

OFL Brass Push Protectionism, Layoffs Skyrocket

What Strategy to Fight Unemployment?

TORONTO, November 30--The 21st annual convention of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) ended here this afternoon amid scattered boos and catcalls directed against the OFL leadership. Throughout the course of the four-day convention President Cliff Pilkey and his henchmen ran roughshod over the delegates, refusing to bring controversial resolutions to the floor and constantly changing the proposed agenda to ram through the bureaucrats' desired policies. As the convention drew to a close, several angry and embittered delegates took to the mikes to denounce Pilkey for his bureaucratic manipulation of the convention. His response: "That's unfortunate."

Pilkey was particularly adamant about avoiding dissent when the time came for the usual fanfare about "labor's political arm," the New Democratic Party. A resolution calling for full and uncritical support to the NDP was brought to the floor early in the convention. While nearly all the 1,300 delegates were caught unaware, in no time the microphones were stacked by the hardiest of supporters of the NDP and opposition to the resolution was successfully stifled. Indeed Stephen Lewis and Co. are in need of bureaucratic shielding. Their past record is one of betrayal after betrayal--supporting strikebreaking, doing nothing about mass unemployment or wage controls and selling out the independence of the labor movement to prop up the Tory government.

The convention of the 800,000-member OFL took place against a background of depression-level unemployment, ever-higher inflation and stepped-up attacks on the labor movement and oppressed minorities across the country. And coming only one month after Inco's announcement of mass layoffs in the Sudbury mines--historically one of the most militant sectors of the entire Canadian labor movement--it is no accident that the OFL leadership

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UNIONISTS MARCH FOR JOBS DURING OFL CONVENTION

SC Photo

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Editorial Notes

'UNITY FOR WHOM?' -

RWL ROMANCES SOVIET DEFEATISTS

While those versatile servants of the Canadian bourgeoisie, former AIB wage-slasher Pépin and former Ontario Tory premier Robarts, championed "national unity" at their recent task force meeting in Toronto (see article, page 16), they unknowingly provided the opportunity for another kind of "unity." A brief to the task force on the subject of Quebec was distributed outside the meeting, co-sponsored by none other than the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) and the International Socialists (I. S.). Appropriately, it was entitled "Unity for Whom?"

"Unity"-mongering is not the monopoly of the Canadian capitalists of Pépin's and Robarts' ilk. Since its inception last summer, the RWL has been charting a course for lowest-common-denominator "unity" with all manner of political fauna--in particular the social-democratic Groupe Socialiste des Travailleurs du Québec and the Soviet-defeatists of the English-Canadian I. S. Ever-so-fraternal interventions at I. S. public meetings have lately been coupled with uncritical reprints of articles from the I. S.'s Workers Action in the RWL's newspaper. Now that things look like they might be starting to jell, the RWL is going to great lengths not to offend its new political fiancé.

Hence the joint RWL/I. S. brief was more significant for its omissions than for its actual content. When the rightward-moving centrist Revolutionary Marxist Group returned to the reformist fold of the League for Socialist Action to form the RWL, one of the "principles" for their reunification was the utopian-reactionary call for an "independent socialist Quebec." Notably this position did not find its way into the brief--in fact the RWL dropped the demand for Quebec independence entirely, doubtless in order to propitiate the I. S. The RWL's "principles" are like garments that go in and out of fashion, hastily shed when the time comes to consummate another unprincipled propaganda bloc with a fellow opportunist.

Likewise left unsaid was what kind of political party must be built to fight for the interests of the working class in Quebec and the rest of Canada. This was undoubtedly more than an accidental oversight, for neither co-signer agrees with the other on what to build, much less how to build it.

In its philandering of the I. S., the RWL is faithfully following the example of its international mentors in the fake-Trotskyist United Secretariat (USec). In Britain, the International Marxist Group is hot on the heels of the Workers League--a Soviet-defeatist right split from the I. S.'s local fraternalists, Tony Cliff's Socialist Workers Party. In the U. S., the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) has taken into its fold the Shachtmanite Revolutionary

Marxist Committee (RMC). Moreover, the SWP has actually played up the RMC's anti-defensist credentials--a statement to all who care to listen that for the SWP defense of the Soviet Union is no longer a vital question.

The British SWP and WL, the Canadian I. S. and the RMC all maintain that the Soviet Union is "state capitalist" and consequently do not defend the USSR from imperialist attack. For these renegades from Trotskyism, during WWII Hitler's stormtroopers overrunning the Soviet Union was a lesser evil to the Russian workers than the victory of the Red Army.

Trotsky wrote in 1937:

"The basic task of the present discussion consists in demonstrating the full incompatibility of defeatism in relation to the USSR with membership in a revolutionary proletarian party."
--"Defeatism vs. Defensism," December 1937
(emphasis in original)

The IMG/SWP/RWL see no incompatibility involved in welcoming Soviet defeatists into membership because they are not striving to build such parties. On the contrary, they aggressively and openly pursue the recruitment of Soviet defeatists as a statement to their "own" bourgeoisies of their non-revolutionary nature. Those who have abandoned in principle defense of the gains of the October Revolution pledge themselves to be roadblocks to the extension of October into their own countries.

TL PAMPHLET ON THE RUSSIAN QUESTION

During the month of December the Spartacist Canada Publishing Association undertook a special project: the publication of the first Trotskyist League Pamphlet. The pamphlet, entitled Defend the Gains of October: Exchanges on Defence of the Soviet Union and Soviet Dissidents, documents the controversy which arose following a 12 September Toronto meeting featuring Ukrainian dissident Leonid Plyushch. At the meeting a representative of the Trotskyist League denounced Plyushch for embracing President Carter's anti-Soviet "human rights" crusade and counterposed the Trotskyist call for unconditional defence of the gains of the Bolshevik Revolution. The controversy surrounding the TL's intervention was reflected in the pages of the University of Toronto's student newspaper, the Varsity, and is now being made available to SC readers and others interested in the Russian question. SC readers are encouraged to order this important pamphlet available at a cost of 50¢ from; SCPA, Box 6867, Station A, Toronto, Ontario.

Trotskyist League Directory

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Box 26, Station A, Vancouver, B. C.

WV/SC DISTRIBUTORS ARRESTED

Ford Canada, Cops Assault Working Class Press

After months of harassment and even physical attacks on distributors of Workers Vanguard and Spartacist Canada by company thugs at the Ford Motor Co. plant in Oakville, Ontario, on December 2 the bosses brought in the cops to arrest three supporters of the Trotskyist League of Canada (TLC). Ford owns all access roads to the plant and has been on a campaign to prevent exposure of "its" workers to socialist literature. The WV/SC distributors were charged with trespassing.

These arrests represent an escalation of the company's attacks on literature distribution by the left. Acting on behalf of Spartacist Canada, on October 7 noted Toronto civil rights lawyer Paul Copeland sent a letter to Ford management protesting the continued incidents of harassment of WV/SC distributors:

"... which have the effect of preventing your workers from receiving literature which they have a right to obtain. Without the right to distribute literature to those who want to read it the rights of free speech and freedom of the press is substantially disrupted."

The Ford Motor Co. of course aims precisely at disrupting the distribution of revolutionary newspapers and propaganda.

Management is particularly intent on stopping literature which supports and encourages militant struggles by the workers. If they trample on the democratic rights of Ford workers in the process, it is just another weapon in their anti-labor arsenal: scab-herding, using cops to attack picket lines, and other anti-union activity. United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 707 at the Oakville Ford plant must protect the right of its membership to read the publications of all groups in the workers movement. Don't let the bosses censor the labor press! The company attack on the TLC is an assault on the union as well as on the entire labor movement.

The direct and iron link between the right of Ford

Oakville workers to read all the publications of the labor movement and the essential rights of Local 707 itself is demonstrated by the fact that Ford also claims the "right" to censor and veto the union's own literature. Ford Motor Co. runs its plant like a fiefdom, claiming that the local cannot distribute literature or even post a notice on the union's "own" bulletin board without the "permission" of labor relations. Local 707 must defend the right of its membership to have access to publications of the Trotskyist League and all working-class organizations in order to defend its own rights.

While the company would like to dictate what its employees should and should not read, union members will not passively submit to such a high-handed attack on workers democracy. When WV/SC distributors were pushed and threatened by company security guards on December 2, one black worker driving by stopped his car, rolled down the window and said: "I'll read what I want to read. Give me one of them!"

CPL: CANADIAN PARTY OF LIARS

Ford management has been assisted in its anti-communist and anti-labor attacks by the tiny Stalinist Canadian Party of Labour (CPL), whose newspaper The Worker characterized the company's assaults on TLC attempts to distribute literature as a "provocation" by the "Trotskyites." The 30 November Worker described an earlier attack by the company thugs as follows:

"Mister Labour Relations grabbed one of the Trotskyites papers, yelling 'get your butt off this property, you've got no right...' she shouted back, a phrase she kept repeating, and the fight was on."

The sectarianism of groups like the CPL must be roundly repudiated, and a united labor defense begun at once. It is not expected that the Stalinists would defend workers democracy. Like its cronies in the U. S., the Progressive Labor Party, the CPL has a long history of gangsterism and sectarian attacks against left opponents. But such attacks weaken the entire left and union movement, opening them up to further attacks from the class enemy. By sneering at workers democracy and refusing to defend left organizations from company attacks, the CPL provides Ford Motor Co. the excuse to undercut its own right to distribute literature to UAW members.

(continued on page 13)



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In Struggle Confronted by Trotskyism

VANCOUVER--On October 21 and 22, an In Struggle (IS)-led "coalition of Marxist-Leninists" sponsored a conference here "On the International Situation." Meant to be a coffee klatch discussion of the "three worlds" theory of Mao, the conference became instead a three-way debate between the confused left-leaning Maoists of In Struggle, the right-Maoist Red Star Collective (RSC) and the revolutionaries of the Trotskyist League (TL). Repeatedly stung by the interventions of TL supporters, and unable to answer the political questions they raised, IS and its friends tried to gag and exclude their Trotskyist opponents. However, Stalinist methods did not allow In Struggle supporters to ignore the fundamental contradictions facing their organization.

Ever since the purge of the "gang of four," the return to power of Teng Hsiao-ping in China and the falling out between Peking and Albania, the eclectic Maoists of In Struggle have been set adrift. Unwilling or unable to choose sides in the various bureaucratic dogfights, IS has become something of a pariah for other Canadian "Marxist-Leninists." It has effectively lost the Peking "franchise" to the bootlicking sycophants of the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist) (CCL[M-L]), while Hardial Bains' bizarre Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) (CPC[M-L]) has claimed tiny Albania as its "glorious socialist fatherland."

IS's dilemma is excruciating. It is attempting to maintain its connections with Maoism while turning a blind eye to the recent Chinese power struggle and to Peking's outright alliance with U. S. imperialism against the Soviet Union. IS members are indisputably troubled by Peking's support to the CIA/South African invasion of Angola; its approval of the massive Iranian arms build-up; and especially its campaigns for increasing the armed might of the imperialists' NATO alliance. By rejecting Mao's "three worlds" theory--the "theoretical" justification for supporting NATO and despots like the Shah and Chile's Pinochet--IS has sought to maintain some "revolutionary" credentials. But in so doing it has run afoul of orthodox Maoism, thus heightening the contradictions between its leftist-posturing and its Stalinist political heritage.

CLASS STRUGGLE

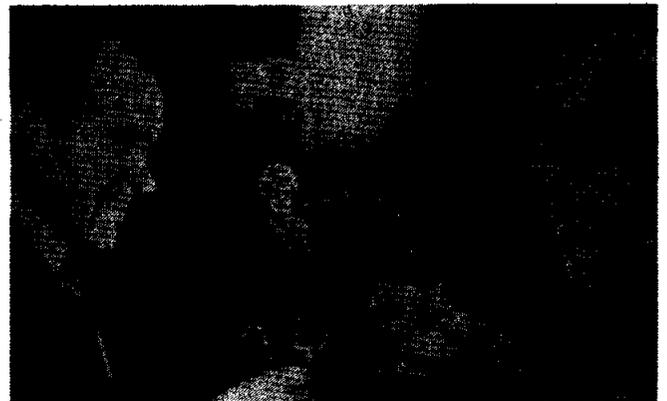
OR STALINIST CLASS TREASON?

IS today attempts to pass itself off as a supporter of intransigent class struggle throughout the world. In a presentation to the conference, an In Struggle spokesman declared that the main enemy of the proletariat of Europe is the European bourgeoisie. Yet as every reader of Peking Review knows, for

the Chinese Communist Party the main enemy of the European proletariat is not the capitalist class, but the "dark social fascist" Soviet Union.

The RSC was quick to point out that Mao himself had stridently denied IS's claim that class opposition to all imperialist forces is key to revolutionary Marxism: "We are different from Trotsky... It is a conclusion drawn only by the Trotskyists that we must fight against all imperialists" (Mao Tse-tung, quoted in John Gittings, The World and China, 1937). Faithfully parroting the line of its Peking mentors, the RSC underlined the necessity of building NATO and lavished praise on the "progressive" French imperialists for their military support to Mobuto, the CIA's man in Zaire, in the battle against "Soviet social-imperialism."

But In Struggle plunged deeper into the fray by denouncing the "class collaboration" of the European Communist Parties at the time of World War II: "Certain proletarian parties united with their 'own' bourgeoisies in 'defense of the fatherland.' These opportunist parties betrayed the class interests..." According to IS the "united front against fascism," as elaborated at the Communist International's Seventh Congress in 1935, was not meant



Associated Press
PEKING 1972: CHOU EN-LAI TOASTS NIXON AS U. S. PLANES BOMB HANOI

to include bourgeois forces. But once again the RSC brought In Struggle back to reality, rightly charging IS with rewriting history and with ignoring the fact that the "united fronts" did, and were meant to, include the bourgeoisie.

IS cannot point to one word of criticism of the European CP's policies by Stalin or any other Comintern leader, thus belying its ludicrous claim that Stalin and Co. were opposed to the activities of the French, Spanish and Italian parties. In fact, the alliances with bourgeois forces were effected on the orders of the Comintern. To quote Dimitrov,

chief spokesman on the question at the Seventh Congress:

"Under certain conditions we can and must bend our efforts to the task of drawing these parties and organizations [bourgeois parties] or certain sections of them to the side of the anti-fascist people's front, despite their bourgeois leadership. Such, for instance, is today the situation in France with the Radical Party. . ."

--"Report to the Seventh Comintern Congress," 1935

By claiming that socialist revolution was not on the agenda and that the independent interests of the working class should be subordinated to the defense of "democratic" imperialism against fascism, the Stalinists tied the working class hand and foot to the class enemy through the people's front. The bloody victory of Franco in Spain and the defeat of proletarian upsurges and stabilization of new capitalist regimes in France, Italy and Greece after WWII were the bitter fruits of popular frontism.

Following presentations by the various Maoist groups the conference broke down into two discussion workshops. While the assembled Maoists tried unsuccessfully to generate polite discussion on the "three worlds" theory, TL supporters intervened to underline the deep contradictions between In Struggle's line and true Maoism/Stalinism. One TLer commented that In Struggle members were upset with the RSC's social chauvinism, and said that they want to draw the class line. "But the RSC was right to quote Mao at you--only Trotskyism fights for a class line."

But the RSC's open advocacy of alliance with the imperialist bourgeoisie--especially against the Soviet degenerated workers state--did not trouble In Struggle nearly as much as the TL's defense of revolutionary Marxism. Following TL interventions in both workshops, designated IS hacks launched into sustained polemics against Trotskyism. When the TL attempted to respond, IS and RSC members threatened goon violence and exclusionism, and passed gag rules to prevent further Trotskyist interventions. As a TL supporter put it: "In Struggle is more than willing to debate with people they themselves label social-chauvinist, but they are unable to withstand free and open debate with Trotskyists."

IN STRUGGLE IN TROUBLE

Throughout the two-day conference, In Struggle steadfastly maintained a stony silence on the recent events in China. Challenged time and again by the TL, IS members could only retort that "this is a conference of Canadian Marxist-Leninists. We are not trying to decide what's right for China." IS is indeed incapable of deciding anything for the international working class.

During the past two years, In Struggle has enjoyed rapid growth and has extended its influence both in Quebec and across English Canada. During this

period it has recruited many subjectively revolutionary militants--repelled by the open social-chauvinism of groups like CCL(M-L) and the RSC, the crazed cultism of CPC(M-L), and the pro-NDP, pro-Quebec-nationalist cretinism of the fake-Trotskyist United Secretariat supporters (today the Revolutionary Workers League/Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire). But despite its left posturing, In Struggle has been completely incapable of outlining a revolutionary program, because it is trapped within the framework of Stalinist class-collaborationism and betrayal.

In Struggle stands today at the crossroads, and it has no viable direction ahead. As we wrote in SC last October:

"In Struggle's future is not bright--for a Stalinist must have his 'country' to survive or suffer the fate of the nationally parochialist Canadian Party of Labor. Edged out of the running for the Peking and Albanian franchises, In Struggle is heading down the road to political oblivion--to becoming an eclectic, isolated Stalinoid sect."

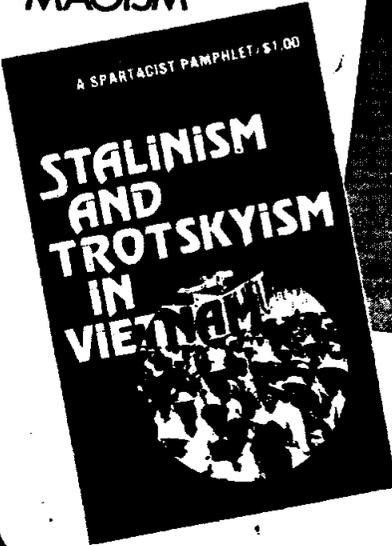
At the conference a TL supporter offered the only perspective which can lead would-be revolutionists in In Struggle out of the quagmire:

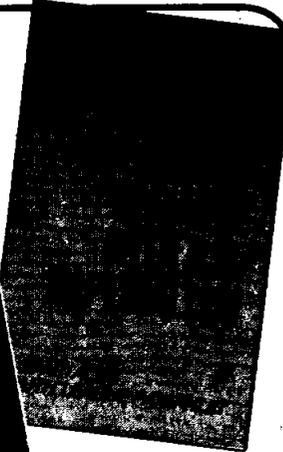
"If you want to draw the class line you must break with Maoism and Stalinism. You must learn the lessons of China's call for a stronger NATO. You must learn the lessons of Iran, Angola and the closing of the Chinese embassy [to Chilean militants seeking asylum from the murderous Pinochet coup]. You must learn the lessons of the return of Teng, Stalin's popular frontism, and the class character of the USSR and China. Only Trotskyism fights for a class line, against all imperialists, against all the capitalists." ■

**TROTSKYISM vs.
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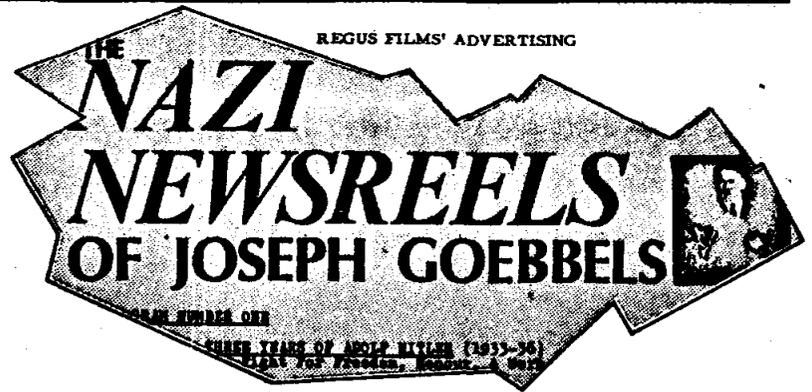
STALINISM
AND
TROTSKYISM
IN
VIETNAM





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TL Builds Anti-Nazi Protest



"Now, for the first time, you can see authentic Nazi Newsreels produced by Dr. Joseph Goebbels, complete and uncut, exactly as they were shown to the German people. You will see crowds of people welcoming and cheering Hitler's troops as they liberate the Rhineland and Austria; You will see pre-Hitler Germany with its breadlines, prostitution, riots and social unrest contrasted with the order and vitality of the Nazi regime and you will begin to understand why the German people and their neighbours willingly donned the yoke of National Socialism."

With this lurid and provocative whitewash of Nazi atrocities, an outfit named Regus Films promoted the showing of Goebbel's Nazi propaganda films on the University of Toronto campus in early November. Soon after this sensationalist pro-Nazi trash was posted around the university, angry students and workers went around the campus tearing down the flyers in protest. The U of T Trotskyist League club solidarized with this just outrage over Regus Films' disgusting propaganda--which amounted to a direct invitation to fascists to attend the films and cheer on Hitler's "liberating" stormtroopers--and initiated a petition protesting the Nazi Newsreels flyer which was signed by more than 30 groups and individuals. TL comrades also called a united-front protest demonstration outside the showing of the films.

The protest, which was co-sponsored by the Alliance of Non-Zionist Jews, Socialist League, Toronto Student Zionists and Mario Cutajar, editor of the U of T student newspaper the Varsity, attracted about 35 people on the evening of November 8. Doubtless embarrassed by the widespread support for the petition and the publicity for the protest demonstration (which was announced on the front page of the previous day's Varsity), Regus Films president Reg Hartt distributed a statement to those attending the film which apologized for the original advertising flyer. Said Hartt: "We have reached the point where we now feel that in all respect we must add our names to the list of people protesting the ambiguity of the original pamphlet [sic]." Those who united in protest against the original flyer achieved a small but significant victory by forcing Regus Films to withdraw their despicable pro-Nazi advertising.

CENSORSHIP NOT THE ISSUE

Following the successful protest, a flurry of let-

ters appeared in the Varsity, some supporting the protest, and others seeking to debunk it by slandering the protestors as being in favor of censorship. Letters from Varsity editor Cutajar and from the TL responded to these conscious distortions of the protest's aims. As the TL pointed out in the November 21 Varsity:

"... it was the context in which the films were shown, and not the showing of the films in the abstract, that we and several other members of the campus community felt demanded a response. The brochure advertising the films was a disgustingly sensationalist and provocative whitewash of Nazi atrocities."

When a film society or history class shows a film like the Newsreels or Leni Riefenstahl's classic Nazi documentary Triumph of the Will for cultural or educational purposes, there is no reason to mount a protest. However if a fascist group like Toronto's Western Guard elects to show the same film at a meeting, mass united protest would most certainly be called for. 'Regus Films' advertising for the Nazi Newsreels demanded a militant response from the left and labor movement, Jews and all other minorities who are the targets of fascist terror.

Under no circumstances would we call on the capitalist class or its institutions (like the university administration) to censor or ban fascist groups or their activities. Marxists oppose all censorship by the bourgeois state, which can only serve reactionary ends. Furthermore, we recognize that any government ban or attack on "extremist" groups will always be used primarily against the left and workers movement--the capitalists' class enemies; and not against the far right--the bourgeoisie's last line of defense in times of severe economic and social crisis.

CAR, RWL HIDE FROM ANTI-NAZI PROTEST

While the petition and protest received broad support throughout U of T--particularly from campus trade unionists, independent leftists and Jewish organizations--the response of most left groups was a disgustingly sectarian and/or civil libertarian refusal to participate. The Committee Against Racism (liberal anti-racist front group of the Canadian Party of Labour) refused to sign the petition, and did absolutely nothing to protest the Nazi Newsreels advertising flyer.

Even more disgraceful was the behavior of the

fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League (RWL). Several individual supporters of the RWL on campus did endorse the protest petition. Significantly all were former supporters of the Revolutionary Marxist Group, which upheld the position "No Platform for Fascists" before it fused with the reformist League for Socialist Action (LSA) to form the RWL. But the RWL leadership maintained an official silence on the protest, despite being approached several times for an endorsement by protest organizers.

The RWL did, however, dispatch two minions from its youth group, the Young Socialists (YS), to the site of the demonstration, where they sat on the sidelines and argued that the protest should not be supported! These shameless social democrats slanderously accused the demonstrators of advocating censorship--an example of unbelievably brazen hypocrisy for these former members of the LSA. The LSA was ever so solicitous of the "democratic rights" of those like the fascists, committed to the destruction of all democratic rights and workers organizations and the genocide of racial and ethnic minorities. But the LSA was equally notorious for its violations of democratic rights within the workers movement by banning TL supporters from its "public" meetings in Van-

couver. This cowardly liberal position of defending a supposed "right of free speech" for fascist scum has long been upheld by the LSA and its American big brother the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). It has led the SWP to physically protect fascists from outraged militants on demonstrations and at public meetings, and to criticize incensed survivors of the Auschwitz death camp for ransacking a swastika-laden bookstore which was provocatively opened by Nazis in a San Francisco Jewish neighborhood last summer.

But there can be no question of "civil rights" or "free speech" for fascists! Fascist gangs are paramilitary outfits bent on destroying the organizations of the workers movement and on viciously attacking minority groups. They do not grow through political campaigning for their ideas, but through demonstrating in action their strength and their bloody intentions.

While most fascist groups are small in numbers today, they can grow very quickly in conditions of capitalist economic and social decay. Thus the British National Front has recently undergone a very rapid and dangerous growth, and fascist groups throughout the United States have taken advantage of the present right-wing social climate
(continued on page 15)

Letters

GUN CONTROLS AND THE WORKERS MOVEMENT

18 November 1977

Dear Editor:

While I agree wholeheartedly with the political conclusions of the article "No Gun Controls" (SC 21, November), I am afraid that the article might leave readers with a mistaken impression of the immediate origins of the new law and of the nature of the controversy around it.

According to the SC article, controversy around the government's proposed gun control legislation was associated with "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." In fact, public opposition to the original bill came almost exclusively from the so-called gun lobby--hunters and gun collectors who opposed the bill on the grounds that it would unnecessarily restrict their activities without really keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. The opposition was led by former RCMP commissioner L. H. Nicholson, spokesman for the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Canadian Association for Sensible Arms Legislation. The original bill was withdrawn and the one which was finally passed in July 1977 encountered virtually no public opposition. The Canadian Labour Congress merely echo-

ed the sentiments of the gun lobby on the first bill, while the NDP complained that the one which was passed did not go far enough. Stuart Leggatt, who studied the bill for the NDP caucus, commented: "It's a pretty modest step toward public safety, but half a loaf is better than none" (Globe and Mail, 9 May 1977).

SC states that the new gun control legislation "is a sign that the Canadian capitalist class fears the threat posed by organizations of their enemy class, the proletariat, and its allies." While this statement is certainly true, the current legislation was not brought forward in the context of any immediate threat to capitalist class rule by the organized workers movement. Rather, it was introduced in the context of public pressure around crimes and accidents involving guns, and to head off opposition to the government bill abolishing capital punishment which was introduced at the same time. At other times gun control legislation has been brought forward directly in response to perceived threats to the government. During the Winnipeg General Strike in 1919, legislation was introduced making it unlawful for any "alien" to possess a firearm without a permit. Virtually all the leaders of the strike were foreign born. In 1969, at least partially in response to a perceived danger from the Quebec separatist movement, legislation was introduced providing for the seizure of firearms from any person if the court is satisfied that there are "reasonable grounds" for believing that such a move is desirable "in the interests of the safety of that person or of other persons."
Comradely,
S. Marc

JAIL THE RCMP CRIMINALS!

On trial in 1976 for trying to blow up a Montreal supermarket executive's home (he failed when the bomb exploded in his hands), ex-Mountie Robert Samson blew the whistle on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) "dirty tricks" squad. Sacked by the RCMP following his arrest, a disgruntled and embittered Samson got back at the scarlet-uniformed defenders of the "true north strong and free." The loose-lipped ex-cop flippantly informed the court that the attempted bombing was the least of his crimes: after all, he confessed, "I've done worse things." Samson then went on to disclose the RCMP's role in the burglary of the Montreal offices of the leftist Agence de Presse Libre du Québec (APLQ) in 1972.

As the old saying goes, loose lips sink ships. Samson's testimony set into motion a whole series of disclosures of break-ins, buggings, burglaries, arson and spying by the Canadian state's political police. The myth of even-handed fairness and impartial respect for "law and order," for so long cultivated by the Mounties, has now been shattered. Like its American big brothers in the CIA and FBI, the RCMP has been revealed for what it is: a subversive organization of thieves and terrorists at the service of the capitalist class.

WATERGATE NORTH

As scandals rock the inquiry rooms in Montreal and the halls of Parliament Hill, and as the bourgeois press editorializes about "Watergate North," Prime Minister Trudeau has taken to sounding like Richard Nixon. While denying all knowledge of RCMP wrongdoing by himself or his Cabinet colleagues, Trudeau is now asserting that the solution to the force's illegal activities is simple--make them legal! At minimum, he wants to ensure that the government is rid of the thankless task of alibiing for its official hitmen:

"The politicians who happen to form the Government should be kept in ignorance of the day-to-day activities of the police force and even of the security force."

--Globe and Mail, December 10

The inquiry into the APLQ break-in, set up by the Parti Québécois (PQ) provincial government and headed by former PQ election candidate Jean Keable, continues to uncover incident after incident of RCMP criminal activity. Amid a seemingly endless series of thefts, wiretappings, mail pilfering and harassment of unions, radical groups and New Democratic Party left-wingers, several incidents stand out.

The first bombshell came in late October, when the Keable inquiry discovered that in early 1973 RCMP agents broke into PQ headquarters in Mon-



RCMP ATTACKS INDIAN DEMONSTRATION ON PARLIAMENT HILL, *Time* SEPTEMBER 1974.

tréal and stole computer tapes containing membership lists and financial records. The tapes were copied, then returned the same night. The break-in was part of a systematic campaign of surveillance and harassment of the PQ initiated in 1970.

These dangerous gangsters will stoop to any crime in order to protect "peace and security" for the bourgeoisie. In 1972, unable to place a hidden microphone in a barn which was allegedly to be the site of a meeting between the nationalist Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ) and the U. S. Black Panther Party, the RCMP "anti-terrorist" squad burnt it down instead!

Other RCMP agents took time out from burglarizing the APLQ and PQ to steal some dynamite in late 1972. After the theft they attempted to convince Quebec police and the public that the FLQ was responsible and that it was actively preparing a new series of terrorist bombings.

Perhaps the most spectacular revelation involved a planned airplane hijacking in Montreal. Last spring, police officials on trial for the October 1972 APLQ break-in claimed that it had been necessary in order to obtain information about a sky-jacking which FLQ members were planning for later that month. The November 18 Toronto Star reported that the Keable inquiry heard evidence that the hijacking plot had been planned by an "FLQ cell" in which three of the five members were RCMP agents provocateurs! This cop-led gang plotted to seize an airliner, ostensibly to force the release of Quebec political prisoners. According to the Star, under the impetus of the RCMP agents "the group agreed to go as far as killing one of the passengers as a show of determination." Such a spectacular terrorist act would undoubtedly have been used to discredit and attack the entire left and the Quebec

labor and nationalist movements. It failed to take place only because one of the police informers was exposed prematurely.

FOR A ROYAL QUEBECOIS MOUNTED POLICE ?

For its part, the bourgeois nationalist PQ government in Quebec City is exploiting the findings of the Keable commission in order to demonstrate persistent federal interference in Quebec affairs, thereby bolstering its case for separatism. The PQ has a lot of ammunition, for throughout the RCMP's history, one of its chief functions has been as an armed bastion of English-Canadian chauvinism and an agency for attacking the Québécois' national rights. However the PQ, like the other bourgeois parties, has strenuously defended certain of the RCMP's activities--particularly the surveillance of "far left" radicals.

Moreover, the PQ has carefully limited the Keable commission's activity to investigation of RCMP involvement in the APLQ break-in, wilfully ignoring the fact that the Quebec provincial and Montreal municipal police forces were equally guilty of the APLQ break-in and other terrorist acts, which were carried out under the direction of the three forces' ominous Combined Anti-Terrorist Squad. It has also fastidiously preserved the former provincial Liberal regime's "Centre d'Analyse et de Documentation," which contains secret files on thousands of people and organizations in Quebec, for use in case of "emergency."

Spying, bribery, lying, theft, infiltration and forgery--as well as wholesale buying of influence and selling of "principles"--have always been the lifeblood of bourgeois politics. Thus in late Novem-

ber, even as the PQ government was denouncing RCMP crime in order to serve its own nationalist political ends, the Quebec provincial police were raiding Liberal and Union Nationale party offices in Montreal and seizing lists of financial donors to the parties. And on December 8 the story broke that, from at least 1970-73, the PQ had its own private "dirty tricks" squad for use against other bourgeois parties in Quebec. Dapper, conservative economist Jacques Parizeau, who today travels around the world giving a sober, softsoap sell for Quebec "sovereignty-association" as government Finance Minister, ran something called the "Parizeau network," which snooped for information useful to the PQ's cause and reportedly co-ordinated an attempted takeover of the provincial Cr ditiste party.

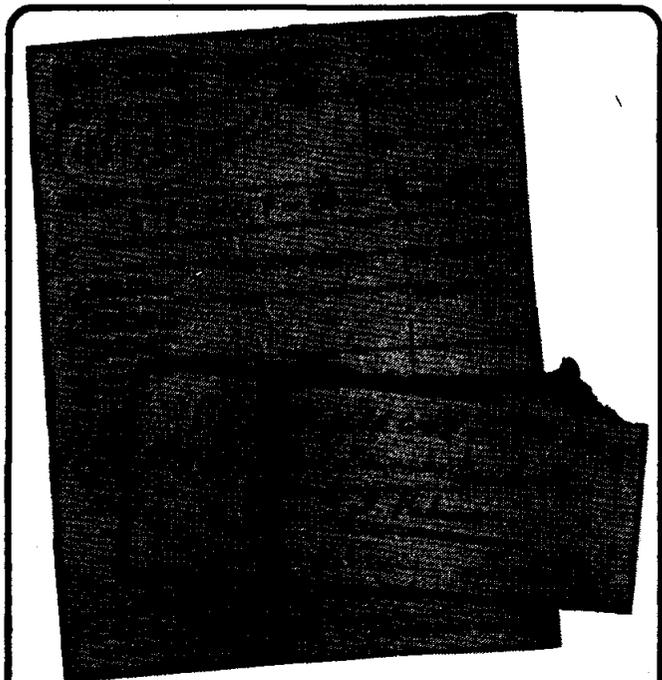
The PQ is today using the Keable inquiry as a political football against Ottawa. But it has already given notice that, should it get to run its own independent Quebec, the illegal activities of its cop agents will be every bit as thoroughgoing as those of the RCMP, and their chief target will be the left and labor movement.

As the PQ maneuvers to exploit the cracks in the Mounties' shiny scarlet and gold to further its bourgeois nationalist aims, it has behind it the usual left tail, the fake-Trotskyist Ligue Ouvri re R volutionnaire (LOR). Emblazoned across the front page of the November 9 issue of the LOR's Lutte Ouvri re is the headline "GRC Hors du Qu bec!" ("RCMP Out of Quebec!") At some point, L vesque may well be glad to get the RCMP out of Quebec--to be replaced, perhaps, by a "Royal Qu bécois Mounted Police."

The disclosures about RCMP crime are, of course, just the tip of the iceberg. They have occurred despite the obstruction of top RCMP officials and federal Solicitor-General Francis Fox who have refused to co-operate with the Keable commission, withholding stacks of "top security" files and claiming that the inquiry is doing "irreparable harm to national security." Fox has repeatedly appealed to the Supreme Court to end the inquiry on constitutional grounds, and the federal government has set up its own quisling inquiry commission to take some heat off. This commission is an obvious farce--it is composed of a former Alberta Liberal Party president, an Ontario police superintendent and an ex-Mountie who is now a Lieutenant-Colonel in the armed forces. Furthermore, all hearings which it deems "sensitive" will be held behind closed doors.

Despite Trudeau's autocratic proposal to legalize hitherto illegal RCMP activities, the federal government has clearly been stung by certain of the RCMP expos s. It is seeking to muzzle the Keable commission before it uncovers new and even more damning information. Two things in particular must worry the government. First is the possibility that the inquiry will uncover knowledge and complicity in RCMP crimes by members of the federal Cabinet. Second, the federal government wants to keep the commission far away from documents relating

(continued on page 10)



RCMP targets TL: This government "action request," with a message for the RCMP scrawled on the back, was found by a TL supporter at the bottom of a box of literature received last summer.

RCMP...

(continued from page 9)

to the October 1970 FLQ kidnapping and assassination of Quebec Justice Minister Pierre Laporte. Ever since the "October crisis," rumors have abounded (supported by circumstantial evidence) that the police and/or the government had foreknowledge of the FLQ activities, but refused to intervene in order to have a pretext for cracking down on the Quebec left.

As it maneuvers to justify and cover up evidence of RCMP crimes against workers organizations and the oppressed, the Liberal Party has been troubled little by the leaders of labor's "political arm," the New Democratic Party. Federal NDP leader Ed Broadbent has become one of the staunchest defenders of these official state terrorists, refusing to pursue evidence that the RCMP investigated party members in Ontario and British Columbia, for fear that he and his cronies would be labelled a bunch of "pinkos" (Globe and Mail, 22 November). Fellow NDP caucus member Stuart Leggatt was more forthright, singing the force's praises in a burst of patriotic fervor:

"The RCMP is one of the best police forces in the world... [We] must prevent it from being destroyed by an incompetent minister and government."

B. C. NDP head Dave Barrett sought to laugh off reports that RCMP agents infiltrated his party several years ago, while agreeing with Broadbent that surveillance and harassment of "reds" is necessary. If the weak, cretinous NDP could ever manage to win a federal election, it would use the secret police against left-wing radicals as viciously as its social-democratic cousins in Helmut Schmidt's SPD are doing today in West Germany.

The pro-Moscow Communist Party, which has been a prime target of RCMP "dirty tricks" for decades, politely requests "democratization of the RCMP and effective parliamentary controls over its activities" (Canadian Tribune, 5 December). Perhaps Sergeant Samson et. al. should have the "democratic" right to elect Bill Kashtan RCMP Commissioner? The RCMP is an essential pillar of the Canadian bourgeois state: liberal-reformist calls for "parliamentary control" and "democratization" are nothing more than calls to place the cloak of bourgeois legality over its murderous repressive operations.

As for the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), its current campaign against RCMP "dirty tricks" feeds similar social-democratic illusions about "reforming" the secret police. Calling solely for

the RCMP to stop harassing the left and labor movement and to turn over its secret files to those on which it keeps records, the RWL is in effect calling for a "fairer" RCMP and for the importation to Canada of the U. S. "Freedom of Information Act." To date, the RWL's statements on the RCMP have been indistinguishable from the civil-libertarianism of the U. S. Socialist Workers Party's "Watersuit" against the FBI.

JAIL THE RCMP TERRORISTS!

The Liberal government attempts to define its working-class and even bourgeois opponents as criminals in order to justify the spying, terrorism and other violent activities of its political police. But the real danger to democratic rights stems from the capitalist class, which--unable to feed the hungry, provide jobs for the poor, or provide justice for the nationally-oppressed Québécois--must rely on the criminal terror of its armed agents to suppress those who threaten its continued domination.

For Marxists, the RCMP's chief crimes do not consist in its violations of the standards of bourgeois legality. They flow from its real mandate: to maintain and defend the rotting capitalist system. The RCMP's surveillance and harassment of left and labor militants and organizations are carried out with the purpose of impeding their legal activities today, and of preparing their destruction when defense of the "security" of the capitalist state requires it. The release of all secret files to the persons and organizations who have been victimized, the jailing of the criminal cops, and the abolition of all the so-called special, "security" and spying police forces are elementary democratic demands of the workers movement. But as long as the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie remains intact, the state through its agencies like the RCMP will continue to direct terror and "dirty tricks" against the working class and the oppressed.

Labor and the left must be vigilant against the pernicious activities of the bosses' secret police. But the bourgeoisie also has less direct agents inside the labor movement. While the NDP and the labor bureaucrats feign outrage at certain "excesses" of the RCMP, they defend its attacks on left-wing radicals and they work to shore up the decaying, violent capitalist system.

During the early 1900's, the Bolshevik Party was continually persecuted and illegalized by the Tsarist state--and, despite all precautions, it was infiltrated by the Tsarist secret police up to its top echelons. But that did not prevent it from mobilizing the Russian masses to seize power and finally mete out justice to the Tsar's secret police. The Bolshevik Party was able to do this precisely because it was not a conspiratorial terrorist organization, but the open, democratic voice and leadership for the aspirations of the toiling masses of Russia. Only through the seizure of state power by the proletariat led by a Trotskyist party will the death blow be dealt to the criminal political police and the criminal ruling class that they serve. ■

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CUPW-LCUC Unity Shuts Down Toronto Post Office

DECEMBER 11--Yesterday's mass meeting of the Toronto local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) voted to expand the union's three-day-old walkout from the South Central mail facilities into a full-scale strike throughout the Metro Toronto postal area. As we go to press the strike continues, in the face of a threatened court injunction, halting all postal service in the Toronto area and creating a massive mail backlog across the country.

The nearly 1,000 members attending the meeting listened to speeches from several of the unionists whose suspensions by management last Wednesday provoked the strike. Among those suspended were supporters of the Stalinist Canadian Party of Labour, who have been a key target of management's attacks. Also present, as observers, were two union stewards from the Letter Carriers Union of Canada (LCUC), Bob McBurney and Larry Boyes, who have been active in building solidarity for the strike by encouraging LCUC drivers to respect the picket lines. McBurney read an LCUC press release defending the CUPW strikers, which was well received by the crowd. The statement reported on a motion put forward by McBurney and adopted unanimously at a recent LCUC shop stewards meeting, which pledged the stewards body to call on the LCUC membership to go out in solidarity with CUPW, should the latter strike against a court injunction.

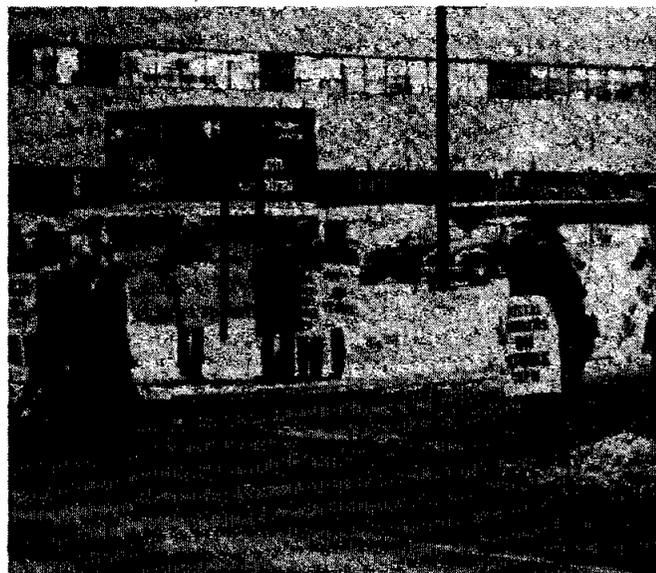
Reprinted below is a Trotskyist League leaflet distributed at the CUPW meeting and to workers on the picket lines.

RESCIND THE SUSPENSIONS! POSTAL WORKER UNITY AGAINST MANAGEMENT ATTACKS!

The indefinite suspensions of nine members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) Local 1 including executive members and shop stewards, along with disciplinary notices against 150 others, is another escalation in management's attack on CUPW and all postal workers. CUPW must take any action necessary to win the immediate reinstatement of the suspended members with full back pay and no recorded discipline.

The support given to the South Central strike by the Letter Carriers' Union of Canada (LCUC) Local 1 drivers and Teamster drivers is an important demonstration of labor solidarity. Combined with the recommendation of a recent LCUC shop stew-

ards' meeting for a strike in solidarity with any CUPW defiance of a back-to-work court injunction, the basis has been laid for extending the CUPW strike. The post office will continue to pick off CUPW militants and violate the rights of postal workers unless these attacks are met by a united response of all postal workers. An attack upon one is an attack upon all. Any attack which is success-



SC Photo
SCABS CROSS PICKET LINES AT SOUTH CENTRAL POSTAL FACILITY.

fully carried out against CUPW will most surely be visited upon other postal workers.

A strike restricted to one postal processing plant forces workers in the other plants in Toronto to scab on their own strike. In addition, CUPW has been without a contract since June 30, further emboldening management to attack the union. The General Labour and Trades (GLT) Postal Component has also been without a contract since January 31, while the LCUC accepted a rotten contract last summer. The principle of "No contract, no work" must be upheld. The present attacks upon CUPW in the strategic Toronto area have elicited a response of solidarity from the LCUC. CUPW and the GLT's struggle could now be directly supported by an LCUC struggle for a better contract. Now is the time to act, at the height of the Christmas season, when postal workers have the most economic leverage. CUPW must seize the initiative to lay the basis for a united national postal strike of all postal unions to win a single contract for all postal workers. A common contract fight will lay the basis for

(continued on page 12)

Ten Thousand B.C. Phone Workers Strike

VANCOUVER, December 7--After nearly a year of working without a contract and months of impotent rotating strikes, 10,000 telephone workers hit the bricks throughout British Columbia on November 24 in a desperate struggle to defend job security and seniority rights in this highly automated industry. Emboldened by the Sacred government's recent spate of anti-labor legislation and by the passivity of the B. C. Federation of Labour leadership, the B. C. Telephone Co. (B. C. Tel) stands in the front ranks



SC Photo

of the capitalist industries that seek to reverse gains already won by the trade unions in years of bitter struggle.

As we go to press a court injunction has been imposed limiting pickets to twelve per location; police are investigating alleged "sabotage" of equipment; and B. C. Tel is engaged in a massive anti-union public relations gambit. Yet the Telecommunications Workers Union (TWU) leadership has shown that it is prepared to back down on the strikers' demands. President Bob Donnelly reportedly told a December 4 B. C. NDP Open Caucus meeting, "We are not asking for guaranteed employment... We will accept layoffs from technological changes." Yet technological changes have eliminated 100,000 communications jobs in the U. S. over the past five years. Phone workers must demand a shorter workweek at no loss in pay to save jobs.

The TWU ranks can rip control out of the hands of their sellout leadership by electing strike committees, which can organize mass picketing to keep scabs out. By raising the demand to expropriate B. C. Tel without compensation, the strikers could tap a reservoir of public support. A militant, successful strike against B. C. Tel would be an inspiration to the rest of B. C. labor.

CUPW...

(continued from page 11)

industrial unionism in the post office: "one boss, one merged union."

**FOR A CLOSED SHOP:
UNIONIZE TERMS AND CASUALS!**

The immediate issue of breaking the contract through the misuse of Christmas casuals can only be addressed through fighting for a closed shop and union hiring hall in which all postal labor will be unionized. All other casuals and terms should be immediately made full time and organized into the union. The job-slashing MAPP program must be combatted by a struggle for a shorter workweek with no loss in pay to provide jobs for all postal workers.

The threat of a court injunction illustrates the need to win the right to strike during the life of the contract. The postal unions are saddled with reactionary anti-labor legislation such as the Public Service Staff Relations Act (PSSRA), and they will fare no better under the only slightly less restrictive Canada Labour Code for "Crown Corporations," which has the same limits on the right to strike.

The Anti-Inflation Board and wage controls only permit the capitalists to use inflation to slash the real incomes of working people. The AIB must be abolished and a full and unlimited cost of living escalator included in any postal contract.

The class character of the government is especially brought home for public service workers. The same capitalist government which is your boss creates the wage-slashing AIB, writes the anti-labor legislation, appoints the judges who grant anti-strike injunctions, commands the cops and army to herd scabs and break up picket lines. This is the same government which slashes postal services at the same time as it hikes the price of stamps. The same government which guts unemployment benefits also subsidizes Falconbridge and Inco investments.

Declining real wages, inflation, layoffs, speed-up, deteriorating public services, the national oppression of the Québécois and social oppression of other minorities (Indians, Inuits, immigrants) demonstrate the need for the working class to have its own government based on the expropriation of the means of production and a planned economy. Unlike the NDP, which when it is in power enforces wage controls, breaks strikes and passes anti-labor legislation, the working class needs a revolutionary party to fight for a workers government. Such a party can only be built on the foundation of a class-struggle leadership in the unions in opposition to all forms of chauvinism and social oppression, and by placing its faith in the irrepressible strength and solidarity of the international working class.

10 December 1977

Trotskyist League of Canada

Unemployment...

(continued from page 1)

wanted to clamp the lid on any militant opposition. The real purpose of the convention was certainly not to hammer out a program to fight the companies' attacks, but simply to ratify the OFL tops' "strategy" of begging a few more crumbs from the capitalist table--above all through appealing for reactionary protectionist legislation and import quotas.

NO TO PROTECTIONISM!

The major issue at the convention was the fight for jobs. With over a million unemployed across the country, even the OFL leadership was pressed to come up with a handful of tepid "anti-capitalist" homilies:

"Workers have a right to question a system that has brought about the economic recession we face today, that has thrown a million workers on the scrap heap, that callously ignores the plight of the poor, the homeless and the unfortunate. This system is sick!"

Pilkey further spiced up his long-winded and platitudinous opening address to the convention by slamming "Canadian politicians that bootlick the capitalist system." Enough said on this score, Pilkey went on to reaffirm the fundamental loyalty of the labor bureaucracy to the maintenance of Canadian capitalism.

Railing against "multinational cartels," Pilkey took Inco to task for trying its "layoff tricks" in Canada, but not at its mines in Guatemala and Indonesia: "So fire the Canadians; they'll take it lying down." To be sure, the bosses' loyal lackeys in the OFL bureaucracy will lie prostrate before the companies' attacks.

The major brief presented by the leadership to the convention, entitled "For a Full Employment Economy," was a miserable plea for the government to "declare unemployment the number one problem." Beating the drums of patriotism, the statement demanded that legislation be enacted "with the goal of recapturing Canadian political and economic sovereignty." Wrapping themselves in the Canadian flag, the chauvinist labor fakers also appealed to the cause of "national unity" against Quebec's right to self-determination throughout the convention.

Protectionism, peddled as a panacea to unemployment by the labor bureaucracy and the NDP, is a poison which seeks to weld the interests of the working class to the capitalists' designs to make their economy more competitive on the world market. Pilkey's remarks on Guatemala and Indonesia made only too clear who the victims of a protectionist drive would be: foreign workers. The Canadian working class has no interest in supporting its own chief enemy, the Canadian bourgeoisie, in a drive against its real allies, the international proletariat. Protectionism is a weapon in inter-imperialist trade wars, as the capitalists of each country

scramble to recover lost markets in periods of economic crisis. Like trade protectionism prior to World Wars I and II, the current international scramble for higher tariffs is helping to lay the basis for a third world war.

The chauvinism of the labor fakers must be fought down the line by those who stand for the interests of the international working class. But this was not the position of supporters of the Stalinist Communist Party (CP) at the convention, who echoed the rhetoric of Pilkey and Co., and were among the most virulent in pushing protectionism. Cast in their usual role as the loyal "opposition" to the incumbent labor tops, CP supporters chided the OFL leadership for not "defining" or "waging a frontal attack on the real enemy"--the multi-nationals. For the CP supporters what is needed is "guts" behind the demand for trade protectionism, to "save Canadian jobs." "O Canada" has replaced the "Internationale" for the Communist Party.

Not to be outdone however were the supporters of the fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) at the convention. In a floor debate over hospital closures, RWL supporter Naomi Joliffe began by asking "What are we going to do about the chronically ill?" In response to her own question Joliffe came up with a "remedy" that would have done Stephen Lewis proud--taxing the corporations!

This was a hard act to follow, but fellow RWL

(continued on page 14)

Ford Canada...

(continued from page 3)

The CPL's red-baiting of the Trotskyist League in this case represents a vicious scabbing attack--crossing the class line of united labor defense. Any management provocation or attack against a working class organization must be denounced by the entire labor movement. In particular the power of the union must be brought to bear in defense of the democratic rights of its members to read what they wish and of socialists subjected to harassment and arrest by the company and the cops.

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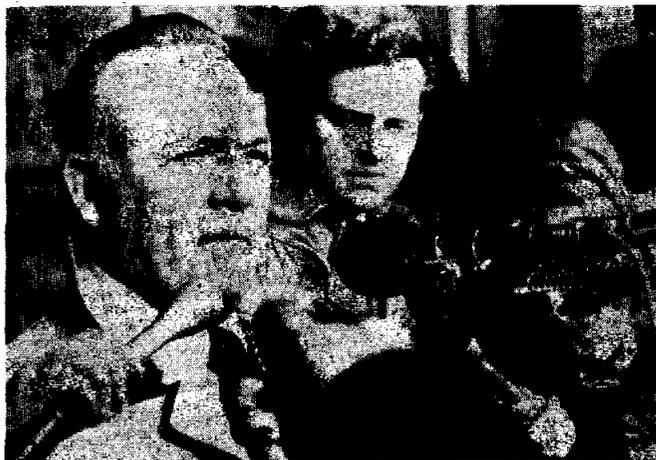
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Unemployment...

(continued from page 13)

supporter Kathy Beeman rose to the occasion. Addressing herself to the leadership's "Full Employment" statement, Beeman paid lipservice to such transitional demands as a shorter workweek at no loss in pay and the nationalization of Inco without



OFL PRESIDENT CLIFF PILKEY

SC Photo

compensation. But this was only so much left cover, and Beeman soon snapped back into line with Joliffe's abject reformism. Rather than opposing the bureaucracy's statement, she closed with a demand that it be referred back to the resolutions committee "to incorporate a mass action perspective." "Mass action" for trade protectionism?!

The only delegate to offer a class-struggle alternative to the labor fakers' schemes was Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1230 militant Jane Kirby. Kirby urged delegates to oppose the "Full Employment" statement and fight for the demands contained in her resolution as submitted to the convention by her union local (reprinted below). Addressing herself to the massive mine layoffs, Kirby called for militant industrial action, backed up by the entire labor movement, to demand an end to the layoffs, expropriation of the mines without compensation and a shorter workweek at no loss in pay.

It is obvious that the labor bureaucrats would never support such an attack on "property rights," even when these rights are deliberately used to throw thousands of workers onto the pavement. After the "Full Employment" resolution was rammed through, a resolution on the Inco layoffs was left to the final afternoon of the convention, when the OFL leadership hoped there would be no quorum. By the time it reached the floor, over half the delegates had left, but about 400 delegates were left to discuss the bureaucrats' position paper.

The Inco resolution was an insult to the nickel miners; it was simply another plea for trade protectionism, which did not even call for stopping the layoffs, let alone present a strategy to win the fight. Justifiably angered by this disgraceful proposal, a number of delegates from Steelworkers Local 6500

(representing 14,000 Sudbury Inco workers) took the floor to oppose it and to demand nationalization of the nickel companies. When Steelworkers District 6 Director Stu Cooke took the mike to argue against nationalization angry miners shook their fists and boomed.

Stepping into the wake, Kathy Beeman moved that the resolution be referred back to include the demand for nationalizing Inco without compensation. This was supported by some 80 percent of the delegates in the hall, and the bureaucrats were forced to bring the amended resolution back onto the floor only minutes later. The final version called simultaneously for defending the bosses' profits through trade protectionism and for nationalizing Inco without compensation and under workers control. Most of the delegates saw the amendment as a victory, and the resolution passed overwhelmingly. But it was still mired within reactionary chauvinist protectionism, and the call for nationalization without compensation--with no militant strategy to back it up--will remain a dead letter, a sop to the militant miners.

The fight against layoffs and unemployment requires a determined struggle to oust the pro-capitalist labor lieutenants, and the forging of a new class-struggle leadership in the trade unions. The ravages of capitalism can only be combatted by the labor movement through a class-struggle strategy--for unemployment and inflation are part and parcel of the system of private ownership of the means of production. Only a workers government can end unemployment by expropriating all the industrial magnates and creating a planned socialist economy. ■

Resolution on unemployment submitted to the OFL convention by CUPE Local 1230:

Whereas over a million workers are unemployed across the country and thousands of miners have recently been laid off, and

Whereas unemployment is part and parcel of capitalism and strategies which call on the capitalist government to end unemployment are reformist and utopian, and

Whereas a number of labour leaders have argued in favour of trade protectionism which only serves to attack foreign workers:

Therefore be it resolved that the OFL fight for:

1. Organizing the unorganized;
 2. Unconditional, unlimited unemployment benefits at full union pay, tied to a cost of living escalator, financed by the government and corporations;
 3. Unlimited recall rights for laid off workers, retaining full union membership and seniority rights;
 4. Shorter workweek with no loss in pay;
 5. Occupations and expropriation without compensation to combat plant closures and massive layoffs;
 6. A workers' party to fight for a workers' government which can end unemployment and inflation through a planned, socialist economy.
-

"National Unity"

(continued from back page)

Canadian chauvinism of the labor brass, Kirby argued that it was the fundamental duty of the workers movement in English Canada to defend unconditionally Quebec's national rights, thereby laying the basis for working-class unity.

Following the rally, representatives of the various protesting organizations went into the commission meeting to speak in defense of Quebec's right to independence. (See box for the text of the TL spokesman's speech.) The anti-"national unity" protests received prominent coverage on local television newscasts that evening, and the following day a reporter for the CBC's French-language radio network interviewed militants from the TL and RWL on their opposition to the P  pin commission and defense of Quebec's national rights. Excerpts from the interview were broadcast across Quebec and English Canada on the French-language CBC on the morning of November 30. ■

Anti-Nazi Demo...

(continued from page 7)

to creep out of their ratholes in increasing numbers. In Toronto, the bourgeois press has lately been filled with stories about the trial of several members of the Western Guard, relating dozens of organized fascist attacks on synagogues, Sikh temples and left and immigrant meetings, as well as a plot to bomb Varsity Stadium while the Israeli national soccer team played there during the 1976 Olympic Games.

While the SWP and RWL wallow in criminal civil libertarianism, the Trotskyist League will continue to call for united protest against the fascists, or against provocations like the Regus Films advertising which seek to glorify their activities. Our goal is the mobilization of the working class and its allies, particularly through the formation of disciplined labor defense guards, to crush the fascists and stop their murderous attacks. In the struggle for socialist revolution, the armed might of the proletariat will deal decisively and for all time with these genocidal defenders of capitalist rule. ■

TL Speech at P  pin Hearings

"I'm speaking on behalf of the Trotskyist League. This committee is sitting here before us, asking Canadians to give it input on how best to maintain 'national unity.' But what is this committee? Here we have people like Jean-Luc P  pin, fresh from two years of slashing the wages of the Canadian working class through the wage control board. Like John Evans, who has participated in attacks on foreign students through racist fee hikes at the University of Toronto.

"Why are these people gathered here today, and why have they been travelling across the country to build up a sham of 'democratic' input on the question of Quebec? The real purpose of the P  pin committee and its mutterings about a so-called 'third option' for Canadian federalism is to be part and parcel of the federal government's and capitalist media's chauvinist 'national unity' crusade--a crusade which is directed against the basic democratic right of the Qu  b  cois people to self-determination. It is seeking to mobilize public opinion against the right of the people of the oppressed nation of Quebec to decide their own future, to have independence if they want it.

"So this is why we have been among those demonstrating against this commission out here tonight. And this is why we have come in here tonight--not to make a plea for some new angle, some new variant, on 'national unity,' but to denounce this commission and defend the rights of the Qu  b  cois.

"The Trotskyist League, as partisans of the unity of the working class, seeks to combat all forms of social oppression. We have nothing but contempt for the labor misleaders like the leaders of the OFL, whom we heard earlier today pleading for national unity; like the NDP, which has also joined in this national unity crusade.

"Furthermore while defending Quebec's right to independence, we don't think workers should support a capitalist party like the PQ, which has attacked Quebec workers and also attacked the legitimate language rights of non-Franco-phone minorities in Quebec. But the sanctimonious protests issuing forth from Trudeau, P  pin, the Toronto Star and from all the capitalist media about the effects of the PQ's nationalism are pure hypocrisy, and seek only to cover up the real historical oppression of the Qu  b  cois and of French-speaking minorities outside Quebec.

"By forging working class unity, we seek to build a revolutionary party that will overthrow the system that gives us the P  pins, the Robarts, the Trudeaus, and bring about a workers government that will guarantee democratic rights for all the oppressed." ■

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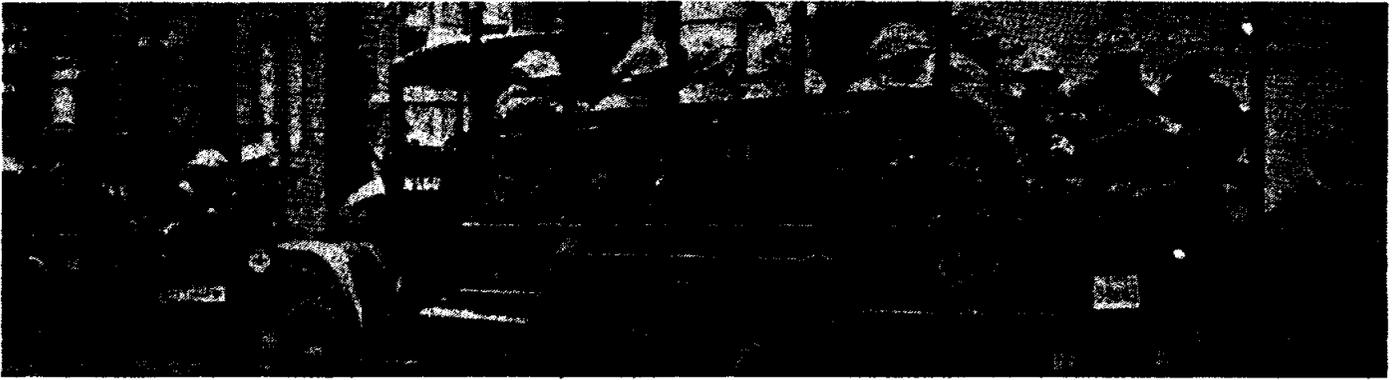
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Down with the "National Unity" Crusade!

Demonstrators Defend Quebec's Right to Independence

TORONTO--The federal government's "national unity" commission held another in its cross-Canada series of public hearings in a downtown hotel here on November 28-29. As in other cities, co-chairmen Jean-Luc Pépin (former head of the AIB) and John Robarts (former Ontario Tory Premier) and the other commission members spent most of their time hearing briefs from capitalist magnates and politicians, labor misleaders and civil libertarians--each with their own favorite recipe for shoring up "Canadian unity."

But at the November 28 evening session they met a different kind of response. Militant demonstrators from several left-wing groups marched outside the hotel entrance and chanted slogans opposing the "national unity" crusade and defending Quebec's right to self-determination.

About 75 people marched in a picket line organized by the Maoist Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), which in a typical display of sectarianism was closed to all but CPC(M-L)'s loyal sycophants. Having sealed their supporters off from contact with other left-wing groups, CPC(M-L) leaders proceeded to initiate chants which coupled opposition to the Pépin commission with nationalist calls for "genuine independence" for Canada. A favorite CPC(M-L) slogan was "Down with the national traitors!"

Another 35 militants, including members of the Trotskyist League (TL) and Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), representatives of the gay liberation journal Body Politic and independents,

marched in a smaller, non-exclusionist demonstration. Half-a-dozen members of the Maoist group In Struggle, which had unsuccessfully attempted to organize its own demonstration, ended up not marching at all. Unwilling to be seen in the same picket line as Trotskyists, the forlorn In Struggle members stood off to one side trying to distribute their literature.

The demonstrators chanted "Down with Trudeau's 'national unity' crusade" and "Defend Quebec's right to self-determination." RWLers also sought (without success) to initiate infantile rhythmic chants such as "The rich get richer, richer, richer, while we call each other names, dividing working people is the task force's game." But they conspicuously refused to join the TL's call for "Full and equal language rights for all." This was not surprising since the RWL's capitulation to bourgeois Quebec nationalism leads it to oppose democratic language rights for non-French-speaking minorities in Quebec. TLers also chanted "Not national unity but working-class unity," with a smattering of RWL supporters occasionally joining in.

As the hearings were about to begin inside, the demonstrators stopped for a brief rally with speeches. Among the speakers was trade union militant Jane Kirby from CUPE Local 1230, who earlier in the day had received applause at the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) convention for her attempts to get a resolution supporting Quebec's right to self-determination onto the floor. The OFL leadership, which had presented a chauvinist brief to the Pépin commission that afternoon, later introduced and pushed through at the convention a resolution which conspicuously refused to uphold the Québécois' right to self-determination. Against the English-

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