

4 SPARTACIST

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: A PROLETARIAN HOLIDAY



"TOGETHER WITH THE MEN WE WILL THROW OUT THE CAPITALISTS"--1920's RUSSIAN POSTER

Bourgeois feminists may celebrate it, but March 8--International Women's Day--is a workers' holiday. Originating in 1908 among the female needle trades workers in Manhattan's Lower East Side, who marched under the slogans "for an eight hour day," "for the end of child labor" and "equal suffrage for women," it was officially adopted by the Second International in 1911.

International Women's Day was first celebrated in Russia in 1913 where it was widely publicized in the pages of the Bolshevik newspaper, Pravda, and popularized by speeches in numerous clubs and societies controlled by Bolshevik organizations which presented a Marxist analysis of women's oppression and the program for emancipation.

The following year the Bolsheviks not only agitated for International Women's Day in the pages of Pravda (then publishing under the name Put' Pravdy), but also made preparations to publish a special journal dealing with questions of women's liberation in Russia and

internationally. It was called Rabotnitsa (The Working Woman), and its first issue was scheduled to appear on International Women's Day, 1914 (see "How the Bolsheviks Organized Working Women: History of the Journal Rabotnitsa," Women and Revolution No. 4, Fall 1973).

Preparations for the holiday were made under the most hazardous conditions. Shortly before the long-awaited day the entire editorial board of Rabotnitsa--with one exception--as well as other Bolsheviks who had agitated for International Women's Day in St. Petersburg factories, were arrested by the Tsarist police. Despite these arrests, however, the Bolsheviks pushed ahead with their preparations. Anna Elizarova--Lenin's sister and the one member of the editorial board to escape arrest--single-handedly brought out the first issue of Rabotnitsa on March 8 (or, according to the old Russian calendar, February 23) as scheduled. Clara Zetkin, a leading figure in the German

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Editorial Notes

THE FRIENDS OF ARNOLD MILLER

In 1972, when Arnold Miller won the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) presidency in U. S. Labor Department-sponsored elections, he was the darling of almost every left-wing organization in the country. With the single exception of the Spartacist League (SL), everybody hailed this Democratic Party stooge and his "Miners for Democracy" (MFD) electoral machine as the saviors of the UMWA, who would return union control to the ranks after years of the gangsterist Tony Boyle regime.

In Canada, the fake-Trotskyists of the League for Socialist Action (LSA) echoed the uncritical hosannahs for Miller of their U. S. big brothers, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). While tossing in a few mild criticisms of the Miller campaign, the centrist Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG) also came out for supporting it, and scoffed that "the SL misses the boat so completely" ("Anatomy of a Sect," June 1974).

Today, Arnold Miller has had to hire armed bodyguards to protect him from the wrath of the UMWA membership. He has been desperately and unsuccessfully trying to force on the UMWA ranks a sweetheart contract which would deny any right to strike over safety conditions and destroy the miners' vital health benefits fund. Thousands upon thousands of miners, fighting for the survival of their union, have built mass demonstrations against the hated union president and his contract. Anti-Miller rallies have swept the Appalachian coal fields, and petitions demanding his resignation have garnered more than 15,000 signatures.

So what do the fake-Trotskyists have to say about Miller today? While the Revolutionary Workers League (product of the LSA-RMG fusion) has cowered in silence, the SWP can still write that: "despite the default of the Miller leadership, the gains of the MFD movement are proving to be powerful weapons in the hands of the membership" (Militant, 24 February)!

Let the SWP push this line among the miners of Cabin Creek, West Virginia, where Miller is known as "that son of a bitch Arnold." Let these brazen opportunists tell the miners that they backed Miller for president, and that the "gains" of his campaign are "powerful weapons in the hands of the membership"! UMWA members have been known to carry another kind of weapon, for use against scabs, scabherders and other betrayers of the union movement. SWPers should watch out if they go to Cabin Creek: if they are lucky, they might only get run out of town.

STOP POLICE MAIL TAMPERING!

While the bourgeois press rails on about communists "subverting" the postal system, disclosures during recent months confirm that the real subversives, the RCMP agents, have been opening the

mails illegally for forty years. Upon being informed of these RCMP crimes, Postmaster General Jean-Jacques Blais piously stated his disapproval.

Then in late January, after months of criticism over RCMP "dirty tricks," Solicitor General Francis Fox slyly slid off the hot seat. Fox suddenly decided that he was morally unfit to hold his responsible post--not because the "security service" has been breaking the law for years--but because, a few years ago, he forged the name of a married woman's husband so she could get an abortion!

After "leaking" this well-timed "scandal" (such a scandal that even national NDP leader Ed Broadbent felt compelled to give his condolences to the young Fox, whose career was supposedly ruined), Fox promptly resigned his post as Solicitor General. Thereby he conveniently escaped any legal obligation to testify in any inquiries regarding the RCMP while he was responsible for the force!

Fox was soon replaced by none other than the colorless Blais--just in time to see through the House new government legislation legalizing the same state mail interference he had previously denounced! Some mail openings to catch "threats to national security" will require the consent of the Solicitor General--and who could be better qualified that the former postmaster general himself? End government mail tampering!
Abolish the RCMP!

Letters

Dear Spartacist Canada,

Enclosed please find a cheque for the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to go towards the legal expenses incurred due to the arrest of three of your supporters in December. At our general membership meeting in January our local voted to support the right of Spartacist Canada to distribute its literature to the workers of the Oakville Ford Company. It was agreed that these arrests were an attack on the basic democratic rights of the workers at Ford to read what they choose, and as such they should definitely be opposed.

Wishing you the best in your fight with the Ford Company.

Yours fraternally,

Frances Scovil, pres.

on behalf of CUPE 1230

SPARTACIST CANADA

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VANCOUVER DEMO SLAMS UNITY TASK FORCE

VANCOUVER--In a frenzy of pseudo-folksy patriotism, the federal Task Force on Canadian Unity wrapped up its cross-country series of public hearings here on February 8-10. The task force panel led the singing of "O Canada," enthused over the proposal of a local rugby club to challenge the Québécois to bilingual rugby and beer-drinking contests, and heard politicians, academics, labor bureaucrats and private citizens ooze with patriotic fervor about their "love for Canada."

But--in Vancouver as in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and other cities across the country--Jean-Luc Pépin, John Robarts and the other crusaders for capitalist "national unity" were met by protests and demonstrations. Only by crude distortion could the bourgeois media help Pépin, Robarts and Co. sustain the pretense of nearly universal commitment to "saving Confederation." They ignored Wednesday night's demonstrations outside the Hotel Vancouver, where the hearings were in session, and gave only token coverage to several briefs and presentations which exposed the realities of life for working people in Quebec, denounced the Unity Task Force, and supported Quebec's right to self-determination.

Virtually every left-wing organization in Vancouver had some presence in or outside the hearings. The largest protest was a spirited demonstration and rally sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee to Protest the Unity Task Force, a united front of the Trotskyist League (TL), Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) and the RWL's latest ephemeral front group, the Quebec Education and Defense Committee (QEDC).

Sixty people marched and chanted the Ad Hoc Committee slogans "Down with the national unity campaign" and "Defend Quebec's right to independence." Other chants proposed by the RWL (but ignored by others) included such infantile, apolitical rhymes as "What did you expect/ Canada's a wreck/ Hands off Quebec!" and "We don't want your phony/ Unity baloney/ Piss on you." TL slogans, picked up by other demonstrators, included "Full and equal language rights for all" and "Not 'national unity' but working-class unity."

The united front demonstration stood as an exemplary exception to the sectarianism which has marred anti-Task Force protests, especially within the variegated Stalinist zoo. Several supporters of In Struggle appeared at the hearings but did not join the demonstration, even though two of the group's sympathizers had voiced no disagreements with the demonstration at an Ad Hoc Committee meeting they attended.

In Struggle's Maoist competitor, the Canadian

Communist League (Marxist-Leninist) (CCL[M-L]) staged a six-person protest nearby. Seeking to dismiss all other protestors as "counterrevolutionary," the handful of CCL(M-L)ers were obviously dismayed when the TL took up the chant "Workers of both nations unite--same enemy, same fight." When TL supporters entered the hotel to present their statement denouncing the Unity Task Force, the Maoists could produce only impotent snarls.

The Canadian Party of Labour's International Committee Against Racism and the bizarre Albania-loyal Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-



TROTSKYIST LEAGUE CONTINGENT AT TASK FORCE PROTEST

Leninist) held their tiny separate protests the following evening so as to avoid the "Trotskyites." As for the stillborn left social-democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, it boycotted the protests altogether.

Inside the hearings, the reformist Communist Party's (CP) contribution was a typically disgraceful display of parliamentary cretinism. CP provincial secretary Maurice Rush proposed, as a solution to what he termed the "constitutional crisis," a new "made-in-Canada constitution" that would provide for a bicameral legislature with elected Senate, in order to "place greater control in the hands of democratic Canadians over their future destiny."

On the Saturday following the Commission hearings, the QEDC sponsored a forum by Quebec-nationalist author Pierre Fournier, whose advice was to embrace Quebec nationalism since "nationalism is a fact." During the discussion an RWL spokesman attempted to justify Fournier and jump on the nationalist bandwagon by proclaiming that "the English-speaking working class has never

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Women's Day...

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Social Democratic Party and in the international working women's movement, wrote:

"Greetings to you on your courageous decision to organize Women's Day, congratulations to you for not losing courage and not wanting to sit by with your hands folded. We are with you, heart and soul. You and your movement will be remembered at numerous meetings organized for Women's Day in Germany, Austria, Hungary and America."

--Quoted in A. Artiukhina, "Proidennyi Put'," Zhenshchina v revoliutsii

By far the most important celebration ever of International Women's Day took place in Petrograd on 8 March 1917 when the women textile workers of that city led a strike of over 90,000 workers--a strike which signaled the end of the 300-year-old Romanov dynasty and the beginning of the Russian Revolution. One week afterward, Pravda commented:

"The first day of the revolution--that is the Women's Day, the day of the Women Workers' International. All honor to the International! The women were the first to tread the streets of Petrograd on their day."

As the position of Soviet women degenerated under Stalin and his successors, as part of the degeneration of the entire Soviet workers state, International Women's Day was transformed from a day of international proletarian solidarity into an empty ritual which, like Mother's Day in North America, glorifies the traditional role of women within the family.

But International Women's Day is a celebration neither of motherhood nor sisterhood; to ignore this fact is to ignore the most significant aspects of its history and purpose, which was to strengthen the ranks of the revolutionary proletariat. Unlike the pre-war Mensheviks who wanted to conciliate the feminists of their day by limiting the celebration of International Women's Day to women only, the Bolsheviks insisted that it be a holiday of working women and working men in struggle together. As Nadezhda Krupskaya wrote in the lead article of the first issue of Rabotnitsa:

"That which unites working women with working men is stronger than that which divides them. They are united by their common lack of rights, their common needs, their common condition, which is struggle and their common goal.... Solidarity between working men and working women, common activity, a common goal, a common path to this goal--such is the solution of the 'woman' question among workers."

Today the Bolshevik program for the full emancipation of women is carried forward by the international Spartacist tendency. We are proud to publicize the real history of International Women's Day, a part of our revolutionary heritage, and we will celebrate it with public forums presenting the

Marxist analysis of women's oppression and the program and strategy to smash it.

As we deepen our influence in the working class, we look forward to celebrating future International Women's Days not only through the dissemination of propaganda, but also through the initiation of the full range of activities traditionally associated with this proletarian holiday--general strikes, insurrections, revolution!

FORWARD TO A WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE REBORN FOURTH INTERNATIONAL!

FOR WOMEN'S LIBERATION THROUGH INTERNATIONAL PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION!

(Adapted from Women and Revolution, Spring 1975)

Vancouver Demo...

(continued from page 3)

defended its French brothers in labor struggle." The RWL despairs of the possibility of united class struggle against capitalism. In contrast, Marxists understand that only unified struggle by North American workers, under the leadership of a revolutionary vanguard party, can overthrow the oppressive capitalist system.

Should national antagonisms between the working people of Quebec and English Canada become so envenomed as to undercut decisively the possibility of proletarian unity, then we would advocate Quebec's independence precisely in order to forge class unity on a new and higher level. But such considerations do not even enter the minds of Lévesque's "far left" hangers-on in the RWL. Indeed, the RWL glories in some of the most reactionary aspects of Parti Québécois-style bourgeois nationalism; most notably, it scandalously exhorts the PQ to be even more thoroughgoing in its attacks on the democratic language rights of non-French-speaking minorities in Quebec.

Speaking for the TL during the discussion, Murray Smith pointed out that the RWL's support for the utopian-reactionary strategy of an "independent socialist Quebec" is predicated on severing the existing links between French- and English-speaking workers. An isolated seizure of state power in one small part of North America would either be a prelude to the struggle for proletarian power throughout North America or it would be defeated. Yet the RWL's response to the militancy of the Québécois working class is to reject any perspective of joint class struggle in favor of a dream of a proletarian enclave on the banks of the St. Lawrence.

Lately however, the RWL in English Canada has been more and more tight-lipped about the call of its Quebec wing for an independent socialist Quebec. Focussing solely on the democratic demand for the right of Quebec to self-determination, the RWL does not mention the fact that only proletarian revolution can lay the basis for eliminating once and for all not only the national oppression but also the economic exploitation of the Québécois and all the workers and oppressed of North America.■

Feminists on IWD: "Men, 'Mixed Contingents' to Back of Demo"

International Women's Day 1978--Toronto activities organized to celebrate this working-class holiday promise to offer women nothing more than a time-worn exercise in bourgeois feminism. Celebrations and parades are planned by the "March 8th Coalition" and Women Against Violence Against Women (WAWAW). The March 8th Coalition was established by women from several feminist groups including WAWAW and the Lesbian Organization of Toronto (LOOT), and the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) and International Socialists (I. S.).

The Coalition's attempt to unite as many women as possible on a minimal reformist and feminist basis was soon frustrated when the issue of male exclusionism polarized its membership. It was torn apart by a proposal that "the demo-parade be made up of women, they make up the bulk of the parade, with mixed contingents at the rear of the demonstration." This measure was obviously directed against trade unions and left-wing organizations since these were the only "mixed" forces to have expressed an interest in the demonstration.

The brazen opportunists of the RWL and I. S. did not put up a counterposed motion to this anti-communist, anti-working-class proposal. In fact the only opposition to the proposal came from the more rabid feminists of WAWAW and LOOT, who demanded that "banners from the mixed groups say 'Women from...'" and that such groups "support" the action by urging their male members to organize daycare! When these proposals were rejected in favor of simply driving men to the back of the demonstration, WAWAW and LOOT walked out in protest.

Consistent with their unrelenting right-wing feminism both the RWL and I. S. have completely submerged into the Coalition and WAWAW--their members are politically indistinguishable from the other feminists. This kind of spineless reformism on the part of the old League for Socialist Action (LSA) was one of the factors which led many comrades to leave that organization in disgust and form the Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG) in 1973. However, with the fusion of the LSA and RMG to form the RWL last year, the ex-RMGers have come full circle back to feminism.

In Quebec, with its more militant and socially-conscious working class, the three trade union centrals have organized a major International Women's Day demonstration. Under these circumstances, the RWL's Quebec wing, the Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire (LOR), would be a laughingstock if it spouted the same kind of gross bourgeois feminism. Thus, the LOR conspicuously avoids any use of the word "feminist" in its

press and calls for "a women's movement linked to the working class."

But while the LOR is forced by the more combative Quebec proletariat to occasionally take more left-wing positions, like the RWL it advocates building an "autonomous" women's movement. This repudiates the program of Lenin's Communist International, endorsed today by the international Spartacist tendency--fighting for a communist women's movement, a mass women's section of the vanguard party.

Unlike the shameless opportunists of the RWL and I. S., the Trotskyist League does not tailor its program to the existing consciousness of the working class or of anti-working-class petty-bourgeois sectoralist "movements." In the tradition of the Bolsheviks, we are proud to raise the banner of proletarian revolution at every opportunity as the only solution to end all exploitation and oppression. In the words of comrade Alexandra Kollontai in 1919:

"Under the lead of the Third International, the day of the working women shall become a real fighting day; it shall take the form of practical measures which either solidify the conquests of Communism... or prepare the way for the dictatorship of the working class."

Marxism and the Fight Against Sexual Oppression



Amalgamated Clothing Workers

GARMENT WORKERS DURING 1919 STRIKE

HART HOUSE DEBATES ROOM, UofT
SATURDAY, 4 MARCH, 7:30 pm.
Further information: Trotskyist League,
Box 7198, Stn. A, Toronto, 366-4107

Trotskyist League Forum

Maoists Adrift at Montreal Conference

IN STRUGGLE ON THE ROAD TO NOWHERE

MONTREAL--In his address to the closing session of the "Fourth Conference on the Tasks of Marxist-Leninists," In Struggle (I. S.) General Secretary Charles Gagnon claimed that the conference had been a success, although "there were difficulties, but we dealt with them correctly and eliminated them." But Gagnon's cynical self-congratulations could not hide the fact that I. S.'s "Fourth Conference" was a flop.

More than a thousand people gathered in a suburban Montreal college on February 4-5 to discuss building the "Canadian proletarian party." But no new collectives showed up, no perspectives were outlined, no clarity was achieved and no resolutions were adopted. There wasn't even any political debate, as the only other left-wing organizations to attend, the Trotskyist League (TL) and the super-Stalinist Bolshevik Union (BU), were both bureaucratically expelled for failing to intervene in a "spirit of unity." Workshops, ostensibly designed to discuss I. S.'s "Draft Program for the Canadian Proletarian Party," became boring discussions on selling the newspaper, fighting for more and better daycare centers and building "struggle committees" against Bill C-73, the wage-control law which is scheduled to expire next month.

The past period of rapid growth which acted as a surrogate for political clarity for In Struggle is now over, and the organization is facing a crisis of perspectives. Discomfited by Peking's support to sundry "third world" tyrants, confused by the secession crisis in the Heavenly Palace, yet unwilling to commit political suicide à la Canadian Party of Labour by abandoning the Chinese "socialist fatherland," I. S. is trying to straddle fences through abstract demagogy about "unity of all Marxist-Leninists." But Peking has already picked its Canadian flunkies in the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist) (CCL [M-L]), leaving I. S. out in the cold. And, as became clear right from the start of the Montreal conference, the organization is already beginning to flounder.

Gagnon gave a long-winded discourse on the I. S. "Draft Program" to open proceedings, but no one seemed particularly interested in discussing this abstract, platitudinous tome. While I. S. members sat on their hands, the discussion period was dominated by the tiny but aggressive clique which styles itself the Bolshevik Union.

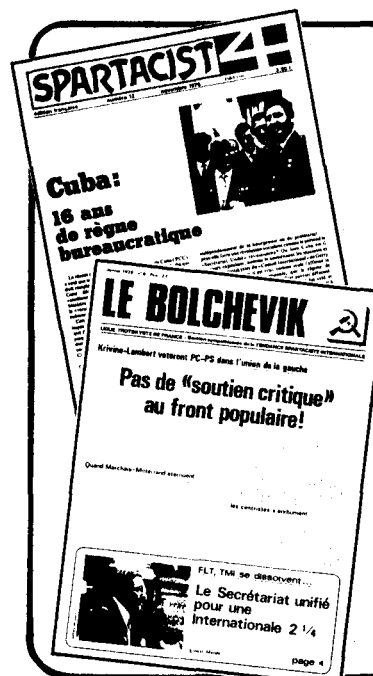
The BU is a sterile literary sect, which in its three years of existence has not yet felt the need to

adopt positions on Quebec, the woman question, the trade unions or almost any significant political question confronting the working class. Rather than deal with any concrete political issues or sully itself with "mass work," the BU revels in bizarre archaeological "polemics" between the myriad schismatic sects which aspire to the mantle of Stalinist "orthodoxy." Its publications consist mainly of page after page of unreadable encyclical extolling the infallibility of the new Trinity: Stalin, Mao and Enver Hoxha.

But I. S. found itself unable to deal politically even with the BU's nonsense. So the chairman repeatedly ruled BUers out of order (to the applause of the assembled "masses") on the grounds that they were not addressing questions relevant to the Canadian proletarian party. Despite its much-vaunted opposition to Canadian nationalism, I. S. seems to consider nothing external to Maple Leaf lotus-land "relevant" for Canadian workers. The BU was silenced for its "spirit of splittism," and when BUers attempted to enter workshops after the first morning session they were barred by an I. S. goon squad.

THE FAKE-TROTSKYISTS

Although I. S. resorted to physical violence to avoid debating the BU, Gagnon's speeches devoted much attention to political opponents not visibly present, including the self-proclaimed "Trotskyists" of the Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire/Revolutionary Workers League (LOR/RWL) and Groupe Socialiste des Travailleurs du Québec (GSTQ). It is a damning indictment of the revisionism of these pseudo-Trotskyists that a Maoist organization can attack them from the left, often with orthodox Leninist criticisms. Gagnon could easily parade as a Leninist when he criticized the LOR for tail-



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internationale
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Organe de la Ligue
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ing the bourgeois Parti Québécois and supporting unilingualism, and scored the GSTQ for forming an electoral alliance with the New Democratic Party in the last Quebec provincial elections.

While I. S. may borrow from Lenin to attack the LOR and GSTQ, the program it actually implements in its day-to-day work is a far cry from that of the Bolshevik Party. In practice I. S. generally puts forward only minimal democratic and reformist demands, with an abstract call for the dictatorship of the proletariat tacked on at the end. Nevertheless the organization's left-posturing opposition to bourgeois nationalism and its "class struggle" rhetoric are in constant tension with its national parochialism and Stalinist dogma. As a TL spokesman stated in his intervention at the closing session of the conference:

"At the root of the nationalism of all Stalinist organizations is the acceptance of the Stalin-Mao theory of 'socialism in one country'... Stalin sacrificed the interests of the international proletariat to the narrow national interests of the privileged Soviet bureaucracy, subordinating the workers of Europe to their 'own' bourgeoisies through the popular front...."

Despite I. S.'s claim that it is necessary to engage in "ideological debate" with Trotskyists, the TL spokesman's critique of the fundamentals of counterrevolutionary Stalinism at the conference was quickly ruled out of order because it "insulted Comrade Stalin" and "injured Marxism-Leninism." For I. S. "debate" with Trotskyists is okay--so long as it avoids the differences between Stalinism and Trotskyism! When TL supporters attempted to protest I. S.'s gag rule, they were promptly evicted from the meeting. As he was being escorted from the hall by Stalinist goons, one TLER shouted "You're afraid of revolutionary ideas!"

I. S. seeks to exploit the revisionism and opportunism of the LOR and GSTQ in an attempt to dis-

credit Trotskyism. However when confronted with authentic Trotskyism at the Montreal conference, I. S. could only call out the goons. Following the expulsion, an I. S. spokesman attempted to deal with the TL "politically," but he could only sputter that the TL's call for "Bolshevik parties united in an international democratic-centralist communist party on the model of the Communist International of Lenin and Trotsky" was... a liquidation of the call for a Canadian party!

DOWN THE RCP ROAD?

After more than a year of intermecine warfare between cliques loyal to rival wings of the Chinese bureaucracy, the American Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) exploded in a violent split between followers of China-loyal Mickey Jarvis and "Gang of Four" supporter Bob Avakian in January. There are a number of obvious parallels between the RCP and I. S., the most obvious of which is on the China question. Just as the RCP lost the Peking "franchise" to Mike Klonsky's servile Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) in the States, so CCL(M-L) got the nod over I. S. in Canada. While Gagnon's organization may be less clique-ridden and less crassly opportunist than the RCP, it is every bit as nationally parochial and faces the same fundamental political contradictions.

Gagnon attempts to inoculate the I. S. membership against Trotskyism and suppress discussion on China for a good reason. For any serious examination of the China question would require confronting Trotsky's incisive Marxist analysis of the bureaucratic degeneration of the USSR under Stalin. Hopefully there remain militants, attracted to In Struggle by its leftist posture, whose revolutionary impulses have not yet been so corroded by Stalinist bureaucratism and cynicism that they cannot absorb the lessons of the RCP split. Trotskyism--not Maoism--is the Marxism of our time.■

Drop the Charges Against Body Politic!

Body Politic, the gay liberation newsmagazine which had its Toronto offices raided and twelve crates of documents seized on December 30, is still waging a legal battle for its existence. (For details of the police raid and subsequent arrests on "obscenity" charges, see Workers Vanguard No. 188, 13 January and Spartacist Canada No. 23, February 1977.)

Immediately after the raid, Body Politic lawyer Clayton Ruby initiated action to quash the warrant which the cops had used for their raid. However, following numerous postponements, the case was not heard until February 21. After evidence from both sides was presented, the judge announced that he would take another two weeks before making his ruling! By now the cops have had enough time to xerox the files they seized many times over.

The raid on Body Politic is an outrage and must

be protested by all those who oppose such gross violations of democratic rights. If the warrant is not quashed it sets a legal precedent for the cops to wantonly sabotage the publication of any left, labor or even liberal publication.

To date the Body Politic Free the Press Fund, established to collect money for legal defense, has raised more than \$18,500. Court costs are expected to go as high as \$30,000, so funds are still urgently needed. Contributions should be sent to: Lynn King, in trust for the Body Politic Free the Press Fund, c/o Cornish, King, Sachs and Waldman, Barristers and Solicitors, 111 Richmond St. W., Suite 320, Toronto, Ontario M5H 3N6.

Quash the warrant--drop all charges against Body Politic! Return all seized material and pay damages for losses incurred because of the raid! Abolish the morality squad! End all state censorship!■

Cold War Furor over Soviet Spy Satellite

On January 24 a nuclear-powered Soviet spy satellite known as Cosmos 954 exploded through the earth's atmosphere, scattering radioactive remnants over a wide area of the Canadian north. Conjuring up Orwellian scenarios of intact uranium cells crashing into densely populated urban centers, the bourgeois press lost no time whipping up anti-Soviet hysteria, with lurid reports of "Soviet arms proliferation" and "espionage aggression."

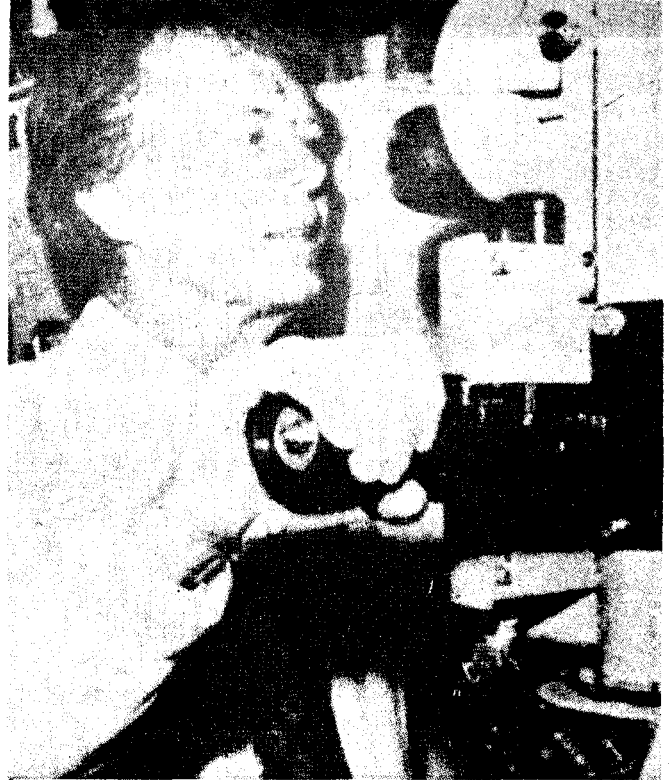
Not one to miss an opportunity to bolster his anti-Soviet "human rights" campaign, U. S. president Jimmy Carter expressed opposition to the use of nuclear reactors in earth-orbiting satellites. This pious pronouncement, ostensibly a response to public concern over the hazards created by "run-away space vehicles" scattering nuclear contaminants, was in fact a transparent ploy to harness support for building up the U. S. military arsenal. Citing "continued Soviet military efforts" in the sphere of space technology, Carter implored Congress to double funding for military space programs.

Carter's real concern was over the fact that the Soviets have achieved a remarkable technological breakthrough in their spy satellite program, one which gives them a big boost in the arms race with U. S. imperialism. Although Cosmos 954 crashed, there are between twelve and sixteen Soviet nuclear-powered satellites still orbiting the earth, all using a miniaturized uranium-235 (U-235) energy source which is capable of powering extremely high-resolution radar systems. Time magazine (13 February) reported U. S. officials' worries about this development:

"The Soviets are thought to be trying to develop a radar sharp enough to detect changes in the pattern of plankton life near the oceans' surfaces. Such alterations are caused by the wake of deep-running subs, and thus could betray the presence of the previously untrackable U. S. nuclear deterrent."

Thus the most sophisticated innovation in the American nuclear arsenal, the Trident submarine (due to become operational by 1981), could be tracked and militarily neutralized by such a Soviet radar system.

Although the U. S. launched the world's first nuclear reactor into an earth orbit in 1965, its Systems for Nuclear Auxiliary Power (SNAP) program has been a dismal failure. SNAP-10-A, deploying a small U-235 source, was functional for only 43 days (William R. Corliss, "Nuclear Reactors for Space Power," Energy Research Development Administration pamphlet, 1971).



CARTER IN HIS NUCLEAR-POWERED ATTACK SUBMARINE: UPI
DON'T DISTURB THE PLANKTON, JIMMY...

Further SNAP projects deploying this energy source were equally unsuccessful.

Due to these failures, the Americans have had to rely on the far more primitive solar cells for power. These are capable of producing only a tiny fraction of the energy of a U-235 source. Further, their energy potential is not constant, varying with the vehicle's distance from the sun and becoming completely non-operational during planetary nights. In the few cases when the U. S. has deployed nuclear systems (just 18) these have been non-fissioning radioisotopes, usually plutonium-238. While these units deliver a constant quantity of energy, they have the same power limitations as the solar cells. The energy per unit mass of the fissioning sources deployed by the Cosmos is 100 times greater than either of the American systems.

The U. S. imperialists would dearly love to get the goods on the Soviets' technological breakthrough. Little wonder then that Carter (and his junior partner Trudeau) refused an offer by Soviet officials to join in the search for debris from the Cosmos crash. Instead they mobilized an army of top NORAD military scientists to the crash area. Although the reactor itself was designed to

disintegrate in the event of abortive re-entry into the atmosphere, the Pentagon retains hope that remnants of the Cosmos will provide it with clues to unravel this mystery of Soviet innovative superiority.

SWP IN THE "THIRD CAMP"

The response of the fake-Trotskyist American Socialist Workers Party (SWP) to the Cosmos crash was to launch a "third camp"-style attack on both the U. S. and USSR for covering up the dangers of nuclear technology. An article in the SWP's Intercontinental Press/Inprecor (6 February) complains that both countries are posing a nuclear danger to humanity, and panders to the anti-technology proclivities of the petty-bourgeois ecology movement against nuclear power.

Communists are concerned about potential dangers involved in the rapid development of nuclear technology; most of which is developed as weaponry for mass destruction. Even the so-called "peaceful" development of nuclear technology by the anarchistic capitalist system, or under the gross mismanagement of the Soviet bureaucracy, is not without the threat of catastrophic human hazard.

But unlike the "eco-freaks" and their leftist hangers-on, we do not make a blanket call for ending nuclear development, in the hope of maintaining some mythical pristine "eco-system." Further, we certainly do not call on the Soviet degenerated workers state, which requires nuclear technology in order to protect itself against imperialism, to stop employing this form of energy, or to engage in nuclear disarmament.

The ICP/Inprecor account predictably makes no mention of the class difference between the Soviet state and U. S. imperialism. But a more "orthodox" posture is struck by the Quebec United Secretariat supporters of the Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire (LOR) in the 15 February issue of Lutte Ouvrière. Denouncing the cold-warrior Maoists of the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist) for calling the Cosmos crash an "act of aggression against the Canadian people" by the Soviet Union, the LOR calls for the unconditional defense of the USSR against imperialism.

But this position is belied by the LOR's conclusion, which is identical to the pacifist "disarmament" hoax lately being peddled by the SWP:

"Faced with the imperialist arsenal, they [the Kremlin bureaucrats] have preferred to engage in secret negotiations and dubious 'deals' with imperialism (SALT negotiations), rather than call for mass mobilizations to obtain the total and unconditional destruction of all the nuclear arms stockpiles which exist in the world.

"This is why they have collaborated with the imperialist governments to cover up certain dangerous aspects of the satellite crash."

"DISARMAMENT": A DANGEROUS HOAX

The LOR merely gives a "mass action" cover to the Soviet bureaucrats' criminal "disarmament"

GOVERNMENT TERRORISTS AND SOVIET SPIES

Exploiting and fueling the anti-Soviet hysteria whipped up over the Cosmos 954 incident, Ottawa disclosed just two weeks later that the RCMP had cracked a thirteen-member Soviet spy ring which was allegedly plotting to infiltrate the Mounties' security service. The government promptly arranged for the expulsion of the eleven resident in Canada and refused to readmit the other two to the country.

For the Mounties, the federal government's highly-orchestrated "exposé" could not have come at a more opportune time. Seemingly endless revelations of illegal break-ins, wire-tappings, barn-burnings and terrorist house bombings by the secret police have left the RCMP hoodlums in dire need of a facelift. After the spy story broke, Prime Minister Trudeau shamelessly quipped to reporters: "I'm sorry if this is going to give a good image to the RCMP and its efficiency" (Toronto Star, 11 February).

Meanwhile the McDonald Commission, the government's ostensible fact-finding force on the RCMP, has been slowly trudging around the country soliciting evidence on Mountie crime. In its four months of activity, this quisling commission has been a model of institutionalized inefficiency, making clear to even the most obtuse that it isn't going to tell us anything approaching the real story about the RCMP. Furthermore, the government and courts have recently halted the Quebec Keable Commission inquiry, which was on the point of exposing direct federal Cabinet participation in RCMP crimes.

Given the ineffectualness of the McDonald Commission and the obstruction of the federal government and courts, perhaps the KGB ought to be mandated to infiltrate the RCMP. Somebody ought to be assigned to find out what these gangsters in scarlet are really up to!

and "peaceful co-existence" schemes. Unlike the United Secretariat revisionists, Trotskyists do not condemn the Soviet Union for its nuclear weapons policy; on the contrary, we are concerned that it might be inadequate. Any Kremlin regime which took its "detente" rhetoric too seriously, or which through bureaucratic mismanagement undermined the nuclear defense of the USSR, would be signing the death warrant of the Soviet and other deformed workers states, which are historically progressive in relation to their capitalist enemies. Such a failure of Soviet military preparedness confronted by a successful military attack could set

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ONDP Convention ...

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control of the "Crown," as "nationalization" is called in this country which, nearly two hundred years after the French Revolution, has yet to rid itself of the British colonial link with its antiquated monarchist trappings. Then they sang hosannahs to "national unity," asked the RCMP to stop policing "legitimate" dissent, and chose Tweedledum Michael Cassidy as party leader over his Tweedledee opponents Ian Deans and Michael Breagh.

One or two guilt-ridden social workers and sympathizers of self-proclaimed "revolutionary" organizations tried to add a bit of old-style anti-capitalist rhetoric for the occasion, and T-shirts advertising "Close Encounters of a Socialist Kind" were hawked in the foyer for a couple of bucks. But at this NDP convention, the thought of smashing capitalism and establishing socialism seemed as alien as little green men from outer space waving red flags.

NATIONALIZATIONS

The first major discussion at the convention was on that perennial NDP bugaboo, nationalizations. During last June's provincial election campaign Stephen Lewis disgruntled NDP left wingers (and brought a smile to Bill Davis's face) by repudiat-

Soviet Satellite...

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mankind back many generations, if not destroy civilization entirely.

The LOR's notion that the Soviet bureaucrats collaborate with imperialist governments because they fear mass mobilizations against nuclear armament is simply stupid. Rather, Brezhnev and Co. collaborate with imperialism because they fear socialist revolution in the imperialist countries, which would pave the way to ending their own bonapartist rule through proletarian political revolution.

We hail the successes of the Soviets' spy satellite program. By their ability to track atomic weapon-bearing American submarines, the Soviet satellites are able to sustain the "balance of terror" which stays the murderous hand of U. S. imperialism. They thus concretely contribute to hindering the imperialists' drive to overturn the gains of the October Revolution. It is precisely these gains--socialized property forms, state monopoly of foreign trade and a planned economy--which have laid the basis for the Soviets' leap forward in this vital sphere of scientific innovation.

The irrational, decaying capitalist system--with its ever-present threat of world war, including nuclear holocaust--is the real threat to the survival of mankind. Under a world socialist system, nuclear and other newly-developed forms of energy, along with all the fruits of human labor, will be used for the benefit of all. ■

ing adopted party policy calling for the nationalization of basic resource industries. Six months later, the threat of mass unemployment in the nickel mines forced Sudbury-area MPP's and union leaders to raise once again the call for nationalization of the mining companies.

A resolution was submitted to the convention by the Nickel Belt constituency association calling for "immediate nationalization of the Ontario operations of Inco and Falconbridge, as the first step towards the realization of an integrated industrial economy in which social need will take precedence over profit by the multinational corporations." But this plea was considered too radical by the party establishment, who swung a deal with Sudbury MPP's to chop the word "immediate," amend "nationalization" to "public ownership" and reaffirm existing party policy calling for "development of an industrial strategy for economic development." There was a flurry of discontent among some of the party's "Left Caucus" (including supporters of the fake-Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers League [RWL] and Socialist League), who wanted to adopt the original resolution. But their sage advice was not heeded, and the amended version passed handily.

The Left Caucus was however given something to cheer about the following morning, when a resolution was passed proposing terms for nationalizing Inco. With the enthusiastic backing of Socialist League and RWL supporters, the convention "warned" Inco that, if nationalized, it would be compensated in the form of Government of Ontario debentures payable at Bank of Canada prime rate, on the basis of an arbitration board's assessment of the company's worth. The nickel barons will hardly be shaking in their boots over that one!

Calls to nationalize this or that industry have long been a favorite ploy of NDPers seeking "radical" credentials on the cheap. MPP Elie Martel



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elicited cheers from Sudbury miners at a union rally last October when he called for taking over Inco and giving the directors no more than bus fare out of town. But at the convention, as is usual at official NDP confabs, all delegates put on their best behavior and fastidiously avoided the forbidden words "without compensation" when discussing nationalizations.

And nobody--certainly not the spineless social-democratic sycophants around the RWL and Socialist League--"bothered" to note that piecemeal government purchases of a company or two can do nothing to solve the long-term problems of capitalist economic chaos and attendant unemployment and inflation. That task requires the expropriation of all large capitalist industry by a revolutionary workers government--and talk of such things would sit most uncomfortably with the pro-capitalist chieftains of the party hierarchy.

"MONTREAL IS A CITY IN MY COUNTRY"

The Nickel Belt constituency managed to cause more trouble with its proposed resolution defending Quebec's "absolute right of self-determination as a nation up to and including independence." Although the resolution also asserted a "belief that the people of Quebec can achieve their social, cultural and economic goals within a restructured federal system," the mere mention of the democratic right to national self-determination was enough to send the party leadership into a frenzy.

Stephen Lewis exploded: "I detest those resolutions on self-determination. I could shake those people who advocate such sophistry" (Globe and Mail, 6 February). Right-wing NDPer Terry Grier successfully moved to refer the resolution off the floor and replace it with the federal party's chauvinist policy statement "A Positive Option for Canada." Then the three leadership candidates called on Stephen's father, venerable old cold warrior and hatchet man David Lewis, to bury once and for all any talk of the NDP defending Quebec's national rights.

Bristling with demagogic anger, Lewis menacingly proclaimed his intractable opposition to Quebec self-determination: "Montreal is a city in my country and I intend to have it remain a city in my country." Railing against a delegate who stated that all three Quebec union federations were calling on English-Canadian labor to defend the Québécois' right to self-determination, Lewis cried: "She doesn't know what the working class in Quebec wants. I know... I plead that the overwhelming majority say enough. We have a policy and we will stick by it."

The NDP's policy is one of uniting with Trudeau and the corporations against the people of Quebec. When the Prime Minister threatened to send troops to Montreal to prevent secession, the NDP leadership made no protest. In fact the first major Canadian politician to discuss the possibility of armed intervention against Quebec publicly was Saskatchewan NDP Premier Allan Blakeney at last summer's Canadian Bar Association convention. And in

December Ed Broadbent announced that the party would join the anti-separatist common front headed by Power Corporation Chairman Paul Desmarais.

Nearly ninety percent of the ONDP delegates heeded David Lewis's instructions and voted to endorse the federal policy. Thus the party served notice once again that it is a venal, English-Canadian chauvinist enemy of the nationally oppressed Québécois.

ISN'T THERE A LEFT WINGER IN THE HOUSE?

The three candidates for party leadership were all so right-wing that no one was able to uncover any substantial differences between them. All upheld



DAVID LEWIS & SON: EXIT STAGE LEFT?

SC Photo

party policy on Quebec and nationalizations; Lewis praised all three; trade union and Left Caucus delegates split their votes; and even the inveterate lapdog opportunists of Ross Dowson's Socialist League found themselves (to their dismay) unable to hit the hustings for anybody.

Another group which deeply regretted not having a candidate to back was the RWL. This was the first major NDP convention since the RWL was formed through the League for Socialist Action (LSA) / Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG) fusion last summer. According to peddled wisdom of the time, the fusion was occurring on the basis of a series of "convergences" between the reformist LSA and the historically more left-wing centrist RMG. One of these convergences was supposedly on their attitude toward the NDP, a question on which the LSA leadership was supposed to have taken great strides away from past opportunism. The biggest step forward was apparently the change in its central slogan from "Win the NDP to socialism" to "Build the NDP" following long-time leader Dowson's departure in early 1974.

But in fact, as we pointed out at the time, the fusion took place on the LSA's terms and was a consequence of the RMG's rapid rightward degeneration and disintegration. Since the summer we have seen the "new" RWL progressively: call for the re-election of the pro-wage-controls Schreyer NDP government in Manitoba (suggesting only that the

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ONDP Convention...

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premier add a few more social-democratic nostrums to his platform); wage a joint election campaign with the NDP youth at the University of British Columbia; and now comport itself at the ONDP convention in a manner totally indistinguishable from Monsieur Dowson's ultra-reformist Socialist League. Indeed, the RWLers involved in NDP work are overwhelmingly former LSA members, who carry on their liquidationist work exactly as they always have, blissfully ignoring formal positions of the RWL and to the occasional discomfort of an unrepentant ex-RMGer. Shades of social democracy in microcosm, where the parliamentary fraction does what it wants, independent of party conferences!

The fact that there was no even mildly "leftist" leadership aspirant at the ONDP convention must have been particularly galling for the RWL, which in its LSA incarnation managed to come out in full support of every conceivable left-posturing NDP leadership aspirant (Tom Berger, Gordon Vichert and Rosemary Brown, to name only three). In fact the LSA's first major activity in the NDP was to back Hazen Argue over Tommy Douglas in the party's first national leadership race in 1961. Argue lost... and promptly joined the Liberal Party.

The RWL did however manage to see in underdog Cassidy's second-ballot victory evidence of an "anti-establishment mood" at the convention. And Conservative Cabinet minister John Rhodes tried to claim that the Cassidy win represented the "mini-reincarnation of the Waffle group," and that the new leader was a "radical" because he called for government ownership of 51 percent of the Denison Mines uranium company.

This was too much for even the staunchly Conservative Globe and Mail to swallow. The Globe noted that Ontario Hydro Chairman George Gathercole had advocated a complete government takeover of the same company in 1973! Its conclusion: "Mike Cassidy's a faintheart compared to old Tory Gathercole" (9 February).

Following the leadership vote Bill Davis's buddy Stephen Lewis hailed faintheart Cassidy as "a universally bright and resourceful guy." Like his predecessor, Cassidy will put his resources to work for the capitalist class--propping up minority Tory governments, supporting strikebreaking and budget cuts and working with labor bureaucrats to keep the union ranks in line.

Given the chance to run the government, the NDP will--in a phrase much beloved by Stephen Lewis--show it can "mind the store" for capitalism every bit as well as the Tories and Liberals. The RWL, Socialist League and their hangers-on may run about, cheering for an "NDP government," trying to build the NDP, seeking to give it a more leftish face. But the truth is that the NDP--one of the most

wretched and right-wing social-democratic parties in the entire world--cannot be transformed into an instrument for socialism.

This bourgeois workers party has nothing to offer the working class but more unemployment and more exploitation; nothing to offer the oppressed Québécois but more oppression. Cassidy and Co. must be purged from the leadership of the workers movement, and a workers party forged on a program of class-struggle to lead the working class to power. ■

RWL FLIM-FLAM...

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Added to the call for Parliament to define "subversion" was a preamble stating that "it is important that the police know the difference between political subversion and political dissent in order that any group or individual in society can advocate reform and change in a free and open manner..." In other words, "reform" is okay; but anything else, well, that's "subversive" and therefore fair game for the scarlet-and-gold.

Barclay's response? She rose to speak at one of the floor mikes, only to have the question called before she could intervene. Then, along with virtually every other delegate in the room, she voted for the resolution!

Apparently the RWL now hopes no one noticed. In the issue of Socialist Voice following the convention, after noting that "anti-RCMP sentiment was strong," the RWL criticizes Symes' amendment for adopting the same arguments "used by the government and cops to carry out their harassment of the labor movement" (20 February). A little slap on the wrist for sister Barclay, perhaps?

But Barclay was only doing her job: getting in good with NDP social democrats by voting for the RCMP to carry on with its "anti-subversive" activities, which consist of harassing and suppressing the left and labor movement. None of her cohorts in the loyal NDP "left" were prepared to oppose the resolution, so why should she rock the boat? Today the RWL may be a bit red in the face; but when the chips were down its supporter came out for an "anti-subversive" resolution which would have done Helmut Schmidt and the German SPD proud. ■

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Management Attacks Escalate in Toronto P.O.

Merger: Key to Postal Union Victory!

TORONTO, February 26--Postal management is so intent on busting the postal unions to restore "labor peace" that it has resorted to disciplining workers for the "crime" of delivering mail early. To the latter-day Colonel Blimps who attempt to run Her Majesty's Post Office like a Colonial Expeditionary Force, five letter carriers in the Toronto suburb of Weston were guilty of "insubordination," because they refused to obey an order to delay the delivery of government family allowance cheques for four days.

This latest attack is only one volley in an escalating management offensive against the Toronto postal union locals. These locals have over the past few years been something of a conservative bulwark within the national unions. However, as the ill effects of management's speed-up and layoff automation program take hold, enforced through rigid military-like discipline, postal workers in this area have been fighting back with a spirit of militancy and solidarity not seen for years. If management is unable to force through automation in Toronto, it will never be able to do so in the militant Montreal region. Toronto is key to the union-busting drive and any attempt at resistance is being met by a vicious response.

Since early December 1977, management in Toronto has: provoked a Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) strike through the use of non-union labor for union jobs; fired two CUPW stewards and suspended and disciplined five others for protests arising from the same incident; and suspended 23 Letter Carriers Union of Canada (LCUC) drivers for refusing to drive during the blizzard which paralyzed the city on January 26. Management has still not negotiated a contract with CUPW and the postal mechanics union (the General Labour and Trades [GLT] division of the Public Service Alliance).

**REHIRE LIEBOVITCH AND LEW--
LIFT ALL SUSPENSIONS!**

Following the sellout compromise of the December CUPW strike, the special investigative committee reviewing the strike decided that shop stewards Peter Liebovitch and Mary Lew would be fired, and that five other workers would receive suspensions ranging from one to ten days and disciplinary letters. Liebovitch, a member of the Canadian Party of Labour (CPL), had recently contested the CUPW local presidential elections amid a barrage of anti-communist propaganda from the bourgeois media (see "Red-Baiting Frenzy in Toronto CUPW Elections," SC No. 23, February), and his firing clearly had an anti-communist motive. CPL members in

the Post Office are reportedly taking the advice of newly-elected right-wing local president Arnold Gould (whose election they acclaimed as a "victory") and pushing a legalist adjudication route to try and win Liebovitch's job back.

It is no accident that CPL prefers the "shelter" of the grievance procedure to the strength of the organized working class. Only days before he was fired, Liebovitch and other CPLers were seen crossing a picket line, set up by the postal mechanics at the South Central plant, in order to go to work! This marked the second time this ostensible "communist" and his cohorts have so grossly and wilfully violated the fundamental working-class principle that a picket line means "don't cross." Liebovitch and his CPL cronies pulled the same scabbing act during another mechanics strike in 1975.

No doubt Liebovitch's fear of reprisals for his role in the December strike led him to "walk with the bosses" against the GLT, rather than stand staunchly in defense of the working class. Liebovitch would rather rely on the "good will" of management than the strength of working class unity to defend his job. His act of scabbing could only undermine his own defense, and demonstrates once again that, for Stalinists, principle gives way to self-serving opportunism on every occasion.

However the firings of Liebovitch and Lew, along with the suspensions and disciplinary letters against other CUPW members, constitute a vicious attack on all postal workers, and postal unions must take any action necessary, including strikes, to force management to rescind the firings, suspensions and other discipline. Unless these attacks are repelled, management will be emboldened to further harass, suspend and fire those postal militants who dare to defend even basic union rights.

The GLT picket line which Liebovitch slyly crossed was set up as part of rotating strike action taken in a completely uncoordinated fashion by union locals in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal during late January and early February. Having been without a contract for more than a year, and with the national GLT refusing to strike for a new one, the mechanics' section decided to put on some pressure to force the Treasury Board back to the bargaining table.

The GLT pushed harassment tactics through rotating "strikes" which were explicitly designed not to stop the mail, but merely to disrupt things a bit. Thus the union signed a scabbing deal with CUPW, agreeing to lift picket lines temporarily to allow

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Merger...

(continued from page 13)

CUPW members to go to work, while attempting to slow mail by stopping some postal trucks.

Such scab pacts and "leaky" picket lines erode the principle of the picket line, thereby weakening one of labor's most important weapons. But militant LCUC drivers refused to cross any pickets and effectively stopped the mail on a number of occasions, thereby preventing the GLT from sabotaging its own work actions. It was the solidarity of these same drivers which made the December CUPW strike as effective as it was.

Eventually Gould rescinded his scab deal and agreed to honor GLT picket lines. Suburban Scarborough postal depots were shut down tight from February 8-10 as both CUPW and LCUC members respected the picket lines.

But the strike ended after three days with nothing resolved. GLT leaders in Ottawa emerged from meetings with the Treasury Board to offer their catch-all bargaining unit (which, besides the postal mechanics, includes prison guards and other such scum who should be turfed out of the labor movement) a six percent wage hike for last year and four percent this year. The offer was an insult, especially for the mechanics, who are already paid much less than private sector workers with equivalent skills. (As we go to press, the ratification vote on this settlement is still being conducted.)

Meanwhile CUPW, under the leadership of "militant" national president Jean-Claude Parrot, is presently mired in conciliation talks with the same Treasury Board. A couple of weeks ago Parrot unveiled his latest gimmick for cajoling the government into turning the Post Office into a Crown Corporation, which would do nothing but place the union under a new piece of anti-labor legislation, the Canada Labour Code. Following in the footsteps of the Joe Davidson-inspired 1974 campaign to wear buttons saying "Boycott the Postal Code," Parrot has developed his own button-wearing campaign. Yes, while his bargaining unit is pummeled by management attacks, without a contract for months, and suffering all the ill effects of the current economic recession and wage controls, Parrot has advocated... wearing buttons promising that a "Crown Corporation will deliver"!

One of the bosses' key tactics is to exploit the craft divisions between the postal unions. While hardlining it with the historically more militant CUPW inside workers, management has been trying to co-opt the LCUC into a class-collaborationist "industrial democracy" scheme known as Intergroup Development. However the Toronto local recently pulled out of Intergroup, arousing the ire of the P.O. brass and LCUC national union tops alike. According to an article praising Intergroup in the 16 February Globe and Mail:

"Mr. Findlay [LCUC executive vice-president] said the Inter-Group plan has worked well at all levels in all parts of the country where it has

been tried, except for Toronto, where some left-wing factions within the union local have opposed the program."

But without Toronto, the scheme will be a flop, and management has now started to take the offensive against this LCUC local, trying to bludgeon the membership into thinking that crawling before the boss is better than standing up and fighting.

Still Findlay, national president Bob McGarry and Co. continue playing their Intergroup games with the boss, no doubt trying to figure out how to ease the pain of layoffs. McGarry's response to the suspensions of letter carriers in Weston was to call for a "cooling-off" period--quite appropriate for this faker, who has always been cool to any sort of industrial action, preferring to rely on the bosses' non-existent "reason" and "fairness" to aid LCUC members.

Attempting to capitalize on the recent unity among the postal union ranks and to promote a strategy to repel management's attacks, a motion was put forward at the February LCUC Toronto local meeting by shop steward Bob McBurney, calling on the LCUC to convene a delegated national convention of LCUC, CUPW and the GLT mechanics to create a merged union. Such a convention would establish crucial contract demands for a national strike by all postal workers, including a closed shop, shorter workweek at no loss in pay and the lifting of all suspensions and reinstatement of all those fired for union activity.

The motion was received enthusiastically at the meeting, attended by 75 union members. However local president Alex Power, in a slick parliamentary maneuver, moved an amendment shoving the merger question off to the upcoming LCUC national convention. While delegates should certainly support such a motion as convention policy, the amendment had the effect of absolving Power of the obligation to fight for merger today, when the need is urgently felt by the membership. The amended motion carried overwhelmingly, proving that contrary to the union bureaucrats' pronouncements, rank-and-file postal workers do understand the need for unity.

The union tops have nothing to offer postal worker ranks but defeat. They capitulate to anti-labor legislation, push class collaboration and engage in bureaucratic clique fights, while management steps up its attacks. CUPW/LCUC/GLT militants must reject the policies of these labor fakers and fight for a clear program of unity and class struggle. ■

Trotskyist League Directory

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Trotskyists Resign from British WSL

The struggle to cohere an authentic Trotskyist organization in Britain scored a big victory on the February 18-19 weekend when 24 supporters of the Trotskyist Faction (TF) of the Workers Socialist League (WSL) resigned at the annual WSL conference and declared their commitment to explore a perspective of fusion with the international Spartacist tendency. In their principled factional struggle, these WSLers pointed the way forward to Trotskyist clarity from the programmatic amorphousness and dead-end trade-union parochialism of Alan Thornett's WSL.

We reprint below the resignation statement of the Trotskyist Faction comrades. For further details on the TF's struggle for Trotskyism within the WSL, see Workers Vanguard No. 194, 24 February.

Statement of the Trotskyist Faction

The debate at this conference has exposed in the clearest light the majority's hostility to the highest task of Marxists today: the construction of an international cadre hardened in the fight for a communist programme.

The counterposition of the Bolshevik position of the Trotskyist Faction to the hardened right centrism of the central leadership has brought forth another shameless defence of the majority's Pabloite attachment to the Labour Party, their capitulationist attitude to nationalism, and in particular Irish nationalism, their all-pervading economism and minimalism and their parochialism.

It is apparent that the fight for the re-creation of the Fourth International can only take place in implacable opposition to this parody of Trotskyism. Recognising the fundamental divergence between our faction and all other tendencies within the Workers' Socialist League that has been confirmed this weekend we resign from the WSL.

We intend to immediately open discussions with the international Spartacist tendency, with the aim of moving toward a fused organization. Forward to the British section of the reformed Fourth International!

Signers:

- Eunice Aktar, WSL 1978, Liverpool Branch.
- Richard Brookes, I.S. 1973-75, WSL 1975-78, Oxford General Branch.
- Carolyn Dixon, WSL 1977-78, Birmingham Branch.
- E., WSL 1976-78, London Area Committee, Turkish Group, Hackney Branch.
- F., WSL 1976-78, Turkish Group, Hackney Branch.
- Alastair Green, I.S. 1973-74; Left Opposition (ex-I.S.); RCG 1975; founder member WSL, 1975-78, West Midlands Area Committee, Birmingham Branch chairman, convenor student fraction, editorial board Socialist Press.
- Clive Hills, WRP 1973-76, editorial board Keep Left (paper of the Young Socialists, youth group of the WRP); WSL 1976-78, Oxford Student/Trent Branch.
- Alan Holford, I.S. 1971-73 (expelled); Revolutionary Opposition (ex-I.S.) 1972-74; founder member RCG 1974-75, Political Committee; founder member WSL 1975-78, National Committee, West Midlands Area chairman, Birmingham Branch secretary, convenor of Women's Commission.
- Dewi Jones, WSL 1976-78, Liverpool Branch.
- Mark Kinker, WSL 1977-78.
- Leena, Maoist organizations (Asia) 1972-74; WSL 1977-78.
- Paul Lannigan, SLL 1968-72, Derry Branch, Northern Ireland, Irish National Committee (1968-70), full-time organizer Liverpool SLL/YS (1970-72); WSL 1977-78, Irish Commission, West London Branch.
- Cath McMillan, WSL 1977-78, Coventry Branch.
- Joe Quigley, Communist Party of Great Britain, 1969-70; I.S. 1970-74 (expelled); Left Faction, Left Opposition (both of I.S.); RCG 1975; founder member WSL 1975-78, National Committee, North West Area secretary, Manchester Branch secretary, Irish Commission.
- Jim Saunders, I.S. 1974-76; WSL 1976-78, London Area Committee, West London Branch secretary, Irish Commission, editorial board Socialist Press, Campaign for Democracy in the Labour Movement, organising committee.
- Mike Shortland, Young Communist League 1970-73; IMG 1975-76; WSL 1977-78, London Area Committee.
- Robert Styles, WSL 1976-78.
- Caroline Walton, WSL 1977-78, Central London Branch.
- Jo Woodward, I.S. 1972-74 (expelled); Left Opposition (ex-I.S.); WSL 1976-78, Coventry Branch.
- Tim Woodward, I.S. 1972-74 (expelled); Left Opposition (ex-I.S.); WSL 1976-78, West Midlands Area Committee, Coventry Branch chairman, convenor NALGO union fraction.
- John Zucker, WSL 1976-78, Birmingham Branch.

Another comrade, not a member of the Trotskyist Faction, resigned together with the faction and submitted the appended statement:

Although not a member of the Trotskyist Faction, and with some reservations, I supported their main perspectives document, and I stand by that. The discussion and voting at this conference have confirmed for me that the WSL is not to be budged from what I regard as its fundamentally wrong positions, and I therefore also resign.

P., WRP 1974-75, expelled as part of the Thornett opposition; WSL 1975-78, editorial board Socialist Press, London Area Committee.

RCG: Revolutionary Communist Group
I.S.: International Socialists, now the SWP:
Socialist Workers Party
IMG: International Marxist Group

WSL: Workers Socialist League
WRP: Workers Revolutionary Party, formerly
the SLL: Socialist Labour League
YS: Young Socialists, youth group of the WRP



MIKE CASSIDY: NEW CLOWN PRINCE FOR NDP

SC Photo

ONDP Convention:

Millions for Inco Nickels for Workers Bayonets for Quebec

"It was with more than just personal regret that I viewed the decision by Stephen Lewis to step down as leader of the New Democratic Party. "The Ontario Legislature is losing a party leader whose skill, style and conviction will be difficult, if not impossible, to replace... "He is, clearly and unequivocally, a great Ontarian..."
--Sunday Star [Toronto], 5 February

A maudlin eulogy to a former boss from newly-elected Ontario NDP leader Michael Cassidy, or one of his defeated rivals? Perhaps a speech of thanks by federal NDP chief Ed Broadbent, or some well-heeled labor faker? No, this mawkish testimonial to Ontario's retiring No. 1 social democrat

came from none other than provincial Conservative Premier William Davis--the current king of the Tory dynasty which has been axing the jobs, slashing the wages and breaking the strikes of Ontario workers for three decades.

More than 1,800 ONDP convention delegates crammed into IT&T's Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto on the February 3-5 weekend to pay homage to Lewis, select his replacement and vote on party policy for the coming two years. Labor turnout was even lower than usual, amounting to some 450 delegates, and the convention proceedings were basically left in the hands of petty-bourgeois delegates from the riding associations. They squabbled about nationalizing Inco--or putting it under the

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RWL Flim-Flam over RCMP

Wary lest they appear too "pinko" for criticizing the Mounties, federal and provincial NDP leaders have been maintaining an oh-so-discrete silence over the continuing revelations of RCMP crime. This reticence has aroused the displeasure of Broadbent & Co.'s friendly left critics in the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), who would like the NDP to wage some sort of civil-libertarian protest against RCMP break-ins, burglaries and buggings.

So imagine the RWL's glee when a resolution reached the floor of the Ontario NDP convention from St. David constituency, calling on the NDP to "demand a complete investigation and public exposure" of security police activities. Little matter that the resolution also requested the party to demand that "terms of reference for both internal and external security be clearly defined by Parlia-

ment" and that "all future activities of the RCMP in a security area be under a committee composed of the elected representatives of the people of Canada." Blithely ignoring these calls on Trudeau to streamline the RCMP's repressive apparatus, RWL supporter and convention delegate Liz Barclay rose to speak in enthusiastic support of the resolution.

But the NDP right wing apparently felt the resolution was too soft on "subversives." Sault Ste-Marie MP Cyril Symes urged that it be amended to ensure that a stronger distinction was made between "political subversion" and "political dissent." The delegates thought that was fine and proper, and a suitably amended version was brought back to the floor on Sunday afternoon.

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