

# 4 SPARTACIST

## CANADA

May 1976 No.6 \$ .10

## *For a General Strike to Smash the Wage Controls!*



FRONT OF CLC CONTINGENT AT MARCH 22 DEMONSTRATION IN OTTAWA

SC Photo

## **OUST THE BUREAUCRATS!**

The March 22 demonstration on Parliament Hill against the Trudeau government's wage control program (Bill C-73) was a dramatic illustration of both the potential strength of the Canadian working class and the treacherous class-collaborationist policies of its trade union misleaders. Timed by the CLC brass to coincide with its annual brief to the federal government, the hastily-organized and badly-publicized demonstration nonetheless succeeded in attracting upwards of 20,000 English-Canadian and Québécois workers affiliated to the Canadian Labor Congress, the Confederation of National Trade Unions of Quebec, and the Quebec Teachers Federation, constituting the largest united action of the English Canadian and Quebec working class in history and testifying to the militant determination of the trade union rank and file to fight the wage controls.

It is sad to note that this impressive display of labor's strength was organized by the CLC brass primarily as back-up to their own mealy-mouthed supplications to the capitalist government. While opposing the specifics of the government's wage and "price" control policy, CLC president Joe Morris' brief conspicuously failed to oppose wage controls on principle, basing its argument on the ineffectualness of the price control portion of the package and hence on the "unfair" character of the "anti-inflation" policy. "Whatever happened to price controls?"--the slogan on hundreds of buttons and placards--was clearly the theme that the bureaucrats wished to set for the demonstration. But the mood of most of the demonstrators was considerably more militant. The capitalist politicians and their labor lieutenants in the CLC understood full well that the demonstration outside was a portent of a new pan-Canadian working class militancy and unity engendered by the current capitalist economic crisis.

While the determination to fight is clearly present within the Canadian working class, the pro-

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capitalist trade union bureaucracy has done next to nothing in response to the anti-working class offensive of the capitalist state represented by the wage controls. The CLC's withdrawal from the Canada Labor Relations Council and the Economic Council of Canada is simply a sop to the ranks of the Canadian labor movement and in no way represents a real turn on the part of the trade union bureaucracy away from its class-collaborationist project of tying the working class hand and foot to the bourgeois state and to a capitalist program for "solving" the capitalist crisis.

"Unity" was a central theme of the demonstration. But where was the CLC's desire for unity when the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) struck last fall in the first real test of labor's strength in resisting the bourgeoisie's austerity program? Subjected to the most massive campaign of anti-labor vilification undertaken by the bourgeois media in recent years, CUPW workers stood virtually alone in their struggle while the bureaucrats of related unions (especially the Letter Carriers Union of Canada) refused to raise a finger in real solidarity, and as the CUPW's own bureaucrats sealed the postal strike's defeat through their own historically-evolved no-win policies. It was the same story with the strike of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation and the agonizingly prolonged strike of the Canadian Paperworkers Union. "Unity" for the gentlemen of the trade union bureaucracy is nothing but a hollow phrase which reduces itself to unconditional support for their sell-out, pro-capitalist policies and consequently for their mis-leadership of the trade union movement. The pre-condition for a fighting unity of the working class against the capitalist offensive lies in a rupture with these fakers and their replacement by a leadership committed to a class-struggle program. Indeed this is the only way that the trade unions can be transformed into fighting organs representative of the day-to-day as well as the historical interests of the working class.

#### NATURE OF THE TRADE UNION BUREAUCRACY

The bureaucrats are not merely inept cowards; they constitute a privileged petty-bourgeois stratum within the trade unions which plays the role of mediator between the working class and the bourgeoisie: the bourgeoisie's cops within the labor movement. The capitulatory logic of their pro-capitalist business unionism, as well as the bourgeois nature of rank-and-file trade union consciousness, can be challenged only through a struggle for a revolutionary political program within the unions. The myth of the "non-political" nature of the unions, upheld by every strain of economist fake-"socialism" and refuted by Lenin and Trotsky's Communist International in the early 1920's, is graphically exposed by the reality of the bureaucracy's intervention into the bourgeois political process. This intervention takes

the form not only of sitting on government-appointed boards; using the bourgeois courts against opponents in the labor movement; and co-operating with government intervention into the unions. In Canada it has also taken the form of the New Democratic Party, a pro-capitalist social-democratic party based on the unions which the CLC was instrumental in creating and through which the bureaucracy seeks to tie the working class to parliamentarism and the bourgeois state. As a bourgeois workers party, the NDP presents a contradictory phenomenon. As a deformed expression of independent working-class political action, it requires a tactical approach by the revolutionary vanguard that can facilitate splitting its working-class base from its pro-capitalist leadership. These tactics can include "critical support" and "conditional opposition" at the electoral level, the latter being called for in this period of NDP strike-breaking and informal coalitionism.

To separate the trade union from the political question is to pave the way for the most massive defeats of the working class. A new class-struggle leadership must be built in the trade unions committed to a full program of class-struggle transitional and democratic demands including trade union independence from the state; a sliding scale of wages and hours (to end unemployment); workers control of industry; the right of self-determination for Quebec; opposition to sexual and racial oppression; and a workers government committed to the expropriation of the bourgeoisie. The task at this time is to construct oppositional caucuses in the unions on this programmatic basis as an integral component of the struggle to build a workers party, the indispensable political instrument for the seizure of power by the working class.

#### FOR A GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST THE WAGE CONTROLS!

The only effective programmatic response of the Canadian working class to the current capitalist economic crisis and the bourgeois program for "resolving" it is the program of socialist revolution, the goal of which is a workers government. But this is quite obviously not immediately on the agenda. In this period of capitalist offensive and bureaucratic betrayal, revolutionaries have an obligation to point out the minimal defensive measures that the working class must take in order not to lose what they have won in previous battles. The working class has been challenged to produce a generalized response to the generalized offensive of the capitalist class. Concretely this means a general strike of the entire Canadian working class.

Since the introduction of wage controls last October the Trotskyist League has pointed out that massive strike action would be required to defeat the controls, but that strike action on the part of individual unions (or even on the part of the Quebec trade union movement) would be insufficient to this task without the active solidarity and sup-

port of the rest of the labor movement. Experience has confirmed this all too clearly--but the experience has been of a negative character. The partial struggles of isolated trade unions, running up against the imperatives of the bourgeoisie's economic program, have yielded little besides lawyers' arguments for "exceptional cases" and a vivid confirmation of the trade union bureaucracy's disregard for (and fear of) real working class solidarity. A class-struggle leadership in the trade unions would have seen the necessity, from the very beginning of the wage control policy, of mobilizing the entire Canadian working class for a general strike to defeat the controls and to address the larger political questions posed by the capitalist economic crisis.

Unfortunately, the Canadian trade union movement does not have such a leadership. If it did, the general strike could be the prelude to an open struggle for power by the working class--a proletarian revolution. The general strike's "internal tendency to transform itself into... a direct struggle for power" (Trotsky) could be fully realized under these conditions. But the reality is different. It is the Joe Morris, the Dennis McDermotts and Louis Laberges who now dominate the trade union movement and from them we cannot expect a lasting solution to the problems of the working class, i. e., the struggle to bring down the bourgeois state and replace it with a workers government.

But the sell-out, pro-capitalist character of the leadership of the trade union movement must not deter us from soberly assessing the objective tasks of the working class: a general strike is called for. At the same time, the character and objectives of such a general strike must be clearly defined and limits placed on it in accordance with our assessment of the trade union movement's present leadership (i. e. it is necessary to avoid the twin errors of tail-ending the trade union bureaucracy and of sowing illusions in it). Under these conditions, it was, and still is, necessary to call upon the CLC to convoke a Congress of Labor to organize a general strike with the defensive and limited objective of defeating the wage controls.

To the extent that the question of a general strike has been discussed at all in English Canada, it has usually been seen as a one-day work-stoppage of protest. In Quebec, where the level of militancy is much higher and where four years ago a general strike of public-sector workers resulted in serious social dislocations, including elements of workers control (dual power) in some places, there has been much talk of an "unlimited" general strike--some meaning unlimited in duration, others implying unlimited in objectives.

Clearly the proposal for a one-day general strike is absolutely inadequate to the objective tasks of the working class of both English Canada and Quebec. It could only serve the trade union bureaucracy as a means of allowing the trade union ranks to "blow off steam", without seriously challenging

# 4 SPARTACIST

## CANADA

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the continued existence of the controls. A defensive general strike means staying out until the controls are buried. It means preparing the working class for a long struggle that makes provision for the broadest possible rank-and-file control over the strike (to resist the bureaucracy's inevitable sell-out attempts and to create the best possible conditions for intervention by revolutionaries). It means winning the support of the entire working class (unorganized as well as organized, English Canadian as well as Québécois) and significant sections of the petty-bourgeoisie. It means that the trade union movement itself must be prepared to take responsibility for assuring the distribution of goods and the continued availability of essential services, a task which itself poses the need for (and possibility of) a reorganization of the economy in the interests of the working class. Naturally, a defensive general strike can only begin to pose this latter question. But to the extent that it sows the seeds of dual power, undermines the hegemony of the bureaucracy and creates more favorable conditions for a struggle for revolutionary leadership in the trade unions, a defensive general strike paves the way for the greater battles to come.

Finally, it must be underlined that a general strike in Quebec, beginning with the Common Front and extending to other sectors of the working class, cannot succeed in isolation from the English Canadian working class. To succeed the general strike must be pan-Canadian in scope (as is the bourgeoisie's offensive). (We note that this was not made clear in the article "Key Labor Struggles Ahead" in Spartacist Canada No. 5.)

### RESPONSE OF THE FAKE-TROTSKYISTS

The response of various pseudo-Trotskyist organizations to the wage controls and to the developing sentiment within the labor movement for

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general strike action has been characteristically capitulatory to the trade union bureaucracy. The English Canadian and Quebec supporters of the majority faction of the "United Secretariat" (USec), the Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG) and the Groupe Marxiste Révolutionnaire (GMR), have adopted contradictory positions which deny the need for a common strategy of English Canadian and Québécois workers in response to wage controls.

The RMG is pushing for a one day general strike in English Canada, sometimes describing it as a preparatory step to an "offensive" general strike (with the defensive objective of defeating the controls) and sometimes as "the most effective [!] form of solidarity" that English Canadian workers can undertake on behalf of a Quebec general strike! Meanwhile the GMR is advocating, for Quebec, an "unlimited general strike with occupations," a position which sometimes borders on an adventurist call for insurrection and sometimes on the anarcho-syndicalist conception of "workers self-management."

The incongruity between these two (?) positions is partly explained by the different pressures to which the two organizations are responding. The RMG's entire practice since the wage controls were introduced (and before for that matter) has been to tail-end the trade union bureaucracy ("complemented" at the electoral level by knee-jerk "critical support" to the NDP), upholding the need for "unity" above the need for a political struggle against these sell-out misleaders.

The GMR, responding to pressures from a more militant left milieu and to the nationalist syndicalism characteristic of the fake-"left wing" of the Quebec trade union bureaucracy, has been capable of greater left posturing, while failing to break qualitatively from the bureaucracy on any significant question (especially its syndicalism and its notion of a "Québécois road to socialism").

GMR leader Michel Mill, on tour of English Canada recently, was able to approvingly quote a rank-and-file Montreal worker regarding the futility of a one day general strike in Quebec, without causing the least embarrassment to his RMG "co-thinkers" who are advocating precisely this in English Canada (a proposal which in the context of the European workers movement would scarcely distinguish them from the French and Italian Communist Parties who regularly organize such impotent "general strikes").

The unprincipled propaganda bloc of the League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière (LSA/LSO--official section of the USec in Canada) and the Groupe Socialiste des Travailleurs du Québec (GSTQ--Quebec Socialist Workers Group, affiliated to the Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International)--who cannot even agree among themselves whether a pan-Canadian general strike is called for--has insisted that a "working class" political solution to the capitalist crisis is required. For the social-democratic opportunists of the LSA/LSO/

GSTQ, however, the "solution" consists of building a union-based labor party in Québec (presumably on the basis of the pro-capitalist program of the union bureaucracy, since no alternative program is elaborated) and an NDP government in Ottawa! In this way they objectively support the claims of the trade union bureaucracy that the only "real solution" for the working class is a parliamentary one, the replacement of the present bourgeois government with an NDP government "committed to satisfying [the workers'] demands." Such parliamentary cretinism and illusion-sowing in the NDP flows logically from an equation of a workers government with a government of a bourgeois reformist "workers" party and of a workers party, in turn, with a party dominated by a pro-capitalist trade union bureaucracy.

From the Healyite Workers League, a miniscule Montreal-based sect affiliated to the "International Committee of the Fourth International," we have the demands for a "general strike to throw out the Liberals," new elections, and an NDP government pledged to socialist policies. While the Healyites at least make an attempt to define the content of a socialist program (including the demand for the expropriation of industry without compensation), their policy is simultaneously fantastical and parliamentarist. The demand for new elections and a "socialist" NDP government implies that the road to a workers government is through the NDP and parliamentary elections.

While in certain situations (and now is certainly not one of them, given the recent record of the NDP) Trotskyists can call upon the mass organizations of the working class (the reformist workers parties and the trade unions) to form a government on a program of expropriating the bourgeoisie, such a demand projects an extra-parliamentary struggle for power and must also be seen as a tactic for exposing the reformist mis-leaders. The Workers League's conception that an NDP government is an indispensable stage on the road to socialism and their concomitant strategic conception of "critical support" to the NDP renders them incapable of building a revolutionary alternative to the NDP or the trade union bureaucracy.

Only the Trotskyist League is struggling for the construction of a pan-Canadian workers party based on the trade unions and committed to the struggle for a workers government, a government which would eradicate the material basis for all forms of capitalist oppression through the complete political and economic expropriation of the bourgeoisie and the establishment of a planned socialist economy.

**OUST THE BUREAUCRATS! FOR A CLASS STRUGGLE LEADERSHIP IN THE TRADE UNIONS! FOR A GENERAL STRIKE TO SMASH WAGE CONTROLS! FOR A WORKERS PARTY TO STRUGGLE FOR A WORKERS GOVERNMENT!**

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Spartacist Canada is dedicated to the Marxist principle that truth is revolutionary. In this spirit, the spirit that permeates the press of our international tendency, Spartacist Canada seeks to expose the treacherous lies of the bourgeoisie, to bring to our readers an understanding of the irreconcilable class antagonisms that characterize capitalist society, and to put forward the program, strategy and tactics necessary to realize the victory of the international proletariat.

As a communist tool of intervention, Spartacist Canada brings the politics of proletarian revolution into the left and workers movement, continuing the Leninist tradition of merciless criticism of those who claim to stand for the interests of the working class but betray those interests in practice.

Spartacist Canada focuses on events and questions of importance to the Canadian working class: the fight for communist leadership in the trade unions; militant opposition to all forms of racial and sexual oppression, including the oppression of native people, racist immigration policies and the unequal social and economic status of women; communist intervention on the campuses and in the various student movements; and the struggle for a workers party that will fight for a workers government.

## Muñoz

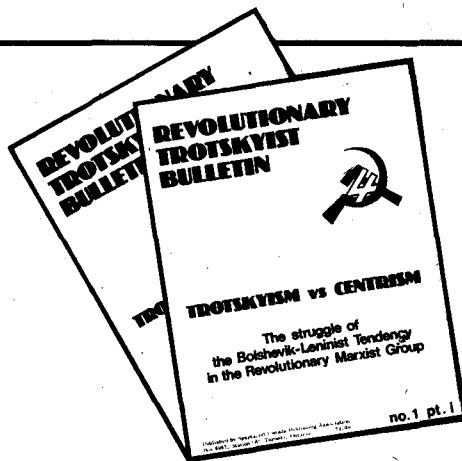
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in Toronto, one of several protest actions that have been organized across North America in recent weeks.

As a part of this campaign the Committee is urging that telegrams and letters be sent to Members of Parliament calling on them to telegraph the Argentine government to demand that the man-hunt be called off and safe conduct out of the country be guaranteed to Muñoz. Such letters and telegrams to MP's should also contain the demand for asylum for Mario Muñoz in Canada.

For more information, including a complete list of endorsers, or to assist in the work of the Committee to Save Mario Muñoz write c/o Box 222, Station B, Toronto, or call (416) 366-4107. Funds to assist the Committee's work should be sent to the Partisan Defense Committee Box 633, Canal St. Station, New York, NY 10013, earmarked for the Committee to Save Mario Muñoz.

Only international working class solidarity can save the life of Mario Muñoz! ■



The Spartacist Canada Publishing Association is now undertaking a new project: the publication of a Revolutionary Trotskyist Bulletin (RTB) series that will document the history and development of the Trotskyist League of Canada (TLC) Canadian sympathizing group of the international Spartacist tendency. RTB#1, published in two parts, has just come out. It provides an excellent documentary history of the struggle of the Bolshevik-Leninist Tendency (B-LT) for Trotskyist politics in the centrist Revolutionary Marxist Group. The B-LT's fusion with the Canadian Committee of the international Spartacist tendency laid the basis for the formation of the TLC in the summer of 1975. To mark the occasion of the publication of these important bulletins, Spartacist Canada is making a special subscription offer: for five dollars, you can receive a two dollar subscription to Spartacist Canada and both parts of RTB #1 (a \$3.75 value). This is a limited offer, so subscribe now!

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as "immutable, a necessary stage in some imagined gradual march toward socialism, and the party's program is reformism, whether it be the social-democratic fakery of the NDP or the petty-bourgeois nationalism of the proposed Quebec 'labor party'."

Trotsky's attitude on the labor party question was quite different: he called for propagandizing in the trade unions around the demands of the Transitional Program and proposing these as the basis for a labor party (see, for example, Discussions on the Transitional Program). Understood in this way, the labor party demand can be used to intersect a developing movement for independent working-class political action and infuse it with a communist perspective. It is an algebraic formulation for a revolutionary, i. e., Trotskyist, party.

But the LSO-GSTQ bloc position on the labor party is doubly opportunist. In addition to presenting a stage-ist view of the labor party, the two groups advocate the non-Leninist conception of a party in Quebec which would be separate from such a party in English Canada. (Spokesmen for the GSTQ have qualified this somewhat by stating that the essential programmatic condition for the unification of the English Canadian and Quebec workers parties would be the former's acknowledgement of the right of Quebec to self-determination: a bourgeois-democratic right is thus transformed into the question of the epoch!) This federalist aspect of the LSO-GSTQ's labor party position was insufficiently dealt with in the February Spartacist Canada, which -- through omission and a number of ambiguous statements -- implied support for a separate Quebec labor party.

The call for a workers or labor party in Quebec separate from a Canada-wide party is a Bundist conception of working-class political organization, i. e. it shares with the Austro-Marxist and Jewish Bund opponents of Leninism in the Second International, a federalist organizational notion that is counterposed to the Leninist position of "one state power, one party." The Bund and the Austro-Marxists developed the position that workers of different nationalities, even when they were confronting a common state power, should have independent organizational/political expressions.

The LSO-GSTQ's call for a labor party is thus not merely a call for a bureaucratically-dominated social-democratic party, but also a call for the organizational fragmentation of the working class in the face of a centralized state apparatus. Such a concession to Quebec nationalism is of course to be expected from the LSO -- which considers Quebec nationalism progressive -- but it renders the GSTQ's position even more incon-

gruous since the GSTQ claims to be opposed to Quebec nationalism and the indépendentiste program. Logically the GSTQ should be calling for the construction of a strong section of the social-democratic New Democratic Party in Quebec as the vehicle for its conception of "independent working-class political action." Its failure to do so can only be ascribed to a hesitancy to commit immediate political suicide.

The LSO and GSTQ are, however, contradictory Bundists, since they uphold the need for "revolutionaries" in English Canada and Quebec to build a common organization. (The LSO, for its part, shares a common program, leadership and "democratic-centralist" discipline with its English Canadian counterpart, the League for Socialist Action.) Thus the LSO-GSTQ advance a classical "two banner" policy: for the vanguard, a democratic-centralist "Leninist" organization; for the working masses, a federalist menagerie of social-democratic parties.

## GMR: WHO NEEDS A WORKERS PARTY WHEN YOU HAVE A STUDENT MOVEMENT?

Enjoying a separate organizational existence from the Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG), its sister section in English Canada, the Groupe Marxiste Révolutionnaire upholds an openly bundist conception of "revolutionary" organization in Canada. For them it is not a question of carrying two banners, but whether to carry a banner at all.

To date, the GMR has stood aloof from the developing sentiment for a union-based workers party. Instead of seeking to intersect this sentiment, they have taken a position against a union-based workers party, arguing that such a demand necessarily involves a strategy of pressuring the bureaucrats.

In a recent article in their newspaper, Combat Socialiste (4 February 1976), the GMR polemicalizes against the GSTQ with the following arguments:

"In Quebec the GSTQ has been struggling for a workers party whose task would be to present 'workers candidates' on the basis of a 'workers program.' On the nature of this program the GSTQ remains descreet, even though the Trotskyist movement has always considered a program of transitional demands linking the immediate demands to the final objective as being the task of revolutionaries in the imperialist stage. On how socialism will be achieved in Quebec, the GSTQ is alas equally silent. Only one thing is concrete: this party must be launched by the trade union centrals.

"This policy is a consequence of a political choice of the GSTQ: the tactic of being a pressure group on the trade-union apparatus is in effect incompatible with the construction of a Leninist organization which undertakes



political work as a communist fraction in the unions and which seeks the election of some of its members to responsible trade union posts on these political positions. This tactic of pressuring the union apparatus has other unfortunate consequences. Among other things it underestimates the autonomous role of the politicized student movement as a factor for outflanking the trade-union bureaucracy and the bourgeois-nationalist formations [!]."

The GMR is quite correct in pointing out the incompatibility of a perspective of pressuring the trade union bureaucracy with the "construction of a Leninist organization." But the "strategy" that they counterpose to the GSTQ's social-democratic cretinism is simultaneously disingenuous and petty-bourgeois. Like the RMG in English Canada and other sections of the majority faction of the USec, the GMR does not have a perspective of building communist fractions in the unions to struggle for a class-struggle Transitional Program and for revolutionary leadership. Moreover the notion of "outflanking" the bureaucracy is really nothing more than a euphemism for pressuring it. In English Canada the RMG has even dropped the euphemism, having taken the position recently that the CLC must be pressured into fighting the wage controls.

But the essence of the GMR's position comes through clearly. The Quebec working class can be broken from the trade union bureaucracy and the PQ through the politicizing effects of an autonomous student movement. The GMR's petty-bourgeois strategy of "periphery to the centre" ("influencing" the big battalions of the working class through the "exemplary" struggles of petty-bourgeois forces) is just as incompatible with a perspective of struggling for revolutionary leadership in the unions and constructing a Leninist organization as the GSTQ's "pressure group" tactic.

A genuine Trotskyist organization in Quebec would address the developing sentiment for a workers party by consistently fighting for it to be based on the Transitional Program and thereby capable of fighting to make the working class the ruling class. We must say to the workers: yes, you must have your own party, a party based on the trade unions. But for this party to fight for your interests with more than empty words it must be based on a class-struggle socialist program, it must reject nationalism and it must struggle to make itself a party of both the English Canadian and Quebec working class. Your present leadership will never fight for these things. Oust the bureaucrats! For a workers party to fight for a workers government!

## ROSIE DOUGLAS EXPELLED FROM CANADA

Toronto, April 30 - After over three years of legal battles and public protest, black militant Rosie Douglas was forced to leave Canada today on the grounds that he is a "risk to national security." Douglas was apprehended by authorities in Montreal within twenty-four hours of his failure to report to immigration headquarters in Toronto for deportation. The fact that he was permitted to "emigrate" to Jamaica, rather than being deported to his native Dominica where he faced possible death, represented a small concession on the part of the Canadian government. The government's fake magnanimity was nicely expressed by immigration official Patrick Gaudreau: "We're not trying to persecute him, we just want him out of the country" (Globe and Mail, April 30).

The de-facto deportation of Douglas represents a set-back for both the left and the entire working class. The Douglas case symbolized the bourgeois state's intention in this period of both repressing left dissidents and fostering racist division through discriminatory immigration policies. The precedent set by Douglas' expulsion is thus a victory for these racist, anti-working class policies.

The Trotskyist League vigorously protests the expulsion of Rosie Douglas and insists that it must be answered with a continued struggle against the Canadian government's racist immigration policies and for full citizenship and trade union rights for all foreign workers!

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# Quebec

## *Fake Trotskyists Debate Labor Party Question*

The decision of the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ) last fall to adopt a policy of "tactical support" to the petty-bourgeois Parti Québécois (PQ) has precipitated a renewed debate within the Quebec trade-union movement and the left around the question of a union-based workers party. At the end of January, the Central Council of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) adopted a resolution advocating that the CSN "work out a political ideology and a program by and for the workers, and that we set in motion procedures to carry out this program, which may include organizing a labor party if the workers think it is necessary."

Growing disillusionment with the pro-capitalist PQ among Quebec workers is unquestionably the major factor underlying the renewed interest in independent working-class political action in Quebec. The Quebec trade union bureaucracy (from the "moderate" FTQ and through the Quebec Teachers Federation [CEQ] to the "radical" CSN officialdom) has for years used nationalist sentiment as a rationale for extending political support to the PQ, thereby avoiding the need to articulate a political program that could put its "socialist" demagoguery to the test. The bureaucrats' continued reliance on nationalism as a means of tying the working class to capitalist politics is becoming increasingly less effective as worker militancy and disillusionment with the PQ grow apace.

In response to these developments, a "regroupment" of ostensible Trotskyists is now taking place. While the Groupe Marxiste Révolutionnaire (GMR), centrist affiliate in Quebec of the "United" Secretariat, continues to oppose the labor-party slogan, the USec's reformist affiliate, the Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière/League for Socialist Action (LSO/LSA), is expanding its political co-operation with the larger and more influential Groupe Socialiste des Travailleurs du Québec (GSTQ--affiliated to the Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International). This "regroupment" is based in large measure on a common position favoring a union-based labor party.

In the article "Parti Québécois--Petty-Bourgeois Climbers Tailed by Union Tops" (Spartacist Canada, February 1976), we pointed out that both the LSO and the GSTQ see the labor-party demand

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## **Save Mario Muñoz!**

An urgent international campaign has been launched to save the life of Chilean working class leader Mario Muñoz Salas, currently being hunted down by Argentine police under orders to "shoot him on sight." The campaign has been launched by the Committee to Save Mario Muñoz, co-sponsored by the Partisan Defense Committee and the Committee to Defend the Worker and Sailor Prisoners in Chile. The Committee has been endorsed by scores of trade union leaders, socialist, labor and civil libertarian groups and prominent individuals.

Mario Muñoz--founder and leader of the Inter-provincial Union of Contract Miners of Valparaiso, Aconcagua and Santiago and an organizer of the cordones industriales (local councils) of workers and peasants in Aconcagua and Valparaiso--fled over the Andes to Argentina following the September 1973 military coup along with thousands of other refugees from Pinochet's terror. In Argentina he was actively involved in aiding and defending these refugees. Since the March 23 rightist coup, Mario Muñoz has been singled out by the Videla regime for execution and faces a massive manhunt from the Argentine armed forces. The province of San Juan has been sealed off and interprovincial transport is being searched. His wife and children have been beaten in an unsuccessful attempt to obtain information regarding his whereabouts.

Muñoz' stature as an outstanding leader of the Chilean working class renders the task of saving his life doubly urgent. He is a symbol of the thousands of Latin American working class refugees in Argentina currently facing persecution and deportation by the military junta.

The on-going campaign of the Committee to Save Mario Muñoz--based on the demands "Hands off Mario Muñoz! Chilean Workers Leader Must Not Die!", "Free All the Victims of Right-Wing Repression in Argentina and Chile", and "Stop the Man-Hunt"--has been endorsed in Canada by NDP\* MP's Ed Broadbent (verbal), Andrew Brewin and John Rodriguez, the NDP Vancouver Area Council, John Harker on behalf of the Canadian Labor Congress (verbal), Vancouver Chilean Association, Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, and many more. (\*Organization listed for identification purposes only.)

On April 23 about 30 demonstrators marched in a picket line outside the Argentine Airlines office

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