

THE GOVERNOR HAS THE POWER...

Demand Governor Granholm declare a State of Emergency and a

MORATORIUM TO STOP FORECLOSURES, UTILITY SHUT-OFFS, EVICTIONS, SCHOOL SHUTDOWNS, PLANT CLOSINGS AND LAY-OFFS!

The State of Michigan is in the midst of an unprecedented economic crisis. It is time for Governor Granholm to take emergency measures to protect the health and welfare of the poor and working people of Michigan in the midst of the economic disaster that has hit our state.

A recent study by University of Michigan economists Joan Crary, George Fulton and Saul Hymans revealed Michigan has lost more than 336,000 jobs in the past six years and is expected to lose another 33,000 in the next two years. That would be the longest stretch of job loss in the state since the 1929 stock market crash. Michigan is among the leaders in the nation in foreclosures. 47,000 households have had their water shut-off in Detroit and tens of thousands of homes statewide are without heat and/or electricity. Child poverty in Michigan has risen statewide to nearly 20%, and almost 50% in Detroit. Schools, hospitals, factories are shutting down in unprecedented numbers.

Three separate Michigan statutes – MCL 10.31 et.seq., 10.85 et.seq. and 30.401 et.seq – mandate that the Governor declare a State of Emergency during periods of crisis, natural or ‘man-made,’ and provide special powers to meet the crisis. We demand that Governor Granholm utilize these emergency powers to impose an EMERGENCY MORATORIUM TO STOP UTILITY SHUT-OFFS, EVICTIONS, FORECLOSURES, SCHOOL SHUTDOWNS, PLANT CLOSINGS AND LAY-OFFS.

During the 1930’s, the State legislature utilized its emergency powers to pass the Mortgage Moratorium Act, Act No. 98, Pub. Acts 1933. The Act extended the redemption period during which homeowners could not have their property taken from them after foreclosure from six months, to 5 years. In *Russell v. Battle Creek Lumber Co.*, 265 Mich. 649, 649-650 (Mich. 1934), the Mortgage Moratorium Act was upheld as constitutional by the Michigan Supreme Court based on the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Home Building & Loan Ass’n v. Blaisdell*, 290 U.S. 398 (54 Sup. Ct. 231, 88 A.L.R. 1481), which upheld a similar moratorium passed in Minnesota. But you don’t have to go that far back for another example of what can be done:

Earlier this year, the governor of Massachusetts decreed a two month moratorium on foreclosures. Massachusetts is a state not nearly as economically devastated as Michigan. Why doesn’t Governor Granholm take action to protect the people here?!

The poor and working people of Michigan desperately need emergency relief from the economic disaster that has hit our state. More tax breaks for big business, the same corporations that have created this catastrophe with plant closings and lay-offs, is not the answer. An **emergency moratorium to stop foreclosures, utility shut-offs, evictions, school shutdowns, plant closings and lay-offs** would give the people a chance to survive during this economic catastrophe while we strategize on how to fight to rebuild our state and guarantee the right to jobs, housing, health care and quality education for all.

**GET INVOLVED TO SAVE YOUR HOME,
KEEP YOUR UTILITIES ON,
PROTECT YOUR JOBS AND COMMUNITY!**

**CIRCULATE PETITIONS – ORGANIZE A COMMUNITY MEETING – SPEAKERS ARE
AVAILABLE TO COME AND DISCUSS THE MORATORIUM**

LET’S GET TOGETHER AND BRING OUR DEMANDS TO LANSING

**WE SAY PEOPLE BEFORE PROFITS – ONLY THE PEOPLE’S ACTION CAN DEFEND OUR
RIGHTS DURING THIS ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE**

CALL: (313) 319-0870 or EMAIL: moratorium@sbcglobal.net

MECAWI – Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice – www.mecawi.org

IT'S A BOLD-FACED LIE THAT THERE'S "NO MONEY"

WE MUST DEMAND THAT THE \$12 BILLION THE WAR ON IRAQ HAS COST MICHIGAN TAXPAYERS BE RETURNED TO US AND USED TO FUND HUMAN NEEDS INSTEAD!

MONEY FOR JOBS, HOUSING, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION – NOT FOR WAR

As the economic situation deteriorates in Michigan, we need emergency assistance from the government to survive this crisis. Instead, everyday all we get from the government, are more cutbacks in human needs programs. And all we hear is that there is no money for the people.

This is a joke. This is the richest country in the world. There is plenty of money to fund human needs. The problem is that rather than spending money to help the working class survive the economic disaster we are facing, the money is being wasted on an illegal, immoral, doomed war in Iraq.

According to the National Priorities Project, the War on Iraq has cost the people of the United States over \$450 billion. And the people of Michigan, confronted with the worst economic crisis since the depression, have been taxed to the tune of \$12 billion to fund the Iraq disaster.

The next time Governor Granholm, Senators Levin or Stabenow, or your local mayor or councilperson tells you they have to cut back on health care or schools or jobs programs, here are some figures to throw back at them:

The \$12 billion robbed from the people of Michigan to fund the illegal war in Iraq could be used instead to:

- ▶ Build 107,988 new housing units. ▶ Place 1,588,520 children in Head Start.
- ▶ Fund 581,410 four year full-time college scholarships. ▶ Pay the health care costs of 7,181,636 children for one year. ▶ Pay the salaries of 207,845 public school teachers.

That's just the money stolen from us to pay for the Iraq war. It doesn't include the billions spent on the occupation of Afghanistan. In addition, the Pentagon gets \$500 billion a year for bombs and weapons of mass destruction above and beyond the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. And how about the hundreds of billions in corporate welfare doled out every day? So next time Granholm or any politician tells you there simply is no money for the people – call them the liars they are.

NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 29

TO DEMAND AN END TO THE WAR ON IRAQ, BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW, RESTORE THE \$450 BILLION STOLEN FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S. FOR THE WAR AND USE THOSE FUNDS FOR HUMAN NEEDS AT HOME, NOT FOR WARS ABROAD.

FOR MICHIGAN BUS INFORMATION:

Call (313)680-5508 or Email info@mecawi.org

USE THE OIL PROFITS FOR THE PEOPLE OR TAKE OVER THE OIL COMPANIES

Everyday we are being robbed at the gas pump. There are predictions that gas prices may rise to \$4.00 per gallon by the end of the year. While the executives, media and politicians try to cover up the reason for the astronomical rise in gas prices, we all know the real reason: highway robbery by the multinational oil companies against the people.

In 2006, while the people, especially in Michigan, suffered the effects of out of control rises in gas prices, the big oil companies made out like bandits, garnering the largest profits of any corporations in the history of the U.S. EXXON made a profit of \$39.5 billion. Chevron, the second biggest U.S. oil company, posted a profit of \$17.1 billion. Conoco-Phillips, the third largest, stole \$15.5 billion from the people.

In Venezuela, the government has demanded that the oil companies turn over a large share of their profits to the people, and have used the oil wealth to pay for health care, housing and basic human needs. If the oil companies object to returning their stolen wealth to the people, the Chavez government has taken them over and created a people's oil company, which keeps prices low and subsidizes heating costs all over the world, including the U.S.

If Venezuela can do it, why can't we? **LET'S DEMAND THAT THE OIL PROFITS STOLEN BY EXXON, CHEVRON, CONOCO-PHILLIPS AND THE REST, BE RESTORED TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AND USED TO FUND HUMAN NEEDS. IF THE CORPORATIONS OBJECT, IT'S TIME FOR A PEOPLE'S TAKEOVER OF THE OIL INDUSTRY!**

UNITY IS THE KEY TO FIGHTING BACK – FIGHT RACISM, SEXISM AND LGBT OPPRESSION

As the economic disaster in Michigan intensifies, the ruling class, the corporations and government, are stepping up their efforts to divide us to try to stem the inevitable fightback.

This past year has seen attacks on affirmative action, integration, the right to juries that reflect the communities of the accused, and increased police brutality against African Americans. Immigrants have been under the gun, with stepped-up raids on undocumented workers and continuing scapegoating of Arab-Americans. Reproductive rights and the legal rights of women and people of color to equal pay for equal work are being eroded. Lesbians, gays, bisexuals

and transgender people are subject to bigotry and hate crimes. The pattern is clear. The handful of billionaires who profit while conditions deteriorate for the vast majority need to keep us divided to carry out their policies of war, cutbacks, exploitation and repression.

Only by fighting racism, sexism and LGBT oppression can we build the mass working class movement that can turn things around, put people before profits, and win our rights to jobs at living wages, housing, healthcare, education and a decent quality life for all.

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