

# SPARTACIST

CANADA APRIL 1979 No.35 25¢

## Elections '79

# FOR A WORKERS PARTY THAT FIGHTS FOR A WORKERS GOVERNMENT!

On March 26 Pierre Trudeau finally put an end to a year of election speculation by dissolving Parliament and calling general elections for May 22. Portraying bumbling Conservative leader Joe Clark as a puppet of greedy Tory provincial premiers and branding those who do not consider "national unity" to be the key issue in the campaign as "almost traitors" Trudeau is hoping to keep his job by posing as the only man capable of dealing with the "separatist hordes" of René Lévesque.

The Liberals were trailing the Tories by 10 percentage points in the polls before Joe Clark went on his tour of the world last January. Tory strategists had hoped that the tour would help them present Clark as a figure of international stature to the folks back home. Instead Clark came across like a Rich Little impersonation of Gerry Ford. "Joe Clark girdles the globe in a cloud of snafus," chortled Maclean. After losing his luggage in Bangkok, Clark nearly impaled himself on the bayonets of his honor guard during his inspection of Canadian troops serving with the United Nations on the Golan Heights. Surveying the Jordan Valley, Clark commented "You have a lot of rocks here," and summed up the results of his trip with the profound observation that "it is quite useful to have been some place."

At this point the Liberals and Conservatives, the twin parties of big business, are running neck and neck according to the pollsters. This is immensely pleasing to Ed Broadbent, leader of Can-



NDP LEADER BROADBENT: FOR SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

ada's feeble, right-wing social democracy, the New Democratic Party (NDP). Broadbent hopes to emerge from the elections holding the balance of power in a parliamentary coalition with either the Liberals or Tories. This is not a new strategy for the NDP--between 1972 and 1974 it kept Trudeau in power with a corridor coalition in which the NDP traded parliamentary support to the government for minor legislative concessions from the Liberals. Broadbent has already gone on record as saying that the NDP has even more of an "obligation"

(continued on next page)

**Inside: RWL Paralyzed  
by Internal Crisis**

## Elections...

(continued from page 1)

to the Canadian bourgeoisie to keep Parliament going than it did in 1972: "The situation economically now is much more precarious than in 1972 and, with a referendum to be held in Quebec, the stability of the political system is of much more concern" (Toronto Star, 23 January).

For his part, NDP leader Ed Broadbent has proclaimed that "Canadian unity" is not a disputed issue in this election. Like Clark and Trudeau, Broadbent is committed to the forcible retention of Quebec within the confines of Confederation. The English-Canadian chauvinism of the right-wing social democrats of the NDP only divides and weakens the workers of both nations in the face of their common class enemies. The English-speaking working class must unconditionally defend the democratic right of Quebec to self-determination against the unity-mongering threats of Trudeau and Clark.

### WHAT THE NDP FORGETS

Dennis McDermott, president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) has hit the campaign trail for Broadbent's NDP. Under the slogan "Remember Wage Controls" the CLC is urging its 2.3 million members to continue the "fight" begun with the 1976 one-day general strike against wage controls by voting NDP. But the prelude to Trudeau's wage controls was the smashing of the forest workers strike by Dave Barrett's B. C. NDP government in 1975. Provincial NDP premiers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan supported controls while the Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis called on the Tories to impose provincial controls.

Apart from its promises to "make parliament work" and its commitment to national unity the NDP is campaigning for a "new industrial strategy" for Canadian capitalism. Broadbent's new strategy amounts to a call for increased government intervention in the private sector (although he is careful to make it clear that he does not necessarily mean further nationalizations) and for increased protectionism to prop up uncompetitive Canadian manufacturers and to "save Canadian

jobs" at the expense of foreign workers.

During the seven-month-old strike by the courageous Inco miners in Sudbury the NDP has done nothing but call for economic sanctions against foreign nickel mines. The NDP's program of economic nationalism--"Canadian ownership of Canadian resources"--offers nothing for the working class but a change in the nationality of the boss. What is necessary is the expropriation of Inco and all resource industry under workers control.

The NDP is also not making an issue out of the bashing Trudeau gave the postal strike last October. When Trudeau brought in legislation to smash the postal workers strike the NDP agreed to help speed passage of the bill through parliament and then, after casting a face-saving token protest vote against it, urged postal workers to obey the "law of the land."

### NO VOTE TO THE NDP

The one thing that is clear about the 1979 federal elections is that the losers are going to be the millions of Canadian workers who will be stuck with playboy Pierre or dowdy Clark (with or without their would-be junior partner Broadbent) for the next few years. Both the Liberals and the Tories recognize that the bourgeoisie's game plan for the present economic conjuncture is to slash social services and to continue gouging working people's wages. Both of the capitalist parties, as well as the NDP, are also firmly committed to using every means in their power, including the Canadian army, to deny the Québécois the democratic right to self-determination.

In certain circumstances revolutionaries might give critical electoral support to the NDP--inasmuch as it is based on the trade unions and thereby represents a deformed and partial expression of the political independence of the working class from the bourgeoisie. But a vote for the NDP in the upcoming election is a vote for a parliamentary coalition with the Tories or the Liberals. The Trotskyist League calls on militants in the unions to take up the fight to pass motions in their locals demanding that the NDP repudiate its policy of coalitionism as a precondition for labor support.

The present Clark/Trudeau contest, with Broadbent waiting to play lapdog for the highest bidder, offers no choice for workers. The only real choice is the struggle to build a workers party that fights for a government dedicated to the expropriation of the bosses and defending the interests of working people. ■

# SPARTACIST

CANADA

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# International Women's Day 1979



TROTSKYIST LEAGUE  
CONTINGENT AT  
TORONTO IWD  
DEMONSTRATION,  
MARCH 10:

SC Photo

## On the Nuclear Family

**Editors Note:** We print below excerpts from an exchange on the question of the nuclear family that took place at a March 10 Trotskyist League forum, "Women's Liberation through Workers Revolution." The remarks center around the objection of a member of the audience to the Marxist position on the need to replace the family, the primary institution for the oppression of women under capitalism and the response of a TL supporter. The remarks have been edited for grammar.

**Question:** I have a question about your view that the family has to be replaced. I would say that this may be good politics but it is very bad psychology. Current sociology and psychology would have it that scientifically it is necessary to advocate the creation of the family to insure the natural progression of the children. So that to repress the family may be good politics but it is bad science.

**TL supporter:** As a comrade who spoke earlier pointed out, the nuclear family is not the norm in the course of human history. We're looking at merely a few hundred years and only at advanced industrial society. For the rest of the world, for the rest of human history, that is for millions of years and for the overwhelming majority of humanity these are not the conditions under which they exist. While the children may be weaned by their mother after a few months they are certainly not raised by the mother. Families happen to be enormously large. A mortality rate of 50 to 70 percent makes parents dependent on large families as a form of social security, social insurance. The only social insurance in a country like India is that when you reach the age of 30, which is the end of a viable economically productive existence and if you are not fortunate enough to have died, then your chil-

dren must support you. In order for the meagre amount of land you have been allotted to stay in your possession, it is necessary to have children to carry on the tilling of the land. So the fact that there are these large families in underdeveloped countries is a product of their underdevelopment and their economic backwardness.

You accept social insurance, but social insurance is "unnatural." It is the intervention of man into his own affairs. He becomes master of his own history. I rather wonder if you think that it's unscientific that we have a society that replaces the children's responsibility for their parents. Society as a whole assumes responsibility for the aged, albeit in a deformed and partial way--as anybody knows who has seen the people who try to live exclusively on social insurance. Or take the bastardized attempt at universal medical care that exists, OHIP.

You see, the family is being replaced by economic necessity. The enormous productive resources that exist at the control of man even under capitalism demand a certain replacement of the economic functions of the family. As Marx said, the industrial revolution drove women and children into the workforce in order to debase and devalue the overall value of labor and therefore to increase the overall exploitation and extraction of profit from each individual family. But, even under these conditions the family is being replaced, albeit in an anarchistic and deformed way. You assume that children must be the responsibility of their mothers and that mothers must bear sole responsibility for children. This is literally bizarre. It shows that you accept a prejudice which is based on a very, very narrow range of human history and experience. It is not only non-Marxian but also not very scientific. ■

# In Struggle!: From Nationalism to Luxemburgism

Among the more sophisticated of René Lévesque's sundry Marxoid camp followers a common epithet used to denigrate those who don't share their enthusiasm for Quebec independence is "Luxemburgism." Judging by a recent article in Proletarian Unity, the eclectic, ultra-parochial liberal Stalinists of Charles Gagnon's In Struggle! (IS!) have decided that the shoe fits.

The history of IS!'s position on the national question (like its positions on most other questions) is one of wild gyrations. When the group was founded in 1973 it espoused a variant of the "independence and socialism" line presently held by the fake-Trotskyists of the Revolutionary Workers League/Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire (RWL/LOR) and the Group Socialiste des Travailleurs du Québec (GSTQ). However, shortly after its formation IS! performed a "self-criticism" on the question of Quebec nationalism and has since proceeded to stumble down the blind alley of Luxemburgist "anti-nationalism."

The apologies of the RWL and the GSTQ for the reactionary chauvinist policies of the Parti Québécois (PQ) government, particularly its attacks on minority language rights, provide IS! with ample opportunity to discredit "Trotskyism" by tarring it with the nationalist brush. In its latest "theoretical" scribblings on the national question IS! counterposes its "fight for socialism" brand of national unity-mongering to the Quebec nationalism of the GSTQ and the LOR/RWL. In an article titled "Nationalism or Socialism?" IS! proclaims that:

"the only solution to national oppression in general... and the national oppression of the Quebec nation in particular, is to be found in the revolutionary unity of the working class of the two nations against their common enemy... We must see that the elimination of national oppression in the concrete conditions of our country means proletarian revolution."

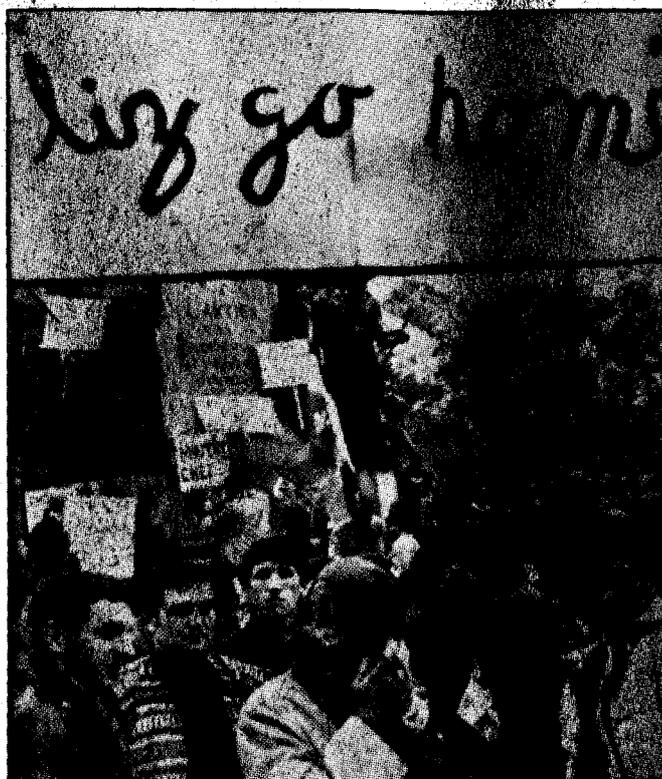
--Proletarian Unity, October-November 1978

The IS! theoreticians proceed to generalize their formula and announce that:

"...in this period, the national movement of the bourgeoisie no longer represents true progress in capitalist countries. Rather, it is thoroughly reactionary."

--emphasis added

Despite its attempts to lend its position a pseudo-Leninist tinge with occasional lip service to the



QUEBEC NATIONALISTS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST Maclean's ROYAL VISIT, 1964.

"right of Quebec to self-determination," IS!'s characterization of all national movements as "thoroughly reactionary" provides the rationale for opposition to the exercise of this right until after the socialist revolution.

In this IS! echoes the position of Rosa Luxemburg: "International socialism recognizes the right of free independent nations, with equal rights. But socialism alone can create such nations, can bring self-determination of their peoples" (The Crisis in German Social Democracy). Luxemburg regarded the Bolshevik's defense of the right of the nations of the Tsarist empire to self-determination as a capitulation to nationalism. Her position on the national question developed in opposition to the virulent nationalism of the right wing of the social democracy in her native Poland.

Polish capitalism was the most advanced in the Russian empire before World War I and the Polish bourgeoisie profitably exploited the Russian market. Yet the cultural and political subjugation of Poland to socially and economically more backward

Tsarist Russia gave rise to a deep-rooted nationalist sentiment among broad sectors of Polish society which Luxemburg's party, the Social Democracy of the Kingdom of Poland and of Lithuania (SDKPiL), ignored with grave consequences. The SDKPiL's ultra-left position on the national question formed an absolute barrier to winning over and fusing with the best cadres of the large left wing of the Polish Socialist Party (PPS). Luxemburg's failure to win over the PPS-Left before World War I seriously arrested the development of the revolutionary left in Poland.

#### IS!: TAKING UP TRUDEAU'S "DEMOCRATIC" BI-CULTURALISM

Gagnon and Co. attribute the widespread nationalist sentiment among Quebec workers to "the fact that it is in the interests of certain Quebec capitalists to fan Quebec French-speaking people's resentment of the oppression of their national rights." This explanation raises in turn the source of the "oppression of the national rights" of the Québécois. Here IS! attempts to dissolve the national question into the question of "democracy":

"...the economic, material basis of the current oppression of the Quebec nation...lies...in the nature of Canadian society today. Canada is a capitalist society that has reached the stage of imperialism, a society in which the bourgeoisie is a fundamentally reactionary class that attacks

all democratic rights, including those it formerly recognized...."

Having subsumed the specific national oppression of the Québécois under the "fundamentally reactionary" character of the bourgeoisie, IS! liquidates the national question into the abstract truism that "the Canadian proletariat of both nations is confronted with the historic task of making proletarian revolution and building socialism..." While attacking its pseudo-Trotskyist opponents for trying to "resolve the national question 'on the level of democracy,'" IS! attempts the same thing. The only difference between them is that instead of coming out in support of the separatism of René Lévesque, IS! favors the "bi-culturalism" of Pierre Trudeau!

"There aren't a whole lot of answers to these questions [the national question in Quebec]: either it's what IN STRUGGLE! advances--the equality of nations within the same Canadian State, or else it's the independence of the Quebec nation, separation and the constitution of two national States."

#### IS!: APOLOGISTS FOR THE CANADIAN STATE

IS! even goes so far as to deny that the Canadian state is an instrument for the domination and oppression of the Québécois by the English-

(continued on page 14)

## TL Protests Expulsion of Vietnamese Diplomat

During the Vietnam war, the Canadian government pretended to keep its hands clean, opening the borders to draft dodgers and even occasionally decrying some of the grislier aspects of the American massacre of millions of Indochinese workers and peasants. Canada tried to distance itself from the U. S. 's bloody defense of the "Free World"--including Canadian imperialism--in Vietnam. But with the military victory of the Vietnamese revolution over Canada's military guardians in the Pentagon, Ottawa has enlisted its moral hypocrisy and feeble military establishment in the service of Carter's anti-Soviet, "human rights" campaign.

In a move to demonstrate its status as a loyal junior partner of U. S. imperialism, the Trudeau government recently expelled a member of the Vietnamese Embassy in Ottawa. On March 26, Vietnamese consular official Ho Xuan Dich was given 72 hours to clear out of this "democratic" Dominion. Ho's expulsion occurred after he had spoken at two meetings organized by the Canadian Peace Congress protesting the Chinese invasion of Vietnam. The meetings were followed by a demonstration of about 600 at the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa on February 24.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Ho was expelled for "activities incompatible with his

diplomatic status" which allegedly included "instigating" the demonstration at the Chinese Embassy. No doubt this shabby, anti-democratic excuse to take a slap at the Vietnamese revolution will receive the blessings of born-again Baptist Jimmy Carter. In addition Prime Minister Trudeau, in the midst of a federal election campaign, may well be hoping that this diplomatic atrocity will reap the added dividends of increased Canadian wheat sales to Peking.

We print below a telegram protesting the expulsion sent by the Trotskyist League to the Canadian Minister of External Affairs and the Vietnamese Embassy.

The Trotskyist League of Canada vigorously protests the expulsion of Vietnamese consular official Ho Xuan Dich. While the Canadian government grants asylum to South Vietnamese General Dang Van Quang, a notorious heroin pusher and the murderer of thousands of Vietnamese workers and peasants, it has expelled Ho Xuan Dich for allegedly "instigating" a demonstration protesting China's aggression against Vietnam. With this expulsion the Canadian government, junior partner of U. S. imperialism, plays its role in the anti-Soviet collusion of the U. S. with the Chinese invasion of Vietnam.

# Jaquith Shares Platform with Anti-Gay Bigot

## SWP/RWL:

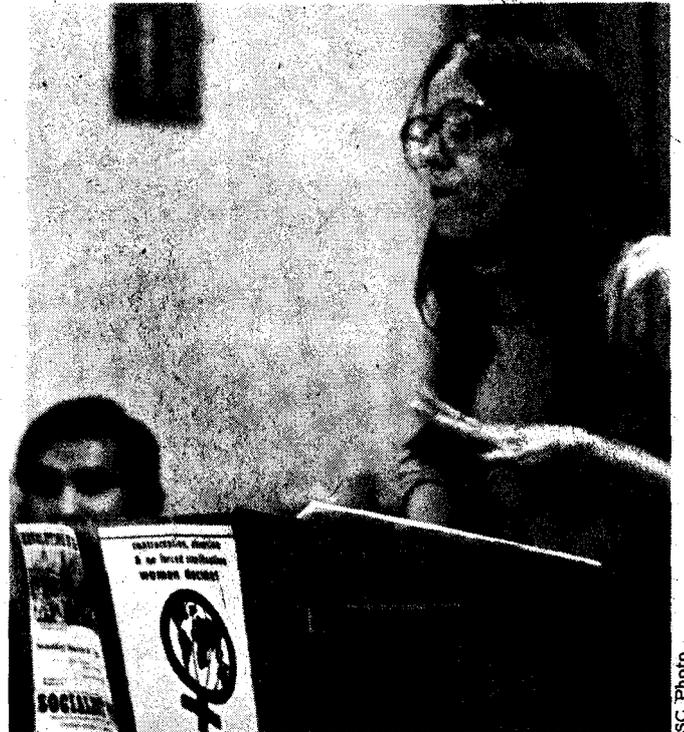
# You Wanted Khomeini! You Got Him!

We reprint below the text of a Trotskyist League (TL) leaflet distributed at the March 25 Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) forum, "Revolution in Iran." The featured speaker was the Socialist Workers Party's Cindy Jaquith, the Militant's "on the spot" reporter in Iran. Jaquith delivered the same Wilfred Burchett-type radical travelogue and public relations spiel for Khomeini with which she has bored audiences across North America.

Sharing the platform with her was an Iranian "Marxist-Leninist" student who explained how "new Islam" was "very close" to Marxism. Although this equation failed to get a rise out of the RWLers, many began to squirm when this Islamic-"Leninist" defended the execution of homosexuals in Iran. He "explained" that there was no consensual homosexuality in Iran: "they kidnap little boys and go somewhere.... It is the only way that they do that there now." On this question Jaquith felt it necessary to dissociate herself from the remarks of her co-speaker, "at least in part." The RWL's gay activists who missed the forum better start reading Socialist Voice more carefully--at this rate Claire Hoy may get an invitation to write a guest column.

The mass social upheaval which overthrew the butcher shah and brought to power Ayatollah Khomeini provided an acid test for the left. The Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) along with their mentors in the U. S., the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), shamelessly hailed Khomeini's triumph as "Victory in Iran." Now, when women demonstrating for their rights are savagely attacked by Islamic fanatics; rebellious national minorities are massacred; homosexuals are executed by Khomeini's "Revolutionary Committees"; workers' strikes are broken; now, when the blood of the oppressed flowing freely in the streets heralds the rosy dawn of the mullahs' "Islamic Republic," the SWP and the RWL are at last venturing a few timid criticisms of Khomeini. But hindsight is cheap. After 1927 even Stalin had some unkind words for Chiang Kai Shek.

Only the Trotskyist League and the international Spartacist tendency warned before Khomeini came to power that the mullahs' program of Shi'ite Islamic clerical reaction and Iranian chauvinism guaranteed that the "Islamic Republic" would be every bit as reactionary as the Pahlavi dynasty. Our warnings were denounced by the SWP and RWL



CONSISTENT FEMINISM LEADS TO KHOMEINI--JAQUITH FLANKED BY IRANIAN ANTI-GAY BIGOT.

as echoes of pro-shah imperialist propaganda. Today in Iran, women's rights protests are broken up by Muslim goons screaming "SAVAK" and "whore," meetings of the SWP's supporters in Iran (also called the Socialist Workers Party) are broken up by Maoist mullah-lovers chanting "CIA." All democratic and working-class opposition to the consolidation of a reactionary Islamic theocracy, from workers occupying their factories to soldiers demanding the right to elect their officers, is branded by the mullahs as "pro-shah," and pro-imperialist. Why shouldn't Khomeini defend his "Islamic Republic" with the same slanders used by the fake leftists who worshipped the Ayatollah when he was in exile?

### RWL/SWP ON IRAN: A RECORD OF BETRAYAL

13 January 1978--The Militant interviewed an Iranian "Trotskyist" who said, "...the Maoists raise very ultimatistic (sic) and ultraleft demands. They demand, for instance, that all should unite on slogans like 'Down with the shah...'" Ultimatistic! Ultraleft! Who did this SWP supporter want to unite with? Who could not accept "Down with the shah"?!

17 October 1978--The Berkeley SWP called the cops on members of the Maoist Iranian Students Association (ISA). This act was particularly despicable, since the Iranian students, had they been arrested, faced immediate deportation and torture and probable death at the hands of the SAVAK.

15 January 1979--Socialist Voice denied that Khomeini was a reactionary.

2 February 1979--Richard DeGaetano gave a forum on Iran in which he feigned ignorance about the ayatollah's program for women. TL supporters who stressed the importance of the woman question in Iran were dismissed as "sectarian."

5 February 1979--Socialist Voice began to express hesitations: "The religious leaders, with their extremely backward views on social questions, have no answers." But the religious leaders did have an answer--the Islamic Republic.

4 March 1979--The Detroit SWP excluded members of the Spartacist League from a forum on Iran. At the preceding SWP forum on Malcolm X, a black SLer had pointed out that while Malcolm had begun to see the significance of the woman question the SWP was tailing the Muslim reactionaries in Iran who want to restore the veil. For this she was shouted down and then, in the time-honored manner of reformist political cowards seeking to suppress left-wingers, the SWP accused the SL of "disruption."

4 March 1979--At her forum in New York Cindy Jaquith defended the wearing of the veil as "a symbol of protest" against the shah. So for the SWP wearing the veil is "a woman's right to choose"! What would they say about Kemal Attaturk who really did do away with the veil: he violated the "democratic right" to be oppressed? So much for the SWP/RWL "democratic" program for women's liberation.

#### CONSISTENT FEMINISM MEANS "PUT ON THE VEIL"!

Drawing the lessons of the Russian Revolution, Trotsky wrote in The Permanent Revolution that in countries enslaved by imperialism: "the complete and genuine solution of their tasks of achieving democracy and national emancipation is conceivable only through the dictatorship of the proletariat as the leader of the subjugated nation, above all its peasant masses." Menshevism and its degenerate variant, Stalinism, hold that prior to the proletarian conquest of power the democratic tasks must be solved in alliance with (and therefore in subordination to) the national bourgeoisie. Menshevism and Stalinism have not achieved the democratic and national emancipation of the colonial world but the bloody defeats of the colonial masses from China in 1927 to Indonesia in 1965 and Chile in 1973. As Mensheviks of the third and fourth mobilization, the RWL and SWP have only magnified Menshevik political subservience to the bourgeoisie. In North

America this has meant servile capitulation to bourgeois feminism. But in Iran the bourgeois "opposition" to the shah, the National Front, prostrated itself before Khomeini. Thus, by seeking to tail bourgeois "democracy" in Iran, the SWP/RWL ended up supporting feudal clerical reactionaries who stone women who refuse to put on the veil and deport feminists like Kate Millet.

Chile. Portugal. Iran. For or against the popular front. For or against the Armed Forces Movement. For or against the mullahs. The future party of world revolution will be composed of those who have learned the key programmatic lessons of these historic class battles. The Trotskyist League renews its debate challenge to the RWL on Iran, dated 19 February, and contained in the March issue of Spartacist Canada. Silence will not veil your political bankruptcy.■

### RCMP Dirty Tricks Against LSA

On March 9, Superintendent I. W. Taylor of a RCMP Security Service task force, admitted to the Krever Royal Commission on Confidentiality of Health Records that the mounties had used confidential medical records in an attempt to discredit John Riddell, then executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action (LSA). The RCMP authored two letters: one addressed to Riddell, the other circulated at the 1972 convention of the LSA's youth group, based on information that Riddell had previously sought psychiatric aid.

Taylor's testimony came just three months after another RCMP official had testified to the commission that the force had never used medical information to harass left-wing groups. But as the recent flood of revelations of RCMP criminal activity attests, lying and violations of professional confidentiality and personal privacy are "standard operating procedures" for Canada's secret police.

The RCMP's harassment of the left and labor militants flows from its mandate to maintain and defend the rotting capitalist system. The workers movement must demand the release of all secret files to the victims of state snooping, the jailing of the criminal cops and the abolition of all secret police organizations. As Proudhon remarked, private property is theft. Society will be cleansed of criminal cops when the capitalist class they serve has been expropriated by the working class under a workers government.

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## First Conference After 'Fusion'

# RWL PARALYZED BY CLIQUISM AND FACTIONALISM



EX-LSAer ART YOUNG AND EX-RMGers JACKIE LARKIN AND JUDY REBICK CELEBRATE "UNITY" DURING POST-FUSION DETENTE.

SC Photo

Nearly two years have passed since the much heralded "unification" of the competing Canadian affiliates of the fake-Trotskyist United Secretariat (USec) which spawned the Revolutionary Workers League/Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire (RWL/LOR). But today the RWL's original components have regrouped for factional warfare which has paralyzed the organization and could culminate in new splits. The RWL was created in the atmosphere of international fence-mending within the USec between the centrist majority whose foremost spokesman is Ernest Mandel and the reformist minority led by the American Socialist Workers Party (SWP).

Mandel's faction was represented in Quebec by the Groupe Marxiste Révolutionnaire (GMR) and in English Canada by the Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG). The Canadian epigones of the SWP were grouped in the League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière (LSA/LSO). In founding the RWL both sides agreed to postpone discussion of the international differences which had placed the two wings of the USec on opposite sides of the barricades in every significant social struggle since the factions crystalized at the 1969 World Congress. Differences over "Canadian perspectives" were supposed to be "worked out" amiably in the framework of a common organization. This amalgam was supposed to bring together greater resources to

intervene in the golden opportunities that awaited the RWL on the horizon of Canadian social struggle.

Détente within the USec was conditioned by the bankruptcy of the perspectives of both factions. The rightward shift in the social climate since the heady sixties has resulted in the dramatic rightward evolution of the impressionistic Mandelite centrists and their Canadian supporters. This has laid the political basis for the formal liquidation of factions within the USec and the unifications that have occurred in several countries between the competing USec groups. Unlike the U. S. and Australia where the substantially weaker Mandelites were simply swallowed up by the larger organizations of the international minority, in Canada the ex-majority and ex-minority were of almost equal weight. As a consequence, although real political differences between the former supporters of the majority and minority have narrowed, factional hostility has actually escalated. Cohabitation in a common organization has only exacerbated the "incestuous" bickering. The RWL does less public work than any of its original components. For example, an attempted sales drive following the October postal workers strike flopped when the Montreal branch and three-quarters of the Toronto branch refused to participate.

The gloves came off at the September 1978 Central

Committee plenum. The big debate was whether to capitulate more to Canadian social democracy or Quebec nationalism in the upcoming federal elections. The only openly declared tendency, the ex-GMR based Tendency A, argued that since Quebec separatism was the decisive question in the elections, no support should be given to the English-Canadian based social-democratic New Democratic Party (NDP) because of its pro-"Canadian Unity" line. The ex-LSAers clung to their traditional demand for an "NDP government." The ex-RMGers tied themselves up in knots trying to capitulate to both the chauvinist NDP in English Canada and to petty-bourgeois nationalism in Quebec. Along with Tendency A the ex-RMGers were opposed to raising any federal governmental slogan. The perspectives documents of both the former RMGers and LSAers were voted down by the plenum! However, in tandem with the ex-GMR, the former RMGers were able to use their slight majority to capture control of the Political Bureau and apparatus.

**FIVE TENDENCIES AND THEN SOME**

The ex-LSAers, never more than one step behind their big sisters in the U. S., regrouped their supporters into the Tendency for a Proletarian Turn (TPT). The ex-RMGers formed both Tendency 2 and Tendency 3, the latter to render the documents of the former "more precise." The documents of both ex-RMG tendencies are full of the convoluted sociological jargon that passes for learned discourse among Mandel's disciples. "Tendency 5" carries on where Tendency A left off. No spat in the USec is complete without a "third current" anti-tendency tendency, represented in this fracas by Tendency 4, which "reject[s] instinctive alignments on the basis of past affiliations to one of the other founding organizations of the RWL..." ("Draft [!] Declaration of the 'Third Current' Tendency 4," RWL/LOR PanCanadian Preconvention Discussion Bulletin, hereafter referred to as RWL/PPDB, vol. 2, no. 3). In addition, other assorted disgruntled elements are churning out documents full of spleen and confusion. The majority of the RWL's male homosexuals feel that "their" arena is neglected and are demanding "autonomy" within the RWL, while the lesbians are insisting that lesbians be recognized as the "vanguard" of the women's movement.

An honest debate can hardly be expected from this crowd but sometimes even the truth is exploited for factional advantage. The TPT supporters certainly have a case when they cite the wretched social composition of the RWL. Out of a paper membership of 400, the RWL has not one industrial fraction. Only eleven percent of the membership works in industry while an equal number are teachers and professors!

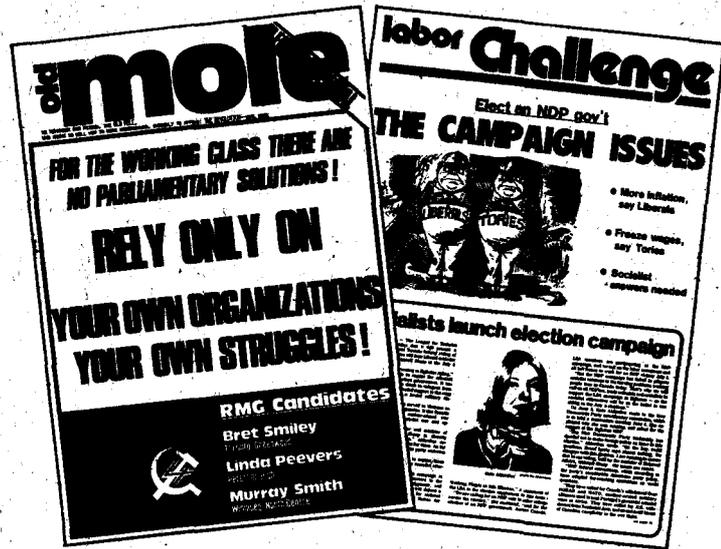
However it is not merely to correct the RWL's miserable social composition that the TPT wants a turn to industry. In English Canada this implantation will have as a principle focus the demand for an "NDP government." According to TPT spokesman and former LSA leader Brock, in his

"Draft Theses on the New Democratic Party":

"We do not call on the NDP government to apply our full program... Instead, we select key demands in our program--and the NDP's program--that correspond to immediate issues facing the workers and their allies, and that have been raised or have the potential to be raised [?!] in current struggles of masses [sic], and we seek to mobilize the unions to press for these policies to be implemented as the policies of the NDP government."

--RWL/PPDB, vol. 1, no. 1

Instead of "our" program, or what passes for the maximum program in the RWL, Brock calls for the NDP to adopt the most abysmal minimalism.



RWG VS LSA CIRCA 1974--LOTTA CONTINUA

Meanwhile, in Quebec the RWL's "worker-Bolsheviks" are supposed to be fighting for a "mass political party based on the trade unions that can lead the struggle for independence and national liberation" ("Tendency for a Proletarian Turn," RWL/PPDB, vol. 2, no. 3), i. e., the independentiste program of the Parti Québécois with a trade union base. In 1975 the SWP raised the bizarre reformist governmental slogan for Portugal of an "SP-CP government" at the time when the SP and CP were fighting each other on the barricades. Similarly, the TPT's "Quebec national liberation labor party" might well have to fight for independence against an NDP government based on the working class of the oppressor nation and opposed to Quebec's right to self-determination. Here the TPT's poly-vanguardism runs head-on into their capitulation to social democracy.

The ex-RMGers, poly-vanguardists par excellence, also tell the working class in English Canada to vote for the NDP while urging the working class in Quebec to build a labor party "to lead the fight for national liberation." But the ex-RMGers have deepened their capitulation to Quebec nation-

(continued on page 10)

**RWL...**

(continued from page 9)

alism. Instead of writing off the NDP, as does Tendency 5, they write off the entire English-speaking working class. Since Quebec independence would destroy Confederation, what need is there for binational working class unity? After elaborating a windy, scholastic and wrong "analysis" of the Canadian state, Tendency 2 honcho Mackenzie pontificates:

"The struggle for national independence signifies that the main question is the legitimacy of the existing central state, including its governmental institutions. Hence, the road to class independence for the nationally oppressed proletariat does not take the form of an alliance with the proletariat of the dominant nation for governmental power within the political framework established by the existing central state."

--"Thesis on Revolutionary Strategy in the Canadian State" RWL/PPDB, vol. 1, no. 4, emphasis in original

The same thrust is presented more succinctly by Mackenzie's sometime factional ally, Foco:

"We are opposed to a federal government--bourgeois, workers, or otherwise. We are for the destruction of federalism and for Quebec independence."

--"Hate Confederation: Hate the Bourgeoisie," RWL/PPDB, vol. 2, no. 5

**CLIQUEISM AND FACTIONALISM**

Ironically, the same people have traded political labels and epithets since their last faction fight in 1972-73 when the predecessor of the RMG, the Revolutionary Communist Tendency (RCT) originated as a left-centrist opposition within the reformist LSA. Then, the more modest proposal of the RCT for industrial implantation was denounced by the LSA as "economism." At that time the LSA merely echoed the attacks of the SWP upon the Proletarian Orientation Tendency (POT), the predecessor of the Mandeliste Internationalist Tendency. Today the ex-LSAers follow their mentor in the U. S. on a forced march into the trade unions. It is the ex-RCTers who now raise the charge of economism, albeit not without some justice, as a

former member of the Canadian International Socialists recruited to the RWL notes in an internal document. The RCT was once repelled by the LSA's capitulation to Quebec nationalism, now the former LSAers can rage with fake Marxist moral indignation over the gross capitulation of ex-RMGers to Quebec separatism. The RCT once understood that Marxism was counterposed to feminism, now it is the ex-LSAers who attack ex-RMGers who want women's caucuses in the party, for capitulating to radical feminism.

There is indeed poetic justice in this role reversal. The ease with which programmatic positions are swapped while the human material composing the various formations remains constant is indicative of the underlying cliquism in the RWL's constant state of imbroglia. This is not to deny the political differences between these formations. But the differences are more the reflection of impressionistic responses of conflicting opportunist appetites to the rightward shift in the social climate since the sixties than the result of counterposed programs. The once subjectively revolutionary elements of the RCT and RMG who did not find the road to the authentic Trotskyism of the international Spartacist tendency, now ape the worst excesses of the LSA's adaptation to petty-bourgeois radicalism which the RCT savagely attacked. Following the logic of its reformism the ex-LSA like the SWP could only find a temporary way station in the movements and fads that characterized the late sixties and early seventies.

With the demise of the New Left the SWP and the ex-LSA know where their place is: doing the donkey work and braintrusting for aspiring labor lieutenants of capital. Here pseudo-Trotskyist credentials can serve as a much-needed left cover for a labor bureaucracy badly discredited through decades of betrayal. But the slogans and chants of petty-bourgeois radicalism to which the present generation of USec members were recruited must be toned down or disappeared. Ed Broadbent is no more tolerant of Quebec separatism than Arnold Miller is of lesbian rights. Trotskyist "orthodoxy" is exploited by the ex-LSAers to shed the frothy rhetoric of the "youth radicalization" for the sobriety of social democracy. The former RMG leaders on the other hand present the repulsive spectacle of degenerate New Left sectoralists who have found their newest "mass vanguard" in the Quebec nationalist movement. ■



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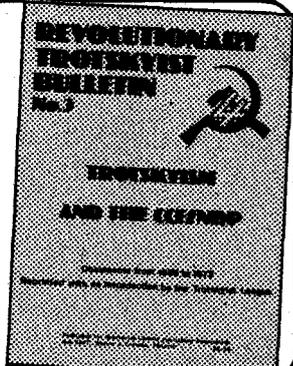
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**TROTSKYISM  
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# GSTQ Threatens TL Militants

A March 10 meeting to celebrate International Women's Day sponsored by the Groupe Socialiste des Travailleurs du Québec (GSTQ) in Montreal would have been ironic enough without an incident of political gangsterism. The GSTQ's French mentors in Pierre Lambert's pseudo-Trotskyist Organisation Communiste Internationaliste (OCI) are notorious on the French left for their vulgar male chauvinism and their gangsterist attacks on political opponents within the workers movement.

The OCI's sexism and violence have in the past hindered its attempts to cash in on the factional polarizations in the fake-Trotskyist United Secretariat (USec). In its maneuvers with the pro-feminist Canadian section of the USec, the Revolutionary Workers League/Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire, therefore, the GSTQ must feign an interest in the question of women's oppression.

But it's hard to teach an old dog new tricks. When two women comrades from the Trotskyist League set up a literature table in the corridor outside the room which the GSTQ had rented they were confronted by a team of Lambertiste goons who ordered them to take down the table. When the TL comrades called them to task for their political cowardice the leader of the goon squad informed them that the GSTQ was "master of the building." The GSTQ thugs announced that only their "political friends" (i. e., the RWL/LOR) could sell in the building and that unless the TLers immediately removed their literature the GSTQ would consider it a "provocation"!

In the March 5 Socialist Voice the RWL announced its engagement to the GSTQ with an article which revealed that the two organizations are planning to begin publication of a joint public discussion bulletin. According to Socialist Voice the purpose of this joint bulletin is to "educate both organizations, as well as advanced workers, on what it means to have a real political debate; too often, in recent times, groups claiming to be socialist have preferred physical and verbal abuse to a clarifying debate." But the political opportunists of the RWL/LOR are no more interested in "clarifying debate" than the hooligans of the GSTQ. During the GSTQ's show of physical intimidation at the women's meeting, LOR members who had been selling their literature in the vicinity of the TL table conveniently disappeared, no doubt fearing that any defense of workers democracy might jeopardize their courtship of the GSTQ.

Socialist Voice's reference to violence by unnamed groups in the left no doubt reflects the qualms and hesitations felt by some of Ernest Mandel's followers in the RWL/LOR at the prospect of fusion with the GSTQ. In 1975, the USec refused to attend an OCI conference because of the Lambertistes' record of thuggery. At that time the USec demanded an explicit condemnation of every form of violence within the workers movement as a precondition to even considering attendance at the OCI's confab (see box). Comrades of the RWL: has the GSTQ published such a condemnation? ■

## Ernest Mandel on Lambertiste Thuggery

United Secretariat of the  
Fourth International  
December 23, 1975

To the Central Committee of the OCI  
Comrades,

At its December 22-23, 1975, meeting the United Secretariat of the Fourth International decided to send you the following resolution, adopted at that meeting:

"The United Secretariat of the F. I. has been informed by the leadership of the SWP that, in an exchange of letters which it has had with the leadership of the OCI, the OCI has invited the USEC to attend its next national congress. The USEC has asked the LCR, French section of the F. I., to give its advice on this question.

"The Central Committee of the LCR has submitted a report indicating that the OCI has repeatedly used violence towards militants of other organisations of the labor movement, among them "Spartacists," members of the "LIRQ" as well as against members of the LCR who tried to intervene in order to stop such methods.

Hence, the CC of the LCR has proposed to the USEC to demand from the leadership of the OCI that it should make a public self-criticism in relation with the affairs mentioned in the above-named report, and that it should condemn explicitly every form of violence inside the labor movement, this being a precondition before the invitation of the OCI could be taken into consideration and any answer could be given to it.

"The USEC recalls that the Fourth International has always vigorously condemned the use of methods of violence inside the labor movement, methods used since a long time by the reformists against the revolutionists, and later developed on a monstrous scale by the stalinists. The USEC decides to adopt the proposal of the Central Committee of the LCR, and empowers its Bureau to transmit the present resolution to the OCI".

Internationalist Communist Greetings,  
For the United Secretariat Bureau,  
E. Germain [E. Mandel]

[from USec International Internal Discussion Bulletin, vol. 13, no. 6]

## Union Leaders' on Trial

# Government Imposes Take-Away Contract on CUPW

As Prime Minister Trudeau hit the campaign trail his government was adding the finishing touches to its campaign to bust the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW). On March 31, government arbitrator Lucien Tremblay (who was appointed under the back-to-work law [Bill C-8] which smashed the CUPW strike last October) imposed the terms of his contract on the postal workers' union. Tremblay's contract represents a serious defeat for the militant CUPW, drastically slashing real wages and taking away the hard-won gains of the past 12 years.

CUPW is shackled until the end of the year with a contract that is exactly what management presented to Tremblay on February 9, 1979. This, in turn, was a substantial reduction from the Post Office's insulting offer of July 1978. Every major demand of CUPW was turned down and the postal workers ended up with a wage increase amounting to two percent, a cutback in their cost-of-living allowance and restrictions on the already limited rights of shop stewards. The CUPW leadership's long-sought goal of converting the Post Office into a Crown Corporation is proving to be an opportunity for the government to roll back past gains of the postal unions in the "transition" period.

On April 2, three days after Tremblay had rubber-stamped the bosses' contract, the trial of CUPW national president Jean-Claude Parrot for criminal charges arising out of last year's nationwide CUPW strike began in the Ontario Supreme Court. If convicted of defying the government's strikebreaking back-to-work bill, Parrot and four other National Executive Board members face a possible two years in prison. With Parrot on the stand and Tremblay's contract under his belt Trudeau can campaign as the man who "tamed" the militant postal union.

Asked to comment on the arbitrator's decision, Parrot predicted that his members would be "sad" and that "no doubt the first reaction will be to walk out." But he made it clear that the CUPW leadership was not advocating such "illegal" job actions on the part of the embittered postal union ranks. Since his strike was busted by the government, Parrot has attempted to overcome the severe isolation of CUPW from the rest of the labor movement through poorly attended defense rallies, demonstrations and publicity gimmicks. The CUPW national office has issued buttons reading "The Struggle Continues," taken out newspaper ads and made radio broadcasts, but these tactics have afforded no protection to the embattled ranks. The labor move-

ment must mobilize to ensure that all charges against the CUPW leaders are dropped and that all postal workers suspended or fired for their participation in the strike are reinstated with full back pay.

The government was only able to impose its rotten contract and victimize CUPW members due to the treachery of the labor tops. During the strike last October Dennis McDermott, president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), used his position to isolate the embattled postal workers and prevent real labor solidarity. After the strike was smashed McDermott publicly denounced CUPW for defying the government in the first place, thereby opening the union up to further victimization. Now, as the elections loom, McDermott is out on the hustings for Ed Broadbent's New Democratic Party which assented to rapid passage of the strikebreaking Bill C-8 with which the government broke the CUPW strike.

Trudeau is making an example of CUPW for all of labor. The government-imposed contract is a foretaste of its plans to impose wage controls on all government workers through a federal payboard that will dictate wage rates for the entire public sector without collective bargaining. The effects of CUPW's defeat are being felt by members of all postal unions who face increased victimization, harassment, speed-up and the threat of more job cuts. The government's attacks only underline the burning necessity for the merger of the postal unions into one industrial union. Union militants must draw the lessons of the bitter CUPW defeat and prepare for new battles by fighting to replace the present leadership of the labor movement with a class-struggle leadership.

The postal workers confront an employer, the capitalist government, which writes laws to limit their right to struggle; commands the cops and army that enforce these laws; and appoints the judges who can fine and jail unionists and, in this case, even dictate the final contract. The working class needs a government which represents its interests, a government which rests on the expropriation of the capitalist parasites who presently own and control the wealth of society. Only under the leadership of a Trotskyist party, rooted in the unions, which places no confidence in either sometimes left-talking bureaucrats like Parrot, nor in the treacherous parliamentary hacks of the NDP, will the working class go forward in the struggle to break the rule of the bosses and establish its own government. ■

# CPL: From Stalin to Allah

Among Ayatollah Khomeini's North American "socialist" fellow travellers none have been so shameless as the Stalinists of the Canadian Party of Labour (CPL). As Khomeini paves the road for his "Islamic Republic" with the blood of Iran's national minorities, workers and leftists and attempts to reimpose the chador (veil) for Iranian women, most of his left cheerleaders have begun to venture a few timid criticisms of the Shi'ite patriarch. But not CPL which seemingly remains under the influence of the opiate of Islam. On March 18, after a week of demonstrations by Iranian women against Khomeini's threat to reinstitute the veil and feudal marriage and divorce laws, CPL supporters at Ford Oakville introduced a motion at a union meeting that the United Auto Workers Local 707 send a telegram to the Iranian embassy congratulating the Iranian people on their successful revolution!

In order to better rationalize its prostration before Khomeini's clerical reaction CPL has recently taken up the study of Islamic theology. CPL's study of Islamic obscurantism, like Lysenko's study of genetics, bears the unmistakable earmark of the "Stalin method" of work--wholesale falsification. An article entitled "Who are the Shi'ites?" in the Worker (28 February) argues that "the Shi'ite branch of Islam is a 'Protestant' sect, and, like the Christian Protestants, they have usually been more progressive than the 'Catholic' Sunnis."

Protestantism, unlike Islam, was the product of the epoch of bourgeois revolution which swept aside feudal privileges for the clergy, recognized the separation of church and state and, at least in the abstract, recognized the equality of all people including women. Like all Islamic sects, Shi'ism is the product of feudal and pre-feudal societies. Under Islam there is no separation of church and state, a theocratic priest-caste holds complete sovereignty, including political and juridical power, and women are considered as chattel. As the official state religion, Shi'ism is the embodiment of great Persian chauvinism and is as "progressive" as the Protestantism of the Ulster Orange Order or the South African Boers.

For CPL, however Shi'ism "is a somewhat democratic religion with no established hierarchy; no heavy bureaucracy of priests and bishops who just sit back and collect their money." In fact Shi'ism does have a rigid hierarchy and a heavy bureaucracy--like the priests in medieval Europe the mullahs and ayatollahs of Shi'ism are social parasites living off the social surplus of the toiling masses. In Iran the huge priest-caste, which numbers in the tens of thousands, collects more in "charity" from the merchants and peasants than the shah collected in income tax. The Shi'ite ulema controls whole cities like Qum, thousands of mosques, huge plots of land given over as religious

endowments (vaqfs) and hundreds of seminaries, schools, hospitals and libraries. It was only when the shah threatened these clerical privileges by nationalizing the vaqfs that Khomeini went into opposition.

According to CPL "Khomeini is a centrist; he is definitely anti-imperialist..." Perhaps Khomeini won his "democratic" and "anti-imperialist" credentials with these "ayatollahs" of Stalinism because his orchestration of the Iranian "revolution" corresponds to the internal life of CPL and its organizational practices within the workers movement. All decisions are made by a secret "Revolutionary Committee" hand-picked by Khomeini and unknown to, much less elected by, the masses. In the streets of Iran today Shi'ite "democracy" is exercised by gangs of Islamic fanatics busting up leftist meetings while the mullahs appeal to the army to massacre national minorities. The culmination of this "successful revolution" is Khomeini's referendum in which the Iranian masses can "choose" between the shah's return or a theocratic dictatorship in which the ayatollahs have veto power over all government bodies.

In backward countries without a strong national bourgeoisie and organized working-class movement, opposition to imperialism can be channeled into religious mobilizations. However, rather than glorifying such developments as did most of the left over Iran, Lenin called for a struggle against them. In his "Draft Theses on National and Colonial Questions" for the Second Congress of the Communist International, Lenin stressed "the need for struggle against the clergy and other influential reactionary and medieval elements in backward countries" and underlined "the need to combat Pan-Islamism and similar trends which strive to combine the liberation movement against European and American imperialism with an attempt to strengthen the position of the Khans, landowners, mullahs, etc." Khomeini and the mullahs are "anti-imperialist" in the same way the Bourbons were "anti-capitalist," i. e., insofar as their feudal privileges are threatened.

It is not surprising that CPL should feel a certain

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## WORKERS VANGUARD

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## In Struggle!...

(continued from page 5)

Canadian nation. In polemicizing against one Quebec nationalist who observed that the Québécois are "imprisoned in a minority status within a binational... State" IS! argues that he has omitted a "class analysis." In reality, IS! continues "the Canadian State does not serve this or that nation or this or that majority; it serves one class against other classes"! This is the conclusion of the simplistic reductionism which IS! tries to pass off as a "class analysis." With this kind of "Marxism" Nicholas II could have "proven" that Tsarist Russia was not a "prisonhouse of nations"--after all his state represented the class interests of the Russian bourgeoisie and the landed aristocracy, and therefore to use Charles Gagnon's idiot logic it couldn't have been a tool for the national oppression of the Poles, the Ukrainians and the other nations in the Russian Empire.

Leninists address the question of national oppression in multi-national states from the standpoint of undercutting national antagonisms in order to forge unity along class lines between proletarians of the oppressor and the oppressed nations. To deny Quebec's right to independence, or to postpone the resolution of Quebec's national oppression until the socialist future is to condone the continued subjugation of the Québécois within a capitalist Canada. In its fear of capitulating to Quebec nationalism, IS! capitulates to English-Canadian chauvinism. It claims that the national question must be put off until after the socialist revolution so as to "subordinate" the national question to the class struggle. But IS!'s Luxemburgist "anti-nationalism" in fact subordinates the class struggle to the national question. To counterpose the fight against national oppression to the fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat can only exacerbate the national divisions within the working class to the detriment of the class struggle.

Marxists champion the equality of all nations and defend the democratic language rights of all nationalities. Recognition of the equality of nations in multi-national states includes their right to self-determination i. e., to separate and establish their own national state if they so choose. Whether or not Leninists advocate the exercise of this right at any particular juncture is determined by the possibility of forging class unity between the workers of different nations within the common state. In circumstances where national antagonisms have become so inflamed that they poison relations between workers of both nations, Leninists would advocate independence for the oppressed nations as a means of taking the national question off the agenda and laying the basis for future working-class unity. At the present time the Trotskyist League does not advocate independence for Quebec but rather, seeks to strengthen the bonds of class solidarity with the English-speaking proletariat of Canada and the U. S.

IS!'s evolution on the national question--from militant Quebec nationalism to a position which is in essence the same as the ruling Liberal Party's --is an aspect of its rightward political drift from its origins as a pro-working class current within the nationalist movement of the sixties. Today, IS! General Secretary, Charles Gagnon, once a leading theoretician of the Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ), attacks Quebec nationalism from the standpoint of "proletarian" national unity and refuses to defend his former comrades of the FLQ.

IS!'s rightward political trajectory parallels the capitulation of Bob Avakian's Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) in the U. S. to the most backward attitudes of the American working class. The RCP, which occasionally receives favorable coverage in the pages of In Struggle!, has attempted to stave off organizational disintegration by a combination of idiotic adventurism (like the RCP's indefensible "raid" on the Chinese liaison office in Washington) and reactionary social positions on busing, the Equal Rights Amendment and democratic rights for homosexuals, which put the RCP to the right of George Meany. What paved the road for New Left Maoist groups like IS! and the RCP to cater to the rightward shift in the North American political climate was their pronounced anti-communist hysterical holy war against "Soviet social imperialism." On this score Maoism was but the ideological advance guard for Brzezinski and Carter's "human rights" crusade.

In its haste to adapt its politics to the current rightward political shift, IS! denies the reality of the national oppression of the Québécois within the Canadian imperialist state and takes up its place as the "left" wing of the chauvinist defenders of the "integrity" of the Canadian state. ■

## CPL...

(continued from page 13)

kinship with the mullahs. The backward social code spelt out in the Koran dovetails neatly with the rigid norms of Stalinist "puritanism" upheld by its mentors in backward Albania--the country upheld by CPL as the beacon of human progress. With CPL's notorious reputation of gross capitulation to bigoted social attitudes, it may be secretly cheering the execution of homosexuals and stoning of adulterers in Khomeini's Iran.

Those fake-leftists who lied about Khomeini for a moment of ephemeral popularity will be rejected by the proletariat as they battle against the "Islamic Republic" of the "democratic" and "anti-imperialist" ayatollahs. The Trotskyist League and the international Spartacist tendency, who alone told the truth and drew the lessons from the social upheaval in Iran, will have blazed the path for the construction of the party of Iranian socialist revolution under the unstained banner of the reforged Fourth International. ■

## SFU...

(continued from page 16)

campus groups to honor its lines has polarized the campus community in this city with its strong pro-union traditions. Construction trades workers, including the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, have refused to cross the AUCE lines, halting work on a nine million dollar construction project on campus. The SFU Student Society voted to support the strike and has attempted to organize a boycott of classes. In opposition a new scab outfit at SFU called "Leave Education Alone Right Now" (LEARN) organized an anti-strike support rally on campus. To the music of a featured rock band, several hundred student scabs gathered to "rock against" the AUCE strike. According to reports, the crowd burst into applause when one student suggested to a member of the university Board of Governors that all AUCE workers be fired and replaced with student scabs.

AUCE Local 6, which represents SFU's teaching assistants voted to respect the picket lines. The vote was necessary because Local 6 was organized explicitly on the basis that its "democratic" constitution did not require honoring other unions' picket lines. Despite the vote a majority of the local have scabbed. Some of these "democrats" have now taken up the call for the decertification of their own local!

Only one member of the SFU faculty, a supporter of the Trotskyist League, has respected the picket line from its first day. Several others, in a moralistic gesture, respected the lines for one week and then returned to their classes, either on campus or off. The majority of the faculty have been openly scabbing. The motley collection of "rad-libs" and armchair socialists among the SFU faculty have organized themselves as the Committee of Concerned Faculty. This committee of the "concerned" careerists organizes scabbing by its members. Their plan is to scab for two weeks, followed by a day of atonement on the picket lines (as a gesture of "solidarity") and then back to work across the AUCE lines.

Among these "radical" scabs is Margaret Benston well-known "socialist-feminist," author of "The Political Economy of Women's Liberation" and an instructor in SFU's Women's Studies Program. Apparently it makes little difference to Benston and her feminist cohorts that the unionists they are scabbing on are mainly working women. The reformist, sectoralist logic of feminism leads across the class line. So, just as surely does the logic of nationalism. Academic Marxoid Gary Teeple, editor of Capitalism and the National Question in Canada has also consistently scabbed. With such "friends" the working class hardly needs enemies.

The AUCE strike takes place in the context of an anti-labor backlash by the provincial Social Credit government, directed particularly against public sector unions. The Socreds' most recent addition



RCMP ARREST PICKET AT AUCE PICKET LINES.

to the bosses' arsenal of union-busting legislation was Bill 46 which severely restricts the right to strike for workers at B. C.'s public schools, colleges and universities. Under this law the Socreds can "legally" call a halt to the AUCE strike at any time they see fit. The Socreds' offensive against the unions stung the B. C. Fed into calling a string of anti-Bill 46 rallies across the province, all of which were extremely well attended. With several significant contract battles on the horizon, including those of the B. C. Government Employees Union, B. C. Teamsters and longshoremen, it is important to link the AUCE strike to a struggle by all of B. C. labor to smash Bill 46.

A picket line means: Don't Cross! Victory for the SFU campus workers' strike depends on the support and solidarity of all campus workers, students and faculty and the B. C. labor movement. The mass pickets on March 22 point the way forward to keeping the scabs out and shutting down the entire university. Respect for the AUCE picket lines by other campus workers, students and faculty would not only shut the campus down but it would also give a powerful impetus to the creation of one campus union of all university employees and turn the tide on the administration's attempt to enforce its austerity measures on all campus workers.

For militant mass pickets including students, faculty and the Vancouver labor movement to defend the AUCE strike! Shut down SFU! Drop the charges! Victory to the AUCE strike! ■

# SPARTACIST CANADA

## Mass Pickets Support AUCE Strike

# Shut Down SFU!

VANCOUVER, March 31--In the most militant action that Simon Fraser University has seen for a decade, a mass picket of more than 100 trade unionists, students and faculty shut down the campus on the afternoon of March 22. By blocking the only access road to the university the pickets sealed off the campus in a demonstration of solidarity with the strike by the university's 600 clerical, library and technical staff, members of the Association of University and College Employees (AUCE) Local 2. The picket line was set up at the suggestion of an official of the B. C. Government Employees Union (BCGEU) who addressed a strike support rally at the entrance to the university.

After three hours of militant picketing the line was busted by 30 RCMP cops who first took the "precaution" of removing their badges. The cops assaulted pickets and dragged many of them into the waiting paddy wagons. In the wake of the attack, eighteen strike supporters were arrested and charged with "obstructing police officers." Since the arrest pickets have closed off the campus a number of other times. As we go to press the university administration has obtained a court injunction limiting pickets.

The main issue in the strike is the administration's obstinate refusal to grant more than a three percent annual wage increase over two years despite the fact that inflation is running at ten percent. Rather than aggressively taking on the university bosses the AUCE leadership has tried to secure a settlement by dropping one demand after another. The union negotiators have agreed to extend the life of the contract from one year to two, to drop the demand for a COLA clause and to slash their wage demand from nine and a half percent over a year to a paltry nine percent over two.

Despite its recent call on students and faculty to honor the picket lines, the defeatist strategies of the AUCE leadership have strengthened the administration's hand. The strike officially began last December 5 with a series of impotent "rotating"



PICKETS BLOCK ACCESS TO SFU, MARCH 22.

strikes--closing down the bookstore, library or gym for a day at a time. Students and faculty were encouraged to use the struck services and were asked only to refrain from performing AUCE work. It is small wonder that scabbing continues even though the AUCE leadership has finally called a full-scale strike as the school year draws to a close.

Emboldened by the union's capitulatory stance the SFU administrators are refusing to budge from their insulting offer. The AUCE tops have called for both sides to submit voluntarily to binding arbitration. The university has contemptuously refused even this belly-crawling capitulation. The strike can only be won on the picket line--AUCE strikers will win nothing from a "neutral" arbitrator. With the backing of other campus unions, students and faculty and the rest of the labor movement, the strikers can do far better than accept a six percent cut in real wages--which is what the AUCE leadership's proposal amounts to.

At SFU the usual advice from campus union bureaucrats is to "use your conscience" about the picket lines. AUCE's unprecedented call for all

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