



SANDINISTA GUERRILLAS CELEBRATE THEIR VICTORY

Perspectiva Mundial

RWL/SWP Knives "Comrades"

For Proletarian Revolution in Nicaragua

The fall of Anastasio Somoza's blood-drenched Nicaraguan dynasty in July represented the first serious defeat for U. S. imperialism in Latin America since the Cuban revolutionary army annihilated the CIA-organized gusanos at the Bay of Pigs in 1961. It took 18 months of bitter struggle, including two insurrections totaling eleven weeks of the bloodiest fighting, before they drove out the hyena of Managua. Almost 50,000 died out of a population of 2.3 million, and today the cities are in ruins; the

surviving population on the brink of starvation, three quarters of the workforce unemployed.

"National reconstruction" is now the watchword of the victorious Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). But on what foundations? With their program for a "government of unity of all anti-Somoza forces" the Sandinista leaders hope to limit the revolution to the replacement of a rapacious family dictatorship by a reformed, "popular-democratic"

(continued on page 10)

Editorial Notes

Black Nationalism: New Fad for International Socialists

"All whites are racist. I mean I know that I am." With this candid admission as her platform a member of the International Socialists (IS) got herself elected to the group's national "organizing committee" at its annual convention in September. Her remarks set the tone for a lunch-hour workshop on "anti-racism"--the latest fad for the craven opportunists of the IS. Of course this crew of left social democrats is so cynical that even its white liberal guilt is probably phoney. But the IS leadership does know how to grovel: bereft of any revolutionary principle or program the IS bows and scrapes before whichever sector of the oppressed it currently believes might up its membership figures.

From gays to women; from workerism to sexual liberationism, the IS is always ready to adopt a new orientation, run with it for a while, and then drop it. Nevertheless, IS spares no effort to ingratiate itself with the milieu of the moment. Thus, the September issue of *Workers Action* prints, without comment, a letter from the "Black Caucus, International Socialist." The letter accuses "white comrades" of "apologizing for racist White Canada." Even the hardened hacks of IS who yesterday penned libidinous tracts celebrating "sexual liberation," must find this one a little hard to swallow.

The only thing consistent about IS, as the new black members will find, is its constant search for a new gimmick. Just as the IS's turn to gay liberationism was a product of the massive gay mobilizations against Anita Bryant of 1977, the IS's latest turn is fuelled by the mobilizations against the racist police murder of Albert Johnson. But once the issue has died down a little, the fickle IS will be off in hot pursuit of its next chance to "get rich quick." One ISer who had obviously been through a few of the "new turns" before advised an observer at the convention not to worry too much about the "anti-racism" campaign, because by next year everyone will be tired of it.

The Canadian IS is only a small-time imitator of its British mentor--Tony Cliff's Socialist Workers Party (SWP). But the record of the British SWP's anti-racist activity is not one to be emulated. The SWP's main vehicle for this work has been the Anti-Nazi League (ANL), a popular-frontist coalition of clerics, various bourgeois politicians and ostensible revolutionaries. In September 1978 the ANL attracted some 80,000 people to a giant "Anti-Nazi" carnival on one side of London and then marched them in the opposite direction from the immigrant community in the East End where 2,000 fascists

were marching under police protection, opposed by only 1,000 leftists and local residents. Tony Cliff alibied this scabbing by explaining that if the SWP had called for a march to the East End, between twenty and forty thousand militants would have responded. But that if this had happened "the result would have been..." the "disintegrating of the ANL"!!

CCL(M-L) Makes "Great Leap Forward"...Changes Name

"We have at last made the great qualitative step that we had set ourselves, the formation of the general staff of the Canadian working class, the proletarian vanguard which will lead us towards our goal of socialism and the liberation of the workers' and all of the oppressed." Tim Buck? Hardial Bains? Phil Taylor? No, this time it is Roger Rashi who is styling himself as "Canada's Lenin" and announcing that yet another cabal of Stalinist betrayers and misleaders have proclaimed themselves to be the party of the Canadian working class.

At the time of its formation less than four years ago the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist) (CCL[M-L]) stated: "It is out of the question today to pass immediately to the creation of a real Marxist-Leninist party..." (Statement of Political Agreement for the creation of the Canadian Communist League [Marxist-Leninist]). However in the world of Mao-think things that are "out of the question" today can quickly become tomorrow's unquestionable norm, as the career of Liu Shao-chi's close comrade in arms, Deng Xiaoping demonstrates. Accordingly CCL(M-L)'s false modesty of 1975 has disappeared and the "Workers Communist Party" (WCP) has been launched with a round of bombastic self-promotion reminiscent of Hardial Bains' Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist).

With the death of Mao and the purge of the "Gang of Four" CCL(M-L) proved itself to be the most slavish follower of the Chinese bureaucracy by immediately reprinting the charges against Mao's wife and the rest of the leadership of his faction. Deng's faction rewarded CCL(M-L) for its servility with the official franchise--which left Rashi's erstwhile competitors to fight over the rights to a place in the glorious sun of Albanian "socialism." Those Maoists who refused to "rally" to CCL(M-L) were written off as so many revisionists, social fascists

(continued on page 12)

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IS! Chile Demo

TL: "For a Trotskyist Party in Chile!"



SC Photo

TL CONTINGENT ON IS! DEMONSTRATION

On September 11, the "critical" ex-Maoists of In Struggle! (IS!) called a demonstration against the bloodsoaked Chilean junta in front of the Toronto offices of Noranda Mines, a company with extensive holdings in Chile. The IS! demonstrators were joined by an equal number of Trotskyist League (TL) members and supporters. The TL slogans: "Smash Pinochet Through Workers Revolution!" and "No to Class Collaboration! Workers to Power in Chile!"--drove home the crucial lessons of the Chilean tragedy: that popular front alliances with the bourgeoisie can only lead to bloody defeats for the working class.

Six years have passed since the September 11 coup in Santiago that toppled the popular front Unidad Popular government of Salvador Allende and installed the bloody dictatorship of Pinochet and his generals. But the muddleheaded Stalinists of

IS! have learned nothing from the bitter defeat of the Chilean proletariat. In its theoretical journal, *Proletarian Unity*, IS! condemns the French and Italian communist parties' class-collaborationist policy of "anti-fascist unity" with their own bourgeoisies in the post World War II period. But this facade of Leninist orthodoxy was dropped at the Chile demonstration where IS! chanted slogans which would have done William Kashtan's Communist Party proud. When the TL chanted "No More Popular Fronts--Workers to Power in Chile!" IS! countered with "Support the Unity of All Anti-Fascists!"

But the Chilean working class has already experienced the bitter consequences of the Stalinist policy of "unity" with the capitalists. The ignominious collapse of the Allende popular front government underlined in blood the crucial lesson: the working class must reject the class collaboration which left them disarmed in the face of counter-revolution. IS!'s call for the "unity of all anti-fascists" ties the workers to the "progressive" wing of the bourgeoisie. Far from hastening the downfall of the hated butcher Pinochet the Menshevik strategy of all-class unity (or "popular unity" as Allende called it) is a roadblock to socialist revolution.

In its press IS! rails against the Montreal Association of Chileans (which is closely associated with the Communist Party of Chile):

"Aiming to reinforce their line of capitulation and collaboration in the anti-fascist struggle, the revisionists within the Association of Chileans chose to invite Quebec's minister of immigration who apparently spoke in favour of the 'Chilean path towards socialism.'"
--In *Struggle!*, 18 September

But this is just sour grapes--for the Communist Party (CP) and IS! follow the same path of "unity" with the "good" bosses against Pinochet. The only difference is that unlike the CP, IS! doesn't have enough clout to entice any bourgeois politicians to share its "anti-fascist unity" platform.

One of In Struggle!'s main slogans on the Toronto demonstration, "Boycott Chilean Goods," was copied straight from the CP's book of liberal Stalinist moralism. We support trade-union boycotts of limited duration (such as the one week boycott of Chile last September called by the CLC) or in response to a particular outrage. But Marxists oppose unlimited trade boycotts of countries of odious political regimes. Not only are such consumer boycotts usually ineffectual but even if they succeed their effect is to further impoverish the working masses, increase unemployment and dampen the combativity of the proletariat. Moreover a boycott of Chile by the imperialist countries, which dominate world trade, would only occur in the context of generalized trade war--the precursor to inter-imperialist world war. Here again IS! shares the social-chauvinist tradition of Tim Buck and the "peoples front" Stalinists of the 1930's who appealed to the "democratic" imperialists to boycott Germany and Italy prior to World War II. To IS!'s liberal moralism the TL contingent counterposed the call for a labor boy-

(continued from page 13)

RWL: Do You Still Cheer for Khomeini?

The following leaflet was distributed to an RWL meeting on October 14 in Toronto:

At tonight's meeting Farhad Nouri, a member of the Iranian Socialist Workers Party (HKS), sister organization of the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), will speak on "Repression in Iran." There's plenty to say about the savage repression in Khomeini's "Islamic Republic": the execution of strikers, leftists, homosexuals, adulterers, and others accused of "crimes against god"; the stoning of unveiled women, the suppression of all opposition parties and press. The slaughter of hundreds of Kurds is only the most recent and one of the more dramatic repressive measures of the Shi'ite theocracy as they consolidate their rule. The RWL's Iranian co-thinkers in the HKS have not escaped Khomeini's terror either--12 HKSers have been sentenced to death.

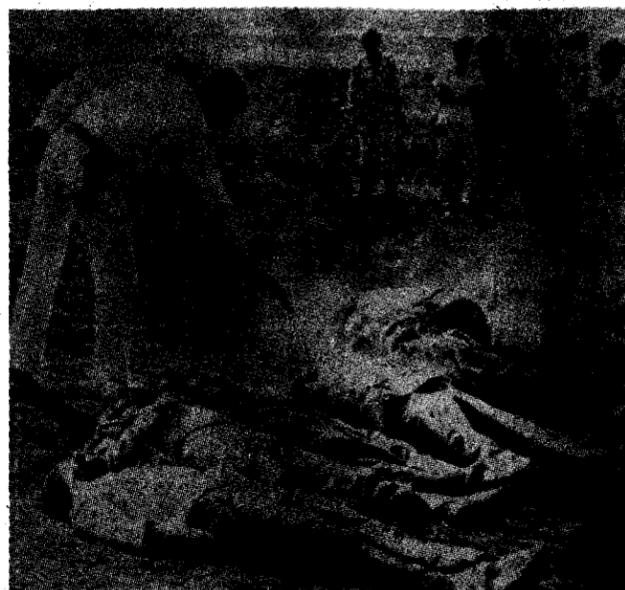
What Nouri won't say is that the HKS, the RWL and their international co-thinkers in the misnamed "United Secretariat of the Fourth International" helped pave the way for the victory of Islamic reaction in Iran by their uncritical enthusing over Ayatollah Khomeini. Only last March, Cindy Jaquith of the U. S. Socialist Workers Party heralded the "victory in Iran" at RWL forums in Vancouver and Toronto. In Toronto Jaquith was joined in celebrating the dawn of Islamic reaction by an Iranian "Marxist-Leninist" who defended the execution of homosexuals in Iran!

Only the international Spartacist tendency told the truth about the ayatollahs. We were unique in warning that a victory of Khomeini would mean a regime just as reactionary as the bloody shah's. When we raised the slogan "Down with the Shah! Down with the Mullahs! For Workers Revolution in Iran!" the RWL whined that we were simply "mouthing the propaganda of the imperialists." Along with the rest of the left, the RWL covered up or denied at every stage the reactionary character of Khomeini's Islamic fundamentalism.

In the time-honored fashion of betrayers, the RWL and its friends in the USec are now trying to cover their tracks by evoking liberal pity over the threat of execution hanging over the arrested HKSers in Ahwaz. Yes, the HKS supporters must be freed, as must the Arab oil workers, Kurdish militants, Fedayeen supporters and all other victims of reactionary Islamic terror. But this will not get you off the hook, comrades--for the plight of the Iranian left was prepared by the criminal opportunism of groups like the United Secretariat. You wanted Khomeini; now you've got him.

BOWING TO THE EXECUTIONER

Even as they face the threat of a firing squad, the HKS and USec continue to bow before the executioners. In an "Open Letter from Imprisoned Women



KHOMEINI'S "REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS" PROMISE: "WE WILL DO TO THE KURDS WHAT HITLER AND EICHMANN DID TO THE JEWS."

Members of the HKS" (Intercontinental Press/Inprecor, 17 September) these cringing social democrats proclaim from jail their continuing faith in the "Iranian revolution"--which, they announce, ushered in "the possibility of establishing a society of freedom, abundance, social justice and peace." The HKS affirms that it is "completely opposed to violence" and that its members did nothing more than sell their paper and "explain their political views, which had to do with suggestions for the [Islamic] Constitution." And just to show its faith in Islamic "justice," the HKS does not even demand the release of its own comrades, but merely appeals to the chief prosecutor for a trial in a public court!

Initially even Khomeini's attack on their HKS comrades brought no response from the RWL. The RWL flatly refused to endorse or participate in a demonstration initiated by the Trotskyist League on July 19, in defense of the endangered Iranian socialists. The protest was endorsed by the Gay Liberation Union, Ross Dowson of the Forward group and

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TL Forums on Iran

The Trotskyist League (TL) recently concluded a successful series of forums on the crucial lessons of the "Iranian revolution." At the forums (held at York University, University of Toronto and the McMaster campus in Hamilton) TL spokesman Tom Riley emphasized the unique position of the international Spartacist tendency (iSt) which alone on the left warned the workers movement of the impending reactionary terror of an Islamic government. Riley stressed that the attitude adopted toward the mullah-led revolt against the shah provided an acid test for the self-proclaimed revolutionary left. While every other tendency on the left helped pave the way for Islamic reaction through their capitulation to Khomeini, only the iSt put forward the slogan: "Down with the Shah! Don't Bow to Khomeini! For Workers Revolution in Iran!"

During the discussion at the U of T forum a member of the Toronto Anarchist Federation provided a demonstration of the political bankruptcy of anarchism. He argued that the Iranian events were not an important issue for the Canadian working class and denounced all leadership, revolutionary or reactionary. TL supporters made the elementary point that in every political situation there is always leadership and that the only question is which program will triumph. The tragedy in Iran was the absence of a Bolshevik



SC Photo

party to lead the working class forward to victory.

Last January, at the height of Khomeini's popularity, a TL forum on Iran was disrupted by a gang of mullah-lovers chanting "Long Live Khomeini!" But no such incidents occurred at the recent forums which drew several Iranian students disillusioned with the "Islamic Republic."

The events of the past year in Iran once again confirm Trotsky's analysis in the Transitional Program that "The present crisis in human culture is the crisis in the proletarian leadership." For an Iranian Trotskyist party, section of a reformed Fourth International!

RWL...

the International Women's Day Committee. But when approached by a Trotskyist League member with the proposal for a united-front defense demonstration the Toronto organizer of the RWL replied that his organization did not want to be associated with those who "oppose the revolutionary process" in Iran.

Only now that it has finally dawned on these inveterate tailists that they might actually have to pay for their treachery with the lives of their own comrades has the RWL belatedly begun to try to dissociate itself from the bloody ayatollah. The working class will never forget those fake-leftists who hoped to ride to popularity on the coattails of Islamic reaction.

Even Stalin criticized Chiang Kai-shek after the Shanghai massacre--and he claimed to be a revolutionary nationalist and friend of the Russian Revolution when he was courting Stalin's support before 1927. But Khomeini stated from the beginning that he was a reactionary Islamic fundamentalist and Great Persian chauvinist who sought to crush "satanic communists." Yet the United Secretariat supported him--and continues to cover for him. This criminal behavior cannot be buried beneath a few half-hearted criticisms and cries for "international solidarity" with the HKS prisoners in Iran--who are as much victims of their own wretched line as they are of capitalist terror.

In Latin America the USec urged young militants down the suicidal road of guerrillaism. In Portugal in 1975, one wing of the USec supported the "revolutionary" bonapartist generals while the other backed the counterrevolutionary mobilization spearheaded by the CIA-bankrolled Portuguese Socialists. Now in Iran they have championed medieval reaction and led their own comrades to disaster. That such an organization should claim any connection with Trotskyism is a shame and a disgrace. The re forging of the Fourth International as the world party of socialist revolution depends upon burning these betrayals and their consequences into the collective memory of the left and workers movement. ■

Celebrate The Russian Revolution

Trotskyist League Presents Eisenstein's Classic Film:

Ten Days that Shook the World

Cumberland Hall, International Student Centre.

Friday, November 2, 7:30 pm.

Letter: Ex-PLer Denounces CPL Mullah Lovers

The following letter was sent to SC by G. Gibbs, a five-year member of Progressive Labor (PL), the former American mentor of the Canadian Party of Labour (CPL). Gibbs left PL at about the same time that CPL severed relations with its long-time big brother. Letters from Gibbs appeared in the 12 April and 24 May issues of the Worker with leftist criticisms of CPL's support to Khomeini. At that time Gibbs accepted CPL's contention that "now is not the time for a split with Khomeini." A subsequent letter from Gibbs to the Worker which called for a break with the mullahs was never printed.

Sept. 12, 1979
Minneapolis

Dear Editor:

It was only a few months ago that the pages of the Canadian Party of Labour's Worker were filled with enthusiastic praise for the Iranian "revolution." Story after story pounded out the theme that U. S. imperialism had lost a friend in the Near East and the Palestinians had gained a great ally.

But times change. U. S. military advisors are now working with Khomeini's government. Time magazine ran a long story on Islam's "revival" with the clear message that although Islam is bad, communism is worse. Now even the Soviet Union, whose Tudeh Party had followed the Islamic Republic down the line, has attacked the Islamic reaction. But where is CPL? The last remark in the Worker about Khomeini was that he was the great "leader" of the revolution. CPL threw in some vague hints about the "masses overthrowing those who stand in their way," which is about as clear-sighted as you can expect from CPL.

Now that the "evil" liquor and music are outlawed, women without chadors beaten in the streets, beaches segregated by sex, homosexuals and prostitutes executed, laws against divorce passed and property rights against women strengthened, CPL has maintained a conspiracy of silence. Quite an inauspicious start for CPL's badly-named "Women's Commission." Of course to the pro-Stalin party, these acts are all very "revolutionary" and opposed to "petit-bourgeois decadence."

Pictures of Khomeini were even carried in CPL's May Day parade in Toronto. This great day of proletarian internationalism was defiled by the presence of pictures of the butcher of the Kurds, of the Turkomen and other national minorities--the great Persian chauvinist and feudal bigot Khomeini. This is quite interesting from a party that won its spurs in upholding the right of Quebec to self-determination. It seems that if only the Kurds



CPL MAYDAY MARCH, 1979

spoke French and lived in Montreal, they would also deserve the right to self-determination. But since they stand opposed to that "great ally" of Palestine, they are dispensable.

Only last week we were greeted with AP wire photos showing the execution of some Kurdish rebels by firing squad. And CPL is still enthusing over the Iranian "revolution." This butchery of the Kurds is the "Iranian revolution." What is the response of these erstwhile upholders of proletarian internationalism? Do they accuse Khomeini of being an Islamic Trudeau at least? Not a word. Instead they scold the "sectarians" for spreading bad rumours about Iran and smearing the name of the revolution. What traitors!

Why this silence in Canada? They claim the greatest enemy of the Iranian people is imperialism, so they have to give "critical support" to Khomeini. It is the mullahs who are now the main social prop of imperialism and capitalism in Iran. It is only through their overthrow that the real guarantee of the future in Iran, the proletariat, can take the main stage of the revolution.

It is CPL's prostration before Joseph Stalin which allows them to make such an error. Indeed, even in 1917 Stalin was calling for support to Kerensky's bourgeois regime in Russia, until Lenin intervened and called for its overthrow. CPL has done Stalin one better by supporting a feudalist. CPL is incapable of leading a revolution. May all of their words about "proletarian internationalism" turn to dust in their mouths, as they certainly have done in Iran.

G. Gibbs

UAW: Mobilize Mass Pickets at Butcher Strike!

Since July 5 forty workers on strike against Butcher Engineering, a small auto parts supplier in Brampton, Ontario, have been fighting an uphill battle against the company, cops and scabs. The key issue in the strike is the attempt to wrest union security from this strikebreaking firm. Although the plant was organized by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1285 more than two years ago Butcher workers have no compulsory dues checkoff and continue to work for wages that are half the union scale at the Big Three auto companies.

Prior to the strike company owner Chris Butcher, refused to accept a compulsory dues checkoff and waged a campaign to get workers to quit the union so they wouldn't have to pay union dues. More than half the workforce accepted this union-busting offer. The only other perk he offered was free lunches during the strike--it seems the price of scabs is cheap these days.

The Butcher strike recalls the bitter strike against Fleck Manufacturing Company last year. For five months the Fleck workers, predominantly women, battled an army of scabs and strikebreaking cops to win their first UAW contract and a compulsory dues checkoff. But at the time of the Fleck strike, Dennis McDermott, then the head of the Canadian UAW, was campaigning for the presidency of the Canadian Labour Congress. In a grandstanding gesture designed to build his "tough guy" image, McDermott, called on the UAW to organize mass pickets to support the Fleck strikers. Soon after McDermott was elected the strike support was dropped and the Fleck workers abandoned. In the end they returned to work for wages just above the legal minimum.

This year the UAW tops haven't even made a pretense of support to the Butcher workers. Hoping to railroad through the auto sellout engineered by International president Doug Fraser and his Canadian lieutenant Bob White, the bureaucrats are determined to keep auto workers off any picket lines. Nonetheless, Butcher pickets managed to shut down the Chrysler plant in Windsor for three shifts. The Ford parts center in Bramalea where scab goods are still being delivered was closed down for a day when Ford workers refused to cross picket lines set up by Butcher strikers. In response Ford appealed for and was granted an extension of the injunction against UAW picketing at its plants which was enforced during the Fleck strike.

The Butcher strikers face great odds. UAW militants must demand that the thousands of auto workers in Southern Ontario be mobilized in daily mass pickets to shut down Butcher's plant. Already UAW members from the Bramalea Ford parts center and

Ford Oakville have reinforced the Butcher picket lines. On October 3, seventy picketers, including a contingent from Local 707 (Ford Oakville) blocked the driveway at Butcher with concrete curbstones and skirmished with scabherding cops for three hours. In the battle to reopen the driveway the police thugs sent two picketers to the hospital and arrested four others, including three union officers from Local 707.

The UAW must come to the defense of the embattled Butcher strikers and demand that all the charges against the arrested picketers be dropped. With the powerful backing of the rest of the UAW the Butcher workers can turn the tide on these vicious strikebreaking assaults. Teamsters are refusing to cross the picket lines. But scab products are still being moved out of the plant and delivered to several auto plants in Southern Ontario and the U.S. Teamsters and auto workers must refuse to handle scab products from Butcher.

The auto bosses are trying to use the slump in the auto industry to launch a full scale attack on the auto workers union. Along with this massive assault on jobs, living standards and working conditions the auto bosses now have an anti-picketing injunction. The bureaucrats have done nothing to challenge this strikebreaking injunction.

Powerful united action by all auto workers would make court injunctions nothing more than worthless pieces of paper and pave the way for victory for the Butcher strikers. The leadership of the Butcher strike is limiting its demands to a compulsory dues check off. But backed by the tremendous economic muscle of the UAW the Butcher workers can win real union security through a closed shop. Throw out the scabs! It is shameful that the Butcher workers and others at small auto parts plants organized by the UAW work for less than union scale. A victory at Butcher could point the way forward to bringing the thousands of workers slaving in small sweatshops into the UAW with full Big Three wages and benefits!

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Racist Murder in Toronto

Jail the Killer Cops!



Toronto Star

2,000 PROTEST MURDER OF ALBERT JOHNSON TORONTO, SEPT. 1

On August 26 Albert Johnson, a 35-year-old Jamaican immigrant, was murdered in his own home by two Toronto cops. Johnson was the latest victim of an accelerating trend toward "cop justice" in which the function of judge, jury and executioner are carried out by trigger-happy "law enforcers." In the past year Toronto police have gunned down eight men. The unadulterated racism behind the Johnson killing is so gross that the setting could have been the American Deep South 30 years ago.

For three months before he was killed Johnson was the target of a systematic campaign of racist harassment and assault by Toronto cops. Last May, cops busted into Johnson's home, smashed his front door window and then attempted to drag him through the shattered glass. Johnson, who was finally taken from his house in shackles, spent 11 days in the hospital recovering from lacerations. While he was recuperating he was approached by cops who offered him a "deal." They wouldn't press charges if Johnson would agree to forget everything. When Johnson refused he was charged with assaulting a police officer!

Following this incident the cops pursued their racist vendetta against Johnson with a vengeance. He was arrested on charges of everything from reading a bible out loud to possessing a dangerous weapon--a six-inch stick! In many cases the charges were so ridiculous that they were tossed

out of court. But this did not stop the cops. Bromley Armstrong, an officer with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, revealed that between the May assault and the murder in August his office had accumulated a thick file of complaints of police harassment from Johnson.

Johnson was systematically chased from the streets by cops sneering racist epithets such as "nigger" and "black bastard." Then on a quiet Sunday afternoon, three police cruisers screeched to a stop in a laneway at the rear of the Johnson home. After breaking down the fence gate and busting through the back door the cops attacked Johnson, beating him over the head with billy clubs. When Johnson's wife Lemonica intervened, pleading with the cops to stop, Johnson fled upstairs.

According to the cop's story Johnson came back down the stairs swinging "what appeared to be an axe." In truth Johnson was carrying a lawn edger! The cops claim that Johnson "threatened" their lives. But Johnson's seven-year-old daughter, who witnessed the killing, tells a different story:

"They hit him and blood coming down his head. He went upstairs and the cops told him to come down. They came up to get him and told him to kneel down and when he kneeled down they shot him."

--Globe and Mail, 27 August

The cold-blooded racist murder of Albert Johnson provoked a cry of outrage, in particular from Toronto's black community. On September 1, 2,000 demonstrators chanting "murderers" and "we want revenge" marched for seven hours through downtown Toronto in protest against the Johnson killing. Close to 400 people attended the funeral and on 11 September, 500 more attended a benefit concert for the Johnson family.

The "Action Committee Against Racism," a Stalinist-dominated front group cohabited by the Canadian Party of Labour, the Workers Communist Party and others, called a demonstration for October 14. But when a contingent of TL supporters arrived at the rallying site they were met by a gang of Stalinist goons who refused to permit them to join the demonstration. Spokesmen for these thugs asserted that the TL was being excluded because our slogans (which included "The Cops can't be Reformed!", "Smash Racial Oppression through Workers Revolution" and "Jail the Killer Cops!") went beyond the "minimum", i. e., reformist, program of the coalition.

A gang from the fascist Nationalist Party tried to picket the demonstration. Supporters of Hardial Bains' Albaniophilic Communist Party of Canada

(Marxist-Leninist) trounced these scum and shredded their racist placards. As was to be expected the fascists were protected by their friends in blue-- but what is scandalous is that many of the demonstration's marshals joined with the police to hold back leftists seeking to attack the fascists! Jim Duerr, a sometimes militant-posturing alternate committee man at General Motors' Scarborough van plant, as well as Nelson Calder, a supporter of the reformist International Socialists were among the fascists' protectors. Unfortunately eight of the anti-fascists were arrested by the police. The Trotskyist League calls for their immediate release and for the dropping of all charges against them.

We reprint below the leaflet distributed by the Trotskyist League to the October 14 demonstration:

* * * *

Executed without arrest, trial or conviction! Guilty until proven innocent! Albert Johnson was the victim of "cop justice!" The killer cops who gunned down Johnson in his own home must be brought to justice for their crime. Over the past year Toronto's trigger-happy cops have killed eight men. This escalation of cop attacks must be stopped! Each time the cops get away with another of these stormtrooper executions, it frees their hand for more assaults on blacks, working people and all the oppressed.

Under increasing public pressure against the marauding cops the Toronto Police Commission has attempted to whitewash the Johnson murder through its supposed "independent" investigation. After appointing Cardinal Emmett Carter to "mediate" between the cops and Toronto's minorities Police Chief Harold Adamson called in his "colleagues" of the Ontario Provincial Police to investigate the Johnson killing. Predictably the OPP investigation was nothing more than a cover-up, denying any evidence of racism and completely dismissing the eyewitness account of the cop murder by Johnson's seven-year-old daughter, Colsie.

But even the OPP was unable to completely cover the tracks of the two Toronto cops who murdered Johnson, William Inglis and Walter Carnelli. Inglis and Carnelli have been charged with manslaughter. But this is only a sop to try to diffuse the massive public outrage at the Johnson killing. Inglis and Carnelli have been suspended from work with pay and as is the case in most cop killings will likely go scot-free. It is outrageous that Johnson's murderers face only a charge of manslaughter. They are clearly guilty of cold-blooded murder and must be brought to justice. Jail the police murderers of Albert Johnson!

Liberals and reformists are trying to channel the popular outcry over the recent escalation of random cop terror into a campaign for a toothless civilian review board and judicial inquiries into police killings. Everyone from Toronto mayor John Sewell to the leadership of the Ontario Fed-

Victory Over Klan Foremen!

On September 25, two foremen at the Dearborn Assembly Plant at Ford's sprawling River Rouge complex in Detroit put on Ku Klux Klan hoods and marched up and down their trim line. Outraged at the sight of these racist scum parading around in Klan garb, a number of workers in the area walked off the line. Subsequently over a thousand members of the Rouge United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 600 demanded in a petition:

- "1. That the local union demand the unconditional firing of [general foreman Tim] McKulen and [foreman Fred] Beinke and mobilize to insure these foremen are driven from the plant and the auto industry; and
- "2. No reprisals against workers who protested against working under these racists."

The petition initiated by class-struggle militants in Local 600 was enormously popular. On October 11 these same militants issued a leaflet reiterating their demands. In the days which followed the issue was picked up by the Detroit news media. The outrage of Rouge workers and the widespread publicity forced the local union leadership to demand that the racist foremen be fired and to threaten to shut down the plant if there were any reprisals against union militants. The pressure was so great that Ford transferred the two racists out of the plant in an attempt to "cool down" the workforce.

For the labor movement, minorities and socialists the fight against the fascists is one of life or death. The outrage of the thousand workers at Rouge who demanded action to drive these racist provocateurs out of the plant must be organized into a massive labor/black mobilization to smash the Klan and the Nazis.

eration of Labour is now calling for "police reform" and more police "accountability." Sewell has also recommended that the police force be opened up to more ethnic minorities. But this is not the answer to cop killings.

The motto of the Toronto police is "To Serve and Protect." But the main purpose of the cops is not to protect the population but to maintain the racist status quo. From gunning down defenseless blacks to smashing strikes the cops defend the interests of the bosses. On the UAW picket lines at Butcher Engineering in Brampton the cops arrest the strikers and not the scabs. No amount of civilian control can change the role of the police in racist capitalist society.

Nor will adding more cops from racial minorities change anything. When repression is the most efficient way to smash "disorder" or "maintain peace," then black fingers will pull the triggers just as easily as white. In Rhodesia the

(continued on page 13)

Nicaragua...

(continued from page 1)

capitalist regime. As proof of the "generosity of the Nicaraguan Revolution," they have refused to execute any of the National Guard criminals who tortured at random and rained high-explosive bombs on their own cities. While expropriating the property of the tyrant and his underlings, the new rulers have vowed to protect the holdings of other capitalists.

The array of forces in post-Somoza Nicaragua has the potential for an explosive confrontation--within the unstable ruling coalition of three FSLN factions and their bourgeois partners; between the government and the working masses or between a sector of the radical-Jacobin FSLN and reactionary sectors of the domestic bourgeoisie. This highly charged situation poses an acid test for revolutionists. For while the overwhelming majority of the left to one degree or another is tailing after the popular Sandinistas, the task of Trotskyists, who fight on the program of permanent revolution, is to remain the party of intransigent working-class opposition. Those who proclaim that proletarian-socialist revolution can come about peacefully in Nicaragua by nudging the present bonapartist regime gradually to the left could well be the first victims of their own illusions.

The FSLN has already initiated a wave of anti-working-class repression. One of the first acts of the new regime has been to attempt to disarm the "popular militias"--the working-class militants and urban slum dwellers who fought key battles in the streets of the capital and other cities. According to the *Economist* "6,000 of these men have had their guns taken away" by the new regime (29 September). The FSLN's commitment to protect the property of the anti-Somoza bourgeoisie is also evident around land reform. While its scope is sweeping, affecting as much as 60 percent of the arable land of Nicaragua, it is limited to estates belonging to Somoza and his henchmen. This was justified by Agrarian Reform Minister Jaime Wheelock with the argument, "We must keep solidarity with those members of the private sector who supported the ouster of Somoza" (*New York Times*, 5 August). A few days later FSLN officials clashed with a Maoist labor group organizing land seizures near the city of León.

EXPULSION OF THE SIMON BOLIVAR BRIGADE

The new regime has also moved to prevent the class struggle from "becoming more acute" by expelling several dozen foreign leftists. Most of these have been self-proclaimed Trotskyists associated with the "Simon Bolivar Brigade." The Bolivar Brigaders were expelled after they organized a demonstration of 3,000 Managua factory workers. According to the *Washington Post* (21 August) banners at the August 15 demonstration carried the slogans, "The Revolution is in the hands of the bourgeoisie" and "Power to the proletariat." For this they were charged with being "counterrevolutionaries" and "foreign provocateurs."



JIMMY CARTER AND FSLN LEADER DANIEL ORTEGA

This expulsion was clearly a blow struck against any independent leftist agitation among Nicaraguan workers and must be roundly condemned by all would-be socialists. But this is not what the fake-Trotskyists of the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) thought of it. Despite the fact that the Simon Bolivar Brigade was organized by a Colombian affiliate of the United Secretariat (USec--the RWL is its Canadian section), *Socialist Voice* hastened to reprint a statement by its reformist "big brothers" in the American Socialist Workers Party (SWP) which joined in the witchhunt against their own "comrades."

Labelling the Managua workers demonstration a "provocation" the article stated that:

"The leaders of the brigade... have carried out a policy contrary to the position of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International... The position of the Fourth International [sic] is to build a campaign of solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution in collaboration with the FSLN, not in opposition to it...

"...It is a grotesque idea that a group of non-Nicaraguans like the Simon Bolivar Brigade could jump into the revolutionary process from outside and through a series of manoeuvres build a counter leadership to the FSLN."

--*Socialist Voice*, 10 September

While some of Ernest Mandel's European followers indicated uneasiness about the expulsions, according to the SWP's *Intercontinental Press* (24 September), a USec delegation including LCR Latin American "expert" Jean-Pierre Beauvais (as well as Hugo Blanco, Peter Camejo, Barry Sheppard and others) handed a statement to the Sandinistas hailing "the revolutionary leadership of the FSLN" and declaring: "All activities which create divisions between the mobilized masses and the FSLN are contrary to the interests of the revolution." And to top it off the USec delegation explicitly endorsed the expulsion:

"In a political and economic situation that re-

quired the greatest possible unity in struggle, the FSLN was right to demand that the non-Nicaraguan members of this group--which defined itself above all as a military organization--leave the country."

It is not reported whether Blanco/Camejo/Shepard/Beauvais et al. received thirty pieces of silver, although they clearly hope to cash in on their perfidy by becoming the authorized cheerleaders for the FSLN.

In order to discharge their responsibilities as the self-appointed defenders of a government which includes a number of capitalist ministers and which is committed to safeguarding the properties of the "anti-Somoza bourgeoisie," the USec revisionists denounce anyone who attempts to mobilize the working masses around demands which go beyond the democratic program of the Sandinista leadership:

"Since the fall of the Somoza dictatorship the brigade and a number of other left organizations, including Maoists have attempted... to outflank the Sandinistas on the left. Their tactic was to try to expose the Sandinista leadership as not being revolutionary enough."

--Socialist Voice, 10 September

According to the October 8 issue of Intercontinental Press "These groups thus fall into the bourgeoisie's game of trying to divide the masses from the FSLN." Using similar arguments the Mensheviks accused Lenin of playing into the hands of the Tsarist reactionaries by his attempts to "divide the masses" from Kerensky's bourgeois Provisional Government in 1917.

The SWP and the RWL have made the call for "aid" from the North American imperialists a key element of their propaganda. "Ottawa should be sending massive aid with no strings attached. Its goal should be to aid the Nicaraguan people, not to blackmail them into concessions to imperialism" advised the RWL's Political Committee in its August 30 statement. In appearance a utopian/Kautsky-

ist call on the imperialist leopard to change its spots, in reality it is an appeal for a bloc with the liberal wing of the bourgeoisie to prevent socialist revolution in Latin America. It is no accident that the RWL/SWP's call for massive "aid" to Nicaragua is presently the line of the American State Department which is telling Congress that if the U. S. does not provide aid Nicaragua may well "go Communist."

Even if an appeal for aid is limited to labor organizations Marxists seek to use such aid to strengthen the hand of the proletariat. During the Spanish civil war Trotsky categorically rejected proposals that such aid go to the Popular Front government: "We will defend the idea that the trade unions should collect money not for the government but for the Spanish trade unions,..." ("Answers to Questions on the Spanish Situation," 1937). But the RWL congratulates the CLC bureaucrats for providing aid to Nicaragua as a means to pressure the government into giving its aid:

"While the CLC will continue to rely on labor for further funds, Harker [director of CLC International Affairs Department] said, both the labor movement and the church organizations are pressing the federal government to provide aid."

--Socialist Voice, 1 October

The U. S. imperialists and their Canadian junior partners are not in the business of dispensing aid to alleviate human suffering. Behind "humanitarian" dollars there is always politics. Aid to rebuild what--a capitalist or collectivized economy? The principal "aid" which the Nicaraguan working people urgently need is the leadership of a communist vanguard with a program of permanent revolution, going beyond the bourgeois-democratic program of the FSLN to mobilize the forces for proletarian revolution. And they won't get it from opportunists like the RWL and SWP who support the Sandinistas against the left and call on the

(continued on next page)

SUB DRIVE SUCCESS!

The Trotskyist League reached its quota in the combination Workers Vanguard/Spartacist Canada subscription drive one week ahead of time. The drive to increase the subbase of Workers Vanguard and its Canadian supplement, Spartacist Canada as well as the other publications of the international Spartacist tendency took place as part of a general perspective for increased recruitment in North America.

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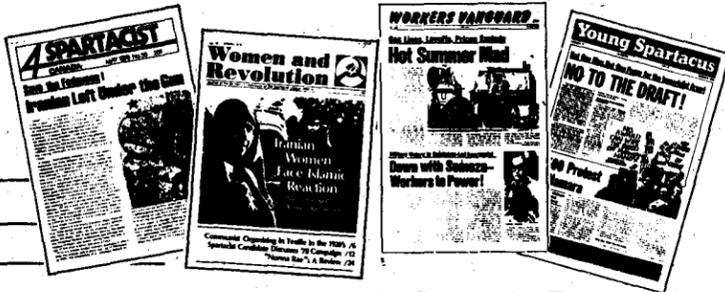
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Nicaragua...

(continued from page 11)

liberal imperialists to hold back the revolution.
**MORENOITE CHARLATANS AND
 ADVENTURERS**

So what about the Simon Bolivar Brigade and its parent, Nahuel Moreno's Bolshevik Faction of the USec? Moreno's factional enemies in the USec are charging that "The brigade as such never entered combat" (Intercontinental Press, 17 September). It does appear that for the most part Moreno's brigade, despite its bombastic propaganda, sat out the fighting in Costa Rica. So the heroic gun-in-hand guerrilla image the Brigade leaders would like to assume is certainly undeserved. Politically the Morenoites called for "a Sandinista government." They got their Sandinista government and--guess what--they got expelled from the country. But then that's what often happens when you tail after bonapartists.

Nahuel Moreno's record is that of a huckster who has put on the garb of virtually every popular trend in the Latin American left--Peronism, Castroism, Maoism and now Sandinism. He is also notorious for underhanded financial swindles and for his ultra-reformist program in his home base, Argentina. In 1973 Moreno joined a popular front Group of Eight together with the Argentinean CP and the leading bourgeois parties in pledging support to the bonapartist government of Juan Peron (see Workers Vanguard Nos. 23 and 49). Today Moreno is a gung-ho guerrillaist but in 1974 his organization in Argentina denounced the Castroite PRT/ERP (then affiliated with the USec) as the "mirror image" of "the terrorists of the AAA and other organizations of the ultraright" (Intercontinental Press, 28 October 1974).

Moreno's financial skulduggery is legendary in the Latin American left. The most sensationalist case concerns allegations that he failed to deliver promised funds to Hugo Blanco's operation in Peru in 1962, and his role in the disappearance of several thousand dollars taken in a bank expropriation by the Tupac Amaru group and destined for Blanco. Moreno's erstwhile partner in the leadership of the reformist Leninist Trotskyist Faction of the USec, former SWP leader Joseph Hansen noted in 1977 that these charges had never been answered. But before that for years all wings of the USec had happily co-existed in the same international with this snake-oil salesman. They have dirty hands.

**WORKERS TO POWER!
 FOR A TROTSKYIST PARTY!**

The masses of Nicaragua cannot and do not want to live in the old way. But to produce a socialist revolution the radicalized masses must be politically led and organized by a revolutionary vanguard party, centrally based on the proletariat, and with an international perspective. In the absence of such

a Leninist (Trotskyist) party, Nicaragua can at best result only in another Cuba, in a deformed social revolution in which the working class is saddled with a narrowly nationalist, parasitic and oppressive bureaucracy. But the fake-Trotskyist United Secretariat (USec) sees no need for a Leninist vanguard--because its entire perspective is to pressure the petty-bourgeois Sandinistas into making Nicaragua "another Cuba."

The immediate task facing a revolutionary party in Nicaragua is to oppose the efforts of the Sandinista/bourgeois junta to restore a capitalist state. An urgent demand a revolutionary party in Nicaragua must raise is that the toiling masses keep their arms, and that workers militias be established independently of the Sandinista/bourgeois regime. Above all, Trotskyists must agitate for a government excluding the anti-Somoza bourgeoisie committed to the expropriation of the big landowners and the capitalists based on the democratic organs of the working class and its peasant allies. Such a revolutionary struggle obviously cannot be confined to Nicaragua alone, but must strive for a Socialist United States of Latin America.■

(Adapted from Workers Vanguard No. 240, 28 Sept.)

WCP(M-L)...

(continued from page 2)

and counterrevolutionaries while Rashi & Co. announced that they had accomplished the "main tasks" for the formation of their new "communist" party.

Amongst all the hyperbole, grandiose pretensions and outright lies, one claim in the Forge's coverage of the founding convention of the WCP rings true: every resolution was adopted unanimously, "in a spirit of unity." But it is a unity forged through grovelling acceptance of China's alliance with any murderous tyrant or imperialist warmonger, from the former shah of Iran and Mobutu Sese Seko to Helmut Schmidt and Jimmy Carter, on the basis of virulent Cold War anti-Sovietism. (And any would-be oppositionist has the fate of Lin Piao and the Gang of Four to give him pause.) The "main task" of CCL(M-L) as it struggled to form the WCP was to transform hundreds of youth, many of whom no doubt cut their political teeth in the movement against U.S. imperialism's bloody counterrevolutionary war in Vietnam, into cynical sycophants of the Chinese bureaucracy willing to cheer the invasion of the Vietnamese deformed workers state by the People's Liberation Army in tacit alliance with the U.S.

The working class does not need another "party" of treacherous Stalinist thugs dedicated to repeating the history of defeats prepared by Stalin, Mao and their successors. As Trotsky once remarked, Stalinism is the syphilis of the workers movement. And Rashi & Co.--whatever appellation they give themselves--are a particularly repugnant strain.■

IS! Demo...

(continued from page 3)

cott of military goods to Chile and raised the slogan "No Guns to Pinochet!"

NO MORE POPULAR FRONTS!

The popular front is, in Trotsky's words, "the main question of proletarian class strategy for this epoch" and Chile provides a burning example of the consequences of popular frontism. Alone on the left the Spartacist tendency warned from the beginning that Allende's popular frontism would lead to a bloody defeat for the workers. But at the time of the coup IS! was still alibiing the counterrevolutionary foreign policy of Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communist Party which threw its support behind Pinochet and slammed the doors of the Chinese embassy in Santiago in the face of left wingers seeking sanctuary from Pinochet's murderous gorillas. Today IS! joins the social democrats and the CP in telling the Chilean workers to once more "unite" with a section of their class enemy.

Killer Cops...

(continued from page 9)

black frontmen for Ian Smith's white supremacist regime gun down not whites but other blacks. Only racially and ethnically united labor action can put an end to police terror. It is only a class-conscious labor movement that can uncompromisingly defend the democratic rights of working people and all the oppressed.

The clamor for stricter gun control by liberal politicians and their NDP fellow travellers is aimed at keeping all weapons in the hands of the killer cops while disarming the population. The policeman's badge and gun are his license to terrorize the population while the defenseless victims of cop terror are kept unarmed. No guns for the professional racist killers! Disarm the cops! Abolish all gun control laws!

The brutal racist murder of Albert Johnson has renewed the cry for more public control of the rampaging terrorists in blue. Speaking for the International Committee Against Racism, Toronto lawyer Charles Roach has called for setting up an independent elected board to replace the Toronto Board of Police Commissioners which only sanctions police brutality. Naturally the trigger-happy bonapartist marauders of the Toronto police are opposed to any form of "accountability" for their racist terror. But neither an elected Police Commission nor an impotent civilian review board are going to put a stop to these legal-killers.

The roots of cop terror lie in the racist, oppressive capitalist system. Police brutality against

The presence of the TL contingent on the demonstration was a source of obvious discomfort for IS! In Struggle! unsuccessfully attempted to get the TL to take down a placard reading "No More Popular Fronts! For a Trotskyist Party in Chile!" The TL politely, but firmly declined this offer of political censorship and acquainted an IS! representative with the elementary principles of workers democracy.

Still smarting from its political exposure at the demonstration, on September 28 IS! used physical intimidation to remove two TL women comrades from a publicly advertised meeting on Chile. Unable to defend its treacherous class collaboration IS! tries to escape revolutionary criticism by cowardly physical exclusions. But the job of revolutionaries who wish to show solidarity with the Chilean working people is to tell the truth and draw the lessons of the 1973 defeat in order to prepare for the decisive battles ahead. And the truth is that only along the road of permanent revolution, through the establishment of working-class rule supported by the peasantry can the exploited and oppressed sweep away, once and for all, the Pinochets and their henchmen.■

racial minorities and working people will continue as long as the capitalist parasites rule society. The bosses' hired thugs can be disbanded only by victorious workers revolution. When the working people rule society the cops and their capitalist masters will get the justice they deserve.
JAIL THE POLICE MURDERERS OF ALBERT JOHNSON!
DISARM THE COPS!
ABOLISH GUN CONTROL!

Cops Off Campus!

Seventy-five Toronto cops are enrolled in a "Law Enforcement Administration" course at the University of Toronto. The Trotskyist League opposes all such police studies programs which are only intended to train a more sophisticated breed of armed thugs for the capitalist class. Cops Off Campus!

Demonstrate!

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Simcoe Hall, U of T

Chrysler...

(continued from page 16)

workers must demand that the company open its financial records to committees of elected union members. If it cannot afford to operate its plants, Chrysler should be nationalized without compensation."

This reflexive response--demanding the expropriation without compensation of an industrial giant pleading bankruptcy--was an attempt to give immediacy to the socialist program for the expropriation of all industry under a workers government. But it is inappropriate in this case. The reformist practice of nationalizing only the least efficient capitalist operations is the exact opposite of socialist expropriation. Socialist economic planning is based on appropriating from the capitalists the most advanced means of production. Chrysler is not Inco, with its wealth and resources, or Bell, with its monopoly of indispensable communications technology, but an antiquated relic which has been gutted by rapacious parasitic stockholders.

The focus of the SC article was the demand for sit-down strikes against the layoffs, as opposed to reliance on government intervention. The utopian/reformist character of the demand to nationalize Chrysler is best summed up by the pseudo-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League (RWL):

"A nationalized auto company could be run in the interests of auto workers and the community at large. It could be run to provide good vehicles at an affordable price at the same time as providing a decent living wage and working conditions to its employees."

--Socialist Voice, 10 September

The reality of countries where the bankrupt social-democratic program of piecemeal nationalizations has been realized is starkly different than the RWL's rosy vision: one need only look at Britain. Successive Labour governments have nationalized failing firms, for example, the big auto manufacturer, Leyland. In doing so they give the bankrupt capitalists more money than they could otherwise get from liquidating their assets. The nationalized industrial cripples are then run in competition with more efficient private firms. In order to compete they resort, even more than private capitalists, to wage restraint, speedup, layoffs, etc. The utter failure of this miserable social-democratic system is obvious not only to Wall Street but to

Detroit auto workers as well.

The ossified AFL-CIO bureaucrats do not usually call for nationalizations. Historically, government takeovers in the U. S. are associated with strikebreaking. The UAW tops, however, have an atrophied but real social-democratic tradition. In 1945 Walter Reuther proposed a reformist scheme for converting the U. S. economy from a war footing to a "peace economy" which combined the RWL's populist utopianism with a jingoistic tribute to American militarism:

"We have but to mobilize for peace the resourcefulness and technical know-how which put the B-29 in the skies over Tokyo and sent the atomic bomb crashing into Hiroshima--and we can wipe out the slums and substandard housing, both rural and urban, which sap the health and dignity of millions of American families."
--"Our Fear of Abundance," New York Times Magazine, 16 Sept. 1945

Of course this "reconversion" was never completely made and for the last 35 years Chrysler's military production has remained its most profitable sector. The ultimate capitalist answer to "protecting" Chrysler jobs is another Hiroshima which would resolve both the problems of "abundance" and competition.

When necessary, the generation which came to power in the UAW with Reuther can recall their grand social-democratic schemes. The Fraser bureaucracy proposes that the Carter administration buy 30 percent of Chrysler's stock and demands a few seats on the board of governors for union representatives. As their membership base is eroded and ground down by the relentless pounding of a declining imperialist power, sections of the trade-union bureaucracy are even flirting with reconstituting the ghost of an independent labor-social democratic alliance. The RWL's co-thinkers in the American Socialist Workers Party hope to fill the void as social-democratic advisors to the trade-union bureaucracy as they throw a generation of youth recruited to petty-bourgeois faddism into factories. Thus it is not surprising to find the SWP and the RWL standing slightly to Fraser's left and calling for the nationalization of Chrysler and even without compensation.

The RWL's whole strategy is to elect a New Democratic Party "workers government" to buy out Chrysler. Calling on the workers to seize Chrysler's assets is counterposed to the RWL's reformist approach to nationalizations and their practice in the unions of tailing the NDP bureaucrats. A British Labour Party style takeover of Chrysler can only lead to greater emiseration of the working class as a whole. The demand for sit-down strikes, factory occupations and seizing the corporate assets of the tenth largest U. S. imperialist firm points in the direction of a genuine workers government to expropriate the entire capitalist class. ■

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White Flag Over Solidarity House

UAW Contract Sellout

A few minutes after the midnight strike deadline on October 3 the leadership of the Canadian section of the United Auto Workers (UAW) signed a sweetheart contract with General Motors. In the week that followed GM's 33,000 Canadian workers grudgingly ratified what many of them considered to be the worst agreement ever negotiated in auto. There was widespread, although short-lived, opposition to the rotten deal--which was virtually identical to the "pace setter" agreed to three weeks earlier in the U.S. In Oshawa workers jumped the gun on the official strike deadline by four hours. At the Scarborough van plant night-shift workers wildcatted the night after the agreement was signed. And in Ste. Thérèse, Quebec, pickets closed the plant for two days.

The North American automobile industry is in crisis. Tens of thousands of UAW members have been laid off indefinitely. While General Motors and Ford project more massive job cuts, Chrysler workers fear losing all of their jobs as the smallest of the Big Three teeters on the edge of bankruptcy. Under the new contract GM retains the right to schedule compulsory overtime. The demand for job protection through a shorter work week at no loss in pay was abandoned in favor of a few more Paid Personal Holidays (PPH). But the PPH scheme amounts to little more than a tool in the hands of the company to regulate absenteeism.

Not only did the cowardly UAW tops abandon the central issue of job protection; they didn't even win any new money in the settlement. The traditional "annual improvement factor" of a miserly three percent wage increase was retained. The union's present inadequate cost-of-living allowance (COLA) formula--which offsets only about a third of the effects of inflation--will remain unaltered until 1982. As inflation continues to explode upwards, auto workers can expect to lose several thousand dollars in real spending power over the life of the contract. COLA on pensions, which UAW International head Doug Fraser touted as the union's top priority in 1979, was junked when GM claimed it was "too costly and unpredictable." Instead retirees will receive meager three-times-yearly benefit adjustments--to be paid for by deducting an eventual total of 14 cents an hour from the COLA of employed auto workers!

The UAW brass' whole strategy of "pattern bargaining" (whereby only one of the Big Three is targeted for possible strike action) is a boon to the auto moguls. It means that on the average each of the three corporations is threatened with strike action only once a decade. More importantly, the tremendous potential power in the hands of the auto workers is dissipated because the



FRASER AND WHITE: HAPPY WITH THE SELLOUT

Solidarity

bureaucrats forfeit the economic clout of an all-out strike in an industry which is at the heart of the entire North American economy. (This year the union sellouts carried their treachery one step further and announced that even in the event of a strike only selected GM plants would be affected!) The UAW misleaders further sabotage the possibility of effective strike action by setting separate strike deadlines in the U.S. and Canada. Thus practically every contract year finds Canadian and American UAW members scabbing on each other's strikes.

The tentative agreement signed with Ford in the U.S. parallels the GM settlement. But the worst lies in store for the Chrysler workers who have already suffered 27,000 indefinite layoffs in the past several months, and who face the prospect of Chrysler going under altogether. Far from proposing to fight the wholesale attack on Chrysler workers however the UAW leadership has promised to give the No. 3 automaker "special consideration"--exempting it from any strike action and agreeing to negotiate a substandard contract for Chrysler workers.

The pro-company policies of the UAW bureaucracy spell defeat for the historically militant auto workers. Chrysler workers must respond to the wholesale liquidation of their jobs with militant sitdowns and the seizure of Chrysler's assets. UAW militants must fight to rip up the sellout of '79 and launch an industry-wide strike throughout North America to win a shorter work week and a big pay boost linked to a full COLA for both employed workers and retirees. Hand in hand with the need for a fight against the auto bosses is the necessity to throw out Fraser, Bob White (the Canadian Director of the UAW) and their ilk. They must be replaced by a class-conscious militant leadership whose demands are based on the needs of the membership and not tailored to the sacred profit margins of the Big Three. ■

No Bailouts for the Bosses

Chrysler Workers: Take it - it's Yours

The possible collapse of the smallest of the Big Three auto-makers has prompted the growth of a "Save Chrysler" lobby to back the company's plea for a billion-dollar government bailout. Suddenly even the bourgeois press is weeping crocodile tears over the mass layoffs that have hit Chrysler. This is pure hypocrisy. Thousands of workers can be thrown out on the streets without evoking such pangs of "social conscience" from the pundits of the capitalist press. But this time it is one of the giants of the automobile industry, the heart of North American capitalism, that is hurting. The Toronto Star summed up the sudden concern over the fate of Chrysler:

"When companies of such size and importance get into difficulties, governments and consumers snap to attention.

"While smaller ones can be permitted to fade away giants cannot."

--August 3

It is not the plight of thousands of Chrysler workers thrown out of work that is the matter of "public concern," but protecting Chrysler's profits and shielding North American capitalism from foreign competition. As every "Save Chrysler" editorial notes, if the No. 3 automaker goes down the tubes it will only open the market up for more German and Japanese cars.

Solidarity House, equally concerned with the company's profits, has thrown its lot in with Chrysler's plea for a government bailout and promised a substandard contract. But it is not the task of auto workers to keep Chrysler in business but to defend their jobs and living conditions. Any government handout will be strictly for the benefit of Chrysler shareholders. If Carter and Clark do decide to shell out to keep the sinking auto company afloat, more plants and workers will be



1973 SIT-DOWN VICTORY AT CHRYSLER DETROIT

Detroit News

scrapped in the name of "financial responsibility." Chrysler workers must be mobilized to defend their jobs. Not government handouts but militant sit-down strikes and factory occupations! If Chrysler is broke, the auto workers should seize the company's assets. The money from the sale of the assets belongs to the workforce--not one cent to the shareholders and banks! Such a militant attack on the bosses' private property rights could be the key to breaking the bureaucrats' stranglehold on the union and unlocking the power and militancy of the UAW in an industry-wide fight for jobs, decent wages and better living conditions.

WHY NOT NATIONALIZE CHRYSLER?

The August-September issue of Spartacist Canada urged:

"It is crucial that the UAW revive its historic weapon of the sit-down strike....

"Instead of meekly petitioning Joe Clark or Jimmy Carter for handouts for Chrysler, auto

(continued on page 14)