

Our immediate goal: the creation of the party of the proletariat of Canada

The Canadian proletariat has been deprived of its vanguard party for more than thirty years now. This explains in good part why revisionist ideas and nationalist and reformist ideas have so much influence in the Canadian working-class movement.

These unfavourable conditions have meant that the new Canadian communists have had to learn by themselves. Despite this, the Marxist-Leninist movement here has made enormous progress since the time when various small groups undertook the

task of applying its teachings to the struggle for socialism in Canada.

IN STRUGGLE! has played a leading role in this struggle. Our Organization has been a driving force in the struggle for the principled unity of communists. Our Organization has waged the struggle against opportunism on a clearly Marxist-Leninist basis. For two years now, our Organization has made the unity of the proletariat and resistance to the rise of reaction central in the tactics for the current period.

Because of all this, we can indeed say that IN STRUGGLE! has played a vanguard role in the struggle to rebuild the proletarian party on the solid rock of Marxism-Leninism.

In December 1974, we called for a Marxist-Leninist organization equipped with an authentic communist programme and based across the country. This organization now exists: it is the **Marxist-Leninist Organization of Canada IN STRUGGLE!** It is by strengthening this organization that we will bring about a situation favourable to the creation of the proletarian party. Nevertheless, there is still a great deal of work to be done before the conditions necessary to create the party are

fulfilled. We have no intention of listing these conditions as one would the ingredients in a recipe, for the decision to create the party can only be made on the basis of a concrete analysis of the concrete situation.

The Political Report adopted at our Third Congress emphasizes, however, two tasks that are very important in fulfilling these conditions: the penetration of our Programme in the working class so as to rally advanced workers around it; and the development of our work in English Canada.

Today, a limited but growing section of the working class has taken up communist ideas, and a steadily increasing number of workers are rallying to our Organization. This is progress, but much remains to be done.

Throughout the country as a whole, hundreds of thousands of workers are involved in various struggles against the capitalists, and tens of thousands have rejected capitalism. There is good reason to think that they will be joined by many more as the capitalist crisis gets worse and worse — and it inevitably will — in the next few years.

The first task set by our Third Congress is to whittle away at and totally eliminate the influence of all kinds of revisionists and opportunists, who stifle working-class struggles and orient them into channels that only serve to strengthen the power of the bourgeoisie. A multitude of groups and organizations — from the New Democratic Party to the Canadian Communist League, from the Communist Party of Canada to the CPC (M-L) — are active in the working-class movement. In the name of socialism, they propose solutions that have already proven, time and time again, to be in total contradiction with the interests of the proletariat.

The real power of the communist Programme will come from the fact that it is adopted by the most class conscious workers and used by them to orient their struggle. The real power of the Programme will come from the fact that it succeeds in convincing these workers to commit themselves fully to the

task of building the party of the proletarian revolution. That is the task that lies ahead of us!

This certainly means that we must be more active in the struggles of the working class, because that is where working-class leaders are to be found. It also means that we must develop our capacities to do agitational and propaganda work in the spontaneous struggles of the masses and to mobilize people in the struggles that we ourselves instigate on the basis of political conditions in Canada and in the world. To do all this, our Organization must be able to confront the bourgeoisie in any and all specific situations.

It is essential, however, not to dilute our theoretical and practical standards for those who want to become members of the Organization. We must ensure that they all have the possibility of acquiring a solid communist education and training. We want to build the party of the communist vanguard of the proletariat, not a party of petty bourgeois who "co-ordinate the struggles of the working-class movement".

The second major task set by the Congress is to give priority to developing our work and organization in English Canada so as to make considerable progress towards evening up the current unequal development in Quebec and English Canada.

As the Political Report points out, the cause of the unity of the proletariat would not be served by creating a party inevitably, under current conditions, be seen as "something purely Québécois". The Communist Party of Canada's problems (the old party of the thirties) with this in the past should be sufficient warning.

There is no lack of either militancy or open-mindedness on communist ideas in English Canada. But we have to work to reach the workers and progressive people who are more than willing to take up the revolutionary struggle or who may well be willing to do so in the near future.

Our newspaper has a leading role to play in this work. It will be able to do an even better job of it, if we pursue our efforts to ensure that its contents really reflect the point of view of the proletariat in Canada as a whole and not only in Quebec.



The proletarian party is built in the heat of class struggle. By calling on Canadian workers to unite in the struggle against the Wage Control Act, IN STRUGGLE! showed that the programme can and must be a guide to action and that it is during this action that the foundations for the party are built.

Preparing and running the Congress

"The working class of this country finally has a communist programme." That's how the delegates to IN STRUGGLE!'s Third Congress joyously applauded the adoption of the Programme. The enthusiastic men and women delegates, elected by their comrades, came from all the major regions of the country — the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and the West. They unanimously adopted the Constitution, the Political Report, the Financial Report and a special proposal calling for unity of the international communist movement. In addition, a new Central Committee was elected.

Adopting the Programme was the Third Congress's most important work. The Programme had already been circulated and discussed across the country for over a year in the form of a Draft version. A variety of public meetings were held to debate its contents, most notably the Montreal meeting held in June 1978 attended by more than 1,500 people. The programme has been enriched by the many com-

ments and critics from workers and progressives. It is the product of the struggle to root out revisionism from the Canadian working-class movement.

Congress documents were distributed two months in advance to all members and probationary members, and there was collective study and debate in the cells. Participation was extensive. More than 200 pages of amendments, criticisms and viewpoints were sent in by militants from across the country. They were submitted to the delegates at the Congress.

Throughout the Congress, the rules of procedure as adopted by the delegates were the basis for a free expression of viewpoints on all questions. The rules also allowed clear votes to be taken on all proposals.

The democratic election of a new Central Committee, each of whose members was elected by a majority vote of the delegates, underlined the high degree of unity around the new leadership. The Secretary-General was re-elected un-

animously by the new Central Committee.

The organization of the Congress brings home the fact that a correct application of democratic centralism means everyone can freely express his point of view without constraint. This is the basis for the political life of an organization which coalesces the unity of all members around the leadership. It means that everyone can work to firmly apply the decisions made. For a communist organization, a congress is the highest instance of leadership over all activities and orientation. Such a congress is a far cry from the conventions of bourgeois parties where cliques of leaders connive to block the democratic expression of viewpoints and use the party's programme and rules to their own ends.

We invite all workers interested in IN STRUGGLE!'s positions and convinced that they are correct to rally to the Organization and actively partake in the construction of a true communist party..