

4 SPARTACIST

CANADA FEBRUARY 1978 No.23 25¢

Defend Quebec's Right to Independence!

Trudeau Threatens War on Quebec

Appearing on a nation-wide New Year's television broadcast, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau arrogantly threatened armed suppression of Quebec: "I'm not going to be shy about using the sword if something illegal is attempted in the province of Quebec." To make matters even clearer, he also declared that there was no legal way Quebec could separate from English-speaking Canada. It was the most provocative assault yet by Ottawa on Quebec's right to independence since the bourgeois separatist Parti Québécois (PQ) became the provincial government following an upset election victory in the fall of 1976. This outburst of English-Canadian chauvinism by the No. 1 Maple Leaf jingo must be opposed by the entire workers movement. Labor must proclaim its unconditional support for

the Québécois' right to self-determination, and its firm commitment to mobilize the ranks in concrete action against any attempt to suppress that fundamental democratic right!

Last year Trudeau claimed that should the PQ's promised referendum favor the separation of Quebec he would resign his post rather than "be the one to lead Canada into civil war" (see Spartacist Canada, March 1977). But as Canadian capitalism shows signs of unravelling at the seams, he is feeling the pressure to hold it together by adopting a hard-line stance. The economy is in its worst slump since the 1930's depression, with inflation and unemployment soaring while the Canadian dollar has fallen even below the troubled U. S. dollar on the international money market. Further, a series of exposures of the RCMP has tipped the iceberg of the federal government's secret criminal activities directed mainly at the Québécois separatists and the left.

Thus the prime minister has adopted a strategy of open provocation and no longer makes hypocritical "peacemaker" gestures. To Québécois nationalists seeking to exercise the democratic right of self-determination Trudeau offers the arrogant boot of the oppressor nation. Carefully reading the polls he has noted that Lévesque's popularity is going up in Quebec together with separatist sentiment in the province. A slim majority still
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Canadian Press

TROOPS STAND GUARD OUTSIDE MONTREAL CITY HALL DURING OCTOBER 1970 OCCUPATION OF QUEBEC.

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Editorial Notes

STOP FORD MOTOR CO. CENSORSHIP AND HARASSMENT!

On April 20 three supporters of the Trotskyist League will appear in Halton Region Provincial Court to face charges of trespassing. Their real "crime" was distributing labor-socialist publications to the workers at Ford Canada's Oakville plants. As we reported in the last issue of Spartacist Canada, the three were arrested on 2 December 1977 while distributing literature and charged with trespassing by Ford management. In response, SC has launched a campaign to defend the right of Ford workers to read what they choose and the right of all labor and socialist organizations to freely distribute their literature.

Ford, claiming to own all the land and access roads to the plants, has systematically harassed and physically assaulted distributors of socialist publications. The company also claims the "right" to censor any literature distributed in the plants by Local 707 of the United Auto Workers (UAW). Widespread opposition to such brazenly undemocratic practices has undoubtedly contributed to the encouraging response to SC's appeal for support. To date, more than \$300 has been raised to help defray the legal costs which will be incurred by the defendants.

Among the contributors was Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1230, representing University of Toronto library workers, which voted to donate \$25 despite the sectarian machinations of Revolutionary Workers League supporter Kathy Beeman. Beeman supported a resolution to send a letter of solidarity to SC only after cynically moving to divide the motion so that she could vote against the proposal to concretize the local's solidarity by sending a financial contribution to the defense.

Regrettably, the organization which has both the greatest stake in this campaign and the social weight to stop Ford's attacks on democratic rights, has failed to offer its support. SC wrote a letter to the union asking for support on December 12; but local vice-president Brian Feil, contacted by telephone, replied "we don't want to touch it." Then on December 18, when TL supporters distributed copies of the letter to a membership

meeting at the union hall, the local bureaucrats indicated just where they stood on the issue by calling the cops to stop the distribution.

SC responded to this disgraceful act in a 9 January letter to the local executive board, which demanded that:

"... Local 707 repudiate this incident and take a stand in defense of workers democracy. This means defending the rights of all workers to receive whatever literature they wish, without interference or harassment from anyone--be it the boss and his police or would-be censors in the labor movement."

Apparently this egregious violation of workers democracy by the local leadership met with considerable indignation and opposition within the union. At the following membership meeting on January 15, TL supporters distributed their literature without incident. Later, SC learned that a motion that opposed the union calling the police against any labor-socialist group was raised in the meeting and, though defeated, received the support of a number of Local 707 members including one of the plant chairmen.

Distributing literature that calls for an end to the anarchic capitalist system is only a "crime" in the eyes of the bosses. The entire labor movement has a stake in the defense of the democratic right of freedom of the press. We urge our readers to send messages of solidarity and financial contributions to: Spartacist Canada Publishing Association, Box 6867, Station A, Toronto. ■

NEW SFU POLICY ATTACKS STUDENT CLUBS

VANCOUVER--Students at Simon Fraser University (SFU) got an unpleasant surprise on returning from Christmas break. During their absence Student Council had passed a new set of clubs rules that threatens the existence of many of the 40 campus clubs. The new rules raise from 10 to 25 the number of members required for each club; double the membership fee per person; ban off-campus members; and give Council (recently rebaptized Student Forum) the right to deny funds to any religious or political club "deemed... to have access to sufficient funding from outside sources." These new rules open the way for political censorship and harassment of both campus and "off-campus" groups at SFU.

The Trotskyist League (TL) Club launched a campaign to combat this outrageous violation of students' democratic rights. A TL Club-initiated petition calling for repeal of the new policy was signed by many faculty, staff, students and clubs representatives. The TL Club also distributed a leaflet demanding that the policy be overturned and announcing a meeting to attempt to form a united front Ad Hoc Committee based on the slogans "Dump the Clubs Policy!" and "Funding for All Campus Clubs!"

At the meeting, the TL Club's attempt to initiate a broadly-based united response to the new regula-

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Bureaucratic Dogfight in B.C. Teamsters

VANCOUVER--British Columbia "industrial relations officer" Colin Kay is expected to report to the provincial Social Credit government this month on the results of his four-month-long investigation into the internal affairs of International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) Local 213. Socred Labour Minister Allan Williams ordered the inquiry last September into the bureaucratic square-off which has seen "reform" oppositionist Jack Vlahovic and incumbent top-dog Senator Edward Lawson locked in a series of court battles for control of Canada's largest Teamster local.

Kay's inquiry has ranged far and wide, going far beyond the current Vlahovic-Lawson battle. He told the Vancouver Sun (19 November 1977): "There's been 28 pounds of submissions with minutes going back to 1963." The inquiry comes at a time when the Socred government is waging a battle to weaken the militant B. C. labor movement, and when the IBT is under attack in the U. S. courts for alleged corruption in its pension fund administration. Its potential implications for the union movement are ominous. They were summed up by an editorial in the 20 September 1977 Sun, which proffered Labour Minister Williams some union-busting advice: "There is a longer term solution to be sought. [Williams] could introduce legislation limiting a union's power over its members." There could hardly be a clearer demonstration of the dangerous consequences of relying on the bourgeois courts for union "reform"--a strategy wholeheartedly embraced by the reformist opposition Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), for whom new recruit Jack Vlahovic is the latest "Teamster rebel."

Vlahovic was elected local secretary-treasurer in January 1977 on a slate called the "working team for 213," whose program consisted of little more than hypocritical indignation at Canadian Director Lawson's fat salary. Besides being a trustee of Local 213, Lawson holds several national and international union posts, backs the corrupt International regime of Frank Fitzsimmons, sits as the only labor representative in the anti-democratic Canadian Senate and contributes funds to the Progressive Conservative Party.

Following Vlahovic's election, Lawson responded by arbitrarily carving up the local to create a new one in Kelowna. Not to be outdone, the "Teamster rebel" petitioned the government's B. C. Labour Relations Board to order a membership vote on Lawson's high-handed action. On September 16, the bureaucracy's kangaroo court fined Vlahovic \$11,000 and barred him from union office for life

for alleged abuse of union funds. When Vlahovic refused to accept the verdict, Lawson won a court injunction in October, evicting his opponent from union premises pending another bureaucratic union trial. In response, Vlahovic "respectfully and loyally" cabled the Queen, requesting Her inter-



JACK VLAHOVIC.

vention to remove Her appointed representative to the Senate from union office.

In the service of personal ambition, both these careerists have eagerly opened the union to intervention by the bourgeois government and courts--whose interest is not to "safeguard union democracy" but to attack organized labor, especially in such a strategic industry as transport and in an historically militant union like the Teamsters. The only effective way to fight for union democracy was shown last September, when drivers occupied union offices to protest the dismissal of their elected representative, re-elected him to office, and threatened to strike if he were forced out. Yet Vlahovic evidently has more faith in Queen and court than in worker militancy, and has made no further effort to mobilize the sound class instinct of the ranks in protecting their organizations and rights.

TDU/VLAHOVIC: FAKE-LEFTS' DARLINGS

Vlahovic's class-collaborationist tactics are quite compatible with those of his new-found patrons in the TDU. At its September convention in Cleveland, which pledged full support to the Vlahovic campaign, the TDU sought a court order to prevent a nearby rally of supporters of IBT president

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Teamsters...

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Frank Fitzsimmons. When this was refused, TDU called in a cop to check credentials at the door. Worse, the TDU has invited the U. S. government to rewrite the IBT constitution on the basis of the notoriously anti-labor Landrum-Griffin Act.

Yet this gang of out-bureaucrats has won the uncritical support of several self-proclaimed revolutionary organizations in North America. The most servile of these TDU sycophants, the economist, insular American International Socialists (I. S.), openly support the TDU's treacherous appeals to the courts. Writing of Vlahovic's case, the I. S.'s Workers Power proclaimed:

"Though Vlahovic is out of office for the moment, the fight is not over by any means.

"Vlahovic has demanded a hearing before the union's International Executive Board. If that goes against him, he will be free to take the issue back to court."

--10 October 1977

The campaign of TDU leader (and publicly acknowledged I. S. member) Pete Camarata for vice-president of Local 299 in Detroit last month received laudatory press coverage in liberal bourgeois journals like the New York Times Magazine and both of Detroit's daily newspapers. The liberal capitalists are lionizing the TDU because they fear that the encrusted, corrupt Fitzsimmons bureaucracy is no longer capable of controlling the militant Teamster ranks. It is precisely the reliance of Camarata and the TDU on the courts which makes them particularly attractive to their bourgeois allies.

The inveterate opportunists of the American I. S. have a Frankenstein monster on their hands, one which will inevitably turn against them when their donkey-work and publicity services are no longer needed. Just as members of the I. S.-supported Teamsters for a Decent Contract (the TDU's forerunner) physically attacked Workers Power salesmen at a California rally in the spring of 1976, so would-be bureaucrats like Vlahovic and Co. will doubtless ditch their left-wing hangers-on once they secure their coveted niches in the Teamster hierarchy.

The I. S. has not of course been alone in providing uncritical publicity for this anti-communist labor faker. Always on the lookout for a new labor "dissident" to tail, the fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) notes, in passing and without criticism, in the 10 October 1977 Socialist Voice that "both sides have taken their cases to

the courts." The RWL then lumps Vlahovic's class treason together with the drivers' demonstration as part of "this remarkable rebellion by the Teamsters' ranks against their international leadership." CP HYPOCRISY

The RWL's politics are so wretched that even the Moscow-loyal reformists of the Communist Party (CP) are able to outflank them from the left on this issue. A headline in the 7 October 1977 Pacific Tribune remonstrates: "Membership, not the courts should solve union disputes." This rare display of opposition to class collaboration by the promoters of the phantom "progressive bourgeoisie" is of course completely phoney. Undoubtedly it was prompted by the fact that another B. C. union whose leadership includes prominent CP supporters, the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union, is currently the target of a union-busting attack in the courts under the Combines Investigation Act.

The CP's history of class-collaboration is long and sordid. During the late 1930's it actively sought political blocs with the Social Credit Party, and supported Sacred electoral candidates. Then after Hitler's invasion of the USSR the CP urged coalitions with the dominant bourgeois party, the Liberals, and initiated a super-patriotic anti-labor "no strike pledge" in the unions. Today the CP throws its wholehearted support to the likes of Vlahovic in union after union--notably Steelworkers "rebel" Ed Sadlowski, whose strategy for ousting the Abel/McBride union machine consists of little more than seeking court suits and U. S. Labor Department injunctions. In the mouths of Stalinists, sage advice on trade union independence from the bourgeois state is sheer hypocrisy.

The utter bankruptcy of the national-chauvinist CP's strategy is revealed when it proposes that the struggle against the union bureaucrats be waged... by withdrawing from the field of battle:

"In the long pull, the winning of an independent, sovereign and united trade union movement in Canada will lead to more democracy in unions like Teamsters 213..."

The CP's call to fracture the international unions along the 49th parallel is a dead end. Rather, an international class-struggle leadership must be forged in the unions to oust the Lawsons and the Fitzsimmons. The Jack Vlahovics and Ed Sadlowskis--left-posturing hacks who place their confidence in the bourgeois state and fear the strength of the mobilized working class--represent a dangerous detour from this path. In office they will bring only continued bureaucratic rule and more defeats.

The Teamster ranks must demand an end to the government inquiry, the repeal of all anti-labor legislation, an end to the court suits and the unrestricted right to elect their own local officials. However the struggle to win these demands requires a fight against both the Fitzsimmons bureaucracy and its class-collaborationist opponents who run the TDU, in favor of a leadership committed to the independence of the unions from the state and the struggle for a workers government. ■

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Fake-Lefts Toady for Union Bureaucrats

Red-Baiting Frenzy in Toronto CUPW Elections

"Commies Trounced in Postal Vote" screamed the front page headline in the 19 January Toronto Sun. Three days later a Sunday Star lead editorial gave "One (qualified) cheer" for the members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) Toronto local. The occasion was the overwhelming victory of right-wing business unionist Arnold Gould and his allies in the Toronto CUPW local executive elections. To the delight of the anti-labor press--which was lobbying for the decertification of the union during the previous month's local CUPW strike--Gould swept the presidential election with 3,300 votes, compared to 303 and 297 respectively for his leftist opponents, Paul Heffernan and Canadian Party of Labour (CPL) member Peter Leibovitch.

In the weeks before the elections the bourgeois media whipped up a red-baiting scare against "commies in the Post Office," in particular the Stalinist CPL. The election was portrayed as a showdown between the "honest" moderates of the Gould slate and flaming "reds" bent on sabotaging the postal system. But for all the hoopla over the "red menace" fomenting revolution in the Post Office and using "union power to disrupt our social and economic system," neither of Gould's left-wing opponents campaigned on a platform that even remotely resembled a communist program. Even CUPW's militant-posturing national president Jean-Claude Parrot is often able to dish out a more left-sounding program than the contestants in the Toronto elections could come up with.

The latest round of red-baiting began during the six-day local strike in December, which ended in a qualified victory for the union, when all nine suspended workers were reinstated, two of them unconditionally. In its election program CPL grandstanded about the extensive coverage it had received in the bourgeois press:

"The kind of leaders who will consistently fight for the day-to-day and long term interests of postal workers are the very "Reds" that so petrify the Sun-Star-Globe. The Canadian Party of Labour members in the Post Office make no secret of their goal and programme for bringing the working class to power."

--"Elect a Fighting Executive," undated leaflet

But CPL's "programme for bringing the working class to power" has generally focussed on little more than (literally) the fight for better chicken sandwiches in the cafeteria and false ceilings in the postal plant. This time around CPL pared down

its kick-ass militancy, substituting a program of four demands: "six hour day, close unity with our brothers and sisters in Quebec, resistance to harassment and a closed shop."

The CPLers went to considerable lengths in maneuvering for a victory in these elections. They deliberately left the position of vice-president open on their slate, choosing instead to chase votes and influence on the cheap by supporting Eileen Ludlow's campaign for the position. Ludlow, who was acting



SC Photo

TORONTO POSTAL WORKERS DURING LAST DECEMBER'S SIX-DAY STRIKE.

president during the December strike, earned the "respect" of these fake-leftists with her pledge to go to jail rather than submit to a threatened back-to-work injunction.

However Ludlow's moment of militancy was in no way an expression even of consistent opposition to anti-labor legislation. The main component of her "strategy" for CUPW is an endorsement of Parrot's demand that the Post Office be turned into a Crown Corporation--i. e., to exchange one piece of anti-labor legislation (the Public Service Staff Relations Act) for another (the Canada Labour Code). While the Canada Labour Code would slightly extend the union's bargaining rights, it clamps the same restrictions on the right to strike. Ludlow's record is one of pro-capitalist business unionism par excellence--yet CPL "proudly" stood four-square behind her, no doubt as a hoped-for shortcut to the "big time" executive offices. However Ludlow did not return the favor of her Stalinist supporters; she supported Gould and shunned the CPLers.

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CUPW Elections...

(continued from page 5)

For all its opportunist maneuvers CPL actually fared much worse in this year's elections than last year. Presidential candidate Leibovitch received significantly fewer votes than last year and finished a poor third. To add insult to injury, two other CPLers lost the executive posts they formerly held.

Incredibly CPL managed to sink to even lower opportunist depths after their election debacle. Though new president Gould was purged from the CUPW National Office at last year's convention for being too right-wing for the tastes of Parrot, CPL somehow managed to construe his election in Toronto as a victory! According to the 31 January Worker:

"There was a victory for the Toronto local built into this election. None of the candidates stood for any of the old divisive lines of 'independence' from the national, or hostility toward Quebec posties, and all the candidates backed the December walkout over mass suspensions.... There was no red-baiting by the candidates. Gould is pledged to keep Toronto in step with the national in the fight for a decent contract. This local has come a long way."

Why, then, did these pathetic bootlickers bother running in the first place, if all the candidates stood for identical policies? After one of its perennial "self-criticism" sessions a year ago, CPL claimed it was breaking with its past opportunist practice of seeking "friends in high places." But today it once again tries to toady to anti-communist bureaucrats, seeking out "friends" like right-wing bureaucrat Arnold Gould!

The other "left" challenge to Gould's slate came from two one-time supporters of the former Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG), Paul and Tom Heffernan. The Heffernans' election campaigns were the living legacy of the RMG's various schemes to build "mass influence" by constructing lowest-common-denominator reformist opposition caucuses. When the RMG's something-for-everyone oppositional clots all bit the dust, the Heffernans, having never fought for a class-struggle program, took the logical next step--out of the RMG and toward the bureaucracy. Presidential candidate Paul Heffernan ran on a program which was little more than a list of his achievements as strike committee chairman in December, coupled with a few hurrahs

for union reform and solidarity against the government's attacks. As for Tom Heffernan, who beat out the incumbent CPLer for the post of recording secretary, he didn't bother to issue a platform at all.

While these former supporters of the ex-RMG scramble to build themselves a niche in the local bureaucracy, their former political cohorts have found a new home, united with the reformist League for Socialist Action in the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL). Making even the mindless economists of CPL seem left-wing by comparison, the RWL is now brazenly carrying the torch for Jean-Claude Parrot. Its promotion campaign for the CUPW president reaches new heights with every issue of Socialist Voice: the 23 January edition, for example, prints uncritically a long interview with this reformist union bureaucrat.

The RWL sings Parrot's praises; but militant postal workers must have no illusions in this left-talking, do-nothing hack. CUPW is under fire, threatened with the loss of up to 6,000 jobs--a quarter to a third of the entire union membership--through the implementation of management's massive automation scheme. The solidarity of the Letter Carriers Union of Canada (LCUC) with the Toronto CUPW strike in December pointed the way forward to defeat management's attacks across the country. Not only was CUPW out on the streets in the most strategic area of the country at the most strategic time, the Christmas season, but the LCUC workers were respecting the picket lines and the postal mechanics' union had already been without a contract for over a year.

The Toronto strike could have been the spark for a country-wide strike of all postal unions for a single contract, laying the basis for a merged union. But Parrot, who has left CUPW members stranded for over six months without a contract,

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Trotskyist League Directory

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RWL/YS Befriend Barrett's Children

Elections to the Senate and Board of Governors at the University of British Columbia (UBC) have given the fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) another chance to exercise its "unity" appetites. Further east the RWL's Menshevik unity designs have mainly been directed toward small left-wing social-democratic organizations like the Cliffite International Socialists in Toronto and the Groupe Socialiste des Travailleurs du Québec in Montreal. But the less cluttered political landscape of the West Coast has led the RWL to head straight for the big time--programmatically unity with the wretched right-wing social-democratic New Democratic Party.

In last October's Manitoba provincial elections, the RWL went out on the hustings for the re-election of Schreyer's NDP government, adding only the plaintive moan that "Ed Schreyer's best just isn't good enough." However in B.C. the young reformists of the RWL youth group, the Young Socialists (YS), have gone a step further. The YS has linked arms with the children of the Second International in the UBC NDP club to form an electoral alliance called the "United Action Slate" (UAS). In its main electoral statement (which fails to even mention the word socialism), the product of this made-in-heaven marriage informs us that: "The central issue in this election is not ideology vs. ideology... Rather it is who is really willing to oppose the sweeping attacks on education?"

Indeed, who? Since "ideology" has been deemed irrelevant, why not ally with the campus administration in this fight? Calling for "unity on campus" against cutbacks, UAS candidate Bob Stanley of the NDP told the student newspaper that the "Administration president must be convinced to approach this problem" (Ubyssy, 17 January). But, moans the UAS, unfortunately "President Kenny and the Administration meekly accepted these cutbacks and decided to administer rather than challenge Victoria's policy." Perhaps a bit more "convincing" will do the trick?

The joint YS-NDP program has as its maximum demand the call for "democratic control of all decisions" at UBC by students, faculty and staff. Its stated goal is "a student leadership committed to an active defense of student rights," and the only time it ventures outside the realm of ivory-tower campus parochialism is to counsel that the problem of unemployment cannot be solved at the university alone. Instead students should participate in the March rally called by the B.C. Federation of Labour to protest the Socred government's job-slashing policies. And that is the sum total of the UAS



DAVE BARRETT

Financial Post

"program" to fight unemployment--as if marching in one demonstration could somehow eliminate the economic anarchy of the capitalist system!

Months ago, in those last moments of hesitation and agony before the former Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG) made its vows to the reformists of the League for Socialist Action (LSA), the thought of swallowing the LSA's long-standing commitment to "build the NDP" still caught in the throats of the RMG ranks. But in their months of "peaceful" co-existence inside the RWL, this dispute has apparently been laid to rest, relegated to the graveyard with the many other "principled positions" the RMG buried in the course of fusion.

The common electoral campaign of the YS and NDP testifies to the fact that the RWL was not conceived out of any concessions by the LSA to the RMG's threadbare "leftism"--in particular on the question of the NDP. Today the RWL--like its LSA progenitors--happily cohabits with and provides a left cover for the campus progeny of Dave Barrett's right-wing, strikebreaking social democrats. Welcome, comrades of the ex-RMG, to your new home, alongside the political grandchildren of Scheidemann and Noske.■

Vancouver—Demonstrate at Pépin Csn. Hearings

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BIGOT ANITA BRYANT INTONES "BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC" AT SUBURBAN TORONTO CHURCH.

Globe and Mail

Bryant, Cops, Toronto Sun Wage Reactionary Offensive

FULL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS FOR HOMOSEXUALS!

In a series of attacks that undermine basic democratic rights, homosexuals have been singled out for an ominous reactionary offensive that threatens all oppressed minorities and the entire left and labor movement. In Montreal homosexuals were victim to the largest wave of mass arrests since the War Measures Act when 146 men were rounded up and charged last October in a gestapo-type police raid on two gay bars. In Ontario, where controversial recommendations by the Human Rights Commission to prohibit discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation" in the provincial Human Rights Code are currently under consideration, the ultra-reactionary Toronto Sun is taking the lead in a disgusting anti-homosexual propaganda campaign.

On January 15 anti-homosexual crusader Anita Bryant, fresh from her successful campaign to overturn an ordinance in Miami prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals, made a widely-publicized appearance in Toronto. Under the auspices of Renaissance International--a dubious right-wing anti-homosexual religious outfit financed by big business--Bryant spoke and sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" for a crowd of several thousand at a service in suburban North York's "People's Church."

The visit of this reactionary revivalist coincided with the start of the trials of four men held in connection with the murder and alleged rape of 12-year-old Manuel Jaques, whose body was found on the roof of a downtown Toronto sex shop last summer. Right-wing media like the Sun exploited this murder to whip up anti-homosexual frenzy, which peaked with a crazed mob of several

thousand demonstrators tearing through the streets in August, demanding the return of capital punishment and screaming "Death to all perverts!"

BODY POLITIC RAIDED

One of the most shocking attacks directed against homosexuals was the blatant jackboot raid on the offices of Body Politic, a Toronto gay liberation newsmagazine widely distributed throughout North America. Police from the Metropolitan Toronto Morality Squad and the Ontario Provincial Police marched into the Body Politic offices on December 30, filling and seizing twelve crates of records and documents, including subscription lists and personal mail, ostensibly "for study." The material confiscated makes it clear that the operation served not to gather evidence, but was a serious attempt to suppress the paper and victimize both the publishers and the subscribers, an outrageous violation of freedom of the press.

The police raid came in the midst of a barrage of media attacks on Body Politic for an article in the December-January issue entitled "Men Loving Boys Loving Men." The article describes the sexual experiences and personal relationships of several men with youths under the Canadian legal age of consent. Although the issue had already been on sale for a month at the time of the raid, the police came armed with a search warrant empowering them to seize almost anything in the office.

According to Clayton Ruby, Body Politic's attorney, the warrant is illegal under Canadian law. It allegedly authorized the cops to search for evidence

under Section 164 of the federal Criminal Code ("use of the mails for the purpose of transmitting or delivering anything that is indecent, immoral or scurrilous"). But the "evidence" the police claimed to be after (i. e., that the publication is in fact sent through the mails) was readily obtainable by reading the newspaper's masthead or contacting the Post Office.

On January 5 charges were entered by the Crown Attorney against Pink Triangle Press (the non-profit publisher of Body Politic) and against the officers of the corporation under two sections of the Criminal Code which describe the possession or distribution of "obscene" materials as criminal offenses. The alleged "obscene" material was a book already cleared last October by the notoriously heavy-handed censors of Canada Customs (who stop even Penthouse at the border). "Obscenity" charges were also laid regarding the publication of "Men Loving Boys Loving Men." Both charges carry a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment. In addition, the publishing company and its officers could face substantial fines if convicted.

As we go to press, none of the material seized in the raid has been returned to the Body Politic. An attempt by attorney Clayton Ruby to quash the warrant has been rejected, and trial dates for the defendants have now been set for June 26. Nonetheless, despite all the attacks by the cops and courts, Body Politic intends to continue publishing.

The raid on Body Politic sets an ugly precedent for further attacks of this nature. Making a mockery of even bourgeois "justice," the raid was a de facto execution of the sentence in the guise of obtaining the evidence. The Body Politic raid and other attacks against homosexuals are the spearhead of a right-wing offensive. If Body Politic is suppressed, then the same thing can happen to any publication, especially those of left, labor or even liberal persuasion. If a gay bar can be raided and its "found-ins" rounded up and arrested, then the same thing can happen at any gathering place, especially union halls or left-wing offices.

This outrageous violation of freedom of the press must be vigorously opposed by all those with a stake in the defense of democratic rights. Most

important to the success of mobilizations against this state attack is the labor movement, which has the social power to effectively champion the interests of all the oppressed.

SECTORALIST POLITICS UNDERCUT DEFENSE

To date, however, response to the police raid has generally been passive and self-isolating. While a number of publications were initially concerned about the raid and its implications, active opposition has mainly been limited to gay organizations and some gay liberation movement hangers-on, notably the fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) and the state-capitalist super-sectoralists of the International Socialists (I. S.). But even among gay organiza-



DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST BRYANT VISIT TO TORONTO. SC Photo

tions there has been no unity around defense of Body Politic.

The first planning meeting called to organize opposition to Anita Bryant's visit drew 200 people representing a wide range of gay, women's and left organizations. But in the face of a right-wing mobilization against homosexuals and fresh on the heels of the Body Politic raid, numerous individuals present attacked the newspaper for printing the controversial article that was the pretext for the police actions! In particular, homosexual clergy and feminists were indignant that Body Politic had chosen such a "poor time" to publish the article.

In a bizarre battle of sectors, the feminist struggle of the sexes was drawn to ludicrous (although logical) conclusions. A representative of Wages Due Lesbians argued that the focus of anti-Bryant activities should be the slogan "Hands off our children," echoing Bryant's anti-homosexual slogan "Save our children." Another hardened feminist expressed concern for Bryant, moaning that she might suffer a nervous breakdown as a result of the attacks focussed on her. A spokesman for the Trotskyist League, disparaging

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HOMOSEXUALS...

(continued from page 9)

any sympathy for this vile reactionary bigot, made the obvious point that "Anita Bryant is no 'sister' of mine." Alone among groups at the meeting, the TL urged a break from sectoralist politics and argued that only the broadest unity of those threatened by attacks on democratic rights, especially the labor movement, could defeat the ominous offensive against homosexuals.

But although Wages Due Lesbians' "Hands off our children" slogan was turned down, narrow parochial sectoralism won out at the meeting--with nothing but encouragement from the servile



Frank Rooney/Socialist Voice

COP RIFLES FILES IN BODY POLITIC OFFICE DURING DECEMBER RAID.

opportunists of the RWL and I. S. The meeting voted to form a "Coalition" around a huge laundry list of slogans, including silly utopian life-stylist demands like "economic independence for women --so we can come out of the closet" and "the children's right to determine their own sexuality--no coercion."

At the "Coalition" meeting the following week, the anti-communism of much of the gay/feminist milieu surfaced in opposition to a TL proposal that socialist organizations be allotted speaking time at the anti-Anita Bryant rally scheduled for January 14. Blocking with the feminists and gay lifestylists to defeat this proposal were the spineless social democrats of the I. S. A leading member of this small, clique-ridden sect (currently being courted by the "unity"-mongering RWL) intervened only once in the meeting--to make anti-communist arguments against the TL's right to a speaker because there was an alleged danger of socialists "dominating" an event that concerned mainly women and gays.

As for the RWL, most of its supporters abstained on the vote, with the notable exception of former leading Revolutionary Marxist Group gay activist Gary Kinsman, who voted against. Before the RMG returned to the reformist fold of the League for Socialist Action to form the RWL last summer, Kinsman characterized the LSA as "tailist and often opportunist" (see "Often Impor-

tant Opponents...", SC No. 21, November 1977) --but with political experience comes new-found "wisdom" for the much-chastened ex-RMGers. These wily opportunists are just too condescending and so willing to let the oppressed "do their own thing," to have even openly asked for a speaker for themselves. But at the rally two members of the RWL put their political affiliation "in the closet" and spoke as representatives of gay organizations. The RWL appears to have its own "closet rule" to suit petty-bourgeois anti-communist sensibilities. But in the context of a serious rightist offensive, this egging on of the most backward elements in the gay and feminist milieu is criminal. By encouraging the sectoralism of this milieu, the RWL and I. S. only reinforce its isolation, rendering it even more vulnerable to attack.

The demonstrations against the Bryant visit were plagued by the same reformism and sectoralism. Chanting the time-worn "Out of the closets, into the streets, gay liberation now!" nearly 1000 demonstrators trekked down Yonge St. on January 14. On the following evening 300 protesters picketed the church where Bryant was speaking, shouting "We are everywhere, we are everywhere" and "Two, four, six, eight, gay is twice as good as straight."

STOP THE RIGHTIST OFFENSIVE!

Today, brutal and seemingly arbitrary attacks on homosexuals are being used to set dangerous precedents and test the waters for more sweeping repression at a later date. In these times of raging inflation and skyrocketing unemployment--and with the rise of nationalism and of workers' struggles in Quebec posing a serious challenge to the Canadian capitalist class--the state is moving to strengthen its instruments of repression.

The degree to which homosexuals and women are oppressed is an index of more general political and social oppression. In capitalist society the complete emancipation of women and homosexuals is impossible because of capitalism's dependence on the nuclear family as a primary economic and social unit. The campaign against democratic rights for homosexuals must be vigorously opposed by united working-class action. Only united class-struggle defense can successfully defeat right-wing attack; and only socialist revolution led by a revolutionary vanguard party can lay the material basis for ending all forms of social oppression.

Contributions to the defense of those charged in the Body Politic raid should be sent to: Lynn King, in trust for the Body Politic Free the Press Fund, c/o Cornish, King, Sachs and Waldman, Barristers and Solicitors, 111 Richmond St. W., Suite 3320, Toronto, Ont. M5H 3N6. For contributions to the legal defense of those arrested in the October 1977 Montreal bar raids, send cheques to: ADGQ/Fond, c/o Androgyny Bookstore, 1217 Crescent St., Montreal, Que. H3G 2B1. ■

QUEBEC ...

(continued from page 1)

opposes the PQ proposal of a negotiated economic association with English-speaking Canada. However, an overwhelming majority opposes a unilateral declaration of independence (UDI), presumably out of fear of the economic consequences. Trudeau hopes to shore up this majority by promising that a UDI would bring a harsh military occupation as well.

The PM's New Year's bluster amounts to a declaration of war upon the people of Quebec. He of course has no immediate intention of bringing out the tanks and troops. There is no firm base of support for a declaration of independence on the one hand, and it is not so obvious what the miserable Canadian army could do about a UDI in any case--or that the English-speaking populace would welcome such a civil war. But these provocative remarks do serve to whip up English-Canadian chauvinism. And behind the poetic talk of the "strength and freedom" of a united Canada lies the reality of national oppression and the threat of draconian "emergency measures" inherited from British colonialism.

Like a modish Colonel Blimp, Trudeau cast his sabre-rattling as a matter of protecting the "law of the land." Asked what he would do if Lévesque "assert[ed] the sovereignty of Quebec," the federal prime minister alluded to his military occupation of the province earlier in the decade:

"A: If it is done illegally by breaking the law of the constitution or of the land, obviously we will have to take the kind of action we took in 1970 when the law was broken.

"Q: But there isn't any real legal way to separate, is there, Prime Minister? It's not provided for in any law that I know about.

"A: No, it is not. That is why there cannot be any unilateral declaration of independence."

Asked to be more explicit on whether he would use force to "defend the integrity of the federal establishment," Trudeau replied:

"My answer is quite easy because I've given it

already once before, by action, in 1970 when some group of Canadians, the FLQ, attempted to take Quebec out of Confederation by breaking the law, whether it be by stopping the mails or blowing up trains as they did or raiding arsenals or murdering a couple of people. You know what I did. That's my answer."

--Globe and Mail, 2 January

And what did Trudeau do? In October 1970, ostensibly in response to kidnapping of British and Quebec government officials by the nationalist FLQ, the federal government imposed the martial-law War Measures Act. All civil liberties were suspended, the Canadian Army was dispatched to occupy the city of Montreal, and hundreds of leftists, labor leaders and nationalist militants were seized and detained without trial. The government fabricated a "state of apprehended insurrection" in order to launch a full-scale attack on the Quebec left and nationalist movements.

In response the chauvinist misleaders of the English-Canadian labor movement did nothing but issue a few pro forma liberal protests about denial of civil liberties--while denouncing the FLQ and Quebec separatists generally. When the entire Quebec labor movement walked out in a nine-day general strike in May 1972 in protest against the jailing of three top union officials, there was scarcely an echo of solidarity from English Canada. NDP leader David Lewis even solidarized with the imprisonment of Quebec's labor leaders, asking only that their sentences be reduced. Meanwhile the NDP and Canadian Labour Congress tops have consistently refused to recognize the right of self-determination for the Québécois.

This outrageous complicity with chauvinist bourgeois repression against the Quebec labor, left and nationalist movements is the shame of English-Canadian labor. It is the elementary duty of all working-class organizations in English Canada and the U. S. to unconditionally defend Quebec's right to independence. Should Trudeau carry out his threats, this would require strikes, refusal to handle military goods and other actions of concrete

(continued on page 12)



QUEBEC UNIONS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST PQ'S BILL 45, DECEMBER 1977.

Journal du RMS



TRUDEAU IN SHERBROOKE, QUE.

Canadian Press

CUPW Elections...

(continued from page 6)

had already given his word to the Postmaster General: no national strike before Christmas.

Parrot's response should come as no surprise, for he has been one of the chief engineers of the treacherous division of postal unions along craft lines. In 1974 the Joe Davidson-Parrot CUPW leadership demanded the decertification of the Council of Postal Unions, under whose auspices the two large postal unions had bargained and struck together. This was followed by CUPW raiding drives on the LCUC, a trading of court injunctions by the two unions, and mutual scabbing deals. This is certainly not the record of a class-struggle union leader!

Today, RWL darling Parrot continues to build on the divisions among postal workers, divisions which lay the basis for more defeats. Playing on the conservatism and class collaboration of the LCUC leadership--up to its eyeballs in joint union-management consultations for "labor peace"--Parrot argues against merger of the two unions. He parades as a zealous defender of working-class independence, but his answer to management's union-busting offensive is a Royal Commission and

QUEBEC...

(continued from page 11)

support. Only through such active defense of the national rights of the Québécois can the basis be laid for the fighting unity of the workers of both North American nations against their common capitalist exploiters.

Today Marxists continue to oppose the call for the secession of Quebec while firmly defending the right of the Québécois to do so if they so decide. But if national oppression becomes so deeply felt by the French-speaking nation as to decisively undercut working-class unity within the framework of the existing Canadian state, the workers movement must go beyond support to the right of self-determination and advocate independence for Quebec.

While unconditionally and now urgently defending the right of Quebec to secede from Confederation, Trotskyists must relentlessly struggle to break the illusions of Québécois workers in the bourgeois nationalist PQ. Lévesque & Co. desire their own state primarily in order to monopolize the exploitation of the Quebec workers. Thus their reactionary Bill 101 language law was passed in order to force French down the throats of bitterly resisting immigrants. That the PQ masks its greedy appetites with social-democratic rhetoric merely attests to the combativeness of the Quebec proletariat. After only a year of PQ provincial government the workers are already beginning to see through the mask of these national hustlers.

Recently, on December 16, nearly 10,000 work-

a Crown Corporation. The fact that the CUPW leader, like his predecessor Davidson, often uses militant rhetoric is an expression of the combativity of the union ranks, not of any commitment to a program of class struggle on the part of Davidson-Parrot. Those who, like the RWL and CPL, provide a left cover for Parrot and Co. have nothing in common with the program of socialist revolution.

Instead, militant postal workers must fight for a program which links the day-to-day struggles of the union to the need for a new leadership of the workers movement and a revolutionary workers party which--unlike the New Democratic Party--will fight for a government of the working people. Such an intransigent program of class struggle is one that cannot be co-opted by the bureaucrats, or by out-bureaucratic hustlers on the make. ■

LE BOLCHEVIK



LIGUE TROTSKYSTE DE FRANCE--
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ers led by two of the three provincial labor federations took to the streets of Quebec City to protest the Parti Québécois' major labor bill. "Down with Bill 45," they chanted, angry that the PQ's promised anti-scab bill had become one more anti-strike weapon in the bosses' arsenal. Amendments to the bill desired by the "business community" and agreed to by the government call for government-supervised union elections and the exception of "essential services."

The Quebec working class is today the most combative on the North American continent. This gives burning importance to the defense of Québécois national rights by English-Canadian and U.S. labor. Such a revolutionary program which combats all forms of social oppression, including the national oppression of the Québécois, is essential to truly unite the English- and French-speaking proletariat of North America. This unity can be built only in opposition to the English-chauvinist and Québécois nationalist union tops and the social-democratic NDP, and against the demagogic bourgeois nationalists of the PQ. Armed with a proletarian internationalist program and marching under the banner of a reborn Fourth International, the working class of Quebec, English Canada and the United States will go forward to the smashing of capitalist rule and the establishment of a workers government.

DEFEND QUEBEC'S RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE!
NOT "NATIONAL UNITY" BUT
INTERNATIONALIST PROLETARIAN UNITY!

(Reprinted from Workers Vanguard, 6 January 1978.)

INCO...

(continued from page 16)

in the first place. The mine barons have no "right" to receive ransom for their years of exploitation, robbery, fraud and squandering of human labor--ransom that would be paid out of the taxes of working people. In opposition to the NDP's occasional for-the-record policy of sewer "socialism"--buying out a few basic resource and mineral industries--revolutionaries demand the nationalization of the mines without compensation, and tie this to the struggle for a workers government which can expropriate all capitalist industry.



SC Photo

STEPHEN LEWIS SPEAKING IN SUDBURY, OCTOBER 1977.

With unemployment skyrocketing across Ontario and the rest of Canada, Lewis' repeated repudiations of even the NDP's minimal reformist program of nationalizations will undoubtedly cause a few ripples of dissent among NDP "leftists" at this month's provincial convention. Anticipating this debate, the NDP's loyal left tail, the Revolutionary Workers League, has thrown in its two cents worth. In an article entitled "Why nationalize Inco?" (Socialist Voice, 7 November 1977), RWL Central Committee member Richard Fidler complains that "NDP leaders have tended to shy clear of this formal commitment [to nationalizations], voted by party conventions." In a bid to win the NDP to the NDP program and coax the leadership out of its "shyness," Fidler proceeds to lecture on the bene-

fits of nationalizing Inco, which he claims is "the only realistic solution":

"Under public ownership of the firm; Inco shareholders would no longer be able to decide the fate of the workers and the communities. The government could continue production; temporary deficits, if any would be absorbed by the public treasury.

"Nationalization of Inco would logically point to the need for public ownership of the entire basic minerals industry, and its planned development to meet the needs of those who produce the wealth, the working people."

Conspicuously and predictably left unsaid in Fidler's step-by-step suggestions to his social-democratic mentors is who will expropriate Inco and how nationalized industries are to be run in the interests of the working class. While making fleeting mention of workers control over production, Fidler leaves completely untouched the question of political power--a workers government.

TROTSKY ON THE NATIONALIZATION OF INDUSTRY

In a polemic against the French CGT's plan for nationalizations in the mid-1930's, which similarly omitted the crucial question of state power, Trotsky wrote:

"It must be said in no uncertain terms: only a revolutionary government of the workers and peasants, prepared for implacable struggle against all the exploiters, can apply the plan, complete it, develop it and go beyond it along the socialist road. For the proletariat, that means to conquer power."

--"From the CGT's Plan to the Conquest of Power," Writings 1934-35

As advanced in Fidler's article, the slogan for nationalization of Inco simply fosters the social-democratic illusion that the capitalist state can expropriate the class it serves and institute a planned economy. In contrast, Trotskyists link the demand for the expropriation of the mines to the need for a revolutionary struggle for a workers government committed to the expropriation of the capitalist class as a whole. The call for the expropriation of single branches of industry or even single enterprises, raised under particular circumstances, can act as a bridge linking the workers' present struggles to the goal of proletarian power. As Trotsky explained in the Transitional Program:

"The necessity of advancing the slogan of expropriation in the course of daily agitation in partial form, and not only in our propaganda in its more comprehensive aspects, is dictated by the fact that different branches of industry are on different levels of development, occupy a different place in the life of society, and pass through different stages of the class struggle. Only a general revolutionary upsurge of the proletariat can place the complete expropria-

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INCO...

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tion of the bourgeoisie on the order of the day. The task of transitional demands is to prepare the proletariat to solve this problem."

But for the RWL, which tears individual demands from the Transitional Program and then proceeds to distort and remove their revolutionary content, the task of "transitional" demands is to convince the working class to fight for an NDP government! In an RWL leaflet distributed at last November's convention of the Ontario Federation of Labour, we are informed that:

"A strategy of mass mobilization [against layoffs] must go hand in hand with a campaign to win workers from the Liberal and Tory parties and for a struggle to make the NDP, the only mass party based on the unions, the government."
--"Action Proposal for the OFL," undated

Even when Fidler suggests that Inco should be nationalized without compensation, he justifies himself by citing the words of NDP MPP Elie Martel, who in a burst of rhetoric told angry Sudbury miners that the only "compensation" Inco deserves is bus fare out of town. The RWL's prostration before the NDP altar has nothing in common with the program of Trotskyism.

STALINISTS FOR AND AGAINST NATIONALIZATION

Adding their voices to the chorus of revisionist confusion on the question of nationalization of Inco are the Stalinists of the Communist Party of Canada (emphasis on Canada). As part of its scheme to give capitalism a more liberal face and produce "deep-going democratic changes in the structure of the capitalist system," the CP demands that the Liberal government "use its power to nationalize its [Inco's] operations and bring the operation under public ownership and democratic control" (Canadian Tribune, 31 October 1977).

What concerns the CP, however, is not so much the question of the layoffs as foreign control of Canadian industry. Calling for a class-collaborationist alliance of everyone to the left of the Conservatives in an "anti-monopoly coalition," the primary objective of the CP is to give Canadian industry back to Canadian bosses.

On the other end of the Stalinist spectrum, the China loyalists of the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist) (CCL[M-L]) have sought to strike a "left" posture by outrightly rejecting the call for nationalizations. Against the CP's reformist strategy of cajoling Trudeau to take over Inco, CCL(M-L) argues:

"Nationalizations only reinforce capitalism, they simply replace monopoly control with control by the bourgeois state."
--Forge, 11-24 November 1977

Certainly the CP's miserable pleas to the Liberal government will do nothing to solve the

problems of the working class. However it is perfectly appropriate for Leninists to call for nationalization of specific industries--not as a plea to the capitalists but in order to rally the working class in struggle.

In the face of economic crisis and famine in Russia during the First World War Lenin himself raised such demands. In "Impending Catastrophe and How to Combat it," written in September 1917, Lenin hammered away at a series of measures necessary to avert economic collapse and the capitalists' sabotage of production--including demands for nationalizing the banks and syndicates. Lenin did not beseech the Kerensky government to implement these demands, but sought to break the workers and peasants from their Menshevik and Social-Revolutionary misleaders, and to demonstrate that a rational planned economy could be achieved only through a transfer of power to the workers' soviets.

For all its "left" arguments, by rejecting the call to expropriate the nickel mines, CCL(M-L)

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finds itself left with the following program: stop the mine layoffs plus a completely abstract call to fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat. Thus in its real day-to-day minimum program CCL(M-L) stands with the likes of Stephen Lewis and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) bureaucracy in opposition to nationalization.

The only way for miners to effectively answer the mine barons' attacks is through militant class struggle: plant seizures and occupations to demand an end to the layoffs and the expropriation of Inco and Falconbridge without a penny of compensation. Such actions must be backed by the active solidarity of the rest of the labor movement, including hot-cargoing stockpiled nickel by transportation unions and strike action in the USWA-organized basic steel plants that use the mined ore. But the present union leadership and the NDP have no intention of leading such a fight; they have no desire to make even the slightest encroachments on the "sanctity" of private property. The task of defeating the bosses' attacks and opening the road to a workers government and planned economy requires the forging of a revolutionary vanguard party rooted firmly in the mass organizations of the working class. ■

Barrett to Phone Workers: "Go Back to Work"

Labor Solidarity in the B.C. Phone Strike

VANCOUVER, January 29--As we go to press negotiators are closeted in round-the-clock talks aimed at ending the strike by 10,000 members of the Telecommunication Workers Union (TWU) in British Columbia. Despite court injunctions limiting the number of pickets at B. C. Telephone Company (B. C. Tel) entrances and a Labour Relations Board ruling against a B. C. Federation of Labour "hot" edict, the TWU members have held out for ten weeks in this bitter struggle over the contracting out of union jobs.

The key factor showing the way to strike victory has not been the impotent "experimental" tactics of the TWU leadership (e. g., calling for partial withholding of phone bills), but impressive demonstrations of labor solidarity throughout the province. Thousands of workers have honored the TWU's flying picket lines, bringing havoc to hundreds of companies. Steelworkers, electricians, campus workers, bus drivers, postal workers and many more have upheld the militant tradition which is strong throughout the B. C. union movement: a picket line means "Don't cross!" Fearing that the strike could become a rallying point for the rest of the labor movement and crack the veneer of "labor peace" in the province, B. C. Tel might be forced to settle on the union's terms.

Not only the capitalists are worried about an escalation of class struggle, however. Those notorious strikebreakers of October 1975, the B. C. New Democratic Party, are also afraid of renewed labor militancy. Moaning that the strike had reached such a level of "acrimony and, frankly, such uselessness" (Vancouver Sun, 17 January), former NDP premier and current opposition leader Dave



Vancouver Sun
MASS PICKET KEEPS BUSINESSMAN OUT OF B. C. TEL BUILDING IN BURNABY.

Barrett offered to "personally mediate" a return to work--without a settlement! Barrett's concern was certainly not for the strikers (who have been without a contract since the end of 1976), but for "the payrolls of hundreds of small businessmen in this province" (Vancouver Province, 18 January).

While both the TWU and B. C. Tel rejected Barrett's offer, the treacherous role of the NDP social democrats has once again been made crystal clear. Yet for all their militant rhetoric, the bureaucratic chieftains of the B. C. Fed continue to tie the working class hand and foot to Barrett and Co. In contrast to the wage-freezing, strikebreaking policies of the NDP leadership, the working class needs a workers party based on a program of class-struggle and fighting for a workers government.■

SFU CLUBS POLICY...

(continued from page 2)

tions met with active opposition from the junior Stalinists of the Young Communist League (YCL), aided and abetted by a disparate lot of "progressive people" regrouped under the banners of the Young Liberals and the student Vegetarians. The representative of the Monarchist club abstained from the voting--no doubt believing that the right to decide which campus clubs receive funding should be a royal prerogative. The YCL alibied Forum's unanimous vote for the new clubs policy as "a mistake," pleaded for a few changes in it, and hailed Student Forum as "the highest form of democratic organization on campus."

Coming from the YCL, these statements are not really surprising. In 1975, their own organization's representatives on Student Council--including

present-day YCL General Secretary Mike Gidora--voted along with the other assembled student bureaucrats to withdraw club funds from the TL Club's predecessor, the Canadian Committee of the international Spartacist tendency, in retaliation for its criticisms of Council's treacherous role in the fight against a more restrictive grading system. Council reversed its vote only when a protest by students and faculty forced it to rescind its attempted political censorship.

Despite YCL's sabotage of the united front committee, the TL Club at SFU is continuing its fight for the repeal of the new clubs policy. But only strong united protest by students, faculty and staff can reverse the policy. All those interested in a wide variety of student activities at SFU have an immediate interest in demanding: Dump the Clubs Policy! No Cuts in Club Funding!■

Expropriate Inco and Falconbridge!

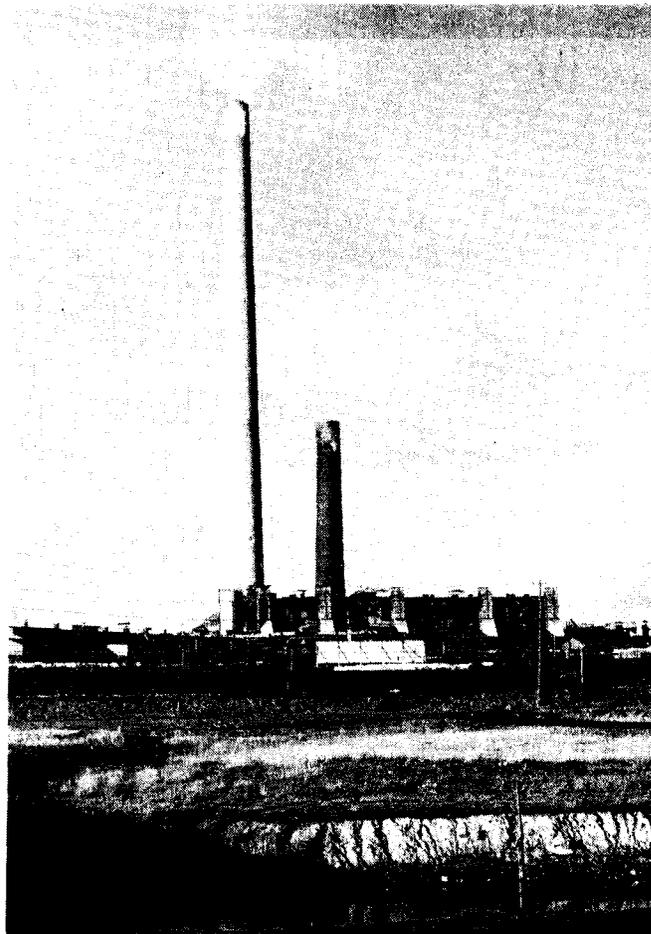
Thousands of mine workers in Sudbury will be thrown out on the streets this month by the profit-hungry Inco nickel bosses. The axe hangs over the heads of hundreds more at Falconbridge mines, who are scheduled to be canned on April 1. The slashing of 3,500 jobs in this historic center of working class militancy has dramatically underlined the increasing economic difficulties of Canadian capitalism, and has provoked demands from various quarters for the nationalization of the nickel industry.

This demand (or the more innocuous-sounding call for "public ownership") has been popularized by a gamut of organizations and individuals, from Sudbury-area New Democratic Party MPP's, to the Stalinist Communist Party (CP) and the fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League (RWL). Even the right-wing social democrats of the NDP leadership have been compelled to indulge in rare moments of meditation on the subject of nationalization. Ontario NDP chief Stephen Lewis, who during the last provincial elections bragged that nationalizations were anathema to him, ruminated last October that "maybe it's time to start thinking about the public sector for the International Nickel Company. Maybe it's time. Maybe it's finally time. Maybe they've driven us to the wall" (Globe and Mail, 22 October 1977). Poor Stephen Lewis, up against the wall.

But Lewis and his cronies in the NDP and union bureaucracy have lately dropped all mention of nationalization, and instead plead for the Trudeau government to stockpile nickel and declare war on the nickel mining industry in other countries. As Lewis so aptly put it during last year's Ontario provincial elections, the NDP leadership hasn't the "slightest intention" of holding even to the party's reformist paper program of piecemeal nationalizations.

THE NDP AND NATIONALIZATIONS

The question of the nationalization of industry has been an oft-debated item at recent NDP conventions. At the 1974 Ontario party convention, the leadership presented a mealy-mouthed motion calling for "full [government] ownership of all resource and mineral rights by a variety of methods including taxation and the repurchase of mineral rights." In response to a "challenge" from a potpourri of kept "oppositionists" and ex-Wafflers (including supporters of the RWL's predecessor, the former



INCO PLANT IN SUDBURY.

SC Photo

League for Socialist Action), the leadership tacked on an amendment stating that: "In the long term the NDP favors public ownership." The utter social-democratic reformism of the opposition was succinctly exposed by a union delegate from the Sudbury mines, who argued: "We need nationalization without compensation. It makes no sense otherwise."

This is quite correct. The demand to nationalize Inco can easily be used for pro-capitalist purposes if it is confined to a plea for the bourgeois government to take over responsibility for capitalism's business failures. A government purchase may temporarily preserve a few jobs, but a policy of nationalizing a handful of companies would leave completely untouched the whole anarchic system of capitalist private property which causes layoffs

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