

STOP

the **ENEMIES** *of the*
WORKING PEOPLE

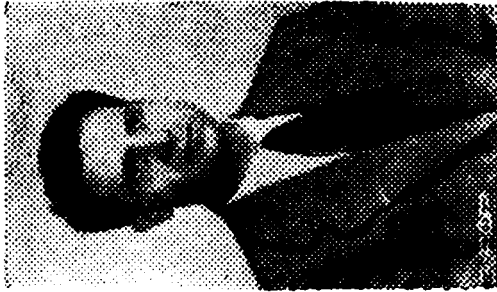
A
PROGRAM for the
DETROIT
ELECTIONS

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Herman Benson for Mayor!



Don't throw away your vote on capitalist politicians who represent big business!

Stop the Democratic and Republican Parties in their nation-wide attack against labor!

Cast a working class ballot for the candidate of the Workers Party and for its fighting socialist platform!

Issued by the **WORKERS PARTY, 6341 Gratiot St., Detroit**

Primaries: TUES., OCT. 7 Read: LABOR ACTION

To Every Worker

DETROIT holds its municipal elections this year. Don't throw away your vote!! You can make it count by casting a *working class* ballot for HERMAN BENSON, candidate for Mayor on the fighting socialist platform of the WORKERS PARTY.

Let the workers of Detroit reply to the politicians of the Democratic and Republican Parties throughout the country who play the game of the bankers, the capitalists, the profiteers, the big real estate interests. They have scuttled price control; they have weakened rent control—they plan to abolish it completely in March; they have enacted anti-labor laws; they have passed tax legislation which benefits only the rich. In Michigan they cut away at unemployment compensation. They have done nothing to improve the living conditions of the vast majority of the people, the veterans, the Negroes, the workers as a whole.

Warn them to stop their attacks on the people! Tens of thousands of determined workers have transformed Detroit from an open shop city under the thumb of the auto monopolists into a fortress of unionism. Big business is powerful but it can be beaten. If these same tens of thousands of workers with the same determination demonstrate that they are tired of being hoodwinked, weary of the steady appeasement of big business, and that they intend to break completely with *all* the capitalist politicians and take an independent working class road, then the bankers and their political tools of the old parties will receive a shock; they will have to pause; they will be forced to retreat. But the offensive of the employers against the workers cannot be halted by pious hopes, by appeals to their "reasonableness," by respectful petitions, by reliance upon so-called "liberals."

Mass Action Is Key to Our Program

The WORKERS PARTY does not deceive itself and it will not deceive others. The aims of the working class will not be achieved simply because we elect, sincere, honest and able men, even repre-

A Program With Plenty of Sock!



sentatives of the working class, to fill offices throughout the country. The capitalist monopolist class which dominates the United States is powerful, rich and arrogant. The weight of its wealth and its control over the nation's economy has always been thrown into the scales against labor. It has never hesitated to resort to fascist-like violence and terror. Despite rent control and price control laws, profits taxes wages and hours laws, etc., this class has been able to carry out its schemes and grow richer and fatter. Its power lies in its wealth. Its wealth gives it political and social influence as well as a luxurious mode of life. The working people themselves must be organized in every possible way by the hundreds of thousands, by the million, to conduct a *mass fight* for its rights and needs. No politicians, no laws, however well-meaning, can be a substitute for the organized action of the people themselves.

For all these reasons, our platform consists of measures which can be effectively enforced by the city government **BUT NOT OF MUNICIPAL MATTERS ALONE**. We demand a series of measures on a city, state and nation basis on behalf of the working people. Above all, our platform calls upon the workers themselves to enforce this program by their own mass action.

By casting your vote for our candidate, HERMAN BENSON, you will demonstrate your desire for a fighting working class program of defense and counter-attack against big business. And you will express yourself for organized *action* by the people themselves. Your vote can be part of the struggle.

If elected, our candidate will utilize his office in every way to help mobilize the people in the struggle, to expose the plans of big business, to publicize the needs and aims of the working class, as summarized in the following platform of the WORKERS PARTY:

Resist Rent Increases, Fight Evictions

1. FOR REAL RENT AND PRICE CONTROL LAWS ENFORCED BY COMMITTEES REPRESENTING UNIONS, CONSUMERS, HOUSEWIVES AND TENANTS. AGAINST INCREASES IN RENTS AND PRICES. FIGHT AGAINST EVICTIONS.

Rent and price increases steal away our wage gains and force down our living standards. Price control laws were ended by action of the big monopolists, especially the meat packers, working in cooperation with the Truman administration and Congress. The same sort of coalition has legalized a 15 per cent "voluntary" rent increase and is pressing forward to end rent control completely in March. In Detroit, Jeffries proposes to "control" hotel rents by legalizing a 20 per cent increase. Even when price control laws remained on the statute books, prices rose. The OPA yielded time and again to the demands of the price gougers. And these victories were supplemented with black market operations. Control laws must be re-enacted and prices and rents rolled back at least to where they were before controls were weakened or lifted. If they are to be real control laws and not phony paper measures they must be enforced by action of the organized people themselves. Price committees and rent committees must be established everywhere in the unions and in the neighborhoods.

The UAW is setting up rent committees in every local union. Tenants' associations are being formed with CIO cooperation and assistance in the neighborhoods. These organizations must be strength-

ened and expanded and they must prepare to fight against rent increases and against evictions by mass action.

A Housing Program With Teeth in It

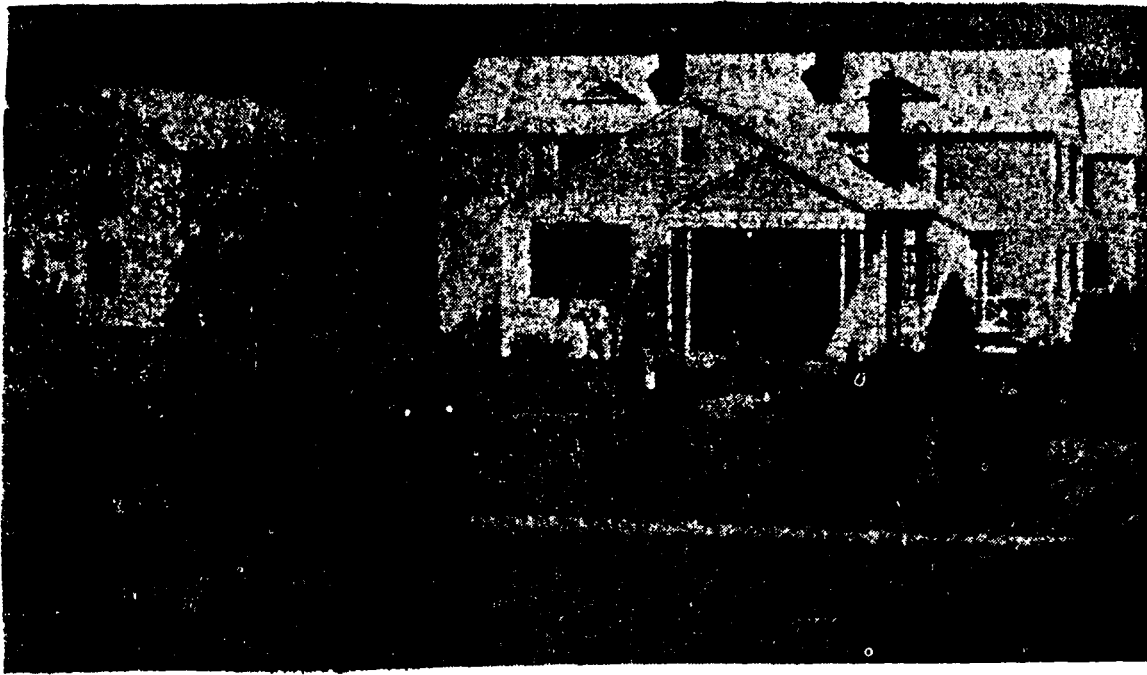
2. FOR A \$250 BILLION FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM OF PUBLIC WORKS ON A NATIONAL, STATE AND CITY BASIS TO PROVIDE LOW-COST HOUSING, SLUM CLEARANCE, MODERN TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. OF THIS, \$3 BILLION TO BE UTILIZED IN THE DETROIT AREA FOR SUCH PURPOSES AND TO PROVIDE NEW HOUSING FOR UP TO 200,000 FAMILIES. FINANCE THIS PROGRAM BY TAXING THE PROFITEERS.

Millions of families live in shacks and in slums. Millions have no homes at all and must double up with friends and relatives. Veterans, recently returned to the "brave new world" they were supposed to be fighting for, are especially hard hit as late comers on the waiting list. Negroes are caged into segregated neighborhoods and are thus doubly hard hit. Even were they have the money to pay fantastic rentals, discrimination stands in their way.

In Detroit alone, more than 400,000 people are living in slum areas and are forced to pay exorbitant rents to the real estate sharks. Thousands of others are totally homeless and must live in furnished rooms, hotels, or with obliging in-laws. The situation becomes worse daily.

Recreational facilities and community facilities in Detroit generally are a disgrace. Many civic-minded groups of small home-owners pool together their few dollars in order to overcome these conditions through their own initiative. They are willing to sacrifice to make their neighborhoods healthful and attractive for themselves and their children. But they cannot achieve the impossible. They must not be expected to do so. Playgrounds, swimming pools, sports centers, improved streets and highways, nurseries, etc.—all this is part of a gigantic effort for building a better Detroit which cannot be financed from the pockets of the poor, the workers, the small home owners.

Tax the Big Real Estate Operators! Tax the profit-heavy capitalists! General Motors made a profit of close to \$82 million in the second quarter of this year alone. The United States Rubber Co., which



has one of its main plants in Detroit, made the largest profit (\$11 million) in any six-month period since 1920. These companies and many others get their labor supply here. They operate solely for their own profits. Yet they are taxed for municipal services in the same manner and in the same proportion as the ordinary worker who owns his own home and uses it simply to live in and not to exploit others.

A national housing emergency exists. The right of children to grow up in healthful surrounding must take precedence over the rights of the big capitalists and the big real estate interests. Clear the slums! Take away the land and buildings from those who hold them only in order to prey upon poverty and misery! The inhabitants of slum areas must be permitted to move back into the modern, low-cost, decent homes which will replace the slums.

It was possible to spend billions of dollars to gear the nation's economy to the needs of capitalist war and destruction. Why is it not possible to do the same for peaceful construction in the interests of the working people?

Defend and Extend Labor's Position

3. FOR A GUARANTEED ANNUAL LIVING WAGE FOR ALL WORKERS WITH AUTOMATIC INCREASES TO MEET RISING COSTS OF LIVING.

Workers and their families must live not only from hour to hour or week to week, but all year round. The government must guarantee a minimum wage of *at least* \$2,500 for every single worker and \$5,000 for every family. For a rising scale of wage rates which increase *automatically* with rising prices.

Stop chiseling on unemployment compensation.

These elementary measures for the protection of the security of the worker and his family can be financed by taxing the Sixty Families whose security has always been protected. If these capitalists and monopolists complain, as they will, that their capitalist system cannot possibly offer guarantees against insecurity and rising prices, we will reply, "By your own words you prove that your capitalist system must be ended."

4. DEFENSE OF LABOR'S RIGHTS. AGAINST THE TAFT-HARTLEY AND CALLAHAN LAWS AND ALL SUCH ANTI-LABOR LEGISLATION.

In Washington and in every state and city the political representatives of big business limit the right to strike and arbitrarily interfere in the internal affairs of the unions on the pretext of searching for "Communists." Laws have been passed in Michigan to abolish the rights of public workers to strike. And to make it difficult for the workers to unseat them, these tools of the capitalist class who owe their election and influence to the financial contributions of the *monopolists*, outlaw political contributions by the *unions*. In Detroit, Mayor Jeffries used his position to try to rally public sentiment for breaking the street railway strike of 1946. During the telephone strike this year, the attorney for the National Federation of Telephone Workers said that Mayor Jeffries' police force "shut the door on the right of citizens to picket." The police protected scabs as they went to work.

The Sigler administration adds its bit to the pile of anti-labor legislation with the Callahan and other bills. All these laws must be fought. But legal tests in the courts, postcard campaigns, respectful petitions and such methods are *not enough*. A militant campaign of mass demonstrations, of unified strike action, and other forms of mass action must be prepared. Moreover, the whole labor movement must stand ready to defend itself from the illegal and violent terror of

thugs, company hired vigilantes, and fascistic gangs by forming Labor Defense Guards.

To organize such action it is necessary to convoke a National Congress of Labor with delegates representing the workers of all unions.

Run Jim Crow Out of Detroit!

5. FULL SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY FOR NEGROES AND ALL OTHER MINORITIES. ENFORCE THE DIGGS CIVIL RIGHTS LAW. ABOLISH RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS.

Under the Diggs Act it is illegal in Michigan for restaurants, hotels, barber shops and other such public places to continue their policy of discrimination. Government officials not only have allowed this law to remain a dead letter but they deliberately encourage its violation. It is not enforced in Detroit or anywhere else.

One of the latest incidents took place on August 2 of this year. Algie Hamilton, a Negro, was refused service at Tom's Bar at Mt. Elliot and Grand and he was beaten by a group of ignorant white hoodlums. The police ignored the incident. When a group of Negroes themselves protested the incident the police came into the area AND ARRESTED SEVERAL NEGROES AND BEAT THEM WITH NIGHTSTICKS.

This whole rotten situation need not surprise us. The fascist-like practice of discrimination receives encouragement from the Mayor himself! In 1943, Jeffries shamelessly endorsed the ideas of racial superiority in a public statement. He said: "I opposed mixed housing then, I oppose it now, and I always *will* oppose it." He complimented his police force for their role in the riots of that year when they brutally killed at least 16 Negroes but handled the KKK elements with kid gloves. He said: "The conduct of the Police Department, by and large, was magnificent." It is this anti-Negro, anti-working class policy that has won for Jeffries the support of the fascistic elements at election time. Anyone that would have us forget this record is a willful deceiver!

Segregation in housing has received the legal sanction of the State Supreme Court and segregation is the accepted practice of the state

units of the National Guard. Every candidate, every party must be compelled to express themselves without evasion on these issues.

We say: Wipe out all forms of discrimination against racial, religious or national minorities. Make Jim Crow a criminal offense. Utilize the full power of the city administration to deny licenses to any business which practices segregation or discrimination in any form. Organize united mass action by Negro and white workers to enforce the Diggs law and to fight discrimination in general, to secure and enforce FEPC laws, anti-lynch laws, etc.

Reliance upon the "liberals" of the two old parties would be misleading and fatal. It was just such a policy which relied upon the hypocritical smiles of a Jeffries which enabled the state legislature to sidetrack and defeat the proposed state FEPC law. These capitalist politicians, at best, confine themselves to half-hearted, empty gestures.

During the campaign for a state FEPC law, the Detroit branch of the Workers Party called upon the labor movement and the NAACP to organize a mass march upon Lansing during the sessions



of the state legislature. But the NAACP was afraid to antagonize the "liberals." They would not convoke such an action. The workers lost the battle without striking one real blow.

Several UAW locals in Detroit have announced their intention of putting an end to discrimination in the restaurants which service the areas around their shop—Ford Local 400, Briggs Local 212, Chrysler Local 7. The state CIO convention endorsed such action. This is a small step along the correct road. Every local union must take up this problem. Coordinated action can be taken on a city-wide basis.

Freedom For All the Peoples of the World

6. OPEN THE DOORS OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE HOMELESS JEWISH PEOPLE AND OTHER VICTIMS OF THE WAR AND OPPRESSION.

Hundreds of thousands of people, especially the Jewish people, who must live in concentration camps, or like beasts in fields and caves, who are dying for simple lack of bread and the opportunity for productive labor—these are the innocent victims of a war which profited only the capitalists and imperialists of the world. The most elementary principles of democracy and humanity dictate that we insist upon their right to migrate to any part of the world where they wish. In particular we demand their right to enter the United States, here to joint with us in the construction of a better world for all.

7. FREEDOM FOR ALL NATIONS. AGAINST THE OCCUPATION AND DOMINATION OF COUNTRIES BY THE UNITED STATES, BY RUSSIA OR BY ANY OTHER IMPERIALIST POWER.

Two years after the second "war for democracy," the world remains enslaved by the "democracies." The Atlantic Charter and all the promises of freedom and liberation are now revealed for what they really were: a deception and a mockery. "Enemy" nations and "friendly" nations without distinction still remain under the heel of one or more of the former Allies. This dictatorship is sometimes open and sometimes concealed. Indo-China, Indonesia, Korea and Japan; Poland and Germany; Austria and Hungary; Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, Roumania. This is only a partial list. All the imperialist powers

continue the old oppression, domination and exploitation of the peoples in new forms.

Down with all imperialisms! Withdraw all occupation troops. Against conscription which is an instrument to perpetuate imperialist domination and to prepare for a new imperialist world war.

Nationalize Industry Under Workers' Control!

8. EXPROPRIATE AMERICA'S SIXTY FAMILIES. OPERATE BIG INDUSTRY UNDER THE CONTROL OF DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED SHOP COMMITTEES.

A tiny group of exploiters and parasites own the predominant portion of the nation's wealth and industry which has been created by the labor of millions. The profit and income of this small band enables it to impose its dictatorial will upon the whole country, economically and politically and socially. It buys and sells political parties and politicians. Like General Motors after the April demonstration against the Taft-Hartley bill, it has the right and the power to penalize its employees for engaging in political activity. It is able to dominate the schools, the radio, the press by its wealth and power. It can withhold products from the market like the meat packers to destroy price control and to foster a black market. It can operate the factories or shut them down; expand or contract production facilities with only one aim in mind: making greater and greater profits for itself. The needs and interests of the people are its last concern. And it is such a class which owns industry!

The people will be able to enjoy the freedom and security which our marvelous productive capacity makes possible only by ending this dictatorship of big business. Democratically elected representatives of the working people must replace the self-appointed monopolists in controlling industry.

For a Labor Party and a Workers' Government

9. FOR AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY WITHOUT TIES TO THE TWO OLD CAPITALIST PARTIES. FOR A WORKERS GOVERNMENT.

The leaders of the organized labor movement continue to support

the Democratic and Republican Parties. But it should be clear now that we cannot rely upon the so-called "friends-of-labor" politicians in the two old parties. These capitalistic "liberals" deceive us with their promises at election time but carry out the program of the capitalist class the year around. In 1944, the leaders of the CIO hailed the election results as a great victory. By 1946, the same Congress and the same Truman who were elected in that "victory" scuttled price control. The labor leaders denounced "their" Congress, the very one which we elected with our own votes as the most reactionary Congress in history! Spare us any more such "victories"!

The stupidity of supporting so-called "friends of labor" is proved more clearly in Detroit than anywhere else. In 1941, the CIO supported Jeffries as a "friend." In 1943 and in 1945 he bitterly opposed the labor movement and the CIO found other "friends" to support. And now in 1947 there are sections of the labor movement, including followers of the "Communist" Party, which have discovered anew that Jeffries is a "friend of labor" and have urged that the workers support him!

Don't Be a Sucker--Build Your Own Party!



The workers have their own unions and elect their own union officials whom they control. They do not rely upon "friends of labor" among their employers to run the affairs of their union. The workers must have their own Labor Party which they can control. This party must run its own candidates, whom it will control.

End the policy of begging the "liberal" fakers for their sympathy. Let us have a declaration of independence by the working class! A program in the interests of the common people can be carried out only by an Independent Labor Party. Call a Congress of representatives of the unions and of all organizations which fight in the interests of the people for the immediate launching of a Labor Party. Let this Labor Party fight for a Workers' Government, that is, a government based upon the democratic will of the working class which utilizes every power at its command to destroy the dictatorship of the monopolists over the country's life and employs all its energies to enforce a program in the interests of the people, a program such as we present in this election.

Detroit need not wait. Any authoritative body representing the organized labor movement can take the lead. The Wayne County Council and PAC-CIO, the Michigan State CIO Council and PAC can call a convention of all labor organizations to set up a Labor Party here and now. We can easily utilize the machinery of the PAC. Turn the PAC into a Labor Party!

To help break the monopoly of the Democratic and Republican Parties over the election machinery in this state we demand: Enforce the election laws providing for the counting of the ballots in public and not behind locked doors. Permit all parties enough watchers in each precinct to obtain an honest count. Stop all legislative tricks aimed at keeping new parties off the ballot.

10. FOR SOCIALIST REORGANIZATION OF SOCIETY AND A WORLD OF SECURITY, PEACE AND EQUALITY.

The capitalist system is destroying civilization before our very eyes. Its wars have destroyed continents, massacred millions, left other millions to starve in caves and cellars. Atomic energy, under the control of a workers' government, could benefit all mankind. Instead,

the former Allies—the United States, ruled by capitalist monopolists, and Russia, ruled by Stalinist bureaucrats—prepare to obliterate what remains of culture by plunging humanity into a Third Atomic War to decide which group of exploiters and imperialists shall totally dominate the whole world. Socialism or barbarism, these are the alternatives before us.

Industry can no longer be perverted to serve interests of a tiny privileged class without forcing all mankind back to a new “*Dark Age*.” We must go forward to a *Socialist Society* under which the productive capacity of modern machinery will be employed to raise the level of culture and to satisfy the needs of the people, and to establish a society without class privilege.

What Can You Do?

Help mobilize the workers of Detroit for genuine independent labor political action.

Support our program and our election campaign by contributing manpower and money. We cannot hope for the aid of the rich capitalists; we can rely only on the help of the workers.

Read this platform carefully. Pass it on to your fellow worker.

Cast your vote in the primaries on Tuesday, October 7, for HERMAN BENSON, the candidate of the WORKERS PARTY for Mayor.



Workers Party Campaign Committee

HERMAN BENSON for MAYOR

6341 GRATIOT AVENUE

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LABOR ACTION

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