. Parents and students alike have over the years protested and demonstrated to keep up 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, without all of these struggles for a better life being linked up into one united fight against the system itself, many of these valiant efforts are failures, or short-lived successes at best. For the bourgeoisie is united, 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 a fighting chance. By pulling the lever for General Baker, November 2nd, they can elect a representative whose very platform stands for everything the residents of the 9th District have been fighting for, for years. Equal, integrated, quality education, nationalized so that the funds for education are distributed equally among low and high income schools districts, with the funds coming from the federal government instead of from shrinking paychecks that bear the burden through increased taxes. Free, universal health care so that no one in the 9th District should suffer because they just don't have enough money to be healthy. Fight against crime—not only the criminals that plague our streets and terrorize our neighborhoods, but likewise the criminals that head the corporations and government who daily steal and stand in the way of social progress.

Jobs, Peace and Equality is the campaign slogan of General Baker's campaign. A man who lives in the 9th District and knows its problems, he can take the demands of the people and fight for them in Lansing.

GEORGE EDWARDS

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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 in the 9th District. His "profile" in the district is essentially limited to financial contributions, local politicians and organizational benefits. But by Nov. 2, 1976, the Communist Labor Party will have made that record known to the 9th District. For the first time the voters will have the opportunity to elect someone who can represent their interests in the government—General Baker Jr.

An important gauge of the political awareness of the working class is who votes and for whom. Universal suffrage and its usage has always registered the anger and discontent of the people. The workers of the 9th District have a real opportunity to take up this weapon and protest not only against George Edwards but also against the inroads of fascism. On the day that the thermometer 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 George Edwards—don't let the door hit you on your way out.



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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 and then segregated and separated in the 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, the Negro Nation. The Negro Nation was and remains today the most important colony of the USNA imperialists. It was the superprofits gained from the Negro slave that enabled 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 kept 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 areas of the country like the Negro Nation and the Southwest where "right to work" laws militate against unionization and lower wages are commonplace. Because of the specific crucial position that the Negro workers play in the Anglo-American working class and because the Negro Nation is the most important reserve 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 absolutely indispensable step in winning socialism in this country is the unity of the working class. That must be based on the fight for equality of the Negro.

Every progressive movement in this country has failed because it has refused to deal 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 *People's Tribune* to help sustain our party's press by subscribing now.

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