

4 SPARTACIST

CANADA NOVEMBER 1977 No. 21 25¢

Inco, Falconbridge Axe Thousands

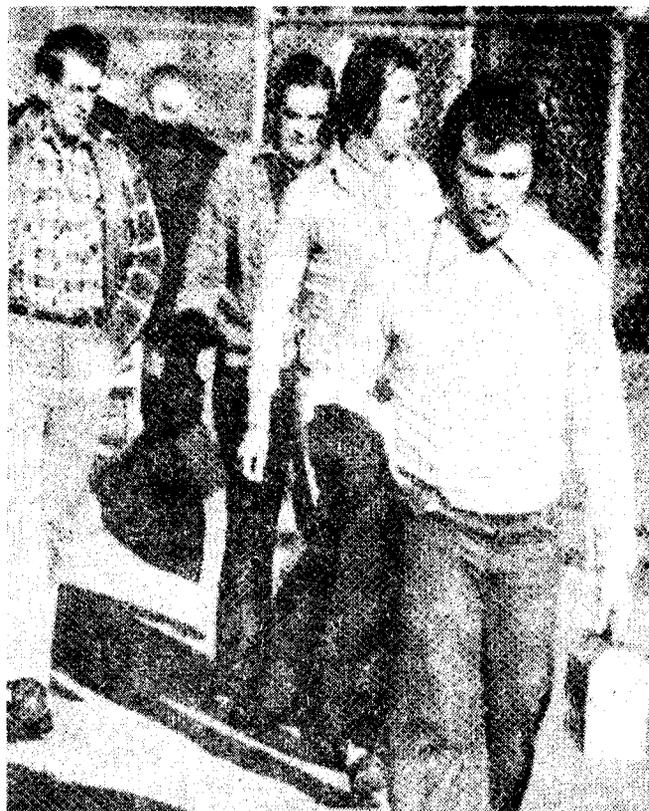
Expropriate the Mines!

SUDBURY, October 23--More than 1,000 angry miners and other Sudbury residents rallied here this afternoon to protest the impending mass layoffs in area nickel mines. The Inco and Falconbridge mine bosses are seeking to rationalize the collapsing Canadian nickel industry at the expense of the workers, and the jobs and livelihoods of thousands are at stake--as well as the future of this historically powerful and militant sector of the Canadian union movement.

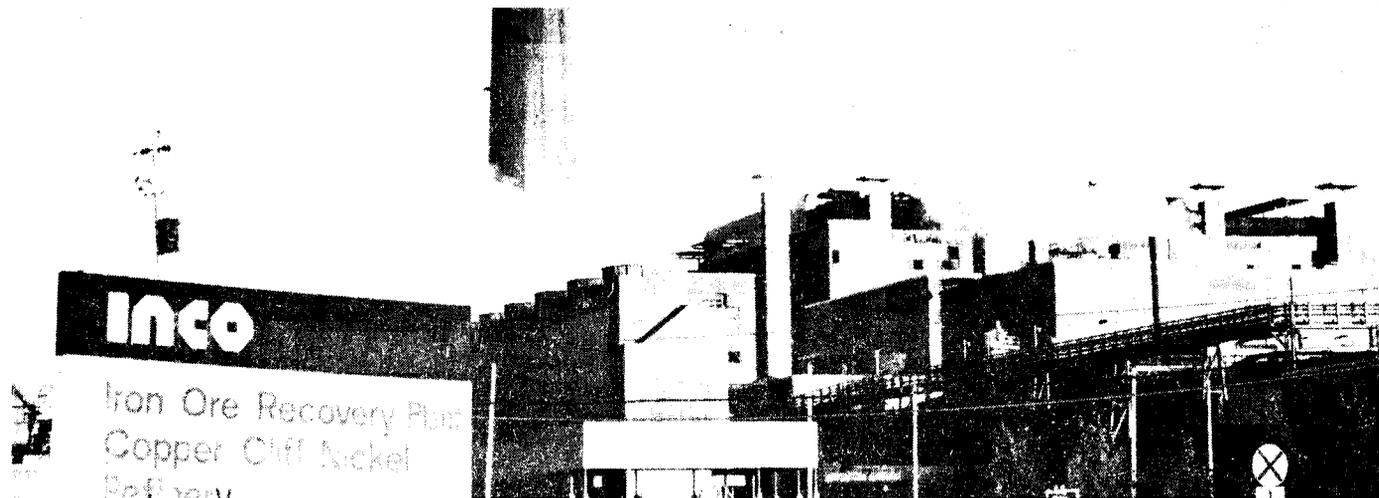
Already 375 Inco employees in Port Colborne, Ontario (some with as much as 14 years seniority) have been axed; now the company has announced that early next year 2,800 workers in Sudbury and another 650 in Thompson, Manitoba, will lose their jobs permanently. Falconbridge has announced similar massive cuts in the Sudbury-area workforce, and local union leaders warned the protesting miners that still more layoffs are likely on the agenda.

Cramming the union hall of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 6500, the miners came hoping to find a strategy to defeat the company's attacks. But all they got was three hours of speeches from politicians and union bureaucrats, containing nothing but rhetoric, vague promises and various reformist gimmicks aimed at cajoling the compa-

(continued on page 14)



Canadian Press



TOP: INCO WORKERS AT SHIFT CHANGE AFTER BEING INFORMED OF IMPENDING MASS LAYOFFS. BOTTOM: INCO PLANT NEAR SUDBURY.

SC Photo

Defend Victimized Griffin Picketers!

When strikers at the Griffin Steel Foundries near Winnipeg were faced with a company attempt to bust their strike and their union last February, they responded by militant defense of their picket lines. But only one week after the company announced that it would resume production with new "employees" (i. e., scabs), NDP provincial Attorney-General Howard Paulley announced his intention to charge picketers who attempted to stop scabs from entering the plant with "obstructing justice." Every day for many weeks cops escorted scabs across the picket line, arresting strikers and their supporters.

According to the Griffin Defense Committee, 28 persons now face charges of "obstruction" and other criminal charges arising from incidents on the picket line. The Committee is attempting to raise \$30,000 to cover anticipated legal expenses of the victimized picketers. The Trotskyist League has sent the following letter of solidarity and a contribution to the Committee, and further demands that all charges against the arrested picketers be dropped:

"The Trotskyist League of Canada wishes to extend its full solidarity with the picketers arrested during the course of the Griffin strike. We enclose a contribution to help offset the legal expenses of those union members and supporters whom the capitalist government chose to victimize for their stand against compulsory overtime, strikebreaking and union busting. By its actions in the Griffin strike the NDP government graphically demonstrated the role of a reformist workers party in power--to serve the capitalist class. Workers must fight to build a party committed to destroying the capitalist class not to serving it."

We encourage Spartacist Canada readers to send contributions to: Griffin Defense Fund, Box 237, Postal Station K, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 3R4.■

Letter: Manitoba Elections

Toronto
21 October

Dear Editor:

Last month's article on the campaign of the Revolutionary Workers League in the Manitoba provincial elections ("RWL's Best Just Isn't Good Enough," SC 20, October) correctly stated that its "giggling lifestylism" and "bankrupt pro-NDP cretinism.... merits no support from class-conscious workers who are fed up with the NDP's betrayals." However there is an additional point to be made about the RWL's electoral platform. Not only has this former left-wing branch of the Revolutionary Marxist Group totally adapted itself to the social-democratic tailism of the ex-League for Socialist Action, but the central demands of the RWL election program were lifted straight from the pages of the last convention documents of the Manitoba NDP!

Only six months ago, candidate Larry Johnston told the Old Mole:

"A lot of people just aren't going to work for the NDP, and that's going to cause some NDP defeats.

"Revolutionary socialists have to continue helping to build a real socialist alternative to NDP politics. Otherwise people are just going to be disillusioned. Some of them might go back to the NDP later, but they'll be no further ahead."
--Old Mole, 8 April

But now--sooner rather than later--the Winnipeg Pabloists have themselves gone back to the NDP... to find a program.

Last spring's provincial NDP convention repudiated some of Premier Ed Schreyer's most right-wing policies, demanding specifically that the government withdraw from the wage control program and stop budget cuts in province-run daycare centers. In order to demonstrate its affinity for NDP-style social democracy during the election campaign, the RWL tossed out the window the demand of the ex-RMG to "prepare the general strike" against controls and buried deep within the program the one-time RMG call for "free quality 24-hour childcare." Instead, the watchwords of the NDP convention--"Manitoba out of wage controls" and "No daycare cuts"--have replaced these demands on prominent display in the RWL's election propaganda. For the RWL, Schreyer's best may not be good enough, but the parochial, minimalist social-democratic pressure-group program of the NDP delegates apparently is! This craven capitulation to the social democrats reveals the RWL as both unable and unwilling to provide leadership to Canadian workers seeking a solution to the ills of capitalism.

Comradely,
G. Taylor

 <h1 style="margin: 0;">SPARTACIST</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">CANADA</h2>
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No Gun Controls!

In a neat convergence with international capitalism's hysteria over recent terrorist attacks in West Germany, the Canadian government's new gun control legislation is now being touted as a safeguard against leftist violence. The bill, which becomes effective on 1 January 1978, restricts the purchase of firearms to individuals given "clearance" by municipal police departments. According to Solicitor-General John MacBeth, applicants for permits to purchase firearms will be checked for "conviction for violent crime, for conviction for firearm offences, for a history of violent behavior, and for any mental disorder involving violence" and, according to a recent interview with Ontario's Chief Provincial Firearms Officer, James Villemaire, for involvement with revolutionary politics. Villemaire howls, "you certainly wouldn't want any of them (revolutionary political) groups involved in the handling of firearms" (Globe and Mail, 13 October 1977).

Ostensibly aimed at reducing the risk of "violent crimes" (the definition of which conveniently excludes imperialist wars, A-bombs, strikebreaking, imprisonment and torture of militant workers and revolutionaries around the world, and the casual brutality of the venal cops), there is a fundamental class logic to the capitalist desire to check the proliferation of firearms. The bourgeoisie's dislike for death and violence is purely a matter of convenience. While raising a furor over undeniably high homicide rates and accidental shootings, the capitalists casually accept damage and destruction of human life through industrial accidents and job-related illnesses. Their sanctimonious horror is pure hypocrisy, unless it happens to be their property, institutions or investments which are threatened. In all such cases, the bourgeoisie rests on the monopoly of power concentrated in its standing bodies of armed men--the police and the army.

From its introduction in 1974, the government's "anti-crime" bill has stirred much controversy. There is an understandable reluctance to relinquish sole access to weapons to a government continuously exposed as liars, torturers, and perpetrators of mass violence and mass illegality. Dis-

closures continue of routine RCMP wiretappings and break-ins such as at the Agence de Presse Libre du Québec, and of extensive surveillance of trade union and political groups including the NDP, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the National Farmers Union, the Indian Association of Alberta and Red Morning (a now-defunct Mao-oid collective in Toronto). While the new gun control legislation is not "part of the fascization of the Canadian state," as claimed by the crazed cultists of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) (People's Canada Daily News, 15 October 1977), it is a sign that the Canadian capitalist class fears the threat posed by organizations of their enemy class, the proletariat, and its allies.

Marxists must oppose the monopoly of armed might in the hands of the racist, strikebreaking cops and army and vigorously support the right of the populace to bear arms. However, as a strategy for revolution, Marxists stand against mindless urban guerillaism and the fetishism of the technical aspects of the military question in making a revolution. The bourgeoisie will not be defeated by simple military means. The consciousness and combativity of the working class must be linked to the vanguard party in order to lead to a successful seizure of state power. Only the victorious proletariat can establish just law and order. ■



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Fake Militants Pave the Way

Uof T Library Workers Sold Out

OCTOBER 20--At their first public meeting, members of the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) proclaimed that in this "new period" of class struggle "more and more militants are looking to socialists for the answers." But those who looked to RWL supporters in the University of Toronto library workers union during its recent contract negotiations weren't even offered militant trade unionism--much less "socialist solutions."

After months of negotiations, in early October the union (Canadian Union of Public Employees [CUPE] Local 1230) was offered a lousy 6.2 percent wage increase and little else. But equally insulting was the contract fight strategy put forward by the local leadership--the obvious handiwork of RWL supporters on the executive and negotiating committees. At an "informational" local meeting on October 12, RWL supporter and executive member Kathy Beeman explained her proposed tactics. Beeman "informed" union members that if the offer was rejected the executive would propose a one-day strike on October 14 (after all, Joe Morris wasn't going to do it again this year), followed by rotating departmental strikes. Furthermore, while the goal of the executive was to "disrupt" library services --not to shut down the library through a full strike --there was to be no "disruption" of supervisory personnel crossing the picket lines to go to work. According to Beeman it had been too great a struggle to keep them out during the last strike in 1975 --so why fight a losing battle?

The following day a meeting was held to vote on the offer. Here Beeman's fellow RWL supporter, negotiating committee member Jim Stewart, expanded on the leadership's strategy. Stewart began by commending the "sane" and "reasonable" manner in which the negotiating committee had dealt with management. Indeed, this Sunday socialist was so reasonable in his dealings with the boss and the government as to wholeheartedly go along with "third party" conciliation and mediation earlier in negotiations. Stewart went on to argue that "limited strike action" such as rotating strikes could win "important gains." Shut down the Reference Room for a wage increase closer to AIB guidelines! Shut down the Circulation Department to win four weeks vacation! These were the "important gains" Stewart claimed the union would win through "disrupting" library services.

Management's offer was accepted by a vote of

238-66, largely due to the intervention of CUPE national representative, Grenn Jones. Decrying the "schisms" in the union Jones urged that the offer be accepted to preserve "unity." But it was not Jones' appeals to "unity" that were convincing. Rather his statements were a veiled threat that the union would not be supported by the CUPE national leadership should it take strike action--just as it was not supported during the 1975 strike.

A small isolated union of 400 campus workers can win relatively little without the support of other campus workers and the rest of the labor movement. Crucial to winning significant victories is the struggle for a campus-wide union of all university employees (excluding campus cops and administrators). As part of this struggle a strike by library workers must be extended campus-wide. Only shutting down the entire university, not the Reference Room one day and the Circulation Department the next, could strike a real blow against the administration.

This strategy was put forward by CUPE 1230 militant Jane Kirby, who throughout the months of negotiations argued that the union should campaign for one campus-wide union through organizing the unorganized and setting up joint strike and negotiating committees with other campus unions. Kirby also pointed to the necessity of winning student support through taking up demands for no tuition, open admissions and a full living stipend for all students. In opposition to the executive's sellout strategies Kirby urged that the offer be rejected and a fight be waged to extend the contract struggle campus-wide.

Of course, the university is not central to capitalist production and even a complete shutdown cannot affect the ruling class to the extent of, for example, strikes in auto or maritime industries. But this only further underscores the need for labor solidarity and a struggle to oust business-unionist hatchet men of Jones' ilk. What is needed is a class-struggle leadership that can link workers marginal to the productive process to the entire struggle of the working class against capitalism. The fight to build such an alternative will not be led by the RWL supporters who rely not on labor solidarity but on so-called "neutral" government mediators and whose "solutions" are but a page from the book of the labor lieutenants of the capitalist class. ■

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UofT Demos Protest Apartheid Administrators

TORONTO--The scheduled appearance of two administrators from the all-white South African University of Stellenbosch at the University of Toronto (U of T) campus on October 5 and 6 sparked two protest demonstrations by students, faculty and campus workers. Following on the heels of the police murder of Stephen Biko and at a time when hundreds more black militants languish in the dungeons of Vorster's jails, the visit of these two academic administrators of apartheid was an affront and a provocation to the workers movement and all defenders of democratic rights. While the demonstration organizers sought to mire the protests in liberal appeals to the U of T administration to take a "moral" stand against apartheid, the demonstrations succeeded in forcing the cancellation of the second half of a scheduled two-day visit by the Stellenbosch administrators.

The University of Stellenbosch is the principal academic institution of the Afrikaaner ruling elite and of apartheid. Three of South Africa's four prime ministers were educated at this university, and in the 1930's it was the center of South Africa's own Nazi party--led by none other than B. J. Vorster. More recently it has spawned white vigilante squads against anti-apartheid demonstrators.

Close to 100 people joined in the first demonstration on October 5, called by the Committee Against Racism (CAR), the liberal anti-racist front group of the Stalinist Canadian Party of Labour. Following the protest picket in front of the administration building, demonstrators marched up to the office of U of T President John Evans to demand that the visit be called off. However when confronted with Evans, the militant bravado of CAR dwindled into abject liberalism. Toronto CAR Chairman Peter Rosenthal demanded to know "who bought the lunch" for the Stellenbosch administrators. In opposition to CAR's ever-so-humble appeals, demonstrators from the Trotskyist League argued that to ask Evans to "prove" that he was not a racist was a useless gesture, and could only sow the worst illusions in this hired servant of the capitalist class.

A demonstration the following day called by the Committee to Stop Bank Loans to South Africa drew about 75 people and was considerably more subdued. The brainchild of campus supporters of the Communist Party, the Committee, as is evident from its name, was built around the liberal-moralist strategy of appealing to the university administration to wage a crusade against apartheid by withdrawing its holdings from banks that invest in South Africa. The demonstration had as its central slogan "End U of T complicity with apartheid," and Committee supporters carried placards reading "Stop U of T support for racist bank loans." In keeping with this sub-

reformism, members of the Committee "challenged" Evans with such chants as "Hey, hey, Dr. J., how much did you invest today?" and "Hey, hey, Dr. John, which side are you on?" The demonstration concluded when a representative of the U of T administration was invited to address the crowd and "explain" his position on apartheid.

After having been conspicuously absent from the more militant CAR demo, the fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League endorsed the liberal Committee to Stop Bank Loans protest and made no attempt to raise any independent propaganda. As for the various Maoist groups, all were conspicuously absent from both demonstrations--not surprisingly, given China's support to the South African invasion of Angola in 1975.

The Trotskyist League was the only organization to participate in both demonstrations protesting the Stellenbosch visit, and was the only left group to counterpose proletarian internationalist solidarity with the South African anti-apartheid fighters to the dominant liberal moralist theme of the protests. While CAR and the Committee to Stop Bank Loans appealed to the U of T administration, Tlers carried placards reading "Free all victims of apartheid repression" and "Smash apartheid--open the road to workers revolution!"

As the TL pointed out in an article in the U of T student newspaper The Varsity (October 5):

"The liberation of the non-white masses of South Africa requires a struggle by the proletariat for full democratic rights to smash apartheid and open the road to a black-centered workers and peasants government. This, in turn, requires not liberal-moralist 'divestment' but the most powerful international labor solidarity. "... Only such a proletarian internationalist perspective can show the way forward--for the expropriation of the bourgeoisie from here to Johannesburg." ■



OCTOBER 6 SOUTH AFRICA DEMO AT U of T.

SC Photo

Spartacist League/Red Flag Union Fusion Tour

From the Gay Left to Trotskyism

The fusion of the Red Flag Union (RFU--formerly Lavender and Red Union [L&RU]) and the Spartacist League/U.S. (SL/U.S.) was presented in three Canadian cities last month as part of a North American speaking tour. Introducing the Vancouver forum, SL Central Committee member Martha Phillips stated:

"This fusion represents a real victory for the revolutionary program and a living illustration of how a Leninist vanguard party is built."

For the RFU, fusion marks the end of a long political journey which took it from being a self-described "gay liberation/communist" organization to revolutionary Trotskyism. Gene Shofner, a leader of the former RFU and now a member of the SL Central Committee, explained the political evolution of the L&RU/RFU at meetings in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto. In his presentation, Shofner noted that while several self-proclaimed Trotskyist organizations had opportunistically courted the RFU, the SL won over these comrades through a hard political struggle around the central programmatic points of Trotskyism. Transcending its origins in the gay left and Maoism, the RFU had to confront the Trotskyist position of the defense of the degenerated Soviet workers state and the deformed workers states against imperialist attack. Shofner told the Winnipeg audience that it was necessary for the RFU to "understand the character of the Russian revolution in 1917 and afterwards to be able to explain contemporary history."

This recognition was a turning point in the RFU's development towards Trotskyism. Shofner went on to explain that the break with sectoralism had been the last major hurdle for the RFU. As Comrade Phillips added, all the fake-Trotskyist groups had said to the RFU:

"Write your own ticket. It's a blank check. We want a homosexual vanguard. If you want to be our homosexual vanguard, come in, write your terms."

In contrast, from its earliest encounters with the L&RU the SL insisted that only through the instrument of the proletarian party could the oppressed win their liberation. A Leninist party is not a federation of special interest groups who come together to figure out a program. The party must contain politically class-conscious militants from all oppressed sectors, but they must come together around the program of proletarian revolution. The Spartacist tendency rejects the polyvanguardist notion that the party imitates the divisions of capitalist society within itself.



GENE SHOFNER SPEAKING AT VANCOUVER FORUM

SC Photo

As was exemplified by the ominous anti-homosexual Anita Bryant crusade last summer--which became the rallying point for the filth of anti-abortion "right-to-lifers," opponents of the American Equal Rights Amendment and other reactionary forces--the democratic rights of the oppressed are indivisible. The vanguard party must be the tribune of the people, championing the rights and aspirations of all working people and the specially oppressed.

In class society homosexuals are systematically discriminated against and often exposed to brutal repression. Homosexuality is seen as a threat to bourgeois morality and the institution of the nuclear family. But unlike the oppression of women, or of blacks in the U.S., the oppression of homosexuals is not directly based on the economic institutions of capitalism.

Much of the oppression of homosexuals is discriminatory denial of democratic rights. Homosexuals (like blacks and women) will benefit immediately from the victorious proletarian dictatorship's assault on discriminatory laws and practices. But they will still continue to suffer from pervasive hostile social attitudes deeply ingrained in the residual nuclear family sex role norms of the culture of a transitional society.

The new transitional society can no more legislate

away such attitudes than it can eliminate the family by legislation. To arrive at socialism requires a tremendous leap in the productive forces and the gradual development of real social freedom. The withering away of the family as the basic institution defining sexual relations will result in the eventual disappearance of male chauvinism, and with it of generalized anti-homosexual prejudice.

RWL PUSHES SECTORALISM

Shofner's forums in Winnipeg and Toronto were both attended by leading members of the fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League (RWL). No doubt the two RWL Central Committee members who intervened at the Winnipeg meeting felt pressured to attend by the presence of four ex-members of the Revolutionary Marxist Group, all of whom had recently left the RWL in opposition to its increasingly right-wing course.

The RWLers refused to defend their organization against charges of opportunism, and refused to justify the numerous betrayals of their American coun-

"often important opponents..."

A year ago, the Lavender and Red Union received a letter in which the Socialist Workers Party and its Canadian cohorts of the League for Socialist Action were denounced as "tailist" and "opportunist." Are these the "sectarian" denunciations of the Spartacist League? No, this letter, written only one month prior to the official declaration of fusion discussions between the Revolutionary Marxist Group and LSA, was penned by RMGer Gary Kinsman. Written on behalf of the "RMG lesbians and gays" much of Kinsman's correspondence is given over to distancing himself and his organization from their soon-to-be political bedfellow. We reprint below an excerpt from the letter. Perhaps it will be of some interest to the RWL's other "sectors." (Spelling errors in the original have been corrected.)

"As you are aware our organization has a number of political differences with the Socialist Workers Party, and with the League for Socialist Action in Canada. In our view and the view of the majority of the Fourth International they reduce the role of the vanguard and tend therefore to limit themselves to an intervention at the level of consciousness reached by the masses which is therefore insufficient, tailist and often opportunist. These differences are not only manifested on the national level, but also on the international level, for example in their positions on Portugal and Angola and the role of democratic centralism in the Fourth International. "For example in the anti-war movement in Canada they were opposed to the slogan Victory To The Indochinese Revolution!. In the women's movement they opposed the demand of free abortion. In the gay movement they are the best defenders of the civil rights strategy and often important opponents of ours."

--10 November 1976

ins, the Socialists Workers Party (SWP), which the speakers had cited. A case in point is the SWP's documented history of expelling known homosexuals prior to the early 1970's. Instead the RWLers spent all their time in attempting to attack the Spartacist tendency--not with facts and political positions, but with empty, unsubstantiated accusations of "sectarianism." For RWL leader Barry Weisleder, the Spartacist tendency is "sectarian" because it refuses to uncritically build "mass movements" like the movement against Anita Bryant. But as a TL spokesman pointed out:

"The point is that every mass movement has a leadership. And the point is that we want to politically discredit those leaderships because those leaderships are reformist and can only lead those mass movements to defeat. And that's the difference between us and you. You say you 'support the mass movement,' but what you're really saying is that you support the leadership of that movement."

In Toronto, over fifty people gathered to hear Shofner and SL/U.S. Central Committee member Tweet Carter speak. A sizeable representation from the city's gay community was present, including several supporters of the Gay Alliance Towards Equality, staffers from the gay liberation journal Body Politic and Gary Kinsman, a leading gay activist of the RWL.

The discussion period was opened by an activist from the gay community who, while claiming to be a communist, maintained that "the liberation of homosexuals will be the work of homosexuals themselves" and that only homosexuals can understand gay oppression. Several other speakers argued that homosexual communists should seek to build a mass "autonomous gay movement." Shofner countered this by pointing out that there is no mass gay movement in North America. What movement does exist is purely reformist ("Not Anita but Bella

(continued on page 13)

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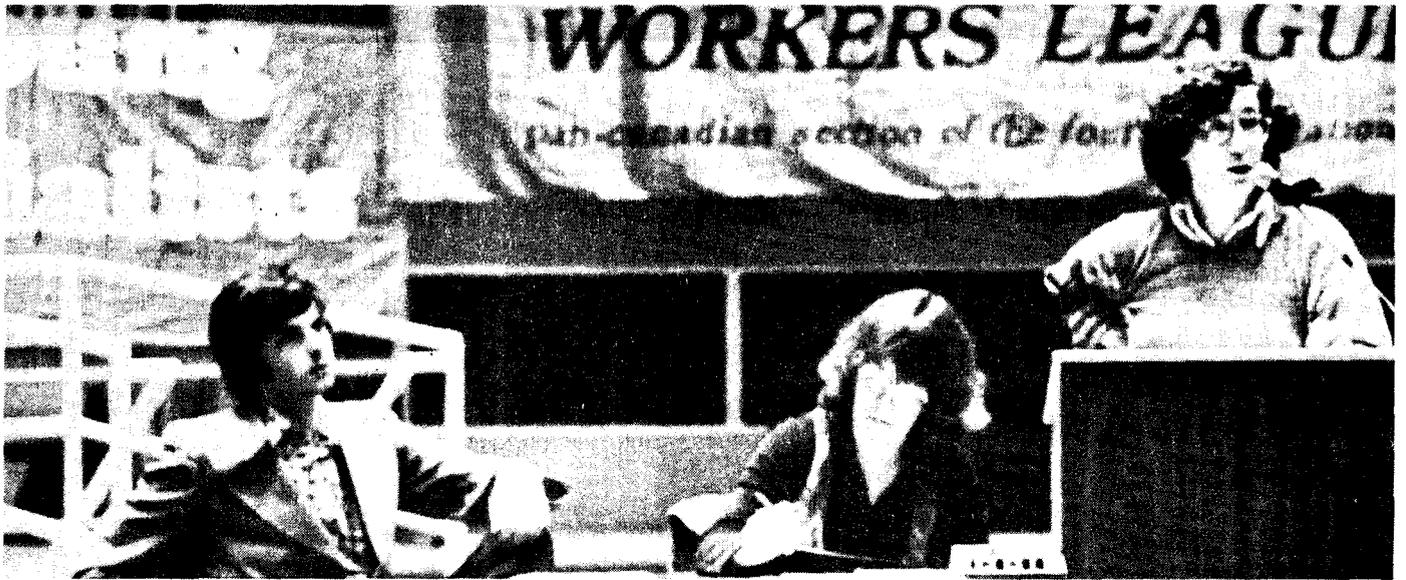
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LEFT TO RIGHT: RWLers ART YOUNG, JACKIE LARKIN AND JUDY REBICK AT TORONTO FORUM.

SC Photo

RWL ON TOUR FOR MENSHEVISM

During the past eight years, the competing wings of the fake-Trotskyist United Secretariat (USec) have repeatedly denounced each other in public and taken diametrically opposed lines on a host of issues--including positions that would have placed them on opposite sides of the barricades in Portugal and Angola in 1975. But today the factional apparatus of the centrist International Majority Tendency (IMT) and reformist Leninist-Trotskyist Faction (LTF) are being dismantled, and the USec is trumpeting its new-found "unity."

The product of this rapprochement in Canada, the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), used the occasion of its first national speaking tour last month to campaign for "unity" through an all-pervasive assault on the Leninist principle of the party. Lenin called for building a democratic-centralist combat party on granite programmatic foundations. In contrast, the Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG)/League for Socialist Action (LSA) reunification which formed the RWL is based on substantial rightward degeneration on the part of both tendencies, but especially on the part of the IMT and its Canadian followers. It also represents a papering over of outstanding differences and conflicting appetites. But the fusion took place, in the main, on the LSA's political terms and represented a strengthening of the reformist Socialist Workers Party-led LTF within the United Secretariat.

RWL leaders Art Young and Judy Rebick sought to portray the fusion as a victory for revolutionary Marxism. But at several meetings across the country, members and supporters of the Trotskyist League (TL) intervened to puncture the RWL and USec's pretensions to revolutionary politics, and to counterpose the program of authentic Trotskyism.

Putting the fusion in its "national context," former LSA leader Young repeated his long-winded

and wearisome account of "Canada in Crisis" (the ostensible subject of the forums) to bored audiences in several Canadian cities. According to one of the more popular rationales for fusion, last year's October 14 general strike against wage controls and November 15 election of the bourgeois-nationalist Parti Québécois government in Quebec have opened up a "new period" of crisis, requiring a new and stronger organization to intersect the new wave of mass struggle. Accordingly, the RMG and LSA have "united"...to build the NDP--the English-Canadian chauvinist campaigner for "national unity" and, where in power, enforcer of wage controls. Ah, life is filled with little ironies.

Cheerleading for every stripe of "progressive" labor faker is another point of "unity" for these renegades from Trotskyism. Young forecasted a rapid unfolding of the class struggle--taking as his barometer none other than Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) national president Jean-Claude Parrot. Young lauded the militant-posturing CUPW bureaucrat, claiming: "Many of his ideas correspond to our ideas." The RWL's Socialist Voice has become an unofficial propaganda sheet for Parrot, reprinting his Hamilton Labor Day speech in full and repeatedly giving him laudatory mentions.

Yet while hundreds of postal workers are being laid off in management's automation drive, Parrot has done nothing. Instead, the RWL's new hero has his hands full trying to swing a deal with the Trudeau government to turn the Post Office into a Crown Corporation! Moreover, this supposed militant union leader does not even support such elementary demands as no contract/no work and industrial unionism. CUPW workers have been without a contract for over four months while no strike has been called, and Parrot maintains a craft-conscious opposition to the necessary merger of postal unions

to fight management's union-busting attacks.

"UNITY" OR DISUNITY?

Having paid homage to Parrot and exhausted his arsenal of quotations from the bourgeois press about the crisis, Young made a bid for everyone to "unite and fight" with the RWL. The second speaker, former RMG leader Rebick expanded on this theme, lamenting the "unfortunate" divisions in the left as simply a product of sectarianism.

But for the RWL and the USec "sectarianism" is a code-word for the struggle to build a program-matically homogeneous and united Leninist party. Before the RMG could have "unity" with the LSA reformists, it had to rid itself of its left-wing, the Bolshevik-Leninist Tendency (B-LT) in 1975. The expulsion of the B-LT was purely and genuinely sectarian, substituting the bureaucratic organizational methods of Stalinism for political struggle and debate.

As a Trotskyist League spokesman pointed out in the discussion period in Toronto, the RWL's "unity" offensive is based "not on the principles of Leninism but on the 'principles' of Menshevism of about the fourth mobilization." True to this statement, speaker after speaker rose to explain how the RWL is not a "monolithic church," that it reflects the "heterogeneity of the working class" and the "complex and ever-changing" social reality. Rebick hastened to emphasize that the differences between the former RMG and LSA were and are very "real and important":

"Our goal is not to completely overcome these differences but rather to take advantage of these present diversities within the RWL to strengthen the weaknesses of both organizations in this new one and to build an organization that can tolerate these differences without paralysis or splits."

And a blanket invitation was issued for all those who agreed with the RWL's Statement of Principles to join the new organization.

IS DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET UNION A SECONDARY QUESTION?

But the unity-mongers of the RWL are beyond the pale of having any real principles. A TL spokesman noted that, whatever abstract "orthodox" positions may be found in the Statement of Principles these certainly aren't upheld in practice by the RWL. Introduced by the statement that:

"Its aim is to define the borders that separate revolutionary Marxists from the class enemy and its lieutenants in the labor movement,"

this so-called Statement of Principles claims that one of these "borders" is the Trotskyist position of unconditional defense of the Soviet Union and the deformed workers states.

It is indisputable that the defense of the Soviet Union is one of the decisive lines of demarcation between Trotskyism and social democracy. But with the advent of Jimmy Carter's "human rights" campaign and the rise of Eurocommunism the RWL

and its USec mentors have consistently found themselves on the wrong side of this line.

If defense of the Soviet Union is a "dividing line" for the RWL, how then does it explain the recent fusion of its American big brother, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), with the Shachtmanite Revolutionary Marxist Committee (RMC), or SWP leader Joseph Hansen's recent call on the Soviet Union to take the initiative in nuclear disarmament? The SWP adheres to the same "International," and now so do the Soviet defeatists of the ex-RMC. Would the RWL admit that they aren't "revolutionary Marxists"?

Of course not--for on its own turf the RWL is making ever-so-"comradely" overtures to the state capitalists of the International Socialists (IS). For the RWL soundmen and ushers for the pro-imperialist diatribes of Leonid Plyushch and other anti-communist Soviet dissidents (see "Plyushch Can't Duck Issue of Soviet Defensism," SC No. 20, October), the IS's refusal to defend the gains of the October Revolution would be no barrier to "unity." While the Trotskyist position of unconditional defense of the Soviet Union may occasionally turn up in the paper "principles" of the RWL, when all is said and done it is one of those ever-irrelevant "secondary questions."

USec "REUNIFICATION"

Rebick regretted not having time to put the fusion in the context of the international rapprochement between the USec's two international factions. However this question was taken up by Central Committee member Bret Smiley in the discussion in Toronto.

Just back from a convention which witnessed the completion of a fusion process between the four (!) USec groups in Mexico, Smiley heralded the "growth" and "reunification" of the USec. Poeticizing about peasant leaders who "travel miles" to join the newly-united Mexican section of the USec, Smiley proclaimed:

"They join on the basis of these types of 'Marxist truisms', that are expressed in this Declaration of Principles, because it appears to them, as it appears to many of us, that if these things are truisms, then who upholds these truisms? ... These truisms are truisms only for us."

To this another TL spokesman responded: "Let's not talk truisms, let's talk truth, Comrade Smiley." What is the true history of this Mexican organization which peasant leaders are supposedly flocking to join? In the last Mexican elections one of the two largest components of the "new" USec section (with the "critical" support of the other) entered into a popular-frontist electoral alliance with the Stalinist Communist Party. The program of this alliance included an explicit affirmation of "peaceful co-existence" and an invitation to all supporters of "democracy" to join the front! Such are the anti-Marxist "truisms" for which the Mexican USec has "struggled." In acknowledgement for joining its alliance, the Mexican CP (the same party which in 1940 organized an attempt on Trotsky's life) gave

(continued on page 10)

RWL Tour...

(continued from page 9)

greetings to the fusion convention of this "Trotskyist" organization--no doubt a foretaste of future alliances.

Nevertheless Smiley was right on one point--there has been a certain "convergence" between the competing wings of the USec. But this is no more the result of a political "maturation," as Smiley would have the gullible believe, than was the Canadian reunification. Rather it is a product of the IMT's rightward shift.

The days of the radical post-1968 variant of Pabloism, when the IMT smelled a chance for real influence through promotion of guerrilla warfare, are but a fading memory. The former star section of the USec in France, which in 1973 sought to implement its "initiatives in action" program through an adventurist confrontation with police outside a fascist meeting in Paris, is today in a shambles, wracked by endless internal clique fights. Today it pleads for the capitalist state to outlaw fascist bands, while campaigning for the election of the Communist-Socialist-Left Radical popular front in the next French elections.

Now IMT sections like the German Gruppe Internationale Marxisten, in the aftermath of the Schleyer kidnapping, make veiled slanders against victims of reactionary repression and grovelling apologies to the German bourgeois state. In Italy, Spain and France they seek to build "broad" alliances of centrists and reformists (Democrazia Proletaria, the Spanish FUT) to act as "left" pressure groups on the popular front. This rightward motion has facilitated the present "reconciliation" of the IMT with the SWP, whose pseudo-Trotskyist "orthodoxy" on the question of guerrilla warfare was in fact an attack on the IMT from the right. In its bid to become the mass party of American social democracy, the SWP was not about to have any truck with IMT "terrorists." Similarly the SWP cloaks itself in sanctimonious "orthodoxy" on the question of the popular front. Yet domestically the central thrust of the SWP has been class-collaborationism par excellence--from building popular frontist anti-war coalitions like the National Peace Action Coalition to campaigning for federal troops to "protect" black schoolchildren in Boston. And in Portugal and Angola it found itself far to the right of even the IMT's maneuvers with the bourgeois Armed Forces Movement and the MPLA--tailing instead the CIA-funded anti-communist mobilizations of the Portuguese Socialist Party and at the time refusing to defend the MPLA against the imperialist South African invasion.

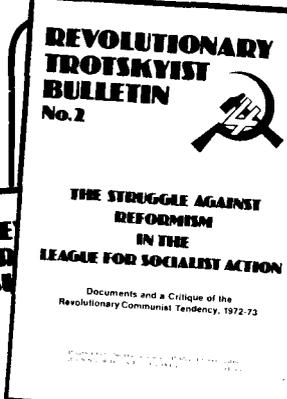
Commenting on the IMT-LTF differences over Portugal, SWP leader Barry Sheppard writes:

"It is true that at one point we would have been on opposite sides of some actual barricades set up by the Stalinists and the centrists to prevent SP workers from going to a rally called by their party. That was a serious danger, but we shouldn't generalize from that instance that we are politically in different class camps."

--"International Internal Discussion Bulletin,"
Vol. XIV, No. 8, September 1977

Instead the SWP--recognizing that the IMT's perspectives have failed and that it is in disarray--"generalizes" that the USec should "reunify" and dissolves the LTF.

Giving greetings to the Toronto meeting, one-time Left Opposition member Joe Meslin, today a minor bureaucrat in the Hatters Union, recalled Trotsky's call to build the Fourth International and claimed that "as firm and decisive, I've heard these words spoken here tonight." But the words of the USec are not the words of Trotskyism. Trotsky struggled to build the Fourth International around the key programmatic questions posed at the time: e. g., the Chinese revolution, class-collaboration and the class character of the Soviet Union. In contrast, the RMG and LSA united to "build the Fourth Inter-



REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN
No. 2

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST REFORMISM IN THE LEAGUE FOR SOCIALIST ACTION

Documents and a Critique of the Revolutionary Communist Tendency, 1972-73

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national" on the basis of tailing bourgeois Quebec nationalism, embracing feminism, uncritically supporting reformist union bureaucrats and calling for NDP governments! And in the international rapprochement of the still-centrist majority swamp and the hopelessly reformist SWP, all the old differences have simply been swept under the rug. The LTF has been dissolved without any resolution of the differences over the formation of deformed workers states in Vietnam and China, over petty-bourgeois nationalism (e. g., the MPLA, the Near East) and over the popular front--precisely the crucial questions of the Trotskyist program today.

For the IMT, "reunification" and the burying of past differences are essential if it is to further its goal of acting as the left tail of the popular front. The public factional squabbling of the USec has become a hindrance to its current perspectives, and now it must seek to parade the "Fourth International" as organizationally and politically strong and united. Supposedly the Canadian fusion has produced a "qualitatively stronger organization." But

political strength is not measured simply by increased numbers. As Trotsky wrote of the formation of the centrist Workers Party of Marxist Unification (POUM) in Spain in the mid-1930's:

"'Communists' plus Socialists plus Anarchists plus liberals add up to a total which is greater than their respective isolated numbers. Such is all their wisdom. However, arithmetic alone does not suffice here. One needs as well at least mechanics. The law of the parallelogram of forces applies to politics as well. In such a parallelogram, we know that the resultant is shorter, the more the component forces diverge from each other. When political allies tend to pull in opposite directions, the resultant may prove to be equal to zero."

--The Spanish Revolution, pp. 308-309

And one need only look back to the 1963 "reunification" of the then-centrist SWP with the Pabloists who today guide the IMT. In transit to its present-day reformism, the SWP abandoned its revolutionary heritage and capitulated to Pabloism, striving to bury the differences which had engendered the 1953 split. However the differences reappeared in another form in the late 1960's and early 1970's, leaving the USec a hopeless jumble of cliques and tendencies and almost provoking another split in 1974-75.

Today the cooling of these factional squabbles is being held up as an example of the "democratic" internal life of the USec. But again, as Trotsky wrote in his polemics against the POUM: "Democracy exists there--for the right-wingers, for the centrists, for the confusionists, but not for the Bolshevik-Leninists" (The Spanish Revolution, pg. 280).

When the RWL's founding tour arrived in Winnipeg, four ex-members of the RMG (including two of a number of ex-RWL members in the West who have recently quit, disgusted with the organization's opportunism) denounced this fraud of "democracy." Two former members of the RMG's Bolshevik-Leninist Tendency, now members of the Trotskyist League, pointed out how these self-proclaimed partisans of "workers democracy" bureaucratically expelled the B-LT in 1975 solely on the basis of its political ideas. The B-LT attacked the IMT's adaptation to guerrillaism, to Stalinism (especially in Vietnam and Cuba) and the popular front, called for a break with the reformist LTF and fought for the Trotskyist program. But there is no room for Trotskyists in the USec, so the B-LT, like comrades and tendencies in a number of USec groups around the world, was turfed out in a Stalinist-style purge.

When asked by a TLER in Winnipeg what the new organization's position would be on such questions as free speech for fascists (supported by the LSA, opposed by the RMG) or another South African invasion of an African colony, Young could only respond: "You'll see," and went on to ask if the TL would like to "venture a guess." But whatever the

outcome of the RWL's "discussions" on these and other questions, we can be sure that it will have nothing in common with the authentic program of Leninism--upheld today uniquely by the TL and the international Spartacist tendency. ■

Seems Like Old Times...

TORONTO, October 14--Only two weeks after its formal debut, the Revolutionary Workers League is already squabbling in public! Tonight's talk, entitled "Quebec Language Law Under Attack--Scope and Limits of the PQ's Strategy" provided an opportunity for RWL speaker (and former LSA leader) Dick Fidler to complain about the Parti Québécois' "too limited" commitment to reactionary French unilingualism. It also provided an opportunity for members of the newly-fused organization to display their "unique" interpretation of democratic centralism.

In a manner reminiscent of times gone by, the first speaker to attack Fidler's presentation was none other than ex-RMG leader Bret Smiley. Smiley, now like Fidler an RWL Central Committee member, rose to distance himself from the speaker's remarks on the role of Anglophones in Quebec. Before slipping from lucidity, Smiley managed to point out that Fidler had gone a little too far in comparing English-speaking Quebec residents to South African whites.

Later in the discussion period another RWL Central Committee member gained some distance from the speaker's remarks--this time surpassing Fidler's commitment to xenophobic bigotry in the name of supporting the nationalism of the oppressed. When a supporter of the international Spartacist tendency from France attacked the RWL's vicarious Québécois nationalism and raised the Leninist call for full and equal language rights for all, the RWLer attacked him for speaking French!:

"Of course he speaks the French language--but then in France French is the language of an imperialist nation. A nation that oppresses other nations."

Apparently the RWL is not going to stop at stamping out the English language in Quebec, but all "imperialist tongues" worldwide! The only problem with this "noble" sentiment is that it was expressed in "imperial" English!

The fatuous public "differentiations" of RWL members is a "tribute" to the anti-Leninist basis of the fusion which produced it. The rightward convergence of both the RMG and LSA has found a proper home in the RWL, which was from its inception pledged to shameless repudiation of the Leninist principles of democratic centralism. The disparate elements which comprise the RWL must have room to occasionally express public embarrassment at the political faux pas of their bloc partners. Without granite programmatic agreement and the ability to present a common face to the world, the revisionist RWL is nothing but a rotten bloc. ■

Letter to META

DEFEND the RUSSIAN REVOLUTION!

We reprint below a letter sent by the Trotskyist League to the collective which publishes the journal META. META defines itself as a forum for left-wing analysis and discussion on the Ukrainian question, Eastern Europe and related issues. As we go to press, the META collective has yet to respond.

September 27, 1977

META,
P. O. Box 324, Station 'P',
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Friends:

Through the summer, the Trotskyist League participated in the public seminars of META. We look forward to the fall seminar series with anticipation that the full and democratic discussion which has characterized these events will continue. In accord with META's request for the submission of topics for discussion, we would like to propose that a presentation be given by the TL on the class character of the Soviet Union and East European countries.

In October we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. Therefore such a discussion would indeed be timely. Further, the relevance of a discussion on the class nature of the Soviet Union (and by extension, the Eastern European countries) is attested to by the fact that ever since the Bolshevik seizure of state power differences over this question have been the single most important issue underlying the principal divisions within the international workers movement.

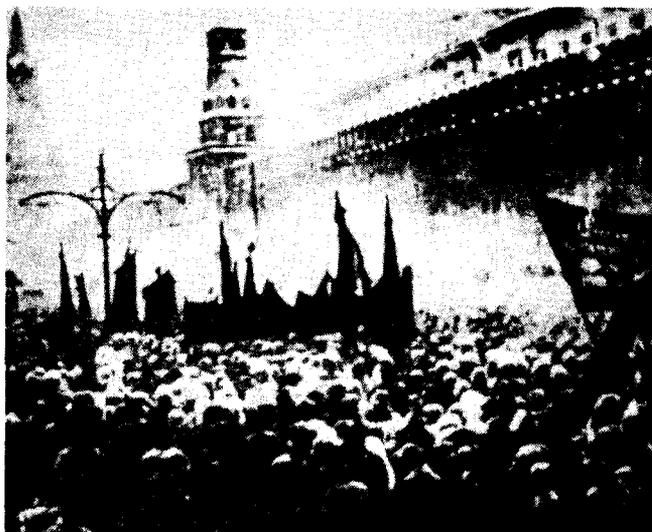
As Trotskyists, we believe that we are uniquely qualified to present, for discussion, a Marxist analysis of this question. During the 1930's Leon Trotsky developed the position that the USSR was a bureaucratically degenerated workers state. The maintenance of a collectivized planned economy indicated the proletarian, anti-capitalist nature of the state. Stalin's totalitarian terror was the weapon of a parasitic bureaucratic caste resting upon these property relations. In order to open the road to socialist development the bureaucratic caste had to be ousted by working-class political revolution. Of all the opponents of Stalinism within the workers movement, only the Trotskyists regarded the Soviet Union as a continuing, albeit qualitatively deformed, expression of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The importance of this question now is underlined by the Carter administration's sinister campaign for "human rights" which exploits especially the issue of Soviet dissidents. This campaign has left

many who claim a Marxist viewpoint in disarray. While Castro praises Carter and the revisionist left seek to force him to "live up to his words", only the international Spartacist tendency has told the truth to the working class. The "human rights" campaign is fundamentally an anti-Soviet ploy whose purpose is to win public support for U.S. imperialism against its chief adversary on the world scene.

As Trotskyists, we oppose the persecution of all those oppositionists who, no matter how misguided from a Marxist viewpoint, are not engaged in activities which aim their blows at the social gains of the October Revolution. We stand against Carter's hypocritical and anti-Soviet "human rights" campaign, and point out that the totalitarianism of the Soviet bureaucracy was in fact engendered by the pressure of the U.S. and other imperialist countries upon an isolated socialist revolution. Their attempts to strangle the Bolshevik Revolution through economic boycotts and military intervention and their bloody suppression of Communist movements in the West caused the degeneration of the isolated workers state. The only "democracy" that the imperialists are interested in for the USSR is the freedom for capitalist exploitation--and therefore the oppression of the working class.

The USSR and the deformed workers states must be given unconditional military defense by the working class against imperialism or domestic counter-revolution. At the same time, however, we stand opposed to the Soviet bureaucracy's attempt to defend its own narrow interests through such tactics as the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and the suppression of the Hungarian Soviets by Russian tanks



RUSSIA, 1917

in 1956. In the degenerated and deformed workers states we fight for Trotskyist parties to lead the proletariat in the struggle for soviet democracy through the overthrow of these anti-proletarian bureaucrats.

The fact that this plain truth is being told only by the iSt was clearly demonstrated at the September 12 Leonid Plyushch meeting in Toronto. In response to the TL's intervention, which called for the military defense of the Soviet Union against imperialism and for political revolution to overthrow the Stalinist bureaucracy, Plyushch chose to ignore the fact that we defended him, called for and supported his freedom. He relied on all the classical anti-communist arguments, including the standard



speaker: Charles O'Brien
 -SL Central Ctte. Member
 -Editor, Spartacist
York University, 12 noon, Friday, Nov. 11
 Room 110, Curtis Lecture Hall
U of T, 8pm, Saturday, Nov. 12
 Debates Room, Hart House

For information phone (416) 366-4107, or write
 Trotskyist League, Box 7198, Stn A, Toronto

"go back to Russia" gambit. We point out that neither the Revolutionary Workers League nor the Socialist League, which both claim to be Trotskyist, felt compelled to take sides in this heated exchange where the class line was clearly drawn.

The iSt is the only political tendency which continues to uphold the principled revolutionary positions developed by the Trotskyist movement on the USSR. The TL would appreciate the opportunity to present a Marxist analysis of the deformed and degenerated workers states at a META seminar. Our analysis would make it abundantly clear why it is so essential to draw a class line on the issue of opposition to the Stalinist bureaucracies. Opposition to Stalinist totalitarianism which does not take the defense of the gains of October as its starting point leads inexorably to support for "bourgeois democracy" against the deformed workers states.

We hope that you will consider and accept our proposal and that we will receive a speedy reply so that adequate preparation can be made.

For Class Struggle,

John Masters,
 for the Trotskyist League of Canada

SL/RFU Fusion...

(continued from page 7)

[Democratic Party politician Bella Abzug]" was one of the biggest chants in the New York anti-Bryant demonstrations). And its social composition and appeal is almost entirely petty-bourgeois and lifestyle.

The demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of militant homosexuals around North America this summer were outbursts of spontaneous anger at the attacks on their basic democratic rights. The Spartacist tendency solidarized with these expressions of protest and outrage, but in no way could they be considered manifestations of a mass movement. This is clearly shown by the fate of the various "Stop Anita" committees which tried to maintain the momentum of the upsurge--all are today completely atrophied, having been unable to stop the right-wing assault on homosexual rights.

During the discussion the differences between the opportunist tailism of the RWL and the Trotskyism of the iSt were clearly demonstrated. Kinsman slandered the Bolshevik Party for having an "insufficient" understanding of women's and homosexual oppression and pushed the "autonomous movement" line as the road to liberation for homosexuals, women and all the specially-oppressed. He also ludicrously claimed that the Spartacist tendency catered to "privileged white male workers" by not building independent "mass movements."

Shofner nailed this stupid slander--citing the Bolshevik policy of building a communist women's movement linked to the vanguard party, and working to split the autonomous women's movement along class lines. According to Kinsman's logic the Bolsheviks must have also catered to the "privileged white male workers"! After all, they never tried to build autonomous movements for each oppressed sector, and Lenin never chanted "out of the closets, into the streets, gay liberation now" unlike the far more up-to-date RWL. All the Bolsheviks ever managed to do was lead a socialist revolution, which opened the road for the complete emancipation of all the oppressed for the first time in history.

Shofner underlined the lessons of the SL-RFU fusion for the audience in Winnipeg:

"A little over three years ago, the Lavender and Red Union and then the Red Flag Union dedicated itself to the building of a truly vanguard communist party, and we believe by helping build the Spartacist League--the nucleus of that party--that we have done just that and have dedicated ourselves to the rebirth of the Fourth International and a socialist future for humankind."

The fusion of the comrades of the RFU/L&RU with the iSt has enriched our tendency. Not only have a number of talented and dedicated individuals been won to the communist program, but the iSt has acquired the collective experience, history and leadership of another organization. The cadre of the RFU bring with them an experience of a social reality and special oppression which will enrich the Spartacist tendency in its struggle to build the vanguard party.■

Inco...

(continued from page 1)

nies and the governments in Ottawa and Toronto in to doing something about the layoffs.

The mood of the miners at the meeting was militant. When a local Liberal MP tried to defend the "private enterprise system," he was virtually hooted off the stage--and would have been, had Sudbury and District Labour Council President Elmer McVey not appealed to the audience to avoid "cheap shots." Jack Gignac, President of Mine-Mill Local 491 (Falconbridge production workers) thundered that "any politician against nationalization [of Inco and Falconbridge] without compensation does not represent the working class," and received a prolonged standing ovation. But neither Gignac, nor any other speaker presented a strategy to stop the layoffs and win demands like expropriation of the mining companies.

Among the worst was Dave Patterson, the supposedly "militant" USWA 6500 (Inco employees) president, who won the leadership of this 14,000-member local two years ago as a self-styled "insurgent" rank-and-file candidate. He was a vocal supporter of "rebel" bureaucrat Ed Sadlowski in this year's USWA International elections. Patterson announced that the local executive had a five-point program which it was trying to discuss with the company. This program consisted of nothing more than appeals for pensions to those leaving the industry, no overtime and no contracting out, a better vacation schedule and building more "liason with the community." Asked by an SC reporter whether he supported the demand for the nationalization of Inco, Patterson actually said no. Instead he supported a scheme whereby the government would receive five percent interest in Inco each time it granted the company tax concessions!

Seeking to curry favor with the militant miners, even some Sudbury-area New Democratic Party MP's and MPP's came off to the left of Patterson. NDP MPP Eli Martel cried that Inco must be taken over by the government, and that the only compensation it deserves is \$2.95 for a bus ticket out of town. But federal MP John Rodriguez could come up with nothing better than a scheme for pressuring the government into stockpiling nickel to save jobs.

Even provincial leader Stephen Lewis was forced to concede that "public ownership," which he admitted was in general anathema to him, might have to be considered. But he preferred the strategy of a legislative inquiry into Inco's business practices if the government failed to step in to prevent layoffs. Later, free from the pressures of the militant rally, Lewis told reporters that the NDP really had no intention of calling for the nationalization of the nickel industry--even with compensation.

Lewis' federal counterpart Ed Broadbent echoed his remarks, and also took up a nationalist theme, which had been begun by Patterson and continued by several other speakers. For Broadbent, the prob-

lem with Inco is that it is "anti-Canadian" because it is laying off workers in Canada while at the same time creating new jobs at its mines in Guatemala and Indonesia. Broadbent demanded that the federal government step in to stop Inco investment in other countries--i. e., lay off workers in Guatemala and Indonesia to save jobs in Sudbury.

Inco and Falconbridge are seeking to drastically cut back their Sudbury operations because they are no longer profitable enough. The companies face increased international competition, particularly from an American corporation, Amax Inc., which is selling nickel at significantly lower prices in order to destroy Inco's historical dominance in the industry.



MINERS AT SUDBURY RALLY, OCTOBER 23.

SC Photo

In the face of this competition, Inco has sought to maintain profitability by shifting much of its operations to low-wage neo-colonial countries like Indonesia and Guatemala. In addition, some of its mine sites in the Sudbury area are already severely depleted. Because of all these factors, the proportion of the world's nickel supply mined in the Sudbury area has declined from 95 to 40 percent over the past ten years. Even before the newly-announced layoffs, Inco's Sudbury-area workforce has been reduced gradually from 18,000 to 14,000 over the past several years.

Like the American steel industry, the Canadian nickel industry is being crushed by foreign competition and reduced market demand. And just as the USWA union bureaucrats south of the border are clamouring for protectionist legislation to stop foreign steel imports and "save American jobs," so their Canadian cohorts and the NDP tops are decrying the export of "Canadian jobs" and calling on the government to protect Canadian industry.

But the protectionism and nationalism pushed by the USWA bureaucracy are utterly reactionary: they can only hurt foreign workers. Protectionism divides the international proletariat in the face of the assaults of the capitalist class, fans reactionary chauvinism and escalates international trade rival-

ries, which in turn lay the basis for inter-imperialist war.

Militants must reject this poisonous nationalist program--and the do-nothing strategy of the USWA bureaucracy, which bends in supplication before the bosses and their government, rather than waging a militant struggle to stop the layoffs. Today, while massive layoffs and plant closures are sweeping the U. S. steel industry, the Sadlowski wing of the bureaucracy is doing absolutely nothing to mobilize the ranks. Similarly here in Canada, Sadlowski-style "rebel" Patterson told SC that to talk of a strike against the layoffs would be irresponsible--after all the company already has an eight-month nickel stockpile and is trying to cut back on production. But as an "alternative" he presents a five-point program of ultra-minimalist reforms and no industrial action.

The USWA bureaucracy is fond of talking about the union's role in linking miners and steelworkers together in a single international union ("one industry--one union"). This link between the mines and basic steel must be used today in a militant joint struggle to save the tens of thousands of jobs which are being slashed by the profit-hungry mine and steel barons.

Faced with massive company stockpiling of taconite ore, 20,000 USWA iron miners in Michigan and Minnesota have been on strike since the beginning of August. Just as an extension of this strike into basic steel--the industry that uses the mined ore--is essential to ensure victory, so must a strike against layoffs in Canadian mines be extended to the steel production industries. A combined struggle of the mining and basic steel sections of USWA, including occupations of production facilities facing mass layoffs or closure, is necessary to reverse the layoffs and beat the companies' attacks.

Militant Sudbury miners must fight for the union to organize occupations of Inco and Falconbridge production facilities, and must tie these occupations to a call for an industry-wide strike in basic steel throughout the U. S. and Canada, and for hot-cargoing of stockpiled goods by transportation unions. Such a strike with occupations should demand a thirty-hour workweek at forty hours' pay to save jobs, the opening of the company's books for union inspection and the expropriation of the mines without compensation.

Clearly the hidebound bureaucrats of the Steelworkers' union have no intention of leading such a struggle--including the reputed "militants" of the Sadlowski-Patterson ilk. The struggle to win jobs for mine and steel workers and defeat the companies' assaults must be linked to the fight to replace the labor fakers with a new class-struggle union leadership. Such a leadership would not rely on the reformist parliamentarians of the NDP, but would build a new workers party to lead the working class to power. Only a workers government can expropriate the entire capitalist class, create a planned economy and bring the scourges of unemployment and inflation to an end once and for all. ■

B.C. Labor...

(continued from back page)

eral strike threats are a favorite bogey of Guy, who used the same threat earlier this summer in response to a Socred bill forcing the dissolution of the Vancouver Resources Board. Yet only one month later Guy opined:

"We don't want a confrontation with the government over any issue and we're doing everything in our power to be reasonable."

--B. C. Today, September 1-14

Guy has a long history of being "reasonable." After ritualistically deploring the NDP's strike-breaking Bill 146, Guy ordered the unions to comply with the bill and get back to work. And his opposition to wage controls is made of the same cloth. The B. C. Fed leadership talked big, but rejected the call for a full-scale national general strike to smash the controls. Moreover the discussion of wage controls at last year's B. C. Fed convention was wrapped up in a record 15 minutes!

Bill 92 is one of the most severe of the assaults currently being directed against public sector workers across the country. Success by the Socreds in restricting the right to strike for B. C. government workers will facilitate the attempts of the federal government to toughen up the provisions of anti-labor legislation like the Public Service Staff Relations Act. It will also encourage the government in its drive to further limit--or take away altogether--federal government workers' right to strike.

The B. C. labor movement must be mobilized to smash this reactionary legislation. However Len Guy and the other bureaucratic misleaders of the B. C. Fed have repeatedly demonstrated that their first loyalty lies with the maintenance of capitalism, not with defending the exploited and oppressed. Thus the fight to defeat the Socreds' attacks goes hand-in-hand with the struggle to oust the labor fakers and replace them with a class-struggle leadership which can truly show the way forward for the working class. ■

VANCOUVER TROTSKYIST LEAGUE FORUM

The Fight for Class-Struggle Leadership in the Trade Unions

Guest Speaker: BOB McBURNEY

Shop Steward, LCUC Local 1, Toronto

Thursday, November 17, 12:30 p.m.

SFU Pub Seminar Room

Saturday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.

Britannia Library (1661 Napier St.)

For further information phone 291-8993

B.C. Labor Under Attack

Smash the Socred Anti-Union Assault!

VANCOUVER, October 23--Last week the British Columbia Socred government unveiled the newest weapon in its anti-labor arsenal. Following a wave of strikes by ferry, telephone and railway workers, the government introduced Bill 92--the Essential Services Disputes Act--which severely curtails the right to strike for all B. C. government workers. The new bill extends the definition of "essential service" workers (formerly only police, firemen and hospital workers) to include all civil servants and employees of eight B. C. Crown Corporations and agencies--over 80,000 workers in all, including bus drivers, gas and electric workers, ferry workers and many more. The government is empowered to stop any strike in these sectors which it judges to be "an immediate and substantial threat to the economy and welfare of the province and its citizens."

The inclusion of Crown Corporation employees under the new bill is particularly directed against the 2,400-member B. C. Ferry and Marine Workers Union. This union provoked the rage of provincial tourist operators and the government with a seven-day strike extending over the busy Thanksgiving weekend, waged in defiance of a Cabinet-imposed back-to-work order and a Labour Relations Board injunction. With the passage of Bill 92, the government now has free legal rein to crush strikes of any government employees. Compulsory arbitration can be enforced, any strike can be suspended for 90 days with no reason given, and the government can legally force unions to wage only "controlled" or partial strikes.

The Socreds have taken up the legacy of their strikebreaking social-democratic forebearers, the Barrett NDP government which they defeated in the elections two years ago. Just before losing to the Socreds at the polls, the NDP government passed Bill 146, legislating 60,000 workers involved in four separate strikes back to work in the largest single strikebreaking act in B. C. history. Now the Socreds are hell-bent on pounding the traditionally militant B. C. labor movement further into the ground.

Bill 92 is the follow-up to a barrage of union-busting and strikebreaking legislation passed over the summer months. And when the Socreds were slow to take action against the striking ferry workers, reactionary Vancouver Sun columnist Doug



Pacific Tribune
DEMO LAST AUGUST PROTESTING SOCRED SOCIAL-SERVICE BUDGET-SLASHING AND DISSOLUTION OF THE VANCOUVER RESOURCES BOARD.

Collins could think of no better way to castigate them than to bait them with being softer on labor than the NDP was! Collins demanded that Bennett and Co. "take a page from the NDP example, which ordered a return to work in four legal strikes" (Vancouver Sun, October 15, emphasis in original).

GUY LAUDS SOCRED LABOR MINISTER

A few short months ago, B. C. Federation of Labour (B. C. Fed) Secretary-Treasurer Len Guy had nothing but praise for Socred Labor Minister Allan Williams' contribution to "labor peace":

"He's a mature individual who is working very hard to handle industrial relations in a mature way... because of this mature approach he resolves sticky situations."

--B. C. Today, September 1-14

Today, in response to Bill 92, Guy is putting on his "militant" face--the same face which at last year's B. C. Fed convention won him the support of sundry fake leftists (from the Communist Party to the fake-Trotskyist ex-Revolutionary Marxist Group). Guy has been muttering threats of "civil disobedience" and "withdrawal of labor in the province" (Vancouver Sun, October 20) in retaliation for the Socreds' attacks. Such utterly vacuous gen-

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