

500 at Detroit Labor/Black Rally Say:



Australasian Spartacist is pleased to be able to reprint as a supplement this special report on the anti-Ku Klux Klan demonstration held in

Detroit on November 10. Workers Vanguard is the fortnightly paper of the Spartacist League/U.S.

On Saturday, November 10, in Detroit's Kennedy Square, five hundred trade unionists, ghetto youth, students and socialist militants protested against Ku Klux Klan terror. The demonstration's initial endorsers included two dozen area unionists and black spokesmen, and it was heavily built by the Spartacist League/Spartacus Youth League. This was no ordinary middle-class liberal protest but something not seen in years: a labor/black rally to stop the Klan. The crowd was overwhelmingly (two-thirds) black; a hundred or more came, individually and in groups, from Detroit factories, particularly the huge auto plants. Their message: "The Klan Won't Ride in the Motor City!"

One week ago, five anti-Klan demonstrators had been murdered in cold blood, gunned down by the KKK in Greensboro, North Carolina. The killers didn't hide behind white hoods as in their nighttime cross burnings. In broad daylight 30 of them drove in a caravan to a black housing project, followed (escorted) by local police, pulled out their shotguns and rifles and in full view of television cameras began pumping lead into a peaceful march. The victims were long-time civil rights activists and union organizers, and they called themselves communists. The capitalist press and capitalist politicians unanimously termed it a "Klan-leftist shootout," even though not a single KKKer was even scratched. Now they claim that the anti-Klan demonstrators fired first, which—as the millions who saw the news footage on TV know—is a lie.

It was an outrage—spectacular and bloody evidence of the growth of the Klan and other fascist terrorist organizations in recent years. The Greensboro massacre demanded an immediate, powerful response: a mobilization by left, labor and black groups to stop the KKK killers in their tracks. But the official union and black leaders refused to move

and even joined in the slanderous chorus against "extremists," equating the murderers with their victims, while most "socialist" groups sat on their hands. A protest was needed, a labor/black mobilization against the Klan.

There was such a demonstration, on November 10 in Kennedy Square in downtown Detroit. The organizers of the protest had to overcome opposition from the union and black misleaders; they had to face down a ban on anti-Klan marches imposed by the city government. It was a victory for all those who deeply want to smash the KKK that this 500-strong labor and black rally took place in the industrial powerhouse of the country. This was a long way from the tens of thousands that were urgently needed. But November 10 showed that it can be done. It was a demonstration with a powerful program, which pointed the way forward to an America free from

After the Greensboro massacre: Anti-Klan protester leans over body of fallen comrade.



organized race-hate murder and mass unemployment.

River Rouge Workers Move Against Klan

While the Klan has been staging provocative marches across the South, it also reared its head in Detroit. Racist harassment in suburban Romulus and then an incident at Ford Motor Company's giant River Rouge complex in Dearborn in late September. When two foremen in the trim department donned Klan hoods and paraded through the area, six workers put down their tools and walked off in protest. The line stopped. When the six were threatened with disciplinary action a petition drive was launched, gathering over 1,000 signatures, demanding the firing of the foremen (Beinke and McKulen) and no victimization of the workers. As a result of this massive show of support and press publicity, the union (United Auto Workers Local 600) leadership finally took up the issue and management promised the offenders would be out of Rouge.

But on Friday, November 2, union militants at Rouge discover that the foremen who committed the racist provocation were merely transferred to Ford's Wixom and Wayne Assembly plants. The next day a meeting of the Dearborn Assembly Plant (DAP) unit of Local 600 is held. There is anger over the company's trick and the union's failure to block it. A motion is passed: fire the foremen! As the workers leave the meeting they learn over TV and radio of the vicious Klan murder in Greensboro.

On Sunday, Associated Press reports the DAP resolution. The dispatch quotes Frank Hicks, a Rouge skilled tradesman who helped organize the petition drive, calling on the UAW to hold an anti-Klan demonstration: "The workers are really mad."

continued on page 2



auto plants indicate Young's threat has gotten around. Workers are sympathetic to a demonstration against the Klan, but they don't want to get arrested.

Showdown

As the flyers go out across the city the outrage over Greensboro, opposition to the KKK marching in Detroit and anger at Mayor Young are apparent. Bus drivers are placing bundles at their coin boxes for their passengers, newspaper vendors hand them out with the evening paper, and auto workers are taking them into the plants, reams at a time, to paste them up by lockers and water coolers.

We confront the mayor on his turf. A press conference is scheduled for Young's office at 1 p.m. There the rally organizers are met by mayoral aide James Graham who says the ban stands: any demonstrators will be arrested. Hicks answers for the protesters: "You arrest hundreds of black and white workers in Kennedy Square for demonstrating against KKK murders and your political career is finished in this city." As we walk out, under the TV lights of all the Detroit media, we make our response: "We Will March!" WWJ News reports at 3 p.m. that a "Saturday showdown is shaping up" between Mayor Young and anti-Klan protesters. We have beaten the press blackout: the major channels carry reports on the confrontation on their 6 o'clock news. But can we beat the mayor's ban?

At 4 p.m. a press release goes out, the second today: "The protesters announced they are urgently requesting federal observers at their demonstration.... They are also seeking a preliminary injunction from federal court to restrain city officials from denying them their right to peacefully assemble." Meanwhile the mayor passes the buck

Detroit is a Labor/Black Fight Klan Terror



Detroit: Black and white labor militants oust KKK-hooded foremen from River Rouge.



Greensboro: Anti-Klan protest. Klan kills his comrades.

The Klan said they're turning in Kennedy Square to celebrate their Greensboro, North Carolina killings! We're going to Kennedy Square to oppose Klan terror and murder! Mayor Coleman Young said we who oppose the Klan have no more rights than the KKK killers, that we should not show our faces on fear of arrest. We say no to Coleman Young and Coleman Young better think about it. The Klan-Nazi race killers must be stopped while we still can. Make Coleman Young back down. He wasn't elected by Georgia cracker Jimmy Carter but by black votes. This town is filled with hard-working, mainly black auto workers.

Down with Klan Terror! • For the Right of Southern Black Armed Self-Seizures Against Layoffs! • Oust the Bosses' Tools in the Labor Movement! • Black and Labor Candidates Against the Democratic Party! • Build

Rally Kennedy Square, Detroit
Saturday, November 10, 1:00 pm

Klan Won't Ride...

(continued from page 1)

We want the union to make a powerful statement in defense of the rights of blacks." On Monday a Michigan Klan spokesman threatens to parade in the streets of Detroit—a predominantly black city and union stronghold, with 300,000 auto workers. Mayor Coleman Young makes light of it, saying he'll watch the Klan parade on television. Later, on Tuesday, Young announces that both pro- and anti-Klan marches will be prohibited.

Finally, on Wednesday morning the Local 600 executive board meets and rejects the demand for a Saturday demonstration. Instead the bureaucracy under President Mike Rinaldi says it will write to Jimmy Carter and the U.S. attorney general with an "even-handed" protest against all violence against Americans of any creed or color! This abdication is virtually an invitation for the KKK to stage its race-hate march, on Friday or some time in the future. If the union tops won't do something, somebody else had better.

Blackout and Fear

By 1 a.m. Thursday morning, some two dozen people, seven of them Rouge workers, have endorsed a leaflet for an anti-Klan demonstration. The pictures tell the story: "This...or this." Rouge workers drive out KKK-hooded foremen in Detroit...or Klan murders and cop beatings in Greensboro. "Mayor Coleman Young," the leaflet reads, "said we who oppose the Klan have no more rights than the KKK killers, that we should not show

our faces on fear of arrest. We say no to Coleman Young...and Coleman Young better think about it." The demands: Down with Klan Terror! For the Right of Southern Black Armed Self-Defense! For Factory Seizures Against Layoffs! Oust the Bosses' Tools in the Labor Movement! For Independent Black and Labor Candidates Against the Democratic Party! Build a Workers Party! RALLY AT KENNEDY SQUARE! BE THERE!

The leaflet is rolling off the presses by noon, with an initial press run of 35,000. But we need to reach hundreds

Telegrams Protesting Demonstration Ban Sent to Mayor Young By:

David Scribner, Attorney, NY
William Kunstler, Attorney, NY
Drs. Roy and Miriam John, NY
James Brown, Entertainer
Gerald Lefcourt, Attorney, NY
Ben Levy, Attorney, Houston
Alexander Erlich, School of International Affairs, Columbia University
Walter Collins, Civil Rights Activist, New Orleans
Sanford Katz, Attorney, NY
Partisan Defense Committee
Conrad Lynn, Attorney, NY
Peter Young, Attorney, LA
Rob Reiner, Actor

Jessica Mitford, Author
Robert L. Allen, Editor *Black Scholar*
Dick Hodge, Attorney
Charles Garry, Attorney
Dennis Riordan, Attorney
John George, Alameda City Supervisor
Harry Britt, San Francisco County Supervisor
Dale Minami, Attorney
Carlton Goodlet, Editor and Publisher of *Sun Reporter*
Andy Dulaney, ILWU Local 10 Business Agent
Scott Harrison, Amnesty International
Jim Grant, Charlotte 3 Defendant
Roland Orden, General Manager KPFA

of thousands by newspaper, TV and radio. A press conference is called for 5 p.m. but the local press boycotts it. Paid ads are refused by the conservative *Detroit News* and the "liberal" *Free Press*. The *News* says the issue is too inflammatory; the *Free Press* says the ad is too inflammatory. Blackout. On Thursday evening reports coming in from leafleting of the day shift at the

to the city council; we arrive five minutes before adjournment. After a weaselly speech by phony radical Ken Cockrel the council throws the hot potato into the police department's lap.

At the same time the organizers are meeting with federal judge John Feiken, the city's corporation counsel and a representative of the deputy police commissioner. The mayor's lawyer says that although the ban stands, and no permit will be issued, no arrests will be made. The judge asks, what is the point of a permit? No answer. Well, do the demonstrators have a de facto permit? A pause, and the police spokesman answers, "yes." The mayor has backed down. But he has still managed to scare many hundreds, perhaps thousands away from the rally. With only a few hours left, it will be impossible to let most people know that the ban has been lifted. Evening and morning newspapers refuse to take an ad. One 11 o'clock late news reports the developments, but now it's: "...a communist organization is going to hold an anti-KKK rally...." First blackout, now red-baiting.

Despite all the "dirty tricks" thrown in their path by a liberal black Demo-

cratic city administration, the protesters have managed to reach Detroit-area workers and blacks. Altogether 85,000 leaflets have been passed out at plant gates, bus stops, supermarkets, black neighborhoods; 20,000 were taken into River Rouge alone. And on Saturday several hundred responded. In the crowd were a couple dozen Rouge workers, a group from Cadillac, others from Chrysler's Lynch Road, Mack Avenue Stamping, Dodge Truck and Dodge Main. Steel workers from Great Lakes and Jones and Laughlin. A forge worker told a TV videotape interviewer he came because the Klan had slashed his tires in the company parking lot; an older black worker told how the Klan had drawn and quartered his uncle.

The militant black auto workers and youth who gathered in Kennedy Square kept up spirited chanting throughout the 90-minute rally. This was a hardcore demonstration of people who were not stopped by the mayor's threats, and the 367 copies of *Workers Vanguard* sold are an indication of the seriousness of the participants. The presence of a contingent from Bob Avakian's sectarian Maoist Revolutionary Communist Party, who stood at the edge with a misspelled banner, testifies to the rally's impact on the Detroit left.

One speaker, Mark Laughton, a WV reporter, gives an on-the-spot report from Greensboro. It was not the foolish attempt by the Workers Viewpoint Organization there to take on the Klan directly with a small group that got them killed, he points out. The reason they were shot is because they said they were communists, labor organizers and for the rights of blacks. And that includes just about everyone at this rally.

November 10 in Detroit was not as big as what was needed—far from it. The Anti-Defamation League estimates that Klan membership is up to 10,000 now and growing. The failure of UAW leaders to endorse and build the rally was a betrayal of their members. And Mayor Young showed where he stands by attempting to ban the rally. But 500 protesters at the labor/black demonstration in Kennedy Square point to the real answer to Klan terror: mobilizing the social power of the unions and black masses in militant class struggle against the racist, capitalist system and its murderous night-riding thugs. As the demonstrators repeatedly chanted: "Smash the Klan, this is the hour—Labor and blacks have the power!"

SEIZURE
AGAINST
LAYOFFS
SPARTACIST

"Smash the
Smash the
Only Worker
Defense Gu
Can!"

Subscribe!

WORKERS VANGUARD

Marxist Working-Class Biweekly of the Spartacist League

24 issues \$US12 (airmail) \$US3 (surface mail)
 New Renewal

Name _____ Phone _____ S244

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Make checks payable/mail to: Spartacist Pub. Co., Box 1377 GPO, New York, NY 10001

k Town
ror!

...or this!

Every decent person had better have an ironclad right to live here. America is going down the tubes. Chrysler was bled dry by vampire bosses. Now with mass layoffs they want to set black and white at each others' throats. Whose town is this? Come out—it's us or them! Drive the race killers out of Detroit!

• Self-Defense! • For Factory
• For Independent
• Build a Workers Party!

Be There!

Initial Endorsers:

Frank Hicks: UAW Local 600
Ford Rouge

Edith Fox: UAW Local 3
Pete Camarata: Teamsters
Local 299

Marvin Martin: UAW Local 600
Charles Dubois: UAW Local 600
Jackie Jordan: Executive Board
member, CWA Local 4050
Charles Parker: Teamsters
Local 299

Bill Hampton: brother of murdered
Chicago Black Panther leader
Kenneth Granquist: UAW Local
600

William Graham: UAW Local 600
Robert F. Williams: author of
Negroes With Guns, Association
for Human Rights of
Lake County

Patrick Martin: UAW Local 600
Portia Maddox: UAW Local 600
Reverend Marjorie Lyda: Lyda/Hunt
Institute

Matt Prince: UAW Local 600
Black Student Union, University of
Michigan, Ann Arbor

Herb Boyd: Instructor at the
Center for Creative
Studies, Detroit

Pat Quinlan: Teamsters Local 247
Reverend Tom Tinsley: St. Paul
United Methodist Church, Detroit

Mary Anne Courtney: co-founder,
Women's Justice Center, Detroit

Don Alexander: Detroit Executive
Committee, Spartacist League

Topaz Dubois: National Committee,
Spartacus Youth League

Norman Kozinski: UAW Local 235
Malek Towghi: anti-shah, anti-
Khomeini fighter from Baluchistan,
Teaching Assistant, Michigan
State University

American blood, American wealth were pissed away in Vietnam fighting against a legitimate struggle for freedom. Dow Chemical got rich off it. But whose blood was spilled? Mainly the Vietnamese and ours. And at least the Vietnamese won. We in the Spartacist League worked energetically for this. We fought for the military victory of the Vietnamese workers and peasants against the criminal U.S. ruling class.

The U.S. bosses have supported every racist strikebreaking regime they could find from Teheran to South Korea to South Africa. Then they spend what's left over of the taxpayer's dollar on what? On this "Hate Russia" campaign—this "Human Rights, Hate Russia" crusade. What did Jimmy Carter ever do for your human rights? We tried to get the federal observers down here to this rally. We talked to the get-lost division of the we-don't-know-nothing government department. You can be sure they won't guarantee our rights. So who else signed the Helsinki Accords? Maybe we should have gotten some Russian observers.

Then you get these so-called socialists who say the capitalists and the government should "ban the Klan." Who do they think they're kidding? The bosses' state will come down on the side of the Klan, and when it comes time for the banning, they'll do their banning against the left, not the right—against worker militants, communists, not the fascists.

So I am with the Spartacist League. We are America's last, best chance. There isn't much choice. It's either fight along with us, along the lines that made the Russian Revolution, or sink with the capitalists.

That is the inescapable conclusion from the blood of Greensboro to the sweat of the auto plants. The road for blacks, the road for workers is the socialist revolution. So let's roll up our sleeves and get to work on this. Join the Spartacist League and the Spartacus Youth League, because we're the organization that is attempting to mobilize the workers to take power in this country and put an end to the criminal, anarchic system of capitalism! Thank you very much. ■

Don Alexander...

(continued from page 4)
working people, of black people, who tell the truth about what we have to do to change this rotting capitalist system. I don't know what candidates. Maybe I'll run for office. Maybe we'll get Brother Hicks. But we'll have a slate who stands for a socialist fight to save Detroit. And we'll have a campaign that says it won't be in the voting booth, at the polls, but in the factories, on the picket lines, on the barricades of the class struggle that the fundamental political questions confronting the working class will be solved.

So America is going down the tubes. You can't live in Detroit and not figure out that the workers had better take over. It's an international question. The capitalists tell us to go and fight against our class brothers all over the world.

Excerpts from Detroit Rally



Charles Dubois, UAW Local 600

We did it at the Rouge. [Ford foremen] McKulen and Beinke—they came out with KKK hoods in the trim line of the assembly plant. The company said it's a joke. The press said it's a joke. And Rinaldi [president of UAW Local 600] said, "Well, it was a bad joke." Well, we don't think it was a joke. Now, I'll tell you what we did at the assembly plant and around the Rouge. We organized a petition campaign to get these guys not only out of the Rouge, but get them out of the entire auto industry.

The Klan ain't no joke. Don't forget, the Klan murdered Malcolm's father in Lansing. You dig it? That ain't in the South. You ask that family in [Detroit suburb] Romulus. Was it a joke? Those people at the assembly plant and at the Rouge, we don't think it's a joke. And I know, those widows and those widows down in Greensboro, they know it ain't no joke. So these guys, these Klansmen, what they stand for is race hatred. And that ain't no ideas. That's terror and genocide against black people.



Jane Margolis, Executive Board CWA Local 9410

I'm an executive board member of the CWA, which is the union of the workers of the phone company. And I came from California last night to join you in protest.

We cannot let the government characterize us who protest Klan murders as extremists. It was this government, particularly Carter's Secret Service, that labeled me as an extremist because I wanted to give a speech at my union convention against the racist anti-labor policies of Jimmy Carter. And for that I was handcuffed, dragged off the floor of my own union convention, because I wanted to speak in defence of the workers against the racist anti-working class policies of the Democratic Party.

So I want to say, we must exercise our rights to protest; we must not be silent. We must form a workers party and we must begin now for mass labor/black mobilizations to smash the Klan.



Bill Hampton, brother of murdered Panther leader

We cannot let the Klan come here and take over our gains which we have made. Because the more we sleep—toward the Klan—the more we will weep. We must remember that. We cannot let the Klan come here in broad open day in Detroit—which is a predominantly, totally black city—and just ignore 'em.

How can you tell the Klan that they can come in the black community and give them freedom of speech? in the '60s they didn't give our black leaders freedom of speech. So how can we say we're going to give it to the Ku Klux Klan, who are against us all, who ride in the night, who do the same things these days only in a more sophisticated way?



Topaz Knight, National Committee Spartacus Youth League

Jimmy Carter says there's something wrong with Americans. He says we don't believe in the future anymore. He worries that Americans don't have money in their savings accounts. Well, black youth don't have savings. Black youth don't have jobs. Black youth don't have a future under this system. So there's nothing wrong with us. Jimmy Carter is wrong. It is easy to believe in a future without Jimmy Carter, a future without the capitalist class. And we stand for that future.

The Spartacus Youth League has been building demonstrations on the campuses against the Klan. But we know that the labor movement must mobilize against the Klan. We called on the labor movement to build this demonstration; yet students have a role to play, and have played that role in building for this demonstration. So students, workers, those out there, make a choice. Do you want to settle for unemployment? Do you want to settle for massive layoffs in this city? Do you want to settle for Klan terror? Or do you want to make a decisive step in this country, so that we will have a future?

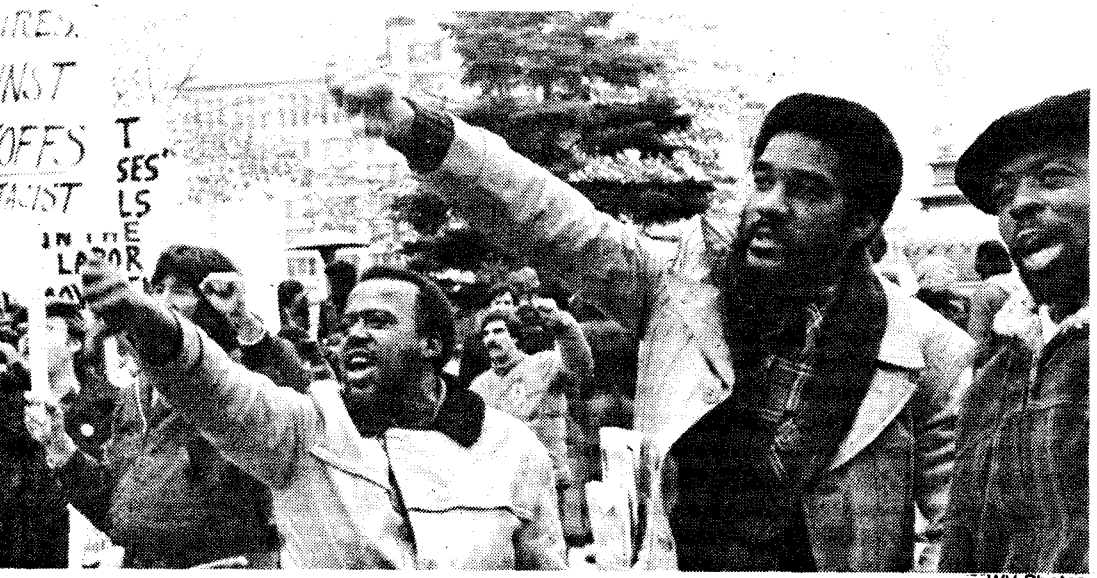


Brian Mendis, laid-off Chrysler worker

I'm from UAW Local 140. I'm a laid-off Chrysler worker. That's Dodge Truck. I bet there's a few more laid-off Chrysler workers out here in the crowd. But I'll tell you. There's a lot of layoffs in Detroit. Lots. There's a hundred thousand auto workers on layoff right now.

And they tell us it's our fault. They tell us we're not productive. Well that's a lie. We work hard. We break our backs in those plants. They tell us it's because of cheap foreign labor that we're laid off. Well that's a lie too. German auto workers make a lot more than American auto workers do. And the Klan tells white workers it's because of black workers. They tell white workers that black workers are the enemy. That's a lie too. It's Chrysler and the Klan and the Nazis who are the enemies of all workers.

I'll tell you what we need at Chrysler. We fought for sit-down strikes against the layoffs, just like Flint in 1937. That's how the union was formed and that's how it's going to be saved. If Chrysler's going broke, we should take it—take it over and sell it and divide the money. Because it's ours. The stockholders want to take the money and run. Well I say, let's not beg. Let's take it. It's ours.



WV Photos



"Smash the Klan, this is the hour, Labor and blacks have got the power!"

Frank Hicks UAW Local 600

I'm a member of UAW Local 600, Ford Rouge, the largest local in the UAW. It's good to see people turned out here today, especially with weather like this. We want to show the whole country that the Klan won't ride in the Motor City. I want to especially thank some of the brothers and sisters I can see here from Ford River Rouge that fought with us to drive out the two Klan-hooded foremen three weeks ago. We ran them the hell out of that plant. We want to run the Klan the hell out of Detroit and the hell out of the country.

The Klan murdered people in Greensboro, North Carolina and then they say they're coming here to Detroit. That's a damned provocation. And we wanted to protest. Mayor Coleman Young said "no." But brothers and sisters, yesterday we backed the mayor down and that's why we're out here today. We won.

The mayor said we would be arrested if we demonstrated here today, and we said if you do that, you're going to pay. We're auto workers. We're phone workers. We're Teamsters. We're militants in unions throughout this city. We're the working people who make this town run. We told the mayor that if he arrested five hundred, two hundred, a thousand who wanted to rally against the Klan in this city, then go ahead. But he could kiss off ever being elected again in this city.

Why aren't there 20,000, 30,000 auto workers, phone workers, Teamsters out at this rally? How come these racist scum in the Klan can even think about showing up in a town that's a black and labor city? A town that belongs to us? I'll tell you why. It's the union officials who sat on their ass rather than mobilize against the Klan terror in Detroit. They're not labor leaders. They're bureaucrats. Lots of guys out here from the plant have other names for them too. The only thing Local 600 did was send a letter to Washington, to Lester Maddox's running mate.

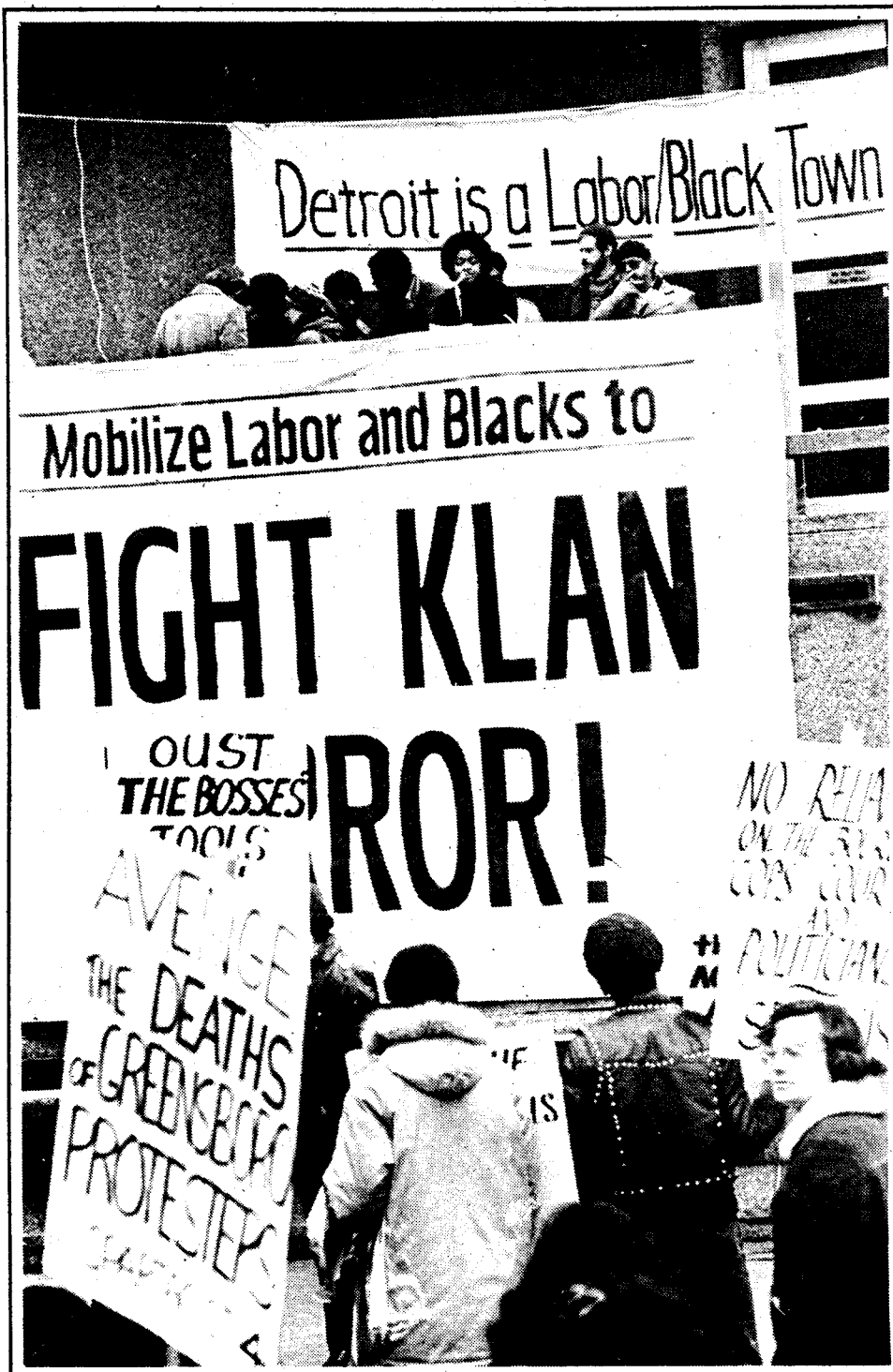
Some liberals have told me, "Well, the fascists, they have under the constitution the right to free speech." This is a giant lie. They're not a discussion club—they're terrorists out to murder us. Klansmen don't speak, they act in the night. These same liberals—the ones who think these killers have free speech—will also tell



Frank Hicks

WV Photo

We present here excerpted speeches given at the Labor/Black Rally on November 10 in Detroit's Kennedy Square.



WV Photo

you that you should rely on the government to protect your rights. But that's where the run-around starts. It's like the police in Greensboro, who told the demonstrators they couldn't interfere with the Klansmen's so-called rights, because the Klan hadn't broken any laws. The Klan hadn't broken any laws until five brothers and sisters lay dead in the street. After you're murdered the government will defend your civil rights. Thanks a lot, we don't need it.

It's important that people in Detroit speak out in the defense of people in the South who arm themselves against Klan terror. They have the right to arm themselves against Klan terror. Ted Kennedy says gun control will stop crime. We don't want gun control. Some say that if guns are outlawed only outlaws will have guns. That's not true. What happens is that the Klan will still have guns. Down with gun controls, that leave guns in the hands of the KKK killers!

Then there are some people in the left and labor movement who think that a handful of individuals can substitute themselves for the labor movement. That a handful of people can take the place of militant struggles against the fascists on the part of auto workers and others. They usually end up in some type of confrontation where the leftists are outnumbered by the police, and not a blow is struck against the fascists. We must organize workers in this

country against this kind of racist terror. There is no substitute for the labor movement mobilizing by the tens of thousands to stop the Klan.

Why hasn't the official labor leadership done it? Because they've been in bed with the bosses for so long. Who told us to vote for Coleman Young, who wanted to stop this rally? Everybody here hates Carter. Everybody here hates the oil bosses. But who was the first person to back Jimmy Carter? It was Leonard Woodcock, our so-called leader. He got his. He's an ambassador in China. We want ours.

So who's going to be next? Ted Kennedy? Is Kennedy going to give us jobs? Is Kennedy going to make Ford and GM take the losses? Hell no! He's going to give us more of the same we've been getting from Carter, from that racist millionaire peanut boss. Even Kennedy says he agrees with Carter on nine out of ten issues.

Brothers and sisters, it's up to us. What happened at Rouge, what happened today is just a taste of what we can do. We need a class-struggle leadership that will use the power we have as workers, the power we used to drive 'em out of Rouge, the power we will use to drive 'em out of Detroit. Not only to crush the Klan and the Nazis, but to forge a workers party, to build a workers government that'll do away with the bosses' racist system once and for all. Thanks for coming out, brothers.

Don Alexander Spartacist League

I'm Don Alexander, and I'm on the executive committee of the Spartacist League here in Detroit. The Spartacist League has worked to build this rally because we know, like the brothers from Rouge and Chrysler said, it takes the power of labor to smash the KKK killers once and for all. Maybe you know the Spartacist League. We're Marxists, Trotskyists. That means we are for working-class revolution. It seems pretty simple to us. The Klan shoots down black and labor organizers in the South, and we respond here in Detroit the way any Marxists would—like they did in the '30s, when they got 50,000 people to Madison Square Garden to deal with the fascists. It seems pretty simple. But who else does it?

It's like Topaz said about Iran. You don't have to be a socialist to see what Khomeini is all about. All you have to do is to be a woman—or a drinker. But the Spartacist League was alone when we said, "Down with the shah! Down with the mullahs! For workers revolution in Iran!" All the other leftists were chasing after that religious fanatic. So it ought to be ABC. We say the bosses' political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans, can't defend the working people. We need a workers party. Pretty simple, but it sounds like heresy in this town where people tell us to vote for "progressive" Democrats like Coleman Young, Ken Cockrel and the rest.

You know what Coleman Young is—the awful example of what selling your black political soul to the Democratic Party means. You sort of go morally and politically blind. After a while you can't tell the difference between the guys in white sheets and the guys on the other side. Of course, Coleman Young, he'll tell you that he's on the workers' side. Do not believe this. It is a lie. Coleman Young broke the sanitation workers strike right here in Detroit two years ago. So we're sick of this crap.

There ought to be candidates coming out of the ghettos of this city, out of Livernois, out of Dequindre, the Near Eastside—candidates who run against the Democratic Party. There ought to be candidates for whom black people and working people can vote for a change. A slate of labor/black candidates who say what's in the interests of

continued on page 3



Don Alexander

WV Photo