

Save the Fedayeen!

Iranian Left Under the Gun

"Death to the communists!" "Death to the enemies of Islam!" These are the ominous battlecries echoing through the streets of Teheran. The clerical reactionaries who now rule Iran are orchestrating a redoubled offensive against the left with a series of massive demonstrations that howl for the blood of those branded "traitors to Islam." Simultaneously the Khomeini regime has granted virtually unrestricted powers to the Muslim paramilitary units taking shape which will spearhead the coming onslaught on the Iranian left and working class.

A major confrontation between the left and Islamic theocracy has been delayed only by the chaotic conditions produced by the rapid and complete disintegration of the shah's imperial state apparatus. The attempt to consolidate Khomeini's rule has also meant the execution of some of the most hated butchers of the shah's SAVAK and army--the one act of this dangerous regime which is worthy of applause. While the imperialists cry bitterly for their good friends who face the firing squads, proletarian revolutionaries are glad to see some of these sadistic torturers go. We know that it is the torture of mullahs and not the torture of leftists and working people that has been made a capital offense. We know well whose hands hold the rifles after the Islamic courts pronounce sentence, but we know too that nearly all of these butchers deserve to die. We would gladly extradite the shah himself to Teheran to face his victims--end the "vacation" of this mass murderer!

The creation of Khomeini's Islamic state requires this deep-going blood purge. For every general who falls at the wall, an ex-imperial colonel takes his place. But it has taken time to discipline the irregular Muslim militiamen and salvage the needed military and police cadres from the wreckage of the shah's army and police force.

It is not simply brutal military suppression which puts the Iranian left in peril but, as in Indonesia in 1965, the possibility of a combined assault by



FEDAYEEN MILITANTS AT TEHERAN UNIVERSITY. AP

the regular army and a vicious anti-communist Muslim mass movement. Using the spectacular assassination of government figures by the shadowy, self-proclaimed Islamic populists of the Forghan Fighters group the Khomeini régime is succeeding in whipping up just such a rabid popular mobilization among its petty-bourgeois followers.

In the wake of savage fighting between pro-government forces and Kurdish and Turkoman rebels the mullahs have singled out the Guevarist Fedayeen guerrillas for suppression because of their military aid to these embattled national minorities. After the arrest of 70 Fedayeen supporters in

(continued on page 6)

Letters

On Spector/MacDonald

London
25 February 1979

To the editor, Spartacist Canada;

Congratulations on the publication of RTB No: 3 [Revolutionary Trotskyist Bulletin Number 3, Trotskyism and the CCF/NDP]. This fine bulletin continues the documentation of the history of the FLC [Trotskyist League of Canada] and its predecessors. I would like to comment further on two aspects of the exchange between Comrades Cranston and Masters which was published in the February Spartacist Canada.

As far as is known, Jack MacDonald first became active in social-democratic politics in Britain around 1910, emigrating shortly thereafter to Canada where he was a leader in the left wing of the workers movement. With the formation in 1921 of the Workers/Communist Party, MacDonald became its National Secretary. MacDonald's biggest mistake was to have engineered the 1928 expulsion of Spector by rifling his apartment for correspondence with American Trotskyist James P. Cannon. But MacDonald was a giant of a man. His 1932 statement of adherence to the Left Opposition (printed in the Militant) made a clean break from Stalinism. MacDonald appears to have ceased political activity in 1936 at the age of forty-eight. Perhaps he burnt out due to an incorrect position in the internal fights of the period or perhaps he was just worn out. I don't know. He died in 1941, having spent practically his whole adult life as a proletarian revolutionary.

We should remember Maurice Spector for being one of Trotsky's recognized collaborators in the very difficult first period of the launching of the International Left Opposition. Without these comrades and the other pioneers, most of us would not be here today. To simply assess Spector in the light of weaknesses is to miss such fine contributions as his 1937 introduction to Trotsky's Lessons of October and his articles on Stalinism in the New International of the late 1930's, a magazine which he helped edit for a while. Both of these contributions were made after his opposition to the crucially necessary entry by the American Trotskyists into the Socialist Party, for which Trotsky dubbed him

"Muste's errand boy." We should keep in mind the point made recently by Comrade Robertson: we never disappear the contributions of those who built our party before us, even if at a certain point their weaknesses lead them out of revolutionary politics.

Our previous judgement of Spector is worth repeating:

"Maurice Spector had important weaknesses as a political leader; weaknesses which led him into the Abern clique in the mid-1930's and out of Trotskyist politics altogether just prior to WWII. But his basic contribution to Marxism Canada remains--to have been one of the key founders of the Trotskyist movement amidst



JACK MacDONALD

MAURICE SPECTOR

the vicious attempts of the Stalinists to smash it through thuggery and slander."

--"Maurice Spector, the Early Communists and Canadian Nationalism," Spartacist Canada, January 1977.

The exit of a whole layer of the original pioneer Trotskyist leaders was a real blow to the fight to reform the Communist International, and after 1933, the fight to construct the new International. Of course the flight of some cadre could not be avoided in the inevitable sorting out process in every decisive turn of the revolutionary party. But we do not view this as proof of the weak "human nature" of these cadres. Instead, we stress the importance of creating an organization which can retain and develop its most valuable asset--the cadres who embody our accumulated programmatic and organizational heritage. Of course it would have been better if Trotsky had not been hounded from country to country or if the cadres had been more like the steeled Russian comrades, but you have to work with what you have. Not everyone was like Trotsky and Lenin, revolutionary to the very

(continued on page 12)

SPARTACIST CANADA

Published by the SPARTACIST CANADA PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, Box 6867 Station A, Toronto, Ontario

Editor: Tom Riley Circulation Manager: C. Ames
Production Manager: D. Leonard Business Manager: D. Weinrib

Signed articles do not necessarily express the editorial viewpoint.
Printed in a union shop by union labor.

Inco on the Run

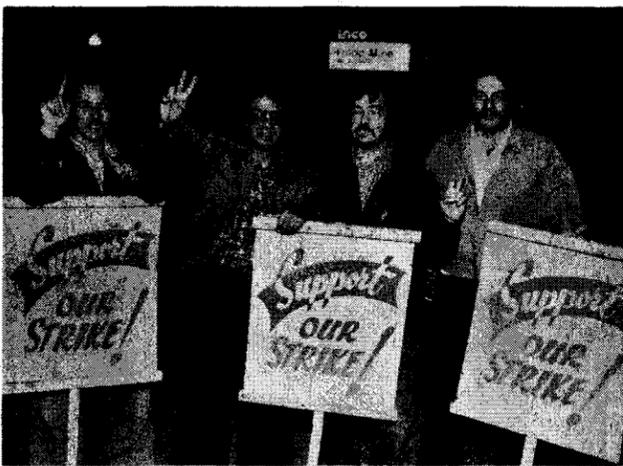
Spread the Strike!

With stockpiles dwindling and the price of nickel rising on the international market, the nickel bosses at Inco Metals have moved to end the eight-month strike against their huge mining and refinery operations in Sudbury, Ontario. Last September the 11,700 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), Local 6500, hit the bricks, determined to take on the mine barons' attack on hard-won union gains. After the company slashed thousands of jobs in the mass layoffs of April 1978, it came up with a take-away contract offer: an absolute wage freeze, a suspension of the union's cost-of-living allowance and a revision of the grievance procedure aimed at significantly weakening the union's ability to defend its membership.

The miners' tenacious eight-month battle against the profit-hungry Inco bosses has evoked deep sympathy and support in the ranks of Canadian labor. Plant gate collections were taken at industrial work locations across the country, thousands of dollars poured in from unions and labor federations to support the strike and farmers from Southern Ontario drove up to Sudbury with a truckload of vegetables and fruit for the strikers. Unlike the bitter strike against Inco in 1958 where the Roman Catholic Church and local politicians organized a strikebreaking back-to-work movement among miners' wives, this time the strikers' wives stood solidly behind the strike. But the union leadership has never once called on the labor movement to transform its sympathy into concrete acts of labor solidarity.

Local 6500 president, Dave Patterson, a Sadlowski supporter, is now enthusing that with the latest contract offer, "We have achieved things that everyone said was impossible." Inco's newest contract pact provides for wage increases of 71 cents an hour over three years--slightly better than ten percent, plus added disability, pension and unemployment benefits. Patterson himself described these as "benefits that workers in other industries have enjoyed for 25 years."

Although the contract offer is better than Inco's original take-away offer or the slightly sweetened version recommended by Ontario Labour Minister, Robert Elgie, which was accepted by Inco workers in Port Colborne or the pitiful offer accepted by USWA members in Thompson, Manitoba, the union ranks cannot be satisfied with benefits that workers in other unions won 25 years ago. The union's negotiating committee has already accepted the company's latest contract deal by a margin of 16 to 2. But, while the USWA bureaucrats hail the settlement as a "victory for Canadian labor," it isn't seen as any "victory" on the picket lines.



LOCAL 6500 PICKETS AFTER REJECTING FIRST INCO OFFER.

Sudbury Star

When the news hit Sudbury that the strike might be ending, one angry striker responded:

"Seven guys were in this shack tonight. Only one of them is ready to go back. We don't know much about the contract yet, but the guys are saying to hell with them. We're not going back just because Inco pulls the strings and decides we do."

--Toronto Star, 7 May

The nickel bosses are hoping that the ranks will be sufficiently worn out to accept its first real offer--one that provides only minimal monetary gains and benefits and no protection against the layoffs which have already cost thousands of jobs. But the fighting spirit which has sustained the eight-month battle with Inco has not diminished.

The leadership of the unions at Inco facilities in Port Colborne and Thompson, Manitoba accepted the company's rollbacks. But the Inco strikers have already proven that the company's take-away offensive can only be fought on the picket lines! Workers at Port Colborne and Thompson must go out together with Local 6500 in a single solid offensive against Inco and fight for a hefty wage increase, a full cost-of-living allowance and a shorter work week at no loss in pay to combat the layoffs that have been ravaging the mining industry. The union must demand that transport workers hot-cargo any Inco stockpiles and call on other USWA locals to go out in solidarity. Such powerful backing from the rest of the labor movement can show the way forward to the expropriation of Inco and Falconbridge without compensation and under workers control. Vote no! Victory to the Inco strike! ■

B.C. Provincial Elections:

No Vote to Strikebreaker Barrett

VANCOUVER, 28 April--Bill Bennett's right-wing Social Credit Party is waging a hard, union-bashing campaign to get re-elected as the government of British Columbia in the upcoming May 10 provincial election. Three years of Socred budget-slashing, anti-labor policies--especially the Essential Services Act limiting the right to strike in the public sector, and the continued threat of right-to-work legislation--have galvanized labor support for the "lessor evil" of strike-breaking Dave Barrett's New Democratic Party [NDP]. The B.C. Federation of Labour, the Vancouver Express (the newspaper published by the striking press unions which have closed both of Vancouver's major dailies since October) and the B.C. Teachers Federation are urging labor to return the NDP to power in B.C.

Bennett wants a strong mandate to deal harshly with several major unions which are set to negotiate new contracts. In mid-April the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union ratified a new contract, but the margin was so narrow that a recount is being conducted. The 43,000 member B.C. Government Employees Union, which made a show of militancy in its support to the recent strike by staff at Simon Fraser University, is due to begin their contract negotiations soon. The powerful 37,000-strong International Woodworkers of America are demanding a hefty 18 percent raise in base wages in a one-year contract to replace the one which expires in June. Teachers, who got a paltry 7.6 percent average increase this year, are another Socred target. Education Minister Pat McGeer has announced his intention to limit future settlements to five percent a year.

In a blatant vote-grabbing ploy, Socred Finance Minister Evan Wolfe presented his misnamed "sunshine budget" on the eve of the election call. Evans, a former car salesman, promised loosened restraints on hospital spending, a new stadium in

Vancouver, tax reductions and low-interest loans to small businesses. But the biggest election gimmick is Bennett's scheme to give five free shares in the British Columbia Resources Investment Corporation to each resident of the province. Despite all the ballyhoo about "individual versus government ownership" Bennett's boondoggle provides for purchases of up to 5,000 shares per individual at prices which are substantially below the estimated market value. In effect the great Socred "give-back" provides the opportunity for affluent investors to pick up large chunks of the government-owned holding company created by the NDP, at bargain-basement prices.

Bennett deliberately timed the election to coincide with the federal campaign, thereby forcing the NDP and the weak provincial Liberals and Conservatives to split their resources. Since the Socreds barely exist at the federal level many B.C. Socreds vote Conservative in national elections. In the current campaign the Socreds have attempted to eliminate the provincial Tories as contenders for the anti-NDP vote by threatening to withhold Socred support from the Conservatives' federal candidates unless the national party cut off all aid to its provincial affiliate. "Blackmail, conspiracy, intimidation" screamed B.C. Conservative leader Vic Stephens as he blew the whistle on his own party's leadership--for accepting the deal.

This display of dissension among the Tories enabled the NDP to stress its own internal cohesion. "There is a deal," boasted Barrett when federal NDP leader Ed Broadbent visited the province in April: "we agree on everything." That is one reason why this campaign offers workers as little choice as the May 22 federal elections.

When Broadbent came to B.C. in the middle of April he fulsomely praised MacMillan Bloedel (B.C.'s giant forest products monopoly) for its projected \$37 million expansion program as a shining example of "a corporate citizen in the Canadian context doing a very good job." In the same vein, when a group of independent lumber dealers recently questioned Barrett on what he would do in the case of a IWA strike this summer, Barrett reminded them of his 1975 strikebreaking:

"I bit the bullet and ordered a significant number of people back to work. Some of them got so mad at me they didn't vote for us, but as a government we gave special favor to no group or interest."

--Vancouver Courier, 10 April; quoted in Pacific Tribune, April 20

(continued on page 15)

SPARTACIST

CANADA

SUBSCRIBE! \$2/10 issues

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/Province _____ Phone _____

Make check out/mail to: Spartacist Canada Publishing Association, Box 6867, Station A, Toronto

NDP: Workers Party? Bourgeois Party?

Why We are not Voting NDP

"It boils down to preference on personalities"-- that's what the May 5 issue of the Financial Post had to say about the elections. While Tory leader Joe Clark captured headlines for a few days as he tried to wriggle out of a chance to expose his personality on nationwide television with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and NDP leader Ed Broadbent, the truth is that there is little to debate. After a month of campaigning the three parties have yet to come up with any substantial items on which they disagree. The only development of note in the campaign to date has been the de facto alliance between the Parti Québécois and the right-wing



Ontario Labour

BROADBENT CAMPAIGNS FOR "THE PERFECT UNION," THE NDP AND THE GRITS OR TORIES... WHICHEVER.

Créditistes in an attempt to undermine Trudeau's Quebec base with appeals to nationalist sentiment.

What choice is there for the left and labor movement in this election? The top brass of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), headed by Dennis McDermott, is trying to mobilize the ranks of labor to vote NDP. The working people of this country are certainly starved for an alternative to the soaring inflation, the growing unemployment lines, the strikebreaking and union busting that have marked Trudeau's eleven years in power. But they won't find it in Broadbent's NDP.

Federally the NDP propped up the second Trudeau government from 1972 to 1974. In those provinces where the NDP has formed the government--British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan--it has proved to be just as willing to smash strikes and

slash wages and social services as either the Liberals or Tories. The NDP is committed to the chauvinist defense of Canada's "national unity"-- i. e., the denial of the right of self-determination for Quebec. Moreover, Broadbent has repeatedly made it clear that he will jump at the chance to form a coalition with either the Liberals or the Tories if the NDP ends up holding the balance of power after the results are in.

While the NDP tops are loyal to the capitalist class and are quite willing to impose austerity on the working class and break strikes when they are in power, the NDP is not a bourgeois party as various Maoists and ex-Maoists such as In Struggle!, the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist), the Canadian Party of Labour and the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) maintain. Unlike the Tory and Liberal parties, which are financed and controlled by the banks and corporations, the strongest and best organized component of the NDP's social base is the trade-union movement, on which it is financially dependent. The NDP no more represents the interests of the working class than does the trade-union bureaucracy. In reality the NDP is the political arm of the trade-union tops. The NDP, like the British Labour Party and the European social democracies, is a bourgeois workers party.

In the struggle for a class-struggle leadership in the unions to oust the labor piecarks, revolutionaries must necessarily confront the reformist, pro-capitalist politics of the NDP. The first step in politically breaking the hold of NDP reformism on the English-Canadian working class is to take account of the difference between the direct agents of the capitalist class and the agents of the capitalist class within the workers movement. On a picket line, it is obviously necessary to treat scabberding cops differently than sell-out union bureaucrats even though both ultimately serve the interests of the bosses.

Toward the parties of the capitalists, communists adopt a policy of intransigent proletarian opposition. However, as a tactic to split the working-class base from the pro-capitalist leadership of the mass reformist workers parties, communists may extend critical support to them when they run in their own name, on their own program, against the bourgeois parties.

In these elections there is no basis for supporting the NDP, however critically. Not only are its policies fundamentally identical to the Liberals and the Tories, but it is openly campaigning to become the junior partner of either of the twin parties of capital. The NDP has pledged that it will take any votes

(continued on page 14)

Iranian Left...

(continued from page 1)

early April the next blow came when on April 20 a mob of 2,000 militiamen stormed the Fedayeen offices in the southwestern city of Abadan, center of the Iranian oil industry. The Muslim raiders confiscated a supply of arms and ammunition and arrested 41 Fedayeen.

Although Fedayeen spokesmen in Teheran attempted to deny that the mullah-run Abadan komiteh had instigated the attack, Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Amin Entezam announced that the 41 were being held on suspicion of smuggling arms to the Turkomans. Some 500 members and supporters of the Fedayeen staged a three-day sit-in at the Ministry of Justice in Teheran. As the Fedayeen ended their protest on April 27 the Khomeinists gathered to chant, "Down with the leftists! Death to the communists!"

But when on April 23 the Forghan Fighters assassinated General Vali Ullah Qarani in his own home, Qarani's funeral became not only a rallying point for the officer corps, but a right-wing mobilization directed against the entire left--not only the Fedayeen but the pro-Moscow Stalinist Tudeh party as well, which has given Khomeini servile support every step of the way. The hundreds of thousands of demonstrators supplemented their cries of "Death to the enemies of Islam!" with the more specific "Tudeh, Fedayeen: Assassin!"



As we go to press, Fatima Khalil will have completed her successful ten-city tour in the U.S. sponsored by the Spartacist League/U.S. and the Spartacus Youth League. Khalil, a Near Eastern Communist woman of Muslim origin, cut through the lies and confusion fostered by the fake leftists to tell the truth about the ominous threat to

the Iranian masses posed by Ayatollah Khomeini's consolidation of power based on Islamic reaction. Her message to the American left: the working class must lead women, national minorities and peasants in revolutionary struggle against Khomeini's theocratic dictatorship. Although her forums drew threats of physical violence from Iranian Muslims and Maoists, defense squads composed of members of a number of North American trade unions ensured Khalil's right to speak.

MAY DAY IN KHOMEINI'S TEHERAN

The Islamic demagogues next attempted to upstage leftist-organized May Day celebrations by calling a rival rally at Teheran's Iman Hussein square. There Ayatollah Shariat Madari's Islamic Republican Party drew a crowd of 100,000 primarily composed of artisans and shopkeepers--the mullahs' traditional plebian base. Certainly there was little to attract Iranian workers, who are exhorted by Islamic ideologist Banisadr to give up the right to strike, "which has inflicted incalculable harm on the economy." A representative of the PLO toadying to the latest of the sheiks, colonels and other Near Eastern reactionaries Arafat has sought as his patrons, praised Khomeini to the sky. Once again the supposed champions of a "democratic secular Palestine" were lending their support to a Muslim holy war against the left and proletariat. Once again the theme of the rally was "get the left." This time the banners added the incredible slander that, "Marxists are the agents of the shah!"

According to *Le Monde* the two separate leftist gatherings held elsewhere in the city were roughly the same size as the mullah-run anti-May Day. The Tudeh party's march demonstrated its continuing strength among the industrial working class and the trade unions, but at the same time reaffirmed its complete capitulation to Khomeini, repeatedly emphasizing its support to the "Islamic Republic." The other leftist demonstration was a motley combination of women activists, the unemployed, the bourgeois nationalist National Democratic Front, various Maoist sects, the fake-Trotskyist Socialist Workers Party (HKS) and the Fedayeen. The common denominator of this march was a series of radical demands which would be raised by revolutionary Marxists as well--recognition of the right to strike, nationalization of foreign-controlled firms, the end of censorship in the mass media. But other demands raised at the May Day gathering, for example that the workers should have a say in the editing of the constitution, demonstrate the perspective of the Stalinists, social democrats, guerrillaists and liberals--whatever their subjective intentions--remains one of pressuring the very government that is organizing to butcher them.

That night the Forghan Fighters struck again, shooting down Ayatollah Morteza Motahari in a Teheran alley. Whereas they had denounced Qarani for plotting a pro-American coup, the terrorists denounced "Akhoodism"--a derogatory term meaning dictatorship of the mullahs--and revealed that Motahari was a leading member of Khomeini's secret Revolutionary Council. The people of Iran, it seems, will only learn who the rulers of this "republic" are when they are assassinated in the streets by equally shadowy underground groupings.

Speculation concerning the Forghan is rife. Motahari's brother was quick to announce, "the Forghan group are disrupters who want to bring Communism under the cover of Islam." Hundreds of thousands of people flocked to the funeral of this

previously obscure Ayatollah in the third mass outpouring of hysterical anti-communism. "I will kill, kill, kill those who killed my brothers," screamed the marchers, denouncing the left as "parasites on society."

TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THE FEDAYEEN

Three days after Motahari's funeral Khomeini made it clear how the "parasites" would be dealt with. Previously the plan had been to amalgamate the various militia units either into the national police force or the elite "Guardians of the Revolution." The commander of the national police force, Colonel Nasser Mojallali, announced that the police stations, uniforms, equipment and the men were being readied for a complete restoration of the police apparatus. Now it seems, the "Guardians" will be responsible not for the provisional civilian government of Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan but solely to Khomeini's Council. Their stated purpose is to "remove all foreigners and those who support foreigners"--"armed combat" against the enemies of the "Islamic Revolution." Behind it all is the threat to forcibly disarm the left--Khomeini's stated objective since he came to power in February--and leave them defenseless before the slaughter. As one militiaman put it, "We are awaiting orders from Ayatollah Khomeini. If he gives the order, we will put them in their proper place" (*Newsweek*, 14 May).

Khomeini's government has made many enemies in its few short months of existence: the women whom it has attempted to force back to the veil;

the workers suffering from massive unemployment; the peasants whose seizure of the landlords' holdings the government opposes; and the national minorities, who have already been attacked with tanks and helicopter gunships as Khomeini seeks to maintain the "sacred national boundaries" with an armed fist. But none of the Iranian leftist organizations presents a clear program to rally those forces around Khomeini. They refuse to oppose the mullahs on the grounds that they represent an "anti-imperialist" force, yet it is Khomeini who will do the CIA's dirty work by massacring them!

Facing the horrible possibility of another Indonesia 1965, the Fedayeen have only added a few more spotlights, sandbags and guards at their Teheran headquarters. One of their leaders told *Newsweek*, "If necessary, we will go underground as we did before. We do not want civil war. We want more time." But time is running out and the alternative to class war is their annihilation, unresisting at the hands of Muslim reaction.

Only a program of proletarian independence can prevent another catastrophic defeat for the Iranian proletariat: For a united front of all left, working-class and secular-democratic forces for defense against Khomeini's Islamic sword! For workers militias based on factory committees and trade unions! Full democratic rights for women! For the right of self-determination for the national minorities! Land to the tiller! For an Iranian Trotskyist party! For socialist revolution in Iran to establish an Iranian workers and peasants government! ■

Anarchists Harassed, Refused Entry at U.S. Border

On April 13, ten supporters of the Toronto Anarchist Group (TAG)/Anarchist-Communist Federation of North America and four other individuals were stopped by U. S. customs officers as they attempted to gain entry to the U. S. via the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor. According to a TAG press release, twelve Canadians in the party were held for interrogation, body-searched, had literature confiscated and were threatened with "indefinite detention" if they refused to submit to being fingerprinted. They were then forcibly fingerprinted and expelled from the U. S.

A hearing will be held in Detroit May 21 to determine whether the TAG supporters attempted to gain entry to the U. S. "... to engage in activities which would be prejudicial to the public interest...." Any attempt by these individuals to enter the U. S. beforehand will result in detention in a U. S. federal penitentiary. The TAG supporters have been barred from the U. S. simply on the stated assumption

by the U. S. government that they "... probably would, after entry, engage in an activity a purpose of which is the opposition to the Government of the United States by unconstitutional means...."

The Anarchists were barred under the provisions of the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act which prohibits the issuance of a visa to anyone who is or has been a member of the Communist Party or a "communist controlled organization." While the U. S. government opens its borders to mass murderers and torturers like South Vietnamese general Nguyen Cao Ky, it uses reactionary laws to keep out leftists and those who stand on the side of the oppressed. Leftists and all those concerned with the defense of democratic rights must vigorously protest the harassment of the TAG.

**ABOLISH THE McCARRAN-WALTER ACT!
STOP THE LEGAL HARASSMENT OF THE
TORONTO ANARCHIST GROUP!**

Gays Quit, Feminists Revolt

Battle of the "Sectors" Shakes RWL

While the various tendencies, factions and cliques at the second national conference of the Revolutionary Workers League/Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire (RWL/LOR) were busy coming unstuck, combing the caucus rooms for new combinations or dissolving themselves, a small clot of RWL lesbians and gays made their way through the exit door, presumably headed for the greener pastures of the "gay liberation movement." Those who quit had come to the convention as part of "Tendency 6," a mixed grab bag of disaffected elements who were united in the horror that the autonomy of their "sectors" would be trampled under in the forced march into the trade unions pushed by the "Tendency for a Proletarian Turn" (TPT).

The TPT grouped together the former members of the League for Socialist Action (LSA), one of the founding organizations of the RWL. Following the lead of their mentors in the U. S., the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the ex-LSA/TPT hoped to solve the organizational stagnation and political turmoil in the RWL by throwing the membership into industry to serve as the waterboys for the trade-union bureaucracy. The RWL's petty-bourgeois sectoralists are clearly expendable to the TPT's "proletarianisation" campaign.

FAKE-ORTHODOXY AGAINST PAST OPPORTUNISM

The ex-LSAers were given some "unexpected" ammunition in their war to clean out the petty-bourgeois radical excesses they once championed. In what appeared to be a timely use of canned copy the 13 April issue of the SWP's *Militant*, which was on sale at the RWL convention, contained an article reviewing a gay conference held in Philadelphia last February. The *Militant* article publicly reiterated many of the arguments used by the TPT against the RWL lifestylists and counterculturalists in the pre-convention discussion bulletins.

With consummate hypocrisy the SWP now opposes the gay lifestylism of which it was once the loudest proponent on the left. It now attacks the multi-class character of the "so-called gay movement" of which it was the most vehement and servile defender. The *Militant* article is entitled "The class-struggle road



LSA YOUTH GROUP CIRCA 1971: "THAT GREAT RUSSIAN FLOWER CHILD, LEON TROTSKY."

to winning gay rights." But at the height of the popularity of the gay movement it was the Spartacist League/U. S. (SL/U. S.) which, by struggling against gay lifestylism, against alliances with the Democratic Party, and against the parochialism of the gay movement won the best militants from that milieu to Trotskyism, exemplified in the 1977 fusion with the majority of the Red Flag Union.

Taking their cue from the SWP, today the honchos of the ex-LSA denounce the lifestylism and counterculturalism which they themselves nurtured. Have they forgotten the 1971 "women's revolt" in the LSA's youth group, the Young Socialists (YS), when all the male comrades were ordered out of a Central Committee plenum with the exception of the two who were permitted to remain to serve sandwiches? Or the YS posters which proclaimed "We are the people our parents warned us about"? In those days the YS's press was filled with headlines like "I'm taking my body off the market" and "Socialism-- the biggest jailbreak in history."

It was only two years ago that the SWP and the RWL's predecessor organizations, the LSA, the Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG) and the Quebec Groupe Marxiste Révolutionnaire (GMR), hailed the demonstrations against Anita Bryant's anti-gay

crusade to "Save Our Children" as the rebirth of the "gay movement." It was the task of the SL/U.S. and the Trotskyist League (TL) to point out that Bryant's reactionary mobilization was only the most visible component of a much broader right-wing offensive against democratic rights targeting the labor movement and the oppressed. Now the SWP and its supporters in the TPT adapt to Bryant's bigoted demagoguery in their "turn to industry."

ANITA BRYANT "SOCIALISTS"

Just as the SWP and the RWL could not tail the gay movement without adapting to the most backward and parochial attitudes of that social milieu, so too the SWP and the TPT mimic the most backward and bigoted prejudices of the George Meanys, Ed Sadlowskis and Dennis McDermotts they seek to serve in their "proletarian turn." Thus, the punch line of the Militant's "class-struggle road to winning gay rights" is its defense of age-of-consent laws! The article devotes an entire section to attacking a former Political Bureau member of the SWP, David Thorstad. Although Thorstad has since left the SWP his political history as a leading spokesman for the organization is, of course, not

mentioned. Instead, the Militant simply sneers that Thorstad "presents himself as a 'revolutionary socialist homosexual.'"

Thorstad is now a spokesman for the "North America Man/Boy Love Association" which advocates the repeal of age-of-consent laws. It is against this position, which Thorstad argued at the Philadelphia gay conference, that the Militant centers its attack. In language that is an obscene caricature of the "hard hat" bigotry that warms the hearts of the most neanderthal trade-union piecards, the SWP hails age-of-consent laws as "historic acquisitions of the working class" which "should be enforced"! Echoing Anita Bryant's sinister right-wing crusade to "Save Our Children" the Militant claims:

"...the advocates of repealing age-of-consent laws are primarily adult men who believe they should be unrestricted in having sex with children."

As opposed to the ravings of these Anita Bryant "socialists," at the time of the vicious witchhunt against Roman Polanski for an alleged "statutory

(continued on next page)

RWL Convention: More "Stormy Weather" Ahead

At the time of the formation of the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), the Trotskyist League predicted that it would only be a matter of time until the old factional hostilities re-emerged. At the RWL's second national convention this prediction was born out as no less than six tendencies vied for control of the organization. Nothing has changed but the labels. The former League for Socialist Action (LSA) reappeared as the Tendency for a Proletarian Turn (TPT). The ex-Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG) and the Quebec-based Groupe Marxiste Révolutionnaire (GMR), always less politically homogeneous than the LSA, made up the other five tendencies. The combinations were so kaleidoscopic and the programmatic differences so trivial, that these five tendencies could not even come up with political designations for themselves. Instead they were merely numbered in the order in which they were created, like license plates.

In the course of the convention the ex-RMG/GMR wing patched together majorities to pass "compromise" resolutions which were designed to paper over the differences on the two central issues in dispute: the governmental slogan and the turn to the proletariat. The RMG/GMR wing also emerged with a clear majority on the organization's leading bodies. However in the aftermath of the convention almost ten percent of the RMG/GMR's base, including

a clot of Quebec nationalists from Tendency 5 as well as a number of gays, have left the organization. All the tendencies have now been formally dissolved and the emphasis is once again on "unity"--but the ceasefire promises to be shortlived.

Obviously stinging from Spartacist Canada's exposures of the fake character of the RWL "fusion" and the organization's subsequent chronic internal strife, Bob Mills, the third editor of Socialist Voice in less than a year, reported that the RWL convention proved that:

"Despite the predictions of our sectarian critics that the RWL 'marriage' was breaking up, the test of practice has shown we can weather the storm of political debate and emerge united in our common goal to build a mass revolutionary party."

--Socialist Voice, 30 April

But by the "test of practice" the RWL's performance over the last two years has been dismal. Endless clique squabbles and factional warfare have left the RWL with little energy for "mass work" and members of both wings agree that the organization has at best stagnated. As for how long the RWL will continue to "weather the storm" of the increasingly bitter hostilities between its founding components--that remains to be seen.

RWL...

(continued from page 9)

rape," Workers Vanguard, newspaper of the SL/U.S. wrote:

"The guiding principle for sexual relations between people should be that of effective consent-- that is, nothing more than mutual agreement and understanding as opposed to coercion. We hold that any and all consensual relations between individuals are purely their own concern, and the state has no business interfering in human sexual activity."

--"Stop the Puritan Witchhunt Against Roman Polanski!" 10 February 1978

But the Militant concludes the section on age-of-consent laws with the categorical statement that it does not want "'non-abusive consensual' sex by adults with children OK'd."

By a "proletarian turn" the SWP means doing the donkey work for trade-union bureaucrats like Ed Sadlowski and Arnold Miller who ran as the candidates of the U.S. Labor Department on a platform of "union democracy." Therefore, it is hardly surprising that the SWP now calls upon the American imperialist state to enforce the morality of "born-again Baptist" Jimmy Carter and "Save Our Children" Anita Bryant in the bedrooms. Only scandalous.

SECTORALIST WALKOUT

Members of the RWL are not unaware of the real purpose of age-of-consent laws and the real meaning of the Militant article. Only one year ago, the RWL's Socialist Voice ran an interview in which then-RWL member, Tim Guest, explained how the age-of-consent laws were applied:

"Everywhere in Canada it's 21 for gay people, and for heterosexuals it's anywhere from 14 to 18. The law is not there to protect anyone; it's there to punish youth, especially lesbians and gays, who discover and enjoy their sexuality."
--Socialist Voice, 3 April 1978

But at the RWL convention, members of the TPT were not at all embarrassed by the Militant's endorsement of backward bourgeois morality and anti-gay prejudice. An SWP member attending the convention took it upon himself to call attention to the article, recommending in particular the attack on Thorstad for advocating "child fucking."

The article had the desired impact as outraged members of the RWL's "gay caucus" hurried to have it photocopied and passed around the convention. The Militant article was probably a watershed for the RWL's more marginal gay members. Doubtless, the TPT only hopes that the example of Thorstad's exodus from the SWP will not be lost on any remaining gay lifestylists in the RWL. When the resignation statement of the lesbians was read to the convention the TPT launched a vehement attack on its departing "sisters."

One former LSA hack rose to denounce the lesbians as "traitors to the Fourth International." But, from the NDP-loyal reformists of the ex-LSA/TPT to the anti-Leninist lifestylists of Tendency 6, all the cliques and factions in the RWL are traitors to the banner of Trotsky's Fourth International. Yet the gay sectoralists were, in their own way, "loyal" to that international parody of the Fourth International, the United Secretariat (USec), of which the RWL is the Canadian affiliate.

They did not split over the disastrous policy of guerrilla warfare pursued by the USec majority in Latin America or over the counterrevolutionary, class-collaborationist pact with the Peronists signed by the SWP's supporters in Argentina. These lifestylists did not go into opposition over the Mandelites' capitulation to the popular front in France and Spain or the SWP's support to the Socialist Party's reactionary mobilizations in Portugal. They did not protest the USec's prostration before labor traitors like Arnold Miller, Ed Sadlowski or postal union misleader Jean-Claude Parrot. Even the USec's scandalous tailing of Islamic reaction did not force the gay sectoralists out of the organization.

The Militant goes so far in its support to Ayatollah Khomeini as to hail the "Iranian Revolution" as one of the "big advances for the gay rights struggle"-- perhaps because they have come to share certain moral precepts with Khomeini's Koran as well as Anita Bryant's "Good Book." But while the blood of workers, leftists, national minorities, unveiled women and homosexuals flows in Khomeini's "Islamic Republic," the RWL's gay "vanguardists" never waged a real fight until the TPT threatened to bring some Islamic "justice" home to the RWL.

Trotskyist League Class Series

The purpose of this class series is to study basic Marxist concepts and their application in today's world. Classes will be held in Toronto on alternate Sundays beginning May 13. For further information call 593-4138.

MARXISM, THE SCIENCE OF SOCIALIST REVOLUTION, MAY 13

THE MARXIST THEORY OF THE STATE, MAY 27

THE THEORY OF THE VANGUARD PARTY, JUNE 10

REFORMIST WORKERS PARTIES AND CRITICAL SUPPORT, JUNE 24

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY AND THE TRADE UNIONS, JULY 8

Only when their own toes are stepped on and their own sectoralist work threatened do these "me-decade socialists" squeal.

BATTLE FOR "INDEPENDANTISME" INSIDE THE RWL

The debate over the gay and women's question has been raging for months in the pages of the RWL's pre-convention bulletins. The other major founding components of the RWL, the RMG and GMR, had only tactical differences with the TPT--just as their differences before "fusion" were more a matter of style than of substance. They too acknowledge that it is time for the RWL to discover the working class as the "new" vanguard (a mere 132 years after Marx wrote the Communist Manifesto). But the ex-RMG and the former GMR would rather orient to the white-collar unions and not abandon the "popular movements." Thus, the radical feminists and gay lifestylers who stayed in the organization have made a bloc, out of self-protection, with the ex-RMG/GMR wing of the RWL.

The alienated sectors in the RWL are an easy foil for the TPT's "proletarian" and pseudo-Leninist rhetoric. Concerned above all with the sanctity of their "sector," the gays, feminists et al are quite openly anti-Leninist. In response to the TPT's trumpeting for a "turn to industry" the gay spokesmen protest:

"Obviously we want to win the support of industrial workers, as well as public-sector workers, feminists and other groups. But this does not mean we propose an 'industrial strategy' to the gay movement which subordinates its development to that of winning over industrial workers. No, the autonomous movement has its own tasks of fighting lesbian and gay oppression, building a movement, supporting lesbians and gays coming out, and waging educational, anti-repression and civil rights campaigns."

--"On the Retroactive Turn to Industry..."

The battle cry of the RWL's home-grown sectors is the demand for their own "autonomous" caucuses. The main gay document pleads for organizational independence for the lesbians and gays on the grounds that "lesbian and gay members... cannot be pushed to develop politically by adopting any dominant mode of 'masculine' functioning." To this an ex-LSA gay spokesman responds with the query:

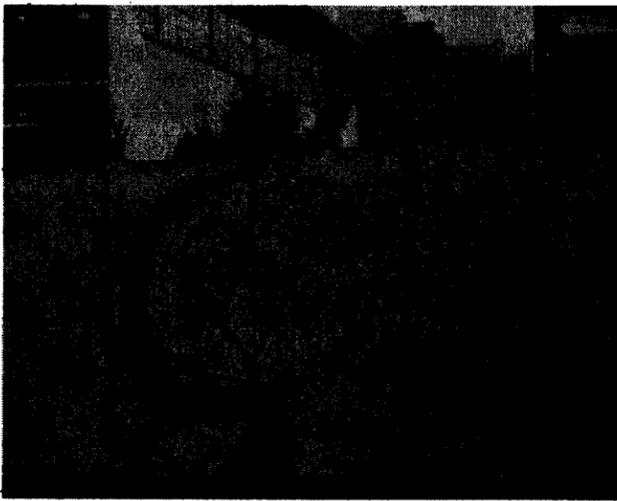
"Do the comrades mean that Leninist norms of party functioning are 'masculine' and should be rejected? We need written elaboration of what is precisely being questioned here. We are proud of our 'modes of functioning'--the Bolsheviks built a party that led a revolution with them."

--"Wrong Framework, Wrong Analysis, Wrong Perspectives..."

But the appeals to the tradition of the Bolshevik Party fall on the deaf ears of those who are still lost in the haze of Ernest Mandel's "two, three many vanguards." In her document, "Report on International Women's Liberation Resolution to the Christ-

mas 1978 Plenum of the RWL/LOR" the RWL's leading feminist, Morgan, explicitly rejects the Leninist tradition and takes the Bolsheviks to task for their "negligence" of the special oppression of women, in particular on the question of childcare:

"For the Bolshevik party the results were obvious. It is not an accident, that where there were children, only the male played a leadership role. Alexandra recruited Trotsky, but she stayed in Siberia with the kids."
--emphasis in original



RMG CIRCA 1975.

SC Photo

Morgan then puts in her dibs for an independent women's caucus in the RWL by pointing to the lack of women in the leadership of many USec sections. The demand for women's caucuses first erupted in the USec sections in Europe where the leadership's penchant for the swaggering macho image fueled the sentiment for male-exclusionist "watch dog" caucuses to protect women from their own "comrades." But, as Morgan hastens to add, "Even here in Canada, we can look back to the days in the fifties and sixties when the LSA bookstore in Toronto sold pornography!"

In line with the document submitted by SWP honcho, Mary Alice Waters, to the upcoming "World Congress" of the USec, Josephine Anders speaks for the ex-LSA in opposition to women's caucuses within the RWL. In her document, "Women's Liberation and the Labor Movement," Anders complains:

"There's a dangerous dynamic inherent in this kind of situation [independent caucuses]. We see it in the RWL not just between male and female comrades, but between Québécois and English comrades, between gays and heterosexuals. Comrades making political criticisms are baited as 'chauvinist' or 'heterosexist'..."

Anders is not lacking examples of this "dangerous dynamic." The first comes from the Vancouver RWL where the branch was asked to abstain on a

(continued on next page)

RWL ...

(continued from page 11)

proposal from the resident women's committee even if they disagreed "because of what it would 'say' to the women's liberation milieu of a proposal made by an all-women's committee were defeated by a 'male dominated' branch." Anders also reports that during her tour across the country with Morgan a woman RWL comrade in the Winnipeg branch launched an attack on a male member who was shaking his head during her remarks for being patronizing. According to Anders' account, the "chairwoman" intervened to advise the RWL woman to "stick to politics." But in her summary, Morgan chastized the chairwoman and told her "not to allow women to be divided."

The notion that each sector of the oppressed must have its own separate "caucus" within a revolutionary organization to protect their "rights" is a complete repudiation of Leninism. A genuine Bolshevik party does not mimic the divisions of capitalist society but must serve as a "tribune of the people," able to address and combat the special oppression of women, gays and other oppressed minorities.

Yet it is not without reason that the RWL's feminists and gay lifestylists suspect their organization's commitment to the struggle against special oppression. In her document Morgan cites examples of atrocities committed against women comrades in the USec which would constitute grounds for immediate expulsion from a genuine communist organization. Moreover, the RWL feminists can readily point to precedents for women's caucuses sanctioned, if not initiated, by the USec leadership. As for the gays, they are perhaps wondering if the SWP "turn" will result in the reinstatement of its past policy of excluding homosexuals from membership.

The struggle for democratic rights of homosexuals has always been part of the program of the international Spartacist tendency. We oppose all forms of discrimination and victimization and all state interference into consensual sexual relations. As the cliquism and factionalism of the RWL is apparently consensual as well as congenital, we can only expose it and denounce it as part of our struggle for the rebirth of a revolutionary Trotskyist Fourth International that will lead the working class and all the oppressed to their liberation. ■

Trotskyist League Directory

Toronto.....(416) 593-4138
Box 7198 Station A, Toronto, Ont.
Vancouver.....(604) 733-8848
Box 26 Station A, Vancouver, B.C.
Winnipeg.....(204) 589-7214
Box 3952 Station B, Winnipeg, Man.

Letter ...

(continued from page 2)

end, We all try our best but only the victorious revolution will produce more such leaders, and even then there will be a tremendous need for our MacDonaldis, Rosmers and Spectors, for however long we can manage to retain them on a principled revolutionary path.

If we do not approach the question in this manner we really put the whole Spartacist regroupment strategy in doubt. For that strategy is premised on the belief that we can actually win over the leaders of leftward-moving organizations, gaining in the process a hearing among the ranks who respect them.

Secondly, as far as the CCF [Cooperative Commonwealth Federation] is concerned, I agree that an important change in the nature of the CCF occurred during World War II. It became the political wing of the trade-union bureaucracy, namely of the industrial Canadian Congress of Labour. On the one hand this opened up possibilities for popularizing the Marxist principle of independent working-class political action. On the other hand it also qualitatively strengthened the reactionary social democrats in the trade unions.

The point is simply to understand how and when the NDP (through its predecessor the CCF) won its most important base in the unions: steel, auto and packinghouse. Despite the pathetic weakness of the NDP, it retains its essential base in the most important proletarian concentrations and it is precisely that which makes the NDP a strategic, opponent organization for communists.

Comradely,
Arnold Michaels

**SUBSCRIBE!****Women and Revolution**

Journal of the Spartacist League
Central Committee Commission
for Work Among Women

\$2/4 issues

Order from/make checks out to: Spartacist Publishing Co.,
Box 1377, GPO, New York, N.Y. 10001

Young Spartacus

Monthly Newspaper of the Spartacus Youth League,
Youth Section of the Spartacist League

\$2 • 9 ISSUES

Make checks payable to: Spartacus Youth Publishing Co.
Box 825, Canal Street Station New York, New York 10013



Toronto Demonstration Against Trudeau's Union Busting

Trotskyist League contingent at anti-Trudeau demonstration in front of Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, May 9. The TL slogan "Free Parrot, Jail Trudeau" was picked up by scores of postal workers and leftists who chanted throughout Trudeau's address to the crowd outside the Gardens.

SC Photo

CUPW ...

(continued from page 16)

not unaware that an attack on the entire labor movement as serious as the jailing of a national labor leader evokes broad sympathy and sentiment for militant labor solidarity such as protest strikes. The jailing of labor leaders in Quebec precipitated the 1972 general strike. After Parrot was jailed McDermott was quoted as stating that while some sections of the labor movement would call for "storming the barricades," the CLC tops would "have no part of it."

Instead, McDermott called upon workers to "storm the ballot boxes on May 22" and vote for the New Democratic Party (NDP). In the current federal election campaign, McDermott has been the foremost labor advocate of the "perfect union" between the CLC and NDP. No wonder, since the NDP and McDermott had the same line on the CUPW strike. McDermott wants no militant labor demonstrations to mar the "respectability" of this yellow-dog "perfect union."

The NDP registered only token opposition to Trudeau's back-to-work measure after they voted with the Liberals and Tories to permit it to be rushed through parliament. Once the bill was passed, NDP federal leader Ed Broadbent denounced the CUPW strikers for defying the "law of the land." In the present federal elections the NDP is pledged to giving its parliamentary support to either the Liberals or Tories assuming neither of the dominant capitalist parties gets a majority. Therefore, McDermott calls on workers to give their votes to the NDP which in turn is pledged to give its votes

to either the Liberals or Tories.

The CUPW national president has done very little to counter the treachery of his fellow labor bureaucrats. At his sentencing Parrot's only comment was the pathetic reminder that he had always been concerned about the Post Office and had repeatedly called for a royal commission to look into its operations! Even after he was jailed, CUPW protests were dismal. Off-duty CUPW members in Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton, London and Kitchener set up poorly-attended "informational pickets." In Montreal 50 off-duty postal workers trudged off to leaflet the Liberal Party headquarters! The Toronto CUPW local is calling for, but doing very little to build, a protest at the Liberal rally featuring Prime Minister Trudeau at Maple Leaf Gardens on May 9.

The way forward for CUPW members attempting to break out of their present isolation and build the kind of militant labor solidarity which can stop the capitalist government's campaign against their union was exemplified in a motion put forward at a recent meeting of the Letter Carriers Union of Canada (LCUC) Local 1 in Toronto by militant shop steward Bob McBurney. The motion demanded that the provincial labor federations and the CLC organize mass walkouts to protest the conviction of Parrot. In the spirit of the victorious Quebec general strike, CUPW militants must demand that their union take the demand for centrally organized walkouts to defend their leaders and their union, to other unions and labor bodies. Drop the Charges! Free Parrot! Stop the harassment of workers for the October strike: Lift the suspensions and rehire those workers who were fired with full back pay! Call on all of labor to defend CUPW: For centrally organized mass walkouts! ■

NDP ...

(continued from page 5)

it receives and turn them over to the Liberals or Tories if either of the two dominant capitalist parties requires NDP support to stay in office. The Trotskyist League therefore advocates a policy of conditional non-support: no vote to the NDP until it repudiates its policy of coalitionism with the bosses' parties.

While the various Mao-Stalinists and Hoxha-philes characterize the NDP as a bourgeois (or even "social fascist") party on the basis of its pro-capitalist leadership and program, other revisionists, notably the fake-Trotskyists of the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), prefer to emphasize its proletarian base. For the reformist League for Socialist Action, one of three founding organizations of the RWL, uncritical support to the NDP has always been an article of faith. The right-centrist Revolutionary Marxist Group, the other English-Canadian component of the RWL, also called for votes to the NDP in every election claiming that a ballot cast for these wretched social democrats was by definition a "class vote." However, the third party to the "fusion" that resulted in the RWL, the Quebec-based Groupe Marxiste Révolutionnaire, which is oriented exclusively to the petty-bourgeois indépendantiste movement, regards the NDP as just another party of chauvinist English-Canadian "national unity" mongers.

With such divergent opportunist appetites within the same organization, the RWL had to devote months of debate and reams of internal documents to the question of how to vote in the federal elections. Fortunately for the RWL, Trudeau postponed the elections long enough for it to reach a compromise of sorts at its April convention. By calling for a vote to the NDP in English Canada, while backing the Lambertiste Groupe Socialiste des Travailleurs du Québec's campaign to induce the Quebec labor bureaucracy to field its own slate in Quebec, the RWL leadership hoped it had found a compromise that both wings could live with. Nonetheless, a group of Quebec nationalists who opposed any support to the NDP anywhere quit the RWL in disgust, hurling charges of "chauvinism" at the NDP-boosters as they walked out the door.

The NDP's record of open class-collaboration and betrayal is so atrocious that even the RWL felt it necessary to venture a few criticisms:

"We are convinced... that the NDP provides no

solution for working people. Just as Broadbent sides with Trudeau against the Québécois, so he ultimately sides with the bosses against the working class....

"Worst of all, the NDP and its CLC backers are shooting for a minority government with the NDP holding the balance of power."

--Socialist Voice, 30 April

Yet while they can recite the list of NDP crimes, the spineless mensheviks of the RWL cannot bring themselves to break with the NDP. While admitting that Broadbent is aiming to unite with either Trudeau or Clark, the RWL tells the workers to "Unite Against Trudeau and Clark" by voting for "their party": the NDP.

The RWL has itself put down deposits for five candidates in the elections. One of the key factors in choosing which ridings to run in was the RWL's concern that its candidates not "steal" votes from the NDP in closely contested races. But given the listless fashion in which the RWL is conducting its campaign, it hardly need worry on that score. Two weeks before election day, the only people who are aware that the RWL is running are the subscribers to Socialist Voice.

The RWL's election program is confused, parochial and minimalist. While the draft program published in Socialist Voice of 1 August 1978 demanded "the withdrawal of Canadian troops from the Middle East and the withdrawal of Canada from imperialist alliances like NATO and NORAD," the version published for the elections includes only a vague appeal for "solidarity with workers struggles around the world." The program also omits mention of such elementary socialist demands as the expropriation of industry without compensation, or opposition to the chauvinist economic protectionism of the NDP.

The absurdity of the RWL's governmental slogan is highlighted by one subhead in the program which proclaims: "For a Workers Republic of Quebec-- For a unitary Workers Government." Such sticky points as the relation of these two "workers governments" in time and space are left up in the air. Given the conspicuous absence of any call for the expropriation of the capitalists in the program, the RWL's "workers government" sounds suspiciously like Broadbent and Co. along with a few indépendantiste Quebec labor bureaucrats sitting on the government benches in Ottawa. The real purpose of the slogans is to paper over the factional differences within the organization. The RWL's muddled utopian parliamentary cretinism can only confuse and disorient workers dissatisfied with the betrayals of the NDP in the unlikely event they should happen upon a copy of its program. The RWL candidates do not merit the support of anyone seeking to register a meaningful working-class vote against the parties of capital and the treachery of the NDP.

Both the pro-Moscow and pro-Albanian Stalinists are running slates in the elections, but both are characterized by chauvinist Canadian nationalism. The Communist Party of Canada is once again cam-

WORKERS VANGUARD

Marxist Working-Class Biweekly of the Spartacist League

24 issues—\$3; Introductory offer (6 issues)

—includes Spartacist

Order from/pay to: SPARTACIST PUBLISHING CO.
Box 1377 G.P.O., New York, N.Y. 10001

paigining for a "progressive majority, including Communists, in parliament" to fight for a "Strong, United and Independent Canada." Although it lacks the mass influence of Berlinguer's Italian Communist Party, the Canadian CP is just as eager to break strikes, impose government austerity measures or engage in anti-communist witchhunts of terrorists in pursuit of an alliance with the "progressive" bourgeoisie. The program of the crazed followers of Hardial Bains in the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), who are running as the "Marxist-Leninist Party," differs from the CP's only in that they lump together the Chinese and Russian "social imperialists" with U.S. imperialism as enemies of the Canadian people. To make it clear that it is not the Canadian "Rich" who must "Pay for the Crisis" the Bainsites demand: "Throw the U.S. Imperialists Out of Canada and End All Foreign Domination"! Neither of these campaigns is deserving of working-class support.

Regardless of the outcome of the elections, the working class will face continued capitalist austerity, attacks on hard-won union rights and repression of national and social minorities. In these elections no candidates deserve even critical support from revolutionaries. The working class needs a new leadership which will lead it forward in the struggle for socialist revolution.

NO VOTE TO THE NDP!

FOR A WORKERS PARTY THAT FIGHTS FOR
A WORKERS GOVERNMENT!

B.C. Elections ...

(continued from page 4)

This election is not a rerun of the 1972 elections when Barrett defeated the Socreds after two decades of W.A.C. Bennett's right-wing regime by promising to repeal all the anti-labor legislation. Bill Bennett and his redneck followers cannot get much mileage from their usual red-baiting tactics, since the strikebreaking record of Barrett's last government is still fresh in everyone's mind.

At the time of the last B.C. provincial election we said that: "Support to the NDP, however 'critical,' would generally be interpreted as support to the strikebreaking, overtly anti-union program and record on which the party will be running" (SC, November-December, 1975). Barrett is still running on the same program and record. Moreover, the provincial NDP is in complete agreement with the federal party's class-collaborationist plans to form a coalition with either of the capitalist parties if it gets a chance.

When they run on their anti-labor record and pledge themselves to a policy of coalition with the parties of the bourgeoisie there is no basis for Leninists to give the NDP critical electoral support. In this election a vote for the NDP would not represent a working-class vote against the parties of capital, but a vote for Broadbent's class-collaborationist coalitionism and Barrett's strikebreaking. ■

AUCE Strike Sold Out

VANCOUVER, April 28--The strike by the 600 members of the Association of University and College Employees (AUCE) Local 2 at Simon Fraser University has been sold out. Clerical, library and technical staff at SFU faced cops and organized student scabbing in a long and bitter struggle for a new contract (see "Shut Down SFU," Spartacist Canada, April). But AUCE bureaucrats ordered the rank and file back to work on April 24 after agreeing to the appointment of a "neutral" third member of an Industrial Inquiry Commission.

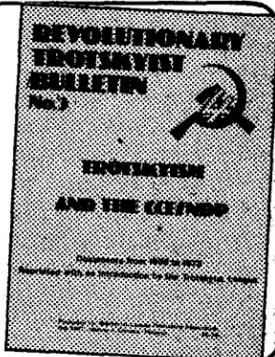
Government arbitration bodies are never "neutral," especially when arbitrating wages and working conditions for their own employees. The government gave a demonstration of its "neutrality" when a March 22 mass picket at the university entrance was brutally assaulted by the RCMP. Eighteen student strike supporters still face charges of "obstructing an officer" and "obstructing a roadway." Yet even after this attack the AUCE misleadership continued to call for binding arbitration.

The commission has yet to make its decision but the strike has already been scuttled by the AUCE tops. After agreeing to extend the life of the contract to two years and dropping the demand for a cost-of-living allowance, the AUCE piecards further reduced their wage demands to a measly four and a half percent a year! The AUCE strike was an important prelude to the impending contract battles of government workers, teamsters and longshoremen. The AUCE bureaucracy sabotaged an important opportunity to appeal to the entire B.C. labor movement for a militant demonstration of labor solidarity through solidarity strikes and mass pickets. This was the only strategy which could have turned this campus strike into a victory, not only for AUCE, but B.C. labor as a whole.

TROTSKYISM AND THE CCF/NDP

RTB No. 3 \$2.50

ORDER FROM/PAY TO:
SPARTACIST CANADA
PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
BOX 6867, STATION 'A',
TORONTO, ONTARIO



Parrot Jailed by Bosses Court

Defend CUPW!

MAY 7--Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) president Jean-Claude Parrot was jailed today for his defiance of the federal government's back-to-work legislation brought down to break CUPW's militant nationwide walkout last October. The nine-day postal strike was the most dramatic labor showdown with the capitalist government since the Quebec general strike of 1972. The Trudeau government was determined to make an example to all of labor by bashing the militant union of inside postal workers. Even after the strike had been smashed following RCMP raids on union headquarters across the country, the federal government continued its union-busting offensive by harassing, suspending and firing rank-and-file workers and prosecuting CUPW leaders.



MONTREAL CUPW MEMBERS DEFY SUPREME COURT INJUNCTION, OCT 1978.

C.P.

The small demonstration of 100 CUPW members outside the Ottawa courtroom could not prevent Ontario Supreme Court Judge Gregory Evans from slapping Parrot with a three month jail sentence and 18 months probation. Even if Parrot is released on bail pending appeal of his case to higher courts, the terms of bail and his probation will handcuff the national union president during the next round of contract negotiations. The present contract imposed by the back-to-work legislation expires at the end of this year.

Grace Hartman, president of Canada's largest public employees union, the 231,000-member Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), attended the sentencing of Parrot and remarked that: "It leaves one with a scary feeling because at any moment the government can turn around and take away an existing right to strike." Although Trudeau's vicious, union-busting attack upon CUPW, culminating in the imprisonment of its national president, is clearly an attack upon the most elementary rights of the entire labor movement, it has evoked only token labor solidarity. Several la-

bor organizations protested Parrot's April 10 conviction, including CUPE, the Alberta Federation of Labour and the Ontario Federation of Labour Women's Conference. The Postal, Telephone and Telegraph International donated \$5,000 to the defense of Parrot and four other Executive Board members still awaiting trial on the same charges. But most labor bureaucrats have buckled under to or endorsed the traitorous role of Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) President Dennis McDermott.

McDermott maintained a stony silence when the October CUPW strike was under attack, denounced Parrot for defying parliament after the strike had been smashed and responded to the jailing of the CUPW national president by blaming Parrot for his own victimization. McDermott's despicable denunciation of the national CUPW strike was exploited by both the prosecution and the trial judge in the conviction and sentencing of Parrot.

But the CLC's top man is not finished in his efforts to isolate and cripple CUPW. McDermott is

(continued on page 13)